

# Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 6

September 2002

## International Equal Rights for Women -

*Will the United States Sign On?*

*by Deb Crossley & Priscilla Leith*

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, (CEDAW) was approved by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday, July 30 by a vote of 12-7, after 22 years in committee. This was after much lobbying by women's organizations, including the LWVUS, and initiative by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and other women senators. The next step is to organize and lobby for a floor vote in the Senate this fall. An international treaty requires a 2/3 majority, or 67 "yes" votes as consent to ratification.

Often called an international "Bill of Rights" for women, CEDAW was first adopted on December 18, 1979 by the United Nations. It provides a universal definition of discrimination against women and so establishes a basis for every government's domestic and foreign policy to promote the rule of law and respect for human rights throughout the world. However, although the United States was active in drafting the Convention, we remain conspicuously outside the 168 nations who have ratified and implemented this treaty.

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## Bilingual Education vs. English Immersion Initiative

*Ann Grantham and Jody Klein*

### Bilingual Education Law

On August 7, 2002 Acting Governor Jane Swift signed a bilingual education reform bill into law. The newly signed law, which gained bipartisan support in the legislature, will allow schools greater flexibility to meet the needs of English language learners.

The legislators, including sponsors Representative Peter Larkin and Senator Robert Antonioni, took ideas for reform through the legislative process that included hearings and public comments from educators, parents and other experts. The result is a law that transfers much of the responsibility for designing bilingual programs from the state to the school district. Districts in the Commonwealth can choose among different models to teach English to children. For example, dual language immersion where native English speakers and limited English speakers of the same native language learn together, English as a Second Language, structured English immersion, transitional bilingual education, and/or other innovative district proposed models. Districts with more than 50 students in the same language groups are required to offer at least two different program models. As was the case in the past, parents make the decision to enroll their children in bilingual programs or in mainstream classes.

In addition, the new law requires greater district accountability with frequent testing of students. There are also new requirements concerning hiring. Districts will no longer be able to keep uncertified bilingual teachers on staff indefinitely or hire teachers who are not fluent in spoken and written English.

### English Immersion

Come November, Massachusetts voters will approve or reject a ballot question that would replace bilingual education as revised August 7th with English immersion in Massachusetts's public schools.

If the ballot initiative passes voters could replace the new law with a one year English Immersion model sponsored by English for the Children Initiative (ECI) and Ron Unz, a California millionaire businessman and a former Republican candidate for Governor in California. Commonly known as Unz Initiatives, these voter approved one year English immersion programs have passed in California and Arizona. There is a similar voter initiative underway in Colorado.

The proposed law would require that, with limited exceptions, all public school children must be taught English and all subjects in English in a sheltered English immersion program. This means that students from the same and different native language groups would be placed with other students who have the same level of

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## LWVN Officers and Directors 2002-2003

### Officers

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Vice President	Bonnie Carter	617969-0686
Almost a VP	Pat Acton	617965-5572
Treasurer/ Education	Andrea Kozinetz- Holtz	617964-6490
Recording Secretary	Robin Maltz	617969-1554
Corresponding Secretary	Jody Klein	617244-4767

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Unit Meetings	Ruth Neiberg	617965-5572
Membership	Elaine Reisman	617244-6439
Election Reform	Susan Rosenbaum	617332-0306
Legislation/ NewTV	Janet Stearns	617559-9987
Fundraising	Ben Weisbuch	617527-3262

### Newsletter

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

### Committee Members

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 617-964-0014.

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

[www.tiac.net/users/unnewton/LWV](http://www.tiac.net/users/unnewton/LWV)

# See You in September

September, your first child going off to kindergarten, your last child going off to College, a time for closing down summer activities, saying goodbye to summer friends and a time for opening new doors and welcoming the cooler more thoughtful challenges of the fall.

