



# The League of Women Voters® of the Fairfax Area

## 66th LWVFA [General Fund] & 32th LWVFA Education Fund

### ANNUAL MEETINGS

**Saturday, April 25, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.**



8332 Leesburg Pike Vienna, VA 22182

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to allow members to collectively consider and adopt an annual budget, and to elect officers and directors for the organization.

Members may also give direction to the Board.

**Please take this Kit with you to the Annual Meeting.**

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## PROPOSED RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Rules of Procedure become the tools that permit a majority to accomplish its purpose within a reasonable period of time, but only after allowing the minority a reasonable opportunity to express its views on issues.

- I. LWV Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised ("Parliamentary Procedure") generally guide the proceedings.
- II. Only members in good standing in the LWVFA will be permitted to speak and vote.
- III. **Discussion**
  - Speakers shall identify themselves by **name** and **unit**.
  - Each speaker will be allowed two minutes, unless otherwise announced.
  - The chair will not recognize a person the second time until all who wish to speak have done so.
  - Debate must be germane to the subject.
  - Members may request an extension of time.
- IV. **Motions and Amendments**
  - Lengthy motions and amendments shall be written and submitted to the Secretary.
  - An amendment may be amended only once.
  - As all agenda items require prior member notice, motions to amend the bylaws or program, which change the intent or enlarge the scope, will not be permitted.
- V. **Procedure for Program Adoption**
  - A. Informal consideration
    - a. An initial presentation of the recommended and non-recommended items is made.
      - i. Recommended items: Only questions of clarification will be permitted at this time.
      - ii. Non-recommended items: A member may give two-minute presentation recommending the item, followed by a formal Motion To Consider. A member of the Board may give reasons for not recommending the item (one minute.) The motion is then voted upon immediately. If it receives a majority vote, it is then **considered for adoption** on the same basis as the recommended items, except that it must receive 3/5 vote for adoption.
    - b. The proposed program (approved non-recommended items, followed by recommended items) is now up for informal consideration; there may be discussion, without formal motions, as time permits.
  - B. Formal consideration
    - a. Motion To Adopt is made.
    - b. Program: non-recommended items and then recommended items, in the order in which they were voted for consideration, are taken up one at a time for formal motion, further debate, possible amendment and vote.
    - c. Current Positions: members have an opportunity to reaffirm or reject current LWVFA positions. After an item listed is moved for adoption, a Motion To Strike Or Amend a particular position is made.

## LWVFA GENERAL FUND ANNUAL MEETING - PROPOSED AGENDA

9:30 a.m.	Registration and Coffee Bar
10:00 a.m.	Call to Order, President's Welcome and Announcements Recognition of Elected Officials, League Presidents and Current Board Adoption of Rules of Procedures Adoption of Agenda Appointments of Parliamentarian and Reading Committee Approval of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes
10:15 a.m.	Treasurer's Report – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter LWVFA FY2013-14 (Bill Thomas)
10:20 a.m.	Presentation of Proposed FY 2014-2015 LWVFA Budget (Jane Pacelli)/Questions
10:25 a.m.	Presentation of Proposed LWVFA Bylaws Changes (Therese Martin)/Questions
10:30 a.m.	Presentation of the Recommended Program Items/Questions Presentation of the Non-Recommended Program Items/Motions to Consider Informal Consideration of the Proposed Program
10:45 a.m.	<b>Break</b>

11:00 a.m.	Speaker: The Honorable James M. LeMunyon, 67 <sup>th</sup> District, Virginia House of Delegates Vice Chair of Virginia's Open Government Council Delegate LeMunyon will speak about legislation to promote more transparency and accountability in the Commonwealth. (Followed by Question & Answer Session)
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch Served</b>
1:00 p.m.	Report of the Nominating Committee and nominations from the floor Election of Officers & Directors for LWVFA
1:05 p.m.	Adoption of LWVFA FY 2014-2015 Budget
1:10 p.m.	Adoption of LWVFA Bylaws Changes
1:15 p.m.	Adoption of LWVFA Program
1:20 p.m.	Adoption of LWVFA Current Positions
1:25 p.m.	Adjourn LWVFA Annual Meeting

