



# THE VIRGINIA VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF VIRGINIA

Volume 58, Issue 2

FALL 2011

[www.LWV-VA.org](http://www.LWV-VA.org)

## Calendar Highlights:

*For full details on events, see [www.LWV-VA.org](http://www.LWV-VA.org) and select 'Calendar'.*

### November 2011

- 6 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 8 Election Day in VA
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 21 GA Legislation Pre-filing begins
- 24 Thanksgiving

### December 2011

- 2 NCA Board Meeting
- 3 LWV-VA Board meeting – NoVA Area
- 8 **Women's Roundtable**  
Pre-session & Luncheon, Richmond @ Capitol Bldg.
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 20 Chanukah begins @ sundown through the 28th
- 22 Winter begins
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Kwanzaa begins through January 1
- 31 Happy New Year

### January 2012

- 6 NCA Board meeting
- 11 General Assembly (GA) Convenes (long 60 day session)
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed on the 16th
- 18 **Women's Roundtable Richmond**
- 25 **Women's Roundtable Richmond**



## **General Assembly Pre-Session Meeting of the Women's Legislative Roundtable at the Capitol Building**

**Moderated by the League of Women Voters of Virginia**

Join us as we learn what issues will be addressed during the 2012 session! Speakers include

Members of Executive Branch and Issue Lobbyists.

**Thursday, December 8, Richmond, VA**

**Pre-Session Meeting *Gratis***

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM in House Room 1, Bank Street entrance

**Followed by Luncheon Meeting *Cost: \$30***

12:15 – 3:00 PM in House Room 3

**Registration for Lunch Required by November 28, 2011**  
*(Registration form on page 15)*

**Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Donald F. Palmer,  
Secretary, State Board of Elections**

Join us in Richmond on December 8th to hear first hand about the pressing issues that will come before state legislators. It's an opportunity for networking plus inside information about the 2012 General Assembly session. A full day of activities is being planned, beginning with the Pre-Session Roundtable (free) morning session in House Room 1 (Old section of the Capitol). This will be followed by a luncheon meeting (\$30) in House Room 3 (new underground addition). As always, speakers from widely diverse sectors are being invited. Reservations for the lunch are due November 28, 2011. We hope to see you there!

THE VIRGINIA VOTER is published by the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA).

The League of Women Voters of Virginia, a non-partisan, political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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## From the President's Desk



It is hard to believe it is already the beginning of November and a major state election is only one week away. Most of our local Leagues have been busy with Meet and Greets and/or candidate forums. Unfortunately, in some localities, candidates decided to take issue with the choice of moderator after initially accepting the invitation to participate. It is indeed unfortunate that our members work as hard as they do to prepare for these forums only to have candidates decide at the last minute not to participate or simply fail to appear for these forums.

Along with many local office elections, voters will also be electing Delegates and Senators at the state level. Unfortunately, politicians did their best to retain incumbents in the redistricting process. This coupled with Republicans doing their best to ensure that every Democratic incumbent is opposed in their race for office while Democrats are sitting back and allowing many Republicans to go uncontested; voters have wound up with 14 of 40 uncontested races in the Senate and a whopping 63 of 100 uncontested races in the House. This could very well mean that one party – and only one party – will govern the state. Should this happen, there will be no checks and balances on either the legislative or the executive branches of the government of Virginia – never a good thing.

Meanwhile, your state board is starting to gear up for the General Assembly session starting on

January 11, 2012. Throughout this *Voter*, you will find information about Pre-Session, which this year will be held on **Thursday**, December 8, 2011. We are fortunate to have Donald Palmer, Secretary, State Board of Elections as our luncheon speaker and look forward to hearing how well the voting process worked in this first election since redistricting.

We were also saddened to have to accept Anne Sterling's resignation from the state board and her position as Legislative Coordinator. Due to family issues, she has had to reprioritize her life and we wish her and her husband well. We have lost all of Anne's institutional knowledge at the General Assembly and although Carol Noggle has some very big shoes to fill, there is no doubt in my mind that Carol will do a wonderful job with her new position as Legislative Coordinator. This also leaves us with no Advocacy director and we are hoping that some of our members who want to help out with public policy issues but don't have the time or desire to travel to Richmond at least once a week will agree to become "issues specialists." You will find information about this in this newsletter.

Lastly, members of our local Leagues have asked us to start taking more action on issues. We have started doing this more often. We wrote to the federal department of Health and Human Services about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. We also have signed onto a letter to U.S. Senator Mark Warner, along with Environment Virginia and 20 other organizations, about EPA regulations and clean air. Local Leagues are in the process of choosing what priorities they would like us to emphasize in the 2012 General Assembly session. Using this information, the LWV-VA board will make decisions about what specific issues we will emphasize.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Pre-Session and the luncheon following the morning program. We will be celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women's Round Table!

