

League of Women Voters of Newton

# Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 4

April/May 2004



## L.W.V.N. Champagne and Chocolate

By Deborah Atwood, Fundraising Chair



CAROL ROSE

On May 2, the Newton League will meet in an 1894 fully restored high style Italianate Villa for our “biannual” fundraising event, Champagne and Chocolate. This year we add a rose to the elegance of the Sunday afternoon gathering, our speaker Carol Rose.

Carol Rose is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts ACLU, a non-profit organization with more than 14,000 members in Massachusetts (400,000 nationwide) dedicated to defending liberty of Americans and realizing the protections set forth in the Bill of Rights.

A lawyer and journalist, she has spent her career working for human rights and civil liberties in the United States and abroad – including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Japan, Sri Lanka, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Northern Ireland, and Vietnam.

Prior to assuming her position at the helm of the Massachusetts ACLU last January, she was an attorney at the Boston law firm of Hill & Barlow, where she specialized in First Amendment and Internet Law, civil rights and international human rights law. As a journalist, Carol worked for United Press International, the Des Moines Register, and The New York Times, and has published extensively elsewhere. She will be speaking on the broad range of laws and orders that have compromised our freedoms since September 11th.

We are grateful to Suzie Heyman for her leadership in this event. ■



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WHO SHAPED HISTORY

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CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964,

with

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Sheila Tobias

Lois K. Herr

...

April 30 - May 2, 2004

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617-969-5300

...

For further information,  
go to [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org)

**59¢**

(See a related article on page 3)

## LWVN Officers and Directors 2003-2004

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Human Rights	Holly Gunner	617 964-0767
Recycling	Barbara Herson	617 964-7463

### Newsletter

President	Amelia Koch	617 244-2647
Editor	Ann Grantham	617 964-0333

### Committee Members

Pat Acton	617 965-5572
Liz Lieberman	617 244-4402
Linda Morrison	617 332-6539

The LWVN Newsletter is published nine times per year. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age. For more information about the League of Women Voters, call 617-964-0014.

PO Box 610207  
Newton, MA 02461  
617-964-0014

[www.newtoncitizens.com/LWV](http://www.newtoncitizens.com/LWV)

# Pay Attention

I've become fond of a particular bumper sticker these days "If you are not outraged, you are not paying attention." This year's 'Champagne and Chocolate' speaker is bound to add a few items to my list! Carol Rose is an excellent speaker – lively and challenging. Certainly the erosion of civil rights under the Bush/Cheney/Ashcroft administration is already on my list. It may not feel like your particular fight but come and listen to Carol Rose and you will see how much it endangers us all.

I am also outraged about healthcare. In thinking about the state of Newton's finances I came across the following information from the Massachusetts Municipal Association. I'll bet that like lots of people you think the rapid rise in the cost of health care is largely due to increasing drug pricing. However according to Nancy Turnbull of Harvard's School of Public Health the culprits include market consolidation (25% fewer hospitals in Massachusetts than 10 years ago), increasing numbers of uninsured and the shifting of costs to employees. Massachusetts has seen a 5 percent decrease in the number of employers offering spouse and dependent care benefits and a 50 percent reduction in the number of employers extending benefits to retirees and same-sex partners. Ouch, what politician will have the courage to make national health care a priority?

I'm so glad that the League is a multi issue organization. It seems to me that for many years, interests and interest groups spun off from the League as people got overwhelmingly interested in a particular area. I think this trend also provides an enormous opportunity as the League increases the strength of its coalition commitments. The Newton League has worked very well in partnership in recent years (CPA and override) and the current environmental committee has membership and support from many groups. Keep track of that group, they're going places.

See you at Annual Meeting!

