



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

BULLETIN

Founded in 1925

Meeting Continuously Since 1946

June 2006

4026 Hummer Road, Suite # 214 Annandale, Virginia 22003

Volume 58 Issue 10

Change in program for This Month

Affordable Housing was the planned topic for June unit meetings. The material, however, was delayed. It is anticipated that it will be used at a later date. For the June program, we are using "Reaching a Verdict," a deliberative discussion on what do we want for the American jury system? This booklet is provided by the American Bar Association and will be sent separately to all members. If you do not receive a booklet or would like further information go to www.abanet.org/justice/nif/reaching_a_verdict.html or call 800-285-2221.

Membership Renewals Are Now Due!

We value your membership. Please renew now! Forms for renewal are on the back page of this *Bulletin*; send it to the office with your check before another day goes by. Thank you!

Calendar

June

- 03 Briefing
- 8, 12, 13, 14 Units Topic: "Reaching a Verdict."**
- 10-13 LWVUS Convention (Minneapolis)
- 12 Board Agenda Deadline
- 14 Skyline Plaza Condo Election/*Flag Day*
- 17 Unit Officers Wrap-up**
- 18 *Father's Day*
- 20 Last Day of School
- 21 Board Meeting/New Board Orientation**
- 21 *Summer Begins*

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President's Letter

At the end of June, I will have completed my first year as President of LWVFA – I think it has been a good year and I enjoyed it (most of the time)! I believe the year has been successful, not because of me, but because this organization is filled with dedicated, smart, and tireless volunteers. Thank you to *everyone* who helped make the 2005-06 League year so rewarding.

Specifically, I would like to thank the board members who supported all of this year's activities: Rona Ackerman, Mary Field, Baba Freeman, Carol Hawn, Jane Hilder, Therese Martin, Mia Merin, Leslie Vandivere and Lavinia Voss; and those who had to resign: Susan Dill, Margo Sterling and Tracy Schwartz. To Olga Hernandez and Anne Kanter, who helped with the candidates' events, a big thank you!

In 2006, we gained: Vanessa Johnson as PR Director, Judy Leader as the Justice Committee Chair, and Lois Page as Program Co-Director. We welcome them and Lorraine Hart as Voters Service-Outreach Director to the 2006-07 board, as well as all the board members who are returning for another two years.

I also would like to thank the Off-board members who have worked diligently behind the scenes (more or less) to keep LWVFA running smoothly: Edith Appel who retrieves messages from the office phone, Alice Bagwill who helps disseminate media releases, Bernice Colvard who keeps our history, handles insurance and proofs the *Bulletin*, Viveka Fuenzalida who made arrangements for our General and Annual meetings, Doris James who staffs voter registration at new citizen ceremonies, Pam Koger-Jesup who manages our website, Barbara Nunes who chaired the Nominating Committee, Shirley Olson & Mary Elizabeth Gordon who represent LWVFA at the NCA League, Gail Richmond who organizes our Outreach events; and last, but definitely not least, is Una White who coordinates *all* of our election projects – our most important fundraiser! Also, to Susan Campbell – our one employee – in our office eight hours a week.

June events that you won't want to miss: unit meetings, Skyline Plaza election on the 14th, Unit Wrap-up on June 17th. The board will meet all summer, but for the rest of you – "see you in September!"

Sherry

'Forever' Stamps

The post office is planning a "forever" stamp for letters, good no matter how many times postal rates increase. The idea for the special stamps, which would be sold at the same price as other first-class stamps, was included in proposals announced May 3, 2006, that the post office would raise stamp prices 3 cents—to 42 cents—next year.

Source: The Examiner, Washington, 5-4-06, AP.

Who's The Itchiest

As if all the sneezing weren't enough, we also have to deal with itching in the summer. Bug bites, poisonous plants, sunburn and allergens all cause itching. Our itchiest cities in August are Oklahoma City, Dallas and St. Louis. Learn to identify poisonous plants, wash skin after being outside, avoid perfumes and scented lotions and cover your arms and legs.

Source: Winik, Lyric Wallwork, The Washington Post, 8/7/05.



The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.

In one year an estimated 7 million tons of clothing and textiles are thrown away.

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.

