



League of Women Voters of Bedford

Bulletin

June 2006

Bedford, Massachusetts

Volume LIII No. 8

Calendar

August	14	Monday	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
September	11	Monday	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
October	11	Wednesday	General Membership Meeting
	16	Monday	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
November	7	Tuesday	Election
	13	Monday	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
January	8	Monday	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
	9	Tuesday	Town Caucus
	20	Saturday	Post-holiday Party
February	5	Monday	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
March	5	Monday	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
	10	Saturday	Town Election
	18	Sunday	Spring Legislative Reception
	26	Monday	Town Meeting begins
April	9	Monday	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
May	7	Monday	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
June	2	Saturday	Annual Meeting
	4	Monday	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM

President	Susanna Natti	32 Independence Rd	781-275-4477	szmnatti@comcast.net
Vice President	Alma Hart	26 Hilltop Drive	781-275-8954	almahart@comcast.net
Treasurer	Jean Hammond	6 Hemlock Lane	781-275-9371	jean_hammond@bostonbbs.org
Secretary				
Membership	Corinne Doud	4 Redcoat Road	781-275-8979	corinnedoud@earthlink.net
Bulletin	Teri Morrow	548 Springs Road	781-275-	

*Board Meetings are open to all Bedford LWV members.

President's Letter – June 2006

The Bedford LWV is getting ready for summer, but that doesn't mean we've gone dormant. Plans for next year are already taking shape, building on what has been a very good year.

Appreciative and sincere thanks go to League members who worked hard in this past year. We are buoyed by the new energy and commitment of people who are new to the League and impressed by the dedication demonstrated by those who have been with the League for years (or decades). Several of our number received recognitions this year which really should be mentioned: Corinne Doud and Linda Pollitz received the "Shaping the Future Award" from LWVM; through their efforts we achieved more than a 5% increase in membership. Congratulations and thank you to Corinne and Linda!

Someone who works unstintingly and shuns the glory was recognized as well this year: Lora Goldenberg received recognition from the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women as an "Unsung Heroine of 2006" for Bedford.

Over the last year interest began to form around ways to foster greater civic involvement in the town of Bedford. This has always been central to the League, but the conversation became more and more specific. We now have a committee which will be working on the concept of a Civic Welcome Wagon. The scope has yet to be defined, but the purpose is clear: let's find ways to welcome and involve Bedford's citizens - particularly (but not only) those who are new to town or even new to the country, and future voters of tomorrow (our students).

Fund-raising is always the most difficult of topics; I have yet to find anyone who finds it fun (if you *do* find it fun, please put this bulletin down immediately and call me). We faced some painful budget decisions at Annual Meeting; on the bright side, there are solutions if we're willing to work for them. We'll be taking a look at holding fund-raising events several times this year; if we do well, we'll be free once again to look at funding

items we value but are suffering from the bottom-line blues right now.

The first fund-raiser of the year is Bedford Day. Dawn Theodore is once again heading up the effort (many, many thanks). Of particular interest is finding something that will be a "big-ticket" draw - sports tickets, a Harley Davidson motorcycle (oops - wrong fantasy), or a dinner with Al Gore (sorry - he's actually not available); you get the picture, think BIG.

Think BIG for the League this year. We have good energy, a solid foundation, well-defined focus, and the chance to serve our community in the best of ways.

Let's hear it for the League!

Susanna Natti

781-275-4477

szmnatti@comcast.net

2006-2007 Paid Members

Joyce Battaglia
Bea Brunkhorst
Sue / Donald Corey
Mary Cowham
Ginny Crocker
Timothy Cummings
Carol / Gordon Feltman
John Filios
Lora Goldenberg / Bruce Murphy
Dorothy Graeff
Mary Johannessen
Suzanne Kaylor
Anne Kiessling
Meredith / John McCulloch
Susanna Natti / Alan Wilsky
Noreen O'Gara / Larry Davis
Barbara Perry
Mindy Polack-Fusi
Lois Pulliam
Mrs. Ralph Ross
Elizabeth Saudek
Betty Sawyer
Peg Schwerin
Roberta Shaw
Lila Wasson
Doris Webber
Mary Welch
Nancy Willett
Janice Young

Annual Meeting Minutes

Bedford League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

Home of Joan Bowen

June 3, 2006

Lora Goldenberg presiding, in attendance; Meredith McCulloch, Jean Hammond, Teri Morrow, Doris Webber, Susanna Natti, Lois Pulliam, Bea Brunkhorst, Polly Herz, Janice Young, Joan Bowen, Ginny Crocker, Mary Johannessen, Corinne Doud, Ginny Spencer

Called to Order- 11:10 am

Introduction of Meredith McCulloch as Parliamentarian; Recording Secretary, Mary Johannessen; Members appointed to read and approve minutes, Polly Herz and Bea Brunkhorst

A quorum was not met for an official meeting. Eight non-board members were in attendance, ten were needed. Minutes will be sent to general membership for comment and approval.

