



# Fairfax VOTER

## It's Annual Meeting Time Again!

Plan to attend the League's Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 6! It's an opportunity to catch up with friends in other units, enjoy a delicious lunch, elect new officers, approve the proposed budget and program (and give direction to the Board) - and also hear from Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kinkaid, the first woman to lead the Sheriff's Office in its 276-year history. Read about her goals as well as her many accomplishments and awards on our website. We'll see you at the meeting!

### Calendar

#### April 2019

#### **Annual Meeting in April, no unit meetings.**

- 1 *Fairfax VOTER* deadline
- 3 General Assembly reconvened session opens
- 5 LWVNCA Board meeting
- 6 LWVFA Annual Meeting, Waterford at Fair Oaks, 9:30 a.m.**
- 13 LWVFA new member orientation, Packard Center, 10 a.m.
- 15 LWVFA's 71<sup>st</sup> birthday
- 24 LWVFA Board meeting, Packard Center, 10 a.m.**
- 25 Schools Committee, Packard Center, 10 a.m.

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## Presidents' Message



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”*

Margaret Mead

April 7 – 13 is National Volunteer Recognition Week and so we think it is fitting this month to recognize a group of committed volunteers who have made a difference in the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. It is an opportunity to thank and celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to come together to tackle tough challenges and build a stronger organization. And so, we say, “Thank you” to our outgoing Board members.

**Betty Ellerbee** – Betty joined the Board with many years of high-level League experience to share with us. She served many years as Chair of the Education Committee and at the same time as Board Secretary. Behind the scenes, Betty comes to the office on a regular basis to sort mail, record telephone voice messages and respond to emails. Most of all, Betty keeps the Board on track.

**Peggy Knight** – Peggy has given her all to the League over the years. She served as President and Chair of the Candidate Forums and is currently serving as Coordinator of the Observer Corps. Behind the scenes, Peggy serves as Mentor and Coach, and that is how we know her best.

**Sidney Johnson** – is Voter Service Coordinator Extraordinaire. During her term of service Sidney has brought the League into the spotlight by taking the Candidate Forums to another level. She led the effort to research articles on Firearms Safety and most recently the article on Election Security. You will often find Sidney hosting a table at a voter registration event and behind the scenes, Sidney can be found in the Packard Center quietly stuffing our League bags with voter registration information.

**Adarsh Trehan** – Adarsh has served many years as the League's Public Relations person at the local and state level, putting our good name in front of the local press. Behind the scenes, Adarsh is probably the best member recruiter that the Fairfax League has ever had. Adarsh always has an encouraging word for us.

**Ron Page** – Ron is not a member of the Board but we have relied on him to serve as Editor of the *VOTER* for years and years and years. Ron is retiring this year. The June issue will be the last one that he will produce for us. He will be missed!

We wish to extend our appreciation to Charleen Deasy, Barbara Ewalt, Ann Parham, Peggy Knight and Adarsh Trehan for serving on the Nominating Committee this year. They secured an excellent LWVFA leadership team for the future and we are grateful that Charleen, Barbara and Ann have agreed to serve for another year!

Last, but certainly not least, we thank the members who said “Yes” when called to serve in leadership positions for the next two years. You will find their names in the Annual Meeting Kit.

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

### 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.

Volunteering builds confidence, competence, and connections. It creates cohesion, capacity and lifelong friendships. So, next year when your phone rings and you see the Nominating Committee's caller ID, pick up the phone and say, "Yes!"

Thank You!

*Judy & Anu*

P.S.:

As you all know, Judy is finishing her two-year term as Co-President. I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank her and share with you all what a wonderful person she is. Judy has been a mentor and a friend. I was so nervous taking on the role of Co-President but was convinced by Judy that she would be there to help me and guide me. Boy, was that true! I could not have asked for a better teacher. She is very committed to behavioral health issues and co-authored the study last year.

Judy is really organized, focused and keeps us all on track at Board meetings and everywhere else. We are all very fortunate to still have her on the Board as an immediate past president and our new Volunteer Coordinator.

*Anu*



## Freeman Store Exhibit in Vienna Focuses on League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Freeman Store, which focuses on preserving Vienna's history, will host the exhibit, "Women Creating a More Perfect Democracy: 100 Years of the League of Women Voters" beginning March 10 through the fall of 2019.

