



Fairfax VOTER

March 2015

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Human Trafficking Part II: What Is Happening in Our Area?

In a recently published report by the Polaris Project, “Virginia is one of 12 states that failed to make minimal efforts to pass laws that support victims” of human sex trafficking. It received a final grade of D. According to the FBI, the Washington, D.C., area is “one of the 14 major sex trafficking centers in the U.S.” This is a lucrative business. What is being done locally to combat this activity? This month’s topic will focus on the sex trafficking of minors. We will examine the legislation currently in place in Virginia and what still needs to be addressed with legislative action. Awareness, education, and interventions are other activities that can control this devastating activity.

Calendar

March

- 2 VOTER deadline
- 2 Watergate at Landmark
Community Elections. 6-9 p.m.
- 6 LWVNCA Board meeting
- 7 **Briefing and At-Large meeting**
- 8 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 9-12 Unit Meetings**
- 16 Student holiday
- 16-22 Sunshine (open government) Week
- 22 LWVFA forum on firearm safety:
Reducing the Risk in Fairfax County,
Pohick Regional Library, Burke
- 18 Board meeting**
- 30-31 School holiday

Inside This Issue

- Presidents’ Message 2
- Volunteers Needed for Election 2
- Superintendent Makes Case for Budget 3
- Meet and Greets: Circle of 12 4
- Transportation Boundaries 4
- Human Trafficking Part II EF-1
- Discussion Questions 5
- Va Leagues Reach Suffragist Goal 5
- How County Circuit Court Works 6
- Adjustments in Monthly Topics 7
- Nominating Committee Update 7
- LWV Celebrates 95th Anniversary 7
- Reducing Risk From Firearms Forum 8
- Unit Meeting Locations 9



Presidents' Message



Are you looking for something interesting to do during March? If so, we recommend our Firearms Safety Forum, *Reducing Risk in Fairfax County*, which takes place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 22. For full details, check out the official flyer on page 8 of this VOTER. The forum will be a panel discussion featuring officials who deal with domestic violence, suicides and accidental shootings. Come and learn what we all can do to prevent needless loss of life. We encourage you to invite any friends and neighbors who are interested in this topic.

We thank Sidney Johnson, who organized this forum, contacted the participants and arranged the venue, in addition to her other League obligations.

On April 25, we will hold our Annual Meeting at Clyde's of Tysons Corner. Our speaker will be OneVirginia2021 Executive Director Brian Cannon, who will tell us how we would benefit from nonpartisan redistricting in Virginia. The League of Women Voters of Virginia has partnered with OneVirginia2021 to lobby for a constitutional amendment mandating nonpartisan redistricting before the next census in 2021. Mr. Cannon will tell us why achieving this goal is so important.

Volunteers Needed to Assist With Watergate at Landmark Community Elections

You may have noticed on our monthly calendar the listing of a new community election on Monday, March 2, at 6-9 p.m.

LWVFA has taken on this election from the Alexandria League. We will need 8-12 volunteers to staff the election, but we will not be responsible for the final counting. Students from TC Williams High School have been invited to assist us. A sandwich dinner will be provided. Specific directions will be sent to each volunteer. Please help in this fundraising opportunity.

Call Julie Jones (703) 476-8347 or Helen Kelly (703) 437-3087 to volunteer.

Observant as you are, you probably noticed that both the Firearms Forum and our Annual Meeting speaker topic are meant to educate – part of our core mission. Ever since the founding of our country, Americans have understood the value of information for all citizens. Thomas Jefferson put it this way: “Educate and inform the whole mass of the people. They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.”

Educate and inform is exactly what we do when we hold Meets and Greets and pass out *What's on the Ballot* and *Facts for Voters*. And our fellow Fairfax residents tell us how much they appreciate our efforts. We hear it all the time when we participate in these activities. “Thank you for all that you do.”

That's why we say *Thank You* to all of you who have donated your time and your hard work to League efforts in our community. You help us do what we do best, and we couldn't do any of it without you. Thank you for all that you do for the League.

We hope to see many of you at the Firearms Forum and at the Annual Meeting. In the meantime, we can all look forward to the coming of spring and to a landscape that changes from gray and brown to the bright colors of the new season.

Julie and Helen

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2014 - 2015

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

School Superintendent Makes the Case for Budget Proposal

By Lois Page, LWVFA Secretary

Fairfax County Public Schools superintendent Karen Garza had heard of our school system while she was still in Houston, before she had even considered a job here. “You are known across the country,” she said.

Garza began her talk to LWVFA’s General Meeting with some facts and figures about the rapid growth of our 10th largest school system. We have reached 187,000 students and expect to be over 200,000 by the end of 2020. We are enrolling 17 students every day. “We have a very supportive community that values schools. We exceed state and national standards on many measures.”

Garza distributed the proposed school budget to make her major point that our schools are struggling financially. It can be accessed at www.fcps.edu. A major area of growth is the number of students living in poverty—51,000. Among these are a number of students who are English language Learners, and some may not have attended any school in the past three years.

However, since the year 2000, the system has had to cut \$465 million from its budget. It cut 737 positions just last year, 2,100 since 2008, and increased class sizes three times. Employees have had to do much more with less.



