League of Women Voters, Montgomery County, Virginia

Year in Review: 2018–2019

Voter Services

Voter registration and information events
Juneteenth, Christiansburg Institute, VT Graduate School, Radford U, Newcomers Club, Corporate Research Center, AARP Health and Wellness Fair, MCEAP Thrift Store, Christmas Store

Encouraging voting
Slide at the Lyric encouraging registration before the deadline, new “real estate” vote signs in Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Radford
Produced a PSA, “Why I vote,” featuring Nikki Giovanni

Voter Guide published October 2018

Engagement with LWV-VA and LWV-US
Three members attended the LWV fall workshops
Two members attended the Legislative PreSession in Richmond
Carolyn Rude attended the LWV national convention in Chicago in Richmond in February

Facts
A 2019 update of our “Facts” brochure was published in January; 7,000+ copies have been distributed throughout the New River Valley.

Public Program: “Who Gets to be American?” October 4
Three Virginia Tech Faculty members presented information on immigration history, policies, and impacts.

“First Tuesday” Programs
Discussion topics have included the nature of a "dual primary," LWV position on the Electoral College/National Popular Vote, The Virginia redistricting case, Gill v. Whitford (redistricting), the League's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion initiative, the “cost” of voting in Virginia, school funding in Montgomery County, definitions of Socialism, and Engaging Conservatives

Great Decisions January 30–March 27
In collaboration with the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech, we organized the community discussion group on foreign policy. 171 registered

Advocacy
Two members traveled to Richmond for OneVirginia2021 Lobby Day and the Women’s Legislative Roundtable in February and visited the legislative assistants for Chris Hurst and John Edwards.
Co-hosted a panel at Warm Hearth on ratifying the ERA featuring Chris Hurst, Sara Bohn, Lauren Colliver, Carolyn Rude, and members of VARatifyERA.

Outreach / Collaboration
Hosted a booth at the Juneteenth Celebration
Sponsored a table at the NAACP annual banquet October 13
Hosted a table at the AARP Health and Wellness Fair
Sponsored a Blacksburg High School student to attend Virginia Girls State

Study: School Funding in Montgomery County
Completed preliminary research and drafted some findings

Organizational Activities
Hosted a membership potluck September 22, updated the bylaws, developed a calendar, launched a new website, developed the concept of “teams” and identified team members, prepared the annual budget, published 3 newsletters, conducted a fundraising campaign, hosted the annual dinner and meeting May 9—Carol Noggle, speaker; topic: Public Funding and School Choice

Floyd County
Welcomed new members from Floyd County, who are considering becoming a “unit” of LWVMC.