36th Convention

Crowne Plaza - Fort Magruder Hotel
Williamsburg, Virginia

June 1-June 2, 2013

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*Upon arrival, delegates must check in at the League Convention desk to pick up folders.*
Looking Forward
Schedule at a Glance

Saturday, June 1, 2013

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  Convention Registration
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  Presentation by Anne Schink, LWVUS Liaison to VA
11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  Break
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.  Award Presentation – Membership & MLD
11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  Lunch on your own
   12:00 p.m.  Bus leaves hotel for Merchants Square
   1:45 p.m.  Bus picks up from Merchants Square to hotel
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  Special Surprise – Vanessa Cole
2.30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  Opening Plenary Session
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  Reception with cash bar
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  Banquet
   Speaker, Christina Bellantoni, Political Editor, PBS NewsHour
9:30 p.m.  Caucuses: Program, By-Laws, Budget
10:00 p.m.  Resolutions deadline

Sunday, June 2, 2013

7:30 a.m.  Breakfast Caucuses
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  Registration Continues
9:00 - 12:00 a.m.  Closing Plenary Session
Proposed Rules & Procedures

A motion to adopt these rules will be made at the opening plenary meeting. Amendments may be offered at this time and require a majority vote to adopt.

The rules, as proposed or amended, require a two-thirds (2/3) vote for adoption. To suspend a rule at a later time requires a two-thirds vote (2/3).

1. Admission to the Convention shall be limited to persons displaying official badges, which must be worn at all meetings of the Convention.
2. Delegates, non-voting members and visitors shall sit in designated areas.
3. Only accredited delegates representing local Leagues, MAL Units and ILO and LWVVA Board members may vote.
4. Only delegates and those authorized by the chair or the delegate body may address the Convention.
5. In debate, no person shall speak more than once until all others who wish to speak have done so; no person shall speak more than twice on the same motion, debate shall be limited to two minutes per speaker unless other procedure limits take precedence.
6. Each speaker shall use a microphone and announce name and League when addressing the Convention.
7. Main motions and amendments of substantial length must be in writing on paper included in the folders or obtained from the ushers. One copy shall be sent to the presiding officer and one copy shall be retained by the maker of the motion.
8. When a vote is in progress the doors to the meeting room shall be closed and no one may enter or leave.
9. Only announcements that relate to the business of the Convention or the welfare of the participants shall be made.
10. The procedure for program adoption shall be as follows:

   A program item that is submitted by a local League at least three months before convention but not proposed by the state board may be adopted only if its consideration is ordered by majority vote of the convention at the first plenary session and the proposal receives a three-fifths (3/5) vote at a subsequent session (this is considered a “not-recommended” program item)

   • A motion to consider any concurrence statements must receive a majority vote by delegates on the first day and two-thirds (2/3) vote to amend or adopt a state League position by concurrence on the floor of convention on the second day during program consideration.

   • At the plenary meeting on Saturday, the proposed [recommended] LWV-VA program for 2011 -2013 shall be presented by an LWV-VA Board member. Questions for clarification only will be in order. No motions or debate are in order at this time. Delegates may move for consideration of not-recommended issues received by the deadline with their presentation limited to three minutes. A delegate may request a statement from a LWV-VA board member as to why an item was not recommended, with a limit of two minutes for the answer.

   • Proposals for concurrence consideration may be presented at this time. In order to make such a motion, a League must have met the conditions required for concurrence prior to convention.

   • After all of the not-recommended items have been offered, the vote for consideration of each item will be taken in the order in which the items were presented for consideration. Announcement of the vote result shall be made immediately after the vote on each item.

   • Debate and action on not-recommended program items and the proposed program will take place at the Sunday plenary session. A three-fifths (3/5) vote is required to adopt not-recommended items, except that adoption of an item for concurrence requires a two-thirds vote (2/3). A simple majority vote is required to adopt recommended program items.
11. The minutes of the Convention shall be approved by the LWV-VA Board after review by a committee appointed by the chair to review and correct the minutes.

12. Voting Procedures during Plenary Sessions. Each delegate receives vote cards at the credentials table. The red and green vote cards are numbered 1-4, with green=yes and red=no. Generally, the first vote on an issue is a voice vote or sometimes a standing vote. If the outcome is not clear, then there may be a vote where delegates count off person by person. If the outcome still remains unclear, then there will be a card vote. The president will indicate the number of the card to be used and will announce the instructions for the vote. The appropriately numbered card must be used or your vote will be invalidated. The Elections Committee appointed at the first plenary session is responsible for collecting the voting cards, counting them and reporting the results to the president.

13. Each delegate representing a local League, or Member-At-Large (MAL) unit shall be entitled to vote only if that League has met its per member payment responsibilities. Representatives from Leagues not paid in full will not have the privilege of the floor, the right to vote or the right to make motions unless a special consideration is given by the Convention. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

14. Thirty percent of the possible number of voting delegates other than members of state board shall constitute a quorum provided that a majority of local Leagues are represented.

15. Announcements shall be made only by persons designated to do so.

16. No smoking in Convention meeting rooms.

17. Cell phones shall be turned off or muted during plenary, workshops, caucuses and the banquet.
Convention Resolutions Policy

Resolutions
Resolutions, other than of a courtesy nature, may be offered by any registered delegate to an LWV-VA state Convention. Delegates are strongly encouraged to submit proposed resolutions together with background material at least three weeks prior to the start of Convention. Submitted material shall include:

• Wording for the proposed resolution;
• Background material, including both pros and cons for the issue addressed in the resolution;
• Explanation of rationale for this form of member understanding and agreement.

If material is not received in time for inclusion in Convention packets, it shall be the responsibility of the proposer to provide review copies for the Resolutions Committee by 2:00 p.m. on the afternoon of the first day of Convention, plus sufficient copies for all delegates by the start of the Sunday plenary session of the two-day Convention.

Resolutions Committee
Two weeks prior to Convention, the President of the LWV-VA shall appoint a Resolutions Committee consisting of one member of the LWV-VA Board of Directors and two registered Convention delegates with local or state board experience. The LWV-VA President will name the chair.

Action by Resolutions Committee
The Resolutions Committee shall meet between the two plenary sessions of the Convention to consider whether the proposed resolutions meet the following criteria:

• The resolution is consistent with League Principles and with LWV-VA and LWVUS positions,
• The resolution does not circumvent normal League program processes,
• The resolution addresses a single, topical issue pertinent to Virginia,
• The resolution either (a) requires governmental action at the state level, or (b) pertains to the internal administration of the League, and
• The resolution can be implemented using existing League resources.

The maker of the resolution may make a presentation to the committee.

The Resolutions Committee shall make an advisory report of its findings. The chair of the Resolutions Committee shall announce the committee’s findings to the Convention at the outset of the Sunday plenary. The committee shall provide a written report to the Secretary.

Action by Convention
Motions to adopt resolutions shall be made at the Sunday plenary, following debate and action on proposed program. Any resolution that has been properly presented to the Resolutions Committee may be moved at that time. The President may rule a motion out of order. The delegates may override, by a two-thirds vote, the decisions of the President regarding the motions. A majority vote is required to adopt a resolution.
Concurrence Policy

Concurrence is the act of agreeing with or concurring with a statement or position. A decision-making technique used by the League for some time, concurrence can work in several ways. Groups of League members or League boards can concur with (1) recommendations of a resource committee, task force or unit group; (2) decision statements formulated by League boards; or (3) positions reached by another League or Leagues. (League Basics 9-17.)

