



Program Planning for LWV-VA & LWNCA 2015-2017

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 24 and make your views known. (Registration form is on Page 5.) In addition to our program planning discussions, Karen Garza, Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, will address the group. The public is invited so encourage friends and neighbors to come

Calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 1-2 School holiday
- 5 VOTER deadline
- 9 LWNCA Board meeting
- 14 General Assembly convenes
(short 45-day session)
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 19 School holiday
- 21 Women's Roundtable, Richmond
- 21 Board Meeting**
- 24 General Meeting**
- 28 Women's Roundtable, Richmond
- 30 Student holiday

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Presidents' Message



Happy New Year! We hope your holiday season was full of congenial people and good times. And speaking of congenial people, we hope you'll join us at our General Meeting on January 24 when we'll choose the program topics for the coming year. You have told us that you enjoy discussing next year's program as a group at the General Meeting. We hope you'll bring your ideas because we'd love to hear them. Is there one issue that particularly engages you? Does it involve a problem that can be solved by government action? If so, and the League doesn't already have a position on it, we encourage you to join other Leaguers studying the issue and helping to write it up for the *VOTER*. Communicating mostly by e-mail and telephone, these groups are necessary for us to continue our tradition of great program topics. We hope you can join your fellow Leaguers in one of these study groups.

Our speaker at the General Meeting will be Dr. Karen Garza, Fairfax County School Superintendent. We thank Dr. Garza for overseeing two important schedule changes that will benefit Fairfax County students: in 2014, full-day Mondays became a reality, and in 2015, high school will start later. We also thank Ginger Shea and the Education Committee, who for many years have been advocating for full-day Mondays. And we thank Leaguer Phyllis Payne and SLEEP for their efforts in advocating for later high school start times that will improve the academic performance, the health and the safety of high school students.

If you know of any students or parents who might be interested in hearing Dr. Garza speak, please invite them to

this part of the meeting. Dr. Garza will speak from 10:30 to 11 and then will answer questions until 11:30. There is no charge for anyone who does not stay for lunch.

We look forward to a lively and interesting meeting and we hope to see you there. You can find the registration form in last month's *VOTER* and again on Page ? of this month's edition.

Thank you for all your hard work during the 2014 election season. We look forward to seeing you at the General Meeting and to working with you during the coming League year.

Julie and Helen

**Plan now to attend
the General Meeting
January 24**

Registration form is on page 5.

LWVFA Fairfax *VOTER* 2014 - 2015

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Please e-mail address corrections to the office
or call 703-658-9150

Dagmar Lending

LWVFA has lost another long-time member, Dagmar Lending of the Springfield Unit. A former special education teacher in Fairfax County schools, she died December 2 after a very brief illness. Dagmar's family has suggested gifts to the League of Women Voters.

Summary of Discussions on Human Trafficking

By Karole McKalip, Program Co-chair

Surprised. Shocked. Disturbed. These were some of the reactions voiced by units as they began their discussions of Human Trafficking, the November study and *VOTER* article. In exploring the definition and consequences of human trafficking (the what, where, who, and when), members felt the article definitely helped them understand the scope of human trafficking in the U.S. but were surprised by the large numbers. The definition of what human trafficking included startled some; they were disturbed by how close to home the activity appeared to be. We did not understand all of the practices that are considered human trafficking (Fairfax Station). We had not thought of beggars, door-to-door sales people, and truck stops as possible victims or examples of human trafficking (Fairfax Day/Vienna).

Most people were not aware of the Polaris Project but were impressed by the organization and its goals. Some questions that arose were:

- Who funds it?
- Why don't we hear more about it?

Several units reviewed the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). However, some felt the implementation of federal laws appears to be "sketchy and lacking." More needs to be done. Consistent, universal laws across all the states and better coordination of existing resources and reporting to protect and serve the victims are critical (Fairfax Station). Several units talked about the importance of Safe Harbor Laws.

