



League in Action

December 2, 2020

President's Message

I hope you all had a safe and restful Thanksgiving. As we look forward to 2021, I am happy to announce that we are kicking it off with a Membership Meeting and Day of Action. In years, past we had this first meeting of the year at the Central Library. Our meeting will be virtual this year but it will go on!

Mark your calendars for January 17th. From 2 – 3 PM – we will have our membership meeting. Part of this is “program planning,” when we review our current positions for possible review. **To prepare** please review the LWV Arlington and LWV Virginia positions. If you think there should be updates to either or if you think we should have a position that isn’t here, please email me at LWVArlingtonVA@gmail.com.

<https://my.lwv.org/virginia/arlington/positions>

<https://lwv-va.org/action/lwv-va-positioned-for-action/>

At 3 PM we shift to our day of action – Bring a friend even if they don’t belong to the League. **This will be your opportunity** to contact members of the General Assembly and the County Board on issues important to the League.

We won't have postcards (unless you have some at home) but will give you email addresses!

[RSVP here](#)

Ranked Choice Voting

The 2022 Arlington Budget includes money for a Ranked Choice Voting test. Last year, **Delegate Patrick Hope** championed a bill allowing Arlington to do a test case for Ranked Choice. I sent this email to the County Board to remind them of our commitment to Ranked Choice and urging them to conduct this test in upcoming elections.

[Read Joan's letter to the County Board here](#)

More Representatives Needed From Arlington for Lobby Corps

This is a great opportunity to influence legislation on a Federal Level. **If interested or if you have questions** please contact **Don Gurney** at donnwren@comcast.net

What is the LWVUS Volunteer Lobby Corps team?

The League of Women Voters of the United States volunteer Lobby Corps team is a group of approximately 20 League members who live in or near the nation's Capital who lobby the entire United States Senate and House of Representatives.

They --

Attend briefings by League professional advocacy/lobbying staff monthly at LWVUS national headquarters in Washington, DC

Familiarize themselves with LWVUS priority issues for presentation to legislators

Make appointments on Capitol Hill one or two days per month to present our priorities and positions to Congressmembers

Record and Report on meetings to LWVUS

Report to LWV Presidents across the nation to update on lobbying visits to their representatives

What are the topics discussed in these appointments?

Lobby Corps team members are briefed each time on one particular bill which is receiving attention on Capitol Hill, the subject of which is a member-chosen priority for that year based on member-studied positions.

Some topics have been the Affordable Care Act, public funding of campaigns, climate change, energy, the Help America Vote Act, civil liberties, SCHIP, DC Voting Rights, the New STARTreaty, Title X, the Keystone XL Pipeline, air toxin emissions, Super PACs, gun control, immigration reform, DISCLOSE, the VRAA, EPA regs., etc.

Training?

Indeed, LWVUS volunteer Lobby Corps team members are thoroughly trained about how to gather last-minute information, how to make appointments, how to write the reports and follow-ups, and a mentor takes trainees along on appointments so that the trainee can witness first- hand what he or she will experience.

2021 - The Year to Focus on Local Issues

We have several opportunities for direct citizen participation in Arlington County and Alexandria City programs on behalf of the League. **If you are interested** in any, please email us at LWVArlingtonVA@gmail.com.

We can use people to monitor County/City Board events on a regular basis. **We also want to get more involved in Housing, Climate and Transportation Issues -**

Immediate Justice Opportunities

LWV Arlington is getting involved in several Justice reform opportunities!

1. Arlington County Restorative Justice Program

<https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/11/RA-Strategic-Plan.pdf>

We need people to be our representatives to this program and keep the League active in this program.

2. The Arlington County Civic Federation Civil Rights Working Group

The ACCF Legislation Committee has created a Civil Rights Working Group to take a broad look at civil rights in Arlington County.

