



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

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How Can We Achieve a Secure World?

We've looked at a brief history of the Middle East. We've defined and examined terrorism through the ages. We've had a panel presenting four different perspectives on Middle East policy. We have experienced even more examples of terrorism at Ft. Hood, in Afghanistan, and over Detroit. Now we have an opportunity to consider four different strategies for achieving a more secure world in our February units. You might want to prepare by looking again at the previous articles on the Middle East, but it is truly important that you read the one inside. The discussion questions are incorporated into the article this time. Try to decide in your group if there is one strategy that seems most likely to work.

Calendar

January

- 23 General Meeting – CC of Fairfax (topic: Tysons' Corner Development)
- 25-26 FCPS public hearings on FY11 budget
- 27 League Day at G.A. in Richmond/WRT
- 30 Mt. Vernon Town Mtg.–Outreach

February (Black History Month)

- 01 March *Fairfax VOTER* deadline
- 03 WRT in Richmond
- 05 NCA Board Meeting
- 06 **Briefing:** Packard Center 10 a.m.
- 08-11 Units:** "Strategies for a Secure World"
- 10 WRT in Richmond
- 14 League founded in 1920 (90th anniv.)
- 15 Presidents' Day/schools closed
- 17 Ash Wednesday/WRT in Richmond
- 17 Board meeting** –UC letter deadline
- 24 WRT in Richmond

March (Women's History Month)

- 01 April *Fairfax VOTER* & 2010 Annual Meeting Kit deadline
- 03 WRT in Richmond
- 05 NCA Board Meeting
- 06 **Briefing:** Packard Center 10 a.m.

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The President's Message

You will be seeing the words "Bequest of Frances Silver" a lot these coming months and years. Frances Silver left LWVFA a very generous legacy in her will. With this bequest, she has built a very firm financial foundation for LWVFA. Now, don't think for one minute that the shock of receiving a legacy wasn't a big one--and I'll admit to having one or two giddy moments. Oh, let's be honest, I have more than one or two giddy moments. But, the League has become very important to me--as I know it is to you--and I want to be sure LWVFA will be around for a very long time. I let myself have all kinds of spending sprees run through my head but finally had to come back down to earth, darn it.

The Board's plan is to put the money into an interest-bearing account and use the income only as needed, to replace what we have lost in community elections and other sources. Hopefully there will be some left over to use for Ed Fund events such as debates, panels, registration tables, etc. We have prided ourselves on our determination to provide the public with *What's on the Ballot*, Voters Guides and *Facts for Voters* through thick and thin. We have relied on our unit fundraisers, contributions from members and the public as well as the small residue from our dues to keep us going. So, let's all say a very heartfelt "thank you" for this unexpected financial support in keeping us "open for business."

As much as I have rejoiced in receiving this legacy, I can't help but remember it is because someone left it to us in her will. So, let's give thanks for Frances Silver's generosity and use it in a way that she would approve and be proud of us. Bless her.

Janey

NCA Offers Two Study Opportunities

Since 1963, the Leagues of the Washington metropolitan area have worked together on regional issues as members of the LWV of the National Capital Area. Over the next two years, the LWV-NCA will be doing two studies:

1. Water Resources update: "The Reality of the Drinking Water Supply in the Metro Area in the 21st Century."

In February 1999, NCA issued a comprehensive report titled "Drinking Water Supply in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area: Prospects and Options for the 21st Century." Many changes have occurred in the region since then. Thus, the task of the current study is to evaluate the situation today and update or expand the report as necessary. Norma Merritt, a member at large of the LWV of Maryland from Prince George's County, is chair. She has a long-time interest in water issues. (contact info: proper_bostonian.1@juno.com [underline between "proper" and "bostonian"] or 301-292-3233)

2. New study: Adequacy and Reliability of Electricity in the National Capital Area

With today's focus on energy issues, this timely study will help us become knowledgeable about the relevant issues pertaining to electricity as they impact residents

of the Washington area. Melpi Jeffries, immediate past president of NCA from Montgomery County, is the chair. (contact info: melpijeffries@msn.com or 301-530-5452)

Additional volunteers are needed to work on both studies. Please contact the appropriate chairperson if you are interested; the committees will be organizing soon. They will follow the usual League practice of studying the first year and reaching consensus in the second year.

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2009 - 2010

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The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
4026 Hummer Road, Suite 214
Annandale, VA 22003-2403
703-658-9150 (Info/fax/answering machine)
www.lwv-fairfax.org league@lwv-fairfax.org

President: Jane E. George 703-631-2993
janeyg16@verizon.net
Editor: Ron Page 703-690-0908
pagegolfer@cox.net
Coordinator: Liz Brooke 703-281-3380
lizbrooke@cox.net

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or call 703-658-9150

Units Favor New LWVUS Education Study, LWVFA Review of Domestic Violence

By: Lois Page, Program Director

Program planning for LWVUS year 2010-11 resulted in overwhelming support for a **new study** of the role of the federal government in public education. In 10 of the 12 units (63 people), members supported the proposal put forth in detail by LWV of Palo Alto, California, with a few extra twists on the subject. The 11th unit, Fairfax Station, supported the study as a review because they felt the only way to ensure the current League position on equal education for all was for the federal government to have a role. The education proposal suggested a focus on the basic goals of public education, the role of the federal government in education policy-making, the relationship among national, state, and local levels of education governance, and the development of common standards.

Our members added a plea for national core education standards, a look at dropout rates, and consideration of the creation of a universal body of knowledge that would become part of every system's curricula.

Fairfax Station's suggestion for a **new study** was to look at the need to increase federal protection for the financial consumer. Springfield Unit supports a **new study** of the world supply of safe fresh drinking water with a look at the sources and amount plus some options to solve the problem of adequate supply. They also feel our Board should examine a recently mentioned campaign finance effort from Colorado and make a decision whether or not to support it.

