

Fairfax VOTER

November 2022 Volume 75, Issue 3

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area General Meeting will be held November 20,2022, via Zoom, starting at 2 p.m. The topic is "Rights of the Child." Anu Sahai will moderate a panel of distinguished experts who will address this important topic.

Please be sure to join us to hear this interesting discussion.

Calendar

November 2022

5	Last day of Early Voting		
5	LWVFA Briefing and At-Large Meeting, 10 a.m.		
8	Election Day; Polls open 6 a.m 7 p.m.		
8	Election Day - Last day to mail Absentee Ballot;		
	Absentee Ballots must be postmarked on or		
	before Election Day and received three days		
	later, November 11th at noon.		
9	LWVFA Legacy Committee Meeting, 1 to 3 p.m.		
10	LWV-VA 102nd Birthday		
11	Absentee Ballot Return Deadline, noon – must		
	be postmarked by Election Day, November 8		
11	Veterans' Day		
16	LWVFA Board Meeting, 10 a.m.		
20	LWVFA General Meeting		
24	Thanksgiving Day		
29	Giving Tuesday 2022		
Note: 1	No LWVFA Unit Meetings in November; holding		

Note: No LWVFA Unit Meetings in November; holding the General Meeting instead

1-30 Native American Indian Heritage Month

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Presidents'Message

Dear Fellow Leaguers,

Do you have a favorite month? We do – November! In the United States, this is when we get to fulfill the mission of the LWV and VOTE! We know we don't have to remind you...

November is also the month when our many volunteers who have been working so hard to register as many voters as possible finally get to catch their collective breath. Thank you so much to everyone who joined in this year's enormously successful effort.

November also ushers in the winter holiday season. As you begin gathering with family and friends we hope you will reflect on your discussions from October's study on childcare and the General Meeting later this month on the Rights of the Child. We all have a role in supporting families and ensuring future generations have the opportunity to thrive.

We look forward to seeing you at the General Meeting and wish you well as the seasons transition.

Pat and Katherine

On October 13, LWVFA, in conjunction with our sister-Leagues in Arlington and Falls Church, held an on-line candidate forum for Congressional District 8. All three candidates participated as did over 60 audience members. A recording of the event is available at LWV-fairfax.org under the Events tab. Annandale Today also reported on the event. That article can be found at https://annandaletoday.com/congressional-canddates-face-off/. The candidates competing in the November 8 election for District 8 are incumbent Don Beyer (D), Karina Lipsman (R) and Teddy Fikre (I).

As Sidney Johnson wrote, "It (the forum) lived up to the tradition of civil engagement that the League has always held. The candidates were able to explain how they differed on the issues without descending to personalities and jibes."

LWVFA READS

Suggestions for March Book Discussions

Each LWVFA unit decides on a book to read and discuss in March 2023. The units can pick a book from this list or choose their own. The March unit report will list the book choice and the main outcomes of the discussion.

Robert E. Lee and Me: A Southerner's Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause

by Ty Seidule

The Lost Cause myth argued that white southerners fought the Civil War for many reasons - protective tariffs, state's rights, freedom, the agrarian dream, defense, - all except slavery.

Fairfax County 24-hr.

Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline: 703-360-7273: 711 TTY

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2022 - 2023

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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/answering machine) www.lwv-fairfax.org league@lwv-fairfax.org

Co-Presidents: Pat Fege

Pat.Fege@lwv.Fairfax.org Katherine Ingmanson Katherine@lwv.Fairfax.org

Editor: Laura Hamilton

Editor@lwv-fairfax.org

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

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

Evicted - Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

In the poorest neighborhood of Milwaukee, the author tells the story of eight families on the edge. Today most poor renting families spend more than half their income on housing.

The Invention of Wings

by Sue Monk Kidd

The book is a fictionalized biographical account of the Grimke sisters as they become trailblazers in the abolition movement and early leaders in the fight for women's rights.

