League of Women Voters Newton
2011 Annual Workbook

Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2011
6:30 – 9:30 PM
Papa Razzi Restaurant
16 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA

Please be sure to bring your Workbook to the Annual Meeting

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting Order of Business</td>
<td>Page 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Program for 2011-2012</td>
<td>Pages 3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating Committee Report / 2011-2012 Slate</td>
<td>Page 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Use Consensus Study Report</td>
<td>Pages 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Committee Reports</td>
<td>Pages 6-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Education Committee Reports</td>
<td>Pages 10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Committee Reports</td>
<td>Pages 11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer’s Report</td>
<td>Page 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Budget for 2011-2012 / Budget Comparison</td>
<td>Pages 13-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEWTON

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2011

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Social Time/Dinner 6:30 PM

Business Meeting 7:15 PM

• Call to Order Glusman/Borg
• Appointment of Parliamentarian Glusman/Borg
• Committee Report to Approve 2010 Minutes T. Roberts
• Appointment of Committee to Approve 2011 Minutes Glusman/Borg
• Leadership Team Report Glusman/Borg
• Acting Treasurer’s Report Borg
• Jane Leighton Award Conferred Leighton, Mirabile
• Presentation of Program Glusman
  • Land Use Study Report Kelley
  • Transportation Review and Study Proposal Leary, Downs
• Adoption of Program Glusman
• Presentation of Budget Kozinetz
• Adoption of Budget Kozinetz
• Nominating Committee Report Grantham
• Election of Officers and Directors Grantham
• Discussion of LWVUS Clean Air Act Ads
• Member Direction to the Board

Adjournment 9:30 PM

Proposed rules for Annual Meeting: During debate on a motion, no member may speak more than once to that motion until all others who wish to speak have done so. After the original presentation, debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker.
2011-2012 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 2011-2012:

1. All the positions listed in the 2010 Handbook on pages 24 to 32, with the following exceptions:
   A. Land Use Consensus Study recommendations; see page 5 of this workbook.
2. Participation in the LWVUS (National) Studies:
   A. Role of the federal government in public education.
   B. Privatization of Services
3. A LWVN Transportation Review Committee / Study (see page 4)

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Newton recommends the following local action priorities for 2011-2012:

1. CPA/Observer Corps: Seek more volunteers at Annual Meeting with interest per topic, locale, or expertise.
2. Municipal Finance:
   A. Observe and communicate activities of Board of Aldermen
   B. Educate membership through Topic Meeting(s)
3. Housing: Work with UCHAN and other housing organizations in the City in support of increasing the stock of affordable housing in Newton as well as advocating for projects that meet the goals of the Comprehensive Plan for good development in Newton.
4. Education: Continued Research: we will continue our exploration of feasible, beneficial and cost-neutral structural options for the Newton Public Schools, in an effort to extend the work of the CAG. The first step will be to plan and survey parents, with the expectation that this will foster open, public conversation.
5. Environmental Committee:
   A. Waste Reduction
     - continue our efforts to improve recycling rates and reduce trash in Newton
     - work with the state league and local elected officials to expand the bottle bill and reduce plastic bag use
   B. Storm Water and Sewers
     - support an increase in the sewer and stormwater surcharge rates to levels adequate for repair and maintenance
     - support prudent ways to encourage reduction of inflow into the sewers
     - educate through forums to explain principles and concepts of “surface area, water quality,” and related terms to encourage “low impact development”
   C. Transportation
     - continue collaboration with Newton Safe Sidewalks and the Mayor's Transportation Advisory Committee
     - begin education through forums on urban transportation planning terms and principles
6. Election Committee:
   A. Attend meetings of the Newton Election Commissioners.
   B. Continue meetings with the Executive Secretary of the Election Commission to improve Poll Worker recruitment, training and evaluation.
**LWVN Proposal: Review and Consensus Study Committee to Develop Transportation Policy Positions**

The transportation sector is one of this country's largest sources of GHG emissions. It also produces about a third of our total CO2 emissions. The U.S. emits per capita 20 tons of CO2 per person per year!

