

# Fairfax VOTER

February 2020

Volume 72, Issue 6

## Celebrate 100 Years of the League of Women Voters!!

We hope everyone is able to join us on February 23rd to wish the League a Happy Anniversary with tea and a very enjoyable program. While not quite as old as the national League, the Fairfax Area League also has a storied history, which you can read about this month.

Units have the option to meet in February, but will be back on their regular schedule in March.

### Calendar

- 1-29 Black History Month
- 1 National Freedom Day (13th Amendment)
- 1 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large Meeting, Packard Center, Annandale, 10 a.m.
- 3 Fairfax Voter Deadline for March, 2020 issue
- 3-4 Hayfield Secondary School Voter Regis. and Education Drive
- 5-6 Centreville HS Voter Regis. and Ed. Drive
- 5, 12, 19&26 LWV-VA Women's Legis. Roundtable, Tide-water Rm, SunTrust Bldg, Richmond, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- 7 LWNCA Board Meeting, LWVUS Board Room, 1730 M St. NW, Washington, DC, 10:30 a.m.
- 12 League Day, Delta Hotels by Marriott Richmond Downtown, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 12 LWVFA Legacy Committee Meeting, Packard Center, Annandale, 2 - 4 p.m.
- 13 Optional League Day Activities, Richmond
- 10-13 Units' Choice on whether to meet
- 14 LWV Founded (100th anniversary!!!!!!!!!!!!)
- 19 LWVFA Board Meeting, Packard Center
- 23 Tea for LWV 100th anniversary Celebration, Fairfax Country Club, 5110 Ox Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030, 2 to 4 p.m.

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## Presidents' Message



Until then, let's celebrate this month of Valentine's Day with continued kindness and understanding, welcoming and aiding all as the League swore to do at its inception 100 years ago!

*Anu and Nancy*

Hello fellow Leaguers!

We hope everyone is well settled into the new year and the new decade! We are all so excited about our centennial. We hope that many of you, if not all, will be coming to the anniversary tea on February 23rd. It's going to be a great afternoon and it will be nice to meet other members of our League. We have a lovely T-shirt to commemorate our 100 years and we are sure you will all love to get one for every one in your family and maybe for your friends, too.

We are happy to report that the High School Voter Education and Registration project is doing swimmingly well. We have registered 406 students in December alone. January figures are not out yet but we are sure they will be excellent, too!

Our Action Chair, Wendy Fox-Grage, delivered testimony in front of the Fairfax Legislators. She bravely continued to speak in favor of the proposed new gun safety legislation, redistricting and women's equality even when she was disrupted by armed protestors!

There has been so much talk on civil discourse in the last few years and it seems to be increasingly relevant now. As a nation, our politics may be divided but we have more in common than that which divides us. However, it doesn't look that way most of the time. Fairfax County Public Libraries will be doing programming this year on civil discourse in the run-up to the November elections and we hope to partner with them. We are so proud that in this day and age our League stands proud and non-partisan. A hundred years old and we still stand for the same values!

2020 is the Census year and we have been contacted by the Census Bureau as they are quite keen to work with us. They are looking for League members who can work as "Enumerators." These are people who will reach out to those people who do not initially respond to the Census. We see this position as an opportunity to perform community service and if you are interested please let us know. We will share more details as soon as we get them.



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

### LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2019 - 2020

This newsletter, partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area Education Fund, is published 10 times each year from September to June by:

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Subscriptions to the *Fairfax VOTER* are available to non-Fairfax League members for \$15 per annum. Send your check to the above address and request a subscription.

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

## LWV-FA Testifies Before Fairfax General Assembly Delegation

By Wendy Fox-Grage

On January 4th, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area testified before the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly.

Our League testified in strong support of the 2020 Fairfax County Legislative Program. We were especially supportive of the positions on elections, affordable housing, weapons, and OneFairfax. We advocated for increased emphasis on social and racial equity through OneFairfax and greater access to voting. We also supported the measures that the County is taking to ensure a more complete census count.

The following five issues are high priorities for our League:

- **Redistricting Reform:** We support the Constitutional amendment that was passed during the last legislative session. We believe that new strong enabling legislation can specify the criteria for drawing districts and selecting citizen members of the Redistricting Commission. We urge action from the General Assembly to adopt this reform in time for the new Congressional and General Assembly maps to be drawn based on the census numbers.
- **Equal Rights Amendment:** It is time to ratify the ERA to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens, regardless of gender.
- **Voting Rights:** Let's guarantee voting rights for all citizens ages 18 and older. We strongly support participation in elections by allowing for no-excuse absentee voting and additional funding for voting equipment, elections modernization and security, and elections administration at both the state and local levels.
- **Gun Violence Prevention:** We support legislation to address gun violence including universal background checks, strong extreme risk-protection orders, child-access prevention laws, stronger protection orders, and state and local authority to regulate firearms in public spaces.
- **Affordable Housing:** We need more funding and action to increase the availability of affordable housing options, specifically in high cost areas such as here in Fairfax County.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area commended Fairfax County for its 2020 legislative program and urged the delegation to act on these important issues of redistricting, elections, gun violence, and human rights.

