



The League of Women
Voters of Hingham

HINGHAM VOTER

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

April 2016

Steering Committee: Kate Boland, Eva Marx, Catherine Salisbury, Erica Sweeney **Treasurer:** Marisa Costello; **Website:** Liza O'Reilly; **School Outreach:** Elizabeth Danis; **Candidates Night & Publicity:** Chris Wilk

2016 Calendar

May 10, 2016 Annual All Member Meeting @ South Shore Country Club

July 4, 2016 Hingham's 4th of July Parade. Bring your family and join the LWVH in the parade!

STEERING COMMITTEE LETTER

Dear Members,

Another fantastic year is almost over! Thank you for all your time, participation, and contributions to the LWVH. Our members make our League great!

We kicked off the year with an enjoyable wine and cheese night where we discussed our agenda for the upcoming year. In October, Judy Sneath of the Planning Board spoke at our forum about South Hingham development. Our next member's forum was an evening with Bill Reardon to find out about the harbor development. In January, we hosted our first Sip n' Chat, an informal evening where members can get to know each other better and discuss the town issues that are on our minds. Members suggested the next Sip n Chat in April to be geared towards discussion of the 2016 Warrant.

In February, Advisory Chair, Tom Pyles, led the Warrant Review discussing the budget and this year's articles. March and April were busy months, with a well-attended Candidate's Night; our State-of-the-State meeting with Representatives James Murphy and Garrett Bradley and another hugely successful Sip n' Chat.

Annual Meeting is fast approaching! It will be held at the South Shore Country Club on May 10. Get your RSVPs in by the 5th and enjoy dinner and our esteemed speaker, the Honorable William P. Joyce.

Happy Spring and see you at Annual Meeting!

League Member Testifies about Election Laws

Along with the LWVMA, our own League member Eileen McIntyre testified at the hearing for the Joint Committee on Election Laws on Tuesday, January 19. Testimony supported Election Day voter registration and opposed the bill requiring a photo ID at the polls. Impersonating another voter is a \$10,000 fine and 5 years in prison. Eileen said she sported the LWV button proudly. "Someone told us to 'look serious' when they were taking this photo," she said, "and unfortunately that made my intended smile turn into a frown (see below). But the afternoon at the State house was a great experience. Nancy Brumback, LWVMA vice president had me join her for the LWV 'slot' on the agenda, introduced me to the committee, and also let me say a few words as part of the LWV testimony to the Joint Committee on Election Laws." Thank you, Eileen, for so eloquently representing our League!

Eileen



McIntyre, Meryl Kessler, and Nancy Brumback

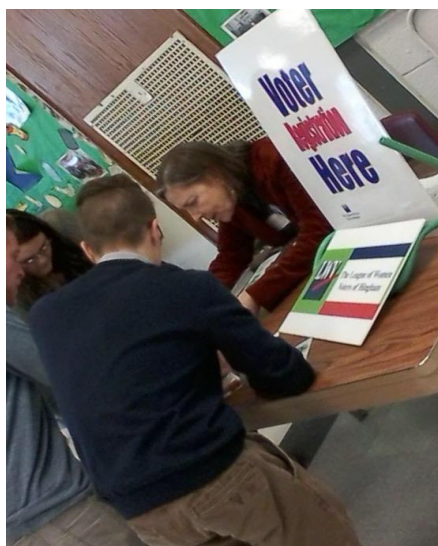
Our Growing Membership

Our membership continues to grow! We would like to welcome our two most recent members, Gary Tondorf-Dick and Kristen Arute. We now have 45 members residing in Hingham, Weymouth, Hull, and Cohasset. At a recent Steering Committee meeting, board member Cathy Salisbury brought along a document "Who Is the League?" developed in 2004 by past President Cindy Coe. It is a wonderful overview of our League, and a great way to introduce someone to what we are about. As much has changed in 12 years, we made the necessary updates to the document. We will send it out for you to pass it on to prospective members. Growing our membership allows us to hear many points of view and learn from one another. Most importantly, gaining new members is key to sustaining our League and building future leadership. As always, we welcome your guests to our meetings and events.

