League of Women Voters Newton
2010 Annual Workbook

Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 27, 2010
6:00 – 9:30 PM

Newton Senior Center
345 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA

Please be sure to bring your Workbook to the Annual Meeting

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEWTON
2010 ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010

AGENDA

Social Time/Dinner 6:00 PM
Entertainment 7:00 PM

Business Meeting 7:30 PM
- Call to Order Yoffie
- Appointment of Parliamentarian Yoffie
- Committee Report to Approve 2009 Minutes Downs
- Appointment of Committee to Approve 2010 Minutes Yoffie
- President’s Report Yoffie
- Treasurer’s Report Peckler
- Jane Leighton Award Conferred Leighton, Roberts
- 50 Year Member Awards Conferred Yoffie
- Presentation of Program Borg
  - Charter Study Report Butzel, Kidwell
  - Land Use Study Proposal Kelley
- Adoption of Program Borg
- Presentation of Budget Yoffie
  - Scholarship Award Proposal Borg
  - 75th Anniversary Party Proposal Kelley
- Adoption of Budget Yoffie
- Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws Glick
- Nominating Committee Report Kozinetz
- Election of Officers and Directors Kozinetz
- Member Direction to the Board and Direction to the LWVN Delegates to the LWVUS National Convention

Adjournment 9:30 PM
**2010-2011 PROPOSED PROGRAM**

(Issues for Study and Action)

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Newton recommends adoption of the following program for 2010-2011:

1. All the positions listed in the 2008 Handbook on pages 25 to 41, with the following exceptions:
   a. Charter, p. 26, and Planning in the Community, p. 39: change the wording from “support the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan” to “support the implementation and regular updating of the Newton Comprehensive Plan.”
   b. Fiscal Policy, p. 26: delete the Revenue Sharing position, as it is defunct.
   c. Charter Study recommendations, see separate Charter Study recommendations on page 4.

2. A Land Use Study.

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Newton recommends the following local action priorities for 2010-2011:

1. Public Education:
   a. Follow up on the findings published by the Citizens Advisory Group pertaining to its analysis of the Newton Public Schools' (NPS) financial and operating structures.
   b. Study and facilitate civic discussions around the various recommendations/options for possible NPS system-wide change; and to identify and advocate for those changes that assure feasible implementation, cost-effectiveness, and significant benefit and improvement – in both scope and scale – to the school system.
   c. Actively participate in studying of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education as part of a national program, pending adoption by the LWVUS.

2. Environmental Quality:
   a. Continue efforts to monitor and support single stream recycling and pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) in Newton.
   b. Support implementation of the Comprehensive Plan's Transportation and Mobility section.
   c. Safe Sidewalks: Continue to work towards improving pedestrian mobility in Newton, including an ordinance to require residents to clear snow from sidewalks, and to support enforcement of existing snow ordinances.
   d. Explore supporting statewide plastic bag tax or ban.
   e. Support efforts to educate LWVN members and Newton residents about water quality issues in Newton.
   f. Continue to be engaged in City environmental issues, including monitoring the City on energy conservation.

3. Housing:
   a. Support implementation of Accessory Apartment (AA) amendments and monitor the progress of a study of building lot size and dimensional requirements to encourage increased expansion of rental housing through creation of legal AA’s.
   b. Support of the work of UCHAN, which has absorbed Housing Action Plan Initiative (HAPI) and assumed its action function, as well as other housing organizations in Newton to promote affordable housing throughout the city. This includes support of 40B provisions presently in place and opposition to the proposed ballot initiative that would invalidate it.
   c. Replace the current LWVN Housing Committee with a LWVN Housing and Development Committee.

4. Elections:
   a. Continue the work of the Elections Committee.
   b. Work with the Municipal Finance Committee to study best practices related to campaign finance.
5. **Municipal Finance:** Seek to influence Newton’s early commitment to full funding of its unfunded Other Post Employment Benefit ("OPEB") liability.

The **2009-2010 LWVN Charter Study Committee recommends the following positions for the Government section of LWVN Program; approved by LWVN Board of Directors on April 27, 2010 for Annual Meeting:**

**Electoral Process Subcommittee:**
1. Support four-year staggered terms for the Board of Aldermen and School Committee. (Amended position, please see below.)
2. Support abolishing School Committee term limits.
3. Support the reduction of the size of the Board of Aldermen with a mix of at-large and district representation or with at-large representatives with a residency requirement. (Amended position, please see below.)

**Administrative Subcommittee:**
4. Support an administrative code that clearly delineates the function and responsibility of city departments and outlines the qualifications for department heads.

**Executive Subcommittee:**
5. Support the position of a CAO, appointed by and reporting directly to the Mayor. This position shall be appointed on the basis of education, training and experience in the accepted competencies and practices of local government management. A contract is desirable to insure some job security and independence.
7. Support the requirement that the Executive Branch submit timely, periodic long-range financial plans, and long-range strategic capital plans.
8. Support the development and implementation of a personnel evaluation plan under the Executive Branch (by ordinance, not the charter).