Concurrence Process for Convention:

1. A local League or MAL Unit that wishes to propose an item for concurrence on the floor of convention must begin by submitting its recommendation to the state board at least three months before convention, as part of the program-planning process.
2. Any League Board or LWV-VA study committee or task force that plans to propose the adoption or amendment of a state League position by concurrence on the floor of convention shall give notice to the state board of its intention to do so at least three months before convention.
3. Background information, including pros and cons and the rationale for using this method, must be submitted to the state board with the proposal.
4. A two-thirds vote is required to amend or adopt a state League position by concurrence on the floor of convention.

Concurrence Procedures:

In order for concurrence to be considered at convention, the following steps must be taken:

a) The item must be listed among either the recommended or non-recommended program items for the convention; i.e. it must have been proposed as part of the program planning process.

b) The LWV-VA Board decides to either recommend or disapprove the item, using the criteria established for program adoption, and approves the wording of the concurrence statement.

c) Background information, including pros and cons, and the rationale for using this method, must be sent out to local Leagues and MAL Units or to the general membership at least six weeks before convention.

d) Only members of the League can approve or disapprove the concurrence statement, and the LWV-VA Board will determine whether concurrence has been reached, based on its evaluation of the reports from local Leagues and/or participating members.

Proposed Order of Business

Plenary Session
Saturday, June 1, 2013
2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Call to Order
Lynn Gordon, President

Introductions and Recognitions
Lynn Gordon

Welcome
Williamsburg Mayor, The Honorable Clyde Haulman

State Convention Chair
Molly McClenon

Local League President
Almeda Humphreys

Local Arrangements Chair
Nancy Hummel

LWVUS Liaison
Anne Schink

Parliamentarian
Martha Rollins

State Board Members
Molly McClenon

Roll Call of Local Leagues
Sue Lewis

Each local League President will respond by introducing herself and stating how many delegates and visitors are present from her local League.

Appointment of Committees
Lynn Gordon

- Credentials
- Resolutions
- Elections
- Reading

Report of Convention 2011 Reading Committee
TBA

Credentials Report
Elaine Head

Adopt Rules and Procedures of Convention
A motion to adopt will be made at the opening plenary meeting. Amendments may be offered at this time and require a majority vote to adopt. The rules, as proposed or amended, require a two-thirds vote for adoption. To suspend a rule at a later time requires a two thirds vote.

Adopt Order of Business - a majority vote is required.

Treasurer’s Report
Elaine Head

Presentation of the Nominees
Mary Houska

Nominations may be made from the floor provided the consent of the nominee has been secured. If more than one person is nominated for an office, the Elections Committee will be in charge and paper ballots will be used.

Presentation of Bylaws Amendments
Therese Martin

Questions for clarification will be answered.

Presentation of the Proposed LWV-VA Operating Fund Budget
Bill Thomas

Questions for clarification will be answered. No amendments will be in order at this time. Delegates wishing additional information and an opportunity for further discussion should consult the Budget Chair and Treasurer before 10:00 PM.

Presentation of the Proposed LWV-VA EF 2009-10 Budget
Bill Thomas

This budget is provided for your information; your comments are welcomed and encouraged. The LWV-VA Education Fund is an educational trust, with no members. Therefore, the budget is not voted on by this body, it is discussed, debated and adopted at the first meeting of the LWV-VA EF trustees after the convention.
Presentation of Recommended Program
Linda Rice
Refer to Rules for Program Management; questions for clarification will be answered. No amendments will be in order at this time.

Presentation of Not-Recommended Program
Linda Rice
Refer to rules for program. Not-recommended program items may be moved for consideration at this time. A majority vote is required for consideration.

Remarks by President on Health of League
Lynn Gordon

Announcements
Sue Lewis

Plenary Session
Sunday, June 2, 2013
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Call to Order
Lynn Gordon, President

Credentials Report
Elaine Head

Adoption of Bylaws Amendments
Therese Martin

Adoption of 2011-12 Operating Fund Budget
Bill Thomas

Adoption LWV-VA Program, recommended & not-recommended
Linda Rice

Report of Resolutions Committee
Sue Lewis

Election of Officers and Directors
Lynn Gordon from Delegates

Guidance to the New Board
Incoming President

Incoming President's Remarks
Sue Lewis

Announcements
Molly McClenon

Generic Press Release to take home

12:00 Closing Plenary session ends

Lunch on own

Drive home safely
Basic Parliamentary Procedure Guide

Putting A Motion on the Floor
To make a motion or amend a motion, a delegate must go to the microphone, be recognized by the presiding officer, state his/her name and local League, then state the motion (or amendment to the motion). The motion (or amendment) is seconded from the floor. The presiding officer then places the motion before the assembly for discussion. The delegate may speak to the motion (or amendment) first. Note: Once a motion is placed before the assembly by the presiding officer, it is under the control of the assembly and does not belong to the delegate making the motion. For example, it cannot be withdrawn later without permission of the assembly.

Seconds to Motions
It is not necessary to agree with a motion to second it. A second only implies that there is more than one person who wishes to discuss the motion. Therefore, if a motion is coming from the Board or committee, it does not need a second from the floor.

Amendments to Motions
A motion that is on the floor may have two amendments pending at one time. However, the first amendment must relate to the main motion and the second amendment must relate to the first amendment to the motion.

Refer or Postpone
A motion to postpone or refer to a committee can be made while a main motion or an amendment to a main motion is pending.

Close Debate
A delegate must go to a microphone and move to close debate (call previous question). The motion needs a second. There is no discussion, and it takes a two-third (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting to pass. After the motion to close debate is approved, there will be an immediate vote on the pending motion.

Table a Motion
A motion to table ("lay on the table") should not be used to kill the motion on the floor and should not be used to postpone consideration of the motion.

Point of Order
If a delegate believes there was a breach of parliamentary procedure, she/he may rise to a point of order. If the point of order refers to an action made by someone other than the presiding officer, the delegate should give the presiding officer time to correct the problem before interrupting with the point of order. If a delegate wishes to make a motion and is not sure how to proceed, the delegate should ask the presiding officer.

To Limit or Extend Debate (debatable, two thirds vote [2/3])
This motion is used when debate needs to be limited as to time or number who wish to be heard, or extended in time, etc.
I move that debate:
• be limited to one minute per speaker,
• be limited to five speakers pro and five speakers con,
• be extended to ten more speakers, one minute each.

Miscellaneous Motions
The following motions have no rank and are usually "incidental" to the business pending or to Convention operations. Some may interrupt other business. There is no debate or vote, and motions are usually ruled upon by the chair.

Question of Privilege - this motion relates to the comfort of the delegates or operation of the assembly.
Parliamentary Inquiry - this motion is used to ask for direction or procedure to accomplish a parliamentary maneuver.

Point of information - this motion is used to seek urgent information necessary before decisions can be made

Division of the Assembly - This requires a standing vote if the voice vote seems inconclusive. A single delegate "calls for a division" and does not need to use a microphone but must be heard. If a counted vote seems necessary, the delegate makes such a motion, which requires a second and a majority vote.