## The League of Women Voters of Virginia Supports Passage of the Constitutional Amendment Resolution on Redistricting in 2020

By Wendy Fox-Grage

What are the key provisions of the proposed Constitutional Amendment?

- For the first time, non-politicians (citizens) will be members of the redistricting commission
- Transparency is required: at least 3 public hearings must be held; all meetings shall be open to the public; all records shall be available to the public
- Maps must comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment
- Maps must be approved by a super-majority of the Commission (6+ citizens and 6+ legislators)
- The General Assembly will vote up or down on the Commission's proposed plans; the General Assembly may not amend the proposed maps
- The Supreme Court of Virginia (SCoVA) shall establish the districts if the Commission and the General Assembly cannot decide on district maps

What is needed to strengthen the Constitutional Amendment?

- Enabling legislation that specifies the criteria (including reflection of the diversity of the Commonwealth) for citizen members of the Commission, and the process of selecting those citizen members
- Enabling legislation that specifies criteria for drawing districts (including respecting natural geographic and jurisdictional boundaries, communities of interest, and competitiveness; no partisan favoritism; and fair representation for racial and ethnic minorities)
- Enabling legislation that directs the Supreme Court of VA to hire a qualified special master to draw the maps

What needs to happen next?

- Jan-Mar 2020 : The General Assembly must pass the Constitutional Amendment again
- November 3, 2020 : The voters must approve the Constitutional Amendment

<https://lww-va.org/action-advocacy/2020-lww-va-legislative-priorities/>



# Spotlight on Voter Services

By Cindy Kalkwarf, Voter Services Chair

The Voter Services volunteer team focuses on registering people to vote, getting out the vote, providing educational and informational public services, and initiating outreach programs to groups of potential voters.

## 2020 Facts for Voters, Our Premiere Publication, is Hot off the Presses!

By Maggi Luca, Ronna Pazdral, Therese Martin, Edith Appel, and Bernice Colvard

### What is Facts for Voters?

Facts for Voters, A Directory of Public Officials and Government Offices, is a compact reference guide which lists elected and appointed government officials, agencies and services along with contact information. It includes voting information such as election calendars, what offices are on the ballot, voter registration, absentee ballots, and voting on Election Day.

Not just for Voters, it is a guide for all residents and visitors in the area. It's your one-stop shop to learning about who's who of your government representatives including Federal, State, Fairfax County, and cities and towns in Fairfax.

### Who receives Facts for Voters?

We publish close to 20,000 copies! We widely distribute them to libraries, community centers, and schools as well as providing copies to our State Representatives and County Supervisors. We hand them out at Voter Registration and Education events, have copies to mail to the public upon request, and available for pick up in our office. Let us know if you have suggestions for additional distributions. The printed version is in English and we have translated versions available in Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese on our website: [lww-fairfax.org/facts-for-voters](http://lww-fairfax.org/facts-for-voters).

### Who writes the Facts for Voters?

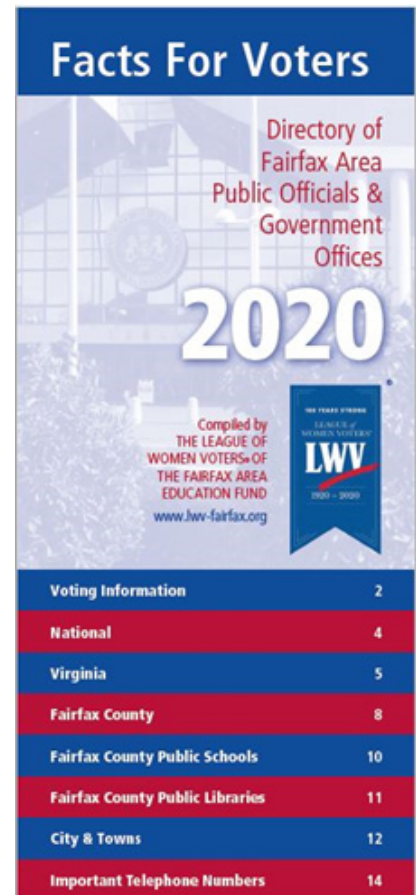
Thank you, Facts for Voters team, led by Maggi Luca. Every year in November and December a team of League volunteers carefully reviews and updates Facts for the next year. Since Virginia has an election cycle every year, it takes careful research and verification of any changes. Maggi organizes the team, reviews the work, and coordinates with the editor and printer. Then, she personally delivers about 1,000 to the General Assembly in Richmond each January.