Much less uniformity of opinion surfaced regarding **reviews** of current LWVUS positions. Chantilly-Herndon suggested clarified wording in the International Relations heading under Military Policy and Defense Spending which mentions "the context of total LWVUS needs." (Much of this is spelled out in the longer version of the positions.)

Reston Evening felt we might have new information under Natural Resources/ Environmental Protection and Pollution Control regarding the effect on water supply of alternative energy sources, especially nuclear and natural gas.

McLean felt we should **review** Fiscal Policy (under Social Policy) to consider if the federal government has a role in income distribution. Mt. Vernon Day thinks we should review the Election Process to consider shortening the presidential election primary season.

Members thought we should **step up action** in the following areas: campaign finance reform (most frequently mentioned); support for the League position on immigration (second-most mentioned) and including a specific suggestion to work against excessive restrictions on student visas; climate change oversight, especially to reduce fossil fuel use; support of healthcare changes, abolishing the Electoral College, support for gun control consumer safety regulations; and oversight of the 2010 census and reapportionment policy. However, several units felt we should stick to League "core values:" voting, democracy, women's rights

Informational meetings in the following areas were suggested: immigration, ERA, control of the airwaves, the impact deficit spending will have on the country, healthcare reform if it passes, and how violence in our culture affects everyone, as evidence by road rage, talk shows, conflict resolution efforts, mental health and prison reform.

For LWVFA, very few suggestions came forward for **new studies**. Reston Evening, suggested a new study on the effective use of technology to reduce costs in the Fairfax County budget, McLean felt we should study the equality of technology resource distribution in our schools and county government. One person from Greenspring plus the Springfield Unit (14 people) are interested in a new study on the pros and cons of the County becoming a city, while one unit is proposing this as a review.

Reviews were much more popular on the local level. Fairfax Station felt we could review our position on Juvenile Problems to include teen-on-teen abuse and always define child in a way that includes youth. Six other units, representing 61 people, mentioned some aspect of Juvenile Problems or domestic violence needing a review. One unit wants to review school programs to discover if they are still doing what we want. Reston Evening wants a review of our healthcare position, including mental health, in light of current budget crises, with a look at alternatives to the programs being cut. Greenspring wants review of mental health, too, but wants to discover if there is a disconnect between mental health care and the court system.

Mt. Vernon Evening mentioned numerous areas on which it would like to see **increased action** locally: support for a meals tax, mass transit, all-day kindergarten, safe and nutritious

(Program Planning, Pg. 4, Col. 2)

Celebrating a Remarkable Virginia Woman During Black History Month

By: Bernice Colvard, League Historian

One of the interesting persons I encountered while researching material for *Virginia Women & the Vote* was **Jean Louise Harris, M.D.** (1931-2001). She grew up in Richmond where she accompanied her physician father on house calls. Her later accomplishments would extend beyond the Old Dominion, e.g., private practice in Washington, D.C., teaching

positions at Howard, Johns Hopkins, the University of California at Los Angeles, and other prestigious institutions, but my focus will be primarily on her home state.



In 1955, Harris became the first black graduate from MCV, the Medical College

of Virginia (now Virginia Commonwealth University). She became the first black faculty member at MCV in 1973. A Democrat, she was appointed state secretary of human resources by Republican Governor John N. Dalton in 1978, making her the first black person and first woman ever appointed to a Virginia governor's cabinet. After serving four years in that capacity, Harris became one of the first female vice presidents of a Fortune 500 company based in Minnesota. She was appointed director of medical affairs at the University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinics in 1992.

Harris's distinguished career spanned the academic, medical, corporate, and public service fields. She was honored by *Dollars and Sense* magazine as one of the Top 100 Black Business and Professional Women and featured in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who Among American Women*. She continues to touch Virginia lives through the J. L. Harris Scholarship for minority students at Virginia Union University as well as an MCV scholarship for minority students in medicine. At the time of her death Harris was serving as mayor of Eden Prairie, a suburb of Minneapolis.

Photo Credit: *Ebony* Magazine (1955)

(Program Planning, from Pg. 3)

school lunches, increased subsidies for the medically indigent, increased healthcare information, and adequate financing for public defenders. Others want increased action on climate change, storm water issues, domestic violence, and the 2010 County budget and fiscal policy. Reston Day with its 15 respondents wants LWVFA to increase its protests over the continuing erosion of public library hours and services because of its impact on lower-income students' access to computers and the Internet. Again two units want us to stick to League "core values."

Informational meetings on local issues were suggested on the topics of what communities moving toward lower energy consumption would look like, teen-on-teen date rape (also mentioned as a review), the pros and cons of natural gas, how mental health needs are being met (also mentioned as a review), climate change, voter education as to what's on the ballot, juvenile problems (also mentioned as a needed position review), libraries (mentioned also as a need for increased action.)

The LWVFA Board will consider which of these suggestions seemed to represent the will of the most members at the January board meeting. Local program will be voted in during the April Annual Meeting.

Mark Your Calendar . . .

Fairfax County Budget to Be Presented March 17

Each March, staff from the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget brief the LWVFA Board of Directors on the County's fiscal picture and advertised budget for the next fiscal year. This year, the Board invites all LWVFA members to attend the briefing, which will take place on March 17, beginning at 10 a.m. The County Executive is scheduled to release his proposed budget on February 23. It will be discussed in the press and available on the Fairfax County website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov). The Board hopes that members will take the opportunity to learn about the budget proposals, review League positions, attend the briefing, ask questions about proposals that concern them, and then, *as individuals*, contact their member of the Board of Supervisors to voice their opinions about the decisions that it will make this spring. The earlier citizens call, write, and e-mail their representatives, the more effective their voice.

