



League in Action

November 18, 2020

President's Message

Democracy is in Full View

As the world watches dedicated citizens spending hours to count the voice of the people, we can be proud of the role the League took in turning out the highest number of voters in a century. However, we have more work to do. (Don't we always?)

Our friends at Reclaim the Vote are already working on the two Senatorial elections in Georgia. So, you post card writers and phone/text bankers, no rest for the weary! Remember, the League NEVER supports or opposes any candidate. We work with Reclaim and the NAACP because they are nonpartisan and their programs are designed to help people who have been historically disenfranchised from the voting system and have been further hurt by the gutting of the Voting Rights Act.

We also need to keep our eyes on Virginia as the pending Biden Administration might tap some of our seated officials for positions and thus leading to more elections right here!

If you are ready to "Empower Voters and Defend Democracy" once again, keep reading.

Thank you, be well and much love!

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE THANKSGIVING!!!!!!

Joan

P.S. Now that we have a bit of downtime, catch up on the these great "Centennial Moments" in each newsletter brought to you by **Seema Jain** and **Kristin Goss**.

Reclaim the Vote Georgia Phone Banks Are Open!

Reclaim the Vote is continuing their efforts to reach disenfranchised voters before the Georgia run offs. They have lists of BIPOC voters who have been "unregistered" by Georgia officials in response to the decimation of the Voting Rights Act.

This is a nonpartisan effort to register disenfranchised voters.

To access phone bank training go to <https://www.votinginformation.org/rovphonebankcentral/>

If you do not need training you can proceed to <http://centerforcommonground.org/main/>
Hover your cursor over CAMPAIGNS - and the click on "The Voter Project" --- and then click Georgia. On the bottom of the page you will find the link to the various counties they are targeting.

The League of Women Voters of Georgia is also restarting their "Mobilization Mondays" to reach disenfranchised voters. We are waiting on their information.

Yes, There Are Postcards.

Reclaim will use postcards for Get Out the Vote (GOTV). Our batch will be in soon - and they need to be dropped only between Dec 1 - Dec 7.

Email me LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com to get on the list. The cards arrive on Nov 20.

Thanks!!!!!!

No Rest for the Weary...

Joan

Amendment #1 Passes at the Polls

--- and it passed with 66 percent of the vote.

Thanks to League members for massive engagement in support of this achievement.

The Amendment, which took two years to bring to the voters, after having to pass two different sessions of the General Assembly, creates a redistricting commission rather than having maps drawn by the majority party. Districts will need to be drawn in accordance with strict requirements of federal and state laws that address racial and ethnic fairness and provide opportunities for racial and ethnic communities to elect

candidates of their choice.

Thanks to our own **Chris DeRosa**, who heads up the State redistricting efforts, no easy task this year!!

[LWV-VA statement on passage of Amendment 1](#)

The League of Women Voters of Arlington Salutes Poll Workers

This year, more than ever, the hard work of poll workers has allowed millions of Virginia to cast their vote safely. "Poll workers have always been the backbone of our free and fair Democratic process," declared Joan Porte, President of the League of Women Voters of Arlington, Virginia. "This year, their work was not only more vital, it was also more personally dangerous, and still they persevered."

[Read the press release here](#)

LWV-Arlington is on the air at Arlington Independent Media

Tune in to LWV-Arlington radio show "Making Democracy Work" with **Krysta Nicole Jones** -



Episode 1 - **Black Women in Advocacy**

Episode 2 - **Civic Engagement**

Episode 3 - **Popular Vote**

[Listen to the first three programs here](#)

Looking for gifts for the coming year? Make a continuing donation to ECDC and receive a different scented candle every three months.

Refuge of the The Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. has been in Arlington for over 30 years serving refugees as well as those with a very low-income. They have worked closely with us on voter registration programs.



Become a Refuge Member!

Make a \$25/month (or more) online recurring donation as a ‘Refuge Member’ and we’ll mail you Refuge candles four times a year. Women refugees handcraft, wrap, and sign these scented candles. Enjoy lavender, vanilla, soothing orange, orange clove and rose fragranced candles!

[Make a continuing donation to Refuge here](#)



Each candle is made by refugee women, each is hand-poured, signed, and scented with essential oils.

EVENTS

November 22

FROM INSIGHTS TO ACTION: ONE FAIRFAX



Please join the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area for an insightful program on Fairfax County's policy on social and racial equity, ONE FAIRFAX

PANELISTS OF DISTINCTION:

Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Dr. Scott Brabrand, Superintendent of the Fairfax County Public Schools

Karla Bruce, Program Director ONE FAIRFAX

MODERATOR:

Jill Follows, Co-Chair LWVFA Committee on Action and Advocacy

Sunday, November 22, 2020

2:00 – 3:30 P.M.

See <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/2020gm> for details.

[RSVP here](#)

December 2

**LWV-VA Pre-Session Women's Legislative Roundtable
Wednesday, Dec. 2**

Every year in December, the League of Women Voters of Virginia sponsors the Pre-Session Women's Legislative Roundtable before the next Virginia General Assembly Session.

