



Westerly ARC Newsletter

Weekly Newsletter

2 Oct 2022



Artwork by Cookie Rivera

[Visit Our Website](#)

October 2 is [World Mental Health Day](#)

“Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.”

– Albus Dumbledore

Embrace



October 2

This Week's Protest

On Sunday, October 2, we welcome **Leslie Dunn** to the ARC stage. Leslie, a founding member of ARC as well as a member of the Steering Committee, is a candidate for the Westerly School Committee. She is a graduate of Westerly High School (2010) and Johnson and Wales (2014) where she majored in Sports, Entertainment and Event Planning.

Leslie will share her story of growing up in Westerly, her decision to run for political office and what she sees as the top issues facing the school system in Westerly. She says, "I am running because I believe that the integrity of a thriving community rests within its education system." She is one of three candidates endorsed by the Democratic party.

Join us from 11-1pm on the Post Office steps to give a warm welcome to Leslie.

Note: Westerly ARC does not endorse any candidate but upon request we welcome candidates to our Sunday peaceful protest to share their stories and platforms.



Last Week's Protest

If you drove by the Westerly post office at 12:30 pm on Sunday, September 25, you would have seen many people sitting on the post office steps reading silently. **Ery Caswell** brought their mobile library and provided participants at the "Read-In" with several banned books. Ery spoke about their concern for censorship and the direct impact this has on the LGBTQ community.

We read as a sign of protest for the continued war against the freedom to read.

As the founder of [Beyond the Stacks](#) Ery has been active in supporting the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular. Thank you, Ery, for working so hard to educate us all about the vital importance of fighting against the banning of books.

Click below to find out how you can help Ery build the collection of banned books for the Social Justice Mobile Library.

[Donate a Banned Book](#)

[Banned Book Infographic](#)



Thank you to Don Urso for creating this work of art in honor of Banned Books Week.

"American Book Burning"
Books, plywood, and spray paint
50" x 40"

We meet every **Sunday from 11:00–1:00** on the steps of the Westerly Post Office on High Street. Join us anytime!

Empower



Oct 9 Meet and Greet

Gelato and Candidate Meet and Greet!

Come to Pompelmo Gelateria at 31 High Street in Westerly on Sunday, October 9 to meet candidate for **School Committee Leslie Dunn**. Enjoy a free gelato and hear why Leslie is running for School Committee. This meet and greet will take place at 1:00, right after the Sunday peaceful protest on October 9.

Town Meetings

Westerly ARC encourages those who can to attend Westerly Town Council and School Committee meetings. Your presence and involvement is an important way to show our elected officials that creating a more equitable and inclusive town and school system must always be a priority.



Monday, 3 Oct - Town Council Workshop and Regular Meeting 5:30 pm

Wednesday, 5 Oct - School Committee Meeting 5:00 pm

Monday, 17 Oct - Town Council Regular Meeting 5:30 pm

Wednesday, 19 Oct - School Committee Meeting 5:00 pm

Monday, 24 Oct - Town Council Workshop and Regular Meeting 5:30 pm

Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas:

<https://clerkshq.com/westerly-ri>



Voters' Corner

Mail-In Ballot Application Due by: Oct 18

Election Day: November 8

Voting Resources

- Vote.RI.gov - Update your voting record, register to vote, find your polling place, view a sample ballot, apply for a mail ballot and more!
- [League of Women Voters of Rhode Island](https://www.lwvri.org/) - a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government; conducts candidate forums and has many local

resources.

- [Vote.org](https://www.vote.org/) - online voter guides for every state, including where to vote, what's on the ballot, voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and more!

Act

[View our Calendar](#)

Here are a few ongoing ways you can support the work of Westerly ARC.



Share



Donate



Show Up

Spread the news!
Forward this newsletter to at least one person you think might be interested in it. Ask them to sign up for our newsletter on the [Westerly ARC website](#).

We have **over 200 subscribers** as of now; help us reach an even wider audience!

ARC member Amanda Dunn continues to collect toiletries, personal care items, and non-perishable food to distribute to our community. Please bring your donations to Amanda at our Sunday rallies. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Stop by one of our weekly protests, join one of the events listed in this newsletter, attend a town meeting, sign up for one of the trainings linked above.

*"We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."
— Elie Wiesel*

[Read More](#)

Educate

YOU'RE INVITED TO A MEET & GREET


Kevin J. Lowther II
Westerly Town Council Candidate

Leslie S. Dunn
Westerly School Committee Candidate

Victoria Gu
State Senate District 38 Candidate

Hosted by Madeline Labriola
54 Beach St.
Westerly, RI

Tuesday 11 October 2022
5:30 - 7:30 pm



Enjoy an evening of political discussion, good food and friendship.
Please bring a friend.

Parking across the street at Junk and Java plaza or Merchant Square.
RSVP Scan QR code or <https://forms.gle/1Cz7bo266iZACg5d7>

Meet the Candidates

Here is another opportunity to meet candidates for local and state offices. Meet **Kevin J. Lowther** (Westerly Town Council Candidate), **Leslie S. Dunn** (Westerly School Committee Candidate), and **Victoria Gu** (State Senate Candidate).

