

The League of Women Voters of Hingham
Call to Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 31st, 2009 • 12 - 2 p.m.

Scarlet Oak Tavern
1217 Main Street, Hingham

**Featuring Guest Speaker, Kevin Cullen,
Columnist for the Boston Globe.**

\$25.00 per person. (Luncheon, dessert, coffee/tea, tax and tip included. Cash bar.)

Make Checks out to: League of Women Voters of Hingham
Send check and information to:

Dina O'Neil
7 Park View Drive, Hingham, MA 02043

Kindly Respond by May 22nd.
Feel free to bring a friend or two! Spouses also welcome.



Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

*Featured Speaker, **Kevin Cullen**, is a columnist for the Boston Globe City & Region section. He was appointed to that position in 2007. Previously he served as a projects reporter for the Boston Globe frequently writing for the Globe's Foreign desk. His long-time beat was Northern Ireland, and in 1997 he opened the Globe's Dublin bureau and later served as the Globe's London bureau chief and European correspondent, covering the war in the former Yugoslavia. He has spent several stints on the Globe's investigative unit, The Spotlight Team, and was a member of the investigative group that in 2003 won a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic church. He is the co-author of two books, "Betrayal," about the sex abuse scandal, and "Britain and Ireland: Lives Entwined," about Anglo-Irish relations. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 2003.*



The League of Women
Voters of Hingham

Hingham Voter

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

May 2009

LWVH Board 2008—2009

President: Julie Strehle

Vice President:

Deborah Courteau

Secretary: Victoria Milano

Treasurer: Marisa Costello

Membership:

Christine Dietterich

Publicity: Jerry Elsdon

Web Site & Newsletter:

Lynn Cotter

Town Meeting Study:

Kate Boland

Events Coordinator:

Dina O'Neil

Advisor: Cindy Coe

Upcoming Events

Monthly Board Meeting
Wed, May 13 @ 7:30 p.m.
231 Leavitt Street, Hingham

Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 31 @ 12:00pm
Scarlett Oak Tavern
Hingham

President's Letter

Dear Members,

This is my last letter to you as President of the LWV of Hingham. In just a couple of weeks, I will hand the reigns over to Deb Courteau and Lynn Cotter at our Annual Meeting at the Scarlet Oak Tavern on Sunday, May 31st, with the fantastic guest speaker, columnist Kevin Cullen of The Boston Globe. Deb and Lynn are stepping up to serve as Co-Presidents, and have gathered together a fantastic Board of volunteers to serve with them, whom you will all meet at Annual Meeting.

My last orders of business are few but important. First, we had an incredibly successful Candidates Night on April 15th. The event was planned and run so well by Chris Wilk again this year, with help from Lynn Barclay, and moderated by our own Deb Courteau, who is a resident of Weymouth. Although Deb had said that night that she was nervous, you could never have guessed, as she was calm, cool and well-prepared to guide the candidates through the forum. Thanks also to all of the members who came out to help that night. I am proud of how well the League did

that night, and also thrilled that the LWV of Hingham has since made its debut on YouTube. For the first time, we posted links to video footage of Candidates Night on our website. Thanks to Lynn Cotter, Deb Courteau, Marisa Costello and Chris Wilk for their hard work launching LWV of Hingham into the world of YouTube!

On the fundraising front, we have had to cancel our plans to hold a Plant Sale over Mother's Day weekend, as we ran into issues relating to the supply of flowers. So look for a new fundraiser early this fall, as we are thinking of raising money (for programs such as "I Voted Today" stickers) by selling bulbs.

Finally I ask for your support by attending our Annual Meeting on May 31st. It is a luncheon from 12 – 2 p.m. We will have our guest speaker, Kevin Cullen, and also have the handing over of responsibilities from the old Board to a new one. It is a wonderful event to reconnect with old League friends

and make new ones. Please come out to show your ongoing support for LWV of Hingham and all that we do to accomplish better local government. Please see the attached form to RSVP.

It has been an honor to serve as your President for the past two years. I will ride into the sunset on May 31st, but won't travel too far, as I will serve as an advisor to next year's Board. I feel really good about my years of volunteering for LWV of Hingham, and my husband has gracefully never complained about all of my activities outside the house (and all of the babysitters!). For all of this time spent, I feel I received the better value for all of the experience that I gained through helping to run an organization, such as public speaking and writing. And I am very thankful for all of the friendships I have made along the way.

