



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

February, 2011

No. 134

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

League of Women Voters of Weston

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This LWV/Weston Newsletter is published monthly except July and August. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age.

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VOTER INFORMATION

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of Massachusetts
133 Portland Street
Boston MA 02114
(617)523-2999

Submit articles to Katherine Wolfthal in
typewritten hard copy or by e-mail to

kate@weichi.com

Representative Alice Peisch attended our coffee hour on Saturday, January 29 to discuss her priorities for this legislative session. She was very pleased to have been recently named Chair of the Education Committee, which she indicated had been her goal throughout her years in the Legislature. She said that most of the legislation she files is the result of requests from her constituents. Among her priorities this session is a bill that removes from police logs in local papers the address as well as the name of a victim of domestic violence. She believes some abuse victims fail to report their abuse for fear that their friends and neighbors will find out about their plight.

She also will support the "Good Samaritan Bill" requested by a constituent, which would keep reporters of drug overdoses (as well as the individual overdosing) from prosecution. This can be especially worrisome for teens and other young people, who might not report in time to save the victim. In addition, she will support recent recommendations to reform alimony laws (Alimony Reform Act of 2011) by making them more fair to all participants, by allowing courts more flexibility and more discretion to fit each case, taking into account factors like length of the marriage and age of the parties.

She also supports more flexibility in lead paint removal laws, citing the well-publicized case of a Wellesley family which was forced to pay exorbitant costs to de-lead their new house, even though they had just moved in, and their young child's extremely high blood lead levels would have had to come from their previous house or, as the pediatrician believed, from the toy necklace imported from China which she sucked habitually.

Town Caucus is coming up on Monday, March 7 at 7:30 in the auditorium at Town Hall. Each town board has one or two seats for which the current occupant's term as expired. Many of these incumbents will, of course, be running for another term,

but this is the time for newcomers to get involved by throwing a hat in the ring. Town elections will take place on Saturday, May 7, with Town following two nights later.

A small but intrepid group met last week to discuss Michael Specter's *Denialism: How Irrational Thinking Hinders Scientific Progress, Harms Our Planet, and Threatens Our Lives*. The author posits that Americans mistrust science more today than ever before, giving examples such as some parents' belief that childhood vaccines can cause autism, and the money spent on organic foods, vitamins and "natural" cures. He also wrote at length about the rejection by some European and African governments of genetically modified grains, even as

their people are starving. It was an interesting juxtaposition with a previous League Book Club selection, Michael Pollen's *The Omnivore's Dilemma*.

I would like to draw your attention to the upcoming conference on *Women's Health in the 21st Century: What We Need to Know*, on Saturday morning, March 5 in Framingham. Details can be found elsewhere in this Bulletin. If you'd like to carpool, email me at tackc@aol.com.

Representative Alice Peisch will be holding office hours at the Town Hall on Monday, February 28 from 9:30 to 10:30. No need to make an appointment. Just show up.

CALENDAR FEBRUARY – MAY 2011

February 19 – 27.....	Weston Public School Vacation
February 28, Monday..... 9:30-10:30, Town Hall	Rep. Alice Peisch Office Hours
February 28, Monday..... (see www.weston.org)	Deadline for Warrant Article Submissions for Town Meeting
March 5, Saturday..... 9:30- 12:00 noon 85 Lincoln St., Framingham	LWVMA: Conference on Women's Health in the 21 st Century (p. 7)
March 7, Monday..... 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Auditorium	Town Caucus
March 8, Tuesday..... 9:15 a.m., 37 Juniper Rd (Beth Keane, 781-899-1292)	LWVW Board Meeting All members welcome
April 3, Sunday..... 2:00 p.m. Curtis Middle School, Sudbury	Civics Bee (p. 3)
May 7, Saturday..... 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Auditorium	Town Elections

Correction: In last month's Bulletin the president of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters was incorrectly identified as Zaxara Bennett. The president is Marcia Hirshberg.

The League of Women Voters of Weston
wishes to extend sincere thanks to the following Friends
and Sponsors who have generously given their support to our work.

