



League in Action

January 8, 2020

President's Message– It is time for voter registration.

Happy New Year! What a year it will be. **We have three elections** in Virginia this year, Super Tuesday is on March 8, the Federal and local primary day is June 9 and the General Election on November 3.

We are kicking off the year with our winter high school voter registration program and expect to register close to 1000 young people. **Please sign up** for our training program on January 16 at 6 PM at the Central library.

Please RSVP:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/training-high-school-registration-tickets-86115442607>

If you cannot attend the training but want to help register students, please contact our Voter Services Chair, Don Gurney. donnwren@comcast.net.

We are also kicking our **condominium and apartment** voter registration program into high gear. **Connie Potter** and her crew are starting to visit managers to get permission to conduct drives in their buildings. If you are

interested in getting involved with them, or if you have made contacts with your building, let Connie know 13cpotter@gmail.com.

We also need people to enter data from these drives into our spreadsheets. If you aren't free to do the voter registrations but can help with this please let our Membership Chair, Anna Weber know anna.a.weber@gmail.com.

Thanks!

Joan

P.S. **Thank you** to the Centennial Committee under the direction of **Nancy Tate**. The amount of work they are doing to bring you Centennial information is just astounding and I hope everyone gets a chance to read through this historical information (see below.)

Committee Meetings

Election Integrity – Jan 15 – contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**
lkoteengerchick@gmail.com

Redistricting – Jan 21 – contact **Jackie Rivas** jackiejr@verizon.net or **Ann Sharp** sharpab2828@gmail.com

Book Club – Jan 26 – contact **Joan Porte** Joan@joanporte.com Our Book is *Death of Expertise* by **Tom Nichols**.

Affordable Housing – Jan 27 – contact Carol Brooke

changetheclimate555@gmail.com

Are You Interested in Serving on the Board?

Contact Kathy Matusiak if you have any questions about or interest in serving on the board for the 2020-2021 year beginning in July. kmatusiak@comcast.net

EVENTS

Jan 12

DAY OF ACTION - Bring a friend!

This is an opportunity to let the members of the General Assembly know how we stand on issues. We will have information sheets on all of our major legislative concerns. Visitors will be able to write postcards and influence the General Assembly – which begins on January 8.

The Day of Action begins at 2:30 PM but **come at 1:30 PM for a brief membership meeting** about our plans for 2020 and other updates on policies and programs

[RSVP here](#)

Feb 12

LEAGUE DAY

**Come Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the LWV –
This will be a very special League Day!**

**Wed, Feb 12, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM, plus optional activities on Thurs, Feb
13, 9:30 AM - 3 PM.**

In the morning on Feb 12, come to the Sun Trust Building (919 East Main Street) at 8:30 AM to learn of our positions and goals for the General Assembly before you meet with your legislators. (Make sure you make appointments in advance so you are sure to see them.) **Light breakfast will be available** at Sun Trust and you will receive informational packets to help guide your visits!

In addition to visiting our legislators, **we will be celebrating** the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters! Our theme is the **"Yesterdays and Tomorrows of the League of Women Voters."**

Our speaker will be award-winning journalist and author **A'Lelia Bundles**, great, great granddaughter of **Madame C.J. Walker** whose parents and older siblings were slaves but who became the first female self-made millionaire.

Stay over on the 13th to enjoy lunch, a talk on Civil War life for women at the Civil War Museum and a visit to the home of Maggie L. Walker.

Schedule:

Wed, Feb 12

8 AM-10 AM -- Prepare for lawmaker meetings at our Women's Legislative Round

Table, Auditorium, Sun Trust Building, 919 East Main Street, Richmond

10 AM - 1 PM- Visits to Legislators and the Senate and House Galleries in the Capitol for recognition of LWV.

1 PM - 3 PM - Celebratory luncheon of the 100th Anniversary of the LWV. Delta Marriott Hotel, 555 East Canal Street, Richmond. **\$65 per person.** Your choice is steak or vegetarian option.

Thurs, Feb 13

9:30 AM - Visit to **Maggie L Walker's Home**, 600 North Second Street
-or more visits to your legislators

1 PM - 3 PM - Lunch, presentation and tour at the Historic **Tredegar Civil War Museum**, 500 Tredegar Street, Richmond. Lunch will be a chicken Caesar salad. If you require another meal, please contact Joan at **events@lww-va.org**. \$35 for lunch/tour.

