

January 2022 Newsletter



From the Desk of the President

Janet Gorn, LWV-PWFA President *

Buckle Up New Leadership is in Town

2022 will be a pivotal and unusually challenging year for Virginia politics, with a change in Political Party Leadership and divided legislative priorities, forthcoming State and Federal mid-administration elections, as well as the impact from the approval of the Virginia Supreme Court of the Redistricting Maps for the Virginia House of Delegates, the Virginia Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives. Of upmost current importance to the LWV on the national level is the U.S. Congressional consideration of the two pending Voting Rights Acts: *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* and the *Freedom to Vote Act*, and any threats to our Democratic institutions.

On the local level, there are a number of pending issues in both Prince William and Fauquier Counties, which will affect the quality of life for its citizens, including benefits from the U.S., Infrastructure legislation, single-use plastic products, PWC newly formed Racial and Social Justice Commission first draft report, PW New Planned Data Center, review of the Comprehensive Plans, environmental stewardship (e.g. PWC Joint Environmental Task force, Clean Energy Goals of the Council of Governments, renewable energy). The League of Women Voters of the Prince William Fauquier Area is tracking actions and identifying opportunities for advocacy and study.

On the State level, of immediate attention is the legislative activities of the Virginia 2022 legislative session. January 12th at High Noon marked the Opening of the Virginia General Assembly and the beginning of the 60-Day 2022 Legislative Session. Del. Todd Gilbert (R-Shenandoah) is the new speaker replacing Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax), who became the first woman to lead the Virginia House in its 400-year history. Governor Glenn Youngkin (Republican) was sworn in on January 15th as the 74th Governor of Virginia replacing Governor Ralph Northam (Democrat). The Republicans now are the majority Party in the House (52 Republican, 48 Democrat). The Democrats still retain the majority in the Senate (21 Democrats, 19 Republicans). The organization and membership of elected representative appointments to committees is a key factor in the LWV-PWFA Advocacy activities. Once the League knows which committees our Prince William and Fauquier Delegates are assigned, the League can draw on its adopted Policy Positions to influence the legislative process.

In the past two years, among the measures passed by the Democrats (the majority party in both the House of Delegates and the Senate as well as the Governorship), were gun-control legislation, extended access to the vote, abolishment of the death penalty, legalization of small amounts of recreational marijuana, and overhaul of the criminal justice laws. The Democrats so far have filed few pieces of legislation in the 2022 Session. On the other hand, the Republicans have filed a number of bills that are of significant interest to the LWV-PWFA League, in particular election related bills.

The LWV-PWFA Advocacy Director (Carol Noggle) and the Government Observer Corps will keep you posted through our Constant Contact notifications, that may include a "Call to Action"; **DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT.**



Fauquier Unit News

Fauquier Unit Director Ruthann Litchford

In December, the Fauquier Unit League Observer Corps members attended the Electoral Board meeting. The discussion focused on two interrelated issues: Pending need for a larger secure space for voting machines and a new need for space to house new voting machines to supplement existing machines, as well as larger security cages for the equipment.

The County has 23 voting machines and needs 32; the additional machines are on order and due to arrive any time from a few weeks to months. Four cages with locks are on order. The old cages, which were at capacity (i.e., stuffed with machines, signs, other materials), must be scrapped. The Registrar's office needs a space large enough for all machines to be stored, serviced and programmed, all within a secure space. The footprint of the new machines is nearly twice that of the existing machines. Currently, the machines are stored in a space that would not accommodate the additional equipment and which is not large enough to permit servicing and programming within a secure area. Furthermore, that space is allocated temporarily to the Elections Office, which will have to relinquish it. The Office needs three months' lead time before the next primaries and must have the space in anticipation of the cages and machines. The hard deadline is February 1.

Warrenton and The Plains need to pass ordinances for the November town elections, in response to a change in the law to combine town and general elections.




Budget Update

Trish Freed, Treasurer:

DID YOU FORGET???? Annual Dues are still being collected! Reminders were sent to all 32 members; look for our reminder email. If you haven't renewed, please renew now.

Consider a donation to the LWV-PWFA Education Fund, donations are tax deductible. The Education Fund supports the League's education activities. Please write your check to **LWV Education Fund** and note our **League ID VA 116** in the memo line. Education Fund are deposited in our account with LWV US.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Trish Freed, freedsrt@verizon.net.



League Members join the League of Women Voters primarily for two reasons: 1) Interest in political issues, in particular local issues, and 2) Interest in getting involved and participating in League programs and activities. The LWV-PWFA offers a treasure trove of volunteer opportunities, to fit every interest, skill, experience, and knowledge, including activities that can be carried out at home, at a League meeting, or in the community. Volunteers not only benefit by getting involved, but also through the camaraderie and fellowship with other members. Members are alerted to opportunities though through *SignUpGenius* and Constant Contact.

