

"The Prince William - Fauquier Voter"



January 2023 Newsletter

Happy New Year.... the best in 2023!

From the **Desk** *of the* **President**

Janet Gorn, LWV-PWFA President

The Second Wave Renaissance: A Call to Action

[Grandma is a Feminist! REALLY!!!!]

"From Adam's Rib to Women's Lib...Baby we've come a long way" to advance the Status of Women. It took 72 years for the First Wave Women's Suffragists movement to achieve ratification of the 19th U.S. Constitutional Amendment's codifying women's right to vote [ratified August 18, 1920]. The campaign for women's suffrage gave rise to the promotion of women's organizations, most notably one of the first the League of Women Voters in 1920. It took another 41 years to move the women's rights needle significantly forward in 1961, with President Kennedy's creation of the Status of Women Commission, that launched a Second Wave of women's rights activism. Women across the United States were inspired, to take up the call for action, achieving advances in the Status of Women, most remarkably many of us who are now grandmothers and still card-carrying Feminists who are trail blazers, go up the down staircase, and actively stand in the headwinds.



Remember When! 2022 marked the 50th Anniversary of Helen Reddy's reflection of women's voices to challenges and obstacles to gaining full rights in her I am Woman lyrics: "I am Woman, hear me roar in numbers too big to ignore. Oh yes, I've paid the price. If I have to, I can do anything, I am strong, I am invincible, I am Woman." 2023 will mark the 50h Anniversary of Betty Friedan's no less inspiring The Feminine

Mystique, a book that seized the moment to perfectly encapsulate the women's rights problem of an era. It is listed as one of the most important books of the 20th Century.

What is the Feminist Legacy today? Feminists no longer accept the things they cannot change. They change the things they cannot accept. (Angela Davis) The question isn't who is going to let them; it's who is going to stop them? (Ayn Rand) Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it, possibly without claiming it, she stands up for all women. (Maya Angelou). The League of Women Voters members are today's Second Wave Feminists.

Inspired by the 1960's, for the past 60 years women have achieved many advances steadfastly working to change the women's rights culture, supporting legislation enactment, and undertaking high level leadership positions. That is until 2022 when women's rights in Virginia came under attack. With the dismantling by the U.S. Supreme Court of Roe v. Wade Settled Law, disrupting legal precedence

and the issue of the U.S. Constitution protection of reproductive rights, women's rights took a U Turn. The reversal of Roe v. Wade also opens the door for other rights protected under presumed Settled Law that may be on the horizon. This is giving rise to a Second Wave Renaissance Status of Women Call to Action.

The reversal of Roe v. Wade Settled Law is of immediate upmost 2023 legislative importance in Virginia, a battle which is just heating up. In Virginia law abortions are legal through the second trimester, a little over 26 weeks. The procedure is legal in the third trimester, if it involves the life or health of the mother. The Virginia representatives will take up abortion legislation in January 2023 when the Virginia General Assembly convenes. Governor Youngkin recently revealed his amendment proposals for Virginia's 2023-2024 budget to state lawmakers. His first proposal is to establish a 15-week gestation limitation for abortion. A second proposal is to not to allow expenditures from Virginia's general or non-general fund sources used for appropriations to provide abortion services.

As the reproduction rights issue develops and evolves in the General Assembly, it is important for your individual Action and Voice to be heard as early as possible with letters, meetings, and phone calls to your Representatives. "Here's to strong women. My we know them. May we be them. May we raise them."



Call for volunteers: LWV-VA New Issue Group on Reproductive Health

by Debby Churchman

Dobbs got you down? In 2020, Virginia became the first state in the South to actively support a pregnant person's access to an abortion, thanks to the Reproductive Health Protection Act. That law is still in force, but under threat, thanks to the recent Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v Wade. Governor Youngkin has stated his support for a 15-week abortion ban, and put together a workgroup composed of four members, tasked with drafting and carrying a bill in the 2023 session. And legislation is already being pre-filed regarding reproductive health. Here's HB1395: **Rights beginning at conception.** *Provides that life begins at conception and each person is accorded the same rights and protections guaranteed to all persons by the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Virginia, and the laws of the Commonwealth beginning at the moment of conception.* The bill also repeals all provisions of the Code of Virginia allowing for the performance of abortions.

