

# Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 8

September/October 2003

## ENERGY ACTION PLAN: Full Steam Ahead

by Deb Crossley, LWV representative to the Citizens Energy Commission

**"...Our goal is to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases by 7% below 1998 levels by the year 2010. ...This target is both ambitious and attainable... it will make the City of Newton a responsible global citizen..."**

Such is the vision that is driving the development of an energy action plan for Newton. Planning department intern (and Newton resident) Amelia Ravin, reporting to Newton Citizens' Commission on Energy at its monthly meetings, and working online to gain technical and editorial feedback from many of its members, has made great strides in furthering the development of an Energy Action Plan for Newton. Working part time through her spring semester and full time through the beginning of August, Ms. Ravin has most efficiently produced or facilitated:

- Preparation of a comparative analysis of significant climate/energy action plans that have been developed, including Brookline, Cambridge, Portland, OR, others;
- Review and organization of baseline data from Newton's 1998 inventory, which the EC scrutinized for accuracy and sound assumptions before setting what it believes to be a realistic 7% reduction goal;
- Engaging, with the mayor's introduction, key public and private community players in Newton such as city department heads and the Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce who are participating in both the development and implementation of Newton's plan;
- Preparation of a two-sided bulletin for city publication: "Energy Update" which is being used to inform key players, the aldermen and the community, as the plan progresses;
- The structure, draft, illustration and revisions of most sections of the plan, including the introduction, executive summary, and chapters: 'Energy and Emissions Inventory', 'Energy Efficiency' (principles, existing programs, strategies and actions), and 'Renewable and Distributed Energy';
- To begin drafting a more detailed proposed list of action items that could become a set of resolutions for change toward more energy efficient operations.

There is more to do. The balance of a Transportation and Land Use chapter is to be developed by the planning department. A section on 'Purchasing and Waste' is to be completed by the city's Source Reduction Specialist. Most importantly, the lists of potential reductions need to be organized and related to specific action items, and then there is the extensive review process.

Fortunately for the city, Ms. Ravin was awarded a fellowship grant that covered the balance of her full time internship for the summer. For Ms. Ravin to continue as a part time intern through her fall and spring terms, Newton would have to contribute only \$1500, which would enable much of this work (MIT pays the rest). The Energy Commission hopes to persuade the mayor and planning department to make this small commitment to a proven resource.

*Thank you Ms. Ravin, for a job well done! ■*

## Voters' Service Revs Up

By Bonnie Carter,  
LWVN Vice President

This being a Municipal Election Year, we have our work cut out for us. In the November 4 election, there will be 55 names on the ballot. Each voter can vote for 16 Aldermen-at-Large, 8 members of the School Committee and one Ward Alderman. Decisions! Decisions!

**To help voters learn about the candidates, we will co-sponsor with NewTV a series of three candidates' forums:**

- We are inviting candidates for WARD ALDERMEN in contested races to participate in a forum scheduled for THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2 AT 7:15 at NewTV. Five of the eight wards have contested races: Wards 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8.
- We are inviting candidates for ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE for THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16. All eight wards have contested races, some with three candidates and some with four. It adds up to 26 candidates.
- Finally, the School Committee candidates are scheduled to appear at NewTV on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23.

The public is invited to attend. If we fill the studio, there will be space for the overflow in the conference room.

**If you would like to help with this project, give us a call:**

Bonnie Carter 617-969-0686,  
Sue Rosenbaum 617-332-0306. ■

## LWVN Officers and Directors 2003-2004

### Officers

President	Amelia Koch	617 244-2647
Vice President	Bonnie Carter	617 969-0686
Vice President	Deborah Crossley	617 244-7597
Vice President	Andrea Kelley	617 964-4609
Treasurer	Andrea Kozinetz	617 964-6490

