



The League of Women  
Voters of Hingham

# Hingham Voter

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

January 2012

## LWVH Board 2011 - 2013

<b>President:</b>	Kate Boland president@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org
<b>VP Voter Ed. &amp; Service:</b>	Kathleen Nugent votereducation@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org
<b>Secretary:</b>	Eva Marx secretary@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org
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## President's Letter

Happy New Year!

It is common practice to consider the New Year with a fresh approach while reflecting on the past. Oddly, I find it very comforting to clean a closet, tidy my desk and review the past year, between the two holidays.

I feel like those 5 days are "Free Days". Our world slows down, so we can catch up.

So here is an update on just a few things our League is working on: (See more on these items throughout the Newsletter.) Our league is going to start work on archiving our many documents in the hopes of preserving the hard work of past members. We have reached out to a professional archivist in the Newton League and hope to gain insight as to how we should approach this huge task. More to come!

Our Forums continue to be well attended. The Chair of School Committee will have been our guest by the time you have read this, however it is important to have strong attendance to show our elected officials we are interested in what they are doing. (As

always, please remember to RSVP so the host can plan accordingly.)

John Asher, Chair of the Advisory Committee will be leading a review of the 2012 Warrant Articles on Feb. 29. We are firming up a location; however please mark your calendar!

Board members, Marissa Costello and Eva Marx have reviewed the LWVH By-laws, made suggestions to the Board and after much discussion, we will be bring the proposals to General Membership at Annual Meeting. They have not been amended since 1985 and it is great to see they were well thought out in the beginning.

In closing, I would like to welcome our new members: Mary O'Donnell, Mary Sofis and Nancy Smalzel. If you haven't gotten a chance to meet them yet, they are great additions to the League as you will soon find out!

Kindest Regards,

Kate

## Upcoming Events

February 29, 2012 7:00 p.m.  
**Warrant Review** - Be Prepared for Town Meeting at Town Hall with John Asher, Chair of Advisory Committee

March 15, 2012 7:00 p.m.  
**State of the State** - Bradley and Hedlund - *Always informative and Entertaining*

April 11, 2012 7:00 pm.  
**Candidates Night** - Meet Your Candidates

May 22, 2012 7:00 p.m.  
**Annual Meeting** — Don't Miss Ellen Zane!, former CEO of Tufts Medical



L-R: Kathleen Nugent, VP Voter Services and Kate Boland, President with Barbara Cook and Linda Hill at the School Committee Forum

## **Speaker Forum Recap - Planning Board**

**Guest Speaker - Sarah Corey, Chair of the Planning Board**

**November 16, 2011**

**By Eva Marx**

On November 16 the League of Women Voters of Hingham convened at Kate Boland's home for a forum to learn more about the activities of the Planning Board.

LWVH President, Kate Boland started the meeting by introducing the board and sharing information about the League's development of a new guide on how to submit warrant articles, plans for a review of local League bylaws, the opportunity to sign up to be a Town Meeting teller, and an invitation to join her for archiving League records.

LWVH Vice President, Kathleen Nugent reported on her work with the State League. She is participating in two efforts—one to bring local leagues more under the state umbrella and the second the development of a non-partisan advocacy policy that will be voted on at the State League's spring conference and, if approved, sent to the national office.

The evening's guest speaker, Sarah Corey, Chair of the Hingham Planning Board was introduced. Topics addressed included:

- the Planning Board's process of submitting articles to Town Meeting, which includes review by the Advisory Committee;
- the difference between the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals and how the two work together;
- considerations related to the "big box" store possibility in the shipyard;
- water sources for the shipyard (Hingham) and Linden Ponds (Cohasset).

Currently Ms. Corey anticipates no controversial Planning Board Articles for annual Town Meeting. Current topics include:

- clarification of agricultural use language, recycling box regulations,
- industrial park zoning, and possibly a revival of the CVS at Cushing and Derby.
- Plans for the Avalon development in South Hingham have not been submitted so are not yet under consideration. Since there is no agreement about whether Hingham has met the 10% affordable housing requirement that would exempt the town from Chapter 40B, the issue will probably need to go to court before the development can proceed.