Transportation is closely linked with land use, environmental issues, energy, and public health. Proactive, thoughtful planning of our transportation infrastructure will facilitate strategies that address all these issues.

We would like the LWVN membership to approve a Transportation Review Committee to educate League members and the community-at-large, to take a more in depth look at transportation issues and infrastructure, and to determine consensus. This study would be expected to take 1-2 years.

### 2011-2012 LWVN Proposed Slate:

**Co-Presidents:**
- Anne Borg
- Sue Flicop

**Clerk:**
- Bonnie Carter

**Treasurer:**
- Andrea Kozinetz

**Directors:**
- Leslie Burg
- Jo Corro
- Gail Glick
- Ellen Glusman
- Ann Grantham
- Alison Leary
- Sharyn Roberts
- Lynn Scheller

**2011-2012 Nominating Committee:**
- Chair: TBD
- Pat Acton
- Carol Ann Shea

*Respectfully submitted by the 2010-11 Nominating Committee – Ann Grantham, Chair; Members: Bonnie Carter, Andreae Downs, Ellen Glusman, and Lynn Scheller*

### 2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORTS

**Land Use Study Committee Report**

*Andrea Kelley, Chair; Members: Lisle Baker, Leslie Burg, Deb Crossley, Matt Cuddy, Carol Ann Shea, John Sisson; Resource Member: Chris Steele; Board Liaison: Ellen Glusman*

With several large scale projects on the drawing boards for future development in Newton, our current positions are not updated enough to give adequate information and credibility for the LWVN to review, support or oppose them. Additionally, they are spread out into many various topic areas.
Since being voted as a priority item at the May 2010 LWVN Annual Meeting, the Land Use Study Committee has met regularly. Positions reviewed included: Housing, Recreation and Open Space, Land Use: Zoning, and Planning in the Community, City Government- Charter, Support a Comprehensive Plan. Among issues considered for updating were: mixed use development, zoning reform, how to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, traffic and parking, and sustainable development.

The Committee researched LWV local, state and national positions, current planning and zoning methods, talked with related professionals and elected officials. After much research, analysis and discussion, the Committee suggested four Consensus Questions encapsulating the major issues.

Consensus Meetings were held on March 23 and 24, 2011. Questions were available on the LWVN website and in the newsletter prior to those meetings. The four consensus questions were:

Δ What types of housing should be available in Newton?
Δ How can Newton balance a mix of business and residential, with economic development?
Δ What makes a development project “sustainable,” and how important is this?
Δ What are some effective ways to regulate land use & development through zoning?

The daytime meeting on March 23 was very well attended with over 20 members. Andreae Downs was the Discussion Leader, and Sue Flicop was the Recorder, both ably doing their respective jobs. The March 24 evening meeting had far fewer attendees, most of whom had either attended the daytime meeting, were Committee members or those with assigned roles such as Recorder. Lisa Mirabile both led and recorded the discussion at that meeting.

On March 29, a debriefing meeting was held. Chair Kelley, Discussion Leaders and Recorders Downs, Flicop and Mirabile, and Committee Member Burg, were present. The official large post-up notes from the meetings themselves, as well as everyone’s handwritten notes, were reviewed. The group decided that given the turnout numbers, the only true Consensus Meeting was the March 23 meeting. The March 24 was more of a review of the discussion of the March 23 meeting.

Proposed Consensus positions and changes to our Handbook, by topic area, to present at Annual Meeting are:

Overall

In all our land use positions, the LWVN’s aim is to support the goals and objectives articulated in Newton’s Comprehensive Plan.

Housing

To reflect and enhance the diversity of Newton’s population, we support maintaining and creating a full range spectrum of housing types.

Economic Development

The League supports Economic Development policies to retain and create businesses that contribute to the vitality of the community.

Development-Mixed use

In considering new development or redevelopment, we support projects that are mixed use, compact and transit-oriented, and that minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Zoning

We support zoning ordinances that are clear and understandable. We encourage the City to consider new zoning practices in its ordinances as current planning and zoning tools may enable the city to better meet its current land use objectives.

