

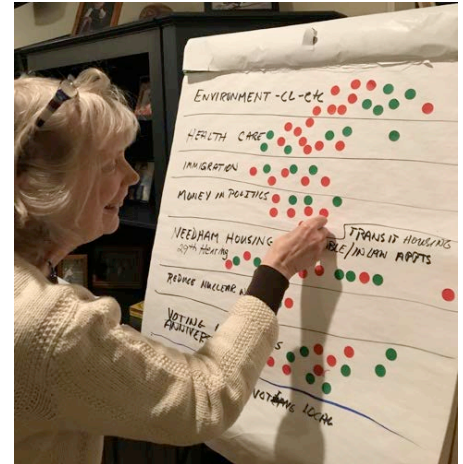
Report of Activities for 2018-2019

Membership Meetings

- Annual Meeting May 21, 2018 at Hearth Pizzeria, Speaker Kate Fitzpatrick, Needham Town Manager.
- Opening Meeting Oct 4 at Needham Library: “Transgender Rights and Ballot Question 3: What’s It All About?” speaker Tracy McKay.
- Program Planning/Winterfest Jan 17 at the home of Amy Goldman.

Advocacy: National and State, Jen Muroff, Legislative Envoy

- Met with Rep. Joe Kennedy’s office Dec 20 about the “For the People” Act.
- Needham League members attended lobby days for environment, immigration, gun safety, women’s health.
- Responded to numerous state and national action alerts.
- Participated in several marches and rallies.
- Held Legislator Breakfast Mar 22 with Rep. Denise Garlick and Sen. Becca Rausch.
- Met at State House May 15 with Sen. Mike Rush.
- Attended “International Women’s Day” conference sponsored by Simmons University.



Advocacy: Local

- Spoke at Select Board/Board of Selectmen hearing on the issue of community use of town buildings and raising the user fee for schools.
- Wrote a letter to Select Board and Finance Committee about the need for a Town Information Officer.
- Selected three Town Meeting articles to support: Town Information Officer, Stretch Energy Code, and Accessory Dwelling Units. Distributed reasons for support at Warrant Meetings and in a letter to the editor.
- Started a LWVN Action Alert email for local, state and national advocacy. Work in progress.

Budget, Erica Bond, Chair

- Prepared annual budgets for both LWVN and LWVN Education Fund (with Stacie Shapiro, Susan Anderson, Eileen Mullen, and Lynn Gotwals).

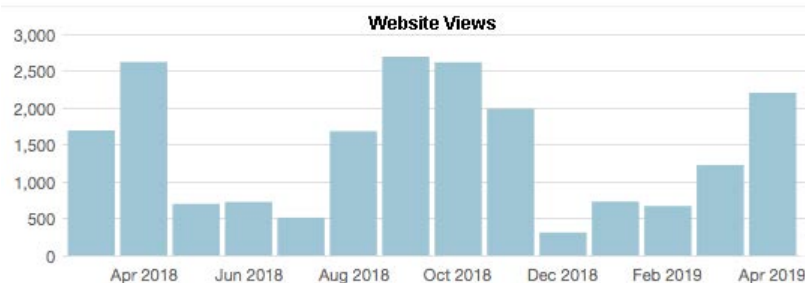
Anniversary/Suffrage



- A committee continues to develop plans and programs around the anniversary of LWV and 19th Amendment as “Needham Celebrates Women.” Already planned/done: “Street Fair Photo with Suffragist,” July 4 Suffrage Parade, Opening Forum: “The Women’s Suffrage Movement in Needham,” “We Did It for You” theatrical performance, author presentation: “Women’s Suffrage in Massachusetts,” and “LWV Anniversary Celebration.”
- Ten members attended “I Want to Go to Jail!” at State House Feb 28 commemorating the Boston Suffrage Protest of 1919.
- Spring Street Fair “Take Your Photo with a Suffragist.”
- Partner in Women’s Suffrage Celebration Coalition.

Communication

- Updated and maintained LWVN Facebook page (Jen Muroff, Kara Holmquist, Karen Price).
- Started and maintained LWVN Twitter account (Jen Muroff, Karen Price).
- Kept website updated and relevant (Karen Price).
- Regularly posted information about elections and LWV-Needham activities on Needham MA Facebook page.
- Posted online voters guide for the Apr 2018 Needham town election (Elizabeth Handler).



Bulletin, Missy Lankiewicz, Editor

- Prepared and sent monthly Bulletin and mid-month Updates via Constant Contact.
- Labeled, stamped, and posted issues of the Bulletin to those who do not have email.

