



League in Action

February 1, 2023

President's Message

Do you want to help broadcast our message? **We need more people** to sign up for the Broadcast Media Committee and work with the Arlington Independent Media to get our show off the ground. **You will be trained** on their equipment and have a hand in producing and editing our shows which will be vital this year as we go into the a full election season – and have to educate the public on how to vote with Ranked Choice Voting in the June Primary. You don't need to have a background in this – you will learn what you need.

Contact me at LWVArlingtonva@gmail.com.

Thanks for all you do.

Joan

New Voter Registration Events Have Opened

We will have many more but they are starting up! **Our first event of the year will be at the Heritage Festival on Feb 25** at Drew Community! This is always a great place to interact with folks, Please sign up for a shift if you can.

[Sign Up Here](#)

There are More Dates Open for the Naturalization Programs

If you haven't had the chance to register new citizens, we can highly recommend it. More dates have been added. All of the events happen at the INS Office in the Mosaic District.

[Naturalization Program Sign Up](#)



Join Observer Corps

Anyone interested in watching the actions of the Arlington County Board, the Alexandria City Council or any of the commissions working on areas of interest to us, from affordable housing, to environmental protection to women's rights, etc. join the Observer Corps. **All you need to do is watch the meeting of your choice and write a brief report.**

Thanks to Judy Collins who watches the Arlington C2E2 Commission (Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission.)

[See her latest report](#)

Our Student Chapters Are Starting!

We are moving forward setting up chapters in each of the area high schools, but we need liaisons to work with our school contacts.

If you would like to work with a specific school - making sure they have a school advisor and setting up a meeting schedule for the students - please let us know.

This should take a few hours a week to set up and maybe a couple of hours a month after. The students will help with voter registration in high schools and doing candidate forums.

Please email Don and Joan at LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com if you want more information.

Calling all knitters!

Donate unused beanies, socks and mittens

We are a part of The Arlington Community Re Entry Council for returning citizens and their families. **We will be part of the Feb 18 Festival** providing voting information to returning citizens and their families. **Let Joan know** if you are interested in helping out -

LWVarlington@gmail.com

[Donation Flier and Amazon Wish List](#)

Distribute This to Families of Incarcerated or Returning Citizens

Call for volunteers

LWV VA new Issue Group on Reproductive Health

by Debby Churchman

Dobbs got you down? In 2020, Virginia became the first state in the South to actively support a pregnant person's access to an abortion, thanks to the Reproductive Health Protection Act. That law is still in force, but under threat, thanks to the recent Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v Wade*. Governor Youngkin has stated his support for a 15-week abortion ban, and put together a workgroup composed of four members, tasked with drafting and carrying a bill in the 2023 session. And legislation is already being pre-filed regarding reproductive health. Here's HB1395: ***Rights beginning at conception***. *Provides that life begins at conception and each person is accorded the same rights and protections guaranteed to all persons by the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Virginia, and the laws of the Commonwealth beginning at the moment of conception. The bill also repeals all provisions of the Code of Virginia allowing for the performance of abortions.*

Interested? **The State League's new issue group on Reproductive Health meets the first Wednesday of every month by Zoom.** Next meeting is Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact **Debby Churchman** (dchurchm@yahoo.com) or **Grace Lawler** (lawlergrace07@gmail.com).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES

If you were at our October 16 Membership Meeting, you heard **Don Gurney** speak of the **need to expand our voter services program**. As he said, "What we have was sustainable when we had 80 members, not when we have 250."

None of these require much time and most are "seasonal." We can use more people to work on:

- **Candidate forums held prior to the primary and general elections**
- **Reaching out to large corporations moving into the area**
- **Outreach to condominiums**
- **Outreach to farmers markets**
- **Preparing voter education materials**

We also need a co-chair for our student chapter building project!

Please let **Don** know at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com if you have interest or questions

Sips and Civility – The Revival!!!!

Due to COVID 19, we had to stop our popular Sips and Civility Program. This is designed to introduce topics to the public that might be a bit controversial in a civilized setting and fashion. We had a great turnout for our "Dillon Rule" event just before everything closed.

We are grateful that Sampriti Ganguli has agreed to chair the revised Sips committee and she has two great ideas, one of a Money in Politics event and another for look at City Council vs County Board rule. She can use some help with event planning, menus, speakers etc. This is a fun project. If interested or you want to learn more contact her -

sampriti@gmail.com

If you are not already a member of LWV Arlington and Alexandria, please consider joining!

We are turning up our voter registration events and our Get Out the Vote programs. It is all hands on deck for Democracy! Active students ages 16 - 26 pay no dues and we have scholarships available for anyone who needs one. Contact LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com for information.

Join or donate to the League!



Call to Arlington residents and small business owners -
PROMOTE DIGITAL EQUITY

Take the Arlington Broadband Study eCheckup

At its September meeting the board of LWV-Arlington and Alexandria City voted to support expanding awareness of programs to make broadband more widely available.