Interested? **The State League's new issue group on Reproductive Health meets the first Wednesday of every month by Zoom.** Next meeting is Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact **Debby Churchman** (dchurchm@yahoo.com) or **Grace Lawler** (lawlergrace07@gmail.com)

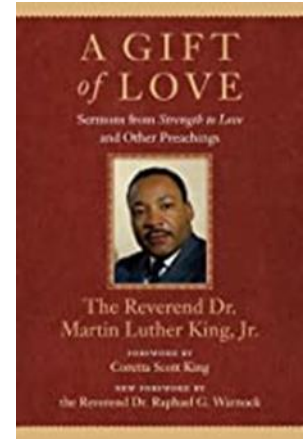


Community Involvement

Connie Gilman, Vice President

Once again, the League of Women Voters – Prince William Fauquier Area are supporting the efforts of the local Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as they host their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Competition and Program. “A View of the Promised Land”, was the theme this year. The six finalists:

Brooklynn Saunders, Gar-Field High School
Myles Lanier, Manassas Park High School
Shavonne Davis, Patriot High School
Alyssa M. Godfrey, Benton Middle School
Kaomi Ninasaume, Gainesville Middle School
Sakshi Gowda, Reagan Middle School



Each will receive a hard back copy of [A Gift of Love: Sermons from Strength to Love and Other Preachings](#), by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tune into the presentation on January 16, 2023, at 11 A.M. on U-Tube (PWAC-DST-MEDIA)



[UPDATE: Give the Gift for Democracy Campaign](#)

Trish Freed, Treasurer

The League launched its annual fund-raising campaign in October 2022, advertising it extensively via Constant Contact, the newsletter, and letters mailed USPS to each League member. Donations are very important to the LWV Prince William-Fauquier Area Mission, to maintain and rebuild trust in our Democracy, and to continue to advocate for fair elections, open and accessible government, and informed, educated, citizen involvement. As of January 1st, 2023, 10 members have donated \$620 toward the goal of \$1000. Additional donations are pledged.

Please consider a donation to a **Gift for Democracy**. As stated so eloquently by President Lincoln, we believe that, “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth,” and all our efforts are aligned with achieving this goal.

Donations should be sent to Trish Freed, LWV-PWFA Treasurer, 6151 Hemlock Court, Manassas, VA 20112. Make out checks to LWV-PWFA. Donations can also be made via credit card by clicking on the following link: [Donate \(paypal.com\)](#). The League appreciates your contributions and is grateful for your continued support!



Webinar, Sunday, January 15, 2023, “Book Banning and Book Censorship”

Lisa Varga, Executive Director of the Virginia Library Association, and a member of the American Library Association Policy Corps, is the webinar speaker. She oversees the 5,000 member Virginia Library Association and has been very active

in the issue of book banning and censorship in Virginia and beyond. Recommend reading, “*Read These Banned Books, A Journal and 52-week Reading Challenge*,” an American Library Association Source Book, 2022. Available at your local library and on Amazon Books. The webinar will be at 2 p.m. on January 15th, 2023. Sign up here: [LWVPWFA ROSTER: January 15 \(Sun.\) Book Banning and Censorship Zoom Meeting \(signupgenius.com\)](#)



Prince William and Fauquier County Proposed Data Centers

Laura Feld-Mushaw, Meeting Co-Director

The November General meeting was held at the Bull Run Regional Library in Manassas on Nov.13th. The library recently reopened after a major renovation, and it has an all new “vibe”. It was the perfect choice for our first in-person general meeting since COVID changed our lives. Thanks to Zoom, the League was able to create a hybrid meeting to accommodate the needs of all of our members.

