



League in Action

February 17, 2021

President's Message

Happy Birthday! We, the League, were 101 years old on February 14! This still continues to be a time when the League was never needed more! We are working on all levels, Federal, state and local, to increase citizen participation and access to the polls.

I have so many new projects to report. We are so excited to kick off our **Civics Program**. This is not for students, but for adults who may have forgotten what they learned those many years ago! **Our first meeting** to scope out the parameters of the project will be March 1 at 1 PM.

Also, if you have some historian in you, LWV Virginia is updating the book by League member **Bernice Colvard** "Virginia Women and Vote 1909- 2009." It is a history of the League and an important record of our accomplishments.

Contact me if you are interested in either.

In addition, speaking of history, **Beth Cogswell** is spearheading an Arlington Oral History report in conjunction with the Arlington library. It is another way to record the people and events who contribute to the work that we do. Contact Beth at

bethcogswell8@gmail.com.

Thanks for all you do.

Joan

Remember to record all letters, emails, visits, calls -any contact with members of the General Assembly on issues important to the League. Not only can we win money, but it is a great way for LWV Virginia to track our advocacy goals.

[Record Advocacy Here](#)

Dialog on Race and Equity

Thanks to **Kristin Shattuck** who is facilitating our "Dialogue on Race and Equity" meetings. If you missed the first one, please try to sign up for the next cohort – Feb 22 – 1p

[Sign up here](#)

Not only can we look at this issue from several new angles, but we can also share our

views on how to mitigate racial inequity with Arlington County officials.



Nominations for Officers Open

Nominations for the offices of Vice President and Secretary are open. If you or someone you know, who is a member of the Arlington League of Women Voters, would like to be nominated **please contact** a member of the Nomination Committee listed below. **Nominations are due by Monday, March 15.**

Connie Potter, Chair

703-524-2356

13cpotter@gmail.com

Anne Murphy

703-536-4106

Ann Sharp

703-521-1053

Post Legislative Forum

Save the date for Arlington's Post Legislative Forum – **March 9, 7 PM**. Get to hear from our General Assembly representatives on what transpired during this session.

Governor's Challenge and High School Voter Registration

LWW Virginia is once again taking the lead supporting the "Governor's Challenge." **High schools across the Commonwealth will have the opportunity to compete to register the highest percentage of their voting-age population.** Schools that reach or exceed 65 percent registration of their eligible senior class will receive a congratulatory certificate from the Governor.

The Governor's Challenge was created in 2016 and is a partnership of the Office of the Governor and the Virginia Secretaries of Administration and Education, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Elections, and the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

Registering students during COVID is an extra challenge. **If you have ideas or would like to assist** with registration this spring contact **Don Gurney** at

donnwren@comcast.net

Observer Corps

Many Leagues have Observer Corps – people who attend meetings of local governments and government groups and file a report. This job doesn't require anyone to speak or join any committees or commissions, just record what they are doing. The reports are used to update members on what is happening and eventually hold public forums to do the same.

We have some members who are tackling certain areas, but we can always use more. THIS APPLIES TO ARLINGTON COUNTY AND ALEXANDRIA CITY – we need observers in both.

All meetings are virtual now and Sunshine Laws require many to remain so.

Which Entities Should We Observe?

- Board of Elections –
- County Board/City Council – Monthly Meetings

Arlington Open Door Mondays

- Transportation Commission -Vision Zero Parks and Recreation
- Climate/Environment – C2E2
- School Board –
- Historic Preservation Commissions
- Sanitary/Sewar Boards

- Infrastructure Meetings –
- Budget Meetings
- Diversity/Social Equity Offices

If you are interested or want more information, email me at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

Have You Ever Thought of Serving on a Virginia State Commission?

Some require specific training and knowledge, but not all. **Take a look** to see if there are any of interest to you. We know that Democracy works better when we are all involved!

[Find more information here](#)

Braver Angels

Worried about polarization? Interesting in learning how we can bridge the divide? *Braver Angels* gives workshops, book groups, and debates to help Reds and Blues to listen, learn, and respect our differences.

[Go here \(Events - Join us in person! - Braver Angels\) for details.](#)

EVENTS

February 22

League of Women Voters of Arlington – Dialogue on Race and Equality

Feb 22 – 1 PM–3 PM

The LWV Arlington is participating in the Arlington County "Dialogues on Race and Equity" initiative. We are conducting small interactive virtual dialogues among League members to learn and discuss race and equity in Arlington. This is private, hands-on work. **Kristen Shattuck**, League Member, will facilitate the Challenging Racism curriculum. Everyone has different experiences, backgrounds, insights, opinions, and beliefs about race and equity.



