

LWVNA Consolidated Liaison Reports – April 6, 2018

LWV Arlington – Matusiak/Sherrill reported:

1. Our March Board meeting continued our packed agenda for the next months, such as:
Review of our in-class voter registration/education presentations. We again worked with the InspireVA folks—and the results were fantastic! Overall, we went to the 4 major public high schools and the 3 alternative schools and registered 350 students.
2. In other areas:
 - Sponsored Arlington League members to attend March 4th rally in Richmond with OneVirginia2021 on gerrymandering.
 - Our first Sips and Civility was held March 6th – with games and prizes – and it was a big success! We had 28 people (new members and prospective members) attending.
 - Had one of our members (Nancy Tate) attend the State Dept Volunteer Fair and talk about potential volunteer opportunities with the League around the nation. Have been asked to attend 2-3 more over this next year. A great opportunity to talk up the League.
 - Created our own Arlington LWV T-shirts. Assessed the interest of members before creating and got their input. The enthusiasm has been great and we've sold just about all we had! And, the T-shirts are really cool.
 - Book club meeting – will tour archives on April 15 and discuss what goes into Archives.
 - Redistricting Committee meetings and speaker in the spring – Paul Smith, who has argued cases before the Supreme Court on gerrymandering has agreed to do a presentation on April 28th.
 - Preparing for our Annual Meeting – date set for May 19th at the Sheraton Pentagon – speaker to be Tom Hicks of the Election Assistance Commission on the work of that commission.

LWV Frederick – Mayfield reported:

1. We have more than 100 members in our local League, for the first time since the 1970s!
2. On Saturday, March 3rd, we joined with the Frederick County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and several other women's organizations to reenact the 1913 Women's Suffrage March of Washington, DC. We marched through the streets of Frederick and then convened at the historic downtown Weinberg Theater for a morning of speeches, song, and celebration. We really enjoyed our collaboration with the sorority and plan to work with them in the future to host candidates' forums and other events.
3. This spring we are focusing our voter registration efforts on college and university students. We have held voter registration days at Frederick Community College and at Mt. Saint Mary's University (at their main campus in Emmitsburg and at their Frederick campus for evening commuter students). Next week we will be at Hood College. While we did not register many new voters (young people in Maryland generally register to vote when they get their driver's licenses), we did collect signatures on an anti-gerrymandering petition and recruited a few new League members among faculty and staff. Many people stopped to thank us for our work. Our Voter Registration Committee will discuss how to best use our time and efforts at campuses in the future: should our focus be on something other than initial voter registration?
4. We have started a Book Club! A new League member is leading the effort and has recruited six or seven founding club members via our Facebook page. Thanks to the Montgomery County League and our participation in the NCA League for giving us this idea!
5. We are planning for our Annual Meeting on April 21st. Michael O'Connor, the Mayor of Frederick, will be our speaker.

LWV of Fairfax - Zachry reported:

1. LWVFA Annual Meeting is Saturday, April 21, 2018 at Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50), Fairfax, 22033. Registration at 9:30 AM, Business meeting at 10 AM. Keynote speaker at 11 AM is NPR correspondent and author Tom Gjelten (A NATION OF NATIONS). Luncheon cost for League members is \$40, \$50 for general public, and \$10 fee to attend meeting only.

More information and Reservations online at <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/2018annualmeeting/> or download form and pay by check.

2. LWVFA is sponsoring a Fairfax City Council Candidate Forum, Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Stacy C Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA, 22030. The Fairfax City Unit of LWVFA is helping coordinate and mostly staffing this event.
3. FCPS High School 2018 Voter Registration Challenge: The LWVFA has teamed up with Inspire VA and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA) to create a high school students voter registration challenge (contest). We are working with the Fairfax County Office of Elections and the FCPS Social Studies' Department to ensure that all eligible students are contacted. All FCPS High Schools have their own unique URL that links directly to the Virginia Department of Elections' website which allows the numbers of students registering to be tracked. The school that registers the highest percentage of their senior class will receive a 2018 Voter Registration Challenge First Prize trophy (and bragging rights!) and any school registering more than 50 percent of their seniors will receive a prize. As of March 23, 2018, more than 3,450 FCPS students had registered (out of a pool of more than 11,000 seniors). Challenge ends May 21, 2018—the last day to register to vote before the June primaries. For more info, go to <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/hschallenge/>

