



League in Action

September 2, 2020

President's Message

The seasons are changing. We are now into fall and the traditional thick of the Presidential Election season. Yes, I know it feels like that is what we have been working on this for decades – instead of a few months.

Attached is our new multilingual flyer – please either print out a few copies (or ask me for them) and be sure you bring them to any store you might be visiting. Many hourly workers haven't the time to get to the polls – we need to help them register and vote.

Pandemic postcarding is winding down – but we have 3000 more names to get out by the end of September! Who can make this final push a success? Please email me!

Reclaim the Vote is moving into texting and phone banking soon and our nonpartisan friends at the Unitarians for Social Justice Ministry are phonebanking in Wisconsin now. . Below you will find more information on both.

This is what we do – and we do it well!!

Thanks,

Joan

[Multilingual flyer](#)

Our work has not gone unnoticed! LWV US has reached out to us and I will be sharing all of our Covid voter registration ideas with other leagues at the next organizing meeting:

September 3 – 3 PM

[Register here](#)

Due to the hurricane, our voter registration efforts at Census Palooza were postponed until Sept 12.

If you can help our OR help with our voter registration efforts at the Arlington Food Assistance Center, please sign up here!!

We will be at AFAC in mid September and have a few spots still open.

Thanks

[Voter Registration Sign Up](#)

Census Palooza was Postponed Due to Hurricane Laura BUT

Pam Berg's car was ready for the parade as part of Census Palooza in Green Valley!

To help out there and other locations on the new date, September 12, see the Voter Registration Sign Up - above.



Report from Pam - relaying a compliment to you all -

I was out decorating my Jeep for the parade (assuming it would happen) - and

while I'm doing that one of the residents here is getting in his car nearby. He says: 'Hey! I just want to thank you all for what you're doing; I really appreciate it and it's really important. So, thank you!'

How cool is that? People notice!

Read Shirley Ruhe's interview with Pam in The Arlington Connection

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.

IF you aren't sure if you need to renew your membership, contact Anna Weber at Lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com

<https://my.lwv.org/virginia/arlington/join-us-0>

Shout out to **Beth Cogswell**, who is not only checking the Post Office box every week, writing postcards every week, managing, with **Marj Hobart**, the Condo Election Program and covering two farmers markets with sandwich boards!

Pandemic post card leaders: **Susan Sarcone, Julie Rosenberg, Marilyn Gould, Marion Sproggins, Anne Murphy, Barbara Franklin** whose teams have written thousands of postcards.

WE HAVE ANOTHER BATCH OF POSTCARDS FROM RECLAIM THE VOTE! AND NOW THE PHONEBANKING STARTS!

This will be our last batch of names of people disenfranchised by the gutting of the voting rights act.

EMAIL JOAN IF YOU WANT TO COMPLETE OUR LAST 3000 NAMES.

lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com. When we finish these we will have hit 26,000 cards!!!

Reclaim the Vote, the organizer of this state-wide program is slow moving away from postcards to phone banking and texting and they are offering classes for anyone interested.

"Phone Bank Training for Introverts (and friends)" Wednesday, September 2nd, 7:00-9:00pm EST/ 6:00-8:00pm CST/ 5:00-7:00pm MST/ 4:00-6:00pm PST

The Unitarians for Social Justice Ministry are phone banking now to disenfranchised voters in Wisconsin.

Sign up for Reclaim the Vote phone banking information here

Sign up for Wisconsin phone bank information with UUSJM

CONTACTLESS VOTER OUTREACH!!!! STARTING NOW!!

We have 3000 door stickers (like those that overnight carriers slap on your door when you are not home) that we need to distribute to low turnout precincts. All you need to do is put the sticker on the door. You can go at your pace and we have gloves! Email us for more information or to volunteer.

