



League of Women Voters® of Virginia



Virginia Voter

February, 2018

Making Democracy Work

Volume 64, No. 6



Women's Legislative Roundtable

The meeting time of the LWV-VA's moderated Women's Legislative Roundtable has been changed. We will meet each Wednesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Credit Union House, 108 North 8th Street, Richmond VA.

The time was changed to avoid conflict with the early morning House and Senate Committee Meetings as they discuss many of the issues critical to the Virginia League.



New League! LWV of Fredericksburg

At the December 2017 Board meeting, the League of Women Voters of the U.S. approved Virginia's newest League: The League of Women Voters of the Fredericksburg Area.

Mid-year 2016, a large group of interested women and men met in the Central Rappahannock Regional Library to discuss the formation of a local League for the Fredericksburg area. Anne Sterling, LWV-VA local League outreach coordinator at the time, inspired the group to move forward with their plans and organization.



The Fredericksburg group grew rapidly, attracting 20 members by September 2016 when the LWV-VA approved the group's request to be a LWV-VA Member-At-Large Unit. The Fredericksburg MAL Unit immediately initiated voter awareness and voter registration programs. The members hosted meet-the-candidates for the local 2016 elections and they distributed voter information before the election.

addition, the Fredericksburg League (MAL) developed, refined, approved and implemented a non-partisan policy and bylaws.

By June 2017, the LWV-FRA (MAL) had more than 35 members; they began the process of converting to an "official" League. In December 2017, LWV-VA and LWVUS approved the League of Women Voters of the Fredericksburg Area as a local League with all appropriate rights, privileges and responsibilities. LWV-FRA now has more than 40 members.

LWV-FRA is lead by Cathie Fisher Braman, President, along with a strong Board of Directors.

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From the President



Sue Lewis

{In case you haven't already heard, Meghan Dorsett, Co-Communications Director of LWV-VA and wife of Carol Lindstrom, the other Co-Director, died on Jan. 30 from complications of stage 4 lung cancer and congestive heart failure. Meghan was a multi-talented woman, who graciously shared those talents with the league over the years. She had the best ideas for content, graphics and layout of various publications, and we could always count on her to produce material on time. She will be greatly missed by Carol, her family, her community, her fellow board members, and leaguers across the state.

February – the crazy time at the General Assembly (starting in January and running until March 10.)

We now know the full membership of the House of Delegates, and are not all that happy about how some of them got there. An unchallenged ballot, which became challenged, interpreted by mind-readers, allowed to stand, and resulting in a game of chance was the most egregious example of how not to decide elections. An election where voters were not allowed to vote for the person in whose district they resided was allowed to stand, disenfranchising 147 voters and unearthing several issues related to precinct lines. Again, not the way we

want elections to be decided.

The House makeup now stands at 51 Republicans and 49 Democrats, resulting in more parity on most committees, but still allowing many votes in committees and subcommittees to be decided (again) on party-line votes. We're still looking for bipartisan law-making to appear, but not holding our breath.

We held our first WLRT on Jan. 17, while snow swirled around the region – two Delegates made it to the Credit Union House building, and so did some 15 leaguers and partners. We're hoping that the weather cooperates (at least on Wednesdays) for the rest of the month of February, and that more legislators and leaguers can participate.

By the time you read this, we will have held our annual League Day on Feb. 7, with AAUW joining us for lunch after the visits to legislators and recognition in both houses during the "Morning Hour".

The Legislative Coordinators are still looking for observers for several committees and sub-committees; if you have one day a week that you could spend at the General Assembly, they will be glad to give you an assignment! Valarie Fillgrove and Mary Crutchfield are our credentialed lobbyists this year, and Carol Noggle remains, specifically covering school financing legislation.

Don't forget to do your National and local program planning before March 1 – there seem to be some interesting issues at the national level that leagues are talking about, especially around elections.

It was good to see so many of you on February 7th for League Day!

Communications Team, is looking for a few folks to help out with our Facebook groups. email: communications@lwg-va.org for more information.



