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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF VIRGINIA

## ***The Virginia Voter Express***

*Issue #17-17*

*June 15, 2017*

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# **Post Convention Issue**

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## **38th Biennial Convention is Now History**

The 38th Biennial Convention ended with the election of a new Board of Directors that will be led by incoming President Sue Lewis of Charlottesville. Over 100 delegates gathered in Leesburg, Virginia, to carry out the League's business, learn more about specific areas of concern, and network with Leaguers from around the state.

One highlight of the event was the keynote presentation by Dahlia Lithwick, Senior Editor of *Slate*. Lithwick concentrated on her efforts covering the Supreme Court and she explained how things really work in the Court. As an insider, her remarks took the group into how the Court operates and the personalities of its members. Her remarks were informative and entertaining.

Brenda Rogers, LWVUS Board member and liaison to LWV-VA, signaled that change is necessary in today's world if we are to continue to be a viable player in the voting rights arena. Her enthusiasm for the League was apparent and she challenged us to find new ways to attract new members.

Nine workshops provided attendees with an opportunity to learn more about redistricting, engaging new activists, fracking, voting rights, ERA, UN Commission on Women, gun safety, using technology, budgeting, and transparency in government.

Much of the credit for the success of the convention goes to Linda Garvelink of the Board, and host Leagues of Loudoun County (Priscilla Godfrey, President) and Prince William County (Carol Noggle, President) and their convention coordinators.

The new Board is composed of:

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2nd V.P.	Lynn Johnston, Richmond	Carol Lindstrom, Richmond
Secretary:	Marti Rollins, South Hampton Roads	Adarsh Trehan, Fairfax
Treasurer:	Pat Hurst, Charlottesville	Maggi Luca, Fairfax

Nominating Committee: Kathy Matusiak, Chair  
Dianne Blais  
Ann Sterling

*Note: A clean .pdf copy of this Voter Express made be downloaded from our website:*

*[http://lwv-va.org/files/2017\\_06\\_09\\_convphotos.pdf](http://lwv-va.org/files/2017_06_09_convphotos.pdf)*

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Roll Call



Matusiack - Arlington  
Members - 160  
Delegates - 4



Lewis - Charlottesville  
Members - 151  
Delegates - 4



Fox-Grage - Fairfax  
Members - 963  
Delegates - 14



Cooper - Falls Church  
Members - 117  
Delegates - 5



Brunan - Fredericksburg  
Members - 38  
Delegates - 1



Godfrey - Loudoun County  
Members - 40  
Delegates - 2



Olvera - Lynchburg  
Members - 53  
Delegates - 2



Rude - Montgomery  
Members - 104  
Delegates - 6



Noggle - Prince William  
Members - 55  
Delegates - 4



Crutchfield - Richmond  
Members - 104  
Delegates - 3



Allran - Roanoke  
Members - 27  
Observers - 2



Jennings - Washington Co  
Members - 34  
Delegates - 1



Heyder - South Hampton Roads  
Members - 100  
Delegates - 2



Schilling - Williamsburg  
Members - 173  
Delegates - 3

## Saturday Morning Plenary Session



Co-Presidents Blais & Page



LWV US Liaison Brenda Rogers



Phyllis Randall



Frances Schute



Jessica Jones Capparell

## Breakout Sessions



## *Italian Lover's Extravaganza & Pasta Bar*



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Past Issues

### The Old Gives Way to the New . . .



Passing of the Gavel to Sue Lewis, Incoming President

### See You in Norfolk in 2019



"Ride the Tide to . . .



. . . Norfolk, Virginia - May 18 - May 19, 2019"



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## ***The Virginia Voter Express***

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*June 24, 2017*

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### **LWV-VA Convention Follow-up: Corrections . . .**

- Prince William Area Leaguer Linda Larsen should have been given credit for her work of gathering and overseeing Prince Williams' many volunteers at the convention. Thank you, Linda, and all the many volunteers. You made it all work.
- Williamsburg LWV president Mary Schilling protests that the Roll Call in the recent Convention report listed them as having 0? Delegates. Mary assures us that they in fact had 10 voting delegates, all of them wide awake every minute!

