

“The Prince William - Fauquier Voter”



## Summer Newsletter 2024

My philosophy of legislation, and really in life, is to be broad-minded enough to consider human relationships and the well-being of all the people as worthy of consideration, to realize that all human beings are entitled to earn, so far as possible, their daily bread, and to try to prevent the exploitation of the underprivileged.



~Hattie Caraway, 1<sup>st</sup> Woman elected to the US Senate

**Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway** (February 1, 1878 – December 21, 1950) was an [American politician](#) who became the first woman elected to serve a full term as a [United States Senator](#). Caraway represented [Arkansas](#). She was the first woman to preside over the Senate. She won reelection to a full term in 1932 with the active support of fellow Senator [Huey Long](#), of neighboring [Louisiana](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup>

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

## President's name has been used in scams

By Pat Reilly

In a previous newsletter, it was mentioned that my email had been used in scams. Actually, it was not my email, which is posted on the website, but messages masquerading as me that came from a "free email address" ([btyroots08@gmail.com](mailto:btyroots08@gmail.com))

My trusted computer doctor, Dok Klaus of Warrenton, gave this advice: "The only thing to do is for all of your contacts to block that email address. Is the list of organization members posted online somewhere? That might be how the scammer got your email addresses." They suggested this email to all of you:

"Please block or delete any emails from [btroots08@gmail.com](mailto:btroots08@gmail.com) that come into your inbox. This is a scammer who is pretending to be me. Do not click on any links or attachments they send and do not respond to the emails."

I told Dok Klaus's staff member that the only people reporting scams from me were from my chapter of LWV. The people who have reported receiving them to me are board members, whose email addresses are also posted on our website. So Board Members should be particularly wary to look at the email from which a suspicious request comes.

Please know that I will never ask you to send gift cards, especially from Amazon. I am a Prime Member, so just deposit any extra money straight into my account. (kidding)

## MEMBERSHIP dues DUE!

It's July and this is a reminder that it is time to renew your chapter membership for the year 2024-2025 if you have not already done so!

It's another election year in Virginia and we need your help. As good citizens it is not only our duty to be informed about the upcoming elections, but to encourage others to participate in the vote.

We do this by:

- Registering prospective voters at high schools, community colleges, libraries, and community events,
- Distributing handouts containing key election information and online resources via our Top Ten List,
- Providing candidate forums and debates,

The League offers plenty of interesting opportunities for fellowship, advocacy, and voter outreach. We invite you to join in our activities and programs:

- become involved in the political process,
- gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics,
- discover new interests, develop new skills, and learn about crucial issues in the community, and
- contribute valuable services to the community.

Join us in our mission to empower voters and defend democracy. The League looks forward to receiving your membership renewal soon!

To access the membership renewal form, please click on the following link [Membership form 2024-2025](#) (you may need to hold the "Ctrl" key at the same time as you click on the link). Please choose the membership category and payment method of your choice, per options on the form. If mailing your dues, please send them to Treasurer, LWV-PWFA, 12334 Macrina Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192

Our goal is to receive all renewals by the end of July.

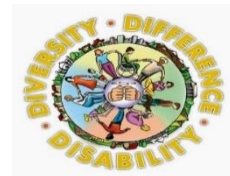
The League welcomes your interest and encourages you to fill out the volunteer activities section near the bottom of the membership form. To find out more, please check out our Calendar of Events at <https://www.princewilliamlwg.org/calendar-of-events/> .

Thank you for your continuing contributions and support.  
Best Regards,  
Grace White  
Treasurer, LWV of the Prince William-Fauquier Area

THANK YOU TO TRISH FREED WHO HAS SERVED AS  
OUR TREASURER SINCE 2021

## News from the President of the League of Women Voters – Virginia

### Disability and the Right to Vote



Last year, LWV Virginia was assisting our friends at REV UP Virginia hosting a table at a disability conference in Richmond. A woman came to the table and proceeded to tell me a stunning story of her daughter's voting disenfranchisement that inadvertently resulted from the mother's efforts to protect her assets. Her daughter is a woman with Down's who was employed and had previously voted. Due to personal reasons, the mother sought guardianship to protect her assets. Her daughter was stunned when, the next time she went to vote, she was told that, due to the guardianship, she had lost her voting rights. We are exploring this further with State Senator Barbara Favola, chair of the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee and a member of the Virginia Behavioral Health Commission in a [letter](#) from REV UP and other partners. We are also exploring other options so stay tuned.

