

LWVBOSTON

March 2010

LWVB Celebrates Its Ninetieth Anniversary at the BPL

We Are the People of Boston

City Council Observer's Report

Two League Members Receive Key Appointments

Welcome New Members!

Upcoming Events

April 8 Boston's Demographics
Speaker: Alvaro Lima, BRA's Director of Research

May 11 Boston's Energy Policy
Speaker: James Hunt, Chief of Environmental and Energy Services, City of Boston

June 8 LWVB Annual Meeting
Speaker: Mayor Thomas Menino

LWVB Officers and Board of Directors 2009 – 2010

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More information about our May and June events in our next mailing.

League of Women Voters of Boston Celebrates Its 90th Anniversary at the BPL

On a Sunday afternoon, November 15, 2009, more than 100 people joined with the League of Women Voters of Boston to celebrate our Ninetieth anniversary. The Boston Public Library's beautiful Abby Room was the perfect site for the party. Special thanks to the City of Boston and the Mayor's assistant, Alice Hennessey, for enabling the League to use these significant facilities.

Boston Public Library's new President, Amy Ryan, was the featured speaker. This was an especially fine opportunity for the League to meet Ms Ryan, the first woman president of the venerable old Boston Public Library. Her excellent presentation appropriately reminded us of the special role women have played in Boston and in the Boston Public Library.

Clare Hayes, our Vice President and long-time Voter Services Chair offered a history of the League from our beginnings as the Boston Equal Suffrage Association for Good Government through today's League of Women Voters of Boston.

The League was honored to present many of the League's past presidents who could be with us. Katherine Kane (1961-1964), Jane Bowers (1977-1979), Dan Hardenbergh for his wife Mary Anne Hardenbergh (1979-1981), Kathleen Young (1981-1983), Carol McA'Nulty (1983-1985), Clare Hayes and Judy Wright (1985-1987), Shellie Shribman (1990-1991), Murray Cooper (1991-1992), Chela Tawa (1995-1998), Shelia Martin (1999-2000), Ila Cooper (2001), Mary Tamer (2007-2008). Regards from several past presidents who were not able to be with the League that day: Ruth Saris (1971-1973), Renita Polsinelli (1987-1989), Denise Norton (1991-1992), and Kerry Costello (2002-2006).

With deep gratitude and a standing ovation, the Boston League paid a tribute to Ila Cooper, who has been a passionate and hardworking League member and activist for over fifty years!

Our heartfelt thanks to Louise Bonar, Ila Cooper and the entire Board of Directors who played the major role in organizing and directing this commemorative affair. Now ninety years later we remain true to our mission to promote voter information and service programs, to influence public policy through education and advocacy for good government, and to keep the public well informed on critical social policy issues.

We Are the People of Boston

Who are we? Where do we live? It's Census time – everyone counts!

LWVBoston is sponsoring a public meeting about Boston's demographics, the changing nature of our neighborhoods, and the richness of this diverse tapestry, including how the Census process affects all of us and why an accurate count is important. Please join us!

Presented by

Alvaro Lima, Director of Research, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Boston Public Library Orientation Glass Room (Dartmouth Street entrance)

Thursday, April 8 at 5 pm

City Council Observer's Report – March 2010 The 2010 Mayor and City Council were sworn in on January 4 at Faneuil Hall. Your observer talked her way in to a crowded venue – certainly not open to most Boston voters. The two newly-elected Councilors-At-Large – Ayanna Pressley and Felix Arroyo – took their places on the Council. Afterwards, in the hall above, two new members of the School Committee were sworn in by the Mayor, (including our own Mary Tamer), before a smaller audience. One might wonder why, with Education matters prominent in the Mayor's agenda, this had not taken place earlier. Still later that day the City Council met at City Hall for the first time and elected Michael Ross President for a second year. Stephen Murphy was made vice-president. A large crowd of family, friends and the public crowded the chamber. The Council did not meet again until January 27.

