



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®  
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA**

# BULLETIN

*Founded in 1925*

*Meeting Continuously Since 1948*

December 2005

4026 Hummer Road, Suite # 214 Annandale, Virginia 22003

Volume 58 Issue 4

## **December Unit Meetings: LWVUS & LWVFA Program Planning 2006 - 2008**

It's time for us at the "grassroots" level to help decide the direction we, the League, should take in the next biennium through the annual program planning process. As of this year, LWVUS will no longer ask the membership to re-adopt national positions; delegates to the 2006 Convention in Minnesota will do it. More time can be spent on letting your imagination work overtime on local program ideas. Please bring this *Bulletin* and those ideas to your unit meeting.

### **Calendar**

#### **December**

- 06 January Bulletin Deadline**
- 07 Pre-Session Women's Roundtable (Richmond)
- 8, 12, 13, 14 Unit Meetings - Program Planning**
- 12 Board Agenda Deadline
- 21 Board Meeting/Jan. UC Letter Deadline**
- 23-1/02 Winter Vacation (Schools/Office Closed)
- 25 *Christmas Day*
- 26 *Hanukkah/Kwanzaa/Boxing Day*

#### **January (Important Dates)**

- 01 *New Years Day*
- 03 February Bulletin Deadline**
- 07 Briefing/No. VA. Delegation Pre-session Hearing
- 09 Board Agenda Deadline
- 11 Gen. Assembly Convenes
- 16 *Martin Luther King Day* (Schools Closed)
- 18 Board Meeting**
- 21 General Meeting**
- 25 WRT Richmond Begins
- 27-30 School Closed
- 28 FCPS Budget Briefing
- 31 March Bulletin Deadline**



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**Happy Holidays**

## President's Letter

Seasons' Greetings! I hope that your holidays are filled with whatever makes you happy and less stressed (If Only!).

I am so proud of what our League accomplishes and I want to publicly express my thanks to several people who have worked so hard and diligently this fall to bring you great programs and excellent voters service materials. Thank you to **Rona Ackerman** and her assistants who put on two outstanding forums - Water Resources on October 30<sup>th</sup> and the CEDAW Forum on November 12<sup>th</sup>. And thank you to **Therese Martin** and the "office staff" for creating and getting out extensive media releases, emails and letters about these programs – this was in addition to Therese doing her "real job" of being Treasurer for LWVFA!

Thank you to **Carol Hawn** and other voters service "worker-bees" who helped staff the telephones before the election and produce "What's On The Ballot?" (two editions) and an excellent 2005 *Voters Guide* for the Fairfax County area. They are busy now preparing the 2006 edition of *Facts for Voters*. A Voters Service Director's job is never done (truly!).

This month we will be undertaking what is a basic "grassroots opportunity." That is "program planning." I know many of you think this is tedious and boring, but I make the case that thinking about what you would like to see the League study, re-study or take action on (in a concerted effort as a League) at the local and national levels is one of the most important functions that a League member can perform. This is your opportunity to "have your voice heard" and send a "message" to your local (LWVFA) and national (LWVUS) League boards about what you think is important. Take it seriously and enjoy it!

And in closing, I want to remind everyone that **January 21, 2006** is the date for our General Meeting. The topic is related to our recent "Gangs" study. (Have you noticed how much publicity gang activity has been getting recently in the media and during the elections? Once again, LWVFA is there!). We will be meeting at the International Country Club on Highway 50 in Chantilly – a delightful place and the scene of many LWVFA meetings in former years. See you in Janu-

ary!

*Sherry*

## Lobby Corps Needs You!

The lobby corps is a group of local Leaguers from around the NCA area who assist in taking our message to members of Congress and their staffs on Capitol Hill. Experience is NOT a requirement, knowledge of the issues is helpful, but not necessary. Training and briefing will be provided ahead of time and information to get the job done is given by LWVUS staff.

To become a part of the lobby corps, you must: be available during the work day, have time to spare each month that Congress is in session; have and use email and be able to get to and from Capitol Hill. For more info. contact Carole Conors, [conors@BCPL.net](mailto:conors@BCPL.net)

## Friendly Libraries

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library in Ontario was happy this summer when a book checked out during the War of 1812 was finally returned—193 years overdue. The library waived the \$10,000-plus late fee. Fairfax County Public Library recently received in a book drop a 1982 Cobblestone (children's book).

Source: *Time*, Notebook 9/5/05

### LWVFA Bulletin © 2005

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## Board Notes

Lavinia Voss

At the October 16, 2005 board meeting, **Lea Arabia** was appointed to the FCPS Human Relations Advisory Committee. The board accepted the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter's Treasurers report which shows we are in good shape financially. They also heard about the ideas and plans for the next year on the rededication of the Historic Marker, the "suffragists" plan to march in the Reston Town Center Thanksgiving Parade, and the re-production of a play "Promiscuous, Rampant Women" for the Annual Meeting in April next year to celebrate LWVFA's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Elections Coordinator **Una White** gave a report on the election projects that were conducted in October and the status of the one that was postponed because they were not able to get the quorum necessary to hold their meeting and election of their officers.