The 2020 edition was especially challenging to update due to new appointments as well as numerous potential new laws going into effect on or before July 1, 2020, affecting the Voter Registration calendar, Absentee Voting laws, and Voter ID requirements. Voters are encouraged to verify the most current election and voting information at the Virginia Department of Elections' website [Vote.Virginia.Gov](http://Vote.Virginia.Gov). If there are significant changes to these laws, we will publish additional educational materials for the public.

### How long has the Fairfax League published Facts for Voters?

Our League has published Facts for Voters for over 40 years! It has changed a bit over the years and continues to serve the League and our community well. Several current League members were instrumental in the early days of the publication. Therese Martin, then Voter Services Chair, took on the League's four-page publication in the early '70s, focusing primarily on voting information. She remembers driving from Reston to Leesburg to have it printed, saying it was quite a trip at that time, with no traffic signals between here and there! In the 1977 edition, Edith Appel and Louise Meade, then Voter Services Co-Chairs, expanded Facts beyond voting information to make it the reference guide it is today. Edith remembers creating a mockup on paper, then going around to local businesses to obtain funding for printing, since this would be an expanded and more expensive publication than in prior years. Bernice Colvard was Finance Director in the 70's. She fondly remembers calling up and meeting with local businesses to request contributions. She was and is very proud of Facts for Voters and that made it easier to make the requests.

If you know additional information about the history of Facts for Voters, please share it with Cindy. You can reach her at [Cindy.Kalkwarf@lww-fairfax.org](mailto:Cindy.Kalkwarf@lww-fairfax.org).



# League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Historical Milestones

By Julie Jones

In 2008, LWVFA celebrated its 60th Anniversary by publishing a booklet of our Historical Milestones, with a subtitle of “60 Years Strong and Needed Now More Than Ever.” Historical Milestones 2008 was prepared by the League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area with funding provided through the LWVFA Education Fund. It was compiled by Bernice Colvard, League Historian, and Janey George, 60th Anniversary Committee Chair. The following article is directly from this publication. An update for the next twelve years is needed and your suggestions are welcome. Send your ideas to Julie Jones at [dave.julie.jones@verizon.net](mailto:dave.julie.jones@verizon.net) or add them to the poster at the Feb. 23rd Anniversary Tea.

## 1940s - LWVFA

As required for a provisional League, we spent two years thoroughly familiarizing ourselves with the operational procedures of our local government to participate as informed active citizens.

League compared the Fairfax voter registration list with the State’s poll tax list and notified residents who had paid their poll taxes but were not shown in the registrar’s book. This led to changes in registration procedures.

The League developed the first precinct-voting map in Fairfax. This was later taken over by local government.

League began working on a proposed Master Plan for development in Fairfax. It was soon outpaced by actual events.

On April 15, 1948, we received our charter as an official local League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). It was signed by LWVUS President Anna Lord Strauss.

## 1940s Decade

World War II ended in 1945 and Fairfax County’s transition from a rural, mostly dairy, region to an urban area speeded up.

Completion of the Pentagon and Shirley Highway led to heavy population concentration in the fringe areas of DC. Numbers swelled from 40,000 in 1940 to 100,000 in 1950 in Fairfax County.

The public school population exploded.

Fairfax County initiated Public Works “to protect the general health, safety, and welfare of residents” and provided sewer and water services.

With planning came zoning, and this process began.

## 1950s - LWVFA

The League worked alone and with coalitions to advocate a change in the form of county government.

1952 brought redistricting. League produced *A Guide to Fairfax County Government*, later published by the County as the *Citizens Handbook*.

Education has always been of paramount importance to the League. We joined a Coalition to support building a local high school for black students, who were being bused from Manassas to D.C. Luther Jackson High School in Merrifield was completed in 1954.

The rest of the decade and most of the next were devoted primarily to keeping our public schools open and maintaining an orderly transition to desegregation to thwart Virginia’s “massive resistance” plan.

## 1950s Decade

A special County Executive form of government was adopted in 1950 for Fairfax County. This was more moderate than a county manager form that was first proposed, but still effectively separated administrative from legislative function, handled by the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

By 1953, 90 percent of county workers were employed by the federal government.

Also in 1953, the Circuit Court established seven magisterial districts, making the BOS number uneven and eliminating the need for a hired tiebreaker.