Space is very limited – so if you RSVP but learn you cannot attend, please cancel so we can open it to someone else.

Feb 22 - 1 - 3 PM

[RSVP here](#)

February 22 - 6 PM

**Join the League of Women Voters of Virginia for TRIVIA NIGHT
in honor of the birth of Congressman John Lewis**



How will you be commemorating Congressman John Lewis' birthday (February 21)? Join your LWV - VA friends for a fun evening of virtual trivia via Zoom and Kahoot (a web based learning/trivia platform) on February 22 from 6pm-7pm.

Try your hand at questions like "Was the LWV founded by Carrie Nation, Carrie Catt,

Carrie Fisher, or Carrie Stanton Blatch? " Or, who said, "Ain't I a Woman?" You bring your snacks and beverages, we will supply the platform, questions and fun! Register today.

Please have two different devices available - for example a cell phone and a laptop.

[RSVP here](#)

Save the dates!

March 9

Post Legislative Forum

Save the date for Arlington's Post Legislative Forum – March 9, 7 PM. Get to hear from our General Assembly representatives on what transpired during this session.

May 21- 23

LWV VA virtual Convention

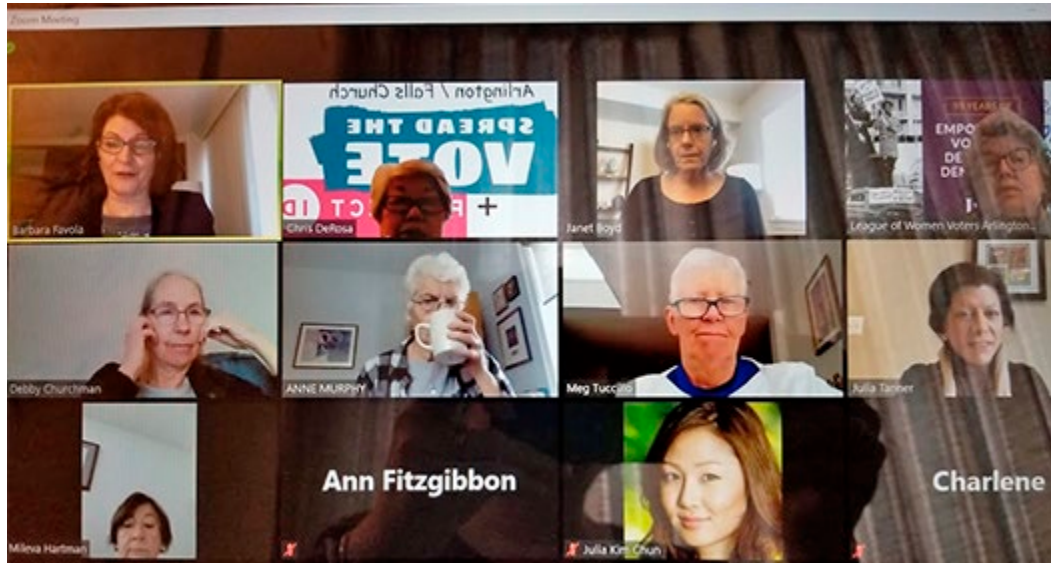
This year's theme is Democracy for All – Now is the Time.

June 5

Our **Annual Meeting** will be June 5, 2021 – 9 AM

Yes, we will still sadly be virtual but at least we can be together in some way.

LWV-Arlington members connect with legislators in the General Assembly



Senator Favola meets with Arlington League members



Joan testifying with **Nancy Morgan** of America's Promise in favor of **HB 526, Delegate Bulova's Campaign Finance Study bill**, which passed Senate Rules.

FOR THE BIG PICTURE

Lecture: Hidden in Plain Sight: Moss Kendrix and the Enterprise to Sell Black Citizenship

Today!!

