

Fairfax VOTER

December 2021

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2022-2024 Program Planning For LWVFA and LWVUS Make Your Voice Heard!

This month we begin the process for prioritizing the issues most critical for League action by reviewing the positions of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) and League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS).

This is your opportunity to make recommendations for each League's 2022-24 Program. Please let us know which issues should be emphasized over the next two years.

The final LWVFA Program will be adopted at our annual meeting in April 2022. The final LWVUS Program will be adopted at the national convention to be held in Denver, Colorado in June 2022.

You may provide feedback at your December unit meeting or via the online survey at this link <https://bit.ly/LWVFAPP2021>. Online survey responses are due by Friday, December 17, 2021.

Calendar

- 3 *Fairfax Voter* Deadline
- 4 LWVFA Virtual At-Large Meeting, 10:00 am
- 8 - 13 LWVFA Unit Meetings
- 15 LWVFA Virtual Board Meeting, 10:00 am

See you in 2022!!

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Presidents' Message



Hello, Leaguers,

As we come to the end of the year, it is a time to reflect on the year gone by and look to the upcoming one. We as a people seem to be even more polarized than ever before. The Holidays are upon us, and we will be together with family and friends. It is always easy and agreeable to talk to people who are of the same opinion as us but well-nigh impossible to talk to people who are not. The elections are over and some of us are happy with the change and others are devastated.

Here is an exercise on *Civility Self Reflection - Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions* that we found on the US-Courts.gov website. It is a wonderful tool to reflect on how we talk to people who don't think like us. We suggest you set aside a few minutes and honestly think about what you do in those situations.

1. When a conversation gets heated, I contribute to the conversation.

- Would people say you, typically, are an inflamer, an informer, an inquirer, an influencer, a good listener, a comedian?

2. When peers disagree about an issue, I remain silent.

- Why do you tend to remain silent? Can that be a good thing? What makes you comfortable enough to speak?

3. I take an active role in creating a welcoming environment for differing opinions.

- What do you say and do?

4. I give my peers eye contact and my full attention when they speak, even when I disagree.

- When people are really listening to you, what difference does that behavior make to you?
- What difference does it make in the conversation?

5. When I disagree with someone, I keep an open mind and, momentarily, put aside what I plan to say next.

- What do you say to yourself so that you really listen, not just wait for your turn to speak?

6. I can't control others' behavior or opinions, so I focus on my own actions and civility.

- What does that mean and how does it work?

7. When I'm speaking, sometimes, I use silence to get the attention of others.

- How do you use silence? How effective is it?

8. I speak respectfully to people with whom I disagree, even if they disrespect me.

- Why? Give an example of what you can say or do/not do when someone is disrespectful to you.

9. I ask clarifying questions.

- Give examples of clarifying questions.

10. I am careful not to take over a conversation by talking longer than others.

- What limits do you put on yourself to keep from talking too much?
- On the other hand, what do you do/say when you can't get a word in edgewise?

11. When I get excited, I interrupt the person speaking.

- When you feel strongly about a subject, how do you monitor yourself so that you don't interrupt?

12. I have side conversations that distract the person I'm talking with – and others – from the person who has the floor.

- How do you feel when someone is whispering while you're talking, even when they're trying not to be dis-

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

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2021 - 2022

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ruptive?

13. I listen for what people mean – not just what they say – when I disagree with them.

- What do people do/say when they are listening just to the words?
- What do they do/say when they are listening for what the person means?

14. When peers disagree, I find common ground and call attention to areas of agreement.

- What are some phrases you can use to bridge the gap when you are trying to find common ground?

15. Sometimes I tune out, then realize I've repeated something that already has been said.

- How do you feel when someone repeats a point that already has been made?

16. I roll my eyes or make subtle faces when I disagree with someone's opinion.

- How do nonverbals detract from the civility of the conversation, even when the speaker doesn't see you rolling your eyes or making faces?

We found these exercises to be particularly useful and made us aware of how many of those actions are part of our behavior!! Do try thinking about this and it is sure to make you more mindful if not more civil!

Happy Holidays!

