



League in Action

June 2, 2021

President's Message

This week I give you my introduction at the LWV Virginia Convention and I meant every word.

Arlington has 12 delegates here today, a full contingent –and taking the President’s position is past president and this convention co-chair and dear friend of the League, **Kathy Matusiak**. And we have one observer - We currently have 285 members.

Arlington is Virginia’s “little engine that could” - The Democracy achievement about which I am most proud is adaptability of our Arlington and Alexandria City members -- and their constant “yes” attitude. Last year, in the pandemic’s heights, they responded yes – yes to sandwich boards, yes to spearheading the sending of 30,000 postcards, yes to 3000 stickers on doors of the unregistered – yes to voting registration events with masks and plexiglass shields. This year they jumped up and said yes to writing thousands of postcards for our friends in the DC League for statehood. They said yes to partnering with the County on Missing Middle Housing and Race and Equity Dialogues and so much more---

When there is yes there is hope and I am proud every day to have the honor of not only being the President but just a member of this remarkable League.

Arlington made a splash at convention. In addition to having several members on the committee, our **Chris De Rosa, Anna Weber** and wonderful students, **Alana McBride, Julia Van Lare** and **Lilly Watson** hosted very well received seminars. Congratulations and thank you all.

Thanks to all members who also served on LWV Virginia program studies this last biennium.

Lisa Koteen Gerchick, who helped lead the Election Security Study, and **Pam Berg, Judy Collins, Anna Weber** and **Janet Boyd** who provided valuable research.

Pam Quanrud who served on the Affordable Housing Committee.

Joan

Votes Taken at the 2021 LWV-VA 40th Biennial Convention

[See the record of the votes taken here](#)

Voter Registration

We have permission to do voter registration outside a few vaccine centers.

PLEASE CHECK THIS LINK PERIDOICALLY FOR UPDATED INFORMATION

[Sign up here](#)

Four LWV Virginia Program Studies to Begin.

At Convention, delegates approved four program studies for the next biennium. They are:

- **Money in Politics**
- **Environmental Justice**
- **Child Care**
- **Education Equity**

If you have any interest in serving on these studies or want more information on the study process email **Joan** at lwwarlingtonva@gmail.com.

ORAL HISTORIES

An Exciting New Opportunity

Join us for virtual training

June 9, 2:00-4:00

Collect and preserve the stories of the struggles, the barriers, the successes from the Arlington Leaguers who were there and are there.

- Getting out the vote
- Ending Gerrymandering
- Advocating during a pandemic
 - Building the Metro
 - Cleaning streams
- Reforming criminal justice system

Judy Knudsen, Local History Center Librarian, will conduct the training.

Do one interview or one hundred!

All interested parties welcome!

Questions and reservations - Call Beth Cogswell at 571 344 8055

EVENTS

June 3

Virginia Civics Trivia June 3 – 7PM



Tell your friends – put on your neighborhood Listserv– spread the word.
We are voting for the Executive officers and the General Assembly – but what do we know about their functions? Find out!

[RSVP for link here](#)

June 5

Come to Our Annual Meeting: June 5, 10 AM

**We will be voting on many issues including:
the new budget;
a membership grant program;
changing our name!!!**

Speakers: Samia Byrd

Chief Race and Equity Officer

Arlington County

and

Parisa Dehghani-Tafti

Commonwealth's Attorney, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church

[RSVP here](#)

[Find meeting booklet here](#)



She is me.

June 12

LWV Virginia presents a Juneteenth celebration

June 12 – 10 AM - Noon

We will hear from **Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander**, Norfolk State University's Dean of the College of Liberal Arts on the roots and importance of Juneteenth.

This will be followed by a video created by the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

[RSVP here](#)

June 23

A Transparent Look at Virginia's Elections: A Virtual Panel Discussion

Wednesday, June 23, 7-8:30 p.m.