Strategies for a Secure World

The RAND Corporation prepared three papers, of which this is the third, in a series for the League of Women Voters. The other two papers are entitled “The Middle East: A Brief Historical Sketch” and “Terrorism Past and Present.” This educational project is directed towards encouraging public conversation about how to achieve a secure world and promoting public understanding of the critical issues surrounding terrorism and the threats it poses to our security. It is possible that such conversations will lead to greater public engagement and involvement in encouraging our policymakers to explore the uncertainty, to apply new skills in their efforts to reduce it, and to take risks where necessary.



The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and the crash in Pennsylvania of a fourth hijacked aircraft that failed to reach its intended target, shattered American complacency about the security of the U. S. homeland. The fact that it could be attacked so easily and on such a catastrophic scale had not figured prominently in the public consciousness since the early

Cold War days of duck-and-cover drills. The need for new measures to deter and defend against America's enemies and ensure the safety of its citizens at home and abroad was both obvious and urgent. The United States thus embarked on what were to be the most sweeping changes in its foreign policy since World War II.

America's new strategic position is most fully described in the Bush Administration's National Strategy for Combating Terrorism (2003, 2006),¹ which defines terrorism as the preeminent threat facing both the nation and the world. Not surprisingly, many aspects of the strategy have generated heated controversy. There has been no shortage of plans put forward as alternatives and no shortage of vigorous, sometimes acrimonious, debate advocating one plan over another.

Yet all of the proposed strategies share a key characteristic: the actions they recommend are founded on basic, though often differing, assumptions about the nature of the threats we face and how American actions might affect those threats. By examining the plans and identifying their underlying assumptions, people who disagree about what specific course to follow are nonetheless able to arrive at a better-informed understanding of the options and engage in constructive debate that is rooted in analysis, not emotion.

Alternative Strategies for Combating Terrorism

Four counterterrorism plans are briefly described below. They have been chosen to represent distinctly different views of the terrorist threat and the best ways to combat it. In each case, the principal actions advocated in the plan are made explicit. These actions are followed by questions intended to address the validity of the assumptions on which the actions are based.

The U. S. National Counterterrorism Strategy

The government's plan, laid out in a range of national strategy documents (primarily the one cited above) and in official speeches by senior officials, emphasizes the use of military force to defeat terrorists far from U. S. shores. The primary proposed actions are as follows:

- Pursue a portfolio of actions to localize, render impotent, and destroy global terrorists. Such actions include defeating the terrorists, denying them state support, diminishing underlying conditions that lead to terrorism, and defending the United States.
- Emphasize use of military force to topple uncooperative regimes and fight the enemy abroad.
- Act preventatively and preemptively; establish a low threshold for unilateral action.
- Aggressively pursue democratization as a means of denying state support and diminishing underlying conditions.
- Carry out restrictions on civil liberties as necessary.

Questions for Discussion

- **Does the United States have the resources to pursue the portfolio of actions this plan requires, including diminishing the underlying conditions that create terrorism? Do we even know what those conditions are? By seeking to destroy the terrorists, will we create even more of them? How can we measure progress? How will we know if and when we have succeeded?**
- **In toppling uncooperative regimes and taking unilateral preemptive actions, such as in Iraq, will we open a Pandora's box that will divert us from dealing with the most direct terrorist threat to us?**

Will this approach lead to open-ended military and financial commitments? Do we have the intelligence capability to initiate preventive war with confidence that we are dealing with the right threats?

- **Will democratization bring about more friendly and stable regimes or lead to takeovers by Islamic extremists such as Hamas and Hezbollah?**
- **Will restrictions on civil liberties prove useful in combating terrorism? If those restrictions are imposed and conducted in secret, how will we know whether they are useful? Will the American public accept the constraints on their liberties for decades to come?**

An International Law Enforcement Strategy

The second approach advocates international cooperation and enhanced law enforcement, not war, as the best way to counter terrorism.² Principal actions are as follows:

- Reduce enthusiasm for and promote the illegitimacy of terrorism by explaining in vivid ways the horror of attacks on civilians.
- Build a broad worldwide military, legal, and moral commitment to oppose all forms of terrorism, including those that do not directly threaten the United States. This requires that the United States and its allies pay careful attention to respecting human rights in all their actions.
- Distinguish among the various threats from terrorism and focus on countering those that are the most threatening. For example, terrorism encompasses a wide range of risks to the United States, from car bombings against U. S. facilities abroad to the potential detonation of nuclear weapons in U. S. cities. Only a small fraction of these threats can cause damage on the scale similar to conflict with another nation state. Most terrorist threats are mainly psychological; that is, they create their effect by inspiring fear. This plan emphasizes the need to allocate resources primarily to the most serious threats.
- Build a broad worldwide military, legal, and moral commitment to oppose all forms of terrorism, including those that do not directly threaten the United States.
- Pursue a portfolio of actions focused on intelligence gathering and law enforcement. The United States



should arrest and punish individual terrorists and confiscate their assets and those of their supporters in order to hamper their operations. It should also deny terrorist groups the resources and information they need to plan and conduct the attacks, and it should use defensive measures to deny them access to their targets. Finally, the information yielded by enhanced intelligence operations—conducted alone and with other nations—should be employed by law enforcement to better disrupt terrorist activities and destroy terrorist organizations.

Questions for Discussion

- **Will emphasizing the moral obligation to protect innocent civilians from terrorist attacks and demanding that friendly governments do more to respect human rights delegitimize terrorists, or will it give them more room for action?**
- **Is it possible to determine which threats are most threatening? How would one compare, for example, a campaign of car bombings**

in every large American city to a single biological attack?

- **Can we develop sufficient intelligence to successfully identify, capture, and prosecute terrorists? Can we do so without revealing our intelligence sources and methods?**
- **Will other countries pass the necessary laws and create the police capabilities that will enable them to catch and detain terrorists? • Will other countries allow us to capture terrorists on their territory, let alone punish them?**

A Disengagement and Deterrence Strategy

The third strategy centers on disengagement and deterrence.³ It advocates reducing American political intervention in Islamic lands and unleashing the full, unrestrained might of the military against those who continue to threaten the United States.

