

Hingham Voter

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

July 2008

LWV of Hingham Board 2008—2009

President: Julie Strehle

VP Advocacy:

Melanie Quackenbush

Secretary: Victoria Milano

Treasurer: Marisa Costello

Membership:

Christine Dietterich

Publicity: Jerry Elsdon

Web Site & Newsletter:

Lynn Cotter

Green Committee

Co -Chairs:

Kate Boland, Elizabeth Fetsko

Events Coordinator: Dina O'Neil

Advisors: Cindy Coe, Cathy Salisbury

Upcoming Events

Monthly Board Meeting

Mon, Sept 8 @ 7:30 p.m.
231 Leavitt St, Hingham

All Member Meeting

Sun, Sept 21 @ 2:00 p.m.
43 Woodlock Rd, Hingham

Know Your Town Booklet Meeting

Wed, July 23 @ 7:30p.m.
Location TBD

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Now we are on summer break, and have finished off a very busy year of the League of Women Voters of Hingham. We ended the year with Annual Meeting on May 21. It was a wonderful evening, with an inspiring speech given by long-time member Jane Malme. Her remarks about her experiences with the League, and how they laid the foundation for her international legal career, left members and guests that evening feeling so terrific about the League. Many thanks to Jane for being our guest speaker, and to Dina O'Neil for organizing the event.

I have been happy to serve as President this past year, and look forward to one more year of my term. Most of the Board is also returning for another year of fun, and we have a lot of interesting projects that we would like to tackle, starting in September. After taking some years off from this event, the LWV of Hingham will rejoin COASTSWEEP, which will be held on a

Saturday in September (date to be announced). This event gathers volunteers to help clean the beaches and coastline around Hingham. Also, on September 21, we will have an All-Member Meeting (with guests invited), with the theme of "The League's Past, Present & Future", and will feature the President of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, Diane Jeffery. We will also be presenting to the membership that day a new study, which will involve Town Meeting in Hingham. It will be a relaxed, informal gathering on a Sunday afternoon, so mark your calendars!

Other events to look forward to next year include more "I Voted Today" stickers at the November and May elections, participation in Hingham's Festival of Trees, our annual State of the State with our State Senator and State Representative, the annual Organic Lawn Care workshop, and Candidates Night. We are also recruiting new volunteers for Observer Corps, who can cover town board meetings and re-

port back to the membership. Look out for a new training program for Observer Corps, which will be available on DVD.

The Know Your Town booklet project will continue, and we look forward to a fantastic finished product next year. Also stay tuned for the Green Committee's newest chapter, which will involve more lobbying for "greener" practices around town.

So that is a taste of what we will undertake next year. I want to give a huge thank you to all the members who helped the League this past year, who attended our events, volunteered many hours to run these events, bought our reusable shopping bags, and cheered us on. I look forward to joining fellow members next year to continue to make a difference in Hingham.

Happy Summer,
Julie

P.S. Please don't forget to pay your dues for the new year! Thank you!

Annual Meeting Recap

The League of Women Voters of Hingham held its Annual Meeting this past May 2008 at the South Shore Country Club. Thanks to Dina O'Neil who coordinated the event, it was well attended and a nice mix of experienced veterans and newer members.

What a busy year the LWV of Hingham has had! Julie Strehle, LWV of Hingham President, provided members with a complete recap of this past year's activities and achievements. It was an ambitious agenda and the membership should be proud of what it has accomplished. Here is a list of what was mentioned:

- The Climate Project
- New Member Wine & Cheese
- LWV of Massachusetts Phonathon
- Observer Corps
- Affordable Housing Consensus
- Resusable shopping bags fundraiser
- Festival of Trees – submission of LWV of Hingham holiday tree
- Voter Registration and Shopping Bags at Christmas in the Square
- Know Your Town Booklet
- I Voted Today Stickers
- Green Committee – Green Corner Articles and organic Lawn care workshop
- Linden Ponds – Facilitation of Special School Vote meeting
- State of the State with Senator Bob Hedlund and State Representative Garrett Bradley
- Municipal Finance Study and Consensus Meeting
- Candidate's Night

A report was provided to us on membership and dues. The LWV of Hingham now has almost 70 members and another 30 prospective members. What growth in a short couple of years! A reminder that the official LWV year runs from May to April, so membership fees are due now for the 2008 - 2009 year. The "Per Member Payment" which are essentially the fees paid to the National and State Chapters of LWV were mentioned in that of the dues we collect in our local league, only \$.20 is actually kept! The Board is busy with coming up with new ways to provide funding for the various activities, events and initiatives that the LWV of Hingham participates.

