



## League in Action

February 19, 2020

### President's Message

We just came off an exciting week celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League and LWV Virginia's League Day. The informative Women's Legislative Roundtable featured updates from our State Legislative Team, including our own **Julia Tanner**, and legislators such as **Vivien Watts** representing the 39<sup>th</sup> District and the 13<sup>th</sup> District's **Danica Roem**.

After visiting delegates and the House and Senate Galleries to hear the LWV praised from the floor, we attended lunch and were treated to our amazing speaker, the award-winning journalist, **A'lelia Bundles**.

The next day we had a private tour of the home of Maggie L Walker and the fantastic Tredegar Civil War Museum. The pictures shared here tell only a part of the story.

Of course, I have to **brag about Arlington**. We had the largest delegation of any Virginia league with fifteen representatives in attendance! We were well represented by **Chris De Rosa, Marj Signer, Janet Boyd, Julia Tanner,**

**Jackie Rivas, Lisa Koteen Gerchick, Pam Berg, Debby Churchman, Connie Potter, Joan N Curry** (and her husband **Frick** who was a trooper) **Anne Murphy, Joan McDermott, Ann Sharp** and, yours truly.

**It was a great celebration** of our 100<sup>th</sup> and how "Women Power the Vote!"

Happy Birthday to US,  
Joan

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**Celebrate that Virginia was 38!**



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

# EQUALITY CELEBRATION

## SUNDAY, MARCH 8 · 3PM

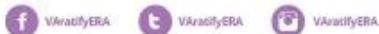
Monroe Park - 620 W. Main Street, Richmond, VA

*Parade \* Marching Bands \* Giant Puppets \* Food Trucks \* And More!*

Join us as we march from Monroe Park to the Virginia State Capitol to celebrate Virginia making history for equal rights! This year, Virginia became the 38th and final state needed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). For more info, visit [VAratifyERA.org](http://VAratifyERA.org)

Rain or Shine | Family Friendly | Free Street Parking | All Welcome

#ERA2020 #VAratifyERA #EqualRights



[More information here](#)

Anyone who wants to go contact **Julia Tanner** [jktanner1@gmail.com](mailto:jktanner1@gmail.com)

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## **Report on Redistricting and Next Steps**

The fight for People-Powered Fair Maps is almost complete in the 2020 General Assembly. **Five of six bills that the league is supporting have passed one chamber and crossed over to the other.** One bill (HJ71) remains in the House P&E Committee .

### **Current State of Bills**

**SJ18** (Constitutional Amendment) passed the Senate by a vote of 38-2 and has crossed over to the House.

**HJ71** (Constitutional Amendment) sits in the House P&E – Constitutional Amendment subcommittee. Action **could** happen by the modified deadline of February 20<sup>th</sup> .

**SB203** (criteria bill) passed the Senate on an unexpectedly-close vote of 20-20; Lt. Governor Fairfax cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of the bill. Crossed over to House. Referred to House P&E.

**HB758** (criteria bill) passed the House on a bipartisan vote of 83-14 (with 2 abstentions). Crossed over to Senate. Referred to Senate P&E.

**SB236** and **HB784** both place the Constitutional Amendment (if passed) on the ballot in November 2020. Both passed with strong bipartisan support : 40-0 in the Senate; 83-11 in the House.

### **What happens next?**

The House and Senate must continue the process of “cross over” by acting on the bills passed by the other chamber.

The Senate has referred HB758 and HB784 to the Senate P&E Committee.

The House has received SJ18, SB203, and SB236. SJ18 has not yet been read on the floor of the House nor has it been assigned to committee. SB203 and SB236 have been referred to House P&E.

It is crucial that the House of Delegates pass one or both resolutions (bills) on the Constitutional Amendment. The Speaker of the House, Eileen Filler-Corn, plays a centric role – she can bring any bill directly to the floor for a vote. The House can act on HJ71 – the House can also act on SJ18. By passing either (or both) bill(s), the path to #fairmaps and the end of gerrymandering will be much clearer!

