



Fairfax VOTER

December 2018

Volume 71, Issue 4

A “Twofer” Discussion - Your Opinion Counts!

The December unit meetings will have **two different discussions**. First, “Discussion Topic #1”: We have been asked to discuss the LWV-VA Study on Sexual Harassment 2018. Following that we will talk about “Discussion Topic #2”: Program Planning for LWV-VA and LWNCA for 2019-2021. Reading both the study and the Positions-In- Brief beforehand will make this jam-packed meeting move more swiftly.

Calendar

December 2018

- 1 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large meeting, Packard Center, 10 a.m.
- 3 *Fairfax VOTER* deadline
- 4 LWV-VA Board meeting, Richmond
- 5 LWV-VA Women’s Roundtable Pre-session luncheon and discussion, Richmond
- 7 LWNCA Board meeting
- 10-13 LWVFA unit meetings**
- 17 The Fountains’ condo elections
- 31 New Year’s Eve



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Presidents' Message



The 2018 – 2020 Workplan of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area states that we are engaged in promoting and providing opportunities for civil discourse.

We call ourselves a civilized society and yet here we are today trying to figure out how to be civil with people who disagree with us or who are different from us.

What exactly is Civility?

“Civility is claiming and caring for one’s identity, needs, and belief without degrading someone else in the process.” It is about disagreeing without disrespect or being disagreeable, seeking common ground as a starting point for dialogue about differences, and listening past one’s own preconceptions, stereotypes, and prejudices.

Civility can be quite demanding. In attempting to understand other minds on the model of our own, we often make sense of disagreement by concluding that our opponents are stupid, bigoted, evil or even insane. Yet civility demands that we keep the disagreement going, no matter how disagreeable, to continue the battle of words without resorting to violence.

What are the causes of all this disagreement and polarity in our society today? If we don’t understand what divides us we will never be able to solve the problem.

There are five main causes.

1. **Racial Differences:** Today’s America is multiracial. We are, today, a salad bowl and not a melting pot, with different races and ethnicities trying to be American and yet maintaining their identities.
2. **Change in Population Diversity:** There has been an unprecedented change in several states, such as Texas, California, New Mexico, Hawaii, and DC, with many states now having minority populations that are in excess of 50 percent of the whole population.
3. **Economic Diversity:** The top 1 percent keeps getting richer and the rest keep getting less and less. Many observers attribute the rise in incivility to economic tensions and fears since

the 2008 recession.

4. **Religion:** Religion has always been and continues to be a major cause of differences between Americans, who as a whole practice every religion known to exist in the world.
5. **Urban vs Rural:** More than 80 percent of Americans live in urban areas and yet the Electoral College ensures that 20 percent of the population, who think very differently from their urban counterparts, wield more influence.

So how do we learn to co-exist? How do we learn to be civil to each other?

Here are some tips:

- a. Listen to opposing views thoughtfully.
- b. Try to find some shared values with your opponents.
- c. Acknowledge the legitimacy of your adversaries.

*Fairfax County 24-hr.
Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline:
703-360-7273; 711 TTY*

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2018 - 2019

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- d. Identify the problem at hand and focus on it rather than on larger conflicts.
- e. Avoid political or religious caricatures, labels and generalizations that may not truly represent the views of your adversaries.
- f. Acknowledge disagreement genuinely without suppressing your own positions.
- g. Ask clarifying questions before responding.
- h. Recognize the value of solutions beyond those offered by traditional party platforms.
- i. Recognize that your words and actions will have consequences.
- j. Be personally accountable for your political or religious actions.

Source: Allegheny College 2010

We do need to remember one thing very clearly. To live and work together we must be able to talk to one another; the fate of our own tolerant society hangs in the balance.

Judy & Anu

Behavioral Health

Discussions from October

By Julia Jones, Program Director

All units reported that they had great discussions about LWV-VA's new study and position on Behavioral Health. Many units expressed that there was so much information that they really needed more time for discussion. Judy Helein and Sherri Gillan will be carefully reading all the responses and plan to write follow-up articles.

Our units thought that funding was the most critical aspect for individuals finding same-day and appropriate long-term service. As one unit wrote, "We believe that new funds should be directed toward increasing and retaining qualified staff. This would improve the outcomes for service users and improve the quality of care offered. This is only a step toward maintaining same day access and supportive housing." Others wrote, "We can urge legislators to increase funding for behavioral healthcare at all governmental levels. We can advocate for schools to hire more counselors who would be equipped to identify behavioral health problems early on and to work with students, parents, and teachers on effective treatment plans. We can ask candidates if they support funding, meet with representatives at local and state-level and share personal experiences and stories."

Another unit wrote, "The top priority is improved access to care, especially same-day care. Second is reducing the waiting time for treatment after evaluation. Third is expanded screening for children and young adults. Fourth is increasing the pay for behavioral healthcare professionals, to attract the best people and retain their services. Beyond this we need to do a better job of educating the public about behavioral health services and improve access to housing

and transportation through strengthened infrastructure."

The establishment of Drug Courts was viewed favorably. One of the responses was, "These types of courts primarily steer people away from jail and move them into diversion. This creates a team approach with resources for offenders and patients while also assessing family members and other caregivers. We believe this decreases recidivism and leads to longer term changes for those with behavioral health issues. This improves their lives and the experience of families and has positive impacts for the community."

All units felt that supportive housing was essential for long-term improvement. One group said, "We could support counseling services within CSBs to offer housing options. We could advocate for group homes and nonprofits using the Good Shepherd Housing model, which is currently for low-income individuals. We could advocate for a Medicaid waiver that would support counseling on housing options. We could encourage zoning changes to allow for "tiny house" communities; this approach has been used in other parts of the country. We could change the labels we use for "affordable housing" and refer to "tiny house communities. We could foster a community attitude that ensures everyone has a home."