Media, Karen Price

- Created flyers, programs, and web posts for all events.
- Submitted/posted press releases and announcements for all events.
- Submitted letters to the editor as needed.

Civic Education Committee, Karen Walker, Chair

- Held Civics Bee on March 24.
- Held two Needham High School voter registrations. Registered and pre-registered 59 students.
- Registered voters at Wingate, North Hill, and Harvest Fair (15), also assisted with Absentee Ballots.
- With “Ballots over Bars” program, helped inmates at Norfolk County House of Corrections obtain and complete Absentee Ballots (Karen Walker, Susan Kirk, Jen Muroff, Jeanne McKnight).



- Discussed book *How Democracies Die* March 27 (Harriet Goldin).
- Awarded the League of Women Voters Needham Scholarship to a NHS graduate (Debbie Winnick).



Forums/Events

- “A Community Conversation on Transgender Equality” (coalition member) Jun 6, 2018.
- “Gun Violence: A Public Health Crisis,” Sep 27 (Eleanor Shore, Jen Muroff).
- “Sarah McBride: Why Yes on 3” (coalition member) Oct 22.
- “Equal Rights Amendment: Why Now?” Apr 28 (co-sponsor WSCC).
- Co-sponsored (WSCC) coffee with Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman’s Hour*, Mar 15.
- “Urgency and Opportunity: What the Latest Climate Science Tells Us,” Jun 5, 2019.

Fundraising

- Raised \$600 for LWVN (and thousands for LWVMA) through participation in LWVMA Phonathon Nov 14 (Gail Davis, Maureen McCaffrey, Karen Price, Susan McGarvey, Elin Soderholm, and Denise D'Amore).
- Raised \$460 through donations with membership renewal (LWVN).
- Received Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education grant (\$234) for Birthday Bags (Ed Fund).
- Received \$500 from Roche Bros. to fund Civics Bee (Ed Fund).
- Received donations of \$2,800 from Town Meeting Member solicitation, end-of-year, and in-memory donations (Ed Fund).
- Received grant from Needham Cultural Council (\$500) for “We Did It for You!” theatrical performance planned for Nov 3, 2019 (to be spent in FY2020) (Ed Fund).

Health Care Action Team, Eleanor Shore, Chair

- Monitored developments in national and state legislation.
- Planned forum: “Gun Violence: A Public Health Crisis,” Sep 27.
- Met with Police Chief about gun safety programs in Needham.

Immigration Action Team, Jen Muroff, Chair

- Advocated for Safe Communities Act, Safe Driving and Education Equality Act.
- Attended Immigrants Day at the State House.
- Local partner for “Suitcase Stories” to benefit refugee resettlement Jun 12 (Jenny Small).

Environment Action Team Susan McGarvey and Sharon Soltzberg, Co-Chairs

- Co-sponsored GO GREEN Needham Campaign (Stephen Frail, Donna Vello, Irene Hammer-McLaughlin, Eleanor Rosellini, Susan McGarvey).
- Co-sponsored GO GREEN NEEDHAM EXPO Nov 10.
- LWVN hosted “Make Your Own Worm Composting Farm in a Soda Bottle” at EXPO.
- Advocated for Needham adoption of Stretch Energy Code and becoming a Green Community.
- Following our sustainable practices policy, all events this year were zero waste events, including potlucks and breakfasts.
- Four members attended the Local Environmental Action Conference at Worcester State Apr 27.
- Encouraged members to watch LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy Webinars.



Membership Committee, Susan McGarvey and Susan Kirk, Co-Chairs

- Welcomed 36 new members since Jul 1, 2018 (77 total since Jul 1, 2017); Membership currently 212.
- Made personal contact with all new members with welcome packet.
- Held New Member Tea Jan 10.
- Reached out to new members for program planning and Annual Meeting.
- Held LWV-Needham Summer Meet-Up in July at Susan Kirk’s home, Winter Meet-Up Jan at Rice Barn (Heidi Frail, Susan Kirk, Kara Holmquist).
- Produced and distributed the LWVN Yearbook.
- Planned Annual Meeting logistics.
- Started a League of Women Voters of Needham at Needham High School Club (9 members).

League of Women Voters of Needham at Needham High School Club, Eva Gorenburg, Eleanor Mackey, Cathy Dowd

- Served on panel for Questions 2 and 3 at Ballot Question Forum.
- Planned and carried out 18 year old Birthday Bags project (containing items relevant to voting).
- Helped at Civics Bee.



Middle School Civics Education/Outreach, Jane Evans, Jen Muroff

- Discussions with Middle School Social Studies Director about partnering on civics education projects.

Financial Records Review, Steve McKnight

- Reviewed financial records for LWVN and LWVN Ed Fund.

