



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

Fairfax VOTER

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Program Planning for LWV-VA & LWVNCA 2013-2015

Your Chance to Choose League Program

It is that time of year again -- program planning! Think about the LWV program on the State and regional levels. Do our long-standing positions still have relevance? Can they be more effective if reworded or re-studied? Are there issues that need the League's voice; and if so, should we embark on a new study?

The LWV derives its strength from being embedded in and reflective of member interest. So tend to your "grassroots," weigh in on our programs for the next two years and send a message to your State and regional Leagues. Attend the General Meeting on January 26 and make your views known. (Registration form is on Page 7.) In addition to our program planning discussions, we're going to show the documentary *Patriocracy*, which examines the current political divide and its causes.

Calendar

January 2013

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 4 | LWVNCA Board meeting |
| 7 | VOTER deadline |
| 9 | General Assembly convenes
(short 45-day session) |
| 16 | Women's Round Table in Richmond |
| 16 | LWVFA Board meeting |
| 21 | FCPS holiday |
| 21 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| 23 | Women's Round Table in Richmond |
| 26 | LWVFA General Meeting |
| 28-29 | FCPS holidays |
| 30 | Women's Round Table in Richmond |

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Presidents' Message



How many of you have seen the movie *Lincoln*? It's a fascinating account of wheeling, dealing and compromise by legislators who had honest disagreements about slavery and the appropriate status of African Americans in post-Civil War America. During a series of spirited debates, these politicians shouted and hurled insults at one another. But in the end, they managed to find enough common ground to pass the 13th Amendment and end slavery in the United States.

Some political commentators claim that polarization today is the worst it has been since the Civil War. That's why we decided to do something different for this year's General Meeting on January 26th. In addition to our program planning discussions, we're going to show the documentary *Patriocracy*, which examines the current political divide and its causes.

Filmjournal.com describes the movie as "a scrappy but thoughtful essay of a film." It asserts that the "name-calling and propagandizing that passes for political discourse" is not the fault of any one party or interest group. There's plenty of blame to go around.

The pundits predict that the current debate over deficit reduction will last almost the entire year. We can just imagine the shouting and fist-pounding that accompany these negotiations. Can our current Senators and Representatives craft a deal to get the job done? We'll have to wait and see.

While we wait for the outcome of this political drama, we can enjoy watching *Patriocracy* and discussing it afterwards. If you have friends who would be interested in seeing this film, please invite them to watch it with us and join in the conversation.

And despite the political wrangling, we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2013.

Julie and Helen

PS Don't forget there are no unit meetings this month and remember to sign up for the General Meeting on January 26. (See page 7.)

In Memoriam . . .

Former LWVFA President Dies

Carroll Karr, president of the League in 1966, died in San Francisco in October. She lived in Fairfax from 1961 to 2009 and was a coordinator in the office of the Fairfax County executive for more than 15 years. She helped coordinate the county's support and funding of the proposed Metro system.

Welcome New Members

By Mia Merin, Membership Director

The Fairfax League is delighted to welcome new members who joined us September through November: **Jalmeen Soni, Patricia Nelson-Douvelis, and George Douvelis, Shelia Kirlin, Ann C. Reynolds and Adarsh Trehan**, all of McLean; **Barbara Nekoba, Ann Parham and Sandra Sterne**, Mt. Vernon Day; **Mary Garner**, Greenspring, and **Ashlie Strackbein and Geraldine Scheler**, Reston Evening.

We're also happy to have the following new members who have not yet affiliated with a unit: **Kay Packard, Cynthia Gindlesperger, Diane Lowenthal, Anne Holic, Robin Milburn and Ronna Pazdral**. Our apologies to any new folks we have failed to list.

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2012 - 2013

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or call 703-658-9150

November Study Follow-up Report . . .

Members Provide Feedback on Online Teaching and Learning Informational Meetings

By Virginia Fitz Shea, Schools Chair

On November 8 the Fairfax County School Board agreed to schedule a work session to discuss problems with the online math textbooks that were introduced in September. Speaking at the Forum on Board Topics, Superintendent Jack Dale suggested that administrators should not wait for the work session to try to implement some solutions. School Board members agreed that solutions should be implemented as soon as possible. “We were clearly too aggressive here on this one,” Dr. Dale said. “In addition to the time-sensitive issue of the math textbooks, we need a broader discussion of online textbooks.”

This type of broader discussion of online textbooks was featured at the November unit meetings of the LWVFA. Each unit reported comments and suggestions. Several noted the advantages of online texts for language instruction, since students can hear the proper pronunciation. Concerns were expressed about the difficulty of printing pages from the online textbooks. A disadvantage of the format is that it requires an Internet connection. Members suggested expanding WiFi access at various locations throughout the county, providing online access on school buses, especially activity buses, so students can do homework going to and from school, or using textbooks that are downloadable and usable in non-WiFi locations. Books should also work on various platforms, including Apple products, which do not use Adobe Flash.