Committee assignments include Government Operations – Maureen Feeney; Education – John Connolly; Post Audit – Charles Yancey; Ways and Means – Mark Ciommo; Women and Healthy Communities (new) Ayanna Pressley; Labor, Youth Affairs and Human Rights – Felix Arroyo; Special Committees on 2010 Census – Arroyo; Charter Reform – Tobin; Federal Stimulus Oversight – Murphy; Livable Boston – Connolly.

Some issues introduced in the past few meetings regard the building of an Environmental Science Academy (Connolly), oversight of stimulus package spending (Turner), Streetworker issues (Arroyo), Teen Pregnancy (Pressley); convenience store security measures and liquefied natural gas shipment precautions (Murphy). These issues and many others will see hearings in the weeks ahead.

On February 24 LWVBoston held its biennial reception for the councilors and again this year invited the Boston Student Advisory Council to attend. These high school students impressed the councilors with their passion for the issues they have decided to address, including more effective, standardized use of homework assignments, and voting privileges for the student member of the School Committee. Twelve of the 13 members of the Council attended. That evening your observer was invited to attend the Centennial Celebration of a unicameral Boston City Council instituted in 1909. This was held in the lower level of Ruth's Chris Restaurant in the Old City Hall. Most current and former councilors attended as well as other officials. The Mayor held forth with many allusions to incidents and characters that provoked rounds of laughter and rejoinders. I took the chance to meet Peggy Davis Mullen, Diane Modica, Evelyn Friedman, and to chat with Maura Hennigan, as I am always interested in the few women who have made it to positions of power in Boston. The City Clerk, Rosaria Salerno, was not there, and that is an unfolding story in the continuing drama of the "theater" in which I am privileged to be a spectator as your League Observer. *Anne Schmalz*

Two League Members Receive Key Appointments

Board Member and former LWVBoston President, **Mary Tamer**, was appointed to the Boston School Committee. An alumna of Boston Latin School and the University of New Hampshire, Mary is a parent of two BPS students and a dedicated BPS tutor and volunteer. She also served on the superintendent search committee. **Ann Hershfang** has been appointed to a top State position. As Chair of the Oversight Council for the Commonwealth's \$3 billion Accelerated Bridge Program, Ann will oversee the repair of Massachusetts' bridges, which have been structurally deficient for years. Ann was the Undersecretary to former Transportation Secretary Fred Salvucci and is the founder of WalkBoston, which tracks and improves pedestrian issues. Congratulations to League members Mary and Ann!

Welcome New Members! LWVBoston would like to warmly welcome new members **Diane Kline** (Brighton), **Meg Mainzer-Cohen** (West Roxbury), and **Carlotta Williams** (Hyde Park) and returning members **Eric Dawson** and **Tamara Tai** (Dorchester).

One by One: Building Our Membership The Board has appointed Janice Kenneally Membership Chair. A longtime nurse for the Boston Public Schools, Janice's lifelong civic and political involvement and her charisma make her the perfect person for this dynamic position! Keep in mind, however, that *each* member has a role in building our membership—*one by one*—in keeping with the grassroots nature of our work. If you know an individual who would be an asset to our organization, here are five quick tips you can use to help recruit him or her. Will you consider inviting someone you know to be a member?

1. **Forward LWVB News and Event Flyers** Offer to take someone to a League event.
2. **Make a Connection** Tell your personal story about what the League means to you.
3. **Ask** Be sure to invite your new contact to become a member. Don't assume it's implied.
4. **Make It Easy** Pass along a membership brochure and form like the one attached.
5. **Contact Us** Note that our new and permanent email address is **board@lwboston.org**.



League of Women Voters of Boston Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Individual \$60.00

Household \$90.00

Student \$20.00

Additional Contribution _____

Total Enclosed _____

Please make your check payable to the **League of Women Voters of Boston**,
and return it with this form. Thank you.

Mail to:

League of Women Voters of Boston
P.O. Box 180654
Boston MA 02118

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