

# **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA



## May 6, 2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION WORKBOOK



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*The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area [LWVNCA] is an Inter League Organization (ILO). It is comprised of the District of Columbia League and those Leagues in Maryland and Virginia surrounding the nation’s capital. We are a nonpartisan, political, membership organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League influences public policy through education and advocacy at all levels of government.*

*The purpose of LWVNCA shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government, and to act on selected governmental issues of a metropolitan, regional or interjurisdictional nature such as energy, water and transportation.*

## Proposed Order of Business May 6, 2023

### 9:30 AM Registration

9:45      **Welcome**

Joyce Starks, *President*

### Breakfast

10:30 **Panel discussion**

Moderated by President Joyce Starks

Topic: *“The Impact of Collaboration between Mental Health Professionals/  
Law Enforcement”*

*Panelists:*

**Wayne R. Silver**, Executive Director, Maryland Police Training and Standards  
Commission, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

**Dr. Crystal Kuykendall**, Kreative and Innovative Resources for Kids (KIRK), INC  
Owner and Operator

### 11:30 Business Meeting Begins

Roll Call of Member Leagues

Barbara Lipsky, *Secretary*

Credentials Report

Barbara Lipsky & Carol Bursik

Adoption of Order of Business

Joyce Starks, *President*

Adoption of Convention Rules

Geraldine Whitley, *Parliamentarian*

Minutes of 2022 Convention

Barbara Lipsky, *Secretary*

Previously approved by the LWFVCA Board (*In workbook for information only*)

Appointment of a Reading Committee for the

Joyce Starks, *President*

2023 Convention Minutes

Treasurer’s Report

Carol Bursik, *Treasurer*

Presentation, Discussion & Approval of

Kathy Matusiak, *Budget Chair*

Proposed FY 2023-2024 LWFVCA Budget

Program Committee Report for 2023-25

Kathy Matusiak, *Program Chair*

- Re-adopt Current LWFVCA Positions

Nominating Committee Report &

Sarah Matthews,

Election of Officers and Directors for 2023-2025

*Nominating Committee Chair*

Presentation of the 2023 Naumann Award

Gretchen Blankenship, *Chair*

President’s Report

Joyce Starks

### New Business

Announcements

Joyce Starks

Direction to the Board

1:00 PM Adjournment

## ***Guest Speakers***

### ***Dr. Crystal Kuykendall***

*Kreative and Innovative Resources for Kids (KIRK), INC,  
Owner and Operator*



Dr. Crystal A. Kuykendall is a gifted and gracious business executive, diversity trainer, strategic planner, child advocate, public speaker, administrator, educator, attorney and human relations and social justice consultant. A member of the D.C. Bar, she has been Founder, President and General Counsel of her own firm, Kreative and Innovative Resources for Kids, Inc. (K.I.R.K.) since 1989. She has provided consultant services to over 2,000 clients in 49 states and on 4 continents and has received over 350 plaques and awards for her outstanding efforts. She is also Founder of her own law firm, The Kuykendall Company. A former full time University Professor at Seton Hall University, she has been Adjunct Faculty at Montclair State University and Strayer University and member of the Advisory Board in the School of Education and Urban Studies at Morgan

State University. In 2016, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Montclair State University where she earned a Master's Degree in Sociology. A former public school teacher and Juvenile Justice Attorney, she holds 2 Master's Degrees, a Doctorate in Educational Administration and a Law Degree. A member of 4 Boards of Directors, she has served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Family Life Center Foundation of DC for 9 years. Author of 4 books, including the highly acclaimed national best seller, *From Rage to Hope: Strategies for Reclaiming Black and Hispanic Students*, she is mother of 4, mentor, school & church volunteer and the ultimate "Merchant of Hope" for she enriches the lives of thousands.

## ***Wayne R. Silver***

*Executive Director  
Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission*



Before joining the Maryland Department of Public Safety, Wayne Silver served 30 years as a law enforcement officer in the Department of Defense. During this time, he held a variety of positions related to patrol operations, training, recruitment, and policy development. He has been actively involved in the development of numerous courses in the areas of entry level training, firearms, defensive tactics, and leadership development. As an assessor for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation (FLETA) he assisted with the accreditation of law enforcement programs for the Department of State, Department of Treasury, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Mr. Silver served as a voting member for over 10 years on the Department of Defense POST Commission and its predecessor entities. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Maryland Police Training & Standards Commission and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



## ***Report from LWFVCA President Joyce Starks***



As President of the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWFVCA), I am proud to have had this opportunity to work with a group of devoted, professional volunteers that never miss an opportunity to stand up for the Rights of People. The LWFVCA consists of Leagues from Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC which bring a great deal of knowledge from various spectrums. This is our first in-person meeting since the pandemic; however, the work kept moving forward.

The LWFVCA Board always does an outstanding job and the work they do is most appreciated. Every year I recognize a few individuals from the LWFVCA Board. This year, I would like to give special recognition to Carol Bursik, Dr. Gail Clark Dickson and Janet Gorn.

We thank you for your hard work and dedication to LWFVCA. You have worked hard to keep LWFVCA moving forward and it is most appreciated. These individuals worked independently or with others to implement goals and completed the task.

In July 2022, several members attended the Moral March on Washington, a part of the Poor People's Campaign. It was held at the U. S. Capital at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pennsylvania Avenue.

In August 2022, LWFVCA presented a virtual free workshop open to the public on Trains, Buses and Automobiles: How to Integrate Equity, Transit, Land Use and Transportation Resiliency for Regional Advocacy.

Many thanks to all the LWFVCA Board members who have volunteered their time and professionalism to the success of another year.

This report is being respectfully submitted,

*Joyce Starks*

## LWNCA Member Leagues

LWV	Membership	Delegate Allowance
<i>(NOTE: number in blue indicates 2022 membership)</i>		
<b>LWV of the District of Columbia</b>	(195) 189	4
<b>LWV of Maryland</b>		1
LWV of Howard County	(108) 106	4
LWV of Montgomery County	(426) 433	7
LWV of Prince Georges County	(33) 35	3
LWV of Frederick County	(94) 78	3
<b>LWV of Virginia</b>		1
LWV of Arlington and Alexandria City	(223) 227	5
LWV of Fairfax Area	(376) 367	6
LWV of Falls Church	(100) 64	3
LWV of Loudoun County	(41) 49	3
LWV of Prince William-Fauquier Area*	(72) 74	3
<i>*Joined LWNCA in 2022</i>		
<b>Total Delegates</b>		<b>43</b>



## Proposed Rules of the 2023 LWFVCA Convention

*For an In-Person meeting*

- A. The following rules are prescribed by the LWFVCA bylaws:
1. Proceedings will be guided by the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, unless the LWFVCA bylaws prescribe otherwise. (**Article X**)
  2. Voting privileges are limited to delegates from member Leagues (local and state) in good standing and LWFVCA Board members. (**Article VII, Section 2**)
  3. Nominations for elected positions may be made from the floor, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained. (**Article VIII, Section 3**)
  4. Program adoption: **Article VII, Convention, Section 6. Powers.** The Convention shall:  
C. In odd-numbered years consider and adopt a two-year Program. **In 2023 only**, board proposes readopting LWFVCA positions; no other proposed program for 2023-2025.
- B. The following proposed rules are subject to approval by a majority vote of the Convention.  
Delegates may elect to amend these proposals or introduce others.