FCPS 24-7 Learning, a.k.a. “Blackboard,” gives each student, teacher, and parent his or her own account with a required username and password to access the online resources. Now students aren’t so likely to lose papers or assignments. But some families are not as computer literate and don’t have easy access to the Internet. Libraries have limited hours. Several units advocated increased funding to public schools and libraries so they can accommodate the needs of students and offer longer hours. Also, libraries and schools need more textbooks for the kids to access.

Since some families don’t have computers or Internet access at home, parents have difficulty being fully updated on their children’s progress and the children are at a disadvantage compared with their classmates. This is a budget issue, an equity issue, and a major concern. All students must have a computer—they should be provided by the county if necessary. Perhaps the Chamber of Commerce should

provide new or used laptops to students who need them. Another option would be for schools to have netbooks available for students to check out.

Virtual courses are already offered that are identical in content to those offered in traditional classrooms. There is concern that such courses will lessen the role of the teacher and make it harder for the teacher to influence students. Teachers can help to instill a love of learning in students; will they be able to do this in a virtual classroom? Virtual courses as well as new online textbooks can create additional workload for teachers. There is a concern about insufficient planning and teacher training. On the other hand, there is also some concern that this is a ploy to reduce the number of teachers in the long run.

There might be limited social interaction among students, if all class work is on the computers. Could there be growing isolation with people interacting only through electronic devices? What about the health implication of more time in front of a computer screen? Students need discipline and motivation to successfully complete a virtual course. Is this realistic for most students?

None of the units thought FCPS should use online texts for most courses. Greenspring, Reston Evening, Springfield, and Centreville/Chantilly said online texts should be used for some additional courses. The McLean unit stated that this is a transition phase and that FCPS needs quality teachers, more planning and teacher training. Mt. Vernon Day unit said, “Some or no additional courses. Strongly believe that FCPS should evaluate the courses and textbooks more thoroughly before investing any more money, and only implement in subjects where the online textbook really adds value over the paper version.”

“We do not want online teaching and texts to replace teachers,” Fairfax Station said. “Interaction with students is crucial.”

***General Meeting -
January 26
Registration form on page 7.***

Changes Discussed on Enrollment at Thomas Jefferson High School

By Leslie Vandivere, LWVFA Representative

The primary topic at the November 27 meeting of the **Superintendent's Business and Community Advisory Council** was Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, with presentations from Principal Evan Glazer and Assistant Superintendent, Professional Learning and Accountability, Terri Breedon. TJHSST is a regional Governor's School established in 1985 as the result of a partnership between FCPS and businesses. The school serves Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties. Until recently, when additional Governor's Schools were established, the school also served Fauquier County. An extension renovation project will begin at TJHSST next spring. Principal Glazer's and Dr. Breedon's presentations are posted at <http://www.fcps.edu/supt/bcac/>.

The following information was in response to questions from the council:

- 3,000 students applied for 480 slots at TJHSST.
- A new online application process resulted in savings of about \$40,000.
- Information about the Jefferson Collaborative Inquiry & Research Network (JCIRN), an electronic platform to support collaboration efforts related to research and outreach, is posted at <http://tjpartnershipfund.org/tj-2-0/jcirn/>.
- The demographic mix is Asian and Caucasian with few Hispanics and African-Americans and about 55 percent male and 45 percent female.
- Last year there was a spike in students who were not doing as well as others (B- or less) and an effort is underway to identify the reasons and address the problem instructionally.

Dr. Dale reported that the fiscal forecast update from the county was up slightly. FCPS is reinventing and replanning their mix of online and print textbooks with good cooperation from the publishers. Dr. Dale distributed a proposed expansion plan that will redistribute elementary school kids to their home territories by locating one advanced academic center in each pyramid. Community information meetings will be held and information is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/centers/reorg/index.shtml>. Because of current renovations, some of the centers won't be ready until 2014.

Tysons Corner Urbanization Plan Continues

By Liz Brooke, Tysons Study Committee

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a second major redevelopment project for Tysons on November 20. Arbor Row, planned by Cityline Partners, will comprise about 2.6 million new square feet of mixed-use development on 19.4 acres on the south side of Westpark Drive near Tysons Galleria. Nearly half the site will be high-rise residential, and about 43 percent will be in four office towers. The remainder will include a 250-room hotel and retail space. The developer will dedicate 7.9 acres along Jones Branch Drive for two lighted, synthetic-turf athletic fields, a stream-valley park and a future elementary school.

Arbor Row will be within walking distance from the future Tysons Corner Metro station. Additionally, the plan incorporates green buildings, at least one electric vehicle charging station, energy/water conservation, workforce housing, and bicycle facilities. It is one of 18 redevelopment applications the BOS has received since putting in place its plan to transform Tysons to an urban center. The County expects that by 2050, Tysons will be home to up to 100,000 residents and 200,000 jobs.

