



BULLETIN

Founded in 1925

Meeting Continuously Since 1946

December 2006

4026 Hummer Road #214 Annandale, Virginia 22003

Volume 59 Issue 4

Program Planning

Is the topic for December unit meetings when members will consider and develop consensus on whether the current LWVVA & LWNCA positions should be retained, updated, changed or added to in the next two-year period. All you need is in this *Bulletin*, read it and participate in a unit meeting—make your voice heard.



Calendar

December

- 05 January Bulletin Deadline**
- 06 Pre-Session Richmond WRT
- 11-14 Unit Meetings** (LWVVA & NCA Program Planning)
- 15 Board Agenda Deadline
- 16 *First Day of Hanukkah*
- 20 Board Meeting**/Jan U.C. Letter Deadline
- 23 *Last Day of Hanukkah*
- 25-Jan 2 School Vacation/ Office Closed
- 25 *Christmas Day*
- 26 *Kwannzaa/Boxing Day*

2007 January

- 01 New Year's Day
- 02 Schools/LWVFA Office Reopens
- 02 February Bulletin Deadline**
- 05 NCA Board Meeting
- 06 NoVa Delegation Pre-session Hearing
- 10 GEN. ASSEMBLY CONVENES
- 12 Board Agenda Deadline
- 15 *Martin Luther King Day*/Schools Closed
- 17 Board Meeting**/February UC Letter Deadline
- 20 General Meeting - Tom Davis Speaker**
- 24 WRT begins in Richmond
- 25-26 Schools Closed
- 30 March Bulletin Deadline**

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President's Letter

As I write this (early November), I am struggling to get my bearings after being with my daughter in NYC for the past two weeks as she recovers from knee surgery. I want to thank the board members who have been filling in to keep the Fairfax Area League on track, not only in my absence, but during the entire Fall as we have undertaken one project after the other.

Thank you: to **Leslie Vandivere, Lorraine Hart & Therese Martin** who have produced the monthly unit Chairs' letters (in the absence of a Unit Coordinator) –as well as to Office Assistant **Sue Campbell** for assimilating and dispensing unit feedback to the appropriate board members; to **Vanessa Johnson & Alice Bagwill** for creating and sending out good press releases and meeting notices; to **Rona Ackerman & Lois Page** who have presented excellent program topics and a special October UN Program; to **Jane Hilder & Judy Leader** for their work with the League's and the Commonwealth Coalition's efforts to oppose passage of the constitutional amendment on marriage; to **Carol Hawn** for preparation of the Fall 2006 *What's On The Ballot* and *Voters Guide*; to **Gail Richmond & Lorraine Hart** who set up, and to those who staffed, the outreach events; to **Una White, Bill Thomas, Joanne Hersh, Lavinia Voss** and to all those who worked at the community elections this Fall and answered the League telephone before the election; to Nominating Committee Chair **Dianne Blais** for finding **Janey George** as the Unit Coordinator; and last, but certainly not least, to **ALL of you** who have helped with and attended the events and meetings (including the debates and forum)—your involvement has been invaluable to the success of our League.

So, attend your December unit meetings to give input to the state and regional Leagues (LWVVA and LWNCA) about what you would like for them to present as a topics of study or interest for the next biennium (2007-09). And mark your calendars for the LWVFA General Meeting

It is with great gratitude and best wishes for peace, good health and contentment, that I send you my greetings this holiday season.

Sherry

First Call to General Meeting

January 20, 2007 at the International Country Club in Chantilly. Registration at 10:00 AM. Guest speaker U.S. Representative Thomas M. Davis III (11th District). The last time Mr. Davis spoke to us was in 1992, when he had just been elected Chairman of the BOS. Next months *Bulletin* will have reservation form.

General Assembly Approves Bay Funding

Three months into a special session to forge a state budget, the GA approved an unprecedented \$281 million to reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia rivers. The funding—the largest single appropriation for clean water in Virginia history—was part of a two-year \$74 billion state budget adopted by the legislature in late June. Much of the \$281 million will fund modernizing sewage treatment plants and helping farmers reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in and out of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of these historic funds will be obligated before the end of the year, with no water quality funds designated for subsequent fiscal years. Approximately 1 billion from the Commonwealth is necessary for Virginia to achieve the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement goal of removing the bay and its tributaries from the “dirty waters” list.

Source: Save the Bay, September 2006.

LWVFA Bulletin © 2006

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Board Notes

Lavinia Voss

At the October 18, 2006, board meeting, **Una White & JoAnne**

Hersh were appointed Co-Directors for the Sequoyah Condo Election. The second quarter Treasurer's Report was postponed until the November board meeting. During board orientation, the Mission Statement and League Principles were reviewed.

Carol Hawn, brought the board up to date on the Voters Service publication activities. **Lorraine Hart** apprised the board of Voters Service outreach events including the plans for the telephone answering service leading up to the election.

The 10th District Congressional Forum held on October 17, was a huge success. Seating had been set up for 300 people in the ballroom at the Dulles Hyatt. Every seat was taken, and there were many standing along the back and sides of the ballroom.

Action Director **Jane Hilder** presented the board with the choices for LWVFA priorities. After much discussion, the top three were Election Laws, Fiscal Policy and Redistricting. The two secondary priorities were Transportation and Women's Rights. Jane also gave an update on "Marriage Amendment" activities and the BOS meeting. She also proposed that LWVFA support the two bond referenda on the ballot, which the board approved. An all member email will go out to the membership letting them know of this decision..

Justice Committee Chair **Judy Leader** reported on events to date and upcoming considerations for marking Law Day in May next year. Program Directors Ackerman & Page were both absent but the board was reminded to get their reservations in for the U.N. program at the Sherwood Library on October 22, 2006. The unit reports collected at the office for the month of October were passed out to the directors who need them.

