



Fairfax VOTER

June 2017

Volume 69, Issue 10

Here Is Your Chance to Do Your Own Thing!

Meet with County officials to learn more about a new government program or an area of concern to your unit. Fill in the gaps that may have been left from one of this year's discussion topics. Go on a field trip to a County agency. Brainstorm ideas for future programs. Discuss ways your unit could do more voter registration or protection next year. Whatever you choose, learn something new and enjoy!

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Calendar

June 2017

Note: Unit meetings' program topic: Do Your Own Thing

- 1 LWVUS Council
- 2 LWNCA Board meeting
- 2 Gun Violence Awareness Day
- 3 New member orientation, 10 a.m to noon, Packard Center in Annandale
- 4 Chat with Fairfax County Registrar Cameron Sasnett, 1- 3 pm, Packard Center

8-14 LWVFA Unit meetings

- 9 LWV-VA Board meeting
- 10-11 LWV-VA Convention, The Clarion Historic Inn, 1500 E. Market Street, Leesburg
- 13 Virginia Primary Elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General (4-year terms), House of Delegates (100) (2-year terms)

- 14 Skyline Plaza community election
- 14 Diversion First meeting by Fairfax County; Reston Community Center
- 21 **LWVFA Board meeting**
- 30 End of the League fiscal year

July 2017

Note: No LWVFA Unit Meetings in July

- 4 Independence Day
- 12 LWVFA Legacy Committee
- 19 LWVFA Board retreat

August 2017

Note: No LWVFA Unit Meetings in August

- 7 *Fairfax Voter* deadline
- 16 **LWVFA Board meeting**
- 26 Women's Equality Day: 19th Amendment
- 26 **Fall Kick Off and At-Large Briefing**



Presidents' Message



This is an important election year for Virginia! The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and all 100 seats in the House of Delegates are up for election. The primaries are on June 13. In the fall we will hold six candidate forums. Three forums will be in the community and three will be on Fairfax Public Access TV. Planning is well underway. We will need all hands on deck in the fall to help with these events.

Our League has a spiffy new look on the web. Check out our new website at www.lwv-fairfax.org. Thank you to Beth Tudan, Ela Matter, and Wayne Knight. It looks terrific.

Please—all members—take our new membership and volunteer survey located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWVFAirfaxVols>. We need your input! Join us for a casual chat with Cameron Sasnett on Sunday, June 4 from 1-3 p.m. at our League office at the Packard Center. Come to discuss the “Fundamentals of Virginia Election Administration” with the Director of the Office of Elections and General Registrar for the Fairfax County Office of Elections. To RSVP please go to our website at www.lwv-fairfax.org. June is “Do your own thing” at unit meetings. Here is a small sample of what the units are planning:

- Fairfax City Evening Unit will discuss and plan for supporting the City Council Special Election;
- Reston Evening Unit will feature the County’s Diversion First program, and Supervisor Cook will speak. All League members are invited to attend this unit meeting on Wed., June 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center, 1609 Washington Plaza North, Lake Anne, Reston.
- Fairfax/Vienna Unit has invited a physician to further discuss the opioid epidemic; all are welcome.
- McLean Unit will meet with Supervisor Foust at the Dranesville office (this meeting is open to League members, but not the public).

The LWV-VA Convention is on June 10-11 in Leesburg. The Fairfax Area League is well represented. Based on our membership we have 14 delegates, and many of our other members are attending in other capacities. Breakout

sessions planned include: 1) Voters’ & Civil Rights in Virginia; 2) What’s Next for Redistricting in Virginia? 3) Report on the 2017 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; 4) Gun Safety: Can the Tide Be Turned? 5) Transparency Virginia; and 6) ERA: 2 Away!

We are seeking volunteers on Wed., June 14 for the Skyline Condominium Election. It will take place in the lobby at the Skyline Plaza Condominiums, 3703 S. George Mason Dr., Falls Church. Please sign up on our League website. For more information contact Anne Thomas, the Skyline Election’s Chair, at anneathomas@gmail.com.

June 30 marks the end to our League’s fiscal year. We thank our treasurer Ronna Pazdral and the Legacy Committee for their wonderful work on our budget. Congratulations to the newly-elected Board members and to incoming co-president Judy Helein. We wish everyone a wonderful summer!