HHS Voter Registration

Our School Outreach Chair, Elizabeth Danis, continues to do a fantastic job registering high school students to vote. She registered 32 seniors. When the

League passed out *I Voted Today* stickers at the Presidential primary, we spoke to several brand new voters. This is such an important undertaking. Way to go Elizabeth!



Day on the Hill

League members, Erica Sweeney, Kate Boland, Elizabeth Danis, and Mary Kenyon participated in an informative day on Beacon Hill. This year's theme was "Why This? Why Now? What Finally Moves Legislation." A panel explored why bills introduced session after session finally gain traction and get a chance to become law. Panelists were Senator William Brownsberger on criminal justice legislation, Representative Shawn Dooley on election reform, and Pamela Wilmot, executive director of Common Cause of Massachusetts, on public records access. After the presentation, LWVMA legislative specialists outlined specific bills the LWVMA is following. The day was not only informative, but it was also wonderful to meet up with other Leagues and hear about all of the advocacy work the state league does on Beacon Hill.

Kate Boland, Erica Sweeney, Elizabeth Danis, and Mary Kenyon at Day on the Hill.



LWVMA Charter School Study

The League of Women Voters of MA is conducting a Charter School Study. The League has been seriously researching the issues for months and will send a packet to our League in early summer for our review and consensus. The goal is to develop a policy for LWVMA to use for advocacy on the issue. It is a timely subject and a great opportunity for our League to participate in a state study. We will definitely be exploring this hot topic at future meetings!

Warrant Review

Tom Pyles presented the 2016 Warrant to the public in preparation for this year's Open Town Meeting. Tom discussed town budget concerns – addressing the issue of the towns operating expenses and concerns that they growing faster than our revenue. He also discussed Article 14, which asks for more money to study our fire station needs. Tom shared the good news that is the town picked up a grant of \$700,000 to build a new bath house at the



Harbor. Article 19 will be a big topic at Town Meeting. It asks for additional funds to continue the Aquarion litigation. Thank you, Tom, for your insight and concise discussion of town matters.

Steering Committee Member Erica Sweeney introduced Tom Pyles



State of the State

Representatives Garrett Bradley and Jamie Murphy met with 22 of our League's members and updated them on the many House bills that the League is following and where they sit before the end of session at the end of July. Representative Bradley shared the legislature's efforts to manage the opiate epidemic, as well as how legislation can contribute to addressing this crisis. Representative Bradley also shared that progress is being made to get seat belts on new school buses. Thank you, Representatives for an informative evening!

Candidates Night

Our Candidates' Night on April 6 was very well attended. We are grateful to everyone who came out to listen to our 2016 candidates speak. Elizabeth Foster-Nolan moderated the evening. Thank you, Elizabeth! Candidates for Town Moderator, Sewer Commission, Board of Health, Hingham Light Board, Planning Board, Housing Authority, and Selectman all made statements. Candidates for School Board answered detailed questions about the school budget, bullying, and special education. Thank you, Chris Wilk, for all the hard work you do every year to make this night a success! Don't forget to cast your vote!



Carbon Pricing Forum

The Westwood League is hosting a Carbon Pricing Forum on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the Westwood Public Library, 600 High Street, Westwood 02090

Please join us at this educational forum:

Why do we need carbon pricing?

What is carbon pricing?

How does carbon pricing work?

What it means for Massachusetts and how it will impact us?

Email Kate at kateboland@comcast if you would like to carpool.

Annual Meeting

Join us for our Annual Meeting on May 10 at 6:30pm. Enjoy cocktails and dinner at the South Shore Country Club. We have a fantastic speaker this year—the Honorable William P. Joyce. Judge Joyce has had an esteemed career as an attorney, policy analyst, federal prosecutor, and immigration judge. It is a not-to-be-missed night!!! By now you have already received your invitations in the mail. Please RSVP as soon as possible (May 5 deadline), and feel free to bring a guest. See you there!

Upcoming Elections

Be sure to Vote!

April 25- Open Town Meeting

April 30-Hingham Town Election

May 10- State Senate Election