Action Director **Jane Hilder** gave a short update on what was going on at the present time with the BOS and other related action items. Membership Director **Leslie Vandivere** reported she had sent out letters to all those who had not renewed their membership, they would not be receiving the November *Bulletin*.

### Seen and Heard Around Fairfax and Beyond-

1. LWVFA website received email from Robinson HS senior requesting candidates' info & thanking the League for providing nonpartisan voter information.
2. LWVUS again partnered with Telemundo WZDC-TV to provide public service announcements re Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> election for Virginia's Latino voters.
3. LWVVA Redistricting study and Pres. Zachry quoted in *Connection Newspapers* article, October 13-19, 2005, edition
4. LWVFA special programs (Water Resources/CEDAW) & unit meeting notices regularly appearing in *Connection Newspapers* and *Fairfax Extra* in The Washington Post.
5. Pres. Zachry spoke at the Clifton Lions' Club dinner meeting on October 27, 2005.
6. LWVUS is again joining with the ABA to celebrate Law Day on May 1, 2006, the theme is "Separate Branches, Balanced Powers" which compliments LWVUS program, "Safeguarding U.S. Democracy."

## The U.S. Is Way Behind

As democracy takes root around the world—often with America's encouragement—more women are joining the political process. . . When nations were ranked for women's involvement in national legislatures and governments, the U.S. was 61<sup>st</sup>. Rwanda was first, followed by Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark. Iraq ranked 15<sup>th</sup>, Afghanistan is still unranked but its new constitution guarantees women 25% of the seats in the lower house and 17% of the seats in the upper house of parliament. (In Saudi Arabia—women still can't vote or hold office.) In Iraq, women are pushing for 40% of the assembly seats; they're just 14% in the U.S. Congress.

Source: Winik, Lyric Wallwork, *The Washington Post*, 7/3/05

## Border Patrol

A flock of man-hating seagulls has forced Britain's Royal Mail service to take male staff off a delivery route in Somerset. The birds dive-bombed one postman, knocking him off his bike, and sent another sprawling to the ground.

Oddly, when women were put on the route, the seagulls left them alone. Now females are being used whenever possible. Experts say the birds are simply being protective during nesting season, and they don't view women as a threat.

This area can be a tricky one for the postal service. Along with the testy seagulls, they've faced a number of attacks from territorial pheasants.

Source: Best Friends Magazine, Sept/Oct. 2005



74% of adults like the photo  
on their drivers' licenses.

Source: Readers Digest, Aug. 05

## Community Election Projects

Una White 703-922-8721  
[unawhite@earthlink.net](mailto:unawhite@earthlink.net)

The Woodlake Towers Condo Election was recessed on October 18, 2005 due to lack of a quorum. It was reconvened on November 1 with enough proxies to give them the needed quorum. The Co-Directors Barbara Nunes and Elizabeth (Bep) Glennan of the project did a great job of making it all work so well. They and all the volunteers that worked so hard are to be commended for their efforts. Joanne Hersch worked hard to line up volunteers for the Sequoyah Election, which is the last one for this year.

## Supermarket Re-invention

Warehouse clubs, super-centers, dollar stores, and drugstores that sell food are eating into supermarket business. In 1995, Americans bought 85 percent of their groceries at a supermarket; that share fell to 72 percent by 2002. One of the solutions that is hoped to bring back the customers is some of the advances in technology.

Food Lion recently opened five new stores in and around the Charlotte, N.C. area called "Bloom." When you enter these stores, you receive a hand-held scanner. You select the items, point the scanner, read the price on the LCD screen, then place the items in the brown-paper bags in your double-decker grocery cart, then move on. A running total is kept in the scanner as you pack the bags the way you prefer. The scanner sends "end of trip" bar code information to the checkout station, all that's left to do is pay. Random grocery checks aim to curtail cheaters.

Piggly Wiggly has introduced biometrics at check-outs; a sensor that recognizes a regular customer's fingerprint, releases payment from their bank account or credit card. Despite these innovations, on a recent check, the grocery aisles at a Walmart Superstore and Super Target were bustling while at a nearby Bloom store the scanners were charging at a docking station.

Source: Eskin, Blake. *U.S. News & World Report*, 8/15-22/05.

*Never close your books on your mind.*

Bill Moyers



## Membership Update

Leslie Vandivere 703-222-4173  
[L.Vandivere@cox.net](mailto:L.Vandivere@cox.net)

Please welcome the following locally recruited members: Jeanette Callend, and Marjorie Fingeret. And the following nationally recruited members: Joanne Barreca, Sussann Gerstein, and Elizabeth Lerner.