Why Your Absentee Ballot Was Not Counted

Newsletter editor Ron Page worked for many hours at the Government Center processing absentee ballots during the November election. He has listed for your information the 8 reasons he noticed that required an absentee ballot not to be counted.

1. Voter fails to enter their HOME voter address of record on the "B" envelope.
2. Voter fails to have a witness sign to verify their signature.
3. Date of the signing is omitted.
4. Full name with a minimum of voter's middle initial is not displayed.
5. First-time voter forgot to enclose a picture ID.
6. Person assisting a voter fails to correctly complete blue sheet.
7. Ballot is not sealed in B envelope or not signed.
8. Ballot is not signed.

Following the enclosed instructions exactly as they are written will ensure your vote counts!

What Should the Program Be for LWV-VA and LWNCA from 2013 to 2015?

Compiled by Therese Martin, Lois Page, Ron Page, Karole McKalip, and Judy Helein

A brief review of League “program planning:”

For the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA), it is important to note that the “program” we are speaking about refers to those issues that the League will study with the intent of arriving at a new or revised support position, not the purely informational meetings that LWVFA has most months of the year. League Program at all levels also includes the support positions on which the members believe the League should take action.

The League of Women Voters can only determine its support positions if the membership has agreed with them, most often by a process of consensus or concurrence on the issue. Consensus is agreement among a substantial number of League members, representative of the group as a whole—not just a simple majority—reached after sustained study and group discussion. Concurrence is agreement by members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members (i.e., a committee or a board) or by another League. Concurrence is like a vote for or against the statement as proposed, although LWVFA has used something of a “consensus on a proposed concurrence statement” in the past. That is, we have given members the opportunity to propose changes to updated position statements that have been proposed by committees.

The first step in program planning involves members selecting a program issue that they believe warrants League study (or update) and action. Once a program issue is approved, a “study” is generally written and presented for discussion, during which League members are expected to examine all sides of the issue. (In the digital age and with the cost and space limits of League hard copy materials, LWV studies are more often limited to issue papers and Internet searches and site references.) If there is substantial agreement on the issue among the members, with only *minor* disagreement, the respective League Board will consider a consensus or concurrence to have been reached and will create a statement on the issue which becomes the “position” on which to advocate (take “action”).

Ideas for new programs originate at the local League level (hence, “grassroots”), where members are encouraged to think about a wide range of choices depending on the current issues in their community or governmental level that is the focus of attention during the process. In LWVFA, program planning has generally been done every year in the month of December (state and regional program planning in December of even-numbered years; local and national in December of odd-numbered years). This reflected due dates established by other League levels and calendars.

The following criteria are used when proposing a program item:

- Can the issue be resolved by government action?

- At what level (local, regional, state or national)?
- Does the League have a position at any level that could address the specific issue?
- Can the League’s involvement make a difference?
- Is there enough enthusiasm for the topic?
- Do we have the resources (people, time and money) to work on this?

Using reports or suggestions from all participating units and members, the ideas are reviewed and discussed by the LWVFA board, which then submits a recommended program (based upon the guidelines required by the respective Leagues) to the Leagues involved. Collecting the suggestions from all Leagues, the LWV-VA and LWNCA boards will then propose a recommended program to be acted upon by the delegates at their respective conventions in 2013.

LWVFA “Program Planning” this year:

LWVFA members, using the material in this document and on the web sites at the links provided below, should familiarize themselves with League positions and decide individually how they would complete the program planning reports. They should then bring this material and their suggestions to the general meeting on January 26, 2013. There will be a program planning discussion covering both League levels before the “*Patriocracy*” movie and lunch. Members wishing to suggest new studies or restudies -- or other changes -- will have the opportunity to make their

case to the other members in attendance. Extra copies of forms will be available at the meeting for those who wish to change their recommendations. Members not able to attend the general meeting are asked to **send in their forms**, either by mail to Charlene Deasy, 11908 Paradise Lane, Oak Hill 20171 or by email charleen.deasy@verizon.net. This procedure will provide all League members the opportunity to make their suggestions and will also respond to complaints that there was no opportunity for an exchange of information among units in previous years.

Completion of the reports requires members to question if an issue needs to be updated or revisited. It is also your chance to suggest new areas that the League can examine, study, and discuss, with the intention of reaching agreement on support positions. Included in this material are the condensed positions of the LWNCA and a list of the issue areas for LWV-VA. The links for the complete positions and positions in brief for the LWV-VA are: http://www.lwv-va.org/lwvva2_positions.html and for the LWNCA are: <http://www.lwnca.org/Positions.html>.

Reviewing the positions already in place may help you when considering whether to propose a new topic for study (that is not already covered by the current positions) or whether an update of an existing position is needed. You should then consider one of the criteria on page EF-1 for proposing something new.

