

[In This Issue:](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VIRGINIA

The Virginia Voter Express

Issue #17-19

June 24, 2017

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!

. . .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.**

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

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)

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.

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.

Copyright © 2017 League of Women Voters of Virginia, All rights reserved.