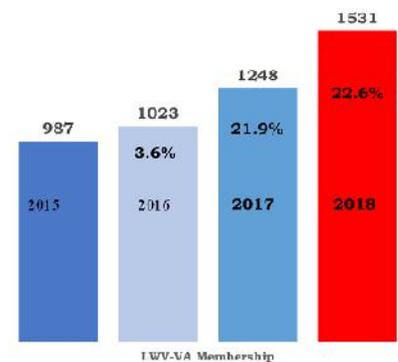
Women's Legislative Round Table. Delegate Rasoul and delegates discussing upcoming bills.

League of Women Voters of Virginia's Official Membership Count

By Linda Garvelink, Membership

As of February 1, 2018, the **League of Women Voters of Virginia has 1,531 members** in 14 local Leagues across the Commonwealth. As of February 1, 2017, LWV-VA had 1,248 members; for a growth rate of 22.6% in 2017, even stronger than our 2016 growth rate of 21.9%. From February 1, 2016, when LWV-VA had 1,023 members to today, our membership growth rate was 49.7%. This is wonderful news! Please keep reaching out to your neighbors, friends and family to encourage them to join our efforts to "Make Democracy Work."® Congratulations and THANK YOU to LWV-VA members across the Commonwealth.

LWV-VA Membership Growth



Advocacy vs Lobbying. What is the Difference?

From LWV US:

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/defining-advocacy-vs-lobbying>

[Now is a good time for a reminder for members about the differences between two of our most commonly used tools this time of year.]

Defining “Advocacy” vs. “Lobbying”

It is common for Leagues to support their advocacy activities with only non-charitable contributions. However, this is unnecessary.

Leagues may, and are encouraged, to use charitable contributions to support their non-lobbying advocacy activities. Advocacy encompasses pleading for or against causes, as well as supporting or recommending positions.

LWVUS policy recommends against using charitable funds for any lobbying even though it is legal within strictly defined limits. Therefore, it is important to understand the difference between the broad concept of advocacy and lobbying, which is a specific advocacy technique. While lobbying can be part of an advocacy strategy, advocacy does not necessarily include lobbying.

Lobbying is defined as an attempt to influence specific legislation, including both legislation that has already been introduced in a legislative body and specific legislative proposals that the League may oppose or support. There are two types of lobbying: direct lobbying and grassroots lobbying.

To constitute direct lobbying, a communication must either:

1) be directed to a legislator, their staff or other governmental employee who may participate in the formulation of legislation,

a. AND refer to
b. AND express a view on specific legislation;

OR

2) Be directed to the general public,
a. AND refer to
b. AND express a view on a specific referenda or other ballot measure.

To constitute grassroots lobbying a communication must be:

1) Directed to the general public,
a. AND refer to
b. AND express a view on specific legislation,
c. AND include a statement that directs readers to contact their legislators or include the contact information for a legislator or employee of a legislative body.

Most other activities promoting League positions that do not fall within the strict definitions of lobbying noted above are general advocacy and may be funded by charitable contributions. One important caveat is Leagues are advised to keep clear lines between voters’ service activities and advocacy activities. For example, Leagues that have taken a position on a ballot measure should not include that position in their Voters’ Guide.

Study and Taskforce Updates

Here are updates from the Behavioral Health Study, Women’s Rights Task Force, and School Choice Task Force

The Behavioral Health study group is working enthusiastically and has developed this outline for the Study Report. The study will be discussed at the LWV-VA Council meeting on June 16, 2018. If you have any comments on the work of the study group, please contact Anne Bradstreet Smith, LWV-VA Program Director (annebradstreetsmith@gmail.com)

Behavioral Health Study

By the Behavioral Health Taskforce

I. League History: Behavioral Health

At its 1985 convention, the LWV-VA adopted a two year study of mental health services in Virginia. As a first step, in March 1986, the League prepared a document describing the public mental health care system in Virginia its history, organization, financing, and clients. A second resource document was distributed in December 1986 dealing with goals for the mental health system, who the system should serve, factors for use in allocating state funds to communities, and a statewide comprehensive management information system.