Westerly ARC Steering Committee member Madeline Labriola will host this event at her home at 54 Beach Street on Tuesday, October 11 from 5:30-7:30. Spread the word and bring a friend!

RSVP

In the News

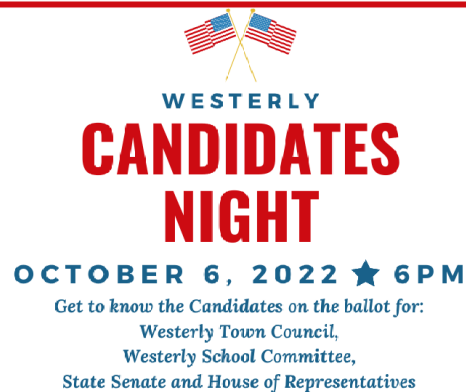


The poster features a photograph of a peace parade with a large peace sign. Below the photo is a quote: "Peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but the means by which we arrive at that goal." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The text "peace parade" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below this, a blue box contains the text: "Nonviolence is active and challenges us to stand up to injustice on personal and societal levels. The principles and steps can be applied to virtually all situations that we experience in our lives each day. Learn about what nonviolence is and ways to manifest it within your community." The main event information is: "Join us on Saturday, 10/1 at Saugutucket Park in Wakefield. Kid and pet friendly! Face painting for kids Snacks Information Activities for kids 10am - 12pm". At the bottom, there are two logos: "Nonviolent Schools RI" and "TOWARDS AN ANTI-RACIST NORTH KINGSTOWN".

Peace Parade

Our neighbors and co-peace activists **Nonviolent Schools RI** and **Toward an Anti-Racist North Kingston (TANK)** are holding a Peace Parade on Sat. **Oct. 8** (postponed from 10/1) from 10-12 in Wakefield.

Please join them as they stand up to injustice on a personal and societal level.



The poster features two American flags at the top. Below them, the text "WESTERLY CANDIDATES NIGHT" is written in large, bold, red letters. Below this, the date and time "OCTOBER 6, 2022 ★ 6PM" is written in blue. At the bottom, the text "Get to know the Candidates on the ballot for: Westerly Town Council, Westerly School Committee, State Senate and House of Representatives" is written in blue.

Westerly Candidates' Night

On October 6, 2022 the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce will hold a **forum for candidates** for Westerly School Committee, Town Council and State and National office. The meeting will begin at 6 pm at the Westerly Town hall at 45 Broad St., Westerly RI. The public is invited to attend in person or on the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, on local public access TV, or live on WBLQ (103.6 FM). See the following link for more information.

<https://www.oceanchamber.org/events/details/westerly-candidate-s->



Pax Christi USA and Meta Peace Team offer Bystander Nonviolence Skills Training

The drumbeat of war has made our world community more tense, adding yet another layer of divisiveness and “Us vs. Them” thinking. As compassionate, concerned people, we can do something. **Meta Peace Team** invites you to participate in this online workshop on **Saturday, October 1, 11 AM-3:30 PM (Eastern)** where we will begin by exploring how active, assertive nonviolence can make a difference: What does it mean, how is it used, and how can people disagree (sometimes strongly!) while maintaining mutual respect and a willingness to reach understanding?

[Click here for more information and to register for the workshop.](#)



Free Bystander Training Offered by Right to Be

[Right to Be](#) is an organization that provides free online bystander training. Check their website for information about schedules and other types of free training. Please let us know if you participate in a training and how it went!

“Right To Be’s work ranges widely, but our goal is simple: we want to build a world where everyone has the Right To Be who they are, wherever they are. A world that’s free of harassment and filled with humanity.”

Period Action Day

A message from Colleen King, Teen Librarian at Westerly Library:

“October 8th in honor of [Period Action Day](#) teen volunteers will be putting together care packages of period products for teens in the community who need them. The care packages will be handed out from Teen Space in the library whenever a teen comes in and asks for period products. In preparation for this event, I am organizing a drive for period products. ”

Please bring any feminine personal care products to Amanda Dunn on Sunday, Sept. 25 and Oct. 3. We will donate these to the Library in ARC’s name. Thank you.

Up Next

Calendar of Events	
15 September–15 October	Hispanic Heritage Month
8 October 2022 (rescheduled)	Peace Parade, 10–12, Wakefield
1 October 2022	Nonviolence Skills Training Workshop, 11–3:30, online
3 October 2022	Westerly Town Council meeting, 5 pm
5 October 2022	Westerly School committee meeting, 5:30 pm
6 October 2022	Candidates’ Night 6–9 pm, Westerly Town Hall, sponsored by Chamber of Commerce
9 October 2022	Meet and Greet Candidate for School Committee, Leslie Dunn, Pompelmo Gelateria, 1:00pm (after protest)
11 October 2022	Meet the Candidates, (Kevin Lowther, Leslie Dunn, Victoria Gu), 5:30–7:30, 54 Beach St, RSVP
17 October 2022	Town Council Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm
19 October 2022	School Committee Meeting, 5:00



Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition

Join our weekly protests

Sundays 11-1

Downtown Westerly Post Office steps



westerlyarc@gmail.com

You received this email because you signed up on our website at one of our events.

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Megaphone, Fast, Give icons created by Freepik - Flaticon](#)