Seven Corners Shopping Center was developed (1953) beginning the drastic change in shopping patterns between the County and D.C.

A two-year branch of George Mason University started.

By 1958, the Beltway and Fairfax Hospital were under construction.

The U.S. Supreme Court *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision, desegregating public schools, occurred in 1964. The state of Virginia adopted a policy of “massive resistance” to that ruling.

### 1960s - LWVFA

The League continued to focus on maintenance and improvement of our free public school system and the orderly implementation of racial integration.

After state poll taxes were prohibited in federal elections in 1964, League mounted a huge voter registration drive. We ran a week-long Voter Services booth at Seven Corners and a highly visible “Voter-wagon” around the County. Registrars were swamped.

League supported the County’s anti-annexation suits against Fall Church and Alexandria but the try for a city statute (of Fairfax County) was lost.

We championed the County’s new erosion and sedimentation control ordinance, later adopted by the State.

In 1961, the Town of Fairfax was chartered as a City and in 1964 we became the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, covering both jurisdictions.

### 1960s Decade

This decade was dominated by civil rights.

Among many provisions, the federal 1964 Civil Rights Act disallowed charging state poll taxes in years of federal elections, effectively killing the tax.

Exploding population escalated demand for public services in Fairfax, including an integrated water/sewer system, schools, parks, library, and police and fire services.

1968 saw the proper adjustment to the congressional record showing Virginia’s ratification of women’s suffrage, passed by General Assembly in 1952 - 32 years after it had been added to the U.S. Constitution.

### 1970s - LWVFA

The League studied and developed positions on virtually all facets of the public school system. We supported many bond issues for school construction.

We worked on and supported the County’s Planned Land Use System (PLUS).

In 1973, League’s Jean Packard was elected as the first person and the first woman Chairman-At-Large of the BOS.

At the 1974 national convention, men were first admitted as League members but we retained our name as the League of Women Voters.

During this period, we inspected the judicial system quite thoroughly through 16 separate studies and presented our conclusions to the County, which published a Courts brochure for the public and made several changes in the system advocated by the League.

League’s signature publication, *Fact for Voters*, appeared in the distinctive, red, white and blue “step-down” format in 1977.

### 1970s Decade

A huge new wave of population engulfed Fairfax, once again severely impacting all public services, notably the school system. The most immediate and obvious effect was a huge increase in the number of school buses. The school system continues to run the largest fleet in the nation.

1973 saw the cut-off of oil exports from the Mideast to industrialized nations. Long gas lines and panic ensued. The public became keenly interested in energy conservation and alternative energy sources for a time.

The County developed a comprehensive approach to land use, called a Planned Land Use System (PLUS).

### 1980s - LWVFA

The League conducted very successful Energy House Tours in 1981 and 1983 to show the efficacy of solar energy to the public.

During the first National Women’s History celebration in 1982, League dedicated the historic roadside marker on Rt. 123, honoring the sufferings held at the Occoquan Workhouse in 1917 for picketing the White House for the vote. Later, we published *Remember the Ladies* to tell the suffragists’ story at the Workhouse.

League entered into a first-in-Virginia amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief supporting the County’s “down zoning”

in the Occoquan Watershed to protect public drinking water.

League joined AHOME, a coalition seeking solutions to the increasing loss of affordable housing in Fairfax.

League charter member Dorothy McDiamid was the first female Virginia state Delegate to chair the powerful House Appropriations Committee (1986).

Former League President Vivian Watts became Virginia's first Secretary of Transportation and Public Safety in the Governor's cabinet (1986) and the one person to hold this combined post for four years.

In 1989, we published our first Recycling Guide and filled requests for copies all over the U.S. from Alaska to Puerto Rico. After we printed a second edition, the County took over this task.

With growing population and traffic congestion, League put great effort into supporting mass transit.

### 1980s Decade

The country's concerns about energy conservation carried to this decade.

The County "down zoned" about 40,000 acres to protect the Occoquan Reservoir, drinking water source for over 600,000 Northern Virginians. The Circuit Court upheld this action.

The County's Economic Development Authority was instructed to aggressively pursue the goal of attracting hi-tech companies, national headquarters, and government-related businesses to raise the business tax base to 25%. By 1987 Fairfax County ranked as one of the nation's major business centers.

Rising property values exacerbated a dwindling supply of affordable housing for many persons employed in Fairfax County.

Public facilities, most notably roads, were being overwhelmed.

The combining of Virginia's Department of Transportation and Public Safety under one Secretary was short-lived. After the tenure of Vivian Watts, they were divided into separate positions.

### 1990s - LWVFA

League began a special Collection in George Mason University's archives.