**Finance Subcommittee:**
9. Support strengthening the Board of Aldermen audit process to achieve greater internal control.
10. Support ordinance to require adoption of best financial practices.
11. Support elimination of 2% charter maintenance provision for schools.
12. Support the adoption of a comprehensive capital planning process including clear links to long-term goals.

**Neighborhood Area Councils:**

**Non-recommended Item:**
- Support a change in the Board of Aldermen Rules and Orders to restrict the Board of Aldermen president to an at-large alderman.

**Two current program positions would be changed if new proposed government positions were adopted:**
2. "Support the reduction of the size of the Board of Aldermen to not less than 16 members while maintaining a balance between ward aldermen and aldermen-at-large." The new text would be “Support the reduction of the size of the Board of Aldermen with a mix of at-large and district representation or with at-large representatives with residency requirement.” Please see 2008 Handbook, page 26.

**Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws:**
The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters Newton recommends the following amendment to Article IV, Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers:

*The officers of the LWVN shall consist of either a president, a shared presidency, or a leadership team. In the case of a single or shared presidency, other officers will include one or more vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer; in the case of a leadership team, the offices of secretary and treasurer may be assumed by members of the leadership team. In*
all cases, the enumeration of officers is at the discretion of the nominating committee and the membership. These officers shall be elected for terms of one year by the general membership at an annual meeting and take office immediately.

2010-2011 LWVN Proposed Slate:

Leadership Team:
Anne Borg
Bonnie Carter - Clerk
Gail Glick
Ellen Glusman
Vacant - Treasurer

Directors:
Leslie Burg
Sandy Butzel
Lucia Dolan
Sue Flicop
Lisa Mirabile

Mindy Peckler
Sharyn Roberts
Carol Ann Shea
Terry Yoffie
Vacant

2010-2011 Nominating Committee:
Andreae Downs
Ann Grantham, Chair
Susan Rosenbaum

- Respectfully submitted by the 2009-10 Nominating Committee - Andrea Kozinetz, Chair; Members: Andreae Downs, Ellen Glusman, Ann Grantham, and Andrea Kelley.

2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORTS

Charter Study Committee Report 2009-2010

Last year, at this time, there was conversation about forming a Charter Commission. To many of us, we thought that if a Charter Commission were necessary, it warranted a League of Women Voters Study first. Members agreed and the 2010 LWVN Charter Study Committee was formed.

Your response and willingness to help with the study was inspiring. Thirty-eight League members assembled, and seven subcommittees were formed. The scope of the study was very broad. A study and research plan with strict timelines was put in place to ensure efficiency and the ability to complete the study in one year! We reached that goal and the results were impressive.

Many governmental officials, government experts and academics were interviewed. Two lengthy documents were written to share the information gathered in the many hours of research. One was a study guide with the suggested program positions and the pluses and minuses for each outlined. The other was an Appendix that included every subcommittee report. Both documents were put online and printed copies were in the library.

Two well-attended and lively consensus meetings took place in April 2010. Those in attendance debated 15 proposed program positions for consensus. The League Board recommended 14 items for approval at the Annual Meeting.

The Charter Study Committee did not recommend a Charter Commission. Instead, we concluded that the addition of strong support positions in our Local Program would prepare the League for meaningful action in several ways, whether or not there is a Charter Commission.

With the proposed program positions, the League will be able to:

- Lobby a charter commission, to the extent that one is elected (which could happen with or without League support);
- Lobby for certain changes to the charter via home rule petition;
- Support or oppose an ordinance related to a League position;
- Support or introduce a change in an administrative code.

Please take time to appreciate the generous and first-rate members of the 2010 LWVN Charter Study Committee: Co-Chairs: Rhanna Kidwell & Sandy Butzel. ** Electoral Process Subcommittee**: Ellen Glusman and Nancy Criscitiello, Co-Chairs; Andreae Downs, Shirley Farnham, Sue Flicop, Ingrid Kefauser, Lee Kefauser, Margaret LeBlanc, Brooke Lipsitt, Sharyn Roberts, Barbara Sydney. ** Administration Subcommittee**: Alicia Bowman, Chair; Bonnie Carter, Ann Grantham. ** Executive Subcommittee**: Carol Ann Shea and Nancy Crowley, Co-Chairs; Leslie Burg, Audrey Cooper. ** Legislative Subcommittee**: John Stewart and Lisa Mirabile, Co-Chairs; Pat Acton, Giles Birch, Gail Glick, Sue Flicop, Verne Vance. ** Finance Subcommittee**: Ruthanne Fuller, Chair; Harvey Creem, Terrence Finn, Sue Flicop, George Foord, Ellen Grody, Lisa Mirabile, Sondra Shick, Terry Yoffie. ** Schools Subcommittee**: Gail Glick, Chair; Sue Flicop, Susie Heyman, Lisa Mirabile, Lynne Sullivan. ** Land Use Subcommittee**: Myra Tattenbaum, Chair; Deborah Crossley, Maurya Sullivan.

