

“The Prince William- Fauquier Voter.”



May 2022 Newsletter

“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.”

Maya Angelou

From the Desk of the President

Janet Gorn, LWV-PWFA President



League of Women Voters of Prince William-Fauquier Area President’s Annual Report FY-2021-2022

The League completed its 15th Anniversary Year with a Crystal Cup full of robust activity and a membership that demonstratively made a difference in “Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy.” Chartered by the LWVUS in 2007, the League expanded its footprint in 2021 when the LWVUS formally approved its Charter change request to include Fauquier County in the LWV Prince William Area League: League of Women Voters of Prince William-Fauquier Area (LWV-PWFA).

In the past fiscal year, the LWV-PWFA League revised and updated its Bylaws, redesigned the Website to make it more relevant and educational on *How the LWV works*. To better facilitate conducting Board duties and strengthening the Board interconnectivity realigned the Board positions, including adding new Board of Directors positions: Fauquier Unit Director, Membership Outreach Director, Meeting Co-Directors, Advocacy Director, Media Relations Director, Communications Director, and Event Registrar Coordination. In support of the expanded Board of Directors activities and programs, the League developed a highly successful unique SignUpGenius Volunteer Program: “*Volunteer from Home.*”

The League co-hosted two virtual candidate fora (2nd and 31st House District) in Prince William County with the Committee of 100 Leaders, and one in-person candidate forum in Fauquier County (18th and 88th House District). Conducted Postcard campaigns. Collected and

submitted VOTE-411 information to the LWV-VA Data base. Distributed the *Top Ten Palm* cards and the *They Represent You (TRY)* post-election brochures at community events. The League participated in the Manassas Adult Detention Center (ADC) Felon Reentry Program Family Orientation with other Community Service Groups, distributing flyers and an information brochure.



The LWV-PWFA continued conducting its long-standing robust Voter Registration Program, in both Prince William and Fauquier County. As of April 30th, the League has 34 State Certified Voter Registration Members, who completed almost 1600 high school student registrations at 18 high schools, between July 1-April 30th. The LWV-PWFA League conducts its high school voter registration program in tandem with the Prince William Bar Association “*So You’re 18*” Program, and the Prince William Department of Elections’ voter registration responsibilities. The League also completed 62 registrations at 16 Community Events, including all 12 Prince William Public Libraries on National Voter Registration Day.

The League reconstrued its Government Observer Corps Program and expanded its membership to strengthen the LWV-PWFA DNA footprint in the counties, including developing a Plan of Action to better identify local issues of interest and to propose advocacy actions on adopted League Public Policy positions.

The LWV-PWFA League focused on carrying out the League’s Education and Advocacy Mission on the local level, by engaging speakers who expanded knowledge in support of adopted LWV-VA’s Policy position (*LWV-VA Position for Actions*). A local government Environmental Call to Action was issued for: *Virginia Disposable Plastic Bag Tax Law*, and on the State level a Call to Action for the Virginia Assembly Budget Amendment *Delaying the Ban on Polystyrene Containers*. Wrote Letters to the Editor of “The Washington Post” and to the Board of Supervisors.

The League also organized two local Issue Study Committees, to review and develop a proposed LWV-PWFA Policy Position: 1) *Prince William County Racial and Social Justice Commission Report*, and 2) *Prince William County Comprehensive Plan*. In addition, the LWV-PWFA has a volunteer on all four of the LWV-VA State Level Issue Study Committees: Child Care, Education Equity, Environmental Justice, and Money in Politics. Hosted two “Inside Our County Issues” Webinars: 1) *Landfill Plastic Disposal Challenges*, and 2) *Healthcare and the Price of Prescription Drugs*.