### ***New Hallway Exhibit: The League of Women Voters***

The fourth exhibit in the five-year series of small exhibits on the history of the women's suffrage movement and where it stands today will focus on the League of Women Voters. The League was founded after the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote by the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The League encouraged women to vote and lobby for legislation.

Kelly Stratman, LWVUS Chief of Staff and LWVFA member, is coordinating the exhibit on behalf of LWV. For more, contact Kelly at [kellystratman@gmail.com](mailto:kellystratman@gmail.com).

If you are interested in helping us plan, prepare, and

promote these exhibits or have photographs or other artifacts to loan, please contact Leigh Kitcher of the Freeman Store at 703 255 9066 or email her at [Leigh-Kitcher@aol.com](mailto:Leigh-Kitcher@aol.com).

For more, visit <http://historicviennainc.org/>

The Freeman Store & Museum  
131 Church Street NE  
Vienna, VA 22180

## LWVFA Donors and Supporters

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

**Gloria Haher  
Ellen Hayes  
Arthur Purves**

Those who donated through Evite and Facebook  
and  
in memory of Baba Freeman  
Andrew Freeman  
Molly Hammell  
Linda Paine



**Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 6, 2019**

**Keynote Speaker: Stacey Kincaid**  
**Fairfax County Sheriff**

**Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial, Highway Fairfax VA 22033**

- 9:30 a.m.** – Registration & Coffee
- 10:00 a.m.** Meeting Begins
- Noon** Lunch
- 12:30 p.m.** Keynote Speaker
- 1:15 p.m.** Meeting Reconvenes
- 2:00 p.m.** Meeting Adjourns

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**LWVFA Members & Their Guests: \$40 each, includes coffee, luncheon, and speaker**

**General Public: \$50 each, includes coffee, luncheon, and speaker**

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**Registration**

To register and pay online, visit [lwv-fairfax2019am.eventbrite.com](http://lwv-fairfax2019am.eventbrite.com)

To register by check, fill out the following form, make checks payable to **LWVFA**, and mail to:  
**2019 Annual Meeting, c/o Viveka Fuenzalida, 11020 Burywood Lane, Reston, VA 20194**

Members' and their Guests' Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ @\$40 ea. Members' Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Non-Members' Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ @\$50 ea. Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

***Luncheon Menu: House Salad, Chicken Piccata (Chicken cooked in herb & cheese batter served with a lemon-capers sauce), Virginia-Style Green Beans & Honey-Glazed Carrots, Bread and Butter, Dessert, Coffee Service***

Special dietary needs or questions? Please Call Viveka Fuenzalida at 703 -404-0498.

**Registration Deadline: Thursday, March 21st**

**For more, visit [www.lwv-fairfax.org/2019-annual-meeting/](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/2019-annual-meeting/)**

# Unit Discussions on Sexual Harassment, Zoning, and Registrars Summarized

By Julia Jones, Program Director

## Sexual Harassment

In December, LWVFA units discussed Sexual Harassment as it applied to individuals and how the findings might lead to a LWV-VA position. Our local League was asked to have this Sexual Harassment discussion in November, but the LWVFA General Meeting on priorities of our interest partners was already scheduled. Because we were also under deadlines for Program Planning for LWV-VA and LWV NCA, we scheduled all discussions in December. Several units had trouble giving time to all three topics because there was so much participation and so many opinions.

Rather than summarizing the discussion on Sexual Harassment, we decided to forward all of the unit reports to the State Committee. Because there were many concerns about the study, we thought that the State Committee should see the responses in full. The full unit reports can be requested by contacting the Program Director.

The units felt that all women had experienced some form of sexual harassment in their lifetime. How it was handled

depended on the circumstances and the age of the women. Finding a sexual harassment definition that covers all situations would be very difficult - what bothers one person might not another. Most definitions included unwanted and unwelcome sexual comments or actions and obscene or sexual remarks that make one feel uncomfortable.

There was much discussion on what the LWV-VA positions should be. One unit responded: "We support the collection of data but disagree with the specific method described in the article. Women's Commissions serve other roles and may not be the best place for data collection. In addition, how would the general public report sexual harassment issues (as opposed to workplace harassment issues, for example)? Men can be harassed as well—would they be comfortable reporting to Women's Commissions? The LWV-VA position needs to support the collection of data but be broad enough to support or oppose any legislative action on how that is to be accomplished."