She warns about the challenges of fiscal year 2017 when the system has to make an additional 10 percent contribution to the Virginia Retirement System. For the 2016 budget, she felt the need for a time of stabilization with no cuts in positions. But because FCPS is almost in last place for teacher salaries among the surrounding jurisdictions, she has included a raise in teacher

salaries. The County gave her guidance for a 3.2 percent increase in the size of the transfer of funds, including the cost of full day Mondays. Her request for a 3.99 percent increase “has nothing extra in it.”

This urgent message aside, Garza talked about several initiatives the system has undertaken. A committee of 70



Garza show here conferring with Executive Director Beth Tudan, Maggi Luca and Co-president Helen Kelly.

stakeholders came together recently to determine what skills our students need. Their report called “FCPS Portrait of a Graduate” appears on the website. The main headings of the ideal graduate’s portrait is that he or she needs to be a:

- communicator
- collaborator
- ethical and global citizen
- creative and critical thinker
- a goal-directed and resilient individual.

Among some of her plans for the future is an increase in career education opportunities. Foundations are being approached to help with funding some of the career innovations. The system is also looking to increase parent engagement strategies for immigrant families; to take a careful look at the online textbook issue, especially for math—“we’re not there yet”; and to urge changes in the state’s requirements for testing. She does not feel we need to test every student every year. Another troublesome issue is the need for some boundary changes. This is complicated by what she describes as a need for about one third more money than the schools are receiving for capital improvements.

Garza hopes that northern Virginia will begin to make the case for increased funding from the state. She says our area receives only 23 percent of its budget from the state, while every other jurisdiction receives 45 percent. We keep only 19 cents or every dollar that is sent to Richmond. “We need to take on the state.”

Meet and Greets 2015 ---Join the Circle of Twelve!

Organize the Meet and Greet for your own magisterial district or be one of the liaisons who correspond with the candidates. Together, the nine district organizers and three candidate liaisons can work with volunteers and partners to set up these signature League events.

Nine Magisterial District Organizers

We plan to have one Meet and Greet for each magisterial district. We are asking one member who is resident in each district to be the organizer for that district. She will have plenty of help from other unit members and from partners in other organizations such as the AAUW. She will find the venue, set the date, find the volunteers for the event, and correspond with the candidate liaisons. She will also maintain contact with her own supervisor and School Board candidates. Guidelines and a timeline will be provided.

Three Liaisons With the Senatorial, Delegate, and Countywide Offices

We are asking for one member to be a liaison with the Senatorial candidates, one to be a liaison with the candidates for the House of Delegates, and one to be a liaison with the countywide candidates, Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth Attorney, Sheriff, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, At-Large School Board, and Office of Soil and Water Conservation. These liaisons would get information about venues and dates from the magisterial district organizers, make sure there were no conflicts in scheduling, and inform the candidates in one letter of all the scheduled events, so that the candidates would not receive multiple invitations from the districts. There will be guidelines and a timeline.

Urgency

If we find venues and set dates as soon as possible, we stand the best chance of getting onto the candidates' schedules. Candidates will be certified by March 31, 2015. They'll be looking for opportunities to meet the public.

Support

Peggy Knight and Julie Jones have guidelines, timeline ideas, and sample letters. We do not have to develop the process from scratch. The work is mainly concentrated in the spring and fall. Much of it can be done from home by phone and e-mail.

Leadership

Marcia McDevitt has graciously volunteered to be our countywide advisor. She has long experience and many contacts in the county. She can provide background

information and insight, advise on venues, and help find participants for the events. Sidney Johnson will be the overall coordinator.

If you wish to help with the Meet and Greets in any way, please contact Sidney Johnson, 703-476-0581, sidneyjohnson3@verizon.net

Are You Ready to Cross Some Transportation Boundaries?

Do you find our current transit and roads network challenging? Do you wonder what changes may be around the bend? Join us on Saturday, March 28, for the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area Transportation Forum, "Crossing Boundaries." Our expert panelists will help us examine current regional transportation systems with its many challenges and help us see how a better system might be achieved.

Registration and coffee begin at 9:30 a.m, followed by introductions and our morning panelists presentations beginning at 10:00 a.m. A question period will follow.

We'll break up into small groups for lunch and choose from the many near-by restaurants in Ballston to dine on our own and continue the discussions begun in the morning. The afternoon panelists begin their presentations at 1:00 p.m with questions following. Our final wrap-up will be at 3:15 p.m.

We are so fortunate to have these great guest speakers: Shyam Kannan, WMATA Director of Planning; Emily Badger, Washington Post & Wonk Blog; Dan Reed, a consultant with Nelson Nygaard; Garritt Knapp, UMD, Center for Smart Growth; Tom Fairchild, a mobility and technology expert; Stewart Schwartz, Coalition for Smarter Growth; Ross Capon, railroads expert; Aldea Douglas, AARP; and Rich Kuzmyak, Renaissance Planning Group.

Come and be part of this free transportation forum in the Conference Center at NRECA - National Rural Electric Cooperative Association - 4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA. It's just two blocks to the Ballston Metro and there is free underground parking on Saturday when you enter on North Taylor Street between Wilson Blvd and Fairfax Drive. You can register at <http://lwnca.eventbrite.com>. Help us to cross some transportation boundaries!



Human Trafficking – Part II

By Judy Helein with Karole McKalip

INTRODUCTION

The FBI has identified the Washington, D.C., area as one of the 14 major sex trafficking centers in the U.S. The area is considered to be a “hot spot.” In this article we will focus primarily on domestic sex trafficking of minors in the Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia and Fairfax County areas.