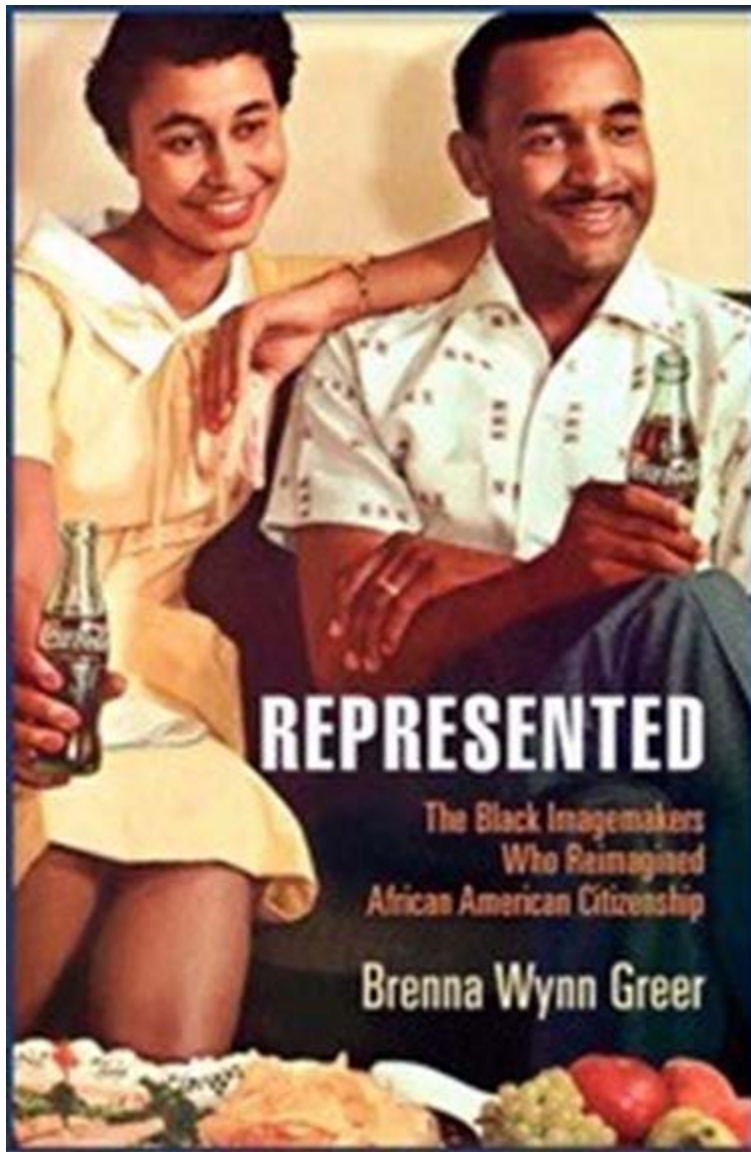
Wednesday, February 17 - 7 p.m.

Virtual Only, \$6 on Alexandriava.gov/Shop

Dr. Brenna Wynn Greer will trace how Black public relations guru **Moss Hyles Kendrix** enlisted white corporate America in a campaign to redefine black citizenship after World War II. Dr. Greer will also examine how Kendrix and his work—so visible and so important in the early Cold War era—was almost lost to us. **Dr. Greer** is Associate Professor of History at Wellesley College, and her first book *Represented: The Black Imagemakers Who Reimagined African American Citizenship* (University of Pennsylvania Press), is now available for purchase.

To purchase lecture tickets, visit AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop.

The publisher is offering participants a discount and free shipping when purchasing the book through the University of Pennsylvania Press, valid now through Feb. 21. Details will be provided during the virtual lecture.



Virginia Museum of History and Culture virtual programs

If you got a chance to visit the VA Museum of History and Culture during last year's League Day festivities, you know how much wonderful information they have to share. They are continuing with fantastic virtual programs including mythbusting historical movies and lecture series on the history of Virginia.

[Find more information here](#)

In case you missed it - great preparation for our March 1 Civics committee meeting - complete with reading list:

From the National Constitution Center

Restoring the Guardrails of Democracy

-aired Feb 4, but now available on demand

Join National Constitution Center, in partnership with the SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University, for a discussion on “Renewing the Republic”: a program exploring how to “restore the guardrails” of democracy—or ways to strengthen American constitutional democracy, structurally and normatively, against future threats and insurrections.

Leading commentators **Anne Applebaum**, SNF Agora Senior Fellow, Pulitzer-prize winning historian, and staff writer for The Atlantic; **Daniel Ziblatt**, political scientist and a professor at Harvard University and co-author of How Democracies Die; and Pulitzer-prize winning journalist **George Will**, will join moderator **Jeffrey Rosen** for a wide-ranging conversation.

[Get the link here](#)

FROM LWV US

ACTION ALERT - For The People Act



The 117th Congress has made the *For the People Act* their top priority. [The League supports this comprehensive democracy reform bill](#) (known as H.R.1 in the House, and S.1 in the Senate) with important provisions, including the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*, fair redistricting, D.C. statehood, and more!