The **priorities** include:

- **Review injuries and deaths associated with publicly reported use of force** by Arlington law enforcement 2000-2020.
- **Identify publicly reported allegations of civil rights violations** made against Arlington County government agencies, officials, or their agents from 2000-2020
- **Research what role sovereign immunity and qualified immunity plays** when civil rights violations by the government, government officials, or its agents are asserted
- **Review current law associated with the role of police officers** at public schools in Arlington
- **Identify risks associated with breaches of data privacy** and data security and the need to address data discrimination relating to law enforcement practices in Arlington

Are you ready for the next General Assembly session to begin?

Hone your advocacy skills with our special seminar with **Delegate Alfonso Lopez**

Join Julia Tanner, LWV-VA Action Coordinator, and **Delegate Alphonzo Lopez** as they offer tips and guidelines for advocacy. This session is designed for the newcomer as well as a refresher for experienced advocates.

Click [here](#) to register for the training **December 3 at 7 PM.**

[Read the letter on LWV-VA trainings here](#)

The new LWV-VA Advocacy Challenge starts now

The new Advocacy Challenge is out, and **LWV of Arlington could win!** The challenge starts now. This friendly competition measures advocacy, proportionate to the size of your Local League. Winners will be notified at Convention in 2021.

For current top priorities and talking points; [click here](#).

Summary

- *Help people access voting: make permanent the temporary legislation that allowed:*
 - > *Convenient drop off of absentee ballots*
 - > *Removing witness requirement for absentee ballots*
 - > *Letting absentee voters correct procedural errors*
- *State level preclearance of practices restricted under the federal Voting Rights Act*
- *100% Right to Vote Constitutional Amendment -- protecting the right to vote so it is not taken away upon incarceration*
- *Campaign Finance Reform*

- *National Popular Vote*
- *More Broadband Coverage*
-

Contact your legislators! Log your action!

Find details of LWV-VA legislative priorities and information on how to participate [here](#)

Reclaim the Vote Georgia Phone Banks Are Open!

Reclaim the Vote is continuing their efforts to reach disenfranchised voters before the Georgia run offs. **They have lists** of BIPOC voters who have been "unregistered" by Georgia officials in response to the decimation of the Voting Rights Act.

This is a nonpartisan effort to register disenfranchised voters.

To access phone bank training go to <https://www.votinginformation.org/rovphonebankcentral/>

If you do not need training you can proceed to <http://centerforcommonground.org/main/>
Hover your cursor over CAMPAIGNS - and the click on "The Voter Project" --- and then click Georgia. On the bottom of the page you will find the link to the various counties they are targeting.

The League of Women Voters of Georgia is also restarting their "Mobilization Mondays" to reach disenfranchised voters. We are waiting on their information.

Applications for Redistricting Commission

After the successful passage of the Redistricting Commission Amendment, the work to organize the committee must begin.

The 16 member committee will include eight citizens and eight legislators. The citizens must reflect the racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity of the Commonwealth. Lobbyists are also excluded.

Applications for the eight citizens will be available beginning Monday, November 30th.

Apply here:

<https://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/Default.aspx>

EVENTS

December 2 - Today!

**LWV-VA Pre-Session Women's Legislative Roundtable
Wednesday, Dec. 2**

Every year in December, the League of Women Voters of Virginia sponsors the Pre-Session Women's Legislative Roundtable before the next Virginia

General Assembly Session.

We invite directors and policy and advocacy experts from many nonprofit organizations to speak about their priority issues and legislation, and to give their predictions on what may or may not happen during the next Session. We generally have 15 to 20 speakers who each speak for 5 to 7 minutes.

This year, the LWV-VA Pre-Session will be held **virtually** on Wednesday, **Dec. 2, 9 AM-2 PM**, with a lunch break scheduled around noon. We are delighted that this year's keynote speaker is **Brian Koziol**, Director of the Virginia Housing Alliance, who will speak at 11:30 AM.