Ms. Corey reflected on the Planning Board's concern for the future and maintaining the balance between economic diversity/development and the character of the town.

## Speaker Forum Recap - School Committee Forum

**Guest Speaker – Linda Hill, Chair of the School Committee & Barbara Cook, Member of the School Committee**

**January 25, 2012**

**By Lynn Cotter**

On Wednesday, January 25, 2012 the LWVH hosted a School Committee Forum with guest speakers Linda Hill, Chair of the School Committee and Barbara Cook, Member of the School Committee.

Kate Boland, LWVH President kicked off the meeting by introducing the LWVH Board, and discussing the League's need for more volunteers, and the opportunity for members to help out at Annual Town Meeting as Tellers. The 1st Annual Warrant Review will be held on February 29 with John Asher, Chair of the Advisory Committee as the guest speaker. Wonderful news that Ellen Zane, former CEO of Tufts Medical, past Network President for Partners Healthcare System, and also the former CEO of Quincy Hospital, will be the League's guest speaker at Annual Meeting. She will speak on the "5 Drivers of Rising Costs of Healthcare".

Linda Hill and Barbara Cook updated us on what the School Committee has been working on. Currently they are working on the budget and will be presenting to a joint meeting of the Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen this Tuesday, January 31. Fiscal year 2013 will be challenging due to constrained state funding and local revenues, increases in healthcare, mandated services and other fixed costs, and federal stimulus dollars that are no longer available.

There are no new initiatives but there will be a request for more staffing. Teacher contracts have been negotiated and agreed upon as of this past September.

Breaking ground for the new Middle School is scheduled for June 2012 with a grand opening Fall 2014. Staffing will most likely be the same, but that does not take into consideration the increased number of children or if the population increases. Overall costs to run the physical plant will most definitely increase.

High School fields, track repairs and tennis courts will be worked on this Summer.

As for curriculum, there will be a new evaluation system for all teachers and there will be new math curriculum – no longer geared towards MCAS – for grades 7-11.

Ms. Hill mentioned that there will be openings on the School Committee this year and to think about running if you are even the slightest bit interested. It is also important to attend the town committee meetings especially if an issue is really important. Ms. Hill has served on the School Committee for 12 years now and feels that it has been a very rewarding experience.

## Voter Services Update - LWVMA

**By Kathleen Nugent**

Since September 2011 the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has hosted conference call meetings addressing points of interest and concern for the membership at large and voter service specifically. Kathleen Nugent, Vice President for Voter Service has been participating on the conference call meetings on behalf of the Hingham League.

The first series of calls was conducted under the auspices of the ad hoc Advocacy Policy Committee to draft a formal policy defining what the Massachusetts League considers acceptable activities and procedures to advocate on behalf of League consensus based positions without compromising the League's overall policy of non-partisanship. This committee researched other State League's advocacy policies as available and gleaned from them language and points of importance to include in an eventual formal policy for the Massachusetts League. Points discussed in the proposed Massachusetts Advocacy Policy include distinctions between advocacy and lobbying, addressing procedures for inaction when a local league disagrees with a State or National League Position and a recom-

mendation for when LWVMA participates in advocacy in coalition with other groups.

A Draft Advocacy Policy was completed and voted on in November 2011 and submitted to the Governance Committee for review.

The next series of conference call meetings will be an ongoing project facilitated by State Board Voter Service Members. At these meetings local board members involved in various voter service activities discuss, brainstorm, and share experiences regarding past problems, solutions and future activities. A goal of this committee is to promote voter services activities that can be conducted on a statewide level. Areas addressed thus far include High School Voter Registration and Candidates Nights. The next call will concern how to hold a Run for Office workshop. Any member interested in participating in future voter service conference calls can contact Kathleen Nugent at [votereducation@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org](mailto:votereducation@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org) for information on how to participate in the next conference call.

## ***Local LWV of Hingham Fundraising Update***

### **Hingham USA Flag T-Shirts**

The ever popular Hingham USA Flag T-shirts are still available, but running out soon! Here's a picture of what they look like if you've forgotten. They are great for Summer and 4th of July festivities, as well as make great gifts for friends and family.