Additional issues warranting study, identified during the first two years, resulted in a two-year extension by the 1987 convention delegates. In March 1988 a resource document on involuntary civil commitment and patients’ rights was issued. Issues of the 1988 and 1989 Virginia Voter provided resource material on housing for the mentally ill and on organization, management, personnel and hospitalization issues. New -At its 2017 convention, the LWV-Virginia adopted an update to its existing mental health position, adopted in 1987 and 1989, that would also integrate the current language of the LWVUS Behavioral Health Position adopted at the 2016 LWVUS Convention. “Behavioral health” is today’s nationally recognized terminology. It includes both mental illness and substance use disorder.

II. Position in Brief - To be written at conclusion of study

III. League’s Position – Committee is writing these sections

A. Patient Rights (civil commitments; justice system involvement: transportation; special courts; treatment during and after incarceration including mandatory treatment requirements; promotion of advocacy organizations.

B. Prevention and Education (CSBs/Crisis Intervention Teams/behavioral health education)

C. Housing (great variety and affordability needed focus on needs of mentally ill)

D. Workforce Development (more training programs, use of trained doctor “extenders” and peer providers; better pay; use of myriad employment incentives)

E. Opioid Abuse

F. Funding (pay for the adopted STEP Virginia community focus; full utilization of federal, state, and local government resources at levels commensurate with our wealth; fill any gaps in Medicaid income eligibility.

Update on Women’s Rights Task Force

*Alison Carney, Leader
LWV-VA Women’s Rights Task Force*

The Women’s Rights Task Force is diligently working and making progress. The group’s initial conversation concerned gender bias in commerce, services, and the workplace. Though it's doubtful that there will ever be legislation passed demanding equal treatment and fees in these domains, the group felt strongly that the League should make a statement to these inequities.

The concerns of the Task Force, as it relates to existing code, are that neither LWVUS, LWV-VA, nor LWVNCA has a position on sexual assault or harassment. Obviously, there is a definite need. Virginia Code specifically avoids any coverage of the issue as stated in its law on sexual assault effectively shutting the door on such a grievance. Virginia Code 65.2-301.

A. Any employee who, in the course of employment, is sexually assaulted, as defined in §§ 18.2-61,

18.2-67.1, 18.2-67.3, or § 18.2-67.4, and promptly reports the assault to the appropriate law-enforcement authority, where the nature of such employment substantially increases the risk of such assault, upon a proper showing of damages compensable under this title, shall be deemed to have suffered an injury arising out of the employment and shall have a valid claim for workers' compensation benefits.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of this title, an employee who is sexually assaulted and can identify the attacker may elect to pursue an action-at-law against the attacker, even if the attacker is the assaulted employee's employer or co-employee, for full damages resulting from such assault in lieu of pursuing benefits under this title, and upon repayment of any benefits received under this title.

C. Nothing in this title shall create a remedy for sexual harassment nor shall this title bar any action at law, that might otherwise exist, by an employee who is sexually harassed. [emphasis added]



Addressing harassment in the workplace and schools is an immediate priority. There is existing code protecting students from bullying, using language banning

harassment in general, but no mention of how it would relate to a situation based on gender and no mention of sexual assault and how it would be handled by administrators.

The Task Force recommends that issues most affecting women through legislation, that of women’s reproductive rights and health, would be best addressed, as a position, under Health Care rather than Women’s Rights.

The Task Force members attest that already the work and discussions of the group have been an eyeopener, with each member having observed many incidents and experiences personally.

Update on School Choice Task Force

Carol Noggle, LWV-VA School Choice Task Force Leader

This month the LWV-VA School Choice Task Force has been busy following and reporting on School Funding related bills in the Virginia House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate. For more information about specific bills, please go to www.LWV-VA.org “Alerts” at top of page. Once again this year, Virginia legislators have been working overtime to develop and to expand existing programs that affect the funding of Virginia’s public schools. Virginia Constitution, Article VIII Education; Section 1.

1. Public schools of high quality to be maintained.

The General Assembly shall provide for a system of free public elementary and secondary schools for all children of school age throughout the Commonwealth, and shall seek to ensure that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained. Article VIII, Section 10 states clearly that State Appropriations are prohibited to schools or institutions of learning now owned or exclusively controlled

by the State or some subdivision thereof.