In addition to the keynote presentation, the morning program will include:

- LWV-VA President **Deb Wake** and LWV-VA Advocacy Chair **Julia Tanner** discussing the League's upcoming legislative priorities.
- Commissioner of Elections **Chris Piper** sharing his observations on the 2020 election.
- Virginia Secretary of Finance **Aubrey Lane** presenting his insights on the the challenges Governor Northam's administration faces.

[Register for the Pre-session here](#)

December 9

General Assembly Strategy: Tips and Training with Jeff Ryer

An Interactive Lesson on the Legislative Process

by The League of Women Voters of Virginia

We all know legislative progress doesn't happen overnight, and when we achieve

legislative goals, it's not a coincidence. These successes are often the result of a strategy that has been created by advocates, caucuses, and legislators. Join this interactive conversation with **Jeff Ryer**, consultant to candidates and officeholders and spokesman for the Virginia Senate Republican Caucus . The meeting will be facilitated by LWV New Member Coordinator, **Krysta Jones**. They will discuss steps and best practices to create strategy, and challenges to implementing a strategy around our LWV legislative goals.

Wed, December 9, 2020

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST

[Register here](#)

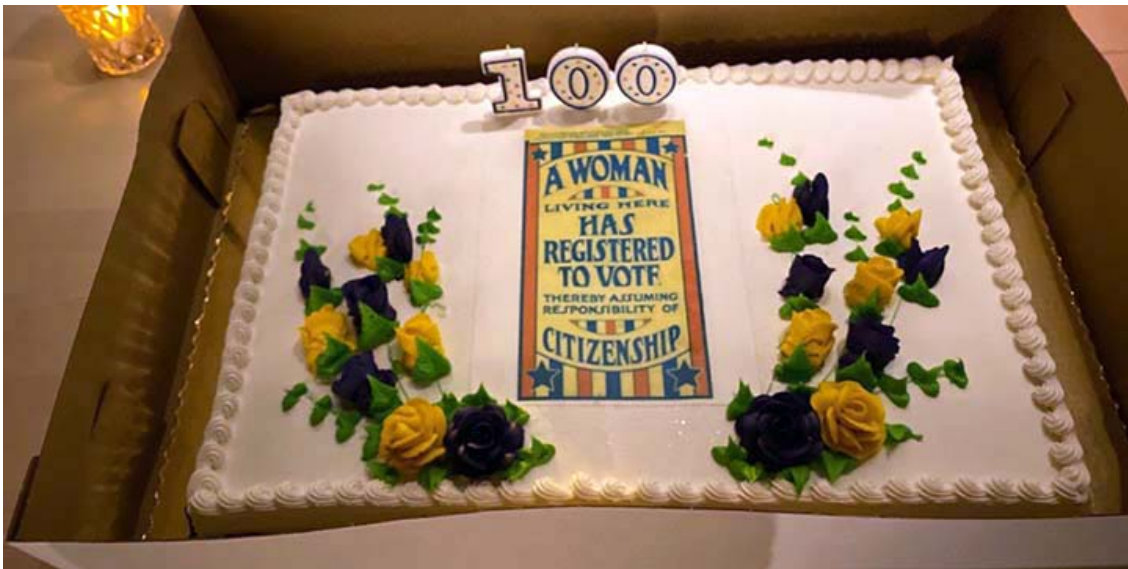
December 10

Celebrate Our Past and Forge our Future:

The League of Women Voters of Virginia – 100th Anniversary

Dec.10, 2020 – 7 PM

Virtual Event



Join other League members for a celebration of "100 Years of Perseverance" – the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

Speakers include **Mari Julienne** of the Library of Virginia who will discuss Virginia Suffrage efforts and LWV member and former LWV US Executive Director, **Nancy Tate**, who will focus on League history. She will also have several ideas on how we can all preserve our history.

Local League presidents will highlight their past accomplishments and share their hope for our future.

THEN we PARTY! Bring a cupcake, brownie or whatever (perhaps an adult beverage) to the screen – with a candle and we will have a group celebration of US.