LWVFA Donors and Supporters

The LWVFA Board extends an overwhelming thank you to the following individuals for their generous support.

Betty Ellerbee
 Judy Helein
 Adarsh Trehan
 Deb Wake
 Estella Worley

We Need New Ideas and Team Members for Voter Outreach in 2019

By Sidney Johnson, Voter Service Coordinator

Next year we hope to have teams of people organizing the voter registration and forums for the candidates. It will be up to us to draw attention to the importance of local elections. There won't be the fervid advertisements and breathless coverage of the media. These are elections for local offices.

But we are not alone. We had 12 co-sponsors for the candidate forums this year, all of whom came to us. Some, like the AAUW, have been co-sponsors for years, but others, such as Virginia Interfaith and two of the Chambers of Commerce, joined us this year. New groups, such as Links and Spread the Vote, are working with us in voter registration, too. We are looking for a Spanish-speaking group.

We can manage the candidate forums by dividing the county in different ways than we did last time. For example, we could have one person in charge of three supervisory districts, another person for the second three, and another for the third three, instead of one or two persons over all the forums. Here again, new ideas and reliance on Internet methods, such as Dropbox and Google Groups, will make the setting up more efficient.

We were invited for the first time to the Church of the Transfiguration Middle Eastern Food Festival and to provide voter registration at several churches in the Gum Springs community and the Rising Hope United Methodist Church. Next year we want to follow up with other festivals and underserved communities. People who just have a little time to offer can find a place to volunteer by going to [Events](#) on our home page and finding an opportunity using Sign Up Genius.

The voter registration teams going into the high schools are our strongest. We are regularly invited into seven high schools now, either to meet with Government classes or offer voter registration in the cafeterias. Plans for classroom and extra-curricular programs are underway. Two students were co-moderators at the 8th District Candidate Forum. Students eager to fill their community service hours have come to the office on weekends to do clerical work. If working with students interests you, please contact Nancy Roodberg, dn4roodberg@cox.net.

Barbara Boardman and Janice Yohai started a new program to inform hospital staff that they were probably

eligible for in-person absentee voting because of their extended workdays. They had learned through conversations with the workers that many of them just took it for granted that they couldn't vote. Barbara and Janice designed a flyer and sent it to hospital administrators for including in their newsletters to the personnel.

Our outreach program to senior citizen residences continues, thanks to Donna Blake. She sends letters once a year recommending that they make contact with the Fairfax County Office of Elections to arrange for a visit to the facility.

In January we will hold two weekend meetings, one for voter registration and one for candidate forums. We'll announce the dates in the January Unit Chair Letters. If you can share your ideas, even if you can't join a team, please contact Bob Meredith rdmathiker@yahoo.com or Sidney Johnson sidneyjohnson3@verizon.net

Another way to let us know what you are thinking is to send a short New Idea Form to Beth Tudan, director@lwv-fairfax.org. She will forward it to the right person to follow up with you.

New Idea Form

Name:

Contact information (address, phone, e-mail):

Will you be willing to take the lead?

Date:

Describe Idea:

Food for Thought . . .

“Real listening is a willingness to let the other person change you.”

- Alan Alda

Discussion Topic #1

LWV-VA Study on Sexual Harassment 2018

Sexual harassment is behavior where the recipient is the subject of verbal and/or physical actions of a sexual nature. Those actions do not necessarily need to be overt to cause discomfort to the recipient. The range of behavior can be direct physical harassment, through threats, i.e., retribution for reporting, for lack of acceptance of said behavior, with loss of pay and status in the workplace or community. Other examples are derogatory comments targeting a specific recipient to comments that cause general discomfort to others.

Sexual harassment is a very real phenomenon. There are several polls and studies citing the incidence of sexual harassment.

The U.S. Government data is collected by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Their website states that “anywhere from 25% to 85% of women report having experienced sexual harassment in the workplace.” There are no documented numbers for incidences outside of the workplace since there are no recording government agencies.

Non-government polls and studies cover a broader range of occurrences, collecting data among college-age students, within the workplace, and in general behavior in our society.

A 2018 study by National Public Radio found that 81% of participants were the victim of sexual harassment during their lifetimes. Reporting was for work places, homes, schools, and the public.

An October 2017 poll conducted by the Langer Research Associates on behalf of ABC-*Washington Post*, “54% of women, or more than half of all women, have been the victim of sexual harassment.” These numbers are general.

Fortune magazine collected data from the MeToo movement. Thirty-three million women reported having been the victim of sexual harassment. They reported, as well, that 95% of the perpetrators, all male, did not experience any punishment when reported by the victim.

Stop Street Harassment (SSH) reports that “in 2014, SSH commissioned a 2,000-person national survey in the USA with surveying firm GfK. The survey found that 65% of all women had experienced street harassment. Among all women, 23% had been sexually touched, 20% had been followed, and 9% had been forced to do something sexual. Among men, 25% had been street harassed (a higher percentage of LGBT-identified men than heterosexual men reported this) and their most common form of harassment was homophobic or transphobic slurs (9%).”

The Pew Research Center reports that in male-dominated

workplaces women suffer sexual harassment at a higher rate than in workplaces with more equitable numbers of female and male employees.

Academic studies support the findings on harassment by periodicals.

The American Psychological Association reports that (SSH) “Sexual harassment in the workplace is a significant occupational health psychology problem”.

Science Direct has consolidated the findings from several academic studies which support the perception that sexual harassment is an ongoing phenomenon, in the workplace and without, with women being the primary subject of this behavior.

