



## **League in Action**

July 15, 2020

### **President's Message**

#### **It Is Time to Start Spreading the Word About the November Election!**

Here we go, folks - this is the start of election season. We need all hands on deck - whether you want to drop off materials OR work from your computer. There is something for everyone to do.

- Our first batch of yard signs, sandwich boards and posters are in. Now we need to get that information out so that people know how to register and get absentee ballots this fall.

If you live in a well-traveled area and would like a yard sign please let us know.

- **We also need to have sandwich boards moved to and from farmers markets and the Columbia Pike Drive-In Movie nights. This is a job that does require a car and the ability to lift 10 pounds. This is a great chance to reach a lot of people - and can be done as a tag team - one person dropping off - and another picking up. We could use some help for Beth Cogswell who is doing Courthouse and Rosslyn by herself. We can also use someone to cover the**

## **Crystal City and other locations.**

We need coverage throughout the summer so please sign up below to help out. This is a great way to get the word out!!!

- Do you have a favorite local store that you would like to give a poster and some fliers to?
- Do you speak Spanish and are willing to disseminate fliers and posters to stores on Columbia Pike? We can also use some help distributing information to Rosslyn stores.

We have to get the information OUT!

THERE IS WORK FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO STAY HOME.

- We also need people to send electronic information to places of worship. Later, we will need electronic material sent to other groups such as civic associations and condos. This is the ultimate of contact-less outreach!

All of the outside projects are designed to be quick drop offs with limited contact. DO NOT do anything that will endanger your health.

**To sign up** for any project other than the farmers markets and the Columbia Pike Movie night (for them see the link below), email our keeper of the lists, **Pam Berg** [pberg16@comcast.net](mailto:pberg16@comcast.net).

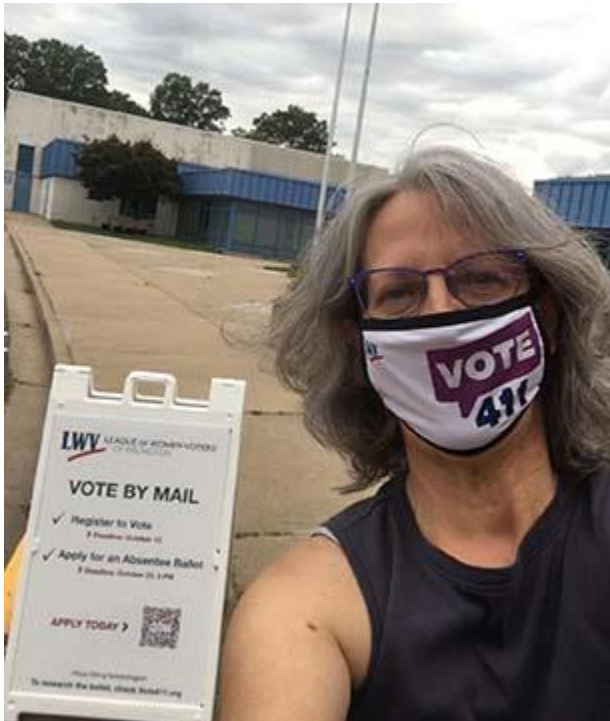
Thank you!

We will get through this AND get it done.

Joan

Check Out Our Task List and Contact Pam if You Wish To Help Out!

SIGN UP TO HELP AT FARMERS MARKETS AND COLUMBIA PIKE MOVIE NIGHTS HERE . THANKS



**Marlene Nyman** rocking her LWV Virginia mask while she makes sure the sandwich board is seen by people attending Columbia Pike drive-in movie night.

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**It is time to update your voter registration training -**

**Taylor Melton** of the Virginia Dept of Elections will conduct official voter registration training virtually.

**This training is required** for those conducting voter registration.

Many of the laws have changed - it is important to know about these changes. Voter registration is changing due to COVID 19, but it is still something we must do.

**Please sign up** for this free training. All those who complete training be emailed a certificate from the State.

**July 29 – 6:30 PM**

RSVP on Eventbrite in order to get the WEBEX link



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## **Updating League Positions - Your Input Needed**

As you know, the League of Women Voters is active in advocacy as well as in voter registration and education. However, **we only advocate on policy issues on which a League position has been developed.** All positions at the local, state, and national levels result from League processes to identify, study, and reach consensus on what the League believes on any given issue, before advocacy even begins. All of this is necessary in order to ensure that our positions are fact based, relevant, nonpartisan, and reflect the views of the membership.

**LWV Virginia is in the process of updating their positions in two ways.** Both of these are at the stage that involves local League consideration and consensus. Those are:

1. **To update the current position on election security**
2. **To formulate an affordable housing position**

The decision to proceed on these positions was authorized at the 2019 LWV Virginia Convention. There are two teams working hard on these efforts and we are proud that Arlington members **Lisa Koteen Gerchick** and **Pam Quanrud** are playing instrumental roles in the development of these positions.