Units reported very active discussions and look forward to Part II with its focus on Virginia and Fairfax County to learn more about what is occurring in our community and how we are dealing with the myriad issues associated with human trafficking. The discussions that developed around the final question—what we can do to address issues regarding human trafficking produced many ideas/suggestions.

Key Points

- Members voiced the need to be aware and vigilant to the signs of trafficking. And, while it may be difficult to speak up, we could encourage the use of a tip hotline. We need to strengthen child welfare workers ability (through training, more staffing, whatever it takes) to help those being trafficked and coerced. We definitely support "safe havens." (Fairfax Day/Vienna)
- We need to learn more about the problem; stay alert

and aware; support effective prosecutions and enforcement. (Centreville/Chantilly)

- Let's find out what Virginia's laws are; become aware of situations in the community and neighborhood; strengthen resources in schools for recognizing patterns and take appropriate legal and supportive actions. (Fairfax Station)
- Polaris efforts should be publicized more. We need to support strong laws and their strict enforcement. (Mt. Vernon Evening)
- Get somebody from Polaris to talk to our unit (Springfield).
- We recommend that human trafficking programs be aired on the public access channels (McLean).
- We need to know what is happening in our schools, regarding trafficking (Reston Evening).

Questions That Emerged From the Discussions:

1. What are the essential services that are needed?
2. Do we have the services in our community? If so, are these services being funded? And, how do we contact them?
3. How can we get involved?
4. What are the signs of trafficking? What behaviors would make one call authorities?

Conclusion

With the definition, statistics, and scenarios presented in the November *VOTER*, members felt the information helped them understand the scope of human trafficking in the U.S. They were impressed with the New Jersey study and look forward to the same topic but focused on Virginia and Fairfax County (Mt. Vernon Day).

Correction to the School Calendar

There was an error in the FCPS Calendar printed in the December study. The incorrect rows were:

November 26	Thanksgiving Break
November 27-28	Students Released 2 Hours Early

These rows are correct:

November 27-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 19	Students Released 2 Hours Early

We apologize for the mistake. For a quick look at the full calendar as correctly noted on the FCPS website, go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/about/14-15cal.shtml>

Welcome to Our New and Reinstated Members

LWVFA is happy to welcome the following new and reinstated members since February, 2014, when we last reported in the *VOTER*..

Margaret Boyne	UAM
Gloria Crawford	SPR
Monroe Freeman	UAM
Lindsay Hamilton	UAM
Ruth Hoffman	MCL
Dale Johnson	UAM*
Kathy Kaplan	UAM
William Mayhew	
Manuel Pablo	UAM
Doris Parnas	UAM
Leslie Poon	C/C
Sondra Protzenko	SPR
Terry Reasoner	MCL
Norma Reck	UAM
Suzanne Rothwell	UAM
Nancy Scott	UAM
Carol Stiller	SPR
Sherry Thrasher	MVD
Veena Trehan	MCL
Rosemary Waring	GSP
Thelma Weiner	FSX

Help for Pets Caught In Domestic Violence

By Barbara Nunes, Chair, Domestic Violence

Did you know that between 25 percent and 40 percent of battered women are unable to escape abusive situations because they worry about what will happen to their pets or livestock should they leave?

Additionally, 71 percent of pet-owning women entering domestic violence shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims. Thirty-two percent reported their children had hurt or killed animals.

Fairfax County has a Pet Haven Project where victims can access the animal shelter for temporary housing for their pet (up to 60 days) or obtain help in finding a new home for their pets. The program has 200 volunteers helping victims by giving medical help or other necessary care for pets. Presently they assist two or three pets a week. Email FCPDPetResources@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-0208 for more information.

In addition, the Protective Order process allows petitioners to request possession of their companion animal – and most family pets qualify.

Source: www.americanhumane.org/interaction/support-the-bond/fact-sheets/understanding-the-link.html

Garza Named to Address General Meeting in January



“Dr. Karen Garza, Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools will be our speaker for the January general meeting, set for January 24 at the Fairfax Country Club.” announced co-President Helen Kelly. (See further details and the registration form on page 6.)