Changes to existing positions under Zoning:

• Add “regional” to “long range professional planning” position, p. 30
• Delete off-street parking requirement, p. 30

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Kelley, Chair

Community Preservation Committee Readers Report

Members: Andrea Kelley, Anne Borg, Lucia Dolan, Lisa Mirabile

As we have for at least the last five years, League readers reviewed the applications for the city’s Community Preservation Act funds—about $5 million this year, after debt service, and shrinking as state matching funds are depleted faster than they are replenished.

The number of proposals and the amounts requested this year exceeded that $5 million available, so this year we again refrained from recommending any but housing proposals—and these only because they face the most political opposition and are the only proposals that are not in the “historic resources” category.

A full description of the five proposals we reviewed, comments and more can be found in the March Newsletter at www.lwvnewton.org.

Since the public presentation of most of the grant requests, at which Andrea Kelley read our comments, the Community Preservation Committee has voted on several of the requests.

We followed the proposals throughout the year; reporting to members through the Newsletter and Docket Digest (also at www.lwvnewton.org) about what had been approved.

Education Committee Report

Gail Glick and Sue Flicop, Co-Chairs; Members: Lucia Dolan, Carol Walters, Linda Green, Gail Deegan, Margie Decter, Shawna Giggey-Mashal, Ruthanne Fuller, Jim Bueche, Marcia Tabenken, Liz Cody, Fiona Houghteling, Emily Prenner, Susan Huffman, Joanne Gatnik, Hope Suttin, Alicia Bowman, Margaret Albright, Anne Borg, Andrew Downs, Nina Berk, Lisa Mirabile, Leslie Burg, Emily Norton, Susan Mirsky

This past year, the Education Committee explored how to continue the work of the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) within the realm of public education. Committee members identified and researched different educational models relating to, among others, pedagogical/learning philosophies, physical structures and space configurations, administrative/organizational arrangements. These inquiries were undertaken with the expectation of encouraging community discussion around feasible alternative models (or aspects of models), and to how these alternative models, and the current model, may or may not be reflective of our community values.

For the coming year, the Education Committee will first be following and supporting the study by the League of Women Voters of the United States regarding national education policy. As the study nears its end, the LWVN Ed Committee will share the information with League members and organize consensus meetings around the questions posed by the LWVUS.

Second, as continued support of the work by the CAG and as a result of the financial situation in Newton for FY12, the Education Committee will work with other LWVN committees in following the budget process for FY13, with specific input on the school budget. This will include educating LWVN members early in the process about the risks and opportunities, as well as identifying areas for local advocacy.

Finally, for the coming year, the Education Committee will investigate possibilities of incorporating into the NPS other diverse programs/structures. Interest in pursuing this topic grew out of the space/funding dilemma the NPS currently faces (and has faced for some years). Specifically, the NPS has experienced fluctuating enrollment over the years (presently, it is on the rise); limited physical space for the expanding student population within the currently-configured neighborhood schools; and a financial structure that is unsustainable for current needs, let alone future needs. Thus, the Education Committee proposes to continue its exploration of structural options, in an open and inclusive manner, so as to identify ways to redress or overcome these challenges with the understanding that any feasible options must be cost-neutral and enhance learning. As a first step, the Education Committee plans to survey parents, as well as other
stakeholders; after evaluating the feedback, the Committee expects to utilize the results to foster open, public conversations.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Flicop and Gail Glick, Co-Chairs

**Elections Committee Report**

Nancy Criscitiello and Ellen Glusman, Co-Chairs; Members: Anne Borg, Andreae Downs, Shirley Farnham, Sue Flicop, Ingrid Kefauver, Lee Kefauver, Margaret LeBlanc, Brooke Lipsitt, Sharyn Roberts, Terry Yoffie

This year, the Elections Committee continued to work in our traditional areas, and expanded into new ones as well.

