



What Is the Future of the Fairfax County Public Library System?

A September 10 article in the Metro section of *The Washington Post* reported on the horror County Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence) felt upon finding a hundreds of books in a Dumpster, discarded from a Fairfax County library. Library Director Sam Clay defended the discards, pointing to the changes that the county’s venerable libraries must make to deal with the evolution of people’s reading habits, away from print.

Supervisor Smyth’s distress is only part of the issues swirling around proposed changes in the libraries staffing and programming. Clay points out that the library has weathered 23 percent in cuts in the past three years. As a means of dealing with these cuts, Clay has proposed reduced staffing and fewer employees with library degrees. He also has to make room for new materials and technology. Protests are being heard around the county.

The article ends by quoting Smyth, “Maybe this [people’s dismay over the tossed books] is a good thing because we finally have people’s attention to talk about the future of libraries.” Your program team is providing you with timely information to help you decide how you want your community to deal with our important resource.

Calendar

October

- 2 Dranesville Meet and Greet
- 3 Springfield Meet and Greet
- 4 Reston Community Center election
LWVNCA Board meeting
LWVNCA presidents’ lunch
- 5 Briefing and At-Large meeting
- 7 *VOTER* deadline
- 8-14 Unit meetings**
- 8 Lee District Meet and Greet
- 9 Mt Vernon Meet and Greet
- 10 Hunter Mill Meet and Greet
- 14 Columbus Day/school holiday
- 15 Providence Meet and Greet
Last day to register to vote
- 15 Woodlake Towers election
- 16 Board meeting**
- 17 Mason District Meet and Greet
- 29 Mailed absentee ballot
application deadline
- 31 Halloween

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Presidents' Message



We want to thank so many LWVFA members who worked so hard during the summer and the month of September. They provided us with interesting programs (Karole McKalip and Judy Helein) and so many opportunities to educate us and the community about the upcoming elections.

We want to thank Charleen Deasy and Diane Hardcastle (your unit coordinators) for their work on the Kickoff. They spent hours gathering the material and forms to help the units work smoothly for the coming year. We are disappointed that the dinner unit has disbanded (we hope temporarily) and welcome interest in a restart.

Thanks also go to our Voter Service Team which has been working diligently. The team members received training and assistance from Olga Hernandez and Therese Martin (a new rack card for voters!). Peggy Knight scheduled and coordinated, with various partners, our "Meet and Greet" for the Virginia House of Delegates and the Fairfax Sheriff candidates. Sidney Johnson organized registration events as part of Voter Outreach. *What's on the Ballot* was put together by Ronna Pazdral. Sheila Iskra worked to get the Fairfax candidates' biographies and question responses in the *Fairfax Times* (Look for it in a few weeks), on our website, and on www.vote411.org. This committee would love to have more members on their team. Interested?

Fall is always a busy time of the year and we hope you will include LWVFA activities in your schedule. There are so many ways to participate:

- Read the current study or information and attend a unit meeting to express your opinions.
- Volunteer to help at a community or condo election
- Attend a "Meet and Greet" near you or sign-up to help
- Register voters or pass out What's on the Ballot

- Check out our website, our Facebook page and Vote411
- Read and respond to the League Updates at all League level

Your LWVFA Board tries hard to keep you informed about current interesting topics. We appreciate all the help and comments you send our way.

Enjoy and keep active in the wonderful month of October!

Julie and Helen

Airports' Advisory Committee Needs League Representative

Is there some situation about a local airport that you would like to see improved? If so, please let me know, as that is the basic purpose of the **Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee**, on which I represent LWVFA. This committee has had excellent speakers share their expertise and will be working on the upcoming 2015 World Police and Fire Games.

I appreciate having the opportunity to represent the League on this committee and others, but if you are interested in serving, please let me know and I'd be glad to have you take over for me. Dianne Blais 703-830-1998

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2012 - 2013

This newsletter, partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area Education Fund, is published 10 times each year - from September to June by:

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Subscriptions to the *Fairfax VOTER* are available to non-Fairfax League members for \$15 per annum. Send your check to the above address and request a subscription.

Please e-mail address corrections to the office
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Absentee Ballots: Does Your Vote Get Counted?

By Ron Page, *VOTER* Editor

Every election brings joy or disappointment to most citizens who participate in their right to vote for the candidates of their choice. However, some of those filing absentee ballots have their ballot rejected simply because they failed to follow the instruction provided with their ballot.

Absentee ballots are processed at the Central Absentee Precinct (CAP) located at the County Government Center in Fairfax. Each ballot is processed by a team of three with a minimum of one Republican, one Democrat. These dedicated poll workers are guided by instructions provided by the State Board of Elections as to what is acceptable and what is not.

A small percentage of ballots are rejected after careful consideration to determine if the voter followed the correct procedures. To be rejected, all three team members must agree that procedure was not followed. Every effort is made by the team to accept the ballot. Where agreement cannot be reached, the election supervisor is called in to assist the team.