### **What Can YOU Do?**

Call or email your delegate and ask him to make fair redistricting a reality by voting for SJ18, HJ71, and SB203. Find the name of your delegate and phone # here at [\*\*"Who's My Legislator?"\*\*](#)

**Patrick Hope** 804-698-1047

**Alfonso Lopez** 804-698-1049

**Rip Sullivan** 804-698-1048

**Mark Levine** 804-698-1045 (*note: Mark Levine is adamantly opposed to these bills, but it's still important to let him know that his constituents support them*)

*Also...*

**Eileen Filler-Corn** 804-698-1041 (Speaker of the House)

**Joseph Lindsey** 804-698-1090 (*Chair, House P&E Comm*)

**Marcus Simon** 804-698-1053 (*Vice chair, House P&E; chair, P&E Constitutional Amendments subcommittee*)

- Read about the Commission that's proposed in HJ71/SJ18 [here](#)
- Read this [recent piece](#) by OneVirginia2021
- More endorsements [here](#)
- Here's a [short video](#) asking voters to contact their delegates about HJ71 – share it you're your friends and family
- To track bills on redistricting, view the League's google sheets [here](#)

*By Chris DeRosa  
LWV VA Redistricting Co-Chair*

**Remember to Report all Advocacy HERE:**

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## **First Call for Volunteers for LWV US Convention**

When the LWVUS Convention convenes in Washington DC, League members from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia can **volunteer** to help with many tasks including **registration, hospitality, plenary**, etc. This historic convention marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League of Women Voters. It will take place: **June 25-June 28**, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington DC.

Everyone who volunteers will receive:

\*\*One free ticket to the Capitol Steps performance June 26

\*\*\$10 transportation stipend (hotel is convenient to Union Station metro)

\*\*Opportunity to sit in on any official session(s), hear the debates, and prominent speakers

\*\*Take pride along with one thousand colleagues from around the nation in our 100 years of empowering the vote

The early bird gets the worm, so **the sooner you sign up** the more likely you will be able to select the task, the day, and the time that best suits your schedule.

NOTE: Former President, **Kathy Matusiak**, is Hospitality Chair and current President, **Joan Porte**, is Plenary Chair of the Convention.

[Please sign up here](#)

**We will also need Arlington members to help sell our “wares” at Convention.**

**If you are interested email Joan at [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)**

Be a part of history – be a part of our 100<sup>th</sup>!