To Reconsider a Vote - This motion can be made only by a delegate who voted on the prevailing side and on the same or next day as the vote it proposes to reconsider. The motion can be moved within the time limits, although the vote on the motion may be delayed until a more appropriate time if other business is pending. This motion is usually debatable and requires a majority vote. If the motion to reconsider is adopted, the original motion is again before the delegate body as though a decision had not been reached. A vote can only be reconsidered once. Approved bylaw amendments may not be reconsidered.

The Principles of Parliamentary Law

Justice to all

Courtesy to all

One thing at a time

The rule of the majority

The rights of the minority

Notes
Samples of Courtesy Resolutions

First Example
Whereas, After 20 years of wise and diligent services in the headquarters office and in the field for The League of Women Voters, Jane Smith is retiring at the end of this convention; and
Whereas, Her patience, dependability, and dedication have endeared her to all who have worked with her; and
Whereas, She has been the source of information for programs of the League for all of us; therefore.
Be it resolved, That the League of Women Voters hereby publicly thank our friend and employee, Jane Smith, for her many worthwhile contributions to the League.

Second Example
Whereas, The League of Women Voters has held a most successful convention; and
Whereas, The success of this convention has been brought about by careful planning and effective execution by our officers, committee chairmen, and hostess clubs; therefore
Be it resolved, That this convention go on record as expressing its sincere appreciation to the officers, committee chairmen, and the hostess clubs for making this convention a most educational and rewarding experience.
Plenary Session – Saturday, April 30, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order

LWV-VA President Olga Hernandez called to order the 35th LWV-VA Convention at 9:00 a.m. in the Allegheny Conference Room of the Hilton Garden Inn, 900 Plantation Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. The theme of the 2011 Convention was “Homegrown in Virginia – Our Local Leagues.”

Introductions and Recognitions

President Hernandez introduced Lynn Gordon as State Convention Chair; thanked the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC) for hosting the Convention and introduced Local Arrangements Co-chairs Mary Houska and Nancy Warren. (Nancy replaced LWV-VA board member and LWVMC member Karen Cronin who passed away unexpectedly in February, 2011.) President Hernandez introduced Blacksburg Mayor, The Honorable Ron Rordam, who welcomed the attendees to Blacksburg and expressed appreciation for the work of the LWV.

State Convention Chair and LWV-VA 1st Vice President Lynn Gordon recognized the 2011 Convention Committee of Mary Houska, Nancy Warren, Molly McClenon, Anne Sterling, Carla Wylie and Sherry Zachry.

Local Arrangements Co-chairs Mary Houska and Nancy Warren recognized the local convention volunteers present, saying that a total of 30 people were recruited to help with the Convention.

President Hernandez introduced Lulu Meese as the Parliamentarian for Convention, remarking that Lulu had been LWV-VA President for three different terms.

LWV-VA 2nd Vice President and Legislative Coordinator Anne Sterling introduced the state League board members present; and welcomed special guest LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara to the Convention.

Roll Call of the Leagues:

Lynn Gordon led the Roll Call of the Leagues; the President or her representative gave a brief summary of her League or MAL Unit and the number of delegates attending Convention. The following spoke (copy of remarks are attached to these minutes):

- Alexandria LWV (LWVA): President Katy Cannady and one delegate
- Charlottesville/Albemarle LWV (LWVCA) – President Pat Hurst
- Fairfax Area LWV (LWVFA) – President Janey George and eight delegates
- Falls Church LWV (LWVFC) – President Ellen Salsbury and three delegates
- Fluvanna County LWV (LWVFL) – President Frances Schutz and one delegate
- Loudoun County LWV (LWVLC) – Co-President Carla Wylie and one delegate
- Lynchburg LWV (LWVL) – Sandy Knodel (for the President)
- Montgomery County LWV (LWVMC) – President Mary Houska and three delegates
- Prince William Area MAL Unit (PWA MAL) – President Joyce Ard and one delegate
- Richmond Metro Area LWV (LWVRA) – President Virginia Cowles and three delegates
- South Hampton Roads LWV (LWVSR) – Virginia Armstrong (for the President) and two delegates
- Virginia Peninsula MAL Unit (VP MAL) – President Carole Garrison
Williamsburg Area LWV (LWVWA) – Doris Tillman (for the President who arrived later) and three delegates
Arlington LWV (LWVAR) and Washington County MAL Unit (WC MAL) did not send representatives.

Appointment of Committees

Committees were appointed as follows:

Credentials Committee: Sue Worden (Chair), Carol Noggle, Kaye Tice
Resolutions: Lynn Johnston (Chair), Rona Ackerman, Carole Garrison
[deadline for proposed resolutions was 10:00 p.m. Saturday]
Elections: Katy Cannady (Chair), Lois Page, Sheila School

Announcements will be handled by Lynn Gordon.

Reading Committee for the 2011 Convention Minutes: Marianne Feeney (LWVRMA), Vivian Page (LWVSHR), Doris Tillman (LWVWA)

Credentials Report

Chair Sue Worden reported that at 9:25 a.m. 36 delegates, 9 state board members, 11 Leagues and 2 MAL Units were present; thus establishing a quorum (30% of 66 possible delegates from eight local Leagues as required in the LWV-VA Bylaws) of at least 20 delegates from at least eight Leagues.

Adopt Rules and Procedures of Convention

Sherry Zachry moved adoption of the Proposed Rules and Procedures as listed on pages 4 - 5 of the LWV-VA 2011 Convention Workbook (hereinafter named “Convention Workbook” and made a part of these minutes); motion passed.

Adopt Order of Business

President Hernandez noted a correction in the Proposed Order of Business for Saturday Plenary Session – date of Proposed LWV-VA EF Budget should be 2011-12 [not 2009-10]. Joyce Ard moved adoption of the amended Proposed Order of Business shown on pages 6 – 8 of the Convention Workbook; motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Therese Martin presented the Third Quarter Report of LWV-VA Operating Fund (OF) FY 2010-11 (copy of Report attached), saying that the current view was “relatively bright and cheery.” Martin also noted that the balance of $69,501.38, as of 3/31/2011, was twice as much as four years ago due to every League paying its PMP (per-member-payment) in full for four years, the generosity of our members, bequests for publications such as the biennial Legislative Directory and recent grant monies received from LWVUS for voter protection and redistricting.

Presentation of the Nominees for 2011-2013

Mary Houska read the Slate of Nominees for Officers and Directors of LWV-VA for 2011-2013 as shown on page 23 of the Convention Workbook (Nominating Committee Report). President Hernandez asked for nominations from the floor; Dianne Blais (LWVFA) volunteered to fill the vacancy for second nominating committee member. Sherry Zachry moved nominations from floor be closed; motion passed.

