



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORTS

FY 2021-2022

June 30, 2022

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Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges Today
Defending Democracy Empowering Voters

INTRODUCTION

The LWV Prince William – Fauquier Area Members are among the most active and best informed citizens in both Prince William and Fauquier counties, on a variety of local State and National topics of interest and political issues that are in the forefront. This is more important, than ever, because we are living in a crucial time in which the future of Democracy is threatened and our country's future weights in the balance.

Every League Member is lavishly showered with information and disinformation about issues on the national, state, and local level, through the news media, emails, US mail, flyers, Town Hall Meetings, and candidate fora, often in a bias attempt to tip the balance. That raises the question how can League Members go from uninformed to informed, to gain confidence as to what is truthful, factual, and unbiased?

To ensure Members continue to maintain informed "Smart Power," and to be active and knowledgeable throughout the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, the Board of Directors began its Biennium term of office with a cornucopia of League programs and activity opportunities to fulfil its Education and Advocacy Mission. Throughout the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year these opportunities greatly contributed to League Members' leadership in the community, shaping the issues that ensure community health, vibrancy, equity, inclusiveness, sustainability, and resilience.

Report of the President

Janet M. Gorn

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 positions: Membership Outreach Director, Meeting Co-Directors, Fauquier Unit Coordinator, Advocacy Coordinator, Media Relations Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, 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*” to supplement its robust cadre of volunteers.

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 Post-card 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 brochure 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 June 30th, the League has 27 State Certified Voter Registration Members, who completed more than 1,943 high school student registrations at 18 high schools. 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 County libraries on National Voter Registration Day.

The League reconstructed 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 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 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update*. In addition, the LW-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 Out County Issues" Webinars: 1) *Landfill Plastic Disposal Challenges*, and 2) *scheduled 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 winners with books. The League publishes a quarterly Newsletter to keep the general membership informed, a monthly notice of upcoming events, 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.

Report of the Fauquier Unit Coordinator

Ruthan Litchford

Report of the Fauquier Unit Coordinator FY-2021-2022



- **Voter Registration Activities**

A primary focus this summer has been educating the community in the entire County's inclusion into Congressional District 10. Voter Registration tabling has still been severely curtailed in Fauquier County due to Covid concerns. Our usual events/festivals have been cancelled or cut back where a table is not available. However, we did participate in the Fauquier Juneteenth Celebration where we had 9 paper registrations and referred many people to the online registration site. Based on how many Top Tens we distributed we had well over 280 contacts. Upcoming events include a VR table at Laurel Ridge Community College's Artists4ERA fair at both campuses this fall as well as lunch tabling at the three high schools.

- **Black Lives Matter Vigil**

LWV-PWFA members continued to participate in the Black Lives Matter Vigil for Justice in downtown Warrenton. We offered voter registration and education including current Top Ten handouts. This weekly event continues to draw over four dozen community members each Saturday as well as many people coming to the Farmer's Market and retail shops and restaurants.

- **School Board Meetings**

Members attend the monthly Fauquier School Board meetings where book banning has become a concerning issue. Ms. Kim Ritter, Supervisor, Library and Media Services - Fauquier County Public Schools, gave an excellent overview on how books are chosen for the district and what options parents have to control what books their own student accesses. The League is considering asking to have this presentation at a future event.

- **Warrenton Town Council Meetings**

So You're 18 Program

We continue to reach out to our High Schools with information on the 'So You're 18' program hoping to help register young voters and offer valuable information on their rights and responsibilities as citizens. This effort is ongoing.



Black Lives Matter

LWV of the Prince William-Fauquier Area Celebrated its sponsorship of the 100th consecutive Black Lives Matter Vigil on May 14th.

Not a demonstration, not a protest, the Black Lives Matter Vigil began two years ago, after the murder of George Floyd, and just passed its 102nd consecutive week. Vigil participants, sometimes exceeding 120 people, have stood through sunshine, rain, and snowstorms to share a plea for racial equality and justice, every Saturday from 10:00 am to 10:45 am, in front of the Warrenton Courthouse in Fauquier County. The LWV of the Prince William-Fauquier Area has proudly been a cosponsor of the Vigil, along with the NAACP, the Interfaith Council, the Afro-American Historical Society, and two other non-partisan organizations.

The League has provided speakers several times for the post-Vigil gathering after the signs "*Learn the History*", "*Racial Justice*", "*Black Lives Matter*", "*Let's Have a Conversation*", etc. have been put away. A typical speaker, this time the President of the NAACP, Dr. Ellsworth Weaver, noted that Vigil participants should "have no problem in fulfilling the mission of seeking justice, helping others in need of better jobs, housing, and health care." Racism is alive and thriving and the Vigil is needed now more than ever.