- Change U. S. policies to diminish radical Islamic motivations for terrorism. This would include withdrawing U. S. military forces from Arab lands; reducing support for Israel; discontinuing support for dictatorial Arab governments; discontinuing support for Russian, Indian, and Chinese suppression of their

Muslim insurgencies; and eliminating U. S. reliance on oil imports from the Middle East.

- If changing policies is not effective or possible, conduct all-out war against those who continue to attack or threaten to attack the United States. Engage in whatever martial behavior, including collective punishment, that is needed to deny those threatening the United States any popular bases of support.
- Allow other states to fail unless it is in the direct national interest to intervene. This includes limiting interventions to support humanitarian efforts or to promote democracy and focusing only on situations where the security of the United States is directly and unambiguously at stake.
- Restructure U. S. intelligence systems and practices to provide meaningful and insightful assessments of threats to the security of the United States and its interests. Encourage more detailed expertise and greater forthrightness to improve upon the current system that rewards generalists who provide politically guided intelligence designed not to disturb the status quo.

Questions for Discussion

- **Would disengagement mollify the terrorists, or would it encourage more terrorism given that they would be likely to regard their previous attacks as successful? Would it do damage to other U. S. interests, e.g., secure oil supplies and support for Israel? Would radical Islamists take over most of the Middle East and then seek to expand elsewhere as they say they intend to do? Is eliminating reliance on Middle East oil possible? At what cost? How long would it take, and what would we do to deal with terrorism in the meantime?**
- **Is the proposed alternative, all-out war against terrorists, any different than what we are doing now? To deny the terrorists' support base, would the American people agree to all-out war against countries that sponsor terrorism, e.g., Iran, while vastly increasing our troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan? Wouldn't the length of this list only increase by allowing states to fail?**

A Strategy Requiring Coordinated Engagement of International Institutions

The fourth strategy argues that terrorism most often originates in nations that are outside the core of the globalized world.⁴ These "Gap" nations will only cease to promote and support terrorism when they are brought into the "Core." To accomplish this goal, the United States must take several actions:

- Accept responsibility for short-term, intense military intervention with a small but powerful Department of Defense. Create a new Department of Global Security that bridges the gap between our current departments of war (Defense) and peace (State). The mandate of the new department is nation building conducted in conjunction with other countries.
- Engage international institutions—e. g., the United Nations Security Council, G-8 nations,⁵ the International Monetary Fund, etc.—to help create an international reconstruction fund to support post-conflict stabilization in countries that require assistance.
- Accept China as an Asian partner in multilateral cooperation among the world's major powers rather than as an aggressive competitor, and enlist it in the war on terrorism.
- Accept Iran as a natural leader nation-state in the Middle East and work to bring it into the Core. Should it seek to do so, Iran could play an important role in moving peace forward in both Iraq and Israel. In addition, because of the likelihood that Iran will develop a substantial nuclear capability, it is more desirable to establish a relationship with it than to isolate it.
- Work with regional militaries and nongovernmental organizations to provide support until the reconstructed nation is stable. Give particular emphasis to education and economic opportunity for women in Gap nations.

Questions for Discussion

- **What impact will economic development have on the reduction of terrorism, particularly the type that is motivated by religious belief? Is it possible for outsiders to rebuild a troubled nation? Are we prepared to provide the resources to do it? Are globalized institutions and nations likely to agree that investing more money serves their interests?**
- **What do we do if countries do not want our help and do not want to be part of the globalized world? • How can countries such as China and India help us fight terrorism while they are in transition from Gap to Core nations and have their own internal problems, including terrorism? • Would Iran remain a hostile nation if it were brought into the Core? Would its Islamic values overcome political and economic gains? Why would it stop supporting terrorist groups like Hezbollah and Hamas? What would be the likely effect on nuclear proliferation?**
- **What might be the consequences in the Sunni Muslim world if the United States were to accept a Shia Iran as an acknowledged leader?**
- **How would providing greater educational and**

economic opportunities for women have an impact on terrorism?

Where We Go From Here

In his most recent book, *Unconquerable Nation*, noted terrorism expert Brian Michael Jenkins argues that defeating terrorism requires a thorough understanding both of the enemy (the terrorists) and of one's own strengths and weaknesses. Thus, an unconquerable America should seek not only disciplined troops and strong walls but also confidence, courage, and a commitment to upholding its core values.⁶

Throughout our history, democracy has always been America's secret weapon in the defense of liberty. Subjecting our strategies to thoughtful, vigorous debate has helped make the nation stronger, wiser, and victorious in its past struggles. It is no different today. In the spirit of unconquerability, Americans must thoughtfully examine the range of options and engage in debate with one another about what strategies will defeat the threats facing the country and the world.

Terrorism engenders fear and uncertainty. No U. S. response can eliminate all risks. Nevertheless, America's citizens and its leaders must grapple with those challenges and choose a way forward.

Recommended Reading

Thomas P. M. Barnett, *Blueprint for Action: A Future Worth Creating*, G.P. Putnam & Sons, 2005

Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon, *The Next Attack: The Failure of the War on Terror and a Strategy for Getting It Right*, Times Books, 2005.

Philip B. Heymann, *Terrorism, Freedom, and Security: Winning without War*, MIT Press, 2003. ⁶ Brian Michael Jenkins, *Unconquerable Nation: Knowing Our Enemy, Strengthening Ourselves*, Santa Monica, California: The RAND Corporation, 2006.

Brian Michael Jenkins, *Unconquerable Nation: Knowing our Enemy, Strengthening Ourselves*, RAND, 2006.

Michael Scheuer (first published as Anonymous in 2004), *Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on Terror*, Potomac Books, 2005.

Footnotes

¹ These documents can be accessed online at the following Internet addresses: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030214-7.html>, http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/counter_terrorism/counter_terrorism_strategy.pdf, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nsct/2006/>, and <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nsct/2006/>

nsct2006.pdf

² Philip Heymann, *Terrorism, Freedom, and Security: Winning Without War*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2003. Heymann is a professor of law at the Harvard Law School and a former deputy attorney general of the United States.

