

LWV-AA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Bella Famiglia, 59 Great Road, Acton

Connecting with Friends



\$22 per person inclusive



6:15-6:45—Cash bar

6:45—Dinner

8:00—Business meeting

Join us for our Annual Meeting, a chance to socialize with League friends and learn about the year's accomplishments and next year's plans. Vote on next year's Steering Committee, budgets, and more.

\$22 per person includes soup or salad, choice of four entrees, coffee, tea, dessert.

Cash only—includes dinner, tax, and gratuity.

Membership dues will be collected.

Donations accepted.

RSVP before June 1!

RSVP and questions to Mary Ann Ashton: MABAshton@gmail.com, or call 978-263-4399.



League of Women Voters-Acton Area

ANNUAL MEETING WORKBOOK

June 7, 2016
Bella Famiglia, Acton
6:15 p.m.

Please review the contents of this workbook and bring to Annual Meeting.

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LWV-AA Annual Meeting Order of Business

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Presiding Officers: Sahana Purohit and Mary Ann Ashton
Parliamentarian: Marilyn Peterson

<i>Call to Order</i>		Sahana Purohit
Introduction / Announcements		
Minutes Process	Workbook, page 3	
Appointment of Minutes Reading Committee		
<i>Year's Accomplishments</i>		Mary Ann Ashton
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	Workbook, pages 7-8	Suzanne Shanahan
<i>Budget Presentation</i>	Workbook, page 9	Suzanne Shanahan
<i>Adoption of Local Program</i>	Workbook, pages 10-11	Nancy Tavernier
<i>Nominating Report</i>	Workbook, page 12	Judy Wolff
<i>Election of Officers, 2016-2017</i>	Workbook, page 12	Mary Ann Ashton
<i>Direction to the Steering Committee</i>		Members
<i>Doggerel Reading</i>		Marge Kennedy
<i>Adjournment</i>		Mary Ann Ashton

Please complete the Membership Form at the back of this workbook and
Bring your 2016-2017 dues payment to Annual Meeting:

Individual \$50; Household \$75; Student \$25.

Member Donations welcomed

Minutes of the LWV-AA 2015 Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Parliamentarian: Marilyn Peterson

- **8:20: Call to Order the Annual Meeting of the LWV-Acton Area**
League Co-Chairman, Sahana Purohit, called the meeting to order. She welcomed everyone, giving special recognition to our new members in attendance and thanked the former Presidents in attendance. She also thanked The Local Table for hosting us and wished The Local Table team good luck in future endeavors.

Sahana announced that Pat Easterly will take the minutes, then asked for and received unanimous consent for the appointment of three members, Mike Gowing, Leslie Hogan, and Jo-Ann Berry to read and approve the Annual Meeting minutes.

- **Treasurer's Report**
League Co-Chairman, Mary Ann Ashton presented the Treasurer's Report from Workbook pages 7-8 on behalf of Suzanne Shanahan. After a brief question and answer period, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.
- **Budget Presentation**
On behalf of Suzanne Shanahan, Mary Ann Ashton presented the budget as printed on Page 9 of the Workbook. Mary Ann noted that the membership has the power to reduce or enlarge the budget or to change any item. The only requirement is a balanced budget. After the presentation and discussion the budget was unanimously approved.
- **Adoption of Local Program**
Nancy Tavernier led the discussion on Local Programming. She began by asking members to find the Local Program materials in the Annual Meeting Workbook – pages 10-11. Nancy explained the program planning process and then asked for a motion to Re-adopt local program positions. Motion passed unanimously, after brief presentation.

Nancy then presented the summary of the analysis around why the committee is recommending no new local study for 2015-2016. After discussion a motion to approve no new local study for 2015-2016 passed unanimously.

Nancy moved that we adopt the following priority action areas as presented in the Annual Meeting workbook:

- 1) Monitor Acton Town Meeting;
- 2) Inform members about proposal to increase the Community Preservation Act property tax surcharge;
- 3) Evaluate changing permit granting authority for Commercial and Industrial Site plans from the Board of Selectmen to the Planning Board;
- 4) Social Policy Action

5) Monitor other community issues

Motion to accept these action areas was approved unanimously.

Nancy shared the list of activities for 2015-2016 on page 11 in the Workbook and noted that the programming committee recommends these activities but we are not required to vote on this item.

