



Fairfax VOTER

Educate. Advocate. IMPACT!

Advocacy is part of the League of Women Voters' DNA. Although we never endorse a candidate or political party, we do take a stand on issues. Read the article on this year's action and advocacy priorities as well as our game plan with policymakers and elected officials at the state and local levels. Then attend a unit discussion meeting to share ideas. It's time to get ready, set, and make an impact!

Calendar

September 2018

- 1-30 Virginia Voter Registration Month**
- 3 *Fairfax VOTER* deadline
- 7 LWVNCA Board meeting
- 7 LWV-VA Board meeting
- 8 LWV-VA fall workshops
- 10-13 LWVFA unit meetings**
- 11 LWVFA Board meeting**
- 11 Patriots' Day
- 15 LWVFA new member orientation
- 16 Eleventh District candidate forum, 2 p.m.
Sherwood Community Center, Fairfax
- 21 In-person absentee voting begins at
Fairfax County Government Center
- 22 Reston Multicultural Festival voter
registration
- 23 Fairfax Cable Access Corp. community
election
- 23-29 Northern Virginia Voter Registration Week
- 24 Candidates for House of Representative
roundtable, Fairfax Public Access
TV 8 p.m.
- 25 National Voter Registration Day
- 28 Reston Community Center election

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Presidents' Message



We are excited to begin a new year with our Fairfax Area league. There is so much to share with you. Board members attended the annual retreat at Anu's home on July 18 where we enjoyed good company, good food and did a lot of good work, too! We reviewed the current work plan and determined that we should continue to focus on the same four goals for the next two years. Strategies to meet our goals involve increasing efforts to attract a more diverse membership and raising funds to finance them.

Our goals are:

Branding and Messaging

Membership

Voter Education and Outreach

Action and Advocacy.

As an organization we need to have our presence felt a lot more than it is right now. We have to be more visible. To that end we have to have a more effective communication strategy. The Board feels we should be more proactive when it comes to issuing press releases and holding press conferences. The League needs to have its voice heard on all the issues that matter the most to us. You will see in this issue of the Voter that we are focusing on Action and Advocacy in a big way. For the first time in a very long time the Fairfax Area League has chosen legislative priorities to advance the League's positions. LWVUS has directed all local leagues to concentrate more on action and less on studying issues. We hope that you will attend the September unit meetings and take part in what promises to be very exciting discussions.

Our League has seen an upsurge in membership, and we are very excited to welcome all new members. It is wonderful to see eager, motivated faces at new-member orientations, and it fills us with renewed vigor and energy too. The common thread that runs through all our new members is that they joined the League because "they felt that they had to do something!" We are constantly asked at these orientations, "What can we do to help?" And boy, do we have things for you to do!!

Come to our candidate forums! The next candidate forum is scheduled for September 16 at the Sherwood Community Center. Bring a friend or a family member. You can see your candidates in person and ask them questions on all the issues that are important to you.

At work, talk to your co-workers. Ask if they are registered to vote and if they are, if their registration is current. Impress upon them the importance of voting and remind them to vote. Encourage them to go to Vote411.org if they have any questions about the elections.

Go door-to-door to get out the vote as we get close to Election Day. See if anyone in your neighborhood or circle of friends needs a ride to get to their voting station. Sign up to be election officers! The County is in desperate need of election officers.

If you have strong opinions, don't be afraid to voice them as an individual, as a constituent to your elected officials and in letters to editors.

The Action and Advocacy group is looking for volunteers and they have a ton of opportunities for you.

The League is partnering with several other organizations like OneVirginia2021, the NAACP, and Mothers Demand Action to name a few, in order to achieve our goals.

There is so much to be done and we realize that we cannot be everywhere and do everything, but we sure can try! We look forward to this new year and hope we continue to make a difference, big or small.

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2017 - 2018

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The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
4026-B Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003-2403
703-658-9150 (Info/fax/answering machine)
www.lwv-fairfax.org league@lwv-fairfax.org

Co-Presidents: Anu Sahai 703-303-8498
President2@lwv-fairfax.org
Judy Helein 703-725-9401
President1@lwv-fairfax.org
Editor: Ron Page 571-284-6148
pagegolfer@comcast.net
Content Editor Liz Brooke 703-281-3380
lizbrooke@cox.net

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Please e-mail address corrections to the office
or call 703-658-9150.

In closing, we share a poem with you that we found to be very inspiring:

“The Empowered Woman” by Sonny Carroll.

The Empowered Woman, she moves through the world with a sense of confidence and grace.
Her once reckless spirit now tempered by wisdom.
Quietly, yet firmly, she speaks her truth without doubt or hesitation and the life she leads is of her own creation.
She now understands what it means to live and let live.
How much to ask for herself and how much to give.
She has a strong, yet generous heart and the inner beauty she emanates truly sets her apart.
Like the mythical Phoenix,
she has risen from the ashes and soared to a new plane of existence,

unfettered by the things that once that posed such resistance.

