



**League of Women Voters of the Prince William Fauquier Area**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**August 19, 2025**

Co-President Connie Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Those calling in: Pat Reilly, Miram Anver, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Catherine Ring, Carol Noggle, Kathleen Montgomery, Frances Croson, Cynthia Chambliss, Carol Proven, Cheryl Saggars, Ruthann Litchford, Michele Fulton, Sheila Arrington, Jane Touchet, and Barbara Greiling.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the July board meeting were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Shari Oley submitted a written report, which was sent to board members. Pat Reilly reminded members to send receipts for printing and other expenses to Shari.

**Co-President's report:** Connie Gilman reported that Kathleen Montgomery has purchased magnetic nametags for members who regularly participate in voter registration events. Kathleen will bring them to the fall kickoff meeting on Sept. 13. The cost is \$10 each and, if they wish, members may reimburse her directly at the meeting. She will then submit a reimbursement request for the remainder of the cost. Ruthann Litchford has designed water bottle stickers for us, which she will distribute.

Connie is in the process of updating the calendar with fall events.

**Co-President's report:** Pat Reilly said the Fall Kickoff meeting is scheduled for Sept. 13 at Haymarket-Gainesville Library at 10:30 a.m. Prince William Clerk of Courts Jackie Smith is the speaker. She is slated to speak about innovations such as the Seals on Wheels program she has instituted to better serve residents. Connie and Pat will contact her to thank her for agreeing to speak and to ask if she has any technical needs for her presentation. It was suggested she be asked to speak about voting rights and immigration enforcement issues. There will be a question-and-answer period when such questions can be raised.

Carol Noggle will invite people to do Re-Entry work.

Members are asked to bring breakfast finger food. A signup sheet will be distributed.

**Voter Services:** Cynthia Chambliss reported that directors met, divided up the senior residences and have begun contacting them about voter registration and help with absentee ballots. Top Tens for both Fauquier and Prince William have been updated and are available on the website.

The Committee of 100 is holding a forum on Sept. 11 for candidates for House District 21. Two Democratic candidates have agreed to participate. One Republican candidate has declined and another has not yet responded. The Committee of 100 has asked that we co-sponsor the event and share venue costs and other expenses. Pat asked that Cynthia find out what the cost would be before we commit to sponsorship. There is \$500 in the budget for such events, but there are likely to be more this election season. We will set up a voter registration table and assist with timekeeping and other tasks at the event.

Laura Feld-Mushaw has contacted the Prince William Public Libraries about Voter Registration Week events for Sept. 15-19. Connie reported we will have a table at the Manassas City Library on Sept. 18. Pat Reilly reported there will be a voter information meeting Sept. 16 at Westminster Senior Residence in Lake Ridge. SignUp Genius requests will be submitted for all these events, and members will be notified.

**Fauquier activities:** Due to Internet problems, Ruthann Litchford entered notes in the chat and Pat read them to the group. Members will conduct voter registration at a candidate forum sponsored by Fauquier Indivisible on Sept. 14. There will be a League table at the Old Town Festival in Oct. 4. Voter registration is also planned at Laurel Ridge Community College. The Black Lives Matter vigils continue on Saturdays in Warrenton.

**DEI Coordinator:** Connie and Pat thanked Sheila Arrington for agreeing to serve as DEI coordinator. She will coordinate with NAACP, Black sororities and the LWV-VA DEI committee to ensure our activities affect a diverse community.

**Membership Outreach:** Cathy Ring has provided James Gillespie, dean of humanities, arts and sciences at NVCC Manassas, with a copy of the voter registration script that the Arlington League has shared with us. She is waiting to hear back about possible dates. She said LVWUS is contacting members and membership renewals are coming in.

**Membership:** Jane Touchet said she had not been informed of many renewals. She and Cathy will coordinate so that Cathy can contact those who have not renewed. Cynthia Chambliss and Pat Reilly said they gave membership information to people who expressed interest at recent community events. Jane reported that Sheila McConnell has joined.

**Advocacy:** Miriam Anver reported a lawsuit brought by LWV-VA and other groups to prevent purges of voter rolls targeting naturalized citizens has been allowed to go forward.

**Unite and Rise:** Pat Reilly called members attention to an Aug. 11 email from LWV-VA about ideas for Unite and Rise activities. The deadline for submitting ideas has passed, but there is still an opportunity for reimbursement. There is a real emphasis on new partnerships, collaborations that involve students, and working with disenfranchised groups. She asked for ideas and reported that Shari Oley has submitted several; Connie forwarded Shari's ideas to board members ahead of the meeting.

Pat said the guidance about Unite and Rise at the meeting of state presidents was vague, but she attended a voter services meeting chaired by Janet Boyd that offered more concrete ideas. She added LWV is emphasizing the nonpartisanship should not stand in the way of countering the administration's attacks on the rights of citizens and noncitizens.

Pat said the state League will provide us with "Know Your Rights" cards for immigrants, and added she had been in contact with a group that sends volunteers to accompany people to immigration hearings and court appearances. However, they are not ready to expand their operation to other volunteers at this time.

Jane Touchet pointed out our area's high immigrant population and asked what can be done to help.

**Unfinished Business:** Connie said LWV-VA is offering voter guides to our League.

Carol Proven said she had been in touch with Joan Porte and requested 500 copies. The guides do not list candidates, but we could insert our Top Tens.

Connie said the Abington League is initiating a rural caucus and wants to know if we want to participate. Ruthann said Fauquier members would be interested.

Miriam urged members to contact their representatives in Congress to oppose the administration's takeover of D.C.

The next board meeting will be Sept. 23. Pat asked that it be pushed back a week so it doesn't interfere with Voter Registration Week events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Greiling