- **2014 - 2015 Accomplishments**

Mary Ann highlighted work done by the LWV-AA during the year. Our League has a solid group of accomplishments to celebrate this year, all of them aimed at engaging our members and our communities in the important conversations of our time. This morning's *Boston Globe* front page held two examples: one an article about the criminal justice reforms that are being heard by the State Senate today and one reporting on a study that correlates a patient's choice of hospice care with the recommendation of a physician. Both of these topics are familiar to our members, thanks to a social policy forum for the first and book group for the second.

Here are some of the highlights:

- We began our League year with an interesting conversation and presentation about money in elections, democracy in the balance.
- Leslie Hogan led an effort to register voters at schools in Acton, Boxborough, and Stow.
- We prepared information about the Ballot Questions on the state ballot in November, and presented to seniors at both Robbins Brook and the Acton Council on Aging. We also provided information on absentee ballots to these groups.
- Our League co-sponsored two candidates events last fall with Concord-Carlisle and other area Leagues. One was a forum for state and Congressional seats, and one was a forum for candidates for state Treasurer and State Auditor. John Sonner assisted with question preparation and coordinated volunteers from our League.
- John Sonner also hosted our usual spring candidates' forum for the local positions and Donna Beusch moderated a candidates' forum in Stow.
- Marge Kennedy and Cynthia Heiland led our Social Policy team with a focus on criminal justice reform issues. With State Senator Jamie Eldridge and Communities for Restorative Justice we sponsored a forum in February on "Criminal Justice Reform: Opportunities for Legislative Action." The Social Policy team also continued to follow and collaborate with other local organizations on these and other issues.
- The Social Policy and Government Teams also collaborated on a forum about the future of the Acton Nursing Service prior to Acton's vote at a Special Town Meeting in November.
- The Government Team, with Ann Chang's leadership, focused on other town meeting activities this year, including working with Acton's Town Manager and

BOS on warrant ordering and accessibility, and providing a warrant meeting that was open to the public in Acton to inform and address some of the key items on the April Town Meeting warrant.

- Sahana Purohit coordinated our 4th Annual Civics Bee this year. We continued the format pairing one adult with a team of three students. With help from the ABRHS Social Studies department, we continued to develop new and interesting question formats, and hosted a fun afternoon for 30+ teams.
- Diane Schaumburg coordinated both the Book Group and Membership again this year. The Book Group read nonfiction books on topics ranging from women spies during the Civil War to how we as a society deal with the medical issues around end of life decisions. We continue to meet monthly, and recently read Bryan Stevenson's Just Mercy, which complemented the criminal justice forum.
- We invited local author Barbara Berenson to talk about her book Boston and the Civil War: Hub of the Second Revolution, and celebrated our new members with a copy of her book. We added several new members this year, and retained our existing members. For this we received an award from the LWVMA as one of the Leagues whose membership grew during the past year.
- We continued with our First Tuesday meetings, which has consistently been a great way to stay in touch with LWV friends as well as the issues. We also held our Annual Chat and Cheer which offers an opportunity to discuss current issues with our legislators.

○ **Nominating Report**

Judy Wolff noted that most people will remain in their current positions. Judy outlined the report on pages 12-13 of the Annual Meeting workbook. She noted that Julia Larkin will be stepping down from her role preparing the Bulletin and Ruth Kohls has agreed to assume this responsibility. She also noted that the email list role is open.

• **Election of Officers for 2015-2016**

Mary Ann thanked the Nominating Committee (Judy Wolff, Kathy Borofsky, Rosie Berry, Marilyn Peterson, and Diane Schaumburg). She also noted that only positions in the Workbook on pages 12-13 with X in the right column are required to be voted in. Mary Ann asked if there were any nominations from the floor for any of the positions listed. There were none. Mary Ann asked for a motion to close the nominations which passed unanimously. Mary Ann noted that since there is only one nominee for each office, the secretary may cast a single vote for the entire ballot. Secretary Pat Easterly so cast a single vote for the entire ballot.

• **Thanks for service**

Sahana Purohit thanked Julia Larkin for her 5 years of service preparing the Bulletin.