LWV Falls Church – Lipsky reported:

1. Forum on Ranked Choice Voting: LWVFC will host a forum on ranked choice voting, to be presented by Fairvote.org, on Sunday, April 22, 2018, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm at the Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Road, Falls Church, VA 22046.
2. Annual Meeting: LWVFC will hold its annual membership meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2018, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm, at Sfizi Café, 800 West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046. Cost for the meal is \$25 and may be purchased at the door.
3. Voter Registration Training: LWVFC held a voter registration training session on Sunday, March 25, 2018. It was open to League members as well as interested members of the public. Participants received certificates reflecting that they met the Virginia state requirements to register voters during voter registration drives. Voter registration drives are planned at the local high school and local apartment buildings prior to the deadline to register to vote in the June 2018 primaries.

LWV of Howard County- Gruhl reported:

1. On March 6 LWVHC Leaguers Carole Conors, Sheri Glenn, Betsy Grater, Andrea Gruhl, Beth Hufnagel, Betsy Singer, and Barbara Russell attended the annual LWVMD Legislative Day in Annapolis.
2. On March 14 evening about a dozen LWVHC Leaguers gathered at the home of Janis and Jerry Cripe for a Great Decisions discussion of the topic, "Russia's Foreign Policy."
3. The LWVHC Fundraising Committee chaired by Treasurer Beth Hufnagel met at Betsy's Singer's home on March 17 to discuss progress with our many fundraising projects.
4. Due to the biggest snow of the year falling on the first day of Spring, the March 21 morning and March 22 evening unit meetings at Oakland Manor in Columbia were postponed a week. Leaguers then reviewed LWVHC public policy positions for accuracy, clarity, and timeliness.
5. LWVHC is energizing its Observer Corps. Action Chair Kathy Rose is recruiting and training more volunteers.
6. The LWVHC Annual Meeting will be April 24 at beautiful Oakland Manor. Registration is at 6 p.m., the catered, served dinner at 6:30, and the business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

LWV Montgomery County - Blankenship reported:

1. Our March Trending Topic was Dr. Dana Fisher presenting "Can Political Protest Equal Successful Action." Our audience enthusiastically participated in the presentation.
2. In March our Discussion Groups do their own things and they chose a wide range of options from visiting the Library of Congress, the county Recycling Center, PEPCO Water Shed Sustainability Center, the Traffic Control Center and lectures of various kinds.
3. We had our big fundraiser "Sunday at the Movies". Our film was "The Hand That Feeds." It's a behind the scenes look at what undocumented worker face every day. We raised over \$10,000 and had a wonderful time.
4. We're getting ready for the upcoming election with our Voters' Guide. The proof so far is 60 pages with 350 candidates. We will also sponsor a forum for our Board of Education April 23.

LWV Prince George's - Mitchell reported:

1. LWVPGC's March 10 County Executive Candidates Forum and March 29 State's Attorney Candidates Forum were well attended and informative community events. Candidates thoughtfully responded to participants' concerns and answered difficult questions.
2. Plans are being finalized to co-sponsor a Prince George's County Sheriff Candidates Forum on Thursday, April 26, 2018, location TBD.
3. Based upon the March 22, 2018 LWVPGC BOD meeting discussion(s), the April 7, LWVPGC general meeting's primary focus will be a review of League Bylaws in preparation for the June 2, 2018 Annual Meeting and conducting 2018 Primary Election early voting (June 14-21) and election day (June 26) polling place evaluations.

LWV Loudoun County - Godfrey reported:

1. The Loudoun league is busy planning the annual luncheon meeting April 14 featuring Pat Fishback as the speaker.
2. Our second event is a Forum on Virginia Redistricting at Rust Library in Leesburg Thursday June 14 (Flag Day) with Brian Cannon the guest speaker.