Unfortunately some ballots are rejected every election because the instructions were not followed. Don't allow your ballot to be rejected. Follow the instruction to the letter to ensure your vote is counted. To paraphrase Dave Letterman, you know your ballot may be rejected if:

10. You are a voter who requires assistance and your assistant fails to include the properly filled out blue assistance form with your ballot. You omit the B envelope.
9. Your ballot is not sealed inside the B envelope.
8. You are a college student and you print your school address instead of your legal address on the B envelope.
7. You fail to print your full address on the B envelope.
6. You have a middle name and fail to provide **at least** the first initial of that name.
5. You fail to print your full address on the B envelope.
4. You fail to print your full name on the B envelope.
3. You do not date the B envelope.
2. You do not sign the B envelope, and

The number one reason your absentee will be rejected:

1. A witness does not sign the B envelope.

[The author has volunteered for a number of years at the CAP center, processing absentee ballots.]

Community Election Tellers Desperately Needed

Community Elections help raise \$10,000 for LWVFA, funds that are vital to supporting our mission and our publications. Your help is needed to keep this major source of funds alive; please volunteer. Contact Rona Ackerman at league@lwv-fairfax.org or 703-282-2262

Reston Community Center – 6 people needed
Friday, October 4, 4:45-8 p.m. in Reston

Woodlake Towers Election – 8 people needed
Tuesday, October 15, 6-9 p.m. in Falls Church

Sequoyah Election – 8 people needed
Tuesday, November 19, 6 -9 p.m. in Mt. Vernon

Get Involved

VOTE411.ORG
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-7273

“Meet and Greet” Your Local Candidate Sessions Scheduled Around the County

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is partnering with various community organizations to sponsor a Candidates’ Meet and Greet Night in all nine magisterial districts in the county. All qualified sheriff and House of Delegates candidates have been invited to the Meet and Greet Events for the magisterial districts that they represent. These events are an opportunity for the voters to meet with their candidates and to learn the candidates’ position on various topics.

Please support this important league activity by volunteering to help at the Meet and Greet in your area AND publicizing the event. For more information, contact Peggy Knight by email: peggy.knight1@verizon.net or phone: 703-532-4417.

- **Sully District:** September 25, 7 – 9 p.m. Sully Governmental Center, Chantilly
- **Braddock District:** September 30, 7 – 9 p.m. Kings Park Library

- **Dranesville District:** October 2, 7–9 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library
- **Springfield District:** October 3, 7–9 p.m. West Springfield HS, Spartan Hall
- **Lee District:** October 8, 7–9 p.m. Franconia Governmental Center
- **Mt. Vernon District,** October 9, 7–8:45 p.m. Sherwood Hall Library
- **Hunter Mill District:** October 10, 7–9 p.m. Reston Community Center (RCC), Lake Anne Center*
- **Providence District:** October 15, 7–9 p.m. Thoreau Middle School, Vienna
- **Mason District:** October 17, 7–9 p.m. Annandale Methodist Church

* Go to RCC website for directions. MapQuest and GPS send people to Hunter Woods Site

Fairfax County Board of Elections Honored Nationally

The Fairfax County Office of Elections was recently honored by the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks (NACRC) with its annual Elections Administration Best Practices Award for the county’s 2012 Election Day Emergency Preparedness Plan. The award was presented at NACRC’s annual conference in Dallas, Texas.

According to Fairfax County General Registrar Cameron Quinn, the Election Day Emergency Preparedness Plan was created and implemented by a broad team of county agencies during the Nov. 6 presidential election. In addition to the Office of Elections, key agencies involved in the planning and support included the Office of to ensure that pre-planning and sufficient resources were in place to handle multiple potential emergency scenarios

Emergency Management, Department of Information Technology, Police Department, Sheriff’s Office, Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Facilities Management Department, Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Libraries, Office of the County Attorney and the Office of Public Affairs.

“The plan was the outcome of a lot of hard work by numerous county employees to ensure the safety of our citizens on Election Day, as well as the access and integrity of the election process in the county, if emergencies were to occur” explained Quinn. “We are delighted to be nationally recognized for a job well-done by our peers in NACRC with this Best Practices Award.”

More information about NACRC is available at www.nacrc.org.

Source: Fairfax County NewsWire, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/>

What Is the Future of the Fairfax County Public Library System?