One way to participate is by being part of the Arlington Broadband Study

From Arlington County for residents and businesses -

Arlington County has launched a broadband study to better understand its community's internet use and broadband access. As a part of this work, **Arlington is asking both residents and businesses to participate in a digital eCheckup.**

Arlington County is launching this study as part of its effort to make sure residents have affordable, reliable access to high-speed internet. **Take the digital eCheckup now**, and then share the link with a neighbor!

This study takes about 20 minutes to complete. Know that by participating you are acting to support LWV US and LWV VA positions. the June 2022 LWV National Convention adopted the concurrence proposed by the LWV Rural Caucus and backed by 52 state and local Leagues. The concurrence allows Leagues at any

level to advocate for affordable broadband everywhere, as well as for access to public, educational and governmental (PEG) access media."

[Take the echeckup here](#)

EVENTS

Feb 1, Feb 8

2023 General Assembly Legislative Roundtables!

Join us for the WLRTs - everyone is encouraged to come to Richmond to amplify our voices. We will get updates from legislators and our partner groups on the bills relating to our legislative priorities.

All 8:30 – 9:30 AM. Hybrid

February 1, 2023 - TODAY

- Support funding of public education and not diverting funds to private education
- Protecting RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative)

February 8, 2023

- Support right to marry amendment
- GVP (ghost guns, secure storage, GVP Center)

[RSVP here](#)



News from National

South Dakota Federal Court Strikes Down Residency Requirement for Ballot Initiatives

1/27/2023

In a victory for South Dakotans, a law that places a 30-day residency requirement for ballot initiative petition circulators has been permanently enjoined by a federal court.

[Read the press release here](#)

LWV Joint Statement on the Murder of Tyre Nichols by Memphis Police

1/27/2023

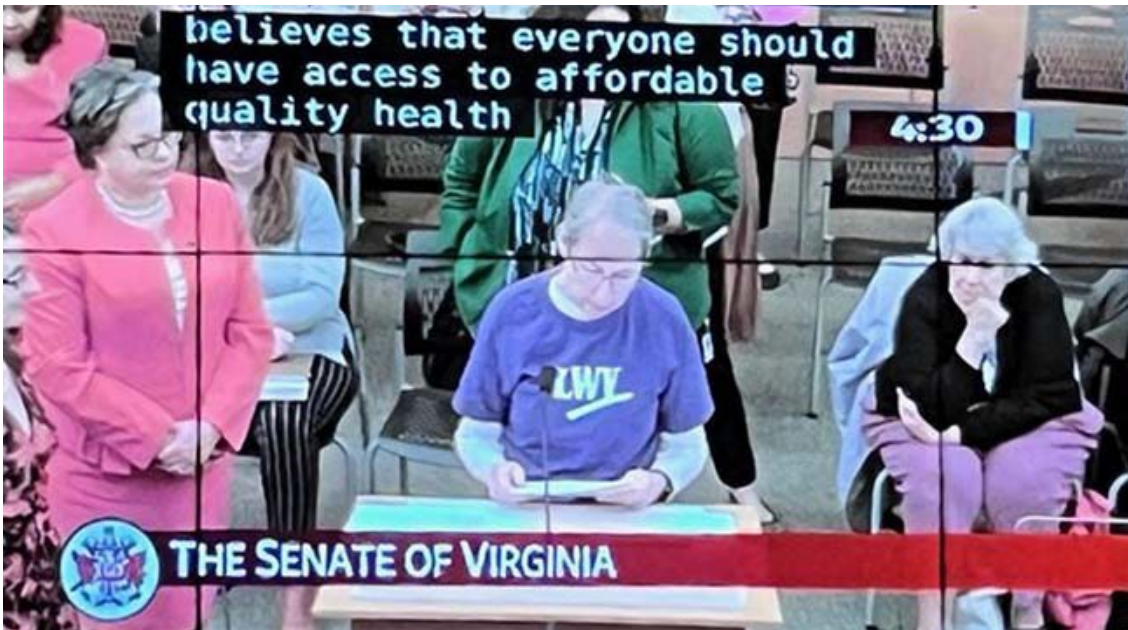
WASHINGTON/MEMPHIS – The League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following joint statement with the League of Women Voters of Memphis-Shelby County in response to...

[Read the statement here](#)

LWV US January Highlights

[Read the Highlights here](#)

**Before the Senate Privileges and Elections
Subcommittee**



Debby Churchman testifying for reproductive freedom on behalf of
LWV Virginia

**Before the House Privileges and Elections
Subcommittee #2**



Pam Berg testifying on ranked choice voting for LWV Virginia

Meeting

February 19 - 2 PM - Book Group

The book is *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* by Nikole Hannah Jones

Contact **Joan** LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com

Look for next newsletter February 15