### Directors

Membership	Pat Acton	617 965-5572
City Finance	Ruby Ajanee	617 243-9888
Fundraising	Deborah Atwood	617 964-7374
Newsletter Editor	Ann Grantham	617 964-0333
Education	Jody Klein	617 552-7844
At Large	Beth Lowd	617 332-1978
Unit Organization	Ruth Neiberg	617 969-9329
Voter Service	Sue Rosenbaum	617 332-0306
Legislation/ Roundtable	Janet Stearns	617 559-9987
Environmental Issues	Linda Walden	617 559-9987

### 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)

# A Good Debate

At our July board meeting we had a good debate about the League's non-partisanship policy. To me a good debate is one where opinions are expressed clearly and honestly, where disagreement is explored, where each person comes to understand if not agree with the other side(s) and where facts are important! Sounds like the League.

Each year the first charge of the board is to adopt a non-partisanship policy. To be non-partisan, to advocate for issues not parties or candidates, is what sets us apart from so many other organizations. Decisions about what is necessary to keep the League non-partisan are made at the local level.

What I know of the history of this issue says that the board's attitude and hence the non-partisanship policy changed quite a bit over the years. At one point no member of the Board would have been allowed to show any visible support for a candidate for office. Then as women's lives grew ever more complex and the League struggled to hold on to women with increasing choices of how to spend their time, the League accommodated and adapted the policy. In recent years, only the President, Vice Presidents and Voters Service chair were required to hold to that standard.

These are tender questions. We want women on the board who care about their communities, their schools, and their governments and we want women who are active and knowledgeable. This year we took a step that has been discussed several times in recent years. We expanded the policy of "no visible support" to include the Newsletter Editor, our Education Chair and our Local Action Chair.

Each of our board members is a precious resource and so to is our non-partisan policy. Weighing where to draw the line so that we hold onto as much of both as possible is a difficult task. I want to thank the members of the board for a good debate!



## Welcome New Members

Reenie Murphy 53 Trowbridge Ave. Newton, MA 02460 617-332-5272 <a href="mailto:reenie.murphy@comcast.net">reenie.murphy@comcast.net</a>	Martha Richmond 32 Circuit Ave. Newton, MA 02461 617 -244-2076 <a href="mailto:martha.richmond@rcn.com">martha.richmond@rcn.com</a>	Ros Winsor 393 Hammond St. Chestnut Hill, MA 02467 617-566-5215 <a href="mailto:roswinsor@aol.com">roswinsor@aol.com</a>
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Phone a Friend and Make Plans to Go!

# Fall Conference

October 25, 2003 Renaissance Bedford Hotel

## Fixing Our Broken Health Care System: Incremental or Comprehensive Change?

Registration	9:00 a.m.
Forum	9:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Keynote Speaker	Congressman John F. Tierney
Panelists	Michael S. Dukakis <i>Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Northeastern University</i> Christine C. Ferguson <i>Commissioner of Public Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health</i> Dr. Alan Sager <i>Director, Health Reform Program, Boston University School of Public Health</i> Marcia Angell, M.D. <i>Senior Lecturer, Harvard Medical School Department of Social Medicine</i>
Moderator	Lisa Hughes, WBZ-TV 4 news anchor
Workshops	1:30 - 3:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable Delivery of Health Care Services</li> <li>• What People Need to Know About Pending Health Care Legislation</li> <li>• A Healthy Life Begins with a Healthy Environment</li> <li>• Voting Systems</li> <li>• Patriot Act, Individual Liberties</li> </ul>

*Sponsored by the*  
The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund

There is no charge for the conference or workshops.  
 Advance registration is only necessary for luncheon • Lunch is \$20.00  
 Advance registration is required by October 10, 2003  
<http://www.lwvma.org>

## 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

## Legislative Roundtable

NEWTON LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE IS ONE OF THE COMMUNITY'S MOST INFORMATIVE PROGRAMS. PRODUCED BY MEMBERS OF THE NEWTON LEAGUE, IT PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW OUR ELECTED LEGISLATORS ARE DEALING WITH THE TOUGH ISSUES.

