



League in Action

April 6, 2022

President's Message

How many ways can you say, "You all are amazing?" I have thought of several, but they are not good enough for our voter services team. Headed by **Voter Services Chair, Don Gurney, and Past President, Kathy Matusiak**, a team of 30 volunteers (whom I have officially named "Don's Dynamos") registered close to 600 students in the Arlington High Schools. (As we went to press the final numbers were not in.) This is about a 22 -30 percent increase depending on the school, of student's registered from our last in-person foray in February of 2020!

Registering voters is "what we do" in the League and registering students is vital! So, I will say it once again, THANK YOU all.

Don and Kathy can use another coordinator. Please reach out if you can lend a hand in the fall.

More Thank Yous to:

Lori Lataillade who is joining the Voter Services Team as Alexandria liaison.

Gayla Horn who will take over Membership in the next year.

Alistair Watson who will take over Student Chapter Development

Elizabeth Scheffler who will do our end of year budget review and serve on the Budget Committee next year.

Of course, I am never satisfied. 😊

Membership:

We need at least 2 or three people in each locality, Arlington and Alexandria to be our “eyes and ears” on the ground to find ways to increase membership. This would include but not be limited to watching for community and civic association events and other venues and groups whom we may be able to partner with.

DEI

We have two members interested but can use some more members interested in starting a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to be sure, among other things, that we do all our work through a DEI lens.

Sips and Civility

With COVID hopefully in our rear view mirrors, it would be great to start up Sips and Civility again. This was a program started by the

LWV of San Diego to have civil discussions on issues that might be controversial or have at least have many sides – in local restaurants where people can relax and discuss. If anyone is interested in getting this going again, let me know.

Press Release and Newsletter Assistant

Roberta Jameson has been knocking out the newsletter for several years and sending out our press releases. We need someone to help with the press releases and general press contact.

Thanks

Joan

Mary Lockwood Memorial

Our deepest thanks to Board member Nancy Tate who worked tirelessly to get a plaque honoring Arlington suffragist Mary Lockwood, the first in Virginia, as a result of the National Voters for Women Trail, [National Votes for Women Trail – National Collaborative for Women's History Sites \(ncwhs.org\)](#).

The unveiling took place on March 23 at the Arlington Science Focus School, the site of her former home, and was attended by many League members. After songs and speeches by the students of the School, Nancy helped reveal the

plaque. Thank you and congratulations, Nancy. For more information on Mary Lockwood, go to <https://suffragistmemorial.org/mary-lockwood-1871-to-1936/>.



ROAD TO THE
19TH AMENDMENT
MARY M. LOCKWOOD
LOCAL SUFFRAGE LEADER
MARCHED IN WASHINGTON DC 1913
AND PICKETED WHITE HOUSE 1917
IN SUPPORT OF VOTES FOR WOMEN.
SITE OF FORMER HOME.
WILLIAM C. POWEROY FOUNDATION 2021 132

WE
WANT
THE
RIGHT
TO
VOTE

APRIL 12 - ELECTIONS HEROES DAY

The LWV US along with other groups around the country are organizing April 12 as “Elections Heroes Day,” an event that will allow us to honor our elections workers. This is in response to the rather frightening turn of events in this country, where people carrying out vital work permitting free and fair access to the polls are being threatened!

We will be visiting both the Arlington Registrar’s Office, 2100 Clarendon Blvd and the Alexandria Office at 132 N Royal, Suite 100, Alexandria. Due to construction in Arlington, we won’t know the exact location in Bozman until closer to the event.

At both locations we are expected to arrive at 11:30 AM on April 12.

What do we do when we get there? **We bring thank you cards, banners, food – to thank and cheer the election workers. Be sure to take pictures because there will a nationwide social media campaign**

#ELECTIONHEROESDAY

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

In many ways!

- **We need people to go to each location** at 11:30 on April 12 to carry our message of good cheer.
- Even if you can’t go, **how about writing a thank you card** for our teams to bring to the electors?

- **You can also make food** -either savory or baked (just be sure it travels well.) Please attach an index card to the outside of the food listing all ingredients in case people have allergies.
- **You can buy balloons and flowers** to take to the election workers!
- **Make signs** to bring with you thanking our poll workers !

