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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VIRGINIA

The Virginia Voter Express

Issue #17-11

April 30, 2017

2017 Biennial Convention

“Honoring Our Legacy With Action”

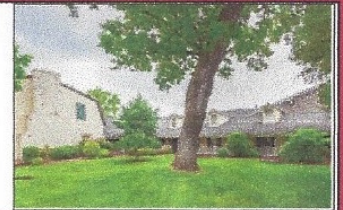
June 10 - 11, 2017

The Clarion Historic Inn

1500 E. Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia 20176

(703) 771-9200

www.clarioninnleesburg.com



Roommates at LWV-VA 2017 Convention

If you have a room at the Clarion Inn or another hotel for the LWV-VA 2017 Convention, but do not have a roommate and are willing to share your room, please email Linda Garvelink (garvelink@earthlink.net) immediately. We have a number of members who are looking for a room to share. We will keep you updated.

Be Prepared for the Convention

In an effort to allow members and delegates to prepare for upcoming votes, we have posted several key documents on the

League's website for you to digest ahead of the convention. These documents will be included in the convention book as well,

To read these documents go to <http://lwv-va.org/MembersInformation.html>

Items included are:

- Fracking Position Statement
- Resolutions Policy
- Schedule at a Glance
- Positions in Brief
- Proposed 2017-2019 Program Report (coming soon)
- Nominating Committee Report

Schedule for League of Women Voters of Virginia Biennial Convention June 10 – 11, 2017

The deadline for registering for the LWV-VA 2017 Convention is June 2, 2017. To register go to www.lwv-va.org, see the first item on the page for information and the link to the registration form. Unfortunately, the room block at the host hotel, the Clarion Inn Historic Leesburg, is completely booked. Other hotels located within 15 minutes from the Clarion are located in Sterling, VA. Excellent rates at nearby hotels, including the Best Western Washington-Dulles and the Hampton Inn Washington-Dulles both on Holiday Drive; the Candlewood Suites Washington-Dulles – Severn Way; the Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham – Whitley PL, are available through various online booking site (e.g., Expedia, Orbitz, etc.).

The Convention will be called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 10, 2017. In addition to a business meeting, Saturday's speakers include **Brenda Rogers, LWVUS board member**, and **Lloyd Leonard, LWVUS senior director for advocacy**. Saturday afternoon features nine breakout sessions, including:

- Voters' and Civil Rights in Virginia - Carol Noggle, LWV-VA Legislative Coordinator and Claire Guthrie-Gastanag of the Virginia ACLU
- ERA: 2 AWAY! (Nevada recently ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; are Virginia & Illinois next?) - Pat Fishback, LWVRMA & Coordinator of The Centennial Rally for Equal Rights
- What's Next for Redistricting in Virginia? -Brian Connon, OneVirginia2021
- Fracking in Virginia – Meghan Dorsett, LWV-VA Fracking Study Committee
- Engaging New Activists with Sips & Civility - Judy Parente, LWVFC
- Gun Safety: Can the Tide be Turned? – Ruth Hoffman & Judy Helein, LWVFA
- Report on United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 2017 – Jill Follows, LWVFA & LWVUS delegate to Commission
- Making Democracy Work with Action: LWV-VA's 2017-18 Budget
- Leadership for the League: Meet the LWV-VA Board Nominees

Saturday's Convention reception and banquet features the speaker **Dahlia Lithwick, senior editor for *Slate* magazine**; she writes the "Supreme Court Dispatches" and "Jurisprudence" columns. The evening concludes at about 9:00 p.m. allowing time for additional networking among League members.

On Sunday, June 11, 2017, the Convention resumes with two additional workshops:

- the report of Transparency Virginia 2017 with Rebecca Bowers-Lanier with the Virginia Public Access Project and
- Using Technology (e.g., SurveyMonkey & SignUPGenius, etc.) to Understand & Serve Members – Beth Tudan, LWVFC Executive Director

During the plenary session, the Convention will vote on the 2017-18 program, budget, and the 2017-2019 Board of Directors. **The Honorable Nancy Rodrigues, Virginia Secretary of Administration**, will discuss the voter registration issues for the 2017 Virginia election. The Convention concludes at 12:30 p.m

In the spring of 2015, a study of Hydraulic Fracturing ["Fracking"] in Virginia was proposed to the attendees at the Convention of the League of Women Voters of Virginia [LWV-VA]. Delegates there approved the study, feeling that insufficient attention had been given to the specific challenges presented by the particular geologic composition of soil in the Commonwealth, and to potential harm to local soils, industries, sensitive cultural sites, and watersheds. A small study committee was formed. The board reaffirmed its position in January of 2016 that the conditions still warranted moving forward with the study, rather than relying on LWV US and LWV-VA positions on water quality as the basis for our advocacy about fracking in Virginia. After months of extensive study, the committee produced a report on what they had found. This report was presented in power point format to members attending the Fall Workshop day in September 2016 and was available online both at the LWV-VA website, and on in a discussion group on FaceBook as a resource for local Leagues to use as they began their discussion of the topic. Consensus questions prepared by the committee were approved by the LWV-VA Board in October 2016. Members who did not have email addresses were also invited to take part in the consensus phase of the study, after being given the links to the source materials available online. Several of these members also chose to take part in the consensus. In the late winter of 2017, responses were received from the local Leagues who had participated in the study and consensus process, and were compiled, along with those responses mailed in. From these responses, the proposed position was crafted from areas of consensus among the reporting Leagues. At the April 4, 2017 meeting of the Education Fund Board of the LWV-VA, the proposed position was approved. This position is currently in effect. If changes are suggested and approved by the delegates to the Convention of the LWV-VA in mid-June, they will be incorporated into the position.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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