League of Women Voters Newton
2012 Annual Workbook

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 30, 2012
6:15 – 9:30 PM
Papa Razzi Restaurant
16 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA

Please be sure to bring your Workbook to the Annual Meeting

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEWTON
2012 ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 30, 2012

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Social Time/Dinner 6:15 PM

Business Meeting 7:15 PM

• Call to Order Borg/Flicop
• Jane Leighton Award Conferred Yoffie/Leighton
• Recognition of 50 Year Members Grantham
• Appointment of Parliamentarian Borg
• Report of the Committee to Approve 2011 Minutes Glusman
• Appointment of Committee to Approve 2012 Minutes Flicop
• Presidents’ Report Borg
• Treasurer’s Report Kozinetz
• Presentation of Program Flicop
  o Charter Commission Petition and Election Initiative Kidwell
• Adoption of Program Flicop
• Presentation of 2012-2013 Budget Mirabile
• Adoption of 2012-2013 Budget Mirabile
• Vote to amend bylaws to conform to LWVUS bylaws Borg
• Nominating Committee Report Rosenbaum
• Election of Officers and Directors Rosenbaum
• 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.
2012 - 2013 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 2012-2013:

1. All program positions approved by the membership at the June 2011 Annual Meeting and listed on www.lwvnewton.org.
2. Participation in the LWVN Transportation Study.
3. Creation of a local Education Review Committee / Study (see below).
4. Organization of a campaign to collect sufficient signatures for a petition to place the question of whether to elect a Charter Commission on the ballot at the November 2013 municipal election (see page 4 of Workbook).

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Newton recommends the following local action priorities for 2012-2013

1. CPA/Observer Corps: Review CPA applications and expand our Observer Corps.
2. Municipal Finance: Committee members will attend city budget and finance meetings as observers. The committee will decide on the scope of activity for this initiative.
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: Review policies and positions, including state education priorities, and evaluate the need for a local education study. Timeline would be: Year 1 – education of members and public, research advisability of study, and develop focus. The committee may organize a forum; Year 2 – consensus study. (The committee is seeking a co-chair and members.)
5. Land Use: Review City zoning regulations while emphasizing a broad approach to the discussion of zoning and development to include: transit oriented development, green infrastructure strategies, low impact development (LID), and the complete streets idea.

6. Environmental Issues:
   A. Pedestrian mobility, access and safety:
      i. Support improvements in Newton, including effective implementation and enforcement of ordinances requiring sidewalk snow clearance, and their renewal beyond the 2013 sunset for residences.
   B. Water & Sewer:
      i. Support the long-term infrastructure planning process and funding.
      ii. Advocate for addressing non-point source pollution, mitigating climate change, improving local water quality, and reducing ratepayer costs.
   C. Follow state environmental legislation.

7. Elections:
   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.
   C. Research feasibility, advisability, and process for adding 5th Election Commissioner (unenrolled voter).
Support for a Newton Charter Commission:

It has been 41 years since the City of Newton made substantial changes to its form of government, which is defined by its charter. The world has changed dramatically since 1971, and it is time for our City to consider updating and improving our government by opening our charter.

Prior to 1971, Newton had a two-year term for mayor, there was no provision for an override of the mayor’s veto, and vacancies on the Board of Aldermen were filled by the Board itself, regardless of the remaining term. Because of the League’s longstanding commitment to pursuing good government, LWVN members saw these weaknesses as an opportunity. In 1967, following a comprehensive charter study, the LWVN adopted numerous positions supporting improvements to Newton’s form of government. League members then collected signatures that resulted in the election of a charter commission in 1969. The resulting charter, approved by voters in 1971, offered more power to voters, a more stable executive branch, and stronger checks and balances... in short, better government. The LWVN has always been credited with being the driving force behind the improved and updated government adopted in 1971.

Two years ago, the LWVN completed a similarly comprehensive study of Newton’s charter. The study identified significant opportunity for improvement to Newton’s government, including charter-specific positions aimed at reducing “voter fatigue” (which should increase voter engagement and candidate accountability), and improving the effectiveness of our legislative body. These positions are opportunities for improvement. If the League puts our resources behind a charter commission, we can possibly help Newton to achieve a modernized government with greater accountability for elected officials and a more informed electorate.