## Clothesline Project

Barbara Nunes

According to the Men's Rape Prevention Project in Washington, DC, 58,000 soldiers died in the Vietnam war. During the same period, 51,000 women were killed, mostly by men, who supposedly loved them. In 1990 a coalition of women's groups on Cape Cod, Massachusetts developed a program to educate, break the silence, and bear witness to violence against women.

One of the women, artist Rachel Carey-Harper, moved by the power of the AIDS quilt, presented the concept of using shirts hanging on a clothesline to raise awareness. Women traditionally did the laundry and exchanged information over backyard fences while clothes were drying. Each woman was encouraged to tell her story in her own way with words or art work to decorate the shirt. Shirts were hung on the clothesline.

In 1990, thirty-one shirts were displayed on the village green in Hyannis, Massachusetts. A blurb in *Off Our Back* magazine was picked up by *Ms Magazine* and the project blossomed into a national campaign. It honors women survivors as well as victims of intimate violence.

At the moment it is estimated there are 500 projects nationally and internationally with an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 shirts. More information is available at [www.clotheslineproject.org](http://www.clotheslineproject.org)



## LWVVA News

At the board meeting on 9/16/05 it was learned that all local Leagues would be represented at the workshops the next day. The board decided not to order Lobbyist-In-A-Box this year due to the high cost and the availability of the information from other sources. The WRT Pre-session agenda was set (see information below). A new toll-free telephone number was announced for reaching the president of LWVVA directly. It is 866-427-8512. The Oct/Nov *Virginia Voter* content was discussed and plans were made as to what should be included. It was also agreed to provide a members-only page on their website; it can be reached at <http://virginia.members.va.lwvnet.org>

## WRT Pre-Session

The annual Women's Roundtable (WRT) will be on December 7, 2005 in Senate Room 1, Patrick Henry Building in Capitol Square, Richmond, beginning at 9:30 am. Speakers will be Donna Reynolds, Virginia Lung Association, Sen. Walter Stosch, Majority Leader of the Senate, Del. Brian J. Moran and Jeff Schapiro, Staff Reporter, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Following the morning session, the Virginia Women's Network and LWVVA will co-sponsor a box-lunch with additional speakers at St. Paul's Church across the street. Further information will follow. If you are interested, call 703-658-9150 and leave your name and number. Car-pools will be formed.

## LWVUS News

Action Alert Update: Restrictions on voter registration passed the House as part of H.R. 1461; "Sham Energy Bill" (H.R. 3893) passed by 212-210 vote. LWVUS sent letter to Senators to support full funding of HAVA; urged Senate to support McCain Amendment re treatment of prisoners—passed 90-9.

LWVEF announced new project: "Openness in Government: Looking for the Sunshine:" pass-through grants available to host community forums in March, 2006.

*Maintaining a complicated life is a great way to avoid changing it.*  
Elaine St. James

## NCA NEWS

On October 7, 2005, the NCA League Board hosted a lunch/reception for the Presidents of its 13 member Leagues. Naomi Glass, Program Director, announced that Lillian White of the Alexandria LWV has agreed to co-chair with her the Air Pollution update study. No one has been agreed to undertake the leadership of the Airport update. If you are so inclined, please call Naomi at **202-686-0124** to discuss possible assistance.

To better inform the local Leagues about the role of LWVNCA, it was decided to prepare brochures of their positions – LWVFA has copies.

## Fall Forum Successful

On September 20, LWVFA cosponsored with the Providence District Council a candidates forum for the 35<sup>th</sup> & 37<sup>th</sup> House Districts. The forum moderated by Olga Hernandez, was very well received by the audience and deemed a very worth-while project.

## Sixth-Leading Cause of Death



Of the 2 million or so Americans each year who get infections while in the hospital, 90,000 die because of them. Health care and consumer activists have been pushing for laws that would require hospitals to disclose their infection statistics in the hope of pressuring them into using more effective anti-

infection measures.

So far they've scored victories in: Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. About 30 other states are considering similar legislation. A Hungarian physician proved in 1847 that the transmission of infections in hospitals could be reduced by **hand washing**. But many doctors, nurses, and other staff members don't wash their hands between patients.

Source: Kiger Patrick J., AARP Bulletin, 06/05.

## LWVUS & LWVFA PROGRAM PLANNING 2006 – 2008

Program planning is done every year in the Fairfax Area League in the month of December; local and national topics are considered in odd-numbered years, regional and state in even-numbered years.

The process begins with selection and adoption, continues with study, discussion and possible consensus and culminates in action and change. The term "Program" includes both the adopted positions and issues for new study.

To arrive at our local positions, we study the subject, and in group discussions, answer questions from which consensus/concurrence reports are made. The program team makes a recommendation for the exact wording of the position. The board then makes any changes it thinks appropriate (after reviewing the consensus reports). The approved wording is sent to the membership for their consideration at least a month before the Annual Meeting.

The position is either accepted or rejected at the LWVFA Annual Meeting. Once accepted, the language cannot be changed substantially; nor can a portion, or all, of the position be dropped until another Annual Meeting—and appropriate notice of the proposed change is given. Editorial changes can be made if they do not substantially change the position. This process ensures that our positions reflect the thinking of our membership.

### PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Program - governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action is the League's reason for being. Traditionally League program originates with the membership, not the leadership, but over the years, grassroots participation in program planning has declined steadily, despite LWVUS efforts to halt this trend. *In 2004, participation reached an all-time low of 29%.*

*As part of the ongoing effort to make the program planning process more available and accessible, and, hopefully, increase participation, LWVUS has adopted the following changes for the upcoming Program Planning process:*

Local Leagues will no longer be asked to adopt existing positions, although convention delegates will continue to do so.

An LWVUS Program Planning listserve will operate throughout the fall of 2005 to engage members in discussion about issues of interest.

Efforts will be made to better publicize program planning, including a camera-ready article for state and local League *Voters*, use of the President's Update, and a national *Voter* article.

***If, despite these changes, participation continues to decline or fails to increase, League leaders - local, state, and national - must ask themselves some difficult questions:***

- At this minimal rate of participation, is the process any longer "grassroots," and are we still speaking with one voice when we select an Issue to study?
- Do we really need any more on our "program plate" - are the positions we have adopted over the past 85 years, and on which we take action, generally sufficient?
- Because 78% of those Leagues that participate in program planning also send delegates to Convention, should the process in the future focus more on Convention and less on planning at the local level?

### Funding

Studies and review/updates at the national level are expensive; obtaining outside funding is very difficult, and cutting costs enough to pay for studies is unrealistic. One alternative is for Leagues proposing new studies to include a recommendation to raise PMP (Per Member Payment) temporarily as a funding source. Please note the following estimated costs/PMP increase for updates and new studies:

- a major study can cost as much as \$300,000 equating to a PMP increase of \$3.00/year for two years.
- A limited review/update of a position can cost \$40,000-\$100,000, equating to a PMP increase of \$0.80 - \$2.00/year for one year.
- a concurrence costs \$60,000, equating to a PMP increase of \$1.20/year for one year



## **LWVUS Public Policy Positions in Brief**

### **REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

#### **Voting Rights**

**Citizen's Right to Vote.** Protect the right of all citizen to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

#### **DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.**

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and representation in both houses of Congress.

#### **Election Process**

**Apportionment.** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

**Campaign Finance.** Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

**Selection of the President:** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the electoral college; support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

#### **Citizen Rights**

**Citizen Right to Know/Citizen Participation.** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

**Individual Liberties.** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

**Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

#### **Congress and the Presidency**

**Congress.** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

**The Presidency.** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Promote peace in an interdependent world by cooperating with other nations, strengthening international organizations.

#### **United Nations**

Support measures to strengthen the United Nations, in recognition of the need for cooperation among nations in an interdependent world.

#### **Trade**

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

#### **U.S. Relations with Developing Countries**

Promote U.S. policies that meet the long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

#### **Arms Control**

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

#### **Military Policy and Defense Spending**

Work to limit reliance on military force; examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

#### **Natural Resources**

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

#### **Resource Management**

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

#### **Environmental Protection and Pollution Control**

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

**Energy.** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

**Land Use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

**Water Resources.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, ground-water and drinking water.

**Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

**Nuclear Issues.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

### **Public Participation**

Promote public understanding and participation in decision-making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

### **Agricultural Policy**

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

### **SOCIAL POLICY**

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

### **Equality of Opportunity**

**Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

**Education, Employment , Housing.** Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

### **Fiscal Policy**

**Tax Policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

**Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies.

**Funding Entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

### **Health Care**

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

### **Meeting Basic Human Needs**

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

**Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

**Support Services.** Provide for essential support services.

**Housing Supply.** Support policies to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family.

### **Child Care**

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

### **Early Intervention for Children at Risk**

Support policies and programs that promote the well being, development and safety of all children.

### **Violence Prevention**

Support violence prevention programs in all communities.

### **Gun Control**

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons.

### **Urban Policy**

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Updated 2005

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

\* \* \* \* \*



## Re-Defining LWVFA Program Terms

**History:** The studies produced over the years by LWVFA committees have been praised by both members and the larger community and are, in large part, the basis for our reputation as a well-informed, responsible organization...In a sense, our reputation for thoroughness could lead to our own undoing.....Committees have generally been seen as the training ground for potential leaders.....The trend toward fewer, smaller, and less active committees collides with high member expectations for interesting and informative unit discussions ten months of the year, based on League-produced programs that maintain our high standards of quality.

There is no doubt that a timely, interesting program that is well-balanced among local, state, and national issues contributes to member retention, recruitment, and good attendance at unit meetings. It also seems clear that members value the small-group discussion format and prefer it to all other options.....We also note that it is primarily LWVFA's size and location in an area where the population has a very high level of professional expertise that has allowed us to consistently produce high-quality local studies.

