



League of Women Voters® of Virginia



Voter Express

November, 2017

Making Democracy Work

Volume 64, No. 4

From the President

Sue Lewis

Ah, November! The League's favorite month, when all our Voter Service efforts come to fruition! We've registered new voters, are informing all voters, will get out the vote, and have another election will be under our belts. Good Work, all of you! This year's new Postcard campaign to Get Out The Vote has attracted a lot of attention and participation – thank you, Amy Hjerstedt, for putting us on to it!

We sponsored two days of the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP) News Digests; one on National Voter Registration Day (9/26) and the other Oct. 26. promoting VOTE411.org. We think this is money well spent, since it goes out across the state.

A concern this election season (which is still with us when you read this) is protecting our non-partisan reputation. Despite perceptions by some, we know that we are very vigilant about not supporting or opposing political parties or candidates. Our positions may lead some to think that we're partisan, but we know (and can defend) what we stand for. We do lament the fact that some candidates have chosen to turn down invitations to debates and forums based on those faulty perceptions. But we are still respected for our fairness in moderating meetings where voters can hear from candidates. And VOTE411.org is still being promoted as another way for voters to learn about candidates, and other election information.

Another issue around elections that has come to our attention is scam emails

asking for our votes for certain candidates. We spent some time in October investigating what seems to have been a hack of someone's personal email to send a blatant request for support of a specific party's candidates. No Russians involved, but clearly Chinese! I know we're all being vigilant about our email messages as they relate to our personal voting preferences.

At the State level, we are making plans for the annual Pre-Session Roundtable on Dec. 6. As noted earlier, the GA building is no longer available, and the Capital is being used more by the GA, so we're looking for other venues for our activities during the session. We think we have found an ideal spot in the Credit Union Building on 8th Street in downtown Richmond. The attached flyer has all the information for registering, and we hope to see many of you there! This will also be the site for the weekly Women's Legislative Roundtables on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 17.

The state task force studies in Behavioral Health, School Funding and Women's Rights are now all underway; expect to see more from them in an upcoming *Virginia Voter*. Thanks to those of you who have stepped up to work on these important issues.

Keep up the good work through the election, and take some time off after to relax, and enjoy Thanksgiving with family and friends!

Task Force & Studies Update

Anne Bradstreet Smith

Women's Rights & VA Law was proposed by the Charlottesville LWV. This is a study to review any changes in the Code of Virginia since the State Position was adopted and to update the League's position on current laws. Several attendees at Fall Workshop expressed interest, and we met on October 25. Members are from the Richmond and Williamsburg Leagues and the Fredericksburg MAL. Alison Beall (alisonbcarney@yahoo.com) of LWV-RMA is Chair and Debbie Combost of Fredericksburg is Facebook Administrator. Collectively they have a strong plan of study, additional scheduled meetings, and the interest and skills to undertake an excellent study. The Women's Rights Study is LAUNCHED!

The powerpoint presentations on the [Mental Health](#) and [School Choice](#) studies from the Fall Workshop are now on the state website. Also, there are [Facebook working groups](#) on several on-going studies, including one for the Behavioral Health study (administered by Maddie Vann, LWV-Williamsburg Area), one for the School Choice study, and one for Women's Rights (administered by Debbie Combost, LWV-Fredericksburg) will be added soon.



Don't miss out!
Register for the
2017 Pre-Session.
See next page for details.

PRE-SESSION WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

***Credit Union House of Virginia
108 N 8th St.
Richmond, VA 23219-2306***



Morning Pre-Session:
Free and Open to the Public.
Coffee and Tea will be available.

Luncheon Price: \$35 per Person.

**The deadline to register is
Nov. 30, 2017.**

Join us at the *Credit Union House of Virginia* in Richmond on December 6th to hear first hand about the pressing issues that will come before state legislators.

Coffee & Pastries: 9 a.m. to 9:30. Take some time to visit with folks and do a bit of networking before the morning session begins.

Morning Pre-Session: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Networking with activists and many advocacy groups is one of the top reasons given for attending. A full morning of five-minute power speeches from issue experts who have been on the front lines during General Assembly sessions will preview, predict, and prepare us for action in January. They have vast, diverse experiences in monitoring and influencing a wide range of legislation – governance, education, health care, juvenile justice, women's rights, voters' rights, election laws, open government, ethics, safety, environment and conservation, and more. Representatives from Non-Profits and Cabinet Secretaries, as well as perhaps the new Governor, will enlighten us on their priorities.

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m. Special Guest Speaker: TBA

You can register and pay using the [online form](#) and PayPal or by printing the form, filling it out, and then mailing it with your check using the instructions below.

Name _____

Name(s) of additional attendees: _____

Total Number of Lunches Desired (\$35 each) _____

Email / Phone Number _____

Organization _____

(If you are representing a group, including a local League, please provide the name of that group.)

Please send your check made payable to LWV of Virginia to LWV-VA c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 441, Charlottesville, VA 22902 (Please be sure the name of the person registering is in the memo space.)