



League in Action

April 15, 2020

President's Message

I know that I am a broken record, but wow do I love LWW Arlington folks. Within a matter of hours of the call going out that the NAACP needed help with postcards to rural African Americans in Virginia, you all came through. To date, LWW Arlington members have committed to writing almost 1000 postcards!

I do have 60 more that need a home in case anyone is looking for something to do. I am calling it Pandemic Postcarding and **thank you so much** for your help.

If you want to help people in underserved communities, join the NAACP and Reclaim Our Vote to reach African Americans who are being removed from the voting registers in Texas, North Carolina, etc. I know that this is calling for work outside of our little Arlington home. However, considering the extraordinary times, and our inability to "mobilize mobily" (yeah, I just made that up) – I am offering you these options. This is not an official League project – but both these groups are non-partisan and we are a partner with the NAACP.

This is NOT an official NAACP Arlington event so we can't use their material.

If you want to write postcards to these people in other states, we will have to print the postcards and purchase our stamps. So please sign up on the Sign-up Genius Link. You can either donate money, write postcards or do both. I will report back if we got enough money to get materials.

If you agree to donate, you can either send me a check or I can send a Paypal link.

Again, this is totally voluntary but I know that many people are looking to do SOMETHING right now - and this is a great project.

Thanks,
Joan

[Sign Up to Help Reclaim The Vote](#)

NOW HERE ARE MORE THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO – RIGHT NOW FOR ARLINGTON!!!!

We have a primary election on June 23. (The Governor has moved the primary that was to be held on June 9 to June 23.) Obviously, **it will be safer for everyone to vote by absentee ballot.** I have sent the attached letter to every condominium and apartment manager and civic association in Arlington. (Alexandria City does not have a primary.)

The second page is a flyer with information on registering to vote and obtaining an absentee ballot for the June 23 primary.

PLEASE distribute that flyer online, through your listservs, social media outlets – send it to your friends, whomever.

Also, if you can send it to your apartment/condo management to reinforce the letter I sent it would help to spread the information!!!

This is the only way we can get the word out in this age of Covid.

If you have other ideas on how we can spread the word, please let us know!

[Read condominium and civic association letter on recommendation to vote by absentee ballot here](#)

[Read flyer with information on registering to vote and obtaining an absentee ballot for the June 23 primary here](#)

Condolences

Our condolences and love to longtime members, Judy Connolly and Ida Claire Kerwin who lost their husbands this month.

Responding to Emerging Urgent Community Needs

As part of a countywide response, Arlington County Government, Arlington Public Schools and many other agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses and volunteers are working to provide food assistance during the COVID-19 emergency. In anticipation of increasing need, County Manager Mark Schwartz and APS Interim Superintendent Cintia Johnson have created the **Cooperative for a Hunger Free Arlington (CHFA)** and tasked it to help coordinate efforts to make sure that every Arlington resident who needs food has it during the pandemic.

[To learn more about the countywide response and opportunities to participate read the press release here](#)

[Arlington Food Assistance Center AFAC donate/volunteer here](#)

[See VOLUNTEER ARLINGTON - COVID-19 Care for Community opportunities here](#)

Call to Prepare for Vote by Mail for November Election

The LWV feels it is imperative that members of the General Assembly immediately recognize the need to vote by mail in November. This is the only way to secure a safe and fair election in this time of Covid.

Thanks to **Lisa Koteen Gerchick, Connie Potter, Nancy Tate** and **Julia Tanner** for edits.

[Read Joan's letter to members of the General Assembly here](#)

Would You Like to Mentor a New Member?

We have one more new member looking for someone to “show them the League ropes.” This would entail a few phone calls (in the old days, I would have said coffees) to answer questions and help the new member get acclimated.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Krysta Nicole Jones
krysta.n.jones@gmail.com.

The League in Advocacy Challenge 2019-2020 Ends Soon!

Remember to enter all advocacy **by April 30**.

Please fill out the advocacy challenge form! **We must win** that \$600.