Sexual Harassment reporting continues to climb but there appears to be no one remedy that proportionally has an impact on that conduct.

The EEOC’s recommendation to combat this behavior is to provide sexual harassment education in the workplace. A 2016 study by that same agency concluded “that trainings have failed as a prevention tool because they are too focused on simply avoiding legal liability.”

A report by *Psychology Today* “found that most sexual



harassment training is effective at increasing employees' knowledge about sexual harassment, but not necessarily changing their behaviors"

In conclusion, there is overwhelming data showing that the numbers are high in respect to sexual harassment of women. It is this Committee's recommendation to have a position that denounces/discourages sexual harassment in any form. We would ask, as well, that government agencies as well as the academia continue to work towards finding a solution to this pervasive, yet poorly addressed behavior.

The League of Women Voters for the State of Virginia would like to make the following recommendations:

1. That the Legislature define and codify sexual harassment.
2. That State/County/City jurisdictions appoint Women's Commissions in order to serve as a recording agency for sexual harassment and to report all findings in order to adequately address those incidences.

Sources

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- ² https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/02/21/587671849/a-new-survey-finds-eighty-percent-of-women-have-experienced-sexual-harassment?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20180908&utm_campaign=npr_email_a_friend&utm_term=storyshare
- ³ <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/unwanted-sexual-advances-hollywood-weinstein-story-poll/story?id=50521721>
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gender-discrimination/

⁷ <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2017/11/workplace-sexual-harassment.aspx>

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¹⁰ <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/>

Questions for Study of Sexual Harassment

- 1) What is the definition of sexual harassment?
- 2) How would you define it?
- 3) How likely is it that a woman will be sexually harassed in her lifetime?
 - a) Why are the numbers so disparate?
- 4) How is the incident of sexual harassment addressed?
 - a) In the workplace?
 - b) In our society?
 - c) Have these solutions been effective in protecting women from further harassment?
- 5) How is sexual harassment proven?
- 6) Are there legal consequences for the perpetrators of sexual harassment and recourse for the victims?
- 7) Would you agree that the State Legislature of Virginia should define and codify sexual harassment?
- 8) Would you agree that Women's Commissions should be established within the State of Virginia as well as specific jurisdictions to study the impact of Sexual Harassment?

Program Planning for LWV-VA and LWNCA for 2019-2021

By Julia Jones, Program Director, with assistance from Sherry Zachry

Program planning is the time to express your opinions on what the focus should be for the next two years of League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) and of the National Capital Area (LWNCA).

League Program includes the process by which positions

are adopted (selecting an issue, studying the issue, consensus / formulating a position, and using the position to influence public policy) and the existing positions of that respective League. The "program planning" stage is selecting an issue or position(s) for study, restudy and/or advocacy in the respective League's next biennium. The process culminates in delegates adopting a program for the next biennium at a Convention or Annual Meeting. The LWV-VA

Convention will be May 18-19, 2019; LWNCA's Annual Convention will be May 4, 2019.

Remember that "League Program" includes **both study and action** and sometimes can be composed entirely of advocacy (action) on the League's positions. Advocacy can be holding a forum or seminar on a "hot-button" issue in the community (**on which the League has a position**) and/or organizing a lobbying effort composed of letters to the editor, lobbying elected officials on legislation and other efforts.

When considering items to propose, be guided by the following: Is there widespread member interest? Is this a timely issue? Are there already League positions (at the LWVUS level) on the issue? Is government action the most effective way to address the problem? Are there members willing to work on the issue?

These are the five questions you will be asked. For both LWNCA and LWV-VA program planning, members are asked to review the positions of each League and decide: 1) are there any **new issues** that should be studied; 2) do any of the current positions need **updating** (restudy); 3) are there any positions/issues that should have **priority for action**; 4) are there positions that **should be abandoned** (deleted) because they no longer apply or have been accomplished; and 5) **who is willing to work** on the issue?



LWV-VA PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2017-19

When thinking about items to suggest for LWV of Virginia, we must also apply this test: "Is this a statewide issue for the League?" In other words, LWV-VA interacts with officials serving in State government (Governor's Office,

Cabinet and associated agencies, the members of the General Assembly, etc.) as well as with the U.S. Senators and Representatives from Virginia. So issues that affect **all** of the Commonwealth of Virginia are appropriate as topics for the state League.

Below are the *LWV-VA Positions-in-Brief*, as of spring 2018, with dates the position was adopted or amended. The full wording of the positions, with historical background, is in *Positioned for Action* (LWV-VA's booklet of positions) and is available on both LWVFA and LWV-VA websites (www.lwv-va.org). To review these positions on our website, go to: www.lwv-fairfax.org; under the *For LWVFA Members* heading, select *Our Positions* and scroll to LWV-VA.

LWV-VA Positions-In-Brief, Updated Spring 2018

GOVERNMENT

Delegation of Power (aka Dillon Rule)

Support for a balanced partnership between state and local government, including:

- Policies and incentives that promote regional coordination and local action.
- Establishment of uniform powers and responsibilities of local governments by changing the distinctions between cities, counties, and towns.
- Coordination of activities and programs of local jurisdictions. (1972 & 1991)

Election Laws

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations and administrative procedures should be uniformly designed and applied, and adequately funded to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia.

