

**Special  
points of  
interest:**

- *February 7,  
League  
Lobby Day*
- *Convention  
2007*

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## **VIRGINIA SENATE DEBATE 2006**

*Sponsored by the LWV VA Education Fund and  
Produced by WCVE, Richmond PBS and WTVR-TV, Richmond CBS  
by Lulu Meese*

The television studio management team was a pleasure to work with. They were supportive of the League from our first encounter. The media reported that the October 9 League debate was "issue oriented and informative" for the voters of Virginia.

The Candidates, Allen and Webb, arrived with their campaign staffs and did a good job of projecting their carefully scripted images.

It was obvious that the debate was carefully planned -and executed. It was a good deal of work for the LWV VA Board members and it was great fun working together as a team to do this debate. The debate was directed by Anne Kanter; the media materials and tickets were provided by Sue Worden, Lynn Gordon, Donna Reynolds and Frances Schutz. Our timers, Amy and Leo Burgett, kept everyone on schedule; Olga Hernandez provided the signage that proclaimed it was a League event to the viewers and introduced the debate. Anne Sterling persuaded the Omni Hotel, Richmond to give us five courtesy rooms, and the Great Seasons Caterers to provide the delicious food to our guests. Bonnie Franklin and Molly O'Brien hosted our candidates and Frances Schutz prepared the programs, media kits, as well as helping Sherry Zachry direct media and audience members to their areas as Sue Worden and Lynn Gordon took the tickets at the door. I had fun as one of the panel of questioners.

Nineteen television stations and as many radio stations carried the debate live, as did C-Span. There was a roomful of media staff covering the debate and reporting to their areas throughout Virginia.

It was all exciting and generated a great feeling of the power of the League Debate. However, the part I enjoyed most was the praise showered on all of the league volunteers from the television management and others. Just a few of the comments were, "impressive", "competent", "responsive", "very professional can-do volunteers?" I knew this and now many other people know it also.

And when it was all over, each of us volunteers celebrated at the Burgett home and toasted each other and our successful debate. We are already looking forward to our next televised League debate.

## From the President's Desk



*"Half of American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half."*

Gore Vidal

When I am not working for the League of Women Voters of Virginia, I am an Antique dealer. I have learned much from selling women's keepsakes; such as jewelry, glass and prints. Each buyer wants a really old item, in perfect condition, rare and cheap. Of course this is a dream and it rarely happens. What I offer are items from a 40 year collection from across our nation: old, in good condition and reasonably priced. In other words, the buyer and seller negotiate until both are satisfied with the deal.

Selling league membership is similar to selling antiques. League members, the sellers, must offer a substantive citizens organization with

trainers for voters service and advocacy work. The buyers, potential members, must satisfy themselves that we are offering them an opportunity to associate with experienced leaders, and advocacy winners. A good friend gave me good advice when she said, "Never invite someone to join your organization unless you are prepared to offer them an exciting program with choices to meet their expectations."

We are prepared to offer choices such as the following:

- Statewide debate sponsorship expertise;
- Training day for leaders that provides substance in league work;
- A Woman's Legisla-

tive Roundtable that has been effective for 25 years;

- League Lobby Day with access to many legislators;
- Annual meeting of leader decision-makers skilled in the use of parliamentary procedure to help make their choices.

Who could ask for anything more than our organization led by energized, experienced state Board members and local leaders full of excitement and creative ideas?

Now, we ask each of you to sell our organization to your friends, neighbors, associates, and fellow employees. If you do this, 2006-07 will be our biggest membership growth year yet.

### Lulu

### SEPTEMBER 16 TRAINING WORKSHOP GREAT SUCCESS

Fifty-six leaders attended our training workshop. Thirty percent of the attendees evaluated our day and said it was great. One participant summed it up on her evaluation by saying, "The best workshop

ever." Our speaker, workshop leaders, handouts, facility and food was all rated great. We spent considerable time preparing for each of you and we are delighted that you felt it was worthwhile.

