

Fairfax VOTER

June 2021

Volume 73, Issue 10

Your Chance To Do Your Own Thing

As we get ready for summer, and harbor hopes of meeting in person again when fall comes, many units will be watching the film *Resilience*. Others will have special speakers and other discussions. Whatever you are doing, enjoy the camaraderie of our League, and have a wonderful summer!

Calendar

June 2021

- 4 LWNCA Virtual Board Meeting, Zoom, 10:00 a.m.
- 7 Food for Others Food Bank Voter Registration Drive, 9:15 a.m.
- 7 Documentary, “*Resilience -- The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope*” followed by a panel discussion, 7 p.m.
- 8 Democratic Primary for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, General Assembly, 6 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 9-14 LWVFA Unit Meetings, “Do Your Own Thing”
- 9 Skyline Plaza Community Election, 3703 S. George Mason Dr., Falls Church
- 16 LWVFA Virtual Board Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 24-27 LWVUS Council
- 24 LWV-VA Board Meeting, 9 a.m.
- 30 End of the League Fiscal Year

Note: No LWVFA Unit Meetings in July or August; *Fairfax VOTER* is not published in July or August

July 2021

- 1 Start of LWVFA Fiscal Year; New membership year begins
- 2 LWNCA Board Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 4 Independence Day
- 12 Food for Others Food Bank Voter Registration Drive, 9:15 a.m.

- 21 LWVFA Board Retreat
- 22 LWV-VA Board Meeting, 9 a.m.

August 2021

- 2 Food for Others Food Bank Voter Registration Drive, 9:15 a.m.
- 3 *Fairfax Voter* Deadline for September
- 6 Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act
- 6 LWNCA Board Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 11 LWVFA Legacy Committee Meeting
- 14 New Member Orientation, Virtual, 10 a.m.
- 18 LWVFA Board Meeting, Virtual, 10 a.m.
- 26 Women’s Equality Day: 101st Anniversary of the Certification of the 19th Amendment
- 26 LWV-VA Board Meeting, 9 a.m.
- 28 Fall Kick-Off, 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
- 28 At-Large Briefing, Noon

Inside This Issue

Presidents’ Message	2
LWVFA Membership Report	3
Get Involved! Give Us Your Ideas!	3
Environmental Update	3
Domestic Violence Update	5
<i>Resilience</i> Documentary Flyer	6
Unit Meetings	7



Presidents' Message



Hello Leaguers and Happy Summer!

We are so excited to be entering the sunny season. Once again, we will enjoy the beautiful flowers and the warmth of the outdoors - even if it means dealing with our newest neighbors - the cicadas! After making it through COVID, Brood X should be nothing.

Now, summer is here, bringing hope to lift our spirits. As we continue the work of our League, we can be encouraged by the words of Michelle Obama, **“You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world’s problems at once but don’t ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.”**

Now that most of us are vaccinated, we can look forward to starting to meet in person. We encourage you to have that conversation at the unit level and decide what works for you. As a League, we are now holding some in-person GOTV and Voter registration events and will add more as the situation continues to improve.

We are so happy that so many of you were able to attend the Annual Meeting. With our new tech savvy, the virtual event was very successful and enjoyed by all. Our new nominees were elected unanimously and they are looking forward to leading our efforts in the upcoming year. Our budget was also passed unanimously. A big thank you to our nominating committee headed by Ann Parham. They did a tremendous job. Kudos as well to the budget committee headed by Jane Pacelli. Jane does such an amazing job each year that even someone who does not have a head for numbers understands it.

We would also like to extend a big welcome to our incoming board members! They are: Pat Fege who is the incoming Co-President, Donald Craig who is the Voter Services Coordinator, Donna Blake, the incoming membership director and Arina Van Breda, who will head Voter Services/Voter Registration. It is going to be a wonderful year with our new officers and we are grateful to all those who are cycling off the Board for their service and guidance.

