

Prince William Area Members-At-Large Unit

League of Women Voters Virginia

www.lwv-va.org

April 2009

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In This Issue...

April Meeting	2
March Recap	2
Nominations	3
Voter Services	3
Primaries Info.	3
Pres. Corner	4
Workhouse Memorial	4
Annual Mtg.	5

THE ANNUAL MEETING IS COMING!

Be sure to attend our annual meeting when Lee Hendricks will present "Rebuilding the Afghan Government."

Former United Nations worker Lee Hendricks will discuss the historic aspects of Afghan and international efforts to rebuild the Afghan government. Ms. Hendricks worked in Afghanistan for four years during the period from 1976 to 2005, a span of time that included the 1978 Communist coup, kidnapping of the American Ambassador, refugee issues in the post-Soviet era and implementation of the Bonn Accords (the international road-map to rebuilding government in a democratic society).

Saturday, May 30th
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Daks Grille
13641 Minnieville Rd.
Dale City, VA 22193
703-583-1997
www.daksgrill.com

During her first stay in Afghanistan, she led tours to historic sites in Afghanistan. During the Taliban period, she visited Tajik refugee camps in northern Afghanistan to encourage repatriation. In 2002, during the initial implementation of the Bonn Accords, she worked in the Afghan Commission Ops Center, bringing 1501 delegates to Kabul for the Emergency Loya Jirga (Grand Council); she then became the Liaison Officer for the Women Delegates.

In 2004 Lee was an OSCE Election Expert in Herat province during the Presidential Election. In 2005, she served as the Provincial Election Officer under the auspices of the United Nations in the northern province of Takhar.

Lee Hendricks has a master's degree in Central Asian studies and has worked in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and India among other locations. She has worked in refugee protection and election observation for the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) and the United Nations, and she speaks a smattering of several languages.

The nominating committee will also present Board Member nominations during this meeting.

Be sure to register by using the form on page 5.

APRIL CONSENSUS MEETING

General Meeting - Consensus on the National Popular Vote: How should the U.S. President be elected?

When? April 16, 2009, 10:00-noon
Lunch following the meeting is optional.

Location: Regency Clubhouse, Regency at Dominion Valley, 15351 Championship Drive,
Haymarket, VA 20169.

Directions: From 495 or from Manassas, I-66 West, Exit 40 (Haymarket), Right onto Route 15 North
(toward Leesburg), continue 1 1/2 miles to Left onto Dominion Valley Drive, 3rd Right
into Regency and the Gatehouse.

If you are not a member of the League, please call Shirley at 571-261-1533 or Carol at 703-754-0131.

Topic: Consensus Questions about the National Popular Vote Compact Proposal. What is it? Do we want the LWVUS to support this method of voting for the President of the US or do we want the Electoral College to continue to select our President? For more information see the PWA LWV-VA, February 2009 Newsletter at http://www.lwv-va.org/files/feb_09_newsletter.pdf. Scroll to page 4.

IRON JAWED ANGELS A HUGE SUCCESS

March 17 Special Meeting at Chinn Library

Local women's clubs were invited to join us in celebrating Women's History Month with a screening of the HBO movie "Iron Jawed Angels." About 28 women converged on Chinn to watch this intriguing film about Alice Paul and her Women's Party all-out attempt to shame the country into passing the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution finally giving all American women the right to vote.

This story, which needs to be retold many times to remind us what a precious thing our right to vote truly is, depicted our own area from about 1917 to 1920. Alice Paul's party planned a parade in which they were allowed by the police to be physically attacked by an angry mob. Still, they next picketed President Wilson's White House for months. When they annoyed the President, hundreds of the brave suffragists were arrested on trumped up charges and ended up in the Workhouse jail in Lorton, Virginia. The story, riveting and often disturbing, held the full attention of the audience.

The DVD movie is available on Amazon.com and has been offered to the Prince William Public Library for their collection by our league unit.

It is time to renew your membership. Please make your check payable to the League of Women Voters and mail to LWV, 6010 Wheeler Lane, Broad Run, VA 20137-2201. Dues are \$60.00 for a one-year, individual membership and \$90.00 for a one-year, household membership (two members who share an address). Your membership is important for the education of citizens and promoting fair government.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHOOSES BOARD MEMBERS

The Nominating Committee met in January and February to discuss potential Executive Board members. The results are as follows:

President - Joyce Ard
Vice President/ Publicity - Sheila School
Secretary/Voter Service - Judy Anderson
Treasurer - Jessie Barringer
Membership - Lupe Hittle-Durante
Program Chair - Lee Hendricks

Additional nominations from the floor, with the prior consent of the nominees, are welcomed at the May Annual Meeting.

PLAN TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARIES NOW!