*Lynn*

**Donald Palmer, Secretary of the Virginia State Board of Elections To be Luncheon Speaker at Women's Roundtable Pre-Session**

Donald Palmer, Secretary, Virginia State Board of Elections, has agreed to be the luncheon speaker at the Women's Roundtable Pre-Session meeting on December 8, 2011, in House Room 3 of the Virginia Capitol building. Palmer will share with us his insights about the November 2011 election process in Virginia following redistricting and his first year as Secretary of the Virginia State Board of Elections.

In January 2011, Gov. McDonnell appointed Donald Palmer to serve as Secretary of the Virginia State Board of Elections. Immediately prior to coming to Virginia he served as the Director of Elections with the Florida Department of State, working with the Florida Secretary of State and 67 Supervisors of Elections in successful 2008 Primary and General Presidential Elections and the 2010 mid-term elections. During his tenure, he improved statewide processes of statewide registration verification and list maintenance and he successfully implemented changes to align Florida with the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act.

Donald Palmer represented Florida as a member of the EAC Standards Board of the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and his peers elected him to the Standards Executive Board. The EAC also appointed him to the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) to represent elections officials on the Standards Board. These advisory boards provide recommendations to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) on voluntary standards for voting equipment, voting systems, and voter registration databases.

Prior to his time in Florida as Director of Elections, he served as a trial attorney with the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section, where he enforced the federal voting laws and provided guidance to states on compliance with the civil rights laws. In that

role, he sued jurisdictions for violations of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). He also monitored compliance with the Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).

In May 2009, Donald Palmer provided testimony to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration on the proposed Military Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act eventually signed by President Obama, specifically highlighting Florida's leading role in overcoming the obstacles military and overseas voters face in registration and voting.

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**Anne Sterling stepping down from her leadership positions with the LWV-VA**

Unfortunately, the LWV-VA Board of Directors has been forced to accept with regret the resignation of Anne Sterling. Over the summer, Anne's family circumstances changed considerably – and unexpectedly – and she has had to change the focus of her priorities away from the League and towards her family. Anne will be deeply missed, not just by the LWV but by all of her many friends at the General Assembly. Meanwhile, we wish Anne and her family nothing but the best.

Because of this resignation, we have made a few changes to the state officers and board of directors. Sue Lewis has moved from second Vice President to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in accordance with our state bylaws. Sue will continue to handle the membership portfolio and serve as state coordinator of the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) project. For the time being, the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President will remain vacant and the state board will continue to reassess this at each state board meeting. Carol Noggle, who as Associate Legislative Coordinator is a member of the state board of directors, will become the Legislative Coordinator. As such, she will have as close to a full-time presence as she can manage in 2012 at the General Assembly during the GA session starting in January. It will be

necessary to do some major fundraising in order to maintain our presence and visibility at the General Assembly in 2013.

As has been identified elsewhere in this newsletter, we are still hoping to be able to fill the following director positions: Action, Public Relations, Fundraising and Development. If you or anybody you know would be interested in any of these positions please contact Mary Houska, (nominating@lwv-va.org) chair of the nominating committee, as soon as possible.



### HELP WANTED

The following positions still need to be filled: Public Relations, Development/Fundraising, and Action Chair. These can be on-board or off-board positions. For more information or if interested, please contact Mary Houska, Nominating Committee Chair, at [nominating@lwv-va.org](mailto:nominating@lwv-va.org) or 540-552-2717.

## Position Review Kicks Off

By Linda Rice, Program Director

The LWV-VA Convention in June 2011 adopted a review of all positions contained in *Positioned for Action* for consistency, clarity and timeliness. The board recommended three task forces for each category (Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy) with a chair. To date, we have 17 task force participants. Our chairs are Sherry Zachry (Government), Meghan Dorsett (Natural Resources), and Linda Rice (Social Policy interim chair). We are hoping to find a co-chair for Social Policy because that category encompasses many broad issues such as mental health, education, childcare, children at risk, and juvenile justice. Our timeline for completing this task is July 1, 2011-May 2013, although the

specific deadlines will be a few months prior to May 2013. According to the deadlines specified in the Guidelines, the task forces will determine if a position needs slight editing, expansion, restudy, or elimination.