Anu and Pat

Program Director Notes

By Jessica Storrs

In October, the units reviewed *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack* by Peggy McIntosh. Many members found the list of conditions of privilege to consider thought-provoking and illuminating. A rich discussion of experiences ensued with many examples of what both having and not having privilege looks like.

An issue that came up repeatedly was the notable lack of diversity within LWVFA itself. Members expressed a desire for our organization to be more inclusive and reflect the population of our community better.

For those who would like to explore this issue further, some book suggestions came from the unit meetings: *White Supremacy and Me* by Layla F. Assad and

All That She Carried by Tiya Miles. For additional reading see this guide from the Fairfax County Public Library <https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/dismantle-racial-injustice>.

Looking ahead - get ready for our January book club month by picking up a copy of *Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* by Caroline Criado Perez. From Kirkus Reviews, "In clear language, the author builds a strong case for greater inclusion with this thoughtful and surprisingly humorous view of institutional bias and gendered information gaps. While some readers may suggest that equality has arrived and gender no longer matters, this book, which should have wide popular appeal, is a solid corrective to that line of thought." Copies are available from the Fairfax County Public Library or your favorite book store.

LWVFA Membership Report

By Donna Blake, Membership Director

A big thank you to all of our members who have renewed for the 2021-2022 year. The response to the "Gentle Reminder" email has been excellent. And a big thank you to those members who sent a correction with the date that they had paid. Please be patient with the Treasurer (Lynn Stewart) and Membership Director (Donna Blake) as we work our way through the many emails and letters. In early November updated Active Member Unit Rosters will be distributed to the ten LWV units in Fairfax. Please check with your unit head or membership chair to ensure that your information is correct and complete, including your preferred email addresses.

As of November 1, 2021, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area has 517 Active Members with the following new members added in October:

Caron Arntson
Teresa Bruner
Karen L Gatz
TraVonda Givens
Irene McGhee
Grace Smith
M. Sandra Sue

Environmental Update: Changed Climate Now Impacts Coral Reefs More Than Ocean Acidification

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Thinking of a sun-and-sand vacation this winter? Could be a good chance to see coral and the half a billion people who depend upon them for food, livelihoods, and protection from natural disasters before they disappear. The first global-scale coral bleaching event occurred in 1998, when rising water temperatures caused corals enough stress that their symbiotic algae left. Without its primary food source, the corals became white and more susceptible to disease and no longer provided the food and shelter on which a quarter of all marine species depend. With the help of a powerful El Niño, about 8% of living coral was wiped out. By 2010, global coral coverage had returned, though weakened. The climate hasn't been so warm in more than 20 million years; corals can recover if given about a decade of reprieve from hot waters.

According to an October report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network documenting for the first time the status of reefs across 12,000 sites in 73 countries, the world lost 14% of its corals between 2009 and 2018 - equivalent to about 11,700 square kilometers. In 2015 Hawaii lost all wild colonies of one of its endemic corals, which was saved in an ark aquarium. The Great Barrier Reef later lost half of its coral. In 2018 the International Panel on Climate Change reported that 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming, which will be hard to prevent, would cause global coral reefs to decline by 70-90% and we'd lose more than 99% of the world's corals with 2 degrees of warming.

The decline isn't uniform. The Coral Triangle of the East Asian seas holds almost a third of the world's coral reefs and hosts more live hard coral now than in the early 1980s, despite rising water temperatures. That's thought to be due to genetic diversity among the region's 600 species of coral, which is allowing corals to adapt to warm waters. The other three main global regions for coral - the Pacific, holding more than a quarter of the global total; Australia, with 16%; and the Caribbean, with 10% - all host less coral today than when the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network began collecting data in 1978. The Caribbean only has about 50 species of coral, and a new disease is wiping them out.