The League cannot carry on its programs and activities without volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors as well as in activities and programs.



Your League Needs YOU!

There are several openings on the Board of Directors. You are invited to join. Please contact Janet Gorn President (jgorn4@verizon.net) . The vacancies include:

Recording Secretary
Sips and Civility Meeting Chair



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY



The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded on January 13, 1913, by 22 collegiate women at Howard University to promote academic excellence and provide assistance to those in need. The Founders of Delta

Sigma Theta envisioned an organization committed to sisterhood, scholarship, service, and addressing the social issues of the time. Since its founding, Delta Sigma Theta has become one of the preeminent service-based sororities, with more than 300,000 initiated members and over 1,000 chartered chapters worldwide.

The LWV-PWFA League partners with the local Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to support the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest. The 2022 student orators will speak on the 2022 theme – ***“Beyond Dreams and Mountains: Her Voice-Her Mission.”*** For the past few years, we have presented books to the finalists in the competition. This year we are presenting to the 6 finalists hard back copies of *A Gift of Love: Sermons from Strength to Love and other Preaching’s*, by Martin Luther King, Jr.

The finalists are:

Kenedi Cheri Wiley

Shavonne Davis

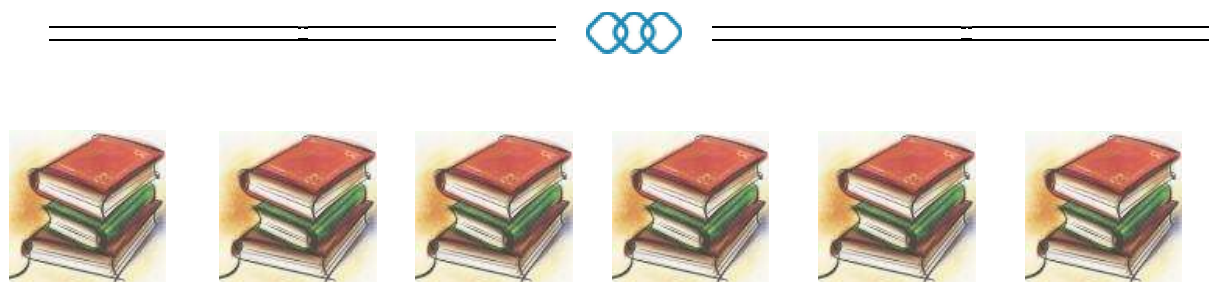
Varsha Jyothikaa Palaniyandy

Mahmud Ibn Abdul-rahman Khabir

Makaya Elizabeth Freeman

N'Na-Mayi Akosua Tama

The program premiered on You Tube channel PWCAC-DST-Media on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 11 a.m. Even though the event has taken place, you can still go to the You Tube channel to watch an amazing program and very talented students!

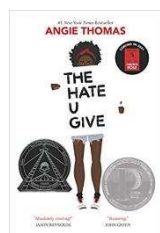


Book Discussion Group

Connie Gilman, Chair

The League broadens its view on issues of interest through reading both contemporary and previously published books. Members believe it is important to be open minded in their efforts to better understand issue pros and cons. By being widely read, members can broaden their view and supplement their understanding of League issue studies and adopted Policy Positions. The League Book Discussion Group meets quarterly and encourages active participation in its discussion. Members are notified through *SignUpGenius* about the forthcoming discussion meeting.

Please consider joining the next meeting and broaden your views through America literature.



If you missed the January 13th zoom book discussion meeting, on *The Hate You Give*, by Agie Thomas, you missed an opportunity for an interesting dialogue. This book is an easy read that will take most of us through an unknown world and culture. The book is available in a variety of formats through the Prince William Public Libraries, including the DVD.

The Book Discussion Group developed a list of potential books for the forthcoming 2022-2023 year and is requesting your recommendations. Please email your comments to Connie Gilman, Chair (conniewg51@gmail.com)

The Color of Law, Richard Rothstein

Rothstein describes how the American government systematically imposed residential segregation: with undisguised racial zoning; public housing that purposefully segregated previously mixed communities; subsidies for builders to create whites-only suburbs; tax exemptions for institutions that enforced segregation; and support for violent resistance to African Americans in white neighborhoods.