**We are now at the stage where local Leagues need to discuss, review, and make comments** on the positions. This is an important opportunity for our Arlington League members to learn about the new positions being proposed, and to indicate whether they agree or not with the various aspects of each.

**The committees will utilize this input** to develop a final proposed position for presentation and vote at LWV Virginia Convention in May, 2021.

The review and discussion of the **Election Security Study** will be held on **July 15 (TONIGHT!), at 7 PM** via Zoom. (Contact **Lisa** if you want to attend but haven't signed up yet. ([Lkoteengerchick@gmail.com](mailto:Lkoteengerchick@gmail.com))).

Election Laws Position Review

Highlights - one page summary

Discussion Questions

The review and discussion of the **Housing Study** will be held on **July 27, at 7PM** via Zoom.

Housing Study

Narrated version of overview PowerPoint

AHS Consensus Questions to Guide League Conversations

AHS Study Questions

## LWVVA Affordable Housing Study 2019-2020 support page

This is a great opportunity to have your voice heard on these timely and important issues. **Please help ensure** that we have strong state-level positions that we can all use in our advocacy efforts.

Sign up here in order to get the zoom link to either or both of these meetings



**Anna Weber** working polls on July 7



Distributing voter information in the time of Covid - Joan's front porch on any given day

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## **LWV VA Task Forces on Current Issues**

**Julia Tanner**, our state advocacy chair, has established state task forces to deal with the many issues that we work on.

Whatever your interest, housing, voter education, domestic violence, etc. sign up to be a part of change.

[Find a task force and sign up](#)

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## LWV VIRGINIA SKILLS SURVEY

Covid-19 has highlighted the importance of League work. Now more than ever we need volunteers to support our efforts throughout the state. **The LWV-VA Board is asking members to complete the LWV-VA SkillShare Survey.** By completing the survey you will be sharing your skills and interests with LWV-VA leadership and will further your engagement in LWV-VA activities and advocacy work.

**Help LWV-VA empower Virginia's voters** by sharing your skills, complete the LWV-VA SkillShare Survey today! Contact Andrienne at [membership@lwv-va.org](mailto:membership@lwv-va.org) with questions.

[Fill out the survey here](#)

### Get your League of Women Voters gear now!

LWV Virginia is selling t-shirts, 411 face masks, pins and ERA buttons.

Visit their virtual store at

<https://lwv-va.org/lwv-of-virginia-shop/>



**Our "Vote Like A Girl Button" now in our virtual store**

4 for \$10

LWW Arlington's tea towels and bookmarks are available as well.

<https://my.lww.org/virginia/arlington/lww-arlington-shop>

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## **EVENTS**

**July 22**

A message from Alice Reilly, LWW-Fairfax:

## **Re: The RQI "Why Vote?" Tool: Reaching More Voters in Low-Income Communities**

As part of my work with the Virginia Civics Commission, I was made aware of a free webinar by the Right Question Institute affiliated with Harvard School of Education. This webinar titled "**Why Vote?**" to be held on **July 22 at 3pm** is focused on reaching members of minority communities who may not recognize the importance and results of voting. **Dr. Luz Santana** and **Dr. Dan Rothstein** have been working with groups in many communities on developing questions as part of both active citizenship and advocacy.

Their mission is: RQI aims to make democracy work better by teaching a strategy that allows anyone, no matter their educational, income, or literacy level, to learn to ask better questions and participate more effectively in decisions that affect them.

The "Why Vote?" program is a result of their work in education and advocacy with various groups, in particular minorities. This program is describe as: At the core of the strategy is a simple two-page resource called the "Why Vote?" Tool. This resource makes it easier for people in low-income communities to see the connection between the services they receive and decisions elected officials make and name for themselves the value of voting.

**More information** can be found at <https://rightquestion.org/events/the-rqi-why-vote-tool-reaching-more-voters-in-low-income-communities-2/>

While the webinar is free, **you are requested to register** ahead of time. This aligns so well with the work of LWV, I just had to share! Feel free to share this

information with others as well.

[For more information and to register click here](#)

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**July 30**

**LWV Montgomery County will have three local registrars speaking at  
their Annual Meeting**

League of Women Voters of Montgomery County  
Annual meeting – **Thursday, July 30, 4:30-6 PM**

Meeting Agenda

4:30 to 4:45 p.m. - Social time

4:45 - 5:30 p.m. - Panel discussion and Q&A with Registrars **Connie M. Viar**,  
Montgomery County

**Tracy D. Howard**, Radford City

**Amy J. Ingram**, Floyd County

[If you would like to attend, register here](#)

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## Meetings

**TONIGHT! 7 PM Election Integrity Committee**- review of the LWV VA Election Security Position. For the zoom link contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**, [Lkoteengerchick@gmail.com](mailto:Lkoteengerchick@gmail.com)

July 19 – 1:30 PM **Book Club** – *Fraud of the Century: Rutherford B Hayes, Samuel Tilden and the Stolen Election of 1876* by Roy Morris, Jr. Contact **Joan** at [joan@joanporte.com](mailto:joan@joanporte.com) for more information.

