

League Highlights as reported by League Presidents on October 5, 2018 at Presidents' Luncheon

LWVDC – Chiron reported:

Our first kick-off event, a Snappy Hour on September 12th, was good fun! Delicious food and delightful company with participants' ages spanning almost 8 decades - what an amazing League we are!

Voter registration continues to be a major focus of what we do. First, I'll let Kathy McGuire report about our night with the Nats on National Voter Registration Day. (We still have visors for sale at \$5 each. Contact Linda Softli.) Also, on NVRD, Gwendolyn Reece, a League member and librarian at American University, organized and supervised an all-day effort to register students to vote and to apply for absentee ballots. With supplies and snacks provided by AU, Gwendolyn, and eight other Leaguers, assisted 1,005 students from 51 states with those tasks, and gave them information about the Vote411.org. This was quintessential League, life-affirming day and a program that should be replicated across the county. Finally, we are pleased to report that we have been successful in getting access for a League spokesperson on the program at the monthly Naturalization Ceremony at the U.S. District Courthouse.

We have started a partnership with two nonpartisan organizations: OneWomanOneVote Festival 2020 and TheatreWashington, to promote Get Out the Vote (GOTV) for 2020. We tested one of our ideas last month at Woolly Mammoth. They inserted a Vote.411.org business card in each program, and volunteers from DC, Maryland and Virginia were at the theatre three nights each week to help people register to vote. From this experience, we learned: that a flyer would have been better than the business card; and that the location of the table with voter registration forms (DC, MD, VA and national) is critical to the visibility and success of the effort. We also need to fine tune the volunteer sign-up process. Arena Stage caught wind of this and let us know that they wanted in. So, in less than 24 hours, we arranged for volunteers to help with voter registration, and Vote411.org information, at eight shows. Stay tuned for more opportunities to go to the theatre and promote Vote411.org during the 2020 election season.

We are also working with the non-partisan Research4Impact group to help us fine-tune a GOTV message for 2020. We are concerned about the historically low voter turnout in Wards 7 & 8 in DC, so we will create a couple of focus groups, and then test two strategies in two precincts for this November's election with an eye toward 2020.

For something more immediate, our Health Committee is hosting a Health Care Forum with the theme, Care After Treatment. The forum will cover what one needs to know about getting long term care after an illness or accident. It is an important question for people of all ages. The forum will be held Tuesday, October 16th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Pepco Edison Place Gallery, 702 Eighth Street, NW. Featured speakers include Vincent Gray, City Councilman and Chair of the Council's Health Committee; Judith Feder of the Urban Institute, plus a representative of the DC Health Care Finance Administration. They will tell attendees how government, nonprofit and private organizations help DC residents who need extended health and personal care.

LWVMD – Willson and Apter reported:

LWVMD is completing two state studies. One is a concurrence on Death with Dignity and the other is on Bail and Corrections. They hope to use the positions that come from these studies for advocacy before the General Assembly as both are hot topics in Annapolis. However, redistricting reform will be the number one goal for this session so that a constitutional amendment can be on the ballot during the 2020 General Election.

LWV Frederick MD – Mathews reported:

The Frederick League continues its steady growth in membership and retention. just two weeks ago we signed up 25 Student members at Hood College! We continue to be actively involved with our county government, participating in choosing candidates for submission to the County Ethics Board, and testifying on a variety of bills in front of the council. By the end of this election cycle we will have done Voter Registration twice at all 11 high schools, and at our colleges and universities as well as had 7 forums for candidates and 2 Voters Guides published. We're also out doing Voter Registration at local events monthly, at Farmer's Markets and anywhere we can be.

LWV Howard County – Hufnagel reported:

We have focused on Voter Service, hosting three candidate forums for all local races that are contested, and partnering with several other local civic organizations; they are broadcast on local government TV and on YouTube. We have held numerous voter registration (VR) events at our libraries, as well as the Columbia Mall, a difficult place to schedule, as well as organizing two voter registration training sessions with the local BOE, with 15 people certified. We also loan our signage to LWVHC members who are holding VR events. The total numbers registered are disappointing, but we are pleased with our community exposure. Both primary (24 pages; 10,000 copies) and general election (16 pages; 8000 copies) Voter Guides were produced and distributed. We performed Primary Poll Evaluations for the county, covering all Early Election locations and days and are now planning for the General Election.

We held two Unit Meetings in September and submitted our legislative priorities to the LWVMD. We had a strong presence at both the LWVNCA August Workshop and the LWVMD Fall Workshop.

We are re-energized about Communication, have produced a monthly Voter newsletter, are using NationBuilder for short weekly emails, re-built our Website, are using Facebook more, and are working on getting Twitter back. Timely press releases for events have been sent. Part of this was achieved by splitting the Directorship into internal and external portfolios.

