

Prince William Area Members-At-Large Unit

League of Women Voters Virginia

<http://lwy-va.org/pwc.html>

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Have you sent in dues for the upcoming year? Dues are due by June 30. See page 3 to renew or join!

Wrapping Up Another Successful Year

Sometimes, the only way to see where you are is to look at where you've been. We in the Prince William Area Unit take pride in stepping back to review our 2009-2010 season.

Our year started in September when Joyce Ard, Sheila School and Katherine Gotthardt attended the New Technologies state workshop in Charlottesville. Then in October, the Unit hosted a tea at which Executive Director of the Sorenson Institute, Bill Gibson, discussed "How do we get more viable female candidates?" November marked the beginning of our High School Senior Registration efforts.

In December, Carol Noggle attended and reported on the Women's Roundtable in Richmond. Carol then attended *all* the Roundtables and has reported on them. Joyce Ard attended the December Roundtable. January through May, many of our members helped to register seniors in every Prince William High School. The film *One Woman One Vote* was shown in March, and in April we participated in the State workshops, election studies and idea exchange in Lynchburg. May marked the first time we facilitated an election for a Home Owners Association (at [Four Seasons](#)). And we held our Annual Meeting/Luncheon in May, with a speaker on the Restoration of Felons Rights and how women are affected.

Throughout, we held seven board meetings, produced three newsletters, began a history of our Unit's activities, produced and distributed our Prince William Unit's brochure, assisted in producing and distributing "[They Represent You.](#)" were mentioned in the regional newspaper and helped get a Voters' Guide in the same newspaper. We will wrap up our year in June when we hold a Consensus Meeting on Election Law Study.

Thank you for making our reflection on the past year such a positive one!

June 12th Consensus Meeting on Election Laws

Our Unit will participate in a LWV State study on Virginia's election laws. Our answers to the consensus questions will ensure our Unit is included in formulating LWV's official position. **The consensus meeting will be held at noon on Saturday, June 12, 2010, at The Bungalow Alehouse, 7380 Atlas Walk Way, Gainesville, VA, 20155.** Please read the full study at <http://www.lwy-va.org/electionlaws.html>. If you cannot attend, please email your responses to Joyce Ard at ardj@verizon.net.

1. Do you approve the following statement for the League of Women Voters of Virginia position on election laws? What changes would you propose? "The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations, and administrative procedures should be designed and uniformly applied, with adequate funding available, to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia."

2. What sources and methods of funding would you support to provide equal and easy access
cont'd. on pg. 2

Annual Meeting an Accomplishment

More than 25 members and friends attended our May annual meeting and luncheon highlighting a panel discussing restoration of voting rights for former felons.

Mr. Adisa Muse, former Director of the Virginia Voters Restoration Project, described the current Virginia restoration process which is time consuming and results in few voting rights restorations.

According to Mr. Muse, the Virginia process differs considerably from some states because the Virginia Governor is the only one who can restore voting rights.

The panel included Kari Galloway, Director of the [Friends of Guest House](#) in Alexandria which houses women released from incarceration and assists them in returning to the community.

Ms. Galloway said over 1,000 women have been served at the Guest House.

Alumnae of the Guest House, Terry Garrett and Jennifer McDaniel, told their stories of overcoming tremendous challenges to become successful. The women still do not have the right to vote, however, and are eager to have that right. They have presented their stories to legislators at the General Assembly.

Mr. Muse said there has not yet been successful legislation in Virginia to change the restoration process. A bill in Congress, the Democracy Restoration Act, has been introduced, which would improve the process for voting in Federal elections, but would not affect State elections.

Our Unit is grateful to the panel members and Brenda Carswell who helped put together the program.

Consensus Meeting Cont'd.

to voter registration? Do you believe that funding for Virginia's voter registration system should be provided totally by the Commonwealth or shared by the Commonwealth and localities?

3. Please respond "yes" or "no" and explain if necessary. Do you believe that voter registration is necessary to: facilitate the voting process? Prevent voter fraud? Other?

4. Do you believe that voter registration as carried out in Virginia affects voter turnout?

5. Which of the following voter registration measures would you support to increase voter participation in Virginia? (you may select more than one): no voter registration; same (election) day registration; at the county/city central elections office; at the precinct polling place; decreased time between the registration deadline and election day; online registration; statutory requirements that election officials carry out a vigorous voter registration program covering all eligible Virginia citizens; universal voter registration of all Virginia residents who are U.S. citizens upon their 18th birthday; other.

6. Please answer following questions. Do you support voter registration affiliation by party? Do you oppose voter registration affiliation by party?

7. Virginia's definition of residency for the purpose of voting requires individuals to have both domicile and abode. In August, 2009, the State Board of Elections adopted a policy to establish uniform interpretation, broad construction, presumption of intent and consistent application of the requirements to assure all citizens of their right to vote. Do you support application of this statewide policy to determine voter residency, rather than policy set by local registrars?

Call for Volunteers

We want to thank all our dedicated volunteers who have made the 2009-10 season a success! In order to continue our success, however, we need YOUR help. Volunteering even an hour or two can make a difference. Consider helping out in the following areas

- Observe a Board of County Supervisors or a School Board Meeting;
- Help coordinate high school registration with Board of Elections and volunteers;
- Assist with updating "They Represent You" with help from the Board of Elections and LWV members;
- Coordinate the Voters Guide with the Fairfax League and *News and Messenger* newspaper;
- Join the Nominating Committee to help elect leaders for our unit;
- Meet by email or conference call to work on state election studies.

Don't forget!
The Republican
primaries for the 11th
and 1st districts will be
held June 8.

To volunteer, contact Joyce Ard at 703-580-8122 or ardj@verizon.net



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

www.lwv-va.org

<http://lwv-va.org/pwc.html>

Join and become a Member of the
League of Women Voters of the Prince William Area.
Or, renew your membership now!

Prince William County, Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park

Membership Application July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

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. **Dues are due by June 30th for the coming fiscal year.**

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.