[RSVP here to get the Zoom link](#)

December 14

Trivia Night

How will you be commemorating the Electoral College casting their votes (December 14) and Bill of Rights Day (December 15)? Join your LWV - VA friends for a fun evening of virtual trivia via Zoom and Kahoot (a web based learning/trivia platform) on **December 14 from 6 PM-730 PM.**

Try your hand at questions like "Was the LWV founded by Carrie Nation, Carrie Catt, Carrie Fisher, or Carrie Stanton Blatch? " You bring your snacks and beverages, we will supply the platform, questions and fun! Register today.

A Zoom link will be sent 48 hours before the event starts. For more information contact **Krysta Jones** at MentorCoordinator@lww-va.org.

[RSVP here](#)

January 17

Mark January 17, 2021 on your calendar – that is our next member meeting and virtual Day of Action and Advocacy as announced in Joan's Resident's Message -

[RSVP here](#)



Committees

Book Club – Dec 20 – 2 PM – *Destiny of the Republic* by **Candace Millard**

The December **Election Integrity Committee** meeting will be a review of part of LWV VA Election Security Study – See below for more information – **Dec 16 – 7 PM** –

Contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick** – LkoteenGerchick@gmail.com.

The Affordable Housing Committee will not meet in December.

REVIEW OF SECOND PART OF LWV VA ELECTION LAWS POSITION

The Arlington League's discussion of Part 2 of the Election Laws Position Update will take place on two dates, as follows:

Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 PM (in lieu of regular committee meeting) - **Part F, Voter Suppression**

Thursday, January 14, 3:00 PM - Part E, Ranked Choice Voting

For more information contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick** lkoteengerchick@gmail.com

[Read Election Laws Study Part 2 here](#)



Centennial Corner – December 2, 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).

Spotlight: LWV-Arlington's 20 Year History Celebration December 6, 1964

Sixty-six years ago – almost to the day – the LWV of Arlington Celebrated its 20th Anniversary. During the afternoon reception, the League concentrated on its past presidents, of which there were 13 (including founder **Ellen Bozman**). The Board and past presidents offered important words of wisdom about the functioning of our League, many of which are still applicable today.

For example, using a flower/bee analogy, Board member **Deryl Petrullo** made an observation about how the membership and the president work together:

Each president is limited in what can be accomplished while she is in office by the enthusiasm and dedication of the membership. But the president is the Queen Bee. Without her not a one of us--not a fighter nor a drone nor a worker--could get out to our first flower.

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Petrullo continued with her flower analogy in the context of the League's yearly activities:

Many League activities are annuals rather than perennials. No matter how many times they have been done, no matter how well they have been performed, they remain to be done each year: the finance drive, the care and nurture of new members, the selection of new program items, sessions of the nominating committee to make decisions on the next League team.