The LWV-PWFA League has also maintained nearby every Saturday morning a voter registration booth. Under a large booth League of Women Voters banner, the LWV has distributed voter education information on upcoming primaries and elections, restoration of felons' rights, fair housing, and other LWV policy positions, while registering voters and winning good will for the League. In fact, this visibility has fostered a boom in LWV-PWFA membership from Fauquier County.

The Warrenton Town Council and police have been assured of the League's appreciation for their kind words and support. The police presence at every Vigil contains the few "protestors" who show up to intimidate. At the February meeting, Town Council members opposed a demand that the Vigil be shut down, each member offering what they knew about the Vigil and affirming the group's right to be in the public eye, as "*Democracy at Work*."

As a participant in the BLM Vigil, the LWV-PWFA League members can attest to the feeling of heightened awareness and commitment to racial justice not only among Vigil members, but passers-by. When parents point out the League's BLM signs to the children in their cars, it heartens us to think that the Vigil is helping to start conversations in families as well as among townspeople. When this happens, the LWV-PWFA League members are prouder than ever to be a member of the League of Women Voters, and of helping to uphold some of the most fundamental LWV positions.

Report of the Treasurer

Trish Freed



Report of the Treasurer FY-2021-2022

6/20/2022

Banking Summary 7/1/21-6/30/22

7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022

Page 1

| Category | 7/1/2021- 6/30/2022 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| INCOME | |
| Donation in kind | 250.00 |
| EDFund Reimb | 1,342.14 |
| Grant | 200.00 |
| Membership Assis Grant Fund | 345.00 |
| Membership dues | 4,928.03 |
| Merch sale | 10.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 7,075.17 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Advertising | 500.00 |
| Bills & Utilities | |
| Insurance | 44.19 |
| Internet | 150.00 |
| TOTAL Bills & Utilities | 194.19 |
| Debate Cost | 79.00 |
| Event Registration | 35.00 |
| Expense Reimbursements | 2,156.43 |
| League Banners | 387.55 |
| Membership Refund | 67.49 |
| PMP | 4,445.55 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 7,865.21 |
| TRANSFERS | |
| FROM Checking 0494 XX0494 | 70.00 |
| TOTAL TRANSFERS | 70.00 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | -720.04 |

Account Balances - As of 6/30/2022

| Account | 6/30/2022 Balance |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Bank Accounts | |
| Education Fund | 2,244.60 |
| LWV Checking | 14,520.79 |
| TOTAL Bank ... | 16,765.39 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | 16,765.39 |

Report of the Voter Services Director

Carol Noggle

Report of the Voter Services Director FY-2021-2022



- **VOTER REGISTRATION:**

All but two Prince William County High Schools were scheduled for Voter Registration in collaboration with the Prince William Bar Association. Freedom High School was canceled because of two snow days. Colgan High School chose to have a virtual “So You are 18” presentation. Two additions for Voter Registration included the Prince William Independence Traditional High School and the Osbourn High School in the City of Manassas. High school voter registration was also accomplished in Fauquier in the Fall of 2021 before election day.

Major participation by members in-person and/or at home were essential to success. Preparing for a high school day included a new feature – highlighting in yellow the essential items on each form. Given that we prepared and distributed at least 2,000 application forms please applaud the many helpers. I believe that the highlighting reduced the time spent completing the forms because students did not need to read all the details of unnecessary sections on the form. At-home helpers also prepared our pre-printed receipts by attaching the “I Registered to Vote” sticker. The Prince William Election Office willingly provided all the stickers and VR application forms.

Also remember that the completed forms must be alphabetized, and all names listed on a spreadsheet to take to the Election Office. Willing members at each high school sorted the forms before the end of the day. The names were then entered onto an Excel spreadsheet for delivery to the EO and also sent by email to one teacher at each high school.

League members visited the following high schools from Fall 2021 through April 2022, registering many students at each school.

Battlefield: 303
Brentsville: 76
Gar-Field: 150
Forest Park: 245
Unity Reed: 108
Patriot: 269
Potomac: 141
Woodbridge: 212
Hylton: 205
Osbourn Park: 211

Gainesville: None because they have no Seniors this year.

Osbourn HS in Manassas City: 7 in the fall; [In process n:]: 4
Liberty (FQ) 3
LFCC (FQ): 7

Independence Nontraditional: 7
Freedom: 0 (snowed out)
Colgan: 0 (Not scheduled.)

The City of Manassas had a City Council Democratic Primary in progress, so Voter Registration of Osbourn High School students provided those students a chance to vote as soon as their VRs were processed.

"So You're 18 Collaboration: 15 years!"

The terrific collaboration that the PW League has with the PW Bar Association and the PW Election Office at the high schools continues. Covid-19 prevented many months in 2020 and early 2021 of high school VR so this school year has allowed a renewal –Hooray!

