



League in Action

5 July 2023

President's Message

We have arrived! That 'we' will be a common feature going forward as Connie Potter and I (Pam Berg) settle in to our new roles as co-presidents of the League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City (ARLALX). With a depth of gratitude, we warmly wish outgoing president Joan Porte the best as she assumes her new role as President, League of Women Voters of Virginia.

A co-presidency is new for Arlington and it feels fitting to tell you what our immediate plans are. These next two to three months, Connie and I will be doing all the leadership tasks together (i.e., no splitting of duties...yet). This will allow us both to learn the job together. We will be engaging with our new Board and all of you to learn where we want to go and what we want to do. A change in leadership provides us a natural *pause* to consider, to evaluate, and to envision where we want to go and be. Let us consider – together – all these things going forward.

Contacting us: We recognize this will be a transition; especially going from one president to two.

Whether you use the ARLALX email (lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com) in lieu of Connie (13cpotter@gmail.com) and my (pberg16@comcast.net) personal emails: please make sure **BOTH** of us are on the email addressee line. If in doubt, use all three emails. My phone/text number is: 703-309-2057
Connie's phone/text number is: 1-304-268-2139

Arlington County's Ranked Choice Board Primary Election Results



Arlington County became the first in Virginia to sponsor a local election by ranked choice vote. Despite some early predictions that it would take up to weeks to tabulate the votes, it was completed by Friday around 6p, and the winners declared.

"Friday noon was the deadline to receive the mail in ballots and the Elections Office did an amazing job in tabulating the votes in a highly transparent fashion," said **Joan Porte**, President of the League of Women Voters of Arlington, and Alexandria City.

Preliminary reports indicate that few people were confused by the process. According to Porte, "That was because of the incredible educational work carried out by Arlington Director of Elections and General Registrar, **Gretchen Reinemeyer**, and her staff."

Ranked Choice Voting is a way to give voters more choice when selecting candidates and helps increase voter participation and education. It also cuts down on negative campaigning and allows more diverse candidates to run for office.

"I hope it becomes the norm in all localities in the Commonwealth and the Arlington County Board allows it for the November elections," concluded Porte.

**ARLINGTONIANS: MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD: SUPPORT
RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS
TODAY is the last day to take the survey!**

If you voted in the Arlington County Board election -- and you did vote, didn't you???? :) = then take this survey. This will be used by the Board to decide if they will continue RVC in future elections.

[Find Survey Here](#)

Janet Boyd, Joan Porte and Chris de Rosa interviewed on ranked choice voting in Arlington in the June primary election

[Watch WUSA newsclip featuring Janet Boyd](#)

[Watch WJLA newsclip featuring Joan Porte](#)

[Read DCist article with comments by Chris De Rosa](#)

Next Step in Developing Projects with Our Generous Legacy Donation

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we received a very generous donation from a member who charged us with using the money to “reach people in a way we normally would not.” A five-person committee put together some ideas for the Board to review (see link below). We are off to a good start! We need more volunteers for this project – especially anyone that has experience with grants, such as PTA grants and small ‘scholarships’ that Arlington or Alexandria school systems have done in the past. This experience isn’t required; just helpful.

This is a unique opportunity for the League to engage with the community and ideas are still being considered! Further work from

the committee will include implementation and execution (of these ideas). We are looking specifically for some more people to be involved in this important project and we also need a team leader (or a pair of co-leads). Please email Connie and Pam at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

[See the committee's ideas here](#)

New dates out for Naturalization Services Voter Registration

[Sign up here. We have registered over 1000 new citizens since January.](#)



EVENTS

July 11

Voter Registration Training

July 11 – 7 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church Arlington

4444 Arlington Blvd Arlington

Join the League and UU the Vote for an in-person voter registration training. Every League member interested in doing voter registration must get trained every year. This will be conducted by Arlington Director of Elections and General Registrar, **Gretchen Reinemeyer**.

Bring a friend who might be interested in helping out with registration.

[RSVP here](#)

Sunday, July 9th, VOICE Youth Behavioral Health Assembly

VOICE is a nonpartisan coalition of over 50 faith communities and civic organizations in Northern Virginia working together to build power to improve the lives of our families, communities, regions, and nation.

VOICE is listening to what the community has to say about your youth and mental health.

Behavioral Health services and funding are greatly inadequate.

Racial, gender and sexual minorities often suffer the most from poor mental health care.

Come and join VOICE leaders from a wide variety of religious, economic, cultural and racial backgrounds as we ask Governor Youngkin for resources and funding for Behavioral Health, especially our youth.

The program will start with music at 2:45 PM

Youth Behavioral Health Assembly

Sunday, July 9, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Please be seated by 2:30 PM

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

18410 Chapel Dr. Triangle, VA 22172

[Sign up for the VOICE action here](#)

OR

If you want to ride the BUS leaving from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington.....

[REGISTER THROUGH THE UNITARIAN CHURCH AND RIDE THE BUS](#)

[Find the flyer here](#)

[Use the QR code to register here](#)

News from National

LWV Responds to Supreme Court Decision Legalizing Discrimination Against Same-Sex Couples

6/30/2023

League of Women Voters of the United States President Dr. Deborah Turner issued the following statement after the Supreme Court held that a Colorado website designer may discriminate against same-sex couples in her wedding website business based upon her right to free expression under the First Amendment.

[Read her statement here](#)

LWV Responds to Supreme Court Gutting Affirmative Action in College Admissions

6/29/2023

LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner issued the following statement after the Supreme Court struck down race-conscious admissions policies at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina.

[Read her statement on the decision here](#)

US Supreme Court Rejects “Independent State Legislature” Theory in Moore v. Harper Elections Case

6/27/2023

The US Supreme Court affirmed the role of state court judicial review in a major victory for checks and balances and the constitutional rights of voters.

[Read the press release here](#)

Supreme Court Reinforces Role of State Courts in Protecting Voters

6/27/2023

The US Supreme Court rejected the dangerous “independent state legislature” theory presented in the Moore v. Harper case from North Carolina, which relates to a similar League case in Utah.

[Read the full press release](#)

LWVUS June Highlights

[Read the Highlights here](#)

LWV-VA Virginia Voter July 2023

-with another president's message from Joan - this time writing as incoming president of LWV VA -
CONGRATULATIONS, JOAN!

[Read the Voter here](#)

Meeting

July 16- 2 PM - Book Group

The book is *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith.

Contact Joan LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com

Look for next newsletter July 19

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