

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 7

September 2001

Poll Workers Needed

*Training Offered Prior to
Municipal Election in November*

The City of Newton is still looking for poll workers to staff polling places throughout the city on November 6, 2001. It is not necessarily a full-day job! If you are interested, please apply at the Office of the Election Commission, Newton City Hall, and plan to attend one of these training sessions with the new Acting Executive Secretary of the Elections Commission, Karen Griffey.

Poll Worker Training Sessions prior to municipal election 11/6/01:

- **Monday, October 15, 2001**
at 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Druker Auditorium at the main Library (side entrance of ground floor).
- **Tuesday, October 16, 2001**
at 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Druker Auditorium at the main Library (side entrance of ground floor).
- **Wednesday, October 17, 2001**
at 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Druker Auditorium at the main Library (side entrance of ground floor).
- **Monday, October 22, 2001**
at 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Druker Auditorium at the main Library (side entrance of ground floor).

If you need further information, please call:

Karen A. Griffey, Acting Executive Secretary, Elections 617-552-7041. ■

Campaign to Pass CPA Referendum Building Support

We need you to help spread the word!

By Deb Crossley

By unanimous vote of our Board of Alderman, on November 6 Newton voters will decide whether to implement the Community Preservation Act. A "YES" vote on this referendum will enable our city to build a dedicated stream of funding from a 1% surcharge on local property tax bills, gaining additional money provided from a permanent state matching fund, up to 100% of local revenues.

Spread the Word

What we must do now is inform and educate the voting public on the particulars. The LWV has so far sponsored two unit meetings to do this, and a rally in front of the War Memorial Auditorium kicked off the campaign on September 15. We need to do more. The presentation is organized according to the basic information provided below, and the CP Alliance would welcome every opportunity to speak to your neighborhood or civic organization in the next weeks before the election.

Here's some basic information all members should know:

- **WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)?**

The CPA is a state law passed in September 2000 offering communities a new funding source to acquire and protect open space for recreational uses, to broaden housing opportunities and to protect historic properties. Communities must elect to adopt the

CPA at a general election to be eligible for the state matching grant, and thereby commit to the program for five years.

• WHY DO WE NEED THE CPA?

Real estate is at a premium in Newton making every available space-profitable to build on. Available property is out of reach of the city's workers, young adults and many elderly. The city budget now and for many years has had virtually no money available to take advantage of opportunities to control development. Without additional resources, the city will remain helpless to act when opportunities arise.

The basic character of our community and quality of life is threatened by these changes. Turning the tide, and preserving the livability and socioeconomic diversity of our city, takes money. Faced with unfunded state and federal mandates, growing education costs and other budget pressures, virtually NO city money has been spent in recent years to save open space, support affordable housing, preserve historic resources or meet expanded recreation needs.

To Newton, this is an opportunity to invest in the future good health of our city, a chance to preserve some of the treasures which characterize our villages and neighborhoods, and to expand the pool of housing affordable to city employees, senior citizens and others.

Continued on page 5

LWVN Officers and Directors 2001-2002

Officers

President	Amelia Koch	617244-2647
Vice Presidents		
Organizational Program	Bonnie Carter Priscilla Leith	617969-0686 617969-6837
Treasurer	Andrea Kozinetz-Holtz	617964-6490
Recording Secretary	Ruth Neiberg	617969-9329
Corresponding Secretary	Deborah Hirsch	617965-1475

Directors

Unit Coordinator	Pat Acton	617965-5572
Land Use Transportation	Anita Capeless	617969-9483
Local Action Co-Chair	Deb Crossley	617244-7597
Voters' Service	Sally Flynn	617965-6297
Voters' Service Chair	Ann Grantham	617964-0333
Publicity	Barbara Lietzke	617332-8630
Membership	Elaine Reisman	617244-6439
Local Action Co-Chair	Carol Ann Shea	617527-5139
Education	Beverly Spencer	617965-6365
Legislation and NewTV	Beth Wilkinson	617969-4443

Newsletter

President	Amelia Koch	617244-2647
Editor	Andrea Kelley	617964-4609

Committee Members

Deborah Hirsch	617965-1475
Liz Lieberman	617244-4402
Linda Morrison	617332-6539

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

PO Box 610207
Newton, MA 02461

After Terrorism, We Keep Going

Events of the past week remind me again how much I cherish so many things in my life. I write to you all hoping that you are as well as can be expected in these heartbreaking times. I am finding that it works best to spend some time regularly with people acknowledging the pain and then to keep on going. Holly Near writes in one of her songs "It could have been me but instead it was you, so I'll keep doing the work we were doing as if I were two". She is speaking of various political martyrs, but it seems to apply to me just the same. Each of us can keep going and contributing. Doing so honors the best in ourselves, and in so doing, honors those who can no longer participate.