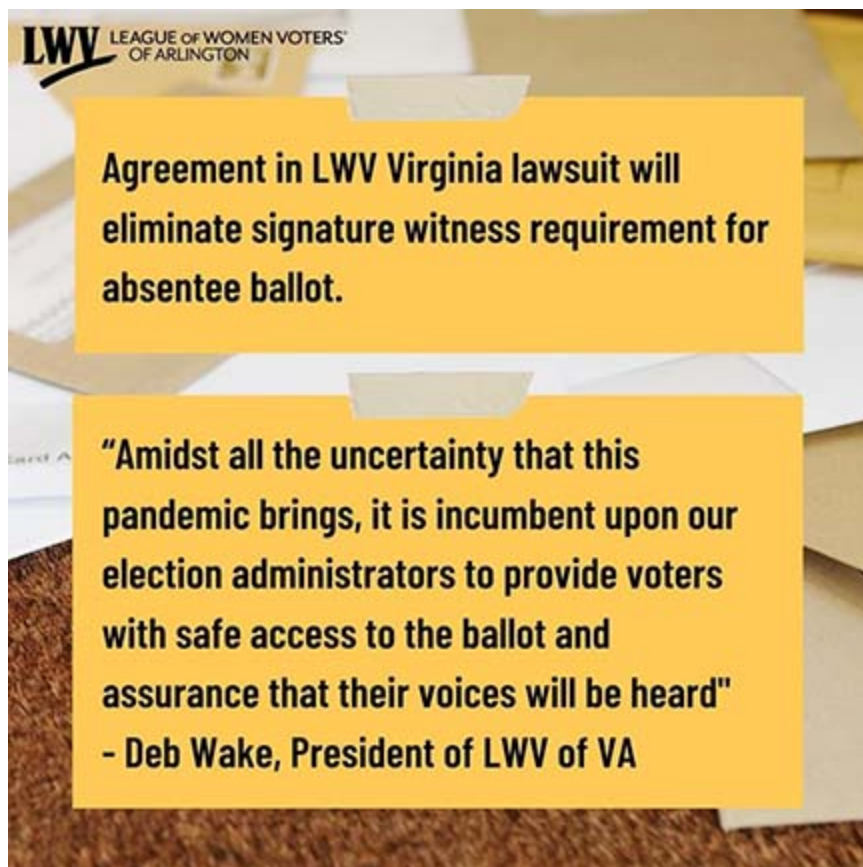
lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

Let's get those people to the polls!!!



Members **Emma and Robin Wosje** and friend **Mong Panella**- distributing fliers 8/20

League of Women Voters of Virginia Celebrates a Victory for Voters



The League of Women Voters of Virginia and ACLU Virginia Succeed in Removing the Witness Requirement from the November Ballots

Judge rules in favor of waiving witness requirement so voters can safely cast absentee ballots

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the League of Women Voters of Virginia filed a lawsuit seeking to suspend the requirement that a voter casting an absentee ballot have a witness observe and sign the ballot envelope. On August 21, a federal judge ruled in favor of LWV-VA, meaning that voters won't have to worry about putting their health at risk to locate a witness to sign their ballot for

the November general election. “We saw how Virginians and their votes were protected when the state agreed to waive the witness requirement for the primary election, so we are relieved that the same protection will be in place for November,” said Deb Wake, president of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. “Amidst all the uncertainty that this pandemic brings, it is incumbent upon our election administrators to provide voters with safe access to the ballot and assurance that their voices will be heard.”

[Read the press release here](#)

LWV-VA Commends General Assembly on Advancing Bills to Protect Voters

The Virginia General Assembly Senate and House of Delegates on Aug 28 passed budget bills supporting safe elections during the pandemic. These bills are now heading for crossover, the next step in the Special Session of the Virginia legislature.

[Read the press release here](#)

EVENTS

FALL WORKSHOP!

The themes for fall are:

Voting and Access to the Polls

League Basics

September 11-12 , 2020

Join us 7 PM on September 11 for an opportunity to informally meet with fellow members and discuss important topics. COVID 19 has taken away this chance to learn from one another. We will break into virtual rooms to try to gain some of that back.