Chairing this study has been one of the best of League experiences; thank you.

- Respectfully submitted by Sandy Butzel and Rhanna Kidwell, Co-Chairs.

**Community Preservation Committee Readers Report 2009-2010**

Members: Maryan Amaral, AnnaMaria Abernathy, Deb Crossley, Andrea Kelley, Andrea Kozinetz, Priscilla Leith, Myra Tattenbaum, and Terry Yoffie.

As we have for at least the last five years, League readers reviewed the applications for the city’s Community Preservation Act funds—about $4 million this year, after debt service, and shrinking because of the demands on the state matching funds.

This year, given these tight resources, we did not recommend any of the proposals, but, as usual, raised questions and concerns where appropriate. Our full description, comments and more can be found on our website www.lwvnewton.org. For space reasons, we will not include the full texts here.

Since the November 18, 2009 public presentation of the grant requests, at which AnnaMaria Abernathy and Priscilla Leith read our comments, the Community Preservation Committee has voted on several of the requests.

We followed the proposals throughout the year; reporting to members at a Topic Meeting and through the Newsletter about what had been approved and which of our questions had been answered by applicants.

**Education Committee Report 2009-2010**

Gail Glick and Sue Flicop, Co-Chairs; Members: Margaret Albright, Nina Berk, Eleanor Bloom, Anne Borg, Alicia Bowman, James Bauch, Liz Cody, Gail Deegan, Andreae Downs, Shirley Farnham, Ruthanne Fuller, Joanne Gatnik, Shawnia Giggy-Mashal, Linda Green, Fiora Houghteling, Susan Huffman, Susan Mirsky, Emily Norton, Emily Prenner, Margie Ross Decter, Wendy Schapiro, Chris Steele, Hope Suttin, Marcia Tabenken, Karolina Tager, Carol Walters.

This past year, the LWVN Education Committee decided to follow up on and continue forward the work of the Citizen Advisory Group regarding the operational and budgetary systems employed by the Newton Public Schools. In this context, the Committee is embarking on a study of various education models and assessing their relative merits and weaknesses with the objective of determining what is or is not feasible for local implementation and what offers added value. When complete, the Committee plans to make its research available and accessible to the community, as well as present its findings to the public through informational forums or symposia, including interactive meetings where the costs/risks and benefits, pros and cons can be openly vetted.

The Committee’s study will focus on aspects of models that are actually in use, as opposed to the purely theoretical, and will address a diverse range of topics: pedagogical approaches for different learning styles; administrative structures and governance; teacher training, on-going support and development, and compensation structures; length of the school day and school calendar; virtual learning and off-campus models supported by technology; physical organization and construction of the school facility; and mechanisms enabling transitions to and from different models. The Education Committee meets once a month, and is presently in the process of organizing the study groups.
- Respectfully submitted by Gail Glick and Sue Flicop.

**Election Commission Committee Report 2009-2010**

Nancy Criscitiello and Ellen Glusman, Co-Chairs; Members: Anne Borg, Andreae Downs, Sue Flicop, Ingrid Kefauver, Lee Kefauver, Margaret LeBlanc, Sharyn Roberts, Myra Tattenbaum, Terry Yoffie. (Sue Rosenbaum was formerly a member of this committee until she resigned to run as a candidate for School Committee.)

Members of the Election Commission Task Force met 16 times during the year May 2009-May 2010, dividing its attention in several different areas:

1) We observed 3 of the Election Commission Meetings, one of which was cancelled because of the lack of a quorum.

2) We worked feverishly to come up with consensus questions on LWVUS’s National Popular Vote question, and presided over the Topic Meeting on March 20, 2009.

3) We met with Craig Manseau 6 times to go over issues of poll worker recruitment, training, evaluation, training manual fine-tuning, etc. Progress was made but we will continue to meet with him in 2010-2011.

4) We met as the Electoral Process Sub-Committee for the LWVN Charter Study Group, and submitted our final report to the Group on March 17, 2010.

5) We hosted a Poll Worker Thank You party in City Hall’s cafeteria, which was attended by at least 100 people. A great success! We plan to do this event again in November 2010.

- Respectfully submitted by Nancy Criscitiello and Ellen Glusman.

**Environmental Issues Committee Report 2009-2010**

Lucia Dolan and Beth Lowd, Co-Chairs; Members: Mary Adelstein, Barbara Balasa, Pia Bertelli, Halina Brown, Leslie Burg, Carol Chafetz, Liz Cody, Deb Crossley, Andreae Downs, Barbara Herson, Alison Leary, Lois Levin, Brooke Lipsitt, Joan Portnoy, Sharyn Roberts, Heather Tausig, Dede Vittori, Terry Yoffie.

We continued our support for improving recycling rates in Newton with a letter to the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and TAB in support of moving to a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) trash system. PAYT has proven to be the most effective system to quickly and permanently increase municipal recycling rates. We sent the Board of Aldermen and Mayor a letter requesting equitable and transparent trash and recycling fee policies for businesses, including non-profits.