Cheers,

Julie

Candidates Night - April 15, 2009

Candidates Night was held on Wednesday evening, April 15, at Hingham Town Hall. Although the event had originally been scheduled to be held on a Sunday afternoon at the Hingham Public Library, the Town of Hingham ended up pre-empting that plan by holding a Town Economic Summit on the intended date. Event organizer Chris Wilk was able to quickly change gears and move the event date and location. The result was a healthy turnout and a very informative evening. Member Deb Courteau made her debut as Moderator, and she was fantastic! She was cool and collected, and helped run the event quickly and smoothly.

The evening began with statements read by uncontested candidates. Tom O'Donnell, who has served as Moderator since 1967, encouraged citizens to fill out a Talent Bank form and get involved through appointment to various town committees. Deb Courteau read a statement submitted by John Riley, Selectman, who stated that his goal is to improve Hingham's harbor area by creating a revenue stream via a marina and restaurant. Eileen McCracken, running for a fifth term as Town Clerk, urged voters to vote on May 2 and repeat the success of November's election, which recorded an 84% voter turnout. John Stoddard, who has served

the past seven years on the Municipal Light Board, commented on the Five Year Capital Plan which is currently in the works, as well as the investigation into a location for a second electrical substation in town. Barbara Cook, running for a second term on the School Committee, used her two minutes' time to urge voters to approve the \$1.1 million override to open a fourth elementary school. Finally, Paul Healy, who has served 15 years on the Planning Board, urged voters to support the Planning Board's proposed by-law change which would help to maintain the vitality of Hingham Square.

The Board of Assessors race was highlighted next. Incumbent Robert Kurtz read a two minute statement about his past twenty-four years on the Board of Assessors, and his reasons for running for reelection. His challenger, Michael Shaughnessy, was unable to attend Candidates Night, so Deb Courteau read a statement submitted by him.

Questions for the other two contested races were collected from the audience or submitted ahead of Candidates Night via emails to Chris Wilk. Victoria Milano and Lynn Barclay served as timers. Lynn Cotter and Marisa Costello videotaped the event, so that it could be rebroadcast on our LWV of Hingham website using

YouTube clips.

The next race presented was the Sewer Commission. Michael Salerno (incumbent) and Peter Colletti each began with a two minute statement. They then answered questions about the sewer systems' ability to handle new development; what steps would be taken to avoid a conflict of interest if either candidate had a relative who worked for the Sewer Department; and what challenges does the sewer system face over the next ten years. The candidates finished with closing statements.

The final race was for Recreation Commission. Roger Sullivan and Tory Dolan made statements about their motivation to run for the Commission. Then they answered questions of whether there are enough programs to meet demands;

and their opinion on whether Recreation should or could move to space at the South Shore Country Club.

Chris Wilk did a fantastic job organizing Candidates Night again this year, along with help from Lynn Barclay. Thanks to them and our other volunteers, it was a great success. Most notable was our ability to easily replay Candidates Night, broken out by each race, on our League website. The ability to email a link of these clips out to League members, friends and neighbors will greatly enhance the voters' ability to easily gain information about candidates running for local office. Thanks to Lynn Cotter, Marisa Costello and Deb Courteau for their efforts on this new feature of Candidates Night. For complete coverage of the event, please see our website: www.hingham.ma.lwvnet.org



L-R: Lynn Barclay, Chris Wilk, Deb Courteau, Julie Strehle, Victoria Milano

Town Meeting Study Update

The Town Meeting Study Committee held its latest meeting to discuss the results of the 20 comparable town analysis. What they have realized is the original mission, which was to see if there were opportunities for the Town to attract a larger voter base at Town Meeting. With all of the information they gathered, they were able to break it all down by Representative town meeting, Mayor, and Open Town Meeting resulting in new questions for consideration:

1. Is a quorum needed and what are the merits either way?
2. Would a working Warrant allow a more inclusive, collaborative and better educated voting public?
3. What could the LWVH do to promote and aid in drawing more people to Town Meeting?
4. Would random pulling of the articles in select groups (e.g.. Planning, Conservation, etc) provide an opportunity for a more educated voter base because one would be unable to cherry pick the articles?

The Committee has asked Mary Ford to ask her "Readers Advisory Network" two questions through the paper:

1. What would encourage you to go to Town Meeting?
2. What resources would be helpful for you to be better prepared for Town Meeting?

The Committee is starting to lay out their results so they can draw conclusions and take the next step - possibly more research. It is all very exciting. So stay tuned!

Member Announcements

The Old Ship Meeting House needs you to vote often and early so that it may win a grant that will go toward its preservation for future generations.

The Old Ship Meeting House in Hingham, MA, is thrilled to announce that it has just been selected by American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to participate in this year's Partners in Preservation program. Under this initiative, Old Ship is eligible to compete for \$1 million in preservation funding from American Express.

