

Prince William Area Members-At-Large Unit

League of Women Voters Virginia

www.lwv-va.org

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Speaker, Lunch and Elections Make Annual Meeting Successful!

Our League's May Annual Meeting at Dak's Grille was a success, thanks in part to guest Speaker Lee Hendricks who presented "Rebuilding the Afghan Government." Lee, a PWA League member, has worked in many capacities as a United Nations and elections official in Afghanistan.

Starting with a vocabulary and geography lesson, Lee led listeners through the transformation of Afghan government toward democracy. Her slide show and presentation brought us up close to the political and social culture evolving in Afghanistan.



Lee discussed women's culture and participation in elections. Lee also brought along a Chadri, the traditional garb Afghan women wear in public, which Katherine Gotthardt modeled. Nadia, an Afghan native and Daks Manager, prepared and served us Mantoo, a special Afghan dish.

After the presentation, members elected the following officers whose terms will begin July 1:

President	Joyce Ard
1 st Vice President	Sheila School
2 nd Vice President	Katherine Gotthardt
Secretary	Judy Anderson
Treasurer	Jessie Barringer

Also during the meeting, the 2009-2010 budget was adopted. Joyce Ard updated us on the progress of the Turning Points Suffragist Memorial. Judy Anderson summarized our Voter Service activities for the year.

To continue growing, educating and providing services, we need your help with outreach, membership, publicity and action. Volunteers need not take on full responsibility of Board positions. Contact an officer to see how you can make a big difference by giving a small amount of time.

Thank you for another great year, and we look forward to the next!

Our League Donates to PW Public Library System

Our PWA unit recently made a donation to the Prince William Public Library System as a thank you for helping us produce “They Represent You” , our citizens’ guide to Prince William elected officials. An excerpt from the letter to Director Dick Murphy follows:

The League of Women Voters of the Prince William Area (LWV-VA PWA) is very appreciative of your printing of the publication “They Represent You” and its distribution to the Prince William Libraries. The publication is a valuable resource for citizens as they seek contact information of governments and elected officials. Thank you for putting the publication on the library website which you can view at <http://www.pwcgov.org/library/magic/PDF/TheyRepresentYou.pdf>.

Enclosed is a contribution of two hundred dollars to the Prince William Public Library System in gratitude for the System’s support of the LWV-VA PWA.

Our League is proud to be able to give back to the library system which has generously supported this important educational resource.

PWA Members Attend State Convention

The Fairfax League sponsored the April State Convention at the Sheraton Reston Hotel. Our MAL unit made a strong representation: Sheila School, Carol Korb, Lee Hendricks, Judy Anderson and Joyce Ard.

This year’s theme was “Leadership for the Next 100 Years.” Marcia Merrins, LWVUS Liaison, was the workshop speaker.

Most helpful was the workshop on League Calendar Planning also presented by Ms. Merrins who let us know from the National perspective what we must integrate into our calendars. There was also a silent auction which generated over \$400.

The plenary session included adoption of the by-laws amendments, 2009-2010 Operating Fund Budget, LWV-VA Program (recommended and not recommended) and election of Officers and Directors.

In addition, Sheila School asked why our Per Member Payment (PMP) to the State League had been raised. The response was that the state had been subsidizing the amount submitted to the National. Our Jessie Barringer was reelected for the State Nominations Committee.

There will be a People’s Gubernatorial Debate in the fall. The League has joined forces with AARP for this endeavor. Our Lee Hendricks attended the “announcement” presentation.

Thank you, ladies, for making the time commitment to attend the convention.

Do you know....

*Do you know.... Who was the first US Congresswoman? Who convinced an all-male Montana legislature to pass equal suffrage in 1914, then won her own seat in Congress in 1916--before American women in most states had the right to vote? That the movie "A Single Woman" released in 2008 was about her life? Come to the planning meeting in July to hear about **Jeannette Rankin** from Montana.*

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

Democratic Party Primaries Complete

The June Democrat Primaries went smoothly with the following results:

Governor: Deeds 49%, McAuliffe 27%, Moran 24%

Lt. Gov: Wagner 75%, Signer 21%, Bowerbank (withdrew before election)

Delegate, 52nd dist: Torian 68%, Hodge 32%

Please Renew Your Membership!