Will Rogers

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Board Notes

Mia Merin, Secretary

At the April 19, 2006, board meeting the following were appointed: **Judy Anderson** to observe the Fairfax County Land Information Accessibility Advisory Group and **Judith Leader** to serve as Justice Committee Chair on the LWVFA Board.

Treasurer **Therese Martin**, reviewed the 3rd Quarter Treasurer's Report with the board. She said we continue to operate with a positive cash flow thanks to all the hard work of our community election volunteers and the generous support of our members.

The board discussed the two candidates forums. The Herndon Forum on 4/17/06, moderated by **Olga Hernandez**, had light public attendance. Cox Communications has agreed to pick-up the costs for the sound equipment that was rented. The Clifton Forum on April 23, 2006, moderated by **Sherry Zachry** and went very well. It was a little better attended by the public.

The board decided it was not a wise choice splitting the \$450 fee to share a booth with the Federation at the *Celebrate Spring in Fairfax, June 9-11*. There is no charge to service organizations for booths at *Fall for Fairfax*. They will consider this at a future time.

Seen and Heard Around Fairfax and Beyond-

1. April 15, Pres. Zachry & Hernandez attended the Prince Wm. Area Unit do-your-own-thing meeting where options for the unit's future were discussed.
2. April 29-30 - LWVVA Council in Williamsburg, Pres. Zachry & Voss attended.
3. May 1 - Zachry, Hernandez & Leader attended Law Day program at the Library of Congress, "Separate Branches, Balanced Powers: Madison's Legacy"
4. May 5 - Zachry, Voss & Hernandez attended briefing for delegates to LWVUS Convention at NCA board meeting
5. PR Commentary on Law Day by Vanessa Johnson printed in *Times* and *Connection* newspapers week of May 3 - 9.
6. May 13, NCA Annual Convention in Arlington, Zachry, Ackerman, Hawn, Martin, & Merin attended as delegates.
7. May 17 - Zachry & Martin attended OAR anniversary celebration & volunteer awards dinner at Waterford at Fair Oaks.



Unit News

The Unit Wrap-up will be held on **Saturday, June 17, 2006**, at the Mason District Government Center beginning at 10:00 AM. What did you hate? What did you like this year? What do you want to see changed next year? Your input is needed; please join us for the discussion.

The Connection Newspaper reporter Aranya Tomseth attended the (MCL) meeting in March and wrote an article on the topic of "Politics of Fear." It was published in the Mclean edition on March 22, 2006. Jeanette Rishell (PWA) is planning to run for the seat vacated by the death of Delegate Harry Parrish. If you are interested in court watch and justice issues. Call Judith (703-524-0991) or Bette (703-815-8820).

Reminder: Mark your calendars. The Unit Officers Workshop/Briefing this fall will be held on **Saturday, September 9, 2006**, after Labor Day, the calendar is back in a normal pattern after having our kick-off meetings in August for two years.

Report Rates New Zealand No. 1

New Zealand leads the world in meeting key environmental goals such as providing clean water and sanitation for its citizens.

The United States ranked 28th. It was hurt by its greenhouse gas emissions, overuse of water and unsustainable agricultural practices.

The United States ranked below nearly every major country in Western Europe, although it outperformed Russia and several Eastern European nations, including Hungary and Poland.

The United States' lackluster ranking shows that economic prosperity does not automatically translate into responsible environmental stewardship.

The United States did best in providing drinking water and adequate sanitation while scoring poorly in fisheries and forest management.

Source: Eilperin, Juliet. *The Washington Post*, 1/25/06 p. A5.

If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

Will Rogers

VIRGINIA HAPPENINGS

The Unknown Story

Bernice Colvard, League Historian

Conscientious objectors (COs) have always caused problems for governments at war. This was particularly evident during WWI when an atmosphere of moral absolutes allowed little room for dissent. Members of the Historic Peace Churches (HPCs) -- Mennonites, Church of the Brethren, Amish, Society of Friends or Quakers, and Hutterites -- usually objected not only to bearing arms but to aiding the war effort in any way, which precluded service as noncombatants and exacerbated resentment. Maltreatment at Army camps included short rations, solitary confinement, physical abuse and numerous court martials. Sometimes treatment was so harsh that it became life threatening.

