



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PRINCE WILLIAM AREA

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APRIL 2018

Hello all League members! Spring is here, the Earth rejoices and our calendar is filled with good things to do! We just finished with a marvelous experience doing voter registration at a naturalization ceremony at the Hylton Center. 450 people became citizens and many of them registered as voters for the first time. We will be having another voter registration on June 20, when there will be 2 naturalization ceremonies, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. I hope you will take advantage of your status as a league member and participate in this wonderful experience. We also have many other voter registrations going on at high schools round Prince William County. The Book Discussion Group is meeting on a regular basis, and has books selected for the coming year. May 5th is the next book discussion group meeting, with *The Glass Castle* as our Spring choice. The events committee has been busy with two presentations and discussions of the opioid epidemic and promises to have more information on this topic in the fall. The school choice task force has developed Public Funds for Public Schools, a thoroughly researched study of how Public Schools are affected by efforts to divert public funds to private schools. This will be presented at the League of Women Voters of Virginia Council meeting in June, to be voted on as a League Position. Also in June, we will be having the League of Women Voters of Prince William Area annual meeting, where VA Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy will be our speaker. You can see that our opportunities to engage with other League members and with the public are many, so please take advantage and participate! Winter is over, and we are on the move! Carol Proven. President

MEET THE MEMBER – JUDY HINGLE

Hello, everyone. I'm Judy Hingle, a relatively new resident of Prince William County. My husband, Lee, and I have lived next to Signal Hill Park for almost two years. A Navy move brought us to the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County for a two year tour in 1986. We stayed there for 30 years. There were a many events and transitions over that span of time, but a major change for me was a decision to stop working as a mortgage loan officer to obtain a Master's degree in School Counseling. For the Army brat who attended 11 schools from K-12 who frequently declared that working in a school would be a fate worse than death, it was a momentous change. I've never regretted it. In my education career I had the good fortune to work with students, parents, staff and administrators at the local, district and national level to maximize postsecondary possibilities for all students. Joining LWV-PWA has helped me learn the roads of PWC, develop new friends who share a common purpose, and participate in our community. I look forward to seeing you at schools, festivals, naturalization ceremonies, book talks and lunches in the coming months.

In This Issue...

Upcoming Events

May 5 -Book Club Meeting

May 15 – Board Meeting

June 23 – LWV-PWA Annual Meeting

EVENTS, PROGRAMS, AND PLANNING

MARCH 24: An Opioid Program, as part of Education, was held at the Alehouse Bungalow in Woodbridge. Nineteen people attended, including Chrissy Fouls of Why, who spoke, and Katrina King, a recovered addict, who presented her experiences and current actions on opioid abuse prevention. The film, Chasing the Dragon, was not shown, as intended, due to technical difficulties, but members of the audience spoke about their reasons for attending the program and an informal and informative forum resulted. Nineteen people attended; 24 people attended the February meeting. Four new members joined LWV following the February meeting.

MARCH 27: Carol Proven, Marcia Barham and Linda Larsen met to discuss creating an information card; Marcia and perhaps Barbara Amster of Communications may work on this project. Judy Shelly proposed the information card and it will be a useful tool to hand to prospective members.

APRIL 5: Judy Smith hosted the original Opioid Community Education Program at her home as well as the Event/Program Planning Committee. Judy led the evaluation of the Opioid Programs held on Feb. 24 and March 24. In attendance: Carol Proven, Linda Larsen, Jane Maddocks, Mamie Thompson, and Judy Shelly. Plans to develop a program for next year were discussed, partnership with other organizations may be possible and the goal to educate were partial outcomes of the meeting.

APRIL 5: An Opioid Program was held at Battlefield High School and Judy Smith and Linda and David Larsen attended. (Judy to present a full report at Carol Proven's request). Dave Larsen noted that the people attending were family members, former addicts, law enforcement officials and those working with addicts. That observation reminded me how important the League's work is to educate members and the public on this topic. Result: Judy Smith, a member of LLLI and Perley Eaton, another member, propose a partnership between the two organizations for a program in October at the Hylton Center. October is National Prevent Drug Abuse Month.

April 8: The Blue Bell Festival went on without a League presence due to erratic and cold weather.

APRIL 25: Linda Larsen and Judy Smith called a meeting with Perley Eaton, Heather Martinsen, Chrissy Fouls, Jane Maddocks, Judy Shelly, Barbara Greiling, and Carol Proven to discuss the possibility of partnering with LLLI and the program essentials. Thank you, Judy Smith, for a wonderful suggestion. LLLI has over 300 members and is a strong advocate for education.

APRIL 16&19: Carol N. offered time slots for Meet and Greets; the Events Committee is in the planning stages of Orientations/Meet and Greets for May or June and early next year.

May 5: Book Discussion (Connie and Barbara)

Great invitation! Thank you for a beautiful team effort!

June 23: Picnic in the Park! Thank you, Carol Proven, for inviting Jennifer Carroll Foy! Carol P. and Linda Larsen are working on dates for the September kick off!

The Events/Programs/Planning Committee (Linda Larsen and Judy Shelly) welcomes Judy Smith and Barbara Greiling to the Committee. Thank you for saying that important word in leadership, "YES!"

LEAGUE BOARD MEETINGS

The LWV-PWA holds board meetings the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Manassas City Hall. The next meeting will be May 15, 2018. All members are invited to attend. We welcome your input!