Teen sex trafficking has often been linked to runaway, homeless and kidnapped teens. Did you know traffickers are now manipulating and trapping “typical” teens into selling sex after school before going home to unsuspecting parents in time for dinner and homework? Teen sex trafficking is the act of manipulating or forcing anyone under the age of 18 to engage in sexual acts in exchange for anything of value (money, drugs, shelter, food, clothes, etc.). The FBI reports that sex trafficking of domestic teenage children is the second-fastest growing crime in America. Drug trafficking is first. An estimated 100,000 children in America are at risk for sex trafficking each year. The average age for entry into prostitution and pornography is 13 to 14 for girls and 6 to 8 for boys. Teens younger than 18 years old induced into commercial sex are legally considered victims, not criminals, according to federal law.

Sex trafficking generates tremendous profits. Pimps can earn up to \$632,000 per year by selling four young women or children. Traffickers are marketers. They are in a business.

Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force

Founded in 2004, the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force is a collaboration of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies – along with nongovernmental organizations – dedicated to combating human trafficking and related crimes. Members of the Task Force include the Fairfax County Police Department, the Polaris Project, the

United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, the FBI, Virginia Attorney General’s Office, and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as other local law enforcement agencies in Northern Virginia.

In October 2013, the task force announced the receipt of a \$1 million grant from the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs and the Office for Victims of Crime. Under the terms of the grant, a total of \$500,000 was awarded to the Fairfax County Police Department over two years to fund, among other things, a Human Trafficking Unit. A full-time detective (Detective Bill Woolf) and a full-time crime analyst are now dedicated to conducting human trafficking investigations in Fairfax County. They also coordinate the overall investigative efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement members of the Human Trafficking Task Force in Northern Virginia. An additional \$500,000 over two years was awarded the Polaris Project to

provide services to victims of human trafficking issues in collaboration with the task force.

At a recent meeting in Falls Church, Detective Woolf stated that human trafficking statistics are incomplete because there is no stand-alone law and no method of tracking trafficking. However, he reported that the task force had received 156 leads in the past year, of which 44 percent were juvenile sex trafficking. The task force recovered and offered services to 108 victims. One hundred and two of the victims identified are

U.S. citizens.

Detective Woolf said that he works with the FBI and Homeland Security on every case. The average length of an investigation is 8 to 12 months. Detective Woolf said that law enforcement cannot do it alone. The number one priority is that victims are taken to a safe place and receive proper

The League of Women Voters of the United States Position on Human Trafficking

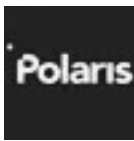
The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

treatment. He said that outreach, awareness and education are very important and, in general, he thinks a stand-alone felony offense for human trafficking would be beneficial.

LEGISLATION

Virginia has no separate human trafficking law. Virginia Code 9.1-102(55) gives the Department of Criminal Justice Services the power and duty to: “In conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General, advise law enforcement agencies and attorneys for the Commonwealth regarding the identification, investigation, and prosecution of human trafficking offenses using the common law and existing criminal statutes in the Code of Virginia.”

The Polaris Project’s policy program is viewed as a premier source of human trafficking legislation and policy expertise in the United States. For the past four years, Polaris has rated all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on 10 categories of laws that are critical to establishing a basic legal framework to effectively combat human trafficking, punish traffickers and support survivors. It is important to note that these 10 categories are not the entirety of the important legislation that helps to combat human trafficking in a given state. Moreover, the ratings do not assess the effectiveness or implementation of these laws, nor the anti-trafficking efforts of task forces, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, service providers and advocates in the state. The purpose of the annual state ratings process is to document laws on the books, to motivate legislators and policy advocates and to focus attention of the states on the statutes that still need to be enacted in order to achieve a strong anti-trafficking legal framework.



Polaris State Rating Category Descriptions:

1. **Sex Trafficking** – A statute that criminalizes sex trafficking and includes elements of inducing another through force, fraud, or coercion to engage in a commercial sex act. Some states have related laws in the prostitution code and were given credit if they had the same criminal elements.
2. **Labor Trafficking** – A statute that creates the crime of labor trafficking or trafficking when a person is compelled through force, fraud or coercion into providing labor or services.
3. (a) **Asset Forfeiture for Human Trafficking** – A statute that provides for the forfeiture of assets used in the course of the crime or acquired with proceeds from the crime of human trafficking.
- (b) **Investigative Tools for Law Enforcement** – A

statute that amends existing racketeering statutes to include the crime of human trafficking or authorizes the use of wiretapping by law enforcement in human trafficking investigations.

4. (a) **Training in Human Trafficking for Law Enforcement** – A statute that mandates or encourages law enforcement to be trained in human trafficking issues and the law.
- (b) **Human Trafficking Commission or Task Force** – A statute that creates, establishes or encourages a task force, commission or advisory committee dedicated to addressing human trafficking.
5. **Lower Burden of Proof for Sex Trafficking of Minors** – A statute that ensures that the elements of force, fraud or coercion are not required for a trafficker to be prosecuted for the sex trafficking of a minor. This statute must be under the sex trafficking section in order for the state to receive credit.
6. **Posting a Human Trafficking Hotline** – A statute that mandates or encourages the public posting of a human trafficking hotline such as the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline or a state human trafficking hotline.
7. **Safe Harbor** – Protecting Sexually Exploited Minors – A statute that recognizes sexually exploited individuals under 18 as victims of a crime in need of protection and services by granting immunity from prosecution or diverting minors from juvenile delinquency proceedings and instead directing them to child welfare services. In order to receive full credit, the state must have provisions that relate both immunity or diversion and services for the child.
8. **Victim Assistance** – A statute that provides assistance, mandates the creation of a victim services plan or funds programs to help victims of human trafficking. Victim services and protection may include counseling, job assistance, housing, continuing education, legal services and/or a human trafficking caseworker privilege.
9. **Access to Civil Damages** – A statute that provides victims of human trafficking with the ability to seek civil damages from their traffickers.
10. **Vacating Convictions for Sex Trafficking Victims** – A statute that permits victims to have convictions for prostitution that were committed as a result of being trafficked vacated from their criminal records.

