
League of Women Voters of Newton

Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 1

January 2009

From the President

January 2009

Dear League Members,

Happy holidays and a healthy and happy new year! Thanks to all who were able to join us at our holiday party at Anne and Doug Borg's home. It was a lovely event and many attended. On behalf of all of us, I extend our thanks to the Borgs for sharing their beautiful home with us.

We hope all members will join us at our January events. The most important events are on January 22 at 7:30 pm and on January 28 at 11:30 am. At these two events, members plan for Newton's 2009-2010 program. The League uses the word "program" in a very specific way. According to the *Glossary of League Lingo* (see www.lwv.org), program consists of "selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state and national levels for study and action."

At either meeting, you'll be able to learn about what we have been working on this year and recommend ideas and actions you would like to see the League adopt for next year's program. Please bring your ideas to present them to the group. If you would like a better understanding of how to present your proposal, please contact me (president@lwvnewton.org) or Anne Borg (operations@lwvnewton.org).

At both meetings, we will also discuss and make recommendations for the State League's 2009-2011 Program Planning Guide for Convention 2009. For more information on the state planning process and to prepare your recommendations, please visit www.lwvma.org/lwvmaProgramPlanning2009.shtml.

Our Approach to Program and Action

League program arises from the suggestions of members. At every level of the League, the board of directors is responsible for reviewing and discussing these suggestions, formulating them in appropriate language, and recommending all or some of them for

Continued on page 2

Energy Audits Have Begun!

By the Environmental Committee

A full energy audit was completed in June 2008 at Day Middle School, as part of Newton's effort to make improvements that will save the city in utility costs in most of its public buildings.

The audit marks the culmination of a city-wide effort, starting with the Newton Citizen's Commission on Energy which drafted an Energy Action Plan in February of 2005, and ending with last year's lobbying by the League, Green Decade, the Commission on Energy, and Stand for Children. The work will be taking place through an Energy Services Company (ESCO), which identifies energy- and water-saving upgrades through the audit, makes the improvements, maintains them, and pays the city the difference between the cost of the work and the utility money saved.

The idea is to protect the environment while also saving the city utility costs. Lowering the city's energy consumption will simultaneously lower our emissions of green house gases. The benefits—lower costs and a healthier and more reliable indoor environment for school children and city staff—are long-term.

Work should start later this winter at Day on such items as lighting, lighting controls, weatherization and water conservation. Larger projects, like replacing all the 1970s-era rooftop air handlers, will happen over the summer, and should be complete before the beginning of the 2009-10 school year. Once the bond for making these improvements is paid off, the savings will benefit Newton's bottom line—and could be used for further updating or for other needs.

The League's Environmental Committee has been monitoring the implementation of the energy audits with the help of Carol Bock Chafetz, the schools' Director of Operations and Environmental Affairs who is on the City Energy Services Committee with David Tannozzini of the City's Public Buildings Department. Carol and David are staff liaisons between the City and School administration and the city-hired private contractor, Noresco.

Over the next several months, 11 additional schools will be audited. Full completion of energy work on all the city's buildings—which will not include newer renovations like Newton South High School or Newton North—is expected by the end of 2010.

"From the President," continued from page 1

adoption according to procedures specified in the bylaws (the LWVN bylaws appear in your Member Handbook on pages 45-46 and are on our website at www.lwvnewton.org/documents/bylaws.php).

A local League's proposed program is presented for approval by members at its annual meeting (this year the LWVN's will be on May 7, 2009). In the course of discussions about the coming year's program, members often give suggestions to the board on scope of inquiry, timing, emphasis, and ways to handle the study and/or action phases for their area of interest.

The technique currently most often used in the League for reaching member agreement is consensus. Again, the League uses the word "consensus" in a very specific way: consensus is the "collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue." Consensus is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall sense of the group as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions, whether in a meeting of the full membership or a series of smaller discussion meetings. Consensus will be the method used at our January program discussion meetings.