Her senses now heightened, she sees everything so clearly.

She hears the wind rustling through the trees; beckoning her to live the dreams she holds so dearly.
She feels the softness of her hands and muses at the strength that they possess.

Her needs and desires she has learned to express.
She has tasted bitter and savored the sweet fruits of life, overcome adversity and pushed past heartache and strife.
And the one thing she never understood,
she now knows to be true,
it all begins and ends with you.

Judy & Anu



Tips for Meeting With Elected Officials

Before your visit:

1. Pick up LWV pin to wear for your visit.
2. Get copies of LWV-FA Educate, Advocate, Impact brochure for a leave-behind.
3. See the Educate. Advocate. IMPACT! article in this issue of the *VOTER* for talking points for the issues for which you are advocating.
4. Develop a 30-90-second “elevator speech” to highlight your main points OR even BETTER, a personal story.
5. Research to see if your elected has a stance or voting history on your issue.

Tips for talking with your elected officials:

1. Introduce yourself as a constituent.
2. Start with your “ask.”
3. Support your ask with personal story or 30-90-second elevator speech.

4. Ask for support.
5. Ask for issues important to your elected official.
6. Keep your visit brief and cordial.
7. Thank your elected for his/her time.

After your visit:

1. Thank your elected person for meeting with you.
2. Remind your elected person why you were there; reiterate talking points.
3. Follow up with any information you did not have at the time of your visit.
4. Follow up on how your elected representative voted with regards to your issue; thank for support again or politely and professionally express displeasure.
5. Report details of your meeting to Wendy Fox-Grage action@lwv-fairfax.org and Deb Wake actioncoordinator@lwv-va.org.

It is never too late to contact your legislators. Keep them up to date with your thoughts on issues and pending legislation. That’s what the League is all about. Don’t forget you are speaking for yourself not the League.



League Plans for Voter Registration and Education

All members interested in Voter Registration and Education activities need to:

1. Complete the Third Party Voter Registration and Affidavit <<http://elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/training-video.html>>.
2. Underneath the PowerPoint slide show, on the same webpage, there is an instruction in green italics. Be sure to click on it to go to the Survey Monkey questionnaire, which is the Voter Registration Application Request and Affidavit. Note when submitting on-line click ONCE “submit”, then WAIT TO SEE the “Application Submitted” notice.
3. Give these answers to some questions:
 - Question 1: False
 - Question 3: Zero (0)
 - Question 4: Individual
4. After you have completed the application, you will NOT get a certificate or response, but your name will be entered into the database for this year. Note: You have to renew this training every year –it will expire on June 30, 2019.

Voter Registration Locations:

Fall 2018 voter registration will be carried out at many of the same venues used in the past, while adding locations that serve under-represented communities. Activities will be starting after Labor Day and conclude prior to the October 16 voter registration deadline. The League will continue to partner with service fraternities and sororities, AAUW and other organizations. We now have two iPads to offer online registration at our tables.

We'll give away plenty of this year's edition of “What's On the Ballot” and information about the candidate forums. Many people, especially students, wish to use their smart phones and computers to register or update their information so we will provide links to websites and the matrix barcode used by QR barcode readers.

Locations include:

- Starbucks: NOTE NEW LOCATION, next to ALDI's in the Yorktowne shopping center, located at the northeast corner of Gallows Road and Route 50.
- The Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center

- Reston Multicultural Festival
- The high school student registration challenge, which will continue with events in cafeterias and classes.

Announcements of the time and exact location for the above and others are forthcoming, and venues found and served by units as their own projects, such as libraries, hospital cafeterias, Metro stations, shopping centers, farmers' markets and community centers.

As times/venues are scheduled, that information will be placed on SignUp Genius. To access SignUp Genius, go to Volunteers on our website, www.lwv-fairfax.org, click on Voter Registration and choose the link for 2018 Voter Registration activities. New activities will be added during the season, so please keep checking.

Many new members said they were interested in voter registration activities when they joined. There will be targeted emails asking them to take the online training for Third-Party Voter Registration; to identify potential venues (with contact information); and to participate, working with experienced members. We will ask for short time commitments, e.g. a 2-hour shift. Please consider signing up with a “buddy” to register new voters – afterwards you can celebrate with a coffee.

If you find in the listing a table you would like to serve but if the sign-ups have already been filled, please, GO ANYWAY. You will always be welcome, and the tables are an ideal place to learn the skills of voter registration and engage the public.

For questions or difficulties with accessing SignUp Genius, contact Bob Meredith at VoterRegistration@lwv-fairfax.org.

News From the Fairfax County Electoral Board

Rachael Hamlet, LWV Observer

At the Fairfax County Electoral Board meeting on July 26, changes in the schedule for in-person absentee voting this fall were discussed but not decided upon. The proposed schedule would avoid confusion caused by satellite voting locations being open for a weekend and then not available on weekdays for a full week afterwards. The Board also discussed but made no decision on a proposal that next year's primary day be moved until after the end of the school year because of conflict with the use of public schools as polling places when classes are in session.