*"Voting is one of the few things where boycotting in protest clearly makes the problem worse rather than better."*

— Jane Auer

## FEBRUARY 7 - LEAGUE LOBBY DAY IN RICHMOND

The day will begin at 9:00 AM with the Women's Legislative Roundtable in the General Assembly Building, 3rd Floor West Conference Room.

At 9:30 AM the league Lobbyist, Anne Sterling, will brief you on the fast breaking action and what is needed from local League leaders when they meet with their legislators. Remember to contact your legislators and make an appointment following this meeting at 10:30 AM. You will want your legislators to know that League members have traveled from across the state to talk with

them about our priority legislation and our support for and/or opposition to key bills.

Then, at 12:00 Noon the legislators will go to the Patrick Henry Building in Capitol Square for their House and Senate Sessions. You will want to arrange to view them from the gallery if possible; if there is no room there, you can view their session on closed circuit television in the General Assembly Building.

The General Assembly Building has a cafeteria where the food is okay and the other

lobbyists gather to talk over the happenings of the day and to plan for the next day's actions. You may also have breakfast at the cafeteria if you arrive before 9:00 AM. The Cafeteria opens at 7:00 AM and many legislators breakfast there.

Let's plan on car loads of members coming to this League Day so that our legislators know how important we view this effort. We look forward to greeting each of you at the General Assembly Building.

### INFORMATION FROM ARTICLE BY DELEGATE KENNETH PLUM IN RICHMOND TIMES

Del. Plum reported that of the 794 bills that failed in the House of Delegates in 2006, only 13 showed a recorded vote. In contrast two years ago, 535 bills failed and 526 of those had a recorded vote of the committee action.

There is clear evidence that Rule 18 in the House of Delegates is a bad Rule and limits the public's information of how their legislators voted on a bill and or resolution.

Meese has written to Speaker Howell in late August and asked him to reconsider the Rule 18 and include the rule that legislators' votes will require a recorded and reported vote in subcommittee, as well as in committees. After sending a follow-up letter, I did receive a response. If you want to learn about the response, call Meese at the League's toll-free number, 866-427-8512.

### THANK YOU FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER DONATIONS TO LWV VA

- BPW/PAC Committee disbanded and gave remainder moneys in treasury to LWVA. \$1,358.63 Operation - Action.
- Catherine W. Herman, Falls Church, Operation Budget
- Betty G. Kenley - Port Haywood - Operating Budget
- Amy and Leo Burgett, Richmond - Education Fund Budget.

We greatly appreciate this support and have many areas that need the money. Thank you.

### NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA NEWS

Save December 7, 2006 for the National Capital Area's Seminar on the Relationship of Congress to the District of Columbia, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Washington, D.C. Two panels discussions will be followed by refreshments. For more information, contact Melpomeni Jeffries at [melpijeffries@msn.com](mailto:melpijeffries@msn.com).

Are you one of the forward-thinkers who receive notice of the posting of the Voter on the State LWV Website? The notice includes a link to the spot – it's very convenient! Did you know that you can change the size of the print simply by going to the center of the task bar at the top of the Adobe window, and where it reads "100%", you can click on that box to increase the viewing size to 125%, 150%, or even 200%. This is as good as large print texts. You also save the LWV VA postage, receive the information in the Voter sooner, help to reduce the waste stream, and save some trees! We have only a small percentage of electronic subscribers now – please consider joining them. Email your request to [lvvva@earthlink.net](mailto:lvvva@earthlink.net). Thank you!

## DECEMBER 6 PRE-SESSION MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

Will be held in Senate Room 1 of the Patrick Henry Building in Richmond. The date is December 6 and time is 9:30 AM until 12:30 PM.

