



President's Message

We've got a couple things going on simultaneously that are coming up!

1. This is the last newsletter before the onset of Transformation. Please read information in the second block below. There is member action needed on this – so please be sure to read.

2. 2025 LWVAAC High School Voter Registration is coming right up! Please read first block below. Additionally, if you'd still like to sign up for League Day 2025, email me at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com. There's information below on getting involved in LWV-VA (state level) Issue Groups; General Assembly links; Women's Legislative Roundtables; and things we need volunteers for: (1) Spanish speakers to help with voter registration and (2) Ranked Choice Voting in Alexandria.

Dive in below!

High School Voter Education and Registration



High School NEW voter education and voter registration is here!

Each year the LWV Arlington and Alexandria City goes into Senior High School Social Studies classes to do a nonpartisan interactive presentation on the importance of voting. We talk about how your vote is your voice on issues that are important to you and how one vote can make a difference. As part of this presentation we also register students to vote. We will also be doing lunch time voter registration. We registered over 550 students during this drive last year. This is your opportunity to inspire young voters and help them build a lifetime habit of voting!

We are moving to sign-ups with SignUpGenius this year. Click on the high schools below to see the time slots available to sign up and when you find a time that works for you simply click on "sign up" and it will ask you for your name and email. Only your name will be visible on the SignUpGenius to others signing up. For the classroom presentations we would like to have experienced volunteers paired with newer volunteers. We have noted on the sign-up sheet slots for experienced versus new(er) volunteers. We will provide you with classroom information a week prior to volunteering along with additional logistics information. Please also sign up for the classroom training on **Saturday, January 25, from 2-3:30pm at Arlington Central Library** if you

are volunteering to do the classroom presentations (this training is not necessary if you are doing lunch time voter registration only).

[Yorktown](#) (Feb 5 & 6)

[Wakefield](#) (Feb 10 & 11)

[HB Woodlawn](#) (Feb 12)

[Washington-Liberty](#) (Feb 18 & 19)

[St. Stephen's and St. Agnes](#) (Feb 24)

Classroom Presentation [Training Sign Up](#) (Jan 25, 2 to 3:30pm)

If you are helping with voter registration in the classrooms or at the lunch time tables and have not completed the Virginia State Voter Registration training please [use this link](#) to complete it by the end of January.

We are working on lining up additional schools for voter registration and will send out those sign-ups once the dates are aligned. Thanks in advance for your help with this important effort! If you have any questions please email them to voterservices@lwvaac.org.

Finally, we encourage you to read below excellent article written by Laura W. Brill for The Civics Center at the Substack online platform. It's very helpful to consider as you head out to register our local high school students!

[Pre-Registration Is Power \(Recent Substack Article\)](#)

Key facts on Transformation – Initiating on/about 1 February 2025:

If you missed the Transformation training provided on Tuesday, 7 January, email lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com and we'll send you a video.

(1) Next Steps in the Process: On or about the first week of February 2025, every member of LWVAAC will receive instructions to log into the new portal in ChapterSpot (the new membership platform). These instructions will guide you through the process of setting up your own ChapterSpot account. Everyone should create their own account when they receive that email within 24-72 hours.

Once everyone sets up their new individual membership account in accordance with the instructions received, a smaller group of members (*not all members*) will receive an automated renewal notice. These are people whose memberships are already scheduled to lapse on March 31, 2025. Again, not all members will receive a renewal notice in February. The vast majority of LWVAAC members will not be asked to renew their membership, or pay dues, at this time.

(2) LWVAAC dues will go from \$60.00 to \$75.00 (sliding scale). No more household discount; however, you can use the sliding scale option to create your own household discount. Lifetime members still free. Students are no longer free, but a \$20.00 minimum is the low end of the sliding scale. Use a credit card or set up an ACH with your bank. A credit card or ACH can be set for automatic renewal. To date, LWVUS has not established a check processing system, so do not submit checks for dues.

(3) Donations to LWVAAC are welcome and can be submitted via checks (mailed to our post office box) or via online payments through PayPal.

Finally - as we transition over, Lisa Backer will be available to answer questions and assist as needed. But in the future, membership issues should be directed to LWVUS.

Questions? Email lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

Issue Group Advocacy Opportunity

Want to do some cool advocacy stuff at the state level in 2025?