We are still researching to find even one other Virginia jurisdiction that has the high school in-person presentations by their local Bar Association members.

We will continue to seek opportunities for voter registration and absentee by mail ballot applications at Senior Living facilities.

- **MAJOR CHANGES AFFECT THE 2022 ELECTIONS**

After many months of determining the composition of the Virginia Redistricting Commission that was followed by the dismantling of the Commission that left the redistricting process to the Court and the assigned "Masters", new maps were devised and approved for Virginia's eleven (11) Congressional Districts. Remember that long, long agonizing process?

Thus, with major changes in Prince William and Fauquier County district boundaries, and because of a significant increase of residents in PW, our 2022 elections have significant changes from the past. Instead of 3 Representatives to Congress, PW will elect only 2 Representatives –one from the 10th and one from the 7th District -- with significant boundary changes.

Most important for voter information is any change to precincts and polling places. Prince William has had to add 10 additional precincts to meet the requirement of the maximum number of voters allowed in each. The precincts in the 7th Congressional District were impacted for the June 21st Primary. See all the information here: <https://www.pwcvotes.org/>

There was no June Democratic Party Primary in the 10th Congressional District and no local Primary in Fauquier County. There was a 10th CD Republican "firehouse primary" on May 21st.

The sample ballot for PW Voters in the 7th CD is available here:
https://www.pwcvotes.org/files/ugd/d8ec42_b7f1f37b150c4befb31057ba4a5e05c0.pdf

The sample ballot for the Manassas City Council Democratic Party Primary is here:
<https://files4.1.revize.com/manassasva/Voter%20Registration/Sample%20Ballot%20yellow.pdf>

NEW: June 21st, 2022: Why was the Primary date so late this year? It has always been on the 2nd Tuesday of June, right? Why was the law changed? The goal was related to precincts in schools when schools are in session. Security and space and necessary adjustments by the schools were sometimes necessary and very inconvenient if students and parents and teachers were present in the building. Generally, students were not present but the entrances and exits had to have extra security or limited access, spaces had to be cleared of furniture or rearranged, extra work by custodial staff was required.

Resistance to the change seemed strongest from those who generally had major travel plans starting the day after the school year ended. However, Virginia also has a law for no-excuse absentee voting so there are significant options for early voting.

- **VOTER EDUCATION via VOTE411**

LWV-US has changed the 411 software for establishing the Local Leagues' Voter Guide to the candidate lists and responses to the questions we, and LWV-VA, craft. This has created a need for significant orientation and re-orientation. LWV-PWFQ was responsible for setting up the Vote411 guide for the June 21st City of Manassas Democratic Primary. There were 4 candidates for 3 positions.

- **ALSO: For November**

1. For the November election, that day may provide easier participation for some because it is designated as a Virginia State Holiday.
2. The Voter Registration deadline will be extended to November 8th. (I will check but I believe a person who registers that day will need to vote with a provisional ballot.)
3. Mail-in absentee ballots MUST have a Witness Signature this year because there is not the emergency that was declared last year.
4. Drop boxes for Absentee Ballots will be allowed.
5. There is no change in the identification requirement; that is, a Photo ID is not required. The list of what can be used is available online. <http://www.princewilliamlwv.org/>

ADDENDUM TO VOTER SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

- Senior Facilities
Harbor Chase: May 27: 4 Absentee by Mail applications
List under construction by Donna Anstee; for fall 2022 visits
- NOVA Manassas:
Meeting date coming this month with staff to set up VR on campus with student participation.
Contact with Provost Molly Lynch was made by Cynthia Chambliss.
- NVRD September 20, 2022
Libraries: Amy Cunningham of PW County confirms participation; will work for permission at every library. Lena at Montclair Library will certainly be on board.
- Other sites than libraries can be sought.
Amy recommended a book for a Book Talk that is relevant to incarceration and re-entry: "Living with Conviction" about a person who was incarcerated. A movie, "Jailbreak Lovers", is based on the book.
- BLM Vigil. Continuing: Warrenton Black Lives Matter vigil on Saturday mornings. Voter Registration/Education always offered.
- Third Party VR Training **Annual Renewal**: scheduled with DST for Saturday, June 25, 10 AM to 12 PM with Virginia Department of Elections staff: virtual Sign-Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4caea82ba2f94-third>

- Restoration of Rights:

Re-Entry Council Family Orientation: April 21st at Mt. Olive Baptist Church (Brenda Carswell and Carol Noggle). Offered ROR brochure for families and other organizations.

Re-Entry Council meeting: June 13 at PW County Development Center.

Possible event for ROR information: National Night Out: August 2nd, details coming Adult Detention Center Community Resource Fair for the fall: Jail staff stated that it is **NOT** likely to happen; thus, not an opportunity for significant orientation for inmates.

