

# League of Women Voters of Newton

# Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 6

September 2006

*F a l l F o c u s*

## Membership Initiative

*By Carol Bock*

This year the national League of Women Voter is sponsoring a Membership Recruitment Initiative. It solicited proposals from all local Leagues to participate in a "pilot phase" of the initiative. The Newton League is very excited about the initiative and submitted an application to participate in the pilot. We recently learned that we were not selected to be one of the five pilot locations; however we will participate in a mid-initiative conference call to learn more about the project.

Submission of this application created a renewed spark of interest in finding ways to increase and broaden the diversity of our local membership.

### WHY JOIN THE LEAGUE?

With the election season upon us, it is a perfect time for old and new members alike to focus on the overarching goal of the League of Women Voters: to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

In Newton, as with other local Leagues, this goal is met through the collective action of the membership to create an environment of empowerment for Newton residents. Key areas of action include: 1) promoting solutions in the public interest on key community and public policy issues, and 2) building citizen participation in the democratic process.

Attending election forums sponsored by the Newton League is a perfect opportunity to put this goal into action.

The Newton League partners with many local civic groups including: The Green Decade Coalition, GreenCap, The Newton Conservators, The Newton Free Library, the affordable housing groups; CAN-DO and U-CHAN, as well as the Council of Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO's).

We have been targeting active members of the elementary-school PTO's as prospects for League membership. In addition, a new group called Discovering What's Next/ReVitalizing Retirement has formed. It is located in the main branch of the Newton Free Library, and works with new or prospective retirees. This is certainly a potential partner for League membership efforts to embrace.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our biggest resource in helping us to recruit members is our current membership. The Membership Committee asks you to help us sustain our organization by remembering to mention your involvement in the League to your friends, neighbors and colleagues. By inviting and bringing potential new members to our events or local action meetings, we will enable our League to continue growing and ensure its future diversity.

FORMER NEWTON RESIDENT

### PAUL LA CAMERA: GUARDIAN OF DEMOCRACY

The first recipient of the LWVMA Guardian of Democracy Award is Paul La Camera.

For nearly four decades, Paul has been involved in Boston media. He was president and general manager of WCVB-TV where he introduced the groundbreaking practice of Spanish-language closed-captioning for newscasts. In addition, we remember the editorials five minutes of candidate disclosure each night in the 30 days leading up to elections, as well as the editorial comments from the management of Channel 5. During this time Paul and Mimi raised their family in Newton.

Paul is currently general manager of the WBUR Group, an organization noted for presenting current events and helping listeners make informed decisions on issues affecting their lives. The LWVMA recognizes the encouragement of active and informed participation of citizens and through this, the strengthening of the democratic process.

The inaugural award dinner will be held on Thursday, September 21 and the Fairmont Copley Plaza. The reception begins at 6:30 with dinner at 7:30 p.m. The Keynote Speaker is The Honorable Michael Dukakis, Former Governor of the Commonwealth. Tickets for this elegant event are \$150.

Contact [lwvma@lwvma.org](mailto:lwvma@lwvma.org) for further information. ■

*Continued on page 3*

## LWVN Officers and Directors 2006-2007

### OFFICERS

|                |                 |              |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President      | Sue Rosenbaum   | 617-332-0306 |
| Vice President | Bonnie Carter   | 617-969-0686 |
| Vice President | Andrea Downs    | 617-969-7123 |
| Vice President | Ann Grantham    | 617-964-0333 |
| Clerk          | Allison Stoner  | 617-527-4018 |
| Treasurer      | Andrea Kozinetz | 617-964-6490 |

### DIRECTORS

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Carol Bock        | 617-594-7293 |
| Deborah Crossley  | 617-244-7597 |
| Lucia Dolan       | 617-332-1893 |
| Andrea Kelley     | 617-964-4609 |
| Roberta Leviton   | 617-965-0016 |
| Sharyn Roberts    | 617-969-9588 |
| Jennifer Stoner   | 617-283-5687 |
| Sharon Stout      | 781-856-0004 |
| Greer Tan Swiston | 617-965-6008 |
| Terry Yoffie      | 617-965-1796 |