League of Women Voters of VIRGINIA (LWV-VA)

A Condensed Listing of LWV-VA Positions

[Ed Note: For Full positions, see Positioned For Action, on the website: www.LWV-VA.org]

GOVERNMENT

Delegation of Power (1972, 1991)

Support for a balanced partnership between state and local government.

Election Laws (2011)

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations and administrative procedures should be uniformly designed

and applied, and adequately funded to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia.

Fiscal Policy (1964, 1977, 1979)

Support for a responsible state fiscal policy.

Reapportionment & Redistricting (1985, 2007)

Support for the establishment, in law, of a politically balanced and independent Reapportionment Commission for each decennial redistricting to prepare, with the Virginia Department of Legislative Services, a plan for submission to the legislature as specified by the Virginia Constitution. The Commission should be bi-partisan and be composed of individuals who are not elected officials; they should represent the geographical distribution and demographic diversity of the state, and consist of an uneven number of members.

Transportation (1996)

Support for regionally balanced transportation systems which efficiently and economically meet regional needs without adversely affecting planned growth or the environment.

Women's Rights And Virginia Law (1980, 1983)

Support for the legal recognition of marriage as an equal partnership.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Air Quality (1989)

Support for achieving and maintaining acceptable air quality.

Land Use (1975)

Support for state policies that allow creation of a state long-range comprehensive land use plan, protection of critical environmental areas and flexibility for localities in land use planning and control.

Water Supply And Distribution (1983)

Support for a comprehensive state effort to protect the water supplies.

SOCIAL POLICY

Adult Domestic Violence (1992)

Support for addressing the crime of adult domestic violence.

Child Care (1988)

Support for state policies that promote quality child care

that is affordable, accessible, and available.

Children At Risk (1989)

Support for state and local policies that recognize the basic needs of all children including shelter, family and community support, health care, food, education, and personal safety.

EDUCATION

Part I Funding (1991, 1993)

Support for state funding for public schools that insures a high quality education with equal educational opportunities for all children.

Part II Quality Education (1997, 1999, 2003)

A challenging curriculum, high expectations of students and teachers in mastering that curriculum, and appropriate assessments of student achievement.

JUSTICE (1970)

Support for a judicial system that serves all people without discrimination.

Juvenile/Adult Restorative Justice (2005)

Support for the values and principles of restorative justice for juveniles and adults; support for development locally and at the state level of activities, programming and training consistent with these values and principles in responding to crime. This option should be offered at the earliest possible time in the process, with juveniles being given preference if funds are limited.

Juvenile Justice (1974, 1978, 1997)

Support for a juvenile justice system, funded by both the state and local governments, that emphasizes prevention and rehabilitation.

Civil Rights Of Felons In Virginia (2009)

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the civil rights of felons, regardless of the nature of their crime, should be restored automatically upon their release from incarceration or upon completion of probation or parole and that the process should be easy to understand, accessible, transparent and fair with information about the process made available to all.

MENTAL HEALTH (1987, 1988, 1989)

Support for a comprehensive state public mental health care system of quality, statewide and community based services

that meets the mental health needs of all Virginians.

Revised September 2011

Purpose & Principles

The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Virginia is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. While the League acts on selected governmental issues, based on positions reached after study and member agreement, it is strictly nonpartisan -- it neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates for public office.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that government policy, programs and performances must meet these criteria:

- competent personnel with clear responsibilities
- coordination among agencies and levels of government
- adequate financing
- effective enforcement
- well-defined channels for citizen input and review

[Ed. Note: The reporting form is found on page EF-7.]

LWVNCA Program Planning This Year:

The following information has come us from Elinor Hart, President, LWVNCA.

Dear Local Leagues:

The purpose of this communication is twofold: 1) the LWVNCA Board needs information from local Leagues regarding local studies or programs that you plan to undertake in 2013; and 2) your ideas regarding possible LWVNCA regional studies and education programs.

Since the LWVNCA's formation in 1963, local Leagues from Maryland, the District and Virginia have worked together to develop positions and educational programs and positions that are regional or interjurisdictional in nature. In recent years, it has become difficult to recruit volunteers to lead and develop studies. Recently, LWVNCA chose to sponsor an education program related to the LWVUS position adopted

in June 2012 on Mandatory Sentencing. Nonetheless, in an effort to rejuvenate our study efforts, the LWNCA program submits the following ideas for your consideration and discussion at your annual program planning meetings. If your members have suggestions for other possible regional studies, please advise the LWNCA Board; we are eager to facilitate regional study topics for which there is member interest and willing volunteers. If your members express interest in a particular study topic, be sure to ask them whether they will work on the study or topic.

