



## **League in Action**

May 20, 2020

### **President's Message**

**Thanks to all who came** to our first virtual annual meeting. While it was difficult not to see you "for real," virtual world does make it possible for people who have a hard time getting to meetings to participate. Our brainstorming session yielded many great ideas on how to conduct voter registration/GOTV during Covid ,as well as how we can witness ballots for July 7. The Election Integrity and Voter Access Committees will be working on plans to turn these great ideas into action.

**Election Integrity meets tonight** – contact **Lisa** at lkoteengerchick@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

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### **NOW I HAVE TO BRAG ABOUT ARLINGTON MEMBERS!!!**

Because of the quick thinking of two LWV Arlington members, we have developed new ways to further nation-wide voter registration this year.

On a routine voter registration outing (when we did such things), **Pam Quanrud** met a gentleman from the Alumni Association of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities. At the time, they were planning a picnic in D.C. for July 4, which has

been squashed by Covid. However, they are going to do a virtual, nationwide picnic and LWV US will partner to share voter registration information! Take that, Covid!

Also, **Susan Sarcone**, was working on a program to have us meet with realty offices in Arlington and to place voter registration information in packets for new homeowners. Enter Covid. However, Susan mentioned a nationwide app called [Updater.Com](http://Updater.Com) now being used by her office to share information with new move-ins. I sent another email to LWV US and now our [Vote 411.org](http://Vote 411.org) link is embedded in [Updater.Com](http://Updater.Com)!

Different times call for different thinking!

Thank you all - and if anyone has any ideas to further our reach, please let me know!!

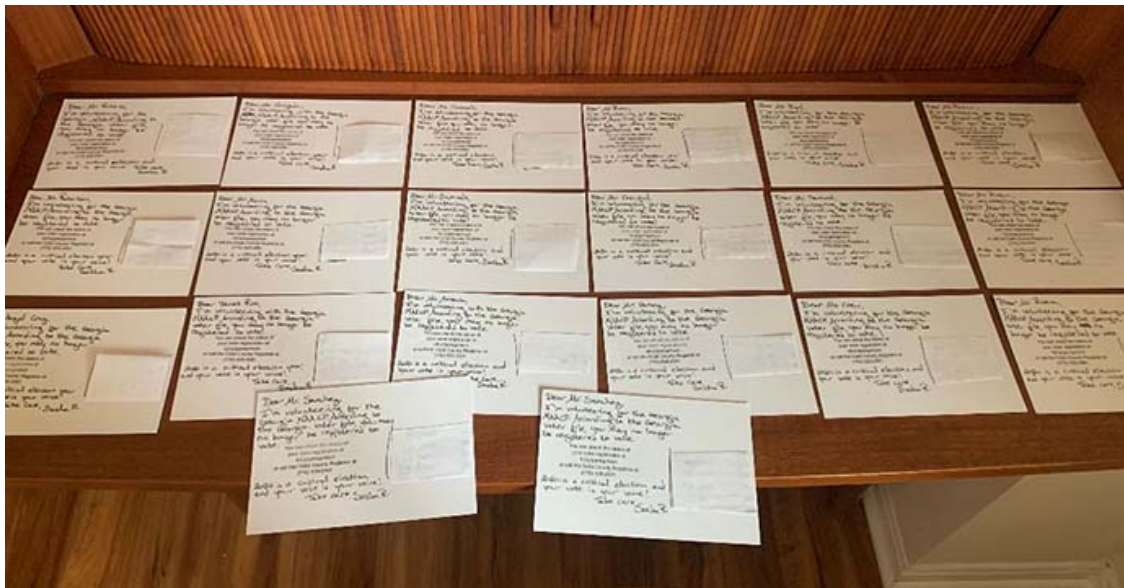
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#### PANDEMIC POSTCARDING

We just ordered another 2000 postcards – bringing our total to **8500 postcards** to marginalized African American voters!! **Much thanks** to the **National Service and Trends Committee of The Links**, who have completed 1000 postcards. Since we are writing outside of Arlington, this is not being funded by LWV Arlington. We have so far covered the cost of the postcards, labels, ink etc. However, the stamps are a huge expense. **If you can help contribute** to the stamp fund, please contact me.