Solutions vary, too. Most of the more than 360 coral restoration projects across 56 countries are focused on trans-

planting bits of coral from a flourishing spot to a struggling one, or "gardening" baby corals in nurseries and planting them out. The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) created an innovative approach called Adaptive Reefscapes that optimizes localized environmental conditions to allow corals to adapt to the effects of the changed climate. CORAL also works at a regional level in Mesoamerica to seed heat-adapted coral larvae in the water column. Another strategy is to selectively breed corals that are better adapted to a warmer world. A recent study led by microbiologist Raquel Peixoto of King Abdullah University showed that dropping slow-release probiotic pills onto reefs could improve coral survival after a heat wave by 40%. And the Allen Coral Atlas of temperature and geology now has a bleaching monitoring system.

Sanctuaries, like in the Northern Red Sea, can protect corals already adapted to handling hot waters from threats by other factors, like sewage, pollution, construction, overfishing, blast fishing, and fish farms. Local efforts to tackle non-climate-related hazards for corals can be very effective. The Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System improved within only a few years following efforts to protect that ecosystem and ban oil development.

Zoe - A Living Sea Sculpture, is a 15' x 9' x 6' coral restoration project in Cozumel, Mexico, using a low-voltage current to precipitate sea minerals onto a steel structure, forming a natural substrate onto which corals can cement. This project to help regenerate corals and marine biodiversity is in a highly degraded area with storms, climate change, disease, and development. You can watch a livestreaming webcam at zoecoral.com. Marine biologist Solene Jonveaux is conducting a two-year scientific assessment of this artificial coral reef and coral planting installed in September 2016.

At COP26, the Maldives noted the bureaucracy of applying for funds for a single adaptation project and asked the Parties to the Paris Agreement to treat the climate as an emergency. As in other Small Island Developing States, the Maldives is no more than 3' above sea level. It is losing its biodiversity, culture, and identity; fears its population will have to leave; and calls for climate justice, including an immediate Loss and Damage fund for vulnerable communities on the climate front lines that are victims of our carbon emissions. Last year, the Maldives Coral Institute relocated 5,000 colonies of coral in Fulhadhoo, Goidhoo Atoll, that would have been destroyed by a harbor construction project.

2022-2024 Program Planning For LWVFA and LWVUS

By Jessica Storrs, Program Director

What is Program Planning?

A grassroots process by which the League decides where and how we will direct our resources – member time, money, reputation – over the next two years. All League advocacy and actions must be rooted in established League positions. In program planning, we prioritize the positions on which to focus our efforts.

What is a Position?

The League of Women Voters takes action on an issue only when we have a position addressing the subject. Members must study and come to consensus on an issue, in order to form a position.

What is the Process?

Members review the current League positions and decide which to prioritize for action and advocacy over the next two years. During this process, members may recommend that a current position be updated or deleted. If a new position is recommended, members must study the issue and come to consensus in order to form a position.

For more information on positions please visit <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/positions>

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

Here We Stand, 2019

Positions-in-Brief: A Summary of LWVFA positions, Readopted April 21, 2018, Edited June 2018 & 2019

Please review the summary of current LWVFA positions and complete the questions at the end. For full text of positions, see <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/positions/>.

GOVERNMENT

Fairfax County & City of Fairfax (1987-1996)

Support an effective, responsible and accountable form of government that includes opportunities for citizen participation in the decision-making process by scheduling time for public comment at board and council meetings and holding magisterial district town meetings in the county. Support for the concept of an independent auditor for program review.

Fiscal (1970s-2008)

Support for an effectively administered, equitable tax system and the sale of bonds for capital improvements including the construction and renewal of school facilities. If additional revenue is needed, and in order to diversify the tax system and reduce reliance on the property tax, a combination of adjusting the rates on existing taxes and/or fees and enacting new taxes and/or fees should be considered.

Public Libraries (1984-2006)

Support for selection policies and procedures of the Fair-

fax County Public Libraries (FCPL) that ensure its collection contains a wide variety of books, digital resources, and other materials representing a diversity of views to serve the educational, informational and recreational needs of the residents of Fairfax County/City.

Registration and Voting

Support efforts to increase voter registration and voter participation in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax.