### 1. Floor privileges

- a. All League members shall have the right to speak.
- b. A member wishing to address the Convention shall stand (as they are able). When recognized by the chair, a member shall state her/his name and member-League affiliation. The chair will do her best recognize people in order.
- c. Debate will be limited to two minutes per speaker unless otherwise specified.

2. **Motions.** Only delegates and LWFVCA Board members can make motions. Motion forms may be available at the registration table, or can be written on plain paper and submitted to the Secretary.

3. When you are not speaking or casting a voice vote, please mute your phone or computer.

4. **Minutes.** The Secretary will draft the Convention minutes, clear them with a reading committee appointed at the convention and submit the resulting version to the LWFVCA Board for approval.

5. **Directions to the Board.** Directions should be sent to the president in advance of the meeting, if possible. At the meeting, they must be submitted in writing to the Secretary.



**League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area  
May 7, 2022 Annual Convention Minutes  
(Convened on Zoom)**

The meeting was called to order at: 10:20 am

**Welcome:** Joyce Starks, LWFVCA President, thanked all for participating in the 2022 LWFVCA Annual Convention. Joyce introduced our keynote speaker, Ayo Atterberry, Chief Strategy Officer for LWFVUS. She talked about Ayo's long years of experience and background in working to protect voters' rights and mitigate voter suppression.

Ayo's presentation focused on how to support marginalized communities with voter's rights and removing barriers to voting. She talked about how frustration and persistence were the constants in that work. In discussing her work with the LWFVUS she pointed out their 4-pronged approach:

1. Democracy Truth Project – countering misinformation and building trust
2. Expand the Franchise – increasing voter participation through VOTE411 platforms
3. Democracy Defense Fund – protection voting rights with advocacy and activism
4. People Power Fair Maps – building electoral districts that represent the people

Ayo briefly brought up the current SCOTUS issue on Roe v. Wade and how the League will be using advocacy and activism to fight for women's reproductive rights. She mentioned a rally in DC on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Monument (specifics on that will be sent to all members) and June 18<sup>th</sup> Poor Peoples Campaign event. Ayo took questions and provided very thorough responses.

Joyce Starks thanked Ayo for her wonderful presentation, as did all the members of NCA convention.

Joyce then called upon the 3 League Presidents in Maryland, DC. and Virginia to talk about their efforts in recent months.

Kathy Chiron (LWFVDC) – Kathy reported on their work with incarcerated voters and new voters. The DC League has been working very hard to provide these individuals access to all information available to most voters – VOTE411, videos of candidate debates, vote by mail and early voting information.

Nancy Soreng (LWFVMD) – Nancy talked about the fact that they were so lucky in MD to have progressive voting measures in place – automatic registration, early voting, vote by mail. Redistricting issues have delayed the primaries but they will have all information ready when needed.

Deb Wake (LWFVVA) – Deb talked about the redistricting efforts in the state and how it was done. The information is ready for the June 21 primaries and early voting has started. She discussed the efforts in the area of restoration of rights under the new administration.

The business portion of the meeting began at 11:35 a.m..

**Roll Call of Member Leagues and Credentials:** Kathy Matusiak, Substitute *Secretary* was scheduled to call the roll of the NCA Leagues and their delegates. Due to computer issues, Kathy was unable to roll call and Sherry Zachry assumed the duty and completed roll call. All but one member League (Loudoun County VA) was represented, with 33 Delegates including 3 LWFVCA Board members present, thus more than meeting the quorum of 25 voting delegates and the required number of Leagues being represented. A total of 40 people participated in the Convention.

**Adoption of Order of Business:** Starks called for a motion to adopt the Order of Business as presented in the Convention Workbook. It was moved by Gail Dickson, and seconded. The motion carried.

## 2023 LWVNCA Annual Convention

**Adoption of Convention Rules:** Parliamentarian Sherry Zachry moved adoption of the Rules of the Convention as presented in the Convention Workbook. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Minutes of 2021 Convention:** These minutes were previously approved by the LWVNCA Board and were in the Workbook for information only.

**Appointment of a Reading Committee:** Starks appointed Geraldine Whitley, Gail Dickson and Ernie Bridges to review the convention minutes before presentation to the LWVNCA Board for approval.

**Treasurer's Report:** LWVNCA Treasurer Bill Thomas, presented the Treasurer's report as of April 30, 2022, which is attached to these minutes. Hearing no questions, Bill moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Motion was seconded and passed.

**Presentation, Discussion & Approval of Proposed FY 2022-2023 LWVNCA Budget:** Kathy Matusiak, 2022-23 *Budget Chair*, presented the proposed LWVNCA Budget for FY2022-2023 (Budget attached). The Proposed Budget shows total expected funding and expenditures of \$7,250 as compared to \$9,650 in FY2021-2022. The LWVNCA will hold per-member-payment (PMP) steady at \$1.10 per primary member and \$0.55 for additional household members. The Budget Committee projects \$1,568 in PMP income. This is a decrease of \$220 from last year's PMP, reflecting a small drop in membership from February 2021 to February 2022, which is understandable in the second year of a pandemic.

Last year the Budget Committee assumed that we would be able to resume live events by the Fall. This did not occur, but we do believe that this year will be the change and we can resume live events. Therefore, we have included funds to support the Presidents' Luncheon in the Fall and the Annual Convention in May 2023. All those events require a registration fee or other payment, and total event revenue of \$2,480 is included in income. Total expenses for the three events are estimated at \$3,250, so we will be drawing on our reserves for approximately \$770. We also assumed that the LWVUS would hold an in-person Council in June of 2023 and included \$500 to send a representative (typically the President or Co-Presidents) to that meeting.

We included a fundraiser event that would bring in an estimated \$1,000 in revenue. The Board has discussed various events to make this come about. This fundraiser will help to cover the loss of expected income from the Capital Steps that closed down during the pandemic.

We also will carry over \$400 from this year's budget for the Madeleine Naumann Award, which will now be presented in 2023. We draw some \$1,993 from reserves to balance revenues and expenditures, approximately the amount we saved this year by cancelling some events and making others virtual. The LWVNCA Board expresses its thanks to the FY2022-2023 Budget Committee: Kathy Matusiak, chair; member Joyce Starks and William Thomas, Treasurer, the Ex Officio member.

Kathy Matusiak moved that the Budget be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**Nominating Committee Report & Election of Officers:** Kathy McGuire, 2022 Nominating Committee Chair presented the slate of the nominees for LWVNCA Officers and Directors for 2022-24 and Nominating Committee for 2022-23 shown in the Convention Workbook as follows:

*LWVNCA Officers and Directors 2022 – 2024 Nominees*

Vice President Kathy Matusiak (LWV Arl/Alex)

Treasurer Carol Bursik (LWVFA)

Directors Erni Bridges (LWVFA)

Anne Laroche (LWVDC)

## 2023 LWVNCA Annual Convention

Nominating Committee for 2022-23  
Kathy Chiron, Chair (LWVDC)  
Sarah Mathews (LWVFR)  
Geraldine Whitley (LWVDC)

Having no nominations from the floor, McGuire moved the slate be elected by acclamation. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**President's Report** – Starks thanked all Board members currently serving as well as all the Local Leagues. She expressed appreciation for all of the hard work that has been done in areas of fairness, current issues, voter suppression and making a difference in the world. Joyce talked about the loss of her Co-President and friend, Linda Sofli and her work in those areas. She asked for a pause to reflect on the league members we have lost and how the pandemic has affected us all. However, she pointed out that the League worked hard to overcome the pandemic and the work of all the volunteers to make league work possible.