By Leslie Vandivere, Judith Helein and Karole McKalip

Background

A public library consists of an organized collection of various information resources and is generally supported by taxes, provides services without a charge, and is open to the community. The first Fairfax County Library opened in 1939. The library system consists of eight regional libraries, 14 community libraries, plus a site located at the Fairfax County Government Center for residents with visual and physical disabilities (Access Services). The mission of the library, according to its website, “is to enrich individual and community life by providing and encouraging the use of library resources and services to meet evolving educational, recreational and informational needs of the residents of Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax.” <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2013/adopted/volume1/00152.pdf>

Governance of the system is provided by a 12-member Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees (one from each of the nine magisterial districts, one at-large, one from Fairfax City and one from the School Board). The purposes of the Board are to establish and enact policies, approve the annual budget for library services to be submitted to appropriate governing body, and to select and appoint the Director of Public Libraries. Edwin S. Clay, III is the current Director.

Adapting to a changing world of information transmission is affecting our society both privately and publicly. Newspapers, books, and periodicals are being impacted by the public’s use of online information sources. In addition, public-service budgets are facing cuts as legislators divide dwindling income from tax dollars. Libraries are not immune from these cuts. Libraries, historically a community’s information center, are confronting challenges affecting how their services are delivered. How do our libraries compete with the Internet and e-books? Shall they be transformed into technology hubs, i.e., centers for online resources, e-publications, etc.? How do libraries adjust to a changing usage by patrons?

It is not only public libraries that are changing their traditional roles as buildings of bookshelves in our communities. Schools of Library Science are preparing their graduates for a variety of emerging technologies. Public librarians are now being trained for careers in the digital information age and the new media as well as how to manage library systems that serve to improve the quality of life in the community.



Current Position

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) position on public libraries, adopted in 1984 and amended in 2006, is as follows:

Public Libraries - Support for measures to maintain a broad library collection.

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

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

The LWVFA supports:

- Selection and challenge policies and procedures that are clearly defined and communicated to the public, which

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

Part of the LWVFA's fiscal position, adopted in 1991, is applicable to public libraries:

The LWVFA believes that some kinds of services and/or benefits should be supported by general taxes, while others may be more appropriately financed by those persons using a given service or receiving a specific benefit offered by the local government.

- General taxes should support basic governmental services, such as public education, police and fire service and libraries, which should be available to all residents.

Neither the National League of Women Voters (LWVUS) nor the Virginia League of Women Voters (LWV-VA) has positions that apply to public libraries.

The LWVFA first studied the FCPL in 1984, focusing on library material selection policies and procedures. In order to update the LWVFA's position, a restudy of the library system was published in two parts, the first in 2005 and the second in 2006.

Part I looked at challenges facing FCPL, including changing demographics and increasing numbers of languages spoken in Fairfax County, as well as the need for the FCPL to become an integral part of community education. Major budgetary issues resulted in spending cuts and a search for new sources of revenue. In addition, the

Library Board identified long-term strategies that included maximizing technology; developing nonpublic sources of revenue, such as the Library Foundation; and utilizing volunteers. In addition, Part I discussed the effects of the Patriot Act on FCPL.

Part II of the study addressed electronic resources and filtering; updates on the implications of the Patriot Act; and clarification on how the library was financed. At the time, LWVFA had a unit in Prince William County; therefore, the study included information about the Prince William Public Library System.

The restudy resulted in changes that are identified as "(2006)" in the position statement. Both Part I and Part II of the study undertaken during the 2004-06 biennium are posted at <http://lwv-fairfax.org/Publications.html>.

Current Challenges to FCPL

Decreased Funding

The U.S. recession continues to affect libraries all over the country. Data from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) survey of public libraries in fiscal year 2010 documents that libraries across the country have suffered reductions in operating revenue, service hours, and staffing. At the same time, library user demand for e-books and computers, as well as for programs, has increased.

FCPL's *Strategic Plan: 2013-2015* documents the local effect of these challenges. In FY 2010, Fairfax County's \$648 million budget shortfall caused a 15 percent reduction in the library's budget. Staffing levels were reduced. Most of the library's part-time

Fairfax County Public Libraries— By the Numbers

Usage Statistics—2012

495,831 registered customers
5,246,854 visits to library branches
13,034,816 items loaned
4,162,599 visits to the library's Internet website
172,630 people attended 8,934 events

Physical Library Visits

Overall decreasing trend since 2008 with bump in 2009
2008: 5,794,036
2009: 6,128,289
2010: 5,685,827
2011: "over 5.4 million visits"

Visits to Internet Website

Overall increasing trend since 2008
2008: 16,732,257
2009: 17,483,534
2010: 22,025,596

Branch Hours Per Year

Decreasing with budget
2008: 65,174
2009: 67,473
2010: 58,119

<http://connection.media.clients.ellingtoncms.com/news/documents/2013/08/14/Springfield.pdf> pg. 3

Budgets are not the only constraint in meeting the digital challenge. The reluctance of some publishers to sell eBooks to libraries is another. The American Library Association, in an open letter from its president in September 2012, pointed out that Simon & Schuster, Macmillan, and Penguin, three of the largest publishers in the world, do not sell their eBooks to libraries, although Penguin has recently begun several small pilot programs with several library systems. The publishers seem to be stuck in a business model for the print world.