Transportation (6/2019)

Support for an effective, well-coordinated, safe, and adequately financed multimodal system of public transit and transportation infrastructure for Fairfax County/City. Additionally, this system should employ the most up-to-date, proven technology and be designed with input from and meet the needs of its residents and businesses. Transportation and land use planning should be transparent and coordinated to ensure that the system and its components are cost-effective, and consistent with environmental, land use, social and economic goals. This will provide efficient and seamless mobility across all modes of transportation throughout the region. (2019)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Quality (E.Q.)

Support for measures to protect the public and the environment and to encourage alternative methods of disposal of solid and hazardous wastes; support for a comprehensive hazardous materials program.

- **Solid Waste (1980-1990)** Support measures to protect the public and the environment and to encour-

age alternative methods of disposal of solid wastes. Source reduction, as well as reuse and recycling, should be emphasized over incineration and land filling.

- **Hazardous Materials (1985-1994)** Support establishment and maintenance by Fairfax County and Fairfax City of a comprehensive local hazardous materials program, including safe disposal of hazardous waste, to protect the public and environment.
- **Sensitive Areas (1988-1994)** Non-tidal wetlands are a valuable resource that is in need of protection from destruction by conversion to other uses. Both tidal and non-tidal wetlands should be protected against damage from sedimentation and pollution.
- **Air Quality (1992)** To achieve and maintain acceptable air quality, development of less polluting alternative fuels should be a high priority with preference for compressed natural gas, reformulated gasoline, electricity and hydrogen. Support for a change in parking subsidies away from those favoring low occupancy vehicles to those favoring efficient transportation modes.
- **Climate Change - Local (2009)** Localities must play a significant role in addressing the causes of climate change. The League supports and encourages the County and City of Fairfax to adopt and carry out programs that will minimize the causes and effects of climate change. The League also supports the coordination of these efforts with those of other localities.
- **Land Use Planning (1984-2000)** Support for well-coordinated and environmentally sound comprehensive land use planning in Fairfax County/City, efforts to ensure that growth is balanced and orderly, preservation of historic and archaeological sites and areas, coordinated revitalization and redevelopment, and coordination of land use and transportation planning.
- **Water (1990s)** Support for Fairfax County taking measures necessary to effectively protect the Occoquan Reservoir from pollution.

SOCIAL POLICY

Health Care (1984-1988)

Support publicly funded health planning to control costs and support Fairfax County/City having a role in the health care of its citizens, which should include participation in programs that subsidize health care for the medically indigent through private physicians and primary care clinics placed in appropriate locations. Support for an aggressive, community-based outreach program to inform the public about available health care programs.

Human Resources (1976-1990)

Support equal opportunity for education, employment and housing; promote provision of services for the elderly; work to ensure adequate, affordable and appropriate housing for low-and moderate-income families and individuals; support a wide range of housing arrangements for mentally disabled adults; and support permanent shelters for homeless families and individuals.

Judicial System (2000)

Support court, correctional and law enforcement systems for Fairfax County/City that are conducted in a just and dignified manner; that minister to all people without legal, economic or administrative discrimination; that require efficient administration and competent personnel who are given a clear assignment of responsibility and adequate financing; that require proper planning and coordination between related agencies; and that encourage the active and informed participation of citizens.

Juvenile Justice (1994 & edited 6/2018)

Support measures for youth whereby the major goal of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for Fairfax County/City is the protection and rehabilitation of youth. Support for alternatives to detention and a variety of individual and group homes located throughout the County/City, in preference to institutions. These facilities should provide for separation of various types of juveniles according to their individual needs.

Schools - FCPS (2007-2008, 2010)

Promote equal opportunity for a quality education in Fairfax County/City schools. Support for proper planning; competent administration; full-day kindergarten and minimum of 20-minute daily recess in all elementary schools; programs to meet special needs; adequate personnel, facilities and financing; well-defined channels for community input and review; and appropriate books and materials to support and enhance the instructional program.

LWVFA Program Planning Questions

1. List 3 current LWVFA positions to prioritize for advocacy and action in 2022-24. Rank in order of importance.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2. List any current position you recommend for an update/restudy and reasons why:.