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Jody Klein, Chair | 617-244-4767 |
| Amelia Koch       | 617-244-2647 |
| Andrea Kelley     | 617-964-4609 |

### OFF BOARD SPECIALISTS

|              |                            |              |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Handbook     | Robin Maltz                | 617-969-1554 |
| Human Rights | Holly Gunner               | 617-964-0767 |
| Membership   | Elaine Reisman<br>Co-chair | 617-244-6439 |
| Topic        | Pat Acton                  | 617-965-5572 |
| Meetings     | Linda Morrison             | 617-332-6539 |
| Recycling    | Barbara Herson             | 617-964-7463 |

### NEWSLETTER

Editor Ann Grantham 617-964-0333

The LWVN Newsletter is published nine times per year. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age. For more information about the League of Women Voters, call 617-964-0014.

PO Box 610207  
Newton, MA 02461  
617-964-0014

<http://www.lwvn.ma.lwvnet.org>

# News and Views

*From our President Sue Rosenbaum*

## LWVM PHONOTHON

Phonothon – the easy and successful fundraiser for state and local Leagues – is around the corner. Check your calendar. Pick a date and Contact Bonnie Carter soon!

Phonothon is an easy and successful fundraiser that the League has been doing for a number of years. The way Phonothon works is that local League members come together to make calls to other League members and non-member donors. The LWVM will provide the contact information for the people to be called, as well as training on how to make the calls. LWVM will provide a light dinner, and prizes for callers. Calling sessions run from 5:30-9:00 pm.

### — Calling Sessions —

| <i>Date</i>           | <i>Location</i>   | <i>Callers Needed</i> |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Wednesday, October 11 | Carlson Real Estate, <i>Lexington</i>                       | 12                    |
| Thursday, October 12  | Carlson GMAC Real Estate, <i>Beverly</i>                    | 10                    |
| Monday, October 16    | Prudential, Town & Country Real Estate, <i>Wellesley</i>    | 10                    |
| Tuesday, October 17   | Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, <i>Acton</i>         | 12                    |
| Wednesday, October 18 | Carlson Real Estate, <i>Lexington</i>                       | 12                    |
| Thursday, October 19  | Triffletti & Costa, <i>Plymouth</i>                         | 14                    |
| Sunday, October 22    | Coldwell Banker/<br>Hunneman Victor, <i>Andover</i>         | 15                    |
| Tuesday, October 24   | Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, <i>Newton Center</i> | 12                    |
| Wednesday, October 25 | Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, <i>Newton Center</i> | 12                    |