We have also worked behind the scenes to encourage the transition to single-stream recycling in our public schools and other municipal buildings.

We began informing our committee on transportation issues in Newton:

- Representatives of local bicycle and pedestrian groups and members of the Newton Department of Planning and Development met with our group to discuss their views on transportation.

- Members of our committee are working in the citizen group - Newton Safe Sidewalks - to reinstate a residential sidewalk snow removal ordinance and enforce our current sidewalk snow ordinances. This supports LWVN’s longstanding position on Sidewalk Snow Removal.

- We have co-sponsored with the Newton's Department of Planning and Development a student research group from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Boston Project Center. Four junior college students have spent their spring semester researching "Obstacles to Pedestrian Mobility" in the Newton Centre, West Newton, Newton Corner, and Route 9/Chestnut Hill areas. The WPI students gave their report to the April 21, 2010, meeting of the Board of Aldermen's Public Safety and Transportation Committee and on May 3, 2010, at a public forum at the Newton Free Library.

- Members of our group have joined the LWVMA Statewide Transportation Restudy.

- As the result of the meeting with Newton's transportation planners, the Environment Committee drafted an ordinance that would establish a transportation commission whose function it would be to coordinate transportation planning. This ordinance was approved by LWVN's board and should surface soon at the Board of Aldermen.
We appointed Engineer Fred Brustman to replace Alderman Deb Crossley on the Newton Citizens Commission on Energy.

We have begun examining water issues and wrote a letter to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen requesting water and sewer fees be appropriately set to cover the full costs of maintenance for the City's sewer system.

Lastly, we have begun following bills filed in the Massachusetts legislature on taxing or banning plastic bags.

- Respectfully submitted by Lucia Dolan and Beth Lowd.

**Sidewalk Snow Subcommittee Report 2009-2010**


A subcommittee of the Environmental Issues Committee worked with a coalition of groups this year to revive the residential sidewalk-clearing ordinance. We also worked closely with the aldermanic Snow Committee (Ald. Danberg, Ald. Crossley, Ald. Swiston, Ald. Rice, Terry Yoffie, Alicia Bowman, DPW Commissioner Tom Daley, Parks and Recreation Acting Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Law Department Acting Solicitor Marie Lawlor, Aaron Goldman from the Mayor’s office, private contractor Phil Mastrioanni and Police Captain Chris Marzilli).

League members called officials in more than 30 surrounding communities to determine which of them required residents to shovel sidewalks. We asked officials in the 11 communities that did about their snow-clearing ordinance. We gathered information about the laws’ effectiveness, their enforceability and liability, to answer some of the concerns we heard from aldermen.

To make sure the city’s plowing routes around schools met the safety needs of walking children, Safe Routes to School coordinated the Parent Teacher Organizations and principals to examine these routes. SRTS is working with the League, the Bike and Pedestrian Task Force, and the Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities on sidewalk snow issues. We have dubbed ourselves Safe Sidewalks.

Over the late winter and spring, Safe Sidewalks members have generated dozens of letters to the editor and to aldermen, put notices in PTO and Newton organizations’ newsletters encouraging sidewalk clearance, run two television programs about snow on NewTV, and compiled a series of choices for aldermen in crafting a new ordinance. We have recommended that the new ordinance, as well as the current one prohibiting the dumping of snow onto sidewalks, be written so that more departments can enforce it. Currently, only the police can.

One of our Safe Sidewalks members, attorney Maria Sullivan, examined the city plowing contract and made suggestions, which Ald. Danberg has sent to the Law Department, on how it could be made more effective. Ald. Danberg has also passed along our suggestions for the new ordinance to the law department. As far as liability, we are awaiting a Supreme Judicial Court decision that deals with snow and ice and property owner liability before drafting a residential sidewalk proposal for Newton. We want to ensure that Newton’s ordinance will pass legal muster.

Another member, Maryan Amaral, created a blog highlighting the snow mountains dumped into curb cuts around town. The DPW has been very responsive in removing these once she’s brought them to their attention. We have drafted an educational brochure, which DPW Commissioner Tom Daley has graciously agreed to send out with city water bills in the fall. Acting City Solicitor Lawlor is reviewing the brochure language, which explains the snow ordinances and outlines the city’s responsibilities.

Safe Sidewalks and the Snow Committee have plans to meet with neighborhood groups to talk about pedestrian safety and the sidewalk ordinance.

**Housing Committee Report 2009-2010**

*Leslie Burg and Myra Tattenbaum, Co-Chairs; Members: Deb Crossley, Mary Ann Donaldson, Ruthanne Fuller, Judy Jacobson, Andrea Kelley, Liz Kirsch, Carol Ann Shea.*

The principal focus of the Housing Committee this year was the passage of five amendments to Newton’s Accessory Apartment Ordinance intended to ease zoning restrictions that have discouraged the creation of accessory apartments and
encourage the building of additional—and legal—accessory units in the city. Ted Hess-Mahan docketed the amendments and led this mostly successful effort on the Board of Aldermen.