Garza was appointed Superintendent effective July 1, 2013, coming to us from Lubbock, Texas, where she had served as Superintendent of Lubbock Independent School District (LISD) since 2009. Under her leadership, the district experienced significant gains in student achievement, while reducing the achievement gap in science, math, and social studies. She was also able to implement a strategic plan that increased graduation/completion rates.

A self-described collaborative leader, Dr. Garza designed a

framework at LISD to engage students, educators, and the community in empowering people, improving educational practices, and achieving performance excellence.

Previously, she served as Chief Academic Officer for the Houston Independent School District (HISD), where she was responsible for the learning of more than 200,000 students and the management and success of more than 300 schools. She is credited with developing an educational improvement model that brought HISD from one of the lowest academically performing school districts in the state to one of the highest performing.

Dr. Garza began her career as an elementary school teacher and considers herself a lifelong learner. She has served in a number of leadership roles throughout her career, including deputy superintendent, principal, curriculum supervisor, and education specialist.

What Should the 2015 - 2017 Program Be for LWV-VA and LWNCA?

Compiled by Judy Helein and Karole McKalip

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 discussing refers this time around to those LWV-VA and LWNCA 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 not a vote; rather, consensus is mutual agreement of League members arrived at through discussion. Members, usually at convention or convention, select a program that they believe warrants League study and action. The LWV-VA organizes a study committee. The committee should furnish pamphlets, research reports, and bibliographies; and set deadlines for progress reports to the Board. During discussion, everyone has an opportunity to express their viewpoints, and the issue is examined from all sides. Consensus questions, created by the appropriate study committee and approved by the Board, provide structure for the meeting. Members discuss the pros and cons until it becomes apparent that consensus has/has not been reached on each question. The study committee analyzes the consensus responses and, using this information, creates a position statement that is submitted for Board approval.

Concurrence is an agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members such as a task force or committee appointed by the Board or by another League either within or outside of Virginia.

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 or take action.

Ideas for new programs originate at the local League level 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. The past couple of years LWVFA program planning has been done at the General Meeting in January. LWVFA considers the state and regional positions in January of odd numbered years and national and local positions in January of even numbered years. This schedule reflects the due dates established by other League levels and calendars.

The following criteria are used when proposing a program item:

1. Can the issue be resolved by government action?
2. At what level (local, regional, state or national)?
3. Does the League have a position at any level that could address the specific issue?
4. Can the League’s involvement make a difference?
5. Is there enough enthusiasm for the topic?
6. Does the League 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 to the Leagues involved. Collecting 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 2015.

LWVFA Program Planning this year:

LWVFA members, using the material in this document and on the websites at the links provided below, should familiarize themselves with League positions and decide individually how they would complete the program planning reports. They should bring this material and their suggestions to the General Meeting on January 24, 2015. Program planning discussion covering both League levels will take place before Superintendent Garza's talk 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 their forms either by mail to: Karole McKalip, 6009 Denton Court, Springfield, Virginia 22152 or by email to kdmckalip@verizon.net. This procedure will provide all League members the opportunity to make their suggestions.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA (LWV-VA)

Positioned for Action in Brief (A Condensed Listing of LWV-VA Positions) For full positions, see Positioned For Action, on the website: <http://lwv-va.org/files/positions-2014-positions-full.pdf>

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 government 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.

GOVERNMENT

DELEGATION OF POWER

Support for a balanced partnership between state and local government, including:

- Policies and incentives that promote regional coordination and local action.
- Establishment of uniform powers and responsibilities of local governments by changing the distinctions between cities, counties, and towns.
- Coordination of activities and programs of local jurisdictions.