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. Cost is \$60.00 for a one-year individual membership and \$90.00 for a one-year household membership for two people who share an address.

Your membership is important for the education of citizens and promoting fair government.

Thanks to all our dedicated volunteers who help make our registration and educational programs successful!

Questions?
Comments?

Contact the Editor
Katherine Gotthardt,
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Voter Services Chair Preparing for Voters' Guide

At the end of June, Voter Service Chair Judy Anderson will meet with the region's Voter Service chairs to decide how to generate a Voters' Guide for the November general election.

The State League will formulate questions for the three statewide offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, but then, we will need to compose questions for the Delegate candidates in the 5 districts in our area.

Judy said we will also need to confirm that the *News & Messenger* is still interested in printing the product. We might need to consider the pros and cons of offering a strictly online version.

"It was gratifying to have several Board members interested in helping get this job done and other offers to assist will be appreciated," Judy said.

"I urge everyone individually to get involved with this important election – volunteer to assist a local candidate, donate to a campaign you believe in, help at the Registrar's office. When you look for it, someone always needs your help."

VA LWV President Appointed by SBE

Congratulations to our VA League President Olga Hernandez who has been appointed to the State Board of Elections task force focusing on residency requirement definitions for voters in the Commonwealth. The task force is a result of legislation passed by the General Assembly to ensure the uniform application of the law determining residence. Thank you, Olga, for representing us as League members and citizens!

New Members, Welcome!

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

A Note from the Presidents

As we change officers, we can all look back with pride on our unit's accomplishments, and forward with anticipation, as we place leadership of our Prince William Area unit in the capable hands of Joyce Ard, our president starting July 1. Shirley and I recall with pleasure our first monthly board meetings, voter service activities and publications, member discussions, our first league testimony and the Dumfries Voter Forum.

Here's to many more years of LWV activity in the Prince William Area! Joyce and the new Board, we look forward to working with you.

Shirley White and Sheila School
Co-Presidents, LWV PWA

Turning Point Suffrage Memorial Developing in Occoquan

Work has begun in earnest for the next phase of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Project. The steering committee met with a historical architect and discussed ideas for the memorial itself: What did we want to see and how do we want people to interact with the space?

Many of the ideas included garden paths, arbors and benches, plus moving nearer to the river's edge. Interactive ideas with new technologies were also discussed. Community charrettes will be forming so that others may be involved in the planning.

The various committees are in the process of meeting and commencing the actual directed work to bring this effort to fruition. Our incoming President, Joyce Ard, is forging a Diversity Committee to contact other organizations in the Washington area to get their committed effort on this project.

"Our Foremothers were in contact with a number of groups and we should be also," Joyce said. "We are looking at universities, women's groups, and African and Native American and Jewish groups."

If you know of groups that would be interested in the project, please let Joyce know. Even though there is a list, more contacts would be better. Joyce said she will also be contacting some members who are involved in other groups to get contact information.

Joyce believes, "This memorial should represent many women from different areas who worked on the voting issue. The League started from this point and we should continue to tell the story. Young women and men should know their (her)story."



Prince William Area Members-At-Large Unit League of Women Voters of Virginia

www.lwv-va.org

Become a part of Virginia and Prince William Area History!
Join the League of Women Voters of the Prince William Area.

Prince William County, Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park

Membership Application July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

The LWV is a non-partisan organization which neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. The LWV is open to all citizens, female or male, who are 18 years of age or older. The purposes of the LWVVA are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip Code + 4 _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Annual Dues: \$60.00 single or \$90.00 household (2 persons). Dues include enrollment in the League of Women Voters of Virginia and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Please make check payable to **Prince William Area MAL LWV VA** and mail to Prince William Area MAL LWVVA, 6010 Wheeler Lane, Broad Run, VA 20137.

Your ideas matter! Please list suggestions for programs and activities that you would find interesting if undertaken by the new League of Women Voters of the Prince William Area.