If a suggestion for program falls under an existing position, that suggestion can simply be considered by the board and voted on at the annual meeting, and action can be taken as appropriate. However, if the suggestion involves a new issue that does not fit under an existing position, members must first agree in broad terms about that issue; in "League Lingo," the membership must first adopt an appropriate position.

It is essential that members have an opportunity to become educated before making a decision about adopting a new position. This is what makes subsequent League action on that issue uniquely credible and respected. Therefore, the League undertakes a study before considering a new position. During this study, members have an opportunity to examine the facts and key points pro and con, to discuss the political realities of action, and to contribute ideas for the board to consider when it formulates an action strategy after a position is reached.

Any member who introduces a particular program and/or proposal contemplating action on a community issue should consider the following:

- Does the League have an existing position that supports the proposed action?
- Do members understand and would they agree with the proposed action?
- Is it a priority for the League?
- Does the League have a unique role to play or would the League's assets (time and money) be better spent on other activities?
- Does it have some chance of success or make an important statement for the League?

- Are other organizations or a coalition already working on the issue?
- What action techniques would be most effective?
- How will the League deal with controversy?
- How can members be involved in the proposed action?
- What kind of community involvement would best support the League's efforts?

Again, if you would like examples of how to prepare a proposal or would like us to review what you have prepared, please contact me or Anne Borg.

Our Continued Commitment to the Environment

On November 20, the League's Environmental Committee sponsored a standing-room-only forum with the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce, Green Decade Coalition/Newton, the Newton TAB, the Newton Free Library, the Newton Solid Waste Commission and Newton for Fiscal Responsibility (NFFR), called *Cash in the Trash*. We explored how Newton citizens can reduce the production of solid waste and save money. Our speakers, Brooke Nash, Branch Chief of Municipal Waste Reduction for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and Tom Daley, Newton's Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, described what cities and towns around Massachusetts have been doing recently. They also explained the pilot programs occurring in five Newton neighborhoods to test whether single-stream recycling and automated trash pick-up can work in our city. We understand that the pilots are proceeding successfully and we will hear more about them from Tom at our second *Cash in the Trash* forum on April 7. The League's Environmental Committee has organized these forums to promote more recycling by homeowners and businesses and to favorably impact the city's budget for solid waste removal and recycling. Watch for more information about the event as we get closer to the date.

Come and Meet the League Event

Please join us on January 29 from 7:45 to 9pm at Anne Borg's house for a Meet the League dessert and coffee. Come with your ideas and questions and share them with us! Finally, if you would like to become more involved with League activities, please let me or Anne Borg know.

Sincerely,

Terry Yoffie
President
Newton League of Women Voters

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President	
Terry Yoffie	617-965-1796
Vice President Operations	
Anne Borg	617- 244-6366
Vice President Communications	
Lisa Mirabile	617- 332-5374
Vice President Outreach/Voter Service	
Sharyn Roberts	617-969-9588
Treasurer	
Andrea Kozinetz	617-964-6490
Clerk	
Gail Glick	617- 964-5252

DIRECTORS

Pat Acton	617-965-5572
Leslie Burg	617- 244-7597
Bonnie Carter	617- 969-0686
George Foord	617-332-1654
Ellen Gibson	617-527-2856
Ann Grantham	617-964-0333
Sue Rosenbaum	617-332-0306

COMMITTEES

Education

Gail Glick

Election Commission

Nancy Criscitiello

Environment

Lucia Dolan & Beth Lowd

Housing

Myra Tattenbaum

Local Action

~~Deb Crossley~~

Anne Borg

Municipal Finance

George Foord & Terry Yoffie

Nominating Committee

Robin Maltz, Andrea Kelley, and

Barbara Sydney

Topic Meetings

Carol Ann Shea & Jodi Klein

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Lisa Mirabile, 617-332-5374.

To receive an **audio version** of this Newsletter, call Terry Yoffie at 617-965-1796.