Contact your Representatives TODAY and tell them to pass the For The People Act.

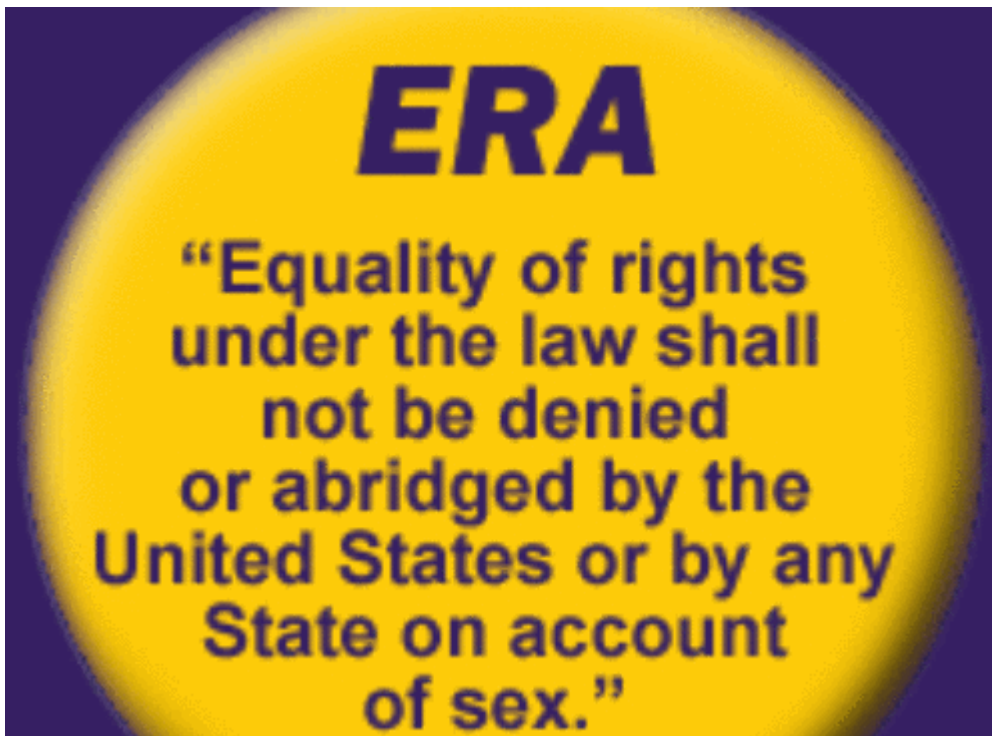
How to Engage in Federal Advocacy for the For the People Act

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives reintroduced H.R. 1 or the For the People Act. This bill comprises a bold, transformative set of reforms to strengthen our democracy and return political power to the people. A House vote on the For the People Act is expected to take place in the next couple of weeks. For anyone hoping to help advocate for the passage of this bill, LWVUS has put together a comprehensive toolkit that includes sample social media posts and graphics, letter to the editor

templates, talking points, and a summary of the bill itself. This is a great resource for any work you want to do around the For the People Act.

[Find talking points here](#)

ACTION ALERT - New Hope for the ERA



This month, the House and Senate introduced legislation to remove the time limit on the Equal Rights Amendment and finally include it in our Constitution! The League has supported ratification of the ERA since it was first passed by Congress in 1972, and we have worked for decades to see ratification by the states.

Last year, Virginia ratified the ERA, bringing the total state count to the required 38. Now it is time for the legislative branch to pass it and finally include women in the U.S.

Constitution.

Reach out to your Representatives now and urge them to support legislation to remove the ERA's ratification deadline.

Absentee Voting practices bills pass in General Assembly



Congratulations, Virginia voters! The Virginia Senate has passed **SB1245** and the House passed **HB1888**, making permanent the absentee ballot drop off and curing provisions from the general election in November. We look forward to final passage of this legislation.

The Commonwealth is well on its way to climbing lists of good voting practices again.

Committees

Feb 17 – 7 PM – **Election Integrity** – contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**

Lkoteengerchick@gmail.com

Feb 21 – 2 PM – **Book Group** – contact **Joan** – Joan@joanporte.com

book - *The Accidental President's: Eight Men Who Changed America*

by **Jared Cohen**

Feb 22 – 7 PM – **Affordable Housing** - contact **Joan** – Joan@joanporte.com

Mar 1 – 1 PM - **Civics** – Join our Civics Education Program -

Help us spread the word on Civics – contact **Joan** Joan@joanporte.com

Look for next newsletter March 3



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