Possible 2013 Regional Studies:

➤ Reducing the Carbon Footprint of the Maryland, District & Virginia area:

- The District is considered a leader in green buildings
- Develop a position that encourages an expansion of “reduce, reuse & recycle” and other green policies for businesses, government agencies and citizens

➤ Good governance, structure and controls for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

- In light of current disclosures regarding an FBI investigation (*Washington Post* October 25, 2012) and a Federal audit report (*Washington Post* November 2, 2012) of MWAA’s governance, contracting and hiring policies, develop a position on MWAA good governance, corporate responsibility and use of tax payer funds and other issues deemed appropriate
- LWNCA’s current position (<http://www.lwvnca.org/Positions.html>) on the 3 major Metro Washington airports is focused on infrastructure, capacity, land-use and zoning.

➤ Reciprocal nonresident Income Tax (Commuter Tax)

- Since 2009 New York state has imposed a “Metropolitan Commuter Transportation Mobility Tax” on non-New York State residents; as of October 2012, Philadelphia is imposing a “wage tax” on residents and non-residents that work in the city.
- The District of Columbia Home Rule Act bars Washington, DC from enacting a commuter tax.

- Evaluate the value of a reciprocal “commuter tax” among the District, Maryland & Virginia and determine a position for LWNCA.

➤ Study of the decriminalization of drug possession:

- The majority of people incarcerated in the United States are serving time for drug possession. Their incarceration is very costly in terms of public dollars and ruined lives. twenty seven states have eliminated criminal penalties for marijuana use.
- Colorado and Washington State recently passed ballot initiatives legalizing the recreational use of marijuana.

Review & Update of Current LWNCA Positions

Some of the LWNCA’s current positions may need updating. LWNCA would like to establish a group of volunteers to review the positions and note if any updates, tweaking, clarification or even “re-study” of the positions would be beneficial and appropriate.

Educational Programs

The LWNCA Program Committee solicits input from local Leagues regarding subjects for educational programs that would benefit our members, expand participation and enhance understanding among the LWNCA member League. An example of this is the LWNCA-sponsored program: “Reconciling Punishment & Justice: Mandatory Sentences, Alternatives to Incarceration & Related Issues,” which will be held at the Martin Luther King Library Room A-5, 901 G Street NW – Gallery Place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 17, 2012.

One topic suggested by the LWNCA Board is a panel discussion of the effect of new voter ID laws on the 2012 election. Please indicate if you and your members would be interested in such an educational program.

If there is sufficient need and interest, the LWNCA Program Committee would be willing to organize a “training session” on how to conduct a study or position development. Please indicate if you and your members would be interested in participating in such an educational program.

Local League Studies

The LWNCA would like to collect information regarding any current local League studies underway or planned for 2013. This information could be a resource for other LWNCA member Leagues and could lead to the

identification of new ideas for appropriate regional studies and positions.

Please send in your responses to these questions as soon as possible after your annual program planning meetings. Your help will facilitate the next steps for the LWNCA Program Committee.

LWNCA Positions in Brief 2012

(Editors note: the following positions have been condensed by LWFVA editors because of space limitations. The full text of these positions can be found on the NCA website—www.lwnca.org)

AIRPORTS

LWNCA supports:

1. Balanced use of the three major metropolitan Washington airports [Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI), Washington Dulles International (IAD), and Ronald Reagan Washington National (DCA)] based on overall airport infrastructure and capacity, to include good ground transportation
2. Limits on the use of DCA, especially in regards to density, perimeter rules and aircraft type.
3. Planning by local jurisdictions for developments around airports.

BELTWAY SAFETY

LWNCA supports measures for Beltway and feeder roads that

1. Control speeding
2. Increase truck safety
3. Limit weight and length limitations for commercial vehicles
4. Coordinate inspection and enforcement activities among federal state and local governments.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING

LWNCA supports:

1. Governmental regulations of health planning
2. Regional coordination among health systems
3. Regional implementation of health education and information services to the public
4. The concept of 24-hour clinics & the use of paraprofessionals
5. Improved care for the elderly and emphasis on community support as an alternative to long-term institutional nursing care

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

LWNCA supports:

1. The use of marijuana and heroin for medicinal purposes
2. Testing for illegal drug use as part of the hiring process for jobs affecting public safety and national security
3. A fair process for employees who test positive
4. Measures for solving the drug problem to include interdiction, enforcement, education/prevention, and treatment.
5. Public funding for drug treatment programs in all metropolitan areas with priority for those under 18 and pregnant women.
6. Drug treatment for users convicted of crimes, to include outreach nurses and counselors for pregnant drug users.
9. Financial responsibility for drug treatment to include: insurance, patients, patients' families, governments (federal, state, and local), employers, and labor unions.
10. Long range planning through COG to explore area treatment and funding needs

D.C. FINANCING

LWNCA supports:

1. Budget autonomy for the District of Columbia over locally raised funds.
2. Measures to provide a stronger and more predictable revenue base

LAND USE/HOUSING

LWNCA supports: A coordinated and comprehensive approach to make available adequate, balanced and quality housing.