Seen and Heard Around Fairfax and Beyond-

For a copy of any testimony or action taken by LWVFA, contact the office 703-658-9150 or lwvfa@ecoisp.com

1. President Zachry and Lavinia Voss attended the NCA Annual Local Leagues President's Brunch in October.
2. See Action Faction column on page 5 for other information.



Community Election Projects

Una White 703-922-8721

unawhite@earthlink.net

Thank you to all who worked at the RCC Preference Poll in October; you did a great job. An extra special thanks goes to the director, Bill Thomas who ran the event for LWVFA. Thank you to all who worked at the **Sequoyah** Condo election on November 14, 2006, another all day event. A special thanks to JoAnne Hersh who helped organize the event..

Membership Update

Leslie Vandivere - 703-222-4173

LVandivere@cox.net



Please welcome these new nationally recruited members: Judith Flynn, Emily Sykes, Eleanor McPhail, and Judith Falkenrath. Also welcome to Kristi Zappie-Ferrandino's new baby, Michael

Andrew, born October 28, 2006!

Do you have children in FCPS or PWCPS?

The Schools Update Committee asks for your help! They will be researching and preparing comments and recommendations in the areas covered by LWVFA school positions. We are not asking for your help with this task but would like you to help evaluate or critique our findings—to tell us if what is supposed to be countywide schools policy does or doesn't actually reflect what is happening in your children's schools. Since most of those on the committee do not have children in the public school system, we believe that it would be helpful to obtain this input from members who do. If you would be willing to do this. Please contact Therese Martin tbmartin4@verizon.net



School News—Fairfax & Prince William Counties

Ginger Shea

As of September 27, all Fairfax County public schools have earned full accreditation from the Virginia Department of Education based on the 2005-06 Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. The 100 percent of schools accredited is an increase from 99 percent in 2004-05 and from 95 percent in 2003-04.

All Prince William County Public Schools are accredited under Commonwealth accreditation guidelines, two schools, Beville and Fred Lynn Middle Schools, have been listed as accredited with warning in the area of mathematics.

Examination of the elementary schedule

Kaye Kory, the Fairfax County School Board member representing Mason District, requested that an examination of the elementary schedule be added to a school board work session in June, 2006. She noted that an article in *The Washington Post* ("A Full School Day on Mondays," May 29, 2006, p. B8 by Ginger Shea) had quantified the hours and minutes that students are dismissed early on Mondays.

Of the 136 elementary schools in Fairfax, only 16 provide a full day of learning to students on Mondays. The others dismiss students up to two hours and 50 minutes early to give teachers planning time. The length of the early dismissal hours ranges from two hours (21 schools) to a high of 2 hours and 50 minutes (18 schools). The most common early dismissal time is 2 hours and 25 minutes (63 schools).

Elementary school students in Prince William County have a 6 1/2 hour day every day. The Prince William elementary schools ended their previous 1 1/2 hour early dismissals on Thursdays after the end of the 2003-2004 school year.

If the students in the 18 Fairfax County schools who were dismissed 2 hours and 50 minutes early on 34 Mondays last year had been allowed to stay for a full day instead, they would have gained 96.3 instructional hours, the equivalent of three weeks in school.

At the June Fairfax County School Board Work session, Superintendent Jack D. Dale said that the staff is studying the elementary school schedule, including the early release on Mondays, in the context of Excel Schools, the issue of foreign language, the transportation study, and the teacher leadership grant, which

would increase the number of contract days for teachers. He said they are studying whether a change in the elementary school schedule could mesh with earlier high school start times. They will have some recommendations at the end of the year. Part of that will be a reexamination of the early out.



Change Your Light Bulbs

According to the Department of Energy, lighting consumes almost 15% of a household's electricity use. Reducing this expense is as simple as replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps

(CFLs).

- CFLs provide the same amount of light but use 66 percent less energy.
- If you replace four standard incandescent lamps with CFLs, you could save up to \$35 annually.
- CFLs last six to 10 times longer than incandescent lamps, so you don't have to change the bulb for four to five years.
- If every U.S. household replaced one bulb with a CFL, together we'd save enough energy to light seven million homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Go to: www.eere.energy.gov/consumer to learn more.

Pitfalls for Label-Readers

At 170 calories per serving, the spaghetti seemed harmless. A closer look at the nutrition label showed a serving was just an eighth of the box, not the whole thing. A common pitfall, when checking labels, is failing to factor in serving size. When people do, they often miscalculate how much they are eating. Americans inability to understand portion control is one reason cited for the country's climbing obesity rate.

Source: AP, *The Examiner*, 9/28/06.

LIFE is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, totally worn-out and proclaiming, "WOW, WHAT A RIDE!"

Anonymous



The Importance of One Vote

One vote ...

- in 1771 gave America the English language instead of German;
- elected Thomas Jefferson President in 1800 in the House of Representatives after a tie in the Electoral College;
- in the Electoral College elected Rutherford B. Hayes to the presidency in 1876;
- in the Senate saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment conviction;
- kept Aaron Burr, later charged with treason, from becoming President;
- made Texas part of the United States;
- in 1920 won the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote. Tennessee, the last state needed to pass the amendment, ratified the amendment; and
- admitted California, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon to the Union.

Unit News



Mary Elizabeth Gordon (VID) went on a Mississippi paddle-wheel boat trip from St. Louis to St. Paul in late October. Connie

Houston (VID) is now working as a full time aide to Sen. Janet Howell. Lynne Garvey Wark (FXS) accompanied her husband William to a swearing in ceremony as the newest member of the federal Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), a presidential appointment that is confirmed by the Senate. Lois Page (FXS) was in Italy, O.G. Harper (FXS) was in Japan, and Leslie Vandivere (CHD) was in Africa in October. Therese Martin (RE) recently returned from a trip to Turkey.