Our League is doing a great deal this fall and I would like to share my appreciation with you for all of the hard work going on. Ann Grantham didn't know that she was joining the board to work on Voter's Service but she is doing a great job. The preliminary election is over and I hope you all had a chance to see the voter's guide that she prepared with a good deal of help, including Sally Flynn!!! Sally is now well enough to have offered to host our next board meeting. You can find out more about Voters' Service activities in an article in this newsletter and catch us on NewTV.

Elaine Reisman didn't know that she would be planning a major membership event this fall. I would like to thank her very much. If you know of anyone who might like to join, please consider bringing him or her to one of

the membership events. Or consider attending one or both of the events by yourself; we would love to see you there and we would love to have a group of existing League members available to talk with and answer questions for the potential members. Check the calendar listing for those dates and other League activities.

It's hard to see Deb Crossley these days. She's just moving too darned fast. She is definitely doing the work of two or maybe even three! Right now a major beneficiary of her efforts is the CPA (Community Preservation Act). Take a minute to familiarize yourself with some of the details in the front-page article. We need volunteers to send "Dear friend" cards and we would love to have people stand at the Library or at another busy location to hand out fliers and talk with citizens about the CPA. Let us know if you can volunteer.

Whether it's Priscilla Leith and Pat Acton running Unit meetings; Andrea Kelley seeing that our newsletter goes out; Beth Wilkinson corralling our legislators for the Legislative Roundtable; Bev Spencer working on a great education forum later this year; Andrea Kozinetz seeing that the League is accounted for; Barbara Lietzke making sure we get a spotlight on our events; or Anita Capeless keeping us up to speed with land use and transportation, we are doing our part!



President

In passing...

Two of the Newton League's longtime members passed away in early September. Mollie Schoenberg, along with her sister and fellow LWVN member Sophie Danziger, was a regular and smiling face at Annual meeting. As was evident in conversations with her, she was clearly updated about local issues, a steady reader of our newsletter, and always supported the league. Past President Bea Slotnick is remembered for her intelligence, and brought her dignity and poise to the Board. As president, she was well organized, clearly designated responsibilities and encouraged all members to participate. They will both be missed. ■

NEWTON ELECTIONS

by Ann Grantham

Preliminary Election

Newton Preliminary Elections are held when there is more than twice the number of candidates than seats for any given office. On September 11, 10.114% of the registered voters went to the polls across the city. At most polling places, voters cast one vote for a candidate for the representative for school committee form Ward 5. Patty Kellogg and Susan Rosenbaum are the two final candidates. In Wards 2 and 4, voters had the additional choice of selecting a candidate for Ward Alderman. The winners of these contests (Ward 2: Antonellis or Linsky, Ward 4: Bryson or Harney) will appear on the Municipal Election to be held on November 6, 2001.

Prior to the Preliminary elections, LWVN prepared a Voters' Guide that was published in the September 5 edition of the Newton TAB. We also co-sponsored Candidates' Forums with NewTV. Voters were able to meet the candidates and learn their positions on pertinent city issues by viewing the Red

Community Access Channel where these programs were shown many times prior to Election Day. We were fortunate to have Dona Kemp, Co-President of the Massachusetts League, as our moderator for these events.

November 6 Municipal Election

There are many choices of candidates for all Newton Voters to make in the November Municipal Election. In addition to a contested mayoral race, there are five races for School Committee members, four races for Aldermen at Large, and voters in Wards 1, 2 and 4 will select their representative as Ward Alderman.

In order to help the voters make informed decisions at the polls and to give the candidates an opportunity to make their positions known, the Voters' Service Committee has scheduled two Candidates Forums.

* On Thursday, October 11, we will be meeting School Committee candidates in Druker Auditorium of the

Newton Free Library beginning at 7 p.m. We appreciate the use of this room. Please come with your questions.

* On Tuesday, October 23, we will host an Aldermanic Night at the Hyde Community Center in Newton Highlands. First, we will meet the candidates for Ward Alderman, and then meet those for Alderman at Large. Please come to this event and bring your questions.