The Housing Committee worked for passage in a number of ways. We wrote and delivered a LWVN support statement at the public hearing held by the Zoning and Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen and the Planning and Development Board. Leslie reached out to a new organization of older citizens concerned with their ability to age in place called Newton at Home. She wrote an informational letter for this group that was approved by their board of directors and sent to their membership. As a result, some Newton at Home members attended the public hearing. She also wrote an op-ed that responded to one written by a Newton resident in opposition to the accessory apartment amendments. The Tab published it under Terry Yoffie’s name as LWVN President, and it was sent to LWVN members as part of the monthly newsletter.

We also continued to work with the Housing Action Plan Initiative (HAPI) established two years ago by Phil Herr and sponsored by numerous Newton housing organizations including the LWVN. Its primary objective was to remove obstacles to building affordable housing in Newton. HAPI was quite successful on a number of fronts (e.g. changing our inclusionary zoning ordinance to render it more attractive to developers, alterations to our accessory apartment ordinance as discussed above, etc.) As planned, it disbanded following a final workshop last spring and has since been subsumed by UCHAN, which has adopted the action mode of HAPI in addition to its traditional advocacy role.

Through Myra, we have become associated with the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA) in a campaign to defeat a home initiative petition, which will be on the ballot this November, to repeal Massachusetts’s 40B zoning provision that helps increase affordable housing construction. We plan to continue this effort with League support prior to the upcoming election.

Leslie will be attending the Great Neighborhoods Summit on June 10th at Wentworth Institute sponsored by Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance, which she recently joined. Its mission is to help our cities and towns create neighborhoods that adhere to Smart Growth principles of affordability, diversity, walkability, and a high quality of life.

Additionally, we began working with the ad hoc committee established by Andrea Kelley to review the LWVN’s land use, zoning, and other related positions with an eye to updating and making them current and useful.

- Respectfully submitted by Leslie Burg and Myra Tattenbaum.

**Committee to Review Land Use-Related Positions Summary Report 2009-2010**

Andrea Kelley, Chair; Members: Leslie Burg, Deb Crossley, Matt Cuddy, Priscilla Leith, Carol Ann Shea, John Sisson, Chris Steele, Myra Tattenbaum.

In February and March 2010, a resource committee met, discussed and researched existing LWVN positions that relate to land use. The goal is to give the LWVN an updated knowledge and position base on which to educate and advocate in the near future.

Local Program Planning agreed through consensus that a League Study of Land Use-Related Positions is a high priority Program area for the 2010-2011 year.

Three-tiered recommendations have emerged from the resource committee:

- **positions that can easily be changed, updated, edited at Annual Meeting 2010:**
  - Charter, page 26, and Planning in the Community, page 39, change the wording from “support the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan” to “support the implementation and regular updating of the Newton Comprehensive Plan” (NB: see page 3 of the Annual Workbook for this proposal);
  - Zoning, page 39, “Support modification of zoning ordinances”: research and correct the proper subcategories of a, b, c, d, e, f, and g, as there appears to be a cut and paste error where b = e, and c = f. (NB: this has been done, and the corrected position will be in the 2010 Handbook.)

- **position that can be deleted due to being outdated/defunct at Annual Meeting:**
  - Fiscal Policy, page 26, delete the Revenue Sharing Money position, as it is defunct (NB: see page 3 of the Annual Workbook for this proposal).
• adopt a local League Study and determine Consensus, undertaken to look in more depth at land use related issues that are in positions entitled: Charter, Fiscal Policy, Housing, Zoning, Planning in the Community, Redevelopment, Rehabilitation and Conservation, Closed School Facilities and Environmental Quality. This is expected to take a year.

There exists the man/woman power to do this; most current members of the resource committee are interested and available to continue. Additionally, other potential committee members will be sought and encouraged to participate. This effort is not expected to drain significant time from the Board.

A balanced study is planned, including community research and information gathering, informing members through the newsletter, and at least one member informational meeting. That meeting will most likely occur next winter. Reaching a new position or positions may take place at that meeting or a later one, no later than spring 2011. The work of the committee will begin as soon after a vote at Annual Meeting as possible. Research and collecting information may continue prior to that. A summer intern may be available to assist with research, at no cost to the LWVN. Current state and national positions will continue to be researched; to be sure any possible changes will be in compliance with them. The Study will include League and non-League members, including potentially those in the community with related expertise such as Planning and Development Director, Aldermanic Chair of Land Use and/or Zoning and Planning Committee, professional planners etc.

Additionally, it is suggested that the LWVN overview all its positions as they are currently listed to reduce redundancy and check for any other oversights or typo/errors. This is not a program priority but is a short-term administrative function the Board could undertake. Noting the adoption dates of positions is also recommended.

- Respectfully submitted by Andrea Kelley.