Virginia State Rating: Tier one; Total Points 7.

Credited Categories:

1. Sex Trafficking
2. Labor Trafficking

3. a) Asset Forfeiture
 - b) Investigative Tools
4. a) Training and Law Enforcement
5. No requirements of Force, Fraud, or Coercion for minor Victims of Sex Trafficking
6. Posting of a Hotline

Categories Still Needed:

4. b) Human Trafficking Task Force
 - Safe Harbor for Minors
8. Victims Assistance
9. Civil Remedy
10. Vacating Convictions

Virginia is one of 12 states that failed to make minimal efforts to pass laws that support victims. It is important to understand that to truly address human trafficking we must also ensure that the victims of the crime and abuse receive the assistance they need to rebuild their lives.

Shared Hope International

Shared Hope International was founded in 1998 when U.S. Rep. Linda Smith traveled into the heart of the brothel district in Mumbai, India, where she witnessed the brutal exploitation and sexual slavery of women and children. She established Shared Hope International to rescue and restore women and children enslaved in sex trafficking. Shared Hope is a Christian nonprofit non-governmental organization that strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, restore victims of sexual slavery and bring justice to vulnerable women and children who have been victimized through sex trafficking. Shared Hope envisions a world passionately opposed to sex trafficking and a committed community restoring survivors to lives of purpose, value and choice - one life at a time. Shared Hope is part of a worldwide effort to prevent sex trafficking and slavery. This organization operates programs in the United States, India, Nepal and Jamaica.



Shared Hope's Protected Innocence Challenge (PIC) is a comprehensive study of existing state laws designed to inspire and equip advocates. Under the Challenge, every state receives a report card that grades the state on 41

key legislative components that must be addressed in a state's laws in order to effectively respond to the crime of minor sex trafficking. In addition, each state receives a complete analysis of the 41 component review and practical recommendations for improvement.

Virginia's 2013 Report Card – Final Score was 62 and the Final Grade was D.

1) Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. Virginia received a score of 5 out of 10 points. Virginia does not have a stand-alone human trafficking or sex trafficking law. Child sex trafficking can be prosecuted under the abduction for immoral purpose offense which includes for the purpose of prostitution and child pornography. However, the law requires force, intimidation or deception to be used to cause the abduction, even when the victim is a minor. The state commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws include commercial exploitation of a minor, taking indecent liberties with children and receiving money for procuring a person. Prostitution laws do not refer to abduction for immoral purpose or federal trafficking laws to identify commercially sexually exploited minors as sex trafficking victims. The racketeering law includes abduction for immoral purpose, receiving money for procuring a person and child pornography offenses as predicate offenses.

2) Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand. Virginia received a score of 15 out of a possible 25.

The plain language of the definition of abduction, the statute used to prosecute sex trafficking, does not appear to apply to buyers of commercial sex with minors. Buyers may be prosecuted for commercial exploitation of a minor within the prostitution law which distinguishes between buying sex with minors versus adults. Certain provisions of taking indecent liberties with children could be used to apply to some buyers, but those provisions are not specific to commercial sexual exploitation. The state has enhanced penalties for using a computer to violate child pornography laws, and the statute on use of communication systems to facilitate certain offenses involving children might apply to buyers of commercial sex with minors. Defendants are not prohibited from asserting mistake of age as a defense to prosecution under any sexual offense law. A buyer must pay restitution for any medical expenses incurred by the victim as a result of the crime, and buyers face mandatory criminal asset forfeiture for child pornography offenses and vehicle forfeiture for second and subsequent commercial exploitation of minors. A buyer convicted of possession

of child pornography is required to register as a sex offender, but not a buyer convicted of commercial exploitation of a minor within the prostitution law.

- 3) Criminal Provisions for Traffickers. Virginia received a score of 12 out of a possible 15 points.

The abduction for immoral purposes law provides a sentence as high as federal trafficking offenses (10 years - life), but other applicable crimes do not. Taking indecent liberties with a child prohibits receiving money for a child to perform in sexually explicit material and is punishable by imprisonment of 1 to 10 years (or up to 12 months in jail and/or a fine up to \$2500). Producing child pornography is a felony punishable by 5 to 30 years imprisonment when the victim is under 15 and 1 to 20 years if the victim is 15 to 18 years of age. Statutes tackling the growing use of computers by traffickers include use of a computer to produce child pornography or promote a child in an obscene performance and use of the Internet to recruit minors for illegal sex acts, which may include prostitution and pornography offenses. Such tactics are subject to vehicle forfeiture for violations of abduction and prostitution laws. Victim restitution is mandatory. A trafficker is required to register as a sex offender if convicted of child pornography offenses or abduction for immoral purposes. Grounds for termination of parental rights do not include convictions for abduction or CSEC.

