



**The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
4026 Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003**

www.lwv-fairfax.org
703-658-9150

**The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
To Present Historical Picture to BOS on March 12th**

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will give a framed photograph of the Occoquan Workhouse to Fairfax County at their Board of Supervisors Meeting on March 12, 2007. In concert with March being proclaimed "Women's History Month in Fairfax" by the BOS, LWVFA intends to give to the County a portrait of a building in Fairfax County that played an important role in obtaining the right to vote for women in America.

The picture shows the wooden building, known as the Occoquan Workhouse—part of the federal prison at Lorton—where many of the suffragists who picketed the White House in 1917 for the right to vote were imprisoned. While there, the women were force-fed when they staged a hunger strike to protest their arrest and incarceration. Eventually, the negative publicity about their treatment generated nationwide concern and moved Congress and President Wilson to pass legislation granting women the right to vote (the 19th Amendment).

An historical marker, commemorating the event, has been placed on the property of Fairfax Water's Griffith Water Treatment Plant on Route 123, near the site of the original wooden building depicted in the photograph. Upon being asked why the League wanted to give the picture to Fairfax County, LWVFA President Sherry Zachry said: "It seemed fitting that the County should have the picture to display in the Government Center, since it depicts such a vital piece of women's history that occurred in Fairfax County. As far as we know, this photo of the actual **wood** building where the women were held is the only one in existence in the County." The original photograph is the property of the D.C. Department of Corrections and is kept in their archives.

Media interested in knowing more about this event should contact Vanessa Johnson, LWVFA PR Director, at 703-787-0097.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, political organization of men and women that works to promote active and informed participation in local, state and national government. Anyone interested in joining or learning more about the League can check out the LWVFA website at: www.lwv-fairfax.org or call 703-658-9150 and leave a message.

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