Presentation of Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Bylaws Committee Chair Sue Lewis outlined four proposed amendments to the LWV-VA Bylaws, as shown on pages 53 – 54 of the Convention Workbook, as follows: 1) remove “honorary” from name of 50-year life members as required by LWVUS Bylaws; 2) add language to specify that at least two board meetings must occur in person annually [not virtually]; 3) change base delegate representation from local Leagues and MAL Units for future LWV-VA and LWVUS conventions to two delegates [rather than one] to give more representation to smaller Leagues; and 4) add the term “task force” as a recognized entity to make program planning recommendations [in addition to a study committee]. There were questions regarding the increased delegate proposal and what constitutes a “task force.”
Presentation of Proposed LWV-VA Operating Fund Budget FY 2011-12

Budget Chair Madalyn Cafruny reviewed the proposed budget as shown on pages 19 – 20 of the Convention Workbook, noting that there has been no PMP increase to local Leagues for ten years and none was being proposed in this budget (PMP is $15); that with an all-volunteer board, only direct costs related to the portfolio are budgeted; and that the budget is designed to fulfill the League mission as that mission expands. Changes from previous budgets were that the percentage of administrative costs charged to the LWV-VA Education Fund budget was increased to 20% (from 10%), increased support for the Women’s Legislative Roundtable (WRT), increase in board meeting expenses as the home location of the president, and thus the LWV-VA office, changes with a newly elected board. However, Cafruny pointed out that the potential cost for a paid administrative position was saved because Carla Wylie agreed to perform the administrative tasks as an unpaid board director.

Presentation of the Proposed LWV-VA Education Fund (EF) 2011-12 Budget

Treasurer Therese Martin outlined the proposed FY2011-12 LWV-VA EF Budget as shown on page 21 of the Convention Workbook, noting that this budget is officially adopted by the LWV-VA EF Trustees [Board] after convention (see note in Convention Workbook in Order of Business). Responding to questions from Virginia Cowles and Flo Marks about uses of EF money, Martin explained that according to IRS guidelines, 501(c)3 organizations, such as the LWV-VA Ed Fund, can use funds to advocate for League positions as long it does not support or oppose any specific legislative proposals. This means that educating the public about election laws and voting procedures or the results of decennial redistricting can be funded by EF money, such as the PAVP (Public Advocacy for Voter Protection) and Redistricting EF Grants that LWV-VA received from LWVEF. LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara informed the convention that “educating the public” about an issue on which the LWV has a position is not “lobbying” which implies specific legislation and which cannot be funded with 501(c)3 money [i.e., Education Fund money]. Ellen Salsbury asked about forming a local League Education Fund and was advised to check with the LWVUS about setting up an EF for her local LWV since there are procedures already in place for that purpose under the auspices of the LWVEF.

Presentation of Recommended Program for 2011-13

Program Director Molly McClenon moved adoption of the Recommended Program for 2011-13 as outlined on page 31 of the Convention Workbook [that all LWV-VA positions contained in Positioned for Action be reviewed and edited for consistency, clarity and timeliness] and that all current positions be re-adopted. McClenon noted that the process for this undertaking is further explained on pages 31 – 32, including a grid showing results of local League feedback on program planning, and encouraged everyone to attend a caucus on the recommended program on Saturday night after the Banquet.

Presentation of Not- Recommended Program for 2011-13

Molly McClenon noted the items listed on page 31 of the Convention Workbook that were suggested, but not recommended by the LWV-VA board. Someone asked why the item on governor’s term was not recommended; McClenon said there was not widespread interest in the topic statewide. No not-recommended items were moved by the delegates.

Remarks by President on the Health of the League

President Olga Hernandez noted that the LWV-VA is in good financial shape, thanks to successful fundraising initiatives from our members and with careful stewardship of the board as she ends her second term as president. She mentioned the declining membership at all levels of the League and the need for more leaders, as well as the need for local Leagues to be more involved in the community to accomplish LWV-VA goals. She encouraged people to serve as a leader when asked. She thanked everyone for their support and help in making the LWV-VA the vibrant organization it is today. Further remarks were made on Sunday in her closing address.

Announcements

Lynn Gordon made the following announcements:

- All resolutions should be given to one of the committee members or put under Carol Garrison’s
door in room 301 by 10:00 p.m. Saturday.
• Program caucus will be after the Banquet in the banquet room at 9:30 p.m.
• Retrieve reserved box lunches at the registration table; see Nancy Warren.
• Afternoon schedule of Membership Recruitment Initiative introductions and announcements will begin at 2:00 p.m. in same room; followed by Redistricting Panel Discussion at 2:30 p.m. and Voters Service Exchange (Workshop) at 3:45 p.m.
• Reception and cash bar will be in hall outside Banquet from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
• Banquet to be held in same room as Plenary at 7:00 p.m., featured speaker Elisabeth MacNamara and entertainment by Lucy Goldberg and David Scheim.
• List of Convention delegates and attendees will be distributed on Sunday.

Recess:
The Saturday, April 30, 2011 Plenary Session was recessed at 12:00 noon.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Workshop on Nonpartisanship and Election 2012

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara presented information and conducted a discussion with convention attendees on the subject of the LWV maintaining its nonpartisan standing while engaging and informing the community about issues and candidates in the increasingly polarized and mis-informed environment that exists in the nation today. MacNamara quoted LWV founder Carrie Chapman Catt who said that the LWV must “make democracy safe for the world” and noted that the League has been doing that for 90 years and it is up to us to carry on the fight. MacNamara said that we should correct the definition/perception of nonpartisan from “non-thinking” to being an “informed” participant in the democratic process.

MacNamara also talked about recent problems that Leagues have faced while trying to hold debates and candidates’ events, giving suggestions for being “proactive” to potential issues that could arise. Convention delegates also shared some of their solutions. Encouraging us to get out there and not be afraid of making waves, MacNamara said that the national LWV office staff and board is there to help us with tools and advice for carrying on the mission of the LWV to educate and inform.

Plenary Session – Sunday, May 1, 2011

Call to Order
President Hernandez called the Sunday Plenary Session to order at 10:15 a.m. on May 1, 2011 in the same room as Saturday’s session.

Credentials Report
Sue Worden reported 37 delegates, nine state board members, 11 local LWVs and 2 MAL Units present at 10:20 a.m.

Adoption of Bylaws Amendments
The four proposed LWV-VA Bylaws Amendments were approved as written on pages 53 – 54 by votes of the delegates as follows: 1st Amendment – one opposed; 2nd - unanimous; 3rd – one opposed; 4th – unanimous.

Adoption of 2011-12 Operating Fund Budget
The LWV-VA OF Budget for FY2011-12 was approved as presented on pages 19 - 20 by unanimous vote.

Adoption of LWV-VA Program 2011-13, recommended and not-recommended
The current positions as written in LWV-VA Positioned For Action [included in the Convention Workbook on pages 35 - 52] were re-adopted by unanimous vote, with the substitution of 2011 updated position on Election Laws, as result of the 2009-2011 update/study on election laws in Virginia. Copy of 2011 Election Laws Position is attached and made a part of the 2011 Positioned
For Action document.
The Recommended Program for 2011-13 on page 31 was approved as written by unanimous vote. There were no not-recommended items.

Report of the Resolutions Committee
Chair Lynn Johnston gave the following report on Resolutions accepted and rejected and read each resolution to the convention. (Copies of all Resolutions are attached to these minutes.)

Ruled Out of Order:
• Action Resolution from Kaye Tice, LWVSHR, requesting that LWV-VA support additional specific restrictions on gun registration and background checks in Virginia. Resolution was ruled out of order because it expanded the current LWVUS position on gun control [which LWV-VA uses] beyond its intent; in order for LWV-VA to support additional restrictions, a new position covering those restrictions would have to be approved through the LWV-VA program planning process. It was suggested that the resolution be turned into “guidance to the board” and that the topic be re-introduced through the next program planning cycle, either by consensus or concurrence with a local League position.

