

Fairfax VOTER

March 2022

Volume 74, Issue 7

Member Survey

The LWVFA Board wants to be sure we are fully engaging all our members, meeting our goals of broad community outreach, and building a membership representative of our community. To this end, we are asking members to complete a survey this month, and bring your ideas and thoughts to March unit discussions. Thank you for all you do, and for helping all of us do better.

Calendar

March, 2022

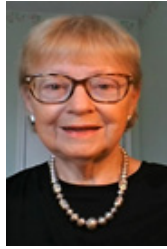
- 2 Women's Legislative Round Table
8:30a.m. – 9:30a.m.
Virtual and In-Person Options
- 3 *Fairfax VOTER* Deadline
- 4 LWNCA Board Meetings
10:30a.m. – 12:00p.m., Virtual
- 9 Women's Legislative Round Table
8:30a.m. – 9:30a.m.
- 16 LWVFA Virtual Board Meetings
10a.m. – 12p.m., Virtual

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Presidents' Message



March is Women's History Month. We pause to remember that 50 percent of the population has not always received credit for their inventions, discoveries, and accomplishments. We need to recognize not only famous women, such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Clara Barton, but we also need to think of those whose names are unknown, such as women who served in many capacities during World War II or women who brought books in traveling libraries to the hills of Appalachia. Think of the women who influenced your life. Were you influenced by your mother, an aunt, a teacher, a librarian, a co-worker, or a supervisor? How did that person shape the person you are today? Take a moment to reflect upon how you can influence the girls or young women in your life.

Despite many obstacles, the LWVFA had a very successful 2021; however, we believe that there is always room for improvement. To keep growing and improving, we need your help. Please complete the membership survey on Page 3 and share your ideas with us. All suggestions, no matter how big or how small, are welcome!

Thanks to the members who attended the Women's Legislative Roundtable (WLRT) sessions and the Zoom conversations with Delegates who represent Fairfax County in the Virginia House of Delegates. We met with Delegates Keam, Helmer, Tran and Bulova. These sessions helped us better understand legislation that is currently under consideration and allowed us to share our legislative priorities. We also learned about hitherto unknown pieces of legislation. For instance, did you know that we have a bill pertaining to noxious weeds and non-native plants? One thing that was clear at each of these meetings was how much the League is valued by our legislators. It sure was a good feeling.

We do hope to see more of you at these events. Often, they get organized on short notice and so we send out information about these events via the ENews which shows up in your inbox every Saturday morning. Please let us know if you are not receiving it and we will rectify it. The last two WLRT sessions are March 2 and 9. You can still register to attend. Go to the Events tab on our website and select Women's Legislative Round Table for more information.

Our Voter Services and Registration teams are always on the lookout for volunteers, and we hope you sign up for some of these events. You can always find more information about them in our ENews and on our website.

Saturday, April 30, is the date of our annual meeting and it is virtual. Please save the date. We look forward

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

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2021 - 2022

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

to “seeing” you there. More information will be coming via ENews and the April edition of the *Fairfax VOTER*.

Until then,

Pat and Anu

MEMBER SURVEY YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) seeks input from our members to review our current practices and make improvements. The survey questions cover communications, member interest areas, unit meetings and demographics. Your feedback is critical as we seek to bolster member engagement and better allocate resources toward our organization's goals.

Using the link provided, please fill out the survey by **Wednesday, March 23, 2022**. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Your responses are anonymous. All questions are optional. You may go back and edit your responses at any time until the survey closes.

Link to survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWVFA>

Survey QR code:



Member Survey: Unit Discussions

In addition to the survey, the units are requested to discuss LWVFA current practices and to make recommendations for improvements. Please review the following questions and provide feedback.

Unit Discussion Questions:

1. How can we improve attendance at unit meetings?
2. How can we improve the format or content of unit meetings?
3. What suggestions do you have for alternatives or additions to unit meetings that might engage other members? For example, issue-driven groups, social events, etc. Please describe.
4. How can we improve member participation in League activities, i.e., voter registration events, condo elections, etc.?
5. How can we encourage members to take leadership roles in the League?
6. The League is committed to increasing diversity, equity and inclusion. Diversity includes age, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, beliefs, etc. What suggestions do you have to improve our work towards this goal?

Please add any additional comments or suggestions you have.

Questions? Please contact Jessica Storrs at jessica.storrs@lww-fairfax.org.

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Save the Date!!
The 2022 LWVFA Annual
meeting will be on April 30.
Please mark your calendars
and plan to attend!
 •••••

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Donna Blake

In January, the Membership databases were updated to retain only those members who have paid their dues for 2021-2022. At this time, the Active Membership for LWVFA stands at 376. The number of Active Members is always at a minimum in January but grows steadily throughout the year as new members join or former members realize that their dues were not paid in a timely manner.

