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Schedule of Events

May 6 – Sips and
Civilities-Manassas

May 16 & 21 –
Meet the
Candidates and VR
at Local Events

May 18-19
State League
Convention,
Norfolk

June 8
Annual Meeting,
Manassas Park CC

June 22
VR Training,
Ferlazzo Building,
Woodbridge

President's Message

Spring 2019

Dear Members,

It is finally Spring, we are finished with the Winter of our discontent, when the General Assembly and our leadership in Richmond were less than stellar. We did not see the Equal Rights Amendment passed, but there were other bills that were passed that meant a lot to the League. We saw the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General accused, and in some cases, admit to behavior that we do not condone.

But this is Spring, and we are looking toward April, May and June. Voter registration is paramount, for the Primary on June 11th and the General Election in November. We have been busy with voter registration in the high schools and at the two NOVA community colleges, Woodbridge and Manassas, April 17th and April 24th. May 1st was a wonderful reminder of how lucky we are to live in a country that so many people want to become part of. Many of our members helped with voter registration at the Naturalization Ceremonies at the Hylton Center. Remember to use our website <http://www.princewilliamlww.org/>, and click SignUp! to register for League opportunities.

If you are at all tentative about helping voters register, we will be joining with DST Sorority on June 22nd, for a meeting all about voter registration, what the FAQs are, and the latest laws. Gary Ellis, from the VA Election Office will be training us on the ins and outs of voter registration. Attendance at the meeting will result in a certificate from the Board of Elections, and we will not have to take the online training. The June meeting will be held at on Saturday, June 22nd, from 10 – 1. To register for this worthwhile, interesting and important event, again go to our website <http://www.princewilliamlww.org/>, and click SignUp! We will be having many voter registration opportunities throughout the spring and summer, before the General Election in November, and this is a good way to feel more positive and confident about the whole process. You can get to know candidates in meet and greets in May, and a candidates' forum in July for our School Board.

June 8th is our Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Manassas Park Community Center, and besides having a meeting to vote on our incoming officers, we will be presenting the budget for the League's approval. The featured speaker will be Pat Wirth, who is the Executive Director of Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association. To hear an interview with Pat, click here: <https://suffragistmemorial.org/cafe-latino-interviews-pat-depew-wirth/> The meeting will run from 11:30 to 2:30, with lunch provided by Panera, and a silent auction to benefit the Turning Point Memorial.

The State League Convention is happening in Norfolk this year! All the details are on the next page. It promises to be an exciting weekend! Enjoy the beautiful weather, and remember to sign up for the Annual Meeting on June 8th!

Carol Proven
Carol.proven01@gmail.com

Off to the Convention!

Virginia General Assembly – 2019 Top Ten and More 12 March – Carol Noggle

Learning, networking, voting.

The LWV-VA 2-day convention will be in Norfolk this year on May 18 and 19. LWV-PWA has five members attending – three are LWV-PWA voting Delegates and two are attending as LWV-VA Delegates.

Is this Convention significant? Yes, reading the Convention book's 80 pages of reports, plans, workshop topics, speakers, caucuses, budget proposals, slate of Board member nominations, fund-raising ideas, how to promote diversity and inclusion, advocacy successes (or not) during the General Assembly session, and what our plans and goals are for the future show that attending this Convention is essential. It will affect our Prince William Area League plans and actions for the next two years,

Our Convention is when LWV-VA prepares for advocacy on issues – for or against. The League involves all members in an in-depth study and discussion of a particular issue and names this study and consensus process a Program leading to the development of a Position. Other groups call this process the development of a “platform.” A League workgroup, task force or study group leads the research efforts to prepare study documents for members of local Leagues. Local League members meet to discuss the research and the pros and cons of the information to determine if there is consensus on the proposal. The Local Leagues report to the study group members who will present the result to the Convention for consideration to adopt as an addition to our Positions (aka Platform).

This year's study was “Women's Rights and Sexual Harassment.” The group's first task was to define sexual harassment because there is currently no definition in the Virginia Code. The study group is asking the LWV-VA Convention to approve this recommendation for a definition:

It is the position of League of Women Voters that sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome verbal, written, or physical conduct that either denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward a person of any gender on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, veteran status, political affiliation, genetics, or disability that has the purpose or effect of creating an environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive; and that these same terms apply in the workplace and in all areas outside of the including but not limited to all levels of public and private institutions of learning, for profit and non-profit commercial establishments, places of worship, public and private medical facilities, and public grounds and institutions operated and protected by State or Local government. Further, it is the position of the League of Women Voters that this definition should be codified by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

All LWV-PWA members can help guide our Convention Delegates in determining their vote on this proposal. Read the research report and the study group's rationale for its recommendation. Send your comments to these Delegates: Carol Proven, Barbara Amster, Ruthann Litchford, Janet Gorn and Carol Noggle.

