

# League in Action!



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## President's Message

By Tina Norkus

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8.26.19 Women's Equality Day March

While the LWV is a nonpartisan organization neither endorsing nor opposing any candidate or political party, we do support a progressive political agenda. Recently, I spent a day with high school freshman and realized how vital the work we do is for our children's future. These students are 3-4 years away from being able to vote but are very much aware of the political environment!

They are concerned about immigration policy, sex-trafficking, climate change and the ecosystem. They are disturbed by all forms of bigotry and intolerance – racism, sexism, xenophobia. But most especially, they are afraid of gun violence. They don't feel safe in their schools and they don't feel adults are doing enough to protect them.

It is important that we continue to support LWV positions that will make our children's lives better – gun safety, immigration reform and health care reform, just to name a few. In the Fredericksburg area, we need to work to promote policies that will enable reform in our communities.

Our priorities for the coming months include working for [fair redistricting in Virginia](#), ensuring everyone in the Fredericksburg Area is counted in the [2020 Census](#) and making Virginia the state that [fully ratifies the ERA](#). We need the end of partisan gerrymandering to allow voters to choose their elected officials rather than the officials choosing their voters. Fair redistricting will drive a more moderate and cooperative Virginia legislature. Ensuring everyone is counted in the 2020 Census will secure much needed funding to the Fredericksburg area and will impact our representation at the national level. Lastly, we continue to focus our efforts on passing the Equal Rights Amendment in Virginia ensuring equal rights for women.

We cannot lose sight of our primary mission: empowering voters and defending democracy through civic education and voter registration.

Our local League has a lot on its plate, but we have already proven that by working together, we can make a difference in our community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November

- 5<sup>th</sup> Election Day!
- 10<sup>th</sup> LWV-VA 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday!
- 11<sup>th</sup> LWVFRA Board Meeting
- 25<sup>th</sup> LWVFRA General Meeting: 2020 VA Legislative Priorities

### December

- 9<sup>th</sup> LWVFRA Board Meeting

### January

- 7<sup>th</sup> OneVirginia2021 presentation at Howell Branch w/ Brian Cannon
- 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia General Assembly Session Begins

- 13<sup>th</sup> LWVFRA Board Meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup> LWVFRA General Meeting

### February

- 1<sup>st</sup> LWVFRA Winter Social
- 10<sup>th</sup> LWVFRA Board Meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> Virginia General Assembly Crossover
- 12<sup>th</sup> LWV-VA League Day @ General Assembly

- 24<sup>th</sup> LWVFRA General Meeting

### March

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Democratic Primaries
- 7<sup>th</sup> VA Regular Session Ends
- 9<sup>th</sup> LWVFRA Board Meeting
- 30<sup>th</sup> LWVFRA General Meeting

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# Committee Updates

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

## November 25<sup>th</sup> General Meeting: Selecting the LWV-VA 2020 Legislative Priorities

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, our local league will have the opportunity to help select 5 legislative priorities for the League of Women Voters of Virginia for the 2020 Virginia Legislative session.

Below is a list of the 10 priorities that are up for consideration. At the meeting, we will hear a summary of the items in order to help our League members make an informed decision. The meeting will conclude with a paper ballot voting. Results of our League's priorities will be shared via email!

Voting Rights	Education
Election & Voter Protection	Justice; Juvenile Justice
Redistricting	Immigration
Gun Violence Prevention / Safety	Census
Human Rights	Environment

## SAVE THE DATE!



2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
WINTER SOCIAL



DATE: 2.1.20  
TIME: 2:00-4:00 PM  
LOCATION: SUE BOTTS'  
HOME

SNOW/ICE DATE: 2.15.20



## Membership Grow the Impact of your Membership!

Currently, the Fredericksburg Area League is 50 members strong. While we are making strides to register and educate voters, partner on important community events and advocate for affordable housing for seniors, we can have an even bigger impact with your involvement and help.

- Share with your friends, family and colleagues first-hand experiences about our local League and invite them to come with you to an [event or meeting](#) to see for themselves.
- Up your membership to a founding membership, if you haven't already. This is a one-time \$50 donation that gives you the distinction and helps provide essential funding for printing and other basic operational costs.
- Volunteer to staff events, assist at meetings and help with behind the scenes tasks.

Each member has different amounts of time and resources to contribute, but collectively the more involved our membership is, the greater our impact.

### Membership Chair

Lena Gonzalez Berrios, [lwvframembership@gmail.com](mailto:lwvframembership@gmail.com)

# Committee Updates

## Senior Affordable Housing

Advocacy efforts by the Affordable Housing for Low-Income Seniors Committee are continuing with excellent results. On September 3rd, Ms. Diane Shea and Mr. Gerald Anderson presented the committee findings to the Stafford County Board of Supervisors' Community and Economic Development Committee. Members of the Development Committee were highly receptive to several of the ideas including modifying zoning rules to permit accessory dwelling unit construction on smaller lots in the county for senior housing and permitting more than four unrelated seniors to live in one dwelling. The committee will continue to work with the county on these initiatives as needed.