Each of these events will be co-sponsored with the Newton PTO Council and NewTV. The evenings will be cablecast for future broadcast on the Red Community Access channel. To see the schedule for the broadcasts, visit <http://www.newtv.org>.

If you would like to assist in either evening, please contact Sally Flynn at 617-965-6297 or Sally_Flynn@newton.mec.edu.

Watch for our Voter's Guide in the October 31 edition of the Newton TAB. ■

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund Fall Conference

*Repairing the Process:
Restoring Public Confidence
in Elections*

Saturday, October 13, 2001

Minuteman Regional High School,
Lexington

9:00 a.m.Registration & Coffee

9:30 a.m.Keynote Address
Keynote Speaker: Senator John Kerry

10:15 a.m.Panel Discussion
*Representative for William Francis Galvin,
Secretary of the Commonwealth*

Stephen Ansolabehere, Professor, MIT

*George Pillsbury, Policy Director,
Boston VOTE*

Leonard Alkins, President, NAACP Boston

NoonNetworking Lunch
*(box lunch available for \$11.00 -
reserve by October 1st)*

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. . . .Workshops
(choice of one)

Your Rights as a Voter in Massachusetts
Understanding the Election Laws: Presentation and discussion with Michelle Tassinari, Legal Counsel, Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

League Membership Today – New Strategies for Achieving Lasting Goals: LWVM Membership Director Erin Pastuszewski

Comprehensive Transportation Plan: Panel discussion with Hasty Evans, former head of planning, MBTA; Mary

Rodrick, MBTA Budgetary Advisory Board; Sandy Finder, LWVM Transportation Specialist; and a representative from Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Affordable Housing: Panel discussion with Chris Norris, Assistant Director at Citizens' Housing and Planning Association; Fred M. Habib, Chief of Staff, Department of Housing & Community Development; and William M. McLaughlin, Vice President of Development, AvalonBay Communities

*No charge for the Conference &
Workshops, no advance registration
needed for workshops*

■

Committees - in - Action

E d u c a t i o n

Focus Increasing high school enrollments, school financing, testing & standards

Members Nancy Crowley Anne Larner
Deborah Hirsch Robin Maltz
Andrea Kelley Beth Wilkinson
Andrea Kozinetz

Contact Beverly Spencer 617965-6365
Board Liaison

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 Joan Bates Ruth Nemzoff
Marion Cowan Wand Persimmon
Holly Gunner Dorothy Reeche
Lilly Jefferson Jeanne White
Anne Larner

Contact Holly Gunner, Chair 617964-0767

L a n d U s e / T r a n s p o r t a t i o n

Focus Interrelationship between land use and transportation and its effects on Newton & surrounding communities

Members AnnaMaria Abernathy
Anita Capeless
Carol Ann Shea
Susie Heyman

Contact Anita Capeless 617969-9483

L o c a l A c t i o n

Focus Various local issues

Members In formation - all welcome

Contact Carol Ann Shea 617969-2121
Deb Crossley 617244-7597
Co-chairs

N e w s l e t t e r

Members Jane Leighton Liz Lieberman
Deb Hirsch Linda Morrison

Contact Andrea Kelley 617964-4609

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

Help Wanted

HARVEST FAIR: An annual autumn rite, Newton's Harvest Fair comes to Newton Center Green on the weekend of October 13 and 14. Sunny yet brisk weather prevails, foliage surrounds us, neighbors meet.

The League will have a table on Sunday Oct. 14. We need people to help at the table, handing out information, answering voters' questions, helping promote the work of the League, greeting old friends and meeting new ones. Can you give us an hour of your time? Along with other League members, you could be very helpful by being available to represent the League at Harvest Fair.

This is always a fun and friendly way to pass a fall afternoon. If you can help for an hour or so, call Elaine Reisman at 617-244-6439 or Priscilla Leith at 617-969-6837. No experience needed.

NEWSLETTER: The Newton League's Newsletter needs helpers. Opportunities are varied. The Editor would love to train a co-editor to share or pass on the job. This is not a lot of work, and is possible to do according to your own schedule. It's a great way to know what the Newton League is currently focusing on.

Alternating months of production would be a great help, or just getting a glimpse of what's involved for later consideration is possible. Are you interested in a one-shot experience, or an on-going basis for any of the following?:

- writing, lay out, copy editing, picking up at the printers, collating and labelling, bringing to Newtonville P.O., distributing at City Hall and Main Library, overall picture/process

Ideally, an on-going group to collate and label the Newsletter would be great. Currently it is an ad hoc group who offers their help on an as-needed/as available basis, rescuing us monthly. If one or more additional people join, the responsibility can rotate according to members' availability. Joining this crew does not mean you would have to do it every month. We offer flexibility; work when you are available. Contact the Editor, Andrea Kelley at rtcdesign@aol.com, 617-527-1467 if you are interested. Please!