Officer William Burley, 35th District Probation and Parole Officer & Chair of the Re-Entry Council, per my query about the status of ROR by the Governor, stated that their understanding is that a released felon must still complete all probation and parole obligations before he/she can apply for ROR. That is how they advise those released felons that they encounter.

LWV-VA Council session included a presentation by former Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly Thomasson who processed the ROR applications during the administration of two Governors. She compared the vast numbers of those whose rights were restored previously with the small number so far in 2022. There has been a recent uptick so that is good news. What is not available, however, are the names and locations of those on the restored list. Thus, we do not know how to contact them to provide Voter Registration; nor do we know if they must complete probation and parole and financial penalties first.

Family Orientation by Re-Entry Council: July 21 at 5:30 at Mt. Olive Baptist Church

- Juneteenth: June 18: Warrenton See sign-up for the day.
- August 10: Prince William Schools Orientation for new employees; Voter Registration; Forest Park High School

Report of the Volunteer Director

Judy Hingle

Report of the Volunteer Director FY-2021-2022

A TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEERS



V aluable is the work you do,
O utstanding in how you always come through.
L oyal, sincere and full of good cheer,
U ntiring in your efforts throughout the year.
N otable are the contributions you make,
T rustworthy in every project you take.
E ager to reach your every goal,
E ffective in the way you fulfill your role.
R eady with a smile like a shining star,
S pecial and wonderful - that's what you are!

--(Author Unknown)

Member volunteers are the heart and soul of a vital network of League members who are dedicated to good governance, with a strong commitment to the League's Mission to "Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy." In FY-2021-2022 fourteen (14) members served on the Board of Directors, four (4) members served on the *Prince William Radical Justice Report* LWV-PWFA Study Committee, five (5) members on the *Prince William 2040 Comprehensive Plan* LWV-PWFA Study Committee, four (4) members served the LWV Virginia State Study Committees [Child Care, Education Equity, Environmental Justice, Money in Politics], and twenty-seven (27) members volunteered at one or more voter events.

Voter registration and education events were held at twenty-four (24) locations in Prince William and Fauquier counties at variety of venues that included high schools, retirement facilities, and large and small community events. The LWV-PWFA League has been a strong supporter of Black Lives Matter Vigil in Warrenton, providing voter registration and educational materials every Saturday of FY-2021-2022.

To better meet volunteer appeal, the League reached out to its members to identify topics of member interests for action and advocacy, as well as to provide flexibility for participation from in-person events, zoom events, and volunteering from Home activities identifying smaller short-term activities.

The volunteer goal is to tailor programs to provide a variety of participation opportunities to meet member's interest: voter registration, voter services activities assisting hosting candidate fora, legislative advocacy, Issue Study Committees (local and State), assisting at participation in community events, participating in the Government Observer Corps activities, League advocacy activities, fund raising, hosting webinars, engaging speakers, the newsletter and communication tools, Sips and Civility Events, and book discussions. Members are notified of volunteer opportunities through SignUpGenius.com, Constant Contact, Newsletter updates, and the LWV Prince William-Fauquier Area website www.princewilliamlwv.org.

**VOTER REGISTRATION STATE CERTIFIED
VOLUNTEERS FY-2021- 2022**

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Barbara | Amster |
| Lucia | Anderson |
| Donna | Anstee |
| Miriam | Anver |
| Sheila | Arrington |
| Ruth | Balton |
| Cynthia | Cole |
| Laura | Feld-Mushaw |
| Trish | Freed |
| Janet | Gorn |
| Barbara | Greiling |
| Judy | Hingle |
| Janet | Hollis |
| Brenda | Jackson-Sewell |
| James | Jones |
| Ruthann | Litchford |
| Carol | Noggle |
| Carol | Proven |
| Pat | Reilly |
| Catherine | Ring |
| Cheryl | Saggers |
| Lorraine | Schooner |
| Miggy | Strano |
| Jane | Touchet |
| Lyssa | Walker White |
| Patrice | Waters |
| Heidi | Whitesel |

TOTAL: 27

Report of the Membership Outreach Director

Cathy Ring



Report of the Membership Outreach Director FY-2021-2022

Contacted by telephone, or left at least two messages, to approximately 40 of our FY-2010-2021 League members to encourage their membership renewal for FY-2021-2022.

Received 14 names, with their addresses, through Sign Up at the League booth and indicated they wanted more information about the League of Women Voters, at the Saturday morning Warrenton Black Lives Matter vigil. All were sent email message invitations to join the League with attachments: Letter of Appreciation for interest with the League website information; a Membership Registration form; and the List of Membership levels. After the tri-fold flyer was updated, an E-copy it was included with the email attachments.