³ Michael Scheuer, *Imperial Hubris: Why the West Is Losing the War on Terrorism*, Dulles, Virginia: Potomac Books, Inc., 2005. Scheuer is a former senior U. S. intelligence official and head of the CIA's bin Laden Unit.

⁴ Thomas P. M. Barnett, *Blueprint for Action: A Future Worth Creating*, New York: The Berkeley Publishing Group, 2005. Barnett is a former professor at the U. S. Naval War College and a senior military-strategy consultant to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

⁵ The term Group of Eight (G-8) is applied to eight nations that represent two-thirds of the world economy: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Though the G-8 is not formally supported by a transnational administration, ministers and heads of state from these nations meet annually to discuss issues of mutual or global concern.

⁶ Brian Michael Jenkins, *Unconquerable Nation: Knowing Our Enemy, Strengthening Ourselves*, Santa Monica, California: The RAND Corporation, 2006.

Note:

As you see, the discussion questions for February's units are included in the material, addressing the assumptions in each of the four strategies. Each question has several parts which will make it difficult to cover all the questions at a normal unit meeting. One approach, if your unit is agreeable, is to divide your group into four and ask each group to take some time to discuss one strategy. After dealing with the questions for that strategy, have each group explain reasons why they agree or disagree with the one they have discussed. Above all, unit members must read and ponder the article before the unit meeting to get the most out of the discussion.

Anyone not able to attend a unit meeting—and remember you all can come to the briefing on February 6 at the Packard Center—should feel free to e-mail (loispage@cox.net) or mail (7902 Bracksford Court, Fairfax Station VA. 22039) your favorite strategy and reasons for it to Lois Page, for inclusion in a upcoming *Voter*.

Discussion leaders should plan to convey their group's conclusions to the e-mail or surface mail address above.

Hilder Presents Testimony on League Positions to Northern VA Legislators

Good morning. I am Jane Hilder, Action Chair of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, speaking on behalf of our local president and approximately 325 members in Fairfax County and Fairfax City. We thank you for the privilege of speaking to you this morning.

First, we all realize that balancing the budget is the major challenge before the General Assembly this year. We are also aware that there have been truly significant cuts made in the budget already. The League believes in efficient and effective government that is adequately financed. Almost everyone has been hurt by this recession, but some people have been hurt much more than others. As you work with the numbers, please remember these numbers represent services to and for Virginians. Look for equitable ways to add revenue as a major solution instead of only thinking of cuts to the programs – programs that affect the daily lives of our citizens.

We've already been told by one delegate that everyone agrees there will be no new taxes. But are Virginians willing to put up with the cuts to public safety, education, healthcare, social services, parks, highway safety and road maintenance that result from such a policy? The League supports additional revenue enhancements to maintain basic services.

That said here are some particular issues of concern to Fairfax Area League members that we would like the General Assembly to address in the 2010 Session:

- Establish a politically balanced and independent Reapportionment Commission for decennial redistricting. This is a basic good government issue. We'd like to thank all of you who have supported this idea in one form or another in the past—in at least one case for many years. We know the Senate actually passed such legislation last year. Since the new Governor claims to support redistricting reform, we're hoping he can help to push real reform through in the House.
- Expand in-person absentee voting prior to an election to all registered voters. This promotes voting participation by a larger number of voters. People will probably still be racing home from work to vote by 7 p.m. on election day, but at least it gives them another opportunity.
- Diversify the revenue sources allowed to counties and other local jurisdictions so that property taxes do not make up such a large portion of local revenues.

Communities throughout the Commonwealth have been requesting flexibility.

- Establish a dedicated, stable and reliable funding source for the balanced transportation needs in the Commonwealth. Don't wait for a bridge to collapse to deal with this issue.
- Restore voting rights to felons once they have completed all requirements of their sentence. We need to incorporate all our citizens in our democracy. Evidence shows that recidivism is less among those who have served time if the ex-offenders are more integrated into society. Voting is a means of integration.
- Protect our environment by rewarding conservation and exploring use of alternative fuels while keeping pollution out of our rivers, ground water and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Support the Commonwealth's criminal justice system with adequate funding for indigent defense and adequate salaries for state court employees who work in Northern Virginia. State budget cuts to local police and sheriff's departments result in increased local costs and are a danger to our residents.
- Provide more child care help to low-income families. Day care subsidies are a cost-effective means to help low income parents to work. For the Commonwealth this is a win-win situation by increasing income tax revenue as well as preparing those children for school and becoming more productive citizens.
- Do whatever you can to maintain funding for Fairfax County Public Schools, including adequate funding for mandated programs. We have all heard about the cuts in the proposed schools budget that was released this week. Fairfax County and City cannot come up with the necessary funds to maintain a quality school program without help from the General Assembly, both with state funding and authority to levy additional taxes locally.

We invite you to attend the Women's Legislative Roundtable, held every Wednesday morning at 8:30 in Senate Room 3 West beginning on January 20th. Once a year League members from all over the Commonwealth come to Richmond to visit their representatives. We look forward to seeing many of you on January 27th. Thank you.

Ed Note: Hilder substituted for President Janey George who suffered a broken foot.

A Special Tribute to Our 50-Year Members

LWVFA is honored to have 15 members who have belonged to the League of Women Voters for 50 years or more. We will be turning the spotlight on them over the next several months.

Ellen Gale

Ellen has been a Fairfax League member since 1957, belonging to the Springfield unit until the North Springfield unit was formed. In 2005, she helped start the Greenspring unit.

She has served on numerous study committees and chaired two transportation studies and two criminal justice studies; she was Voters Service chair on the LWVFA Board and a member of the LWV-VA Board. She has also been on Fairfax County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the Human Services Committee, and the Northern Virginia Regional Planning Board, as well as the Fairfax Committee of 100--and the Area II schools boundary committee and transportation committee.