Charter Member Dies

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Nancy Prichard on Sep. 20, 2006. She and husband Ed moved to the City of Fairfax in the late 1940s, resided in the house built by her parents on Chain Bridge Rd., and were quite active in civic and political affairs. We remember and honor Nancy as a charter member of the Fairfax League.



Action Faction

Jane Hilder, Action Director

jc.hilder@verizon.net 703-960-6820

At their October 23 meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors had a message for the General Assembly about transportation improvements. The message clearly referred to the failure of the General Assembly to vote for a new source of funding for transportation in Northern Virginia. As voiced by Board Chair Gerry Connolly, the message was, "There is no tooth fairy."

Meanwhile in October, a number of LWVFA members were opposing the Marshall/Newman "marriage" amendment on the ballot in November by speaking with their neighbors. Justice Committee Chair Judy Leader and I spent a number of hours in the Commonwealth Coalition office in McLean calling potential Northern Virginia voters and urging them to read the amendment before voting on it.

In other action, President Sherry Zachry submitted letters to the editor of *The Washington Post* and other area newspapers opposing the marriage amendment on the part of the LWVFA. She also submitted a press release supporting the passage of the two Fairfax County bond issues on the ballot.

Priorities for action in the General Assembly were solicited by LWVFA from all local Leagues. They will become incorporated in their lobbying priorities for the coming session. Transportation needs, election laws, and redistricting were the three top state legislative priorities identified by the LWVFA Board at its October 18 meeting.

These action priorities guided President Sherry Zachry when she testified at the public hearing before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on November 20. The Supervisors were soliciting comments on their proposed legislative package for the General Assembly which was released on November 15.

The League Speaks With One Voice

Only the **president** or their designee speaks or writes officially for the League. League **members** speak or write as private citizens only; they never designate affiliation with the organization.

Source: In League LWVUS publication.

History is a race between education and catastrophe.
H.G. Wells.

A Memo From LWVUS

In developing the Membership Recruitment Initiative, Spitfire Strategies research found that LWV media coverage peaked around election time. A significant amount of that coverage surrounded the local League election related activities, such as voters guides and candidate forums. To help maximize this, Leagues should incorporate membership recruitment messages into all of their election activities.

*NB: Combining membership recruitment and voters service activities is something that many Leagues have purposefully not done in the past because of IRS concerns. (LWVFA was one of those that had never combined these activities). LWVUS has sought legal counsel on this point. In a Voters' Guide or other printed material, you may place an ad for membership—you just have to decide what that ad would cost and charge it from your General Fund monies. *It must NOT be paid out of education fund monies.**

Use outreach opportunities that are already planned where League members will communicate with the public (i.e., candidate forums, voters guides, flyers, etc.). Once Leagues have identified the opportunities, they must decide how to incorporate the membership message. The ad below is designed to tap into the core value of wanting your community to be strong, safe, fair, and healthy. At a minimum, LWVUS suggests, Leagues should present this brief invitation of membership.

The League of Women Voters - the place where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. To join us, please visit: *PROVIDE CONTACT INFO HERE*

LWVVA NEWS



The celebration for the 25th Women's Legislative Roundtable in Richmond will be held on Wednesday, December 6. The day begins in Senate Room 1, at the Patrick Henry Building, from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM and then on to St. Paul's Church for a luncheon co-sponsored by the Virginia Women's Network. The lunch costs \$25, reservations must be received by Nov. 21. The WRT founders will be invited guests.

NCA



NEWS

At the local League Annual President's Brunch in October a Seminar on the Relationship between DC and Congress was discussed and possible dates were explored. The Airport study group will send the study to local Leagues by February.

A spirited discussion took place on auditing voting. The Presidents expressed a need for information from LWVUS as to all the issues associated with the position, approved at the Convention, in support of a paper trail. What is a reasonable norm and what techniques could be used for auditing of elections? It was commented that many states have already purchased equipment and would not be likely to replace it.

Cheryl Graeve, LWVUS Membership and Field Support Director discussed the new Membership Recruitment Initiative program. The target group is women in the retirement phase of their lives from the ages of 50 to 65. These women have the time to devote to a group, want to be involved in community activities, and are looking to replace the work they are used to doing. There are 20 million women in this category and they will increase to 30 million.

The intent of the project is to develop messages that will encourage women to join the League so a variety of messages/themes are being tested to determine those that will appeal to the group. As information is developed it will be shared with all Leagues.

LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate reported on recent polls asking people what source they used to secure the most nonpartisan information. The League of Women Voters had the highest ratings. A small grant has been received from the Herb Block Foundation to develop material on "openness in government."

www.Vote411.org will start operating soon. It will have election rules/regulations for District of Columbia and all states. Information will be organized by state/district and will include polling place locators. Yahoo is hosting the site.

The local League Presidents shared their Leagues current activities and their plans for the rest of the year before enjoying a delicious brunch.



VIRGINIA HAPPENINGS

Seeds of the Past

Bernice Colvard, League Historian

Until fairly recently, the words 'Byrd' and 'apple' were seen as nearly synonymous in Virginia due to the extensive Byrd orchards and the political importance of that name (Harry F. Byrd, Sr. served as state senator, governor, then U.S. Senator from 1915 to 1965. He was succeeded by his son, who served as U.S. Senator until 1982.). Although Virginia is one of the nation's top apple producing states (Washington state is #1), the U.S. Apple Association reports that production in the Old Dominion has dropped almost ten percent in the last five years. It has been observed that people like to live where apple trees grow. The pressure of residential development is one factor that has led Harry F. Byrd, III and many other apple growers to reduce apple production as costs escalate and prices drop. As land values continue to surge, some, like Byrd, have diversified with row crops while many small growers have been forced out of business.

New competition from China is having a major impact. No fresh apples are coming from China, but that country has taken over the apple juice concentrate market. The U.S. has dropped to second place in world apple production.