It may be worthwhile to remind our members from time to time that the vast majority of local Leagues... no longer produce local studies several times a year or never produced them at all. As the trends that long ago forced many other local Leagues to change their methods of operating or their structure catch up with LWVFA, we may need to consider whether we can keep up the pace we have set for ourselves.....

**Source :** Report of the Strategic Planning Committee; League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, May 1989.

The standing program committees generated most topics, ideas and material. They also provided resource persons, who had worked on the material and had become experts, to attend the monthly unit meetings to add flavor and answer any questions. These members then reported via their committee chair, to the Board after the unit meetings on how the program material was received and, in some cases, even suggestions for other topics. The three or four people we now have working together or separately to gather

information for a program for a unit meeting constitutes an ad hoc committee.

### **Facilitator:**

The word “facilitator” comes from the general usage by the state and national Leagues for board members who went to the units to conduct program planning meetings. The facilitator is an outgrowth of the lack of the program committees in Fairfax. They have replaced the former concept of the “discussion leader & resource person.” An outline, scripted to the program material to move everyone through it and to keep the discussion relevant, is provided to the facilitators. Facilitators may participate in the discussion which discussion leaders were never encouraged to do; they were encouraged to listen and guide the discussion only. (See: “Consensus/Concurrence” [in the files] for more information on the discussion leaders job description.)

### **Briefing:**

The briefing has become a “trial unit meeting” for questions to be asked (and hopefully answered) to iron out any glitches in the material and give the facilitator some comfort level with their assignment. When consensus programs are prepared, it is assumed (although not always possible) that there will be *resource people* from the group that put together the material and *unit discussion leaders* would again replace the facilitators. Also, the briefing would return to its original venue of recording consensus of the discussion leaders and resource persons, equivalent to a unit meeting.

### **Program Report:**

With the advent of facilitators, the only method of recording each unit meeting, is the Program Report. This document is vital in ensuring information on the program's content and the units' reception to it is relayed to the Board. Most units have already found this report as an excellent vehicle to “sound-off” on their questions, comments, and concerns. Those units that use this venue seem to return them very quickly to the Program Director.

\* \* \* \* \*

## LWVFA Positions in Brief

### GOVERNMENT

#### Fairfax County & City of Fairfax

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

Support of an effectively administered and equitable tax system and the sale of bonds for capital improvements. Reliance on the property tax should be considered. When evaluating a tax, fairness and equity, progressivity, revenue yield, ease and cost of collection and administration, and the degree of difficulty in avoiding payment should be considered.

#### Public Libraries

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

#### Transportation

Support of an effective, well-coordinated and adequately financed system of public transportation in Fairfax County/City, and an active role by Fairfax County in the planning of its road system and the financing of road improvements

#### Voting Procedures

Promote efforts to increase voter participation in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax. Support additional hours and expanded use of appropriate public places for voting and voter registration

### NATURAL RESOURCES

#### Environmental Quality (E.Q.)

##### ► Solid Waste

Support measures to protect the public and the environment and to encourage 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

Support establishment and maintenance by Fairfax County and City of Fairfax of comprehensive local hazardous materials program, including safe disposal of hazardous waste, to protect the public and environment.

##### ► Sensitive Areas

Nontidal wetlands are a valuable resource that is in need of protection from destruction by conversion to other uses. Both tidal and nontidal wetlands should be protected against damage from sedimentation and pollution.

##### ► Air Quality

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. A change in parking subsidies away from those favoring low occupancy vehicles to those favoring efficient transportation modes.

#### Land Use Planning

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

Support Fairfax County taking necessary measures to effectively protect the Occoquan Reservoir from pollution

### SOCIAL POLICY

#### Health Care

Support for Fairfax County playing 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. An aggres-

sive, community-based out-reach program to inform the public about available health care programs

### Human Services

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; support permanent shelters for homeless families and individuals.

### Judicial System

Promote an effective local judicial system which is conducted in a just and dignified manner, ministers to all people without discrimination, is properly planned and coordinated with related agencies, is efficiently administered by competent personnel who are given a clear assignment of responsibility, and is adequately financed.

### Juvenile Problems

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

### Schools

Promote equal opportunity for a quality education in Fairfax County/City schools. Support of proper planning, competent administration and programs to meet special needs; and support for adequate personnel, facilities, financing and appropriate books and materials to support and enhance the instructional program.

\* \* \* \* \*

## PROGRAM PLANNING

The following criteria should be considered when proposing a program item:

- Can the issue be resolved by government action? At what level?

- Does the League have a position at any level that could address the specific issue?
- Can the League's involvement make a difference?
- Is there enough enthusiasm for the topic?
- Do we have the people to work on this?

Please evaluate our full current positions by referring to your copy of *Here We Stand*. The Program Directors and program teams/study committee chairs recommend that all positions be **retained**.

