



## **League in Action**

21 August 2024

### **Presidents' Message**

Our volunteers rock!! We are getting new volunteers and members every day. I offer a warm welcome to our newest members and a heartfelt thank you to all members old and new for the commitment and service you bring to our League community. This is no small thing.

Thinking about volunteering and actually signing up to do it is a jumping off point; it's a point of dedication. We celebrate our volunteers for that as we head into an intense election season.

There's a lot of information packed into this newsletter! Let's get started!

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### **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Training!**

This is a small group session (10/12 slots) especially good for those registering voters. The training will take place on **Wednesday, 28 August, 3:00-5:00pm**; Room 318 at the Bozeman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard; Arlington. You'll learn about ballot counting and how to talk about RCV. This training is being provided by the Arlington Office of Elections.

[Small Group RCV Training \(Sign Up\)](#)



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### **Coming Soon: Provide Input on Vote411 Local Candidate Questions**

As you know, [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) provides nonpartisan voting/election information to the public, including personalized voting guides that help voters explore candidates' positions on key issues.

This is an important public service from the League, but the voter guide is only as useful as the questions it poses. We want to make sure our candidate questions reflect local League members' top priorities when it comes to the issues that affect our communities. Keep an eye out for an opportunity to provide input on candidate questions for local offices!



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## Disability Voting Rights Week 9-13 September

According to a study by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 2.2 million voters with disabilities experienced voting difficulties in the November 2022 elections. Although the expansion of voting options in several states has narrowed the disability voting gap in the last few years, people with disabilities still face barriers to exercising their voting rights. The LWVAAC Disability Voting Rights Committee is joining with state and local disability issues groups to address these issues. **If you'd like to help us bring our unique resources to this crucial work, get in touch with Richelle Brown** at [richellecbrown@gmail.com](mailto:richellecbrown@gmail.com) or 703-946-6804.



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## **General Voter Registration Information:**

There's a number of voter registration activities – from farmers' markets to art exhibits – that we're receiving this year. We're going to be sending out regular voter registration volunteer calls throughout this election cycle.

If you're new to registering voters, a good way to get started is to select an event that already has volunteers signed up and go as an observer. This will give you an opportunity to see how it's done and get a little more comfortable with the process. You can also request to be put with an experienced volunteer. Email us at [lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com) if you would like to make arrangements for these options.

**Here is the current LWVAAC voter registration sign-up sheet; you can sign up for events now and more will be added as they emerge.**

[LWVAAC Voter Registration Sign-Up](#)

Annual voter registration events will be in full force in September. The High School Voter Registration Drive will be starting in mid-September and National Voter Registration Day events will be happening on 17 September. Stay tuned for more details. [Note: The High School Voter Registration effort will be sent as a stand-alone email shortly.]



Election Messaging: Our members and voter registration volunteers should be aware of the following article that appeared in the Arlington Gazette Leader that points out the risks of waiting too long to return your vote by mail/absentee ballot.

[https://www.gazetteleader.com/arlington/news/late-arriving-ballots-ended-up-disenfranchising-200-in-arlington-9365787?utm\\_source=Gazette+Leader&utm\\_campaign=d915c1faeb-DailyGAZ&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3a11f09a08-d915c1faeb-614038800](https://www.gazetteleader.com/arlington/news/late-arriving-ballots-ended-up-disenfranchising-200-in-arlington-9365787?utm_source=Gazette+Leader&utm_campaign=d915c1faeb-DailyGAZ&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3a11f09a08-d915c1faeb-614038800)

If you choose to vote by mail/absentee ballot, we strongly support the use of drop boxes this year or mailing your ballot at least 10 days before November 5. We also ask that you all recommend the same as you engage with your neighbors and voters. This applies to both Arlington and Alexandria. If you have questions about this, reach out to us at [lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com).

**REMEMBER: You need to complete the Virginia Department of Elections Voter Registration Training *before* you sign up to volunteer.** To complete the training (about 45 minutes), click here:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training/>

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## **Additional voter registration opportunities:**

**LWVAAC is supporting NAACP voter registration activities in Arlington.**

Want to help out? **Sign up** for events below. There are both door-to-door opportunities and tabling opportunities in various communities.

[NAACP Voter Registration Tabling Events](#)

[NAACP Door-to-Door Voter Registration](#)

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## **LWVAAC's Legacy Gift Fund**

In 2023, the LWVAAC received a generous anonymous gift to be used by the League for something we might not otherwise do. A committee, currently chaired by **Ann Sharp**, focused on developing programs, materials, or both, which support voter education, including underserved communities, in Arlington and Alexandria City. The committee is working on two programs.