**We thank Coldwell Banker Residential for providing space for this event.**

## HARVEST FEST

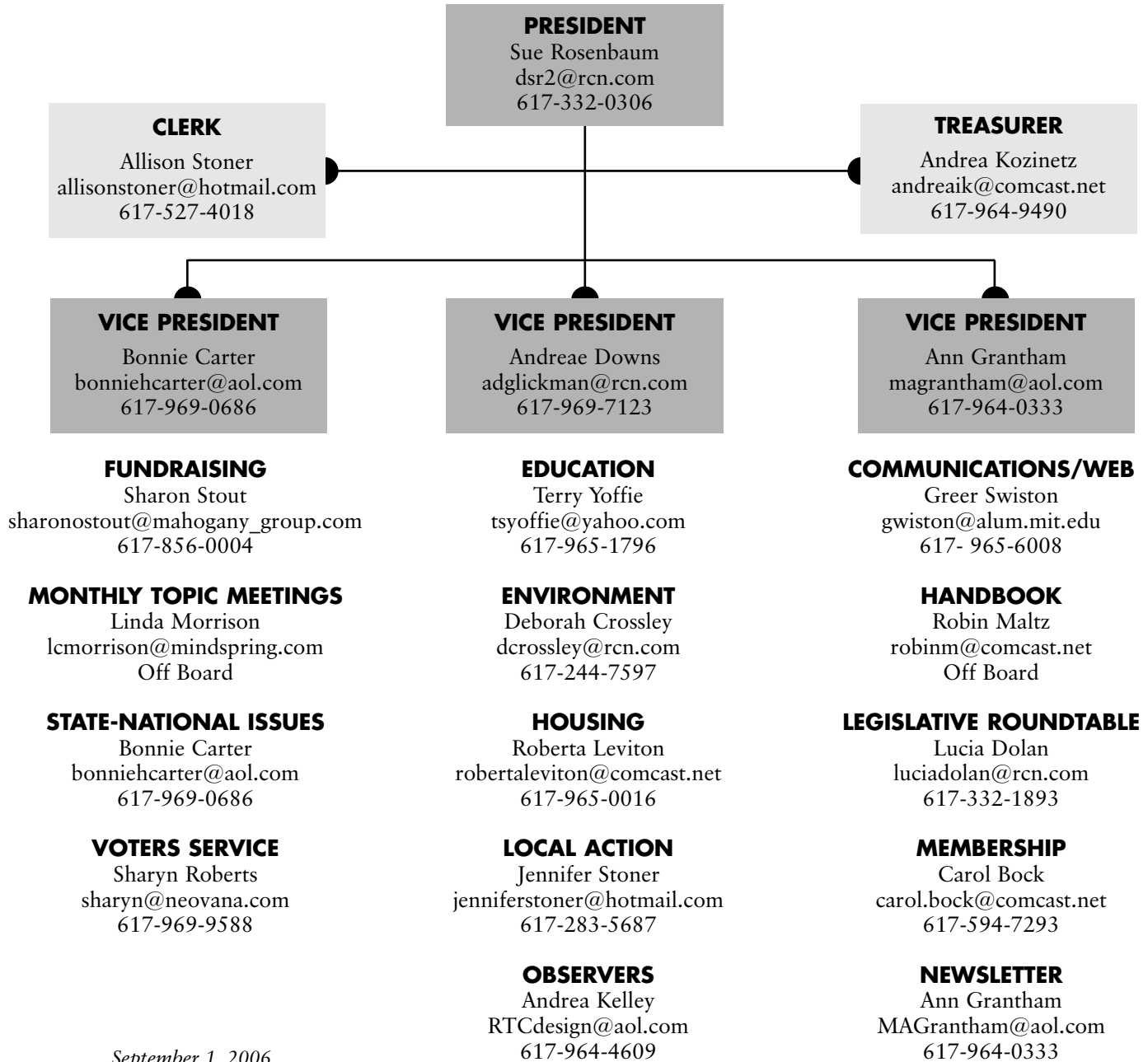
Sunday, September 15, 12:00- 5:00 p.m. Represent the LWVN at this annual event! Contact Carol Bock, Membership Chair or Sharyn Roberts, Voter Service Chair and spend an hour or two in fall weather!

*I n M e m o r i a m*

## RUTH SEGAL

Long time Brookline, shorter time Newton, LWV Member  
Active in our 2005 Redistricting Reform Petition Drive

# LWVN Organizational Chart 2005-2006



September 1, 2006

Continued from page 1

## MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE

You can take the opportunity to invite prospective members to our “monthly topic meetings” (former “unit meetings”). We focus on topics of current community interest. The meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month, bring your brown-bag lunch, and when interest is especially high, we hold a second meeting the following evening so that working people may attend.

