



# THE VIRGINIA VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF VIRGINIA

Volume 57, Issue 1

Summer 2010

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

## Calendar Highlights:

For full details on events

see web site

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

and select 'Calendar'.

### August 2010

- 26 Women's Equality Day:  
19<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
Ratified
- 27 LWV-VA Board Meet
- 28 Summer Workshops

### October

- 12 Last Day to Register for  
Nov. General Election

### November

- 2 General Election
- 30 LWV-VA Board Meet

### December

- 1 Women's Roundtable  
Pre-session & Lunch

### January 2011

- 12 General Assembly  
Convenes
- 19 Women's Roundtable
- 26 Women's Roundtable

### February

- 1 LWV-VA Board Meet
- 2 League Day at GA &  
Women's Roundtable
- 9 Women's Roundtable
- 16 Women's Roundtable

## League of Women Voters of Virginia Summer Training Workshops

**Saturday, August 28, 2010 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Crowne Plaza, Hampton Marina**  
**700 Settlers Landing Road, Hampton**  
<http://www.hamptonmarinahotel.com/>

The LWV-VA provides this training & networking opportunity to help you grow your League. You will leave with information, handouts and a sense of what is happening in League and how it can help you do your work and grow.

### *Lunch & Guest Speaker*

### *Workshops*

#### **What is MRI and How Can You Use It?**

*A hands-on workshop on how to deal with membership challenges, including nationally recruited members (NRMs) and LWVUS Membership Recruiting Initiative.*

#### **Hands-on Facebook Nuts & Bolts**

*Bring your laptop*

***More information and registration form included in this newsletter***

Cost \$35 includes lunch

Respond by Friday, August 20, 2010 for workshop

Friday, August 6, 2010 for hotel reservations

Near-by Attractions include Virginia Air & Space Museum, [www.vasc.org](http://www.vasc.org), Harbor

Tours [www.misshamptoncruises.com/harbor\\_tour](http://www.misshamptoncruises.com/harbor_tour)

and Historic Fort Monroe [www.forttours.com/pages/fortmonroe.asp](http://www.forttours.com/pages/fortmonroe.asp)

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

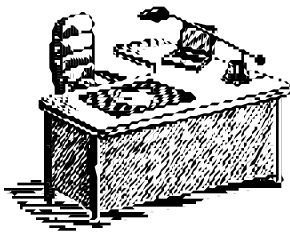
The League of Women Voters of Virginia, a non-partisan, political organization encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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## From the President's Desk

*Olga Hernandez, President LWV-VA*

Summer arrived with three weeks of sweltering triple digit heat. People ask me if the intensity of the presidency is less in the summer, my answer, no its not! I'm always working on projects and events two or three month into the future. I'm always arranging, attending events, business meetings to represent the LWV-VA and or doing the behind the scenes work to make everything look and run smoothly. Not to mention the volumes of email, reading material and phone calls that must be attended too. But I'm not complaining, I asked for the job and am fortunate the membership has allowed me to serve. As such I try to do the most professional job I can.

As such I'm always learning. I have undertaken the effort started last summer to launch an official "LWV-VA" Facebook page. We had a presence before but it was set up as a group instead of a stand alone page as a non-profit business, thus people couldn't find us. I have corrected that, and within a week we've had dozens of people join our page. I hope you too will join us in the new social media world. I've never considered myself a techy person, but as another member told me it's funny what LWV pushes and prods us to learn and do. So here we are, now it's your turn to join us on Facebook. The easiest way to get there is by



clicking on the [www.LWV-VA.org](http://www.LWV-VA.org) website. Write something on our wall!

Members may say, why Facebook? If we are to continue to grow we need to go where people are, especially a younger energetic demographic. It's sad to say but look around an LWV meeting and the graying is overwhelming, we need to reach out to women and men who are concerned about our issues and are willing to do something about them.

Our workshops on August 28<sup>th</sup> will present a hands-on session where you too can learn the power of this new media. Make sure you bring your laptop

or work with someone who is bringing one. Facebook is just but one outlet but we must start somewhere. We'll also have a membership and "growing leaders" session and a guest speaker. Registrations are due by August 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there. Look for more details on registering in this Voter.

*Olga*

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## Where do I vote?

