



# Fairfax VOTER

May 2016

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## Mental Health – Overview of the Community Services Board and Diversion First Program

This month’s unit discussion program is an overview of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB). The CSB is the public agency that plans, organizes and provides services for people in the community who suffer from mental illness, substance use disorders and/or intellectual disability.

This month’s study also introduces Diversion First, a new Fairfax County program that aims to keep people with mental illness out of jail.

The LWVFA Mental Health committee will be activated in July of this year. Members of the committee want to know the services and programs that you would like to know more about. Summary of unit meeting discussions will be a great way to inform the committee members.

### Calendar

#### May 2016

- 2 Fairfax *VOTER* deadline
- 3 Virginia cities and towns elections
- 6 LWVNCA Board meeting
- 7 LWVNCA Annual Convention at Clyde’s of Gallery Place, Washington, DC
- 7 **LWVFA Briefing and At-Large meeting**
- 9-12 **LWVFA unit meetings**
- 18 **LWVFA Board meeting**
- 21 McLean Community Center election
- 30 Memorial Day/school holiday

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## Presidents' Message



Well, the League year may be rapidly drawing to a close, but there are still many League activities for us to participate in. LWVNCA will have its annual convention at Clyde's of Gallery Place on Saturday May 7. A registration form was in the April Fairfax VOTER. Contact Sherry Zachry, [szachry@verizon.net](mailto:szachry@verizon.net) for more information. Next up on the calendar will be League Virginia Council on June 4 at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond. Following the business meeting, topics for discussion will be: "Millennials Matter," "Voting Matters" and "League Matters." Please see the April State Voter for more details. Last but not least is LWVUS Convention June 16 – 19 at Washington Marriott Wardman Park. Volunteers are still needed. Please consider attending these events. These are great opportunities to catch up with friends and learn what other Leagues are doing.

We also have at least two community elections in May and June, and volunteers will be needed. Anne Thomas, [anneathomas@verizon.net](mailto:anneathomas@verizon.net), is looking for help with the McLean Community Center Elections on Saturday May 21, 10:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. You may sign up for a shift through SignUp Genius, <http://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/23676DA05A1CFE9C24-lwvfairfax>. Following your shift or before it, you can participate in the McLean Day festivities. Anne also is looking for volunteers for the Skyline Plaza election on June 8.

Sidney Johnson is already planning for the upcoming presidential election. We will be focusing on reaching out to population groups with low voter registration and voter turnout rates. As you travel around your communities please be thinking about the best places to have voter registration and Get Out the Vote drives. By working together we can achieve our mission to encourage "the informed and active participation of citizens in government." Thank you for all that you do.

Lastly, please don't forget to renew your League membership!! You can even do this at the Annual Meeting.

And to all you Moms, we wish you a Happy Mother's Day.

*Helen and Peggy*

## Don't Miss a Visit to the Freeman House Exhibit on Woman Suffrage

There is an excellent exhibit on the effort to gain women's right to vote now on display in the Freeman Store and Museum at 131 Church St. NE in Vienna. The exhibit was put together by two women who are historians in the Freeman Store. You can view it Wednesday through Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m. Although it has received little or no publicity, we highly recommend it.



**Sojourner Truth, one of the Abolitionists honored in the Vienna, VA exhibit.**

### LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2015 - 2016

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The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area  
4026-B Hummer Road  
Annandale, VA 22003-2403  
703-658-9150 (Info/fax/answering machine)  
[www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org) [league@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:league@lwv-fairfax.org)

Co-Presidents: Peggy Knight 703-532-4417  
[peggy.knight1@verizon.net](mailto:peggy.knight1@verizon.net)  
Helen Kelly 703-437-3087  
[hmkelly1@verizon.net](mailto:hmkelly1@verizon.net)  
Editor: Ron Page 703-690-0908  
[pagegolfer@cox.net](mailto:pagegolfer@cox.net)  
Coordinator: Liz Brooke 703-281-3380  
[lizbrooke@cox.net](mailto:lizbrooke@cox.net)

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

# Extending Our Voter Outreach to Nonprofits: Report of Unit Discussions

By Sidney Johnson, Voter Service Coordinator

The purpose of our March information program was to learn about the Nonprofit VOTE consortium, and further, to discuss how our local League could work with area nonprofits to reach out to voters. Nonprofits that receive federal or state funding must offer opportunities for voter registration to their clients under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Nonprofit VOTE, founded in 2005, provides materials and education to assist these agencies with compliance and to engage smaller organizations in offering voter registration, too.

Responses to the article in the March *VOTER* came in from all 10 units plus the briefing session. Ninety-seven members of the Fairfax Area League thoughtfully considered how we should reach out to underrepresented groups through the nonprofit organizations that serve them.

The reaction of the units to the March study about engaging with nonprofit organizations ranged from near unwillingness to eagerness. In between, most of the units felt that individual members could, if they wished, provide nonprofit organizations with materials about voting. Those who wanted to go further could explore ways of providing nonprofit organizations with materials, motivation, and—in the long run—training.

## Clarification

Unit members commented that the reasons for studying Nonprofit VOTE and its relevance to LWVFA were not clear. For our purposes it may be clearer if we talk about Nonprofit VOTE's method as a model for LWVFA, separating ourselves from the Nonprofit VOTE consortium.

