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| **League in Action**January 18, 2023**President's Message**  |

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| This year we will have a short (but impactful) General Assembly Session and a very long election season. The General Assembly will be taking up bills to limit a woman’s right to choose and changes to restrict voting rights and access. There is hope that we can make progress on campaign finance, and we will always work hard to allow returning citizens to restore their voting rights as soon as they are released.It is important that we monitor and advocate for and against legislation. **League Day is Jan 25** – that is when we go to Richmond and speak to our delegates and senator. **There is more information below** on League Day and our hybrid Women’s Legislative Roundtables. Sign up and keep informed on our advocacy activities.As for voting, **primary day is June 20**. In Arlington, we know there will be two open seats on the County Board and several candidates have already declared. **We will need to conduct candidate forums and provide voting information** to residents. **In November, we will have elections on the new maps** meaning people will be in different districts and have to learn of new candidates.Stay tuned – **we will be needing assistance** as we make sure everyone in Arlington and Alexandria City know when and where to vote and who is running in the each!**Thanks** for all you do.Joan**P.S. Don't forget to designate us as your charity on Amazon Smile!!!****Presence Needed at Arlington County Board Meeting on January 21**At the Saturday, January 21 County Board Meeting, **the big item on the agenda is 'Request to Advertise' the Missing Middle Housing proposal".** The board will vote on the proposal. They could keep it broad, or they could narrow down some of the 7/8 options.After this vote there will be a 60-day period when residents can learn, reflect, ask questions, and discuss the proposal.If all goes as planned at the March County board meeting the proposal will be finalized and voted on.The Affordable Housing Committee is looking to show up at the Bozman Center during the day. This meeting is going to go all day – perhaps into another. You DON’ T have to commit to be there all day. **We are looking for people attend for two-hour blocks**. **All you have to do is show up to support Missing Middle.**  |

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| [**Sign up here**](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FA5AD28A5F49-jan21board)  |

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| **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.) |

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| [**See her latest report**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16hpxFIdINmSMd1sUVmwNdGI0pqkigvkE/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=108204542125106087466&rtpof=true&sd=true)  |

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| **Voter Registration Begins Again at Naturalization Ceremonies** |

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| **In 2022, we assisted the LWV of the Fairfax Area in registering more than 2500 new citizens at the Naturalization Ceremonies held in the Mosaic Area.  Now it is time for the 2023 program to begin.****There will be two events in January, one on the 21st and the other on the 30th.**This is a very rewarding and moving program!  Sign up below and you will receive full information before the date!Thanks!  |

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| [**Sign up here**](https://lwv-arlingtonva.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2b4dd683a22fcd51f5a3905f5&id=3ff6dd7287&e=3788cf359c)  |

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| **Calling all knitters!**Donate unused beanies, socks and mittensWe 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](http://LWVarlington@gmail.com)   |

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| [**Donation Flier and Amazon Wish List**](https://mcusercontent.com/2b4dd683a22fcd51f5a3905f5/files/a17fd2a3-1332-5acc-37f3-40d3530d5f7e/FLYER_to_DONATE_to_Winter_Gear_Drive_002_.pdf)  |

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| [**Distribute This to Families of Incarcerated or Returning Citizens**](https://mcusercontent.com/2b4dd683a22fcd51f5a3905f5/files/11a96aee-c630-8ccf-7d9b-8d55d18b8d4b/INVITE_to_Share_RE_Winter_Gear_Giveaway.pdf)  |

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| **LEAGUE DAY IS IN PERSON THIS YEAR!****League Day** – the day when LWV Virginia members go to Richmond to advocate for the issues important to us before the General Assembly **is January 25**. **We have some grant money** to help with expenses and would like to have a large contingent of members there like we did in the pre-COVID world.**We will arrange for carpools** if needed.  Let’s get back to pre-COVID NUMBERS! |

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| [**Please fill out this Sign-Up Genius to let us know if you are coming and if you need carpools, rooms etc.**](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FA5AD28A5F49-league)  |

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| **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). |

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| **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 |

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| **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 -** sampritig@gmail.com |

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| **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.   |

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| [**Join or donate to the League!**](https://my.lwv.org/virginia/arlington-and-alexandria-city/join)  |

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| 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."  |

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| [**Take the echeckup here**](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Community-Planning-Housing-Development/Digital-Equity/Broadband-Study)  |

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| **EVENTS**  |

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| **Jan 18, 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** **January 18**, 2023 - **TODAY**● Push for campaign finance reform● Support RCV (ranked choice voting) **February 1**, 2023● 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) |

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| [**RSVP here**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-legislative-roundtables-2023-hybrid-and-in-person-tickets-477330948717)  |

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| **Jan 25** **Our First in Person League Day (Day of Advocacy) in 2 years!!**Jan 25 8:30A – 11:30 AMSuntrust Building Auditorium – Richmond I﻿t is our day to make our voices heard in Richmond with our first in person League Day in 2 years!**A﻿ buffet breakfast is provided**O﻿ur focus topics are:● **Supporting right to vote amendment**● **Protecting reproductive rights**We will have the opportunity to attend the General Assembly session and visit the offices of our legislators!**J﻿oin us!**$20 |

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| [**RSVP here**](https://LWVVA2023LeagueDay.eventbrite.com)  |

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| **Our first in person Day of Action in three years - January 15, 2023** |

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| **Meeting** **February 19** - 2 PM - **Book Group**Due to the Day of Action**, we won't meet in January.**The book is *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* by Nikole Hannah JoneContact **Joan** LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com |

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| **Look for next newsletter February 1** |

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| Cycle of LifeMargaret Nelson recently passed. She was no longer a member since moving away but was a very active member with a passion for the environment. We thank her family for a generous donation to LWV Arlington and Alexandria City in her memory.  |

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