Joyce mentioned specific League members – Sarah McMeans, Deb Wake, Bill Thomas, Kathy Chiron and Edna Miller for their hard work in many areas. She noted our participation in LWVUS activities and thanked Kathy Chiron for keeping NCA up to date with the National League. She thanked all members of NCA for their support in keeping the memory of Linda Sofli alive.

Bill Thomas asked to make a statement and he thanked the Annual Convention Committee for their participation and work – Gail Dickson, Geraldine Whitley, Joyce Starks, Barbara Lipsky, Kathy Matusiak and Sherry Zachry.

### **New Business**

**Announcements** Starks called for announcements.

- Matusiak informed the members and the board that the Program Committee is reinstating NCA's annual August workshop this year. It will be on August 13<sup>th</sup> and will be a hybrid meeting focused on Transportation in the Area. More details to follow.
- Gretchen B. said that they need new members on the Naumann Award committee for the 2023 presentation. She asked that all Leagues consider nominations.
- Joyce mentioned the May 14<sup>th</sup> rally for women's reproductive rights.
- She also provided dates for upcoming Local League annual meetings:
- LWVMC – May 21 – virtual
- LWVPG – May 21 – hybrid
- LWVPW-FC – May 15 – virtual
- LWVVA – June 4 – virtual
- LWVARL – June 12- in person
- LWVFC – June 12 – to be determined

### **Directions to the Board**

Nancy Soreng said NCA should focus on voter turnout using all of the regional activities and forums they have.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Matusiak, (*Substituting for Secretary Barbara Lipsky*)

These minutes were approved at the LWVNCA Board Meeting on June 3, 2022.

## **LWNCA BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT FOR PROPOSED LWNCA FY2023-2024 BUDGET**

The LWNCA FY 2023-2024 Proposed Budget shows total expected funding and expenditures of \$7,250, similar to the anticipated funding and expenditures in FY 2022-2023. We only spent \$939 thus far, however, that will change in the coming months, especially with the May 6, 2023 convention coming up.

The LWNCA will hold per-member-payment (PMP) steady at \$1.10 per primary member and \$0.55 for additional household members. The Budget Committee projects \$1,530 in PMP income. This is a decrease of \$38 from last year's PMP, reflecting an almost unchanged number of members in comparison to last year, which is very good coming out of the pandemic.

Last year the Budget Committee assumed that we would be able to resume live events by the Fall of 2022. This did not occur but we do believe that this year we will be able to see the in-person change and we will plan on resuming live events. Therefore, we have included funds to support the Presidents' Luncheon in the Fall of 2023 and the Annual Convention in May 2024. All those events require a registration fee or other payment, and total event revenue of \$4,219 is included in income. Total expenses for the events are estimated at \$3,750.

We plan to draw some \$3,031 from reserves to balance revenues and expenditures, which is a carry-over from 2022-2023, as there was very little spending due to our activities being held virtual.

The LWNCA Board expresses its thanks to the FY2023-2024 Budget Committee: Kathy Matusiak, Chair, and member Joyce Starks. Carol Bursik, Treasurer, was the Ex Officio member.

***The Proposed LWNCA FY2023-2024 Budget Appears on the Next  
Page***

## 2023 LWFVCA Annual Convention

	2022-2023	2022-2023	2023-2024	
INCOME	Actual	Budget	Proposed	Notes
				Based on 1311 primary members @1.10 and 160 additional members @0.55
Per Member Payments (PMP)	864	1,568	1,530	
Presidents' Luncheon	0	480	480	16 board members contributing @\$30 each
Annual Convention	0	2,000	2,000	50 attendees @\$40
LWFVUS Board Reception	0	1,000	0	
Fundraiser	0	0	0	
Workshop Income	0	0	0	
Interest	1	10	9	
Contributions	0	200	200	
Other Income	0	0	0	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>4,219</b>	
				+ indicates a reduction in checkbook balance, while - indicates an increase. Based on carry-over from 2022-2023
Transfer In(+)/Out(-) from checking	0	1,993	3,031	
<b>Total income and transfers</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>7,251</b>	<b>7,250</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Operating Costs</b>				
Office supplies	359	800	800	Includes archiving
Website	400	450	450	LWFV MyLO platform website and related expenses
Zoom Expense	0	150	150	
<b>Subtotal -- Operating Costs</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>	
<b>Board/Administration</b>				
President's allowance	155	100	100	Expenses of the President
Board Expenses	0	100	100	Other board costs, n.e.c.
Member Directory	0	100	100	Printing the annual directory
Presidents' Luncheon	0	500	500	
Workshop Expenses	0	900	900	Assumes two workshop events per fiscal year
LWFVUS Board Reception	0	0	0	Every other year. Planned for FY2025
<b>Subtotal -- Board/Administration</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,700</b>	
<b>Conventions/Councils</b>				
Local & State Meetings	25	500	500	Registration and incidental expenses of Pres. or other LWFVCA representative
LWFVUS Council/Convention	0	500	500	
LWFVCA Annual Convention	0	2,750	2,750	
<b>Subtotal Conventions/Council</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>3,750</b>	
<b>Other Expenses</b>				
Madeline Naumann Award	0	400	0	Presented every other fiscal year; next award in 2025
Fundraiser Exp. & Rev. Sharing	0	0	0	
100th Anniversary Events	0	0	0	
Misc Expenses	0	0	400	
<b>Subtotal -- Other Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	
<b>Total -- Expenses</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>7,250</b>	<b>7,250</b>	

## **LWVNCA 2023 Nominating Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of the nominees for LWVNCA Officers and Directors and Nominating Committee to be elected at the May 6, 2023 Annual Convention.

### **LWVNCA Officers and Directors for 2023-2025**

Co-Presidents	Kathy Matusiak (LWV Ari-Alex) Joyce Starks (LWVPGC)
Vice President	Carole Conors (LWVHC)
Secretary	<i>vacant</i>
Director	Dr. Gail Clark Dickson (LWVPGC) Geraldine Whitley (LWVDC)

### **Nominating Committee for 2023 – 2024**

Chair	<i>vacant</i>
Members:	Diane Hibino (LWVMC); Sherry Zachry (LWVFA)

Respectfully submitted,

LWVNCA 2023 Nominating Committee  
Sarah Matthews  
Deb Wake  
Geraldine Whitley

## Proposed LWFVCA Officers & Board of Directors 2023-2024

### **OFFICERS**

#### **Co-Presidents:**

Joyce Starks (2023-25)  
301-943-5238  
[joycestarks@aol.com](mailto:joycestarks@aol.com)  
5603 Emack Ave  
Lanham, MD 20706

Kathy Matusiak (2023-2025)  
703-979-7665  
[kmatusiak@comcast.net](mailto:kmatusiak@comcast.net)  
29 South Abingdon Street  
Arlington, VA 22201

#### **Vice President:**

Carole Conors (2023-25)  
443-794-4678 (h) 443-794-4678 (c)  
[caroleconors@verizon.net](mailto:caroleconors@verizon.net)  
4245 Bright Bay Way  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

#### **Secretary**

*Vacant*

#### **Treasurer**

Carol Bursik (2022-2024)  
703-527-0305 (h); 703-401-8925 (c)  
[cjbursik@icloud.com](mailto:cjbursik@icloud.com)  
3433 Blair Road,  
Falls Church, VA 22041