## LWVFA EDUCATION FUND ANNUAL MEETING - PROPOSED AGENDA

1:25 p.m.	Call to Order Adoption of Rules Adoption of Agenda
1:30 p.m.	Treasurer's Report – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY 2013-2014
1:35 p.m.	Presentation of Proposed FY 2014-2015 LWVFA Education Fund Budget Consideration, Questions & Adoption of EF Budget
1:35 p.m.	Report of Nominating Committee and nominations from the floor Election of Officers & Directors for LWVFA EF
1:40 p.m.	Direction to the Boards
1:50 p.m.	Closing Remarks
2:00 p.m.	Adjourn

## PROPOSED 2014 LWVFA [General Fund] BYLAWS CHANGES

The following changes are proposed to the Bylaws. Additions are underlined. Deletions are in brackets.

### ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

**Sec. 4 The Secretary.** The secretary shall keep the minutes of all proceedings of the LWVFA board of directors, of the executive committee of the LWVFA board of directors and of the membership—whether in-person or electronic – and present them to the board for approval at its next meeting. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign, with the president or the co-president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board. The secretary shall give and serve all notices to the members and directors, or other notices required by law or these bylaws; shall have charge of the minute-books and such other books and papers as the board may direct; and shall perform all other duties incident to the office of secretary.

### ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Sec. 5 Regular Board Meetings.** Immediately after each annual election of directors, the newly elected directors may meet for the purpose of organization and transaction of other business, if a quorum of the directors is present. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the LWVFA board of directors annually. A majority of these shall be in-person meetings.

**Sec 6. Special Meetings.** The president or co-president may call special meetings of the LWVFA board of directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the board.

**[Sec. 6 Electronic board decisions.** Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the LWVFA board of directors may be taken without a meeting if the text of the resolution or matter to be considered is sent either in writing or electronically to all of the Directors in office and if the majority of such Directors consent to such action either in writing or electronically. Such decisions shall have the same force and effect as a vote of the Board of Directors at a meeting and may be described as such in any document executed by the LWVFA.]

**Sec. 7 Quorum.** A majority of the members of the [LWVFA] board [of directors] shall constitute a

quorum. Up to one half of the [Any one or more] members of the board may participate in an in-person meeting by means of conference telephone or by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear or communicate electronically with one another. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

**Sec. 8 Executive Committee.** The LWVFA executive committee may exercise the powers and duties of the full board in an emergency situation, provided that the committee shall keep minutes and a report of the emergency action is made to the full board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Sec. 9 Electronic Meetings.** Regular and special meetings of the board of directors and executive committee may be conducted by electronic means, such as telephone conference calls, video conferencing, or e-mail.

## **PROPOSED 2014 LWVFA Education Fund BYLAWS CHANGES**

### **ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

**Sec. 4 The Secretary.** The secretary shall keep the minutes of all proceedings of the Ed Fund board of directors, of the executive committee of the Ed Fund board of directors, and of the membership—whether in-person or electronic – and present them to the board for approval at its next meeting. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign, with the president or the co-president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board. The secretary shall give and serve all notices to the members and directors, or other notices required by law or these bylaws; shall have charge of the minute-books and such other books and papers as the board may direct; and shall perform all other duties incident to the office of secretary.

### **ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Sec. 5 Board Meetings.** Immediately after each annual election of directors, the newly elected directors may meet for the purpose of organization and transaction of other business if a quorum of the directors is present. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Ed Fund board of directors annually. A majority of these shall be in-person meetings.

**Sec. 6 Special Meetings.** The president or co-president may call special meetings of the board of directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the board.

**[Sec. 6 Electronic board decisions.** Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Ed Fund Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if the text of the resolution or matter to be considered is sent either in writing or electronically to all of the Directors in office and if the majority of such Directors consent to such action either in writing or electronically. Such decisions shall have the same force and effect as a vote of the Board of Directors at a meeting and may be described as such in any document executed by the LWVFA Ed Fund.]

**Sec. 7 [8] Quorum.** A majority of the members of the [Ed Fund] board [of directors] shall constitute a quorum. Up to one half of the [Any one or more] members of the board may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear or communicate electronically with one another. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

**Sec. 8 [9] Executive Committee.** The Ed Fund executive committee may exercise the powers and duties of the full board of directors in an emergency situation, provided that the committee shall keep minutes and a report of the emergency action is made to the full board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Sec 9. Electronic Meetings.** Regular and special meetings of the board of directors and executive committee may be conducted by electronic means, such as telephone conference calls, video conferencing, or e-mail.