# What Happened to the Clean Elections Law?

*By Beth Lowd, host of the September Newton Legislative Roundtable,  
LWVMA Campaign Finance Specialist, LWVN Director*

On Thursday, May 29 on an unrecorded voice "vote" the Massachusetts Senate passed an amendment to their budget repealing the Clean Elections Law. The law had been enacted in 1998 by 1.1 million voters, with two thirds of the voters in favor of the initiative petition. During the 2002 election cycle, the legislature resisted funding the law, discouraging most eligible candidates from using the public funding by their delay. After the Supreme Judicial Court ruled that legislators were in "blatant and flagrant violation" of their constitutional obligation to fund the law and after the Court allowed supporters to auction off state property to provide the necessary funding, the legislature finally appropriated a small amount for the few remaining Clean Elections candidates' campaigns.

The League of Women Voters had strongly opposed repeal, and it deplored the lack of debate and the unrecorded vote by the Senate. We wrote to Governor Romney urging him to veto the repeal, but the Governor chose not to veto, citing the voters' rejection of Question 3 on last year's ballot. Question 3 did not mention the Clean Elections Law, nor did it specify that the law limits fund raising and spending by candidates. Instead it asked whether voters approved of using taxpayer's money to fund political campaigns. A more complete question passed in the 11 districts where it appeared on the ballot.

The League of Women Voters had endeavored to persuade the Committee on Election Laws to modify the Clean Elections Law rather than repeal it. The League had urged consideration of several bills that would have funded the law through non-tax means, allowed for legislators to use money for office expenses, and tightened requirements for qualifying for money.

In the coming months, the League will participate with other citizens' groups in drafting a new bill to limit campaign fundraising and spending and to provide public funding for candidates who qualify. We expect the Governor and the Committee on Election Laws to make their own proposals. One resource will be a report by the Center for Governmental Studies called "Where to Get the Money? New Sources of Public Financing for Political Campaigns" which can be obtained at [www.cgs.org](http://www.cgs.org).

The LWVUS position on campaign finance states a goal to "improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for office, and promote citizen participation in the political process."

Clean Elections Laws are working in Maine and Arizona to attract more people to run for office and to increase citizens' confidence in government. Interested readers may wish to read the May 2003 GAO report on the early experiences in these states. (GAO-03-453)

These productions demonstrate the work of the following people: Bonnie Carter, Deb Crossley, Holly Gunner, Amelia Koch, Beth Lowd, Janet Stearns, and Beth Wilkinson. In addition, we have had the support of Michael Padden-Rubin of NewTV.

To participate, contact Janet Stearns, [stearnskruse@verizon.net](mailto:stearnskruse@verizon.net), or 617-559-9987 ■



Newton Legislative Roundtable airs on the Blue Channel.  
For the schedule, check the website [www.newtv.org](http://www.newtv.org)  
OR phone 965-7200, ext 1

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# An Educational Opportunity!

By Jody Klein, LWVN Education Director

Education is the topic for the October Unit meetings. Designed to educate League members on timely topics, these unit meetings will be held during the day in a member's home and in the evening at the Newton Community Service Center. See the calendar for details.

There are many changes in education happening at the national, state and local levels. Planned by the LWVN Education Committee, our meetings will allow league members and guests to have conversation with administrators of the Newton Public Schools about the pressing educational issues.