- We observed meetings of the Election Commission. A new Commissioner was appointed – Rick Lipof. At the April 8, 2011, meeting, Ken Hartford was elected Chair; Rick Lipof, Co-chair; Fay Cohen, Secretary. Fran Schaer submitted her resignation since she has moved out of Newton. Craig Manseau will inform the Republican City Committee about the Republican vacancy, and request that nominations for Fran’s replacement be submitted to the Mayor within 45 days.
- We met with Craig Manseau to continue discussions about improving Poll Worker recruitment, training, and evaluation.
- Our planned Poll Worker Thank You party (which was to be held at City Hall) was canceled because of snowstorms.
- We – along with the Newton Election Commission – co-hosted the “Don’t Just Stand There…RUN!” workshop for candidates, campaign managers, treasurers, and the general public on how to run a campaign for local public office. The evening was taped by NewTV for subsequent re-showing.
- We observed (and participated in) meetings of the Board of Aldermen Reprecincting Committee, as well as the redistricting meeting held with our State Senator and Representatives.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Criscitiello and Ellen Glusman, Co-Chairs

**Environmental Issues Committee Report**

Alison Leary, Chair; Members: Mary Adelstein, Leslie Burg, Deb Crossley, Andreae Downs, Lois Levin, Brooke Lipsitt, Priscilla Leith, Sharyn Roberts, Terry Yoffie

In Transportation: members of our committee worked with 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.

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

The LWVN wrote a letter to the Board of Aldermen’s Land Use Committee Chair expressing concerns with the proposed Chestnut Hill Square development project. Specifically, the project fell short with regards to the important goals of reducing our carbon footprint, promoting smart growth principles, improving green spaces, and inviting pedestrian and bicycle access.

We continued following bills filed in the Massachusetts Legislature on taxing or banning plastic bags. A bill has been filed in the House & Senate, which all of Newton's delegation have signed on to, which would require that only compostable plastic bags be distributed at point of sale. LWVN continues to encourage the Massachusetts State League to support the plastic bag reduction bill.

In the recycling arena, we are supporting aldermanic efforts to instate fees to cover the cost of bulky item pickup and white goods.

Members of our committee worked on a “Forum on Environmental Leadership” with the co-sponsorship of Green Decade Newton, on February 28, 2011 at the Newton Library. About 65 people attended. LWVN member Lois Levin moderated, Mayor Warren introduced the panel and shared his concerns about environmental issues in Newton, and the documentary film about Marion Stoddart, "The Work of 1000," was screened. The film illustrates how one person,
starting with her local LWV in Groton, MA, mobilized a massive citizen effort to restore the profoundly polluted Nashua River, and set an example for other environmental activists, especially in our area.

The Forum panelists were: Jane Sender, President, Newton Conservators; Renata von Tscharner, Exec Dir, Charles River Conservancy; Bob Zimmerman, Exec Dir Charles River Watershed Assoc., and special guest, Mayor Lisa Wong of Fitchburg (who appears in the film). The Forum was re-broadcast on NewTV.

**Water Subcommittee -** Members of the EIC Water Subcommittee were Priscilla Leith, Chair; Mary Adelstein, Vice Chair; Lucia Dolan, Lois Levin, Ellen Glusman, Dede Vittori, Deb Crossley, Beth Wilkinson, Andreae Downs and Alison Leary.

The Water Subcommittee met numerous times from April-November, 2010 to plan, implement and then evaluate two public forums, Storm Water Management: Part One, The Floods Last Time – In over our heads? On September 21, and Storm Water Management: Part Two, The Floods Next Time – Do we need an Ark? on October 26. Attendance at the two forums, combined, was roughly 300. Both sessions were taped and repeatedly shown on NewTV.

The Subcommittee then folded back into the Environmental Committee, which has since been focusing on educating the public about needed maintenance of our drainage system, prevention of inflow and infiltration, and inadequate revenues for our water and sewer department. We helped the latter design a flyer expected to go out this spring to all customers.

**Sidewalk Snow Subcommittee -** Members of the EIC Snow Subcommittee or Safe Sidewalks: John Bliss, Alicia Bowman, Lucia Dolan, Ald. Vicki Danberg, Sue Flicop, Alison Leary, Lois Levin, and Sharyn Roberts.

