



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PRINCE WILLIAM AREA

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The President's View

August 2017

I hope you are all enjoying the last days of summer before plunging into our once-again hectic fall season. Before I talk about what we are going to do, I think I should introduce myself, as your new President of the Prince William Area League.

I am a Virginian by choice, although I was born and grew up in New Jersey. I lived in the Shenandoah Valley for 20 years, and became deeply appreciative of the differences between our corner of Appalachia and the "white bread" that I grew up with.

I think it is an inherited gene, having an interest in civic affairs. My grandmother was a Leaguer in New York City in the 30s, and I grew up listening to my mother and her friends talking about League events in the 50s and 60s. I have been a member of our League for the last ten years. Now it gives me great pleasure to hear my children vehemently discuss the issues of the day, and to hear my grandchildren come up with their own ideas of civic engagement.

So now you know about me, and a little of my background. I would like to know more about each of you, and what your concerns are. You are welcome to come by my house and have a cup of tea or coffee and discuss the issues, or call me up and I will meet you somewhere and we can talk. My door, and my mind, I hope, are always open.

We have regular board meetings, and everyone is invited to attend them. We are having a wonderful Kick-Off Meeting on September 12th at City Tavern where your presence is absolutely requested. At this meeting you will get to meet your board members, hear about our programs for the year, and see how you can become involved in the League of Women Voters of Prince William Area.

There is a list of meetings and events further on in the newsletter. Try to attend them – the more you do, the more you know, the more you become excited about the possibilities of what is available to make a difference.

Carol Proven, President carol.proven01@gmail.com 703-753-3329

In This Issue...

P 2, Milestones
New Members
Past Events
P 3, Upcoming Events
P 4, National Voter
Registration Day
Events, Democracy
for Sale
P 5, Fall Workshops
Meet the
Member, Barbara
Amster

September 12 – First meeting of the Year!

Join us Sept. 12th at 6 PM for our first general meeting of the year. We'll be having a wonderful dinner at City Tavern, and you'll have a chance to meet the other members of our League, and most importantly, find out what you can do this year to make sure our League values and mission goals are met.

RSPV to Linda Larsen at klebelarsen@comcast.net.

MILESTONES

42 years

Barbara Amster joined the League on 1/1/75

30 years

Carol Noggle joined the League on 5/12/87

Katherine Nelson-Tracey joined on 8/13/87

25 years

Jane Touchet joined 4/22/92

Jessie Barringer joined 6/29/92

NEW MEMBERS

Laura Feld-Mushaw – Lake Ridge, VA

Laurel Hammig – Woodbridge, VA

Wanda Bryant Ruffin – Lake Ridge, VA

Dale Marie Walton – Gainesville, VA

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

A New Member Orientation was held on May 20 at the home of Linda Larsen. Carol Noggle led the meeting. We expect to hold orientations for new members on a regular basis throughout the year to explain the goals and mission of the League of Women Voters. The New Member Orientation is open to all members.



The last few months have been busy!

June 17: The LWV-PWA Annual

Meeting/Luncheon was held at City Tavern in Manassas. Carol Noggle, President, lead the meeting. Member Jeanette Rishell, Mayor of Manassas Park, gave a talk on her experiences related to running for office and the challenges of being a mayor. A raffle of plants supported the General Fund and members voted in a new Board

June 10-11: The League of Women Voters of Virginia had their convention in Leesburg, and many of the Prince William League members attended. Carol Noggle led a workshop group and Linda Larsen managed the many volunteer workers. The Prince William League sponsored a resolution to gather information and write talking points to help support our anti-voucher position and to develop guidelines for online schools. We all gained knowledge about the positions and workings of the League, and came away filled with enthusiasm for the coming year. Barbara Amster discusses the convention in her article "Meet the Member" and you can find a very complete report of the meeting on our League website: www.princewilliamlwv.org



July 22: Book Discussion met to discuss *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. A baker's dozen of members and guests shared insights and experiences to the discussion lead by Carol Proven, President. The next Book Discussion meeting will take place on **Oct. 21. The book, Ratf**ked by David Daley, is the next topic.** The meeting place is TBD.



August 4: Adult Detention Re-Entry DORM program. Carol Noggle presented information on the "Ban the Box" policy that has removed the box to check if a job applicant has had a criminal conviction. .



August 6: African-American Heritage Festival: A Voter Service Day!
Carol Noggle, Jane Touchet and Judy Shelly were busy recruiting members, registering voters and distributing TRYs and Top Tens.

Busy Days to Come!

We have many opportunities before the election to help people to register to vote, to educate people on the candidates and what their positions are, and encourage people to get out and vote!

