



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

Fairfax VOTER

November 2018

Volume 71, Issue 3

General Meeting This Month Features an Action Forum

This month no unit discussion meetings are scheduled. Instead, please plan to attend the LWV-Fairfax Action Forum and General Meeting on November 18. Come hear from ACLU-Virginia, Moms Demand Action, Fairfax County Council of PTAs, League of Women Voters - Virginia, and more of our partners about their action priorities and how we can all work together to reach our goals. Registration is required, but the event is free of charge. See the flyer on Page 5.

Calendar

November 2018

**No Unit meetings in November;
attend the General Meeting instead**

- | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | LWVNCA Board meeting |
| 3 | Final day for in-person absentee voting |
| 5 | Sequoyah condo election |
| 5 | <i>Fairfax VOTER</i> deadline |
| 6 | Election Day: polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. |
| 6 | Absentee ballot return deadline: 7 p.m. |
| 10 | LWVFA new member orientation,
Packard Center, 1-3 p.m. |
|
 | |
| 18 | LWVFA General Meeting, Action
Forum , Sherwood Community
Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway,
Fairfax, 1 to 4 p.m. |
| 28 | LWVFA Board meeting, Packard
Center, 10 a.m. |

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*Do Your Part to Get Out
the Vote on November 6.*



Presidents' Message

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." – Author Unknown



We came upon this quote and we were struck by how apropos it was to what the League is and what we do. Democracy is not a spectator sport, and elections have consequences, as we have all seen. Many of our members are involved in the work of the League and we appreciate it and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. However, if you are new to the League or if you feel that perhaps you can do more, please, reach out and contact us. By the time you get this issue, voter registration and Get Out the Vote activities as well as Candidate Forums will be finished for the time being. But as you well know, the work of a Leaguer is never done! We will be gearing up for all the rest of our activities. Some of them are listed below:

1. Facts for Voters - We need volunteers to help edit this publication.
2. Condo and HOA elections - These are major fundraising events and take place year-round. This year we hope to raise \$12,550. Check the website for information and dates.
3. Website management - If you are tech savvy this could be your thing. You don't have to do the whole website, just pick a section.
4. Facebook - You can help with content.
5. Public Relations - We need people who can write press releases and reach out to the media. It can be a lot of fun.
6. Leadership positions - If you are interested in serving on the board or spearheading some community initiatives, reach out directly to us.
7. Design flyers - If you have an eye for design or are artistically inclined you can volunteer to design our publicity materials.
8. The High School Voter Registration Challenge – This project will pick up in the new year and is always one of our members' favorite volunteer activities.

9. Last but not least, once the General Assembly gets going, watch your emails for Action Alerts, and please act on them.

As you all know, our membership has been on an amazing growth trajectory for the last couple of years. With all the talent, skills, experience and dedication we have, there is no doubt in our minds that we will continue to be a formidable force in our community, especially as we grow more diverse. Please look at all the volunteering opportunities listed above and sign up to give a gift of your time and skills!

Giving Tuesday

This fall, LWVFA will be participating again in the seventh annual #Giving Tuesday campaign on November 27, 2018. Just like retailers organize sales on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #Giving Tuesday is a movement of the nonprofit community to create an international day of giving at the beginning of the holiday season. Last year our Giving Tuesday fundraising drive was very successful!

Some members donated to this effort through a means of planned giving, the IRA Rollover. Those members who are 70 ½ or over may give from their IRA distribution directly to the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Education Fund and not have to pay income taxes on that donation. If you are interested in finding out more about planned giving, please visit: www.plannedgiving.lwv.org and talk to your financial advisor.

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2018 - 2019

This newsletter, partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area Education Fund, is published 10 times each year from September to June by:

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

We are members of the League because we care. The League's work clearly means a lot to our members. We care and we want to change the status quo. We care and we want to make a difference.

So, in that spirit, we ask: Are you willing to support our work and mission with a year-end contribution to the League? Your #Giving Tuesday gift to LWVFA-Ed Fund is critical to our success as we strive to continue to provide all the services that we do in our community.

In the words of Anne Frank, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Judy & Anu

Letter to the Editor . . .

Voting by Mail Is Better!

