



League in Action

April 1, 2020

President's Message

Believe me, I have thought of how bizarre it is to do this letter on April Fool's Day. This past month seems like some colossal trick on us! However, there is nothing funny about the Covid 19 pandemic. However, our work continues and has never been more important. As soon as the final ballot for June 9 is established (around April 6) we will be reaching out to condominium and apartment managers and civic associations with information sheets on how to get absentee ballots.

We will also be using all social media platforms and encouraging members to distribute the information on listservs and other neighborhood outlets. This is the time to think outside every possible box so please email me with your ideas to go "virtual." On the State level, we are working on many levels looking toward the November elections. So, stay tuned and keep thinking. 😊

We are working on a state and local level to assure that we have safe and secure elections this November. You will be hearing more about this soon and there will be opportunities to work on this very important project.

Remember, to reach out to League members for support and encouragement. As

the song goes, "Some day we will be together."

Joan

Responding to Emerging Urgent Community Needs

-from Arlington Food Assistance Center - excerpt from message to the community from AFAC: The changes to our distribution method and our heightened cleaning and sanitation procedures have added a lot of work to our operations team. To help us out, **we have hired some temporary staff members**, most of whom were recently laid off from their jobs at local restaurants. They will help with all the extra tasks so our full time warehouse staff can continue with their duties and volunteers can still bag and stock our shelves with food.

Thank you all for the tremendous support you have given to AFAC so far! Your monetary donations have helped us with our food purchases and cleaning supplies to keep our facilities and people safe. Your food donations have helped replace the donations we are not getting from the grocery stores. **This is only the beginning of this pandemic and we hope we can continue to count on your help and support.**

[Read AFAC March 27 update/donate/volunteer](#)

**Campaign Finance Reform Advocacy Letter from
League member Nancy Morgan**

Dear Colleagues in the Arlington League,

We had hoped to get some campaign finance bills passed this year but they all died and recent comments from local legislators indicate that this is a challenging issue, one certainly that needs more direct citizens advocacy. As a member of the Arlington League and the coordinator of our Virginia chapter of [America Promise](#) **I would like to invite you to join us** to actively advocate against the corrosive impact of money on our elections, our public officials and public policies. It is quite urgent because of the weak campaign finance legal structure in Virginia. Virginia ranks among the bottom of all fifty states in both transparency of and accountability for campaign finance contributions and expenditures, and ethical enforcement.

So, let's plan to begin an earlier targeting of legislators to build advocacy so the bills get out of committee next year. With your help and strategic input, we will work to build grassroots advocacy in communities across Virginia and encourage them to pass local resolutions supporting getting money out of politics. Did you know that the County Board of Arlington passed a [resolution](#) in 2012 supporting the growing call for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to reverse the effects of Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission and restore fair elections to the American people?

Interested in how resolutions are passed? Listen to our [recent conversation](#) with Sean Barnett, who with Move to Amend in 2013, got 3 communities (Alexandria, Arlington, and Falls Church) to pass such resolutions. Now, our challenge is to make this resolution mean something and work to build awareness of the issue!

If you're interested in this issue, please fill out this [quick two question survey](#) which will allow us to strategically target individual legislators.

If you have any questions, contact **Nancy Morgan**/Arlington League member (but from Alexandria) and coordinator of the VA chapter of American Promise at nancyruthmorgan@gmail.com

Our **annual meeting** is still scheduled for **May 16**. However, we will be in a virtual format.

Mark your calendar for 10 AM – 12:30 PM and “join” us.

League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area

**INVITES YOU TO JOIN US
FOR A**

VIRTUAL

Annual Convention

10 AM Saturday, May 2, 2020

*** Approve Bylaws Amendment, * LWVNCA Budget for 2020-2021 and
* Elect Officers & Directors for 2020-22**

These challenging times call for innovative ways to continue to conduct our business and move forward with the League's mission, so we will be holding our annual meeting via Zoom video conference.

In order to meet our quorum, at least 25 delegates must attend this on-line meeting. Once you have registered, you will receive information about how to participate. If you have never used Zoom before, we will hold a pre-meeting practice session.

Registration is Free: Click [Here](#)

Or go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwvnca-annual-convention-tickets-100674882283>

[See the flyer here](#)

Post Legislative Session Roundtable

We don't have photos, but we do have a recording of the program in case you missed it.

[Watch the Post Legislative Session Roundtable here](#)

Thanks to our intrepid Board member, **Seema Jain**, our first virtual Post Legislative Session Roundtable was a success! All members of the Arlington/Alexandria delegates and senators joined us to answer questions about

the recent General Assembly session.

Questions centered on COVID, redistricting, voter rights and civil liberties.

LWV-VA Calls for Vote By Mail Ballots for Spring Elections

LWV-VA president Deb Wake is encouraging state officials to consider vote by mail for spring elections in the interests of being sure that every person who wants to vote has the right to vote during the pandemic.