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 or visit www.lwvnewton.org

January Topic Meeting: Plan of Action!

Join other League members to plan what issues the Newton LWV should study or work toward in 2009-10 (our "Program"). We are launching Program Planning early this year and altering our usual approach by having two meetings prior to having the board vote. We will be reviewing recommendations submitted by committee chairs as well as gathering any new ideas for program. This change is part of our ongoing effort to make the League more accessible to all of our members.

We will also be reviewing and making recommendations for the State League's 2009-11 Program.

Evening meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2009

7:00 pm – 9:00pm

Daytime meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

(Note: this is the 4th, not the 2nd, Wednesday of January)

11:30 am -1:30 pm

Brown bag lunches welcome

**Both meetings will be held in the Conference Room at NewTV,
23 Needham Street, Newton.**

Related Links:

The LWV Newton 08-09 Recommended Program,
www.lwvnewton.org/documents/08-09-LocalProgram.pdf

The State Planning Process, www.lwvma.org/lwvmaProgramPlanning2009.shtml

New Member "Meet the League"

Dessert and Coffee

January 29, 7:45 to 9pm

Anne Borg's house (155 Winchester St.)

Please join us on January 29 from 7:45 to 9pm at Anne Borg's house (155 Winchester St.) for a Meet the League dessert and coffee. Come with your ideas and questions and share them with us!

"Cash in the Trash II" coming in April

Coming off a highly-successful forum Nov. 20 on solid waste and recycling, The Environmental Committee is planning a follow-up "Cash in the Trash II" for April 7th. The forum will look at preliminary data from the automated pick-up/single stream recycling pilot and will also solicit participants' thoughts on pay-as-you-throw, which is also one of the revenue suggestions of the Citizen Advisory Group.

Cash in the Trash?

By the Environmental Committee

Trash Talk. Waste reduction? This year (2008-09) the League of Women Voters of Newton's Environmental Committee has focused on garbage. How does it translate in carbon emissions? How much does it really cost? Why would the city adopt an automated trash collection system?

After several committee discussions, the Environmental Committee, led by Beth Lowd and Lucia Dolan, realized that wider community education was needed. The first of at least two forums, held on Nov. 20, included two speakers, from the state and the city, to address rubbish in depth (their slideshows are available on our website at www.lwvnewton.org/2008-11-20-CashinTrash/).

The Druker Auditorium was packed with League members and co-sponsors: Green Decade Coalition/Newton, the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce, Newton for Fiscal Responsibility (NFFR), the Newton Free Library, the Newton TAB, and the Newton Solid Waste Committee.

The State Picture and PAYT

Much of the landscape for trash and recycling has changed, said Brooke Nash, branch chief for solid waste at the state Department of Environmental Protection. Some of that change has been slow—as landfills are capped and the price of “disposal” climbs. Some are more dramatic, like the drop in the price of commodities after the financial meltdown this fall.

Meanwhile, the number of firms in the trash collection business has increased, and the marketplace is quite favorable to municipalities looking to save tax dollars. The processing of recyclables—which basically means sorting—has been “revolutionized,” also affording savings.

And as the East coast has been sitting on its recycling laurels

Continued on page 5

Nominating Committee Seeks Input

The Nominating Committee is beginning the process of making recommendations for the 2009-2010 LWVN Board of Directors. The board helps implement League program. New people are always welcome. If you are interested in joining the board or would like to submit a name for consideration, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee.

Board members can take a leadership role in the following interest areas:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Health Care | Education |
| Parks & Recreation | Fundraising |
| Membership | Environment/Recycling |
| Voter Service | Candidate Nights |
| Elections | Legislative Round Table |
| Public Relations | Nominating Committee |
| Communications | Observer Corps |
| Land Use | Topic Meetings |
| Housing | Local Action |
| Transportation | League Debate Moderator |
| CPC/CPA | State/National Issues |
| Finance-Municipal/State | |

Robin Maltz 617-969-1554, robinm@comcast.net

Andrea Kelley 617-964-4609, RTCdesign@aol.com

Barbara Sydney 617-332-2160, bsydney@verizon.net

Andrea Kozinetz 617-964-6490, andreak@comcast.net

Leslie Burg 617-969-0361, laburg@rcn.com

Web Site Updated

By Lisa Mirabile

The communications committee has been busy adding to the LWVN website, trying to keep it both an up-to-date snapshot of everything the League is involved with at the moment, as well as a good reference resource.