ELECTION LAWS

Support measures to ensure the availability of voter registration and to encourage and facilitate increased voter participation in elections, including: absentee voting by mail and in-person without a reason; an adequate number of voting machines and trained election officers; the use of satellite voting; split shifts for election officers when needed; and measures that take advantage of technological advances such as online voter registration and the use of electronic poll books. The League also supports the shared funding of statewide registration and voting systems by the localities and the Commonwealth; providing adequate authority and resources to the State Board of Elections for oversight and enforcement of laws and standards for registration and elections uniformly throughout the Commonwealth; and the use of secure electronic means to facilitate voter registration and absentee voting for Virginia's military and overseas voters. If a pilot program for vote centers is successful, LWV-VA supports the authorization of these at the option of localities.

FISCAL POLICY

Support for a responsible state fiscal policy that includes:

- A flexible and diverse tax structure that is based on a progressive income tax.
- Continuous evaluation of all programs for need, effectiveness, efficiency, and economy.
- Flexibility in developing local sources of revenue.
- Increased state commitment to funding of state-mandated programs.

Opposition to constitutional or statutory limits on state/local government spending or revenue sources.

REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING 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.

In addition to the Virginia constitutional requirement of equal population, contiguous and compact districts and the need for protecting the voting strength of minority groups, the League supports the following considerations in redistricting:

- Natural geographic boundaries;
- Jurisdictional boundaries;
- Communities of interest; and
- Competitiveness

The Virginia constitution should be amended to provide that redistricting will occur on a decennial basis only.

TRANSPORTATION

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

- Regional organizations, that set policy for a multi-modal public transportation program, that plan, coordinate, and are the designated recipients of federal and state funds, that operate or contract for services, and that could have taxing power.
- A mixture of public (federal, state, and local) and private funding for public transportation.
- Increased local participation with some public funds utilized to encourage private support and the use of innovative financing methods, such as tax incentives to encourage private sector participation.
- Provide a variety of incentives to increase the use of public transportation.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND VIRGINIA LAW

Support for the legal recognition of marriage as an equal partnership, including:

- Policies that recognize non-monetary as well as monetary contributions to a marriage by each partner.
 - Surviving spouse policies that specify that if one spouse dies without a will, the surviving spouse should inherit all property.
 - Divorce policies that recognize separately acquired property before marriage and during marriage through gifts or inheritance.
 - Elimination of the concept of "fault" in the court's division of marital property.
 - Legal recognition of valid pre-nuptial contracts.
- Review current national trends which expand the definition of marriage and civil unions between same sex couples.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Support for achieving and maintaining acceptable air quality through:

- Adoption of strict vehicle emission standards.
- Development of less polluting alternative fuels.
- Programs and regulations that foster efficient transportation modes.

LAND USE

Support for state policies that include:

- Creation of a state long-range comprehensive land use plan coordinated with local and regional plans.
- State protection of critical environmental areas (i.e. wetlands, agricultural lands, unique wildlife habitats) through some land use controls.
- Assistance to and increased flexibility for localities in land use planning and control.

WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

Support for a comprehensive state effort to protect the water supplies, including:

- Recognition of the connection between ground and surface water.
- Decision making based on the concept of sharing in the use of ground water.
- State responsibility for the collection of information on water resources and planning for future use.
- Land use policies that guarantee protection of water resources.

Moratorium on uranium mining until modern enforceable and effective best practices are approved by an independent

assessment team.

SOCIAL POLICY

ADULT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Support for addressing the crime of adult domestic violence through:

- Uniform law enforcement including mandatory arrest, reporting.
- Educational and training programs for medical, clerical, law enforcement personnel, and the public on the problem of adult domestic violence as well as conflict resolution.
- Assistance and job training programs for victims.

CHILD CARE

Support for state policies that promote quality childcare that is affordable, accessible, and available, including:

- Minimum comprehensive state license standards for child care facilities.
- Incentives for development of child care programs.
- Financial assistance for low income families.
- Coordinated resource and referral systems.
- Training for care givers and parents.

Also, support a requirement that professional childcare givers report child abuse /neglect.

CHILDREN AT RISK

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, including:

- Fund preventive services, rehabilitative programs, family support programs, crises services, court costs, and detention.
- Evaluations of programs and services.
- State mandated case planning and case management systems to assure timely access to services.
- Internal and judicial grievance procedures.