We invite directors and policy and advocacy experts from many nonprofit organizations to speak about their priority issues and legislation, and to give their predictions on what may or may not happen during the next Session. We generally have 15 to 20 speakers who each speak for 5 to 7 minutes.

This year, the LWV-VA Pre-Session will be held **virtually** on Wednesday, **Dec. 2, 9 AM-2 PM**, with a lunch break scheduled around noon. We are delighted that this year's keynote speaker is **Brian Koziol**, Director of the Virginia Housing Alliance, who will speak at 11:30 AM.

In addition to the keynote presentation, the morning program will include:

- LWV-VA President **Deb Wake** and LWV-VA Advocacy Chair **Julia Tanner** discussing the League's upcoming legislative priorities.
- Commissioner of Elections **Chris Piper** sharing his observations on the

2020 election.

- Virginia Secretary of Finance **Aubrey Lane** presenting his insights on the the challenges Governor Northam's administration faces.

[Register for the Pre-session here](#)

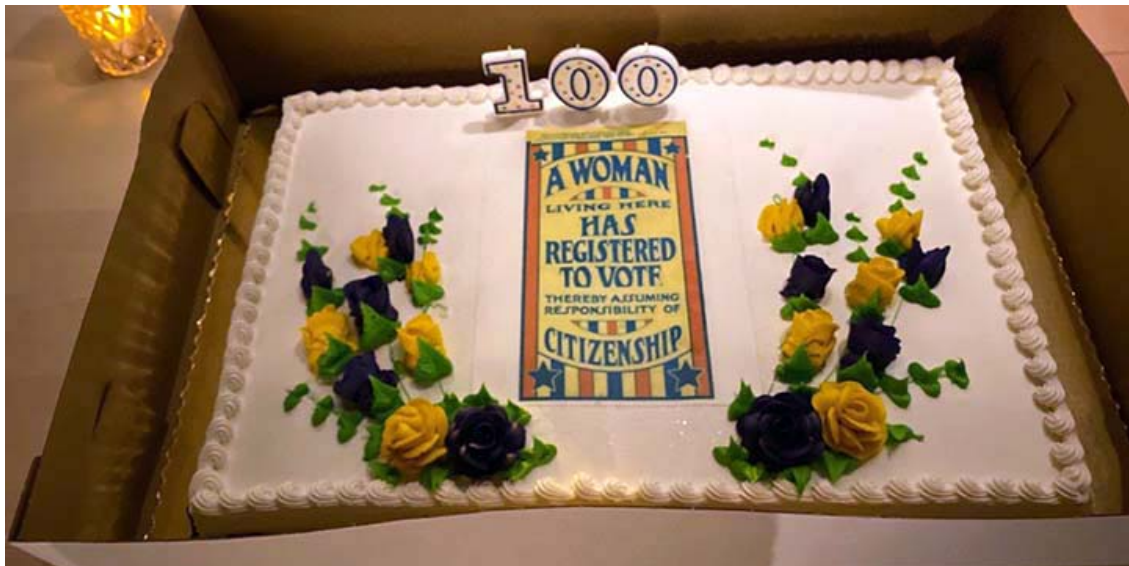
December 10

Celebrate Our Past and Forge our Future:

The League of Women Voters of Virginia – 100th Anniversary

Dec.10, 2020 – 7 PM

Virtual Event



Join other League members for a celebration of "100 Years of Perseverance" – the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

Speakers include **Mari Julienne** of the Library of Virginia who will discuss Virginia Suffrage efforts and LWV member and former LWV US Executive Director, **Nancy Tate**, who will focus on League history. She will also have several ideas on how we can all preserve our history.

Local League presidents will highlight their past accomplishments and share their hope for our future.

THEN we PARTY! Bring a cupcake, brownie or whatever (perhaps an adult beverage) to the screen – with a candle and we will have a group celebration of US.

[RSVP here to get the Zoom link](#)

Committees

November 18 – 7 PM – Election Integrity – contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick** –
lkoteengerchick@gmail.com

November 23 – 7 PM – Affordable Housing – contact **Joan** at Joan@joanporte.com



Centennial Corner – November 18, 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).

Mothering the Earth: How Women and Our Organizations Have Tried to Save the Planet

The U.S. is preparing to rejoin the Paris Agreement on global climate change. Let's celebrate this move by spotlighting the leadership role that women and women's *organizations* – including the League – have played in environmental preservation over the decades.

This dispatch begins with a dose of realism. The elite environmental movement, like many movements, has been male dominated for too many years. A 2011 tally found that across the five largest environmental groups, women constituted less than 40% of the senior staff and less than 30% of board members.

But throughout history, many of the most consequential change makers and movement troops have been women. The League has played a critical role in this history. Today, the world's most prominent activist against global climate change is a 17-year-old girl. So, there is cause for hope.

