



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

BULLETIN

Founded in 1925

Meeting Continuously Since 1948

January 2006

4026 Hummer Road, Suite # 214 Annandale, Virginia 22003

Volume 58 Issue 5

In January a General Meeting - There are no Unit Meetings

Where: The International Country Club in Chantilly

When: Saturday, January 21, 2006. **Topic:** "Gangs, National and International Implications"

Speaker: U.S. Representative Frank Wolfe * (10th District)

*Dependent on the Congressional Calendar

Reservation Form: Page 7 - Beginning at 10:00 AM with a hot coffee and tea bar.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

Calendar

January

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

February (Dates to Note)

- 02 *Ground Hog Day*
- 06 Board Agenda Deadline
- 08 League Day in Richmond
- 8, 09, 13, 14 Unit Meetings - Library Consensus**
- 14 *Valentine's Day (League Founded)*
- 15 Board Meeting/Mar. UC Letter Deadline**
- 15 *Susan B. Anthony Day*
- 20 *Presidents Day (Schools Closed)*
- 20 Annual Meeting Kit Due**
- 28 April Bulletin Deadline**

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President's Letter

Happy New Year! 2006 is here and the first of the "baby boomers" turn 60 and so does the Fairfax League! Although not incorporated until 1948, the Fairfax League began in 1946 as a "provisional League" — nowadays called an MAL Unit at Large. We will be "celebrating" all year long.

The most important thing to occur this month is our General Meeting & Luncheon on Saturday, January 21st. In the past several years, LWVFA has alternated between January and February for its General Meeting. This year we are back to our traditional schedule and are returning to a site of former years – the International Country Club on Route 50 in Chantilly. Directions are on the reservation form on **page 7** of this Bulletin.

We have invited Congressman Frank Wolf (10th District) to speak on the topic of "Gangs"— a subject on which he is very familiar. He will share with us how his legislation, introduced in Congress in the past year, is addressing the problem in our area and what differences it is making. As you know, this topic is a follow-up to last October's unit discussion on gang activity and prevention. As this Bulletin went to press, we were awaiting Congressman Wolf's acceptance which was dependent on the Congressional calendar for January that had not yet been published.

Also occurring in January is a forum on Affordable Housing in the metropolitan D. C. area. The National Capital Area LWV (NCA) is holding this forum on Saturday, January 14th, 10 AM at the IONA Service Center in D. C. See NCA news on **page 6**.

LWVFA will also be giving testimony in January to the Northern VA General Assembly Delegation on January 7th and to the Fairfax Co. Public Schools at their hearing on their budget on January 28th.

And in February, the units will be engaging in consensus on the Library Study-Part II. Consensus is the process by which the League forms its positions on issues that are vital to advocacy. Be sure to take part!

I am hoping to see "everyone" at the General Meeting on January 21st! Mark your calendars and make your reservations!

Sherry

Voters Service

Carol Hawn

On behalf of Voters Service, I want to thank all those who assisted with answering the telephones during the week before the election. As you read this the *2006 Facts for Voters*, our signature publication, is being proofed by volunteers. Without their assistance, it would be a much more laborious task for the Voters Service Directors. If you have any ideas on questions to ask the candidates for the Spring Voters Guide for the towns of Clifton, Herndon and Vienna and the City of Fairfax, please contact me and share them. Again, I thank all the volunteers for their assistance and wish everyone a peaceful new year.

Deer-Vehicle Crashes

Virginia ranks seventh in the nation in deer-vehicle collisions, according to a recent analysis of accident data compiled by State Farm Insurance Company. The survey found that Pennsylvania had the highest number, followed by Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Georgia, Minnesota, Virginia, Indiana, Texas and Wisconsin.