Newton’s political climate is relatively calm and stable now, making this a good time for the League to act on the positions we adopted at the conclusion of the charter study. And while there is no guarantee that a charter commission would incorporate League positions into a new charter, or that a proposed new charter would be adopted by voters, the League could advocate for our positions and offer the benefit of our knowledge to the electorate and to the commission.

Newton’s present form of government is overdue for revision. If we choose, once again, to be the driving force behind a charter commission, we will be fulfilling the LWVN mission to build citizen participation in the democratic process, and to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues.

Nominating Committee Report

2012-2013 LWVN Proposed Slate:

Co-Presidents:
  Anne Borg
  Sue Flicop

Executive Vice President:
  Ellen Glusman

Co-Vice Presidents
  Jo Corro
  Alison Leary

Treasurer:
  Andrea Kozinetz

Clerk:
  Bonnie Carter

Directors:
  Leslie Burg
  Ann Grantham
  Rhanna Kidwell
  Lisa Mirabile
  Mindy Peckler
  Sharyn Roberts
  Sue Rosenbaum

Up to ten additional Board members may be appointed by the elected Board, as they deem necessary, to carry on the work of the League.

Proposed Nominating Committee for 2013 - Lynn Scheller (chair), Pat Acton, one off-Board TBD, and 2 Board representatives to be elected by the 2012-2013 Board.

Respectfully submitted by the 2012 Nominating Committee: Pat Acton, Ellen Glusman, Andrea Kozinetz, Sue Rosenbaum (chair), and Carol Ann Shea
**LWVN Bylaws Amendment**

At the 2010 LWVUS National Convention, delegates voted to amend Article III of the LWVUS bylaws. LWVUS requires that “the first three articles of all local and state League bylaws... be consistent with those of the LWVUS in order to define and maintain the unity of the organization and the powers and privileges of members.” While comparing LWVN’s bylaws with National’s, we found that LWVN’s first three articles differed in several places. In order to have LWVN’s bylaws conform to National’s, the LWVN Board voted on February 1, 2012, to amend Articles I, II, and III of LWVN’s bylaws. The amended articles are listed below. We ask that the members affirm this vote at Annual Meeting.

**Article I – Name**

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Newton, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVN. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

**Article II – Purposes and Policy**

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVN are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

**Article III – Membership**

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

A. **Voting Members.** Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

B. **Associate Members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members.

**2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORTS**

**Community Preservation Committee Readers Report**

*Members: AnnaMaria Abernathy, Lucia Dolan, Andreae Downs, Andrea Kelley*

This committee met infrequently, as the Community Preservation Committee decided this year to only hear urgent grant proposals, but otherwise to fund nothing new. We read and met about a housing proposal for property across from Myrtle Baptist Church, and supported the application. Andrea Kelley read our commentary, and the CPC subsequently approved the proposal. Our comments are online at www.lwvnewton.org.

A later application to fund repairs to the City’s Civil War Memorial came up too fast for us to respond. We did observe several meetings, and despite our few members, have been keeping abreast of the CPC’s work.

**Education Committee Report**

The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education Study 2011

The study on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education in 2011 was led by co-chairs Lynn Scheller and Jo Corro. In order to support all members in the study, LWVUS provided the following articles on their web site:
Common Core Standards and Assessments by Janelle L. Rivers, PhD

Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding by Pat Aaron

Funding and Equity Issues by Jean Pierce

Legislation and Funding for the Education Of Children Who are Disadvantaged by Patricia O'Brien Libutti, PhD

Role Of Federal Government In Public Education: Historical Perspectives by Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins and Margaret Hawkins Hill

A link to the LWVUS Study was put on the LWVN website to make it easy for local members to access the study. The co-chairs reached out to specific members with an interest in education via e-mail and personal calls to invite them to become members of the study committee.

LWVN also purchased a few copies of two books to provide more in-depth information on this important question. The books were:


The Flat World and Education: How America's Commitment to Equity Will Determine Our Future by Linda Darling-Hammond

The co-chairs studied the articles and the two resource books and also adapted the PowerPoint provided by LWVUS in preparation for an informational session for members prior to the consensus meetings. During the spring and fall, monthly e-mails were sent out to members to encourage their participation.