The speaker was Julie Bolthouse, Director of the Piedmont Environmental Council. She has been actively working with the topic of data centers in both Fauquier and Prince William Counties. She discussed what data centers are, the physical footprint, the environmental impacts, the impact on utilities, water, etc. For those who want to reference or study the topic further here is the link to presentation slides [Land-Use-Impacts-of-Data-Centers.pptx \(live.com\)](#)

The second part of the meeting was a special tour of **HIVE 8051 Makerspace** located in the Bull Run Regional Library. This space is open to anyone who has a library card and has completed lessons on use of the equipment. The highlight is the Moxie HQ Long Arm Quilting Machine, the first in the region. The Marketspace also boasts a Brother PE800 Embroidery Machine, Brother CS7000s sewing machines and a Singer Serger. Fiber arts lovers will appreciate the Ashford 16” Rigid Heddle, a type of hand loom, and there are drop spindles, crochet hooks, and knitting needles. There are also punch needles, locker hooks, felting needles, and shelves of donated yarn!

In the Digital Fabrication department there is a Glowforge basic Laser Cutter and Cricut Vinyl Cutters, plus a 3D Printer. If you just need a finishing touch for a project, there is a laminating machine, a book binding machine, as well as a button maker. There is also a small box photo studio. The Music and Digital Design section has an iMac Computer, Adobe Software, Hue Animation Studio, Green Screens and a Huion Light Pad. And to top it all off they have Ukuleles!

The creative energy in that space is worth experiencing a visit. The Library Programs and Events will give patrons opportunities to become familiar with the equipment. The best way to get more information is to send your questions to Libbullrunmakerspace@pwc.gov.org.

The creative energy that flows in **HIVE 8051 Makerspace** is most stimulating. If you have a project in mind, you should first research the webpage and then schedule a visit to learn about the equipment.



LWVUS Grant Awards

The League of Women Voters of Prince William-Fauquier Area has two essential jobs. First and foremost, it is tasked with carrying out its Mission. Second, it is faced with finding the necessary funding. Without funds, the League cannot carry out its Mission.

The League’s primary source of income is members’ \$70 annual dues. However, because the League is part of a Federation; it is obligated to pay per member dues to the LWVUS (\$32) and the LWV-VA (\$16). The League is also a dues paying member of the National Capital Area regional LWV (\$1.10). That leaves approximately \$20.90 to be deposited in our Operating Budget account.

To meet the objectives of its Mission, the League supplements its member dues income through applying for Grants and soliciting donations. In November 2022, the President of the LWV-PWFA submitted two grant applications to the LWVUS. We are pleased to announce that the League was awarded a 2023 \$750 grant for its “Youth Voter Registration Project” and a \$500 grant for its “Former and Currently Incarcerated Persons Project.” The League also received in March 2022 a \$500 NOVEC donation to the Education Fund.



Women’s Health Issues

Friday, February 3, 2023: **Go Red for the Heart**

February is National Heart Month. League of Women Voters members need to empower and take action on women's health issues, in particular the "Go Red for the Heart." To celebrate the prevention and awareness of heart diseases especially among women, the first Friday of February is National Wear Red Day. This day focuses on bringing greater attention to the deadly cause of cardiovascular diseases.



The American Heart Association signature women's initiative, Go Red for the Heart is a comprehensive platform designed to increase women's heart health awareness. It shares health facts and women taking charge of their heart health. Drop in to learn more.

As a starter, here are some interesting facts about National Wear Red Day....

- In the US heart disease is the topmost killer of women, killing one in three women. That is almost a woman a minute.
- Most cardiac events can be prevented through education and lifestyle changes.
- Looking physically fit does not completely eradicate the risk of heart disease. The American Heart Association suggests all women get their cholesterol checked periodically.



Voter Services News

Carol Noggle, Voter Services Director

- **High School Registrations**

The League of Women Voters – Prince William Fauquier Area has been collaborating with the Prince William Election office, the Prince William Bar Association, Prince William County Schools, voter registration and "So You are 18" for over TEN years.