LWV District of Columbia - Mc Means reported:

1. Beacon Bar & Grille, 1615 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Washington, DC, from 11 am until 3 pm. In support of our focus on engaging young people, our keynote speaker is Shyheim Snead, a Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholar at American University, who is passionate about how institutions can best support the communities they serve. The cost is \$48 per person. A registration form is on our website www.lwvdc.org. Kathy Chiron has been nominated for President to complete the year remaining in Linda Beebe's term.
2. Our thanks go out to the 48 people, including some league members from Maryland and Virginia, who volunteered to register voters on March 24th at the March for Our Lives in downtown DC, using the national registration form and forms for DC, Maryland, and Virginia.
3. In March, Kathryn Ray led small group meetings for league members who want to help compile Vote 411 candidate information for the DC Primary Election in June; and in April Kathy Fairley will offer voting registration training to league members.
4. On March 22nd, Board Member Barbara Yeomans attended the 6-hour hearing called by DC Councilmember Allen, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to address three bills and two resolutions regarding gun regulations. The bills would toughen firearms regulation in DC; and the resolutions stated Council opposition to a Congressional proposal to allow people who have licenses to carry concealed weapons in any state to carry them in every state and DC; and Council support for the Virginia and

Maryland assault rifle prohibition legislation. The 39 witnesses represented a range of organizations, and included 17 high school students, and four DC government officials.

5. Full Rights for DC Committee Chair Anne Anderson has Equality for DC yard signs, which she would like to see everywhere during tax week, i.e., the week following April 16th. If you want one for your yard, send her an email at mobileanne@comcast.net or call her at 202-262-9089.

LWV Virginia - Lewis reported:

1. We appointed Andrienne Kostas-Salvette to the board as the new appointed Assistant Membership Director. She is from the Fairfax league and will be working with Linda Garvelink; we look forward to her energy and new ideas!
2. We produced and distributed both a full Virginia Voter in mid-February and a Voter Express in March. The April Voter Express was released on March 31. Carol Lindstrom continues to amaze us!
3. We held a work session for the board on April 3rd, where plans were finalized for our 2018 Council, which will be held on June 16 at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond. LWV NCA is entitled to one voting delegate, and we hope to see someone from NCA there.
4. We added new members over the past year, bringing our total membership to 1568 as of Feb.5. We are working with the Roanoke Valley MAL Unit to get them ready to become a recognized local league.
5. We will be monitoring the Special Session of the General Assembly, called by the Governor for April 11, hoping for a budget that includes some meaningful expansion of Medicaid to take advantage of the Federal money now going to other states. So far, the Governor has signed into law several of our initiatives, and vetoed several that we opposed

LWV of Maryland - Gruhl reported:

1. As the 2018 Maryland General Assembly approaches its adjournment day, April 9, the intense involvement of LWVMD in this GA is evidenced by the more than 76 testimonies we have given at committee hearings in support of, or opposition to, the wide variety of legislation afoot. See the state League's website (lwvmd.org) to access our chronologically arranged Testimonies.
2. On March 28 from 10 a.m. to noon LWVMD, along with other Tame the Gerrymander coalition organizations, rallied at the Supreme Court. Fair election maps in Maryland is the coalition's objective. The rally was specifically in support of the Court case, Benisek versus Lamone.
3. LWVMD's annual Lobby Day on Capitol Hill will be Thursday, April 26 this year. The free event features visits to US Senate and Representative offices, lunch at the congressional staff dining facilities, and opportunities to advocate on a LWVUS topic.
4. On May 15th the LWVMD and the League of Women Voters of Prince Georges County co-host a fundraiser on Maryland's beautiful Eastern Shore. The event is termed "True Grit, Legendary Ladies of the Chesapeake. A bus tour starting in Baltimore with pick up stops in Annapolis and Stevensville will wind through rural Harriet Tubman sites, then go to Cambridge sites, such as homes of Annie Oakley and Bea Arthur, and slave trading sites. Lunch at Portside Restaurant in Cambridge is included. Dinner at Cracker Barrel in Stevensville is "on your own." Cost is \$140, payable by April 14. More information and registration can be found at https://www.lwvmd.org/true_grit_tour.