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

LWNCA supports:

- The Council of Governments (COG) as the basic cooperative regional planning instrument
1. Sufficient authority, funding powers, and provision for citizen participation in for COG

TRANSPORTATION

LWNCA supports:

1. Public transportation that is available to all, that is encouraged, convenient, involves citizen participation, and has dedicated tax revenues.
2. Education programs that convey the advantages of public transportation
3. Reduction of subsidies for automobile use.
4. Regional planning for a broad range of transportation issues.

WATER RESOURCES

LWVNCA supports:

1. Conservation and protection of drinking water and supply sources
2. Programs to reduce per capita water use
3. Regional planning for emergency restrictions on water use, for recycling water and for water sharing.
4. Protection of ground water
5. Measures to identify additional water sources but only after other options have been exhausted
6. Regional planning to improve waste water treatment

[Ed. Note: The reporting form is found on page EF-8.]

Hearing Planned on State of Fairfax County's Environmental Quality

The Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) will be holding its annual public hearing on Monday, January 7, 2013. The hearing will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center, with a remote testimony opportunity at the South County Center.

EQAC is appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to advise on environmental matters. The public is encouraged to attend EQAC's public hearing to share views on the state of the environment and to identify environmental issues applicable to Fairfax County. Environmental issues considered by EQAC include water quality, air quality, noise, hazardous materials, solid waste, stream valley protection, wildlife management, light pollution, visual pollution, energy, climate change response and adaptation, land use, transportation and the use and preservation of ecological resources. EQAC welcomes written and/or verbal testimony.

EQAC's Annual Report on the Environment was presented to the Board of Supervisors in November. The report is available on EQAC's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report2012/>, and general information about the council is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/>. Please note that, while the public hearing is being held shortly after the completion of the Annual Report, the public hearing is not intended to focus on this report but is instead intended to hear your views and concerns regarding any environmental issues of interest to you.

Those who have questions may call Noel Kaplan, Senior Environmental Planner, at (703-324-1369).

News & Notes from LWVNCA

By Olga Hernandez, LWVNCA Secretary

In the past, LWVNCA provided short reports after Board meetings about the upcoming issues that LWVNCA is working on. The current Board has decided to reinstitute these short articles.

- In fall 2012, the regional League launched a new website. Local Leagues are invited to submit events so they can be posted to the calendar section of the site www.LWVNCA.org.
- Currently, the LWVNCA is asking all member Leagues to provide feedback regarding what programs and issues they want to see LWVNCA deal with. Various issues have been proposed, which you will hear about during your League's program planning meeting. Remember that LWVNCA deals with regional cross-jurisdiction issues. You can find the list at www.lwvnca.org/Positions.html.
- Biennially, LWVNCA awards a local League The Madeline Naumann award for an outstanding project. More information can be found on the LWVNCA website <http://www.lwvnca.org/NaumannAward.html>. Local Leagues are encouraged to submit their project by March 7. Information will be sent to the local presidents early in the year by committee chair Barbara Ewalt.

Tell President Obama to Lead the Climate Change Fight

"Climate change is not a hoax. More drought and floods and hurricanes and wildfires are not a joke. They're a threat to our children's future. And we can do something about it."

These are the words of President Obama during the 2012 campaign, and we couldn't agree more. People are dying because of climate change. Our families, our communities and our planet are all threatened by it.

Join the League by calling on the President to take the historically necessary step of controlling industrial carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. The President can use his existing regulatory authority to make this happen.

REPORT FOR JANUARY PROGRAM PLANNING: LWV-VA for 2013 to 2015:

Number of people responding: _____ / At general meeting ____ / On your own ____
Recorder _____

[Ed. Note: send completed forms, either by mail to Charlene Deasy, 11908 Paradise Lane, Oak Hill 20171 or by email charleen.deasy@verizon.net]

NEW STUDY (No current position):

1. I/we recommend that the following (one) **new** issue or item (not covered by a current position) undergo new study, with the intention of reaching agreement on a LWV support position:

Please include a brief description of its scope and names of persons who will work on the committee.

CURRENT POSITIONS:

1. I/we recommend that the following **current** position be updated by undergoing a major expansion or restudy:*
2. I/we recommend the following current positions be updated by undergoing a minor expansion **or** the elimination of one or more parts of it (name the specific new issues to be either added or eliminated): *
3. I/we recommend that the following current position(s) be **retained** with either no change or with only minor editing (You may write "all **except** for *those named to be dropped or restudied*.)
4. I/we recommend that the following current position(s) be dropped:

***FOR UPDATES AND RESTUDIES:** Please include a brief description of its scope and names of persons who will work on the study committee/.