The country's oldest wooden building in continuous religious use and the only surviving First Period Meeting House, Old Ship is one of 25 Greater Boston sites chosen through a highly competitive process, Old Ship will take part in a five-week online contest. The public will cast votes for the landmarks they would most like to see receive funding. The site that earns the highest number of public votes is guaranteed to receive funding. If Old Ship wins, it will be possible to undertake vital exterior restoration projects and the construction of a removable, weatherproof covering to make possible for viewing recently discovered 17th-century outside doors believed to be the only ones of that period in the country still in their original location.

Your support is needed. Please Vote for the Old Ship Meeting House. You can vote once daily!

From April 14 through May 17, visit www.partnersinpreservation.com to cast your vote for the Old Ship Meeting House and to share your own photos and stories of our site. We need your help! Please spread the word! Send this message to family, friends, colleagues, everyone you know! It's fun, it's easy, it's fast, and we need your votes!

Please join us in this high-tech twist on historic preservation and help protect Greater Boston's treasured cultural heritage.

LWV of Massachusetts - Winning Student Essay**By Michael Page, 12th Grader, Hingham High School**

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts had its 10th annual Student Essay Contest with a theme this year, "Making Democracy Work: The Newly Elected President". The questions engaged students in critical thinking about the role of the future President and how his decisions will affect their lives and the checks and balances of the executive and legislative branches. The essay contest was open to all Massachusetts students in grades 4-12 in public and private schools and to those who are home-schooled. All winners read their essays at a special event on Sunday, April 5, 2009 at Faneuil Hall in Boston. Hingham resident, Michael Page, a 12th grader from Hingham High School won second place in the Grade 9 -12 division. Here is a copy of his winning essay.

"President Barack Obama entered office in January only to face a mountain of problems. Those problems range from fending off a growing recession to dealing with international terrorists. In the first two years of the President's term, two issues should take precedence above all others: fixing the economy and transforming America's energy use. Fixing the economy is key to America's short term success, and weaning America from non-renewable energy sources will assure America's success in the future.

Even though today's economic crisis was not created by Barack Obama, fixing it must be his top priority. To do this, Obama must first secure the banking industry. This can be done only once toxic assets are removed from the bank's books, allowing banking institutions to lend to one another, and to the average American. Once credit lines are reopened, after becoming clogged due to the housing bust, small businesses and individuals can once again borrow money to purchase goods such as cars, homes, and raw materials. The purchase of these large scale products, that require factories, construction workers and sales people, would ensure jobs for hundreds of thousands of Americans. Those Americans will then go spend money, providing even more jobs and again allowing for economic growth. This will happen at some point, but President Obama has to make sure it happens sooner rather than later. So far the Obama administration has been slow to remove the toxic assets from the banks, but the effort is being made. To ensure the short term prosperity of America, getting the economy back to its former prosperous state needs to be the President's first priority.

As the economic situation improves, President Obama should shift his focus to making America more energy efficient. Tax credits should be given to citizens who weatherize homes, drive fuel efficient cars, or invest in renewable energy sources. These incentives would hopefully boost "green collar" jobs, thus helping the economy, and would bring America on closer to ending its dependence on oil. If America's addiction to oil is not ended as soon as possible, the nation will be on a path to disaster. Dwindling oil supplies in the future will drive up prices, and will cripple the economy. When the price of oil briefly reached \$140 a barrel this summer we already saw that prices of nearly every product in the country went up with the price of oil, putting pressure on families and businesses from coast to coast. Future price spikes will last longer, prolonging the strain which we got a taste of last summer. In addition to ensuring our nations future economic stability, becoming more energy efficient will also reduce America's impact on the warming climate. So, "going green" would actually have multiple positive impacts on the country. Obama's massive stimulus package already addresses energy efficiency; a good sign for the future. These two issues, both of vital importance to America, need to be a priority in the Obama administration's first two years.

Hingham Conservation Commission - Observer Corps Report By Susan Wetzel

Other Participating Boards – None

Date/Time of Meeting – March 23, 2009 7:00 PM

Place of Meeting – Hingham Town Hall

Meeting Posted on Website and Agenda Attached? Yes

Members Attending – Bill Grafton; Carolyn Nielson; Eugene Babin, Vice Chairman; Doug Harvey

Absent – Charles Barry; Cliff Prentiss

Conservation Department – Linda Defreitas, Secretary; Abigail Childs, Assistant to the Conservation Officer

Chaired by: Samuel Chapin

Submitted by: Susan Wetzel

Old/New Business – The Conservation Commission voted to accept the gift of .9 acres of land at 4 Woodbridge Road from Joseph Kennedy.