Some growers are surviving—at least for now—by niche marketing of vintage varieties. While there are hundreds of varieties, a few of the better known include Blacktwig, Grimes, Golden, Old Fashioned and Stayman Winesap, Summer Rambo and Virginia Beauty. These are not marketed as commodity fruit in grocery stores, which still favor the ubiquitous but vastly changed Red Delicious.

Traditional Blue Ridge trees are sold by Urban Homestead in Bristol, VA, and Vintage Virginia Apples in North Garden, VA. Orchards that sell heirloom varieties of the fruit itself are scattered through the Blue Ridge region. Also, serious efforts are being made to bank the seeds of rare vegetables and fruits to attain genetic preservation, guard against the dangers of monoculture (a blight could wipe out an entire crop), and retain incredible varieties of different flavors, e.g., the Norton grape, abandoned during Prohibition and nearly forgotten. A native American grape, it requires much less spraying than European vines.

Sources: Huso, Deborah. "Where are the Apples?" [Blue Ridge](#)

[Country](#), Sep/Oct 2005, 56-59.

Ingram, Bruce. "Heritage Apples." (same as previous).

Hsu, Caroline. "Sowing Seeds To Save Them." [U. S. News & World Report](#), 8/15/05, 63-64.

Bad News...

The Federal Reserve Board just reported that American consumer debt is now at a record \$2.17 trillion. For the first time in history, average Americans owe more than they make. ABC News recently reported that in the last decade, while the average family's income grew by 9 percent, credit card debt has increased 81 percent.

Source: Ing Direct, [Bright Spots Newsletter](#), 10/06.

Worse News...

From Enron to Tyco, we've heard a lot about dishonesty in the workplace. This isn't expected to change any time soon, says president of the Josephson Institute of Ethics—a nonprofit organization that conducts training in business ethics and character education. According to the institute's survey of 36,122 U.S. high school students:

- 61% have cheated on an exam in the past year.
- 28% have stolen from a store.
- 23% have stolen from a parent or relative.
- 39% have lied to save money.

Source: Winik, Lyric Wallwork. Parade, [The Washington Post](#), 10/15/06.

Change Threatens Virginia Wetlands

A proposed change in the way Virginia regulates wetland impacts could threaten hard-won wetland protections adopted by the Commonwealth just six years ago. The proposal, backed by state environmental officials, would eliminate federal review of Virginia wetland permits and give responsibility for all wetland regulation to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The change would undo much of the progress made in the late 1990s, which culminated in a comprehensive non-tidal wetlands protection law adopted by the Virginia General Assembly in 2000. The law created a complementary permitting process that provided roles for both the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Source: [Save the Bay](#), September 2006.

Unit Meeting Locations - Topic: Program Planning for LWVVA & LWNCA

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

Monday, December 11

1:30 pm Greenspring Vill. (GSV)
Hunters Crossing Craft Room
Spring Village Drive, Springfield
Call Jane 703-569-0079 for info.

Tuesday, December 12

9:45 am Annandale/Barcroft (AB)
Mason District Governmental. Center
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
Call Emily 703-346-9684 for info.

12:30 pm McLean (McL)
McLean Community Center, Rm # 2
1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean
Call Anne 703-448-6626 for info.

7:45 pm Vienna Evening (VE)
1835 S. Boniface Street, Vienna
Call Gail 703-281-1143 for info.

Mission Statement?

*We the willing, led by the
undaunted,
Are doing the impossible
For the ungrateful.
We have done so much for so long
With so little,
We are now qualified to do
anything with nothing.
Anonymous*



Wednesday, December 13

9:00 am Pr. William Area (PWD)
1st Floor Conference Room., City Hall
9027 Center St., Manassas
Call Sheila 703-492-4574 for info.

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 Gail 703-360-6561 for info.

9:30 am Vienna Day (VID)
3319 Parkside Terrace, Fairfax
Call Mary Elizabeth, 703-280-5186
for info.

12:00 Chantilly/Herndon (CHD)
Sully District Governmental Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Centerville
Call Olga 703-815-1897 for info.

6:15 pm Dinner Unit (DU)
Yen Cheng Rest. Main Street Center
9992 Main Street, Fairfax
Call Pier 703-256-1019 for info.

7:30 pm Pr. William Area (PWE)
Great American Buffet Company
8365 Sudley Road, Manassas
Come at 7.00 pm for dinner.
Call Sheila 703-492-4574 for info.

7:30 pm Reston Evening (RE)
Reston Museum 1639 Washington
Plaza, Lake Anne Village Center
Call Therese 703-471-6364 for info.



Thursday, December 14

9:00 am Reston Day (RD)
2271 Cedar Cove Ct., Reston
Call Barbara 703-620-0349 for info.

9:15 am Fairfax City Day (FXD)
3133 Singleton Circle, Fairfax
Call Jeanne 703-591-4580 for info.

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.

7:45 pm Hollin Hills Eve. (HHE)
7409 Recard Lane, Alexandria
Call JoAnne 703-765-3543 for info.

No January Unit Meetings
Instead A General Meeting
With Luncheon & Speaker
On Saturday,
January 20, 2007



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
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**The LWVFA Bulletin ©
December, 2006**

**Sherry Zachry, President
Lavinia S. Voss, Editor**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages citizens 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 citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a member.



-----fill-in all information and cut-off -----

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Current member dues thru **June 30, 2007**. Check all that apply: Individual \$50 ____ Sustaining Member \$75 ____ Advocate Member \$100 ____ Household (2 persons–1 *Bulletin*) \$75 ____ New ____ Renewal ____ Reinstate ____ Donation ____ Subsidy ____ Student ____ Coll. Attending ____ Enrolled full/part-time student–half individual dues. *We value membership—a subsidy fund is available, to use it, ✓ subsidy line and include whatever you can afford.* Dues are **not** tax deductible. Tax deductible donations must be on a separate check made payable to LWVFA Ed. Fund.

Please Print Clearly!