The City of Fairfax Museum hosted a special exhibit celebrating the 75th anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. and covering the Fairfax League.

The League exhibit board, featuring "Modern Pioneer Women of Northern Virginia," rotated among our public libraries.

League introduced voting information on our website with links to Virginia's State Board of Elections (SBE) and to our Voters Guide. The County later took over the expanded voting information segment.

League was involved with forums on elected school boards and, later, on health care.

We worked with candidates' forums for a first-ever elected Fairfax County School Board.

Former League President Leslie Byrne became Virginia's first woman elected to the U.S. Congress (1991).

League's history, *Tracing Our Roots*, was published (1997).

### 1990s Decade

"Motor Voter" federal legislation, simplifying voter registration, became a reality.

The General Assembly approved a change in State law allowing split shifts of poll workers, a change championed by the League.

Deregulation of electricity occurred in Virginia.

Legislative redistricting again occurred. Our State legislative delegation rose to 7 senators and 18 delegates. Quite a contrast with 1940s one senator and one delegate.

Action of the 1992 BOS virtually disabled the new Comprehensive Plans for development, as well as the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance, both League supported.

Solid waste disposal appeared to be a success story for the 90s. Both Fairfax County and City started curbside pickup of recyclables and advances continue to be made on this front.



**2000s - LWVFA**

On a national basis, League took another look at the Electoral College and concluded again it was archaic and inappropriate.

League looked closely at voting procedures and equipment in the Fairfax area and Virginia.

League sponsored a panel of experts to discuss the Patriot Act and our political freedoms.

League co-sponsored a CEDAW (U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Forum on this treaty.

League members served as Court Watchers, who observed and completed surveys on domestic violence cases with website reports to members and emails to Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judges.

“Sixty years strong and needed now more than ever” became the theme for Fairfax League’s 60th anniversary in 2008.

League was now supporting affordable homes for the area’s middle-class work force.

League looked at Cool Counties initiatives to deal with climate change.

We studied the complexity of growing immigration.

League supported redistricting in Virginia by a bipartisan panel.

**2000s Decade**

Transition to the new millennium (Y2K) went smoothly around the world.

The U.S. was stunned on September 11, 2001, when terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center in NYC and the Pentagon, and downed an airliner in PA. Death and destruction followed in their wake.

“9/11” was quickly followed by passage of the federal Patriot Act, raising questions about curtailing civil rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform became law (2002).

Federal No Child Left Behind Act (2001) passed to raise reading and math scores in the nation’s schools.

The Federal HAVA (Help America Vote Act) became law after the debacles of the 2000 presidential election.

March 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq.

U.S. “intervention” in Afghanistan continues.

Global warming, leading to climate change, has taken center stage in our concerns.

A burgeoning immigrant population has brought complex issues to local, state and national attention.

Escalating oil prices have again caught worldwide attention.

Proposed legislative redistricting reform becomes a hot issue in the Virginia General Assembly.

Efforts were made in the 2008 General Assembly Session to require localities to charge developers/builders set flat fees in lieu of the proffer system.

**2010s - LWVFA** - What would you include as League milestones?

Co-Presidents was instituted to solve leadership problems.

Membership grows due to the changes in the political climate.

2010s Decade - What would you add as important in this decade?





## Join us in Richmond for League Day

By Wendy Fox-Grage

League Day (aka Lobby Day) is a special day in Richmond on February 12th from 8:30 am - 3 pm plus optional activities on February 13th from 9:30 am - 3 pm. In the morning on February 12th, come to the Sun Trust Building (919 East Main Street) at 8:30 am to learn of our positions and goals for the General Assembly before you meet with your legislators. (Make sure you make appointments in advance.) Light breakfast will be available at Sun Trust and you will receive informational packets to help guide your visits! In addition to visiting our legislators, we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters! Our theme is the “Yesterdays and Tomorrows of the League of Women Voters.” Our speaker will be award-winning journalist and author A’Lelia Bundles, great-great-granddaughter of Madame C.J. Walker whose parents and older siblings were slaves but who became the first female self-made millionaire. Stay over on the 13th to enjoy lunch, a talk on Civil War life for women at the Civil War Museum and a visit to the home of Maggie L. Walker. Wendy Fox-Grage will be organizing carpools for those who want to go to Richmond for the day of February 12th. If you are interested, please email Wendy at [wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com). Please also register for these events at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-league-of-women-voters-100th-anniversary-league-day-tickets-78690662891>

## December Program Planning Results in General Consensus

By Julie Jones

LWVUS and LWVFA program planning was the topic at December Unit meetings. Unit members agreed that all the positions at both levels were still needed today, even though some could be updated with current language and developments.