The committee also has positive news regarding another of our recommendations. We asked the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) to update their affordable housing study and to include senior households as a major category. The Virginia Housing Development Authority has granted funding for a GWRC affordable housing study that includes senior households as a separate category. To identify a consultant to carry out the study, the GWRC has developed a request for proposals that will be distributed shortly. Our committee chairman has been given assurances that the LWVFRA will be included as a participant in this effort. Over the past month, committee members have met with the Free Lance Star on two occasions with the hope that they would write an editorial about the need for more affordable housing for low-income seniors in our area. The purpose of the first meeting was to make them aware of our study and its recommendations. The second meeting also provided the Free Lance Star reporter the opportunity to talk with a few low-income seniors living in the City of Fredericksburg to hear their story about the difficulty in finding affordable housing. The resulting article appeared in the [October 27, 2019 edition of the Free-Lance Star](#).

Over the coming months, the committee will continue to reach out to the other localities to set up meetings to discuss the report findings and recommendations. The committee invites any LWVFRA member who would like to help with this invaluable work to contact Gerald. All are welcome!

Senior Affordable Housing Chair  
Gerald Anderson, [glanderson1947@gmail.com](mailto:glanderson1947@gmail.com)

## Voter Services Help Wanted!

Voter Services is seeking LWVFRA volunteers for late winter/early spring voter registration events at area high schools and Germanna Community College. In addition, Sue Botts, our Voter Services chair, is seeking to create an official Voter Services Committee. Contact Sue directly if you can spare some time with our League's work. We will register students in high school lunchrooms and Government classrooms, as well as on college campuses. Coming to help us at a high school? Remember to bring an ID in order to enter the high schools.

In order to volunteer, members need to be certified to register voters and shadow a trained volunteer at least once. To train to register voters, please complete the brief [Virginia Voter Registration Training](#). You will receive a confirmation of completion by email.

During recent registration efforts, LWVFRA registered many new voters of all ages. Volunteers visited two area high schools, Germanna Community College's Constitution Day, University of Mary Washington's Voter Palooza, and Fredericksburg Realtors Association Expo. We also registered voters and provided voter information at Hurkamp Park, the Heritage Festival of Fredericksburg on July 4th, National Night Out, the Hazel Hill Community Health Fair and at Civic Labs held at several locations of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library.

Many thanks to school and college personnel and community leaders for their leadership in this important task!!

### Voter Services Chair

Sue Botts, [sbotts11@gmail.com](mailto:sbotts11@gmail.com), 540-376-2219



*Meaghan @ Hurkamp Community Day*

100 YEARS STRONG

LEAGUE of  
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWW

1920 – 2020

### Centennial Celebration Chair

Marie Gozzi [seters@comcast.net](mailto:seters@comcast.net)

## Centennial Celebration Committee

WOMEN HAVE HAD THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR ONLY 100 YEARS!

### LWVFRA Planned Events

- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 10am Centennial Committee Presentation on Marie Louise Baldwin, at Panera in Central Park
- January TBD: Group Visit Lorton [Workhouse Prison Museum](#)
- March TBD Luncheon with historian, Scott Walker

### Ongoing Opportunities

- “Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence” @ National Portrait Gallery, D.C.  
Ends 1/5/20
- “Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Right to Vote” @ National Archives, D.C.  
Ends 1/3/20
- Book Group discussion: “The Women’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote”
- “[Because of Her Story](#)”, The American Women’s History Initiative by the Smithsonian Institute
- 

### LWVFRA Celebrates Women’s Equality Day!

The League of Women Voters of the Fredericksburg Area celebrated Women’s Equality Day on Monday, August 26, 2019 beginning with a solemn symbolic march. Many League, community and family members joined the commemorative march to mark how far we’ve come and how much further we have yet to go!

During the program portion of the evening, Dr. Kristen Marsh, chair of UMW’s Department of Sociology and Anthropology, lead a presentation on the historical “three-waves” of the women’s movement. Women’s suffrage marked the first of three waves.

The meeting closed with a panel discussion by local elected officials from Caroline, Fredericksburg City, King George and Stafford, who also happen to be women. They discussed their reasons for running for office as well as their perspective on the unique challenges female elected officials continue to face in their districts and in Virginia.



# 411

## ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED



*Local elected officials participate in panelist discussion on Women's Equality Day*



**New League Members!**  
Fran Larkins  
Janet Kimbrell  
Donna Willett