*Therese Martin, Treasurer LWV-VA Board*

Many Leagues used to or still staff pre-election telephone banks to provide the community with election answers. Now fewer people call, they go online. Technology has made it much easier, as long as you have access to a computer.

League members have known that they can get this answer and many more related to voter registration and voting by going to the LWV site: [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org). At the LWV-VA Council meeting in Lynchburg on May 1<sup>st</sup>, we learned that Virginia residents can get similar information by asking Google: *where do I vote Virginia*. Nancy Rodrigues, Secretary of the State Board of Elections, told delegates that Virginia is one of twelve states that have contracts with Google to provide registration and voting information in response to online inquiries.

As we learned in the May study on voter registration, Virginia has adopted some aspects of Voter Registration Modernization, including the ability for inquirers to look up their voter registration and other election information online. Both Vote 411 and Google now take you right to the SBE site; you don't have to look up the web site to begin your search.

Go to Google and enter: *where do I vote Virginia*. One of the first links listed is the *Virginia State Board of Elections: Voter Information*.

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## State Tax Free Day

Virginia will have a tax free weekend, for school supplies and it may be a good time for local Leagues to stock up on supplies. Plan for this opportunity on August 6-8, 2010. See link.

<http://www.tax.virginia.gov/site.cfm?alias=STHoliday>



## LWVUS Convention 2010

The LWVUS Convention took place at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis hotel in Atlanta between June 11 and 15. The LWV-VA was represented by President Olga Hernandez, VP Lynn Gordon and Treasurer, Therese Martin. Other LWV-VA Board members were delegates for other local Leagues including Anne Sterling, Sherry Zachry and Karen Cronin. Virginia sent its full 20 member delegation.

### General Information:

- About 600 voting delegates attended.
- LWVUS used a computerized motion slip and guidance to the board system for the first time.
- LWVUS wants “members” to put them in their estate plans.
- LWVUS wants League to get online and are supporting League Easy Web, which the LWV-VA uses.
- LWVUS has new items on their <http://store.lwv.org>. Water bottles, small portfolios, 90<sup>th</sup> logo lapel pins, etc.
- LWVUS has launched a Leadership training program funded by the Shur family in honor of their mother, Ruth. Lynn Gordon (VP, LWV-VA) is part of that group.
- Smackdown your Vote! has cash prizes available for Leagues making an effort to engage young voters.
- Many informative workshops & caucus were held.

**Training Workshop:** Friday afternoon found us at the: *Informing Communities: Sustaining Democracy & Citizen Participation in the Digital Age*. Various reporters and bloggers spoke about the reduction of “professional” media coverage and new methods of getting information.

They advocate for:

- Maximizing the Availability of Relevant and Credible Information,
- Enhancing the Information Capacity of Individuals,
- Promoting Public Engagement.

Materials from selected workshops can be found in the [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) web site in the **For Members** section, **Council & Conventions**. The current list includes “*A Treasure of Treasurers: Tips for Managing Your League’s Finances*”.

### Speakers:

- Congressman John Lewis (booming voice) welcomed us,
- Conservative Commentator Leslie Sanchez & author of *You’ve Come a Long Way, Maybe*,
- Health & Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius,
- Robert P.J. Cooney, Jr. author of *Winning the Vote*,
- Panel of former LWVUS presidents speaking about their tenure & experiences leading the LWVUS.

[http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council\\_and\\_Convention&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=15630](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council_and_Convention&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=15630)

### Program/Study Passed:

- Role of Federal Government in Public Education,
- Privatization of government functions, assets & services to private entities (was a not recommended item).

### Concurrences Passed:

- Support for Marriage Equality,
- Arms Control position wording,
- National Popular Vote (NPV) rewording of election of the president position.

### Resolution Committee Passed:

- Lifting travel ban to Cuba,
- Safe Drilling & Mining process,
- Call for the US Senate to limit the use of the filibuster,
- Added “transparency” to the SARA resolution, now known as SARAT,
- Strong advocacy for “Medicare for All”,
- Emergency resolution on need for those at fault for the Gulf oil spill to be held responsible and urges federal response.