The Know Your Town Booklet is under way and will hopefully be completed in the next year. The focus of the booklet will be Hingham's town government, and will also include the town's renowned history, as well as provide a resource for town services, education, and civic, youth and religious organizations. The booklet will be a wonderful resource for anyone living in Hingham, especially those who are new to town or the area. The plan is to have them underwritten and then sold to the public.

Laura Marwill, Observer for the Advisory Committee for the past 2 years has just accepted a position on the Advisory Board. Congratulations to Laura. Just another positive reward for being an Observer.

The keynote speaker for the evening was one of our own, Jane Malme, whose early years participating in the League of Women Voters had catapulted her career and had a

definite impact on what she does today.

Ms. Malme joined the LWV the same year as the book, The Feminine Mystique came out. In 1968, she was appointed Co-President of the LWV of Hingham. Even at that time, she felt that it was important for everyone to have a civic duty and help contribute to their community. Joining the League was a fantastic way to learn about the town of Hingham. After having participated in Observer Corps in addition to her experience as a Co-President, she was asked to participate on a Charter Commission called the Town Appropriations Committee for Hingham. During this time, Ms. Malme learned invaluable tools and processes that were needed in developing public policies. The LWV has a similar process in how they research and conduct their studies, present the findings to the membership and reach consensus in making a position. The process helped confirmed her desire to make a career in public policy.

At 40 years old, Ms. Malme started at Northeastern's Co-op program studying Law. Dur-

ing this time, she sat on the LWV of Massachusetts Board in addition to helping set up a women's rights program in the Attorney General's office. Once she graduated law school, she did indeed practice public policy. Working at the Department of Revenue, her first project was to reform assessment practices for 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. It was her experience with the League that aided her in her success with this first project and many projects thereafter. Since 1990 to the present, Ms. Malme has worked with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, traveling around the world consulting and helping Central and Eastern European countries with the development of property taxation in economies in transition.

Ms. Malme's first experiences with the League of Women Voters of Hingham provided her with the knowledge, the skills and experience to go after her dreams and achieve her goals. To which she attributes her success to her participation in the League.



Left to right: Julie Strehle, LWV of Hingham President with Jane Malme, Keynote Speaker and current member of LWV of Hingham.

History & Future Plans LWV of Hingham Green Committee

The LWV of Hingham Green Building Committee was originally formed in the beginning of 2006, after several members expressed an interest in learning more about sustainable buildings and whether it would be beneficial for Hingham to incorporate this type of building design in the plans for the new school and any other municipal buildings. So, several committee members conducted a study of the pros and cons of sustainable building designs. The findings were then presented to the rest of the league members at the annual meeting in May of 2006.

After a discussion and vote, a consensus was adopted with the goal of making Hingham a sustainable community. This means that we will support measures that include and are not limited to adoption of a guiding town philosophy that calls for sustainable building and practice. And,

establishment of sustainability goals and performance standards for major new construction and renovation projects in Hingham.

From this consensus grew involvement with the plans for the new school building. After participating in the Green Committee Study, league member, Samantha Anderson joined the School Building Committee and has been able to give input on elements of Green design for the new school.

Another goal of the Green Committee was to educate the public on issues related to sustainability. One way this was done was through articles in the Hingham Journal. The Journal section was called the Green Corner and included articles on topics such as: wind power, recycling, organic lawn care and sustainable building design.

This year the Green Cor-

ner articles have been instrumental in supporting the efforts of Hingham's Department of Public Works. A collaborative effort which resulted in several articles about what materials can be recycled at the town transfer station. For example, there was an article on plastics, paper, and a new map of the transfer station was created and printed in the journal. These efforts have been extremely beneficial to the town.

