



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

“What Does Community Mean: How Can We Find It Together?”

Tuesday, September 27

6:45 - 9 p.m.

St Brigid's Church - Keilty Hall

2001 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington

We go through our busy days focused on what gets our attention and interest - our work, health, parents, children, community. We have all chosen to live in Lexington, a town that has a vibrant and caring community. But, does this "community" give us what we need? And, what do we contribute to the "community" to make it successful?

Come join us for "A Community Conversation," Tuesday evening, September 27, where we will answer the following questions in small group discussions:

- 1) How can our community be more helpful and supportive to me?
- 2) How can I become more engaged in our community?

The evening will be facilitated by Deborah Brown, Lexington Town Moderator, and sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lexington; Cary Memorial Library; Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association, Lexington's Council on Aging, Recreation Committee, and Human Services and Recreation Departments; the Lexington Safe Routes to School Committee; LexFUN!; the Estabrook PTA, and Lexington Stand for Children.

Coffee will be available at 6:45 p.m. with the program beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. in Keilty Hall at St. Brigid's Church, 2001 Massachusetts Avenue. All are welcome and there is no admission charge. For more information or to carpool, email lwv.lexington@gmail.com or call 781-863-0474.

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LexGwac

Sustaining Life in a Climate Changed World: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity

Sunday, September 18, 7 pm, Cary Hall,
1605 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington

Aaron Bernstein, MD,MPH, will present a comprehensive—and sobering—view of how human medicines, biomedical research, the emergence and spread of infectious diseases, and the production of food, both on land and in the oceans, depend on biodiversity.

Dr. Bernstein is the acting associate director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School and is a pediatrician at Children's Hospital Boston. His work examines the human health effects of global environmental changes, such as climate change and the loss of biodiversity, with the aim of promoting a deeper understanding of these subjects among students, educators, policymakers, and the public.

With Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Eric Chivian, Dr. Bernstein co-authored and co-edited the Oxford University Press Book *Sustaining Life* which received the distinction of best biology book of 2008 from the *Library Journal*.

Sponsored by the Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition (LexGwac) and the League of Women Voters of Lexington

LWVL October First Friday

The League is currently planning its First Friday series which begins in October 7, with “What Drives the School Budget,” and continues through May of next year. Look for more details in October’s Bulletin.

Membership

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is always open to new members. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member, you can download a membership form from our website at www.lwvlexington.org or call 781-862-6435 and we’ll be happy to send one.

LWVMA

From the League Leaders Update:

We're Moving!

The League is moving on Friday August 26th! We are moving to the office next door. The space is half the size of our present office and will allow us to use our resources more effectively, while at the same time retaining the same address. So our address remains the same, our phones remain the same, we are on the same floor and both our e-mail and website remains the same - everything is the same except that our offices will be next door.

Legislation

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports a pending Senate bill to tighten state regulations on the purchase of guns and to curb access to illegal guns.

The League backs SB1195, the Prevention of Illegal Trafficking and Gun Violence, sponsored by Senators Sonia Chang-Diaz and Sal DiDomenico. Chief sponsors of the legislation in the House are Representatives Linda Forry, Cory Atkins, Russell Holmes, Ruth Balsar, Denise Provost and Benjamin Swan.

Major features of the proposed law are a limit on the number of guns a buyer can purchase in a year to prohibit the bulk purchase of guns; a state database to track the secondary gun market; and a prohibition on convicted felons working in gun shops. The bill would also close loopholes in the existing gun laws by requiring lost or stolen weapons be reported to police within 24 hours and requiring guns received as gifts or bequests to be licensed within 180 days.

Contact your representatives about this important legislation!

LWVUS Guidelines for Major In-State Initiatives

The LWVUS board has approved the following policy in response to comments received from Massachusetts League members and resolutions from Massachusetts and other state Leagues submitted at June's U.S. Council meeting concerning the procedures used in implementing the spring Clean Air ads targeting Senators Scott Brown and Claire McCaskill.

Guidelines for Major LWVUS/EF In-State Initiatives

From time to time, the LWVUS/EF may undertake major advocacy, educational, visibility or membership campaigns or initiatives in one or more states. Major initiatives may enhance the League's effectiveness in achieving its educational, advocacy and organizational goals or further a current program or organizational priority. All aspects of major initiatives must be consistent with LWVUS/EF bylaws, policies, and positions.

Consultation with State and Local Leagues

In advance of the launching of a major initiative, the LWVUS/EF Board and staff shall do the necessary consultation and appropriate pre-planning with the state Leagues directly involved in the initiative.

The LWVUS/EF will brief state League presidents on the rationale and scope of the initiative. The consultation may include communicating, coordinating and reinforcing the League's activities and/or message, and ensuring that the League speaks with one voice.

Information will be shared with state League(s) first, and unless otherwise directed by the state League leadership, the LWVUS/EF will work to ensure that appropriate supporting materials are prepared and distributed in a timely manner to state and local League leaders. Materials will be designed to help League leaders understand and assist in the initiative at the state and local level as appropriate. Examples of materials include information and response templates, additional factsheets, press releases, model letters to the editor and other substantive documents prepared in support of the initiative.

The LWVUS/EF will work to help ensure that appropriate spokespersons are identified and briefed on the initiative.

The LWVUS/EF will inform the LWVUS Lobby Corps members and the Ruth M. Shur Fellows of any major in-state initiatives in a timely manner.

Monitoring and Results

The LWVUS/EF will monitor the progress of major initiatives, including implementation challenges and successes, internal feedback and external response, and level of impact at the national, state and local levels. As initiatives progress, the information obtained may lead to adjustments.

Approved by LWVUS Board 7/28/2011

LWVUS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear League Leader:

Feeling the earth move under your feet in Washington, D.C. may seem to be a once-in-a-lifetime event, but this week with the dedication of a statute of Martin Luther King, Jr. we mark the anniversary of the March on Washington, an event in our lifetime that shook American democracy to the very ground. Dr. King had a dream that we have yet to fully realize. The March on Washington, and the fall of the Soviet Union (which occurred twenty years ago this week), the Arab Spring, and the fall of Tripoli this week clearly demonstrate that Dr. King's dream of a society that welcomes the participation of all its members is universal.

Dr. King dreamed of a peaceful march toward real equality of opportunity. History shows, all too painfully, that it usually takes earth-shattering action to realize any opportunity at all. Is that, perhaps, because around the world, so many governments are dominated by those who, by virtue of their race, class, ethnicity and gender, have never known what it is to be powerless? We hear a great deal these days about American Exceptionalism. This week, as we absorb the news of earthquakes, hurricanes and rebellions and mark the anniversaries of significant milestones for democracy, not the least of which is the ninety-first anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, let us renew our resolve to make sure that American Exceptionalism does not become synonymous with American Exclusivity. Let us keep shaking up our own communities by reminding them that it is the openness and diversity of our society that makes us exceptional.

Let us all have a dream.

In League,

Elisabeth MacNamara
President, LWVUS

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the October 2011 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at *Nancor1106@gmail.com* by September 26.

Dates to Save:

September 18 Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition Presentation

September 27 “What Does Community Mean: How Can We Find It Together?”

October 7 First Friday



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