Treasurer's Report:

\$7800 in checking account, expenses running \$850 above income. Emailing bulletins resulted in substantial savings, would save more if remaining 25% of hardcopy recipients converted to email. Thanks to Susanna Natti and Teri Morrow for electronic bulletins.

Proposed budget for 2006-2007:

Two recommended changes to the budget: discontinue BHS scholarship. It is currently at \$500 or 7% of the annual budget, which is more than is spent on voter education.

Increase household dues by \$10 to \$75 in keeping with state and national models of additional memberships at 50% of first.

Adoption of the Budget –

Budget of \$7306.90 was adopted with increase in household dues, and discontinuation of scholarship for 2006 – 2007

Additional discussion ensued- suggestions needed for spending funds to make the League's activities more visible in the town, consider fundraising from other civic groups like Rotary to fund Civic Welcome Wagon initiative, explore new means of fundraising to reinstate BHS scholarship

Re-adoption of Local Support Positions

All positions unanimously approved for re-adoption

Proposed Local Programs

1. Civics in Bedford

- a. Initiate welcome wagon activities for Bedford residents
- b. Investigate civics curriculum in the Bedford schools
- c. Continue expanded warrant review programs in preparation for Bedford Annual Town Meeting
- d. Provide information forums on current town issues such as the plans for the YMCA

Approved, with amendment- Part 'd' moved to its own section (see Part 4 below)

2. Monitor activity at Hanscom Field with particular attention to the increase in private planes and the growth in airline activity.

Approved

3. Provide and informational forum on the impacts of new housing in Bedford, especially on water and mosquitoes.

Approved

4. Provide information forums on current town issues such as the plans for the YMCA

Approved

Election of the 2006 – 2007 Board

No nominations from the floor, 2006-2007 slate of officers approved as submitted with one amendment; Mary Johannessen will join Teri Morrow on Bulletin

Lora Goldenberg turned meeting over to incoming president, Susanna Natti

Directions to the Board of Directors for 2006-2007 include:

- Address Selectmen to return to working to bring the YMCA to Bedford
- Explore fundraising for \$\$ for BHS scholarship or scholarship alternatives
- Form subcommittee to start work on Civic Welcome Wagon
- Pursue outside funding for Civic Welcome Wagon
- Build more substance into website and coordinate its use with other sources of LWV information

Next Board meeting:

June 5, 2006
Home of Dawn Theodore
7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Johannessen
Recording Secretary

Membership Dues Update:

Household dues for 2006-2007 will increase to \$75 effective September 17, 2007, due to the per member payments the Bedford League pays to LWVUS and LWVMA. Household members who join or renew on or before Bedford Day, September 16, 2006 can still renew at last year's rate of \$65. Dues may be paid at the League tent on Bedford Day, or mailed to the treasurer, Jean Hammond, and postmarked on or before September 16.

Individual member dues remain at \$50. For each Individual membership, \$23.50 goes to State and \$26.30 goes to National, leaving \$0.20 for our local League. We very much welcome any additional donation you may wish to make to support our local league when you send in your dues payment.

Treasurer's Report

League of Women Voters of Bedford Treasurer's Report July 1, 2005 through June 2, 2006

Category	Actual 5/8/06	Budget 05-06	Budget Remaining
Income			
a. Local Dues	\$4,660.00	\$4,925.00	\$265.00
b. Member Contribution	\$455.00	\$1,000.00	\$545.00
In kind contribution	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
c. Interest	\$7.65	\$8.00	\$0.35
d. Fundraising	\$1,743.00	\$2,297.35	\$554.35
e. Other	\$60.00	\$0.00	(\$60.00)
Total	\$6,925.65	\$8,230.35	\$1,304.70
Expenses			
I. Administration			
a. President	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
b. Board Expense	\$161.32	\$150.00	(\$11.32)
c. Fundraising Expense	\$1,045.80	\$500.00	(\$545.80)
d. Membership Expense	\$286.90	\$225.00	(\$61.90)
Total Administration	\$1,494.02	\$975.00	(\$519.02)
II. Dues			
a. State PMP	\$1,919.25	\$1,919.25	\$0.00
b. National PMP	\$2,118.90	\$2,186.10	\$67.20
Total Dues	\$4,038.15	\$4,105.35	\$67.20
III. Bulletin			
	\$791.51	\$900.00	\$108.49
IV. Program			
a. General Meetings	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
b. Voter Service	\$87.00	\$200.00	\$113.00
c. Program/Activities	\$56.28	\$200.00	\$143.72
Total Program	\$143.28	\$600.00	\$456.72
V. Conventions			
a. LWVM Convention/Council	\$221.00	\$50.00	(\$171.00)
b. LWVUS Convention	\$285.00	\$1,000.00	\$715.00
c. Workshops	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Total Conventions	\$506.00	\$1,100.00	\$594.00
VI. Equipment			
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
VII. Donations			
	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
VIII. Other			
	\$300.00	\$50.00	(\$250.00)
Total Expenses	\$7,772.96	\$8,230.35	\$457.39