Effect of Challenges

That FCPL is just holding its own in the face of these challenges is evidenced by two rating systems, both of which use data collected by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), established in 1996 as an independent agency of the federal government. The first, Hennen's American Public Library Ratings, rates 8,000 libraries on 15 measures, focusing on circulation, staffing, reference service, materials, and funding. FCPL has scored in the top 10 libraries in its population category five times in the past 10 years. The second, the *Library Journal* Index of Public Library Service, ranks libraries by comparing their levels of service (circulation, visits per capita, programs attended, computer use per capita) with other libraries that have comparable total operating expenditures. FCPL ranked 39th of 49 libraries with expenditures in the \$30 million and up range.

Strategies to Meet the Challenges

The strategic plan recognizes that the library must evolve to meet these challenges. The plan identifies four overarching goals:

- Expand access to information, resources and services.
- Enhance Fairfax County's investment in education.
- Engage and empower our diverse communities.
- Foster a culture of innovation and creativity.

The strategic plan also discusses the direction toward which the library will transition.

(www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/strategicplan.pdf)

Meeting Public Concerns

In order to meet the ongoing realities of a diminishing budget and an altered public usage of services, the Fairfax Public

Library administration is in the process of implementing several significant changes. But various groups have demanded a greater voice in the decision-making.

Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chair, stated: "I think changes have to be made to the way libraries operate--to accommodate ways people get their information, do research and use libraries as community centers..." and any change "needs to be done with the engagement of our staff and the community." (From *Springfield Connection*, August 15-21, 2013, p.3)

Library staff, volunteers, Fairfax Library Friends are calling on the public to weigh in on the proposed changes. These various groups and individuals have asked that any changes to the library system be postponed until the larger public has had the opportunity to understand what is being considered and is allowed to have input.

To address public concerns, Clay and his staff prepared a list of "Frequently Asked Questions." What follows is a summary of the answers.

The Fairfax County Public Library plans to test a new organizational structure in the fall of 2013 to meet its strategic goals and address continuing budget cuts. The new structure will be beta-tested at Burke Centre Library and Reston Regional Library. The beta program was originally supposed to go into effect on September 1, but Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees has delayed proposed tests of the new model until at least October.

Beta testing is often used by computer companies to test new software in the field. The library is testing a new way of doing business in the two branches to see if the assumptions they have made about library usage and customer needs are accurate. The plan includes a one-desk model of customer service, with cross-trained staff answering account and information questions and increased programming conducted within the branch as well as in the community.

There are multiple factors driving these changes. The way customers use the library has been changing over time; technology is having a major impact on library customers and staff; the county is still undergoing a budget crunch and all county agencies are required to reduce their annual budgets. All branches will continue to have trained staff to assist with reference questions. All customer services staff is being cross-trained so that more staff are able to answer account and reference questions. No employees are expected to lose their jobs with the library. Reduction

of staff positions will be attained over 3-5 years through resignation or retirement. Over 30 percent of library staff are eligible for retirement through December 2015. The long-term vision is that the library will reduce the number of positions required to staff a branch during operating hours. The library system will learn more about staffing needs as the new model is tested at Burke Centre Library and Reston Regional Library. Many library transactions will not require a staff person thanks to the self checkout computers now in place and payment kiosks coming in December.

A full range of children's services will be offered at every branch. The library will continue to have staff with expertise in children's literature able to recommend books to young readers and parents looking for assistance. The library will be increasing the level of programming for children, both in the library and in the community. Additional visits to schools, to childcare centers and Head Start programs will be offered. Currently, the library has branch staff that program as part of their duties, but under the new structure the library will have full-time programming staff that plan and conduct programs in the branch and community.

The majority of staff employed by Fairfax county Public Library do not have a master's degree in library science (MLS). It is anticipated at a later date when hiring new staff, those with advanced degrees will continue to be hired but the MLS will not be required. It is anticipated that those with management, education, technology and business degrees, as well as those with a library science degree, will be hired.

Conclusion

In an article about the changes facing the Library of Congress ("**Tensions arise as world grows more digital**"), other institutions are confronting similar tensions between past and future. According to Kathryn Zickuhr, a researcher at the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, "People talk about [libraries] as sacred spaces. Libraries evoke this sense of awe, this place of stillness and quietness and reflection. So there's this central tension we're seeing between the more traditional role of libraries and newer roles libraries have taken on." (*The Washington Post*, August 30, 2013, pB2, by Adrienne LaFrance)

Changes to the library system are inevitable; however, public input is critical in how we should redefine the purposes of libraries, what should be changed and how quickly changes should occur. In the unit discussions, League members will have the opportunity to contribute their voices toward the goal of reinventing the library to the 21st century.

The authors of this article thank Julie Jones, Marion Brown, and Sharone Lathrop for their helpful edits, questions, suggestions, and overall review of the contents.