Local Action Log 2009-2010

In December, the Environmental Issues Committee drafted a letter sent to Lisle Baker, President of the Board of Aldermen, encouraging the executive department and the Board of Aldermen to set water and sewer rates sufficient to cover the administration, maintenance and capital improvements to the city’s systems. (Please see the March 2010 newsletter for the entire letter.)

In December, the Environmental Issues Committee drafted a letter sent to the 2010 Board of Aldermen on the provision of trash services to Newton non-profits.

On February 22, 2010, Leslie Burg testified on behalf of the League, and in support of five proposed amendments to Newton's Accessory Apartment Ordinance (#164-09). (Please see the March 2010 newsletter for more information.)

On March 10, 2010, the Newton TAB published an op-ed column by League President Terry Yoffie supporting the five amendments to the accessory apartment ordinance (#164-09).

In March, the Environmental Issues Committee drafted a letter sent to Scott Lennon, President of the Board of Aldermen, urging the timely approval of the necessary steps to qualify Newton as a Green Community and allow Newton to apply for funds from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

- Respectfully submitted by Anne Borg.

Municipal Finance Committee 2009-2010

George Foord, Chair: Members: Ruthanne Fuller, Ellen Grody, Terry Yoffie.

Our work this year was to staff the Finance Subcommittee of the Charter Study. Our work included a literature review, an analysis of the financial responsibilities in the Charters of Newton and other cities and towns, extensive interviews with both elected officials and city staff using a questionnaire, and preparation of a final report with action recommendations. We have started to act on our recommendations by proposing ordinance and organization changes to the Board of Aldermen.

- Respectfully submitted by George Foord.

Legislative Roundtable Report 2009-2010
Lisa Mirabile, Chair.

The LWVN taped regular Legislative Roundtable shows in October, November, and March, which were cablecast on NewTV, Newton’s local access channel. LWVN has tapings scheduled not only in May, but also in June and July this year. We are pleased that these casual, low-key conversations with our legislators, hosted by a variety of LWVN members, continue to provide Newton residents the opportunity to hear the details of the hard work our legislators are engaged in on Beacon Hill.

This year also saw the introduction of shows focusing on a local issue – sidewalk snow clearing— in January and February. The idea of expanding coverage to local events arose when, due to scheduling difficulties, we were unable to tape our regular show; since there was a great deal of timely information about sidewalk snow clearing that that committee was eager to disseminate, it seemed only natural to take advantage of our preexisting taping slot and show times, and Terry Yoffie stepped forward to organize and host both shows with the help and support of the sidewalk snow clearing group and numerous guests. The shows were very successful, and we discussed making a local-issue focused show a more regular feature, but in the end were reluctant to lose the opportunity for regular conversations with our legislators and so decided to remain flexible and continue to tape our usual show when possible, filling in with local topics when scheduling made a regular taping impossible. However, we welcome the idea of developing a more regular, local-issue-focused show if we can find member(s) to spearhead the project.

As always, the LWVN would like to thank Senator Creem, Representative Balser, and Representative Khan for their participation in this monthly show. We would also like to thank Jesse Kreitzer, Government Access Coordinator at NewTV, for directing and editing the show, and Andrew Eldridge, Media Production Facilitator, for the show’s graphics and audio. Lastly, we want to thank Richard Berman for his camera work.

- Respectfully submitted by Lisa Mirabile.

**Voters Service Report 2009-2010**


Election season 2009 was busier than usual with 45 municipal candidates running in both contested and uncontested races. Voters Service ran a total of 14 debates: two for the Preliminary and 12 for the General Election. NewTV partnered with us and televised them all. We also had two new co-sponsors, the Newton Free Library and Lasell College, who provided venues for both League mayoral debates. Lisa Mirabile ran the September 3, 2009 mayoral debate online on our League website, which was a new experience for us.

In keeping with our League non-partisan policy, all 14 debates had out-of-town moderators from Westwood, Brookline, Wayland, Needham, and Belmont. Our in-house team of greeters, ushers, timekeepers, and question sorters were Pat Acton, Maryan Amaral, Anne Borg, Bonnie Carter, Lucia Dolan, Andreae Downs, Shirley Farnham, Gail Glick, Ellen Glusman, Linda Greenberg, Ingrid Kefauver, Lee Kefauver, Alison Leary, Beth Lowd, Linda Morrison, Tami Roberts, Carol Ann Shea, Janet Sterman, Barbara Sydney, Karol Tager, Myra Tattenbaum, and Terry Yoffie. Most of these volunteers worked on multiple debates. Bonnie Carter mentored this whole process and looked over and edited every debate script and also worked the teleprompter for the League at NewTV.

Members of the Voters Service Committee ‘manned’ the Event and Farmers Market tables from July 4, 2009 through October and prepared, with the help of the League Board, two sets of Voters Guide questions; one for the Preliminary and one for the General Election. With tremendous help from Anne Borg, we printed the Preliminary Voters Guide in-house and distributed it at the Preliminary Debates, at selected public sites around Newton, and at the Farmers Market tables. The General Election Voters Guide was distributed as an insert in the Tab and went to every household in Newton. Barbara Sydney and Carol Ann Shea procured the funding for the insert from Village Bank and Lasell College. Anne Borg and Barbara Sydney prepared two sets of the tri-fold brochure of the Newton Municipal Election Calendar with polling place and debate listings. Anne Borg’s professional layout of both sets of Voters Guides is a credit to the expertise of our Newton League.