Ellen has ushered at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall and at Wolftrap, volunteered at the Smithsonian Associates reception hall and archeology department, and for the past 15 years, helped with programming various liberal arts studies for several organizations for seniors.

She has a B.S. in sociology and Master's in economics from Brooklyn College. She and her husband, Manny, moved to Fairfax County in 1956. He worked for the Army and the Defense Department. She has three children and six grandchildren.

Emma Henri

Emma first encountered the League of Women Voters in 1943. She was a student at Indiana University but was not allowed to live on campus because she was black. The League was among those who helped get that rule changed so she could move onto the campus. Ever since, she has been very active in civil rights work.

After graduation, she moved to Lowell, Mass. There she continued her civil rights activism and worked with

the Kennedys, who at that time were campaigning for the election of Senator Edward Brooke.

Her husband is Col. Axel Henri, who was born in the Virgin Islands and served 29 years in the U.S. Army, advancing from private to the rank of colonel. During 1950-1952, they lived in France and Germany. She always found Leaguers among the service wives. She was an especially active member of LWV in Washington, D.C., when they returned in 1953. Then they were off to Korea in 1960 and to San Francisco until 1968.

When her husband retired from the Army in 1968, the Henris settled in Reston, where Emma became a member of the LWVFA. As long as her health permitted she has been involved with both the League of Women Voters and civil rights work.

Norma Hoffman

A member of LWVFA since 1953, Norma Hoffman has received more than 30 awards (from a broad array of national, state and local organizations) recognizing her accomplishments in safeguarding precious natural resources and serving society.


Perhaps her most notable achievement was a successful 15-year battle to prevent Fairfax County from building a four-lane highway through Huntley Meadows Park, a 1,400-acre wetland and wildlife refuge. Standing only 5-feet tall, she confronted powerful county and commercial forces, speaking softly but carrying the big stick of massed environmental organizations, hundreds of citizens and a major Washington law firm she mobilized. Huntley Meadows remains unspoiled. For this victory, Norma was recognized as one of only 100 "Environmental Heroes" by the national Sierra Club when it celebrated its centennial in 1992.

Born in Boston 84 years ago, Norma was a professional dancer until marrying in 1945, when she and her journalist husband Fred settled in Washington. They moved to Virginia in 1948 and Norma plunged into

(See **50-Year Members**, Pg.7, Col. 1)

WRT—What's That? . . .

Do you recognize the WRT listed in our Calendar on the first page? It's the Women's Legislative Roundtable, a forum for all Virginians and legislators, held in Richmond every Wednesday morning while the General Assembly is in session—and moderated by the League of Women Voters of Virginia. We hope all Leaguers will consider attending at least one forum. It's a great opportunity to become familiar with the issues being discussed and considered and a way to become more effective in changing the laws. The information below is reprinted from the LWV-VA roundtable brochure.

<p>Women's Legislative Roundtable</p> <p>A Forum for all Virginians & Legislators</p> <p>Wednesday mornings during the session General Assembly Building Senate Room 3 West</p> <p>8:30 AM to 9:30 AM Moderated by</p> <p> The League of Women Voters of Virginia</p>	<p>What We Do: We provide a non-partisan forum for the discussion of public policy issues and the legislation to address them.</p> <p>Why We Do It: As a non-partisan group, we can be a forum for citizens to learn about issues that state legislators are addressing in the General Assembly.</p> <p>We provide the opportunity for citizens to learn about what is happening at the legislature during the General Assembly session.</p> <p>How We Do It: Invite legislators of all parties to speak about and explain pending legislation.</p> <p>We allow non-profit groups to speak about issues that they are tracking and advocating.</p>	<p>League of Women Voters of Virginia rules for the Women's Legislative Roundtable (WRT) are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the WRT be a forum for the exchange of information; • the WRT be inclusive of every interested woman in the state; • the WRT not advocate specific action on any issue, but alert participants to the facts of pending legislation affecting women with information on the possible impact; • the WRT involve as many Virginia Delegates and Senators as possible; and • a sitting Senator or Delegate sponsor the WRT so that we may reserve a room in the General Assembly building and be listed on the day's calendar.
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(50-Year Members, From Pg 6)

politics at the precinct level. She managed Hubert Humphrey's presidential campaign in Alexandria—one of the few places he won in 1968.

Before giving birth to their daughter, Lisa, in 1952, Norma worked on Capitol Hill as an aide to three congressmen. Among other activities, she has helped United Community Ministries, a social service agency; teaches reading at a neighborhood school, and has represented her neighborhood community on several Fairfax County advisory boards.

Shirley Strong

Shirley grew up in Richmond and Baltimore but moved to Fairfax County after she married in 1949.

Her husband, Charles, worked in Washington for the Department of Agriculture. She has been a member of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area since 1954.

While raising a son, who is now in the District of Columbia, and a daughter who now lives in Cincinnati, she worked as a temporary employee for the Fairfax County government when automobile stickers were sold. For many years, she has been an active member of the Fairfax City unit, where she has held all the unit offices, been a member of many study committees and worked often on Voters Service activities.

Action Faction . . .

League Energy Study Acknowledged as Influential in County Environmental Policy

By Jane Hilder, Action Chair

Recently Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine Hudgins sent out a newsletter listing policies in the area of environmental quality that have been adopted over the last few years (see below). Longtime LWVFA member Mary Nightlinger was pleased but surprised that she'd heard very little about this. Mary noted that these are all League positions. As the LWVFA observer to the Board of Supervisors, I can assure Mary these policies were adopted by the Board under former-Chairman Gerry Connolly. They continue to be implemented regularly in relatively small acts that do not make news, but collectively make a big impact.