**Bylaw Amendments:**

Passed =

- “Honorary” was removed from the membership( regarding 50 year members),
- Go to a biennial LWVUS budget,
- Holding Council “in manner” determined by LWVUS (allowing virtual Council 2009),

Failed =

- Allowing local/state Leagues to lobby without LWVUS permission at the national level.

**2010-2012 Budget:**

PMP increase in 2010-2011 to \$29.70 and in 2011-2012 to \$30.00 \*(includes 10 cents added by delegates to be used for the additional study adopted).

Money was included in the budget to revive the National Voter magazine.

**New Board Elected:**

- Elisabeth MacNamara, president
- Judy Duffy, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president
- Judy Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president
- Susan M. Wilson, secretary/treasurer

**Directors:**

- Patricia Donath
- Margaret Hawkins Hill
- Mary Klenz
- Janis McMillen
- Marcia A. Merrins
- Marlene O’Brien
- Norman Turrill
- Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti

**Nominating committee:**

- Elaine Blodgett, chair
- Laura Blackburn
- Jennifer Vidrine

Additional information can be found on the [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) website in the **For Members** section, **Council & Conventions**.

The next LWVUS Convention will be held in DC, June 8 – 12, 2012. Plan to attend!

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**Virginia Coalition for Open Government**

Congratulations to LWV-VA President, Olga Hernandez on her election to the board of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government. See [www.opengovva.org](http://www.opengovva.org) for more information.



**LWVUS New President**

Elisabeth MacNamara was elected the 18<sup>th</sup> president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in Atlanta during the League of Women Voters’ 49th Biennial Convention and celebration of our 90th anniversary. Ms.

MacNamara, a native of Virginia, moved with her husband to Atlanta in 1974. She obtained her bachelor’s and law degrees from Emory University.

Ms. MacNamara joined the League in 1983 and has since served in leadership roles at all levels—local, state and national.

Professionally, Ms. MacNamara is an attorney, recently retired as deputy chief assistant district attorney in charge of the office’s juvenile court division in Dekalb County. Prior to this promotion, she had served as assistant district attorney since 1986. Her interest in juvenile justice arose after years of volunteering for the public high school activities of her two sons. She has also served as a staff attorney for the National Center for State Courts and law clerk for the Superior Court of Dekalb County.

As president, Ms. MacNamara is expected to serve a two-year term, setting policy and acting as the spokesperson for the League, representing our 150,000 members. She will travel often to various states to convey the League advocacy and Voter Service message.

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**Save this Date: December 1st**

Save December 1<sup>st</sup> for the Pre-session of the Women’s Legislative Roundtable at the Capitol in Richmond. In addition to the Women’s Roundtable we will have a Luncheon Meeting. The day will provide opportunities for networking and inside information on the 2011 General Assembly Session.

Additional information will be provided in the Fall Newsletter.

## LWVUS Information and Action

The LWVUS over the years has gone virtual. The website and Facebook pages are a part of our using resources wisely and communicating faster with the membership. Members should visit [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org) and discover the vast resource of material available to members to get information and become more involved. It is very helpful if the LWV has your email address so that communication can be two way.

Once on the home page click on the **For Members** section on the top, it is used for material that is generally intended for League members only. To access this portion of the web site, you may be asked to enter your personal email address and password (as previously entered into the LWVUS database – if you have forgotten your password they can email it to you). If you have not yet registered then using the “Quick Links” box on the right-hand side of the **For Members** page select “**How to register on the LWVUS site**”.

After you have entered your registration request, you will receive an email acknowledgement from LWVUS and will need to login and confirm your registration. The **For Members** section features a variety of League documents such as by-laws, League Basics and other resource material. In addition there are a variety of issue related email lists to which you can subscribe. It is easy to “unsubscribe” so try a variety of the areas. You will be sent an email to confirm your request before you can access the information. These lists (sort of like blogs) are open only to LWV members. You also can set your “Membership type” to only receive a single email a day per list (digest form) summarizing all emails posted for your areas of interest. (This is done under **Manage Your Account**.)