Name _____ Unit _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ E-Mail _____

Please mail your check and completed application to: LWVFA 4026 Hummer Rd. Suite 214, Annandale, VA 22003-2403

Thank you for checking-off all your interests:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fx. Cnty Govt. | <input type="checkbox"/> Voting Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal | <input type="checkbox"/> E.Q | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (write-in below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Systems | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Problems | |

The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWVVA) & The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWNCA) 2007-2009 Program Planning

The first step toward a “position.” The League of Women Voters can only take a position if the membership has come to consensus or a concurrence on that topic. Consensus is agreement among a substantial number of League members, representative of the group as a whole--not just a simple majority--reached after sustained study and group discussion. Concurrence is agreement by members with a position (the wording cannot be changed) on an issue reached by a small group (like a committee) of members or by another League.

Members select a program which they believe warrants League study and action. Once a topic is chosen, we go on to study the item when League members are expected to examine all sides of the issue. If there is substantial agreement with only minor disagreement on the topic, the Board will consider consensus or concurrence to have been reached and the League will "have a position" on the item under consideration.

Ideas for new programs originate at the local level (hence, “grassroots”), members are encouraged to think about the widest possible range of choices. Program planning is done every year in the month of December; local and national topics are considered in odd-numbered years, regional and state in even-numbered years.

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 resources (people) to work on this?

Using reports from all participating units, the ideas are collected and winnowed down, reviewed, and discussed. The LWVFA board then submits a recommended program to each of the Leagues to be acted upon by the delegates at their respective Conventions. Both the LWVVA & LWNCA Boards recommend that all their current positions be retained.

Only **ONE** recommendation for a **restudy or update** and up to **TWO** items for **new study**. Each item must specify the recommended **scope**. Please evaluate our current positions in the sections “LWVVA – Positions in Brief” and “LWNCA Positions” on the following pages. After unit discussion, select one option for each position and mark it on the grid:

- ✓ **Retain** - Assumes there is still member under-

standing of, and agreement with, the position.

- ✓ **Restudy** - Means circumstances may have changed and consensus/concurrence could expand position or provide a new position.
- ✓ **Update** - Means there is new information to expand the position
- ✓ **Drop** - If dropped, no action can be taken under that position in the future.

This meeting is your opportunity to familiarize yourself with the League’s positions—to question whether a position is still valid or if the issue needs to be updated or revisited. It is your chance to suggest new areas that the League can examine, study, and discuss.

Proposed RD Concurrence For LWVVA:

The LWVVA Redistricting Committee (05-07) will seek a concurrence on several issues that were not included in the study’s consensus questions presented at the November 2006 unit meetings. The proposed concurrence statements addressing these issues will be provided at the December unit meetings. Although the wording was not available at *Bulletin* press time, the background information was contained in Part II of the RD study in the November 2006 *Bulletin*. The committee plans to seek concurrence on the additional positions at the LWVVA Convention next April. To do so, however, the position must be submitted by a local League as part of its program planning report. The LWVFA Board therefore solicits member support.

New Program Topics for LWVVA:

These ideas (in no particular order) came from the units brainstorming in October:

English as the Official Language.
Applying Sunshine Laws at the state level.
Can No. Va. Secede and Become a State?
Transportation Funding (state)
Gun Control (Is It Time to Revisit?)
Medical Malpractice In Virginia
Generational Interaction (Different values, attitudes.)
School Security School Violence.
Voting Process Integrity The Tax System

Two Alternative Ideas to Program Study

The Millennium Forum 06-07 (Seminars), offered by the FCPL, are held in the Government Center auditorium at 10:30 AM. **January 24**, "The New Digital Citizen: How the Internet and Other Technologies are Changing the Way People Interact with Government" by Lee Rainie. **May 23**, "Everything Bad is Good for You: How Popular Culture is Making Us Smarter" by Steven Johnson. The cafeteria there is suitable for informal discussion following the speakers.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA POSITIONS IN BRIEF

GOVERNMENT

DELEGATION OF POWER

Support for enhancing a balanced partnership between state and local government, including policies and incentives that promote regional coordination and local action; establishment of uniform powers and responsibilities of local governments by changing the distinctions between cities, counties, and towns; Coordination of activities and programs of local jurisdictions; Solving problems which cross jurisdictional lines.

ELECTION LAWS

Support for recognition that voting is the right of citizens, including laws and policies that facilitate and increase registration and voting; requirements for convenient local registration places and times for all segments of the community; procedures that facilitate and expand the use of absentee ballots; mandatory training for election officials; and extension of voting period up to one month, including Saturday and Sunday voting.

FISCAL POLICY

Support for a responsible state fiscal policy that includes: a flexible and diverse tax structure that is based on a progressive income tax; continuous evaluation of all programs for need, effectiveness, efficiency, and economy; flexibility in developing local sources of revenue; Increased state commitment to funding of state-mandated programs; and opposition to constitutional or statutory limits on state/local government spending or revenue sources.

REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING

Support for a decennial redistricting plan approved by the General Assembly, including establishment of a bipartisan commission to prepare plan for legislative approval, and consideration of natural geographic boundaries, jurisdictional boundaries, and communities of interest, in addition to the constitutional requirements. (Update expected 2006-07)

TRANSPORTATION

Support for a regionally balanced transportation systems which efficiently and economically meet regional needs without adversely affecting planned growth or the environment. Regional organizations, that set policy for a multi-modal public transportation program, that plan, coordinate, and are the designated recipients of federal and state funds, that operate or contract for services, and that could have taxing power; a mixture of public (federal, state, and local) and private funding for public transportation; increased local participation with some public funds utilized to encourage private support and the use of innovative financing methods, such as tax incentives to encourage private sector participation; the use of a variety of incentives to increase the use of public transportation.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND VIRGINIA LAW

Support for the legal recognition of marriage as an equal partnership, including policies that recognize non-monetary as well as monetary contributions to a marriage by each partner; surviving spouse policies that specify that if one spouse dies without a will, the surviving spouse should inherit all property; divorce policies that recognize separately acquired property before marriage and during mar-

riage through gifts or inheritance; elimination of the concept of "fault" in the court's division of marital property; and legal recognition of valid pre-nuptial contracts.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Support for achieving and maintaining acceptable air quality through: adoption of strict vehicle emission standards; development of less polluting alternative fuels, and programs and regulations that foster efficient transportation modes. Support for limiting smoking in public to designated areas so that nonsmokers are not exposed to smoke.