Guardianship should not be immediately interpreted as "mental incapacitation" to determine voting ability. This conflation can have terrible consequences like this one and may violate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Thanks for all you do.

Happy 4th of July!

Joan

*In alignment with the July 1990 passing of the landmark [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA), disability month is celebrated every year in July. This observance aims to promote visibility and mainstream awareness of the positive pride felt by those within the disability community. Using bold images and powerful words, disability pride awareness events and parades strive to educate and empower people with and without disabilities. For us, pride comes from celebrating the unique experiences that we have as people with differing abilities and the contributions that we offer society. For more, go to Ameridisability [here](#).*

## The League of Women Voters of Virginia Establishes Fact Checker to Combat Mis and Dis Information

June 4, 2024 – Richmond, Virginia - The League of Women Voters of Virginia in partnership with [VerbaAI](#), has established a fact checking website which uses AI to find political statements and then check them against known and trusted sites. These include Snopes, PolitiFact, LeadStories and Fact Check.org. League members are also active in locating and submitting questionable stories for review.

According to Virginia League President, Joan Porte, “The ubiquitous spread of election lies is a clear danger to our democracy. This is just a piece of the work that we do to protect voters, but it is vital.”

The website will be active through the November general election and beyond. According to Porte, “We have the dubious distinction of being one of two states with major elections every year. Unfortunately, false information shows no signs of stopping so we will remain vigilant.”

The website can be found here:

[VERBAAI ELECTION FACTS](#)

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### A Tenacity Tale:

This tale highlights the tenacity of Carol Noggle and her efforts to register voters! Carol relayed the following in a July 12th email to President, Pat Reilly:

Sgt. Kristine McDonald, the Programs Coordinator at the PW Adult Detention Center, contacted me by email earlier this week to tell me about an inmate who wants to register to vote. He told the Sgt. that he has been registered to vote somewhere at some time in Virginia. He is not charged with a felony and is awaiting a trial date for his case. She said his trial is not scheduled until next year! (At first, she thought that if she gave me the form that I could provide a ballot at the same time.)

She had given this person a VR application. I agreed to go to the ADC and get the completed form to take to the Election Office. She left the completed form at the security check-in desk so I did not have a chance to talk to her.

I really wanted to check the info online at VA Dept. of Elections myself but went directly to the PW Election Office. (It was a very slow day there now that November election planning is really well under control and the June election is over.) Erica Bruce considered the

application as a simple change of address so she would not need to do any research to determine where he was registered before.

VERY exciting to actually help an inmate register to vote!! Erica and Kista Tucker (usually the greeter at the EO window) and I had a little celebration!

My HOPE is that the mailing of a new Voter Registration card to this inmate will arrive without a problem. I had heard that mail for inmates may be processed by the Department of Corrections some way that affects arrival. I will check again with Sgt. McDonald on that issue and ask her to let me know when the inmate receives confirmation.

In August or September, we can work on the Absentee Vote by Mail application. I HOPE this VR application will go through with NO problem.

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The American Library Association (ALA) and League of Women Voters announced a new partnership to educate and empower voters in 2024. The collaboration is part of ALA's recently launched **Reader. Voter.**

**Ready.** campaign, which aims to equip libraries to engage with voters.

Launched during National Library Week 2024, Reader. Voter. Ready. offers tools and resources designed for libraries to engage voters in their communities. Library workers and partners can find sample graphics, social media posts and other promotional resources at the National Voter Registration Day website and at ALA's Reader. Voter. Ready. website.

Local libraries and state and local Leagues have long worked together to cohost voter registration, educational programs, and candidate forums. Many libraries promote the League's online voter information tool, [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). The collaboration between the national organizations will expand those connections and generate new resources, including a forthcoming toolkit to support collaboration at the local level.