After much research, drafting educational materials and FAQs, lobbying, and two letters to the Newton TAB, dozens of League members, the League’s Environmental Issues Committee, and its representatives in the coalition group Newton Safe Sidewalks (NSS), aided the passage of a residential sidewalk snow ordinance.

This represented a huge effort by many League members in and out of the EIC, the League Board, live testimony before the Board of Aldermen in November (thanks to Terry Yoffie for representing the board!), and many hours of helping to answer aldermen’s concerns with details of the trial’s implementation.

The aldermen modified the proposal to make it a two-year trial with no fines, reduce the recommended clearing width to 36”, and increase the time for compliance to 30 hours, but on March 21, 2011, voted 18-6 for the proposal.

At the same time, League members worked hard through Ald. Vicki Danberg’s Snow Committee and the Mayor’s new 3-1-1 reporting system to ensure that the City plows improved their performance on streets and sidewalks, and to encourage the City to enforce current ordinances. (The City did a fine job on its own matching volunteers to those in need of clearing sidewalks abutting City and State property.)

With the trial passed, NSS will focus on how it works and how it could work more effectively. We will be meeting over the summer to coordinate outreach for reporting snow issues next winter.

**Environmental Committee intentions for the coming year:**

Support and prioritize efforts to improve pedestrian and bicycle access in the city. This includes “bike and pedestrian friendly” access to village centers, and thoughtful city planning to encourage people to leave their cars at home, with the larger goal of expanding and improving the network of walking and biking trails, providing pedestrian access to public transportation (Riverside MBTA), and linking Newton’s trails with the surrounding communities. Support engaging neighborhoods and villages in the planning of LID plans.

Exploring the adoption of a Pay-as-You-Throw trash fee to increase recycling rates (which have remained stagnant for the last several years), and reduce trash costs.

Expand efforts to prioritize and follow bills at the state level that deal with environmental issues, and coordinate and collaborate with other local leagues.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Leary, Chair
**Housing Committee Report**

*Members: Leslie Burg, Carol Ann Shea, Co-Chairs*

During the past year, the Housing Committee met its action plan objectives. Working with various constituencies, we actively advocated for and helped to pass the accessory apartment amendments to the City’s Accessory Apartment ordinance. These amendments permit greater flexibility in requirements for creating accessory units and can potentially increase affordable rental apartments in Newton.

We advocated for LWVN’s support and worked in coalition with CHAPA and the multitude of other housing organizations to retain the 40B statute and defeat the ballot initiative that would have repealed it. We worked actively with the “Vote NO on Question 2” campaign to educate the public and, on Election Day, voters defeated Question 2 and retained the 40B statute.

In addition, we participated in the formal study of the LWVN’s land use positions in order to update them to enable LWVN to have a public voice in future land use projects proposed for the City. We examined the LWVUS current land use positions and reported to the Land Use Committee. We also looked at LWVN’s current housing positions, including those found in different categories (e.g. zoning, community housing, etc.) and compared them to those put forth in Newton’s Comprehensive Plan. We also volunteered to write a draft on sustainability, an area in which LWVN presently has no stated position(s) and should.

**Action Plan for 2011**

We expect to continue to work with UCHAN and other housing organizations in the City in support of increasing the stock of affordable housing in Newton as well as advocating for projects that promise good development in Newton.

We would also like to promote the passage of a docket item that changes the number of square feet per unit dwelling required in our mixed-use districts (Needham Street) from 10,000sf, which makes the inclusion of residential units improbable, to 1,200sf, which is in keeping with our other business districts and would make residential development in those districts feasible.

It has been docketed by the Board of Aldermen, but is facing an uphill climb. This is an item that can stand alone and is needed to promote real mixed-use development in our only two mixed-use districts, both of which run along Needham Street. This is an important piece of legislation.

Therefore, we would like to bring to the board for discussion/approval our recommendation that our Housing Committee determine the current status of this docket item and actively work for its adoption when it comes up for consideration by the BOA.