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Discussion Questions

1. What are the main issues driving the current activities to reorganize the FCPL?
2. Discuss the decision-making process/strategies followed by the Director to resolve them? Why have some elements of the public been critical of the process?

Third of Women Worldwide Abused by Partners

Around the globe, 30 percent of all women ages 15 and older have suffered intimate partner violence - including physical and sexual attacks, according to the first systematic study of available data on assaults against women, released by the World Health Organization in June.

The rates of abuse vary widely by world regions: in Sub-Saharan Central Africa, for example, two-thirds of women have been victimized, marking the highest portion on any section of the planet; in North America, violence from an intimate partner, such as a husband or boyfriend, has impacted slightly more one in five women, report the authors. For the paper, published online by the journal *Science*, the authors synthesized 141 previous studies from 81 countries.

According to the report, “a greater focus on primary prevention is urgently needed.” It also described the field of preventing violence against women as being “still in its nascence.”

Terry O’Neill, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), which bills itself as the largest organization of feminist activists in the U.S., said, “I think we know how to prevent it. I think we’ve just begun develop the political will to implement the programs that we know need to be put into place.” Those programs include, O’Neill said, services that allow survivors to become economically self-sufficient so they can live apart from their abusers, and holding intimate-violence criminals accountable.

She called the 1994 Violence Against Women Act “a pretty good role model” that began “shifting the culture and the opportunities for women so they’re not dependent on an

3. How are the libraries changing the delivery of services? What are some of the proposed solutions?
4. Should libraries be transformed into technology hubs? Can libraries compete with the Internet and e-books?
5. How do you think libraries should adjust to a changing usage by patrons?
6. How do you use the library?
7. Since this article was published, what events/decisions regarding the FCPL have occurred?
8. What do you think the League’s position should be?

individual who may turn out to be violent.” Among the features of that law, which extends coverage to male victims: tougher federal penalties for repeat sex offenders, and the creation of a federal “rape shield law,” which prevents offenders from using a victim’s past sexual conduct against the victim during a rape trial.

But such cultural reform has yet to reach every corner of the globe. According to a recent United Nations report, 125 countries have outlawed domestic violence. By that math, 70 countries have not made domestic violence illegal. In the United Arab Emirates, for example, a court ruled in 2010 that a man is permitted under Islamic law to physically discipline his wife and children as long as he leaves no marks and has tried other methods of punishment.

The rates of physical and sexual violence against women are likely higher than the new report found because female victims are often reluctant to reveal such crimes, O’Neill said.

In addition to physical and sexual attacks by intimate partners, women face still more forms of intimidation from partners that can be equally controlling, said Rita Smith, executive director of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, based in Denver. “What is important to notice about this report: there’s a whole other layer of violence that happens that isn’t physical - emotional, economic, verbal, stalking, threats with weapons - that would raise those numbers exponentially,” Smith said. “They are still terrifying. They are ways to control another human being, We need to pay attention to the (new) numbers because when we have this amount of people being physically assaulted, it indicates a much broader problem of violence.”

VPAP Tracks Attack Ads

VPAP has launched TV Buys, a new transparency tool designed to help citizens understand the coming onslaught of political attack ads.

TV Buys unlocks the “public files” in which TV stations list purchases by candidates and political advocacy groups. Although these files are officially “public,” until now there was no easy way to access the information. VPAP has done the legwork and the keypunching to bring the files to life.

- **TV BUYS BY CUCCINELLI, MCAULIFFE**
- **TV BUYS BY OUTSIDE GROUPS**

The data makes it easy to see how much candidates for Governor have spent on ads -- and compare that with the amount funded by outside groups. **TV Buys** also breaks down the top spenders by ideology, and provides a timeline of how much is being spent each week.

VPAP will update the information weekly through Election Day.

The nonprofit Virginia Public Access Project is dedicated to providing transparency in Virginia politics. At VPAP, we believe that government works best when citizens have access to timely, fact-based information. VPAP is an independent group that receives no government funds. VPAP is underwritten entirely through donations from individuals and companies that value transparency.

Unit Projects Earn an Impressive \$6,000 for the League Treasury

By Bernce Colvard, Finance Chair

The Fall Fund Drive for 2013 has collected almost \$6,000 for our treasury. “Our units continue to impress me in their loyalty to League, in their undying efforts, and in their fantastic results!” stated Bernce Colvard as she announced this year’s results. These funds are an integral part of the budget, allowing the League to continue to offer assistance to the voting public. Co-presidents Jones and Kelly “wish to thank all those who have contributed.”

Fuenzalida To Receive Varon Volunteer Award

Our very own Viveka Fuenzalida has won the coveted Fairfax County Barbara Varon Volunteer Award. We encourage Leaguers to support Viveka at the award ceremony the morning of October 8 at the Board of Supervisor (BOS) meeting at the Government Center.