### **DIRECTORS**

Erni Bridges (2022-2024)  
703-627-3758  
[ebridgeslwv@gmail.com](mailto:ebridgeslwv@gmail.com)  
5620 Tower Hill circle  
Alexandria, Virginia 22315

Anne Laroche (2022-2024)  
202-232-3602; 202-445-6144 (c)  
[solo1101@verizon.net](mailto:solo1101@verizon.net)  
SoLo Piazza 408  
1300 13th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005-4477

Geraldine Whitley (2023-2025)  
202-882-6480  
[jacksonwhitley@aol.com](mailto:jacksonwhitley@aol.com)  
339 Randolph Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011

Dr. Gail Clark Dickson (2023-2025)  
240-353-0799 (cell)  
[gailclarkdickson@gmail.com](mailto:gailclarkdickson@gmail.com)  
109 Garden Gate Lane  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

**OFF BOARD Nominating Committee (2023-24)**

Sherry Zachry  
703-730-8118 (h); 703-371-6374 (c)  
[szachry@verizon.net](mailto:szachry@verizon.net)  
5757 White Flint Court  
Manassas, VA 20112-3059

Diane Hibino  
301-802-3427 (c)  
[dianehibino@comcast.net](mailto:dianehibino@comcast.net)  
7707 Wisconsin Avenue #606  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

**Web Administrator (Off-Board)**

Sherry Zachry  
703-730-8118 (h); 703-371-6374 (c)  
[szachry@verizon.net](mailto:szachry@verizon.net)  
[LWVNCAWebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNCAWebmaster@gmail.com)  
5757 White Flint Court  
Manassas, VA 20112-3059

*A Liaison to LWVNCA from each member League is appointed by their respective League and they become members of this board. The LWVNCA board will appoint 2 more members to the Nominating Committee.*



## Profiles of 2023-2025 Nominees

### OFFICERS

#### **Kathleen Matusiak, LWV Arlington and Alexandria, Co-President**



Kathleen Matusiak first joined the League in 1972 after being a part of a voter registration drive. For years, she served the Board of Directors of LWV-Arlington/Alexandria City, first as co-chair of Voter Service and then as President of the Arlington League. She has served on the LWVNCA Board for the past 5 years. Kathy is a semi-retired research consultant with the firm of Lescaut and Walderman. She has a degree in Business Administration and 30 years of executive experience in Accounting, Statistical Analysis, Data Computation, and Membership Services. Kathy is a widow, with two daughters and six grandchildren.

#### **Joyce Starks, LWV Prince George's County, Co-President**



Joyce Starks would like to serve as one of the Co-Presidents for the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (NCA). She feels qualified to serve in this role having served as President and Co-President of the LWVNCA for four years, and as President and Co-President for the League of Women Voters of Prince Georges County for several years. She currently serves as the Treasurer for LWVPGC. Also, she has served on the NCA board for several years representing the League of Women Voters of Prince Georges County. While on the NCA board, Joyce served on the nominating committee as well as chairing it. She brings passion and vision to get the work of the League done. She strongly believes in this organization and is willing to invest the time to ensure that

NCA continues to thrive in a very productive manner. The past Presidents of NCA were very successful and Joyce plans to utilize their skills to continue the success of LWVNCA.

Her professional work experience at the National Institutes of Health allowed Joyce the opportunity to work in several supervisory positions: to include financial analyst, management analyst, and administrative officer. She has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration and has taken several Master Degree courses at Johns

Hopkins University. Her leadership skills have equipped and prepared her to serve in the role Co-President.

**Carole Conors, LWV Howard County, Vice President**



Carole Conors has enjoyed League of Women Voters membership over many decades and has had several meaningful work and leadership opportunities during the years, among them as Head of Delegation, United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Conference of Parties 15, Copenhagen, the role of founding local Leagues in Maryland, chairing the LWVUS Lobby Corps for ten years and serving on it for 26 to date, advocating and testifying at the local level as local League president for our League, member studied and adopted positions as opportunities arose, acquainting young people with the workings of their government and enabling them to participate therein, and the treasure of hosting a League-sponsored woman from Zambia, visiting Zambia and hosting their 3 youngsters during their

college years in MD.

The League's opportunity to provide intimate and specific knowledge of and understanding of legislation at all levels has been Carole's great treasure in League membership and continues to be as she looks forward to pressing ahead with the League's goals. LWNCA, to Carole, is a splendid and enjoyable means of broadening inspiration as she learns from League peers. Carole hopes to contribute to LWNCA with whatever service she can provide.



**Dr. Gail Clark Dickson, LWV Prince George's County, Director**



Dr. Gail Clark Dickson's leadership expands throughout state educational agencies, school districts, higher education, and educational associations. Her leadership has touched the lives of many acknowledging her mission-oriented commitment, effective communication skills and her collaborative nature with colleagues, constituents and students.

Dr. Dickson's professional journey includes the following:

- Maryland State Department Education Program Supervisor, Title I Program Improvement and Family Support Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement, and Professional Learning, Baltimore, MD;
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Director for Constituent Partnerships, Alexandria, VA;
- Mid-continent Research Educational Laboratory (McREL) Senior Consultant for School Reform, Denver, CO;
- Kentucky Department of Education Distinguished Educator for School Transformation, Frankfort, KY;
- Fayette County Public Schools' District and School Administrator, Guidance Specialist, School Social Worker and Teacher, Lexington, KY; and
- University of Kentucky, College of Social Work Adjunct Professor, Lexington, KY.

Presently, Dr. Dickson is a consultant/volunteer collaborating with various networks advocating for social justice and democracy. She is active with the **League of Women Voters of Maryland**, participating on the Advocacy Committee, assessing legislative policies, reviewing Senate & House Bills, drafting testimonies and testifying before the Maryland General Assembly. As **Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Prince George's County (LWVPGC)**, she conducts candidate forums, produced the LWVPGC Voters' Guides and conducts youth voter education outreach to students of Prince George's County Schools. Dr. Dickson also serves as the Liaison to the **League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area** contributing to the program design of the 2023 Annual Convention. Dr. Dickson completed her doctoral studies in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Bowie State University, Bowie Maryland.

Her published work with focus on establishing policies to address quality extended learning programs through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion is: Dickson, G.

Clark (2014), *Extended Learning Programs for Elementary Students: Implications for Educational Leaders*, Ann Arbor, MI; ProQuest, LLC.

**Geraldine J. Whitley, LWV District of Columbia, Director**



Mrs. Geraldine J. Whitley has been a League member since 1980 and has been an active member and volunteer since 2003. Since that time Mrs. Whitley has served in roles as: 2nd Vice President, on the Board of Directors, and the environment committee. She is currently serving as a member of the LWNCA Nominating Committee and the LWNCA Annual Convention Committee. Mrs. Whitley believes that the best way to advocate for change is through education and strong will power. She has a B.S. in Education and a master's degree in Christian studies from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. She retired from the federal government in 2003 where she worked as an International Trade Specialist.

Mrs. Whitley's hobbies include hand quilting, knitting, stamp collecting, and traveling (nationally and internationally). She also volunteers with various food programs in Washington, D.C., is a member of the Sierra Club, and is active in her church where she teaches Bible study and volunteers as a lay speaker. However, her most cherished volunteer activity outside of being a League member is volunteering at the Anacostia Museum as a docent. Mrs. Whitley feels that LWV develops skills in leadership and management positions.