The various membership databases have been cross-checked and verified to see that names and membership status are consistent. In addition, the email and snail mail address lists are being updated and cross-checked. Members often use multiple emails or change their emails over time. (To her embarrassment, the Membership Director is guilty of this mistake.) Now is a good time to confirm that your addresses are up to date and consistent with the Active Member Rosters that are distributed monthly to unit leaders.

The LWVFA is reviewing the definitions and requirements for New Members, Active Members, Inactive Members, and Reinstated Members to be more equitable and consistent with other Leagues in the state.

If you have comments relating to any issues raised here, please contact Donna Blake (membership@lww-fairfax.org).

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

For those of you who have recently joined the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) and have not yet been able to attend a New Member Orientation, we invite you to the session scheduled for Saturday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. via Zoom.

At this meeting you will have the opportunity to meet and chat with League Board Members, learn how the League is structured and how it operates, and discover ways in which you can participate in issues and activities that interest you.

If you wish to attend the Orientation session, please RSVP to Judy Helein at judy.helein@lww-fairfax.org by March 9 in order to receive a Zoom invite.

Environmental Update: Here Comes the Sun

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Last July every Virginia county and independent city was invited to participate in the 2021 Virginia Solar Survey, the first of its kind. This joint effort by the Virginia Department of Energy and the University of Virginia, which collaborate on a no-cost technical advisor program, aimed to learn each jurisdiction’s experience, readiness, efforts and needs related to solar development. A public report on regional and state-wide trends and insights into Virginia’s preparedness for a clean energy transition will be issued this fall to inform future development of research, programming, resources, and technical assistance. Read more about the Virginia Solar Initiative at <https://solar.cooper-center.org/>.

On January 14, Virginia Energy’s Solar Program Manager, Aaron Berryhill, told the Potomac Watershed Roundtable that in this region:

- All localities reported they have already or are considering updating their solar policies and regulations;
- Decommissioning and agricultural impacts emerged as top priorities related to siting and

ENews

ENews is a vehicle for timely notices and requests for volunteers. It is a supplement to the Fairfax VOTER. We recently updated the email mailing list based on our current membership information. If you are not receiving the ENews, please send your correct email address to our operations specialist at Emmebet.Taddese@lww-fairfax.org.

development; and

- All localities reported they have a process to allow utility-scale solar facilities through a conditional-use permit and that Virginia has 49 operational 5-500 MW utility-scale solar facilities or “solar farms.”

Local governments have a key role through zoning and permitting. Audience comments included wanting to see solar collection arrays installed atop large parking lots.

Solar energy employs more than 4,000 people in Virginia. To achieve carbon-free energy by 2050, 2020’s Virginia Clean Economy Act is projected to add as many as 29,000 new jobs. Solar power legislation brought before the General Assembly this year includes community solar, financial incentives, and property tax exemptions. There’s still time to engage your representatives.

Dr. Deborah Thomson, a former legislative aide, encourages citizens to contact their elected officials about issues that matter to them. In her new book, *The Art of Science Communication: Sharing Knowledge with Students, the Public, and Policymakers*, she advises stating your “ask” – the action you want taken – up front. When engaging climate-change deniers, she points out that it’s additional carbon 13 from burning fossil fuels that’s showing up in the atmosphere, not carbon 14 from plants. (See <http://www.globalcarbonatlas.org/en/content/welcome-carbon-atlas> to explore and visualize the most up-to-date data on carbon fluxes from human activities and natural processes.) You can watch her January 20 library presentation at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLv0y8ZWKZV3CzbtAt7pNvoCV3nO4wTS_f, where she cites the film “Don’t Look Up” as a cautionary tale.

Are you ready to install solar power for your home or business? This is the last year before the Federal investment tax credit for solar projects drops from 26% to 23%. Check the Northern Virginia Regional Commission’s solar map at <https://www.novasolar-map.com/> to gauge how much solar energy could be generated on your roof. The next group-purchasing Solarize NoVA Campaign opens on April 1 at <https://solarizenova.org/>. The nonprofit’s experts select the

installers and negotiate pricing. Check <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/co-ops/virginia/> for Solar United Neighbors’ upcoming bulk solar purchasing group in Northern Virginia. Other options for discounted solar include SunPower’s \$1,000 rebate for Sierra Club members plus a \$1,000 donation for each system sold and Sunrun’s 10% Costco gift card on equipment purchases, including rechargeable battery systems for Costco members.

Local Environmental Opportunities

Orders open online for the annual Northern Virginia **Native Plant Seedling Sale** on March 1 for pick up April 1- 2 at Sleepy Hollow Bath & Racquet Club in Falls Church. Choose between two \$15 packages of six bare-root native plants valuable to native bees. View photos and the Fairfax County Tree Basics Booklet at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/native-seedling-sale>. See <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/> for more native-plant sales.