Once registered, you can sign up to participate in Grassroots lobbying efforts and special interest groups. There is an option to participate in the Grassroots Lobby Corps, a group of LWV volunteers that help get the League’s message to Congress. The LWV-VA has many members that participate in Lobby Corp. You should sign up for the League E-Voice Newsletter, a monthly electronic newsletter designed to give you a recap on what the LWVUS is doing. The Leader’s Update is a weekly informative email sent every Thursday afternoon, except holidays. It provides very current information on LWVUS activities on legislation and

notes what other Leagues have been doing. You must opt-in to these choices.

**Note:** When you participate in these LWVUS discussion lists the following “netiquette” should be observed:

- 1) Avoid One-Liners. Please resist the temptation to send a quick reply to a discussion list that will irritate and waste the time of hundreds of members. No one wants to read a message that only contains a "thank you," "great idea," or "I agree with you."
- 2) No Automated Responses to the List. If you plan to use an out-of-office / on vacation automated message, make sure you exclude/exempt all discussion list addresses. Instructions should be available from your mail or mailbox provider.
- 3) No Person-to-Person Messages. Please take off-list any requests for documents or personal communications. For example, no one wants to see a request to unsubscribe. Remember that simply clicking the Reply button is a reply to the whole list.
- 4) Snip Messages for Relevance. Please delete any text or previous messages that are not relevant to your reply. This is especially important if you are replying to a digest mode message; then you should also restore the subject line.
- 5) Mind the Subject Line. If you are replying to the same thought in a thread, then don't change the subject line. However, please do change the subject line if you want to discuss a different subject.
- 6) Identify Yourself. Please remember to identify yourself with your full name, League name and preferably by state and League position too.

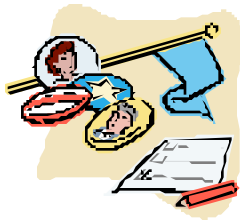
*Don't forget to join the LWVUS' and also the LWV-VA Facebook pages where timely information is posted and you can interact with others of similar interest.*

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## Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) See Summer Workshop Information

The Membership Recruitment Initiative is a successful partnership between the local, state and national Leagues to recruit new members at the grassroots level. By combining outreach strategies, focusing on a target demographic, and establishing a network of coaches, the participating local Leagues have experienced net membership growth, as well as increased visibility; improved relationships with the media and other community organizations; and implemented strategic plans for organizational growth. LWVUS is working with states individually to implement the initiative locally. The goal is to be working in partnership with all states by 2012.

Our Summer Workshops will include a session covering this initiative. Please attend!!



## LWV-VA Election Laws Study Update

Betsy Mayr, Study Chair

The first part of the Election Study is completed; we have received consensus questions from 12 Leagues and I am busy compiling the results in preparation for the LWV-VA Board meeting on August 27. The Board will determine our new positions from the final consensus results.

Our election study committee is growing and we welcome the new additions: Jean Jensen, former Secretary of the State Board of Elections, Patricia Bower, former Registrar – City of Lynchburg, Sue Worden Voter Service Chair, and Sally Park of Fluvanna. All other committee members will continue.

We will soon launch the second part of the Study and are looking forward to completion of the study. You will receive more information in August at the summer workshops.

Please remember to set up a meeting for the second part of the study by March to have the **consensus results back by March 31<sup>st</sup>**. For more information contact me at emayr59433@aol.com.

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## How Many Registered? How Many Voted?

Therese Martin, Treasure & Member of LWV-VA Election Laws Study Committee

The LWV-VA Election Laws Committee had hoped to provide some basic statistical data about registration and voting in 2008 in its recent study, but registration and voting by *voting age population* data were not available by the printing deadline. A Census Bureau report based on the Bureau's November 2008 Current Population Survey was issued in May 2010.\* We thought that members might be interested in some of the statistics included in the report.