## Zoning

Every unit had members who had experience with zoning issues. Most were about changes in their communities that affected the status quo. The proposed changes (zMOD) to make the zoning process more user friendly were welcomed. There were many comments about the new categories and how they will be implemented. A few felt that because the County is very transient, i.e. a lot of military, people living in it for short spans are really not interested in the development taking place; it does not affect them.

Most units did not think the public is fully aware of public hearings and proposed zoning changes and do think a better job needs to be done communicating to the citizens. The public can stay informed via Fair-



fax Alerts, the Fairfax County website, NextDoor groups, various citizens groups and associations, homeowners' associations, Patches, and posted signage about planned changes. The notices posted in neighborhoods need to be MUCH bigger and brighter. The County (and towns & cities) should have interactive websites (put in your address to find "what's happening near me") and fund more frequent newsletters (that include zoning info) from elected officials. A note could be added to all real estate bills such as "go to xxx website to see news of zoning and planning proposals in your vicinity".

In the future, we need to consider problems associated with climate change (flooding in some areas), the need for low-income housing (possibly tiny houses), businesses in homes, walkable sidewalks in high-traffic areas, and air rights. The groups also discussed the problems that arise with density changes, including traffic, overcrowded schools, and new burdens on parks and libraries.

## Registrars

Unit members were pleased with the responses of Mr. Scott (Fairfax County Registrar) and Ms. Cabrera (Fairfax City Registrar). The members were impressed with the training for election officers and felt our local elections are well run and safe from voter fraud. Those who have been election officers rated the experience positively. Most felt that split shifts should be used more, since many volunteers are aging and the voting day is very long.



The League has long supported No Excuse Absentee Voting, but cost was mentioned as an issue. Many Leaguers felt that any cost is the price of democracy and we should

pay it. Some thought no-excuse absentee voting might actually save money. Internet voting can raise security concerns. Mail-in voting that occurs in some states was suggested. One group also discussed privacy issues with excuse-only absentee voting, which requires personal information and can be subject to FOIA requests.

The units were in agreement that we should look into changing the date of June primaries, gathering more information about risk assessment audits and rank-order voting, and finding out more specifics about automatic voter registration and “Real ID”.

Our members joined the League because they were looking for voter education and impartial information, wanting something with political views on both sides, and seeking intelligent conversation. Others were persuaded by family members, and many felt the need to be good informed citizens.

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## LWV-VA Statement on Bipartisan Redistricting Commission

On Saturday, February 23 the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate voted in favor of establishing a redistricting commission requirement in our Constitution. The League of Women Voters of Virginia applauds the General Assembly’s Bipartisan Redistricting Commission proposal.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) has been deeply engaged in redistricting reform for decades. For the past several years, LWV-VA has been working in close partnership with OneVirginia2021—working to educate and engage the public around redistricting reform.

### About the Proposal:

As described by LWV-VA’s partner, OneVirginia2021, here are the key elements in the reform passed by the House of Delegates and the Senate:

- Establishes a Redistricting Commission of 8 legislators and 8 citizens, with a citizen serving as chair
- Requires full transparency of all meetings, minutes and data
- Includes specific protections for minority communities
- Includes impartial review in the selection of citizen members of the commission
- Excludes unelected Congressional or General Assembly employees from the commission

- Guards against partisan gerrymandering by requiring a supermajority of commissioners for approval of district maps
- Provides the General Assembly only up-or-down votes on the commission’s maps, without amendments
- Excludes the Governor from the approval process, which would throw off the balance created by the above framework

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## Board Encourages Units to “Do Your Own Thing”

In June units will have an opportunity to “Do Your Own Thing.” It’s not too early to start thinking about what you’d like to do. You might want to invite a speaker to expand on a League study subject or issue, visit a local agency, or even a courtroom, attend a public meeting together, plan a potluck lunch or all go out to eat somewhere. Some units may want to combine with another unit and to do something together. Talk over your ideas this month and make your plans early!

“We would like to hear from you what you did and how it worked out.” said Co-President Judy Helein. “Those who participated last year thought it was a great idea.”