Thanks

Joan



### Here is the Latest Information on the June/July Elections

Adding to the weirdness of this year, we will have a primary election on June 23 and a general election for Arlington County Board on July 7. To make matters more confusing, to get an absentee ballot for July 7, you will need to have an "excuse" - Covid is an excuse - even though the election is after the new no-excuse law goes into effect. That is because you need to apply for the ballot by June 30 and the new law kicks in on July 1.

Ballots for the Republican primary on June 23 do not have to be witnessed. However, although we are hoping our lawsuit will prevail for other elections, as of right now, July 7 ballots will need a witness.

Attached are **two fliers**, one English, one Spanish with the latest information. **PLEASE** distribute them on social media, Nextdoor, community listservs, to your building managers, etc. Stay safe but do what you can to get the word out

electronically.

Thanks so much to **Anne Hartzbusch** for her Spanish translation.

[Covid Flyer as of May 17](#)

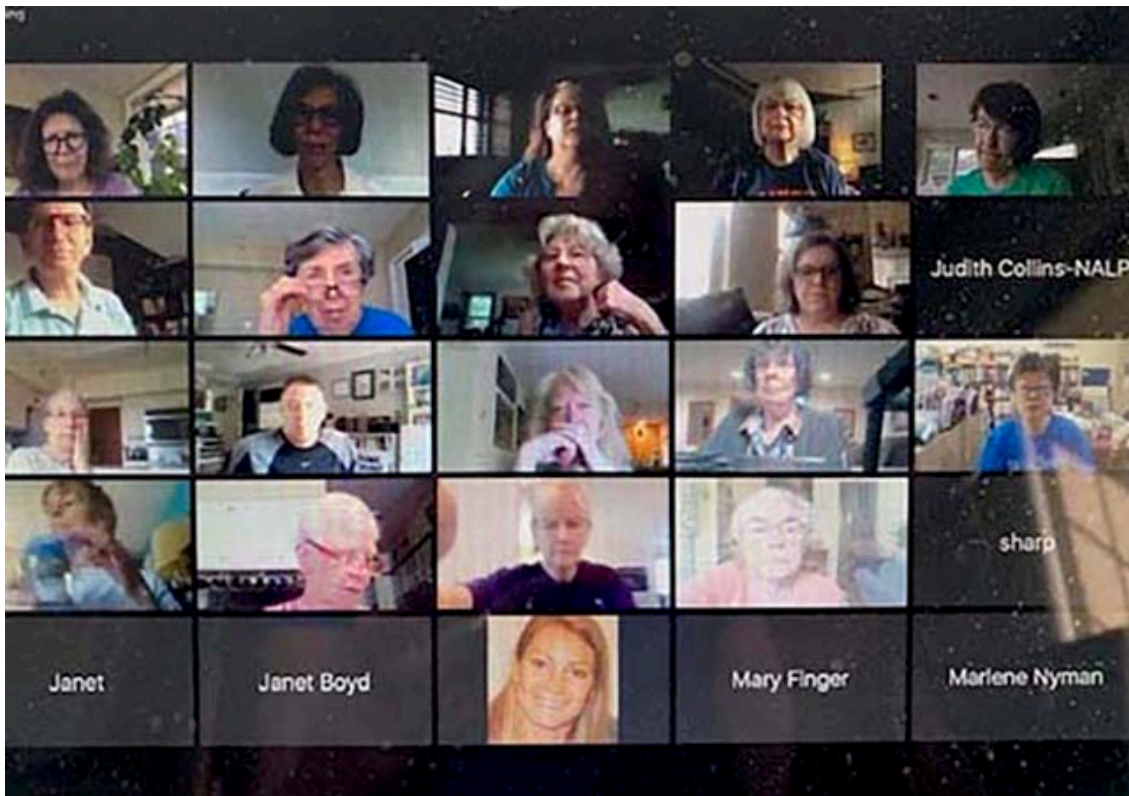
[Covid letter in Spanish](#)

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### **WE NEED YOUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES!**

What legislative priorities do you want the LWV Virginia to pursue during the next General Assembly? We need to get that information to Julia Tanner by May 30. Email us at [LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com) with your ideas.