After Unit discussion, mark your unit choices in the following LWVFA grid:

- ✓ **Retain** - Assumes there is still member understanding of, and agreement with, the position.
- ✓ **Restudy** - Implies the position no longer fits the circumstances and needs to be completely restudied.
- ✓ **Update** - Implies there is new information available or things have changed. The position could be expanded to include the new info through consensus/concurrence to produce a reworded position.
- ✓ **Drop** - If dropped, no action can be taken under that position.
- ✓ **Action** - Would like to see more individual and/or League action taken on this position.

**LWVFA new program ideas** gathered from various sources, listed in no particular order:

How Homeland Security is Working at Home  
Day Labor (immigrant)  
LWVFA and the Future  
Issues on Aging  
The History of Marriage in Virginia

Plus any other ideas your unit may have for informational programs - use extra paper if needed.

## LWVFA PROGRAM PLANNING REPORT

Please put a check-mark (✓) in the correct column to indicate your unit's recommendations.

GOVERNMENT	Retain	Restudy	Update	Drop	Action
Fairfax County & City of Fairfax					
Fiscal					
Public Libraries					
Transportation					
Local Registration & Election Procedures					
NATURAL RESOURCES					
Environmental Quality (E.Q.) •Solid Waste •Hazardous Materials •Sensitive Areas •Air Quality					
Land Use Planning					
Water					
SOCIAL POLICY					
Health Care					
Human Services					
Judicial System					
Juvenile Problems					
Schools					

If recommending an update or restudy, list the title of that position here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Explain why, how and what** changes you would like to see in the position: \_\_\_\_\_

**New informational program topics:** Include any additional topics to those listed, **prioritize** two from your unit:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Scope \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Scope: \_\_\_\_\_

Use another sheet of paper, if necessary

## Program Report for October 2005: Gang Activities and Prevention

Rona Ackerman

There was general agreement that the program was timely, informative, and well-written. Discussion centered on the need for the public to become educated on gangs, the utilization of schools for after school programs and a transportation system for students to use them.

Of the unit responses, nine clearly indicated that action was appropriate. While there was general agreement that transportation was an important issue, using our position was not popular. School Facilities, Poverty under Human Resources, and Juvenile Positions seemed more appropriate. It was felt we should take action in concert with as many other groups as feasible, including the business community, chambers of commerce, PTA, schools, etc.

It was suggested the program material be given to PTA's – ask them to make copies available at their next meeting – put info in their newsletters. Continue to monitor and disseminate information on Task Force activities and raise awareness that there is a need for different groups in the community to provide programs.

Urge business and labor unions to become more family friendly – with tele-commuting, flexibility with work hours and vacation time. Provide training and job programs and develop scholarships. Fund after school and transportation services. Get involved in mentor programs.

Lobby for more funds for additional after school programs, teen centers and transportation. Expansion of the existing programs which seem successful: SACC, RecPac, FCPS. Promote funding for interpreters to help communicate with parents who speak little English, inside and outside the schools. Get information to League members on the volunteer opportunities that are available and organizations that provide them.

### Free Home Delivery

To start your free subscription to *The Connection Newspaper*, delivered to your home each week. Call 703-917-6465 or fax a written request to 703-917-0997. Limit one paper per household.

## WORD SEARCH 101

Find and circle 16 “League Lingo” words hidden in the grid below. The words can be found up, down, forward and backward through the grid. Enjoy!

S	N	O	I	T	I	S	O	P	E
N	O	I	T	N	E	V	N	O	C
E	A	M	A	R	G	O	R	P	N
E	P	D	I	S	C	U	S	S	E
T	M	I	V	T	R	E	L	A	R
T	P	L	N	O	I	T	C	A	R
I	C	O	U	N	C	I	L	N	U
M	A	D	N	E	G	A	W	X	C
M	R	E	S	O	U	R	C	E	N
O	Z	K	S	T	I	N	U	Y	O
C	S	U	S	N	E	S	N	O	C

Devised by Lavinia Voss

## Ugly Figures

20% of California high school seniors failed this year's graduation exam. What makes this figure even uglier is that the test is not geared to 12<sup>th</sup>-grade knowledge—it only requires eighth-grade proficiency in math and 10<sup>th</sup>-grade proficiency in English. California legislators answered the crisis of uneducated students by proposing to lower the standards. No Child Left Behind, indeed. What a brilliant plan—no child can be left behind if the train never leaves the station.

**Source:** American Conversation, *The Examiner* 10/11/05.

Word Search 101 Answers:

\_\_\_\_\_

PMP, Alert, P  
Advocacy, Co

\_\_\_\_\_

## VIRGINIA HAPPENINGS

Governor's Palace

Bernice Colvard, League Historian

Reconstruction of Virginia's colonial capitol as well as the Wren Building at the College of William & Mary, the Governor's Palace and the Wythe House in Williamsburg was approved in 1927 when philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, Jr. agreed to finance the work. There was much contention about the design of the Wren Building until the fortuitous discovery in 1929 of a copperplate, engraved about 1740, showing two detailed images of the Wren. This copperplate was found at Oxford University's Bodleian Library. The design had long been attributed to and the building named for the famous English architect Sir Christopher Wren.