Another way in which the Green Committee has educated the public on issues related to sustainability has been to sponsor an organic lawn care workshop, which over the past two years has consistently had great attendance of Hingham residents.

At our last lawn care workshop we learned about different towns in Massachusetts who have gone "Green" – meaning they maintain their municipal land organically in an effort to provide a healthier environment

for their residents. The municipal land includes school grounds, ball parks and gardens. An example of these two towns are Marblehead and Newton.

For next year we are interested in conducting a study on the merits of maintaining municipal land organically. The study would involve looking more closely at what other towns like Marblehead are doing to maintain their public lands organically. And, we would like to determine whether this is something the LWV of Hingham should encourage Hingham to pursue. This should be a fun and exciting study and a great way to get involved with the league. So, if anyone is interested in helping gather information please feel free to sign-up for the Green Committee.

PMP - "Per Member Payment"

Every year each member pays a \$50 membership fee (dues) to the League of Women Voters of Hingham. Of that \$50, 53.6% or \$26.8 goes to National and 46% or \$23 goes to State for Per Member Payment (PMP). In return, members receive their publications (The National Voter and The Massachusetts Voter), benefit from the numerous seminars and events they organize and run, as well as have access to their various resources and experiences in running the league.

That being said, only \$0.20 of each members dues are actually kept for the Hingham chapter. This \$0.20 is used to finance various events like the Wine and Cheese, State of the State, Candidates Night and the creation and mailing of the Hingham Voter. Obviously, this is not enough to finance all of these events, so we must supplement with fundraisers, participation in the State phone-a-thon and, thankfully, additional donations from our gracious members.

Recently we learned that the National LWV is considering raising their PMP rate. After researching all of the chapters in Massachusetts and what they charge for their dues, we found the range to be between \$45 and \$55. After some discussion, the LWV of Hingham Board felt that they should not raise dues at this time. The hope is to make changes to cut costs such as emailing the Voter Newsletter instead of mailing it. This will not only cut down on the use of paper, which goes with the LWV of Hingham's Green theme, but it will save us money in printing and mailing. If you are willing to receive it electronically, please let us know! We are also currently posting it on the website at www.hingham.ma.lwvnet.org.

Also, we hope to do more fundraisers over the next year such as the plant sale that the League has done in the past. And finally, if you have the means, if you can make a contribution when you pay your dues this year, even \$5 can make a difference. Thanks again for supporting the League!

Observer Corps Report

Observer: *Marisa Costello*
Board: *Recreation Comm*
Date of Meeting: *June 5, 2008*

Place of Meeting: *Town Hall,*
Members Attending: Frank Jones, Budd Thorne, Bob Keyes, Tom Campbell, Scott Bosworth, Kathy Clarkeson, Mark Thorell

Chaired By: Frank Jones
Agenda Distributed? YES
If yes, attached? NO

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Observer arrived at 7:20pm.

Open Forum/Q&A:

Bill Cronin: Would like to add near the first base line of the Haley's Field baseball diamond two memorial benches with paving stones that will have the names of Little League coaches engraved in them. K. Clarkeson asked if the containment edging would meet the requirements of the ADA. Bill said yes. B. Keyes suggested having D. Morgan call F. Jones once he has approved it to get the wheels in motion since Bill would like to have it done by July 4th. F. Jones was not clear if the Zoning Board needs to be consulted as well. A motion to accept the plan to place a memorial at Haley's Field to honor all Little League coaches was made and accepted.

Old Business:

CPR and Defibrillator: Extra classes have been set up with only 8 people/class (53 people will be taking the classes). If counselors have been certified elsewhere w/in past year, they will not have to re-test. The instructor will just review their skills.

Murray & Murray:

K. Clarkeson confirmed that

she sent a copy of the apology letter she originally sent to Kim Richardson to the law firm. **Rec Wagon Sales** - K. Clarkeson mentions they are not getting sales because people do not realize that the wagon is open. The types of food are discussed as well as what regulations need to be met. F. Jones states that this should be resolved since they were talking about it two months ago. F. Jones mentions that there needs to be a wider variety of food choices as well as improve visibility of the Rec Wagon. Tory Dolan suggested that Kathy send out an email to all of the coaches asking them to email their teams to inform them that the Rec Wagon is open.

