

“The Prince William - Fauquier Voter”



## Spring 2024 Newsletter



*Be open to new ideas and experiences because you'll never know when someone else will have an interesting thought or when a new door will open to take you on the journey of your dreams. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson*

### From the President:

The Fauquier Times contacted the LWV PWFA about doing a content story on the League. Recently, I was contacted by Jessica Mathews from the Fauquier Times. She is happy we are on board for a sponsored content story. The editor, Scott Elliott, would like the story to be about a new American who was helped by a League member to study for the citizenship exam.

LWV PWFA needs a true story of a League member who helped a new citizen study for the citizenship exam. Hopefully, it will be about a Fauquier/Warrenton citizen. Both the League member and new American must be ready to talk to the newspaper about the experience, how difficult it is to become a citizen, and finally what voting means to them. Has any member helped in this role? If so, please contact me at [reillypat18@gmail.com](mailto:reillypat18@gmail.com)

Thanks,  
Pat



Proposed  
LWV-PWFA FY24-25

### An update from Treasurer, Trish Freed

Dear members, attached is the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Please review and send any comments or suggests to me. To open the proposed budget, double-click on the icon.

## Membership Report: Jane Touchet, Membership Data Chair

Our League chapter now has a total membership of 76 members, broken down by locality as follows:

Fauquier County - 15 members  
Eastern Prince William County - 20 members  
Western Prince William County - 27 members  
Manassas/Manassas Park - 12 members  
Culpeper County - 1 member  
Stafford County - 1 member

Since January 1, 2024, we have welcomed the following new members:

Barry Bader of Culpeper  
Madge Gill of Gainesville  
Bre Jacoby of Manassas  
Natalie Hurlston of Stafford

*Welcome to our Prince William - Fauquier Area League*



Saturday, April 20th. the LWV-PWFA was invited to set up a Voter Registration Table at the Seals on Wheels location at Bull Run Library in Manassas.

In short, this van (Wheels) takes the office of the PWC Clerk of Courts to our local libraries which makes it more accessible. A resident can conduct business and get gun permits, marriage licenses, copy of deed, etc... without trekking to the Clerk of Courts office in

Manassas. It made sense to set up a Voter Registration table nearby as part of the convenience.

The next opportunity for this event will be Saturday, June 15, at the Dumfries Library parking lot. The LWV-PWFA will have a Voter Registration table at this site as well. from 10 am to 1 pm. There is an opportunity to sign up to help in Sign Up Genius.

Remember, early voting for the Congressional Primaries starts May 3!! Actual election date is June 18<sup>th</sup>!

Laura Feld-Mushaw

**Meet the Candidates in the  
District 10 Primary Congressional Race!**

The Loudoun and Prince William and Fauquier Area Leagues are sponsoring a Virtual  
10th District Primary Congressional Candidate Forum

May 23, 2024, 7:00 - 9:00

Register for the free event [HERE](#).



**The LWVUS LOBBY CORPS**

Janet Gorn, Lobby Corps Member

The LWVUS Lobby Corps was established in 1971. Lobby Corps members number between 20-25 members drawn from Leagues in the National Capital Area. The work of the Corps members is invaluable and increases the influence that the LWVUS League has on Capitol Hill. The LWV-PWFA League is a member of the Corps.

The Corps convenes once a month, when Congress is in session, for briefings on League legislative priorities. As part of these briefings, Lobby Corps members receive assignments to advocate League positions to select members of Congress in the House of Representatives or Senate. The Lobby Corps therefore plays a key role in promoting League issue positions and communicating LWVUS positions to members of Congress. Following these Hill meetings, members report back on their conversations to the LWVUS staff and State League presidents. The most recent effort is on the *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*.

**The Voting Act of 1965**

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) included a requirement designed to ensure minority voters across the country are able to participate equally in the electoral process, which prohibited discriminatory voting practices and removed many barriers to voting. However, in June 2013 *Shelby County v. Holder*, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated a key provision of the Act. Among the invalidated provisions was an enforcement mechanism that prevented states from making changes to voting laws and practices if they have a history of voting discrimination, unless they clear those changes through Federal officials. This severely weakened the Federal Voting Act of 1965.

Fortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision was limited in scope and recommended Congress create a new formula. The outcome is the *John R. Lewis Voting Advancement Act*, which is intended to restore the *Voting Act of 1965* protections:

1) Modernizing the VRA's formula for determining which states and localities have a pattern of discrimination; 2) Ensuring that last-minute voting changes do not adversely affect voters by requiring officials to publicly announce all voting changes at least 180 days before an election; and 3) Expanding the government's authority to send Federal observers to any jurisdiction where there may be a substantial risk of discrimination at the polls on election

day or during an early voting period. The LWVUS Lobby Corps actively promotes its position calling on U.S. Congress and the Administration to pass the *John R. Lewis Voting Advancement Act*.



### Coming State and National LWV Events

June 8 - VA Council - [Virtual Council - June 8, 2024 | MyLO \(lww.org\)](#)

June 27 – June 30 LWVUS 2024 Convention. This is a hybrid event and will take place in Washington, DC and online.