This is a great task for young people too! **Invite your friends and neighbors!**

Please complete the sign-up genius below. IF you can come, bring your food, cards, balloons, whatever with you – no need to fill out now what you will bring. **Only complete the cards and food sections if you CANNOT come but still want to contribute.**

Let's thank our elections workers - especially now when they being threatened in many areas.

[Sign Up for Elections Day Heroes Day](#)



We Need Volunteers for Two Voter Registration Events in Arlington in April

We have been invited to go to the **Arlington Life event at Lubber Run on April 23** and the **Langston Boulevard Earth Day Celebration on April 24**.

For Arlington Life we could use one Spanish speaker per shift but that is not required.

It is great to have live events again! Let's get those people registered!!!!

Thank you

[Sign Up Here](#)



Affordable Housing Committee Letter to the County Board

Thanks to the crafting of **Pam Quanrud**, the Committee sent this letter to the Arlington County Board reminding them not to forget affordable housing funding in the new budget.

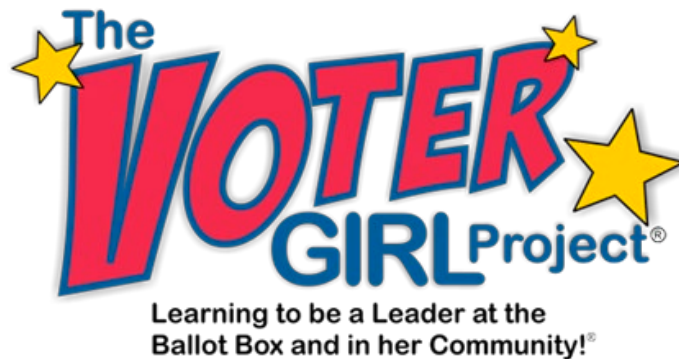
[Read the Letter Here](#)

Voter Girl

Thanks to our Voter Girl Team headed by **Claudia Scott** who worked tirelessly on Voter Girl, **our program to introduce civics and help Girl Scouts get a Civics badge.**

They had to convert their in-person program to virtual and then hit several other roadblocks. However, they persevered and now have the entire program in both forms available for Girl Scouts troops to use.

If you sponsor or know a Girl Scout troop that might be interested, contact Claudia Scott claudiascott.va@gmail.com.



Is Language Your Super Power?

We need more people who speak languages other than English.

We are getting more and more requests for people who speak different languages for voter registration events. **If you can hold a conversation in another language, please fill out this form.** Thank you!

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aMo7gHGANYhxulZbpZr-hfUw39xKY9ir/edit?usp=sharing&oid=108204542125106087466&rtpof=true&sd=true>

EVENTS

April 24

Post Legislative Forum

April 24 - 1 PM

Sign up now to attend our virtual Post Legislative Session – All of the delegates and state senators who represent us have been invited to attend. When you RSVP you will have the option to ask a question which will be read by our host, **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**.

[Post Legislative Forum RSVP](#)

May 7

LWV - National Capital Area Convention openings for delegates

We have five delegates to the LWV National Capital Area annual meeting – if interested let Joan know - joan@joanporte.com

2022 VIRTUAL Annual Convention

10 AM, Saturday, May 7, 2022

Check-In begins at 9:30 AM

Keynote Speaker ~ **Ayo Atterberry**, LWVUS Chief Strategy Officer

With Panelists from DC, MD & VA Leagues

Who will discuss the latest developments in voting rights and voting laws

In the U.S. and in the Region.

Moderated by LWWNCA President **Joyce Starks**,
Business Meeting will follow speakers.

[See the flyer](#)

[RSVP](#)

June 4

LWV VIRGINIA VIRTUAL COUNCIL

June 4, 2022, 9 AM-3 PM

Join us for the 2022 Council for the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

In addition to getting updates on our four program studies, we will have informative breakout sessions to help you increase your League knowledge!

Among the planned program will be updates on all four Virginia program studies; environmental justice, childcare, education equity and campaign finance reform. Also there will be a report from the budget committee and the roll call of the Leagues.

RSVP [here](#). Cost \$25 per delegate or observer.

Save the date

June 12

2 PM – Our **Annual Meeting**. We are going to do our best to arrange an outdoor meeting. This will help assure that we can still see each other even if the beast COVID is bothering us again.