- In the 2008 presidential election, 64 percent of voting-age citizens voted, an estimate that is not statistically different from that in the 2004 presidential election. In Virginia, the turnout of voting-age citizens was 68.7 percent, compared with 63.1 percent in 2004, and was one of the 8 states showing an increase over 2004.
- In 2008, 71 percent of voting-age citizens were registered to vote, a slight decrease from the 72 percent registration rate in 2004.
- Of those who were registered to vote in 2008, 89.6 percent voted, compared with 88.5 percent in 2004. This is consistent with the historical fact that the likelihood that an individual will actually vote once registered is high. [The Virginia State Board of Elections website shows that 74.5 of the state's registered voters actually voted in the 2008 presidential election, compared with 71.4 percent in 2004.]
- The highest likelihood of voting in 2008 was reported by non-Hispanic Whites (65 percent) and Blacks (65 percent). However, the voting rates for Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics each increased by about 4 percentage points between 2004 and 2008, while there was a slight decrease in voting by non-Hispanic Whites. The likelihood of registering also differed by race groups, with non-Hispanic Whites and Blacks having the greatest participation (74 and 70 percent).
- Although citizens between the ages of 18 and 24 showed a slight increase in voting in 2008, to 49 percent, they still voted at the lowest rate of all age groups, with voting rates increasing progressively by age group.

For further information, go to

[www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html)

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## Reminder: General Election Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>

Three Virginia constitutional Amendments will be on the ballot in November and the LWV-VA will have an information sheet for local League duplication and distribution.

## League Consensus and Concurrence

Dorothy Nieweg of LWVAR

*The League of Women Voters is both a citizen education and an advocacy organization.*

Before we advocate, members participate in a program process that includes the following steps: formal adoption of an issue for study; member study and agreement on broad concepts; formulation of a position by the appropriate board of directors; legislative action as directed by the board; and, annual or biennial re-adoption of the position.

*We arrive at member agreement in one of two ways – by concurrence or, most often, by consensus.*

**Concurrence** is a kind of voting; it is based on individual opinion, not group opinion. In the League it is agreement with a position statement developed by, for example, a resource committee, a task force or another League. It is appropriate when the subject is one about which members of the group already have a base of knowledge and when people can easily answer “yes” or “no” without need to qualify their response. It can be an interactive process if the League chooses to discuss and debate the issue prior to having members vote.

In the case of the current LWV-VA study of Virginia’s election laws, we are using concurrence to confirm members’ understanding of an updated position statement.

**Consensus** is defined in The American Heritage Dictionary as “general agreement or accord.” Specifically, in the League, it means agreement among a substantial number of members, representative of the membership as a whole, reached after sustained study and group discussion.

### *How does the consensus process work?*

First, all members should have basic information on the subject – the facts, the issues, and the options for addressing the problem, with their pros and cons. This common base of knowledge includes exposure to a variety of perspectives to avoid bias.

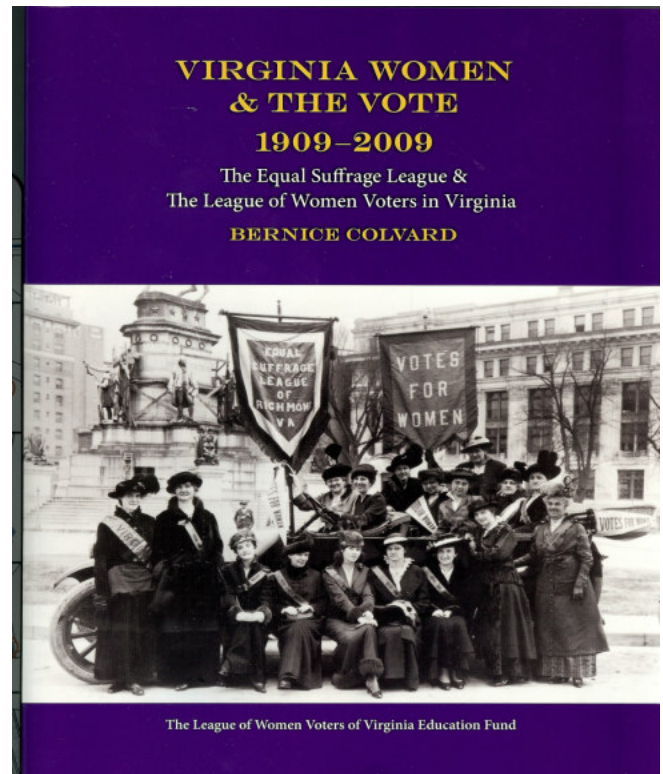
Consensus is not a simple majority nor is it unanimity. Consensus is a decision-making process that builds agreement, as opposed to one that polarizes. The result is a decision that people can live with.

Based on reports from discussion meetings, with recognition that consensus efforts do not

always lead to agreement, the board determines if a consensus supporting advocacy has been reached.