If you would like to work on following-up prospective members, or passing out membership materials at Harvest Fest or other community events, please contact me: carol.bock@comcast.net and become a part of the Membership Team. Being a team member can be fun! ■

## Committees - in - Action

### Local Action

Contact: Jennifer Stoner, Chair  
617-283-5687

### Observers

Coordinator: Andrea Kelley  
617-964-4609

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ELECTION COMMISSION                  | Nancy Criscitiello   |
| ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES                 | Martha Richmond<br>Deb Crossley, Chair                           |
| NEWTON FREE LIBRARY BOARD            | Mary Adelstein   |
| NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION          | Priscilla Leith  |
| NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE              | Janet Sterman  |
| NEWTON NORTH DESIGN REVIEW OBSERVERS | Andreae Downs<br>Amelia Koch<br>Janet Sterman<br>Jennifer Stoner |

### Representatives

NEWTON CITIZEN COMMISSION ON ENERGY  
Deb Crossley, LWVN Representative

SUSTAINABLE NEWTON COMMITTEE  
Sharyn Roberts, LWVN Representative

### Committees

#### CPC LEAGUE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Contact Jennifer Stoner, Chair 617-283-5687

**Focus** *To follow the process of the granting of Community Preservation funds by studying proposals and observing meetings.*

#### Members

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Anna Maria Abernathy | Priscilla Leith |
| Deb Crossley         | Roberta Leviton |
| Andrea Kelley        | Jennifer Stoner |
| Amelia Koch          | Myra Tattenbaum |
| Jody Klein           |                 |

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Contact Deb Crossley 617-244-7597

**Focus** *Promoting resource efficiency and energy conservation in public facilities*

#### Members

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Carol Bock      | Martha Richmond |
| Halina Brown    | Sharyn Roberts  |
| Katherine Gekas | Heather Tausig  |
| Barbara Herson  | Linda Walden    |
| Beth Lowd       |                 |

...

Feel free to call committee contacts  
or a Board officer or director to learn more.

## Observer Report

# How Goes Newton North?

by Andrea Kelley

Board of Aldermen – Committee of the Whole  
Wednesday, August 23, 2006 7:00 p.m. - 11:45 p.m. ....

RE: NEWTON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL  
pre-Aldermanic Site Plan Approval

The Board of Aldermen scheduled a special summer session to discuss their upcoming September vote on site plan approval for Newton North High School. The meeting began at 7 pm in the Aldermanic Chambers, chaired by President of the Board, Lisle Baker. The Design Team, led by Graham Gund, presented responses to questions from the Board of Aldermen and their Order of Conditions. Nick Parnell began by trying to infuse enthusiasm back into the project, and gave a brief history of this “once in a lifetime” project. He noted the 26 site plan iterations, a focus on neighborly siting, sustainability and good, not overpriced, design.

Dori Zaleznik gave a well-articulated and positive summary of the School Committee’s continued full support for the current design, plan 5B (a successor of 4A which was approved by the Design Review Committee, and through the aldermanic process became 5A with an entry opposite Trowbridge St., 5B has the entry between Trowbridge and Clyde). She noted their main criteria and goals in order to meet educational program needs: natural light and ventilation in each classroom, maintain some sense of “Main Street”, and flexibility for future unanticipated changes. She reiterated that the School Committee has been involved all along, and their input has been thoroughly included.

Paul Coletti asked why there is more square footage for athletics than academics.

Heidi Black responded on behalf of the School Department. She explained that the “core classrooms” are the five major areas of English, Math, World Languages, Social Studies and History, as defined by the state for normal size classrooms and that the broader range of instruction also includes science, arts, SPED, ELL, health and wellness, and so on. This distinction between “core classrooms” and other classrooms helped clarify the amount of instructional footage. Space requirements are established according to state-mandated formulas based on projected student population, average class size, number of blocks, etc.

TJ Williams, Newton North’s Athletic Director, talked about the wider reach of “athletics” that includes physical fitness, the instructional program, and health and wellness programs that reach all students, beyond just varsity and junior varsity teams. There will be less square footage overall for “athletics” than they currently have, but it is designed more efficiently. He has been a part of the planning all along, and is very satisfied with the current design. Use of athletic facilities by the community is also a crucial part of Newton’s goal.