3. List any current position you recommend for deletion and reasons why.

4. List any new study/position proposals you recommend and reasons why*.

5. Provide the names/contact information for any member(s) willing to volunteer to work on an issue/position.

****Before recommending a new position for study, please consider the following:***

- Is this a timely issue?
- Is the issue already addressed by a current LWVFA position or a position by one of our umbrella organizations: LWV of the National Capital Area, LWV-Virginia or LWVUS?
- Is government action the most effective way to address the problem?
- Is the proposal appropriate for the geographic area of the LWVFA? (i.e., Fairfax County)
- Are there members willing to work on the issue?
- Is there widespread member interest?

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

The LWVUS has provided the following Program Proposal for 2022-24. Please review and answer the questions at the end.

The LWVUS Board recommends that Program 2022-2024 continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® with Leagues throughout the country working on:

- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Money in Politics
- Redistricting

At Convention 2020, delegates voted to support a program that would fully utilize core League positions around Voting Rights and Election Reform. The campaign for Making Democracy Work® includes ensuring a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters. Leagues at every level continue to work to protect and advance voting rights and election reform at this critical time for our democracy, as well as to fight efforts in Washington, D.C., and state legislatures to suppress voters.

At the same time, the League of Women Voters continues our transformational journey to strengthen the organization while also engaging new and future activists around the League's core issues. As we look to achieve our transformational goals around relevance, impact, focus and culture, we also look to the priority issues that are at the heart of the League's mission.

Accomplishments of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®

As part of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work, the League has continued to focus on a major campaign to protect and enforce voting rights.

Since July 2020, LWVUS lobbied the White House and Congress, sending 22 action emails to our network of grassroots activists on voter suppression tactics as well as supporting legislation like the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. These also include action alerts on DC Statehood, Healthcare Reform and the Equal Rights Amendment.

These efforts resulted in 226,118 letters to Congress, and over 14,398 contacts with the Executive Branch of government. Through our outreach we were able to engage over 95,193 new activists.

In the 117th Congress, the LWVUS continued its major lobbying campaign in support of the For the People Act and the Freedom to Vote Act as well as the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. The LWVUS, grassroots and LWVUS Lobby Corps contacted their representatives and senators in support of legislation. LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner and LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomon joined by Leagues across the country participated in days of action at the White House and on Capitol Hill to showcase the need for passage of legislation to strengthen voting rights now.

The Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act will:

- Set standards for voting across the country;
- Address the historical barriers to voting;
- Provide oversight on voting rights violations;
- Hold states and bad actors accountable; and
- Create a democracy that is representative of all Americans.

In August 2021, the LWVUS submitted a statement to the US House Judiciary Committee hearing on the Oversight of the Voting Rights Act: Potential Legislative Reforms. The hearing documents will be used to send a report to the US Senate on the continued need for the Voting Rights Act.

The For the People Act passed the House of Representatives but fell short of the votes needed to pass in the Senate. At the time of the writing of this report, the Freedom to Vote Act is scheduled for its first procedural vote, but will need to overcome the filibuster in order to pass out of the Senate and head to the House.

In voting rights litigation, state Leagues and LWVUS continue to play a leadership role by mounting judicial challenges to state laws designed to make it harder for people to vote. LWVUS and state Leagues actively opposed voter photo ID laws, advocated against barriers to the voter registration process, worked to prevent last-minute Election Day obstacles, and helped millions of voters get the information and any required documentation they need to vote.

In September 2019, the League officially launched our People Powered Fair Maps™ initiative, uniting the Leagues of all 50 states and the District of Columbia together for a coordinated national organizing and education effort to end partisan gerrymandering through ballot initiatives, legislative and constitutional fixes, and work to create district maps that are fair and reflective of the communities they serve.

The LWVUS has also supported full funding for the census. The League was an official partner with the U.S. Census Bureau and worked with partners to get the best count available in as many underrepresented communities as possible.

As redistricting came underway following the release of data in August 2021, Leagues jumped into action to get information to voters and communities to participate in the redistricting process. With the COVID-19 pandemic still impacting the world, some Leagues worked to safely hold virtual redistricting shadow hearings, virtual testimony-writing “parties,” and worked to apply pressure in states where the redistricting governing body fell short of being as inclusive as possible in the redistricting process. Leagues have reported monthly on their progress and in Spring 2022, the LWVUS will release an impact report outlining our success in this national effort.