LWVFA representatives have been meeting our members of Congress as part of an LWVUS initiative called “Rep the League.” The start of the 117th Congress this January provides League advocates with an extra opportunity to connect with freshmen and returning lawmakers. **These meetings are essential for setting the tone for this Congress and clarifying League priorities.** State and local League presidents make appointments to introduce themselves to new Members of Congress and visit again with returning Members to establish a dialogue on issues of importance.

Meeting with newly-elected members is especially important. Some of the League’s top priorities, including democracy reform and justice issues, can be acted upon quickly in the new year. Therefore, it is particularly vital that new members know where we stand. The objective of this initiative is to develop a strong two-way relationship with legislators. This will aid our future advocacy efforts by educating Congress on the League’s stances and priorities. “Rep the League” is also an opportunity to learn about the positions and priorities of our legislators, strengthening

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

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2020 - 2021

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:

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

Co-Presidents: Anu Sahai 703-303-8498
President2@lwv-fairfax.org
Nancy Roodberg 703-867-9403
President1@lwv-fairfax.org
Editor: Katherine Ingmanson 571-265-9745
kmingmanson@yahoo.com
editor@lwv-fairfax.org

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.

the relationships that help us work together.

As you all know, Fairfax County is served by three Members of Congress. They are Gerry Connolly, Don Beyer and Jennifer Wexton. At the time of going to press, we have scheduled appointments to talk to all three. We are looking forward to the dialogue and insight into their current legislative agendas.

Until September, enjoy the sun and nature in all its miracles and mysteries (even the spectacle of all those cicadas!)

Anu and Nancy

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Carol Bursik

It is time to renew for the 2021-2022 membership year. Our year runs from July 1 through June 30, so members should send a renewal form and payment in June, if possible. The membership form is on our web site at <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/join> and on the back page of the *VOTER*. Payment may be made through PayPal or by personal check; there is an option on the web site to set up automatic renewal. Although student memberships are free, we ask students to send a renewal form to indicate their intention to remain active in LWVFA in the coming year.

This year it is possible to donate to the General Fund (GF) at the new Membership Plus levels. Please consider adding \$25 for an individual at the Suffragist level or \$50 for an Advocate Household. Basic membership fees are covered in either case. Two higher levels, Champion and Founders' Circle, provide an even greater contribution to the GF. We plan to use donations to support members of limited income, to invest in enhancements to website technology, and to pay for priority projects that we did not anticipate. Please note that donations to the General Fund are not tax deductible, but they contribute to a very good cause.

Our membership stands at 473. The following individuals joined LWVFA since the May issue of the *Fairfax VOTER*:

Laura Braceland (student)
Kathrina James
Kathryn Jones
Katie Knowles
Sheila Sandford
Martha Whitehead

Get Involved! Give Us Your Ideas!

By Jessica Storrs

Volunteers needed: New Virginia Marijuana Law There is a new cannabis law on the Virginia books - what does it mean? Members are invited to collaborate on an informational report on the new Virginia marijuana law that will go into effect July 1. The report will be part of our program discussions in the fall. This is a great opportunity to get involved in the League and meet new people. Please contact Andrienne Konstas konstaaa@gmail.com for more information.

Submit your book club ideas! We're looking for a book to add to our program schedule in 2021-22 and are calling on members to submit ideas for a title that will provide thought-provoking content and lively conversation. Please send your suggestions to Jessica Storrs, Program Chair by May 28. Email: Jessica.Storrs@lwv-fairfax.org

Call for Program Ideas 2021-22 What issues should the League focus on in the upcoming year? Each month the *VOTER* newsletter spotlights a particular program topic and we need your input! Please contact Jessica Storrs jessica.storrs@lwv-fairfax.org if you would like to discuss an idea for publication in Fall 2021 or Spring 2022. We can't do it without you!

Chesapeake Bay Recovery Progresses

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Using limits, plans, milestones, and consequences, the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint has guided improvements since 2010. New challenges like climate change, a lack of Federal enforcement, and the reversal of Federal clean air and water regulations threaten success.