The two topics most consistently mentioned for renewed emphasis were affordable housing and natural resources. Climate change, which impacts both local and national levels, was of great concern and members felt it should receive immediate attention. Several members wanted information on local recycling efforts and were willing to do research on the topic, hopefully leading to an informational article in the Fairfax VOTER.

All members agreed with the LWVUS emphasis on national program priorities in Campaign for Making Democracy Work® (Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, Redistricting). Members would like to add the principle that “we believe all powers of the U.S. Government be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.” They agreed the practice of updating or adding new positions through consensus was appropriate with enough background information as to how the “new” proposal was obtained.

LWVFA members have a multitude of interests and concerns on the local level. They wanted more information about the OneFairfax policy and how redistricting will

affect the County’s internal boundaries. There was much interest in updating the Natural Resources positions, including climate change, recycling, water, and solid waste. There was also interest in Human Services to include local facilities and programs for the elderly and those in need of mental health care. Others wanted health care to include vision, hearing and dental care, and how we could lobby to have these included in any new legislation. Land use planning should be restudied in light of the tremendous growth in the County and influence of Metro. One unit would like additional information on outside money as an influence in LOCAL politics.

## LWVFA Membership Report

The Fairfax League is 475 members strong as of January 6, 2020. During the past month we welcomed the following new members:

Michael Christensen (Lowy household)  
 Donald Craig  
 Natalie Givans  
 Dana Jacob  
 Kubiske household  
 Karen Robblee  
 Don Robinson  
 Dick Robison (Robison household)  
 David Roodberg (Roodberg household)  
 Steve Wake (Wake household)  
 Aida Yohannes (student)

Anyone not renewed for the 2019-2020 membership year by January 15, 2020, did not remain active with the League as we had to scrub our membership rolls in the LWVUS database by the end of January. Members who dropped may rejoin, but the reinstatement period will be only until the end of the current year, which is June 30, 2020.



~ You are cordially invited to attend ~

The LWV of the Fairfax Area

**ANNIVERSARY TEA**

Celebrating 100 years of the League of Women Voters

Sunday, February 23, 2020

**COUNTRY CLUB OF FAIRFAX**

5110 Ox Road (Route 123 & Braddock Roads)  
Fairfax VA 22030

2 pm - Registration & refreshments

We will enjoy an assortment of miniature desserts as well as coffee and tea

**PROGRAM**

**CAPITAL HARMONIA**

A community women's chorus based in Northern Virginia, dedicated to bringing music written for women's voices.

**SPEAKER**

Vivian Watts, Member, VA House of Delegates

**HONORING**

50-year LWVFA members

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Reservation Deadline February 17 -- Cost: \$20 per person  
Register online at [HTTP://lwv100years.eventbrite.com/](http://lwv100years.eventbrite.com/) or  
Make checks payable to: LWVFA and mail with reservation form to:  
2020 Anniversary Tea, 10172 Turnberry Place, Oakton, VA 22124

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount remitted @\$20 each: \$\_\_\_\_\_

## Domestic Violence: Economic/ Financial Abuse What Do You Know? Why Should You Care?

By Adarsh Trehan, Member, Domestic  
Violence Committee

Domestic abuse can take many forms: physical, emotional, sexual, and/or financial, or a combination of these types. It is ALWAYS used by the abuser to control the victim. It is important to realize that domestic violence is NEVER the victim's fault! Often, the violence results in physical injuries, but sometimes it doesn't.

Financial or economic abuse "happens when an abuser takes control of finances to prevent the other person from leaving and to maintain power in a relationship. An abuser may take control of all the money, withhold it, or conceal financial information from the victim. Financial abuse often happens in physically abusive relationships." ([www.womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/other-types/financialabuse](http://www.womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/other-types/financialabuse)).

Here are some examples of how it can manifest: Forbidding the victim to attend school or work or quit his/her job; if the victim is working or physically injuring the victim so he/she will have to miss school or work; not allowing the victim to have a car or damaging the victim's car; or giving the victim limited money to manage household and other expenses. Also: not putting the name of the victim on a bank account or limiting his/her access to the bank account, not allowing him/her to have a credit card(s), hiding assets, or not involving the victim in financial decisions.

While physical abuse is often visible, financial abuse is not often recognized as a form of domestic violence, because it is not obvious to the victim or other people around the victim. It is, however, a powerful method of controlling a victim. "In a 2012 survey, three out of four victims said they stayed with their abusers longer for economic reasons. Of the 85% of victims who returned to their abusers, a significant number cited an inability to address their finances." [www.https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Library\\_EJ\\_Financial\\_Abuse\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Library_EJ_Financial_Abuse_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

If you know a person experiencing financial abuse or any type of domestic violence, encourage them to call the Fairfax County 24-hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline: 703-360-7273/711 TTY.