This award was established around 2003 after Barbara Varon passed away. It honors a Fairfax County resident who exemplifies the values Barbara instilled through volunteer service. The winner is selected, from all nominations submitted, by a BOS-appointed committee. The LWVFA Board endorsed Viveka’s nomination and submitted it to the review committee in June. The nomination highlights her League work since 1990, especially her Voter Service work, the distribution of Voter Guides and participation in registration drives. It includes her endeavors with FISH in Reston and her outreach to the immigrant community.

Barbara Varon, a native of Germany, emigrated to America as an adult. She was devoted to her adopted land. As a world traveler who could speak several languages, she worked as a translator. Joining the Fairfax County Office of the General Registrar, she was committed to a voter registration outreach program to high school students. Using her linguistic skills, she wrote brochures and designed pamphlets to inform the voting public. Appointed to the Fairfax County Electoral Board, Barbara served as Vice Chairman and Chairman. She and her husband Ben generously donated their time to many volunteer organizations and frequently made generous anonymous donations to those in need. Barbara fought for the rights and privileges of all citizens to participate in the electoral process. Viveka’s background and activities are quite reminiscent of Barbara’s.

Fall 2013 Unit Project Reports

| | |
|-------|------------|
| CCD | \$ 1,935 |
| DU | 35 |
| FXS | 208 |
| FXV | 285 |
| GSP | 135 |
| MCL | 540 |
| MVD | 910 |
| MVE | 405 |
| RD | 470 |
| RE | 380 |
| SPF | <u>640</u> |
| Total | \$5,943 |

Del. Rust Hosts Fraud Forum

By Helen Kelly, Co-president

Delegate Tom Rust (R-86th Dist.) hosted a July 19 forum that focused on financial exploitation of seniors. The featured speaker at the Herndon event was Juanita Balenger, Community Outreach and TRIAD Director at the Fairfax branch of the State Attorney General's office.

According to the U.S Census Bureau, one in five seniors is the victim of financial fraud. Ms. Balenger's advice: be vigilant. Anyone who does business in Virginia must register or get a permit from a State agency. To protect yourself, always check the credentials of anyone soliciting your business. Some of the most common types of financial fraud are:

Identity Theft

Every year, 10 million Americans fall victim to this crime. These are some methods scammers use when they try to steal your identity:

- **Dumpster diving** – Never throw utility bills, bank statements or anything with your name and address in the trash. Shred personal information (including medical statements) and don't share your Social Security number.
- **Address change** – Check every envelope you receive in the mail. The Post Office will send a confirmation of any address change request to the old address. If you don't receive your mail, contact the Post Office.
- **Phishing e-mails** – They can look like your bank or credit card website. Do not respond to telephone or e-mail requests for personal information. Instead call the customer service number on the back of your credit card or call the bank where you conduct your transactions.

Other Common Scams

Investment Schemes promise a high rate of return for little risk. Investment advisors and their products must be registered with the State Corporation Commission. Before you invest, check the credentials of the investment advisor.

Affinity Schemes count on a connection with an ethnic group or religion to gain the trust of seniors. Fraudsters then persuade the victims to give them power of attorney

and access to their checking accounts. "God wouldn't want you to suffer. I'm here to help."

For Utility Bill Schemes, scammers pose as employees of the electric company. They call and tell you that they didn't receive your last payment and that they'll cut off your power unless you give them a credit card number. Always shred bills after you pay them so fraudsters won't find anything in your trash they can use. If you receive one of these calls, phone your utility company to check the status of your account. Never give credit card information to someone who calls you.

In **Grandparent Schemes**, scammers call posing as an adult grandchild, niece or nephew in trouble with the law in a city far from home. The scammer claims to need the money for bail or a fine, and ends with a special request: Don't tell Mom and Dad. If the victim seems inclined to cooperate, someone else comes on the line with instructions for wiring the money.

In **Lottery/ Sweepstakes Schemes**, victims are told that they won, but must first pay a fee or a tax. Virginia does not charge a fee or tax on these winnings.

Charities – be suspicious of charities that spring up after a tragedy or natural disaster. Ask for written information such as the name, web address, street address, and telephone number of the charity. Look up charities on these websites: www.bbb.org/charity, www.charitywatch.org, www.charitynavigator.org, www.guidestar.org or www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil.

Never assume that someone who claims to be a lawyer, an accountant or other professional is accredited. Check the Virginia Bar or other appropriate website to verify credentials.

The Department of Occupational and Professional Regulation (DPOR) regulates trade professionals like funeral directors and cosmetologists. The Department of Consumer Protection regulates travel agencies.

If You Are a Victim of Financial Fraud

Call the FBI and file a report with your local police department. Close all affected accounts and file a national credit fraud alert. Communicate with your bank, with your credit card company and with your creditors. Apply to the State Attorney General's office for an ID Passport. This will help you to prove that you are who you say you are while you are in the process of recovering your identity.