Source: Habte, Samson. *The Examiner*. 11/07/05

Word Search 102 (P4) Answers:

Forum, Dues,
Finance, Bull
Donation, Lea

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This newsletter is published 10 times from September to June each year by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, 4026 Hummer Road, Suite 214, Annandale, VA 22003. Subscriptions to the newsletter are available **only** to other than Fairfax League members for \$15.00 per annum. Send your check to the above address and request a subscription.

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Board Notes

Lavinia Voss

At the November 16, 2005 board meeting the following appointments were made: **Rebecca Dewey** to the FCPS Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee; **Bernice Colvard** as alternate to the Fairfax County "Virginia 2007 Committee;" **Jane Hilder** to the Lee District Distinguished Public Service and Citizenship Awards Committee. Action Director **Jane Hilder** gave a short update on current BOS actions. Elections Coordinator **Una White** reported on the last election projects for 2005. Membership Director **Leslie Vandivere** gave an update on membership and moved prorating dues to anyone that joins after January 31, 2006; that they get an eighteen-month period for the one year dues. **Mary Field**, Unit Coordinator, gave a brief report on the status of the units. The nonpartisan policy was updated and revamped; it will come back with all the changes in place for board consideration next month. Board members who were planning to attend the pre-session WRT in Richmond were asked to identify themselves.

Voters Service Director **Carol Hawn** spoke about the plans for updating *Facts for Voters*. She also said \$750 from the Janet Hays Memorial Fund would be used this year to help pay the cost of *Facts* and showed the board how it would look on the publication. Program Director **Rona Ackerman** updated the board on the two special projects that she had organized, the Water Resources program at the library and the CEDAW Forum. Program Director **Susan Dill** then conducted the program briefing for Program Planning for the board members, who will be facilitators at December unit meetings.

Seen and Heard Around Fairfax and Beyond-

1. In early November, President Zachry with other members of LWVFA attended WMATA public forum about the Vienna Metro Proposal.
2. Zachry spoke to the Vienna Teen Neighborhood College on November 5th.
3. Zachry also attended the BOS meeting & legislative priorities public hearing on November 21, 2005 where modifying the Dillion Rule was discussed. Zachry addressed the BOS about our study on this subject and a copy of the latest update was sent to County Staff Attorney Michael Long.

Unit News

Springfield's book sale went very well; unsold books were given to the library. Proceeds of the sale go to LWVFA. Kimberly White, a Captain in the U.S. Army and daughter of Shirley White (PWA), has recently returned from her second tour of duty in Iraq. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Lavinia Voss (CHD) moved from Chantilly to Manassas. Developers finally offered enough money to get them out of their old house to make way for redevelopment of large single family homes.

They Represented LWVFA

THANKS are due our "Suffragists" who took part in the Reston Holiday Parade on an unusually cold day in November. They included: Tin Tai in his new bowler hat, Pat Colvard, our resident creator of banners and such, Shirley Olson, Marcia McDevitt, and our high school student member Margo Westenhoff with her friend Maria Busuiocanu. The onlookers welcomed them enthusiastically and, as usual, loved our *THIS IS WHAT COMES OF TEACHING GIRLS TO READ* banner.

Interested in the Justice System?

The League (both Fairfax & Virginia) has many positions regarding the justice system and many opportunities to participate in activities, programs, monitoring, action, etc. in this area of governmental issues. If you are interested in being a part of an ad hoc group that will investigate what, if any, activities the LWVFA should undertake with regard to justice system issues, please contact Therese Martin (703-471-6364) or tbmartin4@verizon.net).

Governor of Virginia

Timothy M. Kaine (D) is the first Roman Catholic elected to the highest post in the Commonwealth.

Everybody, no matter how old you are, is around 24, 25 in their heart.

Bruce Willis

Community Election Projects

Una White 703-922-8721
unawhite@earthlink.net

The Sequoyah Election, our last for 2005, did not take place again due to a lack of a quorum even though our volunteers worked a booth all that day. My thanks to all Directors and Co-Directors this year, you did a great job of making it all work. My thanks also to all the volunteers, who gave of their time; they are to be commended for their efforts.