Printed 30 copies and distributed the tricolor "*Come Join Us*" flyer poster to all Prince William County public libraries, the Manassas City public library [The Manassas Park library is not open during remodeling & the Fauquier libraries currently do not permit posting flyers]. The flyers were also posted on the bulletin boards of the George Mason University Prince William campus, the Manassas and Woodbridge campuses of Northern Virginia Community college, and the local Giant Food stores in Prince William County. League members were encouraged to print the "*Come Join Us*" flyer and post them at their local neighborhood community centers and houses of worship.

Participated in the task group that worked out the SOPs and flow chart for processing individuals interested in league membership, and those who joined the chapter.

Plans were begun to create a tabletop sign to encourage folks to join the LWV Prince William – Fauquier Area League. The plan is to have an eye-catching LOGO, along with the "*Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport*" (or similar provocative statement) and the League contact information (website & QR code). These will be printed and placed on tables in restaurants, wineries, breweries, etc. (with the permission of the particular establishment(s), as well as any community event where the League is promoting voter registration, citizen election education, and/or league participation.



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>

Report of the Action and Program Director

Janet Gorn

Report of the Action and Program Director FY 2021-2022



The LVW-PWFA League focused on carrying out its 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*), convening Issue Study Committees, and engaging in advocacy activities.

The President wrote letters to the Editor and to the Board of Supervisors. Two educational Webinars were hosted: *Inside Out Know Your County Issues: Prince William Plastic and Recycling Disposal*, and *The Cost of Prescription Drugs*. 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. (See attached)

The League 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 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update*. In addition, the LW-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 Out County Issues" Webinars: 1) *Landfill Plastic Disposal Challenges*, and 2) *Healthcare and the Price of Prescription Drugs*.

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

CALL-TO-ACTION

Virginia State Ban on Polystyrene Containers



ISSUE: The Advocacy issue is the 2021 law regarding a ban on plastic foam Polystyrene Containers. The existing law calls for the ban to go into effect in July 2023. The current 2022 Virginia General Assembly's intent is to delay the ban for 5 years until July 2028. Polystyrene pollutants are an environmental disposal issue of interest to the members of the LWV-PWFA League.

LWV-VA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY POSITION: The League of Women voters "supports anti-pollution goals aimed to prevent ecological degradation and to reduce and control pollutants before they go down the sewer, up the chimney, or into landfill." The League of Women Voters opposes delay of the Polystyrene ban for five years.

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELIBERATIONS: Although both Chambers of the Virginia General Assembly reached a compromise in 2021 to enact a ban on Polystyrene containers, both Chambers in 2022 are currently moving toward passage of language embedded in the middle of budget bills, to delay the ban for 5 years.

ACTION: The LWV-PWFA members are requested to contact their Representatives to **OPPOSE:**

DELAYING THE BAN ON POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS

Senators: H30 Budget Amendments 377#1h and 377#5h
Delegates: SB30 Amendment 377#1

Report of the General Meeting Co-Directors

Miriam Anver, Laura Feld-Mushaw

Report of the General Meeting Co-Directors FY-2021-2022



General Meetings are held three (3) times per fiscal Year. In a Biennium Cycle the Annual Meeting is held in the odd number year and the Biennium Meeting in the even number year. *Sips and Civility* events are held quarterly.

- Sept. 16, 2021 General Meeting - Zoom
Program - a book and author presentation in conjunction with Montclair Library – CAMPAIGN for WOMEN SUFFRAGE in VIRGINIA
Authors - Barbara Batson and Mari Julienne
- November 14, 2021 *Sips and Civility* - In person
Location - Amore Wine Tasting in Manassas
Topic - Membership and fun
- January 16, 2021 General Meeting - Zoom
Topic - LWV -VA Advocacy Training for 2022 and upcoming GA issues
Denise Harrington - LWV-VA Advocacy Chair
- March 20, 2021 *Sips and Civility* at City Tavern Manassas - in person
Topic - Vote Registration Training/discussion of unique questions
Carol Noggle was lead presenter
- May 15, 2021 General Meeting - Zoom
Topic – PW GA DELEGATE Panel featuring Del. Briana Sewell, Del. Candi King, Del, Michelle Maldonado, and Del Elizabeth Guzman, regarding their General Assembly experiences and legislation

Report of the Media Relations Coordinator

Pat Reilly

Report of the Media Relations Coordinator FY-2021-2022



The League of Women Voters Prince William Fauquier Area ran an ad in the February 10, 2022 edition of INSIDENOVA.com, to celebrate the League's 102nd Birthday on February 14. The goal of the ad was to increase awareness of the League and its activities. The message encouraged readers to join the League. The news site was chosen because it is available across Northern Virginia. The budget has not made other ads feasible.

