

League in Action!



February 2020

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President's Message

By Tina Norkus

tnorkus@hotmail.com



Tina greets a future voter!

Welcome to a new year and a new decade! There's lots to celebrate and lots of work yet to do. This year we celebrate both the centennial anniversary of the 19th amendment granting women in the US the right to vote and the passage in Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA has now been ratified by the requisite 38 states. There are still multiple court fights ahead but hopefully 2020 will see equal rights for women codified as the 28th amendment to the US Constitution.

One of the best ways to honor the achievements of the past is to work to advance our current progressive agenda. Last year, LWVFRA identified 5 issues as priorities for 2020 – voter education and registration, affordable housing for seniors, fair redistricting, supporting a complete census count and passage of the ERA in Virginia. The ERA is passed – one down, four to go! I ask that each of you make a commitment to dedicate your time and talent to at least one of the remaining critically important issues affecting our community.

Key Priorities of Our League:

- Voter Education and Registration – Contact Sue Botts @ suebotts1@gmail.com.
- Affordable housing – Advocate for affordable housing policies throughout Planning District 16 and support the state league's study of affordable housing in Virginia.) Contact Gerald Anderson @ glanderson1947@gmail.com.
- Complete Census Count – Support activities throughout the region to ensure every person is counted. Contact Tina Norkus @ tnorkus@gmail.com.
- Fair redistricting - Encourage legislators to pass the anti-gerrymandering amendment and enabling legislation. Contact Fran Larkins @ franlarkins40@gmail.com.

Let's make 2020 the "Year of 5 Victories."
Reach out today: Together we can make this happen!

Website: lwvfra.org

Follow us on: 

Like us on: 

Email: lwvfra@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 1st LWVFRA Winter Social
- 8th Lucy Burns Museum Visit
- 10th LWVFRA Board Meeting
- 11th Virginia General Assembly Crossover
- 12th LWV-VA League Day @ General Assembly
- 16th Meet the Centennial Committee
- 24th LWVFRA General Meeting

March

- 3rd Democratic Primaries
- 7th VA Regular Session Ends
- 9th LWVFRA Board Meeting
- 14th Centennial Committee Planning
- 19th Centennial Committee Luncheon
- 22nd Meet the Centennial Committee
- 30th LWVFRA General Meeting

April

- 13th LWVFRA Board Meeting
- 27th LWVFRA General Meeting

May

- 11th LWVFRA Board Meeting

Editor: Meaghan Sekinger

Committee Updates

LWVFRA NEEDS YOU!

Nominating Committee Seeks 6 Board Positions!

The Nominations Committee is anticipating at least six LWVFRA Board vacancies for the upcoming year. At the 2020 Annual Meeting in late June, the League will elect members to fill those slots. If you are interested in serving or learning more about the positions, please contact [Cathie Braman](#).

The committee will meet soon to consider possible candidates and is tasked with presenting a slate of nominees to the membership for their consideration.

Is this the year you are thinking about taking a more active role in the League? Just get in touch with Cathie to discuss how you can serve our League.

Nominating Chair

Cathie Braman, cathiebraman@yahoo.com

| Open Positions for 2020 | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| President | Vice President |
| Treasurer | Membership Chair |
| Director of Communications | Program Planning Director |

FEBRUARY 1ST!



2ND ANNUAL
WINTER SOCIAL



DATE: 2.1.20

TIME: 2:00-4:00 PM

LOCATION: SUE BOTTS'
HOME

[VIEW FLYER](#)



WINTER SOCIAL
@ WINTERBERRY

Membership on a Mission

As League members, we carry our message, “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.” no matter where we go. As a librarian, I chose to present a poster session titled “Mission Democracy” at the Virginia Library Association conference in October 2019. This was my entree to talk with my statewide colleagues about the overlap in the missions of Leagues and libraries. Through the 2 preliminary surveys that I conducted and the face to face interaction at the conference, I had several significant outcomes:

- Promoted membership in the League.
- Documented current partnerships between Virginia Leagues and libraries.
- Connected library staff with their local Leagues and vice versa.
- Identified best practices for collaborative programs, events and projects.

If you would like more details about “Mission Democracy” or want to see the survey data, email lgberrios1968@gmail.com.

You may not be a librarian, but in your own circles, I encourage you to take every opportunity to promote civic participation and informed voting. Get more involved in our League and use your involvement in other organizations to empower voters and defend democracy. Suggest joining the LWVFRA as a way to stay informed and to make a difference.

Membership Chair

Lena Gonzalez Berrios, lvvframembership@gmail.com



Committee Updates

Senior Affordable Housing

The Senior Affordable Housing Committee is proud of its accomplishments in the first full year of its work. In addition to LWVFRA's position on Affordable Housing for Low Income Seniors in planning District 16, the Virginia LWVFRA has also made affordable housing a topic of current study.