Educate. Advocate. IMPACT!

By the LWVFA Action Committee, co-chaired by Wendy Fox-Grage and Deb Wake, contributions by Ruth Hoffman & Jacob Hurt

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) recommitted itself to action and advocacy by creating a new Action Committee this Spring. Our key advocacy priorities are:

- Redistricting reform,
- Voting and elections,
- Behavioral health, and
- Gun violence prevention.

While we never support or oppose any candidates for office or political parties, we do advocate for change on issues of importance where we have informed positions and consensus or concurrence based on facts. We have volunteer members with expertise in each of these areas who are following and advising us on each topic.

Redistricting Reform

Redistricting reform is our #1 priority this year. Action by the General Assembly is needed during this upcoming 2019 legislative session for this reform to be in time for the new Congressional and General Assembly maps to be drawn based on the 2020 Census numbers.

Problem: Virginia is a gerrymandered state. The Democrats controlled the process in 1991 and the Republicans in 2001. In 2011, a Democrat-controlled Senate and a Republican-controlled Virginia House of Delegates passed bipartisan gerrymandered districts.

Solution: We are advocating for three needed elements: 1) transparency, 2) clear standards for how to draw district lines, and 3) map approvers who are not elected politicians.

New Developments: This summer has seen a flurry of court activity on redistricting cases. The Supreme Court punted on the Wisconsin and Maryland gerrymandering cases. The Supreme Court sent the Wisconsin case back to the District Court to be reargued on different grounds because of a lack of standing by Wisconsin voters from any one district to bring a claim against the state.

A panel of federal judges in Virginia ruled that 11 State legislative districts discriminate against African Americans and must be redrawn by the end of October. However, Republicans have appealed, and the Court

is adjourned until October. Regardless, there will not be a special election before January 2019 when we need to begin the process of passing a constitutional amendment. That means we have to push hard for legislative and constitutional reforms NOW, especially for an independent redistricting commission.

Next Steps: We are working closely with our partner, OneVirginia2021, as well as LWV-Virginia and other local leagues in the state. LWVFA has a long history of providing information and promoting advocacy in this area, and we are prepared to double our efforts this year to accomplish redistricting reform given the tight deadline.

League Position: The League supports a decennial redistricting plan approved by the General Assembly, including establishment of a bipartisan commission to prepare a plan for legislative approval, and consideration of natural geographic boundaries, jurisdictional boundaries, communities of interest, and competitiveness in addition to the constitutional requirements. This position was adopted in the absence of an LWV-US position, which has since been adopted.

Voting and Elections

LWVFA will strive for ensuring fair, well-managed, and transparent elections; guaranteeing voting rights for all U.S. citizens age 18+ who are Virginia residents;

and promoting voter participation within the Fairfax area. To accomplish this goal, LWVFA will advocate for:

- Voting rights restoration for felons,
- No-excuse absentee voting,
- A transparent Virginia Joint Subcommittee on Election Review, and
- Fairfax County’s continued efforts to fix registration problems—such as voter address changes and a small number of voters assigned to incorrect districts—and to work with the State Department of Elections to prevent them in the future.

Voting Rights Restoration

Under Virginia’s Constitution, the governor has the discretion to restore voting rights to felons who have served their time. Governor McDonnell began the development of a process to open and speed the restoration process, which was then even more significantly improved upon by Governor McAuliffe. He restored the rights of more than 150,000 former felons, and LWVFA was proud to register some of these voters in our area. However, there is no guarantee that future governors would continue this process. The League will continue to advocate for a restoration process and against disenfranchisement of felons who have served their sentences.

No-Excuse Absentee Voting

Absentee voting allows voters to vote prior to Election Day by filling out an application and voting on an absentee ballot either in-person or by mail. In Virginia, a voter must provide one of the approved excuses to vote by absentee ballot. Many potential absentee voters are concerned that there will not be an excuse that applies to them, or they are unsure if they “fit the description” of one of the 20 excuses, providing a roadblock to wide voter participation. A voter’s absentee application is a record that can be made publicly available, and state law does not require secure maintenance of voter applications. The League will continue to advocate for no-excuse absentee voting because, we believe, all voters should be able to vote absentee for any reason.

Joint Subcommittee on Election Review

In January 2018, the Virginia legislature formed a Joint Subcommittee on Election Review rather than address many bills that had been submitted for a number of election law issues. The Subcommittee is tasked with considering the problems found during the November 2017 elections. Problems such as absentee ballots found late, voter assignment, and split precincts as well as considerations for recount procedures and protocol for tied elections will be investigated. The stated focus of the Subcommittee is to ensure all Virginians can trust the election process and know that all votes are being counted securely and fairly. The League will advocate for this Subcommittee to conduct its work judiciously, timely, and transparently that includes the opportunity for citizen input to assure voters that they can be confident in the integrity of future elections.