Made in China, Amelia Pang

In 2012, an Oregon mother named Julie Keith opened up a package of Halloween decorations. The cheap foam headstones had been five dollars at Kmart, too good a deal to pass up. But when she opened the box, something shocking fell out: an SOS letter, handwritten in broken English. Amelia Pang pulls back the curtain on Sun's and the stories of others like him.

Only the Rich Can Play, David Wessel

This is the incredible tale of how Washington works-and why the rich keep getting richer-and starts when a Silicon Valley entrepreneur develops an idea intended as a way to help poor people that will save rich people money on their taxes.

David Wessel follows the money to see who profited from this plan that was supposed to spur development of blighted areas and help people out of poverty.

Mastering Civility, Christine Porath

Incivility is silently chipping away at people, organizations, and our economy. Sights, insensitivities, and rude behaviors can cut deeply. Moreover, incivility hijacks focus.

In this book, Porath shows how people can enhance their influence and effectiveness with civility.

The Love Songs of W.E.B., Ailey Pearl Garfield

The great scholar, W. E. B. Du Bois, once wrote about the problem of race in America, and what he called "Double Consciousness," a sensitivity that every African American possesses in order to survive. Since childhood, Ailey Pearl Garfield has understood Du Bois's words all too well.

To come to terms with her own identity, Ailey embarks on a journey through her family's past, uncovering the shocking tales of generations of ancestors in the deep south.

On the House: Washington Memoir, John Boehner

At a time when the arbiters of American culture were obsessing over organic kale, cold-pressed juice, and SoulCycle, the man who stood second in line to the presidency was unapologetically smoking Camels, quaffing a glass of red wine, and hitting the golf course whenever he could.

In addition to his own stories of life in the swamp city, Boehner offers his impressions of leaders he has met. He shares with all his views on how the Republican Party has become unrecognizable today.

Emptiness of our Hands, 47 Days on the Streets, Phyllis Cole-Dai

In 1999 Phyllis Cole-Dai and James Murray lived by choice on the streets of Columbus, Ohio. They went to the streets with a single intention: to be as present as possible to everyone they met, offering them sustained and nonjudgmental attention. This book chronicles their street experiences.

The Great Divide, Joseph E. Stiglitz

A singular voice of reason in an era defined by bitter politics and economic uncertainty, Joseph E. Stiglitz has time and again diagnosed America's greatest economic challenges, from the Great

Recession and its feeble recovery to the yawning gap between the rich and the poor. *The Great Divide* gathers his most provocative reflections to date on the subject of inequality.

Toxic Femininity in the Workplace: Office Gender Politics Are a Battlefield, Ginny Hogan

If there's one thing we can agree on in a post-Trump America, it's that sexism exists. While there are myriad books on female friendship in the marketplace, *Toxic Femininity* is the first book on the special relationship between female coworkers and gender dynamics in the workplace to hit the market in a comedic "gifty" way.

Come Fly The Word: The Jet-Age Story of the Women of Pan Am, Julia Cooke

Required to have a college education, speak two languages, and possess the political savvy of a Foreign Service officer, a jet-age stewardess serving on iconic Pan Am between 1966 and 1975 also had to be between 5'3" and 5'9", between 105 and 140 pounds, and under 26 years of age at the time of hire. Cooke's intimate storytelling weaves together the real-life stories of a memorable cast of characters as they embraced the liberation of their new jet-set life.

Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know, Malcolm Gladwell

This is an intellectual adventure, a challenging and controversial excursion through history, psychology, and scandals taken straight from the news. Something is very wrong, Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know. And because we don't know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world.

The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story, Nikole Hannah

In late August 1619, a ship arrived in the British colony of Virginia bearing a cargo of twenty to thirty enslaved people from Africa. Their arrival led to the barbaric and unprecedented system of American chattel slavery that would last for the next 250 years. This is a book that speaks directly to our current moment, contextualizing the systems of race and caste within which we operate today. It reveals the way the legacy of slavery did not end with emancipation, but continues to shape contemporary American life.

The President and the Freedom Fighter: Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Their Battle to Save America's Soul, Brian Kilmeade