**Sherry Zachry, LWV Fairfax Area, Nominating Committee Member**



Sherry was president of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2009 and served as LWVFA Secretary for four years prior to becoming President.

After being LWVFA President, Sherry served as the Secretary of the League of Women Voters **of Virginia** (LWV-VA) from 2009-2012. She was LWVFA Liaison to LWNCA for several years, and previously served as Budget Chair, Bylaws Chair, and on the Nominating Committee for LWNCA, among other positions. Sherry has served as LWNCA Webmaster since 2017.

Sherry first joined the League of Women Voters in 1980 while living in Atlanta, served on the Atlanta/Fulton County League board and subsequently transferred her

membership to the LWV of Johnson County, Kansas in 1989 when her husband was transferred to Kansas City with Sprint. She joined the LWV of the Fairfax Area when they moved to Virginia in 1994.

In addition to two married adult daughters, Sherry and Charlie have two granddaughters and one grandson.

**Diane Hibino, LWV Montgomery County, Nominating Committee Member**



Diane is a member of the LWV of Montgomery County where she has served as president and currently coordinates the Membership Committee. She previously served as Director on the LWVNCA Board. She is from New England and graduated from American University in Political Science. Diane has worked for the Peace Corps in Washington, DC and Bolivia; for USAID in South Africa on democracy projects; and for the University of Miami (FL). She was a member of Leagues in Connecticut and Florida before moving to Maryland. She volunteers as a teacher in ESOL at the Gilchrist Center and as an editor of Volunteer stories for the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience. She enjoys hiking, biking and travelling to national parks and international destinations.



## **REPORT FROM 2022-2023 LWVNCA PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

The Program Committee continued its work in 2022 by having a successful Workshop on August 13, 2022 entitled “Trains, Buses and Automobiles.” We had great speakers from the Council of Governments (COG), the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG) who discussed the interconnectedness of transportation and land use policies of the regional jurisdictions. They presented great information for League advocacy and inspired many questions and answers. The workshop was virtual and had some technical difficulties at the beginning of the program. However, Sherry Zachry did a great job in providing the program recording in its entirety on the LWVNCA Website after the program’s end. We had more than 50 registrations, a great response at this normally slow time of year.

In our last report (for 2022 Convention) we recommended that LWVNCA set up a more comprehensive committee to take on the task of recommending positions for updating. Unfortunately, this did not happen as 2 of the remaining 3 members of the committee left to take on other League tasks.

However in February 2023, member Leagues were solicited for topics of interest for study, re-study, or action for the LWVNCA 2023-2025 Program. There were no suggestions from any member League for consideration as recommended program and the LWVNCA Board does not propose any items for approval.

**Therefore, the LWVNCA Board proposes that all current LWVNCA positions (as readopted in 2021) be readopted without change by the May 6, 2023 Annual Convention (see Bylaws, Article 9, Section 3).**

The LWVNCA positions can be viewed at <https://my.lwv.org/district-columbia/national-capital-area/position/lwvnca-positions-2016-readopted-may-1-2021>.

We again recommend that LWVNCA form a committee to look at our positions during 2023-2024 fiscal year and give an update at the 2024 Convention, which then will be considered during 2025 LWVNCA Program Planning process. Any program or positions recommendations made at that time may be advanced for subsequent approval at the 2025 LWVNCA Annual Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Program Committee Chair Kathy Matusiak

(Edna Miller and Sarah Matthews were active in planning the August 2022-Workshop but left the committee to work on other important LWVNCA projects.)

## Reports from Member Leagues State Leagues



**District of Columbia (LWVDC)** Kathy Chiron, President

We returned to in-person meetings while taking advantage of what we have learned about reaching people online. To continue our fight for **DC Statehood and Full Rights for DC**, we held online panel discussions in May, June, and July on the transition to statehood, exploring challenges in the criminal justice system, governance and finance leading up to **Envisioning Statehood: State of DC Statehood**, a day-long in person event with our partner organizations on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

We used the **Quilts4DC Statehood** project to bring our message to the DC community. From July 15<sup>th</sup> through August 28<sup>th</sup> quilts were displayed at **Arena Stage** in SW, during the run of *American Prophet*, a musical about the life of Frederick Douglass. Leaguers were in the lobby with DC statehood information. During November, quilts were on display at **The ARC** in SE, where the **Anacostia Community Council** hosted a reception on November 10<sup>th</sup>. They were then on display at **HELM** in NW, where LWVDC held its **Holiday Thank You Party** on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Forty quilts donated by their makers were sold in an online auction open between December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> that raised over \$5,000.

In October, we met for a volunteer fair and heard Laura Kumin's talk about her book *All Stirred Up*, with recipes from suffragist cookbooks and a history of the movement.

In our continued efforts to implement DC's **Restore the Vote** law, we worked with DC's Department of Corrections and Maryland's PG county jail to facilitate voter registration for DC voters. We are working closely with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to reach DC Voters residing in 122 facilities around the country. We are participating in local and national conversations with others working to enfranchise incarcerated and formerly incarcerated voters.

In online meetings we explored other issues such as DC's Zero Waste Plan and ranked choice voting. We registered voters at events, got training to register high school students, and rallied with LWVUS at the Supreme Court to support our *amicus* brief in the independent state legislature theory case *Moore v Harper*.



**LWV of Maryland (LWVMD)** Nancy Soreng, President

Our first event of the year was our 16th Annual Constitution Day co-sponsored by the University of Maryland Carey School of Law and LWVMD. This year's topic was, "The Supreme Court, and the Constitution: Recent Cases and their Implications." We are grateful for Andrea Gruhl who has made this a stellar event since its inception.

## 2022 LWVNCA Annual Convention

In October, LWVMD sponsored forums for the candidates for Governor, Comptroller and Attorney General. Our Vote411 site received over 87,000 clicks from Marylanders. We also produced downloadable Voters' Guides for every county in Maryland. LWVMD applied for a grant from NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org. Out of the 4,211 organizations who participated we finished in the top 100 participants in terms of the number of voters registered.

We increased our advocacy efforts by holding a webinar "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the General Assembly" followed by a second webinar "How to be a LWVMD Advocate". We recruited Advocacy Team Leaders who were provided with contact info of the webinar participants who had filled out a survey about the issues they were most passionate about. This enabled us to form issue-based teams who followed and advocated on legislation related to elections, healthcare, police accountability, civil rights, juvenile justice, the judiciary, education and the environment. We submitted testimony on over 100 bills and testified at dozens of hearings.

Throughout the year, LWVMD has hosted a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion book club. The monthly discussions center on novels that highlight characters from different cultural or ethnic backgrounds or face particular societal challenges.

Plans are underway for our first in-person Convention since 2019. It will be in Frederick from June 2-4. In addition to conducting business, we will be holding workshops and honoring a distinguished member from each local League at a gala banquet.







**LWV of Virginia (LWV-VA) Deb Wake, President**

Over the summer of 2020, in partnership with other orgs in the Right to Vote coalition, we held several community events to bring awareness to voting rights for returning citizens, but they were not as successful as we would have hoped. In our divided legislature, the Right to Vote amendment to the constitution did not pass in the 2023 General Assembly. Our governor has also made good on his promise to scrutinize each person petitioning him (via the Secretary of the Commonwealth) to have their rights restored. We're exploring some projects to continue to get information to impacted voters and at our convention in June, delegates will decide whether we will undertake a study on the Right to Vote.