Peggy & Wendy



LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2016 - 2017

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

League Needs Volunteer Observers

By Peggy Knight, Co-President

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area members attend many Fairfax County boards, authorities, and commissions as a League representative or monitor. We are also trying to form an Observer Corps to monitor the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the School Board meetings in person or via live broadcasts or videos of the meetings. The City of Fairfax also has opportunities for monitoring the City Council, City School Board, and other boards and commissions. On May 2 Fairfax County Executive Edward L. Long Jr. announced his retirement. LWVFA's involvement with Fairfax County boards, authorities, and commissions is critical as County leadership changes.

To find the best fit for you go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/> for County boards and <https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/school-board-committees> for FCPS committees. Opportunities in the City of Fairfax can be found at <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-council-boards-and-commissions>. If you are interested in participating in or monitoring any of these committees, please contact Peggy Knight, peggyknight49@gmail.com or 703-772-4939.

There are many more Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public School committees and advisory boards that are in need of volunteers. For example, we currently have a member who monitors the monthly meetings of the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees meetings. Olga Hernandez and Therese Martin have been monitoring Fairfax County Electoral Board meetings for many years. Olga has also been monitoring the City of Fairfax Electoral Board meetings. LWVFA representatives/monitors attend committee/board meetings and then share important information with the LWVFA Board. More monitors are needed for the Electoral Board meetings.

Fairfax County Boards with LWVFA member representatives include:

Airports Advisory Committee - generally meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in a conference room of the Fairfax County Government Center. It advises the BOS on all airports and aircraft operations affecting Fairfax County. Julie Jones is LWVFA representative. An alternate is needed.

Community Action Advisory Board - meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Fairfax

County Government Center. It advises the BOS on the needs, concerns and aspirations of limited-income persons and recommends policies that promote meaningful change. Marcia McDevitt is the LWVFA representative.

Criminal Justice Advisory Board - meets the first Wednesday of the month (except July and August) at 7 p.m., Fairfax Courthouse Building. At its monthly meetings, it hears from speakers about issues related to crime and justice in the County and northern Virginia areas. Mary Jane Cleary is the LWVFA representative.

Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Coordinating Council - meets four times a year from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. (to accommodate the Court personnel) at the Massey Building. It brings together County and non-County representatives to address gaps and programs for educating and assisting victims and abusers of domestic violence (DV). Barbara Nunes is the LWVFA representative. An alternate is needed.

Engineering Standards Review Committee - meets the first Thursday of the month, at 2 p.m., Room 604, Herrity Bldg. It provides technical and engineering advisory services to the BOS and thoroughly reviews the input data for the annual update of the Public Facilities Manual. Bob Meredith is LWVFA representative. An alternate is needed.

Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee - meets on Thursdays, 8 a.m., eight times a year. It provides the BOS and appropriate County staff with expert citizen advice on information technology trends and strategies. Anne Kanter is LWVFA representative.

Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee (FJLEPC) - meets in even months on the second Thursday of the month. FJLEPC's mission is to prepare citizens, industries, and local emergency response agencies for chemical accidents by developing a comprehensive community program that will benefit the citizens of Fairfax County and municipalities within Fairfax. Rona Ackerman is LWVFA representative. An alternate is needed.

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership - a community-driven strategic planning process for improving community health. An LWVFA representative and alternate are needed.

Annual Meeting Features General Registrar Sasnett

By Adarsh Trehan

LWVFA held its annual meeting on April 23, 2017, in Fairfax. Cameron Sasnett, General Registrar, Fairfax County Office of Elections, gave the keynote speech, entitled “What’s Next in Elections? Bridging 21st Century Technology With Democratic Principles.”

His office is working to improve the voter registration process by the use of technology, so that all citizens can participate in elections. The office serves senior citizens, baby boomers, and millennials. There are now 74.4 million millennials and 75.9 million baby boomers in the U.S.

While many of us grew up using paper registration forms and ballots, millennials have grown up using technology. In 2020, for the first time, millennials will be eligible to run for president. This generation of voters can be reached through Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat. Already voters can use an

account-based login to manage and update their information. Sasnett predicts that it will take several decades before we will move to a completely virtual, online voting system.

In the meantime, photo IDs from the Department of Motor Vehicles keep the lines moving during elections because they can be scanned. His office is also working to scan important paper records because they currently occupy a space that is the size of two ballrooms.