*Respectfully submitted by Leslie Burg, Co-Chair*

**Local Action Log**

- October 21, 2010: Op Ed in *Newton TAB* about Massachusetts Ballot Questions
- November 4, 2010: Letter to the Land Use Committee about the transportation options at Chestnut Hill Square
- November 16, 2010: Letter to Newton Mayor Setti Warren thanking him for leadership on sidewalk snow issues. Also published as a Letter to the Editor in the *Newton TAB*
- November 17, 2010: Testimony at Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen on residential sidewalk snow ordinance proposal
- February 18, 2011: Letter to the Editor promoting sidewalk snow ordinance published in the *Newton TAB*
- April 6, 2011: Letter to the Editor thanking Aldermen for passing Sidewalk Snow Trial in the *Newton TAB*
- April 28, 2011: Letter to Scott Lennon, President of Newton Board of Aldermen advocating for increase in Newton’s sewer rates
Respectfully submitted by Andreae Downs and Anne Borg

Legislative Roundtable Report
Lisa Mirabile, Chair

The LWVN’s Legislative Roundtable show went on hiatus in the fall of 2010, since the legislative session was officially over and it was campaign season. Our goal has been to find a replacement organizer for the show to rejuvenate it; the show remains in hiatus until new leadership can be found.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Mirabile, Chair

Voters Service Report

Thank you to all those Voters Service committee members and non-League member Julia Elhauge, who volunteered their time throughout the year to drive citizens: to the Newton Election Commission office at City Hall before voting day to fill out absentee ballots; to the polls for the primary and election days of September 14 and November 2, 2010; and the Special Election for the 10th Middlesex District seat on April 12 (primary) and May 10, 2011. Our committee also worked in cooperation with the Election Commission office to drive poll workers to the polls by 6:00 am for all primaries and election days.

During the year, the Voters Service Committee, in conjunction with the LWVN Membership Committee, registered voters and distributed absentee ballot applications at booths during City celebrations on July 4, 2010, at Newton Community Service Center’s Touch-a-Truck Event on September 26, 2010, and at Harvest Fair on October 17, 2010.

LWVN Voters Service provided moderators for other towns’ municipal elections, participated in several LWV Massachusetts (LWVMA) teleconferences planning for candidates’ forums and a LWVUS Voters Service webinar to further educate ourselves on best practices. We also met as a committee several times throughout the summer to plan fall forums for local and state-wide legislators.

Our original plan, to hold pre-primary forums in the summer of 2010, was changed to an online Voters Guide. LWVN took the lead role in partnering with the contiguous Leagues of Boston, Brookline, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, and Weston to co-sponsor the fall and spring Voters Guides. We coordinated with all LWVN local action committees and the surrounding Leagues in preparing questions for the candidates. We published a September 2010 Massachusetts State Primary Voters Guide and a Voters Guide for the May 10, 2011, 10th Middlesex District State Representative Special Election. Both Voters Guides were published online with co-sponsoring League towns’ Wicked Local.com websites and the LWVN website.

For the November 2010 Massachusetts General Election there were very few candidate forums offered for the state offices beyond governor and lieutenant governor. The LWVN Voters Service Committee took the initiative in cooperating with LWVMA and surrounding town leagues. We ran a forum for Governor’s Council 3rd District on October 3, 2010, at the NewTV studios. On October 17, 2010, we ran a “Marathon” Candidates Forum at Lasell College, planning for seven back-to-back debates starting at 1:00 pm and ending at 9:00 pm and videotaped by NewTV. Unfortunately, the first two forums, for Sheriff of Middlesex County and Attorney General, did not happen because of the last minute cancellation by candidates. However, starting at 3:00 pm, we had five successful forums for Secretary of the Commonwealth, Representative 10th Middlesex District, U.S. Congress 4th District, State Auditor, and State Treasurer. Our thanks once again to Lasell College for hosting us, and to NewTV for cablecasting.

On November 4, 2010, we held an evaluation meeting inviting our representative to the LWVUS National Board, the LWVMA Voters Service chairs, and all moderators, time keepers, and question sorters. As a result of positive feedback and our careful use of best practices, LWVMA is using many of our policies and procedures as templates.