The Conservation Commission accepted the minutes from the February 9, 2009 meeting then amended and accepted the minutes from the February 23, 2009 meeting. The vote was unanimous. The March 9, 2009 minutes were tabled until the members that were present at the meeting had time to review the written minutes and provide input due to the poor condition of the meeting audio recording.

Ms. Childs provided copies of the draft documents for the proposed Open Space and Recreation. The Town of Hingham is required to have a plan on file in order to access state funding and the current plan has expired. The Conservation Commission was requested to review the document and return to the Conservation Office with comments.

There is a 15-acre parcel of land adjacent to the Bare Cove Park that was taken by the state by eminent domain. The Conservation Commission was requested to sign to accept the parcel on behalf of the Town, however the details were unavailable. Ms. Neilson requested that she be given ample time to review the documents and the Commission deferred acceptance of the property pending the final review of the document.

The Commission voted to not comment on the elimination of the rainwater cistern at 16 Causeway Road. Mr. Chapin referred the hearing of the removal to the State of Massachusetts since the Conservation Commission had been reversed on appeal, any changes should be reviewed by the state not the town.

Requests for Determination of Applicability – The owner of the property at 197 Hersey Street requested permission to remove the garage/barn that had collapsed on her property within 50 feet of the wetlands. The Commission voted to issue a Negative Determination with Conditions. The owner was requested to use a silt screen to demarcate the wetlands and prevent damage to the town brook prior to the removal of the building. If the owner wants to rebuild, it is important to clearly mark the current location of the building and the owner will need to come before the board again.

Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation – Members of the Conservation Commission and the Back River Watershed Association discussed the delineation of the wetlands at 100 Beal Street – Hingham Housing Authority building site. All members present for the discussion agreed it was difficult to ensure the delineation was accurate due to the changes present after the initial delineation more than 25 years ago. The Commission requested flood zones; elevation data are delineated on the map presented to the Commission. The applicant was granted a continuance in order to obtain the information for the requested changes on the map.

Notices of Intent – The applicant at 7 Howard Road requested in writing that the public hearing be postponed until April 6, 2009.

The Conservation Commission and the applicant of the development at 240, 242, 244, 246 Lazell Street and 120 South Pleasant Street held a lengthy discussion about the project and the numerous modifications that have been made to address the concerns of the Town and the consultant hired by the town. Neighbors were present and continue to express concern about the potential for flooding within their neighborhood. The applicant was granted a continuance until April 6, 2009 to address the additional concerns identified in the discussion of the evening.

Certificates of Compliance – The Commission issued the Certificates of Compliance to the applicants of 200 Central Street and 27 Stagecoach Road.

Other Business – Based on the Advisory Committee's recommendation that "No Action be taken" on the proposed Dock and Pier policy, the Commission voted to withdraw the policy that was to be voted on at Town Meeting. The Commission will explore ways in the future to address the policy by using the current by-laws available to the Conservation Commission.

Next Meeting April 6, 2009 - 7:00 PM, Hingham Town Hall



May 29 & 30, 2009 | Boston Newton Marriot, Newton

Early Registration ends May 11, 2009

Late Registration ends May 27, 2009

Convention 2009 Schedule

Friday, May 29:

11:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Registration

Noon – 1:45 p.m. Lunch, **Featured Speaker: Patricia Walrath**

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Workshops

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Convention Protocol

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. First Plenary Session

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Reception

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Dinner, **Featured Speaker: Elaine Ullian**

8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Caucuses

Q&A on Budget

Q&A on Program

Convention/Parliamentary Questions

Saturday, May 30:

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Registration and Notes from First Plenary

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Budget Q&A, Input from Members

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Second Plenary Session

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Awards Luncheon, **Featured Speaker: Nancy Turnbull**

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Workshops

3:30 p.m. Adjournment

*Note: This schedule is subject to change.

LWV of Hingham Membership Form

2009 - 2010

Please mail to:
Marisa Costello
43 Woodlock Road, Hingham, MA 02043

Name _____

2nd Member _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email* _____

* Please provide email address to receive the VOTER Newsletter and other membership announcements

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Individual | \$50. |
| Household | \$75. (\$50, first member; \$25 second) |
| Full time student | \$25. |
| CONTRIBUTION | \$ _____ |
| PAYMENT ENCLOSED | \$ _____ |

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate. We are delighted to get help from our Members. Below is a list of activities in need of your help. Please check or circle any items with which you can assist:

_____ **Voter Education**

- * Help run Candidates Night
- * Register voters
- * Pass out "I Voted Today" stickers at the polls

_____ **Advocacy**

- * Town Meeting Study
- * Report on Town Boards with Observer Corps
- * "Know Your Town" Publication

_____ **Social Event Planning**

- * Plan All-Member meetings, including Annual Meeting