Membership Update

Leslie Vandivere 703-222-4173
L.Vandivere@cox.net

Please welcome the following new members: Mary Bernard, Margaret Costello, and Darling Villena-Mata.

WORD SEARCH 102

Find and circle 17 "League Lingo" words hidden in the grid below. The words can be found up, down, forward and backward through the grid. Enjoy!

E	U	G	A	E	L	F	O	R	U	M
S	P	I	H	S	R	E	D	A	E	L
T	N	P	T	A	E	R	T	E	R	S
S	I	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	E
R	T	E	U	S	S	I	T	P	O	U
E	E	C	N	A	N	I	F	L	I	D
C	L	O	S	G	D	E	B	A	T	E
I	L	M	R	T	N	E	M	Y	A	P
F	U	R	I	A	H	C	T	I	N	U
F	B	R	E	V	R	E	S	B	O	T
O	S	E	N	I	L	D	A	E	D	X

Devised by Lavinia Voss

VIRGINIA HAPPENINGS

Bernice Colvard, League Historian

At the lowest point of the Depression, 1932-33, theaters were closing all over the country; unemployment was rampant. In an old unused theater in Abingdon, actor Robert Porterfield opened what he called a **Barter Theater** on June 10, 1933, where commodities secured admission for those who could not pay the 35¢ ticket price. Locals told of one man who led his cow to the theater, milked 35¢ worth of milk and left the cow outside for his wife to "milk her own ticket." Most residents of rural Washington County and southwestern Virginia had never seen professional theater and it was hugely successful, so much so that by season's end the troupe of 22 had gained 305 pounds collectively. The important part was that the actors had work and food.

Porterfield then offered playwrights a Virginia ham in lieu of royalties to present each play. **George Bernard Shaw** objected that he was a vegetarian and received a case of Virginia-grown spinach instead.

The Theater's importance as a tourist draw was recognized and in 1940 the Virginia legislature agreed to provide monetary support to put it on a sound financial footing. In 1948, by invitation, the troupe presented *Hamlet* on the original site—Elsinore Castle in Denmark—the only U.S. theater group to receive this accolade.

Barter became the first state theater in this country and has trained some leading actors. **Gregory Peck** played three parts in one play, *Lee of Virginia*: John Brown in the first act, Stonewall Jackson in the second, and Ulysses Grant in the third. Others include **Patricia Neal, Hume Cronyn, Lisbeth Scott, and Ernest Borgnine.**

To attract leading stars, Porterfield established the Barter Theater of Virginia Award for the most outstanding performance during a given season. The prize was a ham, a platter, and one acre of land near Abingdon. It was won by **Ethel Barrymore, Louis Calhern, Henry Fonda, Tallulah Bankhead, and Mary Martin.**

No longer accepting commodities, the Barter Theater is still going strong, presenting well-staged drama.

Source: Hines, Emilee. *It Happened in Virginia*, Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, CT. 2001, pp 96-99.

LWVVA News

The 2006 Session of the General Assembly (GA) begins January 11 and being the “long” session—(60-days)—will end March 11. The first meeting of the Women’s Roundtable (WRT), sponsored by the state League, begins the following Wednesday, January 18, and continues every Wednesday through March 8. The WRT is held from 9-10 am in the 3rd Floor-W conference room of the GA Building in Richmond.

Anne Sterling of Richmond, is the LWVVA Lobbyist replacing the late Phyllis Bailey. She is encouraging Leaguers from around the state to come to Richmond at least once during the Session to “observe” and be a part of an Observer Corps for the GA. Training at 8 am before the WRT meeting will be offered. If interested, contact Anne at Nimbleleap@aol.com

At their December 6 board meeting, LWVVA identified the following **action items: First Priorities** - Transportation; Environmental Protection, Water, Air Quality; Women’s Issues. **Second Priorities**- Indoor Clean Air (no smoking), Redistricting/Reapportionment and monitor/act on Education Funding, if needed.