Accepted and Approved:
• Courtesy Resolution thanking Therese Martin, outgoing Treasurer, for her four years of service.
• Courtesy Resolution in memory of Karen Cronin who died in February, 2011.
• Convention Workbook also was dedicated to Karen.
• Courtesy Resolution thanking the LWV of Montgomery County for hosting the 35th LWV-VA Convention in Blacksburg.
• Courtesy Resolution thanking Lulu Meese for serving as Parliamentarian for this convention.
• Courtesy Resolution thanking Olga Hernandez for her service and leadership as LWV-VA President for the past four years.
• Courtesy Resolution thanking Elisabeth MacNamara for her attendance at the entire convention, input and inspiring words given at the banquet and Sunday morning workshop.

Election of Officers and Directors
The following were elected as LWV-VA Officers and Directors for 2011-2013:

Officers
President Lynn Gordon (MAL)
1st Vice President Anne Sterling (LWVRMA)
2nd Vice President Sue Lewis (LWVC/A)
Secretary Sherry Zachry (LWVFA)
Treasurer Hatsy Cutshall (LWVLC)

Directors
Flo Marks (LWVFL) [recommended for Voter Editor]
Betsy Mayr (LWVLC) [recommended for Voters Service]
Molly McClennon (LWVLY) [recommended for Event Planner]
Carol Noggle (PWA MAL) [recommended for Associate Legislative Coordinator]
Vivian Paige (LWVSHR) [recommended for Technology]
Carla Wiley (LWVLC) [recommended for Administrative]

2013 Nominating Committee
Mary Houska, Chair (LWVMC)
Madalyn Cafruny (LWVFC)
Dianne Blais (LWVFA)
Address by President-Elect

President-Elect Lynn Gordon thanked the delegates for the chance to serve as LWV-VA President and outlined some of her goals for the next two years, including continuing the recognition the LWV-VA has earned in the areas of election laws and better redistricting process in Virginia, the Women’s Legislative Roundtable and making our voice heard on issues of importance to the League. She offered some potential new initiatives such as increasing organizational growth and leadership, expanding fundraising and development opportunities, increasing League’s influence in Richmond through “issue committees” that will follow legislation, seeking more League representation on boards and commissions in Virginia and increased participation in coalitions of like-minded organizations (copy of complete speech attached).

Guidance to the New Board

Four Delegates gave guidance to the new board and many more submitted written guidance. All guidance is compiled in a separate document attached to these minutes (copies of written forms are also attached).

President’s Remarks

President Olga Hernandez began her remarks with a special thank you to Anne Sterling, her husband Kier, and all the husbands, including her own, who have supported the work of the League in so many ways. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as president over the past four years.

Remarking that she has traveled the state many times and her car has the mileage to prove it, Olga recounted advances made by LWV-VA in the use of technology, including a presence on Facebook, a very up-to-date website maintained by Sheryl Wolfe and an online Virginia Voter.

Other accomplishments included a revamped Legislative Directory; producing a publication called Virginia Women and The Vote: 1909 - 2009 covering the 100-year history of LWV-VA that evolved from the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia established in 1909; the 2009 televised Gubernatorial Debate; moderating the Women’s Legislative Roundtable every Wednesday during the General Assembly and League’s continued presence in Richmond; her involvement with the State Board of Elections Task Force on Residency; and LWV-VA’s increased emphasis on reforming the redistricting process in Virginia through which League gained recognition by participating in many public hearings, discussion panels and hosting an event for the winners of the Virginia Redistricting Map Competition in March 2011.

Olga thanked everyone for the many gifts, flowers and tributes given to her during this Convention, at the banquet and today (copy of complete speech is attached to these minutes).

Announcements

Lynn Gordon announced the following:
• Give voting cards to Sue Worden, name badge holders and evaluation forms to Carla Wylie.
• A press release about convention will be sent to local Leagues in the next few days.
• A short meeting of the newly elected board will be held at 12:30 p.m. in convention room.

Adjourn:
The Plenary Session of LWV-VA 35th Convention was adjourned at 11:55 p.m., May 1, 2011.
Guidance to the new Board May 1, 2011 (next page)

Supporting documents:
Treasurer’s Report for 3rd Quarter FY2010-11 LWV-VA OF
Roll Call of Leagues’ remarks by individual Leagues
Resolutions, Action and Courtesy
Guidance to the Board forms
President-Elect’s speech
President’s speech

Other handouts, flyers not included in Workbook:

- “Growing the League for a Stronger Democracy” – flyer on membership and leadership growth program (based on the Membership Recruitment Initiative)
- Redistricting Panel biographies of The Honorable J. Samuel Johnston; Sophie Huemer; Anne Whitesell, and Christian Trejbal.
- “Try Vote411 in 2011” – information about Vote411.org for Voters Service Exchange/Workshop
- “The LWV of Virginia Needs Your Help in...Putting our New Elections Laws Positions to Work” – soliciting volunteers to carry out goals of the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project over the next two years with funds received from LWVUS pass-through grant.
- List of convention attendees and participants
Regarding LWV-VA Action, Action Resolutions and Convention

- **Lois Page – LWV of Fairfax Area** (LWVFA) – Topic: ACTION RESOLUTION: I urge the board to clarify the guidelines for an action proposal [resolution]. How they should be worded, any restrictions in scope, what is the purpose? Also include in the Convention packet an example of an “action proposal.”

- **Kaye Tice – LWV of South Hampton Roads** (LWVSHR) – Topic: FIREARMS REGULATION & LWV PROCESS: 1) It is clear to me from the response received from participants representing a variety of local Leagues that there is interest in expediting in whatever (legal) way that would produce local and a state League position on firearms regulation. 2) If we hope to reach out successfully to a younger demographic, we will be well served to find ways to streamline some processes that may have been necessary over the past 90 years, but do not serve us well as we try to grow and move the League (local/state) into the future.

- **Carole Garrison – Virginia Peninsula Members-at-Large Unit** (VA Peninsula MAL) – Topic: ACTION RESOLUTIONS: I think the board needs to more clearly define roles and options for Leagues to make action resolutions. The resolution also needs clearly written guidance from the board. You cannot follow guidelines if you do not have them.

- **Carole Garrison – VA Peninsula MAL** – Topic: PREDATORY LENDING: I urge the LWV-VA board to support action to prevent further exploitive predatory lending practices in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including but not limited to: 1) Enactment of an annual interest rate cap of 36% for any consumer loans made in the Commonwealth; 2) Prohibition of the use of a personal check or other method by a creditor to gain access to a consumer’s bank account or method to gain title to a consumer’s motor vehicle as collateral for a payday loan; and 3) Elimination of non-purchase money lending from the open-end credit statute.

Regarding Outreach and Workshops

- **Laura P. Graham – LWV of Richmond Metro Area** (LWVRMA) – Topic: OUTREACH TO UNIVERSITIES: I urge the board to target outreach through the universities’ Political Science, Anthropology, Social Services Departments, sororities, volunteer and intern programs that require service hours; all might respond well to presentations that conclude with an invitation to participate in near future summer events.