Attendees also approved budgets for League operations and the Education Fund, and elected the following as officers for 2017-2019: Judy Helein, Co-President, and Betty Ellerbee, Secretary. Elected as directors were: Peggy Knight, At Large; Carol Bursik, Membership; Adarsh Trehan, Public Relations; Sidney Johnson, Voter Service Coordinator; and Bob Meredith, Voter Registration Coordinator. Wendy Fox-Grage will serve as Co-President for 2017-2018.

Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-7273

Annual Meeting Table Talks

By Peggy Knight, Co-President

At our Annual Meeting in April, we tried something new: Table Talks. We asked members at each table to answer three questions: Why did you join the League? What motivates you or fires you up to participate in League activities? Where do you see the League in one year and five years?

We learned that membership tenure ranged from 50+ years to less than 3 months; intellectual stimulation and social interaction still drive membership since LWVFA’s inception in 1948; and the LWV is a respected organization known for providing nonpartisan factual information, good governance practices, and service to the community. One honest member admitted his wife is responsible for his membership. Other members learned about the League from their mothers, friends, and our voter education literature. Following the 2016 presidential election, it became important to become civically engaged in “a nonpartisan environment.” The League continues to provide structure and a nonpartisan platform for making our voices heard.

Preserving democracy, voter education, and protecting voter rights were identified as key motivators for participation in

League activities. Engaging and informing voters, including underrepresented population groups, keeping elections clean and accessible, the desire to “fix” an issue, the importance of local elections, and preserving reproductive rights were listed as catalysts for action. Modeling civic engagement for our children was also a major reason to participate in League activities. Firing up the membership were programs, respectful nonpartisan discussions, the ability to delve deep into local issues, and spreading the word about the importance of League work. “Democracy requires participation.”

In one year and five years, members envision continued growth of the League of Women Voters with a more diverse membership. The League will be the “voice of sanity” as it continues to protect voters’ rights, reaches out to unaffiliated voters, and provides factual nonpartisan information. It is hoped that the League of Women Voters will again sponsor presidential debates. Key themes that emerged include the importance of voter service; the nonpartisan, intelligent, and in-depth discussions of important local issues; and the League’s ability to help members fulfill their need to make a difference. All agreed we must connect with younger voters to assure the future of the League. This exercise gave us all—both new and veteran members—a chance to get to know one another and to share ideas about the future of the League.

Voter Identification Laws Vary by State

By Karole McKalip

Federal and state elections in the United States are run by the states themselves. While the original U.S. Constitution did not specifically address voting rights of citizens, several constitutional amendments and later laws did address citizens' voting rights. As a result, the states and their counties have largely established the voting qualifications for elections.

Lately, voter identification laws in several states have been in the news. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is concerned that voter ID laws can deprive many voters of their right to vote, thereby reducing voting participation. Many citizens may not have one of the necessary forms of identification some states deem as acceptable for voting. They frequently have difficulty in obtaining such IDs because they cannot afford or cannot obtain the necessary documents needed to have a government-issued ID card. (from the ACLU <https://www.aclu.org/other/oppose-voter-id-legislation-fact-sheet>)

Some states require voters to show an identification document that has a photo on it, such as a driver's license, state-issued identification card, and other forms of photo IDs. Other states accept non-photo identification. Using this categorization for laws that are in effect in 2017, 17 states ask for photo IDs and 16 states also accept non-photo IDs. However, not all states have followed this lead. In 17 states and D.C., voters can cast a ballot in person on Election Day without showing an ID document. These states have "non-documentary" ID requirements, meaning voters must verify their identity in other ways, such as by signing an affidavit or poll book, or by providing personal information. In addition, all states have procedures for challenging voter eligibility.

Proponents see increasing requirements for identification as a way to prevent in-person voter impersonation and increase public confidence in the election process. Opponents say there is little fraud of this kind, and the burden on voters unduly restricts the right to vote and imposes unnecessary costs and administrative burdens on elections' administrators.

The three main types of non-documentary ID requirements that voters may be asked to satisfy are:

- **Affidavit:** Some states, such as Iowa and Minnesota, ask voters to sign an affidavit asserting their eligibility to vote and/or awareness that falsely claiming eligibility is a criminal offense. Iowa includes the full text of its affidavit in statute. Other states provide

partial texts or general guidelines.