- 4) Protective Provisions for the Child Victims. Virginia received 12 out of a possible 27.5 points.

Victims of domestic minor sex trafficking in Virginia continue to be vulnerable due to gaps in the laws. Abduction for immoral purposes and CSEC offenses do not prohibit a defense to prosecution based on consent of the minor. The prostitution law is not limited in application to adults and does not identify a minor engaged in prostitution as a victim of sex trafficking. Victims of child sex trafficking could be subject to arrest and charged for the crime committed against them. A victim of commercial sexual offenses is not defined as a child in need of services. The definition of abuse and neglect, although it includes the undefined term of "sexual exploitation", does not expressly include exploitation through abduction for immoral purposes, CSEC, or child pornography crimes. The definition of "caregiver" for the purposes of removing abused and neglected children from the home includes only those with legal custody or those standing "in loco parentis" of the child, and thus is not sufficient to include a trafficker and allow for child welfare intervention.

Victims of child sex trafficking are eligible for crime victims' compensation but the program contains ineligibility criteria that could negatively affect their ability to recover compensation, including a requirement to cooperate with law enforcement and time requirements (waived for good cause). Virginia law provides several victim-friendly criminal justice provisions, including extending the "rape shield" law and the use of a two-way closed-circuit television for testifying victims of abduction for immoral purposes. The state law provides an automatic expunging of juvenile records if the juvenile is 19 and five years have elapsed since the last hearing, but records will be maintained for felony offenses. Offenders for any crime must make at least partial restitution for damages or losses caused by the crime and medical costs, and victims of child pornography offenses are entitled to mandatory restitution. No civil actions specific to CSEC or abduction are authorized in the law but sexual abuse victims have a 20-year statute of limitations on civil actions for damages. Misdemeanor actions must be brought within one year, but no statute of limitations exists for felonies.

- 5) Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecutions. Virginia received 12 out of 15 points.

Virginia law directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services to advise law enforcement on "the identification, investigation, and prosecution of human trafficking offenses using the common law and existing criminal statutes in the Code of Virginia." Single party consent to audiotaping is allowed by law, and wiretapping is authorized for most felony offenses related to domestic minor sex trafficking. Use of a law enforcement decoy in child sex trafficking or CSEC investigations is not specifically authorized by law; however, an investigation under use of a communications system to facilitate certain crimes involving children which could include CSEC offenses is protected from a defense that the "minor" was in fact over 15 by statutory language indicating culpability if the offender had reason to believe the person involved was less than 15. This same law can permit law enforcement to pose as a minor under 15 on the Internet to investigate CSEC cases as well. Law enforcement must report missing children into the "Missing Children Information Clearinghouse" and must notify the clearinghouse upon recovering a missing child.

- 6) Criminal Provisions for Facilitators. Virginia received 5 points out of a possible 10.

While Virginia has no human trafficking law, aiding

and assisting in abduction for prostitution is included in the abduction for immoral purposes law and is a felony punishable by 1 to 10 years imprisonment. Also, aiding in the production of child pornography, including through financing, is a felony punishable by 5 to 30 years imprisonment when the victim is under 15 and 1 to 20 years when the victim is 15 to 17. Selling and distributing child pornography is a felony punishable by 5 to 20 years imprisonment. Intentionally operating websites that facilitate payment for access to child pornography is a felony punishable by 2 to 10 years imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$100,000. A facilitator may also be subject to criminal gang and racketeering laws resulting in greater penalties and civil forfeiture. No law in Virginia addresses sex tourism. Facilitators are subject to vehicle forfeiture for convictions of assisting abduction and prostitution-related offenses and mandatory asset forfeiture for child pornography offenses, but not for convictions of assisting abduction. A facilitator must pay restitution for any property loss or medical expenses incurred by a victim as a result of the facilitator's crime.

INTERVENTION

Youth For Tomorrow (YFT)

Youth For tomorrow was started in 1986 by Redskins coach Joe Gibbs to help at-risk youth in Washington, D.C. The organization has a 200-acre campus in Prince William County, Virginia. It introduced the Girls on a Journey program in 2008 when staff discovered that several of its girls had been forced into prostitution against their will.



Youth For Tomorrow is the only facility in Virginia and in the mid-Atlantic region that works to provide

safe and secure residential and specialized recovery service for girls ages 12 to 19 who have been sexually exploited/sex trafficked. YTF served 17 girls in 2014. Sixty two girls have been reached through the organization since its Girls on a Journey program began in 2008.

YFT professionals help girls who are victims of sexual abuse and trafficking to regain their lives through individual service plans that set weekly priorities and goals for each girl in their residence, counseling/therapy, supervision and safety, self-reliance and relationships.

YFT collaborates with Shared Hope International, The Polaris Project and works closely with federal, state and

local law enforcement agencies and is a member of the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force. It has recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the state of California to provide Girls on a Journey services to girls rescued from domestic minor sex trafficking in their jurisdictions.

Courtney's House

Courtney's House, a drop-in center in Washington D.C., was founded in 2008 by Tina Fundt. Tina is a trafficking survivor. Courtney's House searches for children who are being forced into prostitution in the streets, in brothels, strip clubs, private homes and hotels. Staff spend every Friday and Saturday night on the streets reaching out to suspected victims. They target specific areas where girls, boys and women are trafficked or at high risk of being trafficked. They hand out unassuming items that carry the Survivor Hotline phone number on them to provide a way for the victims to contact Courtney's House when they need to. Survivors need a way to quickly find help and connect with an understanding individual. The Survivor Helpline is run by survivors for survivors. Victims can call the support line 1-888-261-3665 for immediate help or 911 for emergencies.