## **EVENTS**

**March 5**

## Celebrate Two Arlington League Members and Other Female Leaders:

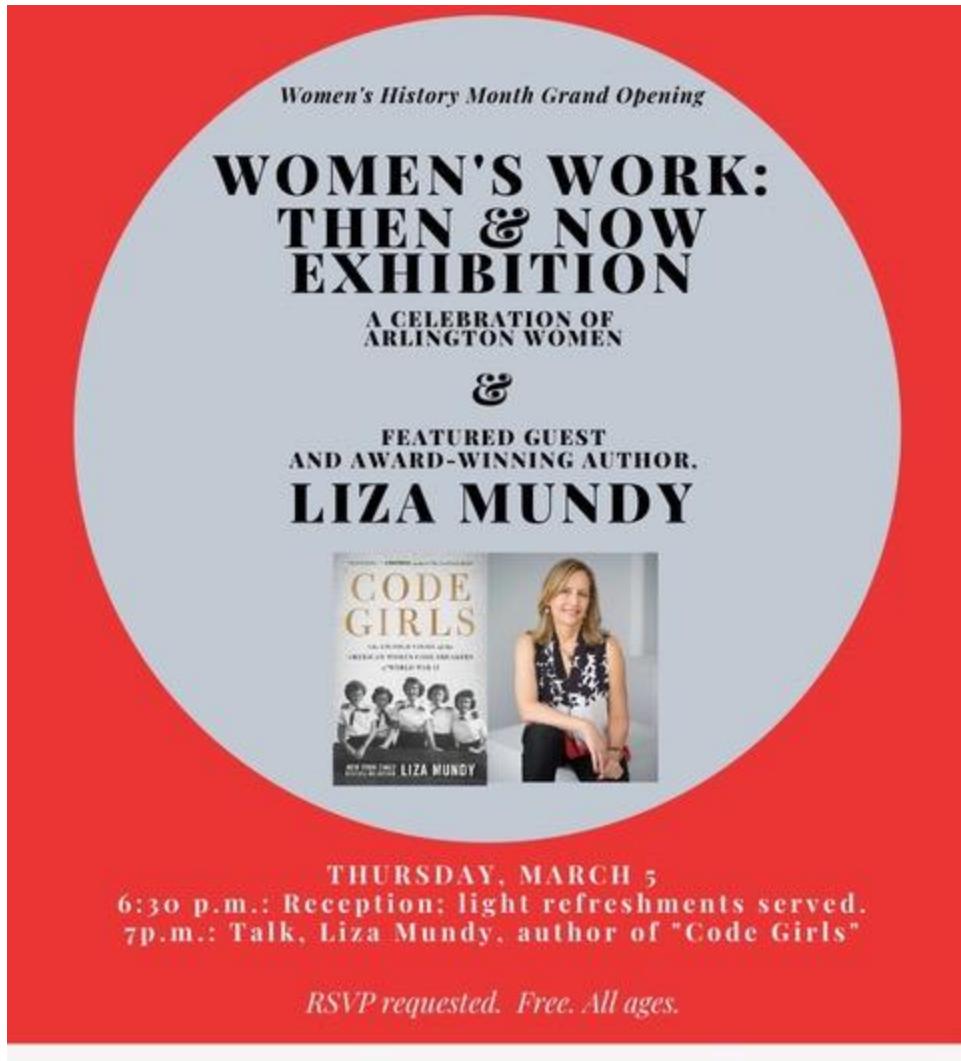
Huge congratulations to Arlington League leaders **Seema Kakad Jain** and **Nancy Tate!** They will be featured in an exhibit, "**Women's Work: Then and Now,**" showcasing exemplary female leaders over more than a century of Arlington history.

Please join us in celebrating Seema, Nancy, and the other honorees on **Thursday, March 5**, at the Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. The **reception is at 6:30**, followed by a talk by **Liza Mundy** about her book *Code Girls*.

The exhibit, which runs throughout March at the Arlington Central Library, commemorates Women's History Month. The exhibit features **29 women leaders nominated by 20 community organizations.**

The Arlington League nominated **Seema** and **Nancy** because they so perfectly fit the exhibit's goal of celebrating "groundbreakers, trailblazers, visionaries and leaders influential to your organization's work and mission."

[RSVP here](#)



RSVP requested. Free. All ages.



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[LIBRARY.ARLINGTONVA.US/EVENTS](http://LIBRARY.ARLINGTONVA.US/EVENTS)

CENTRAL LIBRARY



1015 North Quincy Street | 703-228-5959

**Feb 28**

### Suffragist Sash Making Workshop

**Sponsored by Arlington County Government Network for Women Leaders (WOW)**

February 28, 1-4 pm, Central Library Maker Space

**Celebrate** 100 years of women's right to vote by making your very own protest sash. Sashes were worn by supporters of women's suffrage, and were worn to rallies, parades and street-speaking events to show solidarity and communicate a clear message. WOW, is hosting this do-it-yourself workshop to show you how to create your own sash.

**Drop in** for an hour any time **between 1-4pm on Friday, January 28**. All skill levels are welcome, and materials will be provided. The event is free, but [RSVPs](#) are requested to help us plan appropriately.

