



League in Action

January 22, 2020

President's Message

We knocked it out of the park with our Day of Action. **We had almost 60 people come and wrote hundreds of postcards** to the General Assembly! The photos below tell the story best. **Thanks** to all who came and all who helped make the day a success.

Speaking of events: **mark your calendar** for a very special and fun anniversary celebration here in Arlington – **February 18 at Mrs. Peacock's Champagne Lounge!** I said it would be fun Our Centennial Soiree on Tuesday, **February 18** from 6 – 9 PM at Mrs. Peacock's Champagne Lounge, 929 North Garfield Street, Arlington. We will be toasting to the 100 years of activism of the League of Women Voters and the passage of the 19th Amendment. We will also be celebrating the many men and woman who fought for the right to vote for *all* women through games. We might also toast the passage of the ERA (another cause championed by the League.)

Tickets are \$25 and include hors d'oeuvres and dessert. Champagne and other beverages extra. **Wear white - or your favorite roaring 1920's or 2020's attire!**

RSVP

I hope all of you can join LWV Virginia in our **100th anniversary celebration** of the founding of the League at our expanded League Day, **February 12**. If you can stay in Richmond overnight, join us for a private tour of the new Civil War Museum. Check out all of the events and...

RSVP here

Also, save **May 16** for our Annual Meeting.

Thanks,
Joan



Virginia Pres **Deb Wake** (left) and board members **Ernie Bridges** and **Julia Tanner** in Richmond after passage of ERA.

Voter Registration – Do You Live in an Apartment or Condominium?

Contact Connie Potter 13cpotter@gmail.com - to discuss how we can get voter registration information to them or conduct a drive in the building.

Feb 10 is the deadline for Super Tuesday registration!

[Please sign up here](#)

We Still Have Some Slots Open For High School Registration

High School Voter Registration - 10 Volunteer Slots Still Available

Many thanks and a tip of the hat to the 35 volunteers who have signed up for the vast majority of the class visit slots.

Due to scheduling issues at W-L on Jan 24 we will now conduct lunch period table voter registration instead of class visits.

We still need volunteers for 10 slots

- Jan 23 at W-L - 2 afternoon
- Jan 24 at W-L - 2 slots for table registration during lunch periods

- Jan 27 at Bishop O'Connell - 3 slots in the morning
- Jan 29 at Bishop O'Connell - 2 slots in the afternoon
- TBD at Langston - 1 slot

Let's fill the rest of the slots!

[Sign Up Here](#)

Coming Soon - LWV-Arl Radio Show Hosted by Krysta Jones



LWV Virginia - Task Forces and Issue Groups

Are you interested in working on legislative task forces for the State League? We are expanding advocacy programs and need people who can help educate and advocate for a variety of issues. Contact **Julia Tanner** - jktanner1@gmail.com if you want to learn more!

2021 State Convention

Speaking of dates: LWV of Arlington joins LWV of the Fairfax Area to host the LWV Virginia 2021 Convention at the Alexandria Mark Center Hotel in 2021. **We are looking for committee members** to invite speakers – set up exhibits etc. This will be a lot of fun. **Contact Joan** for more information Joan@joanporte.com.

Do you want to be “on the inside” of the 2020 LWV of the United States 100th Anniversary Convention in Washington DC in June?

If you want to volunteer to work at the Convention and be a part of history (and see how the “sausage is made at this event” –**contact Joan** – Joan@joanporte.com).

Committees

Book Club – Jan 26 – contact **Joan Porte** Joan@joanporte.com

Our Book is *Death of Expertise* by **Tom Nichols**.

Affordable Housing – Jan 30 – contact **Carol Brooke**

changetheclimate555@gmail.com

Centennial - Feb 4 – contact **Nancy Tate** tatenancye@gmail.com

The Women's Legislative Roundtables Are in Full Swing!

Join members of the League of Women Voters of Virginia for our Legislative Roundtable of the new General Assembly Session.

We begin at 8:30 AM. Training will end at 9:30 and then you will have time to meet with members of the General Assembly. Please remember to schedule your appointments with them in advance.

Roundtables are held every Wednesday while the General Assembly is in session starting January 15.

Proposed schedule for WLRT topics:

- **January 29:** Human Rights (incl. Women's Rights), Education, Behavioral Health
- **February 5:** Environment, Transportation
- **February 12:** League Day: Voting & Elections,

- **February 19, 26 & March 4:** to be determined

Join us and be ready for action!

