



## **League in Action**

March 15, 2023

## **President's Message**

Come to Convention – as a delegate.

The LWV VA convention will be on June 3 -4 in Williamsburg. It starts with a reception and welcome on the night of June 2 but the "action" starts Saturday June 3 and runs until noon on June 4.

Your hotel, food and registration free will be paid for.

Delegates will be able vote on the new board and position studies, and we have a terrific line up of speakers. Listening to Professor Howard will be worth it.

Please let me know ASAP – Arlington has 12 delegates, and we want to be there in force!!!!

Speakers:

- Saturday Welcome Speaker Chief Academic Officer, **Provost Peggy Agouris** of William and Mary University

- Saturday Lunch speaker **Brenda Andrews, President and Owner at New Journal and Guide Newspaper** (Virginia's oldest Black weekly newspaper.)

- Sunday Opening Speaker **Kimberley Hundley**, Williamsburg James City County School Board

- **Special Saturday Banquet Speaker**

**Professor A.E. Dick Howard**

**Professor Howard rewrote the Virginia Constitution in 1971 to guarantee Black voting rights and was a chief consultant to Governor Terry McAuliffe efforts to restore rights to returning citizens. widely acknowledged as an expert in the fields of constitutional law, comparative constitutionalism, and the Supreme Court, A. E. Dick Howard is the Warner-Booker Distinguished Professor of International Law at the University of Virginia.**

Saturday Afternoon Breakout Sessions Presented by:

- The Affordable Housing Issue Group
- The Voting and Elections Issue Group
- Behavioral Health Issue Group
- LWV Arlington and Alexandria City – Oral Histories Program - How can you preserve the history of your local league? Featuring our own Beth Cogswell!!!!!!

- The Environment Issue Group - speaker confirmed Dr. Mary Finley-Brook. Associate Professor of Geography and the Environment, Geography Advisor, U of Richmond.
- The Domestic Violence Issue Group - speaker confirmed The Incredible Elijah Lee <https://incredibleelijah.com/>

Thanks for all you do.

Joan

## **Fighting the Myth of Voter Fraud**

I was proud to represent the League at the March 14 meeting of the Arlington Board of Elections and respond to a recent call by an “Election Integrity” group to remove most of the drop boxes in Arlington. The myth of rampant voter fraud is being used to disenfranchise people and we must do all we can to make it stop.

[Read Text Here](#)

## **Show Up for the Missing Middle: We Need Speakers at the County Board Meeting Saturday, March 18**

We are in the final push for the Missing Middle which will be considered at the County Board Meeting this Saturday. We need people to show up and speak - we will have the script. Contact the Affordable Housing Committee at

[LWVArlingtonVA@gmail.com.](mailto:LWVArlingtonVA@gmail.com)

**This is going to be a busy year for us in terms of voter services.**

We will have a **June 20 primary** that will be done via Ranked Choice Voting for Arlington County Board and “regular voting” for other offices. **Voters will receive two ballots** and we will have to inform them about how ballots should be cast. Also, **we will be voting this year on the newly redrawn districts.** So, we will have to get our voter education hats on for sure.

**Arlington Elections Timetable**

**March 20** – the first day candidates can file for the June 20 primary

**April 6** – the deadline for candidate applications.

**May 5** - first day of in-person early voting

**May 30** – last day to register to vote or update your existing registration

**June 9** – 5pm – last day to apply for mail ballot.

**June 20** – primary day

**Alexandria City.**

Alexandria elects its mayor and six-member City Council every third year. The next election for Mayor and City Council will be on

Tuesday, November 5, 2024. School Board elections are held the first Tuesday in November of even-numbered years in conjunction with state general elections.

We will have to see if there are any primary challenges for members of the Virginia Legislature to from Alexandria City, to know if there will be a primary.

**Same day voter registration is still in effect** – meaning people can register to vote after May 30 – and file a provisional ballot. **We can NOT register people to vote same day** – it must be done at polling sites and at the registrar’s offices.

**Also, people will still need to get a witness for mail in ballots for the June primary.**

WE NEED A FEW PEOPLE TO START CONTACTING FARMERS  
MARKETS AND FESTIVALS TO GET US ON THE LIST FOR SUMMER.  
EMAIL IF INTERESTED.

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**Congratulations to our own Krysta Jones**  
who will be honored by The Arlington County Commission on  
the Status of Women with one of 2023 Arlington County  
Women of Vision Awards for her commitment and leadership  
in the Arlington community.

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## **Voter Registration at Marymount University**

Volunteers Needed

*Donald Gurney, Voter Services Chair*

We have been asked to assist Marymount University students to register to vote, March 20 -23. We will be at the Ballston Campus. We need people for two shifts, 11:00A – 1:00 PM and 3:00 – 5:00 PM daily.