We in the League are getting ready for the fall and hope that all of you will find time to participate in some of the activities that we are working on. A major new venture this year is the questionnaire from the Unit Committee that I hope you have all received and returned. We are very interested in your thoughts.

Do you have someone who you know would enjoy being part of the League? If so then bring them to one of the new member meetings scheduled for the beginning of October or send their name to our wonderful Membership Chair Elaine Reisman and we will do the asking. LWVN had an extraordinary year last year for membership, help make this year be as good!

The Education Committee has gotten off to a great start and are planning a forum on the ballot initiative on bilingual education. Don't miss this opportunity to get up to speed on this complicated and interesting issue.

As always we would love your help in many ways please glance through some the opportunities mentioned in this newsletter or call a board member if you'd like to get involved. Hope to see you in September!



## Have you completed your LWVN Member Survey?

If you haven't received a copy  
call Bev Spencer at 617-965-6365.

Continued from page 1

## Bilingual Education vs. English Immersion Initiative

English in a self-contained classroom until they can do regular schoolwork in English. The proposed law would allow parents or guardians to sue to enforce the law. Any school employee, school committee member or other elected official or administrator who refused to implement the proposed law could be personally sued for fees, costs, and damages, and could not be elected to a school committee or employed in the public schools for 5 years.

Parents or guardians would be able to obtain a waiver so as to place their child in bilingual education or other classes, if the child already knows English or is at least 10 years old, or has special physical or psychological needs.

### League position

The State League is opposed to the English immersion initiative. The League of Women Voters of Newton is planning a public information meeting to discuss the ballot question on October 16th at 7:30 at newly renovated Memorial Spaulding School.

For more information please contact:

**FACT** (Committee for Fairness to Children & Teachers)  
P.O. Box 120-0089  
Boston, MA 02112-0089  
telephone (617) 423-1177  
fax (617) 482-4355  
englishyesunzno.org.

*English for the Children* website:  
onenation.org. ■

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## International Equal Rights for Women - *Will the United States Sign On?*

Rather, we stand among 23 nations such as Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland and several of the remote Asian Pacific islands, for example, who have not consented to promote and protect women's rights using CEDAW.

After President Carter signed this treaty in 1980, then sent it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for a vote, CEDAW sat for a decade before it was heard for the first time. In 1993, 68 senators signed a letter to President Clinton requesting action on CEDAW, and it was announced by his administration at the World conference on Human Rights in Vienna that year, that the Clinton Administration would pursue this and other human rights treaties. In September 1994, CEDAW was reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee favorably 13-5, but several senators put a hold on it, thereby blocking it from a vote on the Senate floor during the 103rd Congress. When the new Senate convened in January 1995, CEDAW reverted back to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where no action was taken until the July 2002 vote.

Anyone wishing to assist with lobbying on CEDAW should contact the LWVUS Main Observer to the United Nations, Doris Schapira of Montclair, NJ. Her email address is [doris.schapira@world.net.att.net](mailto:doris.schapira@world.net.att.net); phone is (973) 746-5153.

If you want more information on the content and history of CEDAW, contact the Working Group on Ratification of the U.N. CEDAW for their booklet:

*Human Rights for All* at

[http://www.bahai.org/extaffairs/cedaw\\_index.html](http://www.bahai.org/extaffairs/cedaw_index.html) ■

### Membership Meetings

Two membership meetings will be held this fall:

**Tuesday, October 1 9:30-11:30 a.m.**  
**Wednesday, October 2 7:30-9:30 a.m.**

Bring a friend for a review of the ballot questions and an introduction to the League or submit names of people who might be interested to:

Elaine S. Reisman 617-244-6439  
[bresreis@attbi.com](mailto:bresreis@attbi.com).

This year we hope to increase membership by even more than the 40 additional members who joined last year!

*Welcome  
New Member*

We welcome the following new members to the Newton League of Women Voters.  
Please be sure to add them to your Directory.