The front page features web-only information on upcoming as well as recent events. For example, in addition to information on the upcoming Program Planning meetings, there are links to related information such as our current positions. Past events include a report on the “Cash in the Trash” forum with links to both speakers’ slide presentations, and a summary of the November special member meeting about a charter reform for those who missed it. In addition, there’s now a page featuring descriptions of past topic meetings with links to any related information such as presentations or background information. On the reference/resource side, those who’ve lost their *Member Handbook* can now check the bylaws and our current positions online, and new members will benefit from a Newton-specific “New Member FAQ” (we used to link to the generic national version). Soon to come are more information on all our committees and, to help you keep track of all that we offer, a new “Site Map” page.

We’re always open to new ideas: please send us any ideas for changes or additions! Email webmaster@lwvnewton.org.

"Cash in the Trash," continued from page 3

for the past decade, the West Coast has moved ahead, increasing recycling rates and moving into such cutting-edge recycling efforts as food waste recovery.

Single-stream recycling, which Newton is including on the six pilot routes with automatic collection, is also being tested in Boston, where they are already seeing 50% more material being recycled. While single-stream might increase recycling some in Newton, it probably won't be as dramatic here, Nash said, because Newton is already recycling at a respectable rate.

Nash explored other ways of increasing recycling and decreasing waste, but noted that all had large operating costs for small percentage increases.

The most effective and lowest cost method, Nash said, is pay-as-you-throw. Already 124 communities in the state do it—reducing their trash costs and creating a “disincentive” to trash. (Note: it is also first on the Citizen Advisory Group's list of recommended ways to increase city revenue). In typical communities, recycling rates jump to 60 percent. Average for Massachusetts non-PAYT communities is 39 percent, Nash said.

PAYT doesn't always translate into higher collections of recyclables, Nash said—sometimes items that would have been trashed are instead advertised on Craig's List or donated to charities.

The system can use either bags or stickers. Newton could also charge a flat fee for the first barrel and have PAYT for anything that overflows. This also means the costs that vary—like the cost of disposal—are covered by the PAYT system instead of being drawn from non-trash tax revenue.

The challenges of PAYT are getting it right—it takes education and transparency, Nash said. People see PAYT as a tax, which makes it a hard sell. And the start-up costs are fairly steep. However, the DEP has grants to help with that.

The downsides of PAYT are that since trash fees are not a tax, they cannot be deducted from federal income tax returns. Illegal dumping, a concern frequently raised, is rare Nash said.

The Local Picture

Newton currently pays \$6.8 million for trash and recycling, said Tom Daley, the head of the city's Department of Public Works. This makes waste the single largest line item in the DPW budget of \$18.7 million.

The single stream experiment was calculated to earn the city several thousands of dollars—but that was before the market crash and the decimation of the commodities markets (recycling that used to earn the city \$100/ton was recently bringing in \$5/ton).

But still, solid waste—otherwise known as trash—disposal doesn't bring in anything per ton; instead, it costs the city \$152/ton or \$4.4 million for about 29,000 tons a year. It's not just expensive, it's polluting, Daley said. Recycled plastic requires ¼ the amount of oil that virgin plastic does. And recycling 100 tons of office paper saves 529 barrels of oil, or the equivalent in carbon emissions of 49 cars driving for one year.

The reason the city is looking at automated trash collection is to reduce collection costs. By pairing it with a single-stream recycling system, it makes recycling easier for residents to use, thus raising recycling rates.