LAND USE

Support for state policies that include creation of a state long-range comprehensive land use plan coordinated with local and regional plans, state protection of critical environmental areas through some land use controls, and assistance to and increased flexibility for localities in land use planning and control.

WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

Support for a comprehensive state effort to protect the water supplies, including recognition of the connection between ground and surface water, sharing in the use of ground water, state collection of information on water resources and planning for future use, and land use policies that guarantee protection of water resources.

SOCIAL POLICY

ADULT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Support for addressing the crime of adult domestic violence through uniform law enforcement, including mandatory arrest and reporting; educational and training programs for medical, clerical, law enforcement personnel, and the public on the problem of adult domestic violence as well as conflict resolution; and assistance and job training programs for victims.

CHILD CARE

Support for state policies that promote quality child care that is affordable, accessible, and available, including minimum comprehensive state license standards for care facilities, incentives for development of programs, financial assistance for low income families, coordinated resource and referral systems, and training for care givers and parents.

CHILDREN AT RISK

Support for state and local policies that recognize the basic needs of all children including food, shelter, education, family/community support, health care, and personal safety, including funding of preventive services, rehabilitative programs, family support programs, crises services, court costs, and detention; evaluation of programs and services; state mandated case planning and management systems; internal and judicial grievance procedures.

EDUCATION

Support for state funding for public schools that insures a high quality education with equal educational opportunities for all children, including full funding for the Standards of Quality and state mandates; increasing the state's share of education costs; funding for half-day pre-kindergarten

programs for at-risk children, full-day kindergarten programs, and for some portion of capital costs, and improving the funding formula for determining local ability to pay, using it as a basis for distribution of state education funds.

Support for a challenging curriculum, high expectations of students and teachers in mastering that curriculum, and appropriate assessments of student achievement for a quality education in the public school system K-12. Essential elements for a quality education: four core disciplines (English, Mathematics, Science, History and Social Studies); Art, Music, Physical Education, Health and Foreign Languages; analytical skills; integrated technology; strong remedial programs; programs for at-risk, gifted and special needs; education for students with limited English proficiency, in which emphasis is placed on teaching English, career education; and vocational training. Professional education of principals and teachers and on going staff development; Class size appropriate to instructional goals; a safe environment for students and staff; and discipline, providing preventative programs and a well-defined system of rules, consistently enforced; Guidance Counselors for academics and support services; Parental and community support and involvement; Opportunities to select a specific program or school; These opportunities should be based on a system of equity so that all qualified students have equal access.

Acceptable but not necessarily essential elements of a quality education in the public system, K-12 include: school-based teamwork, goal-setting and decision-making, and application of learning to life experiences; Incentives, recognition, and awards for both students and teachers.

JUSTICE

Support for a judicial system that serves all people without discrimination, including judicial selection by the General Assembly with use of a nominating commission of lay persons and lawyers; sentencing by judges; an adequately funded corrections system that protects society and rehabilitates offenders; professionally administered local jails and community-based corrections that use community resources in the rehabilitation and treatment of prisoners.

JUVENILE/ADULT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Support for the values and principles of restorative justice for juveniles and adults and urges the commonwealth and localities to develop activities, programming and training consistent with these values and principles in responding to crime. This option should be offered at the earliest possible

time in the process, with juveniles being given preference if funds are limited. Persons to be involved: for Juveniles: victims, schools, family, juvenile justice system, community, offender, restorative justice volunteers, trained attorneys, judges; for Adults: victims, adult education programs, family, adult correction system, community, offender, trained attorneys, judges, volunteers, Restorative Justice Association of V A. Programs or practices to be offered as options: Victim offender dialogue (variety of models): Activities addressing anger management, accountability, empathy for the victim and the impact of crime; Mental health screening and substance abuse programs; Jobs and skills training; Family counseling. Consider case by case the needed involvement of community and/or family members, trained volunteers, attorneys, judges, social services, family counselors, and after school programs. And, in all cases protect privacy of victims, offenders and others. Local courts, social agencies and trained volunteers should collect data from programs. In coordination with the Supreme Court of Virginia and the Restorative Justice Association of VA the legislature or administrative agencies should develop standards and measures of evaluation. Measures of evaluation should include: victim satisfaction, offender compliance, extent harm was repaired, recidivism, benefit to the community, use of community service that develops skills

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support for a juvenile justice system, funded by the state and local governments, that emphasizes prevention and rehabilitation, with: community education and recreation programs for young children and family and parenting support; individualized treatment and training programs, including counseling, vocational and alternative education, mental health and substance abuse or community-based programs; small group homes; removal of juveniles from jails; and the continuation of an adequately funded separate Department of Juvenile Justice.

MENTAL HEALTH

Support for a comprehensive state public mental health care system of quality, statewide and community based services that meets the mental health needs of all Virginians, including long-range planning, coordination among agencies, and established criteria for allocation of funds; adequate and appropriate housing; comprehensive and consistent service in all local communities; and advocacy programs that ensure patients' rights at all levels.