*For more information see “League Basics,” formerly “In League,” a 2009 Memo from LWVUS President Mary Wilson and a 1994 Texas League workshop on Building Consensus.*

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## Virginia Women & the Vote 1909-2009

We still have copies of the book Virginia Women & the Vote 1909-2009. If you would like a copy please contact the state office at [info@LWV-VA.org](mailto:info@LWV-VA.org) or call 703-831-8595. We encourage all local Leagues to distribute copies to all local high schools, private and public and to the local public libraries.

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## LWV-VA Board Meetings

Just a reminder that all LWV-VA Board meetings are open to attendance by any member as observers. If you are interested in attending please contact [president@LWV-VA.org](mailto:president@LWV-VA.org) for details on location and agenda. Post Board Summaries are posted on the members only LWV-VA website.

## **LWV-VA Planning**

*Betsy Mayr, Chair Nominating Committee*

The LWV-VA Board of Directors held their retreat July 14, 2010 to discuss and create a plan of action for the State League for the 2011-2013 biennium. In an effort to meet and streamline projected needs, they reviewed and updated portfolios, changed the names for some, expanded some duties, and added new portfolios.

The nominating committee will be searching for people to fill board and off-board positions for the 2011-2013 biennium. Some Directors, because of the number of projects covered by the portfolio, will have committees to help with the work load.

If any of these portfolios interest you, or if you need more information please contact Betsy Mayr, Chair of Nominating Committee at 703-777-9425 (h), 703-624-3924 (c), or

[emayr59433@aol.com](mailto:emayr59433@aol.com) . Other members of the Nominating Committee are: Jessie Barringer, Seneca Bock, Therese Martin and Sherry Zachry.

In addition to the following positions, we will need to elect a **President**, two **Vice Presidents** (each will carry one of the portfolios), **Secretary** and **Treasurer**. The portfolios decided on at the retreat are:

### **Good Government Issues Director**

(includes both voter education and advocacy on good government issues, *ie*: Sunshine Laws, Election Laws, Redistricting & Program Planning)

### **Events Planning Director** (replaces arrangements)

### **Membership Director**

Local League & MAL relations (includes "organization director" and liaisons)  
Database  
MRI (Membership Recruitment Initiative)  
state coach coordinator

### **Voters Service Director**

Debates/candidate events  
Voters Guide  
Legislative Directory  
Congressional Directory

### **Legislative Coordinator /Lobbyist**

Apprentice Lobbyist  
Coordinator of WRT weekly volunteers

### **Fund Development and Public Relations**

### **Technology Director**

Website (web administrator)  
Social media (like Facebook)  
Virtual MAL Unit  
Internet discussion lists

### **Virginia Voter Editor**

### **Paid administrative assistant**

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## **NRM Announcement: Transition Process to End Program**

The LWVUS Board, listening to the delegates at Convention 2008 and the feedback from many Leagues, voted to end the Nationally Recruited Member (NRM) program incrementally from July through December 2010. This coincides with an increase in support for membership growth into other mechanisms, such as the Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) see article on page 5, helping Leagues recruit new members through grassroots mechanisms. Thus the \$5 stipend given in the past to support these members has been eliminated. The LWVUS stopped posting NRM names to local Leagues as of July 1, All NRM names will be deleted from the database on December 31.

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## **Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell Announces Art Project**

Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell has announced that portraits of all of the living former First Ladies of Virginia in their Inaugural gowns will be painted by professional women artists. Private funds will pay for the effort. The portraits will be completed by 2013, in time for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Virginia's Executive Mansion, the oldest continually inhabited Governor's Mansion in the United States. The portraits will be displayed in the Executive Mansion.

In addition to the announcement of the portraits McDonnell also celebrated the 2010 culmination of MINDS WIDE OPEN: *Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts*. This highly successful arts initiative was the first statewide celebration of its kind. For more information about the project, please visit [www.ArtsVA.com](http://www.ArtsVA.com) .



*Pictured: Joan Foster, Mayor Lynchburg and Olga Hernandez, President LWV-VA*

## LWV-VA Council 2010

The LWV-VA Council meeting hosted by the Lynchburg League was a resounding success. The evaluation sheets showed that a vast majority of attendees received worthwhile information. Forty Leaguers attended. Of those responding to the survey about 75% for the first time!