We have arranged for key LWV documents, many dating back to 1946, to be archived at the Howard County Historical Society; we are in the process of gathering and sorting these materials.

LWVMC – Bliss reported

As the LWVMC enters its 99th year, we are energized by our many new members. The membership is 431 with 16 new members in September. The Making Democracy Work committee meets in the office and we are running out of space! It is heartening that so many are eager to do voter registrations, staff the voter hotline, distribute the 80,000 Voters' Guides, and get the word out about the importance of voting. A challenge will be to keep them engaged after the mid-term elections.

LWVMC will be holding its annual fall luncheon on Monday, October 29th, at Normandie Farm in Potomac. Our keynote speaker will be Elaine Weiss, the author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. She was the headline speaker at the LWVUS convention last June, so we are delighted she will be able to join us. We also will be celebrating the contributions of 3 worthy LWVMC members as they receive the Lavinia Engle Awards. They are Connie Tonat, Diane Hibino, and Kathy McGuire!

Other activities include participation in the Polling Place Support Program, attending Trending Topics discussions... the November one will be on DACA/Immigration, and attending discussion group meetings. A concern for many seasoned League members is the difficulty in attracting new members to some of our resource committees.

Come June, LWVMC will host the LWVMD convention from June 7-9 at the Rio Marriott Courtyard in Gaithersburg. Maryland Leaguers mark your calendars!

LWVPGC – Mitchell reported:

This past September and first week of October, LWVPGC in partnership with the Prince George's County Board of Elections and local organizations, held several voter registration events--including National Registration Day, on local college campuses (e.g., Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD, University of Maryland, College Park Campus) and high school campuses (e.g., Parkdale HS, Roosevelt HS), voter education seminar at a local church, as well as upcoming local community events (College Park Day and Riverdale Park Day). Currently, we are promoting and disseminating copies of our voters' guide.

LWV-A – Garvelink reported:

Sue Lewis sends her regrets. As of today, LWV-VA has 1,862 members, that's up from <1,000 in 2015.

Hosted an excellent Fall Workshop on September 8, 2018 in the Woodlands Hotel & Suites, a Colonial Williamsburg Hotel. 86 members attended. Topics were: Membership; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Advocating for LWV-VA's 2019 Priorities, including ratification of ERA, independent commission for nonpartisan redistricting, school funding, behavioral health, voter advocacy (no excuse absentee voting, etc.), firearm safety, and much more.

LWV-VA's Positioned for Action and Positions-in-Brief have been published.

LWV-VA's Pre-session Women's Legislative Roundtable is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, at the John Marshall Ballrooms in Richmond. At this roundtable features many of LWV-VA coalition partner representatives, who detail priorities and expected actions in the 2019 Virginia General Assembly. Each Wednesday during the legislative session, LWV-VA hosts Women's Legislative Roundtables, where legislators, other government officials, coalition partners and the LWV-VA's lobbyists report on issues pending and actions taken by the legislature.

LWV Arlington - Porte reported:

The battle for the ERA. We are doing a joint post card writing event with Falls Church, Fairfax and Loudoun county Leagues on Nov 11 at Uncle Julio's in Fairfax. Uncle Julio's Mexican from Scratch | 4251 Fairfax Corner Avenue | Fairfax, VA Sunday, November 11, 2018 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This week, our Committee visited all of the members of the Arlington County Board urging them to make it a part of their legislative packet. RSVP for event <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/support-the-era-postcard-writing-help-make-virginia-the-state-that-puts-the-era-on-the-constitution-tickets-50746680688>.

We would like to invite all of you to send members to our November 3 seminar on the "Threat of a New Constitutional Convention." The National League did a webinar on this and then gave the slides to local leagues to do presentations. This is the conservative effort to have a new convention and we are eight states away from this happening. George Mason University Law School | 3301 Fairfax Drive | Arlington, VA Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM RSVP <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-secret-movement-to-destroy-the-constitution-how-you-can-stop-this-tickets-49442652304>

On October 10 we are holding a Citizenship Class for the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network. Arlington Street People's Assistance Network | 2020A 14th Street North | Arlington, VA Wednesday, October 10, 2018 from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM. We are working on plans to convert this to a program we can also use for Spanish immigrants. RSVP <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/citizenship-workshop-tickets-48332092590>.

We held a very successful program on Election Security and Safety this week entitled "Securing the Vote: Safeguarding the Elections" moderated by Lynn Garland, co-executive editor of "Principles and Best Practices of Post-Election Audits," the panel included: Liz Howard, Counsel for the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, Audrey Malagon a Batten Associate Professor of Mathematics at Virginia Wesleyan University, and Jeremy Epstein, a cybersecurity researcher for over 30 years, with the National Science Foundation ACM.