*Amelia D Koch*

*Welcome New Member*

VICKI DANBERG  
30 Chase St.  
Newton Centre, MA 02459  
617-9691756  
vdanberg@aol.com

# HOW SEX DISCRIMINATION GOT INTO THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

*The Civil Rights bill submitted by President John F. Kennedy's administration to Congress prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin. President Kennedy was killed in November, 1963, and Lyndon B. Johnson, who succeeded him, was trying to shepherd the bill through Congress. The following was written to me by Mary East, who was then working in Washington in an office next to a Justice Dept. staff attorney working on the bill.*  
Priscilla Leith

About two months after President Kennedy was assassinated, in January 1964, Rep. Howard Smith of Virginia said he had received a letter from the National Woman's Party urging that sex discrimination be added as prohibited in the equal employment opportunity section of the Civil Rights Bill (Title VII), so he introduced an amendment to add sex discrimination. The women in Congress at the time (Rep. Martha Griffiths, Rep. Katherine St. George, and Rep. Catherine May, but not including Rep. Edith Green who remained silent) successfully persuaded Congress to add the amendment prohibiting sex discrimination in employment.

The position of the Johnson Administration was against any change in the bill and did not want the sex discrimination provisions because it did not want more controversy, in order to get it passed quickly. Once the House added the sex discrimination amendment anyway, the Administration, for the same reason, did not want the Senate to tamper with the bill by taking it out.

Martha Griffiths, in a talk to the Veteran Feminists of America shortly before her death, said that she had wanted to introduce a similar amendment, but once Rep. Smith did so, she kept quiet and supported his, thinking his clout might bring in more votes. This tactic worked. Efforts of some members of Congress to ridicule Smith's proposal backfired, including suggestions that he was adding it in order to torpedo the entire bill. Other members rose up to join May, St. George and Griffiths in their condemnation of allowing employment discrimination against women, and to support the amendment.

*It passed. ■*



The League of Women Voters  
Massachusetts

# Council 2004

## Involving Every Citizen VOTE! 2004 and Beyond

Saturday, May 15, 2004

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Mansfield Holiday Inn

8:30 a.m. . . . . Registration

9:15 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. . . . Workshops

- Presidents' Workshop
- Voting Systems Study
- Effective Citizen Lobbying

### Moderator Training, Part I

10:50 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. . . . Workshops

- VOTE! 2004
- Education or Advocacy?
- How to Do a Local Study

### Moderator Training, Part II

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. . . . Luncheon & Guest Speaker

- Senator Jarrett T. Barrios (Cambridge), Middlesex, Suffolk & Essex District  
"Involving Citizens in Elections and Government"

2:00 p.m. . . . . Call to Order for Plenary Session

3:30 p.m. . . . . Adjourn

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

MAY 5, 2004



## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to join the League of Women voters of Newton. Enclosed is my check for \$50 payable to LWVN.
- Lifetime membership \$1000
- I would like to receive materials about the League.
- I would like to be contacted by a League member to talk about LWVN.

My Email address may be shared with State and National LWV

Mail this form (and your check, if joining) to:  
Andrea Kozinetz Holtz at 8 Stoney Brae Road,  
Newton Highlands, MA 02461

*Local Action*



League of Women Voters of Newton  
P.O. Box 610207  
Newton, MA 02461

Statement to the Programs & Services Committee meeting of March 3, 2004,  
Alderman Marcia Johnson, Chair

RE: Docket item #90-04, "ALD. GERST seeking review of New TV responsibilities and obligations pursuant to Newton Cable TV Agreement between City of Newton and Newton Communications Access Center Inc."

The League of Women Voters believes in and promotes open government that is representative, accountable and responsive, and that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution. Therefore, the League would oppose any effort by a governmental body or authority that would infringe upon those rights.

Newton Communications Access Center is a private non-profit organization whose federal mandate is to provide an uncensored forum for free expression. It must operate according to the rules established by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), which expressly prohibit a cable access station from censoring content. The only limitations on content are to require assurances that there are no infringements on copyrighted material or do not contain lewd material or obscenity, i.e. unlawful programming.

NewTV also has an Agreement with the city of Newton that, in exchange for directing funding to NewTV from cable company fees to the city, NewTV agrees to provide and staff municipal access programming to cover city programs, events and issues of concern to the community, which it does, and that its programming be largely locally produced, which it is. In fact, over 92% of NCAC programming is locally produced.