**LWV-Arlington First Virtual Annual Meeting May 16, 2020**



**For those who could not attend** our Annual Meeting, please find the handbook to our first virtual meeting attached. **Please let us know how you can help**

with our fight for fair elections – or contact one of our committee chairs and contribute there. If you have another idea of how to improve the work of the League, let me know!! **We need you** now more than ever.

**Annual Membership Meeting 2020**

**Annual Meeting Breakout Ideas on Voting**

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### **We Have a New Website!!**

Thanks to the hard work of **Rachelle Walker**, we have a new website and it is a MyLo site meaning it has the standard information that the League provides.

You can access through our "vanity tag" - [www.lwv-arlingtonva.org](http://www.lwv-arlingtonva.org) . Or use <https://my.lwv.org/virginia/arlington>

We also have a shopping cart to sell our "wares" - just click on "[Shop our Store.](#)"

**Thanks, Rachelle!**

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### **Directory of Arlington/Alexandria City Officials:**

**Who has some time** for sleuthing? We would like to add a Directory of Arlington/Alexandria City Officials to our new website. Many Leagues do this for citizens – some print them out and give to libraries etc. However, for the obvious



reasons, digital is better.

**We need one or two people** who can root out emails and addresses of Arlington officials for the Directory. So if you like researching and have some time to spare in this “down town” **please email us**

[LWVArlingtonVA@gmail.com](mailto:LWVArlingtonVA@gmail.com) Thanks – this is a great service to Arlington residents.

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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@lww-va.org](mailto:membership@lww-va.org) with questions.

[Fill out the survey](#)

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## EVENTS

### June 6

#### **LWV VA Council Meeting**

The virtual Council meeting of LWV Virginia will be June 6. There are many interesting topics on the agenda, including updates to the two policy studies LWV Virginia is undertaking.

9:00 AM Plenary Session

Welcome

Introduction of Board/Off Board

Roll Call of Local Leagues

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Credentials Consideration/Adoption

Rules Consideration/Adoption

Program Consideration/Adoption

Minutes of the 2018 Council



Readers of 2020 Council Minutes  
Advocacy Challenge Results  
FY 21 Operating Fund Budget Consideration/Adoption

FY 21 Education Fund - Review

10:00 AM – Election Security Policy Update

11:00 AM – LWV-VA Affordable Housing Study Report Summary.

12:00 PM – Break

12:20 PM – Keynote Speaker Allison Robbins, Registrar, Wise County VA

1:00 PM - Review of Voter Outreach for November Election

1:55 PM Break

2:00 PM - Constitutional Amendment on Universal Voting - Claire Gastanaga, ACLU  
Virginia

3:00 PM Ranked Choice Voting Tina Bunjo, FairVote, Virginia

4:00 PM – National Popular Vote – Eileen Reavey, National Popular Vote

5:00 PM – Closing Remarks

**RSVP to get the Zoom link**

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### Committees

TONIGHT May 20 - 7:00 PM **Election Integrity Committee** - contact **Lisa**

**Koteen Gerchick** for Zoom link - [lkoteengerchick@gmail.com](mailto:lkoteengerchick@gmail.com)

Note: the **June Book Club** will meet virtually on **June 14 at 2 PM** because our

normal meeting date falls on Fathers Day. The book is the "*Adams Women*" by **Paul C Nagel**. Contact [Joan](#) for information.

**2021 Convention Committee** – the combined Arlington/Fairfax Planning Committee for the 2021 LWV VA Convention will meet on **May 21 3 PM** – Contact [Joan](#) for the Zoom link.



### **Centennial Corner – Mid-May 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. 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](mailto:seema.kakad@gmail.com)).