Specifically, the League supports measures to ensure the availability of voter registration and to encourage and facilitate increased voter participation in elections, including: absentee voting by mail and in-person without a reason; an adequate number of voting machines and trained election officers; the use of satellite voting; split shifts for election officers when needed; and measures that take advantage of technological advances such as online voter registration and the use of electronic poll books. The League also supports the shared funding of statewide registration and voting systems by the localities and the Commonwealth; providing adequate authority and resources to the Department of

Elections (ELECT) and the State Board of Elections (SBE) for oversight and enforcement of laws and standards for registration and elections uniformly throughout the Commonwealth; and the use of secure electronic means to facilitate voter registration and absentee voting for Virginia's military and overseas voters. (2011, 2015)

Fiscal Policy

Support for a responsible state fiscal policy that includes:

- A flexible and diverse tax structure that is based on a progressive income tax.
- Continuous evaluation of all programs for need, effectiveness, efficiency, and economy.
- Flexibility in developing local sources of revenue.
- Increased state commitment to funding of state-mandated programs.
- Opposition to constitutional or statutory limits on state/local government spending or revenue sources. (1964, 1977 & 1979)

Reapportionment & Redistricting

Support for the establishment, in law, of a politically balanced and independent Reapportionment Commission for each decennial redistricting to prepare, with the Virginia Department of Legislative Services, a plan for submission to the legislature as specified by the Virginia Constitution. The Commission should be bi-partisan and be composed of individuals who are not elected officials; they should represent the geographical distribution and demographic diversity of the state, and consist of an uneven number of members.

In addition to the Virginia constitutional requirement of equal population, contiguous and compact districts and the need for protecting the voting strength of minority groups, the League supports the following considerations in redistricting:

- Natural geographic boundaries;
- Jurisdictional boundaries;
- Communities of interest; and
- Competitiveness

The Virginia constitution should be amended to provide that redistricting will occur on a decennial basis only. (1985, 2007)

Transportation

Support for regionally balanced transportation systems which efficiently and economically meet regional needs without adversely affecting planned growth or the environment.

- Regional organizations that set policy for a multi-modal public transportation program, that plan, co-ordinate, and are the designated recipients of

federal and state funds, that operate or contract for services, and that could have taxing power.

- A mixture of public (federal, state, and local) and private funding for public transportation.
- Increased local participation with some public funds utilized to encourage private support and the use of innovative financing methods, such as tax incentives to encourage private sector participation.
- Provide a variety of incentives to increase the use of public transportation. (1996)

Women's Rights And Virginia Law

Support for the legal recognition of marriage as an equal partnership, including:

- Policies that recognize non-monetary as well as monetary contributions to a marriage by each partner.
- Surviving spouse policies that specify that if one spouse dies without a will, the surviving spouse should inherit all property.
- Divorce policies that recognize separately acquired property before marriage and during marriage through gifts or inheritance.
- Elimination of the concept of "fault" in the court's division of marital property.
- Legal recognition of valid pre-nuptial contracts. (1980 & 1983)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Air Quality

Support for achieving and maintaining acceptable air quality through:

- Adoption of strict vehicle emission standards.
- Development of less polluting alternative fuels.
- Programs and regulations that foster efficient transportation modes. (1993)

Land Use

Support for state policies that include:

- Creation of a state long-range comprehensive land use plan coordinated with local and regional plans.
- State protection of critical environmental areas (i.e. wetlands, agricultural lands, unique wildlife habitats) through some land use controls.
- Assistance to and increased flexibility for localities in land use planning and control. (1975)

Water Supply and Distribution

Support for a comprehensive state effort to protect the water supplies, including:

- Recognition of the connection between ground and surface water.

- Decision-making based on the concept of sharing in the use of ground water.
- State responsibility for the collection of information on water resources and planning for future use.
- Land use policies that guarantee protection of water resources.
- Moratorium on uranium mining until modern, enforceable and effective best practices are approved by an independent assessment team. (1983, 2014)

SOCIAL POLICY

Adult Domestic Violence

Support for addressing the crime of adult domestic violence through:

- Uniform law enforcement including mandatory arrest, reporting.
- Educational and training programs for medical, clerical, law enforcement personnel, and the public on the problem of adult domestic violence as well as conflict resolution.
- Assistance and job training programs for victims. (1992)

Child Care

Support for state policies that promote quality childcare that is affordable, accessible, and available, including:

- Minimum comprehensive state license standards for child care facilities.
- Incentives for development of child care programs.
- Financial assistance for low-income families.
- Coordinated resource and referral systems.
- Training for caregivers and parents.

Also, support a requirement that professional childcare givers report child abuse /neglect. (1988, 2013)

Children At Risk

Support for state and local policies that recognize the basic needs of all children including shelter, family, and community support, health care, food, education, and personal safety, including:

- Fund preventive services, rehabilitative programs, family support programs, crises services, court costs, and detention.
- Evaluations of programs and services.
- State mandated case planning and case management systems to assure timely access to services.
- Internal and judicial grievance procedures. (1989, 2013)

Education

Support for state funding for public schools that insures a high quality education with equal educational opportunities

for all children, including:

- Full funding for the Standards of Quality and state mandates
- increasing the state's share of education costs;
- funding for half-day pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk children, and full-day kindergarten programs;
 - funding some portion of capital costs; and
 - improving the funding formula for determining local ability to pay, using it as a basis for distribution of state education funds. (1993)

Support a challenging curriculum, high expectations of students and teachers in mastering that curriculum, and appropriate assessments of student achievement for a quality education in the public school system K-12.

Essential curriculum elements include:

- core disciplines (English, Math, Science, History and Social Studies);
- Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, and Foreign Languages;
- analytical skills;
- integrated technology; strong remedial programs;
- programs for at-risk, gifted and special needs students;
- education for students with limited English proficiency, in which emphasis is placed on teaching English; and
- career and technical education.