**T-Shirts Still Available!!!**

**Kids Sizes:**

Extra Small (2-4 yrs old)  
Small (6-8 yrs old)  
Medium (10-12 yrs old)  
Large (14-16 yrs old)

**Adult Sizes:**

Small  
Medium  
Large  
Extra Large

**\$ 10.00 each**

Cash or check

**Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Hingham**

**Please send an email to [fundraising@comcast.net](mailto:fundraising@comcast.net) for questions or if you would like to make a purchase.**

## Events for the Year

### Be in the know...

Don't miss these League of Women Voters of Hingham Programs!

September 18, 2011	3:00 p.m.	<b>Kick off the Year Social</b>
October 18, 2011	7:00 p.m.	<b>Wine and Cheese</b> - Share the League with Others
November 16, 2011	7:00 p.m.	<b>Planning Board Forum</b> - What is Developing in Hingham?
January 25, 2012	7:00 p.m.	<b>School Committee Forum</b> - Educate Yourself!
February 29, 2012	7:00 p.m.	<b>Warrant Review</b> - Be Prepared for Town Meeting
March 15, 2012	7:00 p.m.	<b>State of the State</b> - Bradley and Hedlund- <i>Always informative and Entertaining</i>
April 11, 2012	7:00 p.m.	<b>Candidates Night</b> - Meet Your Candidates
May 22, 2012	7:00 p.m.	<b>Annual Meeting</b> — Don't Miss our Guest Speaker, Ellen Zane!

### Photos from a few of our events over the last year.



Board Members Kathleen Nugent and Kim Letts at Annual Meeting.



Jane Malme at Annual Meeting.

### Local League Update - LWV of Hingham

- Town Meeting update: The Town of Hingham has now added the two new documents provided by our league: There is now a link on the top right corner "[Submitting Citizens Petitions for Town Meeting Articles](#)" that takes you to a page with the guidelines and a download for the form. It can be found at [http://www.hingham-ma.com/selectmen/town\\_meeting.html](http://www.hingham-ma.com/selectmen/town_meeting.html)
- Board Members, Eva Marx and Marisa Costello have reviewed and proposed a few changes to our current league By-laws that have not been amended since 1985. The Board has reviewed and accepted these changes, which will be discussed and voted on by league members at this year's Annual Meeting in May.
- Speaker Forums - We continue to host and sponsor the league's popular speaker forums. The recap from the Planning Board forum is on page 3.
- Warrant Review: Reminder that we will be hosting a Warrant Review on Wednesday, Feb 29th at 7:00 p.m. Location TBD.
- Archiving: Our league has been in discussion with a professional archivist who is a Newton LWV member and spear heading their efforts. More info should be coming soon. If interested in helping out, please contact Kate Boland.

### State League Update - LWV of MA

- Annual State League Council will be held on May 5th. The theme will be "Challenges to Democracy: Protecting Voter Rights and the Influence of Money," certainly a timely topic this election year. It will feature morning workshops, lunch and a keynote speaker and an afternoon plenary session. If interested in attending, please contact Kate Boland.
- The State League legislative specialists have been keeping tabs on a number of bills during the current session of the state legislature. Here are a few of them, and you can see others and get updates on their website:
  - **SB 772** - A Resolution Restoring Free Speech: The LWVMA Board voted unanimously Dec. 12 to support this Resolution that calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore First Amendment rights, which were designed to protect the free speech of people - not corporations - in response to the *U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, which overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds on elections. This Resolution is currently in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.
  - **HB 338** - An Act to Provide Improved Medicare for All and SB 501 - An Act Establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts.
  - **HB 1228** - An Act to Establish a Public Health Insurance Option and SB 500 - An Act Establishing a Public Health Insurance Option.
- The issue of money in politics is permeating airwaves now that campaign season is in full swing. Interest in this issue is particularly high in light of the January 2010 Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v FEC* asserting free speech rights of corporations, aka 'corporate personhood'. If you'd like to learn more about the Follow the \$ project or if you'd like to become more involved, contact them directly by sending an email to: [ftm@lwvcc.org](mailto:ftm@lwvcc.org).
- The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has many ways for you to share your talents, learn new skills, meet great people, and further our work at the state level.
  - **Development Committee and Volunteers.** Help with a new LWVMA development plan, including projects for annual giving, major gifts and planned giving. Contact [Anne Borg](#)
  - **Finance Committee Members.** Review and update LWVMA's financial policies and procedures. Periodically review the financial reports as to the best utilization of investment instruments available to increase earnings, and make recommendations to the Board. Contact [Elizabeth Handler](#)
- **Program and Action Committee**
  - **Good Governance Specialist.** Follow state legislation on topics such as campaign finance reform and open meeting laws, recommend and initiate LWVMA action.
  - **Child Protection Specialist.** Follow state legislation on topics related to children's safety, recommend and initiate LWVMA action.

