



President's Message

Happy New Year! We're looking forward to another year of doing what we do best: voter registration and supporting democracy.



Top-of-mind for us right now is our migration to the new LWVUS system for membership and dues scheduled for 1 February. We are having a LWVAAC-wide training via Zoom on **Tuesday, 7 January at 7:00pm**. You are encouraged to come to the training to learn the details of the changes coming (including tax implication changes).

Please sign up here and [include your email so that you receive a Zoom link:](#)
[LWVAAC 2025 Transformation Dues Structure Meeting Sign-Up](#)

For those content with a bottom-line approach without the detail, here's what you need to know:

(1) LWVAAC dues will go from \$60.00 to \$75.00 (sliding scale). No more household discount; no more free students (minimum \$20.00 payment). Lifetime members still free.

(2) On or about the first week of February 2025, every member with an active (unexpired) membership and an individual email in our system will receive instructions to log into the new portal in ChapterSpot (the new membership platform). Every League member will thereby have access to their membership account information, including expiration date, in order to pay dues and update their information. Members will receive an email from ChapterSpot 60 days prior to their membership expiration date, then again 30 days prior, to be reminded to pay their dues. Members will handle this directly and not via LWVAAC's email system.

(3) Dues payments via check is still being worked out. We encourage our members to take this opportunity to change over to online payment; however, if you're uncomfortable with that, you can still pay by check. More information will follow.

(4) For now and into the near future, we ask that any donations you would like to make to LWVAAC be accomplished separately and not be added to your dues. We will continue to take donations via checks (mailed to our post office box) or via online payments through PayPal.

Questions on this? Email lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

Who's Breaking the News? A Discussion on the State of Local Media and Why it Matters

The loss of local newspapers accelerated in 2023, leaving more than 200 counties as “news deserts” and meaning that more than half of all U.S. counties now have limited access to reliable local news and information.

In Arlington, ARLnow recently acquired the Gazette Leader which had acquired the Sun Gazette, a longstanding local publication. Join Advance Arlington on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:30pm, in-person at Arlington Central Library (1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington VA 22201) and virtually via Zoom** to explore how our local media coverage is changing and the impact it has on good government, community engagement, and local culture with Scott Brodbeck and Lauren Victoria Burke.



Scott Brodbeck is the founder and CEO of Local News Now, which owns and operates three hyperlocal news websites — ARLnow, ALXnow, and FFXnow — covering Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County in Northern Virginia. LNN also partners with other D.C. area local news sites, including PoPville and MoCoShow. A former TV news writer and producer with an MBA from Georgetown University and a BA from George Washington University, Brodbeck was a founding board member of Local Independent Online News

Publishers (LION). He lives in Arlington with his wife and two kids, who attend Jamestown Elementary.



Lauren Victoria Burke has enjoyed a diverse career in journalism and politics for over 25 years. Her first big job in journalism was as assistant to Cokie Roberts at ABC News. She then went on to work for USAToday, The Hill, AP and The Guardian. Ms. Burke has also worked in politics in New York and Virginia serving as a Communications Director on Capitol Hill and for Virginia’s 41st Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax. She founded Black Virginia News in 2022 and appears on Roland Martin Unfiltered every Thursday. She is a graduate of The American University.

Sign up for the event hosted by Advance Arlington here: <https://www.advance-arlington.org/get-involved/program-registration/>.

High School Voter Registration Winter 2025

We are gearing up for High School Voter Registration effort starting in February! Notices will be forthcoming shortly for folks to sign up. You’ll want to attend the training event below.

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 **25 January from 2:00-3:30**. 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.

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>

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 \(2 December\)](#)

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](#)



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 and you can reach Lisa Kaplowitz at lisakaplowitz@gmail.com. You should include BOTH of them on all League Day 2025 email correspondence along with copy to lvarlingtonva@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.

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 lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com).

If you're new to the League and want to talk to someone about this event; please email me at lwvarlingonva@gmail.com and we can set up a call.

Volunteers Needed!

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in Alexandria: 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. If you're interested in being part of this effort, email me at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

Spanish Speakers: We need Spanish speakers to assist with voter registration. If you speak Spanish and are available to help out with voter registration, please contact me at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com. This is an on-going need throughout the year.

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

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.

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

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

Look for next newsletter 15 January!

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