- May 11* Last day to register to vote prior to the June Primary Election (Governor and Lt. Governor)
- June 6* Last day to vote absentee in person for the June Primary Elections
- June 9* Primary Election
- October 5* Last day for registration prior to General Election
- October 31* Last Day to vote absentee in person for the General Election
- November 3* General Election

For more information, contact:

Prince William County Voter Registration and Elections Office: 703-792-6470.

Manassas City Registrar's Office: 703- 257-8230

City of Manassas Park Registrar: 703-335-8806

VOTER SERVICES: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

High School voter registration has been completed at six schools with the help of League volunteers Jessie Barringer, Carol Proven, Ilma Striker, Lee Hendricks and Judy Anderson. We have had the chance to describe League history and current work to the government students. Registrations have ranged from 80 to 200 per high school. Sheila School and Joyce Ard will join in for the remaining four schools. All volunteers are welcome! Call Judy at 703-335-9723.

Handouts of They Represent You 2009 should be in public libraries the first week of April. Let Judy know the organizations and locations where you can distribute copies. We will present copies this year to the Board of Supervisors at Citizen time and send letters with copies to the elected officials listed.

New Members, Welcome!

Welcome, Brenda Carswell! We are pleased you decided to take part in our meaningful activities. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

New and old members, you can track changes to our League at <http://www.lwv-va.org/pwc.html>.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia's Spring 2009 newsletter may be found at:

http://lwv-va.org/files/lwvavoter_spring09.pdf

Quote of the Month

“Men, their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less.” –Susan B. Anthony

Thanks to all our dedicated volunteers who help make our registration and educational programs successful. Our League is strong because of our members!

*Questions? Comments?
Ideas?*

Contact
Katherine Gotthardt,
Newsletter Editor
kgotthardt@comcast.net

FROM THE PRESIDENTS' CORNER

As the trees start to bud and lawns come back to life, we should pause to congratulate ourselves for completing a second year as an MAL unit of the Virginia League of Women Voters. With our elections coming up at our May 30 Annual Meeting and a new slate of officers proposed, we are entering an exciting phase of our development.

As we gather to vote, eat a delicious lunch, enjoy each other's company and listen to an interesting lecture on "Afghanistan" by one of our new members, Lee Hendricks, who has actually been there and experienced much of what is happening in elections around the world, we hope members will consider how much our unit has accomplished in just two years.

As in most volunteer groups, we need more members to be active and involved. We hope that more of you will make the effort to attend meetings, help us recruit new members and give some of your precious time to our League. We ARE the League of Women Voters in the Prince William Area. Resolve anew to be a contributor and an active member.

Co-Presidents, Shirley White & Shelia School

TURNING POINT SUFFRAGE MEMORIAL DEVELOPING IN OCCOQUAN

The Turning Point Suffrage Memorial is dedicated to those who endured harsh imprisonment to secure voting rights for American women, as well all the women who participated in the suffragette movement. 123 women suffragettes were imprisoned in the Occoquan Workhouse, then part of the Lorton Prison complex, in retaliation for picketing in front of the Woodrow Wilson White House for the right to vote. The reports of inhumane conditions, beatings and force feeding at the Workhouse electrified the country and became a major "turning point" in the struggle for the 19th Amendment.

Occoquan Regional Park, across from the former Workhouse site, now has a brick area, aptly named Turning Point. It commemorates the suffragists' struggle for the right to vote. Interpretive signs have been installed to tell the story of the road to equality. The Memorial's dedication took place on July 27, 2008, complete with re-enactors in period costumes.

The steering committee for the Memorial is in the process of spearheading a project to build a permanent memorial to the suffragists. Thoughtful research and analysis of design options are being completed that will reflect the strength of the women and the significance of the struggle. Future plans may include a garden, benches and a walking path located adjacent to the memorial, providing a quiet place of reflection and study. In the future, we will be called upon to assist in this effort. This is a collaborative effort of the League of Women Voters, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Sewell-Belmont House, George Mason University's Center for Women and Gender Studies, Lorton Arts Foundation and the Occoquan River Communities.



Prince William Area MAL
League of Women Voters of Virginia

Save the Date!

Saturday, May 30th
Annual Meeting & Luncheon
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Daks Grille
13641 Minnieville Rd.
Dale City, VA 22193
703.583.1997
www.daksgrill.com

Election of Officers 2009-2011
and
"Rebuilding the Afghan Government"
A Slide Show Presentation by Lee Hendricks, Former UN Worker
Guests are Welcome!
Bring your Questions

Reservation Deadline (with payment) May 16*

Cost: \$20 per person.

Please make checks payable to PWA MAL LWV VA and Mail with form to:
Annual Meeting, 6010 Wheeler Lane, Broad Run, VA 20137-2201

Name(s) _____

Phone Number & Email _____

Guest(s) _____

No. of lunches _____ @ \$20/per lunch = _____ Total enclosed _____