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2011 CIVICS BEE

Plans are continuing for the 3rd Annual Civics Bee between Weston, Wayland and Sudbury, to take place on Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 in Sudbury. Each team will consist of nine members. I am delighted to report that Beth Nolan and Ed Coburn have agreed to join the Weston team. I am depending on Social Studies teachers at Weston High School and Weston Middle School to arrange the selection of students to complete the team. In fact, one High School student has already stepped up and volunteered to participate. It's a wonderful event, especially because it enables kids and adults to work together as equals, and also because of the healthy competition it engenders among the three towns. This year's emphasis will be on the Supreme court, in addition to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

President

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

U.S. Senators

- The Honorable Scott Brown
2400 JFK Building
55 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
(617)565-3170
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-4543
No e-mail address currently available
- The Honorable John F. Kerry
One Bowdin Square, Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(617)565-8519
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202)224-2742
E-mail: john_kerry@kerry.senate.gov

U.S. Representative 7th District

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
(781)396-2900
(202)225-2836
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202)225-2836
<http://www.house.gov/markey>

Governor

Governor Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 360
Boston MA 02133
(617)727-3600
E-mail: Goffice@state.ma.us

State Senator 5th Middlesex District

The Honorable Susan Fargo
(617)722-1572
State House, Room 505
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: sfargo@senate.state.ma.us
Home: (781) 259-9623

State Representative 4th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch
(617)722-2320
(781)237-4719
State House, Room 26
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: alice.peisch@mahouse.gov

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau

The February meeting was held at the home of Katty Chace. Present were: Katherine Wolfthal, Robin Coutts, Barbara Flannery, Barbara Fullerton and **Error! Bookmark not defined.**, with Katty Chace presiding.

The minutes were approved.

We should have an article about the new affordable homes.

The meeting with Alice Peisch was good, with about 10 people there. Susan Fargo's staff did not get back to Katty, and she then had an accident.

Polly Dickson would like a coffee hour about the Housing Trust in the spring. We will do that.

The Civics Bee is coming along. The questions will emphasize the Supreme Court. Katty is looking for adults to be on the team.

Our membership report has been submitted to the LWVUS.

Town Caucus, March 7: there is one person running for the school committee, and Mary Ann Rogers will probably want to retain her seat – the only one open.

Book club is coming up tomorrow night at Barbara Fullerton's.

A Scenario-Building workshop is scheduled for February 16 at the Town Hall.

The Weston Community Green Team will meet next Tuesday at the Weston Library to plan Earth Day and next year's initiative.

Robin would like help to get ads for the Bulletin, for firms she doesn't patronize personally.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Barbara Hill

The Community Preservation Committee continues to work with the Housing Partnership to help identify values and parameters under which the CPC would support a Housing Trust. The Housing Partnership continues to have the goal of seeking approval to create the Housing Trust at May Town Meeting. The Housing Partnership has been working long and hard to find the right balance of flexibility and accountability necessary to make this type of structure work for Weston. There seems to be a growing understanding that the Housing Trust will have to start with some small projects in order to build credibility and understanding before seeking and tackling larger projects.

The Community Preservation Committee continues to evaluate proposals for funds which, if recommended by the Committee, will be brought to May Town Meeting for approval there. Some possible projects include renovations (roof and windows) to the older Brook School

Apartment buildings, a possible affordable-housing renovation of buildings that the Town owns on Warren Avenue, some additional Case Estates preservation efforts (when that purchase closes), additional field work, funding for our share of a regional community housing expert, and others. The Committee will continue to review these proposals, and there will be a public hearing on March 14, after which the Community Preservation Committee will vote on whether to recommend each of the projects.

The Cecil Group's next meeting on finding a consensus for re-uses of the Old Library and the Josiah Smith Tavern will take place Wednesday evening, February 16, in the upstairs at Town Hall.

I encourage each of you to participate in the discussion about the re-use of these buildings, and to attend the CPC Public Hearing in March.

Weston Ambulance Ranked #1 Nationally in Service for 4th Quarter 2010

The Weston Fire Department ambulance service was ranked #1 in quality of service for the 4th quarter 2010 among 49 departments nationally, including 9 from Massachusetts, that participate in the survey process.

The overall mean score was 97.23%. Please read the report for more details.

More detail is available at <http://weston.govoffice.com/> under News and Events

Weston Takes First Place in MMA Annual Town Report Contest

Weston has been awarded first place in the 2010 Massachusetts Municipal Association's annual town report contest for the population category 5,000-12,499.

Judging criteria include the attractiveness of the report cover and layout; material arrangement; presentation of statistics and data; summary of the year's achievements; evidence of local planning for the future; and the report's practical utility.

Credit is due to co-editors Lis Zeytoonjian, Assistant to the Town Manager, and Kara Fleming, Housing Certification Specialist at the Brook School Apartments, as well as all members of boards and committees and staff who contributed to the report.

The annual town report can be viewed online at <http://weston.govoffice.com/>, or you may obtain a copy at the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall.