The League led a quarterly Book Discussion Group, hosted Sip and Civility events, and conducted member information workshops. The LWV-PWFA partnered with the Public Library to co-host a Book and Author Program: *Campaign for Women’s Suffrage in Virginia*. Supported the *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Student Orators Contest*, by awarding the 6 finalists with books. The League publishes a bi-monthly Newsletter to keep the general membership informed, maintains a long-range Master Calendar, and issues periodic Constant Contact notices. The

LWV-PWFA members celebrated the League's 102 Birthday on February 14th with a quarter page color announcement in the local newspaper promoting League membership.

Janet M. Gorn, President



Annual Meeting (ZOOM)
May 15, 2022 (Sunday) 2:00-4:00 pm

Meet the amazing women who represent us at the General Assembly and learn about their experiences at the General Assembly:

Candi Mundon King
Elizabeth R. Guzman
Briana D. Sewell
Michelle Lopes Maldonado

The legislators will discuss their ups and downs of working in the General Assembly, followed by a short Q and A session.

Immediately following the Program, there will be a Business Session, where members will vote on proposed Balance Budget revisions to the Bylaws and adoption of the FY-2022-2023 Budget.

The LWV-PWFA Board of Directors, as required by the League's Bylaws, approved submitting two Motions for consideration of the general membership, at the Annual Meeting May 15, 2022. Notices of the Balanced Budget revisions to the Bylaws and the Proposed FY-2022-2023 Budget were sent to the membership as required.



Why We Observe These Holidays

Connie Gilman, Vice President

Memorial Day. Memorial Day is celebrated on May 30th. Did you know that although it comes at the end of a long carefree weekend for most of us, Memorial Day is not a celebration! It is meant to be a somber day. It originally was called Decoration Day and began after the Civil



War, which split the country in two as everyone was forced to take a side. Decoration Day provided an opportunity to start healing as a country by coming together and honoring those who had died.

Over the years, Memorial Day has grown to include traditions such as the red poppy of remembrance, various parades and

ceremonies, and the National Moment of Remembrance.

Juneteenth. Although many Americans may not even be aware of it, Juneteenth recognizes a pivotal turning point in American history. The most popular celebration of Black emancipation in the United States after the Civil War, it commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union General Gordon Granger, accompanied by approximately 1,800 federal troops, arrived in Galveston, Texas, formerly part of the Confederate States of America, to take over the state and enforce Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation from 1863. The name itself is, of course, a clever mash-up of the month and the date ("June" + "the nineteenth"). Today, 47 states and the District of Columbia acknowledge Juneteenth as a state holiday or special day of observance, usually on the third Saturday in June.



Democracy in Action

Trish Freed, Treasurer

Covid has been a significant challenge for our League, not only in terms of making us adapt to how we conduct our outreach and education to the community, but also in terms of our financial condition. We've continued to play a vital role in sponsoring debates, informing voters, and supporting democracy in action at the grassroots level, and we should be proud of our resilience and endurance!

Still, the costs of participating in these activities have continued unabated, while our membership has dropped, resulting in a decrease in dues payments. Even so, our League

remains committed to voter outreach and education. We have plans to participate in many of the local community events over the next year, ready and eager to register voters and provide the most up-to-date information available on candidates running for office, logistical information on new voting districts, and any changes in election laws that may affect voters.

However, we are unable to do any of this without you – our League members. Your donations, whether they be of your time, talents, or financial resources, enable our mission to register and educate voters, empowering them to participate in the most basic right of our democracy, voting.

This June when you renew your membership in the LWV- PWFA League, we hope you will consider not just a regular membership (\$70) but increasing your contribution to the Champion of Suffrage level (\$100). If all our regular members do this, it will go a long way toward relieving the budget pressure we have.



LWV-VA Issue Study Selection. How Does the League Form “Positions”? What Is the League Program?

At-the LWV-VA State League level, a “position” is a statement of the League’s point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by Delegates to the Biennial Convention, and is the basis for League Advocacy action. The term League “Program” includes the entire process, from a Local League proposing an issue topic for study, through adoption of the proposed study by the Biennial Convention Delegates, to a proposed position reached by the Study Committee, and position adoption at the Biennial Convention. The identical Program development process is applied to form positions at the National, Regional, and Local League level.