- **Mary Crutchfield – LWVRMA** – Topics: WORKSHOPS ON TECHNOLOGY AND ATTRACTING YOUNGER MEMBERS: 1) Workshop on how to use modern technology in order to achieve League goals more efficiently and faster; 2) Workshop or training session on how to attract younger members and more members; and 3) Would like to work on Task Force for “Natural Resources.” (email: MaryCrutchfield@verizon.net)

Regarding LWV-VA Program and Process:

- **Lillian J. White – LWV of Alexandria** (LWVA)– Topic: TASK FORCE: Explain the meaning of, and process for, a “Task Force” and put it in writing. What is a task force and what does it constitute? What is the difference between a study committee and a task force?

- **Hatsy Cutshall – LWV of Loudoun County** (LWVLC) – Topic: WORKSHOPS & PROGRAM PROCESS: Rerun Workshops on process for bringing issues to a VA state position – teach us what caucus means at Convention. I like that we’ve heard that we must continue to move toward electronic communication and social media as an important means of membership action – recruitment. RE Positions Review: Would like to work on water supply and distribution/infrastructure financing.

- **Mary Houska/Meghan Dorsett – LWV of Montgomery County** (LWVMC) – Topic:
PROGRAM: Meghan Dorsett, an LWVMC member who is a professional planner, says that the section of LWV-VA Program [Positioned For Action] on planning (Land Use) needs to be updated.

- **Janet Hahn** – LWVMC – Topic: HOW LEAGUE WORKS: In order to recruit and retain new members, guidance is needed on: 1) how the state and national Leagues work; including how to get things accomplished (example, what are roundtables and (?)formation(?) [unreadable]); 2) easily accessible info on current position of national (LWVUS) and state (LWV-VA) Leagues so that local Leagues can include them.

- **Anonymous Volunteer** from LWVMC – Topic: UPDATING POSITIONS ON REGIONAL PLANNING: Update Policies and Positions, especially those dealing with local and regional planning in state policy statements. Too many of our policies and positions still reflect positions adopted in the 1970s.

**Regarding Voters Service:**

- **Ellen Salsbury** – LWV of Falls Church (LWVFC) – Topic: VOTE411 AND INSURANCE: 1) Give specific information to local Leagues on partnerships between newspapers and Vote411.org. 2) Give information on liability insurance for all League boards.

**Miscellaneous**

- **Anne Sterling** – LWV-VA Board and LWV of Richmond Metro Area (LWVRMA) – Topic: SUPPORTING LWVUS INITIATIVES: The state Leagues of Maryland and Virginia should be the first line of support for LWVUS initiatives; encourage a special relationship between LWV-VA and LWVUS.
A proposed budget for the LWV-VA operating fund for fiscal year 2013-14 is attached for your consideration. The budget envisions total operating expenses of $57,800, financed by revenues of $54,950 and a withdrawal from reserves of $3,000.

The proposed budget keeps the PMP at $15 and the dues paid by member-at-large (MAL) units for their members at $46. The MAL dues include $15 per member plus the $31 that the LWV-VA must pay in PMP to the LWVUS for its members at large.

This budget continues the initiatives begun in the 2012-13 fiscal year. Paid staff will continue to be used to reduce the amounts of time that Board members and volunteers were formerly required to give to League activities. Those positions include a bookkeeper to assist the Treasurer, an office assistant to work on special projects such as directories, and a legislative assistant/lobbyist to provide support to our Legislative Coordinator. The mileage reimbursement for travel is kept at $0.40 per mile in order to better reflect travel costs. Board members are given free registration for Workshops, Conventions and Councils.

Our proposals reflect our belief that local Leagues should be encouraged to participate in statewide activities such as Workshops, the Women’s Legislative Roundtable (WLRT), and League Lobby Day. The budget provides funds to support these activities and in particular, funds are budgeted to pay for hotel rooms for local League members to encourage attendance at WLRT sessions.

To help finance these initiatives, this budget allocates $10,000 toward fundraising event expenses and assumes revenues of $20,000 from these events, a net gain of $10,000.

Respectfully submitted by the Budget Committee.

*Bill Thomas (LWVFA), Chair*
*Penelope Anderson (LWVRMA)*
*Shirley White (PWA MAL)*
### League of Women Voters of Virginia Operating Fund: Budget for FY 2013-2014

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<th>Actual 2010-11</th>
<th>Budget 2011-12</th>
<th>Budget 2012-13</th>
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<td>Budget 2011-12</td>
<td>Budget 2012-13</td>
<td>As of 1/31/2013</td>
<td>Budget 2013-14</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAL PMP TO LWVUS @ $31</strong></td>
<td>1,693</td>
<td>1,935</td>
<td>2,372</td>
<td>2,172</td>
<td>2,355</td>
<td>(Note 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meetings (LVV)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVV-VA Convention/Council</td>
<td>4,672</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td></td>
<td>Council in 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVV-VA Workshops</td>
<td>1,559</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>2,542</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>Assumed equal to income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVVUS Convention/Council</td>
<td>1,505</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td></td>
<td>Convention in 2014 (3 delegates @1300)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>7,736</td>
<td>6,600</td>
<td>10,400</td>
<td>2,542</td>
<td>8,400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Position Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Coordination &amp; Expenses</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>550</td>
<td></td>
<td>Incl travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy Activities</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coalition Support and Meetings</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>Coalition memberships &amp; meeting travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>League Day at Gen'l Assembly</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>350</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Assistant/lobbyist</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Note 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobby Expenses</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Publications</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
<td>Position booklet; Positions in Brief (Note 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's Roundtable Meetings</td>
<td>906</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3,827</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRT Pre-session Lunch</td>
<td>2,303</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>2,130</td>
<td>2,200</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>5,104</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>13,600</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>11,400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Voter &amp; Other Publications</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulk Mail Postage (via Deposit)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
<td>With printer/mailler in NOVA (Note 13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>1,441</td>
<td>1,625</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>1,700</td>
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<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
<td>251</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>27,169</td>
<td>33,100</td>
<td>70,767</td>
<td>26,813</td>
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<td>Net Operating Income</td>
<td>5,792</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>4,213</td>
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<td>-76</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>Transfer to Reserves</td>
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<td>4,213</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<td><strong>NET FUNDS</strong></td>
<td>625</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: Budget for 2011-12 is shown rather than actuals: financial reports for 2011-12 do not use categories that can be matched with categories used for the budget for that year.

Note 2: MAL Dues for 88 persons: 69 full @ $46 +14 half @ $23 + 5 unaff. @ $50

Note 3: PMP @ $15: 975 local LWV members: (823 are full, 114 pay half, 38 lifetime pay none)

Note 4: Assumes 40 attendees @ $50

Note 5: September Workshop: 54 attendees @ $50

Note 6: WRT Pre-session Lunch: 70 people @ $35

Note 7: Transfer from LWV-VA Ed Fund: Based on 20% of Expenses Office Operations and Board & Admin

Note 8: Bookkeeper: $20/hr @ 10hr/mo

Note 9: Office Assistant: $13/hr @ 15 hrs/mo

Note 10: LWV-VA MAL PMP TO LWVUS for 83 members 69 full @ $31 +14 half @ $15.50

Note 11: Legislative Assistant: $30/hr for 10 hrs/wk throughout session

Note 12: Includes funds to provide a room for local LWV members who attend (1st come, 1st served)

Note 13: Voter Printing: 3 issues (printing 400 copies/issue - $500)
The following nominations for LWV-VA Board are submitted for League member consideration and approval during the LWV-VA 2013 State Convention:

**Officers:**

**President**
Anne Sterling (LWV of Richmond Metropolitan Area)

**1st Vice President**
Sue Lewis (LWV of Charlottesville Area)

**2nd Vice President**
Linda Rice (LWV of Williamsburg Area)

**Secretary**
Margaret Hardy (LWV of Richmond Metropolitan Area)

**Treasurer**
Elaine Head (LWV of Montgomery County)

**Directors**

Brenda Carswell (MAL of Prince William Area)
Carol Noggle (MAL of Prince William Area)
Sue Worden (LWV of Alexandria)
Lois Page (LWV of Fairfax Area)*
Olga Hernandez (LWV of Fairfax Area)

*Lois Page's husband, Ron, is an off-Board co-editor for the Virginia Voter.