Voting by mail is so much better than voting in person for numerous reasons! It saves a lot of money, allows for more knowledgeable voting and has shown to increase the numbers of those voting. If put into effect, the constant advertising for election officials would end and those who do answer the call won't need to be trained and get up so early on Election Day. The ballot itself is the paper trail needed for voting verification.

COST: How much does it cost to pay for all the election workers for early in-person & Election Day voting? How much do the machines to read ballots at the voting sites cost? These costs would be alleviated with voting by mail.

Educated Voting: My father, who lived in Oregon - which has had voting by mail for years - loved being able to sit down and study each candidate/issue before voting. How many people in Virginia get their ballot and then wish they had known more about what they're voting on?

Talk to your state delegate and senator so Virginia's General Assembly enacts VOTING BY MAIL!

Dianne Blais, 5211 Gunpowder Rd., Fairfax, Va. 22030
703-830-1998

Editor's Note: *We welcome letters on this subject or others of interest to League members. Submit by email to lizbrooke@cox.net.*

LWVFA Donors and Supporters

The LWVFA Board extends an overwhelming thank you to the following for their generous support:

Susan Marcus
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

and
to the following who donated via Beth Tudan's Facebook Birthday Fundraiser:

Dottie Andrews
Matt Dunne
Memphis Holland
Amira Iqbal
Mary Grace Lintz
Susan Marcus
Jane Miscavage
Jason Morgan
Alex Tudan
Beth Tudan
Costi Tudan
Shawna Tunnell
Tom Wasilewski

*Fairfax County 24-hr.
Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline:
703-360-7273; 711 TTY*

Program Director Notes

By Julie Jones, Program Director

The September Unit Discussions on **Educate. Advocate. IMPACT!** were well received.

All units agreed with the choice of priorities that the Action Committee issued. Redistricting reform, voting and elections, behavioral health, and gun violence prevention were the issues for the focus of our League. There was a long list of additional interests: Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), environment, immigration, transportation, affordable housing, education, climate change, recycling in Fairfax County, Potomac River clean-up, Medicare and Medicaid, election law and voter protection, social media and its effect, and a safety net for those in poverty.

Our members reported varying success in contacting elected officials. Some interactions were very positive with good conversation and follow-ups. Other members felt that they were ignored. Leaguers are encouraged to sign up to

visit their own elected officials in pairs or small groups to advocate for the stated priorities. Talking points will be provided if you wish.

Discussion leaders need to be chosen this month for **December**, since we will not have unit meetings in November.

We are looking for your **ideas on** how to approach **program planning** in December. We need to review LWVNCA and LWV-VA positions and decide if we would like these groups to initiate or restudy a topic or issue. What regional or state positions are of interest to you? You can find these positions on our website under Information for Members - positions.

Committees are being formed. Please don't feel shy about volunteering or saying yes when asked to help. We need new ideas and volunteers. Our "seasoned" members will lead but cannot do it all. Call or email Julie Jones with your ideas or your interest. (703-476-8347 or dave.julie.jones@verizon.net)

LW-VA Announces Pre-Session Womens' Legislative Roundtable

League of Women Voters of Virginia kicks off the 2019 General Assembly Session with a Pre-Session Women's Legislative Roundtable on Wednesday, December 5 at the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond, VA. Listen to select cabinet secretaries and partner organizations discuss their legislative priorities and what they expect from the upcoming legislative session. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions, to network, and to prepare.

Following the Roundtable, LWV will be recognized at noon in the galleries of the Capitol. We will then proceed to a catered lunch at the John Marshall Hotel Ballroom. Follow this link : <https://lww-va.org/womens-legislative-round-table/2018-legislative-pre-session/> to register on the LWV-VA website. We will form carpools for those interested in attending. Please direct questions to Deb Wake at actioncoordinator@lww-va.org.



In Memoriam: Jeanette Calland and Ida Cuthbertson

We were saddened to learn of the passing of two LWVFA members.

Jeanette Calland died in May 2018. Jeanette joined the League in 2006 and was an active member of the McLean Unit. She also was active in the McLean Women's Club and was an alumnae member of the Alpha Phi Sorority of Northern Virginia. Jeanette loved taking courses and traveling.

Ida Cuthbertson died in early September. Ida joined the Fairfax Area League in May 2018 and was a member of the Greenspring Unit.