Wildlife biologist Jeff Cooper will explore **eagle biology**, recent research, the bald eagle’s recovery, and the importance of the Chesapeake Bay region to bald eagles at 7 p.m. on March 2. Register at <https://www.audubonva.org/asnv-events/bald-eagles-a-conservation-success-story>. Volunteer to remotely operate the livestream cameras or moderate chats for the bald eagle nest in the Dulles Greenway Wetlands in Leesburg at <https://loudounwildlife.org/2021/11/volunteer-for-eagle-cam/>.

DC’s all-virtual **30th anniversary environmental film festive** runs March 17-27. You can find an educational guide and hundreds of films at dceff.org/watchnow/, including 2018’s *Bird of Prey*, Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s award-winning feature-length documentary about one of the world’s rarest eagle species and the people working tirelessly to save it.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at Stony Brook University Douglas Futuyama will discuss **how birds evolved and continue to evolve** at 3 p.m. on March 27. Read more and register at <https://www.audubonva.org/asnv-events/audubon-afternoon-the-evolution-of-birds-with-author-douglas-futuyama>.

CEDV Holds Quarterly Meeting

By Adarsh Trehan

The Council to End Domestic Violence (CEDV) held its quarterly meeting on January 20. Supervisor James Walkinshaw (Braddock) chaired, and welcomed Kevin Davis, Fairfax County Police Chief, and Phylicia Woods, Chair, Commission for Women.

Davis stated that COVID dramatically increased isolation, anxiety, and depression among County residents. This resulted in a spike in both the numbers and severity of reported DV cases. Further, COVID made it difficult for victims to report crimes, so DV cases are likely underreported.

The Hope Card Project

A presentation on the Hope Card project was given by Jamie Clemmer, Hope Card Project Director, Supreme Court of Virginia. Fairfax County joined this project in October 2021. Hope Cards are small laminated cards with key information included in a Protective Order. While Hope Cards are not substitutes for Protective Orders, they can be carried easily by victims. They are free and available to victims of family violence, interpersonal violence, stalking, and sexual assault who have Civil Permanent Protective Orders valid for a year or longer.

Information on obtaining a Hope Card is available from the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Action Center at 703-246-4573, the Fairfax County Police Department's Victim Services Division at 703-246-2141 or the Virginia Supreme Court at 1-804-786-2251. Calls can also be made to the Domestic and Sexual Violence 24-Hour Hotline 703-360-7273 (TTY 711).

Member Survey: Results and Recommendations

The Equity Workgroup conducted an anonymous survey of CEDV members attending the Quarterly Meeting. Eduardo Leiva, from DFS Data Analytics, and Toni Zollifer, from the Fairfax County Office of Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, presented survey results and recommended actions.

While most members responded to the survey, a minority did not, which could skew the results. Over

two-thirds of respondents were 40 to 60 years old, and almost 20 percent were over 60. There were no respondents under 30, and most were Caucasian women. Very few identified as part of the LGBTQ community. This lack of representation is a concern, because there are high rates of LGBTQ sexual violence according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survey results also indicated that respondents experienced confusion between race and ethnicity and between gender and sexual orientation.

Two-thirds of respondents were County staff members, and only one-third were community members. Since the quarterly meetings are held Thursday mornings, the timing is not convenient for many community members. This may be even more so when future meetings will be held in person at the Government Center in Fairfax.

The survey results showed that CEDV membership is not representative of the population of Fairfax County. The recommendations are: (1) increase targeted recruitment to gain representation from underrepresented groups, such as young adults, and Hispanic, Asian, and LGBTQ residents; (2) champion the correct use of identity categories, such as race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation; and (3) identify and reduce barriers to community participation such as monetary, physical, and transportation barriers.

Nominating Committee Report: Slate of Officers and Directors

January 26, 2022

Slate of Officer and Directors 2022-24

Co-President: Katherine Ingmanson

Treasurer: Lynn Stewart

Co-Directors of Program:

Julie Jones and Judy Helein

Director of Units: Judy Smith

Co-Directors of Action/Advocacy:

Anu Sahai and Barbara Boardman

Directors At Large: Jessica Storrs and Mary Valder

2022-23 Nominating Committee Chair (1 Year Term):
Wendy Fox-Grage

2022-23 Members of Nominating Committee (1 year term): Kathleen Pablo and Beth Tudan

Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: Member Survey

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At Large Meeting” and briefing. As of February 1, 2022, the following information was correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. The March Unit meetings may be in person, virtual or a hybrid. If virtual, the unit leaders will send login information to every unit member.

Saturday, March 5, 2022

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

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

Wednesday, March 9

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

Virtual meeting
Contact: Adarsh, 703-795-7281;
adatrehn@gmail.com

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

Mount Vernon Govt. Center
2511 Parkers Lane, Mt. Vernon
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

Thursday, March 10

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

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

10:00 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

Virtual meeting
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)

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, March 14

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Craft Room,
7430 Spring Village Drive,
Springfield
Contact: Judy, 703-342-3353,
jjsmith64@earthlink.net or
Pat, pmcgrady308@gmail.com

April: Annual Meeting



The League of Women Voters® of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®
 March, 2022**

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.

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