Each child and teen who comes to Courtney's House is welcomed by those who have walked in their shoes. Once a preliminary sex trafficking screening is done, a specialized intake process is followed to help to comprehend the full extent of the trauma that each victim has endured. Courtney's House takes a holistic approach to healing. Staff work with each child on an individual basis in counseling and therapy coupled with group interactions to support the child's recovery. Survivor support groups are an integral component of Courtney's House. These groups are open to boys, girls, and transgender survivors. They focus on trauma, recovery, education and life skills along with fun, therapeutic activities like dance, art, and yoga.

In addition, survivors have access to influential mentors and academic tutoring to enhance their ability to create a future full of hope and to accomplish their personal best. Courtney's House also recognizes that the survivors' parents have a key role in the recovery process and that they, too, need healing. Parents will find open arms and support at Courtney's House.

EDUCATION/AWARENESS/PREVENTION

Fairfax County Public Schools

The Fairfax County Schools developed a model Teen Sex Trafficking curriculum for 6th to 12th grades and are willing to share with other communities. The topic of teen sex



trafficking is incorporated into the Family Life Education and Physical Education curriculum. The subject is introduced in the 6th grade, incorporated into discussions about the Internet and social media in the 7th grade, as well as into the Health curriculum in 9th and 10th grades. In the 11th and 12th grades it is a part of the government/civic studies curriculum.

The School System developed a video, “Tricked”, which can be seen on U-tube or the DVD can be ordered for \$5. The video was shown on the local education TV channel in Phoenix during Super Bowl Week.

The Just Ask Prevention Project

The “Just Ask” Prevention Project is a public awareness campaign designed to expose the growing prevalence of Teen Sex Trafficking in Northern Virginia and to inspire the community to end the scouting, manipulation and recruitment of our teenagers.

Many citizens are unaware that these horrific crimes are affecting our own communities. The project’s objective is to decrease the number of trafficking victims in our community by exposing the recruiting tactics traffickers use and the typical profile of their victims. The campaign leverages a community intervention strategy: encouraging friends, family, teachers and neighbors to do their part to end teen sex trafficking.



The project strives to engender a sense of caring in the community at all levels, be it a business owner who sees suspicious activity that may be related to trafficking, a parent who is concerned about a child’s social media contacts or a teen at school who notices a classmate who appears to need a friend. “Just Ask” when you see something amiss; act proactively to help those in our community

The Just Ask Prevention Project is sponsored through collaboration by Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Police Department Human Trafficking Unit, Office of Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services,

Northern Virginia community offices, organizations and faith-based groups, and Hidden Brook Communications.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- 1) Be aware. Know the signs of possible problems:
 - Change in behavior, mood, style of dress, or withdrawal from family and friends.
 - A new boyfriend who might be considerably older
 - Keeping a relationship with someone a secret from family and friends
 - Drop in school attendance
 - Substance Abuse
 - Stopping activities
- 2) Just ask. Let them know you care. Sometimes one caring adult makes all the difference.
- 3) Report it. Call 1.888.373.7888
- 4) Educate others

There are many volunteer opportunities. For more information send an email to info@justaskva.org

Notes

1. December 3, 2014, meeting with Michelle Mueller, Commission for Women, Office for Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA.
2. “Human Trafficking Here and Now”, a forum and discussion of human trafficking in Northern Virginia in Falls Church, VA sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Falls Church and Arlington and the AAUW on January 25, 2015.
3. Information Session for Parents on Teen Human Trafficking” at West Springfield High School on January 28, 2015.
4. News release, October 11, 2013 from www.fairfax-county.gov/police/news-release
5. Polaris Project website <http://www.polarisproject.org>
6. Shared Hope International website <http://www.Sharedhope.org>
7. Meeting with Courtney D. Gaskins. Ph.D., Program Director, Youth for Tomorrow on December 16, 2014.

8. Courtney's House website <http://www.courtneyshouse.org>
9. Fairfax County Public School's website <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/trafficking>
10. Just Ask Virginia website <http://www.justaskva.or>
3. Why do you think Virginia with its low ranking by Polaris and Shared Hope International has not made greater efforts to stem the sex trafficking of minors?
4. What are some things (legislative or otherwise) the state of Virginia or Fairfax County could do to get better "Report Card" grades?
5. Comment on the effectiveness of the County's Education/Awareness/Prevention activities. Are there any other school/community/county activities or interventions that might be implemented?
6. What might our local Leagues or members do to address or publicize the issues related to Human Sex Trafficking, especially related to minors?

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss why our area is considered to be a "hot spot" of sex trafficking. What might be some possible reasons for this?
2. Regarding the Polaris State Rating categories, do you see anything that should be added or dropped? How reasonable are they for the states to enact?

