

# Hingham Voter

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

September/October 2006

## Hingham League

### Steering Committee

2006—2007

**President:** Cindy Coe  
**Secretary:** Judy Parsons  
**Treasurer:** Marisa Costello  
**Membership Recruiter:**  
 Christine Dietterich  
**Publicity:** Jerry Elsdon  
**Web Site:** Lynn Cotter  
**Newsletter:** Julie Strehle  
**Advisors:** Helga Jorgensen,  
 Cathy Salisbury

## HLWV Kicks off Year with Wine & Cheese Party

Hingham League of Women Voters will kick off its new year with an Evening of **Wine, Cheese & Information** on Thursday, **October 19**, at 7:00 p.m. Member Christine Cadegan will open her

home at 10 Friend Street in Hingham to HLWV members and prospective members. Please come out for a fun evening filled with information about HLWV, and bring your friends who are inter-

ested in learning more about what we have to offer.

According to HLWV President Cindy Coe, "We held a similar event last fall, in (con't page 2)

## Be a Part of the New Observer Corps!

One of the most valuable services a local League can offer its members, and often the community, is to observe municipal boards and committees. For many years there was a Hingham League Observer Corps and at this year's HLWV Annual Meeting in May, members expressed an interest in organizing one again.

Participation in the Observer Corps is an excellent way for members to learn about local issues and share this information with League members through Bulletin articles and League meetings. Observers' reports are factual and non-judgmental, present various sides of an issue and are intended to help members to be well-informed before making any decisions concerning possible League or individual action.

Initially, those interested in participating will determine how many Hingham boards and committees will be cov-

ered. The HLWV Board will write a letter to those town committees, introducing the League Observers, explaining that the League, a non-partisan, citizen education organization that encourages informed participation of citizens, will have representatives attending their meetings only to observe and take notes. Among the town committees that are of greatest interest are the Board of Selectman, School Committee, Planning Board, Advisory Committee and others may be added, based on member interest. If there is sufficient interest among HLWV members from other towns, other Observer Corps may be established in the future.

Representing the League as a member of the Observer Corps involves a commitment to regular attendance at committee meetings, and careful note-taking, although there may be more than one Observer who shares cover-

age regularly. A **Training Workshop** will be held on Wednesday, **November 8**, at 7:00 p.m., at Hingham Town Hall, led by Pat Facey, a former Massachusetts LWV Vice-President and Jane Malme, a past HLWV President. An **Observer Corps Manual** will be provided to those participating.

For planning purposes, please indicate your interest in taking part in the Observer Corps and the Board (s) you would like to observe, by mailing the form provided on Page 2 of this Bulletin by **10/31** to Jane Malme or e-mailing her at [j.jhmalme@verizon.net](mailto:j.jhmalme@verizon.net).

To get a feel for how our Observer Corps reports would look, you can go to the League of Concord-Carlisle website: <http://lwvcc.ma.lwvnet.org/Informtion.html>

## Upcoming Events

### Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 3  
7:30 p.m.

Lynn Cotter's house  
749-8378

### HLWV Wine & Cheese Party

Thursday, October 19  
7:00 p.m.

Christine Cadegan's house  
10 Friend Street, Hingham

### Observer Corps Training Meeting

Wednesday, November 8  
7:00 p.m.

Hingham Town Hall

## Wine & Cheese (continued from page 1)

which we had a terrific turnout, and signed several new members, including Marisa Costello, who is now our Treasurer, and Elizabeth Fetsko, who is an active member of our Green Study Committee. This evening is a way for prospective members to connect with League members, who can pass on their wisdom, experience, and infuse them with the enthusiasm to make a difference in our town and democracy.”

Steering Committee members will attend the event and update members and guests on plans for the year, including Observer Corps (see other story on page 1) and the latest developments from the Green Study Committee (see story next page.)

Look out for your invitation in the mail and reply to Christine Cadegan at 749-3329.



## SIGN UP FOR THE OBSERVER CORPS

**I am interested in participating in the Observer Corps. (See related story on Page 1.)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel.:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to Jane Malme, 25 Rockwood Road, Hingham, MA 02043

Or email Jane: [j.jhmalme@verizon.net](mailto:j.jhmalme@verizon.net)

By October 31, 2006

## Contact Your Elected Officials!

**Senator Kennedy**  
315 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-4543  
[senator@kennedy.senate.gov](mailto:senator@kennedy.senate.gov)

**Senator Kerry**  
304 Russell Bldg., Fl. 3  
Washington D.C. 20510  
202-224-2742  
[Senator@kerry.senate.gov](mailto:Senator@kerry.senate.gov)

**Congressman Delahunt**  
15 Cottage Avenue  
Quincy, MA 02169  
617-770-3700  
In Washington:  
1517 Longwood Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-3111  
[William.Delahunt@mail.house.gov](mailto:William.Delahunt@mail.house.gov)

**MA State Senator Bob Hedlund**  
State House, Room 413F  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-722-1646  
[RHedlund@senate.state.ma.us](mailto:RHedlund@senate.state.ma.us)

**MA State Rep. Garrett Bradley**  
State House, Room 472  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-722-2120  
[Rep.GarrettBradley@hou.state.ma.us](mailto:Rep.GarrettBradley@hou.state.ma.us)

## HLWV Green Study Update

After a wonderful presentation to HLWV's Annual Meeting in May, and the adoption of its proposed consensus statement, the Green Study Committee continues to meet and plan its next steps.

