



## **President's Message**

Get ready for Transformation! As many of you know, LWWUS is changing things up starting early next year and we will be directly impacted. There's a lot of information to convey about this so that League members understand; but your basic experience of League life will be unchanged. For some of you – along with the information provided below – that will be enough for you to know. For others, you'll want to know details of the dues structure and the tax implications (i.e., no longer can claim 100% tax deduction on dues).

Below is an overview of the changes (called Transformation), along with some numbered paragraphs that cover key pieces. There's also a sign-up to attend the training we are providing **Tuesday, 7 January, 7:00pm via Zoom.**

### **Let's get started:**

Transformation is an initiative by the LWWUS to increase our numbers and our diversity by making it easier to join through one national platform. At the same time, dues will be harmonized across local leagues and administrative processes will be standardized and streamlined. Thus, the key impact for us is changing the dues and membership structure. Below links provide information from LWWUS. Transformation dues structure (first link) and about Transformation in general (second link).

[Transformation Dues Structure 2025](#)

## [LWVUS Transformation](#)

Below numbered paragraphs explain the key pieces you need to know. To attend the training that we're offering on 7 January at 7:00pm, sign up at below link. *Include your email so that you'll receive the Zoom link and/or receive a recording of the training if you're unable to attend.*

### **Training sign-up here:**

#### [LWVAAC 2025 Transformation Dues Structure Meeting Sign-Up](#)

Key elements:

1. Dues Amount Change: Currently, LWVAAC dues amount is established by LWVAAC at \$60.00 individually; household \$90.00 (basically, individual + half); lifetime members and students are free.

On February 1st, LWVAAC will adopt the new dues amount of \$75.00 per member, payable at your next renewal date. There will no longer be a 'household discount' or a 'household membership.' Lifetime members, who have been members for more than 50 years, will still be free. Students will pay a minimum of \$20.00 (or however much they can afford).

2. No Paying Dues Via Check...YET. At this time, LWVUS has not established a methodology to track your dues paid by check back to our local LWVAAC or (state) LWV-VA. We anticipate this will be resolved. If you are typically a pay-by-check member and you're **not** okay with switching to online pay, come to the training on 7 January.

If you've been a pay-by-check member and you are okay with switching to online, go to #3.

3. ChapterSpot Account. On or about first week of February 2025, every member with an individual email currently active in our system will receive an email with instructions to log into the new portal in ChapterSpot (the new membership platform). Every League member will thereby have access to their membership account in order to pay dues, make donations, update their information, etc.

4. Gifts to LWVAAC and LWVUS. Many of you have supported LWVAAC with \$100.00 for your annual dues with the direction that \$60.00 is for dues and \$40.00 is a gift to LWVAAC. Please know going forward that if you pay \$100.00 to LWVUS you will be paying \$75.00 for your dues and a \$25.00 gift shared between LWVUS, LWV-VA, and LWVAAC, of which only a small amount will go to the LWVAAC and be tax deductible. We anticipate a direct donation option to be available at some point whereby you can pay dues and, at the check-out screen, be able to add an additional amount directed to LWVAAC. Until we have confirmation that this mechanism is operational, we ask that all donations to LWVAAC be done separately (via PayPal) or through the mail. We'll keep you posted on developments here and update you accordingly.

**We encourage you to bring your questions to the training on 7 January at 7:00pm.** Sign-up is above.

General questions can be directed to: [lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com).

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General Assembly starts Wednesday, 8 January; it's just around the corner! 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/>



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**High School Classroom Registration Training**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, 25 January 2:00 – 3:30pm; Arlington Central Library (1015 N. Quincy Street, Arlington).

Last year we registered over 550 students when we went into US government and other Senior Social Studies classes to talk about the importance of voting and to register students to vote. We are working on finalizing the dates of when we will be in the classrooms but it will be most of the month of February. Similar to past years we will also do lunch time voter registration outside cafeterias on the days we are in classrooms. So we need lots of help with this effort!

LWVAAC Voter Services will conduct a training for everyone participating in

High School Classroom presentations on January 25 from 2:00-3:30pm. The classroom has been updated to focus on state offices since that is what is on the ballot next year. New and experienced volunteers are encouraged to attend.

More information will follow in early January along with the dates for the high schools classroom presentations and lunch voter registration sessions.