In the nonprofit model, the staff of nonprofit organizations purposefully engage their clients in voter registration, education, and voting, building on the trust that has developed between themselves and their clients. A local League's role would be to provide encouragement, training, expertise, and materials to the staff. To do that, the local League would have to establish a relationship of trust with the staff over a period of time. We would encourage them to engage their clients.

It is hard to describe what the relationship of the Fairfax Area League to local nonprofit organizations might be, so

there has been some confusion resulting from changing terminology over the last two years. The consensus of the unit discussions was that, at this time, our local League would not partner with Nonprofit VOTE in any formal way, nor would it use Nonprofit VOTE's materials and methods. Our local League members would supply area nonprofits with LWVUS, LWV-VA, and LWVFA materials and initiate conversations about the value of encouraging their clients to vote. We would also distribute state and Fairfax County literature.

## Goals

Apart from reservations about our possible relationship with the Nonprofit VOTE consortium, unit members by and large agreed that the League's goals harmonized with those of Nonprofit VOTE:

**“We in the League of Women Voters of the United States believe that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.”** Our history shows that we reach out to racial and ethnic minorities and other underrepresented populations to let them know that they have a stake in the system. Our own League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will now focus on that outreach by working with local nonprofit service agencies to engage their clients in registering and voting. *LWVUS Impact on Issues 2014-2016*, pp. 11-12.

One unit specified that we could adopt goals relating to providing quality resources to nonprofits and that we could help build capacity for nonpartisan voter engagement, but we would not be working to strengthen the nonprofit sector itself.

## Starting With Small Activities

Our units learned much about the commitments of our members to many charitable and community-enriching organizations in the county. Our members volunteer with charities such as United Community Ministries (UCM), Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), the housing organization FACETS, the Centreville Immigration Center, Meals on Wheels, Good Shepherd Housing, The Good Shepherd United Methodist Church services, FISH, various thrift shops, the Pimmit Adult Center and TaxAide, the Kate Hanley Shelter, and the Psychosocial Rehab Center.

One member commented that it was a very happy

experience for her unit to hear about the many beneficial community organizations in which her fellow members were already involved.

One unit suggested that we reach out to nonprofit organizations with a letter of introduction. Others suggested venues—farmers’ markets, festivals, settlement companies, citizenship ceremonies, PTA groups, religious organizations, and senior centers. Some units discussed working with high school seniors and finding new places, such as adult high school education centers and university campuses, where there might be significant populations of persons who need to register.

The Fairfax League office already has a supply of display cases for placing literature in venues. They will have labels with the League logo and the word VOTE in large letters. The office will have current voter registration/education literature from the County. These materials will be given out in the Voter Registration Bags at the Kick-off, and members can arrange to pick up materials from the office.

#### Next Steps

A small group of members has formed the Nonprofit Model Steering Committee. This group has already met three times to discuss how our local League might implement ideas for reaching out to nonprofits. About 11 members are currently participating, but many more would be most welcome. (Please contact Sidney.)

This group has drafted a vision statement for our local League based on the LWVUS position (see above). After the position and history, the vision statement lays out progressive stages for our future development, subject to feasibility.

This year the group will organize ways to distribute the display boxes and voting literature efficiently to the members and work on adapting LWVUS materials for our use as well as developing our own.

Once some materials have been designed, there will be one-on-one outreach to receptive nonprofits to explain what we would like to do and consult with them on what they think would work best with their clients. Part of the outreach would be to show them the research Nonprofit VOTE has done, indicating that this model works; clients encouraged to register and vote do follow through.

Materials would be adapted from those already produced by LWVUS or carefully designed to explain Virginia’s and Fairfax County’s situations. We may also draw on Nonprofit

VOTE’s resources. For example we need to explain the different levels of elections in our state and show how local elections impact our daily lives. We need to target specific populations and language groups. Two units suggested that our League might develop products for a “mini-civics” class, perhaps working with high school teachers and social service staff.

Over time, LWVFA would draw on the expertise of some of its members in teaching and training others. Among our members we have professionals in training the trainers, setting up seminars and webinars, and designing materials worthy of publication. The League’s role would be to train the personnel who have immediate contact with clients in minority populations and low-propensity voters.

#### Caveats

Unit members strongly stated that they want the League’s reputation as a nonpartisan organization to be protected and they want its expertise to be safeguarded and respected. There is a risk of misrepresentation and of watering down the message if people who only partially understand it share it. We would have to ensure that nonprofit staff members were properly trained.

Careful consultation with other partner groups would be needed to avoid overlap and scheduling conflicts with the PTA for School Board elections and with the AAUW and Zeta Phi Beta for joint voter registration and engagement activities.

Wording is critical. Many members were skeptical of using pledge cards, though one unit endorsed them and LWVUS produces them and has used them. One new member said, “Why should I pledge to you? I don’t know you.” It might be more acceptable to call them reminder cards and offer them to be posted on fridges. All educational materials adapted from LWVUS products or written by our own League would have to be carefully reviewed and approved by the Board.

Cost could be an issue. Printing can be expensive, though we do have some printing done for free by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. One unit suggested that we seek support from funders and/or in-kind contributions.

Members were also wary of being over-extended. They did not want to make long-term commitments that LWVFA could not keep.

# Mental Health:

## The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board

By Judith Helein, Program Co-chair

### **About the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB)**

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board is the public agency that plans, organizes and provides services for people in our community who have mental illness, substance use disorders, and /or intellectual disability. The CSB also provides early intervention services for infants and toddlers who have developmental delays.