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Previously, the Election Office began dropping Voter Registrations forms to the high schools in March 1976 hoping students who registered would mail them to the Election Office. In 2004, the Election Office actually went to the schools instead of just dropping off the forms at the schools.

Jump ahead to the school year 2021 - 2022 when 1,948 area students registered to vote after listening to League Members talk about the importance of their vote and the need to register. Members of the PWC Bar Association were at the presentation, providing students with information about becoming a legal adult "So You're 18". The information the attorneys share is always an eye-opening informative presentation!

In the first half of the 2022 – 2023 academic year members of the Prince William Fauquier Area League visited four high schools and registered 680 students. More visits have been set up for 2023 and you can volunteer through *SignUpGenious*.

- **Poll Tax ...A Bit of History**

In 1962 the following flyer was distributed by the Arlington League of Women Voters:

“ Reminder: Elections are coming!

There are elections coming! June 20 and November 7. Are you ready? Have you paid your poll tax? Deadline for payment of poll tax is May 5th .

“IF YOU DON’T VOTE IN ARLINGTON YOU DON’T COUNT IN ARLINGTON!”

Last November (1952) only one out of five of the Negroes in Arlington over 21 was “qualified” to vote. Were you a voter? If you owe your poll tax for the year 1952 only, with interest, the amount due is \$1.58. The deadline for payment of poll taxes to vote this year is MAY 2.

“If you don’t VOTE in Virginia, you don’t COUNT in Virginia”

YOU ONLY REGISTER ONCE, BUT A POLL TAX MUST BE PAID EACH YEAR “April 6 thru May 6, 1956 has been designated as POLL TAX MONTH”.

If you have not yet registered you may do so after paying the tax.

Register at the Office of the Registrar.

If you have never paid your poll tax and you moved to Virginia in

1959 you owe \$1.73 for the year 1959

1960 you owe \$1.63 for the year 1960

1961 you owe \$1.58 for the year 1961

Total owed in order to become eligible to register and to vote in 1962:

\$4.94

: Wait!! Pay to Register?? \$4.94 to VOTE??”

:

The 1970 Virginia Constitution no longer listed a requirement to pay a poll tax to vote.

- **2023 Pending Voter Legislation**

In 2023 what, if any, obstacles to voting will be in place or proposed during the General Assembly session that begins on January 11th. Delegates and Senators are now crafting bills. Some bills have already been assigned to committees. Photo ID: SB794 would require, as in the past, that voters present a Photo ID when they vote in-person. The League advocated strongly against the Photo ID successful in the past. At this time there is a long list of non-Photo IDs that eliminate the need for a Photo ID. Opposition will be needed to prevent the return of the Photo ID requirement.

- **What is MY Legislator Proposing?**

Find out quickly by going to the General Assembly website to find your legislator: <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>
Notice that you can look at your Current District for your Delegate and Senator or the NEW District boundary for your address. The maps are very good.

Then go to <https://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm> for a list of options. “Bills and Resolutions” will give the option to see the status of bills “By Member” or “By Subject” or other categories. Select “Elections” for the subject and you will see HB1444 and SB794 that would require the Photo ID. Click on either of those for the content of the bill. If you select by Member, choose a member and then under “Sponsored Legislation” select “Chief Patron”.

For an overall view of what is on the Virginia General website go to www.virginiagneeralassembly.gov At the top is a blue bar, click on that for help including the “Member Listings”, “Today’s Events” and “Live Session Video”. You can watch everything, including ancient archives, but be careful not to get addicted. Under “Member Listings” choose House or Senate and then select your legislator for some details, including a brief bio and committee assignments.

Another list of Bills is published by the “Richmond Sunlight” where readers can comment on the bills in support or opposition. The website tracks the status of the bills in a convenient way, including by legislator: <https://www.richmondsunlight.com/>.



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



2023 Legislative Advocacy News

January 11th is the first day of the 2023 General Assembly Session. Are you ready?