### **1. Civic Education Programs with the Arlington County Public Library.**

Working with **Jennifer Odlum**, the library's head of Programs and Partnership, the LWVAAC is developing a series civic education programs. The first program, scheduled for September 12, 6:30-7:30, at the Central Library, will explain how the Arlington County Board of Elections and the Office of Elections and Voter Registration work together to prepare for elections. **Dominick**

**Schirripa**, a member of the Arlington County Board of Elections, and **Gretchen Reinemeyer**, General Registration of the Arlington County Office of Elections and Voter Registration, will be the speakers. The program will be available on the Library's YouTube channel. Similar programs are being developed for Alexandria. [You can sign up for this event below under LWVAAC Educational Partnership with Arlington County Library.]

**2. Translating Flyers and Working with Affordable Housing.** We have started translating our election flyers into Amharic, Arabic, Mongolian, and Spanish, which are among the languages spoken in Arlington and Alexandria City. Among the flyers are "ID for Voting," "Vote 411," "Know Before You Go," "Ballot Drop Box locations" and a General Information flyer. We contacted APAH (Arlington Partnerships for Affordable Housing and AHC (Affordable Homes and Communities, formerly Arlington House Corporation) sites to schedule voter registration. The flyers will be available during voter registration at these sites.

Members of the Committee are **Ann Sharp**, chair, **Debby Churchman**, **Carol Dawson**, **Laura Leussing**, **Anne Murphy**, and **Connie Potter**. **Laura Leussing** and Pat **Findikoglu** helped with contacts in the Affordable Housing community. For more information contact [lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com).

## **LWVAAC Educational Partnership with Arlington County Library**

LWVAAC, in partnership with Arlington County Library, will be hosting a number of public educational programs over the next year. **Our first event will be Thursday, 12 September, 6:30-7:30pm, Arlington Central Library; 1015 N. Quincy Street; Auditorium.**

**Our first event will be on Elections in Arlington** and it will be an overview of the roles of Arlington's Registrar and the Board of Elections. This is a great learning opportunity and a great way to be an informed voter.

**Sign up** here:

[Elections in Arlington \(Registration\)](#)

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### **Coming Soon: LWVAAC Review of LWV-VA Study on Right to Vote**

Our League will have an opportunity to read and review a new state study on the right to vote.

Background: The LWV-VA Voting & Elections Issue Group proposed a new study addressing universal suffrage as expressed in Senator Locke's 2021 bill SJ272 which originally called for the "universal right to vote." That bill, which would have removed the felony conviction and mentally incompetent stipulations in Section 1, Article II of the Virginia Constitution, also added a "*fundamental right to vote*" clause to the Section 1 title as well as the body of the first paragraph.

#### [2021 SJ 272 Right to Vote Constitutional Amendment](#)

When we have access to the study it will be sent out League-wide to all our members. You'll have an opportunity to discuss and ask questions together as a League (via zoom) and provide our input. We anticipate the study to be available this week (week of 19 August).

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**Interested in Fighting Mis/Disinformation?** Now you can actually GET INVOLVED!! The League of Women Voters of Virginia in partnership with [VerbaAI](#) has established a fact checking website which uses AI to find political statements and then check them against known and trusted sites. These include Snopes, PolitiFact, LeadStories, and Fact Check.org.

### [VerbaAI Election News](#)

The website will be active through the November general election and beyond. **League members are also active in locating and submitting questionable stories for review.** If you want to join in, go through LWWVA website (here):

### [LWWVA Combat Mis/Disinformation](#)



## CALLING ALL POSTCARDERS!!

That time of year will soon be upon us! We'll need volunteers for GOTV!

### **GOTV = Get Out The Vote**

This is an important element of the voter registration effort! It's the follow up. All of the folks that we register will be sent a postcard in advance of the November election to remind them that they (1) *registered* to vote and (2) they should make a plan to vote!

We also need **data entry people!** The data entry component of this effort is to go through our list of newly registered voters and enter names and addresses (typed) in order to facilitate the postcarders' capacity to address and write postcards with great ease.

**We need volunteers willing to do this work and we'll start taking volunteers now.** Please email me at [lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com) and I'll put your name on the list for the 2024 Postcarding Group.

Got questions? Email me at above address.

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**Meet LWVAAC Nascent Comms Team!**

On Friday, 16 August, members of the new Comms Team had their first 'official' meeting.

Stay tuned for more information!



First row **Sabine Mead Mexia** (l); **Madeline Morgan** (r);  
Second row **Anna Weber** (l); **Judith Selzer** (r);  
Back row **Pam Berg** (l); **Charlotte Ruffine** (r)

Not pictured: **Gwen Hickling** (website) and **Beth Gabrosek** (newsletter)

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## LWV VA August Virginia Voter

[August 2024 Virginia Voter](#)

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## LWVAAC BOOK GROUP

After a bit of a hiatus, **LWVAAC is looking to restart the Book Club to a bi-monthly (mostly) online (zoom) event.** Are you interested? Contact us at [lwwarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwwarlingtonva@gmail.com).

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**Look for next newsletter September 4**

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