Our condolences go to their families and friends.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

presents

ACTION FORUM

Sunday, November 18, 2018: 1-4 p.m.
Sherwood Community Center
3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

Join us to hear our collaborating organizations discuss their action priorities:

American Association of University Women of Virginia (AAUW)

American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia (ACLU)

Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA)

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWV-Fairfax)

League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-Virginia)

Moms Demand Action

NAACP

National Korean American Service and Education Consortium

OneVirginia2021

Register Here: <https://lwvfairfaxactionforum.eventbrite.com>

All are welcome to this FREE event! Donations always appreciated.



LWVFA Membership Continues to Grow

As of September 24, 2018, LWVFA is 473 members strong. The following individuals and households joined between August 25 and September 24. Names preceded by an asterisk are new student members.

Kim Alton-Calhoun
Carol and David Ashworth
*Corinne Bowen
Jennifer Carroll
Anne Carson
*Jaclyn Dunn
Rita Fishbein
Doug Francis
Bill and Francine Gemmill
Katharina Gollner-Sweet
*Danielle Johnson
Debra Juncker
Elise Larsen
Beverly Magida
Johnnie Manning
*Ashley McDougald
*Patricia Pascoe
*Destiny Price
*Caroline Sampson
Selma Thackeray
Diane and William Voit
Clara Young
Doug Zywiol

If you have not already renewed for the 2018-2019 membership year, please do so as soon as possible. We have 123 members who have not renewed. We want to keep all of you as members, so PLEASE RENEW!

Reviving an Old Record Book Online

By Mechelle Hankerson

A George Mason University professor is reviving a 41-year-old record book of state government information, this time online and with a focus on women in Virginia politics. Toni-Michelle Travis, along with seven GMU students in the Schar School of Policy, is working on a new and improved digital version of the *Almanac of Virginia Politics* that she hopes to finish in December. When complete, it will have information on members of the General Assembly, the state

Domestic Violence Update

By Barbara Nunes, Director, Domestic Violence

October was Domestic Violence Awareness month and there were many activities. On September 25, the Board of Supervisors gave the Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Coordinating Council (DVPPCC) a Proclamation thanking them for all they are doing.

The DVPPCC Policy Committee has submitted a proposal to confiscate guns after protective orders are issued. The present 24-hour period allows defendants to give guns to relatives or friends in lieu of surrendering to law enforcement. The DVPPCC endorsed this recommendation and LWVFA will be following it.

On September 27, DVPPCC held its Annual Meeting and many County employees, some who are leaving, were recognized. Laura Harris from Fairfax Courts is retiring and was honored. Many League members will remember her for starting a court observation of preliminary protective orders. She will be missed. The Keynote speaker at the DVPPCC meeting was William Kellibrew who as a child witnessed domestic violence and still feels the effects. League will be following this issue as well.

Also on September 27, Judy Helein and I plus Lisa Sales from the Office of Women met with Sheriff Kincaid and her Deputy Sherwood to talk about protective orders in particular and a proposal to confiscate guns immediately after the protective order is issued. In addition we discussed the Diversion First Program.

budget, election results and organize legislation by topic and whether it passed. "It's a basic data pool from a lot of other public sites," Travis said. "The problem is that all this information isn't in one place."

The Almanac of Virginia Politics was published as a book by GMU in 2008 but it was begun in 1977 by now-deceased equal rights activist Flora Crater, a GMU graduate. Travis helped Crater with one version of the almanac, and eventually they partnered with GMU's Schar School of Policy and Government to publish it. The printed version wasn't making any money, though, so the university suggested going digital, Travis said. Now, students handle most of the technicalities and research, Travis said, and she

supplements their work with her vast knowledge from 35 years of teaching and about 15 years of knowing Crater, who once ran for lieutenant governor.

Travis expects the digital almanac will serve the same role it did when Crater started it and be used in libraries and schools, and shared among legislators, lobbyists and newcomers to the state. "Trying to explain Virginia is just complicated," she said.

Travis' version will branch out from basic information and try to highlight minorities, specifically women and African-Americans in Virginia politics. "Women get overlooked," she said. "There's more interest in women in politics, in running." By including facts on women who ran or served in the past, it could reveal patterns that have kept women out of higher offices, Travis said.

Environmental Update:

What's in Your Food?