How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America

by Clint Smith

The author visited various places with links to slavery across the US

The Night Watchman

by Louise Erdrich

The book is based on the life of the author's grand-

father who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native American dispossession from rural North Dakota to Washington, D.C.

Braving the Wilderness

by Brene Brown

Brown redefines what it means to truly belong in an age of increased polarization. It is about "both standing alone in your personal belief and values and connecting to others in theirs. It's about how to share your most authentic self: to stand both alone and together as part of a community,"

Fascism: A Warning by Madeleine Albright

A Fascist, observes Madeleine Albright, "is someone who claims to speak for a whole nation or group, is utterly unconcerned with the rights of others, and is willing to use violence and whatever other means are necessary to achieve the goals he or she might have."



So, What is the Legacy Fund? By Susan Cowart

Every April, LWVFA holds its Annual Meeting in lieu of individual unit meetings. Prior to the Pandemic we would gather in person and I always enjoyed seeing people from other units. One important task during the Annual Meeting is adopting budgets for both the General Fund and the Education Fund. The budget for each fund, previously created by the Budget Committee, is presented by the committee chair, currently Jane Pacelli, and a vote is requested for approval. During Jane's presentation, the Legacy Fund is also mentioned. This year a question was put in the Chat asking what is the Legacy Fund. Let me explain.

First, a little background. There are two funds with separate budgets and accounting for the two parts of the LWVFA.

- 1) The Education Fund is where all our voter outreach activities, like voter education and voter registration, which is the "heart and soul" of who we are, are accounted for. This is a registered 501(c)(3) organization (a non-profit entity) and therefore, any contributions made to the Education Fund are potentially tax deductible.
- 2) The General Fund holds assets for the operation of our League. This is where our dues go as well as income from condo/community elections, for example. The costs incurred for things like our office space, printing and administrative overhead are paid from this fund, as well as conventions and our financial obligations to the state and national leagues. In addition, it is where we pay for any advocacy activity done by our League. Money given to the General Fund is not tax deductible. The Legacy Fund is a part of the General Fund, but its money is held separately and managed by the Legacy Committee, chaired by Marion Brown. Money from the Legacy Fund may be transferred to the General Fund in order to balance the budget on a year-to-year basis.

The Legacy Fund was created in 2009 when Frances Silver died and left a bequest of just over \$193,000 to the League. This money, managed by the Legacy Committee, is held in short-term investments as well

as broad-based, long-term market investments. The Legacy Committee meets quarterly to review the performance of the investments and to coordinate with the Treasurer, Lynn Stewart, to authorize any transfer of funds necessary from the Legacy Fund to the General Fund in order to meet financial commitments in the upcoming quarter. Since its inception, \$128,272 has been transferred to the General Fund and the current balance as of 6/30/2022 was \$168,338. The Legacy Fund has been critical to the ongoing operation of the LWVFA. Without it, we would not be able to do many of the important things we do. When you are doing long-term financial planning or talking to your financial advisor, please consider designating a bequest of any size to the League of Women Voters - Fairfax Area Legacy Fund. We are so grateful that Frances Silver did!

I am happy for the opportunity to be a member of both the Budget Committee as well as the Legacy Committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, Susan Cowart_sfcowart@aol.com, or other members of either committee.



Grassroots Democracy

Democracy at Its Best!

Over 200 Fairfax City voters attended the Fairfax City Candidates' Meet and Greet on September 28th. Participants met the candidates running for mayor, city council, and school board. Seven high school students from Fairfax, James Madison, and Justice joined LWVFA volunteers at this event. After an opening presentation, voters met with the candidates stationed around the room and engaged in lively conversations. As one citizen said, "This was the first time that I was able to meet all of the candidates face-to-face and learn about them before I voted."

We sponsored this event in collaboration with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and with the support from American Legion Post 177 and other cosponsors, including Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, Fairfax NAACP, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, Iota Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, National Council of Nego Women: Reston-Dulles Section, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, American Association of University Women: Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter.