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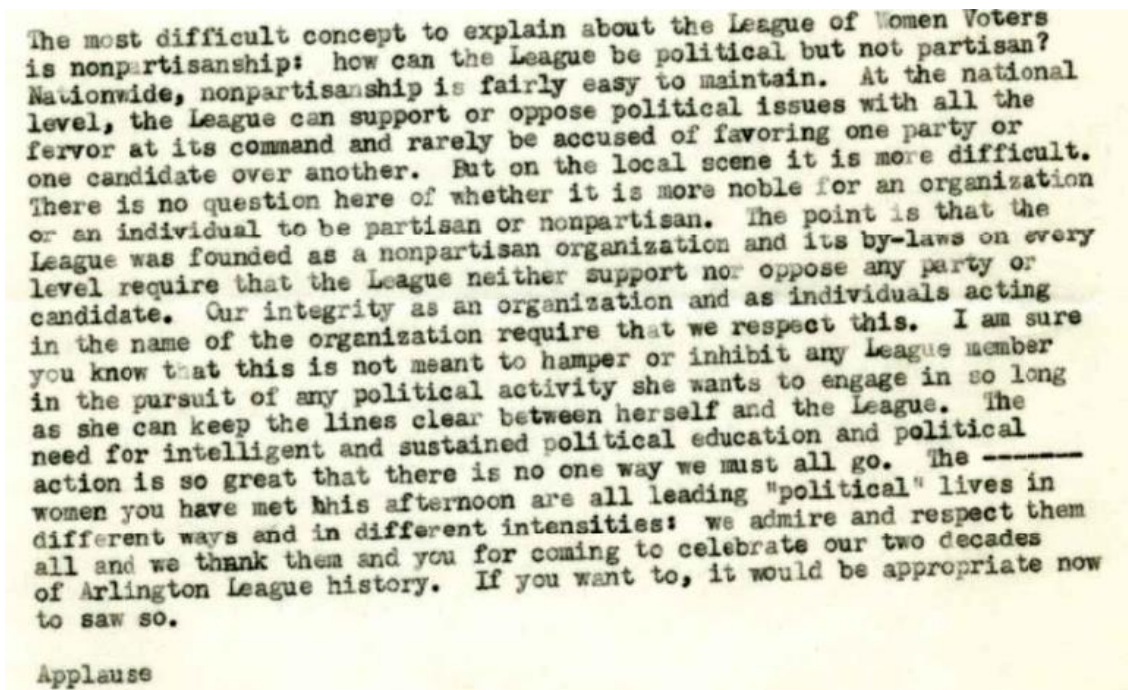
Petrullo also touched on the League's willingness to tackle controversial activities head-on, citing member **Theda Henle's** leadership:

Some bees are irresistibly attracted by the sweet smell of a flower known as controversy. When, during the McCarthy era, the League had a national program item on individual liberties it was Theda Henle who chaired the local committee, and when Arlington County and the state of Virginia and the courts were embroiled in the issue of when and how and whether white and Negro children should go to the same school, Theda knew right away which side she was on. Theda?

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To close out the presentation, **Petrullo** offered thoughts about the League's non-partisanship policy—still a bedrock principle of today's League:



The most difficult concept to explain about the League of Women Voters is nonpartisanship: how can the League be political but not partisan? Nationwide, nonpartisanship is fairly easy to maintain. At the national level, the League can support or oppose political issues with all the fervor at its command and rarely be accused of favoring one party or one candidate over another. But on the local scene it is more difficult. There is no question here of whether it is more noble for an organization or an individual to be partisan or nonpartisan. The point is that the League was founded as a nonpartisan organization and its by-laws on every level require that the League neither support nor oppose any party or candidate. Our integrity as an organization and as individuals acting in the name of the organization require that we respect this. I am sure you know that this is not meant to hamper or inhibit any League member in the pursuit of any political activity she wants to engage in so long as she can keep the lines clear between herself and the League. The need for intelligent and sustained political education and political action is so great that there is no one way we must all go. The ----- women you have met this afternoon are all leading "political" lives in different ways and in different intensities: we admire and respect them all and we thank them and you for coming to celebrate our two decades of Arlington League history. If you want to, it would be appropriate now to saw so.

Applause

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Articles and Media

Herman, Elizabeth D., ["Two Women and 10,000 Miles on the Road to Suffrage,"](#) New York Times (Opinion) (Nov. 1, 2020).

["Oral History: The Arlington Food Assistance Center,"](#) Interviews with **Ann Rudd** and **Andy Lee**. Learn about the history of the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), founded in 1988 (Nov. 19, 2020).

["A Year of Stories and Milestones in the Fight for Women's Suffrage,"](#) Center for Local History, Arlington Public Library (Sept. 17, 2020).

Virtual Events

Dec. 6, 5:00 PM: Suffrage in Stiches: Celebrating Women's Fight for Political Voice Through Crochet. Speaker and scholar **Katherine Durack** artfully combines storytelling with original crochet designs inspired by the history and heroes of the women's suffrage movement. **Durack** reveals the unexpected connection between

crochet and women's rights, and encourages audience members to participate in creative remembering and storytelling themselves by making their own crocheted, knitted, and home-sewn projects. **Registration** [here](#).