EDUCATION

Part I Funding - Support for state funding for public schools that insures a high quality education with equal educational opportunities for all children, including:

- Full funding for the Standards of Quality.
- Increase the state's share of education costs.
- Full funding of state mandates.
- Funding for half-day pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk children and full-day kindergarten programs at the option of localities.
- State funding for some portion of capital costs.
- Improve the funding formula for determining local ability to pay and using it as a basis for distribution of state education funds.

Part II Quality Education -

The League supports the following elements for a quality education:

- Four core disciplines: English, Mathematics, Science, History and Social Studies;
- Art, Music, Physical Education, Health and Foreign Languages;
- Analytical skills, application of knowledge and decision-making;
- Technology integrated throughout the curriculum
- Strong remedial programs implemented at the earliest

indication of a student's academic weakness;

§Special offerings for at-risk and gifted students and educational programs for students with special needs, using specified minimum standards;

§Education for students with limited English proficiency, in which emphasis is placed on teaching English;

§Career and Technical education;

§Professional education of principals and teachers and on going staff development;

§Class size appropriate to instructional goals; a safe environment for students and staff; and discipline, providing preventative programs and a well-defined system of rules, consistently enforced;

§Guidance Counselors for academics and support services;

§Parental and community support and involvement;

§Opportunities to select a specific program or school. These opportunities should be based on a system of equity so that all qualified students have equal access.

- School-based teamwork, goal-setting and decision-making
- Application of learning to life experiences in further education, work, and leisure activities.
- Incentives, recognition, and awards for both students and teachers.

Appropriate assessment of student achievement.

ADULT JUSTICE

Support for an adequately funded judicial and corrections system that serves all people without discrimination, and incorporates restorative justice practices. Such a system includes:

- Judicial selection by the General Assembly with use of a nominating commission of lay-persons and lawyers.
- Sentencing by judges, not juries, with the availability of a presentencing report.
- Corrections system that is adequately funded, efficiently administered, and humane.
- Corrections system that protects society and rehabilitates offenders, while offering deterrence, diversion, protection, and restitution programs.
- Local jails and community-based corrections facilities that are professionally administered and use of alternatives to incarceration and community resources in the rehabilitation and treatment of prisoners.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support for an adequately funded and separate Department of Juvenile Justice that emphasizes prevention and rehabilitation, to include:

- Prevention programs should be provided for children identified with certain risk factors (i.e. parental incarceration, household history of drug/sexual abuse)
- Rehabilitation programs that provide treatment and training to meet the needs of each child and include counseling, vocational training and accredited academic programs.
- Alternative education programs or community service for juveniles who have been expelled or suspended from school or paroled from correctional facilities.
- In- and out-patient mental health and substance abuse programs oriented to the needs of juveniles.
- Pre- and post-dispositional community-based services.
- Establishment of small therapeutic group or foster homes.
- Removal of juveniles from adult jails.
- Development of activities/programs/training, consistent with the principles of restorative justice.

RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR VIRGINIA FELONS

Support for the automatic restoration of the civil rights of felons, regardless of the nature of their crime, upon their release from incarceration or upon completion of probation or parole. The process should be easy to understand, accessible, transparent and fair with information about the process made available to all

MENTAL HEALTH

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, including:

- Long-range planning, coordination among agencies, and the use of established criteria for allocation of funds.
- Assistance in providing adequate and appropriate housing for the mentally ill.
- Comprehensive and consistent service delivery in all local communities.
- Advocacy programs that ensure patients' rights at all levels.

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

LWV-VA Program Planning Report Form for 2015-2107

(The following questions will be considered at the planning session on January 24. Persons who cannot attend but would like their opinions recorded should email kdmckalip@verizon.net by January 24.)