The Fairfax-Falls Church agency is one of 40 Community Services Boards in the Commonwealth of Virginia. State law requires every jurisdiction to have a CSB. The Fairfax-Falls Church CSB operates as a part of Fairfax County government's human services system.

### **Who Is Eligible for Services**

All residents of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church can access CSB acute care and emergency services; entry and referral services; and wellness, health promotion and prevention services. All children up to age three who have developmental delays and meet certain criteria are eligible for infant and Toddler Connection services. Many other non-emergency CSB services are primarily for people whose conditions seriously impact their daily functioning. For example, women and girls who are pregnant, intravenous drug users, and people asking for treatment for abuse of opioid drugs (including prescription drugs) have priority for substance use disorder services.

However, anyone with a concern related to mental health, substance use, or intellectual or developmental disability may contact the CSB for help in finding appropriate treatment and resources either from the CSB or from other service providers in our community.

### **What Services Does the CSB Provide?**

The Fairfax-Falls Church CSB has reorganized and realigned resources to better serve those who are most in need. Services are now organized according to type of service (emergency and crisis services, residential treatment, outpatient and case management service, etc.) rather than by disability label (mental illness, substance abuse disorder, intellectual disability). Why? Because many people who are served have complex needs that require more than one CSB service. Some services are provided by CSB staff. Others are provided through contracts with local partner organizations.

**Medical Services** – provides and oversees psychiatric/diagnostic evaluations; medication management; pharmacy services; physical exams/primary healthcare and coordination with other medical providers; psychiatric hospital preadmission medical screenings; crisis stabilization; risk assessments; residential and outpatient detoxification;

intensive community/homeless outreach; jail-based forensic services; public health and infectious diseases; and addiction medicine and associated nursing/case management. A focus on whole health is a priority for Medical Services and key to the overall wellness of people served by the CSB.

**Wellness, Health Promotion and Prevention Services** – focuses on strengthening the health of the entire community. By engaging the community, increasing awareness and building and strengthening skills, people gain the capacity to handle life stressors. Initiatives such as Mental Health First Aid, regional suicide prevention planning, and the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program are examples of current efforts. Nearly 3,000 community members and staff have been trained in Mental Health First Aid since launching local programming in late 2011. In FY 2014 the CSB launched Kognito, a suicide prevention training program. Kognito provides a suite of online courses and is available to anyone in the community who is interested in learning suicide prevention skills.

**Engagement, Assessment & Referral Services** - provides information about accessing services both in the CSB and the community, as well as assessment services for entry into the CSB system. These services include an Entry and Referral Call Center that responds to inquiries from people seeking information and services; an Assessment Unit and Access Unit that provide comprehensive screening, assessment, referral and stabilization services for adults; and Outreach Services for people who are homeless or unsheltered and may need CSB services. The goal of all these services is to engage people who need services and/or support, triage people for safety, and help connect people to appropriate treatment and support. Not everyone with a concern related to mental illness, substance use or intellectual disability is eligible for CSB services. People who are determined to be ineligible are linked with other community services whenever possible.

**Acute Services** – (CSB emergency, crisis care, and detoxification services) are available for anyone in the community who has an immediate need for short-term intervention related to substance use or mental illness.

- The Mobile Crisis Unit, a rapid deployment team of CSB emergency services staff, responds 24/7 to high-risk situations in the community, including hostage/barricade incidents involving the County's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team and police negotiators. The Court Civil Commitment Program provides "Independent Evaluators" (clinical psychologists) to evaluate individuals who have been involuntarily hospitalized prior to a final commitment hearing, as required by the Code of Virginia.
- The Fairfax Detoxification Center provides a variety of services to individuals who are in need of assistance with their intoxication/withdrawal states.
- The Woodburn Place Crisis Care program offers individuals experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis an alternative to hospitalization. It is an intensive, short-term (7-10 days), community-based residential program for adults with severe and persistent mental illness, including those who have co-occurring substance abuse disorders.

**Residential Treatment Services** – (Crossroads, New Generations, A New Beginning, A New Direction, Residential Support Services, and Cornerstones) offers comprehensive services to adults with substance use disorders and/or co-occurring mental illness who have been unable to maintain stability on an outpatient basis, even with extensive supports, and who require a stay in residential treatment to stabilize symptoms, regain functioning and develop recovery skills.

**Infant and Toddler Connection** – provides family-centered intervention to children from birth to age three who need strategies to assist them in acquiring basic developmental skills such as sitting, crawling, walking and/or talking. Infant and Toddler Connection is part of a statewide program that provides federally-mandated early intervention services to infants and toddlers as outlined in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

**Youth and Family Services** – provides assessment, education, therapy and case management services for children and adolescents, ages 5 through 18, who have mental health, substance use and/or co-occurring disorders. All services support and guide parents and treat children and

youth who have, or who are at risk for, serious emotional disturbance, and who are involved with multiple youth-serving agencies.

In FY 2015, 70 percent of the families serviced had annual incomes below \$50,000. Of the youth served, 28 percent are ages 4 through 12; 51 percent are ages 13 through 17; and 21 percent are ages 18 through 21. For youth ages 4-12, family or schools are the main referral sources. For those ages 13-17, court referrals are more frequent, and school referrals are reduced. Programs are funded through state block grants as well as county, state and federal funding. Revenue is also received from Medicaid, private insurance, and payments from parents.