LWVFA Stresses Support for Longer Recesses

By Virginia Fitz Shea, Chair, Schools Committee

The *Washington Post* reports that, after an outcry from parents, officials at D.C. public schools rescinded a new limit of 15 minutes a day for recess.¹ This limit had been implemented at the start of school. Now the minimum time is 20 minutes and “principals may add more time if they wish.”

Reporter Emma Brown described the recess policies in other local school districts in the front-page article published September 1. She noted that Montgomery County schools do not have a minimum requirement, but elementary schools tend to offer a half-hour recess. “Fairfax County also has no policy but recommends 20 minutes per day.”

The LWVFA Schools Committee and the Executive Committee drafted a correction that was posted in the Comments section after the *Post* article:

This report is incorrect in stating that Fairfax County recommends 20 minutes per day for recess. Because of current guidelines and state requirements, there are only enough hours in the school week in Fairfax County elementary schools to allow 10 minutes per day for recess. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area believes that all elementary students should participate in a daily recess period lasting at least 20 minutes. For the past two years the League has urged the Fairfax County School Board to add at least 50 minutes per week to the elementary schedule to accommodate a minimum of 20 minutes of recess per day.

The League applauds the *Post* for highlighting the issue of time for recess and we hope that comparisons with

other school districts will help convince Fairfax officials that reform is needed.

A recent policy statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics cites the crucial role of recess in school.

“Recess serves as a necessary break from the rigors of concentrated, academic challenges in the classroom,” the Academy states. “But equally important is the fact that safe and well-supervised recess offers cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits that may not be fully appreciated when a decision is made to diminish it.

Endnote

1 Brown, Emma. “D.C. parents push for more recess.” *Washington Post*. Washington, D.C., 1 Sept. 2013. Web. 5 Sept. 2013.



Co-president Kelly testifies on LWVFA position on recess before Board of Supervisors

CAAB Needs League Member to Serve on Board

The **Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB)** meets monthly. Typically, at each meeting, one or two representatives from a CAAB-supported, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)-funded program give a presentation of their program and a number of the Department of Family Services staff speak on programs and budgets. In January, representatives from the Residential Youth Services (RYS) Living Independently for Tomorrow (LIFT) program spoke. LIFT is designed to help with the many complex issues facing youth who are homeless or

aging out of foster care. In addition, the CAAB reviews the Human Services budget as well as the Board of Supervisors Priority Areas.

I am the League’s representative on this board. Besides attending CAAB meetings, CAAB members are encouraged to participate in community events and human services forums, etc. Before Christmas, I went through the aisles in the Fairfax City Safeway, picking out items needed by Our Daily Bread clients and putting them on display so shoppers could buy them. CAAB members then helped collect and sort donations in a near-by building. Please call me if you are interested in serving. Dianne Blais, 703-830-1998