Current Positions:

1. We recommend that the following current positions undergo major expansion/restudy
2. We recommend the following current positions or parts of current positions undergo minor expansion
3. We recommend that the following current positions or parts of current positions be eliminated in part or in full (please describe)
4. We recommend that the following current positions be retained, with either no change or with only minor editing

Major Expansion/Restudy: Please include a brief description of its scope and who will work on the study committee

New Study:

1. We recommend that the following new issues (not covered by a current position) be studied with the intention of reaching member agreement
Please include a brief description of its scope and who will

work on the committee

Other Comments For Board Consideration:

League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (2013)

The following positions have been condensed. The full text of these positions can be found on the NCA website –<http://www.lwvnca.org/Positions.html>

Airports

LWVNCA 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

LWVNCA 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

LWVNCA 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

LWVNCA 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

LWVNCA 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

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

Regional Governance

LWVNCA 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

LWVNCA 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 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

LWVNCA Program Planning Report

(The following instructions arrived from NCA program planners as direction on handling planning):

“The LWVNCA Program Planning Committee is in the process of developing the 2015 - 2017 program. Recommendations for program (i.e. forums and informational presentations) are encouraged from Leagues and individual members. Send any suggestions to the Committee to consider to - Kathy McGuire (kathyandcats@gmail.com) or Diane Hibino (dianehibino@comcast.net).

Additionally, a formal program survey will be sent to League’s for further input on February , 2015.

We value the input from your League and your members and want to provide programs to meet the needs of our Metro Area Leagues.”

Since transportation is part of NCA’s program for this year, it might be valuable to have an example of the kind of forum NCA presents. We have received word of the following:

As part of the CURRENT program year, LWVNCA is presenting a seminar on Transportation issues across the region on Saturday, March 28, 2015, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the NRECA Center in Arlington. The event is called “Crossing Boundaries”

Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-7273

McAuliffe Announces a \$17.5 Million Federal Preschool Expansion Grant

RICHMOND – Governor Terry announced on December 10 that Virginia has been awarded a Federal grant that will allow the Commonwealth to serve as many as 1,600 additional at-risk four-year-olds in new, high-quality preschool classes. In addition, the grant will fund enhanced services to approximately 1,400 children in existing pre-kindergarten classrooms.

“Expanding preschool is essential to ensure that all Virginians — regardless of income or background — acquire the education and skills they’ll need to participate and succeed in the new Virginia economy of the 21st century,” **Governor McAuliffe said.** “This grant is a big win for the children of the Commonwealth.”

The grant from the U.S. Department of Education will support expansion and improvement of the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) in 11 high-needs school divisions beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. VPI is a state-funded program that currently supports quality preschool programs for approximately 18,000 at-risk four-year-olds.

In addition to providing high-quality preschool experiences and activities, the selected divisions will offer focused outreach to families and communities, as well as

individualized support for children with unique learning needs, including students with disabilities, English-language learners and children from military families. This combination of instruction, outreach and support will be known as VPI Plus.

The participating divisions are as follows: Brunswick County, Chesterfield County, Fairfax County, Giles County, Henrico County, Norfolk, Petersburg, Prince William County, Richmond, Sussex County, and Winchester.

The divisions were selected based on the following indicators of need: poverty, number of Title I schools, percentage of children entering kindergarten below the state’s literacy readiness benchmark and the number of unserved at-risk four-year-olds. Together, the divisions have committed to establishing 88 VPI Plus classrooms and improving services for children in 94 existing preschool classes.

«This exciting Preschool Expansion Grant is proof that Virginia’s dedication to early childhood education is recognized nationwide,” **Secretary of Education Anne Holton said.** “Access to high-quality early childhood education is a determining factor in future success, especially for at-risk young people.”





~ You are cordially invited to attend ~



The LWV of the Fairfax Area
General Meeting

Saturday, January 24, 2015

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 LWVNCA**

**10:30 a.m. Speaker: Dr Karen Garza,
Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools**

12:00 – Luncheon
(Reservations required for luncheon only)

Luncheon Reservation Deadline January 16, 2015-- 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: **LWVFA** 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, 2015
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, 2015.)

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