Come for some but come for all if you can. This is a celebration of US!

[RSVP here](#)

Women's Legislative Roundtables!

Join members of the League of Women Voters of Virginia for the our Legislative Round Table 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.

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

Proposed schedule for WLRT topics:

- **January 15:** Advocacy Training, Redistricting, Voting & Elections
- **January 22:** Gun Violence Prevention/Safety, Criminal Justice
- **January 29:** Human Rights (incl. Women's Rights), Education, Behavioral Health
- **February 5:** Environment, Transportation
- **February 12:** League Day: Voting & Elections,

Women's Rights

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

[RSVP for any WLRT](#)

Advocacy!!!

League of Women Voters of the U.S. **supports the Equal Rights Amendment ("ERA")**, as set forth in [this](#) letter.

Please [contact your lawmakers now](#) for the ERA.

Contact link is; <https://secure.everyaction.com/ZHOfDZ98t0GI3b2-0AZ4IQ2?emci=c18930ee-a621-ea11-a601-2818784d6d68&emdi=48e5a1f4-462b-ea11-a601-2818784d6d68&ceid=2397245>



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).

How Suffragists Understood the 19th Amendment

Happy New Year! At long last we have arrived at our centennial year. Leagues around the country will be spending the next 12 months reflecting on what the vote has meant to women historically and what it means today. Let's start with reflections from suffrage leaders themselves.

Although we think of the 19th Amendment as conferring a right, it's better thought of as providing to women whatever right of suffrage (unspecified in the Constitution) was already afforded to similarly situated men. The Amendment states: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

The League's flagship publication, *The Woman Citizen*, heralded the vote as "the emblem of your equality, women of America, the guaranty of your liberty." The vote had required sacrifice of time and treasure, to say nothing of "agony of soul." Women were advised to appreciate how costly the victory had been.

Beyond the guarantee of an equal political right and of liberty, suffrage leaders also saw the vote as an invitation to participate in the democratic experiment. They viewed this invitation as a responsibility more than a choice. "Understand what [the vote] means and what it can do for your country. Use it intelligently, conscientiously, prayerfully," *The Woman Citizen* urged. "No soldier in the great

suffrage army has labored and suffered to get a 'place' for you. Their motive has been the hope women would aim higher than their own selfish ambitions, that they would serve the common good."

The Amendment's duality – affording equal rights *and* conferring civic responsibilities – mirrored a duality in how suffragists understood women's roles in society. Women were both the "same as" men (worthy of equal rights) and "different from" men (bearing unique responsibilities for the common good). The Amendment's validation of equal voting rights provided a platform for women's groups to continue pushing for equal gender rights in other domains. The Amendment's validation of women's democratic participation provided a platform for women's groups to expand their work around issues of social welfare, education, foreign policy, and other issues of public concern.

Sources: *The Woman Citizen*, Sept. 4, 1920, passage reproduced in Barbara Stuhler, *For the Public Record* (Pogo Press, 2003), 26; Kristin A. Goss, *The Paradox of Gender Equality* (University of Michigan Press, 2012), 168-171.

A Night Out

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder

Want a light-hearted way to kick off the new year with a tribute to the 2020 centennial of women winning the vote?

If so, come see the Tony Award winning musical comedy "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" at the Little Theater of Alexandria on January 17. It is being hosted as a fundraiser for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, which will be the only national memorial to the women's suffrage movement. This outdoor

memorial will be located in Occoquan, VA, near where suffragists were jailed for picketing the White House for the right to vote. The national League and many state and local Leagues – including our own – have contributed to it, and fundraising is still underway.



Support this fundraiser for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial!

A distant heir to a family fortune sets out to speed up the line of succession by using a great deal of charm...and a dash of murder. This Tony Award winning musical comedy set in the early 1900s is a murderous romp filled with unforgettable music, non-stop laughs and show-stopping performances.