There are four major steps in developing a position:

- § The League selects an issue to be studied at Convention or Council at state or by LLs at annual meetings.
- § The League studies the issue in a non-partisan, unbiased and objective manner.
- § Members come to an agreement about the issue using either the process of consensus or concurrence.
- § Based upon the result of the consensus or concurrence, a position statement is written, adopted by the respective League board, and subsequently approved by the League membership at an annual meeting or convention.

Year 1 through June 30, 2022

- § May/June, odd-numbered years, LWV-VA Convention adopts studies. (5/2021)
- § July (2021)—Study Committees get organized, begin research & share timeline, information, suggested activities, with local Leagues.
- § Local Leagues may have speakers, reading discussions, other activities to learn about the issues being studied.

Year 2 through June 30, 2023

- § July (2022)—Study Committees develop consensus questions; state board approves & disseminates to local Leagues.
- § Local Leagues plan their study consensus calendars to complete reports before the deadline.
- § August-February (2023)—Local Leagues continue learning, hold consensus meetings and report results at least 3 months before Convention. Local Leagues also review existing state positions and may propose new studies.
- § Study Committees & Program Director tabulate consensus reports, determine areas of consensus, draft positions & submit to state board.
- § Board adopts final position wording and shares with League members.
- § Positions are discussed and voted on at Convention (June 3-4, 2023).



Book Discussion Group Book Discussion Group



Connie Gilman, Chair



The next book discussion won't be until July, but make sure to put it on your calendars! Even if you don't get around to reading all the book, you can listen in while enjoying a splendid glass of wine! And snacks (BYO or purchase there).

July 12, 11:30 – 1 P.M., Effingham Manor Winery

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 misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world.



Each One Bring One Prospective New Member

The *League of Women Voters of the Prince William Fauquier Area* is a nonpartisan political organization. Our members are women and men who make a visible difference. They serve as community leaders who are using their experience in making democracy work and creating lasting change in the communities where we live.



Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges Today

Empowering Voters Defending Democracy

JOIN US

To be part of a network of dedicated volunteers who are empowered and share a passion for creating positive change on the local, state, and national levels.

JOIN US

To serve as a leader in your community! Shape the issues that ensure community health, vibrancy, equity, inclusiveness, sustainability, and resilience.

JOIN US

To add your voice to the work of one of the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the United States.



<http://www.PrinceWilliamLWV.org>
LWVpwfa@gmail.com



Welcome to our newest member: Cynthia L. Cole.



League Meetings are open to all members!

The 3rd Tuesday of the month the Executive Board meets 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The 3rd Sunday of the month General Meetings as scheduled meets 2:00-4:00 p.m.

ALL League members receive meeting notices which includes the use of Signup Genius to register for the meeting. You will receive a ZOOM “address” to easily join the meeting. No driving necessary! Feel free to join in wearing your PJs and enjoying a beverage or a snack.

Board of Directors

2021-2023

President, Janet Gorn jgorn4@verizon.net

Vice President, Connie Gilman conniewg51@gmail.com

Treasurer, Trish Freed treaslwpwfa@gmail.com

Recording Secretary, Cynthia Chambliss, cynthia57@comcast.net

Fauquier Unit Coordinator, Ruthann Litchford r.litchford@live.com

Membership Outreach Director, Cathy Ring ring.cw@gmail.com

Membership Records Director, Sheila Arrington arringtgl@verizon.net

Volunteer Director, Judy Hingle jkhingle@gmail.com

Acting Action and Program Director, Janet Gorn jgorn4@verizon.net

Voter Services Director, Carol Noggle cnogg@comcast.net

Meeting Co-Director, Miriam Anver anvermr@gmail.com

Meeting Co-Director, Laura Feld-Mushaw smushaw@comcast.net

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Newsletter Chair, Connie Gilman conniewg51@gmail.com

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