Carleton Merrill  
15 Newtonville Ave  
Newton 02458

## Committees - in - Action

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

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

Members Ann Grantham Anne Learner  
Susie Heyman Robin Maltz  
Jody Klein

Contact Andrea Kelley 617-964-4609  
Andrea Kozinetz 617-964-6490  
Co-Chairs

### *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  
Jody Klein  
Linda Morrison

Contact Holly Gunner, Chair 617-964-0767

### *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  
Lynne Sullivan

Contact Anita Capeless 617-969-9483

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

Focus Various local issues

Members In formation - all welcome

Contact Deb Crossley 617-244-7597  
Chair

### *N e w s l e t t e r*

Members Jane Leighton Liz Lieberman  
Linda Morrison Jody Klein

Contact Andrea Kelley 617-964-4609

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

# LEAGUER, CAN YOU Spare an Hour?

Short term help is needed on two occasions:

- Wednesday, September 18, 2002 at the Newton Public Library there will be a Volunteer Fair. Help is needed in hour long shifts from 4-8 p.m. to sit at a table with another League member and to engage people in talking about the League. League materials, sign up sheets and all necessary supplies will already be set up. All you need to do is to share your enthusiasm for the work of the League.
- Sunday, October 20, 2002 at the Newton Center Green at Langley and Center Help is needed in hour long shifts from noon-5 p.m. (Same arrangements as above.)

Please call or email Elaine S. Reisman  
if you "can spare an hour"

617-244-6439 bresreis@attbi.com

Dear Voters,  
September 1, 2002

- Did you know that the average winning candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives during the 2000 elections outspent his/her opponent by more than a half-million dollars?
- Did you know that incumbents won 99% of the races and that 75% were landslide victories?
- Did you know that the better-funded candidate won 95% of the races for seats in The House of Representatives during the 2000 elections?
- Did you know that more money was spent on television ads for political purposes than for fast food during the 2 months prior to the 2000 elections?

There are many people that would like to change these statistics. In addition to the Clean Elections law that was recently on the Massachusetts ballot, there is a national campaign to promote free air-time for all candidates for public office. This would ensure that candidates other than well-funded incumbents would have a chance to be heard and their ideas promoted. If you are interested in studying some of the issues related to fair, democratic elections, please join me in this endeavor. You may email me at DSR2 @rcn.com or call the League phone at 617-964-0014.

Sincerely,  
Susan E. Rosenbaum

# Financial Notes From The Treasurer

## August 2002

by Andrea Kozinetz/ Treasurer

The League of Women Voters Newton remains financially sound. There are currently about 225 LWVN members. Our local dues remain \$50 for regular members, \$70 for household members, \$75 for sustaining members and \$85 for supporting members. Annual dues renew membership in local, state and national leagues. \$23 of the annual dues amount goes to LWV Massachusetts and \$24.35 goes to LWV United States to support the important work of the State and National leagues. The remainder of the basic \$50, or \$2.65 stays in Newton.

At annual meeting in June 2002, we adopted a change to LWVN's billing schedule. Members will be billed on a quarterly schedule (rather than monthly) based on "month joined." We appreciate prompt payment, and of course, we appreciate the contributions sent with membership dues.

At annual meeting we also adopted a budget for 2002-2003 which differed from the proposed budget printed in the 2002 Annual Meeting Workbook. We have printed a copy of the modified/approved budget for your review and records. We hope that the additional funding that has been earmarked for newsletter, workbook, public relations, meetings will enhance our offerings to the Newton League.