During WWII, 72,354 men applied for CO status. More than a third accepted noncombat status service in the Army; 27,000 failed their physicals; about 6,000 were imprisoned for refusal to perform any form of service; and about 12,000 entered the **Civilian Public Service (CPS)**. This last group spent the war years performing "work of national importance" under civilian direction, provided for in a Congressional conscription bill. The law further stipulated that CO claims must be sustained by local draft boards. The three main HPCs (Mennonites, Brethren, and Quakers) had searched for alternatives and lobbied strongly for this legislation. Although President Franklin Roosevelt (FDR) opposed alternative service, he signed a February 1941 executive order creating the CPS.

Crews were lodged in former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps around the country. In Virginia, at **Galax** (Mennonites) and **Bedford** (Brethren); in nearby North Carolina at Buck Creek (Quakers). These particular crews continued development and maintenance of the **Blue Ridge Parkway**. FDR's objections caused funding problems, so the HPCs agreed to underwrite the CPSers. They offered \$25 a month assistance for each needy wife and \$10 per month per child. More than a third had families but only five percent accepted aide. The men received \$2.50 a month for incidentals. Many grew much of their own produce. Receiving no government pay, they were subject to the same rules and regulations as those in the armed forces relating to leaves, furloughs,

terms of service, and discharge. The first CPS camp to open was near Baltimore in May 1941; the last closed in April 1947.

Their service included fire fighting, road building, caring for juvenile delinquents and the mentally ill, dairy testing, and plowing contour strips on farmland. They built sanitary facilities in hookworm-ridden communities and served as guinea pigs for scientific and medical research.

Source: Hunter, Elizabeth. "The Civilian Public Service Boys at Buck Creek." Blue Ridge Country, April '05.

LWVNCA ANNUAL CONVENTION

LWVFA delegates Ackerman, Hawn, Martin, Merin and Zachry attended the LWV of the National Capital Area Annual Convention – a breakfast meeting held at the Arlington Hilton Hotel and Towers on Saturday, May 13, 2006.

NCA President Melpi Jeffries opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The Keynote speaker was Michele Waslin, Ph.D, Director of Immigration Policy Research at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) – a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization headquartered in D.C. that works to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans. Dr. Waslin spoke about the current immigration situation in the U. S.

At the business portion of the convention, the delegates approved the 2006-07 LWVNCA Budget and elected the following to the NCA board: Andrea Morris Gruhl (LWV of Howard Co.) - Vice President; Bonnie Franklin (LWV of Arlington) - Treasurer; Elinor Hart (LWV of D.C.) and Virginia Long (LWV of Falls Church) as Directors; and a Nominating Committee of Edie Smolinski (LWV of Falls Church)-Chair, Patricia Behema (LWV of Prince George's Co.) and Aleen Starkweather (LWV of Montgomery Co.).

With sadness, the convention learned of the death in early May of long-time D.C. and NCA League member Frances Gemmill, following a stroke.



The post consumer plastics recycling industry provides jobs for more than 52,000 American workers.

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today its called golf.

Will Rogers

Community Election Projects

Una White 703-922-8721
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The final election for FY 2006 is Wednesday, June 14, 2006, at the Skyline Plaza Condominium, 3703 S. George Mason Dr., Falls Church.

It is an all day election, so we will need volunteers for all shifts. Kay McQuie and Doris James will co-chair. Volunteer by email - kaymcquie@aol.com or call 703-765-7104 or contact me as above.

Wolf Reintroduction Program

Indications are that the reintroduction of gray wolves a decade ago has benefitted the entire ecosystem of Yellowstone National Park and environs (Grand Teton NP and several national forests). A totally unanticipated reward has been to increase tourism by a conservative estimate of \$20 million a year in the region, drawing visitors from all over the U.S. and Europe. Park records show that 90% of them come to see wolves! Very early morning wolf-watching groups succeed in this quest. The animals themselves have acclimated well to roads and auto traffic and learned to tolerate humans.

Also notable is the return of live sprouting aspens (for the past 70 years devoured by browsing elk) as well as willows and cottonwoods. This in turn has promoted the formation of more beaver colonies. Willow regrowth provides more food for the beaver, better habitat for certain birds and streambanks protection, decreased erosion, and more shade on the water, good for trout. Wildlife biologists have also noted an impressive increase of ravens drawn by elk carcasses left by the wolves.