In addition, the League continues to do litigation work relevant to the Making Democracy Work® campaign. The 2020 election led to the League’s busiest litigation year with 77 cases filed in 37 states, all to increase voter access, and to encourage greater voter participation leading to protecting more than 25 million voters. Between July and October 2021, the League has filed 5 cases challenging anti-voter laws around the country, 3 cases to further redistricting reform, 2 money in politics cases, and more than a dozen cases dealing with other critical issues relating to voter protection and access. Because of the tremendous growth of the litigation portfolio of Leagues across the country, LWVUS is launching the first-ever legal center in winter of 2021, to make it easier for Leagues and the public to keep abreast of the work being done across the country.

Finally, Leagues around the country have played leadership roles in their communities, legislatures, and courts in all aspects of Making Democracy Work®. At the local, state, and federal level, our work on voter protection and mobilization, election reform, money in politics and redistricting is at the heart of the League’s mission and its future.

2022 and Beyond

As we look to the future, our programmatic work is more important now than ever. Local and state Leagues and the LWVUS have made progress in the campaign for Making Democracy Work® but our work is not finished. The League continues to be up to the challenge to advance these priorities.

Additional information on the campaign for Making Democracy Work® is available at www.lwv.org.

Expanding Voter Access

<https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/expanding-voter-access>

Fighting Voter Suppression

<https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/fighting-voter-suppression>

Money in Politics

<https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/money-politics>

Redistricting

<https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/redistricting>

LWVUS Program Planning Questions

1. Do you support the proposed program focus, continuing the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® (which includes Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Redistricting and Money in Politics)? (Yes or No).
2. Would you like to recommend another program item, in addition to or instead of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®? (Yes or No) Please provide a statement (300 words or less) describing the scope of your recommendation, including a description of the issue area, its importance in advancing the League’s mission as well as resources needed to carry out the recommendation.
3. Please provide anything else you would like to share on Program Planning. Keep your response to 300 words or less.

CEDV and Domestic Violence: Looking Ahead and “Transforming the Norm in Domestic Awareness and Prevention”

By Theresa Brion and Adarsh Trehan
Domestic Violence Committee Members

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month. According to the National Coalition to End Domestic Violence (NCEDV), this Month was launched nationwide in October 1987. The launch was a way “to connect and unite individuals and organizations working on domestic violence issues, while raising awareness for those issues. Over the past 30+ years, much progress has been made to support domestic violence victims and survivors, to hold abusers accountable, and to create and update legislation to further those goals.” The Fairfax County Council to End Domestic Violence (CEDV) works to achieve these goals in Fairfax County.

CEDV held its fall quarterly and annual meetings virtually on October 21, 2021, National Purple Day Out Thursday. Domestic violence awareness is associated with the color purple, which is a symbol of peace, courage, survival, honor and dedication to ending violence. It is a salute to survivors and those we have lost to domestic violence.” (Wikipedia).

Supervisor James Walkinshaw (Braddock District) presided as chair for both meetings.

The Quarterly Meeting

The fall meeting focused on an end-of-year evaluation of how CEDV’s work, as stated in its mission and goals, aligns with the current reality (presented by Stacy Ziebell, Program Director, County-Wide Domestic Violence Coordinator, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services). Its mission is to unite senior-level public officials and community leaders in advising the Board of Supervisors on DV policy within Fairfax County and the appropriate responses.

In general an evaluation indicated that an equity focus must flow through each effort, such as a continued focus on equity access and equity representation in the court process. Efforts to coordinate the criminal and civil justice responses to DV are progressing. There has been an increased understanding of offender services with improvements designed to offer a coordinated community response to DV. Efforts to remove barriers hampering access to DV services by segments of the community were paused, how-

ever, to ensure the implementation and incorporation of the equity workgroup’s findings from its examination of representation and the CEDV by-laws. The Step Up 4 Kids Coalition also is building on its existing work.