Over thirty-five members and non-members attended the informational session on the consensus study, The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, on Monday, October 3, 2011, presented by the co-chairs of the education study. Information on the consensus questions for both Common Core Standards and Equity and Funding as well as background information were presented so members would be more knowledgeable about the issues and better prepared to participate in the consensus meetings held on October 13, 2011. We were honored to have David Fleishman, Superintendent of the Newton Public Schools, and Ann Koufman, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, as resources for our discussion. Their knowledge contributed greatly to our understanding of these issues, as well as how policies affect the classrooms and learning in Newton and nationwide.

The history of the role of the federal government in education, as well as background information on the last 30 years in the development of educational standards and assessments, was reviewed. Basic definitions were provided so all would understand the difference between standards, assessments and curriculum, as well as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. There was much discussion about the national, not federal, common core and what role the federal government should have in requiring states to adopt these standards, assess students, and/or develop a curriculum. Priorities and the distribution of educational funding were also addressed.

Since the number of questions and complexity of the content could not be covered in one meeting, two consensus meetings, both on Thursday, October 13, 2011, were held. The first meeting was held during our regular topic meeting time and location, at 11:30 a.m., at the NewTV Conference Room, 23 Needham Street, Newton Highlands. The focus was on Common Core Standard consensus questions and had 15 members in attendance.

The co-chairs served as resources and reviewed the scope of the study process and the current role of the federal government in public education. Prior to discussion of all consensus questions, the League presented arguments for/and opposing the question. Lisa Mirabile was the session’s discussion leader/moderator and Andrea Kozinetz was the recorder for both sessions.

The second meeting was held that evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Newton City Hall Cafeteria and was attended by 15 members. The focus was on Equity and Funding. Andrea Kelley served as the moderator using the same format as the noon meeting.

On Wednesday, October 19, 2011, the co-chairs, moderators, and recorder reviewed the results of the consensus meetings and prepared a document with the responses as well as comments made by participants. Members expressed
a number of concerns about the quality of the questions and recommended that in the future, the National League pre-test consensus questions before distributing them to members.

The results were presented at the Board meeting on November 2, 2011, for review. They were then submitted to the National League where the responses from local leagues all over the country were consolidated into a LWVUS position to be used to advocate and influence the role of the federal government in education.

Respectfully submitted by Jo Corro and Lynn Scheller, 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*

- We observed meetings of the Election Commission (EC). Following the death of Election Commissioner Faye Cohen, EC Executive Secretary Craig Manseau informed the Democratic City Committee about the Democratic vacancy, and requested that nominations for Faye’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.
- This year, Tuesday, March 20, 2012, our planned Poll Workers Thank You party (which was held at City Hall) was NOT canceled because of snowstorms, and over 50 Poll Workers attended.
- Feedback received at the Poll Workers Thank You Party was passed along to the Election Commissioners at their April 26, 2012 meeting, resulting in the request assigned to Craig Manseau to include future forms in the Wardens’ packets that should be returned to the Election Commission Department two weeks after an election, soliciting additional information regarding suggestions for improvements.
- As of the April 2, 2012 deadline, no names had been received by the Mayor for a replacement for Faye Cohen, so he can now send any (Democratic) name(s) to be considered for an appointment directly after 20 days.
- Craig Manseau has sent voter registration forms to the two public high schools in Newton and offered Civics teachers his assistance. He agreed to look into seeing if there are any private high schools in Newton that should similarly be contacted.
- Commissioner Richard Lipoff wants to contact *The Newton Tab* to see if they will carry Last Date to Register to Vote in any City Election scheduled in the *Tab* Calendar/Happenings section. (In previous elections held in 2012 so far, the League of Women Voters of Newton provided this information.)
- The next meeting of the Election Commission of Newton will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2012, in Room 222 at City Hall.