US Supreme Court

On March 28th, the US Supreme Court heard arguments in the Maryland gerrymandering case, and the Maryland LWV organized a rally that morning outside the court. Grace White (with the Maryland flag) attended the rally with other members of OneVirginia2021 who partnered with the Maryland LWV. Members of the Maryland LWV carried posterboard cutouts in the shape of Maryland districts and wore head gear in a matching color! Very fetching and very memorable. The Maryland LWV had also put together a trivia game around the subject of redistricting to engage attendees as well as people standing in line to sit in the gallery at the court.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Lynne Asmuth	Carol Hamilton
Ruth Balton	Catherine Bridgers
Sally Yankee	Nancy Nyren
Roy Nyren	Gay Koerber
Natalie Jones	Joselyn Jones
Maureen Martin	Karen Stillitano
Patricia (Trish) Freed	Julia P. Sarr
Ruthann Litchford	Tom Litchford
Nancy Vehrs	Diane Wilson
Marilyn Gould	Katie Magill
Mary Winsky	

Welcome to the League of Women Voters – Prince William Area! We are delighted to have you join us.

DEMOCRACY SUMMIT

The Virginia Civic Engagement Table held their Second Annual Democracy Summit on April 7th at the Loudoun campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. Grace White attended and heard Jason Kander of Let America Vote discuss various methods of voter suppression and what his organization is doing to fight for voting rights for everyone. Kander served as a member of the Missouri legislature and then as Secretary of State for Missouri from 2013 - 2017. He ran as a Democrat for the US Senate in 2016. Upon completing his term as Secretary of State he founded Let America Vote - devoted to fighting against all forms of voter suppression. There was an extremely informative panel discussion of the 2020 census, as well as breakout sessions organized around VCET's six agenda items for 2018 which were announced at the event - Automatic rights restoration for returning citizens; No excuse absentee voting; Districts drawn to give power back to the people; Even year elections; Two terms for governors; VA campaign finance laws become a model for the country.

BOOK CLUB

Join the League of Women Voters – Prince William Area for a discussion of Jeannette Walls memoir, *The Glass Castle*. The book chronicles the epic tale of a little girl born to parents who drift so far from reality that their gossamer tether to reality snaps. Jeannette and her siblings grow up unprotected by parents and have to learn how to outsmart pedophiles, bullies, drunks, and the system while often enduring intense hunger and neglect. In spite of a chaotic life Jeannette, who is smart and resourceful, manages to overcome the odds and becomes a productive adult.

The discussion on May 5th, 2018 will be held in the Community Room of Central Community Library from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p. m.

RSVP to Connie Gilman at conniewg51@gmail.com

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

You've got the best name in town. And in the state. And in the country. Everywhere, the League of Women Voters is respected for its impartiality, thoroughness, professionalism, and dedication to public service and, whether you are an experienced member or the very newest recruit, the name is yours. Civic groups often rely on the LWV to moderate candidates' debates and select questions, and governmental bodies often ask the League to help register voters at naturalization ceremonies and at other important events.

Most recently, The LWV was invited by Indivisible NOVA West to curate the questions to be asked at the April 6th Democratic Candidates' Forum (the Republican incumbent has no opposition) held at a Vint Hill brewery. Carol Noggle received a sheaf of raw questions and winnowed them down to a manageable number, combining related topics and disregarding the irrelevant. From these piles of cards, we further processed the questions until we had 16 carefully crafted ones ranging from preserving Social Security and addressing the opioid epidemic to issues of national security and the environment. In many cases, these questions also reflected recent LWV positions on gun control, public funding for public education, and insuring the rights of all, including LGBT citizens. We stayed at the forum until 11:30pm, as a League presence to curate questions from the audience and make sure the moderator had enough information to help him choose.

The evening was inspirational, as all three candidates -- Edwin Santana, John Suddarth, and Vangie Williams--addressed the most important issues of the day. Their answers were considered and well-argued and a tone of civility prevailed throughout. With over 100 people in the room, it was quietly respectful enough for all to be heard. Surprisingly, the LWV was, in part, given credit for the moderate tone of the evening, as we were thanked both verbally and in the program. "Question selection by the League of Women Voters of Virginia" next to the candidates' statements was a sort of "seal of approval" with which nobody disagreed.

Public service is a large part of the mission of the LWV, and you will enjoy becoming more involved with voter registrations, informational booths at civic celebrations, and community outreach educational programs. The candidates' forum was a triumph for all involved: the sponsoring organizations, the candidates, the moderator, the participating voters, and the League. Come share the gratified feeling of helping your community by being at upcoming LWV events and enjoy what it means to have a truly great name.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NOVA Manassas and NOVA Woodbridge: Dates not yet determined, but VR needs to be done before the Primary election deadline.

Possible dates: April 23 and 24 -- for students on campus before exams start on May 8th. May 16, 17, 18 on the first days of their next session and before the May 21st deadline for the June 12th primary.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND MORE

Voter registration has been, and will continue to be, a foundational activity for all members of the League of Women Voters. With multiple opportunities for registering online and active registration drives from various groups, new registrations are not always the main activity at some of our events.

New and experienced members preparing to volunteer have a wonderful informational document created by Carol Noggle that answers many of the questions you will encounter from the public: Who is on the ballot? How do I vote absentee? Where can I read about the candidate's positions on various issues?

The Spring edition of **The Top Ten List** provides information that covers the days between now and the June 12th Primary election. Take the time to explore upcoming deadlines and explore the content on the online resources to be ready to answer questions and provide information with confidence!

All voter registration volunteers also need to complete the training required by the Virginia Office of Elections. You will view an online presentation and complete an affidavit to verify that you are familiar with the registration process in Virginia. This training must be renewed after June 30th each year. Click on: [Virginia Voter Registration Training](#) to complete this task.

Once you are up to date, look for the mentored volunteer opportunities email that will come to all members through SignUp Genius. Every event will have at least one experienced LWVPWA member on site as a mentor and trainer to set you on the path to becoming a knowledgeable and experienced volunteer.

Thanks for all that you have done and will do in support of LWVPWA.