Respectfully submitted by Sharyn Roberts, Co-Chair
**Topic Meetings Report**

*Sue Flicop and Linda Morrison, Co-Chairs*

September:  LWVUS Convention  
October:  40B Referendum Question  
November:  Crystal Lake Conservancy  
December:  Sidewalk Snow Clearing Ordinance  
January:  Cancelled due to snow storm  
February:  Local Program Planning  
March:  Land Use Consensus Meeting  
April:  Municipal Budget Update with Maureen Lemieux, Newton Chief Financial Officer  
May:  Meet Dr. David Fleishman, Newton’s School Superintendent  

**Archives Committee Report**

*Ann Grantham and Linda Morrison, Co-Chairs*

Work on the LWV Newton archives continues with some significant improvements. Bonnie Carter brought over a dozen boxes of non-current documents, which has substantially strengthened the collection, and a LWVN member donated a photocopier that enables us to photocopy newsprint and other acidic, or deteriorated, paper documents. We are contacting all former LWVN presidents in order to secure the records in their custody. Two members have consulted the collection to further work on current LWVN projects.

Archives sessions continue every Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteers who have contributed time and effort: Linda Morrison, Ann Grantham, Anne Borg, Sharie Arntz, Dorothy Litt, Ellen Glusman, and Robin Barber.

We remain very grateful to the First Baptist Church for the use of their space, which has made this project possible.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Grantham and Linda Morrison, Co-Chairs

**Communications Report**

*Lisa Mirabile, Chair*

**Website:** This year’s communications activities have centered primarily on the migration of the website to the free, open-source WordPress platform. WordPress is a popular, easy to use web technology that allows for much broader participation in web site maintenance and updating. The migration took place during the fall, and has allowed for a quicker and much more responsive site updating process. There are a whole host of improvements on the horizon, and comments and suggestions from members are very welcome.

**Newsletter:** The LWVN’s newsletter continues to be the main tool for communicating substantive information to members, complementing our use of email announcements, the monthly postcard, and the website. It is sometimes a struggle to produce the newsletter in a timely fashion, particularly because these other forms of communication have eased the need for the newsletter to carry date-oriented material. In general, however, the goal has been to produce a newsletter ahead of each Topic Meeting, giving us the opportunity to present background information about that meeting to enhance members’ understanding of or interest in the meeting’s topic. (This year the newsletter continued to be produced as a stapled sheaf rather than in booklet form, for continued flexibility as well as savings in time and printing costs. After printing, the main cost of the newsletter is postage, so the continued growth of the “save trees” list [members who chose to receive the newsletter electronically] is both an environmental and a financial advantage.
While we are delighted by these savings, 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.

**Email list:** We have continued to use the free MailChimp service to handle our membership email tasks, using it to send reminders, updates and notifications of the newsletter publication (with a link to the newsletter online). We have been pleased that virtually all members have chosen to continue to receive email from the LWVN (though the service does make it very easy to unsubscribe from all future mailings), and that the number of recipients who open our emails remains high. 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, Chair*

---

**Membership Report**

*Anne Borg and Sharyn Roberts, Co-Chairs; Member: Bonnie Carter*

This has been a challenging year for membership. As of May 15, we have 223 members on our roster, but 39 of these members have not renewed yet for this year. We expect that many of them will not renew, and we will remove them from our list on June 30. Also, LWVUS changed the way it records donors. In the past, they were recorded as “nationally recruited members” and included in each local league’s member count. They are now recorded as donors only, so LWVN’s member count decreased by seven due to this change.

League membership declined across Massachusetts. It is a challenge to not only recruit new members, but to retain these new members for more than 1-2 years. LWVUS is introducing a new program, “Membership and Leadership Development” (formerly called “Membership Recruitment Initiative” or MRI) to all Massachusetts Leagues this year. The goal is for all Massachusetts Leagues to eventually participate in this successful program.

We encourage all LWVN members to step up to do more membership outreach in the coming year. Recruiting new members is every member’s responsibility!