The Adolescent Day Treatment Program serves youth ages 13 to 18, and their families, who have substance use disorders and/or mental health disorders. Fairfax County Public School system provides an alternative school at the site, and youth stay from three to six months.

**Behavioral Health Outpatient and Case Management Services** – includes outpatient programming, case management, day treatment, adult partial hospitalization and continuing care services for people with mental illness, substance use disorders and/or co-occurring disorders.

**Support Coordination Services** – provides a continuum of case management services for people with intellectual disability and their families, engaging with them to provide a long-term, intensive level of service and support. CSB support coordinators help individuals and families identify needed services and resources through an initial and ongoing assessment and planning process. They then link the individual to services and supports, coordinate and monitor services, provide technical assistance, and advocate for the individual. These individualized services and supports may include medical, educational, employment/vocational, housing, financial, transportation, recreational, legal, and problem-solving skills development services.

**Employment and Day Services** – provides assistance and vocational training to improve individual independence and self-sufficiency to help individuals enter and remain in the workforce. Employment and day services for people with serious mental illness and/or intellectual disability are provided primarily through contracts and partnerships with private, nonprofit and/or public agencies. This service area includes developmental services; sheltered, group and individualized supported employment; the Cooperative Employment Program; self-directed employment services; and psychosocial rehabilitation.

***Assisted and Community Residential Services*** – provides an array of needs-based, long-term residential supports for individuals with intellectual disability and for individuals with serious mental illness and co-morbid medical conditions who require assisted living. Supports are not time-limited, are designed around individual needs and preferences, and emphasize full inclusion in community life and a living environment that fosters independence consistent with an individual's potential.

***Supportive Community Residential Services*** – provides a continuum of residential services with behavioral health supports of varying intensity that help adults with serious mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorders live successfully in the community. Individuals live in a variety of settings (treatment facilities, apartments, condominiums and houses) across the county and receive various different levels of staff support in terms of frequency of staff contact and degree of involvement, ranging from programs that provide 24/7 awake onsite support to programs providing drop-in services on site as needed. The CSB's moderate income rental program and Housing and Community Development's Fairfax County Rental Program provide long-term permanent residential support and case management in a community setting, and individuals must sign a program agreement with the CSB to participate in the programs.

***Forensic Transition and Intensive Community Treatment Services*** – includes a variety of services for adults who have serious mental illness and/or serious substance use disorders and who are involved with the criminal justice system, incarcerated, homeless or unsheltered, or are being discharged from state psychiatric hospitals. The Jail Diversion Program provides an intensive level of care to enhance existing resources available to persons with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring severe substance use disorder and co-occurring disorders who are involved with, or being diverted from the criminal justice system.

### **Diversion First**

Fairfax County government leaders and agencies started developing Diversion First shortly after the February 2015 death of Natasha McKenna, a woman diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder who died in a county jail after a struggle with deputy sheriffs.

Led by CSB Fairfax County chair Gary Ambrose, the Diversion First stakeholders group, which initially comprised 49 state and county leaders, law enforcement and public safety representatives, advocacy groups and community members, held its first meeting on August 3,

2015. The group established January 1, 2016 as the program start date and outlined its central goals, including expanding crisis intervention team training, adding more mobile crisis units, creating a mental health docket in court, and increasing the capacity of the Merrifield Crisis Response Center.

According to Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, 40 percent of the county's inmates have a mental illness or a co-occurring substance abuse disorder. While many county facilities now have CSB staff present, Diversion First aims to keep people with mental illness out of jail. Since January 1, the County has a police officer and a deputy sheriff who work in the Merrifield Crisis Response Center 21.5 hours per day, seven days a week. The personnel who permanently staff the center can take over custody of people brought in by patrol officers. The decision regarding whether to bring an individual to the Merrifield Center or to transport them to an adult detention center lies with the officers on the scene, according to Police Chief Edwin Roessler Jr. "Clearly, there's a defining line of serious felonies, crimes that involve violence against others. We need to protect society, and unfortunately, sometimes we have to take them to jail," the police chief said at a February 11 press conference where several officials provided updates on the Diversion First program.

Since Diversion First took off on January 1, 2016, the Fairfax County Police Department has diverted 103 people, or 39 percent of its mental health-related investigations, to the Merrifield Crisis Response Center according to Chief Roessler.

Predominately low-level drug users and possessors are also eligible for diversion. While charges are not dismissed, police, the state and judges agree to not prosecute offenders at that time. They must agree to participate in a drug or alcohol treatment program, and anyone in the diversion program who violates that agreement by not completing rehab will then be charged with their original crime and prosecuted. The agreement to not prosecute if someone enters rehab only applies to an individual's first offense. The police, the state and the judges make their decisions on a case-by-case basis. This is a very new program and criteria are being detailed as the work rolls out.

While county government and law enforcement officials touted the early success of Diversion First, the program has encountered some challenges, primarily due to the limited capacity of the Crisis Response Center. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova said, "Beds are an absolute issue. We'll be partnering with the State, the General Assembly and the governor to make sure we



have what we need.”

While basic diversion and the ability to transfer custody to Merrifield Crisis Response Center officials have been established, Fairfax County plans to spend the next three to five years expanding the capacity of and variety of services offered by Diversion First. Funding for further expansion of Diversion First was provided in the budget released by the county executive on March 1.