News from National

Federal Court Strikes Down Florida Voter Suppression Law (Senate Bill 90)

3/31/2022

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A US federal court struck down key provisions of Florida's Senate Bill 90 that equated to voter suppression. Chief U.S. District Judge Mark E. Walker ruled that Florida's Senate Bill 90 violates federal law, unconstitutionally impeding the right to vote for Floridians. He noted that "the right to vote, and the VRA particularly, are under siege."

[Read the press release](#)

League of Women Voters Mourns the Passing of Madeleine Albright

3/23/2022

WASHINGTON — The League of Women Voters of the United States CEO Virginia Kase Solomón issued the following statement on the passing of Madeleine Albright.

[Read the full statement](#)

Voting Rights Groups Sue to Ensure All Utah Voters Have a Voice

3/17/2022

The League of Women Voters of Utah (LWVUT), Mormon Women for Ethical Government (MWEG) and individual voters filed a lawsuit to block Utah from implementing a congressional redistricting map that constitutes an extreme partisan gerrymander and to reinstate the citizen-led initiative that established an independent redistricting commission and binding anti-gerrymandering requirements.

[Read the news release here](#)

League of Women Voters of Arizona Seeks to Safeguard Early Voting in State Supreme Court Lawsuit

3/15/2022

PHOENIX – The League of Women Voters of Arizona filed an amicus brief in the Arizona Supreme Court in the matter of Arizona Republican Party v. Hobbs – a case that threatens to end all early voting in the state – and request that the Court dismiss the petition.

[Read the news release here](#)

LWV US March Highlights

[Read the Recap here](#)

Virginia Voter, April 2022

It is Happening All Around Us

Deb Wake, President, LWV-VA

Fight Child Abuse

Elijah Lee, 14-year-old, community activist, Chesterfield, Virginia, [Incredibleelijah.com](https://www.incredibleelijah.com)

One Million Reasons to Build Sacred and Brave Spaces for Black Girls

Angela Patton, CEO, Girls For A Change

Broadband Access

Dave Myers, Chief Information Officer and Susan M. Clair, K-12 Information Technology Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

School Buses also Make Good Food Trucks

Kevin Rogers, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Virginia Education Association

A House Divided Against Itself Can Stand!

Denise Harrington, Advocacy Chair, LWV-VA

A graphic with a purple top section and a yellow bottom section. The purple section contains the text 'LWV-VA SUMMER INTERNS' in yellow and 'COME JOIN US!' in white. The yellow section contains text about the LWV-VA organization, its mission, and a call to action for interns.

LWV-VA SUMMER INTERNS

COME JOIN US!

The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) was formed out of the suffrage movement on November 10, 1920. The League encourages informed and active participation in government to increase understanding of major public policy issues and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

We are seeking individuals with a passion for voting rights and democracy. Past interns have researched legislation, created press releases and graphics and provided translation services.

LWV-VA Internship Program is virtual for the 2022 Summer Term

To learn more, [click here](#) to email Ms. Erni Bridges.

Join us in creating a more perfect democracy!

Part V – Housing Segregation and Its Legacy

Impact: Racial Disparities in Housing Today

the LWV-VA Affordable Housing Issues Group

[Read the Virginia Voter here](#)

Convention Planning 2023

Joan Porte, First Vice President, LWV-VA

There is an old saying that convention planning never ends – or it just seems like it doesn't! **We are gearing up for the June 2-5, 2023 convention in Williamsburg.** Convention Committee members consist of LWV-VA members from the entire Virginia League, not just Williamsburg members, spreading the work among all members to assist the host local league.

Many talents are needed, from hotel logistics to technology wizardry to parliamentary mastery. Please take a minute to review the tasks listed on the [form](#) and sign up! Whatever your superpower, we can use you!

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, April 6, (TODAY) 11 AM.**

Contact Joan joan@joanporte.com

Important Dates in April

April 1

Child Abuse Prevention Month begins

April 4

General Assembly Special Session begins

April 7

Candidate filing deadline for June primary

April 12

Thank Election Heroes Day

April 13

State Board of Elections meeting

April 22

Earth Day

April 27

Reconvened Session for General Assembly regular session

Meetings

April 17 - 2 PM - **Book Club**

Virtual

The book is *The Hidden History on the War on Voting* by Thom Hartmann

- Contact Joan Joan@joanporte.com

April 20 - 7 PM - **Election Integrity**

contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**

lkoteengerchick@gmail.com

Look for next newsletter April 20



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