The League was requested to provide volunteer poll workers at the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council election (Ward 9) from 7:00 am–10:00 pm. League volunteers Bonnie Carter, Alice Wolpert, Barbara Balasa, Jeanne Scott, Ena Lorant, Barbara Gore, and Tami Roberts engaged all citizens who came through the doors to vote at the Hyde Community Center. Because of their efforts, 520 people participated in the NHNAC Election this year, as opposed to
approximately 300 people in the 2007 Election and less than 50 participants in the 2005 Election. Voters enjoyed using the antique voting machine, hand cranking their ballot into the ballot box and listening for the bell to ring.

Working closely with the City of Newton Election Commission office, we drove people to the polls for the September 15, 2009 Preliminary, the November 3, 2009 General Election, the December 8, 2009 Special State Primary, and the January 19, 2010 U.S. Senate Special Election. In December, we placed an article in the Newton TAB reminding people requesting an absentee ballot to sign up for one again for the January 19, 2010 Special Election, since their previous request in 2009 would not be covered in this new year.

- Respectfully submitted by Sharyn Roberts.

Archives Committee Report 2009-2010
Ann Grantham and Linda Morrison, Co-Chairs; Members: Pat Acton, Mary Adelstein, Sharie Arntz, and Priscilla Leith.

The archives work on our LWV Newton records made considerable progress over the summer, meeting almost every Wednesday morning in the basement of the First Baptist Church. During the fall of 2009, however, we had a lengthy hiatus while the Church renovated the rooms in the basement area being used by the archives committee and the New Philharmonia Orchestra. Work resumed in January 2010, when Ann Grantham and Linda Morrison spent time vacuuming and moving our boxes of material back into our work area. Since then, we are gradually getting back up to speed. Our work at present focuses on re-foldering, weeding, and organizing series of newsletters, board minutes, local action studies, voters service work, and so on.

Establishing a permanent archival collection will enhance LWVN influence in the future, and be of significant importance to Newton citizens as well as historians. We remain interested in old LWVN records now sitting in Newton basements, and hope more will be brought to our attention. We invite you to come participate!

Many thanks to the First Baptist Church for the use of their space, which has facilitated the project immensely.


Communications Report for 2009-2010
Lisa Mirabile, Chair.

Website:
This year we’ve begun to add committee-specific information to our website. We began by creating and maintaining a page for the Charter Study, and have begun to add content to pages for action-oriented committees such as Environmental Issues, Education, and Housing. Our greatest continuing challenge is making sure that all information remains up-to-date, and we are grateful for any assistance noting outdated information when it comes to members’ attention. Plans for next year include migrating the website to a software platform that would allow easy updating by more people (e.g. committee chairs or officers) rather than requiring that all content changes be made through the web team. Again, tremendous credit and thanks go to Andreae Downs for adding most of this material and for keeping the site updated.

Newsletter:
In order to decrease the time required to print the newsletter, we moved this fall to printing on regular 8.5 x 11 sheets, stapled in the upper corner. Although not quite as elegant a printed product, the time – and cost – savings seemed well worth the sacrifice. In addition, the switch has eliminated the need to size the newsletter in 4-page increments only, and indeed, this year saw both several six-page and a ten-page edition. The other improvement for this year was the beginning of an effort to include the text of the newsletter right in the body of the email that goes out to those who’ve chosen to receive publications electronically, eliminating the need to click and download a pdf in order to read the content. We haven’t yet developed a workflow that made this achievable more than once this year, but are looking forward to developing a solution soon. Last, our “save trees” list continues to grow, as almost half our membership has chosen to receive the newsletter electronically. While we are delighted by these savings in trees, printing costs and postage, we continue to be committed to providing a printed newsletter to all members who wish to receive one in order to be sure we are communicating effectively with all our members. Continued thanks go to our untiring labeling and mailing team of Ann Grantham and Anne Borg.
Email list:

We switched from using quirky and hard-to-maintain open-source email list software (phpList) to using a commercial service (MailChimp), whose generous free accounts accommodate our emailing needs and make sending emails easier and more reliable (less likely to be flagged as spam). In addition, the board set a goal of sending regular, twice per month email blasts, one coming out with the newsletter and the other mid-way between newsletter editions. This goal wasn’t consistently achieved this year, but we look forward to bringing more regularity to the process next year. When using the email list, we always keep in mind that while the great majority of members have given us an email address, not all have access to or wish to use this method of communication, so except when communication is unavoidably last-minute or urgent, email is always an additional, not an exclusive, mode of communication.

Suggestions regarding the website, the newsletter, the email list, or any other aspect of LWVN communications are very welcome.