The Diversion First initiative is expected to be a multi-year effort to fully implement a robust system of care for this population of individuals, based on other nationally recognized models such as San Antonio. The FY 2017 Advertised Budget Plan provides a first down payment for the needs of Diversion First. It will not cover all of the service needs for this population of individuals. The multi-agency Diversion First stakeholder group is invested in making wise service and financial decisions that will have the greatest impact on those in need. The stakeholder group will continue to inform the community-wide Diversion First effort on the present and future needs of this population.

### **FY 2017 Advertised Budget Plan**

The Advertised Budget Plan for FY 2017 includes \$122.9 million for the Community Services Board. Baseline funding of \$0.80 million supports a second Mobile Crisis Unit providing crisis intervention and assessment services to individuals in psychiatric crisis. The second unit was added as part of the FY 2015 Carryover Review.

The FY 2017 Budget Plan includes \$7.5 million in reserve in Agency 87, Unclassified Administrative Expenses, for implementation of the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, including Diversion First. This funding will be allocated to agencies based on priorities identified by the Board of Supervisors.

Diversion First is supported by existing County General Funds already appropriated in stakeholder agencies such as the CSB, the Police Department, and the Office of the Sheriff as well as \$142,973 in Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services grant funding .

### **LWVFA Mental Health Committee**

Plans are underway to reactivate the LWVFA Mental Health Committee in July of 2016. Several members of the League have already expressed an interest in joining the committee. Judy Helein has agreed to be chair of the Mental Health Committee, and if you would like to participate in committee activities, contact Judy at [judithhelein@aol.com](mailto:judithhelein@aol.com).

This month’s article, An Overview of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, is a beginning effort. Members of the mental health committee will receive summaries of the unit discussions and hope to learn what Community Service Board services League members want to learn more about. A unit discussion article on Heroin and Opioid Addiction is already planned for the Spring of 2017.

### **Resources**

1. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/about>
2. Angela Woolsey, “Diversion First mental health program off to ‘great start’, say county officials”, Fairfax County Times, February 19, 2016.
3. Angela Woolsey, “Making bad experiences count for something”, Fairfax County Times, Updated March 7, 2016.
4. Citizen’s Guide to the Budget, FY 2017 Advertised Budget Plan, Fairfax County, Virginia.
5. Presentation by staff of the Fairfax County Office of Management and Budget to the LWVFA Board of Directors on March 16, 2016.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Did anything surprise you about the services and programs offered by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board?
2. Are there any services or programs that you would like to know more about?
3. What is your opinion of the Diversion First Program?
4. Would you be interested in attending a Mental Health First Aid Training Session?

Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour training course offered by the Community Services Board that can help communities understand mental illnesses, seek timely intervention and save lives. The course is usually offered in two 4-hour segments and costs \$25 a person.

**Domestic Violence Hotline**  
**(703) 360-7273**



## WHO TO CALL?

### In Emergency Situations 24/7:

- CSB Emergency Services 703-573-5679
- Fairfax Detoxification Center 703-502-7000
- Call 911 for a life-threatening emergency

### During Business Hours:

- CSB Entry and Referral Services 703-383-8500
- Infant and Toddler Connection 703-246-7121

### For Basic Needs:

- Food, Housing, Medical Care, etc. 703-222-08

## League of Women Voters National Positions on Mental Health

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that access to health care includes the following: preventive care, primary care, maternal and child health care, emergency care, catastrophic care, nursing home care and mental health care as well as access to substance abuse programs, health and sex education programs and nutrition programs.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia's Mental Health Position, *Positions-In-Brief*, states the following: "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; and advocacy programs that ensure patients' rights at all levels." (1987, 1988, 1989).

## Think Green . . .

### Did You Know Cartons Are Recyclable?

#### Cartons are recyclable in Fairfax County

Throughout Fairfax County, you can now place cartons in your recycling bin. This new addition to our program will help divert more materials from the landfill.

#### What are cartons?

Cartons are the packaging for many products you can find at the store including milk, juice, cream, egg substitutes, soy milk, soup, broth, and wine. They come in two different types-shelf stable and refrigerated cartons.

#### How do I recycle cartons?

Place empty rinsed cartons in your recycling bin. Please remove caps and straws

#### What happens to the cartons I recycle?

As with all recyclables, they are first taken to a local material recycling facility to be sorted and baled. The bales of cartons are then placed on a truck and transported to a paper mill. Here, fiber in the cartons is converted into pulp, which in turn is made into recycled paper products and building materials.



#### Why should I recycle cartons?

Cartons are made from high-quality paper, making it a valuable recyclable commodity. This means that companies want this material to make new products, and cartons can generate revenue for a recycling program, offsetting some of the costs of collection.

#### Don't delay, start recycling your cartons today!

To learn more about cartons, visit [www.recyclecartons.com](http://www.recyclecartons.com)

## Designing for Our Democracy – Getting Out the Vote With AIGA

By: Stephanie Drahan, LWVUS

This year the national League is partnering with [AIGA](#), the professional association for design, for a Get Out the Vote initiative seeking to motivate Americans to [register](#) and turnout to vote on Election Day – Tuesday, November 8.

Since the partnership launched on [Presidents' Day](#), graphic designers across the country have been busy creating sleek, beautiful and inclusive posters to encourage participation in the critical 2016 elections. Voters are engaging in new and exciting ways with our political process this year and the variety of posters available by AIGA's designers really highlights that. [Check out the submissions](#) thus far and print out your favorites to display to help encourage your friends and family to participate in this year's elections!