Virginia Leaguers Reach "Donor Wall" Suffragist Memorial Goal

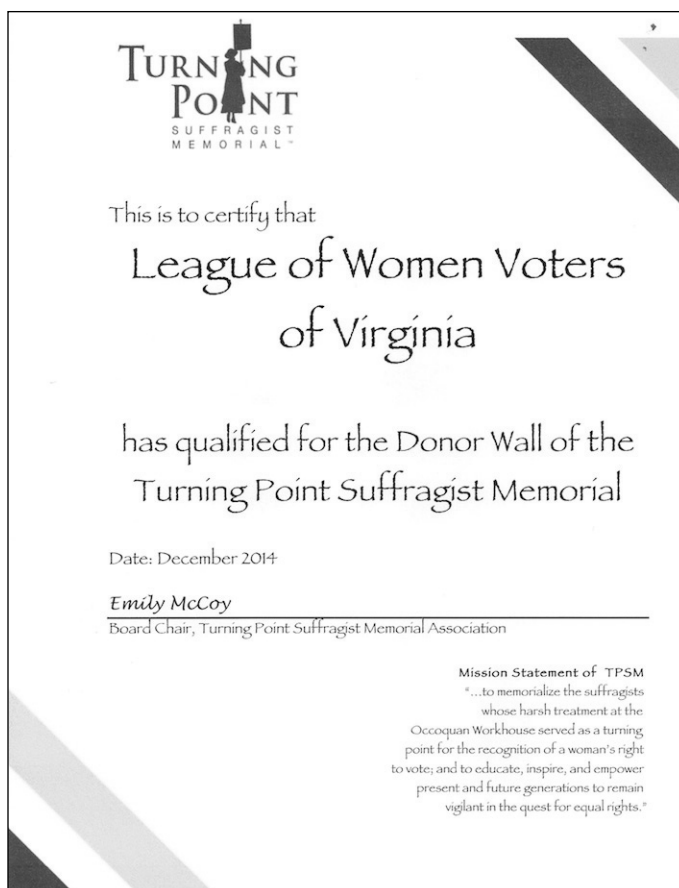
Turning Point Suffragist Memorial League Liaison Lois Page has announced that LWV-VA members from around the state have succeeded in contributing more than the amount needed to have "The League of Women Voters of Virginia" inscribed on the Donor Wall of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Virginia is the third state League to reach this goal. Colorado and Tennessee have also signed on.

The garden-like memorial, which tells the story of the long slog to voting rights for women, is slated to be built in Occoquan Regional Park in southern Fairfax County.

The site was chosen because it is the location of one of the major turning points in the campaign, the imprisonment and torture of women for picketing the White House. The women, who came from all parts of the U.S., were jailed at the Lorton Workhouse next door to the park site. (The story of this imprisonment is told in the HBO film "Iron Jawed Angels" which many Leaguers have viewed.) The resulting publicity helped the final push to Congressional passage of the 19th Amendment.

Nineteen Virginia Leaguers have either donated or joined Turning Point for a grand total of \$2,053, well on the way to the next goal of \$5000. Turning Point must raise \$1 million by next November in order to fund Phase One of the project. The Development Committee recently announced a campaign to reach 1000 donors who will give \$1000 each.

Leaguers can learn more about the project and how to either donate or become a member by going to <http://www.suffragistmemorial.org>. LWV Fairfax Area was one of the founding organizations for the memorial and continues to be one of its partners.



Fairfax County Circuit Court: How it Works

At the January 7, meeting of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Suzanne Lubkeman provided members with an overview of the Fairfax County Circuit Court, which is summarized here. She reported that the Court, in the 19th judicial circuit, is the largest and busiest jurisdiction in Virginia--processing

about 24,000 cases per year. It is currently composed of 13 judges and expects to get a 14th judge this year.



Fairfax County Courthouse c.1863

The Honorable John T. Frey is the Clerk of Court of Circuit Court and is a

Virginia Constitutional Officer. He has served since 1992 and anticipates running this fall for re-election for a fourth eight-year term. All Court staff are Fairfax County employees, although the judges are state employees through the Virginia Supreme Court. Every judge is assigned his or her own court clerk; all clerks are law school graduates. Most stay for one year from August to August and are awaiting their bar results when they begin their clerkship. In addition, the judges have a sheriff's deputy assigned to their courtroom.

The Circuit Court, which serves all citizens of Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax, is a court of record and has jurisdiction over both criminal and civil cases. It has concurrent jurisdiction with the General District Court (GDC) over claims from \$4,500 to \$25,000 but has original jurisdiction over claims above \$25,000.

Parties in Circuit Court have a right to a jury trial. All appeals from GDC and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (JDR) in Circuit Court are heard *de novo*. The jurors receive a jury summons in the mail and are called for jury duty as needed. Fairfax County has the one day/one trial method. You either serve on a trial or report for jury duty for one day. After completion of service you will not be called back for at least three years.

The Circuit Court has many divisions. Among them are:

- Land Records – records real estate transactions and

deeds;

- Public Services – handles marriage licenses, notaries, trade names, etc.;
- Probate – handles wills, trusts and estates;
- Civil -- processes civil cases (the process begins for all new civil court filings at Civil Intake);
- Judicial Support – docket clerks, secretaries to the judges, etc.
- Criminal – has original jurisdiction over all felonies (crimes that are punishable by more than one year in prison) and misdemeanor appeals from GDC and JDR; and
- Historic Records/Archives – The Circuit Court has records and documents dating from the formation of Fairfax County in 1742 through the early 1900s. This section also maintains George and Martha Washington's wills.

In addition, the Fairfax County Circuit Court processes all requests for concealed weapons permits. In the past two years, the Circuit Court has received a record number of applications (about 18 percent more than previous years).