Fairfax County Electoral Board

Our county has experienced problems with some voter registration address updates, including transmission of duplicative and missing data from Virginia state sources and systems. Although it did not affect any election results, a very small number of voters were discovered to be assigned to wrong districts. LWVFA supports the Fairfax County Electoral Board and our General Registrar in their efforts to fix these problems. LWVFA members attend the Electoral Board meetings to monitor situations such as this. At the same time, the League continues to advocate for increased funding to protect a fair, efficient, and uniform electoral process. Fairfax County is fortunate to have the resources and technological expertise to address the problems; the same is not true of many other Virginia cities and counties.

League Position: 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. Election laws, regulations, and administrative procedures should be uniformly designed and applied as well as adequately funded. The League supports the automatic restoration of the civil rights of felons upon the release from incarceration or upon completion of probation or parole. In addition to

its specific positions on election laws, all Leagues are charged to protect the right to vote of all citizens.

Behavioral Health (Encompasses mental health and substance abuse.)

League position. At the LWV-Virginia Council in June 2018, delegates voted to adopt a new League position that supports comprehensive behavioral healthcare.

- Access for all people to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral healthcare, including needed medications and supportive services.
- Coordination of comprehensive and integrated care among Health and Human Services and other State departments such as Medicaid, Public Safety, Housing, and Education. These agencies must provide this care along with a focus on community-based services such as Community Service Boards.
- Realignment of the funding equation so that a higher proportion of funds go to Community Service Boards rather than state institutions. This will result in more cost-effective care that is more responsive to clients' 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.

The new position also supports affordable and permanent supportive community-based housing and residential services as well as support for opioid abuse treatment and recovery, prevention, and education.

Next Steps. During the month of October, the units will read about and discuss this topic in-depth. Stay tuned.

Gun Violence Prevention

LWVFA will concentrate its efforts on two key areas: 1) enacting laws that keep guns out of the hands of domestic violence abusers, and 2) enacting “red flag” laws to allow law enforcement or family members to petition a judge to temporarily restrict a person’s access

to firearms to avert shootings.

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Domestic Violence Abusers:

- 57 percent of mass shootings are related to domestic violence.
- Abused women are five times more likely to be killed if a gun is present.
- Women in Virginia are killed at a rate that is 21 percent higher than the national average.

Gaps in Federal Law and Virginia State Law Fail to Keep Communities Safe.

Federal law prohibits abusers who have been convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors or are subject to certain protective orders from purchasing or possessing guns. However, dangerous gaps exist.

- *Federal laws do not apply to dating partners.* Federal law only protects a spouse, those who have cohabitated, and those who have a child in common. Dating partners fall outside the protections of federal law yet represent about 50 percent of intimate partner homicides.
- *Federal laws do not recognize abuse against certain family members.* Abuse against a child or intimate partner are taken into consideration but abuse against a sibling or parent are excluded.
- *Federal laws do not apply to convicted stalkers.* Stalking is a predictor of homicide. Nearly 9 in 10 attempted murders of women were preceded by at least one incident of stalking in the year preceding the attack.
- *Federal laws do not apply to certain protective orders.* The first 72 hours after a survivor leaves their partner is the most dangerous time. Yet, abusers subject to protective orders that cover the period before a hearing (known as “ex parte” orders) are allowed to own a gun.
- *Federal laws do not require abusers to surrender their firearms.*

State Update: Virginia does not address dating partners, all family members, stalkers, or emergency protective orders. In 2016, Virginia took the modest step to disarm abusers subject to a permanent protective order. Previously, respondents of a family abuse final protective order could not purchase or transport firearms. The 2016 law expanded the prohibition to include possession. While the respondent is now required to voluntarily transfer the firearm to another person who is legally allowed to possess it, there is no verification system. Currently, 26 states plus D.C. have passed laws over the past five years to close these gaps. It is time for Virginia to pass these laws and close these gaps.

Enacting “Red Flag” Laws: Allowing Action Before Warning Signs Escalate into a Mass Shooting

Mass shootings are on the rise. Tucson, Aurora, Isla Vista, and Parkland all had something in common: family members, friends, school officials, or law enforcement noticed warning signs that the shooters exhibited violent behavior. Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO) and Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO), generically known as “red flag” laws, empower families or law enforcement to remove a person’s access to firearms before they commit violence.

How do they work? Although these laws vary by state, a judge can issue an emergency, temporary order—without the gun owner being present—to prevent immediate danger. However, a full hearing must be scheduled promptly, offering the gun owner the ability to respond. A longer order can be issued during the full hearing if there is evidence that the person is dangerous. CA, CT, WA, IN, and OR already had such laws. Since the Parkland shooting, FL, MD, VT, DE, and RI have enacted these measures. Legislation has been introduced in an additional 24 states in 2018 including NY, which would also allow teachers to seek court orders.