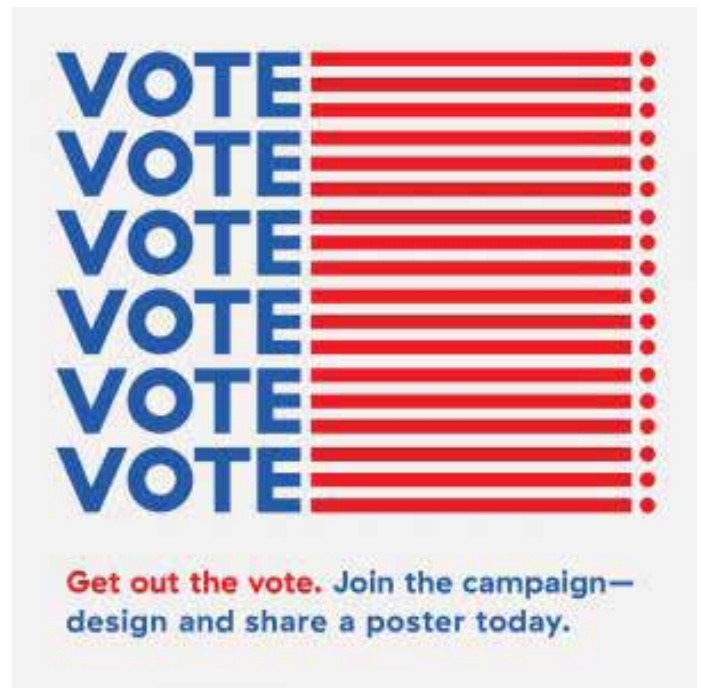
In order to highlight the initiative, the League and AIGA will be taking on a range of promotional activities including

## Hernandez Honored as Citizen of the Year

On April 3, Olga Hernandez was honored as Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations 2015 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year. Olga was recognized for her 20 plus years of service to the citizens of Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia. She has served on many committees including the Virginia State Board of Elections Residency Task Force and the Fairfax County Bi-Partisan Election Improvement Commission.



Olga poses with some of the League members present in her honor. (L-R) Rona Ackerman, Lois Page, Olga, Genie Nyugen, and Carol Noggle.



encouraging our affiliates across the country to work together to empower voters in the lead up to the general election in November. Additionally, AIGA will be organizing exhibitions in conjunction with their national conference in Las Vegas as well as the Democratic and Republican National Conventions this summer in Philadelphia and Cleveland, respectively.

Each and every election this year is critically important and the League stands ready to provide voters of all backgrounds with the elections information they need to take control on Election Day. Voting is your opportunity to support your community and have a say in its future. Together with your friends and neighbors, every vote counts and each vote makes a difference.

Have questions about the upcoming elections in your state? Visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) and enter your address to receive personalized voting information, including finding your polling place and its hours, whether or not you'll need to show an ID to vote, what to expect on your ballot, and much more.

### *Think Green . . .*

**The 36 billion aluminum cans landfilled last year had a scrap value of more than \$600 million. (Some day we'll be mining our landfills for the resources we've buried.)**

## Update on Firearms Safety

By Ruth Hoffman

The League of Women Voters of Virginia established the Firearms Safety Task Force in August 2015 following the approval of a Resolution at the 2015 LWV-VA Convention. Strengthening laws to protect victims of domestic abuse from gun violence is among the priorities. The Task Force quickly amassed a statewide team of League activists, strategists, writers and grassroots lobbyists to advocate and lobby for stronger laws.

Bills seeking better protections have been introduced and rejected by lawmakers for the past several years. This year the LWV-VA's voice was added to the growing chorus demanding stronger laws to protect victims of domestic abuse from gun violence. Through the work of many, a key piece of the Governor's Gun Safety Package will now bar people who are subject to a permanent protection order from possessing a firearm. It will be a felony for such people who fail to turn over their firearms within 24 hours of a judge imposing a protective order - a Class 6 felony that will bar them from owning guns in Virginia for life. *The Washington Post* reported that nearly 5,000 protective orders were issued in 2014 in Virginia.

The work by the Firearm Safety Task Force on this and other gun violence prevention efforts over the past eight months include the following:

- 1) Met with Sen. Barbara Favola and Del. Kathleen Murphy, sponsors of the bills (September 2015)
- 2) Published Letters to the Editor signed by the LWV-VA Co-Presidents during Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October 2015)
- 3) Held a meeting, which included Co-President Lois Page, with Virginia Speaker Bill Howell about protecting victims of abuse from gun violence and subsequently provided him with key advocacy materials (December 2015)
- 4) Issued a letter to President Obama from co-presidents of LWV-VA supporting his Executive Actions on gun violence prevention (December 2015)
- 5) Attended Lobby Day and advocated throughout the General Assembly Session
- 6) Advocated against dangerous bills that would have eliminated application and safety requirements for those applying for concealed carry permits that have protective orders against others - thereby introducing more firearms into volatile situations (the Governor ultimately vetoed those bills on April 7)

- 7) Attended the press conference announcing the establishment of the Virginia Coalition for Common Sense. This new coalition is formed by Americans for Responsible Solutions (group established by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and husband Mark Kelly). ARS has formed similar coalitions recently in four other states.