At this time, two administrators of the Newton Public Schools are planning to attend one unit meeting each. Due to the demands on their schedules, it is too early to determine who can come to which meeting. The administrators are:

- **Dr. Judith Malone-Neville, Assistant Superintendent of Schools**  
*Her responsibilities include:* Elementary Schools; METCO, Early Childhood Coordinators; High Schools, Middle Schools, Planning, Career & Technical Education, Community Education, Summer Schools, Special Assignments
- **Dr. Carol Daynard, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services.**  
*Her Responsibilities include:* Attendance, Department for English Language Learners, Guidance, Health/Drug and Alcohol Education, Home Hospital, Medical Unit, Preschool, Psychology, Social Work, Special Education, Speech/ Hearing/Language, Title 1, Tuition

We thank both of these women for planning to join us and we look forward to informative meetings. Please join us! ■

# Many, Many Thanks!

By Bonnie Carter, LWVN Vice- President

In spite of the hot weather and beckoning beaches, all the candidates in the Preliminary Election participated in the Candidates Forum held at the Hyde Community Center on August 26. The Preliminary Election features two races this year: one for Alderman-at-Large from Ward 3 and one for School Committee from Ward 6. We thank the candidates for their participation: Jack Porter, Leonard Gentile, Paul Snyder, Ted Hess-Mahan, and David Donahue who are running for Alderman; and Leslie Schneider, Donna Cohen, and Patricia Kellogg who are running for School Committee.

We also want to thank the Newton Highlands Community Development Corporation (NHDC) for providing the space. Also, their board members who were present helped us set up and tear down.

And a big thanks to NewTV for co-sponsoring the event, and contributing a lot of staff time and expertise for the video production. Executive Director Paul Berg did lighting and audio. Municipal Access Coordinator Mike Padden-Rubin was director; Tony Mastantuono worked on graphics; Matt Kaplan Walt Sawyer, and Matthaeus Schlosser worked on set-up. Volunteers Joan McGrath and Leonardo Vianna Gomes were camera operators.

Also thanks to the League members who helped out. Susan Rosenbaum, Voters Service Chair, made the arrangements. Andrea Kelley and Pat Acton were timers. Amy Koch and Beth Lowd sorted questions. Marguerite Beaser was the usher. And Dona Kemp of the Wellesley League did a great job as moderator. Thank-you, all!!!

The tape has been playing on NewTV. For a schedule, check the website [www.newtv.org](http://www.newtv.org) OR phone 965-7200, ext 1. ■

## Committees - in - Action

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

Focus	Renovations, increasing high school enrollments, school financing, testing & standards	
Members	Ann Grantham Susie Heyman Andrea Kelley Andrea Kozinetz Anne Larner	Robin Maltz Fran Osten Beverly Spencer Beth Wilkinson
Contact	Jody Klein, Chair	617-552-7844

### *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 Katherine Gekas Barbara Herson Beth Lowd	Robin Maltz Rohna Shoul Sharyn Roberts
Contact	Linda Walden, Chair	617-630-9538

### *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 Jody Klein	Susie Heyman Linda Morrison
Contact	Holly Gunner, Chair	617-964-0767

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

Contact	Deb Crossley, Chair	617-244-7597
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### OBSERVER CORPS

<i>Community Preservation Committee</i>	AnnaMaria Abernathy Deb Crossley Jody Klein Priscilla Leith
<i>Election Commission</i>	Bonnie Carter Nancy Criscitiello
<i>Finance Committee, Board of Alderman</i>	Ruby Ajanee Amelia Koch Ben Weisbuch
<i>Newton Citizen Commission on Energy</i>	Deb Crossley, LWVN Representative
<i>Parks and Recreation Commission</i>	Priscilla Leith
<i>Zoning and Planning Committee, Board of Alderman</i>	Judy Jaffe

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

Members	Nancy Crowley Deb Hirsch
Contact	Fran Seasholes, Chair 617-969-5927

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

**PRISCILLA M. LEITH, MBA**

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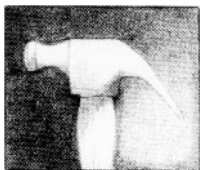
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## National League Goes On-Line!

In an effort to communicate with all League members in a timely and regular fashion, the LWVUS will be E-mailing Action Alerts to leaders and grassroots activists. Also, the League E-Voice Newsletter will be sent to all members. In addition, presidents' mailings and other news from the national office will be transferred electronically to state and local League leaders. This will result in significant savings on printing and postage for the League. And the time gained in responding to Action Alerts may have significant results!