State Update: Red flag bills were introduced in both the Virginia House (HB 198) and Senate (SB 276) during the 2018 General Assembly, but neither advanced out of the House/Senate Courts of Justice committee. Virginia should revisit red flag legislation.

League Position: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support the regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Our Game Plan for Accomplishing These Reforms

The League was born in advocacy and it is an important part of who we are. We act only on those issues where we have a League position. Each level of League—local, state, and national—has its own positions and promotes advocacy to advance these positions. LWVFA can advocate using Virginia, National Capital Area, and U.S. League positions as well as those adopted locally. LWVFA has both a 501(c)(3) and a 501(c)(4) tax status and operating funds. We have the 501(c)(4), so we can be involved in lobbying and advocacy activities.

Action Alerts. Advocacy can be as simple as responding by email to action alerts. You will be receiving action alerts from our League during the legislative session, and we strongly encourage you to email your elected officials when you receive these alerts. When you respond to an action alert, you should respond as an individual. Only our League co-presidents or their designees can speak or write on behalf of the League. It is important to let your elected officials know that you are their constituent!

In-Person Visits. We are scheduling in-person visits to State- and County-level elected officials and strongly urge you to sign up. We would like 2-3 League volunteers to meet with each official. We will pair volunteers with experience with those who are new to this advocacy activity.

Successful advocacy is based on strong relationships. Having a fact-based position and doing advocacy is not polarizing if it is conducted by providing information and explaining our positions (as explained above with our advocacy positions). The keys to good advocacy are civility and credibility.

To prepare for your constituent visit:

- Plan a 90-second elevator speech that includes:
 - the League’s nonpartisanship
 - the fact that you are a constituent and a volunteer

- the purpose of your visit
- Ask the official what his/her legislative priorities are. If they align with ours, please let them know. If their priorities are in conflict with ours, it is important for us to note.

After your visit, email us at action@lwg-fairfax.org and actioncoordinator@lwg-va.org to let us know how your visit went as well as any insight gained from your visit regarding our advocacy priorities.

County Advocacy. Each year, LWVFA testifies before the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly on our top legislative priorities. We also annually present budget testimony to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Observer Corps. A strong part of our local action is our LWVFA Observer Corps. These local League members serve as representatives on or observers of various boards, authorities, commissions, and committees for Fairfax County, Fairfax City and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). The Observer Corps monitors governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community, and keeps LWVFA informed so issues of concern can be addressed in a timely way. Local League observers are the eyes and ears of the League, pinpointing issues for local study and action. Depending on the group, meetings can occur monthly, quarterly, or as needed. We have observers or members of the following committees: Fairfax County Electoral Board, Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Committee, various FCPS committees, Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee, Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees, Community Action Advisory Board, Fairfax County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, the Engineering Standards Review Committee, and the Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee, just to name a few. Our Observer Corps' reports are located on our website and in the June 2018 edition of our *VOTER* newsletter.

For a list of boards or committees, go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/>, <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-councilboards-and-commissions>, and <https://www.fcps.edu/schoolboard/school-board-committees>. If you are interested in being a member of the Observer Corps or would like more information,

please contact Peggy Knight at peggy.knight1@verizon.net.

State Advocacy. On December 5, plan to attend the LWV-Virginia Women's Legislative Roundtable in Richmond. This is a great opportunity to learn what to expect during the upcoming General Assembly session. Other nonprofit groups will speak about issues that they are tracking and advocating. We also encourage volunteers in attendance to visit with their state legislators to advocate for our top legislative priorities. We will provide more information, and we will organize carpools to Richmond as we get closer to the date of this Roundtable.

After the December kickoff, LWV-Virginia will have weekly roundtables on Wednesdays (**January 16 - February 27**) throughout the session, where Virginia Delegates and Senators speak about their pending legislation that is of interest to the League. We encourage you to attend these sessions as well if your schedule permits.

Coalitions. Given that we are a grassroots volunteer organization the League cannot do it all. We rely on our partners for their expertise and additional manpower; we are much stronger and inclusive as a result of these coalitions. We collaborate with the NAACP, Fairfax County Council of PTAs, the American Civil Liberties Union, OnVirginia2021, Moms Demand Action, the Sierra Club, and more. To hear from our partners and to learn about our advocacy, LWVFA will hold an Action Forum on the afternoon of November 18 at Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax City. A list of speakers and event (free-of-charge) registration will be coming soon.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you agree with our action priorities?
2. If you could pick a 5th advocacy priority, what would it be.
3. If you have met with an elected official for advocacy, please describe it.
4. Have you contacted by phone or email one of your elected officials within the last two years? If so, please share your experience. Did he/she

respond to you? What was the outcome?