Photos by LWVFA



LWV-VA Program Planning

A new approach to reviewing positions

Every other year League members review the positions of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. This year, we have four new studies to discuss and to arrive at new positions through our consensus process. Because there are many LWV-VA positions, the Positions in Brief have been divided into parts published in the VOTER over four months. These positions and their history can be found on our website (lwv-fairfax.org) under the Actions and Advocacy tab.

As you read current LWV-VA positions, think about the need to retain, delete or update each one. Is a new study needed and would you be willing to lead or belong to a committee? Your individual thoughts and ideas are needed since unit discussions will focus on consensus questions for new positions.

- Minimum comprehensive state license standards for child care facilities.
- Incentives for development of child care programs.
- Financial assistance for low-income families.
- Coordinated resource and referral systems.
- Training for caregivers and parents.

Also, support a requirement that professional child-care givers report child abuse /neglect. (1988, 2013) Respond to Julie Jones

(<u>julie.Jones@lwv-fairfax.org</u>) or Judy Helein (<u>judy.Helein@lwv-fairfax.org</u>) with your suggestions.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA

Positions-In-Brief Updated Spring 2021

CHILD CARE

Support for state policies that promote quality childcare that is affordable, accessible, and available, including:

CHILDREN AT RISK

Support for state and local policies that recognize the basic needs of all children including shelter, family, and community support, health care, food, education, and personal safety, including:

Fund preventive services, rehabilitative programs, family support programs, crises services,

- court costs, and detention.
- Evaluations of programs and services.
- State mandated case planning and case management systems to assure timely access to services
- Internal and judicial grievance procedures. (1989, 2013)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Support for state funding mechanisms and laws/policies that increase the supply of and equal access to safe, quality, affordable housing for all Virginians. (2021)

- Enhanced funds for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund
- Private/public partnerships to obtain housing for the mentally ill.
- Consider a waiver for Medicaid to pay for counseling for housing options.
- Establish tax credits or other financial incentives for landlords and developers who build affordable housing, and local government policies that increase affordable housing stock.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support for an adequately funded and separate Department of Juvenile Justice that emphasizes prevention and rehabilitation, to include:

- Individualized treatment and training programs, with vocational and alternative educational opportunities.
- Family planning support.
- Mental health and substance abuse counseling.
- Community education and recreation programs for young children.
- Alternatives to incarceration such as community service and residence in small group homes.
- Establishment of small therapeutic group or foster homes.
- Removal of juveniles from adult jails and their placement in a juvenile detention facility as necessary.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Support for comprehensive behavioral health care that includes both mental illness and substance use disorder.

• Access for all people to affordable, quality inand out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services.

- Coordination of comprehensive and integrated care among Health and Human Services (specifically Behavioral Health) and other state departments such as Medical Assistance Services (Medicaid), Public Safety (re-entry planning, identification of behavioral health needs in jails/prisons, patient's rights, substance abuse, and drug/mental health courts), Housing (Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing), and Education (health education from early childhood through adult). These agencies must provide this care along with a focus on community-based services such as Community Service Boards (CSBs).
- Realignment of the funding equation so that a higher proportion of funds to CSBs rather than state institutions.
- Continued efforts to decrease the stigmatization. This will result in more cost-effective care that is more responsive to client's needs.
- Adequate funds and other incentives to ensure sufficient trained staff at all levels of service.
- Continued efforts to decrease the stigmatization of behavioral health problems and care. (2018)

Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee By Julie Jones

Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee (AAC) proposed updating the AAC's charter in order to clarify the purpose and procedures of the committee. Among recent discussion topics were changing the name to Aviation Advisory Committee to more clearly identify today's concerns. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Drones and FAA Helicopter Noise Pilot program were also discussed. AAC now has a county website to better inform Fairfax citizens of the workings of the committee. https://fairfaxcounty.civicweb.net/portal/members.aspx?id=96

Reparations - Part II - LWVFA Report

The September 2022 LWVFA units had informative and lively discussions about the reparation report during their meetings. Many units used the printed discussion questions as guidelines, while others had a more "free-wheeling" interaction. Members used words such as "eye-opening," "re-focus" and "revelation" regarding the details provided. All agreed that both parts of the report were "very well written and we commend the group who did extensive research and presented the information in a coherent way."