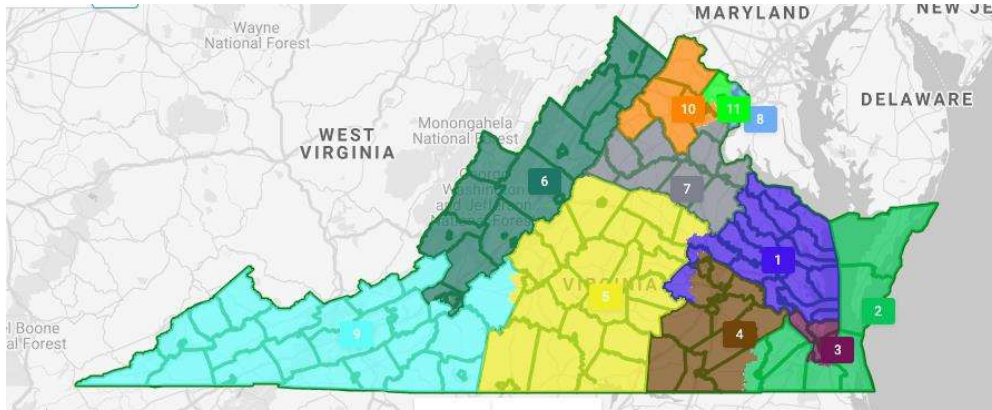
In *The President and the Freedom Fighter*, Brian Kilmeade tells the little-known story of how two American heroes moved from strong disagreement to friendship, and in the process changed the entire course of history.

American Marxism, Mark R. Levin

Levin explains how the core elements of Marxist ideology are now pervasive in American society and culture—from our schools, the press, and corporations, to Hollywood, the Democratic Party, and the Biden presidency—and how it is often cloaked in deceptive labels like "progressivism," "democratic socialism," "social activism," and more. Levin digs into the psychology and tactics of these movements, the widespread brainwashing of students, the anti-American purposes of Critical Race Theory and the Green New Deal, and the escalation of repression and censorship to silence opposing voices and enforce conformity.



VA Supreme Court has Approved New District Maps for the House of Delegates, the State Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives



Press Release VirginiaOne2021

The Maps Are Here!

BREAKING: NEWS The Supreme Court of Virginia has unanimously approved new district maps for the House of Delegates, the State Senate, and the US House of Representatives.

On behalf of the board, staff, and advocates from across Virginia's political spectrum, OneVirginia2021 thanks the Justices of the Supreme Court of Virginia and Special Masters Bernard Grofman and Sean Trende for their work over the last several weeks and are gratified to see the court's unanimous approval of Virginia's district maps.

While we are still combing through the details of the memo and final district maps, at first glance, we are pleased to see that the Special Masters went above and beyond to incorporate as many specific public comments as possible.

NOTE:

Instead of all of PW in one Congressional District it is now part of two Congressional Districts.

Visit vpap.org for a view of the newly-approved maps. To find your district in the House of Delegates, Senate and US House of Representatives, click on vpap.org, enter your home address, and select Redistricting.



**State Legislators Town Hall Meeting
James J. McCoart Administration Building
December 18, 2021**

Carol Noggle, Advocacy Director:

There was a fairly small audience.

Legislators present were Senators McPike and Surovell; Delegates Roem, Helmer and Guzman. Delegates Sewell and Maldonado were in Richmond for newbie training.

League members present were Grace White, Ann Wheeler (who introduced the panel), Laura Mushaw, and me. Grace and I spoke.

The format was better this year because the legislators responded to comments far more than before and, at the end, stated some of their planned legislation. More than one stated how important it will be, especially in the House, to have the citizens actively advocating early when bills are in the committees,

CJN: I requested support for the Constitutional Amendment (SJ1) to restore voting rights on release from incarceration, to support public school infrastructure funding, and to oppose charter schools. (I spoke to Del. Guzman as we were leaving and agreed to send her the substantial talking points and research materials we have from our extensive study on funding).

Grace noted the good strides in energy issues, the need for changes in building codes, and support for National Popular Vote. She asked Sen. Surovell about a group that should be meeting about utility rate reform. He confirmed that the group has not met yet.

SEIU (Service Employees International Union): David Broder and Tammy (?) spoke in support of Unions, the progress made for working families, need for continued support for voting rights, and justice.

Joyce Reyes (?) of SEIU spoke about increasing pay for home care workers who serve those who are disabled and the need to preserve home care for the disabled.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates): Mr. Martinez asks for protection against rollback of progress, such as immigrants being able to get driving permits from DMV.

Mike Freeland of Manassas had 3 asks:

Approve a 7th Judge in the local Circuit Court in PW/Manassas; Provide for affordable housing (the recommendations from the JLARC [Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission] Housing Study is available); Support Clean and renewable energy measures.

PW 2A (Prince William 2nd Amendment Group which supports the Right to Keep and Bear Arms) representative Mr. Hand: Concerned that too many counties are sanctuaries against guns; needs opposition from legislators.

Alan... asked for dollars for trails

And these participants received responses to their comments:

Ilana Naylor voiced concern with the environment and possible pullout from RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative). She supports voting rights and had a "shout out" to PW BOCS for help for the Thoroughfare community.