Please contact the Program Director [email below] if you are interested in serving on a task force, (it is not too late!). If you have a concern about a specific position, but cannot serve on a task force, please contact the Program Director who will forward your concern to the appropriate chair of that task force. Positions can be reviewed by going to [www.lwv-va.org](http://www.lwv-va.org) (publications tab).

program@lwv-va.org Tel: 757-566-1825



**Save the date:**

**Back after an 8 year absence!  
LWVUS Convention will be in D. C.  
Friday June 8 -Tuesday June 12, 2012  
NCA will need 150 volunteers, so mark  
your calendars now. Volunteers will  
receive a free ticket to see The Capitol  
Steps performance on June 9.  
We'll be signing up people after the  
first of the year.**

## Advocacy for Voter Protection

By Therese Martin, PAVP Coordinator

The State Board of Elections (SBE) published Regulation IVAC20-40-80 on August 1, 2011, taking a small but important step to help military and overseas voters. The regulation provides that absent military and overseas citizens who apply to register to vote or request an absentee ballot by emailing or faxing a signed Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to the local voting official do not also have to mail the FPCA to the local voting official. Allowing an electronically submitted FPCA is now sufficient to apply for registration and request

an absentee ballot if signed and otherwise complete. This policy is reflected in the important information for military and overseas voters about the November elections on the Virginia SBE web site.

The LWV-VA had supported enactment of the regulation and posted the following comment on the Virginia Town Hall:

“Since its re-establishment as a state League in 1947, the League of Women Voters of Virginia has supported the simplification and improvement of the election laws of the Commonwealth to facilitate and increase registration and voting. League members reiterated this support during the organization’s recently completed update study of Virginia’s election laws. The League believes that measures should be adopted to increase the availability of voter registration, especially those that utilize technological advances or provide cost savings. We believe that the proposed policy of allowing Virginia’s eligible military and overseas citizens using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote to submit the application by e-mail or fax is one of these measures that should be adopted. Adopting the proposed policy will further indicate the Commonwealth’s support and compliance with the MOVE Act purposes as well as its requirements; it will also show special support for those members of the military who are serving our country overseas. We often read about – or ourselves have experienced – problems with delayed and lost mail. Imagine the problems of our citizens in isolated and dangerous areas of the world where there is no local post office or mailbox that can be used with assurance that a mailed registration form will get to a local registrar’s office by the deadline. We support the use of fax or e-mail for this purpose. The League of Women Voters of Virginia is happy to support adoption of the proposed policy.”

Survey of Department of Social Services Compliance with the National Voting Rights Act (NVRA): Local Leagues of Women Voters throughout Virginia have been visiting their local offices of the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) to review their

compliance with Section 7 of the NVRA with regard to providing voter registration opportunities to their clients.

As of October 1, nine Leagues and MAL Units had visited 17 local offices. I anticipate that I will soon receive reports from the remaining local Leagues, which should bring the total of offices visited to about 25. The reports thus far have generally been quite positive. Although some Leagues had questions or qualms about this project, they appear to have learned a lot and made some good contacts. And the DSS knows that the League is interested in their efforts to make voter registration available to Virginians seeking assistance. When all reports have been received, I will write a report which will be shared with Virginia officials, local Leagues and the public. The LWV-VA is sharing the grant that it received for PAVP projects by paying stipends to the local Leagues participating in the project by their visits to local DSS offices.

Shown below are three of the four members of the Prince William MAL Unit, who visited the four offices in its jurisdiction.



Jessie Barringer, Margo Larson, Carol Noggle

Other Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) Projects:

We had a workshop on PAVP projects, at both the state and local level, at the September 17 workshops held in Richmond. Leagues are

reminded to fill out the sign-up sheets that were given to all Leagues at that time. Meanwhile, please contact me if you have any questions about PAVP projects.

Therese Martin, PAVPCoordinator@lww-va.org.

**HELP WANTED!**  
**“Financially Astute” Members Needed for  
LWV-VA Committees**

League Members who have served on budget committees, have an accounting or budget background or interest, have served as non-profit organization treasurers, or who regularly balance their personal banking accounts and do not panic when they see numbers are periodically needed to serve on the League’s budget and financial review committees.

The budget committee meets each year, usually in February, and the financial review committee meets every other (odd) year, usually in late summer. In both instances, only one approximately 4-hour meeting is required. Ideally, we need members from Leagues throughout the state to agree to serve so that the meetings can be located within easy driving distance of the members, while still being composed of members from a variety of Leagues.

League members who agree to put their names on a list for future budget or financial review committees should send their name and contact information to me. I will see that the information gets to those responsible for appointing the committees. Thanks for your help – and thanks to those who have served on these committees in the past. **Therese Martin**, [PAVPCoordinator@lww-va.org](mailto:PAVPCoordinator@lww-va.org).

**The Perfect One-Time Job for the LWV-VA**

## VOTER SERVICES

By Betsy Mayr, LWV-VA Voter Services  
Director

Trivia Question:

**Why is Election Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday after the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday?**

At first, there was no set time as long as it was at least 34 days before the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in December.

In 1845, an act was passed setting the current day. Originally, the day was set to prevent elections from occurring on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November. Mondays were not chosen because of the long distances some voters had to travel. Travel on Sunday, a day of rest was discouraged.