Many members felt that they learned more details about past governmental and social policies that interfered with African Americans gaining wealth as a group. These limitations included red-lining, absence of property records, prohibition against social security contributions in certain job categories, and poor use of eminent domain. There was some concern that the word "reparations" was receiving a negative cognition. Some members felt that talk of money would be off-putting to many. Some brought up the problems of identifying which Black citizens should be targeted for help.

While not only educating our members, the Leagueshould use this study to inform the entire Fairfaxarea community and advocate for more policies that promote equity, such as One Fairfax. Many felt that reparations should not only consider monetary rewards but offer opportunities in affordable housing, child care, health care, and quality education. Implementing these social policies would benefit all groups, not only Black Americans.

The League should explore how "the Black community feels about the reparation issue and how we can work together." LWVUS "might offer a sincere apology for past discrimination - a vital step for reconciliation." One unit wrote: "The best way to deal with systemic racism is to talk about it and call it out. We can't let it hide in the darkness."

Rights of the Child - A Panel Discussion

The topic for the General Meeting is "Rights of the Child." Our children have inalieable rights, and as a society we are failing if we cannot guarantee these rights. They include good and affordable childcare, guaranteed and free early education, and children's health and safety (including mental health, suicide prevention, gun violence prevention, and food security). We will be learning about all the provisions our state and county have for the wellbeing and safety of our children and what we need to advocate for.

Join this online panel discussion to explore this important topic.

Distinguished Panelists

• Emily Griffey

Chief Policy Officer, Voices for Virginia's Children

Anne-Marie Twohie

Director, Fairfax County Office for Children

• Maria Posey

Chair, LWV-VA Childcare Issue Group; Managing Director,

Third Sector Capital

Partners; and LWVFA member

• Dr. Barbara Boardman,

American Academy of Pediatrics and LWVFA Co-Director, Action and Advocacy

Moderator
Anu Sahai
Co-Director Action and Advocacy, LWVFA

Sunday November 20 2:00 – 3:30 pm via Zoom

For more information and to register please visit our website (lwv-fairfax.org) and click on the General Meeting blue button.

Environmental Update: Building Noah's Ark Amid Ecocide

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Biodiversity is the variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem, which is central to the quality of your life. The loss of biodiversity moves in tandem with the increase in climate variability. The Nature Conservancy outlines what's happening in a brief video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPzpdwE2ic4 and sums up the situation:

- Biodiversity underpins every aspect of life on our planet—but it's currently declining at an unprecedented rate.
- To reverse this trend, we must find better ways to manage humanity's footprint on land, freshwater and sea - and new ways to fund this work.
- Tackling the interconnected crises of rapid climate change and biodiversity loss over the next decade is a massive undertaking, and it involves countless partners, communities, funders, governments, and businesses.

A booklet about systematic changes to how we build, farm, and live is needed to halt and reverse the biodiversity crisis, including how individual actions can play an important role, is available at https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26384/biodiversity-atrisk-todays-choices-matter.

Along with climate change, pollution, resource use and exploitation, and invasive species, the loss of natural space across the planet is causing a mass extinction. Half a century of agricultural expansion has degraded intact forests, especially those in the tropics, and cities and roads have encroached upon natural landscapes. At the same time, marine ecosystems have suffered from the cumulative impacts of overfishing, pollution, and ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation. Last year, the Biden administration joined the global movement working to conserve and restore 30% of the world's lands and waters by 2030 for the benefit of everyone, including by creating jobs, boosting local economies, and improving human physical and mental health. Scientists proposed this "30x30" effort as the most effective way to prevent the collapse of the Earth's natural systems, where we are exploiting

environmental services far more rapidly than can be renewed. Watch for new targets to be reached at a major UN biodiversity summit in Montreal next month. For an overview of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, see https://www.cbd.int/cop/. For more info. and to stream this December event, visit https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15.