Any and all attempts to control the content of NewTV programming beyond these obligations would be illegal. If the motive is to eliminate a particular program, due to controversial content or unpopular views expressed, such would be a violation of FCC rules, as well as our First Amendment Rights, which we must respect and protect for all, if we are to protect for any, regardless of how distasteful we may find others' views.

As it is not the responsibility or obligation of the Newton Board of Aldermen to censor the content of such programming, and whereas it is evident that NewTV not only fulfills its obligations to this community by covering municipal and citizen driven events and topics but does so with great dedication and commitment by its staff, we therefore urge the Programs and Services Committee of the Board of Aldermen to vote "No Action Necessary" on this item.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,  
AMELIA KOCH  
*President*

DEB CROSSLEY  
*Vice President, Local Action*

---

**UPDATES**

# Universal Health Care Alert

League members who have been following the painfully slow progress of the Massachusetts Health Care Trust Bill (S686) featured in our February Newsletter Action Alert, will be interested to know that it has moved out of the Joint Health Care Committee.

It seems that few expect S686 to actually pass this year, but it has been an effort on the part of the LWVMA and MASS-CARE and other interested supporters to get it out of the Joint Health Care committee and on to Ways and Means so there could be a real debate on its merits and a chance to refute a lot of the misconceptions floating around.

The Joint Health Care Committee (co-chaired by Sen. Richard Moore and Rep. Peter Koutoujian) passed the following language in executive session: "The committee moves to substitute the text of S686, An Act to Establish A Massachusetts Health Care Trust with the following:

"The division of health care finance and policy shall study the fiscal impact, including the total cost of implementation, the potential long term costs and savings and an estimate of the amount of new state revenue necessary, if any, for implementation of pending Senate Bill Number 686, establishing a Massachusetts health care trust. The division shall report the results of its findings to the joint committee on health care by November 1, 2004."

This action now passes S.686 to the Senate for further action. If you lobbied for this issue, call and thank the Joint Health Care Committee members and others you contacted. If you are interested in working on universal health care, contact Judy Deutsch, Health Care Specialist, at 978-443-8609 or revjd@aol.com.

Thanks to Jean Hopkins and Pat Lieberman of the LWV/Arlington for keeping us informed on the progress of this important issue.

## Sustainable Newton Committee

*By Linda Walden  
Environmental Issues Chair*

The Sustainable Newton Committee, appointed by Mayor Cohen this past spring, has been meeting to determine an agenda. The mission of the committee is to advise the Mayor as he develops policy for overall environmental stewardship and coordinates with other specific topic groups to promote sustainable solution policies and practices. The committee is comprised of representatives from a wide-range of other existing organizations and committees including: the Green Decade Coalition, the Energy Commission, several City and School Departments and Committees, the Chamber of Commerce, and League of Women Voters which is represented by Amelia Koch. Some of the general areas being considered are: quality of life, environmental pollution, health and safety, and resource conservation and efficiency. ■

### *Observer Notes*

## P&R Commission Regulates LL "Sponsorship Signs"

*by Priscilla Leith, LWVN Observer*

Responding to complaints about violations and lax enforcement of rules for signs at the Jay Gordon Field in Newton Centre, the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission approved some stiff new regulations at its February 25th meeting. At the same time the Commission granted permission for an electric batting cage at this field and denied a permit for a concession stand.

Neighbors who attended the meeting were supportive of the batting cage, but leery of how the Newton Little League East and NStar will bring in lines to supply the electrical power. Underground wiring, installing poles and stringing a line across a brook, and solar panels in the playground are all possibilities.

The regulations governing sponsorship signs require an annual application to the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, impose a limit of 36 signs, require the applicant to submit a plan and sketch, require that signs be wooden, all the same size, and 4 ft x 8 ft or less, and dark green background with white lettering.

In addition, signs may be located only on the inside of the curved outfield perimeter fence, placed "sequentially with no gaps starting from the right field line and then proceeding to the left field line."