Our Redistricting Committee held a meeting with Brian Cannon of One Virginia 2021 and Suzanne Almeida of Common Cause explaining what has to be done right now to make fair redistricting a reality. We have another program planned for October 24.

Our Centennial Committee is working hard. Their approach is to share with members and the public information on the many events and resources being prepared by the organizations focused on the suffrage centennial and to focus their energy on the Arlington League's history.

Our Affordable Housing Committee did a seminar on the “Missing Middle” in Arlington housing and will follow that up with one on low income housing problems in Arlington.

We are also developing a pamphlet and a program to go out to condo managers to develop a better rapport, to do voter registration, to get the name of their Facebook manager or newsletter editor etc. Of course, we are registering people to vote in high schools, condos, farmers markets, fairs, etc. We also held a voter registration training with the Virginia Election Commission attending by more than 200 people.

LWV Fairfax – Helein and Sahai reported:

Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote - (In 2017-18, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area teamed up with the Fairfax County Council of PTAs and Inspire Virginia to create the FCPS High School Voter Registration Challenge.

Two years ago (2016-17) there were 1,600 students registered in Fairfax County Public Schools. With the launch of our Challenge, we estimate there were more than 5,000 students registered -- a 300 percent increase! How do we track the numbers? We have created a unique URL for each school for online voter registration. We also go into the schools to register students. Other groups registering students also send us their numbers. Hayfield Secondary School won the 2018 Voter Registration Challenge. We will go to Hayfield next week to register the next crop. We have already gone to three schools this fall and have several more scheduled. We launched the Second Annual FCPS Challenge on National Voter Registration Day on September 25th. You can find more on our website: lww-fairfax.org

Candidate Forums – We, along with the leagues of Falls Church and Arlington, had planned three candidate forums. One each for the 8th district, the 10th district and the 11th district. Sidney Johnson and her team did a fantastic job and the 11th district candidate forum went off really well. It was held at the Sherwood Community Center on September 16th and was attended by around 200 people. All three candidates showed up and answered questions. We partnered with many other organizations like AAUW, NAACP of Fairfax, NAKASEC, Jewish Inter Faith Alliance, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority etc. The one for the 8th district will be held at the Grace Presbyterian Church in Springfield and is scheduled for October 17. We are expecting about a hundred people to attend this event. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the one for the 10th district as only one candidate accepted the invitation. We did not get a response from Congresswoman Comstock. We had received in excess of 275 RSVPs, so it was a shame we had to cancel the event.
League of Women Voters-Fairfax Area

Action/Advocacy – Deb Wake and Wendy Fox-Grage have activated the Action/Advocacy Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. Legislative priorities for 2019 General Assembly are Redistricting Reform, Voting Rights/Elections, Behavioral Health and Gun Violence Prevention. Members are being prepared to visit legislators in teams prior to the General Assembly. Members are attending Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee Meetings.

The Fairfax League’s General Meeting is an Action Forum and will take place on Sunday afternoon at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax from 1 to 4. Our collaborating organizations such as AAUW, ACLU, NAACP, One Virginia2021, Moms Demand Action, NAMI, National Korean American Service and Education Consortium and PTA Council just to name a few will be present to share their legislative priorities with League members.

LWV Falls Church – Barry reported:

This fall, League members are particularly active. September saw members registering voters at three apartment complexes in Falls Church and held an event at our local game store, Victory Comics, to register potential voters. In early October, we registered voters at George Mason High School. We will be at each of the city’s three polling place on election day to provide voters guides, and to ask for signatures on the OneVirginia2021 petition. Also, at the polls, we will be distributing League material to encourage new membership.

Additionally, our voter services committee is organizing five (and possibly six) postcard writing events to encourage turn out. With much recent discussion on the security of our election process, we are addressing

that issue on November 4th with a program on Election Integrity featuring David Bjerke, the City Registrar, and Renee Andrews, a long time Falls Church Electoral Board member.

LWV Loudoun County – Godfrey reported:

The League has had a very busy fall so far with three election monitoring commitments from three HOAs; a lecture on Women’s Equality Day before the Army Corps of Engineers; Voter registration at three Loudoun public libraries; a forum for Town of Leesburg candidates for mayor and town council; helping out the Loudoun election office with voter registration and absentee ballots at six senior living centers and campaigning for redistricting reform in partnership with OneVirginia2021 at four local fairs and festivals.

We are speaking before and writing to the Loudoun Board of Supervisors in support of getting the ERA to be included in this year’s Legislative Agenda. We are also partnering with the Delta Sigma Theta sorority on “get out the vote” efforts and a social media campaign targeting those who are registered but don’t vote.