We were an effective member of a Fund Our Schools coalition that so far has prevented legislation from siphoning money from public education and is still working to halt adoption of partisan and racist materials in the Standards of Learning (SOLs).

Other legislative wins include no change to our abortion laws, removal of the witness requirement for absentee ballots and sustained participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

We are hopeful that the reconvened session April 12 will not bring any surprises but our governor does have line-item veto power and the regular session ended without a budget agreement. Because of redistricting, some legislators have needed to resign in advance of the reconvened session in order to run for the June primaries.

November will be a big election in our state because the entire legislature is up for election on new maps and many local races will be held as well. We'll be relying on VOTE411 and social media to keep voters informed.



## Local Member Leagues

**League of Women Voters of Frederick County, MD, Jan Goodman, Claire Kondig, Jim Filson and Lauri Gross, Co-Presidents**



Last year, the League of Women Voters of Frederick County tried to find its way out of a world still living under Covid restrictions and into the unknown of what would come next. With the added excitement of a national election, the year held many surprises. First, the group needed new leadership so the nominating committee hatched a plan to form a leadership team of four members, rather than a single president. With the

blessing of the State League, the LWVFC Leadership Team was formed and Jan Goodman, Claire Kondig, Jim Filson and Lauri Gross took the helm. The team represented a diverse group, in terms of their League longevity, and their interests and skills, as well as more traditional concepts of diversity. Together, the team contributed their skills that enabled them to handle the challenges they faced.

The League continued to hold board and other meetings virtually, and focused primarily on mission-critical functions related to the election, including holding virtual candidate forums, and getting out the Voters' Guide. The League also helped create the Voters' Guide for Allegany and Garrett counties, since those areas lack their own League. The League also provided info and voter registration services at community events around the county.



On election day in November, eight LWVFC members served as polling-place evaluators at 24 polling places and one member helped transfer ballots from drop boxes to the county Board of Elections. In addition, League members placed "Go Vote" yard signs around the county, including some in Spanish.

On Jan. 7, the League held an event at the downtown branch of the Frederick library to kick-start in-person meetings again. About 35 current and prospective members attended, and many signed up to help with various committees and other League endeavors.

The League looks forward to a productive year with an active membership that includes new members and several with decades of League experience. LWVFC is thrilled that the state League invited Frederick to host the annual convention in June and they look forward to showcasing the county and the county League.

**LWV of Howard County, MD** Krista Threefoot, President

The 2022-2023 Fiscal year was both challenging and successful for our local League.

In May and September of 2022, we hosted two candidate forums for the Gubernatorial Primary and General Elections. We appreciate all the volunteers who helped make these events so successful. The recorded sessions on YouTube totaled more than a thousand views and we received a number of compliments from the community on how informative the events were.

Beth Hufnagel and Krista Threefoot attended the 2022 LWVUS National Convention in June to vote in support of the national program consensus we came to at our 2022 Annual Meeting.

Our community engagement has expanded through our partnerships with local organizations like Luminus Network for New Americans, the Association of Community Services (ACS), the Horizon Foundation, Delta Sigma Theta, and the Howard County Library System, as well as our participation in community events like Greenfest, the Howard County AAPI Festival, Howard County PRIDE, and the Oakland Mills Fall Festival.

Throughout the year, we've supported local and state legislative initiatives related to education, fair housing, and the environment. After our March Hot Topics speaker session on childcare in Howard County, we are committed to expanding our advocacy efforts to address the genuine crisis affecting access to and affordability of quality childcare.

Our brand-new store on Zazzle went live in November, and we hope you log on to buy some awesome LWVHC swag. Check out samples of what we have below and visit [https://www.zazzle.com/store/lwv\\_howard\\_county\\_md/products](https://www.zazzle.com/store/lwv_howard_county_md/products) to place your order. All proceeds support our work!

We would like to take a moment to recognize Susan Buswell, a former president and long-time active member, who passed away on March 10, 2023. The League had been part of her life since her childhood, and she contributed enormously to our work. She will be missed.

**LWV of Montgomery County, MD**, Nancy Bliss and Vicky Stella, Co-Presidents



It has been another busy year for LWVMC. The following is a brief look into our work in Montgomery County:

*Voter Services:* We printed and distributed over 80,000 Voters' Guides in English and Spanish for the 2022 mid-term election; participated in the Polling Place Support

Program with the BOE; held numerous registration drives; staffed a voter hotline; held a Board of Education candidate forum; and gave several talks to groups on ballot questions. We are now in the process of applying for grants to serve underserved communities with voting.

*Study Committees:* We have held consensus meetings on Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement and Accountability; informational meetings on Taiwan, ballot questions, and economic development in Montgomery County.

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*Trending Topics:* These are free webinars open to the public. The timely subjects have included Closing the Achievement Gap in MCPS; How Dis/Misinformation Targets Non-English Speakers, Especially in Election Season; and Inequities in Access to Healthcare.

*Advocacy and Action:* We have written testimony on Forest Preservation; County Agriculture and PFAS; Ranked Choice Voting for Rockville Elections; MC- Voting Methods; and Regarding the Police Department Draft Final ELE4A Report.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, LWVMC is now distributing the monthly Voter online saving paper and postage. To assist with the many tasks done by staff and volunteers, we have purchased new computers. We also made the decision to move our website and database to Club Express. It is a work in progress!

The “Defenders of Democracy” fundraiser was held Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Round House Theatre. This was the first in-person League event in over 2 years! Hats off to the worthy recipients and the hard-working committee.

The LWVMC annual meeting will be held in person on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30-1:00 at the UU Congregation of Rockville.

### **LWV Prince George’s County, MD, Gloria Johnson, President**

The League of Women Voters of Prince George’s County Annual Report highlights voters’ education, community outreach, speaker series, partnerships, candidate forums, scholarships and membership.



*STUDENT VOTERS’ OUTREACH:* LWVPGC Board members engaged students at various high schools in Prince George’s School Districts. Several students are now registered voters. The LWVPGC’s Student Voter Education Video is contributing to the successful outreach student event.

*LWVPGC VOTERS’ GUIDE:* The LWVPGC 2020 General Election Voters’ Guide was published and uploaded on the State’s website; An electronic PDF Voter Guide was available and the Voters’ Guide Booklets were disseminated throughout the Community.

*VOTER EDUCATION - SUBSTANTIVE SPEAKERS SERIES:* LWVPGC monthly Substantive Speaker Series highlights: (1) Hon. Council Woman Danielle Glaros discussed “Staying Connected to County Matters.” She also discussed the procedural and substantive matters related to redistricting – after the Appeals Court hearing; (2) Liz Johnson (Former NAACP Housing Chair) and Attorney Jason Howlette presented “Housing Disparities: Predatory Lending and Foreclosure Inequities”; (3) One day after the “Police Accountability Act ” was enacted, Donnell Turner, Inspector General for the Prince George’s Police Department and the Director of the Office of Integrity and Compliance informed LWVPGC members about its provisions; (4) The LWVPGC conducted an Issues Forum on Lithium Battery Storage Unit proposed to be installed by PEPCO, which sought permit for installation in Oxon Hill in close proximity of residents’ homes. The Issues Forum was live streamed. Invited guests included: subject matter expert, Ofodike Ezekoye, Engineering Professor University of Texas at Austin; (5) Dr. Keith

## 2022 LWVNCA Annual Convention

Strong discussed the draft Prince Georges County (PGC) Climate Action Plan that was published in 2022; and (6) Dr. Terri Peters discussed Disparities in Health Care, as well as cardiovascular disease in women, hypertension, blood pressure and sleep disorders. Go to LWVPGC Website: <https://www.lwvpgcmd.org/> to read about all Substantive Speakers Series.