Submitted by Bylaws Committee: Therese Martin

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

February 2014

To: Members of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area  
 From: LWVFA Budget Committee: Sharone Lathrop, Therese Martin, Bill Thomas (Ex. Off.),  
 Jane Pacelli (Chair)  
 Subject: Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2014-15

The proposed General Fund and Education Fund budgets for 2014-2015 appear on the following pages.

The Ed Fund spends about \$15,000 for operations and educational and voters services activities, nearly the same amount as last year. Included in that total is \$4,825 to repay the General Fund for administrative costs shared between the two organizations.

The major category of direct Ed Fund expenses is for Voter Service, paying for Facts for Voters, Voters Guides, What's on the Ballot, and voter outreach.

The General Fund budget shows LWVFA operating expenses of \$39,590 and a transfer to the Ed Fund of \$2,000, for a total of \$41,590. Against these expenses, the budget has income of \$31,593. The budget was balanced using a transfer of \$9,500 from the Silver Fund and a drawdown of \$498 from the operating balance.

Please note that the Adopted Budget for FY 13-14 shown here is restated to show the \$25,000 distribution from the Estate of Frances Silver during the current FY.

Statement of Condition

Fund	Line	Item	Actual FY 12-13	Adopted FY 13-14	Proposed FY 14-15	Notes:
General Fund	A.	Operating Balance	4,320	649	152	
	B.	Reserve Funds	7,000	7,000	7,000	
	C.	Special Funds	124,048	136,548	127,048	
		Subtotal	135,368	144,198	134,200	
		Pre-paid dues*	6,920	#N/A	#N/A	
		Total Cash	142,288			
Education Fund	A.	Operating Balance	6,768	6,656	3,206	
	B.	Special Funds	-	-	-	
		Total Cash	6,768	6,656	3,206	

\* Pre-payment of dues not considered in the budget

Line	Item	Actual FY 12-13	Adopted* FY 13-14	Proposed FY 14-15	Notes:
I.	INCOME & TRANSFERS				
A.	Dues				
					Regular
1.	Current Year	12,163	12,055	12,018	Dues @ 65
2.	Prepaid for next year				Note (1) Assumptions for dues
B.	Member contributions				
					165 Regular memberships
1.	Direct	135	500	500	14 Joint memberships
2.	Unit projects	138	250	250	1 Student memberships
3.	Memorial donations	0	0	0	15 Lifetime members
C.	Community contributions	0	0	0	209 Total
D.	Community elections	10,600	10,000	10,000	
E.	Interest	0	100	0	
F.	Special projects				
G.	Reimb from Ed Fund	4,454	4,638	4,825	25% Pct. Paid by Ed Fund
H.	Miscellaneous income				
1.	Meeting income	4,605	4,000	4,000	Item II.C.6 reflects exp.
2.	Other	444.52	25,000	-	Add disb from Frances Silver estate
	Total Income	32,539	56,543	31,593	
I.	TRANSFERS IN				
1.	From Silver Fund	8,000	12,500	9,500	
2.	From special funds reserve	72	0		
3.	From operating balance resv	339	3,671	498	
	Total Transfers In	8,411	16,171	9,998	
I.	TOTAL INCOME & TRANSFERS	40,950	72,713	41,590	
II.	EXPENSES & TRANSFERS				
A.	GENERAL OPERATIONS				
1.	Office eqpt. & furnishings	137	100	100	
2.	Office supplies	257	200	200	
3.	Communications				
a.	Telephone	1,049	700	700	Comcast bill pays both
b.	Internet	0	400	400	telephone and internet
c.	Web Site & Const. Cont.	368	450	450	
4.	Liability insurance	652	650	650	
5.	State corporation fee	25	25	25	
6.	Bulk mail				
a.	Mail permit	190	200	200	
b.	Mailing expenses	400	500	500	
7.	Comp eqpt & software	464	250	350	
8.	Rent	3,607	3,700	3,850	
9.	Employee compensation	9,835	10,000	10,500	5% raise for Exec. Dir.
10.	General office copying	361	200	200	
	Subtotal: Gen'l expenses	17,345	17,375	18,125	
B.	BOARD & ADMINISTRATION				
1.	President	0	100	100	
2.	Secretary	15	25	25	
3.	Treasurer	73	75	75	
4.	Board activities	175	200	200	
5.	Fundraising	0	100	100	
	See Notes on following page				