- **Other Business**

Sahana provided a report from LWVMA Convention in May. She noted that it was helpful to meet members from other leagues throughout the state. She mentioned that five members from our chapter attended and that Jo-Ann Berry received an Above and Beyond award and Marilyn Peterson was recognized for the two years she spent as Co-President of the board of the LWVMA.

Sahana then mentioned that we have a year of interesting work to look forward to and asked all members to pay dues for the next year and sign up for teams and committees.

- **Direction to the Steering Committee**

Sahana asked if there were any other specific items of direction for the Steering Committee. There was some discussion about work done by other groups related to Citizens United related to a states rights effort called “PassMass Amend” to alter the Massachusetts Constitution. People interested can contact Mike Gowing.. No other items were noted.

- **This year’s doggerel**

Sahana then introduced Marge Kennedy who entertained us with her Year in Review Doggerel. Marge was thanked with a round of applause.

- **Adjournment**

Mary Ann Ashton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Easterly, Secretary

League of Women Voters – Acton Area
 Treasurer's Report
 May 21, 2016

Below are the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expense Statement as of May 21, 2016

BALANCE SHEET as of May 21, 2016

Assets		
Cash	<u>\$6,208.82</u>	
Total Citizen's Checking		\$6,208.82
Workers' Credit Union Savings	\$37.67	
Workers' Credit Union 6-month CD	<u>\$6,319.97</u>	
Total Investments		\$6,357.64
Unrestricted Scharfman Fund		\$100.00
Total Assets		<u><u>\$12,666.46</u></u>
Liabilities		
Sales Tax Payable		\$17.23
Next Year's Dues		<u>\$98.50</u>
Total Liabilities		\$115.73
Equity		
Retained Earnings		\$12,362.34
Current Earnings		<u>\$188.39</u>
Total Earnings		<u>\$12,550.73</u>
Total Equity		<u>\$12,550.73</u>
Liabilities and Equity		<u><u>\$12,666.46</u></u>

INCOME AND EXPENSES as of May 21, 2016

Income

Dues and Contributions	
Dues	\$2,975.00
Member Contributions	\$954.67
Non-member Contributions	\$50.00
Grants and Bequests	\$0.00
Total Dues and Contributions	\$3,979.67
Fundraising	
Finance Drive	\$1,000.00
Phonothon	\$273.00
Souvenir Sales	\$482.83
Total Fundraising	\$1,755.83
Interest and Dividends	
Citizen's Checking Interest	\$0.52
Worker's Savings Interest	6.38
6-month CD Interest	\$31.38
Total Interest and Dividends	\$38.28
Total Income	\$5,773.78

Expenses

Government Team	\$175.00
Civics Bee	\$778.73
Hospitality	\$27.90
Membership	\$48.30
Special Membership Fund	\$30.00
Bulletin Postage	\$75.26
Bulletin Publishing	\$260.99
Other Postage	\$184.40
Finance Drive/Fundraising	\$76.08
National PMP	\$2,064.00
State PMP	\$1,454.75
Souvenirs	\$409.98
Total Expenses	\$5,585.39

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Shanahan
Treasurer, LWV-AA

League of Women Voters -- Acton Area
Budget for 2016-2017

EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUALS	PROJECTED	PROPOSED
	2015-2016	4/30/2016	6/30/2016	2016-2017
Issues and Action Teams	100.00	175.00	175.00	300.00
Civics Bee	700.00	778.73	778.73	700.00
Voter Service	200.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
Hospitality for Meetings	100.00	27.90	27.90	50.00
Membership	250.00	48.30	48.30	200.00
Special Membership Fund	100.00	30.00	30.00	100.00
PMP - National ¹	2,075.00	2,064.00	2,064.00	1,850.00
PMP - State ²	1,475.00	1,454.75	1,454.75	1,300.00
Bulletin Postage	125.00	75.26	107.00	125.00
Bulletin Publishing	300.00	221.72	300.00	300.00
Other Publishing	200.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
Other Postage, P.O. Box Fee	200.00	184.40	200.00	200.00
Delegates	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	750.00
Gifts - Out	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Student Programs	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Finance Drive/Fundraising	75.00	76.08	76.08	75.00
Souvenir Sales Expense	500.00	409.98	409.98	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,400.00	5,546.12	7,521.74	6,650.00