In order to do this, the individual member needs to consent to the sharing of their E-mail address with National. The National League will handle members' E-mail addresses just as they do the snail mail addresses, as private information for League use only. E-mail addresses will not be sold or given to any non-League entities. Included in monthly communications, such as the newsletter will be instructions for "opting-out." Each individual member will have the opportunity to decide whether or not to continue receiving the communication. ■

## LWVN HANDBOOK

Following the November election, we will be publishing a new handbook containing our membership list. Please check your listing in the current handbook. If there are corrections or E-mail address additions, please send them to [robinm@attbi.com](mailto:robinm@attbi.com).

Let Robin know "Yes" or "No" if you wish your E-mail address to be shared with State and National listings. ■

## LWVN CALENDAR

### *September*

- 8 Monday, 12:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.,  
Education Committee Meeting at  
the home of Andrea Kozinitz,  
8 Stony Brae Rd., Newton  
Highlands, 617-964-6490
- 10 Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30:pm,  
Unit Meeting, USA P.A.T.R.I.O.T.  
Act, at the home of Ruth Neiberg,  
72 Dalton Rd., Newton Centre,  
617-969-9329  
Brown-bag lunches encouraged.  
  
6:30 p.m. Working Board Meeting/  
Newsletter Deadline
- 16 Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.,  
Preliminary Municipal Election Day
- 17 Wednesday, 9:30 -11:30 a.m.  
New Member Meeting at the home  
of Robin Maltz, 20 Chatham Rd.,  
Newton Highlands,  
RSVP 617-969-1554  
  
1:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Pollution Awareness Day,  
A series of informational events,  
sponsored by the City of Newton at  
the Newton Free Library.

- 18 Thursday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.,  
New Member Meeting at the home  
of Elaine Reisman, 28 Fairway Dr.,  
West Newton, RSVP 617-244-6439
- 24 Wednesday, 7:15 p.m., September  
Board Meeting at the home of  
Pat Acton, 48 Miller Rd.,  
Newton Centre, 617- 965- 5572

### *October*

- 1 Wednesday, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.,  
Newton's 3rd Annual Citywide  
Volunteer Fair, Druker Auditorium,  
Newton Free Library
- 2 Thursday, 7:15 p.m., Voter Service  
Forum for Candidates for Ward  
Aldermen, NewTV studio,  
90 Lincoln St, Newton Highlands
- 8 Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.,  
Unit Meeting, Education Issues,  
at the home of Fiora Houghteling,  
15 Bullough Park, Newtonville,  
617-969-7764  
Brown-bag lunches encouraged.
- 9 Thursday, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.,  
Unit Meeting, Education Issues,  
at the Newton Community Service  
Center, 492 Waltham Street,  
West Newton, Follow signs to  
designated room.

- 15 Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Last day and  
hour to register to vote in the  
November Municipal Election,  
City Hall  
  
6:30 p.m. Working Board Meeting/  
Newsletter Deadline
- 16 Thursday, 7:15 p.m., Voter Service  
Forum for Candidates for Aldermen  
at Large, NewTV studio,  
90 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands
- 19 Sunday, Noon - 5:00 p.m.  
Harvest Fair at Newton Centre Green.  
To participate contact Amelia Koch  
at akoch-lwvn@rcn.com, or  
617-244-2647
- 23 Thursday, 7:15 p.m., Voter Service  
Forum for Candidates for School  
Committee, NewTV Studio,  
90 Lincoln St. Newton Highlands
- 25 Saturday, 9:00a.m. - 3:30 p.m.,  
LWVMA Fall Conference,  
Fixing Our Health Care System,  
Renaissance Bedford Hotel
- 29 Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.,  
October Board Meeting  
at the home of Sue Rosenbaum,  
121 Winslow Rd., Waban.

### *Election Workers Needed*

Training Required • Phone Peter Karg at the Election Commission 617-796-1350

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