Automated collection is happening in six separate routes. They were picked because they represented the toughest situations the city could find, Daley said. So far, they had discovered that only three areas in Nonantum were posing difficulties for the auto pickup.

Anyone having difficulty with automatic or regular trash pickup is welcome to call the department's environmental affairs director, Elaine Gentile, at 796-1471.

Questions were mostly friendly, asking about other items that could be recycled or business recycling options. One man asked how the recycling and auto trash pickup numbers stacked up, and Daley invited him to come and review the budget at his convenience. “We wouldn't be doing this if we weren't saving money,” he said.

Jeff Seidman, of Newton for Fiscal Responsibility, asked whether the trash and recycling contracts would be competitively bid. Daley said that decision was up to the mayor, but that probably a new contract would be signed in January, since it would have to start in July of 2010.

Further coverage of the discussion:

www.wickedlocal.com/newton/archive/x1720663853/Newton-considers-tightening-its-waste

www.wickedlocal.com/newton/archive/x776449674/Roche-Newton-trash-collection-Savings-service-sustainability-subsidy

Welcome new members!

Matthew Hills, 25 Hobart Rd, Newton Centre

Judi Hirshfield-Bartek, 32 Ferncroft Rd, Waban

Susan Huffman, 27 Indiana Ter, Newton Upper Falls

Keri & Tim O'Brien, 141 Plymouth Rd, Newton Highlands

Emily Prenner, 189 Carlton Rd, Waban

Liz Richardson, 55 Mossfield Rd., Waban

Malcolm & B.J. Salter, 20 Monadnock Rd, Chestnut Hill

Lois Smith, 194 Parker St, Newton Centre

Sande Young, 18 Karen Rd, Waban

CPC Updates

November Topic Meeting: Community Preservation Act, Past and Future

A synopsis of notes by Linda Morrison

At the LWVN's November 12 Topic Meeting, Local Action committee members gave the audience a broad view of the history of the CPA in Newton and highlighted the questions that will need careful consideration in the near future.

Priscilla Leith began with a summary of the seven-year history of the CPA in Newton, noting that, though until now the state has been able to match funds raised by the tax at a rate of 100%, that amount is now decreasing to 65% and is expected to go even lower soon.

Next, committee members presented overviews of past projects in each of the four areas in which CPA funds can be spent: Historic Preservation, Open Space, Recreation, and Affordable Housing.

Criteria for historic preservation funding are very much under public discussion, Andreae Downs reported, dominated by questions about its use for private property restoration and particularly expensive projects. AnnaMaria Abernathy reported that Open Space and Recreation projects have been up in the air recently pending the recent SJC decision, which ruled that the city of Newton's plans to use funds to renovate two existing parks was not legal. State Senator Cynthia Creem has proposed legislation to change the legislation to make such use permissible; whether or not to support that change will be a decision for the LWV of Massachusetts to make.

Deb Crossley pointed out that the City has two tools for evaluating CPA proposals in the housing category: the Consolidated Housing Plan and the updated Comprehensive Plan. She suggested that some of the criteria we need to look at include long-term affordability (many of the restrictions on units have an expiration date) and durability of construction.

Following the presentations, the audience and committee members engaged in a long and thoughtful discussion. There was agreement that, since the amount of CPA money available is shrinking; it does not seem prudent to enlarge the allowed uses. In addition, there was conversation about banking some of the CPA money for one-time large projects; about whether the city should change the proportions of how it spends CPA money among the four categories; and about how the City will continue to pay off any bonding debt that is incurred given the shrinking pot of CPA funds. Most of those present supported preserving the relatively even distribution of funds among the four categories, but there were strong opinions by a minority that housing should get a larger share. A consensus of people favored banking funds for future large proposals that might occur and supported the idea that debt service for bonded projects should be monitored carefully and have first claim to CPA funds raised from the city surcharge.