Line	Item	Actual FY 12-13	Adopted* FY 13-14	Proposed FY 14-15	Notes:
B.	BOARD & ADMINISTRATION (cont.)				
6.	Membership	178	350	350	
7.	Program director	0	50	50	
8.	Unit coordinator	0	75	75	
9.	Public relations	88	100	100	
10.	Historian	0	50	50	
11.	Miscellaneous	0	50	50	
	Subtotal: Board & Admin	528	1,175	1,175	
	Base for expense allocation	17,873	18,550	19,300	Sum of A and B
C.	CONVENTIONS/MEETINGS				
1.	Workshops/spec meetings	329	550	550	
2.	LWVUS convention	0	5,000	0	
3.	LWVVA convention	1,539	0	2,000	
4.	LWVVA council	0	250	0	
5.	LWVNCA convention	160	160	200	
6.	Meetings: Annual & General	3,719	4,000	4,000	
	Subtotal: Conv & Mtgs	5,747	9,960	6,750	
D.	AFFILIATIONS				PMP Amt.
1.	LWVUS PMP	5,317	5,797	5,968	Note (2) 32.00
2.	LWVVA PMP	2,573	2,805	2,895	15.00
3.	LWVNCA PMP	189	211	212	1.10
	Subtotal: Affiliations	8,078	8,813	9,075	
E.	VOTER/Ann. Mtg. Kit				Membership for PMP calc.
1.	Printing	3,033	3,500	4,000	# Cat
2.	Supplies	0	0	0	166 Local indiv.
	Subtotal: Bulletin	3,033	3,500	4,000	14 1st Household
F.	ACTION	27	40	40	13 2nd Household
G.	SPECIAL PROJECTS				
1.	Community elections	253	150	225	
2.	Coalitions/sponsorships	5	100	100	
3.	Other	0	0	0	
	Subtotal: Special Projects	258	250	325	
H.	MISCELLANEOUS	0	100	100	
	TOTAL OPERATIONS	35,015	41,213	39,590	
I.	ED FUND Support	6,000	6,500	2,000	Based on Ed Fund rqmts.
	Total Expenses + EF Support	41,015	47,713	41,590	
J.	TRANSFERS OUT				
1.	To contingency & reserve funds	0	25,000	0	
2.	To pre-paid dues	0	0	0	
3.	To operating balance	0	0	0	
	Subtotal: Transfers Out	0	25,000	0	
II.	TOTAL EXPENSES & TSFR	41,015	72,713	41,590	

NOTES:

\*The adopted budget statement for 2013-14 includes \$25,000 from the Estate of Frances Silver.

(1) For budget purposes, all dues payments are shown for the membership year

(2) Based on members as of February 1.