[Log your advocacy here](#)

LIVE CLASSES ON THE CONSTITUTION ONLINE

As students shift to remote learning during the COVID-19 crisis, **the National Constitution Center is offering live interactive classes on the Constitution**, led by President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen and scholars Kerry Sautner, Tom Donnelly, and Nicholas Mosvick. **Available for middle, high**

school, and college students, these daily interactive sessions allow students to sign up for remote learning via **Zoom** where they can participate in daily lectures and lively conversations about the basic principles of the U.S. Constitution. **Using the acclaimed nonpartisan Interactive Constitution** as a learning platform, **the National Constitution Center offers these free classes to students of all ages** and will enlist thought leaders, historians, and judges from all perspectives to offer special lectures on the Constitution during the months ahead.

Live classes will take place at 1 p.m. ET Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and be streamed live. **To register your student or class through Zoom**, and for private Scholar Exchanges or Classroom Exchanges, visit the full calendar [here](#).

We will also be announcing live America's Town Hall programs. Check back soon for updates!

[See Online Civic Learning Opportunities from the National Constitution Center here](#)

EVENTS

April 26

**LWV Arlington First Student-led Candidate Forum for Candidates for
School and County Board**

Will be held virtually on Sunday, April 26, 1:30 - 4:30 PM

The League of Women Voters of Arlington is proud to present our first student-run forum for candidates for school and county boards.

You will be able to meet them in virtual breakout rooms and ask questions.

Everyone who signs up will be sent a private Zoom link 48 hours before the event. This will prevent Zoom-bombers from disrupting our meeting.

[RSVP here and then you will receive Zoom instructions 48 hours before.](#)

April 27

Virtual Sips and Civility – April 27 7 PM

Grab your favorite beverage and join us for our first virtual Sips and Civility!

Before you come, **we ask you view Ken Burns' documentary** on the Atlanta East Lake Housing community. **Our Housing Committee will lead us** in a discussion of the issues raised by the documentary.

[Watch Ken Burns' East Lake Meadows documentary here](#)

You will receive a link to the Zoom event 48 ours before it starts. Attendees must RSVP here to get the link.

[RSVP here](#)

See you then. Don't forget your sips!

May 2

League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area

**INVITES YOU TO JOIN US
FOR A**

**VIRTUAL
Annual Convention
10 AM Saturday, May 2, 2020**

*** Approve Bylaws Amendment, * LWNCA Budget for 2020-2021 and
* Elect Officers & Directors for 2020-22**

These challenging times call for innovative ways to continue to conduct our business and move forward with the League's mission, so we will be holding our annual meeting via Zoom video conference.

In order to meet our quorum, at least 25 delegates must attend this on-line meeting. Once you have registered, you will receive information about how to participate. If you have never used Zoom before, we will hold a pre-meeting practice session.

Registration is Free: Click [Here](#)

Or go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwnca-annual-convention-tickets->

[100674882283](#)

[See the flyer here](#)

May 16, 2020 - 10 AM

LWV Arlington Annual Meeting

We are going virtual!!! Be sure to attend our Annual Meeting. We will be previewing the video of our student winner of the "Why I Vote" contest. Our guest speaker will be the **Honorable Bob Brink**, Chair of the Virginia Board of Elections.

RSVP here and you will receive the Zoom link later.

Attached are the proposed budget and slate of officers for your review.

See you there!

[RSVP here](#)

[Read the budget here](#)

[Read the report of the nominating committee here](#)

Committees

April 15 – 7 PM - **Election Integrity** – contact Lisa Koteen Gerchick
lkoteengerchick@gmail.com for the Zoom link and information.

Among other things, they are working on messaging for the get-out-the-vote for the June 23 primary.

April 19 - 1:30 PM – **Book Club** - contact **Joan Porte** Joan@joanpporte.com for the link. The book is Joseph Ellis, *American Dialogue: The Founders and Us*

April 20 – 7 PM - **Redistricting** – contact **Ann Sharp** sharpab2828@gmail.com; **Jackie Rivas** jackiejr@verizon.net for the Zoom link and information

It is all hands on deck for the November ballot!