The League President sent a Letter to the Editor of the *Washington Post*, *The Virginia Redistricting Gordian Knott*. The letter commented on several points including that "Voting is a sacred right the League of Women Voters has fought to protect for more than 100 years. In Virginia, we worked hard to support a bipartisan commission to draw representational voting districts, an essential for fair elections. As the Post reported on Oct. 20, that commission has delivered instead a party-line stalemate."

Discussions on letters to the editor have not resulted in other submissions. Media adviser encourages study groups to proposed subjects for letters to the editor and provide talking points on the League's position. Potential topics could include recent Supreme Court decisions on abortion, guns and separation of church and state. To be successful, letters should be tagged to a media outlet's coverage and submitted within a couple of days of the coverage. Letters can be written in advance of coverage and then be tailored to fit the angle of coverage.

The League's most noteworthy activity to date is its remarkable voter registration in the high schools. It's a measurable accomplishment that has been sustained for considerable time. This kind of story could be for the future the subject of a press release, which would encourage outlets to cover the story.



**Board of Directors
2021-2023**

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Ruthann Litchford

lwvpwfa@gmail.com

. Letter to the Editor: *Washington Post*

The Virginia Redistricting Gordian Knott

Voting is a sacred right the League of Women Voters has fought to protect for more than 100 years. In Virginia, we worked hard to support a bipartisan commission to draw representational voting districts, an essential for fair elections. As the Post reported on Oct. 20, that commission has delivered instead a party-line stalemate.

In 2020, two-thirds of Virginia voters approved a Constitutional Amendment to give a bipartisan commission of citizens the power to draw voting districts. This process is critical to the fair distribution of resources in our state. The League of Women Voters of the Prince William-Fauquier Area participated in the commission's public outreach and applauded its transparency.

Now we are deeply disheartened over the division among Virginia Redistricting Commission members that led to the failure to draw a new map for the General Assembly. The recent walkout by commissioners has left few choices to unravel the Gordian Knott underlying "partisan fairness". As The Post pointed out, there are only a few days remaining before the task falls to the State Supreme Court to decide. We urge the commissioners to do their duty, resolve issues and serve the voters before the Congressional District map is also punted to the court.

Janet M. Gorn

President

League of Women Voters of the
Prince William-Fauquier Area

**Celebrating
102 YEARS!!!**

FEBRUARY 14
The League of
Women Voters

Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy
Join the League of Women Voters of
Prince William-Fauquier Area In making
our local, state, and national elections fair,
vibrant, and accessible.
www.princewilliamlwv.org

LWV LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS®
OF PRINCE WILLIAM-FAUQUIER AREA

The advertisement features a cake with a lit candle and a small American flag on top, set against a background of the American flag. The text is in various colors and fonts, with the date February 14 highlighted in red.

Ad Feb. 2022

Vote November 2
**Democracy is
not a spectator sport!**

Compare candidates at
www.VOTE411.org

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PRINCE WILLIAM-FAUQUIER AREA
WWW.PRINCEWILLIAMLWV.ORG
Empowering voters, defending democracy since 1920

The advertisement features a stylized American flag graphic in the top left corner. The text is in various colors and fonts, with the date November 2 highlighted in red.

Ad – Nov. 2021

Report of the Communications Coordinator

Carol Proven

Report of the Communications Coordinator



During the League year June 2021 through July 2022, Communications took several forms: Constant Contact, email messages and updating the website. To do this, cooperation was required and given, from all members involved in the attempts to inform and educate our members about the upcoming and past events. It would not have been possible without their help.

56 Constant Contact messages were sent from May 2021 through July 2022. They included links to SignUp Genius, other websites, and information of interest to our members:

- Debates, Forums and Webinars
- Study groups – Fair Housing, Data Centers, Racial and Social Justice
- Appeals for volunteers – Voter registration, NVRD
- Celebrations – 19th Amendment, 15th anniversary
- Meetings – Board, annual
- “Calls to Action”
- Distribution of Newsletters
- Membership – Dues appeal
- Monthly events

The LWV-PWFA website was updated as needed.