LWVFA Education Fund Budget for FY 2014-15

Line	Item	Actual FY 12-13	Adopted FY 13-14	Proposed FY 14-15
I.	INCOME & TRANSFERS			
A.	Member contributions			
1.	Direct	2996.05	1000	1500
2.	Through unit projects	6414.5	4000	6000
3.	Publications			
4.	Memorial and special funds			
B.	Contributions from the Public			
1.	Facts for Voters	3250	2250	2000
2.	Memorial and special funds			
3.	Publications		0	0
4.	Fundraising Events		2000	0 Incl in 1.A.2 for FY14-15
C.	Voters Service Reimbursements	394	0	0
D.	Miscellaneous		0	0
E.	Contribution from the General Fund	6,000	6,500	2,000
	Total Income	19,055	15,750	11,500
F.	TRANSFERS IN			
1.	From operating balance	0	113	3,450
2.	From memorial funds	0	0	0
3.	From restricted funds	0	0	0
	Total Transfers In	0	113	3,450
I.	TOTAL INCOME & TRANSFERS	19,055	15,863	14,950
II.	EXPENSES & TRANSFERS			
A.	OPERATIONS and ADMINISTRATION			
1.	State corporation fee	25	25	25
2.	Admin cost @25% of GF total	4,454	4,638	4,825
3.	Other administrative expenses	39	100	100
	Subtotal Operations & Administration	4,518	4,763	4,950
B.	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES			
1.	Study Development	25.48	50	50
2.	Study Printing and Purchase	1932.3	2000	2000
3.	Special Projects	0	200	200
	Subtotal Educational Activities	1,958	2,250	2,250
C.	VOTERS SERVICE			
1.	Director expenses	0	100	100
2.	Facts for Voters	5,873	6,100	5,000 Lower printing cost
3.	Projects: Voters Guide	0	500	500 Placeholder for Vote411
4.	Projects: What's on the Ballot	805	1,200	1,000
5.	Forums and other projects	384	250	450
6.	Voter Service Outreach	0	600	600
	Subtotal Voters Service	7,062	8,750	7,650
D.	Advocacy	0	100	100
E.	Miscellaneous	59.32	0	0
	Total Expenses	13,597	15,863	14,950
F.	TRANSFERS OUT			
1.	To operating balance	5,458	0	0
2.	To memorial funds	0	0	0
3.	To restricted (grant & Facts) fnds	0	0	0
	Total Transfers Out	5,458	0	0
II.	TOTAL EXPENSES & TSFRS	19,055	15,863	14,950

## Proposed 2014-2016 Program

### Recommended Program Items

The Board recommends an update to the Land Use planning position, to include areas such as zoning and access to transportation.

### Non-Recommended Program Items

The following items, in no particular order, received some support from members but are not recommended by the Board. Members who wish to move adoption of any of these items for program and study must follow the procedures listed in the Rules of Procedure. It is particularly important that leadership be available for any item considered.

1. Mental health services including adequacy, availability, and coordination of services, housing, court issues.
2. Affordable housing, specifically single resident units
3. Human trafficking as a Fairfax County issue
4. Fairfax County Budget
5. Fairfax County Public Schools Budget
6. Immigration
7. Fracking
8. Availability of technology for students in schools and at home

## 2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate to serve as Officers and Directors of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area and the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Education Fund.

### To Be Elected to Serve Two-year Terms Beginning July 1, 2014:

#### Officers:

Co-President:	Helen Kelly
Treasurer:	Bill Thomas

#### Directors:

Action*:	
Program Co-Coordinator	Judy Helein
Unit Co-Coordinator	Charleen Deasy
Domestic Violence:	Barbara Nunes
Education:	Ginger Shea

### To Be Elected to Serve One-year Term, Beginning July 1, 2014:

#### Nominating Committee

Chair:	Gail Richmond
Nominating Committee member:	Wendy Fox-Grage
Nominating Committee member:	Mia Merin

**Note:** The Nominating Committee recommends the following people be appointed to the Board for the next year:

Human Services Coordinator:	Baba Freeman
Voter Services Coordinator (complete term)	Sidney Johnson

The Nominating Committee recommends the following people be appointed to off-board positions for next year:

Facebook Coordinator:	Mary Grace Lintz
Mailing List Database:	Anne Thomas
New Member Coordinator:	Jane Pacelli
Program Co-Director:	Karole McKalip
Public Relations:	Adarsh Trehan
State Action Director:	Therese Martin
National Action Director:	Kelly Stratman
Unit Co-Coordinator:	Wendy Fox-Grage
Voters Service- Facts for Voters	Maggi Luca
Voters Service- Meet and Greet	Peggy Knight
Voters Service- Outreach	Sidney Johnson
Voters Service- WOTB	Ronna Pazdral

Respectfully submitted, Nominating Committee:

Chair, Dianne Blais, Chair, Mia Merin, Wendy Fox-Grage, Therese Martin, Charleen Deasy

\* Serves on the LWVFA Ed Fund without portfolio

\*\* Serves on the LWVFA [GF] Board without portfolio

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## MEET YOUR NOMINEES

### **Helen Kelly- Co-President**

I joined the League of Women Voters in September 2008. I knew that if I wanted to make my voice heard, I had to join a grassroots organization of like-minded people. After checking out a few websites, I joined the League. I'm glad I did. I majored in French at Georgetown, but quit after my junior year to get married. While our daughter was growing up, I volunteered at her elementary school and at the public library, a great opportunity because I love reading. After two of the companies I worked for went out of business, I began working as a temp, and continued until 2009. I have always wanted to volunteer, and believe that the League is a good fit for me. Like my Dad, I'm interested in politics - the process and the personalities. Since I joined the League, I have served as Action Director, following the Board of Supervisors and helping with voter registration drives and as Co-President, getting involved in every aspect of League activities. I look forward to a second term working with you to repeat and expand LWVFA's most recent successes.

