

Fairfax VOTER

April 2024

Volume 76, Issue 8

A is for April, and Annual Meeting!

Our Annual Meeting is April 17 at 7 p.m. via zoom. You can register here: <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/2024-annual-meeting>

We will elect new board members and approve a budget for the next year. We must have a quorum for these votes. The Annual Meeting Kit included in this edition of the *Voter* has all the details. Please have the Meeting Kit with you during the meeting.

On April 14, Pat Fege and Katherine Ingmanson will hold a "fireside chat" from our office. We plan to provide information on our budget, our priorities for the coming year, and on some changes coming at the national level of the League. Please join us and feel free to send in questions in advance. Our goal is to be sure you are well informed before the Annual Meeting.

Calendar

April 2024

- Note: No LWVFA Unit Meetings in April; holding Annual Meeting
- 1-30 Celebrate Diversity Month
April: Annual Meeting
 - 3 Fairfax *Voter* Deadline for the May 2024 issue
 - 14 Fireside Chat, 7:00 p.m.
 - 15 LWVFA's 76th Birthday
 - 17 Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 - 22 Earth Day

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Presidents' Message:

Happy Spring, everyone! The flowers are blooming and the birds are singing in our gardens. Of course, with April comes our Annual Meeting. You will find registration information on the front page of this edition, but the business meeting will be via zoom at 7 p.m. on April 17. We are also planning a separate zoom meeting on the Sunday prior to give you a more informal update on changes that are coming so you can be fully informed before you are asked to vote in the business meeting.

In addition, our members have gotten off to an amazing start this year with voter registrations galore, speaking events, and even a Spanish-language interview with Univision! As we move into our new fiscal year, we will have an increased focus on fund-raising, so if you know of a group looking to support voter education or come across a speaking opportunity, please let us know. If you have a chance to present to a group, we can give you materials to use.

Our thanks to everyone in the League for all that you do!

Pat and Katherine



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

Fireside Chat with Katherine and Pat

Zoom in on **Sunday, April 14 at 7 p.m.** to hear about this year's successes, upcoming initiatives, and facing challenges. We'll discuss the new membership process being developed by LWV-US and how it will impact our local League.

Participate in this informal conversation by submitting questions ahead of time or by using the chat box on Zoom.

We are looking forward to connecting with you.

For more details, to ask questions and to register, please use this link:

<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/2024-fireside-chat>

The link will also be posted on the homepage of our website, <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2023-2024

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

Sexual Violence: What Do You Know? Why Should You Care?

By Adarsh Trehan
Chair, Domestic Violence Committee

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). According to the Fairfax County Office of Family Services, the purpose of SAAM “is to raise public awareness about sexual violence, educate our community on how to prevent it and share resources available to those impacted by sexual assault...” **Everyone is affected by sexual assault.** This is borne out by the statistics: Nearly **1 in 3 women** and **1 in 4 men** will be the **victim of sexual violence** at some point **in their lifetime.** (Bold marks are in the original text). It is a traumatic, life-changing experience and telling someone about it is frightening. The survivor’s physical injury may not always be substantial, but unseen psychological and emotional injuries may be severe. Interestingly, the person doing the sexual assault is a person known to the victim, not a random stranger.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/domestic-sexual-violence/sexual-assault-awareness-month>

What is sexual assault? According to the University of Colorado Office of Health and Wellness, it includes “any unwanted sexual contact or behaviors that a person did not or was not able to consent to, whether there is unwanted penetration or contact...or unwanted touching of private body parts. Additional forms of sexual misconduct include sexual harassment, exploitation (e.g. sharing nudes, videotaping sexual acts without consent, etc.) as well as intimate partner abuse, such as dating violence and stalking.”

The Office states that are five things that everyone should know about sexual assault:

1. While sexual assault can happen to anyone, regardless of age, race, gender identity or sexual orientation, it disproportionately affects women, people who identify as bisexual or transgender and young adults. It is a choice to perpetrate sexual assault and never the survivor’s fault.
2. Consent is key.
3. Sexual assault can include a wide range of experiences (as mentioned earlier).
4. It can be preventable. We have the opportunity to look out for each other, speak up about sketchy behaviors and situations, and take steps to create a safer community. [All] of us need to work individually and collectively “to build more connected, respectful, and inclusive communities to promote our collective well-

being and protect against the risk of sexual violence. We believe all of our communities will be safer and stronger by making them more equitable for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations, races and ethnic backgrounds, ages, faiths, and abilities.”

5. Support is available.

<https://www.colorado.edu/health/blog/sexual-assault>

On Tuesday, April 2, 2024, remember to wear teal-colored clothes to show your support for survivors of sexual violence.

Get information about DSVS resources by calling the **Domestic and Sexual Violence 24-Hour Hotline 703-360-7273.**



Local News and the Casino Proposal

By Sidney Johnson

We rarely have a connection between our League studies and real-life local events, but this winter we did have one.

In February, thanks mainly to the *Reston Patch*, but also *The Fairfax Times*, *FFX Now*, *The Gazette*, and *Reston Now*, we woke up to the proposal to build a casino in our county. Michael O’Connell of the *Reston Patch* followed the money, showing how the property holders and developers contributed to the campaigns of the legislators who would be voting on SB 675.

This bill would add Fairfax County to the five other locations in Virginia that may have casinos if the residents of the county pass a referendum in favor of it. Thanks to local news, we know that the bill has been carried over to the 2025 session. Now that we are no longer surprised, we have time to look with true League civility into the pros and cons of a casino in Fairfax County.

We could start by looking at the Joint Legislative Audit & Review (JLARC) study, [Gaming in the Commonwealth](#) (2019), which was conducted at the direction of the General Assembly. We may not all agree about the casino, but we do agree that we should base our opinions on knowledge of the facts.



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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®
 April 2024**

Pat Fege, Co-President
 Katherine Ingmanson, Co-President
 Laura Hamilton, 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 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.

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