Recommendations for CEDV’s continued work include: tasking the various workgroups to take an equity focus as they proceed with their work; reviewing and revising CEDV values to reflect current reality; creating an equity statement for inclusion in by-laws and elsewhere; re-starting the Partner Abuse Intervention Workgroup; and a continued pause on efforts regarding underserved and unserved populations. The membership offered further suggestions for integrating equity efforts across departments and collaborating with other bodies, both within and outside Fairfax County.

The next CEDV quarterly meeting will occur in January 2022, on a date to be determined and announced.

The Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting focused on CEDV’s theme, “Transforming the Norm in Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.” This theme reflects both how “the norm” has changed post-pandemic and the need to change the societal norms regarding stalking and DV.

After a brief networking activity, Stacy Ziebell introduced the keynote speaker: Indira Henard, Executive Director, D.C. Rape Crisis Center, and an advocate and leader on DV issues for more than 20 years.

Indira said she sees all forms of oppression as interconnected. Therefore, agencies and people must approach DV services work with a racial and intersectional lens; it cannot and should not be done alone. A holistic approach to this work is critical, and we must create systems that use that approach. Furthermore, we must be bold and courageous, and we must make time for self-care. Despite the challenges, it is necessary to hold on to joy and hope for a better future as well as shift the norm.

She said that her “radical rules” focus on intersectionality and on approaching this work with a race and oppression lens. The rules express a need to: 1) not “call out” but rather to “call in” those who need to enter the conversation; 2) remember why we engage in this demanding work; and 3) realize that leadership is a relay race. Therefore, we must know when to pass along the baton when our work is done and to look to others to continue the work. Remember that there is no higher honor than standing with a client in their darkest hour and in their most uplifted hour!

In response to a question about how to approach persons who do not believe that they are being racist or are adopting racist practices, she referenced her earlier “rule” on “calling in” that person for further conversation. If one witnesses a microaggression, it is vitally important to note it in the moment and say something! Do not contact the recipient later to give voice to your internal reaction to it.

A brief presentation was given by Kristi Van Audenhove, who works with the Action Alliance (AA). She talked about the nature and role of the AA, which is a nonprofit member organization with 72 member organizations across the Commonwealth. AA services include advocacy, access to statewide legal services, a 24-hour hotline, and assistance with navigating the DV services system. She shared that the caterpillar is its “mascot”—a living being of transformation and change. Further, that transformation occurs within the cocoon, where magical discs reorganize the elements within the cocoon to result in something both powerful and beautiful. It is a symbol for the need to let go of present forms and to allow processes to take over. In that vein, we should approach DV concerns and processes with a “What if ?” attitude. How do we preserve the vital components of a system or processes but rearrange them so that a shared vision is possible?

The annual meeting closed with its annual awards ceremony. The recipients and their nominators (who shared excerpts from their nomination letters) were as follows:

- *DV Community Service Professional Award*, to Mona Mahoney, Esq, Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV); nominated by Jim Ferguson, LSNV.
- *DV Community Team Excellence Award*, Ashiyanaa (formerly ASHI for Women, which provides culturally-appropriate and linguistically specific domestic and sexual violence services for South Asians). It was nominated by Lynne Rowson, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, and Jody Ramash. Priya Kilkarni, President, accepted on behalf of Ashiyanaa.
- Two *DV Community Vanguard Awards* were presented: (1) Detective Jacqi Smith (retired), Fairfax County Police, who was nominated by Kacey Kirkland, Fairfax County Police; and (2) Alma Martinez (retired), Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC), who was nominated by Kevin Ochs, DVAC.

Jaya Nelliott (Ashiyanaa) and Gaeun Im (Korean Community Service Center) read inspirational poems to close the meeting.

Local Environmental Opportunities

Certified raptor rehabilitator Liz Dennison will discuss Raptors of Virginia, Maryland, and DC at 7 pm on December 7th at the Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Road NW, Leesburg. Come learn about the valuable contribution birds of prey make to a healthy environment and what you can do to provide for their welfare amid climate change and an increasingly built environment. For adults: featuring rehabilitated birds that can't be returned to the wild.