- **Signature:** In other states, voters must provide elections officials with a signature before casting a ballot. In most cases, this involves signing a poll book or voter registration list at the polls but there are some exceptions. For example, Oregon voters must sign the return envelope included with their mail-in ballots.
- **Biographical information:** Voters may also be asked to provide personal information, either verbally or in writing, at the polls. In most cases, voters are asked to give their names and/or addresses. Maryland, New Mexico and (in certain circumstances) Minnesota,. However, some ask voters to provide full or partial birth dates.

(from the National Conference of State Legislatures) <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/voter-id.aspx>

Voting in Virginia

Virginia law requires that all voters provide an acceptable form of photo identification when voting in person. There are several different types of photo IDs that voters can use when they vote. Some of these include:

- Valid Virginia driver's license or Identification Card
- Valid United States Passport
- Other government-issued photo identification cards (i.e., issued by the U.S. government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth)
- Valid college or university student photo identification which must be from a Virginia school
- Employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business
- Valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo.

If you arrive at your polling place without an acceptable form of photo ID, you will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, you will be given written instructions from your precinct election officials on how to submit a copy of your

photo ID so your vote can be counted. Go to the nearest Voter Registration Office and apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo ID card. You can apply throughout the year by completing two steps; first, complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application; and second, have an Election Official take your picture and have you sign a digital signature pad. Your Virginia Voter Photo ID Card will be printed and mailed to your address on file in the Vote Registration System. www.elections.virginia.gov › Registration

Environmental Update . . .

Restoring the Nation's Largest Estuary

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Six states and the District of Columbia have been working together for 15 years to reduce pollution levels in the Chesapeake Bay, largely supported by federal funding. Their ambitious aim is to restore the Bay by 2025, linking local heritage to tourism, recreation, and commercial industries. Protection activities include restoring habitats, managing fisheries, maintaining water quality in healthy streams, and fostering stewardship. Only in the last few years have studies shown measurable improvement such as rebounding oyster populations. Visit the Chesapeake Bay Program, www.chesapeakebay.net, to gauge progress to date. Projects are at risk as the federal budget request before Congress eliminates this Environmental Protection Agency program, which provides \$9.3M yearly for implementation in Virginia.

While Bay deterioration has stopped, much of the latest news is mixed. For blue crabs, the annual winter survey is down 18 percent from 2016. However, the total is the 11th highest since 1990, and, likely thanks to state harvest controls, adult female crabs have rebounded.

Virginia claims progress in reducing areas of low dissolved oxygen (i.e., potential dead zones resulting from algae blooms fed by excess nutrients) and increasing underwater grasses. Meanwhile, the Environmental Integrity Project analyzed hundreds of public records and reported in April that excessive livestock manure runoff is polluting the Shenandoah River, with 90 percent of the state's watershed monitoring stations having E. coli levels unsafe for human contact over the past two years. Department of Environmental Quality called this an improvement.

To engage more citizens, businesses, and local governments, the General Assembly has designated the second week of June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. The first Back

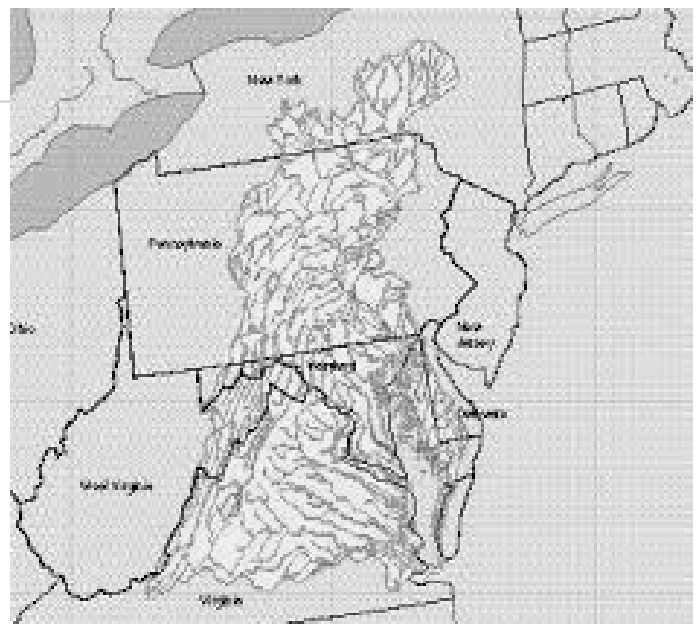
League Position

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to ensuring that all eligible voters – particularly those from traditionally underrepresented or underserved communities, including first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, minorities, the elderly, and low-income Americans – have the opportunity and the information to exercise their rights to vote. The official position of the U.S. League is to “Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.” <http://lww.org/>

to the Bay will be held at Mason Neck State Park from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on June 10. Enjoy hands-on educational programs, hiking and kayaking, and live entertainment. *Learn a dozen ways to prevent polluted runoff from your yard at cbf.org/join-us/more-things-you-can-do/things-you-can-do-to-help-save-the-bay.*

