



## **League in Action**

July 1, 2020

### **President's Message**

As we enter a new fiscal year for the League, we are in “all election, all the time” mode. Our members are calling various organizations to find out how we can supply them with voter registration/information for 2020. We are also beginning to deliver the material to sites. If you are interested in helping out contact **Pam Berg**, our wizard of list coordination, [pberg16@comcast.net](mailto:pberg16@comcast.net).

[Here is Pam's list](#)

However, there are other aspects of League work that are just as important. We are in the middle of two major position studies at the LWV of Virginia and the input of the members of LWV Arlington is needed. See below for the two special meetings planned to review this studies. Without position studies there can be no advocacy. We need your ideas and questions – we need your input. Positions are the backbone of the League.

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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, at 7 PM** via Zoom.

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.

JEP

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

### Welcome to the 2020 -2021 Board

Here is the list of board members who will take the reins on July 1. **Thank you** to all who are serving the League at this critical time.

President – **Joan Porte**

Vice President – **Carol Brooke**

Treasurer – **Pam Berg**

Secretary – **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**

Voter Services – **Don Gurney**

Membership/411 – **Anna Weber**

Directors:

**Nancy Tate**

**Ann Sharp**

Appointed One Year Directors

**Seema Jain**

**Krysta Jones**

**Beth Cogswell**

**Alana McBride** – Our first student board member!!!

The board meets on the third Thursday of the month – **all members are welcome** to attend. Meetings are now virtual – **contact** [Joan](#) for a link if interested

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## **2020 LWWUS Convention Follow-up**

LWWUS staff did a great job pulling off a virtual Convention with 1200 delegates. However, it was sad that we could not interact with other Leaguers and take part in all of the "after hours" fun networking Conventions afford. Drat you, Covid.

We welcomed a new board and a new president, **Dr. Deborah Turner**, and said goodbye and thank you to outgoing President **Chris Carson** who has done so much for the League in this past four years.

Here are some of the highlights:

## Norah O'Donnell: LWV 54th National Convention Keynote Address

Recap of Convention highlights

Visit virtual caucuses here

**We are so proud of Krysta Jones** for the amazing Caucus on “**Fostering Diversity and Inclusion**” that she conducted for the virtual LWV US National Convention. There were more than 200 people in attendance.

Click here to see Krysta's PowerPoint

Watch the 6/22 Diversity Caucus here

Thanks, **Krysta!**

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Your Absentee Ballot - July 7 Election

**Mail in or drop off**

<https://vote.arlingtonva.us/ballot-drop-off/>

More information on voting times, etc, is here:

<https://vote.arlingtonva.us/about/>

Voters DO need to have Photo ID

<https://vote.arlingtonva.us/elections/id-requirements/>



Our **Anna Weber** serving as polling chief on June 23

## **Sandwich Board Setup and Pickup**

As part of our ongoing effort to support voter access, we have created informative sandwich boards to be used at Farmer's Markets. Shoppers using the markets will be able to see the boards and, if they have smart phones, take a photo or use the

QR code to register to vote or ask for an absentee ballot.

**We are looking for people** who will be responsible for bringing the sandwich board to the market when it opens and then pick it up at closing time. You don't need to stay the whole time--just do set up and pick up. **Can you take on this task?** Click here to go to the sign-up sheet, and pick a date that is convenient for you. **Thank you!**

[Sign up here](#)

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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@lwg-va.org](mailto:membership@lwg-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://lwg-va.org/lwg-of-virginia-shop/>

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

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



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## EVENTS

*You may have seen this in our updates from LWV US President, Chris Carson. The League is involved in this event because of Arlington member, Pam Quanrud! She struck up a conversation at a local voter registration event last fall with a gentlemen from the Alumni Alliance. Originally, this was going to be an in-person event on the Mall and the LWV of the National Capital Area was going to handle the registration. With COVID 19, the event had to go virtual – but also nationwide! You never know what contacts you will make when you are talk people up!!! Thanks, PAM!*

## **July 4 Event: LWV & Historically Black Colleges/University Alumni Fire Up the Vote!**

LWVUS is proud to partner with the National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Alumni Alliance (HBCUAA) for a July 4th “Fire Up the Vote” virtual cookout! The celebration will feature well-known DJ talent from across the country, LWV videos & live interviews designed to help turn out the vote this year, and lots more! The event will happen on Facebook Live starting at 3pm on Saturday, July 4th. If your League partners with HBCU campuses or alumni/fraternity/sorority groups in your area, encourage them to share the word! <https://www.facebook.com/atlhbcualumni/>

[Read LWVUS Fire Up the Vote Cookout press release](#)

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### **Centennial Corner – Mid-June 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)).

### **Films**

PBS's series "The American Experience" is set to feature a suffrage documentary, "**The Vote.**" It premieres on July 6 and July 7, at 9 pm. See the trailer [here](#).

### **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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**June 20 Arlington County Board Candidate Forum**



The forum was co-sponsored by the LWV of Arlington, AAUW Arlington Branch, NAACP Arlington Branch, the NoVA Section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), and the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.



Candidates for Arlington County Board Election  
March 7

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## Juneteenth - Day of Celebration and Commitment

The League of Women Voters of Virginia formally celebrates and acknowledges June 19th as Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, or Emancipation Day– the oldest-known annual celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States. The holiday commemorates June 19, 1865, when the news finally reached African Americans in Gavelston, Texas that President Abraham Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves living in Confederate states two years earlier. When Union soldiers arrived in Galveston to bring the news that slavery had been abolished, former slaves celebrated, and thus Juneteenth was born.

[LWVVA statement on Juneteenth celebration of Emancipation Day](#)

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## **LWVUS Joins Letter requesting United Nations Human Rights Council to Open Inquiry on Police Violence Against Protestors**

**LWVUS joins hundreds of organizations**, including many of our partners, in requesting that the United Nations hold a special session on the escalation of police violence in the United States and repression of protestors. The letter has been endorsed by the family members of those killed by the police.

The letter cites instances of repression from the police towards protestors such as the use of tear gas and disproportionate use of lethal force, as a reason to open an inquiry on behalf of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

[Read the letter](#)





LWV Arlington again won an advocacy award.

**We won third** in the state.

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**Look for next newsletter July 15**





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