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### **. . .and Additions**

#### **New Program Director**



The list of elected Directors mentioned in the report left off a surprising and gratifying nomination from the floor who was subsequently elected with the rest of the slate. The bio of the new LWV-VA Program Director, which obviously did not appear in the convention workbook, is below:

*Anne Smith is principal of A.B. Smith Consulting LLC. Anne is a graduate of the College of William and Mary and is a recipient of the College's Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award. She has extensive post-graduate work in*

*government, management and finance and is a graduate of the Senior Executive Institute. She is a former York County government official and retired after 32 years of service. During that time she reported directly to the County Administrator and had oversight of a very wide range of Divisions and Agencies delivering services to the community.*

*Anne is a member of the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) and a founding member and past president of the Virginia Association of Local Human Services Officials (VALHSO). She currently sits on and holds leadership roles in 13 governmental and non-profit boards.*

*participated in the League's Great Decisions Lecture Series and is currently League Vice-President.*

## **Volunteers Needed for Program Committees**

Program News: Another important item of convention business was the vote by the delegates to take on new programs in the next biennium, which makes having a Program Director even more fortunate. Three new committees are being formed, some of which already have volunteers. **If you would like to be part of one of the committees described below, most of which will do their work online or telephonically, please send an email to [program@lww-va.org](mailto:program@lww-va.org).**

## **Report from Frances Schutz, Retiring Program Director:**

*Despite the request of several Local Leagues during the Program Planning process this year, that the LWV-VA shrink its focus down to our core mission of helping to register and inform voters, at the LWV-VA Convention 2017 on 6/11, delegates voted not only to retain all current positions, but also to approve two task forces and a major position update going forward. These decisions reflected the delegates' understanding of the need for advocacy in these areas with updated positions.*

*The first board-recommended item approved was a major update/restudy of the Mental Health position, to include substance abuse, group homes, changes in courts to put mentally ill in treatment facilities not jails, and inclusion of broader services provided by Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.*

*The second board-recommended item approved by delegates was to use a task force to update our position on Women's Rights and Virginia Law, based on current laws.*

*The minutes reflect that on Sunday morning, delegates also approved a task force to tackle the Education position, with a focus on the impact of Charter Schools and School Vouchers on public education.*

*Generally speaking, a task force is more nimble and therefore may use less time than a full study committee. It is intended to address a more immediate and often more focused need than a program study committee working towards consensus and a new position. The task force reports its findings to the LWV-VA Board, which then decides whether to approve it for distribution & action and/or whether to recommend that the task force morph into a study committee. The study committee might present its information to the board for consideration and perhaps recommendation of concurrence by the delegates to Council, to update the position.*

*All 3 items approved for investigation are on Sue Lewis's agenda for reporting at the Fall Workshops, so all will need to begin work ASAP. Fortunately, there was much enthusiasm in the room during the adoption of these three items, and we expect that the several volunteers who stepped forward to form the cores of the committees will be joined by several interested members from local Leagues across the state.*

*Additionally, we passed a resolution for action, which reads: Resolved that the League of Women Voters of Virginia endorses ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution proposed by the United States Congress on March 22, 1972, and ratified by 36 state legislatures, upon ratification by two more states--Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.; and be it*

*Resolved further that the League of Women Voters of Virginia will advocate for the ratification of the*

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*It was a fully active and energized Convention.*

*I am delighted to report that the Convention delegates elected Anne Bradstreet Smith, LWV Williamsburg Area to the LWV-VA Board, with the portfolio of Program Director for 2017-19.*

*The Committees need to organize themselves fairly quickly; Sue Lewis hopes to have them make presentations of some sort at the break-out sessions of the Fall Workshop Day in September.*

*It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with many of you.*

*Thank you!*

*Frances*

### **Convention Materials to Be Added to Website**

Sometime in the next few weeks the following items will go up on the LWV-VA Website: a copy of the convention workbook, a copy of Brenda Rogers' Power Point, several of the breakout session handouts, and a copy of the co-presidents' farewell speech. You will receive notice when to start looking.