"Leagues and libraries have a rich history of partnership, working together to serve their communities through education, outreach, and civic engagement," said **Alma Couverthie, chief of programs and interim co-CEO at the League of Women Voters of the United States.** "The League is pleased to collaborate with the American Library Association to provide nonpartisan elections resources to ensure voters can confidently make their voices heard at the polls."

"The League of Women Voters and ALA share a strong commitment to civic participation and a history of community trust across the nation, said **Emily Drabinski, president of the American Library Association.** "Joining forces at the national level will enable us to scale decades of educating and empowering voters at the local level."

The new resources will be jointly hosted by [ALA](https://www.ala.org) and LWV and available to all library and League supporters.

**About the American Library Association:** The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit [www.ala.org](https://www.ala.org).

## Action and Programs Update, by Carol Noggle



Impact on Issues is designed to help League members use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the national, state, local, and regional levels. The intention is to inspire Leagues to use national positions to act in their own communities. Impact on Issues has been organized so that “Taking Action” is front and center, followed by the League Principles. Then, for quick reference, the LWVUS public policy Positions in Brief summarize the more detailed positions presented in the sections that follow. For each of the major issue areas, the listing gives the full official statement of position in bold type. The history sections provide background for each position and trace significant actions and achievements. Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that people should play a critical role in democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, just six months before the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote. Throughout the years, the League has continued its dual purposes of education and advocacy, engaging in studies on representative government, international relations, natural resources, and social policy. Although our history of advocacy goes back to our beginnings, this Impact on Issues version of Impact on Issues covers our advocacy efforts beginning in the 1960s. is an indispensable resource for League members. A clear understanding of LWVUS positions, how they interrelate, and how they can complement and reinforce state,

local, and regional Inter-League Organization (ILO) positions, strengthens the League's impact on issues at all levels of government. In applying LWVUS positions to national, state, local, and regional issues, each appropriate League board – depending on the level of action – is responsible for determining whether member understanding and agreement exists and whether the action makes sense in terms of timing, need, and effectiveness.

I want to review some of the language that the League uses in regard to Advocacy and Action. "Positioned for Action" is the title of Virginia's document, but the **LWVUS document is titled, "Impact on Issues"**.

**"Impact on Issues"** states that the League "Program" has 3 parts:

1. Action to implement the League Principles.
2. Study that can lead to concurrence on a new or updated Position.
3. Action on government issues – based on League positions and principles. Action is taken with member understanding and agreement.

**Impact on Issues:** <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>

This document also explains the difference between the League's "**Program**" and the League's "**Programs**". (Note the 's'.)

**PROGRAM:** Selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state, and national levels for *study and action*.

**PROGRAMS:** Plans for speakers, discussion or other activities for League meetings.

Other places that clarify terminology:

- Taking action: Page 9 of "Impact on Issues" explains a process for deciding whether or not to take action on a local community issue using a League position – either LWVUS or LWV-VA.
- "Principles" on Page 10 is a brief overview of the League's beliefs in representative government, liberties, active participation, citizen's right to know, right to vote, free public education, be free of discrimination and more....
- Page 122 has statements on Re-entry programs as part of its section on Criminal Justice.
- Page 124 states a "Fair Housing Criteria". Pages 147 and 148 describe a Criteria for Housing Supply. Pages 150 and 151 discuss Housing Supply.
- Human Trafficking is discussed on Page 158.

This has information on LWV-VA advocacy: <https://my.lwv.org/virginia/advocacy>

## A Bit of History,

Submitted by Connie Gilman

### How Presidential Debates Work

[PREV](#)[NEXT](#)

By: [Josh Clark](#) & [Melanie Radzicki McManus](#) | Updated: Jun 24, 2024

#### Presidential Debates Under the League of Women Voters



Republican candidates enjoy a laugh at the start of the 1980 Presidential Forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, including (L-R) Congressman Philip Crane, George Bush, moderator Howard K. Smith, Ronald Reagan and Congressman John Anderson. [BETTMAN/GETTY IMAGES](#)

The [League of Women Voters \(LWV\)](#) is an organization that was born immediately after the [19th Amendment](#) made the women's suffrage movement obsolete. Now granted the right to vote, the suffrage movement looked to encourage women to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy [source: [LWV](#)]. In 1975, the coalition used its power to become the hosts of the 1976 presidential debates.