Most authorities agree that it will require several decades to fully evaluate the results of the wolf reintroduction program. Prospects appear to be very positive.

Source: Kirkwood, Scott. "Wolf (& Consequences)." National Parks, Nat. Parks Conservation Asso., Washington, D.C., winter 2006.

There are two theories to arguing with a women.....neither work.

Will Rogers

Magistrates at Work

Judith Leader 703-524-0991
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Have you ever wondered what a Magistrate is and what he or she does? In April some Justice Committee members endeavored to find out with the approval of Fairfax County Chief Magistrate Claude Beheler. Judy Leader and Judy Anderson observed at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center; Pat Brady and Barbara Nunes at the Mount Vernon Center.

Magistrates in Virginia are state judicial officers. Their principal function is to provide an independent review of complaints brought to them by law enforcement officials and citizens. They have authority to issue arrest and search warrants, emergency protective and other types of emergency orders, and to set bail or commit to jail, among other duties. Appointed by the Chief Circuit Court Judge for four-year terms, the 30 Magistrates in this County work in shifts, providing 24/7 coverage at the three detention centers. Translation assistance is available for most languages—by telephone, if necessary. Most magistrates are not lawyers; however, they are provided both formal and on-the-job training.

At the Fairfax center, there were several drunk in public and driving while intoxicated cases. Two women were arrested for shoplifting. A Magistrate processed a serial murderer, extradited from California (where he was already on death row) to face trial here on additional murder charges. In a domestic violence matter, an emergency custody order was issued as well as a protective order, effective for 72 hours. One matter was handled with the assistance of video teleconferencing.

At the Mt. Vernon center, the Magistrate helped several people to fill out the appropriate forms, provided a warrant for the arrest of a person by the police and committed one person to jail for contributing to the delinquency of a minor by giving the minor methamphetamine. On the next shift, a woman Magistrate, a ten-year veteran, was on duty. She impressed the observers with her tough, skeptical approach and high level of competence.

Anyone interested in joining the Justice Committee, contact the chair listed above.

Financial Report

Therese Martin, Treasurer

A portion Of the Janet Hays memorial fund established after her death in 2004 was used to support two activities this year.

1. A special camera for the students of Langston Hughes Middle School Oral History Project, which will focus on the contribution of Reston women to building the New Town; Janet was one of those women.
2. Helped publish 2006 *Facts for Voters*.

The LWVFA Board of Directors will be happy to receive suggestions for additional activities that can be supported with the remaining amount in the Memorial Fund. The Reston Day unit that Janet belonged to has contributed a, "memorial brick" in her honor that was inscribed and installed on the Plaza at Lake Anne, Reston.

In addition to the names printed on the back of *Facts for Voters*, we would like to thank Jackie George (sister of Bernice Colvard) and Dewberry (engineering services) for their contributions that supported the 2006 edition of the publication. We also thank Leslie Vandivere for her contribution since the list of contributors was last published in the March *Bulletin*.

Many members have contributed generously through unit projects. The complete list, by unit, will be printed in the September *Bulletin*. Other financial support was provided by the RE Unit, which made a contribution to the Reston Historic Trust in thanks for use of the Museum for its meetings, and by the ViE Unit, whose members have been collecting funds for the purchase and installation of a bench in honor of Carol Steere at the Lorton Workhouse historic marker. The financial stability of our League is due to the continued generosity of its members.

Global Warming

Glaciers in Western China's Qinghai-Tibet plateau, known as the "roof of the world" are melting at a rate of 7 percent annually due to global warming, the country's official Xinhua News Agency said. That figure is drawn from data from China's 681 weather stations over four decades.

Source: The Examiner. Washington, 5-4-06.

LWVVA News

The Board learned that all local League PMPs had been paid and that they all would be entitled to representation at the LWVUS Convention 2006. Accepted the resignation of Doreen Williams from the Board.

The Board discussed the 9/16 Fall Workshop to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville. Hard copies of the Reapportionment/Redistricting Study, consensus questions, and background information, together with the help needed to conduct local meetings to be held in **October or November** will be available then. 1/25/07 is the deadline for sending reports on the consensus questions to the state office. The board will adopt any new positions at their 2/7/07 board meeting in Richmond.