Cost overruns appear to be endemic to public structures. In 1706, the Burgesses allocated 3,000 pounds to build a home in Williamsburg for the Royal Governor. Completed in 1720, it was dubbed the "Governor's Palace" and retains that title today. The first Royal Governor to inhabit this building, Alexander Spotswood, spent an appreciable amount of his own fortune to further embellish the Georgian mansion.

The gardens reflect European formal tradition and recreate many of the intricate details of English gardens of the time, like the holly maze which copies the royal residence at Hampton Court. The fast-growing yaupon hollies, called "The Twelve Apostles," might have been seen on many English estates. Also reminiscent of England are the geometrically designed hedges, topiary work, and a greensward open enough for a garden game. Only the outbuildings represent Virginia plantation style.

The seventh Royal Governor to live in this handsome residence, the elderly Earl of Dunsmore, fled from it one June morning in 1775. The first two elected governors of the Commonwealth, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, resided there.

### Sources:

Kelly, C. Brian. *Best Little Stories from Virginia*. Cumberland House Publishing, Inc., Nashville, TN, 2003, p 49.  
Smith, Jane Ockenshausen, *One-Day Trips Through History*. EPM Publications, Inc., McLean, VA, 1982, p 128.

*The greatest assets you own are  
your dreams.*

*Anonymous*



## The Historic Marker Rededication

It has been agreed that the historic roadside marker purchased in 1982 will be re-sited in a landscaped area adjoining the turnaround area in front of the gatehouse of Fairfax Water's new facility on Rt. 123 in Lorton. This is a win-win situation.

The Marker indicates that the Occoquan Workhouse where Suffragists were held for picketing the White House for the vote in 1917 was located nearby (it was in fact in front of Fairfax Water's new building). VDOT's preference to allow the public to pull off a busy roadway and pause to read the Marker in safety is met with this location. LWVFA is pleased for all these reasons.

We had hoped to schedule Rededication of the Marker next spring. However, extended completion dates on both the Griffith Water Treatment Plant and the widening of Rt.123 make it more likely that **Saturday, August 26, 2006**, may be set for the event. (August 26 is Women's Equality Day when women won the vote).

## Ten Women Inducted Into Hall of Fame

SENECA FALLS, N.Y.

Inspired by Alan Shepard, a 14-year-old from suburban Chicago wrote a letter to NASA in 1961 asking what she needed to do to become an astronaut. She got a curt reply: Girls are not being recruited. "It had never crossed my mind until that point that there might be doors closed to me simply because I was a girl," recalled the letter writer, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), as she was inducted recently.

Honored with her were Maya Lin, who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; Rita Rossi Colwell, who became the first female director of the National Science Foundation in 1998; and Betty Bumpers, a crusader for childhood immunizations and former first lady of Arkansas. Six women honored posthumously included Mother Marianne Cope, Mary Burnett Talbert, and Patricia Locke. Barnstorming pilot Blanche Stuart Scott, anthropologist Ruth Fulton Benedict and Florence Ellinwood Allen, the first woman appointed to a federal appeals court.

Source: Associated Press, *The Washington Post* 9/10/05 A7



## Rainier Cherries

Washington is the largest cherry producing state in the nation, and has become famous worldwide for growing some of the biggest—and sweetest Rainiers in the world. Named for majestic Mount Rainier, they are grown in the fertile orchards east of the peak. Two red cherry varieties, Bing and Van were crossed to come up with a yellow cherry that took on a red blush as it matured. The sugar level gets higher as the season progresses, in fact, there is some brown discoloration that looks like a bruise mark on the tender skin, but it is actually an accumulation of the sugar solids. They are a tantalizing treat, and their healthy attributes make them a guilt-free pleasure. They're a good source of fiber and vitamin C, are low in fat and sodium-free, and contain no cholesterol. One of the prettiest, sweetest fruits in the orchard from June to mid-August.

**Source:** Stroder, Mark E. *Cosco Connection*, July 2005

## Free Clinics

Virginia has more free clinics than any other state except North Carolina. Of it's 50 free clinics, 12 opened between 1970 and 1992. The rest have opened since 1992 as the problem of uninsured patients has spread. Typical free clinic patients don't qualify for Medicaid and are employed in jobs that don't provide insurance or that charge premiums they can't afford. They do not qualify for health care any other way—a group characterized as “the working poor.”

The state has very strict eligibility requirements for Medicaid, the federal-state health care program for the poor. The income limit eligibility is lower than in all but eight other states. It also has an unusually broad law, passed in 1992 that gives volunteers at free clinics immunity from malpractice suits. Although other states have followed, Virginia's statute continues to be the most expansive in the country. Last year, The Moss Free Clinic in Fredericksburg saw 1,400 patients for 6,500 visits and dispensed \$1.3 million in free medications.