- Calendar Updates
- Membership Updates
- Top Ten – Fauquier and Prince William Counties

Email messages were sent when not appropriate for the entire membership

- Dues appeals
- Updates to study groups

Edited all communications concerning our League

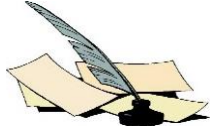
- Handbook
- League flyers

Goals for next year include:

- Continued education in the intricacies of WordPress
- Analytics of the efficacies of the various forms of communication
- Increasing the reach of our messaging

Report of the Community Events Registrar

Cynthia Chambliss



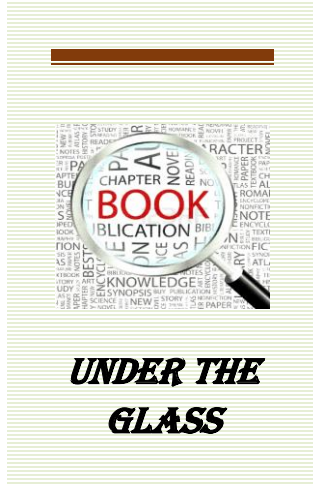
Report of the Community Events Registrar FY-2021-2022
PARTICIPATION SUMMARY: FY 2021-2022 SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY
EVENTS

| Event | # Voter Registrations |
|--|------------------------------|
| African American Heritage Festival Cancelled (Fee \$50) | 0 |
| Black Lives Matter (BLM) Warrenton Vigil Saturdays, Warrenton Court House (Fee \$0) | 1-3 average per Vigil |
| Dale City July 4 th Parade and Family Fun Day Cancelled (Fee \$30) | 0 |
| Fauquier Harvest Fall Festival October 9-12, 2021 (Fee \$0) | 7 |
| First Friday Warrenton Vendor July-October Cancelled (Fee \$200) | 0 |
| Haymarket Day October 16, 2021 (Fee \$150) | 0 |
| Juneteenth Freedom Day June 17-19, 2021 (Fee \$25) | 0 |
| Manassas Fall Jubilee October 2, 2021 (Fee \$100) | 0 |
| Manassas Hispanic Heritage Festival September 12, 2021 (Fee \$0) | 4 |
| Manassas Latino Festival October 9, 2021 (Fee \$75) | 0 |
| National Voter Registration Day (12 Libraries) September 28, 2021 (Fee \$0) | 9 |
| Occoquan Arts and Crafts Show September 25-26, 2021(Fee \$0) | 6 |
| Old Town Warrenton Spring into Fall Festival September 18, 2021 (Fee \$175) | 7 |
| Stonebridge Chili Cookoff and Fall Festival September 11, 2021 (Fee \$100) | 14 |

Report of the Book Discussion Chair

Connie Gilman

Report of the Book Discussion Chair FY-2021-FY-2022



The League broadens its view on issues of interest through reading both contemporary and previously published books. By being widely read, Members can broaden their view and supplement their understanding of League issue studies and adopted Policy Positions. And sometimes, books are selected because of their appeal! The League Book Review Group meets quarterly and encourages active participation in its discussion.

The first meeting of the Book Discussion group was held on July 13, 2021. And it was in person at the Effingham Manor Winery in Nokesville. Member Cheri Saggars is an investor in the winery and suggested we hold a second book discussion there. Members enjoyed the wine and ambiance as they discussed ***Say What You Mean: A Mindful Approach to Non-violent Communication***, by Oren Jan Sofer.

On October 5th, members met at the Juke Box Diner and discussed ***Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption***, by Bryan Stevenson.

On January 13th, 2022 members came together via ZOOM and discussed ***The Hate You Give***, by Angie Thomas. At the end of the discussion those present helped decide on the titles for the 2022 – 2023 Book Discussion events.

The last discussion for the 2021- 2022 Book Discussion year was on April 4th, 2022, 11:30 – 1 P.M., at the Juke Box Diner. An in person event where members discussed ***Mastering Civility***, Christine Porath.

Titles for book discussions are solicited from members and a list of titles and descriptions of the books are then reviewed and selected in January.



DELTA SIGMA THETA Sorority Sponsorship

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.

The LWV-PWFA sponsorship with the local Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is to support the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest. The 2022 student orators spoke on the 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 presented the finalists with hard back copies of **A Gift of Love: Sermons from Strength to Love and Other Preaching’s**, by Martin Luther King, Jr.

The finalists in 2022 were: Middle Schoolers Mahmud Ibn Abdul-rahman Khabir, Makaya Elizabeth Freeman, and Shavonne Davis.

The High School finalists were: Varsha Jyothikaa Palaniyandy, Kenedi Cheri Wiley, and N’Na-Mayi Akosua Tama.

The oratory contest was, again this year, not open to the public. However, LWV-PWFA members were able to watch the contest via YouTube (PWCAC-DST-MEDIA). In addition to the orators, music and other guest speakers rounded out the presentation.

Report of the Issue Study Committees

PWC 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Charles Grymes

PWC Racial and Justice Commission Report

Corrairie Schooner

Report of the Issue Study Committees FY-2021-2022



LWV-PWFA Studies

- ***PWC 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update***

The Issue Study Committee on the *PWC 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update* hosted a June 20, 2022 Webinar “*Get Dangerously Savvy About the PWC Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan: Land Use, Housing, and Mobility Chapters.*” Mr. Charles Grymes presented a very successful tutorial on the PWC Comprehensive Plan and the Strategic Plan. Nineteen (19) attendees are now more “Savvy” citizens.