The final push is on to achieve fishable, swimmable water by 2025. In the last two years, important water quality indicators such as nitrogen and phosphorus improved. Long-term data trends show a shrinking dead zone. Large-scale oyster restoration is working. EPA recently increased investment in the Chesapeake Bay Program to help states and localities meet Blueprint requirements.

In Virginia, the 1998 Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act

limits land-use practices in environmentally-sensitive coastal areas. Following General Assembly action in 2020, the State Water Control Board is issuing regulations to promote preservation and planting of trees, as well as adaptation to sea-level rise and climate change, and forming a stakeholder advisory group. With water levels expected to rise 1.5' by 2050 and 3' by 2080, it will be challenging both to protect property and to provide habitat and improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Skip Stiles, Executive Director of Wetlands Watch, won the 2021 Erchul Environmental Leadership Award recognizing a Virginian who made significant individual efforts to better our environment. Wetlands Watch promotes citizen action in conservation landscaping, sea-level rise adaptation, and floodplain management Statewide. Its work includes producing a Statewide guide for local government and an app that crowdsources flooding data and establishes a research collaborative in Virginia.

Two local projects inspired the Chesapeake Stormwater Network to establish a Small But Mighty award to highlight cost-effective and impactful projects implemented on a small budget:

- The Arlington County Neighborhood Conservation Team, the Arlington County Stormwater Team, and Sagres Construction, Corp. built the Penrose Green Street Retrofit project. As a result, over 4,000 square feet of pavement were converted to green space, two bioretention cells capture runoff from 12,197 square feet of impervious area, and the areas were planted with native plants, providing year-round interest and habitat for birds and pollinators. This project will serve as a model for other locations in Arlington County.
- Deco Footprint, LLC, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD), Wild Planet Green, LLC, and HWS Hardscape and Waterseal Solutions LLC solved a residential homeowner's problem with runoff originating off their property in the Accotink Creek Watershed. A dry well addresses street runoff, while a rain garden redirects roof runoff from the pooling in the front yard. This project received a grant under the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program.

Come out for Virginia's Clean the Bay Day! Participants collect litter at any public location or private property where permission has been given. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation will share a map and a list of sites available for cleanup. You are welcome to work at other sites if you have permission to be on the property and follow proper safety precautions. Alternatively, you could plant a native plant or install a rain barrel. Register at [cbf.org](https://www.cbf.org) to be eligible to win prizes and use #CleantheBayDay to share

your experience from May 31 to June 5.

At home, you can follow the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's advice at https://www.cbf.org/join-us/more-things-you-can-do/12-things-you-can-do-to-clean.html?&utm_source=comms&utm_medium=newsletter for preventing runoff pollution by slowing down and soaking up the runoff. "...As rainwater runs off our streets, parking lots, lawns, and other surfaces, it picks up pet waste, pesticides, fertilizer, oil, and other contaminants....If the draining water doesn't evaporate or soak into the ground, it flushes straight into local creeks, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay, adversely affecting water quality and aquatic life."

It's easy to restore local natural habitat and biodiversity, making a lasting difference for wildlife. NVSWCD's 2021 virtual **Sustainable Garden Tour** will be held throughout June at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/sustainable-garden-tour>. Learn about native plant landscaping, backyard wildlife habitat, and composting from local residents. You also can watch the 2020 tour and find Resources for Sustainable Gardeners there. For added inspiration, PlantNOVANatives has a list of demonstration gardens, along with native plant sales.

Green Spring Gardens recommends Virginia native plants based on height, sun/shade, and benefit to birds or pollinators at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/gardening>. The Virginia Native Plant Society also offers selection advice for flowering perennials, ferns, vines, grasses, shrubs and trees by region at <https://vnps.org/virginia-native-plant-guides/>. The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia additionally covers annuals, bulbs, and corms and gives advice on protecting yourself from ticks without harming pollinators at <https://mgmv.org/2021/05/05/protecting-yourself-from-ticks-2021/>.