You are invited to "A Transparent Look at Virginia's Elections" on Wednesday, June 23 from 7 PM - 8:30 PM, a virtual event co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters of Virginia and Verified Voting. During this nonpartisan two-part program, experts will address election security in Virginia—now and in the future. Register here to secure your spot.

The first of two panels of experts will examine how elections are currently managed in Virginia and the measures taken to ensure each election's integrity.

The first panel features:

- Christopher Piper**, Virginia Commissioner of Elections
- Allison Robbins**, President, Voter Registrars Association of Virginia
- JoAnn Clark**, Secretary, Northampton County Electoral Board
- Lisa Koteen Gerchick**, League of Women Voters of Virginia, Moderator

[Register for the panel here](#)

The second panel will forecast how to further enhance election security, counter misinformation and disinformation, and instill voters' faith in elections in the Commonwealth.

The second panel's members are:

- Thomas Hicks**, Vice Chair, US Election Assistance Commission
 - Poorvi Vora**, Professor, George Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Science
 - Jo Lukito**, Assistant Professor of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin
 - Audrey Malagon**, Verified Voting Mathematical Advisor, Moderator
-

July 11

Voter Registration Training

July 11 - 2 PM

The **required voter registration training** by the State Board of Elections will be held virtually again this year.

[Register For Voter Registration Training](#)

FOR THE BIG PICTURE

Coming in June - Supreme Court Decisions - a good time to review Article III

from the Constitution Center Online Scholar Exchange - all
ages youtube.com/ConstitutionCenter - first aired May 21, 2021

Supreme Court in Review: Article III featuring Robert P. George

Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, joins National Constitution Center President and CEO **Jeffrey Rosen** for a discussion on Article III of the U.S. Constitution. It will look at some current cases before the Court. George will also discuss his career as a legal scholar and political philosopher, and answers questions from online participants.

[Watch the lecture here](#)



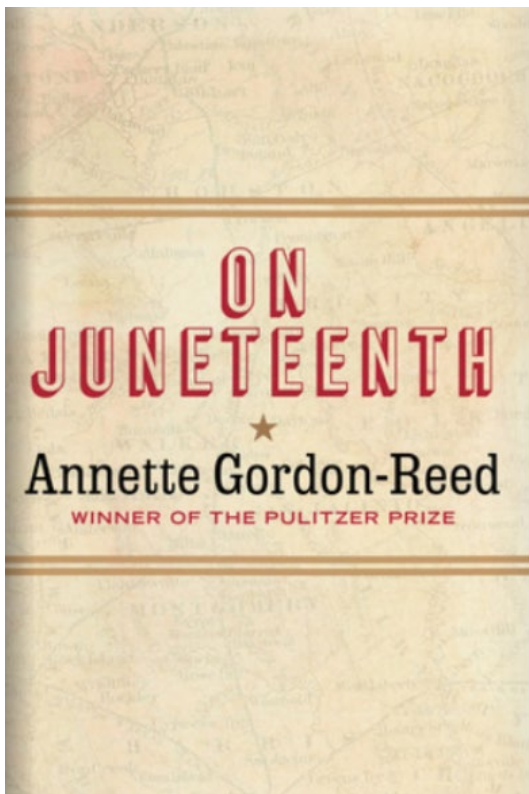
"A well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people." - James Madison
What did James Madison believe that well-instructed people should know?
Professor George explains how Madison's understanding of "natural law" influenced his conception of the Supreme Court as created by the Constitution.

from James Madison's Montpelier - **TODAY**

Montpelier Virtual Book Club: "On Juneteenth" with Annette Gordon-Reed
June 2, 7 p.m.
Free

Join Montpelier and the National Archives in conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annette Gordon-Reed.

[Register here](#)



Montpelier Juneteenth Virtual Book Talk with Glenda Armand

June 10, 7 p.m.

Free

Join **Glenda Armand**, dedicated author of picture book biographies, as she discusses "Love Twelve Miles Long."