Virginia is one of 33 states with US Senatorial elections this fall. LWVVA will submit the following questions to the Senatorial Candidates following the June 13 Primary scheduled by the Democrats:

1. What is your priority issue for your service in the Senate?
 2. What would you recommend to reduce our dependence on foreign oil?
 3. How would you work to reduce the federal deficit?
 4. Many people working for small businesses or part-time cannot get medical insurance. What would you do to address this?
- Local Leagues will coordinate the questions for their own House of Representatives candidates, you may choose to use some of the above questions for your House candidates.. The LWVVA wants this question be included: **How would you work to reduce the federal deficit?**

The LWVVA Board agreed not to take a stance on the Proposed Constitutional Marriage Amendment but will provide a balanced information paper on its pros and cons as a service to the citizens of Virginia. They appointed Lynn Gordon as the second member to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The Board agreed to consider co-sponsoring "How to Run for Office and Win" meeting in Norfolk, September 29-Oct. 1, 2006 at their June Board Meeting once they have all of the facts of responsibilities of a co-sponsor.

Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB)

Therese Martin

I have been honored to serve as the League's representative on the CJAB this past year. Presentations are made at each of the monthly meetings on various topics of interest and concern to the citizens and to the local justice community. During 2005-06 they have included: Gangs where a member of the Fairfax County Police Department Gang Unit provided (what I considered to be) a much less pessimistic picture of the situation than did Congressman Wolfe at our General Meeting in January. One interesting statistic is that there were 14 deaths associated with gang activity in the county for the period 1994 to 2005, including three in the past two years.

The School Resource Officer program of the Police Department that we heard about in connection with our study on gangs and that have been instrumental in gang intervention, prevention, and enforcement efforts.

The Alarm System program handled by a four-person staff of the Police Department that I wrote about in a previous edition of the *Bulletin*.

VASAVOR initiative which is the Virginia Serious and Violent Offenders Reentry Initiative that enhances opportunities for the successful transition of serious and violent offenders back into the community by providing for critical needs with essential services and intensive supervision. The program is targeted for the offenders who are returning to Fairfax after serving their sentence. The multi-faceted program receives grant funds from the US Department of Justice and other agencies. In this connection, as in other presentations, the CJAB heard of the shortage of mental health beds in this area. The shortage hampers the efforts to treat incarcerated persons with mental health problems--a long-time concern of the LWVFA.

In earlier reports, I mentioned the possibility of Fairfax beginning a Delancey Street replication project. This is a self-sustaining (San Francisco) project and residence operated by former incarcerated persons who provide business services to the public OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources) in Fairfax has received a federal grant to study and make a proposal for a test project for such a facility. The CJAB has received periodic progress reports on

getting the activity underway. Further information is available on the OAR web site.

Blowing in the Wind

Aspen Ski Company, which owns four ski mountains and two hotels in Colorado, just greenlighted a plan to convert entirely to green energy. Starting this June, 100 percent of Aspen's operations—from chair lifts to snowmaking guns—will be powered by wind.

Experts estimate that it will cost the company an extra \$100,000, but it was a price CEO Patrick O'Donnell was willing to pay to keep 20,000 tons of carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, out of the atmosphere each year. Aspen's purchase illustrates a small, but growing, trend: voluntary corporate support of renewable energy.

Other companies that purchase large blocks of renewable energy include Starbucks, FedEx, Kinko's and Nike. This year, Whole Foods Market became the nation's largest buyer of wind power when it purchased 458,000 megawatt hours of wind energy to power all 180 of the organic grocer's stores. That's the equivalent of taking 60,000 cars off the road or planting 90,000 acres of trees, experts say.

For many corporations, buying wind is a way to both differentiate the company from the competition and to live up to an ecofriendly mission statement. "It shows that we 'walk our talk'," says Whole Foods spokesman Michael Besancon.

Source: Tolme, Paul. *Newsweek* 3/13/06

Jobless Rate Dips in March

Virginia's unemployment rate fell slightly to 3.2 percent in March as the tourism and construction industries began hiring for their busy seasons, according to a state report. Northern Virginia had the lowest jobless rate in March at 2.2 percent, down from the 2.3 percent in February.