We start at 9:00 AM ("doors open" at 8:50 AM), with our informational program.

For more information and to RSVP go to:

Our speakers include:



Maggie Bush

LWV US

**"Get Out the Vote in
2020"**



Andrea Miller

Poor People's Campaign

Virginia

**"Combating Voter
Suppression"**



**Kelley McFarland
Stratman**

LWW US

**"Leadership
Development"**



Betsy Lawson

LWW US

**"League Lingo and
Position Studies"**

Committees

Sept 15 – 7 PM **Election Integrity** NOTE DIFFERENT DATE ONLY THIS MONTH

Contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick** lkoteengerchick@gmail.com

Sept 21 – 7 PM – **Redistricting** – Contact **Ann Sharp**
sharpab2828@gmail.com

Sept 24 – 1 PM – **LWV VA Convention Committee** Contact **Kathleen Matusiak** kmatusiak@comcast.net

LWV-VA President Deb Wake testifies before VA Senate Finance Committee on Election Security



[Read her testimony here](#)

The County Board met on August 25 to set satellite locations for voting

[Read Joan's statement to the County Board here](#)

The Arlington County Board approved five satellite offices for early voting in the November 3, 2020, presidential election in anticipation of unprecedented demand for early voting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read the press release here](#)



Encore Learning program --The 2020 Election-are we really ready?

Sept 21.

Some League members attended a similar program last year put on by Encore. They have continued with their Monday afternoon programs via Zoom.

These Monday afternoon programs are free and do not require Encore Learning membership.

[Sign up for the program here](#)



Centennial Corner – September 2, 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).

Feature

Yes, our GOTV efforts this year are challenging, but our LWV-Arlington predecessors faced challenges too. For example, in 1964, also a presidential election year, the 24th Amendment to the Constitution—outlawing the poll tax as a qualification for voting in federal elections—was ratified. Nevertheless, there was lots of confusion and uncertainty in the community regarding the effect of the new laws on voter registration. And so the Arlington League partnered with Arlington County to distribute non-partisan information on the new registration laws. As reported by then President of the Arlington League Ellen Bozman in April 1964, the League began distributing 20,000 paper fliers (a copy of which is below) to apartment buildings and to the public to provide some clarity to the public in preparation for the upcoming election. And as you can see below, the message they were conveying was not the simplest. So take heart, LWV-Arlington members, even in a pandemic, we are just part of a long tradition of GOTV.

YOUR VOTE
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Elections have been won

BY ONLY ONE VOTE ! !

THIS YEAR YOU CAN VOTE FOR

*** U. S. President and Vice President

*** U. S. Senator and Representative

UNDER A NEW LAW

IF YOU ARE REGISTERED

* AND DO NOT WISH TO PAY THE
CAPITATION (POLL) TAX
and were registered before
December 1, 1963, fill out
a certificate of continuing
residence at the office of
your city or county treasurer
by May 2. This will qualify
you to vote in the July fed-
eral primary and November
general elections. If you
registered after December 1,
1963, you need do no more -
you are qualified already as
a federal voter.

IF YOU AREN'T REGISTERED

* AND DO NOT WISH TO PAY
THE CAPITATION (POLL) TAX
be sure to register as a
Federal Voter at the office
of the registrar before
June 13 to vote in the
July federal primary or
between July 15 and
October 3 to vote in the
November general elections.

OR

OR

* IF YOU WISH TO PAY THE
CAPITATION (POLL) TAX
be sure to pay it by
May 2. This lets you
vote in local and state
elections as well as the
July federal primary and
November general elections.

* IF YOU WISH TO PAY THE
CAPITATION (POLL) TAX
be sure to pay it by May 2.
You must then register be-
fore May 9 to vote in local
city and town elections,
before June 13 to vote in
the July federal primary or
between July 15 and October 3
to vote in the November gen-
eral elections.