July 20 – 7 PM – **Redistricting Committee** – The Redistricting Amendment will be on the ballot this November – it is all hands on deck. Contact **Ann Sharp** [Sharpab2828@gmail.com](mailto:Sharpab2828@gmail.com)

July 21- 3 PM – **Planning for LWV Virginia 2021 Convention** – We are one of the host Leagues – contact **Kathy Matusiak** [kmatusiak@comcast.net](mailto:kmatusiak@comcast.net) for more information.

July 27 – 7 PM – **Housing Committee** – review of the LWV VA Housing Position. Contact **Carol Brooke**, [changetheclimate555@gmail.com](mailto:changetheclimate555@gmail.com).

July 30 – 1 PM – **LWV VA High School Voter Registration Grant Committee** – Help the state register students all across Virginia. Contact **Joan** [joan@joanporte.com](mailto:joan@joanporte.com).

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**Meet the new LWV US President**

At the LWV US Convention, **Dr. Deborah Turner** was elected President of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Dr. Turner has both an MD and JD degree. She received her BS from Iowa State University and her MD from University of Iowa where she completed her Residency in OB-Gyn. She completed her fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Institute in Houston Texas.

She practiced gynecologic oncology for 35 years, enhancing university programs at the University of Nebraska, University of Iowa, and the Medical College of Wisconsin teaching residents and students. She also served the private sector bringing her specialty to Genesis Medical Center in Davenport, IA, Mercy Cancer Center in Mason City, IA, and Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

In July 2015 she left active practice to become Vice President of International Programs Medical Programs of The Outreach Program. She participated in twelve medical missions to Tanzania since 2011 and worked with Singida's Medical Center, Outreach's Children's Feeding Centers, and Rotary International. She received her JD from Drake University in 2007. She has served as Associate Medical Director of Planned Parenthood of North Central States since 2016.

[See her acceptance speech here](#)

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## Centennial Corner – Mid-July 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 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the creation of the League of Women Voters, and the naming of our county as Arlington County.

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](mailto:seema.kakad@gmail.com)).

### **Take a Virtual Tour of the Recently Renovated Lucy Burns Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center**

The Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton has completed renovation of a 10,000 square foot barracks building on campus to house the Lucy Burns Museum. The renovated museum opened to the public in January of 2020 as an installation of professional history exhibits telling the story of the 91 years of prison history and the story of the suffragists who were imprisoned here in 1917 for picketing the White House for women's right to vote. The expanded museum includes a display called "The Vote That Wasn't Theirs," which presents stories of Black suffragist

leaders.

Museum Hours during Virginia Forward Phase II are Saturday Noon – 5:00 PM.

In addition, the expanded museum includes a display called “The Vote That Wasn’t Theirs,” which presents stories of Black suffragist leaders.

Read the history of the expansion of the Lucy Burns Museum here:  
["Silent No More: The new Lucy Burns Museum speaks to the centennial of suffrage,"](#) by Karen McKie

Take a narrated virtual tour of the Lucy Burns Museum [here](#).

And read the *Washington Post* Retropolis feature from 2017 on the imprisonment of the suffragists in November of 1917,  
[‘Night of terror’: The suffragists who were beaten and tortured for seeking the vote](#)

## **July 17-20 - Seneca Falls Centennial Commemoration** Virtual Convention Days 2020

### **Legacies of our Foremothers**

Women's Rights National Historic Park New York  
<https://www.nps.gov/wori/planyourvisit/virtual-convention-days-2020.htm>

Overview of weekend presentations here-  
[westsidenevnewsny.com/news/2020-07-13/womens-rights-national-historical-park-hosts-virtual-convention-days/](https://www.westsidenevnewsny.com/news/2020-07-13/womens-rights-national-historical-park-hosts-virtual-convention-days/)

A schedule of events, including full details of the weekend’s programs, is available on the park Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/womensrightsnps/>

### **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 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.](#)"

See **Deb Wake**, president of LWV of VA, in Library of Virginia "[Agents of Change](#)" [centennial recreation of a famous 1915 photo](#) of the Virginia suffrage movement celebrating a century of women's activism in Virginia and the positive changes they created. [Read more.](#)

**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.

Meanwhile, check out this "[story map](#)" from 1920, courtesy of the Arlington Historical Society.

### **Resources**

Twitter users are getting ready to share thoughts and information on the suffrage centennial. Here are some accounts to follow. (We will add more as we learn of them.)

@WomenVote 100

@DailySuffragist

@WomensVote100

@SuffCentennials

@2020centennial

@Suff\_Postcards

@CentOfSuffrage

@AlicePaulInstit

@100thSuffrageDC

@INSuffrage100

@Suffragist

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### **Renew or Join**

**Make sure** your membership is up to date. You can [join or renew here](#). If you aren't sure if your renewal is due contact our Membership Chair, **Anna Weber** [anna.a.weber@gmail.com](mailto:anna.a.weber@gmail.com).

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**Look for next newsletter August 5**

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