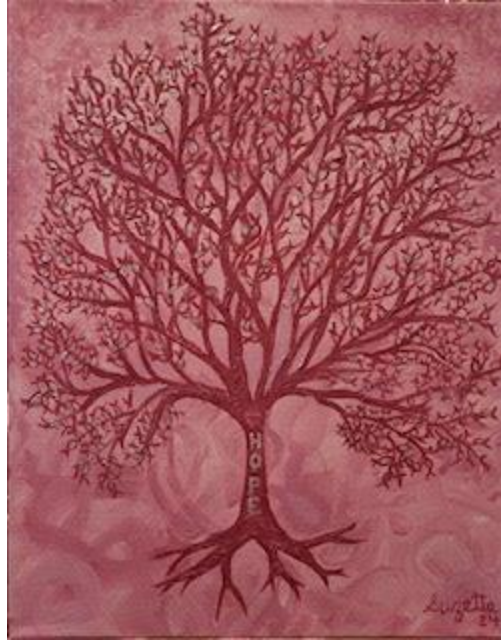
[2024 National Convention | League of Women Voters \(lww.org\)](#)

### May - National Cancer Research Month



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Women's Health is a LWV Issue, in particular Breast Cancer and National Breast Cancer Month in October. However, underlying cancer health issues is cancer research. May is National Cancer Research Month. The iconic Hope Pink Ribbon is universal. The pink ribbon inspires creativity in promoting the importance of this health issue, including among LWV members. LWV-PWFA member Suzette Braun Fulton is an award-winning artist who was inspired to paint a Pink Ribbon Hope Tree. Looking closely, you will find the leaves are breast cancer ribbons. The painting was donated to the INOVA Breast Cancer Surgery Center in Fairfax. Suzette is a member of the Liberty Town Arts artists. She began career as an artist at the age of 14 attending the DeAnza Community College in California and after graduating high school at the age of 16, and attending college, she focused on her career as a civil/mechanical engineer. Now retired, she pursues her interests in art and pottery.



**April 23, Spring Fling at NOVA Manassas Campus** Our members Catherine Ring, Carol Noggle and Madge Gill, educating and registering voters, while enjoying the beautiful day!



### HBCU Fair

Laura Feld-Mushaw and Carol Proven represented the League at the HBCU Fair and helped students and parents register to vote.





**Barbara Amster visited Wakefield School** to give an 1/2-hour presentation on voter registrations. During that time, she presented the LWV's part of the program and the attorney's part, "Now You Are 18". She used anecdotes about our usual, double programs, and passed out the booklets from the VA Bar Association. It went well as an "At 18, these are your rights and your obligations" program.



## Internet Crime

Did you recently get the email from Pat Reilly asking for help to get gift cards for her, because she is at a conference meeting until midnight???? This is a scam message.

Signs of internet scams include: Pressure to act immediately; scare tactics to sell a product; Refuse to stop calling when you tell them you aren't interested; Demand payment for taxes or fees for a prize; Demand payment by wire, courier, gift cards, pre-paid cards, etc.; Claiming to be with the government or business and payment is needed to avoid jail, canceled service, etc.; Being contacted by a company out of the blue; Grammatical or spelling errors; and the Offer is too good to be true.

These contacts should be reported to the "**Internet Crime Complaint Center**" (IC3). To file an internet crime complaint, visit the IC3 website <http://www.ic3.gov>.

The *Internet Crime Complaint Center* is an alliance between the National White Collar Crime Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Its mission is to address crime committed over the internet. For victims IC3 provides a convenient and easy way to alert authorities of a suspected violation. For law enforcement and regulatory agencies, IC3 offers a central repository for complaints related to Internet crime, uses the information to quantify patterns, and provides statistical data of current trends.

## Black Lives Matter Celebrates 200th Consecutive Vigil for Action

RuthAnn Litchford is speaking to supporters of the BLM vigil in Warrenton.

The following is an article from [Discover Western PW](#).

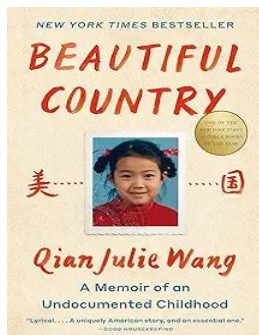
June 20, 2024 will mark the four-year anniversary of the first Black Lives Matter Vigil for Action, an event that since its inception continues to strive for three goals: serving as a reminder that racial equity and justice is still a work in progress; building a community that actively works to ensure Black Lives Matter as much as others'; and encouraging people to join other local organizations that work for racial truth, justice, and reconciliation.