## Interview Project: Longtime League Members

By Julie Jones

A small committee is planning to interview 3 LWVFA members who have been part of LWV for 50 years or more. Some of the interviews will be taped and posted on YouTube and others will be transcribed from in-person conversations. Many of our members will be "spotlighted" in the Fairfax VOTER in coming months. All the material collected will be deposited in our archives at George Mason University.

### *Spotlight on Liz Brooke*

Liz has been a League member since 1962 when she and her husband, Ty, moved to Medina, Ohio, from Clinton, Iowa, where she was born, went to college at Grinnell University, married, and had her first child.

In Medina, "I was recruited to join and start a prospective, pre-provisional League of Women Voters in 1962. That was about the same time that our second son was born. There were about 10 of us who met around a dining room table with a League woman who traveled from about an hour and a half away. She would instruct us on what a League did and what the League stood for ... until about 11:30 at night. It took us two years to become a League because we had to understand the national and state positions.

"We had to do a major League study on our town. I distinctly remember being with my third son—newly born—and having someone bring me proofs of the study for me [to read in bed at the hospital]. And, I am still proofing League newsletters and studies. [Note: Liz was our Voter newsletter editor for 10 years.]

"By 1965, it was a real League. I was its third president. I had to resign my presidency because my husband and I moved to Vienna, VA for his new job. We moved here in 1968. I didn't know anything about Virginia or the area, so the first thing I did was get in touch with the League. I went to a unit meeting, and I was immediately recruited to become unit chair. I mean just like that [with a finger snap]. Our Fairfax League was so different than the small League of Medina. In Fairfax, we had 26 units with about 625 members [that met all over the County]. I think we haven't had that many members since then; it was right before we all went to work. We were stay-at-home moms with little kids. I became president about three years later.

“I got my job through a Leaguer who worked part-time as a proofreader for U.S. News and World Report. There was a job opening for an on-call proofreader. It was perfect timing because Ty was talking about starting his own business and what if his new business didn’t go well. One week later, I became a part-time proofreader. When Ty actually started the business, I applied for a full-time job at U.S. News and World Report, and I was offered three jobs. I chose to become a fact checker, and I did that for two years.

“When you get your foot in the door, you have to speak up and prove yourself. I spoke with a friend of mine in another department and became an editor for a few years, but not at the news desk. There were rumors that they were going to abolish that department, so I moved over to the copy editing desk. By the time I retired, I was chief of the news desk. [Note: The business that Ty started was Brooke Rental Center, which is now in its fifth decade and has locations in Vienna, Arlington, and Leesburg.]

“Many of the senior editors came from major newspapers. They smoked cigars and had whiskey in their desk drawers. We had really weird hours. We stayed at work until midnight on Thursdays [to make deadline]. It was a really fun job. I worked there for 34 years, and I was nearly 77 years old when I retired. That’s the kind of place it was. They didn’t kick you out if you were performing.

[Years later] “I had declined two buyouts. By the time the third buyout came around, there had been lots of lay-offs. It wasn’t fun anymore. When I started at the news desk, we had 12 people. By the time I left, we were down to 4 ½. We didn’t have any more foreign correspondents. It was simply changing and very sad. I either had to leave or layoff someone in my department, two of whom had kids

in college. So, I took the retirement. It was a great run, and I really loved the work.

“As LWVFA President, we were learning. We weren’t advocating. We were studying the issues, which is why I wanted to be in the League. I did give speeches to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors about issues such as taxation and zoning. We were preparing in-depth “master’s theses”-type reports that were about 20 pages long in our Voter. We were writing and typing the articles, and then having them photocopied. There was no email. I put so many miles on my car driving to the unit meetings and study committee members’ homes. You can see our old typewritten studies in the League archive at the George Mason University library.

“I can remember my dad telling me when I went back to work that “oh, you can finally use your brains.” And, I told him “no dad, I’m finally going to get paid for it.” That was the key. We were mostly stay-at-home mamas, and the League was our intellectual juice. We were loving learning: preparing studies, reading them, and discussing them fully. League members are so intelligent!

“There are two issues that are important to me. One is the environment. I would like for there to still be a globe to live on for my great-grandkids and beyond. Firearms is the other one. When people come to the house who are running for the State Legislature, I ask their position on controlling guns. When they tell me that they are a great supporter of guns, I tell them that I won’t vote for them.

“I know exactly how the people in our League feel today, and they want to be involved. We all do. I am delighted about the growth and activism in our League today. It is wonderful; it really is.”