Support professional education for principals and teachers and on-going staff development; class size appropriate to instructional goals; a safe environment for students and staff; and discipline, preventative programs and a consistently enforced, well-defined system of rules; guidance counseling for academics and support services; and parental and community support and involvement. Support opportunities to select a specific program or school. These opportunities should be based on a system of equity so that all qualified students have equal access. (2003)

Elements of a quality education also include: school-based teamwork, goal setting and decision-making, application of learning to life experiences, and incentives, recognition, and awards for both students and teachers (1999)

Justice - Adult Justice

Support for an adequately funded judicial and corrections system that serves all people without discrimination, and incorporates restorative justice practices. Such a system includes:

- Judicial selection by the General Assembly with use of a nominating commission of lay-persons and lawyers.
- Sentencing by judges, not juries, with the availability of a pre-sentencing report.
- Corrections system that is adequately funded, efficiently administered, and humane.
- Corrections system that protects society and rehabilitates offenders, while offering deterrence, diversion, protection, and restitution programs.
- Local jails and community-based corrections facilities that are professionally administered and use of alternatives to incarceration and community resources in the rehabilitation and treatment of prisoners. (2013)

Juvenile Justice

Support for an adequately funded and separate Department of Juvenile Justice that emphasizes prevention and rehabilitation, to include:

- Prevention programs should be provided for children identified with certain risk factors (i.e. parental incarceration, household history of drug/sexual abuse)
- Rehabilitation programs that provide treatment and training to meet the needs of each child and include counseling, vocational training and accredited academic programs.
- Alternative education programs or community service for juveniles who have been expelled or suspended from school or paroled from correctional facilities.
- In- and out- patient mental health and substance abuse programs oriented to the needs of juveniles.
- Pre- and post-dispositional community-based services.
- Establishment of small therapeutic group or foster homes.
- Removal of juveniles from adult jails.
- Development of activities/programs/training consistent with the principles of restorative justice. (2013)

Behavioral Health

Support for comprehensive behavioral healthcare that includes both mental illness and substance use disorder.

- Access for all people to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services.
- Coordination of comprehensive and integrated care among Health and Human Services (specifically Behavioral Health) and other state departments such as Medical Assistance Services (Medicaid), Public Safety (re-entry planning, identification of behavioral health needs in jails/prisons, patient's rights,

substance abuse, and drug/mental health courts), Housing (Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing), and Education (health education from early childhood through adult). These agencies must provide this care along with a focus on community-based services such as Community Service Boards (CSBs).

- Realignment of the funding equation so that a higher proportion of funds go to CSBs rather than state institutions. This will result in more cost-effective care that is more responsive to client's needs.
- Adequate funds and other incentives to ensure sufficient trained staff at all levels of service.
- Continued efforts to decrease the stigmatization of behavioral health problems and care. (2018)

Offender Re-Entry - Removing Barriers to Employment

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports the removal of barriers to employment for persons with criminal records. This includes support of what are known colloquially as "Ban the Box" efforts. (2015)

Restoration Of Civil Rights For Virginia Felons

Support for the automatic restoration of the civil rights of felons, regardless of the nature of their crime, upon their release from incarceration or upon completion of probation or parole. The process should be easy to understand, accessible, transparent and fair with information about the process made available to all. (2009)

LWVNCA PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2019-21

Turning to the LWV of the National Capital Area's (LWVNCA) positions, we will consider suggestions for topics that affect **the entire region** of the District of Columbia and its surrounding jurisdictions (and Leagues) in Maryland and Virginia. As members of the LWVNCA ILO, we have the opportunity to give input to LWVNCA's Program Planning for 2019-21. We need to apply the same test of appropriateness.

LWVNCA Full Positions, Readopted May 7, 2016

AIRPORTS

1. Use of the three major metropolitan Washington airports [Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI), Washington Dulles International (IAD), and Ronald Reagan Washington National (DCA)] should be balanced based on overall airport infrastructure and capacity. Good ground transportation is necessary to all airports.

2. It is necessary to place limitations on the use of DCA. We support the enforcement of:
 - a. The current High Density and Perimeter Rules, and noise abatement procedures.
 - b. Other methods to limit aircraft types.
3. With regard to all three airports, jurisdictions should:
 - a. Enact responsible, comprehensive planning and zoning policies that limit development to industrial and/or commercial uses in the immediate vicinity of the airports.
 - b. Restrict residential development within the area directly affected by the presence and operations of the airports.
 - c. Consider potential development height when evaluating land use changes. (1985, 2007)

BELTWAY SAFETY

1. In order to control speeding and unsafe driving on the Capital Beltway and its feeder roads, we support:
 - a. the use of additional patrol officers for visibility and enforcement
 - b. the use of automated photographic speed enforcement devices as an additional system of speed enforcement.
2. We support measures to increase truck safety on the Capital Beltway and its connector roads that include:
 - a. mandatory commercial vehicle safety inspections in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia,
 - b. increased fines for truck safety violations
 - c. limiting hazardous material carriers to certain hours.
3. Weight and length limitations for commercial vehicles using the Capital Beltway and its feeder roads should not be increased.
4. Efforts among federal, state and local governments to improve coordination of inspection and enforcement activities on the Beltway should be an ongoing process (1991, 2016).

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING

1. LWNCA supports:
 - a. governmental regulations of health planning (1976, 89),
 - b. regional coordination among healthcare systems and agencies in the Washington Metropolitan Area to include gathering data, sharing information, avoiding duplication of facilities and services, and controlling costs (1976, 89),
 - c. regional health education and information services to the public (1977, 89, 2016).
2. In order to increase the availability of medical services, LWV supports the concept of 24-hour clinics & the use of para-professionals (1977, 89).
3. There should be improved care for the elderly and an emphasis on community support as an alternative to long-term institutional nursing care (1977, 89).