**CANDIDATE FORUMS & PARTNERSHIPS:** (1) LWVPGC members presented at the AKA Upsilon Tau Omega Chapter Ballot Questions Forum. The Forum was presented both on Zoom and live streamed. About 200 persons attended; (2) LWVPGC in partnership with Prince George's Community College hosted in person and six virtual/live streamed District Council Forums; (3) LWVPGC partnered with Prince George's Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, INC, hosting Get Out The Vote Pep

Rally. More than 40 participants were engaged with resources, highlighting the LWVPGC Voter Guide and Vote 411. Participants were charged with executing their plans by engaging 22 persons to meet them at the polls; (4) Ongoing voter registration/education community outreach throughout at various Prince George's County High schools and community events; (5) Juneteenth Celebration/Membership Event @ Watkins Park.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S HOLIDAY GALA & MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:** President Gloria Johnson hosted a wonderful end of year Holiday Gala for members and invited guests, December 18, 2022. All who attended enjoyed brunch at the Country Club @ Woodmore. Invited guests had an opportunity to participate in festive activities and complete membership applications.



**BOYD-NASH and GINTER SCHOLARSHIPS** (Information @ <https://www.lwvpgcmd.org/>) This scholarship award is in memory of Thelma Boyd-Nash and Dorothy Ginter, both teachers and pioneers in the League of Women Voters of Prince George's County Maryland. Application questions focus on voting rights and climate change. Two \$500 college scholarships and a one-year membership in the LWVPGC will be awarded.

**LWVPGC REDESIGNED WEBSITE:** <https://www.lwvpgcmd.org>

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**LWFV of Arlington, VA Joan Porte, President**

This fall we held a well-attended candidate forum for Arlington School and County Boards (Alexandria has no local elections this year.) We also partnered with LWFV Fairfax Area and Falls Church for an 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional debate which was also well-attended.



We sent GOTV cards to everyone we registered this cycle, approximately 900 people. We also participated in the Black Employees Union of Arlington’s Fall Picnic and GOTV event.

We drive people from affordable housing sites to early vote sites and are working with affordable housing companies to provide them with voter registration forms and absentee ballots. We provided voter registration and absentee ballot applications to people in the Arlington County jail and eligible to vote. Thanks to the DC League for providing information.

We are still participating in Arlington’s Dialogue on Race and Equity and recording videos for the project. With UU the Vote we held our first and successful Disability Voting Rights Week Event. We registered 5 people and gave out hundreds of voting fliers in two languages and in large type and Braille.



Our League is now a member of the Arlington Reentry Coalition and working with the Alexandria Coalition. We are assisting the LWFV of the Fairfax Area at their voter registration events at Naturalization Services and working with the Arlington County library to bring these to Arlington. NOVA Alexandria Campus is establishing a student chapter and we are doing voter registration there in March and again in the fall.

Voter registration events were held at Jakes Ice Cream (that hires disabled people), Bayou Bakery, the Arlington “Welcome Home” Events at public libraries, Clarendon Day, several community centers and condominiums, Art on the Avenue and at three farmers markets and Marymount University,

We delivered 250 voter registration/absentee applications to Arlington Meals on Wheels and 400 to Alexandria Alive. We attended the first Expungement Workshop sponsored by the Arlington/Falls Church Commonwealth’s Attorney and registered several returning citizens who were not aware their rights had been restored.

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Our Day of Action and Advocacy was held on January 15. We had several partners in attendance including Equality UUCA, MOMS, NOW, the Returning Citizens Coalition, Challenging Racism. This is a time for our members and members of the public to join us to write letters, emails, petitions on issues of concern to the LWV. We had several members attended the Poor People's March on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Our president spoke at the Black Employees Union of Arlington's Juneteenth Program.

Fifteen of our members marched and did voter registration at the May 14, Planned Parenthood March in Washington, DC.

Our Annual Meeting in 2022 featured rank choice voting on desserts instead of speaker. We held our annual post legislative session in April and had 90 attendees – it was a virtual event. To celebrate the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the League, we sent thank you Valentine's to our delegates who support voting rights and other legislative priorities.

### LWV of the Fairfax Area, VA, Pat Fege and Katherine Ingmanson, Co-Presidents



### Our Accomplishments!

- **21 Citizen Naturalization ceremonies** attended by volunteers with assistance from area sister Leagues to help **3,475 new citizens** register to vote.
- **Over 70 voter registration and voter education events** provided at local festivals, fairs, high schools, and college campuses.
- **11 high schools visited** to help **1,336 students** register to vote with **3 additional high schools** scheduled before the end of the school year.
- **1,350 postcards** sent to people who typically vote only in presidential elections encouraging them to vote in fall 2022.
- National Voter Registration Day celebrated at **22 branches of the Fairfax County Public Library** with **74 volunteers** providing voter registration and voter information.



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- **5,000 copies of the LWVFA *What's on the Ballot?* and 14,500 copies of *Fairfax Facts*** distributed without cost to the public.
- **Nearly 16,000 bilingual flyers** with important election information distributed to foodbank clients.
- **Over 200 people attended the “Meet and Greet”** for Candidates for Fairfax City Mayor, City Council, and City School Board.
- **Over 60 people attended the virtual Congressional District 8 Candidate Forum** held in collaboration with the Arlington-Alexandria and Falls Church Leagues.
- **A video was created for people housed in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center** with voter registration assistance for those eligible.
- **Multiple events were held at local senior residences** to help residents with voter registration and mail-in ballot requests.
- **Helpful information was created and published on social media and LWVFA website** about voter registration, voting by mail, early voting, drop boxes, and election security.
- **10 unit meetings held 8 times** during the year for a **total of 80 unit meetings**.
- **10 issues of *Fairfax Voter*** sent to members and Fairfax area government leaders.
- **Approximately 36 issues of ENews** sent on Saturday mornings to members with volunteer opportunities and late breaking news.

**Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LWVFA with an Anniversary Tea on April 30<sup>th</sup>.**



**LWVFA**  
**High School Voter Registration**

## 2022 LWVNCA Annual Convention

**LWV of Falls Church, VA, Kitty O'Hara, President**



This year has meant getting back to activities that involve more in person gatherings. Our first city event was in September when we had a booth at the Falls Church Fall Festival and distributed information on voter registration, the November election, and League membership. We also had a civics game that was popular with future voters.

On National Voter Registration Day, our members joined the Fairfax League in registering voters and distributing election information at area libraries. For the November election, we partnered with the Arlington/Alexandria League and the Fairfax

League to host a Zoom Forum for the candidates for Congress from the 8th Congressional District of Virginia. The Falls Church League student intern worked with board members to prepare an informational pamphlet on registration and voting (in English and Spanish) that has been distributed in local apartment buildings and businesses, as well as at community events. Our members have also really enjoyed participating at the new citizen registration events that the Fairfax League has organized. For the first time since 2019 the league had a voter registration event at the Meridian High School. The event was organized by one of the students. A member of the Election Board, the deputy Registrar, and a member of the Falls Church League Board were there to answer questions, provide advice and hand out information for those who would be registering online.