Tickets: \$50/person

[To Buy Tickets](#)

[600 Wolfe St. Alexandria, Va. 22314](#)

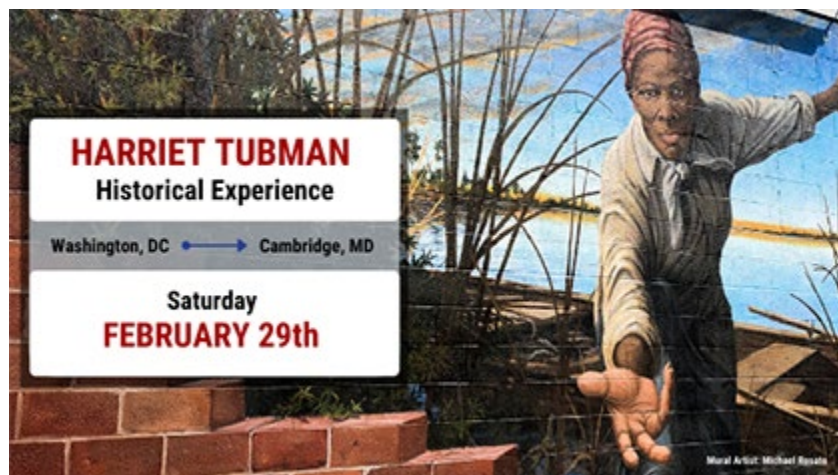
[The Little Theatre of Alexandria](#)

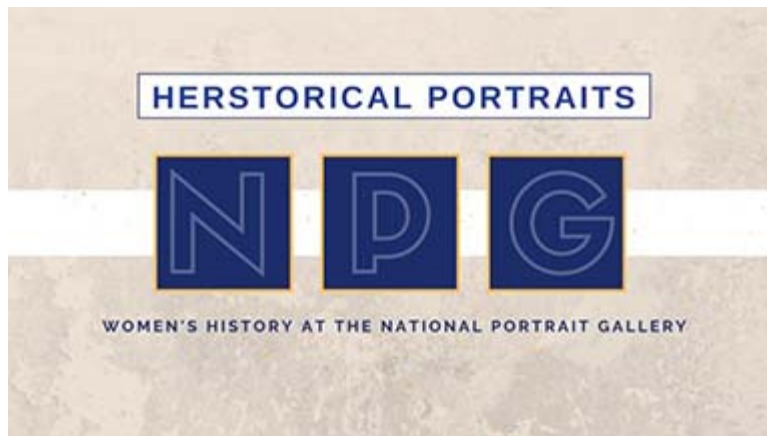
Performance: 8:00 PM; general seating

Doors Open: 6:30 p.m. for basket raffle, bake sale, and refreshments

"...this delightful show will lift the hearts of all those who've been pining for what sometimes seems a lost art form: musicals that match streams of memorable melody with fizzily witty turns of phrase." (New York Times)

Tours, Tours, Tours! (Click the posters for information and tickets)





Float Commemorating Female Suffrage



The float, created by the Susan B. Anthony House & Museum (Rochester, NY), won the Theme Award at the Rose Bowl Parade. (Photo: KTLA video)

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

The Census Bureau is Looking for Part Time Workers!

The Crystal City Area Census Office is seeking enumerators for the 2020 Census. Enumerators contact those individuals who do not initially respond to the Census. This is a paid, temporary position that would begin this spring. Most work would take place on evenings and weekends. Pay is competitive. The minimum age is 18, so many high-school seniors can serve as enumerators. There is no maximum age, and many senior citizens find Census work especially compatible with their schedules. The Bureau does make accommodations for disability, so disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

We have needs throughout the County, but particularly in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor, Pentagon City / Crystal City, and Shirlington. Making sure that everyone is counted by the Census is vital for purposes of political representation and allocating social services, so **this is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to serve their community.**

[Apply here](#)

Go Wisconsin LWV!

On December 17, the [League of Women Voters of Wisconsin](#) and two registered Wisconsin voters filed a federal lawsuit to challenge a planned voter roll purge that was based on unreliable data.

Representative Don Beyer is hosting a Town Hall for constituents on Thursday, **January 23**. For more information and to register visit Beyer.House.gov.

Remember, if you speak at this event you are speaking as an individual and not as a representative of the LWV.

LWV-Arl Hosts Dec 19 Pre-Session Hearing

Once again LWV-Arlington hosted the pre-session hearing for Arlington members of the General Assembly.



Arlington lawmakers **Adam Eben, Alfonzo Lopes, Patrick Hope, Barbara Favola, and Mark Levine**



Joan delivering Arlington's statement to the Delegation

[Read Joan's statement to the Arlington Delegation here](#)





Chris DeRosa, Lisa Koteen Gerchick, Jackie Rivas, Julia Tanner and Lilian Clementi addressing the legislators

Look for next newsletter January 22



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