Del. Roem commented about some changes to be made to be pro-active to protect cemeteries and make certain heirs are contacted; require public notices.

Charles asked about how to reduce environment problems amongst transportation sources. Del. Roem responded about budget items, many versions coming and there will be a protracted discussion, including within the NVTa (Northern Virginia Transportation Authority); possible Omnibus to Dulles via Rt. 28.

Legislators' Comments on their plans:

Del. Guzman: Assure funds for home care workers; support workers' rights; increase teacher pay; and improve water quality.

Del. Helmer: Support abortion rights; dollars for utilities (not sure what he said).

Sen. Surovell: Watch the Budget; assure integrity of tall buildings; decrease dangerous methane; expand the expungement of sentences; provide for scrutiny of medical records to guard against physicians' malpractice; require police to state immediately the reason for stopping a car; promote improved transportation issues – calming measures, add dollars for NVTa, and pedestrian safety.

Del. Roem: Guardianship support for adults who need care per JLARC study; protect Thoroughfare and similar situations to assure cemeteries are located; support payments of meals at schools (No “shaming” of students); support military active duty re: DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles); transportation; pedestrian safety measures and increase the number of roundabouts (but need funds); FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) reduce fees to get information, such as from local govt (she says VACO [Virginia Association of Counties] is against this because of cost to local government); support first responders; develop workforce in Virginia APW.

Senator McPike: Broadband support \$ to support remote work (expects virtual work to continue); even 911 work can be done from home; need innovation to expand; increase funds for working families – making strides; support MARCUS alert (Alerting police about mental health crisis); Funds to assure mental crisis support: Crisis Receiving Centers – work with CSB (Community Services Boards) and the VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) agrees with Del. Roem stand on Guardianship; the Budget priorities may be different between House and Senate with the change in leadership in the House impacting the dynamics between the two bodies.

NOTE: Even if you cannot get to Richmond in-person you can follow the Legislators' sessions online by accessing the General Assembly website VirginiaGeneralAssembly.gov. The Website contains a cornucopia of information In addition to the schedule of meetings.





**Schedule of 2022 Meetings
Women's Round Table (WLRT)
The League of Women Voters of Virginia**

Women's Legislative Roundtables (WLRTs) are sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA). Their purpose is to focus on League's Legislative Priorities and Issues of Interest. These meetings are held each Wednesday during the Virginia Legislative Sessions January March 12 – March 12, in the Tidewater Room of the Sun Trust Center, 919 East Main Street, Richmond. League members can attend in person or log in virtually.

Jan 12 – Automatic Restoration of Returning Citizens Voting Rights

Jan 19 - Absentee Ballots Witness Requirement Removal

Feb 2 – Vouchers and Tuition Tax Credits to Private Schools; "Portability of Funds diverted from Public Schools to Private Schools".

Feb 9 – Child Protection

Feb 16 – Money in Politics – Reform

Feb 23 – Dark Money – Honest Ads

Mar 2 – Floods – Full Disclosure of Flood Zones

Mar 9 – Final Legislative Push

Jan 26 – League Day (Save the date)

League Day is a hybrid event. Local League schedule meetings on League Day, with members of the General Assembly Representatives. For details contact Carol Proven (carol.proven01@gna1) or Judy Hingle (jkhingle@gmail.com).

COMMENT:

Connie Gilman, Vice President

Last year was my first ever experience with the Women's Legislative Round Table. Truth be told, I never wanted to get up early enough on a Wednesday morning in winter to drive to Richmond and attend these sessions in person. But COVID changed those sessions to virtual sessions and all members can now attend and learn. I encourage you to get up early for at least one of these sessions. Hey, you can attend in your pj's...no one is looking! And you can munch on your breakfast, too!

First, go on-line (www.lwv-va.org) to register and to secure the background information for each session. That will help you be less overwhelmed by the discussion and change in speakers. Second, set your alarm for the day you choose, grab your refreshments and sign on!

These roundtable session help members understand the issues and you receive direct input from legislators or their assistance on various issues. It is a great way to understand how the League of Women Voters works in Virginia!

LWV-PWFA Board of Directors

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Market Place Chair, Barbara Amster autodidact1000@aol.com

League Meetings are open to all LWV-PWFA Members.

Board of Directors Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 pm

General Meetings and Events, 3rd Sunday of the month, 2:00-4:00 pm

Due to Covid issues meetings are virtual. Members receive meeting notices and attendance registration directions via *SignUpGenius* which includes Zoom Meeting access information.

LWV-PWFA Website: www.princewilliamlwv.org

Connie Gilman, Newsletter Editor. (conniewg51@gmail.com). Comments and articles are welcomed.