When you plant trees or shrubs, please remember to join the VA Department of Forestry's My Trees Count. Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary, the Fairfax County Park Authority's Watch the Green Grow, and the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat® programs also provide recognition.

Local Opportunities

From 3-4 p.m. on June 3, **SolarizeNOVA** will discuss streamlined arrangements for installing solar power at bulk pricing. Electric Vehicle chargers can be installed with panels or separately for \$1,500. The program runs through June 30. See <https://solarizenova.org/>. Additionally, Fairfax County offers a solar equipment tax exemption.

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, [serc](https://serc.si.edu/).

si.edu, is looking for **otter spotters for a citizen science project** and giving a virtual talk about **landscaping for biodiversity**. At 7 pm on June 15, University of Maryland researcher Karin Burghardt will discuss how personal decisions support food webs and ecosystems.

The Mount Vernon District **Environment Expo** will be held at Fort Hunt Park from 8 a.m. – noon on June 26 to educate and inform local residents about environmental challenges. Activities include workshops, live music, electric vehicles, nature walks, and a Junior Ranger program.

The theme for this year's Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts **photo contest** is Conservation Through the Local Lens. You can submit up to 10 photos taken in Virginia. The deadline is July 30. See <https://vaswcd.org/photocontest>.

Domestic Violence Update: April Meeting of the CEDV

By Adarsh Trehan

The Fairfax County Council to End Domestic Violence (CEDV) held its virtual quarterly meeting on April 15. James Walkinshaw, Supervisor, Braddock District, presided as the Council Chairman.

Supervisor Dalia Palchik, Providence, was unanimously elected as a member of the Council. She said she was honored and excited to join this incredible organization and would support it in any way she could.

Supervisor Walkinshaw thanked three members of the CEDV who gave compelling testimony on domestic violence funding needs to the Board of Supervisors' Budget Hearing on April 14. They were: Supervisor John Cook, Kader Gumus, and Allison Medina.

According to the By-Laws, the CEDV membership must include two government representatives and three community members. In that regard, Sally Fayez, Director, Victim Services Division, Police Department, and Tom Barnett, Deputy Director, Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, of the County Department of Housing and Community Development, were unanimously elected as two new members. No discussion of a need for additional community members occurred.

Toni Zollicoffer, Director, Office of Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, stated that a subcommittee is working on recommendations on diversity, equity and inclusion

(DEI), noting that this project will need additional time. She asked the subcommittee members to share their understanding of One Fairfax, the definition of DEI, their level of confidence in the basic knowledge of the CEDV's role in equitable outcomes, the incremental changes the CEDV is making to support such outcomes, the development of new collaborative partnerships with non-traditional organizations, and knowledge of who was missing in such conversations. This provided the CEDV with the members' baseline information.

Darren Mitchell, the technical advisor, is a consultant to the National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges. He stated that there had been 18 joint meetings of the Court Process Workgroup and Firearms Surrender Workgroups. Judge Susan Stoney, General District Court (GDC), and Leigh Taylor (a private attorney), Co-Chairs of the Court Process Workgroup, and Stacy Ziebell, County-Wide Domestic Violence Coordinator and Chair of the Firearm Surrender Workgroup, made presentations.

Interdisciplinary teams mapped the processes for examining system-wide issues related to protective orders in both the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRC) and the GDC. Recommendations were approved to create two new subgroups to study victims' access to the protective order process and explore relationships between the civil and criminal protective order process in both courts. In addition, four other workgroups should be created from members of existing workgroups to focus on the StepUp-4Kids Children's Coalition and relief for children related to protective orders, using the Domestic Violence Network to enhance communication among stakeholders, on firearms surrender by the abusers, and using the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) to get firearms from abusers in all domestic violence cases. If there is not enough staff to get the firearms from all abusers, then the LAP should be used for firearms surrender in the highest risk cases.