OTHER COMMENTS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:

REPORT FOR JANUARY PROGRAM PLANNING: LWVNCA

Number of people responding: _____ / At general meeting ___ / On your own _____

[Ed. Note: send completed forms, either by mail to Charlene Deasy, 11908 Paradise Lane, Oak Hill 20171 or by email charleen.deasy@verizon.net]

NEW STUDIES or informational meetings (details on previous pages)

Which of the following proposed regional studies for 2013 do you think would best fit the criteria for studies described earlier? Indicate your first choice and try to stick with one

- _____ Reducing the Carbon Footprint of the Maryland, District, and Virginia areas
- _____ Good governance, structure and controls for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
- _____ Reciprocal nonresident Income Tax (Commuter Tax)
- _____ Study of the decriminalization of drug possession
- _____ Other (either study or informational meeting)

Names and contact information of people willing to work on the study:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

CURRENT POSITIONS (See description on previous pages)

1. I/we recommend that the following **current** position be updated by undergoing a major expansion or restudy:*
2. I/we recommend the following current positions be updated by undergoing a minor expansion **or** the elimination of one or more parts of it (name the specific new issues to be either added or eliminated): *
3. I/we recommend that the following current position(s) be **retained** with either no change or with only minor editing (You may write "all **except** for *those named to be dropped or restudied.*")
4. I/we recommend that the following current position(s) be dropped:

***FOR UPDATES AND RESTUDIES:** Please include a brief description of its scope and names of persons who will work on the study committee.

OTHER COMMENTS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:

Pre-session Women's Roundtable Focused on Medicare and Medicaid

By Rona Ackerman, Executive Director

The pre-session Women's Roundtable was attended by Fairfax members Dianne Blais, Therese Martin, Rona Ackerman, Julie Jones, and Mia Merin. Several speakers discussed expectations for the upcoming legislative session, but the question of whether Virginia should adopt the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid Expansion took a leading role and was addressed at length by Jill Hanken of the Virginia Poverty Law Center, Michael Cassidy of the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis and David DeBiasi of AARP.

If Virginia expands its Medicaid program, over 400,000 uninsured Virginians could get health coverage. Most of these people, who are the working poor in industries like tourism and construction, will be unable to afford coverage through the ACA healthcare exchanges. Every state has discretion on who gets Medicaid and determines eligibility, coverage and provider payments. Virginia is currently 48th in per capita Medicaid spending and only covers parents' eligibility if they are under 30 percent of the poverty line (less than \$10,000 for a family of four) and doesn't cover childless adults at all unless they are disabled. The ACA establishes a national eligibility level for Medicaid at 138 percent of the poverty level. If Virginia does not expand Medicaid, coverage for those between 30 percent and 138 percent of the poverty level will be extremely limited.

The cost of the expansion to Virginia would be minimal. The ACA provides 100 percent federal funding for Medicaid expansion for the first three years, reducing to 90 percent federal funding over time. It is estimated that over a 10 year period, Virginia would receive \$29 billion in federal funding while having expenses of \$1 - 2 billion, and that 30,000 jobs will be created, plus their associated income and sales tax revenue increases. Virginia would also save on the health services it already provides the uninsured including \$1 billion over 10 years of uncompensated care payments to U.Va. and VCU health systems; services provided by the Community Services Board which will now be covered by Medicaid; vaccinations, free clinics, etc.

Medicaid can be expanded through the budget, so no bill is needed in the General Assembly, **but** bills can be passed to prevent Medicaid expansion. Before the Supreme Court ruled that ACA could not require states to expand Medicaid, over \$40 million was put into Virginia's budget to provide for expansion, so the funds are already in place. Will the

governor include them in his next budget? Will Medicaid need some reform to make it more politically palatable for the General Assembly? While there is no deadline for Medicaid expansion, the biggest bang for the buck would be to start in 2014, 2015 and 2016 when there will be 100 percent reimbursement from the feds. When people are newly insured, they may have medical procedures done that they have been putting off, so if Virginia expands soon, this flood would be 100 percent covered. It was also noted that if Virginia doesn't expand Medicaid, our federal tax bills will be subsidizing those states that have chosen to expand.

Two other subjects received particular interest by those in attendance. Ric Brown, Secretary of Finance, stated that sequestration could have three effects on Virginia. First is the possibility of a nationwide recession. The second concerns the flow of federal money to the states, but Virginia is not a big consumer of federal grants (49th). The third and major issue is the effect on local economy because Virginia is second in defense procurement and fifth in wages, salaries, etc. Virginia has put \$30 million into an emergency fund with \$20 million more possible to be used to offset federal issues. There is also a revenue stabilization fund for a shortfall of greater than 2 percent for an enacted budget.

He noted that localities may be more affected by sequestration than the state because of programs like Headstart and Section 8 housing, and that Virginia may provide additional aid to localities, which it doesn't normally do. Transportation will be the other big issue this session. He discussed transportation crossover-- taking money out of the construction pot and putting it into maintenance pot. The General Assembly needs to act or there will be no money for construction, since it will all be needed for maintenance.

Andy Goddard, from the VA Center for Public Safety, stated that 830 Virginians had been killed by guns in the past year and that we have more gun deaths than traffic deaths in Virginia. Last session, the General Assembly eliminated the one handgun a month restriction which we had for 20 years. Bills of concern carried over from last year are: to allow guns on campus; to stop background checks on long guns; to allow guns in airports; to allow universal reciprocity for concealed handguns permits from other states. The VA Center for Public Safety is pushing for universal background checks, including guns sold in private sales.