The Fairfax County Circuit Court has eight high-technology courtrooms that employ the latest technology,

including video conferencing and real time streaming of court proceedings (called CDAR-Court Digital Audio Recording). There are plans to update all the courtrooms with the latest technology by 2020.

The Circuit Court has a public access network called CPAN – court public access network. CPAN is a subscription-based system that has the complete record of all land transactions and the extract of all civil and criminal cases that offers 24/7 access. Many of the users are title companies and law firms. It also employs a web-based browser case-management system, which offers electronic filing on the land records side and plans to expand to e-filing on the court side by 2016. In addition, the Circuit Court also offers a convenient way



Renovated Courthouse 1966



Today's County Courthouse

to pay fines and costs online. All Circuit Court case files are tagged with RFID technology (they are bar coded).

Many of the Circuit Court cases require the use of interpreters. The Court is required to provide an interpreter in all criminal cases and some civil cases. Last year, the Fairfax Circuit had interpreters for 34 different languages. The Court also often uses sign language interpreters obtained through the Virginia Department of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

According to Ms. Lubkeman, the Circuit Court's current greatest concern is the loss due to retirement of senior level staff who have many years of knowledge and experience. The Court has been providing cross training to current employees in an effort to provide them with new skills.

Adjustment in Monthly Program Topics

It sometimes becomes necessary to alter our planned and announced programs for unit discussions because of complexities with getting information ready. Below are the adjusted monthly programs for the remainder of this year as well as September.

- February: Firearms Safety Part III
- March: Human Trafficking Part II
- April: Annual Meeting
- May: Land Use
- June: Affordable Housing
- September: Adequacy of Mental Health Services

Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-7273

Nominating Committee Provides an Update

Your nominating committee has been working hard, and Co-President, Secretary, Membership, Voter Service Coordinator and Voter Service: Voter Guides positions have all been filled. Many thanks to the LWVFA members who have graciously accepted these leadership positions.

One more person is needed to serve on the nominating committee as well as a person for Action/Advocacy, whose job is mainly oversight. Please send your own name or other suggestions to Gail Richmond at omarichmond@gmail.com.

LWV Celebrates 95th Anniversary

Ninety-five years ago, Carrie Chapman Catt called for a League of Women Voters to “finish the fight” to ensure that every eligible voter has free and fair access to the polls as well as to empower voters to influence their government to better serve their interests. The League's first major victory came just six months later with the passage of the 19th Amendment, which secured women the right to vote. But that success was just the first of many.

Since then, the League has been critical in Making Democracy Work® across a range of issues. **How well do you know the League's impact on Americans' lives?** Test your knowledge and learn more about just some of the League's great accomplishments over the past 95 years! Go to http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire_KEY=796&key=572531

The League – powered by the efforts of civic volunteers and activists across the country – has made an impact on a range of key issues in the last 95 years. Not only have we undertaken sustained efforts to improve the voting process and protect the environment, but we also assisted in the creation of the United Nations and the protection of Americans' civil liberties. As we march towards our 100th anniversary, the League will continue to fight voter discrimination and keep secret money out of our elections in order to ensure that our elections are fair, free and accessible. We'll also continue to push for improved access to health care as well as a sustainable planet for everyone. Thank you for Making Democracy Work®.

Elisabeth MacNamara, President



FIREARMS: REDUCING THE RISK IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

a special forum presented by

The League of Women Voters® of the Fairfax Area

When: Sunday, March 22, 2015 (2:00 – 3:30 pm)

Location: Pohick Regional Library
6450 Sydenstricker Road, (off the Old Keene Mill Road)
Burke, VA 22015
(703-644-7333)

Speakers:

Sandra Bromley, JD, Fairfax County-Wide Domestic Violence Coordinator
Risk of Firearm Misuse in Domestic Violence

Jesse Ellis, Prevention Manager
Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services
Risk of Firearm Misuse in Suicide

James T. Frey, Crime Prevention Officer
Fairfax County Police Department
Risk of Unsafe Storage

Kristin Goss, PhD, Moderator
Associate Professor of Public Policy Studies and Political Science
Duke University
President of the Arlington League of Women Voters
Author of "Disarmed: The Missing Movement for Gun Control in America" and
"The Gun Debate: What Everyone Needs to Know" (with Phillip J. Cook)

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE FAIRFAX AREA
4026 Hummer Road · Annandale, Virginia 22003-2403 703-658-9150 · www.lwv-fairfax.org

This Month's Unit Meeting Locations

Topic: Human Trafficking: Part II

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the "At Large Meeting" and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of February 1, 2015, 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, March 7

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

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

Monday, March 9

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

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

Tuesday, March 10

10 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Sully District Gov. Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly 20151
Contact: Leslie, 571-213-6384

Wednesday, March 11

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

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

9:30 a.m. McLean Day (McL)

Star Nut Café
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean 22101
Contact: Sharone 703-734-1048
or Adarsh 703-356-8368

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

7902 Bracksford Ct.
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, March 12

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

11037 Saffold Way
Reston, VA 20190
Contact: Barbara 703-437-0795

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

Packard Center.
(inside Annandale Community Park)
4026 Hummer Road
Annandale 22003
Contact: Nancy 703-256-6570
or Peg 703-256-9420

1 p.m. Fairfax/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

April Meeting:

No Unit Meetings: Annual Meeting - April 25



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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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER ©
 March, 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