This was not new for the league. In 1952, it hosted the first nationally televised debate in U.S. history. It differed from the televised Kennedy-Nixon debate in 1960 in that all candidates from both parties were present instead of just the two nominated candidates. The league remained out of the arena of debates until the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) amended the equal [time](#) provision [source: [McCraw](#)].



The LWV stepped in as the third party needed for this new regulation and hosted presidential debates from 1976 to 1984. The LWV codified the formats of presidential debates, splitting them into categories based on how questions are asked. The league used an open format, allowing follow-up questions among candidates. These types of questions are difficult to prepare for before a debate – they're unpredictable.

The league ran a tight ship. As a nonpartisan organization, it was ardent in affording equal time to all candidates. The organization was also the keeper of the format, the questions and the debate in general. It served as host, and the candidates were invited to participate or not; the debate would go on without them. The LWV's refusal to acquiesce to candidates' demands made presidential debates a powerful force in U.S. politics. When [Jimmy Carter](#) refused to debate with both Republican nominee [Ronald Reagan](#) and independent candidate John Anderson in 1980, the LWV held the debate without Carter. Reagan went on to win the election, and his performance at the debates without Carter to contend with was one factor in his win [source: [PBS](#)].

This made presidential debates dangerous, and not just to Democrats like Carter. In a given election cycle, candidates from any party could face humiliation, the loss of a lead in the polls and defeat, all because of a single debate. So, the two major parties in the United States came together to wrest control of presidential debates from the League of Women Voters.

### **A MUST: RENEW YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING**

#### **Voter Registration Training**

Voter registration volunteers, we must take the Virginia online training every year **AFTER July 1**. [Click here](#) to access the training.

When you complete the training, [click here](#) to access the Affidavit. Indicate that you are with the League of Women Voters of the Prince William Fauquier Area and request 200 voter registration forms. These will be sent to your home.

When you receive the forms, bring them with you when you volunteer or drop them off at the League office.

#### **Train to Register voters**

About a dozen members took advantage of the State Department of Elections Voter Registration Training online on Saturday, July 13. It is required that anyone doing third party registration complete this training each year after July 1. Our certification expires each year on June 30.

If you didn't make the group training, you can still become qualified by taking the course online at: [another live webinar](#), or view the online [Voter Registration Drive Training](#) course, available to you at any time!

If you have not taken the training, you can still help out at Voter Registration events by giving out information and talking to prospective voters, but you cannot register others to vote.

If you have questions about this, contact Voter Services directors Carol Proven or Laura Feld-Mushaw.



The American Library Association (ALA) is urging America's libraries to participate in a national day of action to register voters on [National Voter Registration Day](#), a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating America's representative democracy. Falling on September 17, 2024, this year's observance coincides with Constitution Day.

Each year, hundreds of libraries join ALA and host a range of events leading up to or on National Voter Registration Day, ensuring that voters are registered, informed and ready to vote. A longtime premier partner, ALA is encouraging libraries to [sign up as community partners](#) of National Voter Registration Day to register voters, mobilize local volunteers and educate citizens. Community partners agree to be nonpartisan, inclusive and aware of their state's voter registration laws.

In addition to signing up as community partners of National Voter Registration Day, ALA urges libraries to also participate in other civic holidays celebrated each fall, including Voter Education Week (the first week of October) and Vote Early Day (October 29, 2024).

## 2023-2025 Board of Directors

### Officers:

President	Pat Reilly
Vice President	Kim McCusker
Recording Secretary	Barbara Greiling
Treasurer	Grace White

### 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.princewilliamwww.princewilliamlw.orglw.org](http://www.princewilliamwww.princewilliamlw.orglw.org)

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

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