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

**Environmental Issues Committee Report**

*Alison Leary, Chair; Members: Mary Adelstein, Sarah Barnett, Leslie Burg, Deb Crossley, Lucia Dolan, Andreae Downs, Andrea Kelley, Lois Levin, Priscilla Leith, Brooke Lipsitt, Sharyn Roberts, Terry Yoffie*

**The Environmental Committee major themes in 2011:**

1. Transportation and Parking
2. Water, Sewer and Stormwater
3. Legislative Action

**Action Items:**

- Questions for the Candidates on Environmental Issues - April, 2011
- Bottle Bill Hearing and Rally - July 20, 2011
• The proposed Station at Riverside development EIR Comments - August, 3 2011
• Letter to Mayor re: sewer rate increase
• Letter recommending that aldermen support passage of a Newton Resolution in support of EPR (extended producer responsibility) framework legislation
• Comments to MBTA on service cuts

Events/Forums:
• Environmental Tour of Fitchburg at invitation of Mayor Lisa Wong, June 10, 2011
• Transportation Forum: The Future of Transportation in Newton: how to ensure viable, sustainable and affordable transportation infrastructure that meets Newton's needs now and in the future, November 27, 2011
• Tour of Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant, May 1, 2012
• Parking Forum scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2012

Future Goals:

Money in politics

Transportation:
• Include ecological, conservation, community, and mobility functions in our approach to zoning changes and transportation needs
• Complete the local Transportation Study by Annual Meeting in 2013
• Proposed Riverside development: Emphasize a broad approach to the discussion of zoning and development to include: transit oriented development, green infrastructure strategies, low impact development (LID), and the complete streets idea

Water & Sewer:
• Continue to guide the long term infrastructure planning process
• Advocate for opportunities to address non-point source pollution; mitigating climate change, improving local water quality, and reducing ratepayer costs

Legislative:
• Bottle Bill
• E-Waste Bill
• Extended Producer Responsibility
• Safer Alternatives - create a pragmatic and flexible program to encourage the replacement of toxic chemicals with safer alternatives whenever possible

Plastic Bag Reduction Efforts
• Presentation of film: “Bag It,” with panel discussion

Respectfully submitted by Alison Leary, Chair

Housing Committee Report

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

This year, the Housing Committee worked with UCHAN to design and get approval for a forum focusing on how affordable housing gets built in Newton. Our target audience comprises the decision-makers in the City, but the forum was planned as an event open to the public. Unfortunately, we have had to reschedule at least twice because of BOA conflicts.

We have also been monitoring the Riverside Station development, which we will continue to do next year as it moves ahead. We will also report on the upcoming Myrtle Village project with 7 units of affordable housing, and notify when/if public support is needed and appropriate.
We will continue to work with UCHAN and other housing organizations in the City and keep the LWVN informed of additional projects that may be proposed (i.e., Austin Street and Needham Street projects, both likely to be presented as mixed-use developments).

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Burg and Carol Ann Shea, Co-Chair

Municipal Finance Committee Report

Chris Steele and TBD Co-Chairs; Members: Ellen Grody, Sue Rosenbaum, Linda Stoller, and Terry Yoffie

This year marks the re-establishing of the Municipal Finance Committee, which examines how the City supports the community’s goals through funding and future investment. Over the next two years, the committee may consider these tasks:

- Review, analyze, and explain the municipal budget to show how the City is obtaining, spending, and investing funds
- Educate the community about how the Mayor’s office and the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen set priorities and how the decision model impacts budget decisions
- Review the state of resources for needs in education, infrastructure, economic development, municipal services, and other areas to understand possible future implications for capital investment and the operating budget
- Provide data and insight on proposed funding sources, including local taxation, state aid, and other revenues.

Our committee met for the first time on Friday, April 27, 2012, to plan and set priorities. We decided to set a goal of hosting an evening forum in fall 2012, to explain the budget process (who is involved, what they do, and how program and spending priorities are set), review the current budget describing the programs funded and at what level, and discuss sources and uses of funds. We hope to provide a longer-term view of the process and cover both operating and capital finance sources, uses, and guidelines as to how they will support the current and long term financial challenges and goals facing the City.

We will assemble a “dashboard” of key financial indicators as a handout for forum participants as well as include it with forum marketing materials on the LWVN website. The dashboard will be available beforehand so that attendees can be more engaged in the forum discussion.