5. What was the most important item that you learned from this article?

Unit Activities

1. Please partner with a buddy during your unit meeting and draft a 90-second elevator speech that you could use with an elected official. Try it out on your buddy. Warning: 90 seconds goes by quickly.
2. Please sign up for a visit with your elected official(s) at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48afa82fa7f94-visit>. Don't worry; you won't be alone. We will pair you up with other League members who are top notch.
3. Sign up for the LWV-Virginia Facebook [pages](#) related to these issues. It is a great way to keep informed and converse with other League members on these issue areas.

New, Different Schedule For Candidate Forums

One forum for each Congressional District

The public will be invited and will submit questions on cards to the moderator, who will give each candidate the opportunity to answer each question. The forums will be videotaped and posted on our website throughout the campaign season.

- **Sunday, September 16, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Congressional District 11:**
Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030
- **Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Congressional District 8:** Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St, Springfield, VA 22150
- **Wednesday, October 24, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Congressional District 10:** Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly, VA 20151
- **THERE WILL BE NO ROUNDTABLE FOR ALL THE CANDIDATES.**

Ready, Set, Advocate! LWV-VA Announces 2018 Advocacy Challenge Award Winners

1st VP Linda Garvelink announces the LWV-2018 Advocacy Challenge Award Winners. The winners are:

- **First Place (\$700)** LWV of South Hampton Roads had 452 contacts with 105 total members for an involvement of 430 percent. Using the 2019 rating schedule, the final rating is 81%.
- **Second Place (\$200):** LWV of Falls Church had 346 contacts with 117 total members for an involvement of 296 percent. Using the 2019 rating schedule, the final rating is 61%.
- **Third Place (\$100):** LWV of the Williamsburg Area had 411 contacts with 173 total members for an involvement of 238 percent. Using the 2019 rating schedule, the final rating is 56%.
- **Fourth Place (\$50):** LWV of Washington County had 43 contacts with 34 total members for an involvement of 126 percent. Using the 2019 rating schedule, the final rating is 53%.

Congratulations to each of these LWV-VA local Leagues. (Information on the 2019 Advocacy Challenge is available at <http://bit.ly/2v1WK7L> and more coming soon!)

[Reprinted from the August 2018 *Virginia Voter Express*.]

Expanding Voter Access

Why Expanding Voter Access Matters

The right to vote is a fundamental principle of our democracy. When more Americans can participate in our elections the outcome better reflects who we are as a Country. We work year-round at the state level and local level to enact voting reforms that best increase turnout and help new communities participate in the process, making our elections more free, fair and accessible.

What We Are Doing

Our volunteers have been behind some of the most important voting reform victories in recent years. From fighting for early voting, to enacting automatic and online voter registration and more, we also work to ensure our voting systems and streamline the voting process.

LWVFA Donors and Supporters

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

Anne Andrews	Maggi Luca
Donna Blake	Elizabeth MacGowan
Catherine Bierman	Marcia McDevitt
Dorothy Brandt	Pat McGrady
Liz Brooke	Maureen Melton
Jane Byers	Robert Meredith
Anne Cahill	Robin Milburn
Susan Cash	Nancy Miller
Curtis Chandler	Anna Marie Mulvihill
Mary Jane Cleary	Susan O’Neill
Beverly Dahlin	Jane Pacelli
Gail Doughty	Lois & Ron Page
Anita Eitler	Ronna Pazdral
Baba & Mike Freeman	Ann Richardson
Ellen Gale	Nancy Roodberg
Jo Ann Hersh	Winnie Shapiro
Jane Hilder	Anna Stuart-Swann
Bette Hostrup	Rebecca Thies
Claudia Hottenstein	Steve Anne Todd
Sidney & Dale Johnson	Mary Valder
Dorothy Joslin	Debora Wake
Anne Joyce	Diana White
Linda Kato	Nancy Yane-Fernald
Peggy Knight	Sherry Zachry
Celeste Land	

And donors from:

Centreville-Chantilly Unit
 Fairfax City Evening Unit
 Fairfax Station Unit
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 Mount Vernon Evening Unit
 Springfield Unit
 Greater Springfield Chamber
 of Commerce

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

News on Domestic Violence From DVPPCC

By Barbara Nunes, Domestic Violence Director

Fairfax County’s Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Coordinating Council has been very busy. They meet quarterly and have their annual meeting in October. Barbara Nunes serves as the LVW representative with Theresa Brion as alternate. DVPPCC has various committees:

Communications Framework, Housing Continuum, Policy, DV Network, DV Fatalities Review Team, DVAC, and Faith in Action DV Prevention.

When a protective order is issued in the Juvenile and Family Court, the respondent has 24 hours to surrender his or her firearm either to a friend, family member, or to the sheriff. The Policy Committee would like to see firearms surrendered immediately to law enforcement only. This period is a dangerous time for the victim.

The committee is presently doing follow-up research to help persuade the state legislature to close this loophole to protect the victim’s safety. A resolution was passed at the July 19 DVPPC meeting requesting the Board of Supervisors’ Legislation Committee to add this proposal to the County’s 2019 package to the General Assembly.