**Source:** Boorstein, Michelle. *The Washington Post*, 6/5/05 C5.



## Weather & Air Pollution

When and where power plants emit nitrogen oxide can make a huge difference in the health effects of air pollution, a new study finds. Measuring emissions from a power plant in eastern Pennsylvania in July 1995, scientists found that nitrogen oxide produced much more ground-level ozone on warmer days than on cooler ones. On hot days, emissions from a plant upwind of a densely populated area could lead to more than three times as many deaths as in cool weather.

The findings were significant in light of the Bush administration's plans for a "cap and trade" program for power plant emissions in the eastern United States. The Clean Air Interstate Rule finalized in March aims to cut overall nitrogen oxide emissions from utilities by 61 percent in the next decade, but emissions from individual plants may vary widely.

Utilities lobbyist Scott Segal said an approach that sought to minimize emissions at particular times would penalize plants that "have to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. A rule like that would hit ratepayers really, really hard," adding that utilities have to produce more electricity in summer to meet air conditioning needs.

**Source:** Eilperin, Juliet. A7, *The Washington Post*. 7/11/05

## Hmm!

In a quest to create a waterproof tape, 3M engineer Richard Drew, 30, tries coating a new material called cellophane with adhesive. After a year of tinkering, on September 8, 1930, Drew sends a batch of his new “Scotch” tape to a food-packaging company to test it. It sticks. Though sales in 1930 total only \$33, today enough tape is sold each year to wrap the earth 165 times.

**Source:** Alison McLean & Christine Dellamore. *Smithsonian*, 9/05.

*Happiness seems less a matter  
of getting what we want than  
of wanting what we have.*

*Anonymous*



## Unit Meeting Locations - Topic: LWVUS & LWVFA Program Planning

Members and visitors may attend any meeting convenient for them. At print time the locations were correct, *please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend.* Some meetings at restaurants need reservations.

Tuesday, December 13

Wednesday, December 14

Thursday, December 8

**9:45 am Annandale/Barcroft (AB)**

Mason District Govt. Center  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale  
Call Emily 703-354-2494 for info.

**12:30 pm McLean (McL)**

McClean Comm. Cntr. Room #2  
1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean  
Call Anne 703-448-6626 for info

**7:45 pm Vienna Evening (VE)**

9818 Day Farms Dr. Vienna  
Call Lorraine or John 703-759-3651

**9:30 am Fairfax Station (FXS)**

7902 Bracksford Ct. Fairfax Station  
Call Lois 703-690-0908 for info.

**9:30 am Hollin Hills Day (HHD)**

Mount Vernon District Gov. Center  
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria  
Call Joan 703-765-0799 for info.

**9:30 am Vienna Day (VID)**

3314 Parkside Terrace, Fairfax  
Call Mary Elizabeth 703-280-5186  
Pot Luck Lunch Following

**9:00 am Reston Day (RD)**

11624 Sourwood Lane, Reston  
Call Margo 703-620-9054.

**9:15 am Fairfax City Day (FXD)**

5211 Gun Powder Drive, Fairfax  
Call Jeanne 703-591-4580

**9:30 am Springfield (SPF)**

Packard Center (Lg. Conf. Rm.)  
4026 Hummer Rd, Annandale  
Call Nancy 703-256-6570 or  
Peg 703-256-9420 for info.

### Monday, December 12

**1:30 pm Greenspring Vill. (GSV)**

Hunters Crossing Craft Room  
Spring Village Drive, Springfield  
Call Jean 703-569-6659 for info.



**Raggedy Ann**

Inspired by his ailing daughter Marcella's favorite ragdoll, cartoonist Johnny Gruelle patented the design on Sept. 7, 1915. Ann's popularity takes off in 1918, when Gruelle begins publishing a series of children's books starring the doll with the candy heart. Brother Raggedy Andy joins the adventures in 1920. Gruelle dies in 1938; today collectors pay thousands for an original doll.

Source: *Smithsonian* Sept. 2005

**1:30 pm Pr. William Area (PWA)**

McCoart Government Building  
Prince William Parkway, Manassas.  
Call Sheila 703-492-4574 for info.

**6:15 pm Dinner Unit (DU)**

Yen Cheng Restaurant  
Main Street Center  
9992 Main Street, Fairfax  
Call Pier 703-256-1019 for info.

**7:30 pm Reston Evening (RE)**

Reston Museum 1639 Washington Plaza, Lake Anne Village Center  
Call Baba 703-437-1901 for info.

**7:30 pm Pr. William Area (PWA)**

Great American Steak House  
8365 Sudley Road, Manassas  
Come at 7:00 pm for dinner.  
Call Sheila 703-492-4574 for info.

**1:00 pm Chantilly/Herndon (CH)**

Sully District Governmental Center  
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.  
Call Olga 703-815-1897 for info.

**7:45 pm Hollin Hills Eve. (HHE)**

6316 Barrister Place, Alexandria  
Call Kay 703-765-7104 for info.

### January

**General Meeting**  
**No Unit Meetings**