League member and now re-elected mayor of Lynchburg, Joan Foster, welcomed us to the city. We toured the **Academy of Fine Arts** on Friday night as hosted by the local committee. We had a fabulous workshop speaker, State Board of Elections Secretary, Nancy Rodrigues. She was very informative regarding our current study of Virginia Election Laws. We also had workshops on the status of our membership and our fall plans for Voter Service (we'll provide sample VG questions for your Congressional races and a summary sheet on the three Constitutional Amendments this fall).

About half the attendees submitted evaluation forms, which we carefully review. You asked and we are delivering a workshop on "Facebook" and more membership information. The evaluation forms provide us the feedback we need to better serve the local League needs. The LWV-VA board works hard to organize the workshops and Council/Convention meetings. We ask that you take the opportunity to have as many members from your local League attend. This is a service we provide to give you the skills to grow your Leagues.

## Donations & PayPal Option

Late this summer you'll receive a fundraising letter to coincide with the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. We ask that you be generous and donate a dollar for each year women have enjoyed the vote. "90 for the 90<sup>th</sup>." Our work is ever more important as we seek to educate the electorate with truly non-partisan materials. Again thank you to all members for your generosity this past year,

Donations to support our work can be made via our website [www.LWV-VA.org](http://www.LWV-VA.org) using PayPal with a credit card. On our web site, select DONATIONS from the left-hand column, click on the PayPal icon the system will walk you through the steps. You will also get an email receipt whether you donate to the Operating Fund or the Education Fund. Remember only Ed Fund donations are tax deductible. Thanks to your generosity we are able to continue our work.

Also remember, checks are always accepted. If you're writing a check please mail to LWV-VA at P.O. Box 621, Centreville, VA 20122-0621. See the last page of the newsletter for a donation form.

The following are the names of donors since last summer. Thank you so much for supporting our work.

Andrews, Anne	Littlefield, Roberta
Atherton, Joan S.	Martin, Therese
Ball, Ruth	McClenon, Molly
Blystone, Elizabeth	McGovern, Rita
Brady, Patricia	Meade, Louise
Burgett, Amy & Leo	Meese, Lulu
Colvard, Bernice	Nieweg, D. & E
Cutshall, Hatsy	O'Brien, Molly
Fina, Eleanor	Parker, Mary
Franklin, Bonnie	Parks, Susan
Freeman, Baba	Pownall, Phyliss
Freund, Deborah	Rochester, Lois
Goode, Susan	Rollins, Martha
Gwathmey-Young, V.	Skovira, Margaret
Haher, Gloria	Sterling, Anne
Hand, Fred	Stuart, Emily
Hernandez, Olga	Swain, Mary
Hilder, Jane	Tate, Nancy
Hoover, Patricia	Testa, Natalie
James, Doris	Tyner, Mildred
Wagner, Mary	White, Shirley
Worden, Sue	Zachry, Sherry
Lynn for Marvin Gordon	



## **The League of Women Voters and the United Nations: Convention Report June 11, 2010 (Excerpts)**

*Doris Schapira, League of Women Voters Main UN Observer*

*This article contains excerpts from the full report filed at Convention 2010. It only covers a small amount of information about the League of Women Voters and the United Nations.*

I will mention opportunities for League members at UN meetings first, because these have proved to be of most interest to League members attending convention. There are ongoing opportunities for League members to attend certain UN meetings, and so far this privilege has not been affected by the reconstruction at the UN. First, every Thursday morning, between October and June, the UN holds briefings for NGOs, which your UN Observers always attend. LWV members may also attend these briefings. They are usually most interesting and cover issues important to the UN and are usually provided by UN officials and staff, government delegates and NGO representatives. In addition, League members attending briefings may also attend afternoon meetings of NGO coalitions working on important issues at the UN. Contact the UN Observers for registration in advance.

The *UN Commission on the Status of Women* is another meeting that members may attend, if interested. At its fifty-fifth session in 2011 the priority theme will be **“Access And Participation Of Women And Girls To Education, Training, Science And Technology, Including For The Promotion Of Women’s Equal Access To Full Employment And Decent Work”**. The Commission will also evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from its fifty-first session on **“The Elimination Of All Forms Of Discrimination And Violence Against The Girl Child”**.