- **Membership and Local League Services.** Work with local Leagues on programs that support and increase communication among local Leagues. The Membership and Leadership Development program, which helps local Leagues recruit and engage members and develop leaders through coaching, is seeking members to become state coaches.

### National League Update - LWV of US

- **Program Planning Material Online**  
Every two years state and local Leagues and ILO's participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. This is one of the ways we remain a grassroots organization. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update or concurrence. If you are interested in submitting any ideas, please contact Kate Boland or the National League directly.
- **EDUCATION FUND (Redistricting; Elections; Privatization Study)**
  - **Redistricting: Leagues Highlighted for Reform Efforts (NEW)**  
The Iowa state League received praise from the *New York Times* this week for its past success in reforming redistricting in this key election-year state. In late December, the Pennsylvania League was cited in news articles protesting the state's last-minute passage of an "incumbency protection" congressional redistricting plan. "Self-interested politicians cannot be trusted to make the system work," the League said in a statement. "It is time to amend the PA Constitution to turn redistricting over to an independent, non-partisan body that will put the interests of the voters first." The LWVUS looks forward to supporting Leagues' ongoing reform efforts in 2012.
  - **Elections: Check Out Your State's VOTE411 Page (NEW)**  
VOTE411.org is an invaluable national resource for election information, with state-by-state resources that have enfranchised millions of voters. The LWVUS elections team works hard to keep the site updated to reflect the most current election dates and laws nationwide. But, we need your help as the experts on your state's elections! Please review your state's VOTE411 page and send any necessary updates to Pam Sterner (psterner@lww.org) so we can all best serve voters across the country. To view your state's page, go to VOTE411.org and click on the drop down box provided on the "Voting in Your State" button. Thank you for doing this and Happy 2012!

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### 5 Myths About Voter Impersonation

**MYTH:** Voter impersonation is a widespread problem.

**FACT:** Between 2002 and 2007, after undertaking a massive investigation into voting irregularities, the [U.S. Justice Department did not prosecute a single individual for impersonating another voter at the polls.](#)

**MYTH:** Third party registration drives contribute to voter impersonation.

**FACT:** [Since 2008, only 31 cases of suspected voter impersonation have been reported](#) to Florida authorities. But due to a restrictive new law there, the League has been forced to suspend its Florida voter registration activities for the first time in 72 years.

**MYTH:** Everyone either has an ID or can easily obtain one.

**FACT:** 11 percent of eligible voters or about 21 million people, don't have updated, state-issued photo IDs. Furthermore, most states require producing a passport or birth certificate to get one. This presents a tremendous burden for people who work multiple jobs, lack transportation, have disabilities, live outside the state they were born, are poor or elderly.

**MYTH:** Election Day registration invites voter impersonation.

**FACT:** An investigation by the Secretary of State in Maine – which was the first state to adopt Election Day registration – [did not find evidence of voting irregularities due to same day registration.](#)

**MYTH:** Early voting increases voter impersonation.

**FACT:** Incidents of impersonation in early voting are just as rare as they are in Election Day balloting. A CBS News report on 17 early voting states [revealed no widespread signs of irregularities in the 2008 election.](#)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF  
HINGHAM**

**[WWW.HINGHAM.MA.LWVNET.ORG](http://WWW.HINGHAM.MA.LWVNET.ORG)**

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*Democracy: The more you use it,  
the better it gets!*