The LWV-VA School Choice Task Force has developed a statement of Principles of Public Schools, which, in due process, will be presented to the LWV-VA Board of Directors and discussed in more detail the LWV-VA Council in June 2018. Principles being discussed include:

Public schools should prevail as the highest priority for school choice in Virginia based on their role and responsibility in sustaining democracy.

To be defined as “public,” there are expected responsibilities. A school is truly public if:

- It is open to the public and all children;
- It serves the public and prepares citizens to maintain government;
- Is it responsible to the public, who can participate in voting on school governance and can change policies
- It is a creator of the public by cultivating citizens to exchange ideas, prepare for discourse, respond to ideas, and work across differences
- It sustains democracy by developing skills for participating and enacting freedom-oriented decision-making.



Carol Noggle, Women's Legislative Round Table & League Day in Richmond

Note: extracted from *American Public Education and the Responsibilities of Its Citizens* by

Sarah M Stitzlein.

For more information about the School Choice Task Force or to make arrangements for a Task Force member to make a presentation to your League, please contact Carol Noggle, task force leader, cnogg@comcast.net.

NOVA Metro Update: Fund It! Fix it!

The Virginia/Maryland/District Coalition working to promote full funding for the Washington Area Metro system, has dubbed it FIFI (Fund it! Fix it!), a little levity for a serious situation.

The Virginia legislature, as this is being written, is considering bills that would commit Virginia to continued funding for Metro at a level of \$105 million or the requested and needed \$154 million. LWV-VA members are actively calling, emailing and visiting their representatives to encourage full funding of WMATA (Washington Metro Area Transit Association) as well as encouraging consideration of other funding issues throughout the Commonwealth. Maryland and the District seem to be waiting to see what Virginia does before they take firm action. However, Maryland has put forward proposed funding, whereas the District has indicated preference for a regional sales tax.



The FIFI coalition is comprised of 22 grassroots, non-profit organizations and is led by the Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG). FIFI is focused on obtaining the necessary

Metro funding from Virginia, Maryland, the District and the Federal Government. CSG is involved with the business coalition that is focused on governance of WMATA.

For more information, go to LWV-VA Transportation FaceBook page. Deb Wake of LWV of Fairfax Area has been advocating regularly in Richmond. You can reach her at deborawake@gmail.com.

Membership & Leadership Development Tools

Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Guidance on Opportunities forum page is a collection of resources to will help you to grow and empower your Local League. The full listing can be found at <http://bit.ly/2ElaMOV>. Here are some samples of some of these tools:

The Changing Democracy Space, January 2018 (Link: <http://bit.ly/2nVBEuh>)

Strategy Screen, February 2018 (Link: <http://bit.ly/2EluJk1>)

Working with Activist Groups as a Nonpartisan Organization, March 2018 (Link: <http://bit.ly/2BTdh99>)

Local League Report South Hampton Roads

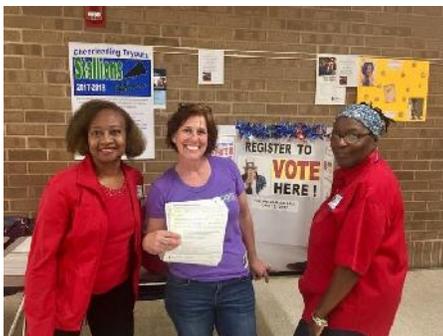
By Carolyn Caywood
During the fall, LWVSHR held five candidate forums for Delegates and for Constitutional Offices. We also collaborated on two forums highlighting Health Care and Education issues in preparation for the election. Following the election, the units heard analysis from regional academics.

We held our Program Planning meeting on December 9, 2017, at the New Calvary Baptist church at 800 E. Virginia Beach Blvd. in Norfolk.

Glynis Mason, our Voter Service chair, hosted the meeting. We enjoyed breakfast and fellowship, followed by our Program review of national and local positions. Newer members found this helpful and even some long term members realized they were unaware of some positions.

Rachel Bitecofer, Asst. Director of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University, then enlightened us with statistics and analysis of the 2016 election. She offered insights into the 2017 and upcoming 2018 elections. Afterward, she autographed her recently published book *The Unprecedented 2016 Presidential Election* and told us about a book she is currently working on entitled *We The People*. She was an entertaining speaker we recommend to other Leagues.