### Speakers include:

- 9:30 AM Welcome, Lulu K Meese, LWV VA President and Chair of Roundtable
- 9:45 - 10:15 Jill Hanken, Poverty Law Center, to speak on Social Services and Poverty Law
- 10:15 - 10:45 Lulu Meese, Update on Women's Issues
- 10:45 - 11:30 Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple, 2007 Legislative Priorities. Sen. Whipple is sponsor of the Roundtable.
- 11:30 -12:15 PM Rodney Johnson, Attorney, Retired Professor at University of Richmond will discuss Titled Marital Property Ownership, Augmented Estates and Marital Property in General.

We'll walk together to St. Paul's Church for the luncheon Celebration of the 25th Women's Legislative Roundtable, co-sponsored by the Virginia Women's Network.

Our Founders and early leaders of the Roundtable will be our special guests. We are inviting the Women Legislators and many women's organizations to Co-sponsor and attend this event.

Reservations must be received by **Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>**.

The cost is \$25. per person; \$20 for students.

Reservation for Women's Legislative Roundtable 25th luncheon:

Name [s ] \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations [at \$25 each] \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*Please list all names for which you are reserving. Thank you!*

Make your checks out to LWV VA and mail to:

1685 Union Mills Road, Troy 22974.

## **CONVENTION 2007 APRIL 28 AND 29**

### **VIRGINIA DIOCESAN CENTER AT ROSLYN**

Each local President has received a Reservation/Registration Form, a copy of our LWV VA By-laws in the Reference Book, 2006-07, and direction that a form must be filled out for each participant.

The Convention will begin on April 28 at 9:30 AM with a Workshop that will end at 11:30 AM.

Lunch is available if you wish from 12 N - 1:00 PM

Our business meeting will begin at 1:00 PM on April 28 and end at 5:00 PM

There will be a reception from 5:30 to 6:00 PM followed by a banquet starting at 6:00 PM that will conclude with a good speaker to finish at 9:30 PM.

The President's Breakfast will be from 7:00 AM until 8:30 AM.

Breakfast for other participants will be from 8:00 AM until 9:00 AM.

Business meeting on April 29 will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 12:30 PM.

Lunch is available for those who wish.

The Presidents have the costs for each of the meals and overnight on the Reservation/Registration forms that must be filled out for each participant.

The Business of the Convention includes:

Elect Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee Chair and two Nominating Committee Members

Adopt Program for 2007-09

Adopt 2 year budget, 2007-09

Consider any Bylaws changes submitted by local League Boards by Jan. 25

*"It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union... Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less."*

*— Susan B. Anthony*

## **LWWA FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR 2007 BEGINS 12/1/06**

The LWV VA Board members have approved a fundraising letter to be sent to each of you in December. We have had an active League year in 2006 and plan for another one in 2007. Your very generous support was greatly appreciated in 2006. Every local League in Virginia had members who made donations to LWV VA.

Last year, 2006, every LWV VA Board member made a donation to our work. We have asked them to set an example again this year, by being a 100% Board of donors. The average gift from our Board members was \$100. We ask them and each of you to give as much as you did last year or more. It is exciting to see your financial support for LWV VA, and we enjoy writing an individual "thank you" to each donor. So, look for our fundraising letter in the mail in December.

The Virginia Voter

November 2006

Volume 53, Issue 3

Established in 1920, the League of Women Voters of Virginia is a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. All members receive the *National Voter*, the *Virginia Voter*, and a local League newsletter.

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LWVVA  
*Virginia Voter*  
P.O. Box 1010  
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<http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org>  
Volume 53, No.3

November 2006

I want to support the important work of the League of Women Voters of Virginia in 2006-2007. Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of

\$50\_\_\_\_\_ \$75\_\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_\_  
\$200\_\_\_\_\_ \$300\_\_\_\_\_ Other\$\_\_\_\_\_

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City\_\_\_\_\_

State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to LWVVA and mail to: LWVVA 2006-2007 Fund Appeal, 1685 Union Mills Road, Troy, VA 22974.

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