



## **League in Action**

16 August 2023

### **Presidents' Message**

Connie and I have been very pleased with the willingness of our League members to come forward to volunteer for positions and roles where we need help. We will continue to publish a 'Volunteers Needed' section right at the top of this newsletter and we hope that our members will continue to step up. Members should know that expertise is not required to volunteer for any role or position; in fact, most League members learned by simply being willing to learn. Ordinary skill sets that we use every day -- such as organizing or planning -- can be transmuted to many League activities. If you've ever been a little shy about putting your hand up because you thought you didn't know enough or felt unsure about what you could offer, come talk to us.

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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Thank you** for those that responded to the volunteer opportunities in the previous newsletters. Please consider these opportunities; member participation is critical to our successful community engagement.

1. Arlington/Alexandria Election Integrity Committee Leader. We need one or two people to head up our Election Integrity Committee. **Lisa Koteen Gerchick** has led this committee for the last five years. Under her tenure this committee originally focused on cybersecurity and auditing as election infrastructure came under unprecedented pressure in recent years nationally. The committee's focus has evolved, directing greater attention to local election-related actions and events. Going forward, this committee will continue to adapt to current trends and emerging concerns related to election administration and infrastructure. Remember - You do not have to be an expert in these matters. We need someone willing to keep their eyes and ears on these issues and work with others to develop a working knowledge and understanding of local election administration issues. (Lisa will mentor whoever comes forward.) **Contact Pam Berg** at [pberg16@comcast.net](mailto:pberg16@comcast.net).

2. Voters with Disabilities. We need a person, or two, who will commit to keeping abreast of all voter/voting information pertinent to folks with disabilities. This includes attending monthly meetings with REV UP (*Register, Educate, Vote, Use your Power!*) (<https://www.aapd.com/about-rev-up/>) and The Arc (<https://thearcofnova.org/>); staying informed about any election/voting issues that might affect Arlington and Alexandria disabled voters; and keeping an eye on related national and state level issues. This is an important niche issue. Contact Pam Berg at [pberg16@comcast.net](mailto:pberg16@comcast.net).

3. Virginia State LWV Study. There is a state level study just getting underway on the Right to Vote. This new study, among other things, will address universal suffrage as expressed in SJ 272 ([General Assembly Session 2021 - SJ 272](#)). That bill would have removed the stipulations in Section 1, Article II of the Virginia

Constitution that disenfranchise citizens convicted of a felony and those adjudicated to be mentally incompetent. It would also have added a “*fundamental right to vote*” clause in both the title and body of Section 1. The study will examine the history and underpinnings of the concept of a right to vote and the rationale for universal suffrage. It may also consider the need for an explicit right to vote, as distinguished from the implicit right in the federal Bill of Rights. Contact Deb Wake at [Right to Vote Study 2023](#)

4. Legacy Gift Donation Committee: We still need volunteers to be a part of the committee developing ideas around the receipt of a very generous \$15K donation. We need people for this project to help develop ideas and a framework for implementation. This is a unique and special opportunity for engagement. Contact Connie at [13cpotter@gmail.com](mailto:13cpotter@gmail.com)

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## August Voter Registration Opportunity

We are registering voters at the **Columbia Pike farmers market** on **August 19** **and still need one volunteer.**

[Sign up here](#)

NOTE: Anyone that signs up should take, or have already taken the VA voter registration training, before they attend.

If you were unable to attend the in person training, you can still complete the voter registration training online or at a future voter registration training in person workshop by signing up here:

## Virginia Voter Registration Training (2023-2024)

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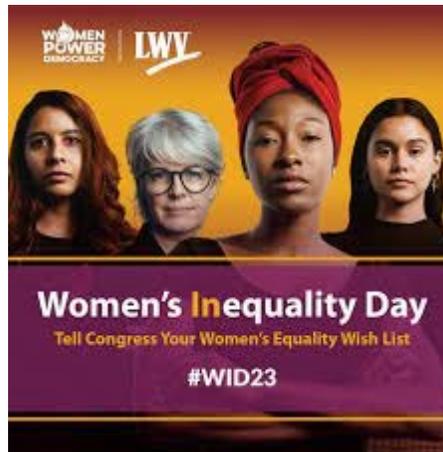


**The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther King’s March on Washington (where he gave the ‘I Have A Dream’ speech) will be Saturday, 26 August 11:30 - 3:00pm.** You can register for the event here: [60th Anniversary March on Washington](#)

[If you want to participate and you want to be included in organizing transportation to the event (i.e., likely meeting at a metro location) and/or you want to march with your League members, contact Pam Berg ([pberg16@comcast.net](mailto:pberg16@comcast.net)). If you want to attend by yourself/family, that’s perfectly fine also. If we get enough folks interested, we’ll see about coordinating our attendance.]

**Also happening on Saturday, 26 August 2023 is Women’s Inequality Day.** Arlington/Alexandria City League will not have events; but you can check out information on it here:

<https://www.lwv.org/WID>



## **LWVARL Podcast with Krysta Jones on Women's Inequality Day and exploring local women's history**

In this episode, host **Krysta Jones** speaks with **Gayle Converse**, co-founder and vice president of Alexandria Celebrates Women -a 501c3 organization designed to promote voter education, history and women's empowerment. She is also the author of The Alexandria Celebrates Women History Walk and shares some interesting facts about women's history in Alexandria.

Listen to the podcast here: <https://feeds.transistor.fm/finding-perspectives>

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## News from National

### **CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS FILE FEDERAL LAWSUIT TO BLOCK RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY TENNESSEE REDISTRICTING**

8/9/2023

Nashville, TN — The League of Women Voters of Tennessee, Tennessee State Conference of the NAACP, the African American Clergy Collective of Tennessee, the Equity Alliance, the Memphis A. Philip Randolph Institute, and several individual Tennessee voters filed a federal lawsuit challenging portions of Tennessee’s congressional and state senate redistricting plans that went into effect in early 2022 as intentionally discriminatory against Black voters and other voters of color. The plaintiffs are represented by the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Southern Coalition for Social Justice, pro bono counsel Winston & Strawn, and local counsel Sperling & Slater.

[Read the press release here](#)

### **LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale v. City of Cupertino Press Statement**

8/4/2023

Cupertino, CA — League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale Co-president Tracey Edwards issued the following statement about the resolution to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale v. City of Cupertino:

“Approximately one year ago, the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale filed a lawsuit against the City of Cupertino to rectify a lobbying ordinance that was overly broad. LWV of Cupertino-Sunnyvale filed this action to ensure unfettered access to local government in response to Cupertino’s ordinance designating volunteers and neighborhood activists as ‘lobbyists.’

[Read her entire statement here](#)

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**Arlington/Alexandria City League Book Club** is headed by **Joan Porte**.

Want to join? **Email Joan** at [joan@joanporte.com](mailto:joan@joanporte.com). Book Club meets every third Sunday at 2:00pm via zoom (link will be provided). This month we are reading *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by **Bill Gates**.

(<https://www.amazon.com/How-Avoid-Climate-Disaster>

<https://www.onemorepagebooks.com/search/site/how%20to%20avoid%20climate%20disaster>

<https://oldtownbooks.com/browse/filter/t/How%20to%20avoid%20a%20climate%20disaster/k/keyword>)

**This month’s meeting is Sunday, 20 August, at 2:00pm.**

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**Look for next newsletter September 6**

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