In September, the State Department's Monica Medina was named as our first Special Envoy for Biodiversity and Water Resources. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the ocean is the final frontier with only 5% explored. Imagine what creatures await discovery underwater. Only a third of the ocean and coastal waters of the US have been mapped with modern methods. After 50 years, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System now is a network of underwater parks totaling more than 620,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters with special ecological, cultural and historical significance. This anniversary is honored with 16 Forever stamps. Explore our nearest sanctuary at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkdtprFGZes.

Blue crabs are the most iconic Chesapeake Bay species. They live in US coastal waters along the Atlantic Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico and as far south as Argentina. They eat a range of foods including mussels, oysters, small crustaceans, and decaying plant and animal matter, and often are found in the Bay's underwater grass beds. These grass beds provide food, shelter, and protection when crabs are young and when they mate and molt. It takes a crab 12-18 months to reach maturity. In Virginia, the commercial harvest value of blue crabs ranges from \$22-38 million/year, and eating them is a celebrated pastime. The annual VA/MD winter dredge estimate issued in May showed a drop in blue crab population for the third year in a row, down from 282 million to 227 million, the lowest in the survey's 33-year history. The blue crab population fluctuates annually based on reproductive success, weather, water quality, predation, particularly by invasive blue catfish, and harvest. The extremely low estimate of the current population highlights the need to continue to protect spawning females and consider precautionary measures to protect juveniles.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's 2022 State of the Blueprint report similarly finds that the States are not on track to reduce pollution to the levels needed for a healthy Bay or implement the practices necessary to achieve them by the 2025 deadline.

Of the 100,000 tree species thought to inhabit the planet, nearly 90% have never been assessed by the IUCN Red List, meaning we have no idea how most tree species are responding to climate change. The 1,152 Critically Endangered tree species are likely to go extinct unless urgent action is taken to save then. A new study released in August is the first to list and assess the health of all 881 tree species native to the contiguous US. Only eight tree species are federally recognized as endangered or threatened.

In 2019, Local citizen scientists working with the Changing Landscapes Initiative and Virginia Working Landscapes, both programs of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, found a rare orchid that is nearly extinct in Virginia. Purple fringeless orchids are declining throughout their range, particularly where wetlands disappear, and are endangered in several states where they are native. You can help while cooling your neighborhood by planting native trees; to learn how to get free or low-cost seedlings and organize tree plantings, see https://www.plantno-vatrees.org/.

Opportunities to join science projects include https://www.citizen-community-science-for-bees/, https://www.citizenscience.gov/cata-log/112/#, https://earthwatch.org/expeditions/browse, <a href="https://earthwatch.org/expeditions/browse, and <a href="https://earthwatch.org/expeditions/browse, and <a href="https://earthwatch.org/expeditions/browse, and <a href="https://earthwatch.org/expeditions/browse, and <a href="https://expeditions.org/expeditions/browse, and <a href="https://expeditions.org/expeditions/



Congratulations to Sally Claggett as the Alliance for the Bay's 2022 Fran Flanigan Environmental Leadership Award, Winner, named for its longesttenured Executive Director. Claggett was honored for her dedication to restoring and protecting Chesapeake forests as she retires from the US Forest Service after serving for more than 30 years. Together, the organizations reached 800,000 forest landowners in multiple states to educate them about the direct correlation between forest management and water quality. The Alliance also recognized Jasmine Gore as the 2022 Virginia Watershed Champion Awardee for her leadership on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Committee and her support of the ongoing peer-to-peer bus tours in Virginia.