Volunteer to assess ecological conditions in Accotink Creek based on the presence and abundance of bottom-dwelling invertebrates 9:30-11:30 a.m. on December 11th. Meet at the parking lot behind Lake Accotink Park Administrative building. Please RSVP via the calendar at <http://www.accotink.org/StreamMonitoring.htm>.

Use satellite images to count walrus from space as part of the World Wildlife Fund / British Antarctic Survey. Half a million “aspiring conservationists” are sought to help conduct a walrus census. The goal is to better understand how the Atlantic and Laptev walrus populations are faring, especially amid habitat changes. Arctic summer sea ice is melting by about 13% each decade, reducing space for walrus to rest and give birth. And ocean acidification makes it more difficult for walrus' typical prey, like clams, sea snails, and crabs, to build their shells, just like it makes it harder for corals to grow. Anyone age 10 or older can register at <https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/walrus-from-space> and begin with a quick tutorial.

Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: Program Planning

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At Large Meeting” and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of November 1, 2021, the following information was correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. The December Unit meetings may be in person, virtual or a hybrid. If virtual the unit leaders will send the login information to every unit member. Meeting locations are provided below for in-person meetings.

Saturday, December 4, 2021 Thursday, December 9

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

Contact: Jessica, 301-704-7854 or
jessica.storrs@lwv-fairfax.org

Wednesday, December 8

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

Star Nut Gourmet,
1415 Laughlin Ave, McLean
Contact: Adarsh, 703-795-7281;
adatrehan@gmail.com

09:45 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria
Contact: Diana, 703-704-5325 or
Jfdw1111@gmail.com

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

Contact: Bev, 703-451-4438,
rbdahlin@verizon.net
or Sue, 703-266-0272,
sueoneill1@hotmail.com

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

Contact: Barbara (703) 437-0795,
bseandlte@earthlink.net

10:00 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

4468 Edan-Mae Court, Annandale
Contact: Jane, 703-256-7834,
patchwork1@verizon.net

11:30 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Lunch at Food Court, Wegman's,
14361 Newbrook Dr., Chantilly
Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666,
sadill@cox.net

1 p.m. Oakton/Vienna (OV)

Oakton Public Library
10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton
Contact: Mary, 703-932-3665,
mmvalder@aol.com

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

Contact: Wendy, 703-319-4114,
wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com

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

7813 Evening Lane, Alexandria
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820,
jane@hilderwilliams.net or
Susan, 703-587-4790,
scash5002@email.vccs.edu

Monday, December 13

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

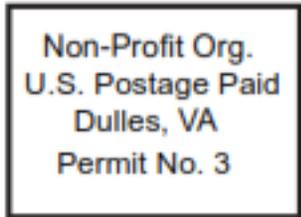
Hunters Crossing Classroom,
7430 Spring Village Drive, Spring-
field 22150
Contact: Judy,
jjsmith64@earthlink.net or
Pat, 703-663-4093,
pmcgrady308@gmail.com

January Meetings:

Book Club *Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*
by Caroline Criado Perez



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



**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®
 December, 2021**

Anu Sahai, Co-President
 Pat Fege, 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.

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<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/donate>



LWVFA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Name: _____ Unit (if renewing): _____
 Name of Second Household Member (if one): _____
 Street Address: _____ Condo/Apt No: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code +4: _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: (C) _____ (H) _____

Membership Status: _____ New _____ Renewal

Membership Level (please check one):

Basic Membership:

- Individual (\$75); Household (two members who share the same mailing address) (\$100);
- Limited Income (suggested donation: \$10); Student (Free!)

Membership Plus:

- Suffragist (\$100); Advocate Household (two members who share the same mailing address) (\$150);
- Champion (\$300); Founders' Circle (\$500)

Membership Plus levels include basic membership PLUS a donation to the LWVFA General Fund. This money will support members of limited income, help invest in LWVFA web site technology, and support other priority projects. General Fund donations are not tax deductible.

Volunteer Interests:

Please visit surveymonky.com/r/LWVFAFairfaxVols to let us know your interests.

Please mail this completed form along with payment to:
 LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403