



League in Action

June 17, 2020

President's Message

We are less than five months away from the Presidential elections. That urgency was felt at our meeting on June 8 when **more than 50 members tuned in** to learn how they can make a difference this year.

Thanks to the list making wizardry of our **Pam Berg**, we were able to review the tasks at hand. Take a look at the list and see how you would like to make your contribution to our election activities. If you haven't yet contacted Pam to tell her what you would like to do please do so. Pberg16@comcast.net.

[Here is the list](#)

This is what the League was made for. There is a job for everyone – whether you prefer working on the phone or delivering fliers – are a wordsmith or an artist.

I can't thank you all enough for answering the call! This is our Super Bowl – election time. **Our goal is to make sure that every person who wishes to vote, can do so, safely, and efficiently, and that all votes are counted**

fairly.

Thanks,

Joan

We have the smartest members.

Thanks **Pam Berg!**

Letters to the Editor –

Washington Post 6/8/20

[Read Pam's letter to the editor on the importance of learning our history](#)

Review of Non-Partisan Policy

Every year we review our nonpartisan policy. This is especially important during a major election year.

Non board members are free to be active in partisan activities if they do not wear League gear or indicate that they are there because of their League work. Keep those two lives separate please – and that includes yard signs and bumper stickers. If you have any questions after reviewing this, please [email us](#). Thanks.

[LWV-Arlington position on nonpartisanship](#)

Reminder

Get your absentee ballot for July 7 by June 30

<https://vote.arlingtonva.us/absentee/absentee-voting-ballot-application/>

You will still need an excuse to vote absentee on July 7. Covid is a viable "illness disability excuse."

Mail in or drop off

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

Buy Blueberries from Arlington Kiwanis to Support Arlington Kids!
TIME SENSITIVE! Orders must be placed by June 19!

Message from **Jason Harrington**, member of Arlington Kiwanis:

Our club provides grant funds to help support several Arlington Non-profit organizations that in turn help our children in various ways. EVERY Year we sell blueberries to raise funds for the grants, ALL procedures above our cost to buy and keep cool (truck rental) the berries are given out in grants next year.

We need your help to raise more funds this year. **We sell a 10 lbs box of blueberries at \$35.** They are picked very fresh in New Jersey a few days before then driven down to our club to be transferred into a refrigerator truck and **then you come to pick them up.** These are some of the tastiest berries you can

have. You can bake with them, you can freeze and use throughout the year. Normally you could have come to a pancake breakfast we have in April to help us raise more funds, but that was canceled this year. So **we are really hurting to raise funds just to stay the same grant amounts as last year.** We would love to do more, and can with your help.

PLEASE help us help the children of Arlington. GO online and **order them NOW!!** PLEASE share the attached flyer to your family and friends.

[See the flyer here](#)



PANDEMIC POSTCARDING UPDATE

We are getting help from some other Virginia Leagues - thanks to Fairfax, Loudoun and South Hampton Roads!

We are sending postcards not only to unregistered or "de-registered" voters in

the South, but to unregistered voters in Arlington and Alexandria City.

So far - **we are closing in on 12,000 postcards!!!!** We have more lists to go so keep writing!!

Thank you

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](#)

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 with questions.

[Fill out the survey here](#)

Rebuilding Trust Caucus Workshop on Tuesday, **June 23 at 6 PM** (EDT)

Rebuilding Trust with Each Other to Save Our Civil Society

The following Leagues invite you to join with them for this caucus workshop on Tuesday, June 23 at 6 PM (EDT) - LWV of Dallas (TX), LWV of Orange Durham Chatham (NC), LWV of Radnor (PA), LWV of San Jose/Santa Clara (CA), LWV Ventura Co. (CA), LWV of Cupertino-Sunnyvale (CA), LWV of San Luis Obispo (CA), LWV of Metro St. Louis (MO), LWV of Palo Alto (CA), LWV of Los Altos Mountain View (CA).

In the midst of the 2020 elections, 86% of Americans say that they feel exhausted by the bitter divisions in politics in America. This sense of fatigue is combined with a sense of deep anxiety, heightened even more in the face of a global pandemic and glaring inequities. Yet we have more in common than what divides us and we are seeing so many everyday Americans step up to help fellow Americans in this time of need.

The League's trusted reputation in nonpartisan service to our democracy,

provides a critical home in these times for rebuilding public trust between each other as community members and between the community and our democracy.

This session offers information to help us determine what role Leagues can play in rebuilding trust in our country and our community; techniques to help people engage our differences constructively and build new bridges across our divides, especially as we head into the elections this fall.

Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer, Executive Director Emerita, National Institute for Civil Discourse, with over 30 years of experience in civil discourse and democracy building, will be the featured speaker.

We will share:

- **Tools and techniques** to support engaging across differences for understanding, building trust and depolarization within our communities
- **Action plan ideas** for building relationships of understanding and respect in 2020 and in post-election time.
- **Invitations to connect** with other Leagues as part of a network of ideas and support for each other.

[RSVP here](#)

Get your League of Women Voters gear now!

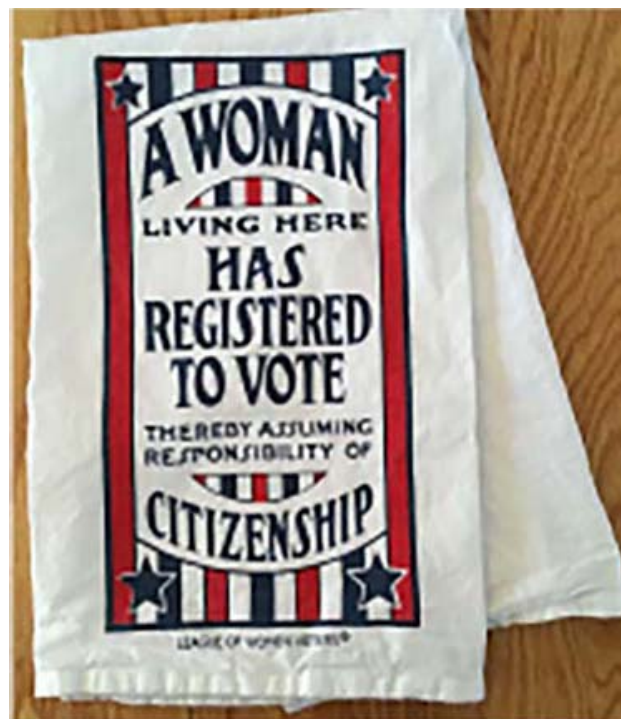
LWV Virginia is selling t-shirts, 411 face masks, pins and ERA buttons.

Visit their virtual store at

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

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

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



Candidates for Awards LWVUS

Here are the candidates for awards at the LWVUS Convention this year. Not only does this show us the vast work being done by League members nationwide, it is a good source of ideas! Perhaps there are things that we can adapt for use here in Arlington.

P.S Virginia is up for an award.

[See awards candidates here](#)

EVENTS

June 20

Come to our County Board Candidate Forum!

On June 20, 1 PM.

Come hear the candidates for the special **election on July 7.**

[RSVP here for Zoom link](#)

June 25

LWVUS will host a virtual lobby day on June 25 in conjunction with its 2020 convention. The materials below are intended to help members plan their outreach to Senate offices in support of the Voting Rights Advancement Act.

League members and delegates to the convention are encouraged to participate and join in our nationwide day of action calling for restoration of the Voting Rights Act.

Join our webinar about Lobby Day - **this is today!**

Advocacy staff will host a webinar to discuss the opportunities available to all participants. Join this briefing on **June 17 from 3-4 PM EST** to get details on how you can participate and engage lawmakers during this time!

[Register to go to webinar here](#)

[2020 Convention Virtual Lobby Day Tool Kit](#)

Committees

Election Integrity – June 17 – 7 PM

For Zoom link and information contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**

lkoteengerchick@gmail.com

Affordable Housing – June 22 - 7 PM

For Zoom link and information contact **Carol Brooke**

changetheclimate555@gmail.com

LWV VA – 2021 Convention Committee

We will be co-hosting the 2021 Convention with LWV Of the Fairfax Area. Our next planning meeting will be June 22 at 3 PM. For more information on how you can help this exciting program, contact **Kathy Matusiak**, kmatusiak@com

Juneteenth Movie Screening Invitation

Join Us on Juneteenth for a Screening of "**Suppressed: The Fight to Vote**"

Every election year, thousands of people of color are denied their right to vote due to tactics such as purged voter lists and voter ID laws. This year, with the COVID-19 pandemic threatening our elections, voter suppression could become even worse—unless Congress takes action.

**This Juneteenth (June 19), join FCNL virtually for a screening of
"Suppressed: The Fight to Vote."**

Invitation from José Santos Woss

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Legislative Manager

Criminal Justice and Election Integrity

[Register to join the screening](#)

The short film, which depicts voter suppression in the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election, **will start at 6:15 PM.** EDT. A panel discussion will follow immediately at 7:00 p.m. EDT, when I will be joined by policy experts to explore how Congress can ensure safety from COVID-19 while protecting the voting rights of Black and Brown communities.