Some aldermen asked questions or stated their points of view before Ald. Baker redirected the agenda back to the Design Team so that they could finish their presentation. Questions were supposed to have been submitted in advance to David Olsen, City Clerk, who compiled them into written form for the presenters in order to be responded to efficiently.

Continued on page 5

*Observer Report*

# Newton North High

*continued from page 4*

John Prokos of the Gund Partnership said that the design team began with an “inside-out” approach, where the educational program needs generated the form of the building. Then they went “outside-in” by taking the neighborhood perspective in terms of siting the building. Environmental design and sustainability have remained in the forefront of their process. There have been at least 175 meetings to date around this project. He showed a computer animation tour showing the massing of the building, and will work to refine this as the design is developed. The three sections- academic, arts and athletics- are each derived from their functions within, and scaled down from neighbors along the perimeter.

Graham Gund said that his team looks forward to developing the plans in more detail, especially the interiors and facades schemes. The facades will be very dynamic, using two colors of brick and window/fenestration design. He mentioned some of the changes that have occurred over time, primarily in terms of entry locations.

Then the questioning by aldermen began. Hours of questions showed that many aldermen would like to re-design the site plan, traffic circulation, and building architecture themselves, and also revealed that many of them are not as knowledgeable about the project as their constituents might expect at this point in time. Issues of access, cost, impervious surface area, traffic, football field drainage are a few of those put on the record. The consulting landscape architect Dan Solien, of Falmouth, and traffic consultant Mike Lyons were at the microphone to address these concerns, as well as Bob Rooney of the Dept. of Public Works and Clint Shuckle, City Traffic Engineer. Their responses seemed to do little to reassure some aldermen.

After 11 o'clock, Ken Parker requested permission to present a “five minute” slide show and “Presentation of Concerns”. After some hesitation due to the hour and ability to focus, Baker allowed the presentation. Four aldermen - Harney, Linsky, Mansfield and Parker - sponsored the show and presented their concerns in a power point presentation prepared prior to the evening's design team presentation. The quartet feels that the 5B plan is an inefficient use of the site, involves excessive expense including moving the football stadium, has traffic, safety and pedestrian access problems. They recommend an East-West orientation with compact, perhaps rectangular buildings (such as Lincoln Sudbury High School), fewer traffic access points, keeping the baseball field and football stadium in their current locations.

I departed the meeting at 11:45 before it concluded. The Board will vote on Site Approval on September 5th. ■

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

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### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_


Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to join the League of Women Voters of Newton. Enclosed is my check for \$55 payable to LWVN.
- Lifetime membership \$1000
- I would like to receive materials about the League.
- I would like to be contacted by a League member to talk about LWVN.

Mail this form (and your check, if joining) to:  
Andrea Kozinetz Holtz at 8 Stony Brae Road,  
Newton Highlands, MA 02461

My email address may be shared with State and National LWV

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*Local Action*

The Community Preservation Committee  
1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton Centre, MA 02459



September 18, 2006

Dear Members of the CPC:

The Community Preservation Committee is one of the only—if not the only—city committee or commission that reviews its goals and priorities annually. This thoughtful process is commendable, as is the committee's efforts to work within both the letter and the intent of the Community Preservation Act.

In the 2007 Draft Plan, only the Overview has been significantly rewritten. The new draft reflects many of our own observers' insights particularly in view of the 05-06 cycle of applications, and some of the difficult decisions that arose.

Given the anticipated reduction in discretionary funds, the moratorium of Phase I/planning projects is wise. The League of Women Voters of Newton would have liked to see more such priority-setting and strategic planning in the current document.

The new overview's documentation of trends over the past five years of CPA administration is interesting and well done. The League supports several of these:

- a. Continuing community support for projects, which leverages both public/private funds outside of CPA as well as volunteer labor.
- b. Balancing interests, in terms of the four spending areas, and in terms of geographic diversity.
- c. Planning—the CPC encourages planning on the part of city commissions, boards, departments, and community organizations. We also commend city departments for this planning, and the CPC for being a catalyst in starting it.