The deadlines for articles have been set. Due dates for submissions are Friday the week following LWVN Board meeting:

October 12, November 16, December 14. ■

LWVM 2001 Phonathon Seeks Volunteers

by Amelia Koch

How do we help the state League raise money to fund its programs for us while simultaneously helping ourselves raise money for the Newton League? Make calls to your friends and acquaintances in the Newton and neighboring Leagues at the Phonathon on Monday and Tuesday, October 15 & 16, at A. G. Edwards in Newton Lower Falls from approximately 5:30 to 9:00 PM.

We have been very successful in recent years earning money for the state and ourselves through this painless (well, nearly) process. We have a short script written for us and are given calling tips, so we have fun while doing good. The state League provides a light supper to get us going. We also have a training session for those who have not done this before or want an update.

We expect to raise at least \$6,000 for the state League. We get to keep 10% of that in our Newton League plus we get a bonus just for showing up! It's a good way to help the League, with no ticket buying, cookie baking, news releases, articles or reports to write. Last year we raised about \$1,000 through this event over three nights. As a bonus, the state League has rounded up some great gifts to the highest earners: tickets to museums, gift certificates at wonderful restaurants, etc.

We have seats (and phones) on each night, and we need a few alternates in case someone is ill or can't make it for other reasons. If you would like to help, please call Amy Koch at 617-244-2647 (leave a message if I'm not in) or e-mail me at akoch@risd.edu.

Please help us. This is your League! ■

Continued from page one

Campaign to Pass CPA Referendum Building Support

• HOW WILL THE CPA FUND BENEFIT NEWTON?

Adoption of the CPA will allow our city to:

- Conserve lands that are important to Newton residents' quality of life;
- Purchase property when it becomes available for public recreation, such as soccer and baseball fields;
- Create a proactive, citizen-controlled approach to manage Newton's growth;
- Preserve historic buildings & lands for needed housing and community uses;

• HOW MUCH WOULD THE SURCHARGE COST NEWTON TAXPAYERS?

The proposal sets the surcharge at 1% of the tax bill. The resulting surcharge in 2001 for the median-priced single family house in Newton (assessed at \$434,300) would have been \$50.25. These are some other examples of what the surcharge would be:

Property Assessed Value

\$250,000	\$350,000	\$500,000
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Annual CPA Surcharge \$29 \$41 \$58

This surcharge is income-tax deductible.

• HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN NEWTON ANNUALLY?

Based on the fiscal year 2001 tax levy, the tax surcharge would raise over \$1.5 million dollars, with the amount raised likely to grow over time as the tax levy grows. State matching funds supported by a surcharge on certain Registry fees would augment that, perhaps on a 1 for 1 basis in the first years of the program (3 million dollars), but probably declining after that.

• WHO CONTROLS THE CP FUND?

A Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is defined by the statute to consist of between five and nine citizens, including one member selected from within each of the following: Conservation Commission, Historic Commission, Planning Board, Park and Recreation Commission and the Housing Authority. The CPC must be established by local ordinance to specify the number of members in addition to the first five, method of selection, length of term.

The CPC researches the city's needs, consults with the relevant boards and commissions, holds public hearings, and recommends expenditures for these purposes to the Board of Aldermen. The Board of Aldermen approves or disapproves of the expenditure, but may not use the money for purposes other than those stipulated in the statute.

An ordinance defining the CPC for Newton has been drafted and is currently being debated in Aldermanic subcommittees. The CP Alliance has recommended that the additional four members be appointed by the mayor, and that they represent each of the four areas of interest: open space, recreation, affordable housing, historic properties. The full board may decide at their October 3 meeting.

We need your help!

You can help by talking it up in your neighborhood, and by calling Deb Crossley (244-7597) to offer to leaflet at the library, send Dear Friend cards, post a lawn sign, hold a sign at the polls... ■

Legislative Roundtable

by Beth Wilkinson

In July, League members involved in producing Legislative Round Table, the program on NewTV devoted to issues in the Massachusetts legislature that are of interest to the citizens of Newton, started planning for a new year of shows to begin in the fall.