Domestic Violence: Increasing Our Awareness and Understanding

DID YOU KNOW?

[Ed. Note: These represent only a few of the many facts about domestic violence, faced by many people every day.]

DID YOU KNOW?

- Did you know that 1 in 4 children (26 percent) are exposed to at least one form of family violence during their lifetimes? According to the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (Finkelhor, Turner, Ormrod, Hamby, & Kracke, 2009), *in one year*
- More than 60 percent of children surveyed were exposed to crime, abuse, and violence within the past year, either directly or indirectly. Almost half were assaulted at least once in the past year, and more than 1 in 10 were injured as a result.
- One in 10 respondents were victims of child maltreatment (including physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and family abduction), and 1 in 16 were victimized sexually.
- More than 1 in 9 (11 percent) of children surveyed were exposed to some form of family violence in the past year, including 1 in 15 (6.6 percent) who were exposed to intimate partner violence between parents (or between a parent and the parent's partner).

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Understand our legal responsibilities regarding mandated reporting of child abuse and neglect.

Many children experiencing crises or violence are also at risk for child abuse and neglect. Fairfax County's Child Protective Services is a child welfare system that receives and responds to reports of child abuse and neglect, offers services to families, provides foster homes for children who must be removed from their parents' care, and works to find permanent placements for children who cannot safely return home. For more information: Hotline: 703-324-7400.

Domestic violence does not necessarily equate to child abuse and neglect. When responding to families affected by domestic violence, it is critically important for practitioners to consider simultaneously the safety of the child and the safety of any adult victim.

Fairfax County has created a network of staff and citizens to help stop domestic violence. This information was supplied by the Domestic Violence Network. If you would like to get involved, please call me, Barbara Nunes, at 703-451-7238.

Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-7273

Email Address Change and Thanks From Marilyn Hedges

1513 Harrison Drive
Galesburg, IL 61401
December 1, 2012

Dear Lois, Julie, Ron, and Liz,

Thank you for acknowledging my departure from the Fairfax area in the December issue of the VOTER. The cards and letters are much appreciated! However, my new email address is incorrect – it's actually mbhedges@jh3.com. Apparently, someone was trying to read to someone else on the phone and probably said something like, "it's J-H-3 as in Joker Henry-three-com," and the person got confused.

The "J" and the "H" are my son John's initials – he runs a company called JH3 Software LLC here in Illinois. He says he's not concerned about the mistake being corrected

because "jokerhenry3.com" isn't being used by anyone else on the internet, and it's unlikely that someone would buy "jokerhenry3.com" merely in order to read messages sent to me at that address. I too have no idea why anyone would want to do that, but it might be a good idea to print a correction anyway, just in case.

Best Wishes to you all,
Marilyn Hedges

Think Green . . .

Where electricity is produced from coal, each fluorescent lightbulb used prevents 1,300 pounds (nearly 600 kilograms) of CO2 emissions and 20 pounds of sulfur dioxide from being pumped into the atmosphere. (Worldwatch Institute, 2007)



~ You are cordially invited to attend ~



The LWV of the Fairfax Area
General Meeting

Saturday, January 26, 2013

COUNTRY CLUB OF FAIRFAX
5110 Ox Road (Route 123 & Braddock Roads)
Fairfax VA 22030

9:00 a.m. – Registration & coffee

**9:30 a.m. Small Group Discussions on
Program Planning: LWV-VA and LWFNCA**

10:30 a.m. “Patriocracy”

A nonpartisan examination of Washington dysfunction

This timely film seeks to answer the questions: How bad is it in Washington? Has the political environment always been this angry, this gridlocked, this broken? What can we do about it?

12:00 – Luncheon

(Reservations required for luncheon only)

Luncheon Reservation Deadline January 13, 2013— Cost: \$35 per person

Menu: House Salad With Raspberry Vinaigrette, Chicken Capri [Chicken Breast With Basil Butter and Angel Hair Pasta], Chef's Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Dessert, Coffee Service

Program is free; Luncheon, \$35 per person.

Make checks payable to: **LWFVA** and mail with reservation form to:

2013 General Meeting, 10172 Turnberry Place, Oakton, VA 22124

Name _____ Lunch @ \$35 ea. _____

Phone Number & E-mail _____

Guest(s) Name(s) _____ Lunch @ \$35ea. _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

For special dietary needs or questions, call Mary at 703-319-2185



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

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January, 2013

Julie Jones, Co-President

Helen Kelly, Co-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.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues year is July 1 through June 30. Current dues year ends June 30, 2013.)

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) _____ **(M)** _____ **E-Mail** _____

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

Thank you for checking off 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"/> Affordable Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence

Mail to: LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403