## Environmental Update: Avoid 'Wish Cycling'

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Are you trying to produce less waste? Learn what you can recycle and where. Assuming something will be recycled and placing it in a bin could add to the contamination of the waste stream.

Glass-bottle recycling within Fairfax County shifted from curbside to centralized purple dumpsters with 9-1/2" diameter chutes last year. So glass doesn't end up in the waste stream, this separation solves the problem of glass containers breaking and becoming much harder to separate when mixed with other recyclables. More than 1,400 tons were dropped off in the program's first half year. This glass has been tested as bedding for new pipes, backfill for construction projects, and input for new bottles. In January, some of the glass started being sold for processing into new glass products. Find a video about the crushed glass pilot and a map of the two dozen regional purple bin locations extending into Arlington and Prince William Counties and the Cities of Alexandria, Herndon, and Vienna at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/glass>.

Here's the latest on what else all haulers in Fairfax County do and don't accept for recycling:

- Clean, dry, empty plastic bottles and jugs that have necks (AND cleaned peanut butter jars), with any caps on, can be recycled curbside. Your commercial hauler may accept other shapes as well. Plastic bags should be returned to your grocery store for recycling, preventing their getting wrapped around rollers and stopping the conveyor belt or simply contaminating other recyclable materials at sorting facilities. The number on the bottom classifies the type of resin from which it was made; it doesn't

mean that it is or isn't recyclable.

- Some retailers like the Care Packaging Store, 245 South Van Dorn Street, Alexandria, accept loose-fill packaging. The nearest drop-off site for clean rigid white foam packaging, like wine coolers, is at 1298 Cronson Blvd., Crofton, MD. Before you carpool there, you can call 800-828-2214 to confirm that your #6 plastic can be remade into new plastic. Otherwise, it's trash.
- You may crush metal food and beverage cans to save space in your curbside bin.
- Milk cartons, cardboard and mixed paper go into your bin. Shredded paper goes into the trash.
- Follow safety precautions to discard Alkaline/single-use batteries (AA, AAA, 9V, C or D cell) in your household trash. All other batteries should be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste site for disposal, either the I-66 Transfer Station in Fairfax or the I-95 Landfill Complex in Lorton, just like unbroken fluorescent, compact fluorescent, and LED bulbs and tubes.

Each facility also now has a Donations Station operated daily in partnership with the for-profit TVI/Savers to collect used clothing, household goods, records, toys, and books. Donation receipts are provided for items to be sold in local thrift shops. Unserviceable textiles can be recycled into carpets and upholstery. Residents bringing items found to be unacceptable can dispose of them onsite.

Recycling is your last alternative before disposal for your used items. See <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/residential-materials> for reuse ideas and disposal information for residential items. AARP VA is holding free, two-hour Downsizing and Decluttering workshops that suggest local places to donate various types of household items. For items your hauler doesn't accept for recycling, check Earth911.com's listings.



## LWVFA Donors and Supporters

The LWVFA Board extends an overwhelming thank you  
to the following individuals and organizations for their amazing support!

December 3, 2019 – January 4, 2020

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Susan Dill  
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The Community Foundation  
for Northern Virginia / Lighthouse Fund  
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and cash donations  
from Springfield Unit Fundraiser



**THANK YOU**

# Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

## Topic: Optional

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 January 1, 2020, 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.

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*Because we hope everyone will attend the Anniversary Tea on Sunday, February 23rd (remember to register at <https://lww100years.eventbrite.com/>), many units will not have a separate meeting this month. If you are unsure, please contact your unit leader. If you are a unit leader, and your unit will meet, please be sure to notify your members.*

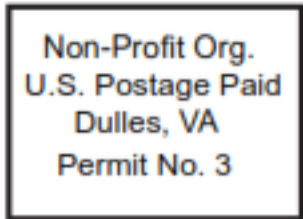
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## March Meetings:

Women and Alcohol



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](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org)



**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®  
 January, 2020**

Anu Sahai, Co-President  
 Nancy Roodberg, Co-President  
 Katherine Ingmanson, 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.

Please Support Our Work! The LWVFA Education Fund is supported by donations from our members and the public. <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/donate>



**LWVFA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM**

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Membership Dues: Individual \$65 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$90 (2 persons; 1 Voter) \_\_\_\_\_ Student (No fee) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (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 as a separate check or PayPal Payment to “LWVFA Ed Fund.”  
 (Please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit (if renewing) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ /State/ \_\_\_\_\_ Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to LWVFA. Mail to LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403  
 OR Join online at <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/join>

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

- Providing organization support (graphic design, website development/maintenance, fundraising/grant writing)
- Voter Services (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, etc., 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, or Fairfax County Public Schools).

Other \_\_\_\_\_