**Nominating Committee**

Mary Houska, Chair, LWV of Montgomery County
Dianne Blais, LWV of Fairfax Area
Ellen Salsbury, LWV of Falls Church
Biographies of Nominees for Office, 2013-2015
Recommended as Officers and Directors for the 2013-2015 Biennium

Officers

President: Anne Sterling

A thirty-year member of the League, Anne first joined the Harford County LWV in Maryland. She also became president of the Bel Air Middle School PTA. Going from four to 18 board members, that group won the Child Advocate Award, catapulting Anne to the county school board— and later its presidency. The year after winning a second term, Anne followed her husband’s job to Richmond, where she instantly joined LWV. Soon she also became Chair of the Virginia Women’s Network, lobbying for them at the General Assembly— later moving to become lobbyist for AAUW of Virginia. Then, Lulu Meese asked Anne to represent the League at the GA— Anne’s favorite LWV job— entailing six years on the State Board. Along the way, she has also served as President of the International Association of Torch Clubs, and President of the American Library Trustees Association. Locally, she served for a dozen years on the county library board— and now serves on the Henrico Advisory Commission for Parks and Recreation. Anne and Keir have three grown sons, three valued daughters-in-law— and five grandchildren. Of this bunch, she says “We are all crazy wild readers. . .”

1st Vice President: Sue Lewis

League member since 1967 (joined in Arkansas), retired Financial Advisor (UBS, PaineWebber and A. G. Edwards). LWV State Board in Arkansas and Virginia (Action Director 2009-2011, Membership Director 2011-2013); State Coordinator for LWVUS MLD (Membership and Leadership Development) program; past local league President, (LWV-Charlottesville/Albemarle County and Camden, Arkansas); League interests include Membership & Organization, Voter Service, Budgets, By-laws, Education and Women’s Issues. Former Charlottesville Planning Commission chair; Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership fellow, graduate of the Leadership Charlottesville program, JABA board, active member of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, member of several United Methodist Church boards.

2nd Vice President: Linda Rice

Linda Rice has been a Director on the LWV-VA Board since 2011; she has been responsible for Program. Linda has served as a Director on the Williamsburg League of Women Voters Board since 2010. Linda is a member of the Executive Board of the Virginia Conservation Network. Other activities include: President, Friends of Forge Road and Toano, James City County Citizens Coalition. She worked for 16 years as an Environmental Scientist for the US Army. She also worked for James City County as a management analyst and taught biology at Keoughntan High School and Thomas Nelson Community College. She has earned a B.A. in biology from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey and an M.A. in biology from the College of William and Mary. She was recognized in 2001 with awards from the Secretary of Defense and the White House Office of the Federal Executive for her efforts in pollution prevention. She is married and has lived in the Williamsburg area for over 40 years.
Secretary: Margaret Hardy
Margaret Hardy is a member of the LWV-Richmond Metropolitan Area and is an active member of the Voter Services Committee of that League. She has served as Secretary of the LWV-VA since July 2012, when she assumed the position after Sherry Zachary stepped down. Margaret is an attorney with the law firm of Sands Anderson PC and practices in the firm’s Richmond and Fredericksburg offices. She is also a registered nurse. Prior to law school, Margaret practiced as a nurse for a number of years, primarily in the areas of psychiatry and substance abuse treatment.

Treasurer: Elaine Head
Elaine is currently serving as Treasurer for LWV-VA and Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, VA. She grew up in Minnesota, graduated from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, MN with a BA degree in Elementary Education. She taught 3rd and 4th grade in St. Paul until she started a family and thought she would never again take outside employment. She and her husband and two children moved to Virginia in 1975. She joined the League in 1977 and actively served in various capacities. She took a position as Executive Vice President of the New River Valley Association of REALTORS in 1980 and recently retired as CEO after 30 years. She is an avid sports fan of football and basketball, loves to read, and has 6 wonderful grandchildren.

Directors:
Brenda Carswell
Brenda Lee grew up in Washington D.C; now lives in Occoquan, Va has one son who lives in Woodbridge, Va. She is a member of First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, Va., where she participates in the Women’s and Senior’s Ministries. She was employed at the United States Patent and Trademark Office for 37 years, retiring in 2006 as a senior Contracting Officer. During her tenure she served as chairman for various diversity committees, represented the agency on committee advocating accessibility for handicap employees; served as President of Clerical Employees Union (NTEU) representing 3,000 employees. She graduated from Anacostia High School in Washington, D.C., graduated from Strayer University, and completed Graduate Certificate Program in Procurement at USDA Graduate School in Washington D.C. She enjoys her retirement by volunteering in the community and traveling. Her hobbies include attending Art Shows, Flower Shows, Opera, and decorating workshops. She has planned and coordinated a number of weddings, family reunions, workshops/meetings, and other community events.
Current Community Affiliations: League of Women Voters PWC MAL: Member and Event Planner; Prince William Committee of 100: Member, Prince William County Board of Elections: Chief Election Official Occoquan District; AARP: Member, Community Volunteer and Congressional Liaison; Blacks in Government: Life Time Member; Devil’s Reach Condominium Association: Member Board of Directors; John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Volunteer Shift Leader for Information Desk.
Olga Hernandez

Became involved in the LWV when elected to the LWVFA board in 1996. Served as LWV-VA President 2007-2011, LWVFA President 2000-05. She served as VP and Organization Director of the LWV-VA 2005-07. She is now also the LWV-VA liaison to the LWVPWA MAL unit, soon to become a full League. Olga has been working as an election officer over 25 years in the various states where she lived; that is what drew her to the League.

Olga represented the LWVFA on the Fairfax County “Bi-Partisan Election Process Improvement Commission”. Olga served on the Help America Vote Act committee for Virginia to help develop and implement the new federal law. She was appointed by the State Board of Elections to serve on the Residency Task Force in 2009. She also served on the Complete Census Count Committee of Virginia. She is the Sully District representative on the Barbara Varon award committee of Fairfax County. She is also secretary of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government.

She graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelors degree in Broadcast Journalism. She has experience in radio, public and commercial television news production and print media in various locations throughout the U.S. As a military spouse, her family resided in various states. In 1995 they moved and settled in Northern Virginia.

Carol Noggle

Residing in Gainesville, Prince William County, since 2004; previously in other parts of northern Virginia – Fairfax County and Arlington County – and many other parts of the U.S. depending on assignments made for my husband by the U.S. Marine Corps. Registered Nurse several decades ago starting at Evanston Hospital in Illinois; graduate of American University; Elementary school teacher for 10 years in Arlington County; Leader in local, state-wide, and national positions in youth equestrian group (U.S. Pony Clubs) for 30 years – received the USPC Founders’ Award in 2013. Charter member and activist in the Virginia Prostate Cancer Coalition focusing on public awareness of the importance of early cancer diagnosis. HOA officer in new community for two years.