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## **Alexandria Housing Survey**

Alexandria Housing Survey is still open! Please participate if you live in Alexandria (rent or own).

Alexandria is starting the process to update its Housing Master Plan. The Department of Housing is looking for input from residents about their thoughts on local affordable housing needs and issues. Please consider completing it yourself and forwarding it on to others in the community. **Whether you own or rent, this is an opportunity to provide critical information on this issue.** The deadline to submit is January 12, 2025.

Survey link:

<https://www.research.net/r/AlexandriaVA-Housing2040>

More information from Alexandria Now - Click on the first link to get to the survey:

[Alexandria Now - Survey \(2 December\)](#)

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## **Women's Legislative Roundtables 2025**

Join us for the 2025 Legislative Roundtables! All will be hybrid - the zoom link will be the same for each roundtable.

The in-person sessions will 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 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](#)



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**2025 League Day is 22 January**

LWVAAC members Lynne Willhoit and Lisa Kaplowitz will be team leads on League Day.

You can reach Lynne at [lynneoit9699@gmail.com](mailto:lynneoit9699@gmail.com) and you can reach Lisa Kaplowitz at [lisakaplowitz@gmail.com](mailto:lisakaplowitz@gmail.com). You should include BOTH of them on all League Day 2025 email correspondence along with copy to [lwwarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwwarlingtonva@gmail.com). This will ensure that they can respond to you directly and keep me in loop with a copy-to.

You'll need to sign up in two places because (1) it's a state event and (2) we want to internally coordinate our trip to Richmond.

[First sign-up is for LWVAAC](#). This is the link where you can put your name on the attendance list and also indicate: (1) staying overnight or just for the day; (2) whether you can drive or need a ride; (3) your contact information (email and phone); (4) and, your representatives. Additionally, unlike previous years, there will be no reception organized for Tuesday evening (21st). However, there will be events attached to Democracy Day (21 January) that may inspire you to come down earlier. There will be a rally at the Bell Tower at 4:00pm and a Happy Hour at 5:00pm. Check out this link to get information on Democracy Day and register for events you'll want to attend: <https://www.vademocracyday.com>. We are a partner in this event. This information allows us to coordinate among ourselves.

### **[LWVAAC League Day Sign-Up 2025](#)**

[Second Sign-up is for LWV-VA](#). This is the link where you register for League Day with the state (LWV-VA). League Day will feature the Constitutional Amendments supporting voting and reproductive rights.

9:00 - 11:00 AM Plated Breakfast and speakers (\$35.00)

Then we go off to visit our delegates at the General Assembly!

### **2025 League Day - LWV-VA**

Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 South 12th Street

Omni is offering discounts of 10 percent off hotel rates - link not yet available.

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Summary: If you know you're going to League Day 2025, go ahead and sign up on LWVAAC's sign-up and go ahead and sign-up on LWV-VA's sign-up. More information will continue to be made available. You're encouraged to start figuring out your ride and roommate situations independently using the LWVAAC sign-up in the first section. Send questions to Lynne Willhoit and Lisa Kaplowitz - emails above (copy to [lvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lvarlingtonva@gmail.com)).

[If you're new to the League and want to talk to someone about this event; please email me at [lvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lvarlingtonva@gmail.com) and we can set up a call.]

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### **Volunteers Needed!!**

For all of below opportunities, please email me at: [lvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lvarlingtonva@gmail.com)

(1) Alexandria will elect a new City Council in November; their term will start in January 2025 and go through December 2027 (three years). 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.

(2) There is a new leadership volunteer opportunity with League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA). We need a team leader for the **state Mis/Disinformation Group**. Probably a couple hours a month, you would be leading an existing team of terrific volunteers on efforts dealing with mis/disinformation across Virginia. This group currently meets monthly and responsibilities include setting up meetings and facilitating discussion and ideas among the team. This group develops independent ideas and also can use LWVUS as a resource for ideas.

(3) Spanish Speakers! We need Spanish speakers to assist with voter registration. This is an on-going need throughout the year. If you speak Spanish and are available to help out with voter registration, please contact us at above address.

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

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### **Upcoming Events:**

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.

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

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

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**Look for next newsletter 1 January!**

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League of Women Voters - Arlington

PO Box 100577

Arlington, VA 22210-3577

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