[Read LWV VA letter to Commissioner Piper supporting voting by mail for spring elections here](#)

[Read LWV VA letter to Attorney General Herring supporting voting by mail for spring elections here](#)

[Read LWV VA letter to Governor Northam supporting voting by mail for spring elections here](#)

LIVE CONSTITUTIONAL CLASSES ONLINE

As students shift to remote learning during the COVID-19 crisis, **the National Constitution Center is offering live interactive classes on the Constitution**, led by President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen and scholars Kerry Sautner, Tom Donnelly, and Nicholas Mosvick. **Available for middle, high school, and college students**, these daily interactive sessions allow students to

sign up for remote learning via **Zoom** where they can participate in daily lectures and lively conversations about the basic principles of the U.S. Constitution. **Using the acclaimed nonpartisan Interactive Constitution** as a learning platform, **the National Constitution Center offers these free classes to students of all ages** and will enlist thought leaders, historians, and judges from all perspectives to offer special lectures on the Constitution during the months ahead.

Live classes will take place at 1 p.m. ET Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and be streamed live. **To register your student or class through Zoom**, and for private Scholar Exchanges or Classroom Exchanges, visit the full calendar [here](#).

We will also be announcing live America's Town Hall programs. Check back soon for updates!

[See Online Civic Learning Opportunities from the National Constitution Center here](#)

EVENTS

April 2

You can STILL sign up for OAR's Annual Breakfast Fundraiser on 2 April 2020 at 8:00 AM! That's tomorrow! This event will be a virtual live-streamed event and it's not too late to participate.

If you can't participate, you can still donate! This is a difficult time to request donations; but if you're able, even small amounts are gratefully welcome (\$5.00/\$10.00).

If you questions, please contact **Pam Berg** (pberg16@comcast.net or 703-309-2057).

[Please click here to RSVP directly to OAR](#)

LWV Virginia Is Looking For Help on Their Communications Team.

If you have some time Virginia State League needs help with various aspects of their communications program. This includes the website, newsletter and social media. Email us for more information. Thanks.

April 26

1:30 PM

**Our First Student-Run Candidate Forum – featuring candidates for
County and School Board!**

Our students are moving forward with this program which will be presented on Zoom. We are going to mirror this as closely as possible to our successful “candi-dating” program from last year.

Thanks to our students. Please join us. We will send the link out soon.

Committees

April 15 – 7 PM - **Election Integrity** – contact Lisa Koteen Gerchick
lkoteengerchick@gmail.com for the Zoom link and information.

Among other things, they are working on messaging for
the get-out-the-vote for the June 9 primary.

April 19 - 1:30 PM – **Book Club** - contact **Joan Porte** Joan@joanpporte.com
for the link. The book is Joseph Ellis, *American Dialogue: The Founders and
Us*

April 20 – 7 PM - **Redistricting** – contact **Ann
Sharp** sharpab2828@gmail.com; **Jackie Rivas** jackiejr@verizon.net for the
Zoom link and information

It is all hands on deck for the November ballot!



Centennial Corner – Early April 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).

Spotlight: Maud Wood Park

When League founder **Carrie Chapman Catt** declined to run for president of the new organization, **Maud Wood Park** emerged as its presumptive inaugural leader. As League historian **Barbara Stuhler** notes, "Park had already made her mark in the suffrage movement." At 49 years of age, she was younger than other suffrage leaders but had amassed three decades of experience fighting for women's right to vote.

While still in her 20s, Park had organized the College Equal Suffrage League. Like many other reformers of the day, she was a believer in federated organizing and

traveled the country setting up suffrage-advocacy chapters on college campuses. She eventually led the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association and, on behalf of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, directed congressional lobbying for the 19th Amendment.

Upon taking over in 1920 as the League's first president, Park championed the organization's founding mission: "to foster the study of citizenship" and "to promote improved legislation." However, she thought the League could be even more important in other, less formal ways, which she termed "the by-product of our efforts." These included fostering public faith in democracy (eroding widespread cynicism), bringing women together in solidarity and common cause (mediating partisan divisions), exposing male elected officials to the concerns of the average voter (as opposed to the sectional interests and personal favor-seeking to which they were accustomed), and helping voters to see all sides of public issues (not just the one-sided views presented by the parties).

Park served as the national League's president from 1920-1924. She donated her papers to Radcliffe College, her alma mater, in 1943; this collection provided the foundation for the Schlesinger Library, perhaps the foremost repository of materials on women's history in the U.S.

Park died near Boston in 1955, at age 84.

Sources: Sharon Harman Strom, "Park, Maud May Wood" in Barbara Sicherman and Carol Hurd Green, eds., *Notable American Women: The Modern Period* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1980), 519-522, in Barbara Stuhler, *For the Public Record* (Pogo Press, 2003), 41-42. Document 6: Maud Wood Park on the League's Purpose and Adversity," reproduced in Stuhler,

51-53; "Maud Wood Park," Wikipedia

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maud_Wood_Park) (accessed, March 29, 2020).

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.archivesfoundation.org/women/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIwvGq-pzA6AIVDniGCh2JUQ80EAAAYASAAEgJLifD_BwE

National Women's History Museum. **"Crusade for the Vote"**

<http://www.crusadeforthevote.org/online-exhibits>

Alice Paul Institute. **"For Democracy: Celebrating 100 Years of the 19th**

Amendment" <https://www.alicepaul.org/2020-exhibition/>

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](#)

Meet Our Mascot



Meet **Chester**, foster dog of Membership Chair **Anna Weber**. We all need a little bit of Chester's joy and activism now.

Look for next newsletter April 15





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