LWVFA gets part of the credit for studying these issues and including them in budget testimony. Each time you let your supervisor know what your priorities are, and you speak up for energy conservation or clean air, affordable housing or sheltering the homeless, you are helping to influence the process. Many people only tell them to cut taxes, so it is important that others speak up. I can think of numerous ways the BOS has acted to implement these policies during the time I've been observing—clean diesel conversion for school buses, purchasing cleaner Fairfax Connector buses, purchasing hybrid vehicles for the county fleet, making new county buildings meet LEED standards, energy-conserving

retrofits of older buildings. Please keep telling those supervisors where you stand on issues!

Action 2: Adoption of a County Energy Policy confirms Fairfax County's commitment to energy efficiency and conservation in support of the Board of Supervisor's Environmental Agenda and the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization initiative. The Energy Policy promotes the following measures;

- 1.energy efficiency and conservation in buildings, facilities, operations and vehicles;
- 2.the use of alternative and sustainable energy options;
- 3.waste reduction and recycling;
- 4.the use of more efficient and alternative fuel vehicles in appropriately sized County transportation fleet;
- 5.implementation of energy efficiency and conservation projects that have a return on investment which includes short-or long-term tangible or intangible benefits, and support environmental goals;
- 6.distributed energy projects in which energy is generated on-site, rather than transmitted;
- 7.land use patterns and transportation systems that serve to reduce energy usage;
- 8.intergovernmental energy efficiency efforts; and
- 9.energy efficiency and conservation efforts by County employees, employers, and residents.



Join us for an evening of laughs with the fabulous

Capitol Steps Comedy group

Friday, **March 12, 2010** at 7:30 pm

In the Reagan Building located at 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Tickets are \$45 -- **Reservation deadline is March 5, 2010**

Mail the form below to: Barbara Sherrill, 4826 N. 17th Street, Arlington, VA 22207



The Federal Triangle Metro stop (orange/blue lines) is connected to the Reagan Building and International Trade Center by a covered passageway. The Metro Center Metro stop (red line) is two blocks away, and the Smithsonian Metro stop (orange/blue lines) is within walking distance.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ League _____

_____ Number of Tickets: _____

Fairfax County Opens 2010 Census Office

The Fairfax County census office was launched January 7 at a morning ribbon-cutting ceremony that was standing-room only. Local managers were introduced, and several guest speakers, led by Fairfax County Board Chair Sharon Bulova, reiterated the major census goals:

EVERYONE will be counted.

EVERYONE will be counted ONCE.

EVERYONE will be counted at their location as of April 1.



Bulova emphasized the importance of complete and accurate counting: 400 billion federal dollars annually are distributed to local communities based on current census data. It is therefore vital to individuals, to families and to our community that our data be complete. Nationally, the return rate for census questionnaires is 68 percent (in Virginia, 72 percent). For each additional 1 percent returned by April 1, the federal government saves \$80-\$90 million dollars. The Census Bureau and the County are relying on all citizens to assist in this effort.

The local census office is located at 9653 Fairfax Blvd., in the Fairfax Circle shopping center. It plans to build a pool of 3,000+ qualified individuals for consideration for the 1,000+ temporary jobs (at \$20 hourly). Interested citizens should call the office at 703-865-3040 to apply.

Also on January 7, the Fairfax County Government Center hosted an evening forum, the Northern Virginia Ethnic Media Briefing. This, too, was well attended by representatives of ethnic organizations, faith-based groups, and radio, TV and print media in several languages. Partnership specialists from the Census Bureau discussed the difficulties inherent in accurately counting traditionally hard-to-count groups and described a number of the special initiatives underway to reach these groups. Census staff identified resources available to the many local organizations that are partnering with the local Census Bureau, including LWVFA, and encouraged local minority-language media to work toward disseminating census information and building confidence in the security of the data-collecting process on the part of minority citizens who may be unfamiliar with the Census concept and unwilling to share personal information.

Citizens were urged to visit the Census website (www.2010.census.gov) for facts, materials, and ideas for helping to identify and reach hard-to-count populations.

Can You Help?

LWVPW Needs Our Help

We can help the Prince William Conditional League make some money doing community elections! They are scheduled to do an initial election for the Four Seasons at Historic Virginia association in early March. I'm looking for a few old hands (that's experience, not age) to go along with me for the day and help out. Four Seasons is located in the Dumfries area, off Rt. 234. As the PW League is fairly small, they will need all the help they can get and have even agreed to share a few dollars with LWVFA. Give me a call for more details. Una White, 703-922-8721 or unawhite@gmail.com.

Successful "Electric Sunday" Program Expands to Include Fluorescent Light Recycling

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program, in partnership with Covanta Energy, Inc., is preparing to expand the "Electric Sundays" recycling program in 2010. These events will now offer residents an opportunity to recycle fluorescent light bulbs and tubes in addition to televisions, computers, and peripheral electronic devices including keyboards, speakers, printers, scanners, etc.

Fluorescent light bulbs and tubes contain a small amount of mercury. Given the high volume of fluorescent light usage in Fairfax County, properly recycling these bulbs and tubes can prevent mercury from entering our waste management system. Disposal of these materials at a household hazardous waste collection site allows for the recovery and recycling of the mercury, glass, and aluminum contained in these bulbs and tubes.

The 2010 Electric Sundays will begin with the first event on Sunday, January 24, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax.

Reprinted from State Delegate Ken Plum's December 30 Virginia e-Letter

In the Spotlight . . .



Bernice Colvard, Quintessential League Historian and Much More!

Bernice Colvard joined the Fairfax Area LWV in September 1972, and she has been contributing to it in many ways ever since. Bernice's ongoing League activities, in addition to serving as LWVFA Finance Director and Insurance Administrator, include keeping a history of the Fairfax League--and now the Virginia League (LWV-VA), as well.

With the publication of Bernice's latest book, *Virginia Women & The Vote: 1909 – 2009*, Bernice has established herself as an authority on the League of Women Voters of Virginia and its forerunner, the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia. This book debuted with fanfare in Richmond at the 100th anniversary celebrations co-sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University and LWV-VA during the week of November 16-20, 2009.