Environmental Update . . .

## Celebrate Earth and Arbor Days

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Earth Day spreads knowledge about the insecurity of the global environment and ways to protect it. This year's theme is Protect Our Species. Since 1970, the world has lost an average of 60 percent of its wildlife populations. This is directly linked to human activity, including climate change, deforestation, and the pollution and pesticides of unsustainable agriculture. The U.N. World Meteorological Organization warns that we face 3-5 degrees C of warming above pre-industrial levels by 2100 with devastating consequences for billions of people. That's beyond the projected threshold of irreversible climate change. Part of the lack of political will is due to the current economic models inadequately accounting for climate risks and consequences, such as how to value the ongoing loss of coral reefs.

In *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming* (read opening chapter at <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/arts/read-a-chapter-from-the-uninhabitable-earth-a-dire-warning-on-climate-change>), David Wallace-Wells presents the latest science on climate change's increased speed, scope, and severity. He asserts that we're heading for continuous catastrophe if we don't respond and that the impact of individual lifestyle choices is trivial in comparison with policy action. That's where the League comes in.

In honor of National Arbor Day on April 26, consider the American chestnut tree. Once, this keystone forest species was highly prized for growing fast and tall, producing quality, rot-resistant lumber along with a valuable nut crop while feeding and sheltering wildlife. Over just a few decades, nearly 4 billion trees were killed by a virus accidentally imported circa 1904.

The American Chestnut Foundation (ACF) aims to develop a blight-resistant tree through scientific research and breeding and to restore the tree to its native range across the eastern U.S. Its latest hybrid trees are blight-resistant enough that some survive long enough to reproduce. Thus, many can survive in the forest and continue to evolve. In addition to planting groves of these hybrids, some of their seeds are used as thank-you gifts to donors with a "seed level membership." Check <https://www.acf.org/va/> for volunteer opportunities, such as seedling planting work days at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, outside Leesburg.

ACF's New York chapter was among the first funders of the American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project, a biotechnology program at the State University of NY-

College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) that has developed the "Darling 58" American chestnut tree. Thanks to a defensive enzyme in strawberries and wheat, this tree can coexist with the chestnut fungus. Genetic engineering's changes are smaller than traditional hybrid breeding's. With USDA approval, which could take a couple of years, transgenic trees, nuts, pollen, and grafts would be distributed to people interested in cross-pollinating with their stump-sprouted chestnut trees. Learn more at [esf.org/chestnut](http://esf.org/chestnut).

As explained by research assistant and ESF master's student in Plant Science and Biotechnology Hannah Pilkey, "(T)he main difference between the two restoration programs is that ESF is using genetic engineering to incorporate 1 gene (OxO) into the genome of the chestnut tree. The end result is a pure American chestnut tree plus one gene for blight resistance." The ACF's backcross breeding program captures a variety of genes from the Chinese chestnut for blight resistance, resulting in a 15/16ths hybrid American chestnut.

SpringFest, the County's official Earth Day and Arbor Day event, will be held at Sully Historic Site on April 27. It too is the day Alexandria celebrates Earth Day in Braddock Park and the day of the Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale at the Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Participate in the City Nature Challenge, an international effort to find and document plants and wildlife and see who can make the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people; you can practice at Wolf Trap on April 7.

Also, EcoAction Arlington will host a presentation of Al Gore's latest slide deck on the climate crisis and solutions, the Climate Reality Project, at George Mason University Founders Hall, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, at 7-9 p.m. on April 9. Discussion of tangible impacts, broad challenges, progress, and the path forward will be followed by the status of Arlington's response to climate change and the proposed changes to Arlington's Community Energy Plan.

**Update:** Following public outcry, Congress permanently reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund, considered American's best tool for protecting public lands. Congress still needs to allocate money to the Fund for this fiscal year, overriding the Administration's proposed 95 percent reduction and preventing the \$900 million intended to go into the Fund annually from being raided for other purposes. Less than one fourth of the \$40B the Fund has collected from a fraction of federal royalties from oil-gas leases since its signing in 1965 has gone to support habitat protection, public access, public recreation, and historical preservation. Its investments in Virginia include the Appalachian Trail and the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)  
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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER ©  
 April, 2019**

**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** \_\_\_\_\_