The Green Study Committee formed early in 2006 and studied the construction and life of buildings that are constructed with green or sustainable materials. Subject areas that were covered were: What is Sustainability, Green Regulations and Bidding, Environmental Impacts, Impacts on People, Green Building Materials and Finishes, Green Maintenance and Operations, and Remodeling and Demolition. Based on this presentation, the HLWV membership adopted a Consensus Statement that begins with: "To promote the health, productivity and safety of those living, working and learning within the Town, the League of Women Voters of Hingham adopts the goal of making Hingham a sustainable community."

Toward that end, HLWV Green Study Committee Leader MJ Shultz represented HLWV recently in a gathering of four local groups who have joined together to form "Citizens for a Green Future." Joining HLWV in this endeavor are the Hingham area branch of American Association of University Women, Old Ship Church, and

the Responsible Energy Alternatives Coalition (R.E.A.C.H.) of Hingham.

These groups met with Hingham Selectmen in September to throw their support behind the Selectmen's announced plan to develop a Town Energy Policy in the current year's goals. Energy consumption is on the rise in Hingham, as Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant reports a 34 percent rise in electricity usage over the past two years. A Town Energy Policy could address this issue by establishing:

- Townwide Renewable Energy Standards for electric power generation and use as well as renewable fuels for fleet vehicles, heating, and standby power generation;
- "Green" building codes that enhance energy efficiency;
- Zoning by-laws for land use that promote energy efficiency, conservation, or alternative power generation; and
- Energy Performance Contracting Programs for residential, commercial, and municipal purposes;

This policy would also include the identification of funds from private equity, state and federal programs; community outreach programs that communicate the benefits of energy conservation; and benchmarking standards that compare similar programs in

other towns around the United States with Hingham's own standards.

The Town of Hingham is now forming an Energy Committee to focus on the development of this energy policy. The Green Study Committee will continue to follow the progress of this initiative and lobby for its completion as a partner in "Citizens for a Green Future."

The Green Study Committee also has other plans for the coming year, including

- Host an Organic Lawn Care Workshop in the spring, to educate the public about ways to care for lawns in an environmentally safe manner;
- Establish a Green Corner in the Hingham Journal newspaper, to educate readers and keep the issues in the public eye; and
- Organize a Speakers Bureau to highlight speakers on green topics.

If you are interested in joining the Green Study Committee and helping its efforts, please don't hesitate to call MJ Shultz at 781-925-3395. There is a meeting on Sunday, October 1, at 4:00 p.m., at the home of Julie Strehle at 231 Leavitt Street in Hingham. Call Julie at 781-749-6956 for directions.

## League of Women Voters Massachusetts Update



MITT ROMNEY  
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133  
(617) 725-4000

September 20, 2006

Madhu Sridhar  
President  
The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts  
133 Portland Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Dear President Sridhar:

I am pleased to inform the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts that on September 19, 2006, I signed Senate Bill No. 2277, "An Act Further Regulating Election Practices," into law. It is now Chapter 299 of the Acts of 2006. Congratulations to the League of Women Voters for its successful advocacy on this important election reform legislation.

Working collectively with the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Election Laws and Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, the League was instrumental in advancing Senate Bill No. 2277. This new law will help to ensure that our citizens continue to have unobstructed access to the election process. Senate Bill No. 2277 is another great example of the League of Women Voters' work advocating for democracy here in Massachusetts.

Again, thank you for your hard work and dedication to democracy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitt Romney".

Mitt Romney

# It's Time to Renew for a new year of HLWV! Membership Form 2006 – 2007

## Hingham League of Women Voters

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*We need your email address so we can 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	\$ _____

September 2006

## HLWV September Workshop for Elected Town Officials By Jerry Elsdon

On Saturday morning, September 16<sup>th</sup>, Hingham League member Cathy Salisbury led an informative workshop for newly elected and appointed town officials at Town Hall. (I attended as a newly appointed Hingham Beautification Commission member.) Cathy, an attorney, served on the Water Supply Committee and was elected to the Board of Health in the late 1980s. She's become somewhat of a specialist in town, municipal, and state government. Did you know that, at public meetings, the "public" is invited to attend and listen, but no one has the right to speak? At public hearings, however, they are encouraged to speak. That's because no board or committee would ever accomplish its work if members of the public were allowed to speak at any time. It's up to the board or committee to allow public comment at a meeting depending on the situation. Other tidbits I learned from Cathy: the importance of getting along with your fellow board members and reaching decisions and votes you all can support; no squabbling with other board members in public; allow the chairman to do his or her job; how to handle disruptive audience members (see above); how to relate to paid staff, who are quite important, especially with land-use boards; what happens when you are sued; details of the infamous Open Meeting Law; the perils of communicating with fellow board members via e-mail; being aware of other boards' decisions; and much more. The land use boards – Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Health Board – are more apt to be sued than others. Attorney Stacy Bloom, of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey and Lehane, and who is counsel to Hingham town boards, talked about the Public Records Law (very important in litigation), getting sued, and the Open Meeting Law. She assured everyone "don't worry at all about lawsuits, we take care of it all."

**HINGHAM LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS**

231 Leavitt Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

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