### **Bill Thomas -Treasurer**

Bill Thomas has been a member of the Fairfax League for 15 years. He chaired the Budget Committee for several years before becoming Treasurer. He also organizes the League's support of the Reston Community Center Preference Poll. He was a member of the Vienna Evening Unit until he moved and now is an unaffiliated member. Bill retired from the Congressional Budget Office in 2002 after twenty years of Federal Government service, and now consults part time on military issues. He is a graduate of MIT and received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania. Bill's other interests--when he's not working on League business--include stamp collecting, music, and reading.

### **Judy Helein- Program Co-Director**

Judy, member of the LWVFA for almost five years, has served as Program Co-Director for the past two years, continues to represent the League in the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax and also serves on the Adult Domestic Violence Committee. A graduate of St. Louis University School of Nursing, she began her career as the Executive Director of the Voluntary Action Center in Fairfax County (1979-1985). From 1985 to 2000, Judy was Director of the national Volunteer Resources Department for AARP in Washington, DC. In preparation for serving overseas, Judy went back to nursing and became certified as a childbirth educator, working at Inova Health Systems and Mother and Baby Matters. From 2002 until June of 2006, she lived and worked in Cambodia co-directing the Maryknoll Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Program (a program for HIV+ pregnant women). After returning to the states in 2006, Judy served as the manager of human resources for the Maryknoll Lay Missioners organization at their headquarters in Ossining, NY. Judy moved back to Virginia in 2009 and is currently serving as Past President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in her parish at St. Timothy's Catholic Church and Secretary of her Condo Association. Judy is the mother of five children and grandmother of 10.

**Charleen Deasy - Unit Co-Coordinator:**

Charleen is a retired secondary teacher with 35 years of experience in a lab class environment. Gathering information, writing the monthly Unit Chairs' letter is in many ways a continuation of her organizational skills. LWV has become one of her retirement projects and she would like to continue with this position. League, or any community activity, was not possible while raising two children, working full time, and a husband who was first on active duty and then a civilian career with lots of travel commitment. LWVFA had to wait until retirement years.

**Barbara Nunes –Domestic Violence**

Barbara has served on the LWVFA board in several capacities in the past, as land use, transportation, and domestic violence committee chairs, and has served on various committees such as finance, nominating, and bylaws. Barbara has served as the long-time League representative on Fairfax County's domestic violence and justice advisory committees such as Domestic Violence Community Coordinating Committee. She attends the Springfield Unit.

**Ginger Shea - Education**

Virginia Fitz Shea has chaired the Schools Committee for the past several years and is the author of the blog Full Schooldays, which focuses on school schedules, safety, and wellness policies.

**Gail Richmond – Nominating Committee Chair**

Gail joined LWVFA in 1996 and was Voter Service chair with Olga Hernandez. She was also the Mount Vernon Day Unit chair for many years and recruited many new members. Gail has served as Outreach chair for 2 years and was previously on the nominating committee. She is looking forward to again to having an active part.

**Wendy Fox-Grage – Nominating Committee**

Wendy is on the membership committee of the Reston evening unit and volunteers to register voters with the LWVFA. She co-authored a recent LWVFA study with Beth Tudan on Privatization in Virginia. In this past election, Wendy volunteered as an election officer. She has been a Senior Strategic Policy Advisor with AARP for the past 8 1/2 years. Wendy lives in Vienna, VA with her husband and their three school-aged children.

**Miriam (Mia) Merin – Nominating Committee**

Mia has a B.A. in Geology from Franklin & Marshall College, and worked in the environmental field for 10 years after college. Mia is also an artist; she paints portraits and landscapes in oil and acrylic when not busy working as a stay-at-home mother. She joined the LWVFA Reston Day unit in about 2003 and was unit chair in 2004. She served as Recording Secretary for the LWVFA board from 2005-2007 and as Membership Director from 2011-2013. Mia has also been involved with the Girl Scouts organization as well as a relay-for-life team called "Amy's Amigos."