## **March 7**

LWV National Capitol Area (LWV NCA) Workshop  
March 7, 2020 10 AM – 1 PM

### **Truthfulness in Voting and Voter's Rights across the US**

Panelists include:

- Dr. Susan Moeller** of the Merrill School of Journalism at the University Maryland
- Yuripsy Morgan** of WBAL radio
- Colin McGuire**: columnist for the **Frederick News Post**

**Denise Rolark Barnes**, publisher of the **Washington Informer**, will moderate this panel.

The Second Session will raise our awareness beyond our immediate NCA area to

issues facing the nation regarding Voting Rights. Are we making progress in stopping the cleansing of the registration lists in Ohio? What is happening with the ability of Native Americans to get to the polls? Are polls open and freely available to peoples of all colors? Do convicted felons have the ability to vote freely?

The workshop is free.

[RSVP here](#)

## **March 28**

### **Save the Date!**

Post Legislative Session: This is proving to be a whirlwind legislative session. Make sure you **mark your calendar for our Post Legislative Session**, where you will be able to question our delegates about what they did - and did not do – this year.

**March 28 – 2:15 PM** – at the studios of the Arlington Independent Media.

## **April 2**

**We are again taking a table at the Offenders Aid and Restoration OAR fundraising breakfast**

Thursday, 2 April 2020 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. Breakfast is free but

attendees are asked to make a donation to OAR. Contact **Pam Berg** for more information [pberg16@comcast.net](mailto:pberg16@comcast.net)

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## Committees

Feb 19 – 7 PM - **Election Integrity** contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**  
[lkoteengerchick@gmail.com](mailto:lkoteengerchick@gmail.com).

Feb 24 – 7 PM – **Affordable Housing** – contact **Carol Brooke**  
[changetheclimate555@gmail.com](mailto:changetheclimate555@gmail.com).

Feb 27 – 7 PM – **Planning for Candidate Forum** – This will be a student run forum – student members encouraged to attend. Contact **Joan** at [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com).

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## From LWV US

### Seeking Intergenerational League Members

Are you an active League leader who joined because of your mother and you still go to League events together? Have you brought your own daughter to League meetings and trained her to register voters? Alternatively, maybe you know a League family in your community that has a powerful story. **We are looking for an intergenerational story** of a mother / daughter (and could include a 3rd generation) of active League leaders that demonstrates our commitment to building the future of our organization.

**We want to hear from you!** Please email [kvix@lwv.org](mailto:kvix@lwv.org) with your story!

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## Yorktown High School Voter Registration



**Judith Collins** and **Kathy Perry** engaged with students in voting exercise

On Feb 3rd and 4th, **twelve volunteers registered 135 students** to vote at Yorktown. **Great Work!!** We were scheduled to visit 15 classes but ended up visiting 17 classes.

**Many thanks.** You all did a fantastic job interacting with the students and raising their consciousness on the importance of voting.

*Photos and reporting by Don Gurney*



**Sampriti Ganguli and Denise Waldrop**



**Sandy King**

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## LWV VA Junior Centennial Celebration at League Day



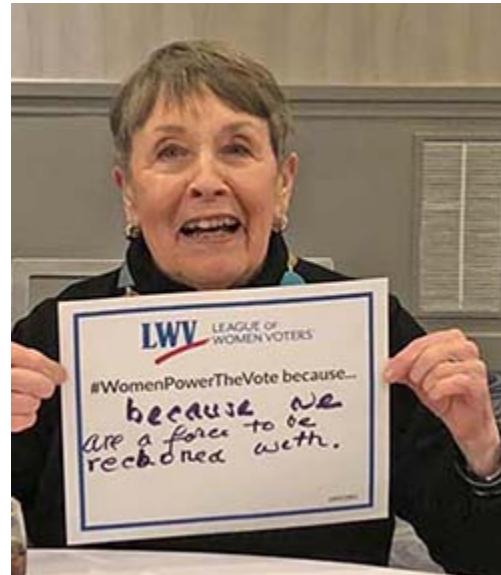
LWV VA Centennial luncheon booklet



luncheon speaker **A'Lelia Bundles**



**Julia Tanner with Brian Cannon of One Virginia 2021**



**Pam Berg, Ann Sharp, Debbie Churchman and Connie Potter on  
Why Women Power the Vote**

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**Look for next newsletter March 4**

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