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Convention Handouts Now Available  
End of the 2015-2017 Biennium

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### **2015 – 2017 Biennium Concludes Today**

With the end of June comes the end of another LWV biennium and so does my tenure as the editor of *The Virginia Voter*. During this time frame, we changed over to the *Voter Express* which, I hope, is doing a better job of meeting your needs as Leaguers, by being more timely with communications from the State League.

It has been four years since I took over as editor. There have been some mistakes made that caused us to have to send out an updated version, and of course my misspellings. My apologies for any inconvenience they may have caused. It has been a great run and I thank you for your support.

Peace,  
Ron Page  
Communications Director

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### **Convention Handouts Now Available on Website**

As promised, we have added the handouts from the Convention to our website for your use. Leaguers that did not attend the convention are encouraged to spend some time to get up to date with the most current information. The following links will take you directly to each listed handout or you can go directly to our website <http://lww-va.org> and click on "Members Information" and then click on the last item "2017 Convention."

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Firearm Safety Task Force Report - Ruth Hoffman, LWVFA

Link: [http://lwv-va.org/files/convention\\_2017\\_06\\_09\\_gunsafety.pdf](http://lwv-va.org/files/convention_2017_06_09_gunsafety.pdf)

Redistricting? - Brian Cannon, OneVirginia2021

Link: [http://lwv-va.org/files/convention\\_2017\\_06\\_09\\_redistricting.pdf](http://lwv-va.org/files/convention_2017_06_09_redistricting.pdf)

Fracking in Virginia - Meghan Dorsett, LWV-RMA

Link: <http://www.lwv-va-natres.org>

Voting Rights and Civil Rights – Carol Noggle, LWVPW, & Claire Guthrie-Gastanaga, VA-ACLU

Link: <https://acluva.org/get-involved/action-center/advocacy-toolkit-voting-rights/>

2017-2018 Budget – Rosalie Simari, LWVCVA & Pat Hurst, LWV-VA

Link: [http://lwv-va.org/files/convention\\_2017\\_06\\_09\\_budget.pdf](http://lwv-va.org/files/convention_2017_06_09_budget.pdf)

Program Report From Frances Schutz, LWV-VA

Link: [http://lwv-va.org/files/convention\\_2017\\_06\\_09\\_progamreport\\_schutz.pdf](http://lwv-va.org/files/convention_2017_06_09_progamreport_schutz.pdf)

Reaching Members Through Technology – Beth Tudan, LWV-FA

Link: [http://lwv-va.org/files/convention\\_2017\\_06\\_09\\_reachmbrs.pdf](http://lwv-va.org/files/convention_2017_06_09_reachmbrs.pdf)

Honor Role of Donors to LWV-VA – Dianne Blais, LWV-VA, Chair

Link: [http://lwv-va.org/files/convention\\_2017\\_06\\_09\\_honorroll.pdf](http://lwv-va.org/files/convention_2017_06_09_honorroll.pdf)

Farewell Address – Dianne Blais \* Lois Page, Co-Presidents, LWV-VA

Link: [http://lwv-va.org/files/convention\\_2017\\_06\\_09\\_farewell.pdf](http://lwv-va.org/files/convention_2017_06_09_farewell.pdf)

VE Commemorative Edition Photos

Link: [http://lwv-va.org/files/2017\\_06\\_09\\_convphotos.pdf](http://lwv-va.org/files/2017_06_09_convphotos.pdf)

Engaging New Activists: Sips and Civility – Judy Parente LWVFC

Link: [http://lwv-va.org/files/convention\\_2017\\_06\\_09\\_sipsandcivility.pdf](http://lwv-va.org/files/convention_2017_06_09_sipsandcivility.pdf)

Transparency Virginia Report – Becky Bowers-Lanier,

Link: [http://lwv-va.org/files/convention\\_2017\\_06\\_09\\_transparencyva.docx](http://lwv-va.org/files/convention_2017_06_09_transparencyva.docx)

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