As scholars have documented, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, White women's clubs adopted environmental matters as part of their core mission. Reflecting the times, much of their work focused on protecting and preserving spaces of public import. For example, women led the campaign to set aside Colorado's historic Native American cliff dwellings as a national park. Black women's organizations saw environmental protection as a means of promoting public health. In these different ways, women's groups early on saw the long-term benefits of environmental consciousness.

The modern environmental movement owes much to **Rachel Carson**, whose seminal work, *Silent Spring* (1962), warned of the dangers of pesticides. A scientist and writer, Carson was not known for her leadership in women's organizations. But close and mutually enriching linkages quickly developed between the movement she inspired

and local Leagues. Leagues to this day [honor](#) her leadership and [celebrate](#) her example.

During the middle decades of the 20th century, the League was among the most prominent citizens' groups advocating for seminal environmental policies. The main focus was water resources. A study of upstate New York concluded that the League "played a central role in the cleanup of Lake Erie during the pollution crises of the 1950s to the 1970s, and ultimately helped contribute to the rise of the modern environmental movement in the United States by fueling public awareness of environmental issues...and creating a solid base of informed citizens that later environmental activists could build upon and turn to for needed assistance."

Beginning in the 1970s, women were the pioneers in naming and framing "environmental justice" as a moral imperative and in mobilizing local community members around the cause. Environmental justice focuses on identifying environmental threats that spring from – and reproduce – racial, class, and other systemic inequalities. Environmental justice organizations are locally rooted and typically led by Black, Indigenous, Latina, and other women of color. Their work is wide ranging and responds to community-identified problems, including asbestos remediation, toxic waste cleanup, and reforestation.

During this time, when the second-wave female liberation movement was at its peak, theorists sought to link feminism with ecological awareness. This framework helped inspire "ecofeminism." The ecofeminist movement was rooted in the understanding that women are symbolically and experientially connected to "mother earth" and that women (like the earth) are prone to exploitation.

Today, the movement to stem global climate change may have no more powerful leader than Greta Thunberg, a 17-year-old who has inspired student strikes for climate

action around the world and become a serious contender for the Nobel Peace Prize. Young women are showing the way forward, as their foremothers did.

Sources

George, John I. 1970. Statement before the Subcommittee on Conservation and Natural Resources of the House Committee on Government Operations hearing on "The Environmental Decade." February 4, pp. 120-128. ("But close and mutually...local Leagues.")

Goss, Kristin A. *The Paradox of Gender Equality*. 2013. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. ("A 2011 tally found that...board members.")

McCammon, Holly J., et al. 2018. "Women, Leadership, and the U.S. Environmental Movement." Ch. 14 in Holly J. McCammon and Lee Ann Banaszak, eds., *100 Years of the 19th Amendment*. New York: Oxford University Press. ("As scholars have documented...promoting public health; "Their work is wide ranging...and reforestation).

Schulte, Terrienne. 2006. *Grassroots at the Water's Edge: The League of Women Voters and the Struggle to Save Lake Erie, 1956-1970*. Ph.D. diss. State University of New York at Buffalo. ("played a central role...needed assistance.")

Arlington Board Member Nancy Tate was featured in Season 4 – Episode 6 of the "How We Got Here Podcast" - of NBC12



Her segment on the 100th anniversary of suffrage is at the end of the episode.

Listen to the podcast - Season 4, Episode 6 - [here](#)

Articles and Media

"Voting in Arlington: Then & Now," Center for Local History, Arlington Public Library (Oct. 29, 2020). Also, check out the related virtual exhibit by the Arlington Historical Society, "[A Short History of Voting in Arlington](#)" (which includes a flier distributed by the LWV-Arlington to African America neighborhoods in Arlington to let them know about the poll tax in advance of going to the polls).

"A Year of Stories and Milestones in the Fight for Women's Suffrage," Center for Local History, Arlington Public Library (Sept. 17, 2020).

Events

Past Events Now Available to Stream

The Write Stuff: Records on Women's Battle for the Ballot (1 hr. 12 min.). The research and writing process is crucial to any successful manuscript – even more so for works of nonfiction that rely upon first person source material to tell a story. On Oct. 10, in a virtual event hosted by the U.S. National Archives, three authors, Winifred Conkling, author of *Votes for Women: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot*; Marjorie Spruill, author of *Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women's Rights and Family Values that Polarized American Politics*; and Elaine Weiss, author of *The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, discussed their work on researching women's rights and suffrage and the movement that followed.

Runyon v. McCrary (56 min.). On Sept. 10, 2020, Arlington Historical Society hosted a virtual presentation by Richard Samp who told the story of how an Arlington family's need for child care ultimately became a Supreme Court case to desegregate private schools.

Civil War Colored Troops (1 hr. 22 min.). On Aug. 3, 2020, the Arlington Historical Society hosted an online panel discussion by three local historians and reenactors, Edward W. Gantt, Ben Hawley, and Michael Schaffner who discussed African American regiments organized in what was then Alexandria County (now Arlington County) during the Civil War.

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.**"

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.

Look for next newsletter December 2

[Read LWVUS statement on Election 2020 here](#)



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