In our personal ambitions we are individualists. But in our seeking for economic and political progress as a nation, we all go up or else all go down as one people.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Environmental Update: Summer Successes

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Charging Stations. Springfield Town Center now offers free electric vehicle charging. Tesla Super Charging Stations also have opened there as well as in Woodbridge and National Harbor with an expected cost of \$0.26/kilowatt hour.

Climate Change. A national convention session covered how to evaluate proposals for pricing carbon emissions, a policy LWVUS and many economists support as the most effective tool against climate change. While advocacy remains focused at the state and local levels, LWVUS joins U.S. Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) in hoping that the Market Choice Act he introduced on July 23 will restart a bipartisan national dialogue.

Learn about carbon pricing at <https://priceoncarbon.org/> and access the LWVUS Toolkit for Climate Action for resources



to promote climate solutions and details about mitigation and adaptation strategies at <http://bit.ly/ClimateActionToolkit>.

In discussing his Aug. 2 announcement of joining a coalition to oppose the proposed roll back of federal tailpipe emissions limits, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring noted increased flooding as a reason. First Street Foundation and Columbia University reported on July 27 how home values in five states, including VA, lost \$7 billion during 2005-17 due to sea-level rise. View local flooding risks along the Potomac at <https://floodiq.com/>.

General Assembly. A blanket exemption to the Freedom of Information Act for any claimed “trade secret” was defeated. This would have included the contents and amounts of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing.

The coal ash pond closure moratorium was extended for a year, with pond owners directed to seek recycling proposals. Read about Dominion’s Dumfries ash ponds at <https://>

[ashtracker.org/facility/90/possum-point-power-station](https://www.ashtracker.org/facility/90/possum-point-power-station). Also, as a regulated utility, Dominion is to increase its solar and wind investments tenfold to 5,000 megawatts and make significant new investments in energy efficiency programs.

Meanwhile, on July 17, the EPA issued the first of two rules revising its 2015 regulations providing safeguards for communities near such waste dumps. The changes weaken drinking water protection standards for several hazardous chemicals, including lead, extend compliance deadlines for closing unlined leaking ash ponds, and allow state officials to terminate groundwater monitoring and to decide without the advice of engineers if sites are in compliance. These revisions respond to a 2017 industry petition.

Last Straws. Shortly after Seattle banned the use of plastic straws and utensils in restaurants effective July 1, Starbucks announced a nationwide, 2-year phaseout of plastic straws. American Airlines, the world’s biggest airline, is following Alaska Airlines in replacing plastic straws and drink stirrers with biodegradable options. Inova will eliminate use of plastic straws in its cafeterias and gift shops by America

Recycles Day, November 15.

New Scholarships. The local Soil and Water Conservation District awarded \$500 Future Conservation Leaders Scholarships to college-bound Marta Cabellos of JEB Stuart and Alynn Cutler of Thomas Jefferson. Next year’s applications will be due in March. K-12 students can enter its Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home poster contest this month; see <http://vaswcd.org/poster-contest>.

Park Improvements. The centerpiece of the rebuilt Occoquan Regional Park is the Jean R. Packard Center, named for the former civic activist and 1972-75 chair of the Board of Supervisors. This LEED Gold building features an event space for groups of >300 with scenic views of the Occoquan River. The park includes a 5K paved loop trail. The Turning Point Suffragists Memorial will be added by 2020.

Report Cards. The Anacostia River received its first passing

grade for its annual health check, and the Potomac River its first B. Both will be helped by D.C. Water investments. With all parts of the Chesapeake Bay now recovering, its overall grade is a C. See interactive graphics of improved indicators at <https://ecoreportcard.org/report-cards/chesapeake-bay/>.

Volunteering. Make your own success story by volunteering with Fairfax County. Many opportunities are open to youth, like invasive species removal (<http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA>) and the Sept. 10-16 National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (email info@bikepeddocumentation.org). Some are limited to adults working year round, such as monitoring trail systems, and require up to four hours per week. Long-term citizens'

science projects include monitoring dragonfly species in and around the Potomac above Great Falls.

Plant milkweed to support the monarch butterflies' extraordinary migration in memory of Lincoln P. Brower. He joined Sweet Briar College in 1997 and made key discoveries about how monarchs convert a compound from its sole food source, the milkweed plant, into a chemical that sickened its predators. He received the Center for Biological Diversity's 2016 E.O. Wilson Award for his work to preserve the monarch. See <https://loudounwildlife.org/2017/03/monarch-waystations/> for planting advice and visit VDOT's I-95N Dale City Rest Area's restored meadow, part of its Pollinator Habitat Program.

LWVFA Membership News

By Carol Bursik, Membership Chair

The Fairfax League continues to grow at a steady pace. As of mid-July, we had 437 members, more than *double* the size of our membership just two years ago. We have organized a committee to look at opportunities for new members to learn about the League and to become engaged in our many activities. More information about our plans will be coming soon.