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**Stay Connected:**

Visit our Website - [www.lww-va.org](http://www.lww-va.org)

Check out our NEW Facebook Page:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Virginia/15245822817935](http://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Virginia/15245822817935)

**LWVUS Continues to Look for  
League Leaders to Become  
Ruth S. Shur Fellows**  
*(adapted from LWVUS website)*

### The Membership/Leadership Development Program

LWVUS has developed, tested, and refined an innovative approach to strengthening the League by attracting new members and fostering new leaders. Called the Membership/Leadership Development (MLD) program (formerly known as the Membership Recruitment Initiative or MRI), the effort was started in 2006 and is now being employed in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

The program focuses on two key elements to achieve successful community outreach and organizational growth:

1. Offering hands-on, interactive training for local, state, and national League leaders to learn best practices in community outreach and leadership development.
2. Providing a sound structure of support through teams dedicated to the best practices at the local level and caring, trained coaches at the state and national levels.

### Working in Partnership

#### National Level

**WHO:** Ruth S. Shur Fellows (National Coaching Team)

**PURPOSE:** Fellows support the state-level coaching teams. They serve two-year terms and are responsible for a given pair of states. They will work in partnership with another coach to help ensure cross training and further information sharing. Fellows also help train local Leagues in best practices at an instate training and maintain monthly contact with assigned state coaching teams to provide support and share information from LWVUS.

**BENEFITS:** Fellows receive training in leadership development and membership recruitment/engagement best practices, as well as mentoring and coaching techniques. Fellows are also given many networking and educational opportunities throughout their term.

#### State Level

**WHO:** State Coaches (One coach for every two participating local Leagues.)

**PURPOSE:** Coaches mentor two participating local Leagues from their state. They coach local League teams in best practices by maintaining monthly contact, supporting them through challenges and celebrating successes. They also help facilitate an instate training for local Leagues within their own state. The LWVUS Support Team, with help from the national coach for the state, will conduct the instate training.

**BENEFITS:** Using a hybrid curriculum that combines leadership development with community outreach techniques to support

organizational growth within local Leagues, LWVUS staff and Ruth S. Shur Fellows train state coaches at a two-day session. State coaches are given many networking and educational opportunities throughout their tenure.

#### Local Level

**WHO:** Local League teams

**PURPOSE:** Local League teams ensure that best practices for membership growth and leadership development are incorporated into each League activity. They also chart out a yearlong calendar of events for their League and help gain support of the entire local League for the best practices in organizational growth.

**BENEFITS:** Local League leaders will receive training in best practices for organizational growth by national coaches and LWVUS staff. Participating Leagues will have access to special materials and information from LWVUS, as well as supportive, trained state coaches.

### Benefits of the Program

#### **Leadership Development and Membership**

**Growth** - The Membership and Leadership Development program will strengthen our League network. Leagues in the states where coaching is in place, will see membership growth, increased visibility in their communities and development of new League leaders as plans and communication strategies are applied consistently.

**Training and Support** - LWVUS will work in full partnership with each coach and the state Leagues. LWVUS will provide extensive training and ongoing, regular support for national coaches throughout their experience, including answering questions and providing technical assistance. LWVUS will cover any costs associated with participating in MLD-related training and other potential costs associated with coaching (e.g., conference calls).

**Materials** - LWVUS will provide materials for each National Fellow and the state coaches. Examples of these are training memos, press release templates, talking points, and planning

worksheets. LWVUS will also help state Leagues customize materials for the local Leagues when needed.

**We are still looking for Virginia state coaches. More coaches will enable additional local Leagues and MAL Units to be added to the seven already participating.**  
**For more information, contact Sue Lewis at [membership@lwv-va.org](mailto:membership@lwv-va.org).**

## **LWV-VA CREATES JOBS Issue Specialists Needed!**

You are qualified because League members care about legislation, governance, and action on our Positions.

How can **you** help move our legislative priorities forward? Are there certain issues you specifically follow?

When at least 3,000 bills may be introduced in the 2012 General Assembly session, it will be impossible for one person, such as the Legislative Coordinator, to read and determine the intent and possible impact of each bill. Learning which bills are germane to our League positions and then determining which support or oppose our positions creates a job for an **Issue Specialist** -- well, several Issue Specialists.

That could be **you**. It is a terrific opportunity to learn how to monitor and track each bill online. Learn how to determine the Chief Patron, the committee and subcommittee to which the bill is assigned, when the subcommittee will hear the bill, the vote in subcommittee, what the subcommittee did with the bill (i.e. passed and sent it to the full committee, passed it by or tabled it, amended it, or rejected it outright), which legislators are supporting or opposing the bill, what advocacy groups, activists or community groups have interest in the bill and their positions on it. Follow what happens to it in full committee. Keep the legislative

coordinator advised of when important hearings are scheduled so the LWV-VA can attend the hearing and testify if deemed prudent.