The LWV-PWFA President subsequently sent a letter sent to the PWC Planning Commission and the PWC Board of Supervisors LWV policy position recognizing the importance of a Comprehensive Plan. The letter is now a part of the public record. (See attached)

- ***PWC Racial and Justice Commission Report***

The LWV-PWFA Study Committee on the *PWC Racial and Justice Commission Report* is working on a final comparison of the Commission study and minority study with the League positions. The Committee is hoping to see some follow-up to the Report from the PWC Social Justice Commission. It appears the Commission is still working on Bylaws affecting the “why” of the study. The Study Committee has come to the conclusion that this will not affect the comparison. Therefore, unless the Study Committee hears otherwise from the Commission (important changes to the Report), the study Committee plans to do the comparison by the end of August and report to the Board in September.

LWV-VA State Studies

The LWV-PWFA League has volunteer members on each of the four (4) State Study Committees.

- Campaign Finance Reform (Money in Politics)
- Childcare
- Education Equality
- Environmental Justice



**Board of Directors
2021-2023**

June 22, 2022

President
Janet M. Gorn

**The Prince William County 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update
League of Women Voters Policy Statement**

Vice President
Connie Gilman

The LWV-Prince William/Fauquier Area Chapter recognizes the importance of the *2040 Comprehensive Plan*. It should be a reliable guide to future changes in roads, housing, parks, and other changes in the landscape.

Recording Secretary
Cynthia Chambliss

Though chapters are being developed separately, they should all be consistent as well as comprehensive. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan will be judged as a success if, for example, policies and action strategies in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism are implemented in relevant places in the Land Use and Mobility chapters.

Treasurer
Patricia Freed

**Membership Outreach
Director**
Catherine Ring

The integration of the Land Use, Affordable Housing, and Mobility chapters is especially critical. Locating new housing near existing roads and planned transit (such as future Metrorail stations), and expanding the capacity of the bike/pedestrian network, will reduce traffic congestion and minimize greenhouse gas emissions. The alternative, planning for new housing in places without public transportation or even safe routes for e-bikes, will create future traffic congestion requiring expensive expansion of the road network.

**Membership Records
Director**
Sheila Arrington

Voter Services Director
Carol Noggle

Volunteer Director
Judy Hingle

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan should implement the Action Strategies in the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. To document consistency, the Planning Office should publish a crosswalk between the Strategic Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. That crosswalk should identify where Strategic Plan Action Strategies such as "HW2: C. Support permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities" and "EC1: D. Incentivize and promote partnerships to reforest publicly and privately owned land" are implemented in the Comprehensive Plan.

Meeting Co-Directors
Miriam Anver
Laura Feld-Mushaw

**Media Relations
Coordinator**
Patricia Reilly

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan should implement commitments already made with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC). In particular, the commitments regarding reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the availability of affordable housing should be matched by Policies and Action Strategies in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

**Communications
Coordinator**
Carol Proven

**Fauquier Unit
Coordinator**
Ruthann Litchford

If the Land Use chapter plans for new data centers that will increase commercial energy use, then Action Strategies should identify how that increase will be offset so the county can meet its 2030 target adopted with MWCOC. To document

lwvpwfa@gmail.com

consistency, the Planning Office should publish a crosswalk between the Comprehensive Plan and MWCOG commitments.

Action strategies in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan should be measurable. Language such as "LU5.4 Ensure that signs for individual uses in mixed-use developments are designed and installed consistent with a development-wide sign program" is clear enough for measuring if new proposals are consistent with the plan. Language such as "LU5.6 Encourage the incorporation of signs into a development's landscape plans" is too generic and vague. All Action Strategies starting with "Encourage..." should be revised to something like "Require..."

It is critical that the long-range plan address equity imbalances in Prince William County. The Office of Equity and Inclusion should identify how Policies and Action Strategies in existing as well as draft chapters could be revised to address wealth inequality, increase the quality of life in Equity Emphasis Areas, improve access to local jobs, etc. Special effort should be made to get input from marginalized communities on those comments before the Planning Commission considers draft chapters, so the completion of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will help the arc of history bend towards justice.

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan should be developed in a transparent process, with extensive public engagement. This is a long-range plan. Strong public support for the plan is needed for it to continue to guide new development, even as new members are elected to the Board of County Supervisors. One way to measure the quality of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan is as a reliable guide until the next update in about 10 years: Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPA's) should be rarely needed.

The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decision, at all levels—local, state, regional, national, and global.

Sincerely yours,

Janet M. Gorn

Janet M. Gorn, President
League of Women Voters, Prince William- Fauquier Area

Prince William County Planning Commission
Prince William County Board of Supervisors