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The League of Women Voters
Massachusetts

Women's Health in the 21st Century: What We Need to Know

March 5, 2011
McPherson Hall in
Medical Arts Building
MWMC, Framingham Campus
85 Lincoln Street, Framingham, MA
Snow Date: March 26, 2011

9:30 Registration and Refreshments

10:00 Impact of Media on Women's Health
Keynote speaker,
Judy Norsigian, Executive Director of
Our Bodies Ourselves

11:00 Disparities in Access and Treatment
Cheryl Hamlin, MD

11:30 Mental Health Issues for Women
Georgia Sassen, PhD

12:00 Health Fair

March 12, 2011
Wesley United Methodist Church
98 North Maple Street, Hadley MA
Snow Date: April 2, 2011

9:30 Registration and Refreshments

9:50 Welcome – Ellen Story, State Rep.

10:00 Why Should We Talk About Women's
Health? - Katherine Reeves, PhD, MPH

10:20 Vitamin D and Women's Health
- Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson, ScD, SM

10:40 The Impact of Physical Activity
on Women's Health - Erin Snook, PhD
--- Break ---

11:10 More is not Always Better: Why
Comparative Effective Research Should
be Your Friend - Arlene Ash, PhD

11:30 Lesbian & Transgender Health: Needs &
Disparities in Care - J. Mary Sorrell

11:50 Our Bodies Ourselves: Women
Growing Older - Joan Ditzion, MSW

12:10 Discussion Sessions with Speaker of Choice
Health Fair

Free and open to the public. There will be a question and answer period after each speaker.

Applications for CEUs for nurses and social workers have been submitted.

Free parking at both facilities. For more information go to: lwwma@lwwma.org

Directions to Framingham: By car from the west: Take Route 9. Turn left onto Main St. Continue about .02 of a mile to Union Street (a slight turn right). Go about 1.88 miles and turn left onto Lincoln Street. Turn left into a parking lot in front of Framingham Union Hospital or across the street from it. McPherson Hall is in the Medical Arts Bldg. at 85 Lincoln St. **From the east:** Take Route 9. Turn right onto Main St. and follow above directions. **By train:** Take train to Framingham. Walk 2 blocks east to Union Street; turn left onto Union Street; walk 3 blocks (on the right). Turn right onto Henry St., walk one block. The Medical Arts Bldg at 85 Lincoln St. will be across the street.

Directions to Hadley church: Take Route 9 to Hadley. At the intersection with N. Maple St. (Taco Bell, Home Depot), turn at the lights toward Home Depot. Continue straight thru the next lights at the Rocky Hill Rd. intersection. The church will be on your left just a short distance past that intersection.



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Registration is now open for: Environmental Action 2011 Saturday, March 12th, 2011

Location: Bentley University, Waltham, MA

Hosted by Toxics Action Center, Environment Massachusetts, Massachusetts Climate Action Network, MASSPIRG, Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters, Alternatives for Community & Environment, and Clean Water Action.

If you're one of the 250 activists, community leaders, and experts who attended last year's conference, thanks for helping make it such a huge success, and we're looking forward to seeing you again.

If this is your first conference, or it's been a while, don't miss the opportunity to attend over 25 workshops covering the hottest environmental issues, meet experts in a dozen fields, and network with residents from across New England.

To register your organization as a cosponsor, which gets you two tickets for \$50 and saves you money on additional attendees as well, please click on the "Cosponsors Register Now" button above. To register as an individual attendee, please click on the "Individuals Register Now" button above.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Dan at dan@toxicsaction.org or by phone 617-747-4362.

For directions to Bentley University, [click here](#)

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The House of Representatives has unveiled a spending bill that will roll back and defund programs that control life-threatening pollution. This legislation will effectively stop the EPA from protecting America's most vulnerable groups, such as seniors and children, in favor of protecting the bottom line of big polluters.

[Take action now](#) to tell your Representative to oppose any legislation that would block or prevent action to clean up our air and protect the most vulnerable Americans.

For decades the EPA has protected the health of children, seniors and all the rest of us from dangerous pollutants through the Clean Air Act. In just the last twenty years, carbon monoxide, which negatively affects those with heart and lung diseases, has been cut by seventy percent.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

1. Contact your Representative [now](#) and tell him or her to oppose any legislation that would block or prevent action to clean up our air and protect the most vulnerable Americans. You can also call your Representative at 202-225-3121.
2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens -- your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their elected leaders.

NEW TWO-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN TOWN

Ed Coburn

On a sunny and cold Sunday afternoon at the end of January, the Weston Affordable Housing Foundation held an open house at the newly constructed two-family house at 23 and 25 Pine Street. The large turnout saw the two units, each with 3 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, kitchen, living room, basement office, and private deck.

The house is exceptionally energy-efficient, featuring dramatic passive solar heating window systems designed and donated by Hunter-Douglas as well as an active solar hot water heating system, heating and cooling systems with a high-efficiency heat exchanger system, high levels of insulation in the ceilings, walls, and basement, and triple-glazed windows.