This is the complete report from the study group:

<https://lww-va.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/08a-WR-and-SexHarr-Position-Report-FINAL-Approved-to-go-to-Convention-by-BOARD-3-27-19.pdf>

See all the Convention information here:

<https://lww-va.org/39th-biennial-convention/>

1. Election/Voting Laws (all subject to Governor's approval or veto as of 3/9/19)

NEAV = 7 days; [SB1026](#) & [HB2790](#) (but not on Sunday)

[HB2204](#): Not repeating voter's address audibly at check-in (How did it fail?)

Social Security# verification at VR or will have Provisional status: [SB1038](#): **opposing**

3rd party VR: Add contact information on VR form; [HB2764](#)

2. ROR: 100% voting rights failed; Harmful Constitutional amendment proposal failed. [SJ283](#)

Would still have to finish sentence and pay fines, costs, and fees.

3. Redistricting Reform; Constitutional Amendment resolution passed; need same next year.

Criteria not in proposal. Map-drawing criteria statute proposed. [SB1579](#) Suetterlein

Some Delegates disgruntled; increased outreach needed before election.

[SJ306](#) & [HJ615](#) Details at Brennan Center for Justice

<https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legislation/HJ615%20SJ306.pdf>

4. Education

Funding: EISTC expansion proposed; Opposing [SB1365](#)

EISTC for pre-K passed. [SB1015](#) by Sen. Stanley

School counselor: improve teacher:student ratio; **at least 80% counseling time**. [HB1729](#)

Virtual Virginia expansion to all schools including MS, ES (Dunnavant [SB1590](#)) Failed.

Suspension parameters; guilty of disorderly conduct on school property? [HB1688](#) Failed.

School resource officer compulsory training increases [HB2609](#) (J.Jones) [SB1130](#) (Locke)

School "protection officer" – exemption from training? [SB1207](#) (Stuart) Failed in House.

Scripture elective? [SB1502](#) 2/4/19 Senate debate video. (Left in Appropriations.)

DACAs: eligible for in-state tuition [SB 1640](#) (Boysko) Failed. 1/31/19 in Sen. Ed & Health

Vote to PBI: YEAS--Newman, Black, Carrico, Cosgrove, Dunnavant, Chase, Suetterlein, Peake--8.

NAYS--Saslaw, Lucas, Howell, Locke, Barker, Petersen, Lewis--7.

5. Health: Opioid-related & Tobacco

Naloxone for school nurses, regional jail employees, ER personnel, higher ed employees (not), in AED boxes (not).

Tobacco products & nicotine vapor products in school: prohibition: [SB1295](#) and [HB2384](#)

6. Women & Dignity & Reproductive choice

Virginia Human Rights Act (reproductive choice) [SB1637](#) (Boysko) PBI: 8 to 7 (1/17/19)

"Dignity Act" [SB1715](#) & [HB2540](#): Sales tax exemption for essential personal hygiene products (Boysko & Byron). Sec. Layne supports b/c of young woman in school who could not afford supplies.

Amend with Delay: 7/1/20. Support: Menstrual Equity Coalition representative, Lawyer at U of Richmond support esp. for low income; done in other states; BRAS: never had questioned menstrual equity before, does now. (Video of Sen. Finance Committee 1/23/19)

[SB1646](#) Provide menstrual supplies in certain school buildings. (Boysko) PBI: Failed.

7. Justice:

Driver's License suspension ([SB1013](#)) Stanley: Repeal requirement to suspend license if court costs and fines not paid. Passed in Senate: 36-4; Failed in House subcommittee 4-3. ("Gatekeepers" are powerful in House.) Identical bills by Edwards and Ebbin.

"Ban the Box" by State agencies ([SB1199](#) – Dance) Passed in Senate, but not heard in House.

8. Guns

In churches? Black [SB1024](#) Passed in Senate 1/23. 1/24 video? Left in House Rules.
ERPO (red-flag) provisions defeated: ([HB1763](#) Sullivan)
How to control violence? 2/14/19 Senate debate: 2:39 to 3:28 PM) “Political wedge issue?”
One gun/month purchase limit? [HB2604](#) (Ward) PBI: 4 to 1
[SB1034](#) (Locke) Defeated 5 to 9 in Senate Courts of Justice.

9. Immigration

Jails to notify ICE of alien’s release date; No sanctuary allowed, but not funding penalty. Passed.
[HB2270](#)
No locality shall adopt any ordinance, procedure, or policy *intended* to restrict the enforcement of federal immigration laws. [SB1156](#) (Black) Passed.
E-Verify to confirm citizenship for Voter Registration: Failed. [HB2266](#)
Commending ICE. [SJ255](#) (Black) Left in Rules.