Meetings and programs have been varied. We held a planning meeting to give members the opportunity to say what they were interested in having the league do in 2023. We held a membership meeting to discuss and reach consensus on the recommendations of the four groups working on new policies that will be voted on at the June LWV Virginia Convention. It was an interesting, lively discussion. In September we hosted our first program the by Falls Church City's Planning Director on

the Five-Year Outlook for our City via Zoom. The success of the program led the Planning Office to ask us to have a meeting for city residents to provide an opportunity ask questions and raise concerns about proposed changes to transitions zones between more vibrant commercial districts and quieter single-family residences. A large group of people attended this in-person event.

At the end a February we had a party to celebrate the 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday of National League of Women Voters, the 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday of the Falls Church League, and to congratulate two new life

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members and present them with League certificates and bouquets of flowers. In addition to many League members, representatives for other local civic organizations and most of the City Council members also enjoyed the gathering. We took the opportunity to kick off Women's History month a little early by showcasing posters with pictures and descriptions of the accomplishments of twenty women, most of whom were or still are League members, who are among those being honored by the Women's History Group of Falls Church this year.

Between now and July, we will participate in the City's Memorial Day event with a booth to provide membership and voting registration information. We plan to work with Fairfax League on Vote411 for Delegate District primary. After the Virginia convention in early June, we will hold our annual meeting and are hoping to have a speaker on voting rights issues.

### LWV of Loudoun County, VA, Priscilla Godfrey, President



The League has been busy this year visiting several libraries and college campuses in the fall before the General Election to get college youth registered to vote. We also did a postcard campaign devoted to registered but never voted voters. Our pre-election forum for the Leesburg Town Council was quite successful. We received a grant from National league for youth voter registration which we used at a local high school securing 200 registrations in just two days. Now we are planning our annual spring luncheon which will feature four women-led local nonprofits and their work during and after the pandemic. Also scheduling voter information at the Senior Centers before the primaries. Due to the redistricting, there are a lot of questions regarding voting this year.



**LWV of Prince William-Fauquier Area, VA, Janet Gorn, President**



Having expanded its membership in the 2021-2023 Biennium to include two (2) counties, increasing its political footprint, in both Prince William County and Fauquier County, by encouraging active citizen participation in government, working to increase understanding of major political issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy activities, the League of Women Voters of the Prince William-Fauquier Area, has provided added value to the LWV Mission.

To increase the League's membership, the League developed a recruitment program, "*Each One Bring One*," including a promotion plan, with something to fit every member's calendar and every member's interests. The plan includes flyer distribution, news media ads, a color

trifold brochure about our activities, and "*Why Join the LWV*" recruitment posters at community events participation and Community Colleges and universities.

The League believes "Informed Citizens are Engaged Voters." To that end, in the Voter Education area, the LWV-PWFA league partnered with the *Committee of 100* by cohosting candidate fora. In 2022, the league cohosted a candidate forum for the 10th Congressional District, and in 2023 for the Gainesville District Prince William Board of Supervisors Special Election. In addition, the League engaged citizens through distribution of the "VOTE411" pre-election guide, "*Top Ten*" government information; and "*Facts for Voters*."



Member Education benefited from joining the Book Review Group and broadening views on issues of interest through reading both contemporary and previously published books. Meeting speakers and monthly webinars expanded member issue education: *PWC Plastic Recycling, Elected Representative Experience in the Virginia General Assembly, PWC Environment and Energy Sustainability; Piedmont Environment Council and Land Use; and Book Banning and Censorship.*

The League carried out its "Know your Local Government" activities, through the LWV-PWFA Government Observer Corps, tracking agenda, attending meetings, etc. The League also organized two local Issue Study Committees to review and develop a proposed LWV-PWFA Policy Position: 1) the *Prince William County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Prince William County Racial and 2) Social Justice Commission Report*. In addition, the LWV-PWFA has a volunteer participant on all four of the LWV-VA State Level Issue Study Committees. The LWV-PWFA League similarly left its footprint at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, CSW-67 Meeting; the President is a member of the LWVUS Delegation to the CSW-67.

## 2022 LWVNCA Annual Convention



The LWV-PWFA continued conducting its long-standing robust Voter Registration Program throughout the Prince William and Fauquier community. During the school year, the League organized high school voter registration and tandem partners with both the Prince William and Fauquier Bar Association "So You're 19: Legal Rights and Responsibilities" presentation, for all county high schools, conducted by 27 State certified League volunteers resulting, in 1943 students in 2022 and 1600+ by April 2023. The voter registration program has now expanded to NOVA Community Colleges, Senior facilities,

National Voter Registration Day in selected libraries, and participation at 10 Community Events.

The League's Community Outreach Program included: Sponsoring the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Martin Luther King, Jr. annual Oratorical Contest by presenting each of the six finalists with a book; coalition sponsorship in the Black Lives Matter Warrenton, Virginia weekly vigil; and sponsorship of the Prince William-County Re-Entry Council program. The League also partners with the Prince William and Fauquier libraries with author and book signing events, *Campaign for Woman Suffrage* in Virginia, and a Sips and Civility Interactive Traveling Exhibit Event and presentation "We Demand Women Suffrage in Virginia." Last but not least the League President submitted a Letters to the Editor to the *Washington Post* and a Guest Column to *the Prince William Times* on Governor Youngkin's lack of transparency in a change in Virginia policy on restoring civil rights to felons.



## LWFNCA Past Presidents

***These women led the LWFNCA organization in their time.  
We are thankful to them for their talent and dedication.***

1963-1966	Madeline Dorothy Naumann, -- LWV of the Washington Metropolitan Area (LWVAR)
1966-1968	Cynthia Hannum -- (LWVPG); Founded the Lobby Corp in 1970
1968-1970	Beverly Beidler -- (LWVA)
1970-1973	Irene Hill -- (LWVMC)
1973-1975	Patricia Jensen -- (LWVFA: also Former President of LWV of Virginia & LWV of Iowa and served on the LWVUS board 1982-86)
1975-1976	Kay Morrison -- (LWVMC)
1976-1978	Sarah Jane Phillips -- (LWVFA)
1978-1980	Pat Watt -- (LWVFA)
1980-1983	Kathy Ziffer -- (LWVMC)
1983-1985	Ellyn Swanson -- (LWVDC)
1985-1987	Natalie Testa -- (LWVMC)
1987-1989	Ruth Dixon -- (LWVDC)
1989-1991	Pat Brady -- (LWVFA also served on the LWVUS Board 1992-98)
1991-1993	Ethelyn Bishop -- (LWVPG)
1993-1995	Beth Cogswell -- (LWVAR)
1995-1997	Katy Cannady -- (LWVA)
1997-2001	Naomi Glass -- (LWVDC)
2001-2005	Barbara Sherrill -- (LWVAR)
2005-2009	Melpi Jeffries -- (LWVMC)
2009-2013	Elinor Hart -- (LWVDC)
2013-2015	Virginia Long -- (LWVFC)
2015-2019	Kathy McGuire -- (LWVMC)
2019-2022	Linda Softli (LWVDC) & Joyce Starks (LWVPGC) Co-Presidents
2022 -	Joyce Starks, President