



Fairfax VOTER

Annual Meeting Will Engage, Satisfy and Enlighten

A is for April and for Annual Meeting, a great time to demonstrate your commitment to the League process. Some of the many opportunities:

- catch up with League friends, especially the ones not in your unit
- get an overview of proposed program plans
- approve the proposed budget for next year or suggest changes in priority
- discuss opportunities for volunteer service locally and nationally
- learn about the challenges facing Virginians on redistricting reform
- enjoy a delicious lunch somewhere other than in your own kitchen

How can you resist? Registration form inside (See page AMK-1.)

Calendar

April

- 3 Awards Banquet, 2015 Fairfax County
Citizen of the Year,
Crowne Plaza, Tysons
- 4 VOTER deadline
- 6 LWV-VA Board meeting
- 8 LWNCA Board meeting
- 15 Tax Day
- 20 LWVFA Board meeting**
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 LWVFA Annual Meeting,
Waterford at Fair Oaks**

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Presidents' Message



Happy Spring to all! We think that Virginia is the best place to be in spring with all the blooming trees and flowers and the longer days. It is also a busy time for us as we finish out this League year and look forward to next year.

We are excited about the new venue for our Annual Meeting on April 23, the Waterford in Fair Oaks. Our keynote speaker is Edgardo Cortes, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Elections. His topic will be "Elections: Today and Tomorrow." Mr. Cortes has worked in elections for more than a decade, with experience in all facets of the electoral process including campaigns, nonpartisan voter registration, federal election policy, and local and state election administration. Even if you can't stay for the entire meeting, we encourage you to arrive around 11:00 to hear Mr. Cortes's presentation and to participate in the Q&A. We are eager to hear what he has to say in this out-of-the-ordinary presidential election year.

We thank the Nominating Committee (Sherry Zachry, Chair; Gail Richmond, Janey George, Charleen Deasy, Pat Nelson-Douvelis) for the many hours they worked to present the slate of officers and directors. Sherry and her committee also worked very hard to fill Off Board positions. Despite tireless efforts by the Nominating Committee, there is still an unfilled spot on the slate. If you care about Democracy and are inspired by working with dedicated, enthusiastic people, then the position of co-president is the job for you. Please contact Sherry Zachry, SZachry@verizon.net, or Peggy Knight, peggy.knight1@verizon.net for more information. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Budget Committee for their work in preparing a budget that provides the League with the resources to continue its many community activities and services.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is an organization that is well respected in the community. Citizens look to us for voting information and support for important local issues. Because of the credible research of our Firearms Task Force and Ruth Hoffman's non-confrontational approach, House Speaker Howell supported the firearms bill that passed the House of Delegates in the 2016 General Assembly session. To continue "Making Democracy Work" and to be an important partner in the Fairfax Area, we need the support and participation of all our

members. Through your efforts we will continue to be the "Go To" organization for voter information and education. Thank you for helping us do what we do best. We couldn't have done any of it without you.

Peggy and Helen

Olga Hernandez Named Fairfax County Citizen of the Year



We are delighted to announce that Olga Hernandez has been selected as Fairfax Federation's 2015 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year. Olga has spent the past 20 years volunteering with LWV in the Fairfax Area, in the National Capital Area and in Virginia, as well as on many county and state committees. She has served on the Help America Vote Act for Virginia, the VA State Board of Elections Residency Task Force, the state Census Complete Count Committee and the Fairfax County Bi-Partisan Election Improvement Commission.

Olga will be recognized at the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations 66th Annual Awards Banquet on April 2.

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2015 - 2016

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

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

League of Women Voters: NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY



Members attending the General Meeting on February 27 were: (L - R) Ron Page, Bill Thomas, Mike Freeman, Robert Meredith, Charlie Zachry, and Tom Fina

Results of February Program Planning Discussions

While units “did their own thing” at meetings in February, including touring government facilities, watching videos, and discussing books, they took time to talk about national program planning for the next biennium. The following report was submitted to the League of Women Voters of the United States by our LWVFA Board.