## December 2013 Education Study Report

By Rona Ackerman

Nine units sent in reports. Lois Page of Fairfax Station (FXS) noted that members had considerably different outlooks, “it boils down to whether the current budget crunch is permanent or will improve. Those who felt it was permanent felt that some of the things that make FCPS exceptional can no longer be afforded... Those who see the future as brighter were opposed to cuts that would be permanent, such as contract days for teachers and foreign language in the elementary schools [FLES].”

*1. Does it make sense to spend money now on future efficiencies?* Most units felt that it did make sense, especially for school buses and energy efficiency. Most agreed with FXS, “One of the efficiencies rejected by most was the idea of hiring custodial overseers. Custodians are part of a school family, have roles to play beyond cleaning and should be answerable to the school administration. As for other efficiencies, we felt the expensive ones would have to wait.” Fairfax/Vienna (FXV) objected to consultants for decision-making and Response to Intervention believing that we already qualified staff for this.

*2. Should teachers receive STEP increases when we have to let others go?* This was a question worthy of Solomon. No one was in favor of reducing the number of teachers but there was strong sentiment that the STEP increases should be kept. Reston Evening (RE) and McLean (MCL) both wondered if merit increases would be preferable. MCL and FXS felt that if it meant reducing the number of teachers, STEP increases should not be given.

*3. Should the Board of Supervisors increase the tax rate to a deficit?* It was unanimously agreed that the real estate tax rate should be increased. Acceptable amounts ranged from one cent to “as much as possible.” FXS and Mount Vernon Evening (MVE) noted that only 30% of residents have kids in school so this will be a hard sell. MCL wants an external audit to assure the funds address the real needs of the schools. Greenspring (GS) stated that if the school system slips, the county won’t be able to attract the businesses that ultimately will take the pressure off the residential taxpayer.

*4. What do you think of a meals tax dedicated to education?* All units supported a meals tax, but RE felt that earmarking was not appropriate and that the money should go to the general fund. FXV liked that it taxed visitors as well as residents. FXS noted many surrounding communities already have a meals tax. Reston Day (RD) noted that Fairfax County might decide to reduce its transfer to the schools and ultimately there might be no net gain.

*5. Should the County transfer be based on enrollment?* MCL represented a consensus “There was not enough information to judge whether per student enrollment is appropriate. Admin and other overhead costs, for example, do not increase/decrease proportionately with changes in the student population.” Other concerns included the limited taxpayer funds and the need for accurate budgeting.

*6. Contract length reduction or a furlough?* Most units favored a furlough. Springfield (SPF) stated, “Contract length reduction is better for the budget, but a furlough is cheaper and better for the teacher.” RE noted “contract length reduction would impact pensions, and furlough would hopefully be a onetime event and on a teacher work day.” FXS was split. Those preferring contract reductions said it would save more money in the long run. Those preferring furlough said it would make less of a dent in teacher pay and that teachers have accepted low pay in exchange for a secure retirement.

*7. Should we increase class size?* Six units said maybe, but it depends on grade level and school demographics. MCL and GS said no. SPF said yes. All were concerned about an upper limit to class size.

*8. Should we reduce instructional assistants (IAs), counselors, or kindergarten IAs?* The units agreed that kindergarten IAs should not be eliminated. Counselors, especially in high schools, were also considered critical. More information was needed about counselors at the lower levels. There was mixed reaction to reducing other IAs.

*9. Should foreign language be taught in elementary schools?* GS said. “It is a global world now and we need languages. Children learn so easily.” RD and Mount Vernon Day (MVD) concurred. But FXV spoke for several units when they said “We don’t think students are gaining that much by the foreign language instruction that takes place once or twice a week [FLES] and would have no trouble cutting it. We do support the immersion programs, but they don’t need to be in every school.”

*10. What do you think of the revenue options?* MVE said, “This approach is politically difficult due to the varying means levels of the parents as well as their beliefs about what they should pay for and what the school system should cover.” There was skepticism about how much would actually be raised.

NOTE: Comparison data for school districts was obtained from the Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE) Guide found at <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/wabe/2014.pdf> See pages 29-31 for Average Class Sizes and Costs Per Pupil.