In 2017, LWVSHR pursued a year-round advocacy plan to build skills and confidence in members and the public while building relationships with legislators. We collaborated with eighteen other local non-partisan organizations. In late spring, this Legislative Collaborative Table (LCT) met once to prioritize issues to jointly advocate with the 2018 General Assembly. The issues that everyone supported are nondiscrimination, nonpartisan redistricting, affordable health care, carbon cap-and-trade, public transit funding, and criminal justice reform.



Over the summer, a volunteer steering committee planned a fall briefing session on the six priorities. Three of the five steering committee

members were Leaguers and three of the six issue organizers were as well. Congressman Robert Scott inspired and commended attendees for their civic participation. Attendees at the briefing session were asked to commit to visit their own legislators as part of a LCT delegation. We then recruited a coordinator for each district to make the appointment and organize constituents. Ten Leaguers stepped up to coordinate, though some were unable to get appointments. Twenty Leaguers participated in at least one visit, along with many other South Hampton Roads citizens. In all, twelve legislators were visited and two more would have been if not for the blizzard. Now we are eager to try for the Advocacy Tracking Contest!

LWV Fairfax Area Book Review: A NATION OF NATIONS

A NATION OF NATIONS: A Great American Immigration Story by Tom Gjelten is pertinent to the immigration discussion in the U. S. today; it reviews the discussion of our country's repressive and uneven immigration policies of the late 1800s and early to mid-1900s toward non-northern European people before the 1965 Immigration Act loosened those restrictions. The book helps the reader see the echoes of the past in today's immigration conversations, especially in the last several years. Phrases we hear today mimic earlier arguments against immigration, such as: immigrants take jobs away from native-born people, when in fact many immigrants will take the jobs that Americans won't do.

The book presents the stories of four early immigrant families who settled in Fairfax County. They faced the same backlash here as was prevalent in the rest of the country, especially when they moved into areas of the County already settled by other

ethnicities. Nevertheless, it was heartening to read how Fairfax County adjusted to accommodate an increasingly diverse population. Many elected officials, government and social agencies, schoolteachers and administrators, and communities worked hard to institute policies and programs to give everyone a fair chance to succeed, regardless of their country of origin.

That being said, some of us wondered if new immigrants can find the same opportunities today as greeted the families in the book. Today's situation includes a lack of affordable housing, available transportation, higher cost of living, which means both new immigrants and long-time residents have to work multiple jobs.

As the book was discussed in the LWV of the Fairfax Area's January unit meetings, members shared their stories. Since the book focuses on the Fairfax area of Virginia, several LWVFA members were familiar with the neighborhoods and schools mentioned. Some members even were on the school board or were teachers and administrators in Fairfax schools during the events chronicled in the book.

Many of the LWVFA readers expressed pride in Fairfax County and believe its experiences can be a model for other communities on how to accept diversity through education and open-minded policies. Suggestions for overcoming the negative aspects of today's hyper-partisan immigration debate included: active listening to each other and to the moderate voices in our community, be welcoming and helping new immigrants identify as "Americans." Alternatively, some mentioned the complications of "chain migration" and wondered if that policy should be redefined in order to allow other immigrants to fill the quotas.

The author Mr. Gjelten has accepted the League's invitation to speak at the

LWVFA Annual Meeting on April 21 at the Waterford-Fairfax. Please contact Sherry Zachry at programs@lww-fairfax.org for more information if you would like to attend LWV-Fairfax Area's annual meeting.

Redistricting Rally: March Forth on March Fourth



SAVE THE DATE!

OneVirginia2021's Redistricting Rally on March 4, 2018

OneVirginia2021, the very active nonprofit, nonpartisan group and LWV-VA's coalition partner in the fight for nonpartisan redistricting, has announced that it is hosting a Rally on Sunday afternoon, March 4, 2018. OneVirginia2021 will start the afternoon meeting with training for volunteers on how to advocate for redistricting reform throughout the 10 months until the next Virginia General Assembly. The training will provide background information, data and guidelines for effective discussions with friends, families, neighbors as well as Legislators to highlight the need and popularity of nonpartisan redistricting.