In addition, the Committee foresees the possible need for financial oversight in public education with the School Committee (Budget 101) and with the Mayor’s and Superintendent’s Offices, and the Board of Aldermen Finance and Audit Committees, as well as advocacy regarding best practices for oversight, processes, and controls and on the financial impacts of existing and proposed programs, services, and projects in the City.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Steele, Chair

National Privatization Study Committee Report

In preparation for the Privatization Study, the November 2011 Topic Meeting held at the home of co-president Anne Borg, focused on privatization. Former Mayor Thomas B. Concannon, Jr. and Alderman Ruthanne Fuller greatly assisted us in understanding how privatization is used in Newton for such services as snow removal, trash collection, school lunches, and recycling as we more broadly discussed privatization at all levels of government.

Discussion included understanding what is and is not privatization, sharing examples from our own experiences, as well as briefly reviewing case studies from the League that includes articles on privatizing prisons, schools, and waste water treatment plants. The article titled, “The Legal Framework of Transparency and Accountability within the Context of Privatization” goes beyond a description of an individual case study and discusses the difference between the legal framework of public and private institutions such as the sunshine and open meeting laws that govern public entities that private entities do not have to follow.
We also watched a very interesting story about cities’ privatizing parking and roads that you can also enjoy at: http://www.pbs.org/wnet/need-to-know/economy/privatizing-infrastructure-2/11574/

At the meeting, and in a newsletter, we encouraged the participation of our membership and also reached out for moderators and recorders for the consensus meetings held in spring 2012.

The following are additional study articles that were recommended to members:

- In the Public Interest: www.inthepublicinterest.org
- National Council for Public-Private Partnership: www.ncppp.org
- Project on Government Oversight: www.pogo.org/investigations/contract-overight/government-privatization.html
- Privatization Watch: www.privatizationwatch.org
- Reason Foundation: www.reason.org/areas/topic/privatization

Co-presidents Anne Borg and Sue Flicop, as well as Topic Meeting Organizer Jo Corro, took on a leadership role for the study. In addition to becoming members of the LWVUS list serve for the privatization study and reading the numerous links to additional articles, we read You Don’t Always Get What You Pay For: The Economics of Privatization by Elliott D. Sclar. Starting in February 2012, monthly e-mails were sent out to members to encourage their participation in the study. In addition we prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the consensus meeting that contained additional information to provide further examples of privatization to participants.

LWVN Privatization Consensus Meetings were held on Thursday, April 12, 2012 from 11:00 am-1:30 pm and 6:30-9:00 pm at NewTV. Andrea Kelley was the moderator for the noon meeting and Andrea Kozinetz was the recorder for both sessions. Sue Flicop was the moderator in the evening. Fifteen members attended at noon and five new participants attended in the evening.

The moderator, recorder and study leaders met after the consensus meetings to consolidate responses from both sessions and prepare the results to be sent to LWVUS, which included a statement of comments in addition to answers to the consensus questions. This document was then e-mailed to the Board for their approval. When approval had been received, the responses were recorded on the LWVUS consensus report form on the LWVUS website.

Respectfully submitted by Jo Corro, Chair

Local Action Log

- May 27, 2011: Letter to the Editor, Newton TAB, about LWVUS Clean Air ads
- June 3, 2011: Letter to Editor, Newton TAB, in reply to TAB editorial about LWVUS Clean Air ads
- August 8, 2011: Letter about Draft Environmental Impact Report re: proposed development at Riverside sent to Richard K. Sullivan, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and to Maeve Valenly-Bartlett, Acting Director, MEPA; copy to Normandy Partners
- September 14, 2011: Letter to Sen. Cynthia Creem and Reps. Ruth Balser, Kay Khan, and John Lawn urging them to vote no on the Casino Gambling bill
- November 2, 2011: Letter to the Editor, Newton TAB, informing Newton voters about the League’s Voters Guide
- November 17, 2011: Letter to Mayor Setti Warren and Finance Committee members, Newton Board of Aldermen asking for an independent peer review of traffic planning for proposed Riverside development
- November 27, 2011: LWVN organized a public forum about traffic
• December 14, 2011: Letter to Mayor Setti Warren and members of the Newton Board of Aldermen supporting a City of Newton Resolution urging the Massachusetts Legislature to enact comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation
• Winter 2011-Spring 2012: LWVN Observers attended most of the Zoning meetings pertaining to the proposed Riverside development
• January 6, 2012: Letter to the Editor, Newton TAB, marking the second anniversary of the US Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision, and urging voters to be informed about political ads and to ask all candidates about their position on campaign finance reform
• February 1, 2012: LWVN board approved a “Riverside Information Sheet” that was posted on the LWVN website
• March 8, 2012: Letter to Jonathan Davis, MBTA General Manager, with copies to Governor Deval Patrick; Richard Davey, Secretary, Massachusetts Department of Transportation; Sen. Cynthia Creem; Reps. Ruth Balser, Kay Khan, and John Lawn; and Mayor Setti Warren, urging them to find an alternative funding plan for the MBTA
• March 21, 2012: Letter to the Editor, Newton TAB, urging voters to sign nomination papers
• March 22, 2012: Statement at Board of Aldermen Public Hearing against proposed re-zoning of the Riverside MBTA property, with copy of statement distributed to Aldermen
• April 25, 2012: Participation in LWVMA Day on the Hill and meeting with Newton’s State delegation
• May 4, 2012: Statement at Board of Aldermen Public Hearing in favor of Mayor’s proposed increase in water and sewer rates, with copy of statement distributed to Aldermen
• May 17, 2012: LWVN organized a public forum about parking