The Task Force continues to grow and welcomes those interested in joining to contact Ruth Hoffman at [rhoffman.virginia@gmail.com](mailto:rhoffman.virginia@gmail.com) or Judy Helein at [judithhelein@aol.com](mailto:judithhelein@aol.com) for more information.

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## League of Women Voters Positions on Criminal Justice

The League of Women Voters of Virginia's Adult Justice Position, *Position-In-Brief*, states the following: "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 pre-sentencing 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." (2013)

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Judicial System Position, *Positions-In-Brief*, states: "Support court, correctional and law enforcement systems for Fairfax County/City that are conducted in a just and dignified manner; that minister to all people without legal, economic or administrative discrimination; that require efficient administration and competent personnel who are given a clear assignment of responsibility and adequate financing; that require proper planning and coordination between related agencies; and that encourages the active and informed participation of citizens."

The LWVFA Full Positions document clearly states that "the County/City must educate the public to the need for alternatives to incarceration and provide local funding where necessary."



## State Council Meeting to Focus on Things That Matter

**When?** Saturday, June 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Where?** Beautiful retreat center in north Richmond: Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn, 8727 River Rd., Richmond, VA 23229

**Who?** The president or alternate from each local League plus another local League member will serve as voting delegates at the hour-long business meeting from 10:00 until 11:00 when we will approve the Operating Fund budget and be made aware of annual reports from the Board.

**Who else?** Every Leaguer is urged to come to network with state-wide Leaguers, pass on guidance to the state board members, AND take part in the engaging program being planned (described below)

**Food?** Persons arriving up until 10:00 a.m. will be provided with a sumptuous continental breakfast; a cookie break will occur later in the morning; buffet lunch will be served in the very beautiful retreat center dining room.

**Cost?** All-inclusive registration fee is **\$45**. Click [here](#) for registration form



questions such as what the League can do to engage their generation as allies in our mission and what tools do we need to master to do this?

**12:30-1:30:** Buffet Lunch and speaker/discussion: “Voting Matters” in which several voter engagement initiatives will be discussed. Sidney Johnson will speak about “Nonprofit Vote;” several other initiatives will be introduced briefly. Time for networking as well.

**2:00** Breakout sessions: 1) “Membership Matters” (an issue that always needs discussing further). What works? What doesn’t? 2) “Board Orientation Matters”—As new board members are about to take over, what sort of orientation will lead to the best results?

**2:45** Breakout sessions: 1) “Social Media Matters”—If we want to be relevant, we need to get our message out using the same techniques that people we want to reach are using .

2) “Program Matters”—What does a useful and engaging League-sponsored program look like? Should our programs concentrate on advancing the League mission?

**3:30** Olga Hernandez will brief national convention delegates what to expect and how to effectively use your time at the convention.

### Program/Schedule

**9:30-10:00:** Registration/ continental breakfast

**10:00-11:00:** Council business meeting

**11:00-12:30:** Panel discussion: “Millennials Matter”: four young people from what has become the largest US population age group (18-34) will help us answer

## VOLUNTEER FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION 2016: MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK - FOR ALL!

The LWNCA is the host League for this year’s national convention, which will be Thursday, June 16 through Sunday, June 19 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road. Needed are Leaguers to work in hospitality, with credentials & registration, at the information desk, assisting vendors, as doorkeepers, and on the Convention floor as tellers, mic monitors and ushers.

To sign up, go to: [LWVUS Convention Volunteers](#)

**Each volunteer receives a FREE ticket for the Capitol Steps!**

Questions? Email Zaida Arguedas at [zaida2015@comcast.net](mailto:zaida2015@comcast.net).

Volunteer at a time most convenient for you between Thursday morning and Sunday at noon. This is an opportunity to see the inner workings of the national League! Meet other Leaguers! Have fun!





Call to Council
League of Women Voters of Virginia

2016 BIENNIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Saturday, June 4, 2016

Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn
8727 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229

9:00 a.m.—Continental breakfast and registration

10:00 a.m. Call to Council Business Session

(Each local League is expected to send two voting delegates, plus as many other members as desired, to help conduct the business of LWV-VA in the year between state conventions.)

11:00 a.m. Panel Discussion - "Millennials Matter"

Four young people from what has become the largest US population age group (18-34) will help us answer questions such as what the League can do to engage their generation as allies in our mission and what tools do we need to master to do this.

12:30 p.m.—Luncheon and discussion of "Voting Matters"

2:00 Breakout Sessions: Membership Matters and Board Orientation Matters

2:45 Breakout Sessions: Social Media Matters and Program Matters

3:30 What to Expect When you Attend the National Convention

\*\*\*\*\*

I plan to attend these two breakout sessions:

2:00 p.m. - Membership Matters

2:00 p.m. - Board Orientation Matters

2:45 p.m. - Social Media Matters

2:45 p.m. - Program Matters

Registration (including lunch) is \$45

Deadline for Registration is May 20, 2016

Make checks payable to LWV-VA and mail with form to
12 Georgetown Green, Charlottesville, VA 22901

Name: Registration(s) @ \$45 each

League Affiliation: Delegate? Yes No

Phone number and email: Questions: call Pat at 434-978-4532

NOTE: To pay by credit card, go to http://lww-va.org/donate1.html and click on the General Fund PayPal donate button at the bottom of the page to order your ticket(s). After you place your order, a "Review Donations and Continue" screen will appear. Please indicate if you are an official delegate, your League affiliation and your choice of break out sessions in the "Special Instructions to the Seller" block if appropriate. Click to finalize your payment.