The Danville area, which has been grappling with textile layoffs had the highest rate at 8 percent, down from 8.6 percent one month earlier. The state continued to out perform the nation, which had a jobless rate of 4.8 percent in March 2006

Source: *The Examiner*, Washington, 5-4-06, AP.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.
Will Rogers

LWVVA Council Approves Resolution

On April 30, at the state League Council in Williamsburg, the delegates were asked to approve a Resolution explaining the objection to the new rules adopted by the House of Delegates in the 2006 G.A. Session. The new rules empowered House Subcommittees to kill legislation without a recorded vote. The Council gave approval to the following wording. Local Leagues are encouraged to publicize this Resolution to their local Delegates.

Background: The House of Delegates and Senate have traditionally assigned legislation to committees for review and recommendation to the full House or Senate. And they in turn have divided their work load into subcommittees that handle the initial work, but then refer to the full committee for consideration and report to the House. The Republican Caucus changed this procedure in the House in 2006 in the name of expediency because of the heavy work load of bills and resolutions; and thus, empowered subcommittees of 5 or more, with a quorum of as few as three members, to kill the bill or resolution without a recorded vote and without sending it to the full committee. This enabled them to kill about one third of the legislation that was to be considered by the House of Delegates. The Senate does not have such a rule.

Resolution Concerning Subcommittee Votes in the House of Delegates, Virginia General Assembly

Whereas the League of Women Voters of Virginia works to achieve transparency in government, for the benefit of voters, and

Whereas the League of Women Voters of Virginia strives to increase accountability of elected officials to voters, and

Whereas members of the House of Delegates of Virginia acted in 2006 to change the rules for its method of deliberating on proposed legislation, and

Whereas the new rules of the House of Delegates allow subcommittees to take final action on bills (rather than making recommendations to full committee), and

Whereas House subcommittees meet at hours which inconvenience citizen attendance and participation, and

Whereas the votes of subcommittees are not currently reported on the Legislative Information System of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and

Whereas citizens are unable to know how individual legislators voted on proposed legislation if they cannot attend subcommittee meetings, and the votes go unrecorded,

Therefore, be it resolved that the League of Women Voters of

Virginia will appeal to the Speaker and Members of the House of Delegates to restore the previous rules of the House, and

Be it also resolved that the League of Women Voters of Virginia will seek legislative sponsors for a bill requiring that:

1 All votes in Subcommittees of the House be recorded by the clerk

2 All votes in Subcommittees of the House be posted on the Legislative Information System with the same timeliness that applies to votes of full committees.

And be it further resolved that the League of Women Voters of Virginia will work for passage of this bill in the 2007 Session, so that voters may learn the full voting record of each Delegate, allowing greater influence on legislation to be restored to our citizens.

LWVUS News

The League of Women Voters of the United States will receive \$200,000 as part of a million dollar grant from the District of Columbia to help educate the public in other parts of the nation about the District's lack of voting rights in Congress. The other two recipients are DC Vote (\$500,000) and Our Nation's Capital (\$300,000).

LWVUS along with a large group of other civil rights organizations has signed a letter in support of H.R.9, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

The LWVFA delegates attending the 2006 LWV US Convention in Minneapolis are Sherry Zachry, Leslie Vandivere, Carol Hawn, Rona Ackerman, and Lavinia Voss.

To all of our members who sent in their "Preference" on the Abolition of the Death Penalty that the delegates at the LWVUS Convention will be asked to concur with, thank you. At the close of the poll, members were overwhelmingly **for** the abolition.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Will Rogers

Membership Update

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

Welcome new locally recruited member Angie Carrera, bringing the total membership as of April 15 to 433. For all those members who pay their dues locally, it is time to renew. Please tear-off the back section of this *Bulletin* and send it in with your check.

Till Faucets Do Us Part

On television decorating shows, the featured couple is inevitably cheerful and agreeable, cooing as they examine tile samples, nudging each other with mutual delight as they shop for chandeliers. But as anyone who has been through a real-life home-renovation project knows, suppressing the urge to clobber your spouse with a piece of crown molding can also be part of the experience. It's not just battles over cherrywood versus bamboo flooring.