Weston Affordable Housing Foundation is a nonprofit 501c(3) organization whose mission is to create and support affordable housing options in Weston. It owns several affordable houses which it maintains as rental units. The Pine Street house was made possible through a donation of land from Polly Dickson. The previous house built by WAHFI in 2008 was made possible through the donation of land by Clover Nicholas and Rex DuPont.

WAHFI President Ed Coburn dedicated the two new units -- one to Ed & Polly Dickson, long-time Weston residents and supporters of affordable housing in Weston, and the other to Cam and Eleanor Searle, also long-time residents who were the founding President and Treasurer of the foundation.

The house will now be made available for rent to qualified tenants through a lottery. Information packets and applications are available at the links below, on the town's website (<http://www.weston.org>) and at the Town Hall. Also see the following page for information on lottery deadlines.

[23 Pine St. Lottery Information Packet](#)

[23 Pine St. Lottery Application](#)

WESTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOUNDATION, Inc. announces:

Lottery for Rental of Two Affordable 3-bedroom Units

Important dates:

Wednesday, 9 March, 2011, 7:00 pm

Application Workshop

Weston Town Hall

11 Town House Road

Weston, MA

Friday, 18 March, 2011

Application and supporting documents must be postmarked by this date.

Monday, 4 April, 2011, 7:00 pm

Lottery

Weston Town Hall

11 Town House Road

Weston, MA

This is a newly constructed duplex at 23 - 25 Pine Street ready for occupancy. Rental only. Income limits and other restrictions apply. Please take an Application and Information Packet. Copies are available at the Weston Town Hall and the Weston Public Library.

If you have any questions, please call: 781-304-4544 and leave a message.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD[®] LEAGUE OF MASSACHUSETTS

As you may already know, women's health care is under attack in Washington and across the country. Many legislative efforts to undermine women's access to important health care and restrict access to abortion are underway. Those efforts, combined with the release of the dangerously misleading Live Action videos, are generating significant momentum, making it imperative that our U.S. Representatives and Senators hear from you! While things are changing on a day-to-day basis, there are some simple steps you can take today to protect access to Planned Parenthood's life-saving services.

#1 Call your Representatives in Congress

To find out who your member of Congress is and how to contact him or her, please click [here](#).

Here are some talking points for your call:

- Let the staff person know that you are a constituent who supports Planned Parenthood and the important preventive and life-saving health care services they provide to thousands of women across the state.
- Let them know that as a voter, you would like your Congressperson to vote AGAINST any legislation that would restrict access to women's health care or abortion services, including Representative Pence's H.R. 217, the "Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act," Representative Smith's H.R. 3 "No-Taxpayer Funding for Abortion" and Representative Pitts' H.R. 358, the "Protect Life Act."
- Ask the Congressperson to "Stand with Planned Parenthood" and help fight against the effort to eliminate the Title X family planning program.

#2 Call Senators Kerry and Brown and ask for their support

We need to make sure that Senators Kerry and Brown are hearing about your support for Planned Parenthood and federal family planning programs. We expect that some, if not all, of these legislative efforts will ultimately end up in the Senate.

Please call Senator Kerry at (617) 565-8519 and Senator Brown at (617) 565-3170.

Here are some talking points for your call:

- Let the staff person know that you are a constituent who supports Planned Parenthood and the important preventive and life-saving health care services they provide to thousands of women across the state.
- Ask for the Senator to oppose any efforts that would restrict access to women's health care or abortion services.

Your support and encouragement is critical during this challenging time. Our main goal is to make sure that we can continue to provide services for the women and men who rely on us each and every day.

Thank you for standing with Planned Parenthood.

Tercentennial Steering Committee

Weston will celebrate its 300th birthday in 2013. The Selectmen appointed the Tercentennial Steering Committee and gave them responsibility for planning activities and events to celebrate the occasion.

Edward H. Coburn
Robin Peakes
Coutts
Elizabeth B. Eaton
Ann Fain

Pamela W. Fox
Patricia P. Gowdy
Aubrey Kief
Lee Marsh
Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Wintle

The Tercentennial Committee held their first meeting in January. Ideas are being collected, discussed and developed as we progress through the first stages of planning. We hope to involve all Town organizations and all ages in the celebration. Please let us know if you have any ideas you would like to see developed, or develop yourself.

This is also an opportunity to celebrate the work of Weston's League of Women Voters and increase awareness of the value of our work.

Please consider participating and offering your ideas!

Contact: robincoutts@mac.com



Tercentennial Committee members (from left)
Lee Marsh, Ed Coburn and Tom Wintle