Updated 9/05

2007 – 2009 LWVVA PROGRAM PLANNING REPORT

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

GOVERNMENT	Retain	Restudy	Update	Drop
Delegation of Power				
Election Laws				
Fiscal Policy				
Reapportionment & Redistricting				
Transportation				
Women's Rights in Virginia Law				

NATURAL RESOURCES				
Air Quality				
Land Use				
Water Supply and Distribution				
SOCIAL POLICY				
Adult Domestic Violence				
Child Care				
Children at Risk				
Education				
Justice				
Juvenile/Adult Restorative Justice				
Juvenile Justice				
Mental Health				

Unit Recommends a **restudy or update** of a current position: _____

Explain why, how, and what changes your unit wants to see (use another sheet, if necessary) _____

Even though only one recommendation may go forward. Please prioritize the next two new program topics from your unit.

1. _____

2. _____

Add additional sheet if necessary

League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area Positions

AIRPORTS

1. Balanced use among the three major metropolitan Washington airports may be achieved through a variety of incentives to the use of Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) and Washington Dulles Airports (Dulles), as well as disincentives to the use of Ronald Regan Washington National Airport (National):

- a) Improved ground transportation is needed at both BWI and Dulles Airports
- b) National Airport is overused and it is necessary to put limitations on its use.

2. The means to limit the noise problems at National Airport include:

- a) limiting plane type;
- b) enforcing decibel limits,
- c) reducing the number of flights per hour. (The scatter plan should not be reintroduced.)

3. To avoid occurrence of noise problems, limit and control development around BWI and Dulles Airports, and maintain present buffer zones, we support:

- a) responsible comprehensive planning and zoning policies which limit development to industrial and/or commercial uses in the immediate vicinity of the airports;
- b) the restriction of residential development in the surrounding area. (85) ** Position may be updated in Spring 2007

BELTWAY SAFETY

1. In order to control speeding and unsafe driving on the Capital Beltway and its feeder roads, we support: a) the use of additional patrol officers for increased visibility and enforcement

b) the use of automated photographic speed enforcement devices as an additional system of speed enforcement.

2. We support measures to increase truck safety on the

Capital Beltway and its connector roads that include:

- a) mandatory commercial vehicle safety inspections in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia
- b) increased fines for truck safety violations
- c) limiting hazardous material carriers to certain hours
3. Weight and length limitations for commercial vehicles using the Capital Beltway and its feeder roads should not be increased
4. Efforts between federal, state and local governments to improve coordination of inspection and enforcement activities should be a continuing process. (1991)

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING

1. LWNCA supports:

- a) governmental regulation of health planning 1976, 89)
- b) regional coordination among Health Systems Agencies in the Washington Metropolitan Area to include gathering data and sharing information, avoiding duplication of facilities and services, and controlling costs (1976, 89)
- c) regional implementation of health education and information services to the public. (1977, 89)
2. In order to increase the availability of medical services, we support the concept of 24-hour clinics and the use of para-professionals. (1977, 89)
3. There should be improved care for the elderly and an emphasis on community support as an alternative to long-term institutional nursing care.(77, 89)

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

1. We support legislation to permit the use of marijuana and heroin for medicinal purposes (1989)
2. We believe that testing for illegal drug use is a justifiable invasion of privacy when required as part of the hiring process for jobs affecting public safety and national security (1989)
3. Employees who test positive should be:
 - a) retested prior to any disciplinary action (1976, 89)
 - b) allowed to continue working or put on administrative leave,
 - c) required in each case to participate in an employee assistance program
 - d) subjected to random drug tests for a 1-year period following a positive test. (89)
4. Measures for solving the drug problem should include interdiction, enforcement, education/prevention, and treatment. Education and treatment should receive special emphasis and should be stressed over criminal justice sanctions. (89, 91)
5. Drug treatment programs that should be given public funding priority include detoxification and self-help programs, outpatient care, the use of therapeutic communities, with aftercare as part of all programs.(1991)
6. Treatment programs for drug users under 18 and pregnant women should receive priority for public funding. (91)
7. Drug treatment should be incorporated into the sentence for any juvenile or adult convicted of a crime who tested positive at the time of arrest. (89)
8. Pregnant drug users should not be subjected to criminal prosecution just because they are pregnant. Pregnant drug users who are before the court for crimes other than the use of drugs should be placed in mandatory treatment through a justice system diversion program. We support the use of outreach nurses and counselors for pregnant drug users without the threat of legal penalties. (91)
9. Financial responsibility for drug treatment should fall, to some extent, on all of the following: insurance, patients, patients' families, governments (federal, state and local), employers and labor unions. (1989)
- 10 Each jurisdiction in the metropolitan area should set up its own treatment programs for drug users. (1989)

11. The area jurisdictions should establish a public/private partnership through the Council of Governments (COG) to develop a long-range plan to meet treatment needs and to identify financial and in-kind resources. This partnership should include the private sector and citizen groups. (89)

DC FINANCES

1. The District of Columbia should have autonomy in budgeting locally raised revenue. We support legislation eliminating the annual Congressional D.C. appropriations budget-approval process.
2. To address DC's need for a stronger revenue base, we support Congressional legislation setting forth the factors for determining an annual, predictable federal payment. The most important factors to be considered are:
 - a) taxes that DC cannot levy because of Congressional prohibitions on the District's ability to tax; and b) the cost of services provided by the District to the federal government. Other factors might include the cost of state services provided by the District and the percentages of revenue that other U.S. cities receive from external sources. (01)

LAND USE/HOUSING

1. Regional land use planning for the Metropolitan Washington area should include a coordinated and comprehensive approach to meet housing needs. The goal of the housing component of a regional land use plan should be to:
 - a) provide adequate housing for all income levels;
 - b) promote a balanced distribution of housing and employment for all income levels
 - c) improve the quality of housing and neighborhood environments. (75, reaffirmed 89)

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

1. We accept the Council of Governments (COG) as the basic instrument for cooperative regional planning and the solution of governmental problems that cannot be solved by local governments or other planning boards and agencies. (66,82)
2. We support granting COG sufficient authority so that it can resolve governmental problems that cannot be solved by local governments. (73, 82, 83, 87, 89)
3. Any metropolitan Washington governance should have some funding powers. Specifically, we support assessments of member jurisdictions, user fees, and state and federal grants
4. We support citizen participation at the regional level for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and other inter-jurisdictional agencies. (73, 83)