Remodeling projects, ultimately boil down to "money, time, energy and power" the very things that can make—or break—a marriage. (U.S. homeowners spent \$149.5 billion on remodeling in 2005.) There is also the resentment felt by the partner who ends up dealing with the workers every day. And there are the battles over what's necessary. It could strain even the most solid marriage. The average remodel requires 1,000 to 2,000 decisions. In many cases, when the work is done, so is the marriage. The first thing to think about before remodeling is how's the relationship otherwise?

Source: Breslau, Karen. *Newsweek* 1/30/06

LWVFA 58th Annual Meeting

by President Sherry Zachry

In addition to being entertained by the delightful and informative play, "Promiscuous Rampant Women," produced and directed by Lavinia Voss, some real business was accomplished on April 22, 2006.

By the way, the play was received with much enthusiasm and inquiry about its origins. The entire script was based on facts and actual letters written in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Interestingly, this same play was presented at the 1995 Annual Meeting and was received with much less fanfare at that time.

As to the business part of the meeting, the following were adopted: LWVFA and LWVFA Ed Fund FY2006-07 budgets as presented in the Annual Meeting Kit, and the Program for 2006-08:

1. A multi-part study on Immigration, to explore the various aspects of this issue in the Fairfax area.
2. A study and update of the Schools positions. (This item was moved from not-recommended to adoption by the members.)

The following were elected for two-year terms, beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2008:

Therese Martin - Treasurer; Directors: Rona Ackerman - Program; Baba Freeman - Administration; Jane Hilder - Action; Lorraine Hart - Voters Service-Outreach. For one-year terms ending June 30, 2007: Vanessa Johnson - Public Relations Director; Nominating Committee Dianne Blais - Chair; Barbara Ewalt and Nancy Miller - Members.

Also available at the meeting was the following Libraries Position as approved by the board on April 19, 2006, following consensus meetings in February:

Public Libraries

Support of measures to maintain a broad library collection.

The LWVFA strongly believes that the selection policies and procedures of the Fairfax County Public Libraries (FCPL) should ensure that its collection contains a wide variety of books, *digital resources*, and other materials representing a diversity of views to serve the educational, informational and recreational needs of the residents of Fairfax County/City. (1984, amended 2006)

The LWVFA believes that the residents of Fairfax County/City should have the opportunity to question FCPL selections through formal processes that ensure fair and equitable resolution. (1984)

The LWVFA supports:

- Selection and challenge policies and procedures that are clearly defined and communicated to the public which the system serves. (1984)
- Procedures that include the active and regular participation of a group of professional librarians working together in making selection decisions in each materials category. (1984)
- *The authority of a locally appointed Library Board which is responsible for all policies governing the library system.* (2006)
- *Adequate financing for FCPL, which means funding levels that would enable it to meet the needs of the area's growing population and changing demographics.* (2006)

LWVFA Observer Notes

From Town of Clifton Observer, Judy Anderson~

The May 2, 2006 Clifton election swept out all incumbents. I have been observing the Clifton Town Council meetings for over two years and at the May meeting, a couple of the newly elected members asked for my observations and suggestions about the conduct of Town Council meetings. I explained why the League has observers and that my suggestions were offered as personal observations, not League advice or positions.

Following are some of the improvements I offered to facilitate the two-way communication process and establish a more respectful atmosphere at meetings:

- nameplates before each official's place at the Council tables, including title of staff, ie. clerk, treasurer, attorney;
- include names of responsible persons on the posted agenda. For example, the chair of the Planning Commission or ARB;
- consider sound recording of the meetings by the clerk and the use of simple sound system so audience can hear the proceedings (noisy HVAC and drinking fountain can drown out mumblers)
- consider consulting a parliamentarian as part of the transition process, perhaps from the Virginia Municipal League(VML); consider attending some of the recently announced workshops on town processes offered by the VML;
- consider how to deal with contentious public input and set guidelines for interaction with them.

They seemed to be receptive and also asked if the League had expertise in good government practices to offer. I will give them a copy of the League principles and mission statement.



Observer Shirley White, Prince William Board of County Supervisors (PWBOCS)~ May 2, 2006.