We also need people to work the Alexandria Expungement Event on March 25 - 10:00 A - 1:00 PM. This will be similar to the one in Arlington where we had people needing to expunge arrests that did not lead to convictions from their records. This is a great way to reach an underserved part of the community,

[Sign up here! This will be fun!](#)

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## **Join Observer Corps**

Anyone interested in watching the actions of the Arlington County Board, the Alexandria City Council or any of the commissions working on areas of interest

to us, from affordable housing, to environmental protection to women's rights, etc. join the Observer Corps. **All you need to do is watch the meeting of your choice and write a brief report.**

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## **Our Student Chapters Are Starting!**

**We can use someone to spearhead Yorktown!**

**We are moving forward setting up chapters in each of the area high schools, but we need liaisons to work with our school contacts.**

If you would like to work with a specific school - making sure they have a school advisor and setting up a meeting schedule for the students - please let us know.

This should take a few hours a week to set up and maybe a couple of hours a month after. The students will help with voter registration in high schools and doing candidate forums.

**Please email Don and Joan at [LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com) if you want more information.**

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**Sips and Civility – The Revival!!!!**

Due to COVID 19, we had to stop our popular Sips and Civility Program. This is designed to introduce topics to the public that might be a bit controversial in a civilized setting and fashion. We had a great turnout for our "Dillon Rule" event just before everything closed.

**We are grateful that Sampriti Ganguli has agreed to chair the revised Sips committee and she has two great ideas, one of a Money in Politics event and another for look at City Council vs County Board rule. She can use some help with event planning, menus, speakers etc. This is a fun project. If interested or you want to learn more contact her - [sampriti@gmail.com](mailto:sampriti@gmail.com)**

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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES**

If you were at our October 16 Membership Meeting, you heard **Don Gurney** speak of the **need to expand our voter services program**. As he said, "What we have was sustainable when we had 80 members, not when we have 250."

None of these require much time and most are "seasonal." We can use more people to work on:

- **Candidate forums held prior to the primary and general elections**
- **Reaching out to large corporations moving into the area**
- **Outreach to condominiums**
- **Outreach to farmers markets**



- **Preparing voter education materials**

**We also need a co-chair for our student chapter building project!**

Please let **Don** know at [lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com) if you have interest or questions

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**If you are not already a member of LWV Arlington and Alexandria, please consider joining!**

We are turning up our voter registration events and our Get Out the Vote programs. It is all hands on deck for Democracy! Active students ages 16 - 26 pay no dues and we have scholarships available for anyone who needs one. Contact [LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com) for information.

[Join or donate to the League!](#)



Call to Arlington residents and small business owners -  
PROMOTE DIGITAL EQUITY

## **Take the Arlington Broadband Study eCheckup**

At its September meeting the board of LWV-Arlington and Alexandria City voted to support expanding awareness of programs to make broadband more widely available.

**One way to participate is by being part of the Arlington Broadband Study**

**From Arlington County for residents and businesses -**

Arlington County has launched a broadband study to better understand its community's internet use and broadband access. As a part of this work, **Arlington is asking both residents and businesses to participate in a digital eCheckup.**

Arlington County is launching this study as part of its effort to make sure residents have affordable, reliable access to high-speed internet. **Take the digital eCheckup now**, and then share the link with a neighbor!

**This study takes about 20 minutes** to complete. Know that by participating you are acting to support LWV US and LWV VA positions. the June 2022 LWV National Convention adopted the concurrence proposed by the LWV Rural Caucus and backed by 52 state and local Leagues. The concurrence

allows Leagues at any level to advocate for affordable broadband everywhere, as well as for access to public, educational and governmental (PEG) access media."

[Take the echeckup here](#)

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## EVENTS

**April 19**

### **RANKED CHOICE VOTING**

Voting in Arlington

Wed., Apr. 19 - 6:30-7:30 PM - Central Library

Join the League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City, and Liz White, Executive Director of Upvote Virginia, to learn what to expect about your ballot and the methodology of voting using RCV.

We also expect a representative from the Arlington County Elections Office.

[RSVP for an event reminder](#)

## Save the date

**April 26 - 7:00 PM - another ranked choice voting event co-sponsored by UU the Vote at the Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church. We will again use RCV to rank desserts!**

**June 2- 4**

41st Biennial LWV-VA Convention

## **Preserving Democracy in the 21st Century**

**Mark your calendar and register for our 2023 Convention, June 2- 4** in beautiful Williamsburg! We have a fantastic lineup of speakers and workshops in addition to the business meetings and election of a new board!

[To register and learn hotel information, click here.](#)

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### **News from National**

To support your advocacy for League positions consult -

## **LWVUS Impact on Issues 2022-2024**

Impact on Issues is designed to help League members use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the national, state, local, and regional levels. The intention is to inspire Leagues to use national positions to act in their own communities.

Impact on Issues has been organized so that "Taking Action" is front and center followed by the League Principles. Then, for quick reference, the LWVUS public policy Positions in Brief summarize the more detailed positions in the

sections that follow. For each of the major issue areas, the listing gives the full official statements of positions in bold type.

[LWVUS Impact on Issues 2022-2024](#)

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## **Post Legislative Session Review March 12**





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## Meeting

**March 19 - 2 PM - Book Group**

The book is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict, Victoria Christopher Murray,  
et al

Contact **Joan** [LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com)

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**Look for next newsletter April 5**

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