Voter Registration at Back to School Events

• Thursday, August 31	Potomac High School	6 pm to 9 pm
• Thursday, August 31	Battlefield High School	3 pm to 5 pm
• Thursday, September 7	Battlefield High School	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
• Thursday, September 7	Freedom High School	6 pm to 9 pm
• Thursday, September 7	Osborn Park High School	6 pm to 9 pm

Voter Registration at Community Events

• Saturday, September 16	Haymarket Day	9 am to 4 pm
• Sunday, September 24	Manassas Latino Day	Noon- 5:30 pm
• Tuesday, September 26	National Voter Registration Day	Times TBA*
• Tuesday, September 26	Democracy for Sale	4 pm & 7 pm*
• Saturday, October 7	Manassas Jubilee,	10 am - 5 pm

* These events are at the NOVA Woodbridge Campus

Please contact Judy Hingle jkhingle@gmail.com or Carol Noggle cnogg@comcast.net to volunteer

September 22
LWV-VA Fall Workshops – Register Now!

The annual LWV-VA Fall Workshops will be held in Fredericksburg on Friday, September 22, 2017. There will be a morning plenary session on overall League management issues. The afternoon breakout sessions will be devoted to the three studies adopted at Convention (one of which is our own PWA School Funding Task Force) in June and will include presentations by the committees and discussion. Attendees will have an opportunity to attend two of the three.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the State Workshops on September 22.
Register online here: www.lwv-va.org/2017workshops.html

September 26
National Voter Registration Day

National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 26. Our League is participating in an event that more than 300 Leagues have signed up to participate! We all may be doing different things, but we are working toward the same goals – registering and educating voters on the importance of voter participation to help our democracy grow stronger. The Prince William Area League is a proud sponsor of the film: **DEMOCRACY FOR SALE**, and we will be registering voters before and after this screening. Please attend – we all need to understand the impact that money has on politics.



TUE SEP 26TH AT 4PM AND 7PM
NOVA - WOODBRIDGE CAMPUS
2645 COLLEGE DR.
WOODBIDGE, VA 22191
WS BUILDING, LAKESIDE THEATER
FREE PARKING IN B LOTS

WATCH ZACH GALIFIANAKIS, AS HE
TRAVELS TO NC TO INVESTIGATE
HOW THE STATE HAS BECOME A
BELLWETHER FOR HOW THE
MONEY OF A FEW HAS COME TO
DOMINATE OUR DEMOCRACY.

HOSTED BY HISPANIC ORGANIZATION FOR LEADERSHIP & ACTION (HOLA), LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, VIRGINIA CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TABLE (VCET), AND WORKING FILMS.



Dates to remember for voter registration and voting:

September 22, 2017

- In-Person & By Mail Absentee Voting Begins

October 16, 2017

- Last Day to Register to Vote in the Nov. General (books close)

November 4, 2017

- Saturday - Last day to Vote In-Person Absentee

November 7, 2017

- General Election

MEET THE MEMBER – Barbara Amster

A new feature of our newsletter is "Meet the Member". It gives us a chance to get to know someone in their own words. This newsletter features Barbara Amster, our 1st Vice President.

I was at home in a new house and new neighborhood with a 5 year old and a 3 year old and, just as my brain was turning to mush, my neighbor invited me to a League of Women Voters meeting. She had all the answers to my "no car, no money, no sitter" problems: "I'll drive, and bring the kids. We all contribute two dollars and hire teenagers to watch them." Of course I went and enjoyed the adult discussion of resource equalizers, power equalizers, and Strayer-Haig. I left that meeting as a member of the Illinois School Finance Study, with several books to read and a report to give. Ultimately, I wrote the consensus program, which presented various methods of school finance as a fashion show. The League was like a continuing college education, and I had missed having intelligent, issue-oriented company, so I was very, very happy. A State study on Handgun Control followed and I became a member of the LWV Speakers' Bureau on the subjects of School Finance and Handgun Control. Then I joined our continuing local Parks study, which worked hand in hand with the town planner and parks director to develop new parks. They said they were grateful for our work in monitoring park use and our suggestions for improvements. We even brought about a new park for a shared school/town site, to the delight of the neighborhood. For many of our members, it was their first taste of effective activism, and inspired them to stump hard to get Illinois to ratify the EPA. Unfortunately, Illinois was the home base of Phyllis Schlafly....Still in my first two years, I joined a local study which created a plan to relieve overcrowding and promote integration in our school district.

I guess it was a kind of "trial by fire", total immersion into LWV and its national, state, and local programs, but all I felt was joy to be working with those wonderful women on such meaningful issues. I still feel that way.

Unlike the making of sausage or laws, the way the Virginia League of Women Voters makes policy is a beautiful thing to behold. The intelligence, commitment and sheer talent that go into producing a LWV position were on full display at the Virginia Convention, especially in two areas:

1. The fracking report, exhaustive and informative, even though produced in just a few months
2. The willingness of the Convention to consider the task force that our own League proposed. Although it wasn't a recommended action, the delegates listened, discussed, and decided unanimously to adopt a task force to gather information and write talking points to help support our anti-voucher position and to develop guidelines for online schools.

What became clear, especially to newer members, was that there is no "they" who won't respond to members' legitimate concerns. "They" are "we" and it was gratifying and exciting to see that fact validated once more. I'm proud to be a Leaguer, especially in such a dynamic LWVUS.

Barbara