League Day in Richmond will be February 8, 2006. More details will follow later in January. If you would like to attend, call or email the LWVFA office.

LWVVA Council will be April 29-30, 2006 in Williamsburg.

News from LWVUS

Feedback from Representative Tom Davis (R-11) on LWVUS Action Alert opposing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR): He agrees with the League on this item! (Technically, he responded to President Zachry’s personal message to him on the subject, as he is her Congressman.) Rep. Davis said that on November 18, 2005, the House passed H.R. 4241 that **did not** include drilling in ANWR. He pledged to continue to monitor the issue through the conference committee process of reconciling the Senate and House versions of the bill. (The Senate version allowed drilling in ANWR.)

LWVUS has set January 31, 2006 as the membership reporting deadline. That means that the LWVFA membership count as of that date will be the figure on which delegates to Convention 2006 in Minneapolis, June 10-13, will be based. That figure will also be

used to determine the amount of per-member-payments (PMP) to LWVUS for FY2006-07.

NCA



NEWS

Where will nurses, teachers, entry-level engineers and medical technicians live? NCA is hosting a forum called: **"Building Smart - Implications for Affordable Housing, Workforce Housing and Land Use."**

Speaker: Cheryl Cort, Executive Director, Washington Regional Network for Livable Communities.

When: Saturday, January 14, 2006, 10:00-11:30 am.

Location: Meeting Room, IONA Senior Services, 4125 Albemarle Street, NW, Washington, DC. The IONA Senior Center is one-half block from the Tenleytown Station on Metro's Red Line. On-street parking and some space in the center's parking garage is available. For registration and more information call 301-530-5452 or e-mail melpijeffries@msn.com A \$2.00 contribution can be made at the door.

NCA also is planning a **Homeland Security Forum** on March 25, 2006 from 10:30 a.m. - to 12:30 p.m. in Room 443 of the MLK Library in D.C., near the Gallery Place Metro stop. Contact Andrea Gruhl at andreagruhl@aol.com for more information.

The two NCA study committees – an Update of the Airport Position and an Air Quality Study – have begun meeting. To get involved – contact Naomi Glass, 202-686-0124 or naomisol@juno.com.

At the request of NCA, the Fairfax Area LWV sent an email letter to Representative Tom Davis thanking him for planning to hold hearings on the D.C. Federal Fair Compensation Act.

CALLING ALL OBSERVER “WANNA-BEs!”

Inspired by the Prince William Area Unit members who want to become observers – that time-honored League activity – we are extending the invitation to **all** LWVFA members who would like to monitor governmental bodies and commissions. Action Director Jane Hilder will be holding a training class in Prince William County on a Saturday in January; she will hold one in Fairfax also, if she gets enough interest. Call or email the LWVFA office.

"Building a Safer World: Can America and the UN Work Together on World Water Resources?"

Rona Ackerman

Dr. Gerald Galloway began with some startling statistics: 1.1 billion people lack access to clean water; 30,000 people die each day of preventable water related diseases; and 2.3 billion people lack adequate sanitation. World challenges include access to clean water for a) health and sanitation; b) agriculture--timely irrigation multiplies yield; c) economic development- dams produce low cost, clean energy; and d) biodiversity and environmental protection. Water issues greatly affect women and children who spend large parts of their day just carrying water. Clean water at an affordable price should be available to all. The technology exists to meet the need for clean water in inexpensive ways—sand filters, or a \$.10 sachet that can clean water, but for many even these are unaffordable. “Should water be a human right?”

There are many hot spots where a country's water supply is dependent on other nations: 97% of Egypt's Nile water comes through 8 other nations; 66% of Iraq's water is dependent on Turkey; water in the Mekong (Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam) originates in China. A promising area is the Middle East—Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority may bring water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, generating hydro-electric energy for desalination plants and creating fresh water.

