

## **LWVNCA Program Committee Activity Report 2018-2019**

This year was the second of a two-year program plan. The first year included a timely region-wide forum called: Metro Forum-Fund It-Fix It! Members were urged to advocate for dedicated Metro funding sources in the three jurisdictions: Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC. The results were commitments to solid dedication funding from all three for Metro. It also reported on an August 2017 workshop on advocacy and Board skills.

The second year for the program included a training workshop held in August 2018 in Bethesda, MD entitled "Creating Strong Leagues: A Leadership-Membership Workshop". Nearly 60 League members attended from as far away as Calvert County in Maryland and Fredericksburg in Virginia. Since the national LWVUS Convention was held in June, the attendees were updated on the outcomes of the Chicago conference. As the national League continues on the Transformation Journey, it will continue to focus on its mission impact work; will remain nonpartisan; and will continue as a membership organization. The new priorities are 1) Advancing a clear strategic focus on Making Democracy Work, 2) Building a more inclusive culture – a commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, 3) Building a healthier League network – as one seamless League and 4) Increasing capacity at all levels – capacity-building to support technology, communications and fund development. The training workshop also focused on Getting Out the Vote – use of social media, candidate forums, Voters' Guides, voter registration - in the 2018 mid-year election period and on Building Diversity in our local Leagues.

As in all national Convention years, the LWVNCA invited the new LWVUS Board to a February 2019 reception to meet local members and to allow Chris Carson, president, and Virginia Kase, CEO, to speak to the group. It was an excellent networking opportunity at the Beacon Hotel in Washington, DC with over 65 League members and national staff in attendance.

## **LWVNCA Program Planning Results for 2019-2021**

Eight member Leagues participated in the program planning process to review current positions, to seek potential study ideas and to discuss informational forum topics. Given the opportunity to select from a Board-discussed list and to suggest ideas on their own, the Leagues submitted their priorities for informational forums. The topics and numbers indicate the Leagues who listed them as their top three priorities.

Informational forums:

Election Security/Voter Suppression (including DC Statehood) (8)

Human Trafficking (3)

Controlled Substances: marijuana, opioids (3)

Transportation (impact from Amazon) (2)

Homelessness/affordable housing (2)

Universal Healthcare (1)

Poverty: Living on the Edge (1)

The Board recommended a forum on voting issues that includes election security and voter suppression (DC Statehood) to share information and strategies among the jurisdictions. It

further voted to recommend an event on controlled substance abuse and health care and one on human trafficking. It was pointed out that some of the topics could be covered by a speaker at a future Annual Convention or other LWWNCA event. Also, should a pressing issue arise, the LWWNCA could accommodate a forum to address it, such as in the case of the Metro Funding forum. No new studies were recommended.

The Board recommends a summer workshop for 2019 with suggested topics to be solicited at the Annual Convention. The skills-building workshops began in 2015 and are held in years when the LWWNCA does not host the national LWWUS convention. LWWNCA will host the June 2020 LWWUS Convention.

We might note that the coming 2-year planning period includes the year-long celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment and League's February 14th 100th anniversary which will culminate at the LWWUS convention in Washington, DC. Additionally, 2020 is a presidential election with the core focus for the League in Making Democracy Work.

Respectfully submitted by the 2019 LWWNCA Program Committee,  
Diane Hibino, Chair, Anna Kinney, Joanne McAlpine, Sarah McMeans and Sarah Mathews