Centennial Corner – Mid-April 2020

Centennial Corner is a regular feature of the **League in Action** e-newsletter to celebrate *three centennial anniversaries in 2020*: the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the creation of the League of Women Voters, and the naming of our county as Arlington County. Centennial Corner will:

- Highlight important **moments and leaders** in these three histories;
- List **upcoming events** relevant to the anniversaries; and
- Flag suggestions for additional **reading and other resources**.

The Arlington League's **Centennial Committee** is proud to produce this feature and would welcome your feedback and suggestions for future content. Please send ideas to **Seema Jain** (seema.kakad@gmail.com).

An Early Quandary: Where to Focus?

From the start, the League faced internal disagreements about how narrowly, or broadly, to focus its work. Some leaders advocated for building a civically educated army of members capable of exercising political clout. Others thought the League should supplement this goal with a wide-ranging legislative agenda. Carving out a middle ground, the national League's founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, advocated for a focus on what historian Barbara Stuhler termed "improvements in governmental organization and operations." In so doing, Catt laid the groundwork for much of the League's work in ensuing decades and foreshadowed the organization's adoption of its Democracy Agenda in 2004.

While good government reforms were critical to the League from the outset, its policy agenda was also quite encompassing. At the 1921 Convention, for example, the delegates adopted a program that included **women's equality** (e.g., non-discrimination in federal hiring, property rights in marriage, access to jury service, direct citizenship for married women, and help for women "held in harems in the Near East"), **child welfare** (e.g., federal funding for child health, physical education in schools, creation of a federal Children's Bureau, and enforcement of child labor and school-attendance laws), **public health** (e.g., funding for a federal "social hygiene" board and regulation of the meat-packing industry), and **government operations** (e.g., development of a merit-based civil service, retention of state primary laws, and creation of a federal Department of Public Welfare with a woman as its director).

Especially relevant for this Centennial Corner, the League also called for August 26, the date that the 19th Amendment was ratified, to be designated a **national holiday**.

Sources: "Recommendations Committee on Election Laws and Methods by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Chairman." LWV Papers on film. II. A.1. 0531-52; "Principal Planks as Adopted in Resolutions and Recommendations and Standing Committees." LWV Papers on film. II. A.1. 0430-41. Reprinted as "Document 3: The League's Legislative Program," in Barbara Stuhler, *For the Public Record* (Pogo Press, 2003), 46-47. See also, Stuhler, pp. 44-46.

Online Exhibits

The COVID-19 crisis has shuttered or caused the postponement of many suffrage-

related programs. However, some exhibits exist in some form online. Here are a few, with more to be added in forthcoming Centennial Corners.

The National Archives. **"Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote"**
https://www.archivesfoundation.org/women/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIwvGq-pzA6AIVDniGCh2JUQ80EAAYASAAEgJLifD_BwE

National Women's History Museum. **"Crusade for the Vote."**
<http://www.crusadeforthevote.org/online-exhibits>

Alice Paul Institute. **"For Democracy: Celebrating 100 Years of the 19th Amendment."** <https://www.alicepaul.org/2020-exhibition/>

Carol Simon Levin, *Remembering the Ladies*. The author has made available a free electronic version of this book, which profiles 69 women who fought for women's political inclusion and participation. <https://tellingherstories.com/book-remembering-the-ladies/>

It's Arlington's Centennial, Too

The County has launched a [webpage](#) to showcase news of the County's "naming centennial" and associated events. Be sure to sign up for email updates.

Meanwhile, **check out this ["story map"](#)** from 1920, courtesy of the Arlington Historical Society.

Resources

Twitter users are getting ready to share thoughts and information on the suffrage centennial. Here are some accounts to follow. (We will add more as we learn of them.)

[@WomenVote 100](#)

[@DailySuffragist](#)

[@WomensVote100](#)

[@SuffCentennials](#)

[@2020centennial](#)

[@Suff_Postcards](#)

[@CentOfSuffrage](#)

[@AlicePaulInstit](#)

[@100thSuffrageDC](#)

[@INSuffrage100](#)

[@Suffragist](#)

Look for next newsletter May 6



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