TRANSPORTATION

1. In support of the concept that there be some form of transportation for all, we endorse public policy in services and planning that supports a coordinated transportation system which includes bus and rapid rail transit. (64, 70, 83, 89)
 - b) promotes and improves the present and proposed transportation systems to encourage the use of mass transit. (63, 70, 89)
2. Priorities in transportation services and planning should include:
 - a) transportation systems services that are convenient, frequent, regular, speedy and economical to the user and for the benefit of the larger community. (63-89)
 - b) reduced air pollution through the promotion of mass transportation systems. (70, 89)
 - c) allocation of road space for use of high-occupancy vehicles (bus, carpools, vanpools) to speed services, including traffic control measures.
3. We support public participation and supervision in

determining information needed and in evaluating transportation proposals, transportation planning, and operations. Public involvement and decision-making should include:

a) appointment of citizen members to decision-making boards with full authority to participate in their functions, and enough tenure to master the subject; (These members would be residents of the jurisdictions involved, consumer advocates who do not have business connections or official roles in the transportation and appropriations process.) (1971, 89)

b) every effort by local governments to include minorities, senior citizens, economically and/or physically challenged persons and other traditionally under-represented citizens on transportation and land use advisory committees and to facilitate this participation. (1997)

c) open public meeting of all regulatory and public management boards

d) compulsory paid publications in general circulation newspapers of proposals on which public review is to be held (71, 89)

e) decision-making on the level of services for the regional mass transit system by WMATA with local input, including citizen input early in the decision-making process. (81, 89)

4. We support financial measures that include:
a) informing the public of the total costs of auto use and full public disclosure of the cost of transportation service, of who pays for service and who receives it, and of full cost/benefit information

b) public investment to finance public transportation systems, to encourage substantially greater use of mass transportation, to increase resources for bus and rail transit, to achieve a realistic alternative to private auto use, to provide funds for bus shelters and information services; (71, 83, 89)

c) reduction of subsidies to auto use, such as tax favors which support parking and free parking for employees paid out of public funds. (71, 89)

The following position applies only to the Washington metropolitan area, and may be acted upon with the context of interstate regional cooperation despite its partial conflict with the MD, VA, and DC positions.

(We support) the use of a dedicated tax to help fund public transportation. The objective of such a tax should be to spread the costs of mass transit among the total population and to encourage the use of mass transit instead of the automobile. A sales tax which excludes such necessities as food and drugs would be the best means of financing mass transportation in the metropolitan area. The most important criteria to be used in evaluating particular taxes dedicated to transportation should be revenue potential, timeliness and reliability. (80)

5. We support the integration of transportation and land use planning on local and regional levels (1997)

6. We support an interstate compact authority for regional transportation

a) Members representing corporate, environmental, social, and political jurisdictions would best promote a regional approach to transportation planning.

b) Members representing political jurisdictions would best produce cooperation among/between local jurisdictions and would best promote efficiency and flexibility in meeting transportation needs.

c) The following areas of transportation planning should come within the jurisdictions of a regional transportation authority: Roads and highways: urban and suburban transit, including bus and rail; interstate rail, including connections among systems, ie.; Amtrak, Marc. etc; pedestrian/bike paths; water, i.e.; water taxis, ferries, etc.; bridges and

tunnels.

d) Approved projects should be funded through: Federal funds appropriated through transportation authorization act; state and local contributions; user fees, including tolls, fares and other fees; private funding; bonds; gasoline tax (2004)

WATER RESOURCES

1. In order to ensure a safe and adequate water supply for metropolitan Washington and to restore the quality of our streams and rivers, we support:

a) conservation and protection of drinking water supply sources; sources of drinking water serving the metropolitan area, such as the Potomac River and Occoquan and Patuxent Reservoirs, must be maintained and protected against pollution from both point and non-point sources. b) regional demand reduction and water conservation measures to reduce annual per-capita use

i) Contingency plans should be developed on a regional basis to provide for mandatory restrictions on water use in time of emergency

ii) Measures to recycle treated waste water in industrial, agricultural and other non-potable systems and measures to reduce the use of water of drinking water quality as a conveyor of wastes should be encouraged to the extent consistent with public health and hydrological requirements

c) water sharing measures to meet emergencies and to protect the physical and biological integrity of the sources;

d) protection of ground water

e) official consideration of new drinking water sources--
i) Sources within the metropolitan region should be investigated as possible adjuncts to existing water sources.

ii) Construction of major upstream dams on the Potomac or its tributaries for the purpose of providing additional water supplies for the metropolitan region should not be undertaken unless other options have been found insufficient to meet the essential needs of the region.

2. We support regional planning to improve waste treatment management. Final selection for new or expanded waste water treatment facilities should be based on meeting national clean water objectives, protecting public health, and minimizing environmental, energy, and cost impacts. (79, 89)
updated 2005

NEW PROGRAM TOPICS for LWVNCA

The following two ideas came from the units brainstorming in October:

Transportation as a Regional Study

Emergency Preparedness Coordination
among NCA Area Jurisdictions.

2007 – 2009 LWFVNA PROGRAM PLANNING REPORT

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

	Retain	Restudy	Update	Drop
Airports (May be updated in Spring 07)				
Beltway Safety				
Comprehensive Health Planning				
Controlled Substances				
DC Finances				
Land Use /Housing				
Regional Governance				
Transportation				
Water Resources				

If recommending a **restudy or update** of a position item: _____

Explain why, how, and what changes your unit wants to see (use another sheet, if necessary): _____

Please including any additional topics, **prioritize** below **two** suggested program topics from your unit.

1. _____

Scope: _____

2. _____

Scope: _____

Or any other information you would like to impart to the board.