Supervisors present: all but Svr. Jenkins

1. Commendations and proclamations were presented to individuals and to organizations in Prince William County for good works and or retiring.
2. Appointments for fire marshal and approval of various contractors and acceptance of some budget appropriations took place.

3. The supervisor from Dumfries expressed concerns of constituents and herself [as to] why it must take 4+ years to build a parking lot for "slugs" at I-95 and Dumfries.
4. Concerns of some constituents and organizations were briefly expressed by a few supervisors.
5. The board went into a pre-approved closed session to discuss a stadium.
6. Board reconvened to say that there was nothing to present from the closed session.
7. BOCS recessed at 4:30 for dinner, until 7:30 PM.
8. Board Chairman Sean Connaughton came down to informally welcome me, stating in an off handed way that: (1) he recalled the letter from President Zachry saying the League would be observing and (2) why didn't I just watch on channel 23. I told him, I could not get it where I live. (I, will follow-up on my inability to get channel 23.)

Virginia Falls Short in Recycling

Rural areas lagged behind Virginia's urban areas in efforts to meet the state's mandatory recycling rate of 25 percent. Data compiled by the state Department of Environmental Quality found that the Richmond area posted the highest recycling rate in 2004, at 44.6 percent, the Eastern Shore's Northampton County, at 1.6 percent, had the lowest rate. The rates are estimates of how much paper, bottles, cans, used oil, concrete, tires, batteries, tree stumps, incinerator ash, and other waste is collected and recycled in some way each year. The statewide percentage has declined for three years, in 2004 reaching its lowest point—29.8 percent. State environmental officials are not sure what to do about the trend. Since passing a mandatory recycling law in 1989, the state has never fined or taken an enforcement action against a county or city for failing to meet the minimum. The latest recycling report, showed that 49 of 95 localities across Virginia did not reach the 25 percent mark. Many rural counties lack the resources to finance curbside recycling or aggressive drop-off programs.

Source: AP, Fairfax Extra, The Washington Post, 1/26/06.

Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.

Will Rogers

Unit Meeting Locations - Topic: "Reaching a Verdict" what do we want for the American Jury System.

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, June 6

Wednesday, June 14

Thursday, June 8

12:30 pm McLean (McL)

McLean Community Center, Rm, #2
1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean
Call Anne 703-448-6626

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

9:45 am Annandale/Barcroft (AB)

Mason District Govt. Center
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
Call Emily 703-346-9684 for info.

7:45 pm Vienna Evening (VE)

9517 Rockport Road, Vienna
Call Liz 703-281-3380

Monday, June 12, 2006

1:30 pm Greenspring Vill. (GSV)

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

Good News

One of America's most popular parks, scenic Hightop Mountain was a prime target for development. In July, the Nature Conservancy used part of an anonymous donation to purchase 830 acres on Hightop. The Conservancy aims to sell the property to the National Park Service, which, with the help of Senator John Warner, received \$1.4 million in federal funds to add Hightop to the Appalachian Trail system.

Source: Nature Conservancy, Spring 2005.

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)

Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church
2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alex.
Call Joan 703-765-0799 for info.

9:30 am Vienna Day (VID)

7408 Spring Village #T01 Springfield
Call Carol 703-644-4214 for info

1:00 pm Pr. William Area (PWA)

7902 Bracksford Ct. Fairfax Station
Call Sheila 703-492-4574 for info.

6:15 pm Dinner Unit (DU)

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

7:30 pm Pr. William Area (PWA)

Great American Steak House
8365 Sudley Road Manassas
Come at 6:30 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.

9:00 am Reston Day (RD)

1700 Shagbark Circle, Reston
Call Joyce 703-437-8288 for info.

9:15 am Fairfax City Day (FXD)

10023 Blue Coat Dr., Fairfax
Call Jeanne 703-591-4580 for info.

9:30 am Springfield (SPF)

7827 Anson Court, Springfield
Call Nancy 703-256-6570 or
Peg 703-256-9420 for info.

1:00 pm Chantilly/Herndon (CHD)

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

7:45 pm Hollin Hills Eve. (HHE)

Martha Washington Library,
6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria
Call Alice 703-360-7426 for info.

Have a great summer!

See you in September!



Flag Day!