Over the summer, the following individuals have joined or re-joined LWVFA. We extend a hearty welcome to them.

Corinne Abbott
Kristine Ahn
Judith Back
Valerie Bartush
Denis Brion
Christine Caldwell
Ida Cuthbertson
Pat Fege
Kendra Ganobsik
Amanda Goehring

Gretchen Newman
Jane Parham
Ellen Parke
Phyllis Payne
Nan Peck
Kimberly Perry
Anita Pesses
Carol Laughlin Pixa
Ronnie Raju
Janet Schafer

Terry Greene
Janet Griffith Household
Aubrey Hamilton
Hugh Haworth
Cindy Kalkwarf
Erica Larsen
Daniel Loehr
Elizabeth McCluskey

Nancy Scott
Renee Servance
Karen Skelton
Roger Soles
Deborah Spitzer
Peggy Taves
Catherine Tierney
Dean Wanderer
Janice Ware

For those of us who were members before February 1, 2018, it is time to renew for 2018-2019! If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership as soon as possible. At this time individual memberships are \$65, households are \$90, and students are \$15. We are willing to consider members' special financial circumstances for payment of dues. You can visit our website at <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/join/> for information on how to renew online or by mail. There is also an option for automatic online renewal through PayPal so you won't ever forget to renew in the future. Thank you for renewing!

Record-Breaking Number of Voter Drives Held Nationally

This year, League of Women Voters volunteers have hosted more than 600 voter registration drives in high schools and community colleges and **registered more than 20,000 students to vote!** From now until Election Day, Leagues will help them carry out their responsibilities as new voters, explain what to expect at the polls, and provide information about elections through VOTE411.org.

State League Offers Workshops in Williamsburg

LWVVA is offering its Fall Workshop September 8 at the Woodlands in Williamsburg. A block of rooms has been reserved at a very reasonable rate. Come for the workshop and stay to explore Colonial Williamsburg and nearby attractions for the remainder of the weekend. Topics to be covered include advocacy and next steps to advance our positions, Transformational Journey and community-building, and voter outreach and access issues. Registration will be from 8:30-9:30am with programming running from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. For details and to register, go to: <http://lwv-va.org/lwv-va-2018-fall-workshops/>.

Basic Agenda (subject to change)

8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Local League Presidents Pre-session Briefing

9:30 a.m. Plenary

- Greeting and Welcome
- US Convention through Eyes of a Local League
- Diversity and Inclusion

10:00 a.m. Advocacy

- Advocacy vs Lobbying
- Behavioral Health
- Education

- Election Integrity
- ERA Ratification
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Redistricting

12:00 Lunch (included in registration fee)

1:00 p.m. Membership and capacity building

- Transformational Journey
- Attracting New Members
- Job Descriptions for Local League Officers and Directors
- Community Cuilding
- More about Miversity in Membership
- Fundraising and Revenue Developmen

2:45 p.m. Voter Outreach/access issues

- Redistricting
- Registration (includes voting rights, election system and process security, and voter access)
- VOTE411
- Debates

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

A Message From Chris Carson, LWVUS

Last weekend, (July 28) the new Board of Directors & Board of Trustees met for an orientation and the first meeting of the fiscal year. Over the course of the three days, we got to know our [new CEO, Virginia Kase](#), as well as the national staff. With the focus on the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® we have a lot of work to do ahead of the midterms in less than 100 days. Registering, educating, contacting, and protecting voters remains the top priority as we enter the fall.

On Sunday, (July 29) The New York Times ran an op-ed titled, [How the Suffrage Movement Betrayed Black Women](#). The League is not mentioned by name in this piece, but we should have been. Our founders and early leaders were not inclusive of all women. African Americans were excluded through much of our history. We have submitted a letter to

the editor to the Times addressing our place in this history. These are hard truths to face but an important part of our story that we will continue to address as we approach our 100th Anniversary.

The national office has renewed our commitment to [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\)](#). Going forward, every League Update will now have a DEI section where we share tools, articles, and updates that address our commitment.



Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: Educate. Advocate. Impact!

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 August 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, August 25

At-Large Unit and Briefing

Fairfax County Government Ctr
12000 Government Center Pkwy
Fairfax, VA 22035
Briefing begins at 12:15,
following the Fall-Kick Off
Contact: Julie, 703-861-9616

Monday, September 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, September 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

9:45 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, 22306
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561

or Diana, 703-704-5325

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, September 13

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

21045 Cardinal Pond Terr, #119
Ashburn, 20147
Contact: Barbara (703) 437-0795
or bseandlte@earthlink.net

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

Packard Center
4026-B Hummer Road
Annandale, 22003
Contact: Marge, 703-451-0589

10 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

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

1 p.m. Fairfax/Vienna (FX-V)

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

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

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

October Meetings: Behavioral Health



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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 September, 2018**

**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 \$15** _____
 (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** _____
Phone (H) _____ **(M)** _____ **E-Mail** _____

**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** _____