Last year I arranged for the League to be accredited to the *United Nations Climate Change Conference* in Copenhagen from December 7-18, 2009, and eight League members attended at their own expense.

The League of Women Voters has been a supporter of the UN consistently since before the creation of the UN, lobbying for its formation and then serving as consultants to the US delegation at the UN Charter conference in San Francisco in 1945. We have been very favorably impressed with the new US Ambassador to the UN, Her Excellency Ambassador Susan Rice, and have already observed many changes in the US relations within the UN. We were also impressed with the US delegation to the *UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*. As you might know, President Obama created a White House Council on Women and Girls. The US Delegation regularly held very informative meetings with US NGO representatives during the Commission meeting to keep us informed on US positions at the Commission and to receive NGO input on the proceedings.

In March, 2010, fifteen League members attended the CSW meeting and, the League co-sponsored and planned a very successful side event at the CSW meeting entitled *Commercial Sexual Exploitation and the Girl Child: Promising Prevention and Reintegration Programs*.

The League is a member of UNIFEM’S campaign to *Say NO to Violence against Women*. See [http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/facts\\_figures.php](http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/facts_figures.php) for information. Local Leagues have the opportunity to take action on this issue as part of the campaign. See <http://www.saynotoviolence.org/>.

It is possible that the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* will come before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the near future, for ratification. The US is one of only a 7 countries that have not ratified this treaty. The League supports this treaty and League members should follow developments on this issue. Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Rice have stated on several occasions that the Administration is committed to its ratification.

The League has UN Observers and works in coalition with other UN representatives on important issues such as the girl child and older women. The League has a UN listserv which has not been very active and we welcome more members.

League members can reach us at the following e-mail address: [unobserver@lww.org](mailto:unobserver@lww.org).



## League of Women Voters of Virginia®

- WHAT:** Summer Training Workshops
- WHEN:** Saturday, August 28, 2010 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Crowne Plaza, Hampton Marina,  
700 Settlers Landing Road, Hampton, VA
- WHO:** Hosted by Virginia Peninsula (our newest MAL unit)
- CONTENT:** Lunch & Guest Speaker

### Workshops:

#### What is MRI and How Can You Use It?

*A hands-on workshop on how to deal with membership challenges, including nationally recruited members (NRMs) and & LWVUS Membership Recruiting Initiative.*

**Hands-on Facebook Nuts & Bolts** - bring your laptop

*Visit our website for schedule, directions, hotel accommodations and other details including Ft. Monroe tour and other location amenities. Parking at hotel for non-guests is \$10/day. (We have a block of rooms for \$79 + tax per night. Reservations required by **August 6<sup>th</sup>**. **Come and make a weekend of it!**)*



### LWV-VA WORKSHOP Reservation Form

**Cost:** \$35 includes lunch, no refunds for non-attendance, RSVP needed for food arrangements.

**Reservations & money due by, Friday, August 20, 2010 for workshop**

Please make your check payable to LWV-VA, the State League does not cover meal costs.

**Mail to:** Send the bottom section with your check to LWV-VA, P.O. Box 621, Centreville, VA 20122-. Contact: by phone/fax: 703-831-8595; email: [info@lwv-va.org](mailto:info@lwv-va.org) Please print clearly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Local League \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Food will be grilled chicken served with salad, veggie option available on request.

## Membership in the League of Women Voters of Virginia

**Reminder:** For all MALs (**M**embers-**a**t-**L**arge) units and unaffiliated statewide MAL members, it is time to renew your membership. The fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. If you have questions about membership status, please contact your local League membership chair.

**Join:** If you are not a member of the League of Women Voters and would like to join. 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. For donations to be tax deductible they must be made to the “LWV-VA Education Fund”, those funds 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, P.O. Box 621, Centreville, VA 20122-0621.**

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*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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reminder to Members:** Please keep your contact information current! When your email address or other contact information changes, please notify your membership chair.

Change Service Request



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF VIRGINIA**

P.O. Box 621  
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Volume 57, Issue 1

Summer 2010