1. Do you support the proposed program focus, Making Democracy Work, for the 2016-2018 biennium? This program focus includes
 - Money in Politics
 - Voting Rights and Protection at National, State and Local Levels
 - Redistricting Reform YES

2. Would you like to recommend another program item, in addition to or instead of Making Democracy Work? (Yes/No) Provide a statement of 300 words or less describing the scope of your proposal. **NO**
3. What LWVUS positions does your League use to take action at the state and local level?
 - **Voting Rights**
 - **Equal Rights**
 - **Gun Control**
 - **Violence Prevention**



LWVFA Attended the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center Fair

The Fairfax County Sheriff’s office now hosts Inmate Resource Fairs twice a year. The Fairfax Area League had its first table at the Fair on March 2. Adarsh Trehan, the League’s representative at the Fairfax County Re-entry Council, and Sidney Johnson, Voter Service Coordinator, gave leaflets to the inmates explaining to them the procedures for applying to the Governor for a restoration of voting rights. Adarsh and Sidney spoke to about 40 inmates and also gave leaflets to the other vendors who had tables at the fair. These social service representatives said that they would be glad to have that information to pass on to clients.

The leaflet was designed for the League of Women Voters of Virginia, modified with advice from Carol Noggle and Therese Martin, and updated with information from Lashawnda Singleton, the Restoration of Rights Communications Manager for the Secretary of State for the Commonwealth. Many thanks to everyone who participated in designing and formatting the leaflet. Because of all the hard work in the background, the Fairfax Area League was ready at very short notice to provide this vital information to the inmates.



Sidney Johnson, talks with an inmate about felon rights after incarceration.

Cortez Will Be Speaker at Fairfax’s Annual Meeting

Edgardo Cortes, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Elections, has been selected to address the membership. Cortés is no stranger to the elections community, having worked in the field for more than a decade. Before his appointment, he served as deputy secretary of the State Board of Elections.

As the former general registrar of Fairfax County, Cortés was responsible for administering elections in Virginia’s largest county until 2011. He began working for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission in 2005, first as the grants director and then as deputy director for policy. Cortés holds a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University and a master’s degree in political management from George Washington University.

Environmental Update . . .

Earth Day, Every Day

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Trees for the Earth. Counting down to its 50th anniversary in 2020, the Earth Day Network aims to plant 7.8 billion trees. Trees help combat climate change, clean the air we breathe, and provide food, energy, and income. Local Earth Day activities, like removing invasive plants in parks and along streams, are listed on the Newtwork’s webpage, www.earthday.org.

Native Pollinators. Bees, butterflies, moths, bats, and birds play a critical role in ecosystems, valued at \$9B to U.S. agriculture according to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Yet pollinators are in severe decline, such as the monarch butterfly’s 96 percent drop to 35 million over the last 20 years. Native pollinators can be two to three times more effective at pollinating crops than non-native honeybees. Native pollinators need native plants; you can help by planting habitat. See <http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation-resources-us-and-canada/> for a list of recommended regional native plants.

Drug Disposal. Prevent pharmaceuticals from getting into our drinking water by disposing of your expired prescription medications at local collection points. Look for secure green bins soon to arrive at the Mason District, Mt. Vernon District, Reston District, and West Springfield Station police stations. Walgreens also plans to accept unused medications in select stores.

Domestic Violence Hotline

(703) 360-7273

Two New LWVUS League Positions Adopted

Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the U.S. Constitution

In January the League of Women Voters Board announced a new position calling for safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process. State Leagues can use this new position, as well as the new position outlining considerations for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals, to address the ongoing debates in many legislatures regarding constitutional conventions, in particular as they related to the Balanced Budget amendment.

Position on Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the U.S. Constitution (Adopted January, 2016)

The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. The League believes such a convention should be called only if the following conditions are in place:

- a) The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on;
- b) Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed. The delegates represent citizens, should be elected by them, and must be distributed by U.S. population;
- c) Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes;
- d) The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic. It is important to guard against a “runaway convention” which considers multiple issues or topics that were not initiated by the states;
- e) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called. Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process; and
- f) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission must be respected by Congress.

Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

The League of Women Voters Board also announced a new position outlining considerations for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals. State Leagues can use this new position, as well as the new position calling for safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process, to address the ongoing debates in many legislatures regarding constitutional conventions, in particular as they related to the Balanced Budget amendment.

Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals (Adopted January, 2016)

The League will only support a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution if it advances and conforms to an LWVUS position.

In addition, the League believes the following should be considered in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted constitutional amendment:

- a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed. Amendments are changes to a document that provides stability to our system and should be undertaken to address extreme problems or long-term needs.
- b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective. Amendments that may be unenforceable, miss the objective, or have unintended consequences may not achieve the policy objective.
- c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights. Most adopted amendments have sought to make our system more representative or to protect the rights of minorities.
- d) Whether the public policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment. In order to expend resources wisely, it is important to consider whether legislation or political action is more likely to succeed than an amendment.
- e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach. It is important to consider whether the goal can best be achieved by an overall value statement, which will be interpreted by the courts, or with specific statutory detail to resolve important issues and reduce ambiguity.

~ You are cordially invited to attend ~



LWVFA Annual Meeting
 on
Saturday, April 23, 2016
 at
Waterford at Fair Oaks
12025 Lee Jackson Highway
Fairfax, VA 22033

Meeting Agenda

- 9:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee
- 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Speaker: Edgardo Cortes, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Elections
- 12:00 noon Luncheon (Cost \$40 per person)
- 2:00 p.m. Conclusion of Business Meeting

The Waterford at Fair Oaks is conveniently located near the junction of Rte. 50 and I-66 on the property of Fair Oaks Mall,



No Reservations Accepted After April 13, 2016
Program is free; Reservations required for lunch

Menu: House Salad, Chicken Piccata (chicken cooked in herb & cheese batter served with a lemon caper sauce) Roasted New Potatoes, Green Beans & Honey Glazed Carrots, Bread and Butter, Cheesecake, Coffee Service.

Program is free; Luncheon, \$40 per person.

Make checks payable to LWVFA and mail with reservation form to:
2013 Annual Meeting, 11020 Burywood Lane, Reston, VA 20194

Name _____ Lunch @\$40 ea. _____

Phone Number & E-mail _____

Guest Name(s) _____ Lunch @\$36ea. _____

Total \$ enclosed _____

For special dietary needs or questions, call Viveka at 703-404-0498



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Invites you to

Our 2016 Annual Convention Saturday, May 7th ~ 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Clyde's of Gallery Place Restaurant, Piedmont Room 707 7th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

Keynote Speaker: TBD

Agenda

Registration at 9:30 will be followed by a buffet breakfast (fruit, eggs, quiche, French toast, bacon and sausage, and assorted pastries) and the keynote presentation. Our business meeting will include election of officers, approval of our 2016-17 budget, and amending our bylaws.

Transportation

Garage and metered street parking is available. Clyde's is half a block from the Gallery Place Metro station. The Gallery Place Metro Station serves the Red, Green, and Yellow Lines. Take the 7th Street exit from Metro Station to either the "Arena" exit and walk right on 7th Street one-half block to Clyde's, or take the "Chinatown" exit and walk left on 7th Street one-half block to Clyde's at #707.

REGISTRATION FORM

Cost is \$40 per person. Provide a registration form for each person attending the convention. Make checks payable to: LWV of the National Capital Area and mail the form and a check to: Barbara Ewalt, 11037 Saffold Way, Reston, VA 20190. Deadline for receipt of forms and checks is Friday, April 29, 2016.

-----LWVNCA Convention Registration Form----- (Please print) -----

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Local or State League: _____ Delegate: (Circle one) Yes No

Number of attendees: _____ Amount of Enclosed Check: _____



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
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 April 2016
 Peggy Knight, 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, 2016.)

Membership Category: Individual \$65 ___ Household (2 persons–1 *VOTER*) \$90 ___; Donation \$ _____
 Student \$32.50 ___ (Coll. Attending _____)

Membership is: New ___ Renewal ___ Reinstatement ___ 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