



2025 Annual Report

Pat Reilly, President

In the past year, the League of Women Voters has undergone a national transformation. It centralizes many of the administrative functions of our chapters, which is mostly affects officers' jobs...treasurer and membership records. Most members will only notice this when paying dues, which now go to the US League and on its software and are renewed on a calendar-year basis rather than a fiscal year. The dues are split, with a greater percentage going to the U.S. and State Leagues and a smaller portion to local chapters. Donations to our chapter are more important than ever.

Where is all that national money going? The challenges to our mission: "To Defend Democracy and Empower Voters" have not been greater in the 105-year history of our organization. The U.S. League and the Virginia League have met threats to voting access with statements alerting the nation to a Constitutional Crisis, dozens of lawsuits on voter access and elections integrity and a new national campaign called Unite and Rise that gives all of us the goal of registering 8.5 million voters this year. Here's what we are doing:

- In the last year, according to our own Signup Genius, we have participated in 90 events and contributed almost 2,000 hours. (that's just the hours we registered). It does not include the hundreds of hours worked by our Board members in their various capacities.
- We have registered and educated voters—at high schools, community colleges, community events, libraries, senior residences and new citizenship ceremonies.
- We create "Top Tens" for each county that tell people who the candidates are for Primaries and General elections, the important dates for voting and where to go to find other voter information.
- We extend our reach and capacity through partnerships with groups in both counties for voter registration, candidate forums and debates and informational Webinars.
- We especially work with other chapters. We help the Arlington Chapter cover new citizen ceremonies and the Loudoun County Chapter with a joint 10th Congressional District Candidates Town Halls.
- We continue to sponsor and support a coalition of Northern Virginia groups that has held a Vigil for Action every Saturday morning in Warrenton to bear witness to the murder of Black Americans in unjust circumstances. We celebrate the vigil's fifth anniversary in June.
- We partner with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority on the Martin Luther King, Jr. annual Oratorical Contest and present each of the finalists with a book of Dr. King's speeches.
- During the General Assembly Session, State League members had a weekly opportunity to listen to dozens of issue leaders who aligned with our carefully

studied and selected issue positions—gun safety, childcare, school funding, voter access, restoration of rights, budget allocation, election integrity.

- Throughout the session, our Advocacy coordinator, Carol Noggle, alerted members to the work of their districts' representatives.
- Carol Noggle and Brenda Carswell work on getting reentry information to former prisoners and their families, particularly on applying for restoration of voting rights.
- Our Land Use Study Group offers zoom sessions on what's going on in Prince William County, led by our in-house expert Charlie Grimes.
- Our Book Club meets quarterly to discuss wonderful books that spur lively discussions.

Throughout the year, our Communications Director, Carol Proven, alerts us to what we have to know and which opportunities are available in email bulletins. Our newsletter editor, Connie Gilman, puts out a quarterly report that invites each of us to contribute news and photos about what we've done. Our Volunteer Director Judy Hingle populates Signup Genius with opportunities for getting involved.

We look forward to getting to know each other as we work together to register those 8.5 million eligible voters.