### **Women's Organizations: Coalition and Conflict**

Political and social movements encompass a creative cacophony of organizations whose goals, strategies, and organizational cultures often clash. As a result, managing inter-group conflict and devising ways to work in coalition constitute important challenges for leaders of movement groups. In 1920, the newly formed League of Women Voters had to find its place within the flourishing social reform movements of the day, which meant working out its relationships with other women's organizations.

The National Woman's Party (NWP) was one such organization. The League's predecessor, the National American Woman Suffrage Association, had sparred with the NWP over political tactics during the organizations' common pursuit of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. After ratification, the NWP and the League diverged over which policy goals should be prioritized next. This divergence reflected a deeper philosophical schism over what women's equality should actually look like. The NWP turned its attention to ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment, while the League worked with other women's groups to pursue health and labor legislation protecting women. Each organization saw the other's policy agendas as a threat to gender equality. This schism would last for fifty years and help keep the organizations distant from

one another.

Another important women's organization of the day was the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). The League's relationship with the GFWC was friendly but also had to be managed. The GFWC had been formed in 1890 and was instrumental in pushing Progressive Era social reforms, including widows' pensions (the precursor to what came to be known colloquially as "welfare"). When the League came on the scene, the GFWC was concerned that the newcomer would "steal its thunder," according to League founder Carrie Chapman Catt. The concern was understandable: The organizations had state and local units in the same places, drew from similar populations of women, and had common policy goals. To ease tensions, the presidents of the two organizations, the League's Maud Wood Park and GFWC's Alice Ames Winter, issued a joint letter in 1921 committing to "the most cordial relations" between the local and state units of each federation. The letter noted that the League was focused on legislative work, while the GFWC was more focused on public education. To the extent there was overlap in these approaches, the two presidents said, it "should be used to promote mutual strength and understanding, never rivalry or antagonism."

*Sources: Barbara Stuhler, For the Public Record (Pogo Press, 2003), 57, citing Sara M. Evans, Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America (New York: The Free Press, 1989), 187-88, and Clarke A Chambers, Seedtime of Reform: American Social Service and Social Action, 1918-1933 (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1963), 171-73; Stuhler (2003), 59, citing Jacqueline Van Voris, Carrie Chapman Catt: A Public Life (New York: The Feminist Press, 1987), 121, and Barbara Stuhler, Gentle Warriors: Clara Ueland and the Minnesota Struggle for Woman Suffrage (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press 1995), 71-72; Maud Wood Park and Alice Ames Winter, "Joint Letter to Local Branches of National*

*League of Women Voters and General Federation of Women's Clubs," The Woman Citizen, October 22, 1921, LWV Papers on film, III A.I. 0620, reprinted in Stuhler (2003), 59-60, quote at 60; Theda Skocpol, Protecting Soldiers and Mothers (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1992).*

## Films

**Mark your calendars!** 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](#).

And for programming already in progress, tune into "Mrs. America," the story of the ERA battles of the 1970s and 1980s. The 9-episode miniseries is running from April 15-May 27 on Hulu (subscription only). Forthcoming episodes will be released on Wednesdays.

## 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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**Encore learning** joins a year of women's suffrage celebrations with a virtual lecture by economist **Jim Grefer** -

### **The Industrial Revolution's Influence on American Women's Rights Movements**

Monday, **June 15**, 2020 from **3:00 PM until 4:30 PM**

Speaker **Jim Grefer** posits that throughout human history, gender roles have been determined by a confluence of factors such as economics, religion, and law. These produced varying degrees of social egalitarianism and dominance. But, for much of American history, the result was the nearly complete subjection of women, especially married women, to men.

The emergence of the industrial revolution altered this course, modifying the roles of women in families, product markets, education, and social norms. Within a few



generations, women came to influence society in powerful ways, leading to the first [Women's Rights Convention in 1848](#) and a trajectory toward basic civil rights.

Advance registration is not required, and **this event is open to all**. When joining the meeting **you may be prompted to enter your name and email address before being admitted to this free event**.

For more information and for Zoom link click [here](#)

**Some good examples of how to mark off six feet from Laura Lawson**



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**Look for next newsletter June 3**

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