Five decades of implementing the Clean Water Act have reduced direct pollution discharges to waterways and improved wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, dramatically improving the health and safety of navigable waters across the country. Visit https://cwa50.org/ for ongoing celebrations and a toolkit for planning your own.

Correction: The related final item in the October issue was from this Waterkeepers Chesapeake website, not one of our contributors.

In Memorium

Patricia McGrady, a 50+ year member, passed in early October. Pat joined the League for the social connections that membership provided with women who had similar interests. Since Pat lived in 27 different locations over her lifetime, she would search for an area League to join as a good way to meet new people. Pat had 13 different careers.

Pat's first job was as a Proctor and Gamble market researcher, which involved lots of travel. She loved it! Another job was as a Zephyrette, a hostess on the California Zephyr train. Another position she held was as a college dean. In her jobs, she said that she never ran into "Glass Ceilings" and didn't feel discriminated against as a woman.

Pat was quite an adventuress. In her day, many girl friends were focused on getting married before they finished college. That was not a priority for Pat. She was an itinerant, following her mother who set a great example of being adventurous.

The League got her active in civil rights. In Quincy, Illinois, she picketed a real estate company for redlining. Through her church, she helped organize the 1964 Walk of Dignity supporting black community members.

Pat often described life changing experiences because of the League. She joined the Arlington Virginia League in 1974 and served as Treasurer and Social Chair. The League published an article about affordable housing which really impacted her, prompting her to become an affordable housing advocate. In the eighties, she was the president of the Arlington Housing Corporation. Pat continued her interest in affordable housing for the remainder of her life, along with helping with voter registration at Naturalization Ceremonies.

Nancy Norland Guinand Miller, 92, a long-term resident of Springfield, Virginia, passed away peacefully under the care of Hospice on Saturday, July 23, 2022. Nancy was a Navy wife who followed her husband, Dave, on his assignments throughout Europe and bouncing from coast to coast in the United States before finally settling in Springfield, Virginia.

Many of Nancy's personal interests centered on physical and mental fitness – traits she shared with Dave. Early life in Colorado fueled her love of nature and the outdoors. Riding horses, skiing, and hiking were favorite pastimes. She was an avid tennis player and athlete until she was sidelined by an auto accident in 2015. Throughout life Nancy nurtured relationships not just with family but also with neighbors and four-legged friends.

Nancy was witty and sharp-minded with a keen interest in civic life. A lifelong bibliophile, she believed that literacy and critical thinking equip citizens to participate constructively in a democratic society. As a member of the League of Women Voters, she worked to protect and expand voting rights, was on the LWVFA Board and served as the Springfield unit chair for many years. She was a long-time volunteer in support of her friend, Leslie Byrne, who served in the House of Delegates (1986–1992), the Senate of Virginia (2000–2003), and was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress from Virginia. As Karen Knopes said, "Nancy was such a firecracker, a real inspiration in the League." She will be forever loved and deeply missed by family and friends.



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

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The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER® November, 2022

Pat Fege, Co-President Katherine Ingmanson, Co-President Laura Hamilton, 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.

Name:

Please Support Our Work! The LWVFA Education Fund is supported by donations from our members and the public. https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/donate



LWVFA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Unit (if renewing):

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Name of Second Household Member (if one):		
Street Address:		Condo/Apt No:
City:	State:	Zip Code +4:
E-mail: Phone:	(C)	(H)
Membership Status: New	Renewa	ıl
Membership Level (please check one):		
Basic Membership:		
Individual (\$75);Household (two member	rs who share the	e same mailing address) (\$100);
Limited Income (suggested donation: \$10);	_Student (Free	!)
Membership Plus:		
Suffragist (\$100); Advocate Household	(two members	who share the same mailing address) (\$150);
Champion (\$300); Founders' Circle (\$5	(00)	
*	*	nation to the LWVFA General Fund. This money will sup- technology, and support other priority projects. General