The Newton LWV plans to present a statement at the next CPC meeting reporting on our priorities. *(See letter, this page)*

LWVN Responds to CPC Request for Feedback

Joyce Moss, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

December 15, 2008

Dear Ms. Moss:

The League of Women Voters of Newton is grateful for the opportunity to weigh in on your program again this year. The Committee is to be congratulated for its hard work and foresight in gathering public comment and working to refine and clarify its grant-making priorities.

Our Local Action Committee and our Board have developed the following suggestions for your consideration.

First, since the state-provided portion of annual CPA income is anticipated to shrink in coming years, we encourage the CPC to put debt service payments first, as it has to date, and incur no new bond obligations whose payments, along with current debt service, will exceed the funds from the 1% surcharge in Newton.

Second, we propose "banking" some percentage of CPC funds annually so that there are monies available for one-time, large, and urgent projects. Many of our signature CPA projects are big-ticket items, and having the funds set aside would reduce interest costs to the CPA fund.

Third, we believe that funding for city-wide planning has been the most useful money the CPA has spent over the years, with a wonderful example being the Heritage Landscape Inventory. Please continue to encourage other departments to plan for the future in anticipation of possible opportunities.

As guiding principles in all funding questions, we heartily endorse the CPC's vigilance in requiring the applicants to explain how their projects fit in with existing plans and priority documents.

Most importantly, the League applauds the CPC for asking that all projects be sustainable in the long term: not only efficient to run (energy, water, etc.), but also durable, and with a maintenance endowment for projects that will need regular care.

Our comments would never be complete without letting the CPC know how much we appreciate the work of your volunteer committee. Particularly as resources become scarcer, your careful deliberations and thoughtful questions are critical to the success of the CPA in Newton.

Yours,

Terry Yoffie, President, LWVN

Look online for observer notes from the December 17th CPC committee meeting: www.lwvnewton.org.

Question 1 Campaign Follow-up

Voter cynicism and anger at government is intense, according to tracking polls done as part of the effort to defeat November's state referendum question repealing the income tax.

Harris Grumman of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), one of many who worked alongside the state League of Women Voters on the *No on One* campaign, outlined what the campaign had learned with its polls and focus groups.

The campaign polled the demographic it felt was most vulnerable to the Yes campaign's message: suburban, non-college educated, unenrolled voters. In conversation with these voters, it became clear that they see government as a kind of "foreign occupying force," Grumman said "who see taxes as extortion and newspapers as 'bought'."

Grumman and three others—John Robertson of the Mass. Municipal Association, Charlie Stefanini, a Beacon Hill lobbyist, and Michelle Norman, the policy director of the Executive Office of Education—spoke Nov. 20 at a Stand for Children forum which several Newton League members attended.

The *No on One* campaign was successful, Grumman said, because it stuck to a common sense approach, refraining from scare tactics and emphasizing that other taxes would go up if the income tax were repealed. The campaign didn't say "it goes too far," he noted, because they didn't want to imply that a smaller cut would be acceptable, either.

Robertson outlined the depth of the bad news for municipalities—all sources of revenue are down at the state level, and cuts that may be avoided in Fiscal Year 09, which ends in June, may well come in FY10.

Stefanini said that the mood on Beacon Hill had changed from "looking ahead to shoring up," and cutting losses.

Norman talked about Governor Patrick's vision for education despite the economic situation: "The need is for a systemic look at the way we go about education." While more cuts will come, the administration wants to "stay calm and real." One thing that the state is doing is slowing new mandates for local school departments and streamlining paperwork.

Join the League of Women Voters of Newton!

Membership in the LWVN offers the chance to gain knowledge and experience about vital issues in Newton as well as in Massachusetts and in the nation at large; to make a valuable contribution to your community; and to discover new interests, develop new skills, make new contacts and develop lasting friendships.

Membership is open to all citizens (men and women) of voting age. Associate membership is open to young people and noncitizens. Your annual dues give you membership in local, state and national leagues. You will receive regular publications from all three organizations, as well as a chance to be active, informed and heard.