Respectfully submitted by Anne Borg and Sue Flicop

Legislative Roundtable Report
Tami Roberts and Lynn Scheller, Co-Chairs

The first program for the 2012 season of the LWVN Legislative Roundtable was taped on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, and was hosted by League member Jo Corro. Newton’s state legislators who participated were Representatives Ruth Balser, Kay Khan, and John Lawn. The second program, hosted by League member Linda Green, was taped on Monday, April 9, 2012. Participants were Sen. Cynthia Creem, Rep. Ruth Balser, and Rep. Kay Khan. During the programs, the legislators discuss current legislation that they are sponsoring or which is of special interest to their constituents.

Our plan is to tape once a month, except during the summer months. Broadcast dates will be published in the LWVN newsletter. Generally, the half-hour show is aired every Monday evening at 9pm, and at three other times during the month on the Blue (Community) Channel. In addition, it is live streamed through a link on the NewTV website and will soon be connected to the LWVNNewton website.

We would like to thank our legislators for taking the time to appear on our program. In addition, we would like to thank NewTV for supporting this program with space, equipment, technical expertise, and volunteers.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Scheller and Tami Roberts, Co-Chairs

Topic Meetings Report

September 15, 2011 – Economic Development 101

October 3, 2011 – Informational meeting on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education for LWVUS National Consensus Study

October 13, 2011 – Consensus Meetings on LWVUS Study: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

November 10, 2011 – Discussion of the National Consensus Study on Privatization

January 12, 2012 – “All politics is local” – How to Effectively Advocate
February 9, 2012 – Election Commission Presentation – A Conversation About Newton’s Election Commission

March 8, 2012 – Local Program Planning

April 12, 2012 – Consensus Meetings on LWVUS Study: Privatization

Respectfully submitted by Jo Corro, Chair

Voters Service Report

Sharyn Roberts and Bonnie Carter, Co-chairs; Members: Anne Borg, Shirley Farnham, Sue Flicop, Ellen Glusman, Ingrid Kefauver, Lee Kefauver, Tami Roberts

Thank you to all committee members who volunteered their time throughout the year to “man” the Farmers Market tables on Tuesdays and Fridays and drive citizens to the polls on Election Day, November 8, 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 primary 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 at Albemarle Field on July 4, 2011; at the Farmers Markets on Tuesdays and Fridays from May through October 2011; and at the City of Newton Harvest Fair on October 16, 2011. We also registered high school seniors at Newton North and Newton South who will turn 18 by Election Day. This is done every year, but this year, as part of a special LWVUS drive to register all high school students of age, Bonnie Carter and Sharyn Roberts also visited the four private high schools in Newton. Thank you to Tami Roberts, Sue Rosenbaum, Terry Yoffie, and the high school administrative staffs for their help.