Bernice also traced the history of the Fairfax Area LWV in her book titled *Tracing Our Roots: From Seneca Falls, New York to Fairfax, Virginia*, which was published in 1997 for the 50th anniversary of the continuous existence of the LWVFA. *Tracing Our Roots* bestowed the official title of League Historian on Bernice.

In addition to writing many history articles for the LWVFA monthly newsletter now known as the *Fairfax VOTER*

(formerly the *LWVFA Bulletin*) for over a period of ten years, Bernice has been responsible for archiving suffrage and LWVFA files at Fairfax Regional Library and in the Special Collections at George Mason University. Bernice wrote the material for the LWVFA's 60th anniversary poster, the "Historical Milestones" booklet that accompanies the poster (2008), *Remember the Times* (both 1997 and 2008 editions) and updated *Remember the Ladies*, 2008 edition, to include information on the rededication of the Occoquan Workhouse Historical Marker (in 2006) and the establishment of a permanent suffragists' memorial area in Occoquan Regional Park at Turning Point Plaza (in 2008). She also contributed information for the redesigned suffragists' historical story boards in the park (2008), as well as being very involved in the wording, development and *original* dedication in 1983 of the Occoquan Workhouse historical marker on Route 123 in Lorton.

Other portfolios held by Bernice through the years have been Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, Unit Coordinator, Finance and Public Relations Director. She helped create the recycling brochure (posted on our website) with Judy Prochko ("Wanda Wastewatcher") in the early 1990s before environmental concerns were front-page issues. Bernice has served on many committees and worked in the background to write and update many in-house publications, such as LWVFA policies and procedures and LWVFA job descriptions. Many LWVFA presidents will testify to Bernice's dedicated and expert help on any project she is asked to undertake.

Bernice was born in Richmond, married Pat Colvard, a dentist (now retired) and they have two daughters, Anita and Lisa, who live in Northern Virginia. Bernice's hobbies include reading, aerobic swimming classes twice a week and "lunching with the ladies." Bernice is a true treasure to the League.

[GoodSearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) . . .

Search the Web and Raise Funds for the League

Earn money to support the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) every time you search the web! Simply log onto www.goodsearch.com; designate the League of Women Voters Education Fund - LWV (Washington, DC) as your charity of choice; and start using GoodSearch as your primary search engine.

Something New Coming at the General Meeting

Certificates are being given at the January 23, 2010, General Meeting to the businesses and organization that donate every year to help cover the League's publication expenses for *Facts for Voters*. The following are donors: Dominion Virginia Power, Benefactor; Cox Communications, Patron; and the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, Sponsor. We are very proud of our long-term relationships with these loyal benefactors and we thought it was time to show them how much they are appreciated. Please be sure to give them your personal thanks at the luncheon.

This Month's Unit Meeting Locations – Topic: How Can We Achieve a Secure World?

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At Large Meeting” and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of February 13, 2010, the locations were correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations.

Saturday, February 6

BRIEFING THIS MONTH

10:00 a.m. Packard Center
4026 Hummer Rd
Annandale 22003
Contact: Lois, 703-690-0908

Monday, February 8

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive
Springfield 22150
Contact: Kay, 703-644-2670

7:00 p.m. Vienna Evening (VE)

Note change of date & time

Patrick Henry Public Library
101 Maple Ave
Vienna 22180
Contact: Lorraine, 703-759-3651

Tuesday, February 9

10:30 a.m. McLean (MCL)

Star Nut Gourmet
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean 22101
Contact: Gail, 703-356-2851

Wednesday, February 10

9:30 a.m. Mt. Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon District Gov. Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria 22306
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561

10:00 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

7902 Bracksford Court
Fairfax Station 22039
Contact: Lois, 703-690-0908

12:00 noon Chantilly/Herndon (CHD)

Sully District Governmental Ctr
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Centreville 20151
Contact: Susan, 703-780-3902

6:15 p.m. Dinner Unit (DU)

Yen Cheng Restaurant
Main Street Center
9992 Main Street, Fairfax 22030
Contact: Tin, 703-207-4669

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

Reston Art Gallery at Heron House
Lake Anne Village Center,
Reston 20190
Contact: Lucy, 703-757-5893

Thursday, February 11

9:15 a.m. Fairfax City Day (FXD)

11110 Del Rio Dr.
Fairfax
Contact: Dottie, 703-591-9035

9:00 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

21045 Cardinal Pond Terr. #119
Ashburn 20147
Contact: Carolyn, 703-729-1133

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

Packard Center (Lg. Conf. Rm)
4026 Hummer Rd
Annandale 22003
Contact: Nancy, 703-256-6570
or Peg, 703-256-9420

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

Paul Spring Retirement Community
Mt Vernon Room
7116 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria 22307
Contact: Kay, 703-765-7104

March Meetings:

Topic: Elementary School Bell Schedules



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
4026 Hummer Road, Suite #214 Annandale, VA 22003-2403
703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER ©
February 2010**

**Jane E. George, President
Ron Page, Editor
Liz Brooke, Coordinator**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a member.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues year ends June 30, 2010.)

Membership Category: Individual \$65 ____; Household (2 persons–1 *VOTER*) \$90 ____; Donation \$ ____
Student \$32.50 ____; (Coll. Attending ____)

Membership is: New ____; Renewal ____; Reinstate ____; Subsidy Requested ____

We value membership. A subsidy fund is available, check block above and include whatever you can afford.

Dues are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check payable to LWVFA Ed. Fund.

Please Print Clearly!

Name _____ **Unit** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip + 4** _____

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

Thank you for checking off your interests:

<input type="checkbox"/> County Govt	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting Procedures	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<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	

Mail to: LWVFA, 4026 Hummer Road, Suite 214, Annandale, VA 22003