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

1. We support legislation to permit the use of marijuana and heroin for medicinal purposes (1989).
2. We believe that testing for illegal drug use is a justifiable invasion of privacy when required as part of the hiring process for jobs affecting public safety and national security (1989).
3. Employees who test positive should be:
 - a. retested prior to any disciplinary action (1976, 89),
 - b. allowed to continue working or put on administrative leave,
 - c. required in each case to participate in an employee assistance program,
 - d. subjected to random drug tests for a one-year period following a positive test (1989).
4. Measures for solving the drug problem should include interdiction, enforcement, education/prevention, and treatment. Education and treatment should receive special emphasis and should be stressed over criminal justice sanctions (1989, 91).
5. Drug treatment programs that should be given public funding priority include detoxification and self-help programs, outpatient care, and the use of therapeutic communities, with aftercare as part of all programs (1991).
6. Treatment programs for drug users under 18 and for pregnant women should receive priority for public funding (1991).
7. Drug treatment should be incorporated into the sentence for any juvenile or adult convicted of a crime who tested positive at the time of arrest (1989).
8. Pregnant drug users should not be subjected to criminal prosecution just because they are pregnant. Pregnant drug users who are before the court for crimes other than the use of drugs should be placed in mandatory treatment through a justice system diversion program. We support the use of outreach nurses and counselors for pregnant drug users without the threat of legal penalties (1991).
9. Financial responsibility for drug treatment should fall, to some extent, on all of the following: insurers, patients, patients' families, governments (federal, state, and local), employers, and labor unions (1989).
10. Each jurisdiction in the metropolitan Washington area should set up its own treatment programs for drug users (1989).
11. The area jurisdictions should establish a public/private partnership through the Council of Governments (COG) to develop a long-range plan to meet treatment needs and to identify financial and in-kind resources. This partnership should include the private sector and citizen groups (1989).

DC FINANCING

1. Budget Autonomy. The District of Columbia should have autonomy in budgeting locally raised revenue. The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) supports legislation eliminating the annual Congressional D.C. appropriations budget-approval process.
2. Federal Payment. To address the District of Columbia's need for a stronger revenue base, the LWVNCA supports Congressional legislation setting forth the factors for determining an annual, predictable federal payment. The most important factors to be considered are:
 - a. taxes that the District of Columbia cannot levy because of Congressional prohibitions on the District's ability to tax; and
 - b. the cost of services provided by the District to the federal government

Other factors might include the cost of state services provided by the District and the percentages of revenue that other U.S. cities receive from external sources. (2003)

LAND USE/HOUSING

1. Regional land use planning for the Washington Metropolitan area should include a coordinated and comprehensive approach to meet housing needs. The goal of the housing component of a regional land use plan should be to:
 - a. provide adequate housing for all income levels,
 - b. promote a balanced distribution of housing and employment for all income levels,
 - c. improve the quality of housing and neighborhood environments (1975, reaffirmed 1989).

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

1. We accept the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) as the basic instrument for cooperative regional planning. (1966, 82, 2016).
2. We support granting COG sufficient authority so that it can resolve governmental problems that cannot be solved by local governments, planning boards and agencies (1973, 82, 87, 89, 2016).
3. Because COG should have some funding powers, we support assessments of member jurisdictions, user fees, and state and federal grants.
4. We support citizen participation at the regional level for COG and other inter-jurisdictional agencies (1973, 83, 2016).

TRANSPORTATION

1. In support of the concept that there be some form of public transportation available for all, we endorse public policy in services and planning that:
 - a. supports a coordinated public transportation system

- which includes bus and rapid rail transit (1964, 70, 83, 89),
 - b. promotes and improves the present and proposed public transportation systems to encourage the use of mass transit (1963, 70, 89).
 2. Priorities in transportation services and planning should include:
 - a. transportation systems services that are convenient, frequent, regular, speedy, and economical to the user and for the benefit of the larger community (1963, 64, 70, 83, 89),
 - b. reduced air pollution through the promotion of mass transportation systems (1970, 89),
 - c. allocation of road space for use of high-occupancy vehicles (buses, carpools, vanpools) to speed services, including traffic control measures.
 3. We support public participation and supervision in determining information needed and in evaluating transportation proposals, transportation planning, and operations. Public involvement and decision-making should include
 - a. appointment of citizen members to decision-making boards with full authority to participate in their functions, and enough tenure to master the subject. (These members should be residents of the jurisdictions involved and include consumer advocates who do not have business connections or official roles in the transportation and appropriations process) (1971, 89),
 - b. every effort by local governments to include minorities, senior citizens, economically and/or physically challenged persons and other traditionally under-represented citizens on transportation and land use advisory committees and to facilitate this participation (1997),
 - c. open public meetings of all regulatory and public management boards (1971, 89),
 - d. compulsory paid publications in general circulation newspapers or proposals on which public review is to be held (1971, 89),
 - e. decision-making on the level of services for the regional mass transit system by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) with local input, including citizen input early in the decision-making process (1981, 89).
 4. We support financial measures that include:
 - a. informing the public of the total costs of auto use and full public disclosure of the costs of transportation service, of who pays for service and who receives it, and of full cost/benefit information,
 - b. public investment to finance public transportation systems, to encourage substantially greater use of mass transportation, to increase resources for bus and rail transit, to achieve a realistic alternative to private auto use, to provide funds for bus shelters and information services (1971, 83, 89),
 - c. reduction of subsidies to auto use, such as tax

favors which support parking and free parking for employees paid out of public funds (1971, 89).
 d. the use of a dedicated tax to help fund public transportation. The objective of such a tax should be to spread the costs of mass transit among the total population and to encourage the use of mass transit instead of the automobile. A sales tax which excludes such necessities as food and medicines would be the best means of financing mass transportation in the metropolitan area. The most important criteria to be used in evaluating particular taxes dedicated to transportation should be revenue potential, timeliness, and reliability (1980).