The monthly programs, usually taped on the first Tuesday of the month and repeated at various times on the first three days of each week, feature an ever-changing subset of the four state representatives (Ruth Balsler, Rachel Kaprielian, Kay Khan, and Peter Koutoujian) and one state senator (Cynthia Creem) who represent Newton. A member of the Newton League acts as host. The number of legislators varies from month to month, depending on their previous commitments. In June, for example, Senator Creem had a solo appearance because the representatives were in session to vote on the budget.

On September 4, President Amy Koch hosted Representatives Balsler and Kahn in a discussion of mental health issues. In November, Deb Crossley will lead a discussion about Newton's neighborhoods, and Beth Wilkinson will consider education funding with the legislators in December.

To increase audience participation in the program, NewTV will be hosting a contest in which the viewers who send in the best questions or comments to the legislators will be able to ask pose their questions on the air. For more information, look for promotional announcements on NewTV in November.

Legislative Round Table is produced by NewTV producer Mike Padden, who counts on the help of several dedicated

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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.

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

LWVN CALENDAR

October

- 2 Tuesday a.m. 9:30 am New and Prospective Members- Social and informational meeting with an update on issues of local concerns, home of Robin Maltz, 20 Chatham Rd. N. Highlands
- 3 Wednesday, LWVN Board meeting 7:15 pm at Sally Flynn's, 33 Whitney Road, Newtonville, call Amy Koch at 617-244-2647 if planning to attend, or to be on agenda.
- 10 Wednesday, Daytime Unit Meeting 11:30am - 1:30pm. Newton Election Procedures and Problems, @ Nancy Crowley's, 77 Kirkstall Rd. Newtonville, call Priscilla Leith 969-6837 for info.
- 10 Wednesday 7:15 pm Membership meeting, Social and informational meeting with an update on issues of local concern, home of Elaine Reisman, 28 Fairway Drive, W. Newton
- 11 Thursday, 7-9 pm School Committee Candidates Forum, Newton Main Library, Drucker Auditorium, co-sponsored by PTO Council, call Ann Grantham at 617-964-0333 or Bonnie Carter at 617-969-0686.
- 13 Saturday, LWV of MA Fall Conference, 9 am-3 pm, topic: Restoring Public Confidence in Elections, Minuteman Regional High School, Lexington, call Amy Koch 617-244-2647

- 14 Sunday, Harvest Fair, 12-5 LWVN table, Newton Centre Green
- 15/16 Mon. and Tues. 5:30-9 pm, LWVM Phonathon, AG Edwards, Newton Lower Falls
- 17 Wednesday, 6:30-9:00pm. LWVN Working Board meeting. Priscilla Leith, 162 Islington Rd Auburndale call 969-6837
- 23 Tuesday, Aldermanic Candidates Forum, 7:30 pm, Hyde Community Center, N. Highlands

November

- 7 Wednesday, LWVN Board meeting 7:15 pm, Location TBA
- 14 Wednesday, Daytime Unit. 11:30 - 1:30 pm. Topic: "Update on State and National Health Care Legislation". Location TBA
- 28 Wednesday, 6:30-9:30pm. LWVN Working Board meeting. Location TBA

NEWTON LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

- airs on Channel 10 (the blue channel)
on AT&T Broadband on:
- Mondays 1:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 10:30 pm
 - Tuesdays 3 am, 5:30 am, 9 am,
1:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 10:30 pm
 - Wednesdays 3 am, 5:30 am, 9 am

Membership Get Together

All Newton LWV members are invited to participate in either of the two membership events planned for October. We see these get together as a time to personally welcome people and to share with them information about the League and how it works. We will have time for update and discussion of local items.

- **Tuesday, October 2, 2001**
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Home of Robin Maltz,
20 Chatham Road, N. Highlands
617-969-1554
- **Wednesday, October 10, 2001**
7:15-9:15 p.m.
Home of Elaine S. Reisman
28 Fairway Drive, West Newton
617-244-6439

Please call to let us know that you are coming. Friends and others interested are welcome - bring someone with you!

Legislative Rountable *cont from page 5*

volunteers to complete each show. In order to help supplement the pool of volunteers, Amy Koch and Beth Wilkinson have started to take the first courses in studio production. If you are interested in helping with the technical side of producing the program or if you have any questions about the Round Table or suggestions for future shows, please contact Beth Wilkinson at EWilkin579@aol.com or 617-969-4443. ■

League of Women Voters of Newton

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Newton, MA 02461

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