If a bill makes it out of committee watch the House and Senate floor sessions online at home or in person at the Capitol so you can report on debates and results.

Becoming thoroughly familiar with a specific issue, following the legislation introduced on that issue, and reporting to the Legislative Coordinator can be vital to planning action as needed. Your reporting may result in an Action Alert to local League and MAL Unit members advising them of the need to contact their Delegate or Senator at very critical times before votes. It may result in specific one-on-one lobbying by the LWV-VA or testimony being delivered by the LWV-VA at a subcommittee or committee hearing. This will make us far more effective.

Two-way messaging will be needed -- from the Issue Specialist to the Legislative Coordinator and back to the Issue Specialist.

During the short 2011 GA session 2,692 bills were introduced, 1,599 passed and 1,366 failed. Does that give you an idea of the task to cover the territory? The 2012 session will be longer so there may be even more bills introduced.

The amazing 2011 report is here -- <http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/summary/2011/SS2011B.pdf>

Please apply for the 2012 General Assembly session team of Issue Specialists. Name the issue area where you have a keen interest of being a specialist.

Read the latest LWV-VA Positions in Brief or Positioned For Action on the [www.lwv-va.org](http://www.lwv-va.org) website under Publications. We can be sure that there will be bills introduced to affect these and other issues: women's protection and rights, felon's rights, conservation, energy sources and resources, transportation, education, air and

water quality issues, health care, juvenile justice, election laws including Photo ID, redistricting, and education .

Contact Carol Noggle or Lynn Gordon for a more complete job description and indicate your area of interest.

LegislativeCoordinator@lwv-va.org 571-437-8343  
president@lwv-va.org

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**Interview and Listening Skills Required  
“Adopt a Legislator” – This is a one-time job unless you adopt more than one legislator.**

One-hundred-forty Legislators will be preparing for the 2012 General Assembly at the end of the day November 8 -- or maybe the next day.

How will we learn what legislation will be their prime targets? How will we make sure they know about the League of Women Voters -- either the local League or MAL Unit near them and the state League?

From the day after Election Day through November 30 is the best time to meet your newly elected legislator at his/her home/district office. Senators and Delegates will be getting organized and preparing bills to introduce in the 2012 GA session. They should be very willing, even excited, to share with you their plans (and dreams?) to meet their goals.

Making “Cold Calls”, even by phone to set up a visit, has been, for decades, the least desirable task for me. I would never sign up to call for an interview with a stranger such as an elected official. I know a host of excuses to delay and delay because I do not want the experience of a refusal or being misunderstood. Recently, however, I had an experience with “cold calls” that caused a turnaround for me.

Now “cold calls” are an adventure, a chance for discovery, a chance to find new partners for community improvements, and even the opportunity to give recognition for a job well done. Members of our MAL Unit found our

visits to DSS offices far more pleasant and worthwhile than we had expected. Our group debriefing of perceptions gave a greater complete analysis of each office and each worker.

I believe you too will enjoy and profit from the adventure of an interview with your legislator. Work in pairs or even with more. The extra ears, eyes, and ideas are a real advantage.

The most important part of the visit to your legislators is to listen to what they have to tell you. While there, tell the legislator about the weekly Women’s Roundtable that meets Wednesday mornings during the General Assembly regular session. Provide the Women’s Roundtable brochure and describe the format of that weekly morning hour. Make sure the legislators know that they are invited to visit between 8:30AM and 9:30AM to present updates on their bills and issues. Let them know that we understand they are busy and can visit only briefly. (Legislators are given precedence over lobbyists and other visitors.)

Reporting after the interview to the Legislative Coordinator and certainly to your local League or MAL Unit members will provide valuable information for the General Assembly session. Contact Carol Noggle or Lynn Gordon for a more complete job description and indicate your interest.

LegislativeCoordinator@lwv-va.org  
571-437-8343  
president@lwv-va.org

**LWVUS Privatization Study**

As most of you are aware, we have two LWVUS studies in this biennium. The education study information is already released and consensus for that study is due November 30. The privatization study is getting ready to have its information released. There have been questions from many local leagues throughout the country regarding the study and dates. Below is the current timeline.

**October – November 2011**

Reading information will begin to appear on the LWVUS website starting in October.

**November - May 2012**

Leagues are encouraged to participate in the study on Privatization of Government services, assets and functions, and the impact on local communities by scheduling meetings to educate members and communities about the issue and by having its members reach consensus on the study questions.