Budget for 2006-2007

League of Women Voters of Bedford

Proposed 2006-7 Budget

Category	Budget 05-06	Actual 5/06	Proposed 06-07
Income			
a. Local Dues	\$3,600.00 †	\$4,660.00	\$4,900.00 *
b. Member Contribution	\$1,000.00	\$455.00	\$500.00
In kind contribution	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
c. Interest	\$8.00	\$7.65	\$8.00
d. Fundraising	\$2,297.35	\$1,743.00	\$1,898.90
e. Other	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
Total	\$6,905.35	\$6,925.65	\$7,306.90
Expenses			
I. Administration			
a. President	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
b. Board Expense	\$150.00	\$141.32	\$150.00
c. Fundraising Expense	\$500.00	\$1,045.80	\$500.00
d. Membership Expense	\$225.00	\$286.90	\$275.00
Total Administration	\$975.00	\$1,474.02	\$1,025.00
II. Dues			
a. State PMP	\$1,633.00 ††	\$1,919.05	\$2,104.50 **
b. National PMP	\$1,736.50 †††	\$2,118.90	\$2,577.40 ***
Total Dues	\$3,369.50	\$4,037.95	\$4,681.90
III. Bulletin and website			
	\$900.00	\$524.48	\$600.00
IV. Program			
a. General Meetings	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
b. Voter Service	\$200.00	\$87.00	\$200.00
c. Program/Activities	\$200.00	\$56.28	\$200.00
Total Program	\$600.00	\$143.28	\$600.00
V. Conventions			
a. LWVM Convention/Council	\$50.00	\$221.00	\$300.00
b. LWVUS Convention	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
c. Workshops	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Total Conventions	\$1,100.00	\$221.00	\$350.00
VI. Equipment			
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
VII. Donations			
	\$575.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
VIII. Other			
	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Total Expenses	\$7,569.50	\$6,900.73	\$7,306.90

† 66 members @ \$50 + 20 @ \$15
 †† 66 members @ \$23 + 20 @ \$5.75
 ††† 66 members @ \$23.80 + 20 @ \$13.30
 6 nationally recruited or honorary

*85 members @ \$50 + 26 @ \$25
 **85 members @ \$23 + 26 @ \$5.75
 ***85 members @ \$26.30 + 26 @ \$13.15
 5 nationally recruited + 3 honorary

LWV-Bedford Membership Form 2006

This Membership Form and your dues (payable to LWV-Bedford) should be mailed to:

Jean Hammond, Treasurer
6 Hemlock Lane
Bedford, MA 01730

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _(____)_____ **E-mail** _____

Enclosed is my **check payable to "LWV-Bedford"** (membership year is July 1 to June 30th; dues are not tax deductible.)

- Individual membership: \$50 (or amount I can pay: \$____)
- Household (two or more members living at same address): \$75 (\$65 when paid by 9/16/06)

Add'l Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Add'l Name: _____ E-mail: _____

- Full-time Student: \$21

For each Individual membership: \$23.50 goes to state and \$26.30 goes to National, leaving \$0.20 for our local league. If you cannot afford full membership please indicate the amount you can pay. Our local League depends on the generosity of our members to augment our dues by contributions. Please be as generous as you can. Membership dues and contributions are not tax deductible. If you have any questions contact Corinne Doud, Membership Chair, 781-275-8979.

- Please accept the following to support Bedford League activities: \$ _____

I would be interested in helping out the League in the following areas:

- Voter Service (voter registration, candidates forum, etc.)
- Finance (fundraisers, caller for phonathon, etc.)
- Communications (Bulletin, web site, publicity, taking pictures)
- Membership (recruitment, new member profiles, etc.)
- Civic Welcome Wagon
- Hosting an event (Spring Reception, discussion forum, etc.)
- Baking for an Event
- Other (e.g., observing a board): _____

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan grassroots organization formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principals of self-government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

To join the League of Women Voters of Bedford, please send a check for \$50 (dues for households: \$65) to Jean Hammond, 6 Hemlock Lane, Bedford, MA 01730. Membership in the League of Women Voters of Bedford entitles you to subscriptions to the local *Bulletin* and both the State and National *Voter*.

LWV of Bedford Massachusetts
548 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730