While not mentioned in the overview, we have noticed an increase in consideration of projects' durability and economic sustainability over the long term. Given that CPA is a capital fund, this is wise, and we would like to see this explicitly mentioned in your Plan.

Other developments the CPC Plan notes:

- d. Declining funds—"this will require a tight focus on priority projects (which we take to be those already approved) while remaining open to projects of exceptional value to the community." The CPC should consider creating a reserve fund to take advantage of one-time, exceptional opportunities.
- e. Recreation projects—the document notes a lack of clarity in the state law about recreation, as illustrated by NewTurf. We suggest CPC might look for clarification from the state agency that manages matching Community Preservation funds at the state level.
- f. Hiring outside project managers to coordinate specific jobs. As the city cuts back in all departments, remaining staff is often unable to take on CPA projects as well as their increased responsibility. We encourage the CPC to continue to use the most qualified and cost-effective project managers, whether city staff or not.

The remainder of the document is substantially the same as last year. However, League readers noted that while acquiring the Sudbury Aqueduct is mentioned in the Resources section, it does not seem to fit under the current Goals list in that chapter. We suggest revising, or adding one more goal to recognize linear open space in Newton as very important to many people who use it as a resource for walking, bicycling, birding, or even getting to and from public transportation stops.

The CPC has conducted this process thoughtfully and openly. Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to the Act and its implementation in Newton.

Yours truly,

Susan Rosenbaum, President  
League of Women Voters of Newton

## LWVN CALENDAR

### September

- 5 Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Working Board Potluck** at the home of Ann Grantham, 46 East Side Pkwy. 617-964-0333
- 5 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. **Local Action Committee Meeting**, at the home of Anna Maria Abernathy
- 12 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. **Local Action Finance Subcommittee** meeting
- 14 Thursday, 7:15 p.m. **LWVN Board Meeting** at the home of Roberta Leviton, 84 Sumner St. Newton Centre, 617-965-0016
- 19 Tuesday, Polls Open, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., **State Primary Election Day**
- 20 Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m, **Monthly Topic Meeting**, at the home of Fiora Houghteling, 15 Bullough Park, Newtonville, 617-969-7764. Contact: Sharyn Roberts
- 21 Thursday, **October Newsletter Deadline**
- 21-28 Monday-Thursday, **LWVN Voter Registration Drive**  
Contact: Sharyn Roberts
- 27 Wednesday, 2-6 p.m. Volunteer Fair, Newton Free Library,  
Contact: Andrea Kelley

### October

- 5 Thursday, 6:30 p.m., **Working Board Potluck** at the home of Ann Grantham, 46 East Side Pkwy. 617-964-0333
- 11 Wednesday, 11:30-1:30 p.m, **Monthly Topic Meeting**: Newton North High School Nick Parnell and Dori Zaleznik will join us. Location TBA. Contact: Andrea Kelley
- 12 Thursday, 7:30 p.m., **Local Action Committee** meeting at the home of Priscilla Leith, 162 Islington Rd., Auburndale. 617-969-6837
- 15 Sunday, 12:00-5:00p.m., **Harvest Fest**, Newton Centre Green  
Contact: Carol Bock or Sharyn Roberts
- 19 Thursday, 7:15-9:30 p.m., **LWVN Board Meeting** at the home of Bonnie Carter, 177 Homer St., Newton Centre, 617-969-0686

### Legislative Roundtable



For current schedule log on to  
[www.newtv.org](http://www.newtv.org)

### *September Topic Meeting for All Members*

## APATHY & FRAUD: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VOTING!

Bring Your  
Brown Bag Lunch!

Beth Lowd, Moderator  
Wednesday, Sept 20, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 pm.  
at the home of Fiora Houghteling,  
15 Bullough Park, Newtonville, 617-969-7764.

## League of Women Voters of Newton

PO Box 610207  
Newton, MA 02461  
617-964-0014  
[www.lwvn.ma.lwvnet.org](http://www.lwvn.ma.lwvnet.org)

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