[Register here](#)



Turning Point Suffragist Memorial dedicated May 16 in Lorton

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. – Nineteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, Certified August 26, 1920

The outdoor [Memorial](#) honors the women who fought to win the vote

[Read the Washington Post story here](#)



June Primary Election - Arlington and Alexandria

[See Vote - Arlington information here](#)

[See Vote - Alexandria information here](#)



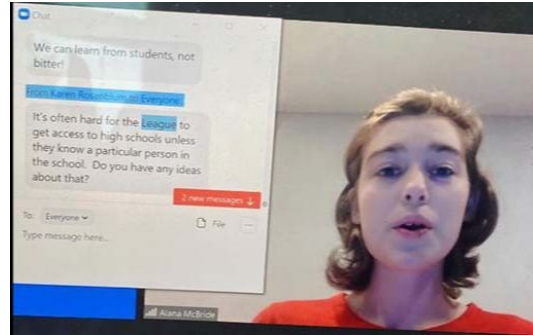
Speaking of Vote411 -

VOTE411 Wins Three Telly Awards

The League of Women Voters Education Fund announced that VOTE411.org, its one-stop shop for election information, has won three Telly Awards. The Telly Awards honor excellence in video and television across all screens.

[Read the announcement here](#)

May 22 - 23 LWV VA Biennial Convention



Alana McBride, Julia VanLare and Don Gurney speaking at the highly acclaimed

Organizing Student Members” breakout at LWV VA convention



Anna Weber addressing the convention

LWV-VA June Virginia Voter

Pride: More than a Parade by **Deb Wake**, President

Votes taken at the LWV-VA 40th Biennial Convention by **Carolyn Caywood**,
LWV of South Hampton

Virginia Republicans’ Unique Convention Held May 8, While Primaries Set for June 8 by Janet Boyd, LWV-VA Voter Services Director

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month by **Ruth Hoffman**, Co-Chair, Gun
Violence Prevention (GVP) Issue Group LWV-VA

Correction to the May newsletter: **May was Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage month.**

Important Dates in June

June 1 - **LGBTQ Pride Month begins**

June 4 - **Wear Orange for Gun Violence Prevention**

June 5 - **World Environment Day**

June 8 - **Primary Elections**

June 12 - **LWV-VA Juneteenth Celebration, 10 a.m.-noon**

June 12 and 13 - **LWV US National Civil Discourse Committee presents "America Talks."**

June 19 - **Juneteenth**

June 22 - **State Board of Elections meets virtually - 1 PM**

[Read the Virginia Voter here](#)

News from National

League calls for improvements to the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

The League joined the Law Enforcement Reform Working Group (LERWG) of the Justice Roundtable, and over 40 other organizations, to demand that the U.S. Senate make meaningful improvements to the version of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act passed by the U.S. House. The reasonable and practical improvements requested will help bring greater accountability to police misconduct and unnecessary police violence.

[Read the statement here](#)

LWV Stands with Jewish and Muslim Communities Against Hate

League of Women Voters of the United States CEO **Virginia Kase Solomón** issued a statement regarding the rises in antisemitic and Islamophobic violence across the United States

[Read her statement here](#)

LWV Releases 2020 Election Report

League protected 25+ million voters through election related litigation & supported 6+ million on VOTE411.org.

[Read the report here](#)

LWV US May Recap - Catch up on Election Impact Report - progress on
For the People Act, and recognizing our diversity

[Read the May Recap here](#)

Meetings

June 13 – 2 PM – **Book Group - *Ratification*** by **Pauline Meyer** Contact
Joan Joan@joanporte.com

June 21– 7 PM – **Redistricting** – contact **Ann Sharp**
sharpab2828@gmail.com

June 23 - 7 PM - **Election Security** – contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**
lkoteengerchick@gmail.com

June 28 – 7 PM – **Affordable Housing** – contact **Joan** – Joan@joanporte.com

Look for next newsletter June 16



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