VOTING LAWS HAVE CHANGED
for FEDERAL ELECTIONS

CLAIM YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

League of Women Voters of Virginia

Click the image to enlarge.

Events

Sept 2, 6 pm: How Black Women Broke Barriers (Women & Politics Institute, American U)

Dr. **Martha S. Jones**, of John Hopkins University, will discuss her forthcoming book, [Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All](#), "the epic history of African American women's pursuit of political power -- and how it transformed America." Details and registration [here](#).

Sept 9, 6 pm: She Votes! (Women & Politics Institute, American U)

Award-winning journalists **Lynn Sherr** and **Ellen Goodman**, co-hosts of the [She Votes! Our Battle for the Ballot](#) podcast, will discuss the complex history of the women's suffrage movement, and its enduring significance during their tenure reporting on women's rights and social change issues. Details and registration [here](#).

Sept 10, 7 pm: *Runyon vs. McCrary*: Arlington and the Desegregation of Private Schools. (Arlington Historical Society)

Arlingtonian and lawyer **Richard Samp** will discuss the 1976 U.S. Supreme Court case *Runyon vs. McCrary*, which extended the ban on racial segregation to private schools, and involved a segregated pre-school here in Arlington. Samp will discuss the people and places involved in this Arlington-focused case and its interesting aftermath. Details and registration [here](#) (Note: register by Sept 9).

Missed it Live? Not too Late.

Aug 18 Premiere of "Finish the Fight," a digital play commissioned and

produced by the New York Times to bring to theatrical life the biographies of lesser-known activists who helped to win voting rights for women. A recording of the performance is available to stream [here](#).

Aug 26 Unveiling of Women's Rights Pioneers Monument in Central Park. Monumental Women unveiled the Women's Rights Pioneers Monument featuring New Yorkers Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Sojourner Truth (abolitionists, suffragists, and women right's pioneers). Re-watch the live event [here](#).

Journalism to Check Out

[The 19th*](#). A non-profit, non-partisan newsroom reporting on gender, politics, and policy. "In short: The 19th Amendment remains unfinished business, a fact we acknowledge in our logo with an asterisk — a visible reminder of those who have been omitted from our democracy. The expansion of the franchise continues today, and The 19th aims to capture this ongoing American story." The 19th offers a daily and weekly [newsletter](#).

[The Lily](#), published by the Washington Post. The Lily was the first U.S. paper by women. "Enter The Lily of 2017. A revival. A comeback. A publication for women, sure. But the curious ones. The ones who have something to say and who want to be heard. Our mission is two-fold: Empower with news and information and promote inclusivity by exposing diverse voices. The Lily of today is a place for the curious." Lily Lines [newsletter](#) is published on Mondays and Thursdays.

[Perspective: Grandma Cele, the unknown Ojibwe suffragette](#)

Read the [profile of Cecelia Rabideaux](#) by Mary Annette Pember in [Indian Country Today](#). Cecelia Rabideaux's great niece, Lynn Bigboy of the Bad River reservation

is the current president-elect of the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

What Raising the Age of Sexual Consent Taught Women About the Vote.

By Kimberly Hamlin - [smithsonianmag.com](https://www.smithsonianmag.com)

Before many women could vote in the United States, they lobbied male legislators to change statutory rape laws and gained political skills in the process.

Virginia history - 100 years ago a "no" vote on suffrage

Va. balked on women's vote out of racial fears

by Jeff E. Shapiro - [Richmond Times-Dispatch](https://richmondtimesdispatch.com)

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](https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american-women-and-the-vote)"

National Women's History Museum. "[Crusade for the Vote](https://www.nwhm.org/exhibitions/crusade-for-the-vote)."

Alice Paul Institute. "[For Democracy: Celebrating 100 Years of the 19th Amendment](https://www.alicepaulinstitute.org/exhibitions/for-democracy)."