Later in the afternoon, the group will March from the Hippodrome Theater to the Capitol, 0.8 of mile walk to demonstrate the public's interest and concern for nonpartisan redistricting. More information will be available at <https://www.marchforthva.org/>.

League of Women Voters of Virginia Legislative Priorities

The 2018 Legislative Priorities for LWV-VA have been approved. Please remember that only the President or his/her designee may speak on behalf of LWV-VA. When you are contacting elected officials, you are doing so as a private citizen, not as a representative of LWV-VA.

Read full version here:

<http://bit.ly/2nB0f7d> or download your copy here: <http://bit.ly/2nFa6YR>

2018 Legislative Priorities LWV-VA

Elections and Voting (LWV-VA Election Laws position)

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations and administrative procedures should be uniformly designed and applied, and adequately funded to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia. Specifically, the League supports measures to ensure the availability of voter registration and to encourage and facilitate increased voter participation in elections, including: absentee voting by mail and in-person without a reason; an adequate number of voting machines and trained election officers; the use of satellite voting; split shifts for election officers when needed; and measures that take advantage of technological advances such as online voter registration and the use of electronic poll books. The League also supports the shared funding of statewide registration and voting systems by the localities and the Commonwealth; providing adequate authority and resources to the Department of Elections (ELECT) and the State Board of Elections (SBE) for oversight and enforcement of laws and standards for registration and elections uniformly throughout the Commonwealth; and the use of

secure electronic means to facilitate voter registration and absentee voting for Virginia's military and overseas voters. (2011, 2015)

Power to the Voter: Voting Enhancement, Expansion and Modernization.

- Support "No Excuse Absentee Voting".
- Support Automatic Voter Registration with DMV transactions (AVR with opt-out provision).
- Support of additional eligible and valid Photo IDs.
- Support additional hours and days for absentee in-person voting
- Support a shorter interval between the registration deadline and election day



Protect the Vote (LWV-VA Election Laws position)

- Oppose Photo ID requirement for absentee ballot application.
- Oppose adding Photo IDs to electronic poll books.
- Assure the use of only secure, reliable equipment for voting.

Voter Registration and Protection (LWV-VA Election Laws, LWVUS Voting Rights)

- Assure proper list maintenance to prevent the erroneous removal of voters from rolls.
- Streamline the DMV/DOE transfer of online voter registration data.
- Oppose requiring proof of U.S. Citizenship for Voter registration.
- Expand online access for registration at public agencies (NVRA "Motor Voter")
- Oppose voter registration by party affiliation

Election Administration (LWV-VA Election Laws):

- Support funding to assure superior election administration including:
- Secure, reliable equipment
- Adequate election official personnel and consistent training statewide.
- Thorough analysis and certification process of election results
- Significant training materials and education for operating equipment.
- Extensive Public education in case of new voting laws and processes



Tuesday Evening Pre-Planning Session

Restore Voting Rights of Felons (LWV-VA Restoration of Civil Rights of Felons)

- Support increased eligibility, convenience, public awareness, and an expedited restoration process.
- Support automatic restoration of voting rights
- Support increased funding for personnel to process restoration

Redistricting (LWV-VA Reapportionment & Redistricting, LWVUS Redistricting) LWV-VA: “Support for the establishment, in law, of a politically balanced and independent Reapportionment Commission for each decennial redistricting to prepare, with the Virginia Department of Legislative Services, a plan for submission to the

legislature as specified by the Virginia Constitution. The Commission should be bipartisan and be composed of individuals who are not elected officials; they should represent the geographical distribution and demographic diversity of the state, and consist of an uneven number of members. In addition to the Virginia constitutional requirement of equal population, contiguous and compact districts and the need for protecting the voting strength of minority groups, the League supports the following considerations in redistricting:

- Natural geographic boundaries;
- Jurisdictional boundaries;
- Communities of interest; and Competitiveness
- The Virginia constitution should be amended to provide that redistricting will occur on a decennial basis only. (1985, 2007)
- Support reform for fair redistricting and fair elections
- Support a bipartisan process to include significant public participation.