PER MEMBER PAYMENT CALCULATION			
¹ NATIONAL		² STATE	
Primary: 54 (\$32.00 each)	1,728.00	Single:54 (\$23.00 each)	1,242.00
Household 2nd: 6 (\$16.00 each)	96.00	Household 2nd: 6 (\$5.75 each)	34.50
Subtotal	1,824.00	Subtotal	1,276.50
TOTAL PER MEMBER PAYMENTS			3,100.50

INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUALS	PROJECTED	PROPOSED
	2014-2015	4/30/2015	6/30/2015	2015-2016
Dues ³	3,275.00	2,975.00	2,975.00	2,875.00
Member Contributions	700.00	954.67	954.67	700.00
Non-Member Contributions	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
In-Kind Contributions (donated)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants and Bequests	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Finance Drive	900.00	850.00	925.00	900.00
Fundraising/Phonathon	100.00	273.00	273.00	200.00
Souvenir Sales	250.00	482.83	500.00	300.00
Bank Interest	1.00	0.52	0.62	1.00
6-Month CD	35.00	31.38	31.38	30.00
Transfer from Assets	2,889.00	0.00	0.00	1,644.00
Transfer from Scharfman Fund	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	8,400.00	5,617.40	5,809.67	6,650.00

³ INCOME FROM DUES (based on estimate of 55 primary memberships and 5 household 2nd memberships)	
Primary: 55 @ \$50.00	2,750.00
Household 2nd: 5 @ \$25.00	125.00
	<u>2,875.00</u>

PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM 2016-2017

Local Program Planning is the process by which members determine where they would like to focus their energies during the coming League year. This year, we held a Program Planning session May 5 to consider proposals. Members came to consensus on program recommendations to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is recommending the following to be adopted by members at the Annual Meeting:

1. League members recommend all Active positions listed below be re-adopted:

Education	Growth Management
Local Education – Financing of Schools	Planning and Zoning
Acton Public Health Nursing Service	Water Protection and Water Supply Management
Mental Health Services	Traffic Management
Town Government	Transportation
Town Meeting Proceedings	
Environmental Protection	

2. The Steering Committee recommends no new local study for 2016-2017.

3. The Steering Committee recommends the following program areas for Priority Action Focus in 2016-2017:

- **Monitor Acton Town Meeting:**
 - Advocate for the implementation of electronic voting to improve the efficiency and accuracy of voting
 - Review the current Town Meeting Warrant: the format, the timing, the type of distribution, and the extent of information contained in it.
 - Assist with the preparation of a Town Meeting Guide
 - Promote voter turn-out

- **Local Action commitment:**
 - Steering Committee shall take local action on a regular basis for timely issues based on local League positions. These can be letters to the editor, speaking at Town Meetings and Town Board Meetings, lobbying citizens of the Town and other ways of advocating for League issues.

- **Affordable Housing – Building Community Understanding:**
 - Educate League members about housing initiatives and policies
 - Learn about creative housing solutions from nearby towns
 - Encourage civility during housing approval process

- **Inform the community about a proposal to increase the Community Preservation Act property tax surcharge from the current 1.5% to 3%:**
 - Requires Town Meeting and regular election ballot votes
 - Educate voters about the CPA proposal

- **Engage members in other community issues including:**
 - Capital planning for schools and town
 - Identify priorities to focus on from Acton 2020, Kelley’s Corner Initiative, and Housing Production Plans
 - Meet with Land Use/Economic Development Director

5. The Steering Committee recommends these organizational activities for 2016-2017:

- Civics Bee
- Participate in Town Safety Net meetings to measure social service needs in the community
- Voter Service – Candidate forums, Early Voting publicity, get out the vote activities such as voter registration
- Ballot question forum
- Book Club including 1 speaker
- Meet Legislators at Chat and Cheer
- Update from Superintendent of Schools
- Warrant meeting open to public
- Improve LWVAA digital communication with interconnecting social media
- First Tuesday, member gathering time. Consider adding an evening time
- Promote Civility Program and celebrate outstanding efforts in civic engagement as observed in town employees or town board members.