Did you know that LWV-VA (our state-level LWV) has Issue Groups? These are groups formed from various members of local leagues around Virginia, such as Fairfax, Richmond, Hampton Roads, Prince William County, and, of course, Arlington & Alexandria City (LWVAAC). These Issue Groups (IGs) are formed around various topics, such as: Domestic Violence and Gun Control, Reproductive Freedom, Voting and Elections, Education and Child Care...and more! You can read about them here:

[LWV-VA Issue Groups](#)

Many of the issues important to LWV are discussed and acted on by the General Assembly in Richmond. That, in turn, creates the opportunity for local engagement. For example, before Arlington County adopted Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for its County Board elections, the Virginia General Assembly had to approve the use of the RCV. The LWV-VA Voting & Elections Issue Group (IG) played a significant role in advocating for the passage of HB1103 by writing testimony for legislative hearings in Richmond, researching information on RCV, and writing talking points. That advocacy led to the passage of HB1103 in 2020. Once HB1103 passed in Richmond, the Arlington League engaged in local advocacy to persuade members of the Arlington County Board to adopt the use of RCV in County Board elections. Similarly, Charlottesville and other local Leagues are engaged in conversations with their local

governing bodies in order to persuade them to use RCV in local elections, thus helping to take RCV from an idea to a reality. [Check out the volunteer section below. This year we will be commencing our efforts once again locally: Onward to Alexandria!]

Issue Group efforts in Virginia put you directly in the space of advocating for important issues the League supports. And, the best part about it? You don't have to be an expert on the issue; you'll learn as you go! You'll meet League members across the state that share your interests and you'll build your knowledge base. If you're thinking about ways to become more involved, consider joining some of the Issue Groups in Virginia.

General Assembly is in session!

Below are some great links to learn about the General Assembly and to track legislation moving through the chambers:



Virginia General Assembly Webpage – Comprehensive Overview:

<https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/index.php>

Legislative Information System (LIS) – Bill Tracking:

<https://lis.virginia.gov>

As 2025 General Assembly Session moves on, remember to sign up for **Women's Legislative Roundtables (WLRT)** virtually or in-person (hybrid). For virtual, the zoom link will be the same for each roundtable. For in-person sessions, they'll be held at the Virginia General Assembly Building; 7th Floor Conference Room; 201 North 9th Street, Richmond. All begin at 8:30AM and end at 9:30 AM.

Schedule:

Jan 8 Voting and Elections

Jan 15 Gun Violence/Domestic Violence

Jan 22 – NONE – This is League Day

Jan 29 Education/Physical Health

Feb 5 Childcare

Feb 12 Environment/Housing

Feb 19 Virtual Wrap Up (Virtual only)

Sign up:

[2025 LWV-VA Legislative Round Tables](#)

Volunteers Needed!

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in Alexandria: Alexandria's City Council is an at-large election; electing six members at the same time. This presents us with an opportunity to advocate for RCV in Alexandria. This is a fantastic opportunity for Alexandria League members to get involved in a significant long-term effort focused on Alexandria. Additionally, this effort will require a good deal of community building and networking; these are opportunities to build long-term relationships in the Alexandria community. If you're interested in being part of this effort, email me at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

Spanish Speakers: We need Spanish speakers to assist with voter registration. If you speak Spanish and are available to help out with voter registration, please contact me at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com. This is an ongoing need throughout the year.

Book Club – Book Club is starting again! LWVAAC Book Club will meet via Zoom every two months on the third Sunday beginning **16 February, 2025 from 2:00pm – 3:00pm**. Our first book up will be *The Sisterhood; The secret history of women at the CIA*. Questions? Contact lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

Anticipate an LWVAAC League-wide survey distributed via Mailchimp in December/January. We have a lot of new members and we want to gauge members' views on where our focus should be heading into 2025.

Also coming in January/February 2025: **LWVAAC's Annual Program Meeting**. This is a mandatory annual meeting that allows us the opportunity to review state and local positions in advance of the 2025 LWV Virginia Convention in Fredericksburg in June. More information to follow.

If you had fun discussing the recent Virginia State 'Right to Vote' Study (I know I did!) – there's another study coming: [LWVUS Judiciary Study 2025!](#) We'll need to assemble together again to discuss this study also. Stay tuned for more information; anticipate a late February/early March timeframe.

2025 LWVAAC Annual Meeting is Saturday, 3 May in the afternoon. Mark your calendars for this event NOW!

We are also planning a LWV101 event in the new year. Stay tuned for more details!

Look for next newsletter 5 February!

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