Note: the above position applies only to the Washington metropolitan area, and may be acted upon within the context of interstate regional cooperation, despite its partial conflict with the LWVMD, LWV-VA and LWVDC positions.

5. We support the integration of transportation and land use planning on local and regional levels (1997).

6. We support an interstate compact authority for regional transportation.

- a. Members representing corporate, environmental, social, and political jurisdictions would best promote a regional approach to transportation planning.
- b. Members representing political jurisdictions would best produce cooperation among/between local jurisdictions and would best promote efficiency and flexibility in meeting transportation needs.
- c. The following areas of transportation planning should come within the jurisdiction of a regional transportation authority: Roads and highways; urban and suburban transit, including bus and rail; interstate rail, including connections among systems, i.e., Amtrak, MARC, etc.; pedestrian/bike paths; water, i.e., water taxis, ferries, etc.; bridges and tunnels.
- d. Approved projects should be funded through: Federal funds appropriated through transportation authorization act; state and local contributions; user fees, including tolls, fares, and other fees; private funding; bonds; gasoline tax (2004).

WATER RESOURCES

1. In order to ensure a safe and adequate water supply for metropolitan Washington and to restore the quality of our streams and rivers, we support:

- a. conservation and protection of drinking water and supply sources. Sources of drinking water serving the metropolitan area, such as the Potomac River and Occoquan and Patuxent Reservoirs, must be maintained and protected against pollution from both

- point and non-point sources,
- b. regional demand reduction and water conservation measures to reduce annual per capita use --
 - i) Contingency plans should be developed on a regional basis to provide for mandatory restrictions on water use in time of emergency.
 - ii) Measures to recycle treated waste water in industrial, agricultural, and other non-potable systems and measures to reduce the use of water of drinking water quality as a conveyer of wastes should be encouraged to the extent consistent with public health and hydrological requirements
- c. water-sharing measures to meet emergencies and to protect the physical and biological integrity of the sources,
- d. protection of ground water,
 - e. official consideration of new drinking water sources --
 - i) Sources within the metropolitan region should be investigated as possible adjuncts to existing water sources
 - ii) Construction of major upstream dams on the Potomac or its tributaries for the purpose of providing additional water supplies for the metropolitan region should not be undertaken unless other options have been found insufficient to meet the essential needs of the region.

2. We support regional planning to improve wastewater treatment management. Final selection for new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities should be based on meeting national clean water objectives, protecting public health, and minimizing environmental, energy, and cost impacts

LWVFA Membership Continues to Grow

On October 31, 2018, LWVFA membership totaled 486 members. We want to acknowledge and welcome the following people who joined between September 25 and October 31.

Lois Bingham, Mary Ellen Bragaw, Linda (LZ), Braverman, Patricia Kaiser, Daniel and Jill Altman Meyer, Kathryn Plimpton, Lisa Sales, Ibraheem Samirah, Marge Shapira, Kathryn Squires Ellice Stern (reinstated), Cathleen and Tom Wasilewski, Steve Watkins (reinstated) and Estella Worley

We recently learned that Selma Thackeray, who transferred to LWVFA from a New York League, is a Life member. This brings our total Life members to 24!

Technofixers' Climate Research Holiday Wish List

By Elizabeth Lonoff

UN Secretary-General António Guterres warns that the world is approaching a dangerous tipping point (2020) beyond which runaway climate change - and damage to all the natural systems sustaining us - could be inevitable. In a September 10 speech he said, "Climate change is the defining issue of our time - and we are at a defining moment." (See video on webtv.un.org.) Guterres reported that climate action and socio-economic progress are mutually supportive, with potential gains of \$26 trillion by 2030 compared with business as usual. He said we have the tools to make our actions effective yet still lack leadership, even after the Paris Agreement.

India is the only sizable nation making significant progress. C40 Cities, a global climate leadership group, reports that greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions fell over the last five years and are now at least 10 percent below their peak in 27 big cities globally, including San Francisco and Los Angeles. The Climate Leadership Council launched in 2017 with the release of The Conservative Case for Carbon Dividends (also called the Baker-Shultz Carbon Dividends Plan), outdoing the U.S.'s 2025 Paris commitment. The plan would put a refinery, mine, well, and port tax on carbon, gradually rising from \$43/ton in 2021 until achieving an allowable level of carbon emissions. The tax would be returned to the public through monthly dividend checks.

As reported by Mother Jones, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration forecasts a 6.3°F global temperatures rise by 2100. Since this scenario was prepared to justify the administration's recent decision to roll back fuel efficiency standards, the analysis assumes the tipping point already has been reached. Thus, there is no point to regulating.

A White House road map for federally funded climate research now recommends research into geoengineering to slow or reverse global warming. GlobalChange.gov's update of a plan for climate-related research at 13 federal agencies until 2021 calls for studies related to the two most-discussed approaches to geoengineering: distributing chemicals in the atmosphere to reflect more heat-producing sunlight away from the earth, and removing carbon dioxide from the air so the atmosphere traps less heat. Meanwhile, NASA's Carbon Monitoring System, a program using aircraft and satellites to track GHG pollution, is being demobilized.