LWVN Voters Service Committee provided moderators for other cities’ and towns’ municipal elections. We met to plan the fall candidates’ debates for the Newton Board of Aldermen and School Committee contested positions. Since there was no Preliminary Election in Newton in September 2011, all efforts concentrated on the candidates’ debates that were held all day on Sunday, October 23, 2011, at the NewTV Studios. Those candidates’ debates were for Alderman-at-Large, Wards 1, 6, and 8; and School Committee, Wards 2, 4, and 5. Our thanks to NewTV for hosting our committee meetings and candidates’ debates, and for taping the candidates’ debates, which were shown frequently on NewTV until the Election on November 8, 2011. We were fortunate to have the help of many League members on Sunday, October 23, 2011, as greeters, membership, ushers, and question sorters. We are also grateful to the Leagues of Arlington, Needham, and Westwood, who provided us with League moderators Elizabeth Blumenthal, Debby Winnick, and Marcia Hirshberg, respectively. For these efforts, the LWVNewton was awarded the Outstanding Political Programming Award at the NewTV Red Carpet Ceremony on Thursday, April 26, 2012.

We also coordinated with all LWVN local action committees in preparing questions for the candidates for the 2011 Municipal Election Voters Guide. Since the Newton TAB declined to publish the Voters Guide, either in print or online, we printed the Voters Guide ourselves and distributed printed copies to over thirty key locations in Newton and posted an electronic version on the LWVN website. Many thanks go to the Village Bank, a long-time, loyal League supporter, which underwrote the cost of printing the Voters Guide, as well as the cost of a paid ad in the TAB to inform citizens where to access the Voters Guide. A huge thank you also goes to Anne Borg, who not only formatted the Voters Guide, but also, with the help of Sue Flicop, negotiated and oversaw the printing in order to keep the citizens of Newton informed. Thank you also to Tami Roberts who helped with distribution of the printed guide all over the City.

Respectfully submitted by Tami Roberts and Sharyn Roberts, Co-Chairs

Archives Committee Report

Ann Grantham and Linda Morrison, Co-Chairs

The archives of LWV Newton are taking substantial shape. We have excellent runs of Newsletter/Bulletins, Annual Meeting workbooks, and good quantities of Voters Service and Administrative/Board Tools materials. Most exciting of all are the nine boxes of Local Studies, plus two or three boxes of New Library campaign and CPA records. These series of records document in some detail the work of the LWVN, and a considerable slice of City of Newton history.
The work of consolidating and putting items in better chronological order continues, and we could use some help on those tasks. Of especial importance is getting the Voters Guides and Bulletins that are printed on newsprint or extremely acidic paper photocopied onto acid free paper. Getting that accomplished remains a challenge.

Material from earlier than the 1970s remains thin, so anyone who comes across old boxes of LWVN material is encouraged to contact us. We are always glad to see more records, so keep checking your closets and basements.

The two of us have spent many hours systematically going through old Bulletins/Newsletters to make note of important events and pinpoint major changes in LWVN history. From this material a timeline will be constructed for the 75th anniversary next fall.

We are very grateful to the First Baptist Church for the use of their space, without which this project would be quite difficult to carry on.

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

**Communications Report**

Anne Borg and Lisa Mirabile, Co-Chairs; Member: Sue Flicap

**Website:** We have continued to use the free, open-source WordPress platform for LWVN’s website. We have been adding more content to the website, and will continue to do so next year. We continually strive to keep the website up-to-date. The weekly “Docket Digest” of information about the Board of Aldermen meetings is a very useful tool for LWVN’s committees.

**Facebook:** We started a Facebook page this year and have gotten more visibility with it. We will continue to use Facebook in addition to the website. Don’t forget to “like” LWVN’s Facebook page!

**Newsletter:** Getting a newsletter written, edited, and published on a regular basis continues to be a struggle. We are looking for 2-3 members willing to help with the newsletter next year – it is an important way to inform our members of important issues and events.

**Email list:** We continue to use the free “Mail Chimp” service to send emails to our members. It has become the method by which most of our members receive the newsletter, as well as communications about upcoming League events. We urge all members who do not receive emails from us to give us your email address.

**Monthly postcard:** We continue to mail a monthly postcard to all members; the postcard lists the upcoming LWVN events and meetings for each month. We have gotten a lot of positive feedback about this service.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Borg, Co-Chair

**Membership Report**

Ann Grantham, Chair

The membership year began in August 2011 when the co-presidents and membership chair attended a LWVUS in-state training in Membership and Leadership Development.

