



League of Women Voters®
of Virginia



Voter Express

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EMPOWERING VOTERS -- DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

August – last vacations of the summer, school resumes (and begins) for many, continued heat, and the anniversary of the day women won the vote! (August 26 – 98 years ago!)

This month’s Voter Express has the first “call” to our upcoming Workshop, a tradition in late August through early September, where leaguers gather for training and information that they can use during the fall election season and into the next session of the General Assembly. It also has some great tips on advocacy and the final results of our Advocacy Contest which was held during the 2018 GA session.

The state board had a very productive retreat in July: among other things, we reviewed almost all of our policies and procedures, set legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session, agreed on candidate questions for the November Congressional election, made plans for the workshops, approved the venue for the 2019 LWV-VA Convention in Norfolk, and made preliminary plans for the Pre-session and weekly Women’s Legislative Roundtables before and during the GA session. We said goodbye to Pat Hurst, who turned the Treasurer’s duties over to Linda Garvelink, and welcomed Deb Wake as Action/Advocacy Director and Andrienne Konstas/Salvettas as Membership Director.

About Workshops – see blurb from Anne Smith, Program Director – a teaser for you to put September 8 on your calendar, at the Woodlands Conference Center in Williamsburg!

I head off to vacation in Colorado and New Mexico on July 31 – looking forward to seeing three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and their families! I wish you all a fine end-of-summer!

Sue Lewis

SAVE THIS DATE! SEPTEMBER 8, 2018 2018 LWV-VA FALL WORKSHOPS

JOIN US IN COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

The topics you asked for at Council

- Advocacy ... next steps ... moving our positions forward
- Membership Capacity ... Transformational Journey, Attracting and Engaging new members,
- Voter Issues ... Redistricting ... Voter Access ... Election Integrity and Security

.... And even more ...

Watch for future emails and our website for registration information. On our website go to <http://lwv-va.org/lwv-va-2018-fall-workshops/> where more information will be added as it becomes available.

Ready, Set, Advocate!

Deb Wake, Action Coordinator

The League of Women Voters has done an exceptional job of studying the issues through program and position development. Last year LWVVA produced two studies: one on behavioral health and the other on education. These positions and others, whether at the local level, state level or national level, inform any advocacy that we take and any lobbying that we support. LWVVA set these legislative priorities for the 2019 General Assembly session:

- Behavioral Health
- Education

- Election Integrity:
 - Assignment of Voters to Split Precincts
 - No Excuse Absentee Voting
 - Recount Law & Procedures
 - Restoration of Rights
- ERA Ratification
- Gun Violence Protection
- Redistricting

Plan to attend the LWVVA workshop in Williamsburg on September 8. Find out the difference between advocacy and lobbying--hint, only our lobbyists can lobby--most likely you are an issue advocate. Learn what this means. You've identified the issues you're passionate about and you've been educated on the issue, find out what the next steps are.

If you're unable to attend the workshop, you can still be an advocate. Contact Deb Wake for more information: actioncoordinator@lwg-va.org You're passionate about an issue not listed? We need you! Send me an email.

LWV-VA 2018 Advocacy Challenge Award Winners

Linda Garvelink, 1st VP

In 2017, LWV-VA received a very large grant to promote Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) and other programs; money was available for local League members to attend strategy workshops and stay at the Berkeley Hotel the night before the Women's Legislative Round Tables (WLRT) and their scheduled meetings with representatives in the Virginia General Assembly. Local Leagues could request additional funds based on their email, phone and in-person contacts with their representatives and electoral board and registrars. This program was a success, providing the LWV-VA excellent data about local Leagues' advocacy efforts.

Although no similar resources were available for the 2018 Virginia General Assembly session, the LWV-VA Board voted to set aside \$1,000 for a local League "Advocacy Challenge," in addition to the regular budget to help local Leagues defray the cost of hotel rooms when attending the WLRTs and visiting their legislators in Richmond.

The challenge was based on number of in-person,

including town hall, and telephone and/or email contacts local League members had with their Virginia representatives. Winners were based on the total number of contacts divided by the "official" 2018 number of members as of February 1, 2018 as provided by the LWVUS database. The Board set the awards as \$700 for the highest percentage of participation, \$200 for second, and \$100 for third. However, because only four local Leagues (Falls Church, South Hampton Roads, Washington County and Williamsburg Area) accepted the challenge, the Board voted an extra \$50 award for fourth place.

Overall, these four local Leagues had 1,152 contacts with Legislators during the 2018 legislative session. We know many other local League members visited, emailed, called and tweeted their representatives too. LWV-VA wants to collect this data to show new members how very active League members are, to provide the numbers to LWVUS to add to national numbers, and to show donors and other stakeholders just how effective and active LWV-VA members are in "making democracy work®."

The winners are:

- **First Place (\$700) LWV of South Hampton Roads** had 452 contacts with 105 total members for an involvement of 430 percent. Using the 2019 ratings schedule, the final rating is 81%.
- **Second Place (\$200): LWV of Falls Church** had 346 contacts with 117 total members for an involvement of 296 percent. Using the 2019 ratings schedule, the final rating is 61%.
- **Third Place (\$100): LWV of the Williamsburg Area** had 411 contacts with 173 total members for an involvement of 238 percent. Using the 2019 ratings schedule, the final rating is 56%.
- **Fourth Place (\$50): LWV of Washington County** had 43 contacts with 34 total member for an involvement of 126 percent. Using the 2019 ratings schedule, the final rating is 53%.

Congratulations to each of these LWV-VA local Leagues. (Information on the 2019 Advocacy Challenge <http://bit.ly/2v1WK7L> and more coming soon!)

Important Dates

August 26 – Women's Equality Day

September 1-31 Voter Registration Month

September 8 – Fall Workshops

September 25 – National Voter Registration day