*Respectfully submitted by Anne Borg*
**LWVN Treasurer's Report as of May 15, 2011**

Balances From Prior Report as of April 30, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Account</td>
<td>$9,292.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings Account</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments in Certificates of Deposit</td>
<td>$8,546.82*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal Reserve</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Beginning Balance Cash</strong></td>
<td>$17,839.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balances as of May 15, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Account</td>
<td>$6,867.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings Account</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments in Certificates of Deposit</td>
<td>$8,803.21*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal Reserve</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Ending Balance Cash</strong></td>
<td>$15,670.90**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* CD matures April 22, 2013.
** Outstanding 2010/11 income and expenses as of 5/15/2011: additional revenue from LWVMA phonathon; LWVUS 4th Quarter PMP payment (check sent, not cashed); LWVMA Convention; donation to LWVMA; annual meeting; newsletter printing and postage; postcard postage; workbook postage and printing/copying.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Borg, Acting Treasurer.

---

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

League of Women Voters, Newton - proposed budget 2011-2012

Budget + Actual Income and Expenses, League of Women Voters, Newton, 2010-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Year to Date 2011*</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$12,250.00</td>
<td>$9,045.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$430.00</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handbook Sponsorship</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$450.00</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters Guide Sponsorship</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phonathon</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$881.50</td>
<td>$1,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75th Fund Raiser</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>$248.00</td>
<td>$220.00</td>
<td>$220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$22,198.00</td>
<td>$11,151.50</td>
<td>$24,070.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Year to Date 2011*</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PMP - LWV US</td>
<td>$6,591.59</td>
<td>$5,307.10</td>
<td>$5,550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMP - LWV MA</td>
<td>$5,122.73</td>
<td>$4,358.50</td>
<td>$4,255.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal PMP</td>
<td>$11,714.32</td>
<td>$9,665.60</td>
<td>$9,805.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phonathon</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75th Event</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Fund Raising</td>
<td>$3,075.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$3,075.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>$475.00</td>
<td>$44.00</td>
<td>$475.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcards</td>
<td>$990.00</td>
<td>$824.42</td>
<td>$1,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$145.00</td>
<td>$135.96</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>$116.00</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Postage</td>
<td>$1,730.00</td>
<td>$1,120.38</td>
<td>$1,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>$560.00</td>
<td>$505.21</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Printing</td>
<td>$560.00</td>
<td>$505.21</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications - WEB SITE &amp; Telephone</td>
<td>$540.00</td>
<td>$213.55</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council/Convention - LWV US</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$2,277.56</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council/Convention - LWV MA</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal US and MA Convention</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$2,491.11</td>
<td>$4,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board/Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copying, supplies, etc.</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$53.96</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>$93.37</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating Committee</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training/workshops</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives Project</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>$108.74</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Board/Administration</td>
<td>$1,005.00</td>
<td>$376.07</td>
<td>$1,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings/Forums</td>
<td>$1,250.00</td>
<td>$133.12</td>
<td>$1,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study/Advocacy</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$21.82</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters Service</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$307.23</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Program</td>
<td>$1,700.00</td>
<td>$462.17</td>
<td>$3,650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handbook Printing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handbook Postage</td>
<td>$755.10</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Handbook Expenses</td>
<td>$1,033.35</td>
<td>$950.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting Workbook</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual meeting Workbook Printing</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting General Expenses</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Annual Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Contributions</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$159.16</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>$20,834.32</td>
<td>$15,813.05</td>
<td>$26,910.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,363.68</td>
<td>$(4,661.55)</td>
<td>$(2,840.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Actual as of May 15, 2011- Outstanding 2010/11 income and expenses as of 5/15/2011: additional income from LWVMA phonathon; LWVMA Convention; donation to LWVMA; annual meeting; newsletter printing and postage; postcard postage; workbook postage and printing/copying.

Respectfully submitted by the 2011 Budget Committee: Ellen Glusman; Andrea Kozinetz, Chair; Lisa Mirabile; Sharyn Roberts; and Anne Borg, Acting Treasurer