[Register for Roundtables here](#)

Input for School Superintendent Search

Please consider attending one of the following 45-minute focus group events at Syphax, to give your thoughts on what's important in Arlington's superintendent search:

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. rooms 452-454

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6 p.m. rooms 452-454

Friday, January 24, 2020 at 7 p.m. rooms 254-256

You and your community can also participate in a survey scheduled to open on January 21st.

You are invited to participate at any of the four open Community Forums on:

Wednesday, January 22 at 7 p.m. (*Spanish*), Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road

Wednesday, January 22 at 7 p.m., Washington-Liberty High School, 1301 N. Stafford Street

Saturday, January 25 at 10 a.m., Wakefield High School, 1325 S. Dinwiddie Street

Saturday January 25 at 10 a.m., Dorothy Hamm Middle School, 4100 Vacation Lane

You also can give written input on the search process at any time via <https://www.apsva.us/engage/engage-aps-online-feedback/> or by sending an email to engage@apsva.us. Additional information about the superintendent search can be found on the APS website at <https://www.apsva.us/engage/search-for-new-aps-superintendent/>.

We know you agree this search is very important, to the school system, our students, and families, and we hope that you will take full advantage of all of these opportunities!

LWV Arlington is featured on the LWV US website as a DEI success story!
Way to go Arlington!!!

[Read About US](#)



Centennial Corner - January 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).

Nonpartisanship Was Controversial Even Then

The League of Women Voters decided at the outset that it would be nonpartisan. This move was controversial, and for understandable reasons. Political power was amassed and exercised through parties. If women were to work primarily through a nonpartisan organization, would they dilute the power of their long-sought franchise? Undermine the party system? Divide the sexes?

The New York Times covered the controversy in a January 15, 1922, article. (Hat tip to [@WomenVote100](#) for [sharing it on social media](#).) Reproduced below (and linked [here](#)), the article quotes prominent females who thought that women should disaffiliate from the League and devote their political energies to the parties.

PARTISAN LOYALTY URGED UPON WOMEN

League of Voters Members Ad-
vised to Get Out and Stand
By a Regular Party.

MRS. HARDING SENDS LETTER

Wife of President Praises Repub-
lican Party—Speeches at Women's
National Republican Club.

Women were urged to affiliate themselves with the regular political parties and to avoid membership in non-partisan organizations such as the League of Women Voters and the Woman's Party, by practically all the speakers at the birthday luncheon of the Women's National Republican Club at the Hotel Biltmore yesterday.

Miss Alice Robertson, Representative in Congress from Oklahoma, advised Republican women now in the League of Women Voters to get out. Mrs. Medill McCormick of Chicago said that the time had passed for a separate women's organization like the league, and that there was no need to draw the sex line in this country. John T. Adams, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, said he would rather have a woman be a Democrat than belong to some nonpartisan or woman's organization. Mrs. Warren G. Harding, wife of the President, in a letter regretting her inability to attend emphasized the necessity of the maintenance of effective party organization.

Party Reform From Within.

Miss Robertson, who said she used to be an anti-suffragist, advised the women, if they did not like anything in the local Republican organization, to begin at the bottom and work within the party to change it. "I am going to speak right out in the open," she said. "If any of you Republican women belong to the League of Women Voters, the quicker you get out of it the better. Get out your Bible and see where it says no man can serve two masters. These nonpartisan parties are trying to ride two and possibly three horses at once. They haven't been in the circus business long enough to be able to accomplish it. I love the Republican Party, and, in a less degree, the Democratic Party. Like steel, one must sharpen the other. Don't let anything else break in."

Mrs. McCormick said that the women of the United States had shown their capacity for politics by bringing about the submission and ratification of the Woman Suffrage amendment. "The time has passed now, however," she continued, "for a separate women's organization, whether you call it the League of Women Voters or the Women's Party. We have no need in this country to draw the sex line. The parties are open to us, and it is incumbent upon us to prove that we do not lack decision as individuals and that we are steadfast enough to stand by the party of our choice."

"If it fails from time to time to live up to the standards we have set for it, let us realize that we are at the threshold of a new era and that it is for us to devote all of our energies to the solving of the party's problem, and by working side by side with the men we will stimulate it and vulcanize it and make it the party ideal as it is the party of our choice. Educate the women. I say educate both the men and women, and educate them together."