Name(s)		Home Phone	
Address		Other Phone	
City/State/Zip		Email Address	

Please **CIRCLE** preferred method of contact: **Phone / Email**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$55.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Household (2 members) - \$75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership - \$75.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Membership - \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership - \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution \$ _____ |

Please return your completed form with your check, payable to LWVN (or pay online by credit card at lwnnewton.org/join.php). Membership dues and contributions to the LWV Newton are not deductible for tax purposes. Tax-deductible contributions to LWV US Educational Fund may be made by check and sent to the LWVN Treasurer. Assistance is available if membership dues present a financial hardship. If you prefer, you can call us at 617-964-0014 or email info@lwnnewton.org to request a membership packet. **Please send checks to:** Andrea Kozinetz, LWVN Treasurer, 8 Stony Brae Road, Newton Highlands, MA 02461.

LWVN CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 4th Sunday, 2 – 4 pm. **CPC Readers Meeting** at Andreae Downs's house, 854 Chestnut St.
- 7th Wed., 8 – 9:30 am, **CAG Forum Planning Meeting**, Knotty Pine Restaurant, 295 Auburn St., Auburndale.
- 8th Thurs., 7:00 pm, **LWVN Board Meeting**, location to be announced.
- 9th Fri., 9 - 11 am, **CPC Readers Meeting** at Andreae Downs's house, 854 Chestnut St.
- 9th Fri., 4:30 - 5:30 pm, **Education Comm. Planning Meeting**, Ellen Gibson's house, 41 Vernon St.
- 14th Wed., 8 – 9:30 am, **CAG Forum Planning Meeting**, Knotty Pine Restaurant, 295 Auburn St., Auburndale.
- 16th Fri., 9:30 a.m., **Environmental Comm. meeting** at Lucia Dolan's.20 Devon Rd.
- 21st Wed., 8 – 9:30 am, **CAG Forum Planning Meeting**, Knotty Pine Restaurant, 295 Auburn St., Auburndale.
- 22nd Thurs., 1 – 3 pm, Election Commission Task Force meeting, Newton City Hall.
- 22nd Thurs., 7:30pm, **Topic Meeting: Program Planning**, NewTV Conference Rm, 23 Needham St.
- 28th Wed., 8 – 9:30 am, **CAG Forum Planning Meeting**, Knotty Pine Restaurant, 295 Auburn St., Auburndale.
- 28th Wed., 11:30 am, **Topic Meeting: Program Planning**, NewTV Conference Rm, 23 Needham St.

FEBRUARY

- 4th Wed., 8 – 9:30 am, **CAG Forum Planning Meeting**, Baker's Best, 27 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands
- 6th Fri., 9 – 10:30 am, **Local Action Comm.**, AnnaMaria Abernathy's house
- 11th Wed., 8 – 9:30 am, **CAG Forum Planning Meeting**, Baker's Best, 27 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands
- 11th Wed., 11:30 am, **Topic Meeting**, NewTV conference room, 23 Needham St.
- 12th Thurs., 7:00 pm, **LWVN Board Meeting**, location to be announced.
- 18th Wed., 8 – 9:30 am, **CAG Forum Planning Meeting**, Baker's Best, 27 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands
- 25th Wed., 8 – 9:30 am, **CAG Forum Planning Meeting**, Baker's Best, 27 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands
- 27th Fri., 9:15 – 10:45 a.m., **Environmental Comm. meeting** at Lucia Dolan's.20 Devon Rd.

→ Don't forget to check our online calendar for any late-breaking changes!
www.lwvnewton.org/calendar.php.

League of Women Voters of Newton

P O Box 610207
Newton, MA 02461
617-964-0014
www.lwvnewton.org

WHAT'S INSIDE

From the President	1
Energy Audits Begin	1
January Topic Meeting	3
Nominating Comm.	4
Notes: <i>Cash in the Trash</i>	4
Website Updates	4
Welcome New Members!	5
CPC News	6
Question 1 Campaign	7