The Privatization Study discussion list is now available for members to hold discussions on this topic. Sign up for the list at <http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=hwf7gvC8FC6RsZTJ%2Fj%2Bbsh6A%2B1Zxx2lk>

Papers written by the Study Committee will be posted on the website in the coming weeks. As a reminder, the scope of this study is “to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.” Consider what is happening in your local community or state with regard to transferring some government services to the private sector. Are you aware of the policy issues associated with such a transfer? The study papers will offer some guidelines for best practices that should be considered in these efforts, whether they affect your public libraries, your public schools or your state’s highway system.

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*The LWV-VA signed onto the following letter to Senator Warner with Environment Virginia and other supporters.*

**Dear Senator Warner,**

We are writing to urge you to help protect Shenandoah National Park and Virginians’

health by supporting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s efforts to curb smog and soot pollution.

As you know, Shenandoah National Park is one of our Commonwealth’s environmental and economic gems. With 500 miles of hiking trails, including 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail and 75 overlooks of breathtaking views, it gives Virginians and visitors alike the chance to hike, to catch a glimpse of a black bear, or just take in the Blue Ridge scenery. According to the National Park Service, tourism to Shenandoah brings in over \$44 million annually to Virginia and supports over 1,000 non-park-staff jobs.

Unfortunately, air pollution too often threatens visitors’ health and their enjoyment of the Park. Once known for its scenic views, haze has cut the average visibility at the Park from 100 miles to just 25.

What’s more, Shenandoah has some of the least healthy air of any park within the National Park System, and some days, the air there is no cleaner than in Washington, DC.

The same air pollution that clouds Shenandoah's scenic views and can put hikers’ health at risk also impacts the rest of the Commonwealth. In fact, the American Lung Association estimates that pollution triggered 896 heart attacks and 477 hospital admissions in Virginia in 2010. Worse, for the roughly 400,000 Virginians who suffer from asthma, air pollution is a consistent cause of asthma attacks.

EPA is poised to set and enforce a number of new rules to ratchet down smog and soot pollution in the Commonwealth. The Cross-State Air Pollution rule, finalized in August, will cut smog-forming nitrogen oxide pollution and soot-forming sulfur dioxide pollution from power plants in 27 eastern states. Recently, EPA has retreated on critical regulations for ground-level ozone (smog). In light of this reversal, it is all the more important that EPA be encouraged to press forward with long-delayed air quality

regulations that are vital for protecting public health and Shenandoah National Park. We need regulations that reflect the latest science and ensure that Virginians are not exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution.

These new rules are a logical, and legally mandated, extension of the Clean Air Act, which has saved over 160,000 lives since 1990 by reducing health-threatening air pollutants. Unfortunately, major polluters and their allies in Congress, including the Commonwealth's own Rep. Eric Cantor, are launching an assault not only on specific rules, such as the Cross-State Pollution Rule, but on EPA's very existence.

With our treasured mountain views, our economy and our health at stake, we urge you do all you can to defend and support EPA and its science-based regulations to curb air pollution.

### **Commission to Honor Contributions of the Women of Virginia**

In 2010, the Virginia General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution establishing a commission honoring the contributions of the women of Virginia with a monument on the grounds of Capitol Square. Governor Robert F. McDonnell, chair along with other commission members House Speaker William J. Howell and State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, announced on October 1 that the Commission would hold a series of nine "community conversations" across the Commonwealth to gather ideas and broad public input.

"Virginia's history is storied and includes many significant accomplishments and contributions by women, which have strengthened our communities and improved our Commonwealth's terrific quality of life," said Speaker Howell. "How best to appropriately recognize these achievements is an important conversation to have and I hope and encourage all Virginians to participate in the forums."

"The ideals, vision and spirit of sacrifice of Virginia women can and do serve as an inspiration

to all Virginians," added Senator Whipple. "It is therefore more than fitting to recognize and honor the contributions of Virginia's women with the placement of a permanent monument on the grounds of Capitol Square. We welcome the public's input in making the best decision possible."

"Before moving forward with plans to honor and commemorate the diversity and remarkable achievements of Virginia women with a monument on Capitol Square, the Commission recognized the value of gathering the ideas and recommendations of all Virginians," said Governor McDonnell's Secretary of Administration Lisa Hicks-Thomas. "This special project will serve as an enduring monument to the contributions of all women throughout our Commonwealth's 400 year history, and we want to ensure that the views of all Virginians are heard and reflected in the final design."

The Commemorative Commission to Honor the Contributions of the Women of Virginia is charged with erecting a monument on the grounds of Capitol Square in Richmond. In addition to Governor McDonnell, Speaker Howell and Senator Whipple, other Commission members are Delegate James P. Massie, III; Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel, eight non-legislative citizen members – Em Bowles Locker Alsop, Mary Abel-Smith, Kitty Claiborne, Carol Price, Mary Blanton Easterly, Jacqueline Cook Hedblom and Rita D. McClenny; Secretary of Administration, Lisa M. Hicks-Thomas; Librarian of Virginia, Sandra G. Treadway; Executive Director of the Capitol Square Preservation Council, James E. Wotton; Executive Director of the Virginia Capitol Foundation, Alice Lynch, Clerk of the Senate of Virginia, Susan Schaar; and G. Paul Nardo, Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates.