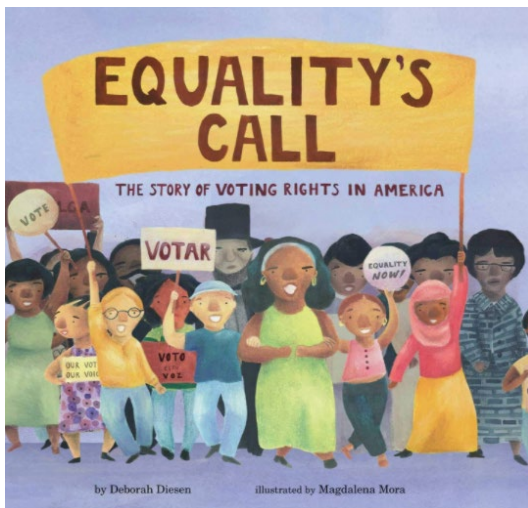
Carol Simon Levin, [*Remembering the Ladies*](#). The author has made available a free electronic version of this book, which profiles 69 women who fought for women's political inclusion and participation.

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.

Books about Suffrage for the Youth In Your Life

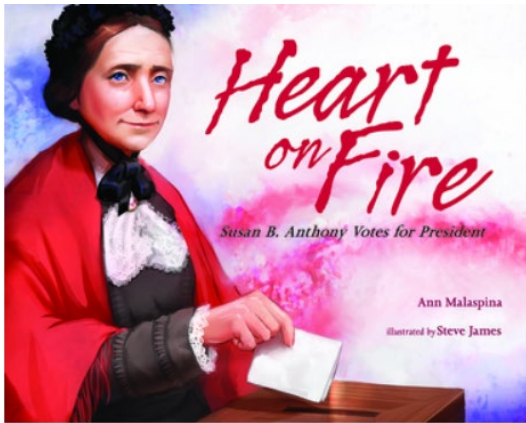


[Equality's Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America](#) by Deborah

Diesen. "The founders of the United States declared that consent of the governed was a key part of their plan for the new nation. But for many years, only white men of means were allowed to vote. This unflinching and inspiring history of voting rights looks back at the activists who answered

equality's

call, working tirelessly to secure the right for all to vote, and it also looks forward to the future and the work that still needs to be done." Recommended for ages 3-8.



[Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President](#) by Ann Malaspina. "On November 5, 1872, Susan B. Anthony made history--and broke the law--when she voted in the US presidential election, a privilege that had been reserved for men. She was arrested, tried, and found guilty: "The greatest outrage

History ever witnessed," she wrote in her journal. It wasn't until 1920 that women were granted the right to vote, but the civil rights victory would not have been possible without Susan B. Anthony's leadership and passion to stand up for what was right." Recommended for ages 5-9.



[Lillian's Right to Vote](#) by Jonah Winter & Shana W. Evans. "An elderly African American woman, en route to vote, remembers her family's tumultuous voting history in this picture book publishing in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965." Picture book; recommended for ages 5 to 9.



[Finish the Fight](#) by

Veronica

Chambers. From the book description: "Who was at the forefront of women's right to vote? We know a few famous names, like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, but what about so many others from diverse backgrounds—black, Asian, Latinx, Native American, and more—who helped lead the fight for suffrage? On the hundredth anniversary of the historic win for women's rights, it's time to celebrate the names and

stories of the women whose stories have yet to be told." Recommended for ages 8-12.

See LWV-VA President Deb Wake's Recommendation to Vote Yes

on Referendum 1 in the September Virginia Voter

[Read the Virginia Voter here](#)

Setting up signs at Dawson Terrace Park with help from future Voters:)



Kathy Matusiak teaching the grandchildren early –
get out that vote!!



Look for next newsletter September 16, 2020

★ **WE'RE REGISTERED TO VOTE – ARE YOU?!?** ★



Scan and Register Online Today!



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