Brittany Vera, Child Witness to Domestic Violence Coordinator, announced a series of eight short (3-4 minute) videos—four each in English and Spanish—with which the CEDV seeks help disseminating to professionals and members of the public who interact with children and support them during these challenging times. These videos have four objectives: (1) explain what a hardship or adversity is; (2) assist adults in detecting the warning signs of domestic violence; (3) increase the understanding of how hardship or adversity can affect or impact a child over time; and (4) demonstrate how adult(s) can help the child with recommended resources.

The next meeting will be held virtually on July 15, 2021.

Watch the Documentary
“Resilience – The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope”
Followed by a Panel Discussion

Who? LWVFA members and the public are invited to a virtual presentation. For many units, this presentation is the June meeting.

When? Monday June 7, 2021, 7-8:30pm. Signup for this free program on our website at <https://screening-resilience.eventbrite.com/>. You will receive a Zoom invitation.

What? We will view the documentary “Resilience - The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope” followed by a panel discussion with Q & A.

Our panel:

- Jenna White* - Trauma-Informed Community Network
- Chrissy Cunningham* - Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services
- Laura Thieman* - Fairfax County Public Schools Senior Social Worker - Region 3

Why? The long-term effects of childhood trauma can be mitigated. Scientific research is helping Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools develop programs for our community. Learn what is happening.

Researchers have recently discovered a dangerous biological syndrome caused by abuse and neglect during childhood. As the documentary *Resilience* reveals, toxic stress can trigger hormones that wreak havoc on the brains and bodies of children, putting them at a greater risk for disease, homelessness, prison time and early death. While the broader impacts of poverty worsen the risk, no segment of society is immune. *Resilience*, however, also chronicles the dawn of a movement that is determined to fight back.

Trailblazers in pediatrics, education, and social welfare are using cutting-edge science and field-tested therapies to protect children from the insidious effects of toxic stress.

Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: Do Your Own Thing

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 May 1, 2021, the following information was correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. The June Unit meetings will be virtual. The unit leaders will send the login information to every unit member.

Monday, June 7, 7 p.m.:

The following units will watch the *Resilience* film.

LWVFA members are invited to sign up for the *Resilience* film on the LWVFA website under the Events tab.

7 p.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

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

7 p.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666,
sadill@cox.net

7 p.m. Oakton/Vienna (OV)

Contact: Mary, 703-932-3665,
mmvalder@aol.com

7 p.m. Reston Evening (RE)

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

7 p.m. Springfield (SPF)

Contact: Pat, 703-941-9210,
Pat.Fege@lwv-fairfax.org

7 p.m. Mount Vernon Evening (MVE)

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

7 p.m. Reston Day (RD)

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

7 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Contact: Pat, pmcgrady308@gmail.com;
Judy, jjsmith64@earthlink.net,
703-342-3353

The following units are meeting at their usual time/place to “do their own thing”:

Wednesday, June 9

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

Review book or movie: *Nomadland: Surviving America In the Twenty-First Century*
Contact: Susan, 703-893-2229,
sfcowart@aol.com
or Peggy, 703-772-4939,
peggyknight49@gmail.com

10 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD)

Speaker: Mary Paden, Convenor of the Rte. 1 Task Force, on affordable housing
Contact: Diana, 703-704-5325 or
Jfdw1111@gmail.com

Thursday, June 10

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

Discuss *Resilience* film
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820,
jane@hilderwilliams.net
or Susan, 703-587-4790,
scash5002@email.vccs.edu

Monday, June 14

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Speaker: Marianne Burke on National Popular Vote
Contact: Pat, pmcgrady308@gmail.com;
Judy, jjsmith64@earthlink.net,
703-342-3353

Enjoy Your Summer

See you in September!



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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Dulles, VA
 Permit No. 3

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

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

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