New Business:

New Fence: B. Keyes got three bids for the new fence: Walpole Woodworkers \$13,000; Thayer Fence \$11,000; Weymouth Fence \$13,000. Measurements were discussed. Frank wants to make sure all guidelines will be met; (Little League, Babe Ruth, High School, etc). In the "Gift Account" there is \$5,600 (F. Jones clarifies they will use money from the Road Race and the "Gift Account" to build this fence). F. Jones asks to table this until next month once all information is available.

Director's Report: Playground/Preschool Summer Program – all those on the wait list for session one have been placed. Session two still has a wait list. Equipment and supplies have been ordered. They are mapping out the drop-off and pick-up area. Tennis Camp - Kathy has contacted the Weymouth Club to set up a tennis camp for children and moms.

Family Fun Day – The Rec De-

partment will plan for it in August. K. Clarkeson asks for a budget of up to \$2500 for Family Fun Day pending further research/discussion with the previous FFD committee. A motion is made and accepted with a tentative date of August 10, 2008. Road Race funds are usually used to support the Hal-loween and Christmas in the Square events (\$1500 per event). A motion is made and accepted to allocate these monies for these events in 2008. Charlie Christello event is June 19th at the South Shore Country Club.

Parking Policy – a recommendation was made by a Rec employee that the employees should park on Burr Road. It was discussed with no outcome. **Church of Ladder Day Saints** would like to use Kress Field for a 40th Anniversary party. The Board is okay with this K. Clarkeson needs to work it around South Shore Baseball.

Robbed again – The Rec Center was broken into again and the defibrillator was stolen from the locked cabinet in the office. Doorbell for the Elevator – K. Clarkeson's original concern was that jokesters would continually ring the bell to get a staff member to come upstairs unnecessarily. She is trying to determine what compliance with the ADA requires.

Discussions take place about sprinklers and lawn care on rec fields.

K. Clarkeson states that she would like to purchase Play-Stations and Wii for the Rec Center as well as new bleachers for Ward Field. The Spin Bikes are purchased and here (3) and they may purchase two more before the end of the fiscal year. K. Clarkeson is also considering creating a Preschool program at the Rec Center. She claims that

a lot of the moms in town are frustrated by the Preschool process and would love if the Rec Center had a program to offer. It would be a "Community Preschool", not a licensed Preschool. The daycare here is not a licensed daycare.

Scott Bosworth:

Asked if the Summer Little League issue had been addressed/resolved. Scott has a meeting next week with the IT director and will discuss at the next meeting. NOTE: Scott is now the secretary of the board and will be responsible for publishing the meeting minutes going forward.

Road Race: B. Keyes spoke with Police and Fire departments. Sponsors are still making contributions. T. Campbell and B. Keyes went back and forth about the Striders Friends, money the group donated (500), where all their money is, who's managing it, who gets donations from them, etc. T. Dolan stated that she needs everything by tomorrow in order to get them on the shirt and place the order for the shirts. Tom Belyea is writing up a Story Line for the Feature Article for the Hingham Journal June 19th issue. He wants to get another article in before that titled 50 Years in Running. He is also working on a formal letter from the Overseeing Body of the Road Race saying welcome, thank you, good luck, etc. He needs info from the Rec Commission to complete it. The next Rec Commission meeting is scheduled to be July 3rd. A motion was made and accepted to change the date of the next meeting to July 10th at 7:00pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

LWV of Hingham Membership Form

May 2008 – May 2009

Send to:
Marisa Costello
43 Woodlock Road, Hingham, MA 02043

Name _____

2nd Member _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email* _____

We need your email address so we can alert you from time to time about a League meeting or let you know when a new Voter newsletter is on our website

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**

* Municipal Finance Study * Green Committee
* Report on Town Boards with Observer Corps
* Compile town data for the "Know Your Town" booklet

_____ **Social Event Planning**

* Plan All-Member meetings, including Annual Meeting

Help LWV of Hingham Be Green!

Want to save paper and support the environment?

Sign up for the on-line VOTER Newsletter. Please send an email to Lynncotter@comcast.net.

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

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
HINGHAM**
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