The United Nations has agreed on Millennium Development Goals to meet the needs of the world's poorest by 2015. One goal is halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

U.S. Water Issues: 53% of the US was in drought in 2002; 291,000 miles of rivers fail water quality standards; wetlands are lost; alien invasive species affect our ecosystems; and 12% of coastal shorelines and 44% of estuaries are impaired. Infrastructure is not being maintained. We have 2100 unsafe dams, an \$11 billion shortfall in water treatment, and a \$12 billion shortfall in wastewater treatment.

Water appropriation is not done by reasonable use. “Prior appropriation” laws govern—who got there first gets to use it.

In the 1960's, the solution to pollution was dilution. Wetlands, deltas, etc were not considered at risk. Part

of Katrina's impact was caused by levees which caused the delta to stop growing. We learn about the importance of maintaining the environment from mistakes like this. Dr. Galloway talked about policies for post-Katrina reconstruction, reducing future flood damage, maintaining navigation in the Mississippi, and restoring levees and the delta.

Dr. Galloway emphasized that the U.S. doesn't have a vision about water. We do not have a national water policy or a national flood policy like other countries. Policies should address flood damage reduction, navigation, environmental restoration, water quality, water supply, and infrastructure renewal.

CEDAW Forum

Rona Ackerman

On November 12, 2005 LWVFA and Women Engaging Globally sponsored a forum on CEDAW, the United Nations Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The moderator was **Christianne Klein**, weekend anchor for ABC7/WJLA-TV. The panelists were: **Sarah Albert**, Co-chair of the Working Group on the Ratification of CEDAW and Public Policy Director of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; **Itoro Eze-Anaba**, Former Director of the Legal Defense & Assistance Project, and Former Coordinator, Women's Human Rights Program, both in Nigeria; **Penny Wakefield**, civil and human rights attorney and founding member of the Working Group on CEDAW Ratification; and **Wendy Wright**, Executive VP, Concerned Women for America. Seventy people attended the forum. Each panelist spoke for ten minutes about CEDAW; a vetted question and answer period followed. Ms. Albert discussed what it is and why it is needed; Ms. Eze-Anaba talked about the limitations and importance of it to women in Africa; Ms. Wakefield shed light on the legal implications of ratifying CEDAW in the U.S.; and Ms. Wright spoke about the negative aspects of CEDAW and why it should not be ratified.

The Working Group has published a book, **CEDAW: Rights that Benefit the Entire Community**. To receive your **free** copy. Contact Sarah Albert at 202-347-3168 or legislation@gfwc.org

General Meeting & Luncheon
Saturday, January 21, 2006

At The International Country Club
13200 Lee Jackson Highway, Chantilly

Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.

Regular & Decaf Coffee, Lemonade, Iced & Hot Tea Bar

Topic: "Gangs, National & International Implications."

Speaker: U.S. Representative Frank Wolfe* (10th District)

*** Dependent on the Congressional Calendar**

Plated Lunch served at 12:15 p.m. Cost \$25.00

Butternut Squash Soup, Chicken Francaise with rice, Vegetable Medley, Rolls,

White Chocolate Mousse, with choice of coffee, or hot tea.

Directions: From I-66 West - Take exit 57 - Route 50 Dulles Airport. At the 7th traffic light on Route 50 turn right into the parking lot of the Country Club.

Cut-off and send in this reservation form with your check.



Reservation Deadline - January 14, 2006 - Cost: \$25.00 per person - Make checks payable to LWVFA

Mail to: General Meeting, 11020 Burywood Lane, Reston, VA 20194

Name _____

Guest's Name _____

Phone Number _____ Unit _____

For special dietary needs or questions call Viveka at 703-404-0498

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Time Sensitive Material

**The LWVFA Bulletin ©
January, 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, 2006**. 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 a separate check, 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:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
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| <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 | |