If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 617 964-6490.■

### League Women Voters Newton

Budget 7/1/02 – 6/30/03

E x p e n s e s		I n c o m e	
<b>OPERATING COSTS</b>		<b>FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</b>	
General Supplies	150	Income	5000
Office		Fundraising Events/C&C	Expense 2500
Rent	100		Net 2500
Telephone	250	Phonathon	600
PO Box	65	<b>Net Fundraising</b>	<b>3100</b>
Bulk Mail Permit	125	<b>DUES*</b>	<b>11250</b>
<b>BOARD/ADMINISTRATION</b>		LWV/US PMP	-5479
President/Discretionary	150	LWV/MA PMP	-5175
Board Tools/Expense	150	<b>Net</b>	<b>596</b>
Administration	150	<b>TENNIS</b>	
Membership	350	Income	4200
Public Relations	250	Expense	-4200
Nominating Committee	50	<b>Net</b>	<b>0</b>
Training/workshops ( <i>misc. committees</i> )	350	<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	
<b>DELEGATES &amp; TRAVEL</b>		Sponsorship Income	1525
LWV/US Convention	1500	Newsletter/Website Expense	-4000
LWV/MA Convention/Council	300	Handbook Expense	-2500
<b>PROGRAM</b>		<b>Net</b>	<b>-4975</b>
Citizen Education	350	<b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>	
Study/Advocacy	350	Income	725
Voters Service	250	Expense	-1100
<b>MISCELLANEOUS/GIFTS</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>-375</b>
Chamber Membership	35	<b>MISCELLANEOUS OTHER INCOME</b>	
New TV Membership	50	Contributions	500
<b>TRANSFER/RESERVES</b>		Interest Income	1429
unrestricted funds 02-03	-5000	<b>Net</b>	<b>1929</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>NET BEFORE OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>NET AFTER EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>		

\* @225x \$50.

LWVUS \$24.35; LWVM \$23

## 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



**PRISCILLA M.  
LEITH, MBA**

162 Islington Road  
Newton, MA 02466  
617.969.6837

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*Our politics may lean to the left,  
but our work... NEVER!*

# Election Calendar

**August 28** Was the last day to register to vote or change party affiliation for State Primary.

**September 16** 12 Noon Last hour and day to apply for Absentee Ballot for the State Primary

**September 17** STATE PRIMARY  
Polls open 7 am – 8 pm

**October 16** Last day to register to vote for the State Election. The Election Commission is open until 8 pm on this last day of registration.

**November 4** 12 Noon Last day and hour to apply for an Absentee Ballot for the State Election

**November 5** STATE ELECTION  
Polls open 7 am to 8 pm



## LWVN CALENDAR

### *September*

- 5 State Representative debate for the 11th Middlesex District at 7:30 pm at NewTV studios
- 11 11:30 am Unit Meeting: topic ERA, at 72 Dalton Road, Newton Centre, (617) 969-9329
- 11 Newsletter Deadline
- 16 12:00 Noon Last hour and day to apply for Absentee Ballot
- 17 State Primary polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m
- 18 Volunteer Fair
- 25 Board Meeting @ Rose Davis

### *October*

- 1 9:30 - 11:30 am & October 2 7:30 - 9:30 pm.  
New Members Meetings  
League members: "Bring a friend to a review of the ballot questions and introduction to the League and its work"
- 5 State League Fall Conference, All day @ Minuteman Vocational Ed School, Lexington
- 9 Working Board @ Ann Grantham's
- 16 Forum on the Bilingual Education Ballot Question, @ 7:30 pm @ Memorial Spaulding School

- 16 Last Day to register to vote for the State Election.  
The Election Commission Office is open until 8 p.m. on this last day of registration
- 16 Working Board/Newsletter Deadline
- 17 Relationship Violence Forum, at the Newton Senior Center
- 19 Harvest Fair
- 21 Dr Werner Fornos President of the Population Institute will speak at the invitation of the LWV of Brookline about the serious problems of excessive world population growth
- 30 Board Meeting @ Sue Rosenbaum's

### *November*

- 4 12 Noon – Last hour and day to apply for an Absentee Ballot for the State Election
- 5 Election Day polls open 7 am to 8 pm
- 6 Working Board @ Amelia Koch's
- 13 Newsletter Deadline
- 20 Board Meeting @ Ann Grantham's

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