The Commission's work is privately funded.

Information about how to participate in the "community conversations" follows:

- Notice of the nine "community conversations" is listed on the Internet

website of the Virginia General Assembly. To access the meeting schedule, please click on “meetings” at <http://leg1.state.va.us>

- Submitting written comment in lieu of public participation: As noted above, letters or written correspondence stating your support or opposition will be accepted in lieu of oral participation at one of the “community conversations”. Persons wishing to submit such written material should address their correspondence to the Virginia Women's Commission, Post Office Box 396, Richmond, Virginia 23173.

The LWV-VA submitted a letter to the Commission highlighting Virginia women’s accomplishments in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, leading up to and after they obtained the vote. The letter accompanied a copy of *Virginia Women & the Vote: 1909 – 2009*, written by League Historian Bernice Colvard. We hope the Commission will consider including some of the women named in the book as part of the memorial.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Give Today! Donations can be made to either the Education Fund or the General Fund by Pay Pal at our website:**

**<http://lww-va.org/donations.html>**

**or submitted by mail to LWV-VA c/o Hatsy Cutshall, 2468 Ridgehampton Court, Reston, VA 20190**

\*\*\*\*\*



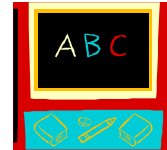
### **Leaving a Legacy**

Including the League of Women Voters of Virginia Education Fund in your will is among the easiest ways to offer support of the LWV-VA Education Fund's work for years to come. We suggest the following language to include

the League as a beneficiary of a will or trust: " I give, devise, and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of Virginia Education Fund, a charitable organization formed in the Commonwealth of Virginia, {the sum of \$\_\_\_ } {\_\_\_ percentage of my residuary estate}." If you already have a will, you can have your attorney add a codicil to include the LWV-VA Education Fund. After you've added the League, please contact the LWV-VA by email at [president@lww-va.org](mailto:president@lww-va.org) so we can list you as a member of our Carrie Chapman Catt Legacy Society.

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## **LWVUS Education Study**



**Consensus for the LWVUS Education Study, “The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education” due to LWVUS November 30.**

### **Scope of the Study:**

**The study on the federal role in pre-K through grade 12 public education is limited to issues of equity, funding and standards/assessment.**

A series of 5 background study papers put together by the LWVUS Education Study Committee is available at:

<http://www.lww.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=112&ContentID=16956>

1. Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives
2. Funding and Equity Issues
3. Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children Who are Disadvantaged
4. Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding
5. Common Core Standards and Assessments

## How to sign up for League-sponsored [Email] lists:

By Sherry Zachry, LWV-VA Secretary

First, you must register, or "log in" (if you have already registered) on the LWVUS website:  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) [See below for registering, instructions are taken directly from LWVUS website]

### How to register on the LWVUS site

If you wish to update information in your record, you will be prompted to login with your personal password. To create your own personal password:

1. Go to <https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp>
2. Scroll down to the **green box** where you'll see Register (for new users). Enter your first name, last name and email address. (**If there is not an email address in your record, enter 12345.**) Click on the "Register" button.
3. Create your personal password. Then, you're ready to update your profile. Scroll down to and click on (Update Your Information). In addition to updating your record, your personal password also can be used to gain access to a very limited number of documents that are "locked" in the members sections (e.g., budget documents and contact information for LWVUS Board members).

### If you are unable to register using the steps above, try the following:

1. If the system does not recognize what you entered, you will be prompted to input additional information. Enter this information and click on the "Look For Me" button.
2. If the system still does not find your record, then you will be prompted to register as a Non-Member. Please click on the "Register as a Non-Member" button.

Once registered, or once you log in, you will be directed to the page where your name and membership information is that will look like this:

**Your Profile      Your League Information**

-----  
Select "update your information"

Look for the **"League Sponsored Email Lists"** on the left side of the page [see following for list that should come up]. Select which lists you want to be on; **read the entire instructions** to see how you will be enrolled. And read the "Note" at the end of the lists.

*(The following has been copied directly from the member log-in website).*

### League Sponsored Email Lists

Join other committed League activists online by joining discussion lists. Choose the lists that fit your areas of interests and/or your role within the League.

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

**To subscribe to a list**, check the boxes next to the list you wish to receive and press **"Submit Changes"**.\*

**To unsubscribe from a list**, uncheck the box next to the list and press **"Submit Changes"**.

**The LeagueE-Voice Newsletter**

Description:

A newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date on the latest League news, activities and other important information. To unsubscribe, uncheck the box and hit "Submit Changes"

**Volunteer**

Description

Would you like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities with your state/local League?