**League of Women Voters — Acton Area
Nominating Report 2016-2017**

Position	Volunteer	Steering Committee	Must Be Elected?
League Officers			
Nonpartisan Public Spokesperson	Mary Ann Ashton	X	Y
Secretary	Pat Easterly	X	Y
Treasurer	Suzanne Shanahan	X	Y
Nominating Committee			
Steering	Mary Ann Ashton		
Steering	TBD		
Non-Steering	Judy Wolff		
Non-Steering	Kathy Borofsky		
Non-Steering	Marilyn Peterson		
Non-Steering	TBD		
Finance Committee			
Chair/Treasurer	Suzanne Shanahan	X	Y
Finance Drive	Suzanne Shanahan		
Souvenirs	Andi Miller		
Communications Committee			
Press Contact	Jo-Ann Berry		
Bulletin	Ruth Kohls	X	Y
Bulletin Publisher	Nola Sheffer		
Mailing Labels	Mary Ann Ashton		
Weekly Email	Mary Ann Ashton		
Website	Janice Ward Sahana Purohit		
Email Lists	Betsy Purcell		

Organization Committee			
Chair	Pat Clifford	X	Y
Membership	Diane Schaumburg	X	Y
Membership Records	Mary Ann Ashton		
Opening Meeting	Marilyn Peterson		
Meeting Locations	Nola Sheffer		
Chat & Cheer	Phyllis Meade		
Local Program Planning	Pat Clifford		
State Program Planning	Donna Beusch Kathy Borofsky		
Annual Meeting	Steering Committee		
Civics Bee	Sahana Purohit		
League Photographers	Ann Chang Kathy Borofsky		
Book Group	Diane Schaumburg	X	Y
Voter Service Committee			
Chair	John Sonner	X	Y
Voter Registration	Leslie Hogan		
Vote Tuesday Signs	Peg Mikkola		
Issues and Action Teams			
Transportation Specialist	Franny Osman		
Environmental Specialist	Debra Simes +another person?		
Education Chair	Sahana Purohit	X	Y
Government Chair	Ann Chang	X	Y
Social Policy Chairs	Marge Kennedy Bonnie Lobel	X	Y

For the 2016-2017 League year, we are going to try a different leadership model, one that has been used successfully by several other Leagues.

Instead of the traditional system (Chair or Co-Chairs), the leadership tasks will be distributed among Steering Committee members as follows:

1. Meeting coordination and chair: The members of the Steering Committee will rotate in this role, with one person taking responsibility for each meeting. Those responsibilities include setting the agenda, running the meeting, and overseeing the follow-through of action items from that meeting.
2. Nonpartisan public spokesperson: This individual will be the spokesperson for the League. Mary Ann Ashton is nominated for this role in the upcoming year.

Our By-Laws (last modified in 2006) provided for the option of trying out “other organizational structures” so the Nominating Committee believes this proposal for the 2016-2017 year is within these guidelines. Here is the text of the relevant by-law:

“Sec. 1 Composition: The Steering Committee shall consist of the officers and committee or issue and action team chairs (See Article V), who shall serve until their successors have been elected or appointed. Other organizational structures may be tried from time to time with the approval of the general membership at an annual meeting.”

Our League Year In Haiku

Farewell doggerel
Haiku for this year's review
Change can energize

Our League year closing
Agenda plans accomplished
Now we celebrate

Money issues prime
Challenges police chiefs face
Candidates revealed

Entertaining Bee
Most engaging Bulletin
Bagels Plus for fun

Books enliven minds
Emails flow and flow and flow
Night and day we meet

Kudos are well deserved
Partnerships share tasks and joys
Join again tonight

Marge June 2016



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



ACTONAREA

Serving Acton, Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard and Stow, Massachusetts

League of Women Voters - Acton Area Membership Form

Membership is from July 1 to June 30 __New __Renew

Name(s):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

League Communications

The League of Women Voters does not sell or share email addresses with anyone.

May we give your email address to the LWV of MA? __YES __NO

May we give your email address to the LWV of the US? __YES __NO

League Dues*

_Individual Family Student

_\$50.00 _\$75.00 _\$25.00 Optional Local Donation: _\$50 _\$25 _\$10 _Other

TOTAL:_____

Please make your check payable to: LWV-Acton Area
Send to: P.O. Box817
Acton, MA 01720

*A membership fund is available to assist those for whom this is a burden. Please contact the Membership Chair or the Treasurer.

Let us know what your Interests are:

- _Government
- _Book Group
- _Social Policy
- _Voter Outreach
- Other _____
- __Education Policy
- _Citizen Education
- _Environmental Policy
- _Candidate Forums