Bills contrary to LWV-VA legislative priorities have already been pre-filled. Such bills include: creating a barrier to voting by requiring a photo ID; prohibiting abortion and certain contraception in Virginia; and pulling Virginia out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). On the other hand, there appears to be bipartisan support for the right to marry and some level of gun violence prevention. The stakes are incredibly high.

You can support LWV-VA legislative priorities by responding to LWV-VA Action Alerts. The *Action Alert* process has been simplified. When you receive an Action Alert, all you have to do is fill out your name and address. The message goes directly to your Legislators.

Legislative tool advocacy links:

- [Attend](#) Women's Legislative Round Tables (WLRT):Hybrid and in-person.
- [Attend](#) League Day
- [Track](#) Legislation.
- These links can help you track bills and see committee assignments. [LIS SYSTEM](#) (bills/committees)
[VPAP.ORG](#) (issues/bills)
[VPAP.ORG](#) (committees)

NOTE: All of these resources are also found on the LWV-VA Advocacy Resources [webpage](#).



Women's Legislative Roundtable

Wednesdays
8:30-9:30 a.m.

Register [here](#).

January 11

- Remove witness requirement for absentee ballot envelopes
- Funding of elections (including amending or repealing Zucker Buck bills passed in 2022 session: SB80 and HB205)

January 18

- Push for campaign finance reform
- Support RCV (ranked choice voting)

February 1

- Support funding of public education and not diverting funds to private education
- Protecting RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative)

February 8

- Support right to marry amendment
- Gun Violence Prevention (regulate ghost guns, assure secure storage, establish GVP Center)



Prepare Now for League Day

On Your Mark; Get Set – GO! LEAGUE DAY: JANUARY 25, 2023

Every advocacy organization has a day when their members advocate at the Virginia General Assembly for issues that are important to their membership. Many of the League's issues were on the ballot nationally and now statewide in Virginia. Frederick Douglas said, "Power concedes nothing without a demand." We must demand that our voices on these issues are heard. Plan to attend League Day to be heard. Register [here](#).

Be Prepared!

Click [here](#) to find who your legislators are.

Click [here](#) for the LWV-VA 2023 Legislative Priorities.

- Attend the Women's Legislative Round Tables (WLRTs) January 11 through February 8. Register [here](#).
- **Make legislative appointments before arriving in Richmond.** Local league Presidents (or designee), should set up all appointments.
- **Local League Presidents and local Advocacy/Action Alert teams tasks during legislative meetings:**
person to introduce the group; note taker; speakers to share the League's Legislative Priorities talking points; follow-up with the legislator; provide feedback from the legislator to the LWV-VA Advocacy Director.

These few steps that will increase engagement with our legislators on League Day.



Legislative Priorities of Virginian Leagues

LWV of Virginia 2023 Legislative Priorities for the Virginia General Assembly

1. Support right to vote amendment
 2. Remove witness requirement for absentee ballot envelopes
 3. Push for campaign finance reform
 4. Funding of elections: including amending or repealing Zucker Buck bill passed in the 2022 session
 5. Protecting Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
 6. Protecting reproductive rights
 7. Support Right to Marry amendment
 8. Support Ranked Choice Voting
 9. Support funding of public education and not diverting funds to private education
 10. Gun Violence Prevention: regulation of ghost guns, laws requiring safe storage of guns, and gun violence prevention programs

Check out these [Key Dates](#) for the 2023 General Assembly.



League Meetings are open to all members!

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

(No Board Meeting in November and December)

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

LWV-PWFA Website: www.princewilliamlw.org

LWV-PWFA Email: lwvpwfa@gmail.com



LWV-PWFA Board of Directors

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Book Discussion Chair, Connie Gilman conniewg51@gmail.com

Newsletter Chair, Connie Gilman conniewg51@gmail.com



Please send in ideas for the April 2023 Newsletter by March 20th. Better yet, submit an article, ask some questions, share a joke!

Connie Gilman, Newsletter Chair, conniewg51@gmail.com