No additional structures, sound systems, lighting or food service is permitted, and the Newton East Little League is required to abide strictly by the rules and regulations, or the Commission may cause the signs to be removed or deny permission for signs for one or more future years, or may deny NELL use of the facility (Jay Gordon Field). ■

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but our work... NEVER!*

## Committees - in - Action

### *E d u c a t i o n*

Focus Renovations, increasing high school enrollments, school financing, testing & standards

Members Susie Heyman Robin Maltz  
Andrea Kelley Fran Osten  
Andrea Kozinetz Beverly Spencer  
Anne Larner Beth Wilkinson

Contact Jody Klein, Chair <sup>617</sup>244-4767

### *E n v i r o n m e n t a l I s s u e s*

Focus Promoting source reduction, and recycling programs in municipal offices and public schools

Members Deb Crossley Robin Maltz  
Katherine Gekas Martha Richmond  
Barbara Herson Sharyn Roberts  
Beth Lowd

Contact Linda Walden, Chair <sup>617</sup>630-9538

### *H u m a n R i g h t s*

Focus League outreach, relevance and support for the human rights of Newton's diverse populations

Members Sharon Balfour Susie Heyman  
Linda Morrison

Contact Holly Gunner, Chair <sup>617</sup>964-0767

### *L o c a l A c t i o n*

Contact Deb Crossley, Chair <sup>617</sup>244-7597

### OBSERVER CORPS

*Community Preservation Committee* Jody Klein  
Priscilla Leith

*Election Commission* Bonnie Carter  
Nancy Criscitiello

*Finance Committee, Board of Alderman* Ruby Ajanee  
Amelia Koch

*Newton Citizen Commission on Energy* Deb Crossley,  
LWVN Representative

*Parks and Recreation Commission* Priscilla Leith

*Zoning and Planning Committee, Board of Aldermen* Judy Jaffe

### *N o m i n a t i n g C o m m i t t e e*

Members Pat Acton Nancy Crowley  
Ruby Ajanee Deb Hirsch

Contact Fran Seasholes, Chair <sup>617</sup>969-5927

You may call committee contacts or a Board officer or director to learn more about current committee work. All are welcome to participate.

## LWVN CALENDAR

### APRIL

- 13 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., **Local Program Planning** at the home of Ruth Neiberg, 72 Dalton Rd., Newton Centre, 617-969-9329
- 14 Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. Unit Meeting, **Newton Financial Picture** at the home of Mary Adelstein, 63 Gammons Rd., Waban, 617-527-5503  
*Brown bagging encouraged*
- 22 Thursday, Voter Service Candidates Forum for Alderman at Large, NewTV Studio, 90 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands, Susan Rosenbaum, 617-332-0306
- 25 Sunday, **March for Women's Lives**, Washington D.C.
- 27 Tuesday, 7:15 p.m., **Board Meeting** at the home of Andrea Kelley, 28 Putnam St. West Newton, 617-964-4609
- 30 Friday – May 2, Sunday, Equal Pay and Job Opportunities Conference, Newton Holiday Inn, [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org)



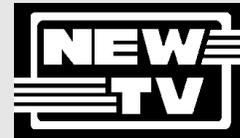
### MAY

- 2 Sunday, 3:00-5:00 p.m., **Champagne and Chocolate Fundraising Event**
- 15 Saturday, LWVMA Council, Mansfield Holiday Inn
- 18 Tuesday, MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY, Polls Open 7:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
- 19 Wednesday, 6:00 -9:30 p.m., **Annual Meeting**, Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut St. Newtonville, 617-964-0333, Ann Grantham

### JUNE

- 12 Saturday –15, Tuesday, LWVUS Convention, Washington, D.C.

## Legislative Roundtable



For current schedule log on to  
[www.newtv.org](http://www.newtv.org)

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### *What's Inside*

<i>Champagne &amp; Chocolate</i>	. . . . .1
<i>Civil Rights Act Conference</i>	. . . . .1
<i>Sex Discrimination</i>	. . . . .3
<i>Council 2004</i>	. . . . .3
<i>Local Action</i>	. . . . .4
<i>Universal Health Care</i>	. . . . .5
<i>Sustainable Newton Committee</i>	. . .5
<i>Parks &amp; Recreation Committee</i>	. . .5