"About the poorest thing a woman can do politically is to be a non-partisan," said Mr. Adams. "There is just as much logic in forming a party of women as there would be in green-eyed, red-haired or bald-headed men forming a party."

The League was quite aware that newly empowered women might feel torn between the nonpartisan League and their preferred political party. In a November

1920 column in *The Woman Citizen*, LWV President Maud Wood Park addressed these concerns:

"1. Does the League of Women Voters intend to become a separate party of women?"

Emphatically not! We urge our members to enroll in the political parties of their choice and expect to have their assistance inside party lines in securing party support for our measures...

3. Does [the LWV] not interfere with the work of women for their political parties?

No, the work for the parties and the work for the League are not in any sense antagonistic but rather supplementary....The League of Women Voters gives women time to learn all sides of public questions as a basis for their choice of party affiliation. In the same way, it gives women an opportunity to come together as women and consider the measures women want and to see the advantages of these measures not from the point of party bias and party advantage but of public welfare."

Sources: "Partisan Loyalty Urged Upon Women," *The New York Times*, Jan 15, 1922, E26; "Document 2: Misperceptions About the League of Women Voters," adapted from Maud Wood Park, "Five Questions," *The Woman Citizen*, Nov 20, 1920, reproduced in Barbara Stuhler, *For the Public Record* (Pogo Press, 2003), 33-34.

Feb 13: Nancy Tate on "Arlington Women Who Fought for the Vote"



Nancy Tate, co-chair of the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative and former Executive Director of the national League of Women Voters, **will describe what it took for women to win the constitutional right to vote.**

The 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified on August 26, 1920, after 72 years of organized effort.

It was the greatest expansion of democracy on a single day in US history, and yet is a story that is little known. Learn about the suffrage movement in Virginia, and in Arlington, and the resulting evolution of the League of Women Voters.

Thursday, February 13, 2020

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Arlington Historical Society

Reinsch Library Auditorium, Marymount University

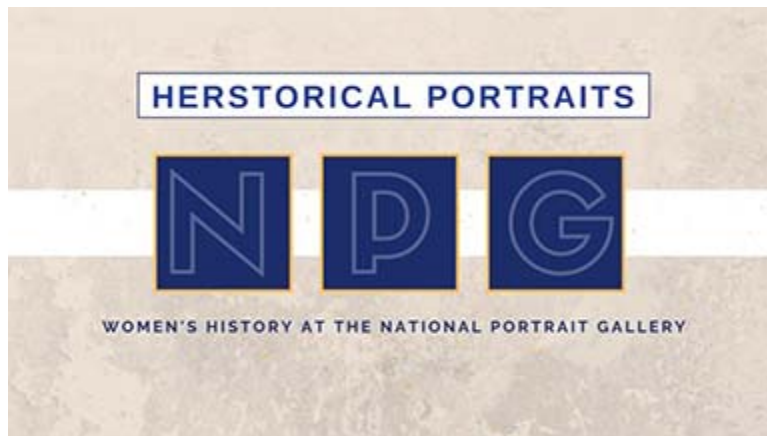
2807 North Glebe Road - Arlington 22207

[Read Arlington Historical Society Event Announcement here](#)

Can't attend? You will have another opportunity to hear Nancy speak on
Arlington Women Who Fought for the Vote at 7 PM on
March 18 at the Shirlington Public Library.

Tours Tours Tours (Click on the posters for information and tickets)





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
@AlicePaullInstit
@100thSuffrageDC
@INSuffrage100
@Suffragist



LWV-Arl observed the opening of the 2020 VA Legislative Session With
a Day of Action Jan 12



The Day of Action was preceeded by **a brief membership meeting** to discuss
League policies, voter registration and the League's role in 2020 and 2021,



The event featured tables devoted to various issues with opportunities to access information and write postcards to legislators.



On January 15 **Virginia became the 38th state** to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The path to law remains uncertain, and opportunities for advocacy remain!



"The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process." *LWWUS*



Advocating for fair redistricting



Advocacy one postcard at a time



Advocacy conversations





High School Voter Registration Now in Progress

High school voter registration started off with with a bang January 21. **We registered 50 students at Wakefield.** We will register more students at Wakefield Friday.



Kathy Perry with **Charles Head** conducting voter registration at Wakefield.



Sara Walters checking voter registration forms filled out by students.

Look for next newsletter February 5



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