As explained by local geologist Barry Centini, Ph.D.,

geoengineering could be used to cool the planet:

Capturing and storing CO₂ from ambient air such as with synthetic trees - minimal side effects; virtually unlimited potential; very expensive; very slow to work; still needs substantial research and development;

Ocean fertilization with iron to feed algae as a carbon sink - a carbon removal technique that would address the cause of climate change; uncertain consequences on sea life; very slow; likely to be quite expensive;

Enhanced weathering, which involves pulverizing rocks to increase their surface area and spreading this powder over forests and croplands in warm and humid regions to wash CO₂ toward oceans - very large potential for carbon storage in oceans and soils; few side-effects on the atmosphere; very expensive; requiring substantial further R&D; slow to have impact; could have serious effects on local soil quality;

Marine cloud brightening by wind-powered ships spraying a fine mist of seawater into clouds - relatively quick to work; could be switched off again quickly; potential adverse effects on weather patterns and ocean currents; does nothing to counter other effects of increased GHG emissions such as ocean acidification; likely to be quite expensive;

Stratospheric aerosol injection to reflect solar rays - likely to be very effective, quick acting, and affordable; effects would be unevenly spread; might affect stratospheric ozone and biological productivity as well as modifying weather patterns and reducing sunshine;

Orbital mirrors to diffuse sun's rays - could be very effective; would take decades to be fully operational although the effects would start working within a few years; extremely expensive, with impacts unevenly spread.

Also proposals to **cover glacial ice with highly reflective materials** (Ice911.org) and **genetically engineering highly reflective crops**.

Centini adds that *Scientific American* and the Environmental Defense Fund agree that tinkering with global climate systems isn't a sustainable way to address climate change. Instead, research should focus on techniques to reduce GHG emissions and their impacts as rapidly as possible. Research in 2017 led by University of Exeter climate experts suggests that targeted geoengineering like injecting aerosols in the Northern Hemisphere to reduce tropical cyclone activity that created Hurricane Katrina could increase the likelihood for drought in sub-Saharan Africa. The research team called on policymakers worldwide to strictly regulate any future large-scale geoengineering programs to avoid inducing natural disasters in other parts of the world.

Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: Sexual Harassment and Program Planning

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At Large Meeting” and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of November 1, 2018, the locations were correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations.

Saturday, December 1

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

League Conference Room
Packard Center
(Inside Annandale Community Park)
4026 Hummer Road
Annandale, 22003
Contact: Julie, 703-476-8347

Monday, December 10

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive
Springfield, 22150
Contact: Edith, 703-644-3970 or
Gloria, 703-852-5113

Wednesday, December 12

9:30 a.m. McLean Day (McL)

StarNut Café
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean, 22101
Contact: Anjali, 703-509-5518 or
Sheena, 703-481-0933

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

8739 Cuttermill Place
Springfield, 22153
Contact: Kathleen, 703-644-1555 or
Sherry, 703-730-8118

10 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon District Government
Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, 22306
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561 or
Diana, 703-704-5325

7:15 p.m. Fairfax City Evening (FCE)

The Green Acres Center
4401 Sideburn Road
Fairfax, 22030
Contact: Elizabeth and Amy,
Fairfaxcityunit@lwv-fairfax.org

7:30 p.m. Reston Evening (RE)

Hunter Mill District Community
Room
North County Government Center
1801 Cameron Glen Drive
Reston, 20190
Contact: rachel.roberts.rmr@gmail.com

Thursday, December 13

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

11624 Sourwood Lane
Reston 20191
Contact: Barbara (703) 437-0795
or bseandlte@earthlink.net

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

4468 Edan Mae Court
Annandale, 22003
Contact: Marge, 703-451-0589

10:00 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Sully Government Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly, 20151
Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666

1:00 p.m. Oakton/Vienna (OV), formerly Fairfax/Vienna (FX-V)

Oakton Regional Library, Room 1
10304 Lynnhaven Pl.
Oakton, 22124
Contact: Bob, 563-299-5316 or
VoterRegistration@lwv-fairfax.org
or Liz, 703-927-7140

7:45 p.m. Mount Vernon Evening (MVE)

Paul Spring Retirement Community
Mt. Vernon Room
7116 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, 22307
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820

January Meetings: Zoning - How It Affects Your Life



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403
 703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

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**Anu Sahai, Co-President
 Judy Helein, Co-President
 Ron Page, Editor
 Liz Brooke, Content Editor**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person at least 16 years old, male or female, may become a member.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL FORM

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Membership Dues: Individual \$65 _____ **Household \$90** (2 persons, 1 *Voter*) _____ **Student** _____ **Free** _____
 (A subsidy fund is available; check here _____ and include whatever amount you can afford.)

Membership Status: New _____ **Renewal** _____ **Reinstatement** _____ **Donation** _____

(Dues are not tax deductible.)

Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check or PayPal to “LWVFA Ed Fund.”
 (Please print clearly)

Name _____ **Unit (if renewing)** _____
Address _____
City _____ **State** _____ **Zip + 4** _____
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**Please make checks payable to “LWVFA” mail to:
 LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road Annandale VA 22003-2403**

OR

Join Online at: [www. LWV-Fairfax.org/join.ht](http://www.LWV-Fairfax.org/join.ht)

I am interested in becoming involved in (please indicate by circling the appropriate bullet(s)):

- **Providing organizational support** (graphic design, website development/maintenance, fundraising/grant writing)
- **Voter Service** (e.g., voter registration drives, candidate forums, developing Voters’ Guides)
- **Researching/writing about issues in which LWVFA has an interest** (e.g., environment, firearms safety, mental health, schools, domestic violence, criminal justice; or, chairing an LWVFA study committee on voter turnout or human trafficking).
- **Representing the League in governmental fora** (e.g., serving as LWVFA representative on Fairfax County citizens’ committees and agencies, such as affordable housing, Fairfax County Public Schools).
- **Other** _____