

League in Action

May 2020

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President's Message

By Tina Norkus
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Tina Cuts the Cake for our 3rd Birthday!

It is with mixed emotions that I say goodbye to LWVFRA. Although I am certainly excited to be moving on to the new phase of my life up in Alexandria, I will truly miss being a member of this wonderful organization. I am astounded by the phenomenal progress our organization has achieved. In these days of extreme partisanship, we stand as a beacon of unbiased, accurate information. By focusing our efforts on citizen engagement and education and establishing partnerships throughout the community we have become a trusted voice in our community.

We have established a strong foundation through our educational efforts which include publishing the voter guide, hosting debates and forums and conducting numerous voter registration events as well as establishing strong partnerships with other nonpartisan organizations such as CRRL, NAACP, Theta, Planning district 16 Regional Commission VARatifyERA and OneVirginia2021. Our extensive use of social media (WEB, Facebook, Twitter and Zoom) allows us to communicate effectively in this time of social distancing.

The strong foundation we have built will serve us well as we face perhaps the most challenging times in a generation. Election guidelines are changing by the day; everything from regulations governing absentee ballots to the actual changing of election dates. The LWV is in a unique position to both advocate for measures that enable the greatest number of citizens to vote safely as well as educating voters on applicable procedures and processes. As expressed by the national League "In this election year particularly, the League is determined to empower Americans to exercise their right to vote and equip voters with the knowledge they need to safely cast their ballot" Never has there been a better opportunity for us to embody our mission - Empowering voters. Defending democracy. I urge every member to make a commitment to participate in our efforts to maintain and strengthen our work.

On a personal note I would like to thank the members of the LWVFRA Board of Directors for their tireless efforts and incredible support over the past year. Diligence and creativity could have been the motto for this BOD. Meaghan Sekinger as Director of Communications, Lena Gonzales Berrios as Membership Chair and Debbie Combest as Treasurer leave the BOD with a string of accomplishments and a solid infrastructure on which the incoming BOD members can build. Sue Botts as Voter Services Chair and Elaine Diepenbrock as Secretary will continue in their roles and I am sure will continue to bring the same imagination, inspiration, and dedication.

They always say when you leave a job it is the people you will miss. That is so true for me. We were a great team and I thank you all. It has been a true privilege for me to serve as your president for the last 2 years.

Website: lwvfra.org

Follow us on:

Like us on:

Email: lwvfra@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 5th LWVFRA Board Meeting
- 12th Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot
- 19th Fredericksburg Local Election

June

- 1st LWVFRA Annual Meeting
- 6th LWV-VA Virtual Council
- 15th LWVFRA Board Meeting
- 16th Deadline to request Absentee Ballot
- 23rd Virginia Primaries

July

- 4th Independence Day!
- 13th Tentative LWVFRA Board Meeting
- 27th Tentative LWVFRA General Meeting

Updates

Nominating Committee Seeks 6 Board Positions!

Annual Meeting Elections!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to run for the 2020 LWVFRA Board positions. We will be voting on this slate of candidates at our annual meeting on June 1st.

2020 LWVFRA Ballot All candidates are currently running unopposed.	
President Diane Shea	Vice President Cathie Fisher Braman
Treasurer Karen Kallay	Membership Co-Chairs Marie Gozzi Linda Juggins
Nominating Chair Fran Larkins	
Director of Communications Cathie Fisher Braman	Arrangements Lucretia Edreos



This year's annual meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. In order to ensure privacy, the Zoom link will be shared by LWVFRA to member's email. We hope everyone can join us for our annual elections, adoption of the 20-21 budget and to receive important updates for our members.

June 1st @ 6:30 pm on
Zoom

June 23, 2020 Virginia Primary Elections



Fast Facts!

Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot:
6.16.20 @ 5pm

Deadline to Return Absentee Ballot:
6.23.20 @ 7pm

Can I still vote in person?
Yes! June 23, 2020; 6am-7pm

Do I still need a photo ID?
Yes!

Do I need an excuse to vote Absentee?
Yes; Due to COVID-19, all VA registered voters can use, "My disability or illness" as their excuse



Committee Updates

Membership: What The League Does for Us & What We Can Do for The League

Our League is just 4 years old, but we are a part of a 100-year-old organization that has made great strides to promote democracy, ensure access to voting and provide non-partisan elections information in the U.S. We have studied issues and affected change on local, state and national levels. We know that it is because of your countless volunteer hours, in-kind and financial donations and annual membership renewals that we continue to grow and strengthen our organization. We appreciate the many ways that our members support the work of the LWVFRA.

Four years ago, we established this local League, and we set a goal to raise \$5000 as start-up funds by offering 100 founding memberships for a \$50 one-time donation. I am pleased that we now have 43 founding members and have raised \$2150. If you have not already made this commitment, please consider adding this distinction to your membership. We also hope to grow our organization through gift, student and additional family memberships. Consider giving this gift to a younger adult or a friend to help that person become a more informed and engaged voter.

Members are assigned an annual renewal date based on their join dates. If you are not sure of your date or you have any other questions about membership, please email lwvframembership@gmail.com. **Remember that as of July 1, our dues will increase.** Please renew today!

Membership Type	By June 30, 2020	Starting July 1, 2020
Basic	\$50	\$60
Additional Family Member	\$25	\$30
Student	\$25	\$30
Founding membership	Additional one-time \$50	Additional one-time \$50

Membership Chair

Lena Gonzalez Berrios, lwvframembership@gmail.com

Facts For Voters



Don't forget to check out these 2 awesome digital resources for voter education and updates on elections!