## Issue Related Lists

Campaign Finance Reform

Description:

A discussion list for members interested in relevant information and resources on campaign finance reform. Open to all members.

Civil Liberties

Description

A discussion list for members interested in League efforts on civil liberties and related issues at the state and local level. Open to all members.

Climate Change

Description

This online forum explores League efforts on climate change and related issues at the state and local level. Open to all members.

Death Penalty Abolition

Description

A discussion list for members interested in the abolition of the death penalty and possible action by state and local Leagues. Open to all members.

Health Care

Description

A discussion list for members interested in health care projects and issues. Open to all members.

Public Education

Description

A list for members interested in discussing public education. Open to all members.

United Nations

Description

A discussion list for members interested in gaining a greater understanding of the UN, and to encourage active member participation in UN issues. Open to all members.

## LWV Role Related Lists

Development and Fundraising

Description

A discussion list is for members interested in exchanging ideas and strategy on development and fundraising efforts. Open to all members.

League Leaders

Description

A discussion list for LWV state, local and ILO leaders interested in discussion on League management, leadership and related issues. Open to all members.

Leaders Update

Description:

sent out weekly on Thursdays from Elisabeth MacNamara [President] to LWV state, local and ILO leaders; contains up to date information from LWVUS about programs, LWV activities and events, studies, etc.

League Webmasters

Description

A discussion list for League webmasters to exchange ideas and resources. Open to all members.

Membership and Outreach

Description

A discussion list for members interested in information pertaining to membership issues, e.g. recruiting and retaining members in the LWV. Open to all members.

Voters Service

Description

A discussion list for members interested in a general discussion on voters service projects and issues. Open to all members.

\*NOTE: Most lists require you to respond to a confirmation email. If you do not receive the confirmation request, please use the [Contact Form](#) (subject: Web site: General) to request help. Be sure to specify the list name.



**WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE  
PRE-SESSION FORUM**  
Moderated by the League of Women Voters of Virginia

**Thursday, December 8, 2011 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

House Room 1, old section of the Capitol  
Entrance on Bank Street, Richmond, Virginia  
Google: *Parking in Richmond Capitol Square* for options

Speakers will provide information on the upcoming legislative session.

***There is no charge for the morning session.***  
***LUNCHEON will follow at 12:15 PM***

12:15 to 3:00 P.M., House Room 3, underground section of the Capitol addition

***Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Donald F. Palmer, Secretary, State Board of Elections***

**Registration for Luncheon Required and due by November 28, 2011**

*Cost: \$30 per person*

***Women's Legislative Roundtable, founded in 1981***  
***An information forum at the General Assembly for 30 years***

The Women's Roundtable does not take positions on issues, but exchanges information.

**[www.LWV-VA.org](http://www.LWV-VA.org)**

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LUNCHEON RESERVATION -- Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations @ \$30 each: \_\_\_\_\_ League or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Attendees \_\_\_\_\_

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Cut bottom portion and mail with check made out to:

**LWV of Virginia**

**Mail to: LWV-VA c/o Hatsy Cutshall, 2468 Ridgehampton Court, Reston, VA 20191**

**No refunds**



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- INSIDE THIS ISSUE**
- \* Pre-Session **December 8**  
- Details & Registration  
Form
  - \* Become an Issue-  
Specialist
  - \* Adopt a Legislator
  - \* LWV-VA's Letter to  
Senator Warner on Clean  
Air
  - \* How to Sign Up for LWV  
Sponsored Lists

## Membership in the League of Women Voters of Virginia

**Reminder:** For all **MAL (Members-at-Large) Units** and unaffiliated statewide **MAL members**, it is time to renew your membership. The fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 each year. If you have questions about your local League membership status, please contact your local League membership chair.

**Join:** If you are not a member of the League of Women Voters but would like to become a member please visit our website at [www.LWV-VA.org](http://www.LWV-VA.org) and select **JOIN**. Our membership form is available by clicking the "Join Now" icon on the far right.

**Contribute:** The LWV of Virginia appreciates the donations of members and nonmembers. Your contributions will allow us to do more to inform voters and advocate for our positions. To be tax-deductible, donate to the "*LWV-VA Education Fund*". Education Fund money can only be used for educational purposes. Thank you for including the League in your charitable donations. Donations may be paid via our website through PayPal or by sending your checks to:

**LWV-VA c/o Hatsy Cutshall, 2468 Ridgehampton Court, Reston, VA 20190**

*I want to support the important work of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. Enclosed is my contribution. Only contributions to the LWV-VA Education Fund are tax deductible.*

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Reminder to Members:** Please keep your contact information current! Please notify your membership chair or the state League when your email address or other contact information changes.