Women’s Issues: Rights, Equality and Safety (LWVUS Reproductive Choices, Equality of Opportunity)

- Support Women’s Reproductive Rights
- Oppose defunding of women’s health clinics such as those funded by Planned Parenthood
- Support ratification of the ERA
- Support legislation that advances compliance with the ERA and its goals.
- Support gender equality in housing, pay, employment and benefits.

Education Funding (LWV-VA Social Policy: Education) Support for state funding for public

schools that insures a high quality education with equal educational opportunities for all children, including:

- Full funding for the Standards of Quality and state mandates;
- Increasing the state’s share of education costs;
- Funding for half-day pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk children, and full-day kindergarten programs;
- Funding some portion of capital costs; and
- Improving the funding formula for determining local ability to pay, using it as a basis for distribution of state education funds. (1993)

Support a challenging curriculum, high expectations of students and teachers in mastering that curriculum, and appropriate assessments of student achievement for a quality education in the public school system K-12.

Essential curriculum elements include:

- Core disciplines (English, Math, Science, History and Social Studies);
- Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, and Foreign Languages;
- Analytical skills;
- Integrated technology; strong remedial programs;
- Programs for at-risk, gifted and special needs students;
- Education for students with limited English proficiency, in which emphasis is placed on teaching English; and
- Career and technical education.

Support professional education for principals and teachers and on-going staff development; class size appropriate to instructional goals; a safe environment for students and

staff; and discipline, preventative programs and a consistently enforced, well-defined system of rules; guidance counseling for academics and support services; and parental and community support and involvement. Support opportunities to select a specific program or school. These opportunities should be based on a system of equity so that all qualified students have equal access. (2003)

Elements of a quality education also include: school-based teamwork, goal setting and decision-making, application of learning to life experiences, and incentives, recognition, and awards for both students and teachers (1999)

Health Care and Behavioral Health

Health Care (*LWVUS Health Care, Funding of Entitlements, Meeting Basic Human Needs*)

- Support expansion of Medicaid
- Behavioral Health (LWV-VA Social Policy:
- Mental Health) Mental Health Support for a comprehensive state public mental health care system of quality, statewide and community based services that meets the mental health needs of all Virginians, including:
 - Long-range planning, coordination among agencies, and the use of established criteria for allocation of funds.
 - Assistance in providing adequate and appropriate housing for the mentally ill.
 - Comprehensive and consistent service delivery in all local communities.
 - Advocacy programs that ensure patients' rights at all levels. (1987, 1988, 1989)
 - In- and out- patient mental health and substance abuse programs oriented to the needs of juveniles.

(LWV-VA Social Policy Juvenile Justice)

Transportation

Support for regionally balanced transportation systems which efficiently and economically meet regional needs without adversely affecting planned growth or the environment.

- Regional organizations that set policy for a multi- modal public transportation program, that plan, co-ordinate, and are the designated recipients of federal and state funds, that operate or contract for services, and that could have taxing power.
- A mixture of public (federal, state, and local) and private funding for public transportation.
- Increased local participation with some public funds utilized to encourage private support and the use of innovative financing methods, such as tax incentives to encourage private sector participation.
- Provide a variety of incentives to increase the use of public transportation. (1996)

Campaign Finance Reform (LWVUS Money in Politics {see page 22 of Impact on Issues 2016-18})

Campaign finance regulation should:

- enhance political equality for all citizens
- ensure transparency
- protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and
- combat corruption and undue influence in government.
- League believes that campaign spending
- must be restricted but not banned.
- League supports public financing,

full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs and creating an effective enforcement agency



Stay Informed

Be sure to watch your emails, check our website <http://www.lwv-va.org>, or follow us on Facebook to stay informed about important information about 2018 LWV-VA Council!!