We became aware of current best practices and strengthened relationships among all three levels of the league and between state coaches and national coaches. As a participating League we have had the benefit of a Membership and Leadership Development Coach, Betsy Bray, from the Cape Cod League, who checks in with us monthly to brainstorm new ideas and follow up on what we have done.

Two techniques that we have used in the Newton League this year are:

1) Sharing our Stories - how did we become League members?

2) ASK - be prepared to ask others to join us. (Sometimes it takes seven invitations.)
In addition, we continued to reach out to new members in each of our events and to follow up on non-members who attend.

In January 2012, LWVUS listed our membership as 180. This is down from 203 in January 2011. These numbers challenge us to invite more women and men to join with us in our hands-on work to safeguard democracy and study issues that may lead to civic improvement. Ask someone you think can help us, and ask again and again.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Grantham

Treasurer’s Report

LWVN Treasurer’s Report as of April 30, 2012

Balances From Prior Report as of May 15, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Account</td>
<td>$6,868</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments in Certificates of Deposit</td>
<td>$8,803</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Beginning Balance</td>
<td>$15,671</td>
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Balances As of April 30, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Account</td>
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<td>Total Ending Balance</td>
<td>$13,678</td>
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</table>

Difference from 2011 (-) ($1,993)

*Anticipated 2012 expenses include: LWVMA Council, Annual Meeting, LWVUS Convention, and miscellaneous reimbursements.

* * * *

Thank you to those members who have made financial contributions, in addition to the regular dues, to the LWVNewton:

Mary Adelstein
Annette Ashin
Carol & Richard Beard
Betty Blume
Anne & Doug Borg
James Bueche
Bonnie Carter
Jo Corro
Nancy Criscitiello
Deborah Crossley

Nancy & William Crowley
Sue Ficop
Ruthanne Fuller
Ellen R. Glusman
Ann Grantham
Bernice Gully
Ann Morse Hartner
Marguerite H. V. Hasbrouck
Rhanna Kidwell
Anne Larner

Priscilla Leith
Mary Margaret Pappas
Mindy Frankel Peckler
Sharyn Roberts
Tami Roberts
Carol Ann Shea
Barbara Sydney
Terry Yoffie

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Kozinetz, Treasurer
**Budget Committee Report**

Please note that the dues amount listed in the 2012 Year-to-Date income includes payments made to the LWVUS Education Fund that were used to offset the PMPs due to LWVUS.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Mirabile, Chair; Members: Anne Borg, Sue Flicop, Ellen Glusman, Ann Grantham

### Budget and Actual Income and Expenses, League of Women Voters, Newton, 2011 - 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year to Date</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Proposed Budget</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td>2012*</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dues</strong></td>
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<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual memberships</td>
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<td>Secondary memberships</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal Dues</strong></td>
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<td>Handbook Sponsorship</td>
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<td>Voters Guide Sponsorship</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phonathon</td>
<td>$1,626.00</td>
<td>$1,400.00</td>
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<td>75th Fund Raiser</td>
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<td>High School Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Donations-in-Kind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$13,401.00</td>
<td>$24,070.00</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Payments per Member</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PMP - LWV US</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMP - LWV MA</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal PMP</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fund Raising</strong></td>
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<td>75th Event</td>
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<td>Phonathon</td>
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<td>Tennis</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal Fund Raising</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
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<td>Category</td>
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<td>----------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-reimbursed expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal Communications</strong></td>
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<td>Councils/Conventions</td>
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<td>Council/Convention - LWV US</td>
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<td>Council/Convention - LWV MA</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal US and MA Convention</strong></td>
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<td>Board/Administration</td>
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<td>Nominating Committee</td>
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<td>Training/workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archives Project</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal Board/Administration</strong></td>
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<td>Meetings/ Forums</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Welcome Party for Elected Officials</td>
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<td>Holiday Party</td>
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<td>Study/Advocacy</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal Program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Handbook</td>
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<td>Handbook Printing</td>
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<td>Handbook Postage</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal Handbook Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Contributions</td>
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<td>Annual contribution to NewTV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Contribution to LWVMA</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal Misc. Contribution Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</strong></td>
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