- Respectfully submitted by Lisa Mirabile.

Fundraising Committee Report 2009-2010

The Fundraising Committee concentrated on improving the outcomes of two efforts: increasing our share from LWVMA State League Phonathon in October, and increasing the number of ads in our “yellow pages” section of our biennial LWVN Handbook. We are looking forward to our 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Newton League next spring.

- Respectfully submitted by Sharyn Roberts.

Membership Report 2009-2010

Anne Borg and Sharyn Roberts, Co-Chairs; Members: Bonnie Carter, Andrea Kozinetz, Lisa Mirabile, Mindy Peckler, and Terry Yoffie.

There are 225 members of the League of Women Voters Newton, and 31 new members have joined the League since the 2009 annual meeting. Many new members joined the League to work with our committees; especially the Charter Study Committee, Environmental Issues Committee, Education Committee, and the Land Use Positions Review Committee. We had excellent attendance at the December Holiday Party, the January Open House, and the February National League 90th Birthday Party. We are planning a membership drive for the Newton League's 75th birthday in 2011, and are initiating several projects to increase the League's visibility in the community.

- Respectfully submitted by Anne Borg.

Topic Meetings Report 2009-2010

Pat Acton, Linda Morrison, and Carol Ann Shea, Co-Chairs.

We continued our “Topic Meetings” this year using the same meeting place, NewTV, and the same day and time, the 2nd Wednesday, 11:30am –1:30pm for daytime and 7:00-9:00pm for evening meetings. Members have shown a steady and enthusiastic interest in the topics, with some attracting larger groups, but overall good attendance for all subjects.

Topics this year were:
- April 14 and 15, 2010: Charter Study Consensus, day and evening meetings, with consensus undertaken at both times.
- March 10 and 17, 2010: Local Program Planning for Newton LWV – day and evening meetings held.
- February: weather cancellation
- January 13, 2010: Charter Study Update
- November 18, 2009: Community Preservation Act; held at Vicki Danberg’s home
- October 14, 2009: Mayoral Candidates invited to meet LWVN members for local issue discussion and lunch.
- September 9, 2009: Eco-Teams – Green Decade’s campaign to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions neighborhood by neighborhood.
Thank you to those who helped set up and provide snacks for attendees: Anne Borg, Bonnie Carter, Sue Flicop, Lisa Mirabile, and Vicki Danberg.

- Respectfully submitted by Pat Acton, Linda Morrison, and Carol Ann Shea.

**LWVN Treasurer's Report as of April 30, 2010**

Balances From Prior Report as of April 1, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savings Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments in Certificates of Deposit</td>
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<td>Postal Reserve</td>
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<td><strong>Total Beginning Balance Cash</strong></td>
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Balances as of April 30, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Account</td>
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<td>Savings Account</td>
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<td><strong>Total Ending Balance Cash</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,839.66</strong> <strong>2</strong></td>
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* CD matures April 22, 2013.


- Respectfully submitted by Mindy Peckler, Treasurer.

**Budget and Actual Income and Expenses, League of Women Voters, Newton, 2010 - 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Budget FY2010</th>
<th>Year to Date FY2010</th>
<th>Proposed Budget FY2011</th>
<th>Proposed Budget FY2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
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<td>Tennis</td>
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**TOTAL INCOME**

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<th>Budget FY2010</th>
<th>Year to Date FY2010</th>
<th>Proposed Budget FY2011</th>
<th>Proposed Budget FY2012</th>
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<td>$25,200.00</td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<tr>
<th>PMPs</th>
<th>Budget FY2010</th>
<th>Year to Date FY2010</th>
<th>Proposed Budget FY2011</th>
<th>Proposed Budget FY2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PMP - LWV US</td>
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<td>Charge 1</td>
<td>Charge 2</td>
<td>Charge 3</td>
<td>Charge 4</td>
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<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal PMP</td>
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<td>Fund Raising</td>
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<td>Phonathon</td>
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<td>75th Event</td>
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<td>Handbook Postage</td>
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<td>Subtotal Fund Raising</td>
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<td>Postcards</td>
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<td>New members</td>
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<td>PO Box</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website &amp; Telephone</td>
<td>$410.00</td>
<td>$394.94</td>
<td>$540.00</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council/Convention</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Council/Convention - LWVUS</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council/Convention - LWVMA</td>
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<td>Subtotal US and MA Convention</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Admin, Board Tools, Copying, &amp; Supplies</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
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<td>Nominating Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training/workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archives Project</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings/Forums</td>
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<td>$1,250.00</td>
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<td>Study/Advocacy</td>
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<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voters Service</td>
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<td>$1,600.00</td>
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<td>$300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal Program</td>
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<td>$1,950.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Awards, Scholarships</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>$(313.46)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- Respectfully submitted by 2009-2010 Budget Committee, Terry Yoffie, Chair; Members: Anne Borg, Ellen Glusman, Andrea Kozinetz, Lisa Mirabile, Sharyn Roberts, and Mindy Peckler, Treasurer.