Special Congratulations

Fernando Pasquel, Arcadis's National Director for Stormwater & Watershed Management, won a 2017 career-achievement award from the Chesapeake Stormwater Network. He was recognized by his Bay peers for his role in designing best management practices, implementing green infrastructure projects, and developing program effectiveness indicators and alternative monitoring programs in Northern Virginia and throughout the country. This includes leading the development of one of the first stormwater management handbooks in this area. In Fairfax County, he was involved with the Stream Physical Assessments project, the Franklin Park and Chesterbrook Stormwater Improvement Project, and the Huntington levee design project.



The Chesapeake Bay drainage area covers six states including 56 percent of Virginia.

Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: Do Your Own Thing

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 May 1, 2017 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.

There is no briefing in June

Thursday, June 8

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

Lunch plans to be determined

LWVFA Members Only

For information, contact Charleen,
703-620-3593

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

2827 Anson Court

Springfield, VA 22152

Contact: Marge, 703-451-0589

10 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Sully District Government Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.

Chantilly, VA 20151

Contact: **Leslie, 571-213-6384**

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

Oakton Regional Library

10304 Lynnhaven Pl.

Oakton, VA 22124

Contact: Bob, 563-299-5316

7:45 p.m. Mt. Vernon Evening (MVE)

Paul Spring Retirement
Community

Mt. Vernon Room

7116 Fort Hunt Road

Alexandria, VA 22307

Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820

Monday, June 12

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive

Springfield, VA 22150

Contact: Edith, (703) 644-3970 or
Gloria, (703) 852-5113

Wednesday, June 14

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

Dranesville District Supervisor's
Office

1437 Balls Hill Road

McLean, Virginia 22101

LWVFA Members Only

Contact: Adarsh, (703) 795-7281
or Anjali, (703) 509-5518

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

Mt. Vernon District Government
Center

2511 Parkers Lane

Alexandria, VA 22306

Contact: Gail, (703) 360-6561 or
Diane (703) 704-5325

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

8739 Cuttermill Place

Springfield, VA

Contact: Kathleen, 703-644-1555

7:15 p.m. Fairfax City Evening (FCE)

The Green Acres Center
Room 112

4401 Sideburn Road

Fairfax VA 22030

Contact: Ellen and Amy,

Fairfaxcityunit@lwv-fairfax.org

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

Reston Community Center
Lake Anne

1609 Washington Plaza North
Reston 20190

Contact: Kelly, 202-263-1311

Have a Great Summer!



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
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Peggy Knight, Co-President
Wendy Fox-Grage, Co-President
Ron Page, Editor
Liz Brooke, Content Editor

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 person at least 16 years old, 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 FORM

Membership Dues: Individual \$65 _____ Household \$90 (2 persons, 1 Voter) _____ Student \$32.50 _____
Dues year is July 1 – June 30 (A subsidy fund is available; check here _____ and include whatever amount you can afford.)
Membership Status: New _____ Renewing _____ Reinstatement _____ Donation _____
 (Dues are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check or PayPal Payment to “LWVFA Ed Fund.”)

(Please print clearly)

Name _____ Unit (if renewing) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Phone (H) _____ (M) _____ E-Mail _____

Please make checks payable to “LWVFA” and mail to: **LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003-2403**
OR join online at: www.LWV-Fairfax.org/join.html.

I am interested in becoming involved in (please indicate by circling the appropriate bullet(s)):

- **Providing organizational support** (graphics design, website development/maintenance, fundraising/ grant writing).
- **Voter Services** (e.g., voter registration drives, candidate forums, developing Voters’ Guides).
- **Researching/writing about issues in which LWVFA has an interest** (e.g., environment, firearms safety, mental health, schools, domestic violence, criminal justice; or, chairing an LWVFA study committee on voter turnout or human trafficking).
- **Representing the League in governmental fora** (e.g., serving as LWVFA representative on Fairfax County citizens’ committees and agencies, such as affordable housing, Fairfax County Public Schools).
- **Other** _____