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Drugs in Your Meat? Under the Freedom of Information Act *Consumer Reports* (CR) obtained data for nearly six thousand 2015-2016 tests from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) suggesting trace amounts of banned or severely restricted drugs are getting into the U.S. meat supply. CR's further investigation raised serious concerns about the safeguards now in place. Likely sources are contaminated feed and intentional misuse. The potential risks to consumers remains uncertain, but CR's own experts are concerned.

The FSIS has done little about these hundreds of apparently contaminated samples of poultry, beef, and pork and its regulatory threshold levels have been questioned by the FDA and EPA. Also, among the shortcomings of FSIS testing and enforcement practices noted by experts, the FSIS doesn't use the more widely-accepted scientific standard of the limit of quantification, the lowest detectable amount an instrument and testing procedure can reliably measure. The FSIS issues very few violations for drugs that never should be in meat.

This is CR's October cover article. CR has no advice for consumers but notes that many Americans probably eat more meat than is healthy and that reducing meat consumption can be better for the environment. It notes that organic meat is more likely to be drug-free due to additional rules and oversight.

Heavy Metals in Your Snacks? The next article is about *Consumer Reports'* testing of 50 packaged foods, focusing on those frequently fed to babies and toddlers. While at least one product in each category had lower levels of heavy metals, CR found arsenic, cadmium, lead, and methylmercury, which can be toxic. Heavy metals get into your food from pollution and

We've never had a female lieutenant governor or governor," she said. "It's still an uncharted territory on how do you get there." From 1934 to 1954, there weren't many women in state politics, probably because of former Virginia Gov. Harry Byrd, Travis said. He created a deep network of political connections, the Byrd Organization, that ran the state for several decades.

Travis has been in touch with the League of Women Voters to confirm the role that some of those women she's learned about in her research, including a woman who may have ran against Byrd at one point. "As much as I can pull together and document, I would like to get up on the site," Travis said.

Editor's Note: Reprinted from the Virginia Mercury (online) 10/4/2018. <<https://www.virginiamercury.com>>

pesticides in addition to natural variations in soil and water. For adults the resulting health risks come from frequent, long-term exposure, with the toxins accumulating in the body. For children, smaller doses over shorter periods can impact their cognitive development. Due to arsenic and lead levels, CR advises that children younger than a year old never have apple or grape juice.

Besides drinking less apple and grape juice, CR advises consumers to minimize risks by:

- eating less chocolate, bigeye tuna shark, king mackerel, orange roughy, and swordfish; protein powders, and rice
- eating a variety of fruits, vegetables, and grains, and
- rinsing rice, cooking it in a lot of water like pasta, and draining it.

Weed Killer in Your Breakfast? Agribusinesses have started spraying the broad-spectrum herbicide glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup, directly onto crops for ripening just before harvest, 300x times as much as was legal in 1993. High levels are showing up in breakfast foods. In August the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization focused on protecting human health and the environment, reported finding glyphosate in popular oat-based foods at levels up to eight times higher than what its scientists consider safe. (See limited sampling at <https://www.ewg.org/childrenshealth/glyphosateincereal/#table>.) Glyphosate is unlikely to get into groundwater because it binds tightly to soil, where it can persist for up to six months until broken down by bacteria. The World Health Organization linked it to cancer in 2015, a classification that might change. The FDA started testing some foods for glyphosate residue in 2016, soon putting it on hold to establish a standard methodology. Glyphosate use could get a boost in the 2018 Farm Bill targeted to be passed by year end.

Additionally, the National Academy of Sciences announced in September that glyphosate exposure damages bees' protective gut microbiota, potentially contributing to the global decline in honey bees. Bees pollinate three-quarters of all food crops.



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**Anu Sahai, Co-President
Judy Helein, 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 / RENEWAL FORM

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Membership Dues: Individual \$65 _____ Household \$90 (2 persons, 1 Voter) _____ Student _____ Free _____
(A subsidy fund is available; check here _____ and include whatever amount you can afford.)

Membership Status: New _____ Renewal _____ Reinstatement _____ Donation _____

(Dues are not tax deductible.)

Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check or PayPal 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” mail to:

LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road Annandale VA 22003-2403

OR

Join Online at: [www. LWV-Fairfax.org/join.ht](http://www.LWV-Fairfax.org/join.ht)

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

- **Providing organizational support** (graphic design, website development/maintenance, fundraising/grant writing)
- **Voter Service** (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** _____