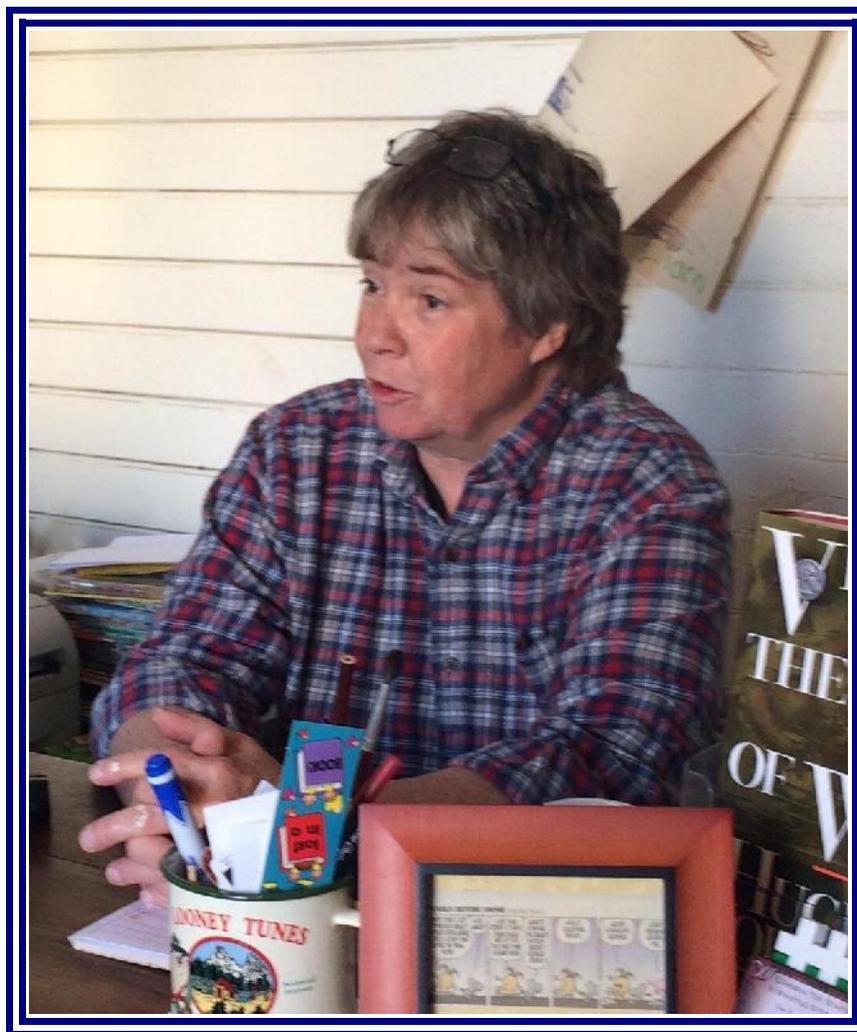
We will have a special webpage where you will be able to find information about council.

For a look at how Council works, try looking at the 2016 Council Worrbook on the website at http://lwv-va.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/convention-council/2016_lwv-va_council_workbook.pdf

Remember that we have a special members Facebook Group for those who have an interest in Advocacy/Action and want to stay informed about the 2018 Legislative Session and League Issues. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/373903886296976/>

We also have other special Facebook Working Groups for members where we share information about issues relevant to League. These are great sources of information for discovering new ways you can "Make Democracy Work" <http://lwv-va.org/members-corner/facebook-working-groups/>

In Memory
Margaret H. “Meghan” Dorsett
Our Defender of Democracy
5/2/1957 – 1/30/2018



Meghan Dorsett, LWV-VA co-director of communications and newsletter editor, died at 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 30, 2018. Meghan was a friend to all she met. She was a passionate League member and leader, always fighting to “Make Democracy Work®.” She was an excellent writer, well-versed in a large variety of topics – if not before she started writing, certainly by the time she put “pen to paper.” She was proud of her town of Christiansburg, VA. She was a dedicated partner to, and is survived by, Carol Lindstrom, LWV-VA co-director of communications, her wife of 25 years. You may send Carol messages of comfort and sympathy at communications@lwv-va.org. We miss Meghan and we mourn with Carol. A memorial is being planned for April. We will keep you informed as plans develop. For a touching and more thorough chronicle of Meghan’s life and work, please read the excellent article in *The Roanoke Times*. Link to the article: <http://bit.ly/2GMzAV>

League Day 2018 At the General Assembly



Check out the LWV-VA website for updates and links to resources:

<http://lwv-va.org/>

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