If you want to watch the film in advance and just join for the discussion, you can [watch it here](#).



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 19th Amendment, the creation of the League of Women Voters, and the naming of our county as Arlington County. Centennial Corner will:

- Highlight important **moments and leaders** in these three histories;
- List **upcoming events** relevant to the anniversaries; and
- Flag suggestions for additional **reading and other resources**.

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).

After Suffrage: A Big Policy Victory

After ratification of the 19th Amendment, commentators predicted that the “woman movement” would declare victory and go home. In succeeding decades, most historians concurred that this prediction had come true. In reality, the post-suffrage decades were busy years for women’s organizing. Women’s associations grew and flourished, taking on an ever-expansive policy agenda.

After ratification, the first big push of the “woman movement” was for federal funding of state and local programs to improve maternal and child health. This legislation, known as the Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act, would test the political influence of women’s associations in the post-suffrage era. As it turns out, most members of Congress were ready to defer to their new (and well-organized) female voters. The bill, enacted in 1921, passed overwhelmingly. Even initial skeptics voted for it.

This “out of the box” policy success owed much to the decision by leading women’s organizations to create a formal coalition, the Women’s Joint

Congressional Committee (WJCC), within three months of the 19th Amendment's ratification. The first president of the National League of Women Voters, Maud Wood Park, played a critical role in the WJCC's establishment. Formalizing a coalition of women's groups, she believed, would prevent erosion of what historian Jan Doolittle Wilson calls the suffrage movement's "spirit of unity and cooperation." Park represented the WJCC as a champion for the Sheppard-Towner Act.

Within five years of its establishment, the WJCC included 21 women's organizations representing labor women, Black women, college-educated women, Temperance women, Christian women, clubwomen, Jewish women, female teachers, mothers, businesswomen, nurses, home economics instructors, and other female constituencies. These organizations had a combined membership of 12 million women. With the caveat that some belonged to more than one organization, the WJCC represented as many as one in six American women.

Source: Jan Doolittle Wilson, The Women's Joint Congressional Committee and the Politics of Maternalism, 1920-30 (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2007); see especially pp. 1, 19 ("unity" quote), 43, 48, 50, 176. Kristin A. Goss, The Paradox of Gender Equality (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2013); see especially pp. 24-47.

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 19th 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

LWV-VA Council Meeting June 6

Arlington Places Third in Advocacy Challenge

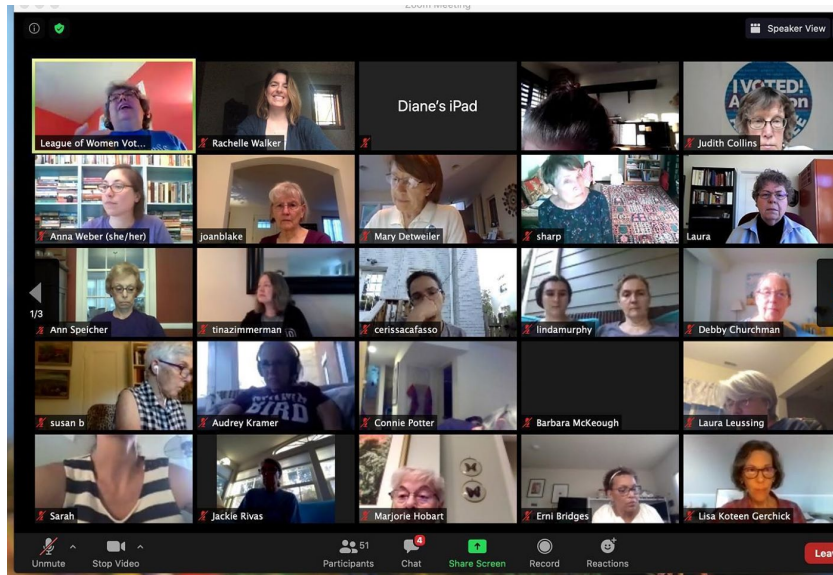
At the LWV-VA Council meeting the top advocacy prize of \$650 was awarded to the League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads. Roanoke Valley was

second--\$200. **Arlington was third--\$150.**

All Virginia Leagues participated this year. **Julia Tanner**, Advocacy Director, said that 3,637 actions were recorded, substantially more than last year. Computation includes a factor to adjust for variation in membership size.



June 8 Voter Registration Planning Meeting



Great turnout for the Voter Registration Planning Meeting!

Want to get involved to get out the vote? [Contact us](#) today!

Look for next newsletter July 1





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