Take a moment to review:

- [LWVFRA Affordable Housing for Low-Income Seniors Study](#)
- [LWVFRA Position on Affordable Housing for Low-Income Seniors](#)
- [LWV-VA's Housing Study Outline & Timeline](#)

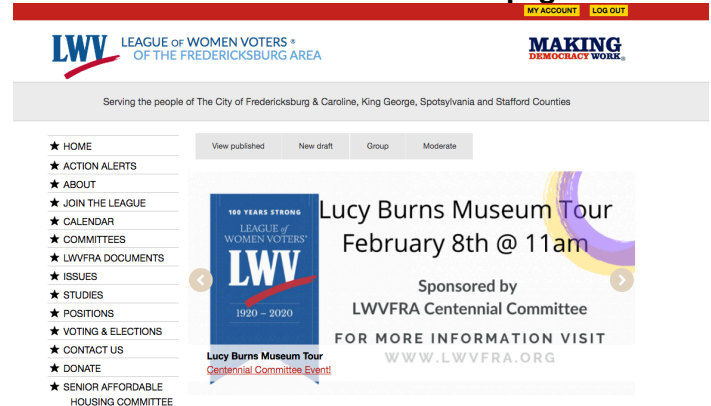
Interested in supporting our committee? We're always looking for members to join our efforts to make an impact in the Fredericksburg area!

Senior Affordable Housing Chair
Gerald Anderson, glanderson1947@gmail.com

Communications

Have you visited www.lwvfra.org recently? If so, you likely noticed that our website looks a little different. Our new website includes all of the same items as before and now offers more modern website features, including pages dedicated to our Voter Services, Affordable Housing and Centennial Celebration Committees! I hope you will take a moment to visit our new website!

A View of Our New Homepage!



Director of Communications
Meaghan Sekinger, mesekinger@gmail.com

Voter Services

Help Voter Services Educate our Community!

Donations for Facts for Voters 2020 are needed! The League hopes to raise \$1900 to print 5,000 copies, and \$1200 has been received/pledged to date. The Voter Guide is a handy booklet that provides current and valuable information on contact information for elected officials, elections dates, deadlines for registering to vote and getting absentee ballots. Fredericksburg City and the five surrounding counties are included. The guides are distributed in libraries, churches, realtors' offices, community centers, HOA groups, high schools, colleges, and many other locations. The Voter Guides are important because voters who are informed are more likely to cast ballots. Please send a check marked "Voter Guide" to LWVFRA, P.O. Box 271, Fredericksburg, VA 22404 to help pay printing costs.

Thanks to volunteers Donna Willett, Carol Putnam, Tina Norkus, Becky Beam, and Sue Botts, the League registered 108 students to vote at one high school in December. The next voter registration event is planned for Government students January 29-30 at the Spotsylvania High School library. The following week, volunteers will visit Riverbend High School to register students (who can begin to vote at age 17, if they will be 18 by or on November, General election Day). As a means of encouraging young voters to cast their ballots, a reminder to vote in the 2020 primaries and in the general election will be sent to students who request it at League registration events.

Voter Services Chair

Sue Botts, sbotts11@gmail.com, 540-376-2219

100 YEARS STRONG
LEAGUE of
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWW

1920 – 2020

Centennial Celebration Committee

WOMEN HAVE HAD THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR ONLY 100 YEARS!

Upcoming Events

- February 8th @ 11:00am Lucy Burns Museum Tour
 - Contact: Diane Shea, shea.sullivan70@gmail.com
- February 16th @ 2:00pm “Meet the Centennial Committee” @ Books A Million, Spotsylvania Towne Center- Drop in for coffee/tea social to learn about notable woman featured on the soon to be raffled quilt designed by Donna Blalock.
- March 14th @ 10:00 am Centennial Committee Planning Meeting @ Panera Bread in Central Park
- March 19th @ 12:00pm Luncheon with guest historian, Scott Walker at Renato’s Italian Restaurant on Williams Street, Fredericksburg
- March 22nd @ 2:00pm “Meet the Centennial Committee” @ Books A Million, Spotsylvania Towne Center- Drop in for coffee/tea social to learn about notable woman featured on the soon to be raffled quilt designed by Donna Blalock.

Centennial Celebration Chair

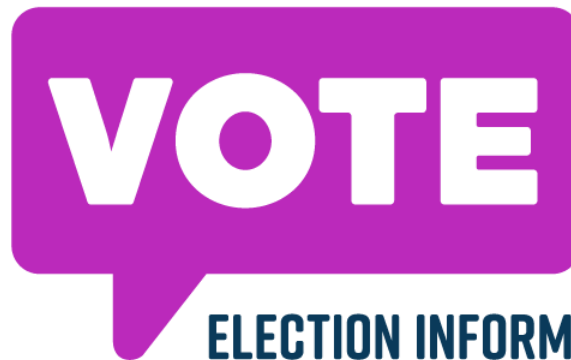
Marie Gozzi seters@comcast.net

Why I Joined Series

All of us have a story to tell, a cause that leads us action and a topic we find ourselves ready to discuss with passion. Collectively, these elements of who we are and what we believe in led us to seek out the power of The League of Women Voters to improve our local community and country.

In the upcoming quarterly newsletters, we will feature a League member in order to learn and understand their values and beliefs that lead them to join the League of Women Voters.

If you would like to share your story about why you joined, please contact Meaghan Sekinger. There are a set of 5 questions that you will write your written responses to, so you don’t have to write a personal essay. We’d also love to have a photo of you in action or of something that represents the passion behind your continued support of LWWVRA!
mesekinger@gmail.com



From left Tina, Marie, Sue & Fran. All presented at our 2020 Vision informational night on January 27th.



New League Members!
Rupert Farley
Linda Juggins
Kelly Bradshaw