On April 13, dozens of participants gathered for the 200<sup>th</sup> consecutive Vigil for Action, held on Old Alexandria Pike adjacent to Eva Walker Park in Warrenton. This weekly event was initially launched by a small group, which included Scott Christian, Chair of the Northern Piedmont Chapter of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. He explains this 200<sup>th</sup> milestone is significant: “In the beginning, the motivation was not to let this issue fade like so many do after the news cycle has moved on,” Scott says. “Our vigil has worked—both within the group of participants since most are engaged with organizations working for racial truth, justice, and reconciliation—and for the public that drives by and is reminded that Black lives matter.” Scott adds that the Vigil has become an incubator of ideas and activities because engaged citizens gather and talk face-to-face each week. For example, a new group called Fauquier United to Support Education (F.U.S.E.) was launched by Vigil participants who care greatly about public education and believe it should be one of society’s great equalizers and pillars. In addition, participation in the Fauquier NAACP chapter has increased significantly since the Vigil for Action began, and many participants are on committees organizing the annual Juneteenth celebration. Equally important, the Vigil for Action has developed into a caring and loving community in which countless friendships have developed—a significant achievement in the current politically divided climate. “It brings so much joy and inspiration to be around others who care deeply about our community and social justice,” Scott says. The Vigil for Action also focuses on advocating for change by engaging in relevant issues with the Virginia General Assembly. Progress tends to be aligned with whichever political party has the majority, and since 2020, progress has been slow in some areas. There has been some predictable backlash to the gains made, resulting in less truth, justice, and reconciliation. Scott cites “whitewashing” of history textbooks in some states as well as setbacks to affirmative action and DEI initiatives. Furthermore, the wealth gap hasn’t diminished, and likely won’t decrease significantly in the near future. Still, there is hope thanks to the increasing number of participants engaging in political advocacy and electoral politics. Greg Crowne of Crowne Agency Farmers Insurance

in Old Town Warrenton notes that when he first heard that Black Lives Matter was coming to Warrenton, his local insurance customers were worried that their buildings might be destroyed. “This was when all Black Lives Matter was known for were riots,” Greg says. “But that has never happened here. I got to know the people here and what they were talking about, I had to join. I’ve been coming every Saturday since then.” Indiana native Colleen Taylor agrees and has been a longtime participant as well. She recalls bigotry around her while growing up and didn’t understand the reason behind it. She continues to witness microaggressions towards Black people and remains devoted to participating in the Vigil for Action. Conway Porter, president of the Fauquier chapter of NAACP, offered some comments at a celebration following the Vigil. In addition to acknowledging the many people who have regularly participated in these 200 Saturday-morning events, he noted we must continue to be vigilant in today’s divisive times. “We must seek to come together, but we also need to be firm in our opposition to the forces that drive us apart,” Conway says. To learn more, visit [blmvigilforaction.org](http://blmvigilforaction.org) or swing by Eva Walker Park any Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

~ Nancy Griffin-Bonnaire



### Book Discussion:

Mark your calendars for the next book discussion scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 – 1:30, at the Effingham Manor and Winery. The title is Beautiful Country: A Memoir of an Undocumented Childhood, by Qian Julie Wang.

### A message from EJ Scott, PWNAACP 1st Vice President Political Action Committee Chair

It’s that time of year again! **TIME TO GET ENGAGED!** We at the Prince William NAACP Political Action Committee hope that we can bring the PW Coalition and the Northern Virginia Coalition together again to educate and activate our community. I know some of you are new and reached out about getting involved.

First, because **early voting starts on September 20<sup>th</sup>**, we are looking to hold two **Congressional District Candidate Forums** in early September: one for 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> CD and another for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> CD. And of course, we’d like to again host our **Souls to the Polls Sunday Fish Fry**.

Plus, we are planning so much more! Beginning with **National Volunteer Week April 21-27**, we’d like to ask for your help to make phone calls and register voters.

We will work with the **Northern Virginia Democracy Center** to host a series of webinars on “**What’s Happening with Our Democracy?**” Our plan is to hold the first webinar on May 25<sup>th</sup>, the day of George Floyd’s murder. We hope you will support this web series by



promoting it to your members and providing your recommendations for subjects and panelists.

If your organization would like to join us again this year and support one or all of these community engagement efforts, please let us know by replying to this email or calling me at 703.368.4541.

Thanks for your support.

## 2023-2025 Board of Directors

### **Officers:**

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Vice President	Kim McCusker
Recording Secretary	Barbara Greiling
Treasurer	Trish Freed

### **Directors:**

Voter Services Co-Directors	Laura Feld-Mushaw & Carol Proven
Volunteer Director	Judy Hingle
Membership Records Director	Jane Touchet
Membership Outreach Director	Catherine Ring
Action/Program Director	Carol Noggle
Meeting Co-Directors	Cynthia Chambliss & Sheila Arrington

Non-elected:

Ex-Officio Officer	Janet Gorn
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**League Meetings are open to all members!**

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

(No Board Meeting in December)

General Meetings and Events notices are sent to the members. Watch for upcoming emails!

LWV-PWFA Website: [www.princewilliamlwv.org](http://www.princewilliamlwv.org)

LWV-PWFA Email: [lwvpwfa@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpwfa@gmail.com)

*Many thanks to those who contributed to the Spring Newsletter!*

Please send any comments or concerns to Connie Gilman, Newsletter Editor,  
[conniewg51@gmail.com](mailto:conniewg51@gmail.com).