Environmental Update . . .

## Going Native With Plants

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Last month's Environmental Update noted the dependence of native bees upon native plants. No matter the size of your yard, you can support these valuable pollinators by planting native species and limiting pesticide use. In particular, avoid neonicotinoids, which Maryland is banning from stores since homeowners tend to over-spray them and since the state lost 60 percent of its commercial hives last year. The European Union has banned uses of three neonics that endanger colonies; an EPA review could take until 2019.

**Plants.** Beyond black-eyed Susan, phlox species, and Joe-Pye weed, native plants can be hard to find. Annual sales events include Earth Sangha Wild Plant Nursery's May 1 open house, Cloud Drive, Springfield, and



Green Spring Gardens' May 16 market and September 17 fall gardenfest, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The Northern Alexandria native plant sale is scheduled April 30 at the Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. In addition, the Ayr Hill Garden Club's annual plant sale, which includes natives, takes place Saturday morning, May 7 in the Freeman House yard in Vienna. Proceeds fund six public gardens planted and maintained by the club. The Town of Vienna will sponsor a Garden Faire on the same day on the Village Green; it will also include native plant vendors. See <http://www.plantnovanatives.org/home.html> for more events

## FY 2017 Budget Testimony to the Board of Supervisors

Good afternoon, Chairman Bulova and members of the Board of Supervisors. I am Helen Kelly, co-President of the League of Women Voters, speaking on behalf of our members in Fairfax County and City. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Although we in the League approve of the Advertised Real Estate Tax rate, we also continue to support revenue diversification in Fairfax County. We urge you to adopt a meals tax and to impose or increase fees to provide property tax relief.

and suppliers and for plant recommendations.

**Trees.** Have a green thumb and want to add trees and/or shrubs beyond flowering dogwood or serviceberry to cleanse water, prevent soil erosion, provide habitat, cool our climate, and clean our air? Check out the NoVA Soil and Water Conservation District's annual native seedling sale. Advance orders can be placed at [nvsxcd-velocitypayment-com.3dcartstores.com](http://nvsxcd-velocitypayment-com.3dcartstores.com) for pickup at the Packard Center in Annandale on April 29-30. Extras may be available then, too.

**Birdscaping.** Audubon At Home (<http://audubonva.org/audubon-at-home-1>) encourages homeowners to restore wildlife habitat to help declining bird populations after decades of development and wholesale replacement of native species. Site visits help identify ways to make backyards and schoolyards more habitat-friendly, along with online tools like <http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/HORT/HORT-59/HORT-59-PDF.pdf>. The National Wildlife Federation similarly has a habitat certification program as part of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge (<https://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify-Your-Wildlife-Garden.aspx>).

**Rain Gardening.** A new Fairfax County initiative to promote sustainable landscapes and energy-efficient communities provides technical assistance and matching-fund rebates. See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvsxcd/cap](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvsxcd/cap).

**Soil Testing.** Over-fertilization is costly and can damage the environment so apply lime and fertilizer only as needed. Testing your soil takes the guesswork out. You can get a kit with sampling instructions at your public library. The Virginia Tech Soil Testing Laboratory's fee for a routine analysis is \$10.

In the FY 2017 Advertised Budget, we saw many things we liked, but urge you to fully fund these particular items:

1. **\$1.17 Million for the Office of Elections**
2. **\$70.57 Billion Transfer to Fairfax County Public**
3. **Diversion First Program**
4. **Salary Supplements for Public Defenders from money set aside in the Diversion First program**

Again, we appreciate the increase in funding for the Office of Elections in this Presidential Election year, we support the increased transfer to our public schools and the Diversion First Program. Finally, we urge you to pay salary supplements to Public Defenders from money set aside in the Diversion First program. (April 7, 2016)



# This Month's Unit Meeting Locations

## Topic: Mental Health

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 April 1, 2016, 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, May 7

#### **10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing**

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

### Monday, May 9

#### **1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)**

Hunters Crossing Classroom  
Spring Village Drive  
Springfield 22150  
Contact: Edith 703-644-3870

### Wednesday, May 11

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

StarNut Café  
1445 Laughlin Ave.  
McLean 22101  
Contact: Sharone 703-734-1048  
or Adarsh (703) 795-7281

#### **9:45 a.m. Mt. Vernon Day (MVD)**

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

#### **10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)**

8739 Cuttermill Pl.  
Springfield 22153  
Contact: Kathleen 703-644-1555

#### **7:30 p.m. Reston Evening (RE)**

Hunter Mill District Community Room B  
1801 Cameron Glen Drive  
Reston, VA 21090  
Contact: Kelly 202-263-1311

### Thursday, May 12

#### **9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)**

Margo Sterling's Home  
Contact: Margo 703-620-9054

#### **9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)**

Packard Center  
4026 Hummer Road  
Annandale 22003  
Contact: Marge 703-451-0589

#### **10 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)**

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

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

Oakton Regional Library  
10304 Lynnhaven Pl.  
Oakton 22124  
Contact: 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

# June Meetings:

## How Can State Law Differ From Federal Law?



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)  
 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403  
 703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Merrifield, VA  
 Permit No. 1202

**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER ©  
 May, 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