Studies, Sally Toran and Carol Patey

- Organized Jan Program Planning meeting.
- Participated in LWVMA Program Planning.

- Participated in LWVMA Study of Ballot Question Process.
- Continued study of Town Meeting communication.

Secretary, Jeanne McKnight

- Recorded minutes for monthly meetings of the Board of Directors and Annual Meeting (Jeanne McKnight, Carol Patey).

Treasurer, Stacie Shapiro

- Kept track of all financial transactions and reported monthly to Board of Directors.
- Worked with Erica Bond to prepare FY20 budgets (LWVN and LWVN Ed Fund).
- Filed required reports with state and national agencies.
- Prepared financial records for review.

Education Fund (Board members: Karen Price, Elizabeth Handler, Stacie Shapiro, Harriet Goldin, Jeanne McKnight)

- Fundraised from Town Meeting Members.
- Prepared Annual Report and budget.
- Funded Civics Bee (partially), voter service events, educational forums, Early Voting cards.
- Reinvested over \$600 in the endowment fund.

Visibility/Community

- Promoted voting message in July 4 parade.
- Responded to several requests for speakers, voting expertise, etc.
- Participated in the two Needham Town Fairs.
- Community organization table at Needham Farmers Market.

Voter Service Committee, Debbie Winnick, Chair

- Offered rides to the polls for all elections.
- Posted LWV Vote! signs prior to each election (Elizabeth Handler).
- Encouraged informed voting for all election through website, Facebook, Twitter, Harvest Fair.

State Election (November)

- Pre-Primary Candidate Forum 4th Congressional District Aug 10, NewTV (with Newton, Brookline and Wellesley LWVs).
- District primary Candidates Night Aug 13 (State Representative and State Senator) with Wellesley and Wayland LWVs.
- Attempted to hold forum for State Senate general election with Wellesley and Wayland LWVs, but one candidate did not agree to meet his opponent.
- Ballot Question Forum: Local Question 4, Oct 19.
- Ballot Question Forum: Questions 1-3, Oct 25.
- Encouraged use of LWVMA Voters Guide via website and Facebook for primary and general elections.
- Prepared and distributed cards with Early Voting calendar and times at Harvest Fair, Farmers Market and all fall events.



Local Election (April)

- Website post with information on running for local office—shared with Needham MA.
- Prepared the Needham Times Voters' Guide for the Annual Town Election.
- Posted Voters' Guide from townwide and TMM candidates on website (Elizabeth Handler).
- Candidate Forums at The Needham Channel for three contested offices (Heidi Frail).

Town Meeting (Susan Welby)

- Organized and held three Warrant Meetings this year:
 - Special Town Meeting Warrant Meetings Oct 1.
 - Annual Town Meeting Warrant Meetings Apr 29.
 - Warrant Meeting for Annual Town Meeting Zoning articles Apr 25.
- Held new Town Meeting Member orientation Apr 29.
- Sent emails to Town Meeting Members about Warrant Meetings and other relevant information.

Participation in LWVMA

- Corlette Moore McCoy regularly reads and disseminates information from LWVMA and LWVUS newsletters.
- Karen Price served on LWVMA board of directors.
- Jen Muroff was elected to LWVMA board of directors.
- Jen Muroff (gun safety and immigration) and Karen Price (vice-chair) are members of LWVMA Legislative Action Committee.
- Jen Muroff is a member of MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence state strategy team and Safe Communities Coalition (representing LWVMA).
- LWVMA/LWVN Legislative Envoys (Jen Muroff and Wendy Silver).
- Susan McGarvey and Karen Price (co-chair) are members of LWVMA Steering Committee for Environmental Action and Advocacy.
- Karen Price (co-chair) and Carol Patey were members of state study committee of Ballot Question Process.
- Karen Price is a LWVMA Field Service Representative.
- Eight members attended LWVMA Convention Jun 7-8 in Westford.
- Two members attended LWVMA League Leader Lunch.
- Donated to LWVMA in memory of Joan Adams and Mary Riddell.
- Participated in Phonathon to raise funds for LWVMA (and LWVN).
- Participated in 100 Reasons video project.

Participation with other local Leagues

- LWVN members served as moderators at candidate forums in other cities and towns (Debbie Winnick and Karen Price).
- Co-sponsored district candidate events with Brookline, Newton, Wellesley, Wayland.

Coalitions and Community Partnerships

- Coalition member in Green Needham Collaborative.
- Partner with Women's Suffrage Celebration Coalition.
- Coalition member in Needham Area Immigration Task Force.
- Coalition member with Needham Coalition for Transgender Equality.