Dec. 10, 7:00 pm: The Suffragist Night of Terror at the Occoquan Workhouse (Arlington Historical Society). Associate Professor Alice Reagan of Northern Virginia Community College will put the **"Night of Terror"**, when suffragists were beaten and harassed at the Occoquan Workhouse in Fairfax County in November 2017, in the larger context of the confrontation between Alice Paul's Woman's Party and the Woodrow Wilson administration. **Details and registration** [here](#).



Dec. 13, 3:00 pm: "Representation with a Hyphen: Latinas in the Fight for Women's Suffrage (National Women's History Museum (NWHM)). Join the NWHM for a free virtual walkthrough of their latest exhibit about the role of Latinas in the fight for women's suffrage. **Details and registration** [here](#).



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"](#)

National Women's History Museum. ["Crusade for the Vote."](#)

Alice Paul Institute. ["For Democracy: Celebrating 100 Years of the 19th Amendment."](#)

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.

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.

Order Your Holiday Gifts from the League!!

Our new black fleece jackets embroidered with the LWV Arlington on the front will be a hit! They come in men's and women's sizes. You can also choose to donate one to the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network!



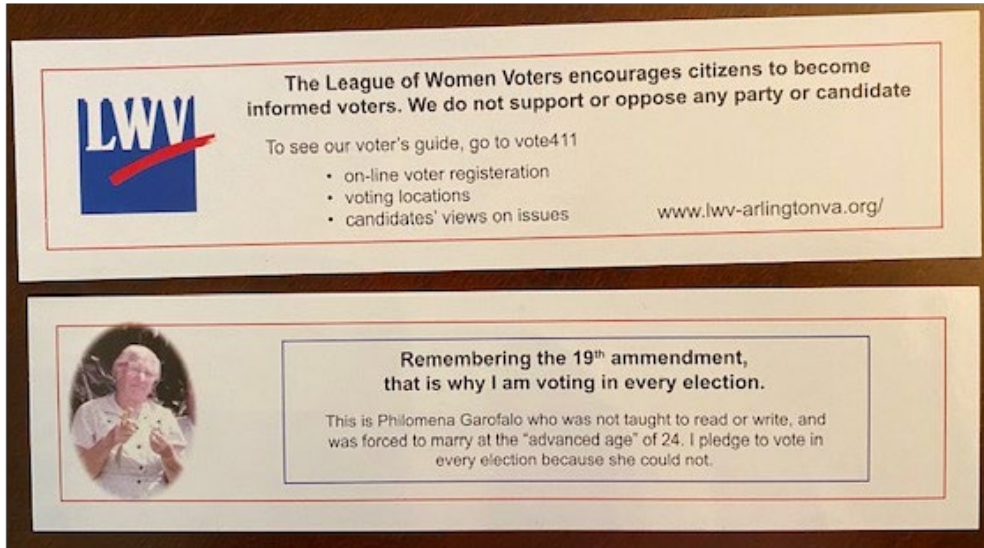
[Start Shopping](#)



The perfect stocking stuffer! Our "Vote Like a Girl" buttons!



These tea towels are not only functional, they are replications of the banners hung in the homes of newly registered women after the 19th Amendment was passed.



For the reader on your list, League bookmarks and, spoiler alert, the woman pictured there was **Joan's grandmother**, who indeed was never taught to read.

[Again, all products available here](#)

Letter to Secretaries of State: Thank You for a Successful 2020 Election!



The League of Women Voters of the United States sent a letter to Secretaries of State via the National Association of Secretaries of State thanking them for their dedication and hard work in making the 2020 election run successfully.

[Read the League's letter here](#)



[Read the December Virginia Voter here](#)

Circle of Life

Our condolences to Julie Rosenberg on the loss of her brother.

Look for next newsletter December 16, 2020



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