2013-2014 LWVFA Board Contact Sheet

| Position | Term Ends | Name | Email | Home Phone | Cell Phone |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Officers: Co-President | 2015E | Julie Jones | Dave.julie.jones@verizon.net | 703-476-8347 | 703-861-9616 |
| Co-President | 2014E | Helen Kelly | hmkelly1@verizon.net | 703-437-3087 | 703-314-3087 |
| 1 st VP - Voting Rights/Advocacy | 2014E | Therese Martin | Tbmartin4@verizon.net | 703-471-6364 | 703-424-5785 |
| 2 nd VP - Unit Co-Coordinator | 2014E | Charleen Deasy | Charleen.deasy@verizon.net | 703-620-3593 | 703-283-1598 |
| Treasurer | 2014E | Bill Thomas | BillThomas4@gmail.com | 571-291-3206 | 703-606-2397 |
| Secretary | 2015E | Lois Page | LoisMPage@cox.net | 703-690-0908 | 703-409-0908 |
| Directors: *Action | 2015E | Susan O'Neill | sueoneill1@hotmail.com | 703-266-0272 | |
| Domestic Violence | 2014E | Barbara Nunes | bnunes@juno.com | 703-451-7238 | |
| Human Services | 2014A | Baba Freeman | mefbfff@comcast.net | 703-437-1901 | |
| Membership | 2015E | Pat Nelson-Douvelis | gpdouvelis@aol.com | 703-790-1092 | |
| Program Co-Director | 2014E | Judy Helein | judithhelein@aol.com | 703-725-9401 | |
| **Voters Service-Voter Guides | 2015E | Sheila Iskra | siskra@aol.com | 703-941-8353 | 703-638-5992 |
| Executive Director | | Rona Ackerman | league@lww-fairfax.org | 703-476-5758 | 703-282-2262 |
| Off-Board | | | | | |
| Arrangements-Annual Meeting | | Viveka Fuenzalida | VivFuenza@verizon.net | 703-404-0498 | |
| Arrangements-General Meeting | | Mary Valder | mmvalder@aol.com | 703-319-2185 | |
| Elections (Community/Condo) | | Rona Ackerman | league@lww-fairfax.org | 703-476-5758 | 703-282-2262 |
| Facebook | | Danielle Ramirez | daniellebthramirez@gmail.com | 703-266-2152 | |
| Finance, Historian, Insurance | | Bernice Colvard | PBColvard@aol.com | 703-978-3227 | |
| Liaison to LWNCA | | Sherry Zachry | SZachry@verizon.net | 703-730-8118 | 703-371-6374 |
| Legacy Committee | | Bill Thomas, Ex Officio | BillThomas4@verizon.net | 571-291-3206 | 703-606-2397 |
| Membership - Database | | Anne Thomas | AnneAThomas@gmail.com | 571-291-3206 | 703-909-6425 |
| Membership-New Member Coordinator | | Jane Pacelli | Patchwork1@verizon.net | 703-256-7834 | 703-474-1700 |
| Message Retrieval | | Edith Appel | djaea2425@gmail.com | 703-644-3970 | |
| Nominating Committee | 2014E | Dianne Blais, Chair | dianneblais@aol.com | 703-830-1998 | |
| Observer Corps-Board of Supervisors | | Susan O'Neill | Sueoneill1@hotmail.com | 703-266-0272 | |
| FCPS | | Ginger Shea | Ginger.Shea@verizon.net | 703-642-0075 | 703-309-2394 |
| Electoral Board | | Olga Hernandez | olgahrdz@cox.net | 703-815-1897 | |
| Program Co-Director | 2014A | Karole Mckalip | kdmckalip@verizon.net | 703-451-1165 | |
| Public Relations | 2014A | Jane Pacelli | patchwork1@verizon.net | 703-256-7834 | |
| Speakers Bureau | | Sherry Zachry | SZachry@verizon.net | 703-730-8118 | 703-371-6374 |
| State Action Director | 2014A | Dianne Blais | dianneblais@aol.com | 703-830-1998 | |
| Unit Co-Coordinator | 2014A | Diane Hardcastle | dianehardcastle@yahoo.com | 703-860-3566 | |
| Voter Coordinator | | Liz Brooke | lizbrooke@cox.net | 703-281-3380 | 703-927-7140 |
| Voter Editor | | Ron Page | pagegolfer@cox.net | 703-690-0908 | 703-409-7860 |
| Voters Service-Facts for Voters | 2014A | Maggi Luca | mkluca@aol.com | 703-978-4916 | |
| Voters Service-Meet and Greet | 2014A | Peggy Knight | peggy.knight1@verizon.net | 703-532-4417 | 703-772-4939 |
| Voters Service- Outreach | 2014A | Sidney Johnson | sidneyjohnson3@verizon.net | 703-476-0581 | |
| Voters Service- What's on Ballot | 2014A | Ronna Pazdral | PazdralRS@aol.com | 703-333-5815 | |
| Website Administrator | | Rona Ackerman | league@lww-fairfax.org | 703-476-5758 | 703-282-2262 |
| Study Committee - Domestic Violence | | Barbara Nunes, chair | bnunes@juno.com | 703-451-7238 | |
| Study Committee - Schools | | Ginger Shea, chair | Ginger.Shea@verizon.net | 703-642-0075 | 703-309-2394 |

A=appointed position E=Elected Position *Director without portfolio on Education Fund Board; **Director w/out portfolio on General Fund Board. (Rev. 8/14/2011)

This Month's Unit Meeting Locations

Topic: What Is the Future of Our Library System?

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 September 10, 2013, 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, October 5

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing (AL)

Packard Center
4026 Hummer Rd.
Annandale 22003
Contact: Judy, 703-725-9401

Tuesday, October 8

10:30 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Sully District Gov. Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly 20151
Contact: Olga, 703-815-1897

Wednesday, October 9

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

Mt. Vernon Dist. Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria 22306
Contact: Louise, 703-960-0073

9:30 a.m. McLean (McL)

Star Nut Café
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean 22101
Contact: Peggy, 703-532-4417 or
Sharone, 703-734-1048

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

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

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, October 10

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

12100 Stirrup Rd
Reston 20191
Contact: Mia, 703-716-4540

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

Packard Center
4026 Hummer Rd.
Annandale 22003
Contact: Nancy, 703-256-6570 or
Peg, 703-256-9420

1 p.m. Fairfax City/Vienna (FX-V)

Oakton Regional Library
10304 Lynhaven Pl.
Oakton 22124
Contact: Bobby, 703-938-1486 or
Liz, 703-281-3380

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

Paul Spring Retirement Community
Mt. Vernon Room
7116 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria 22307
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820

Monday, October 14

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

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

November Meetings:

Meals Tax



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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
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The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER ©
October, 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, 2014.)

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** _____

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