10. Discrimination

ERA ratification (Failed)
Del. Carroll Foy speech on 2/21/19 @ 11:10 AM; re “Fear”
Changing rules attempted in House. SJ275 saga.
Wages/Pay: “Virginia Equal Pay Act” [SB1636](#) Prevents private employers from discriminating between certain groups of people in payment of wages... Failed in C&L Committee

11. Environment/Energy

Protection: Cap & Trade provisions; Join regional program – RGGI?
Who has power? GA members or Governor? Video: ([HB2611](#) & [2269](#)) Date: 1/28 & 1/29/19
What is cause of climate change? Of flooding? Is land sinking or water rising?
Expand solar energy usage. [HB1902](#) Tax Credit [HB2165](#) May generate in Schools: [SB1331](#)
Green New Deal Virginia [HJ724](#) (Rasoul & Co-Patrons) Move to a clean energy economy.
Clean up Coal Ash deposits: [HB2786](#) & [SB1355](#) Passed. PW: Co-Patrons, Surovell, Carroll Foy, Guzman, Hugo, Torian)

12. Drama: Hijacking the rules?

HR274 (Ayala), HR279 (Gilbert), HR280 (Simon) 2/20/19 (Toscano moves to amend SJ275)

13. Operations: House vs Senate Committees

Senate Committees vs House Subcommittees
Integrity & Courtesy compromised. *Amending bill without Patron’s permission or knowledge*
SJ275 (Chase) saga, SJ299 (McClellan) (2/23/19), SJ259 (Peake) add to HJ581

14. Black History month speeches

The Green Book: Jeion Ward 2/18/19; J.J. Jones (personal pain) 2/21/19

15. LG speech on 2/24/19

16. General Assembly Reconvene April 3rd.

The 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration Project
“Honoring Women of Achievement: The Suffragist Movement in Prince William County”

99 Years and ticking, the clock is fast moving toward the **100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment**, adopted on August 18, 1920, guaranteeing all American Women the Right to Vote. Virginia’s women played a significant role in the Suffragist Movement; we earned the bragging rights to polish our buttons in working to achieve that milestone. After we won the Right to Vote, we moved on to champion women’s participation in public life, laying the foundation for establishing the League of Women Voters, founded in 1920.

To honor the Suffragists achievement, the LWV-PWA, at the March General Meeting, launched a Centennial Celebration Committee to plan an informative and fun series of special events, interesting speakers, and projects, highlighting 100 years of Suffragist history. The Committee has already initiated a robust planning and activity effort, including exploring partnerships with the Prince William Historical Society and the Prince William County Library. The Committee welcomes new members who have skills, expertise, or just interested energy, to contribute to the Committee’s work. Be a part of Hosting 100 Years of History’s Vote for Women, join the Committee [Contact: jgorn4@verizon.net].
Janet Gorn, Chairman

Smithsonian Women’s Suffrage Exhibit

To celebrate the centennial anniversary of women’s suffrage in the United States, [*Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence*](#), is open at the National Portrait Gallery March 29, 2019 – January 5, 2020. *Votes for Women* features more than 120 portraits and objects spanning 1832 to 1965 that explore the American suffrage movement and the political challenges women faced.

<https://www.si.edu/spotlight/votes-for-women>

The Portrait Gallery is also offering a number of events to call attention to this exhibit:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/npg.smithsonian/events/>

Meet the Member - Barbara Greiling

I joined the League in late 2017 after my retirement. But I have long been aware of the League and the work it does, thanks to my sister-in-law, who was very active in the Minnesota League before winning a seat in that state's legislature. Now retired, she is back to active participation in her local league. One of the things that I have enjoyed most since joining is registering new voters at the high schools and at naturalization ceremonies.

I am originally from Green Bay, Wis., but my husband's military career took us around the country and overseas, landing us in Prince William County in 1986. We moved here when our children were in elementary school and our grandchildren now attend Prince William County schools. I spent more than 30 years working for newspapers as a reporter and copy editor, including 13 years at the Potomac News. Later I moved on to Army Times Publishing Company, which was then located in Springfield. My journalism career led to an interest in local and national politics. I wrote my first election story as a student at Northwestern University.

New Member

Jessica Majerowicz
Warrenton, VA 20187-3582

High School Voter Registration

Brentsville: 81
Colgan: 88 (Only one day because of snow.)
Stonewall Jackson: 168
Potomac: 86 (only one day?)
Forest Park: 88 (one day ?
Battlefield: 203
Woodbridge: 272
Patriot: 223
Freedom: TBD
Gar-Field: TBD
Osborn Park: TBD
Hylton: TBD

TOTAL SO FAR - 1209