Joined the League of Women Voters in 2009 after meeting candidates locally, visiting legislators in Richmond, attending the LWV-VA Pre-Session WRT, and observing the General Assembly in action. Served on the LWV-VA Board with the portfolio of Legislative Coordinator for one year. Chair of the Prince William Area MAL Unit from July 2011 to the present.

Proud mother of two daughters and happy grandmother of Carolyn and Jack.

Lois Page

Lois Page has been a League member in three states—Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey—before moving to Virginia in 1980, over a period of almost 50 years, with interruptions. She has served as unit chair for many years of the Fairfax Station Unit of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. She has also served on their Board for 5 years as Program Chair and three years as Secretary. Since her husband Ron has been composing the Fairfax Voter for many years, Lois has had a continuing role as consultant-without-portfolio on that endeavor.

Lois started her career as a professional journalist and later became a high school English teacher who also was an adviser to a student publication. She has been working for 9 years until this June for Prime Movers Media at The George Washington University, an intensive mentoring and support non-profit for high school journalism and media programs.
Sue Worden

Sue Worden joined the League of Women Voters in Massachusetts in 1974 where she served in several leadership positions including Voter Service for her small local league. Since moving to VA in 1985 Sue has been a member of the Fairfax County League and currently the Alexandria League. In Fairfax she served as local Action chair and in Alexandria local Voter Service Chair. She has previously served on the LWV-VA board first as Secretary and then as state Voter Service Director 2007-2010. Sue has worked on all the LWV sponsored televised debates in 2006, 2009 and 2012. She is a graduate of Tufts University.

Nominating Committee:
Mary Houska, Chair

Mary Houska has served on the Montgomery County League of Women Voters Board for 12 years, ten of them as President. She has been Chair of the LWV-VA Nominating Committee since 2011. She is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Hollins University. She is a graduate of Simmons College in Boston and is a PH. D. in Economics from M. I. T.. She and her husband have lived in Blacksburg since 1963.

Dianne Blais

Dianne has been active in the League of Women Voters (LWV) for 13 years. She has been impressed with the League’s efforts, publications and members. Dianne chaired the Redistricting Committee and served on the LWV VA state board in that capacity.

Dianne, a mother of four, was active in church, PTA, and Girl Scouts and was an emergency foster mother to 100+ children. Dianne, a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for 28 years, has held numerous positions including state co-president. She ran for state delegate of the 40th district in 2011 as an independent getting over 25% of the vote.

Ellen Salsbury

As an active LWV Falls Church member since her retirement in 2001. Ellen’s official league responsibilities have included stints as Secretary, member of the Administration Team, Liaison to LWVNCA and President. Her longest serving job (at least 10 years) has been as chair/co-chair of the annual holiday party, a fundraiser that provides funds for our programs.

In the community she has served as chair of the School Board and the Housing Commission, and as trustee of the Mary Riley Styles Public Library.

Married to Carl, a retired pediatrician, for 46 years, they have two grown sons, and at this point, no grandchildren!

Respectfully submitted by the 2011-2013 LWV-VA Nominating Committee:
Mary Houska, Chair
Dianne Blais
Sue Lewis
Madalyn Cafruny
Linda Rice
The 2011 LWV-VA Convention approved reviewing and editing all of the LWV-VA positions contained in *Positioned For Action*, 2011 edition, during the 2011-13 biennium. Three Task Forces were authorized to review and recommend edits and/or updates to the positions under the Government, Natural Resources & Social Policy categories. Specific responses from the Task Forces and from the local Leagues will be enumerated in a separate article.

The LWV-VA board considered all recommendations from the Task Forces and responses from local Leagues & MAL Units during program planning and recommends adoption at the 2013 LWV-VA Convention on June 1-2 the following proposals as LWV-VA Program for the 2013-2015 biennium.

I. Approval of simple edits to *LWV-VA Positioned For Action*

The Task Forces decided that some positions needed only simple editing for clarification, grammar and/or consistency of wording and made those edits to the positions listed in A. through C., following. The changes to the wording of the history and of the positions are shown in *italics* in the referenced documents. The LWV-VA board recommends adoption for action of the edited positions named below:

A. Government positions (Delegation of Power [Dillon’s Rule], Election Laws, Fiscal Policy, Reapportionment & Redistricting, Transportation, Women’s Rights in Virginia Law). The edited wording can be viewed on page __.

B. Natural Resources (Air Quality/Smoking in Public, Land Use, Water Supply & Distribution). The Board recommends archiving the LWV-VA Natural Resources positions because they are significantly out of date (most have been accomplished through legislation) and using LWVUS Natural Resources positions, as listed in *LWVUS Impact On Issues*, for LWV-VA advocacy or action in Virginia. If the Convention approves this recommendation, it is anticipated that the LWV-VA Natural Resources positions will be stored electronically for future reference as to member agreement from 1972 – 1992. When needing to advocate in Virginia on future environmental issues, the LWVUS Natural Resource positions can be used until such time as the LWV-VA is able to comprehensively update its own positions. (Consultation with LWVUS about applying the position in Virginia is recommended.) The current LWV-VA Natural Resources positions can be viewed on page ___. This document references the foregoing statements and contains some clarifying language.

C. Social Policy (Adult Domestic Violence, Education, Civil Rights of Felons and Mental Health positions) The edited wording for the foregoing positions can be viewed on page ___. Note that the other Social Policy positions (Child Care, Children at Risk, Justice, Juvenile/Adult Restorative Justice, Juvenile Justice) are addressed in “II. Statements recommended for concurrence.”

II. Statements and positions recommended for concurrence by the board for addition or substitution/rewording of certain positions in *LWV-VA Positioned For Action*.

The LWV-VA board recommends the following statements be adopted through the concurrence process as additions to, or rewording of, the following LWV-VA positions. These statements have been proposed by the Task Forces and/or local Leagues, as indicated, and have been approved by the board. If approved by the 2013 Convention, the reworded positions will be included in the revised *LWV-VA Positioned For Action*.

A. Social Policy- Justice, Adult/Juvenile Restorative Justice and Juveniles Concurrence: The Social Policy Task Force proposed new wording for the Justice, Adult/Juvenile Restorative Justice and Juveniles positions, combining them and renaming the new positions “Adult Justice” and “Juvenile Justice.” The Adult/Juvenile Restorative Justice positions were integrated into the two new positions. The entirely reworded “Adult Justice” and “Juvenile Justice” positions can be viewed on page ___.

B. Social Policy-Child Care Concurrence: The LWV-VA board approved the following wording to be added at the end of the Social Policy/Child Care position and recommends adoption at 2013 Convention. The entire position, with addition, can be viewed in the “Social Policy-Child Care” document on page ___.

C. Social Policy-Children At Risk Concurrence: The LWV-VA board approved the following
wording to be added as a bullet at the end of the Social Policy/Children At Risk position and recommends adoption at 2013 Convention. The entire position, with addition, can be viewed in the “Social Policy-Children At Risk” document on page ____.

D. **Government-Election Laws Concurrence:** The LWV of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) proposed the following concurrence statement to be added to the Election Laws position in the Government category. The LWV-VA board approved this concurrence and in accordance with LWV-VA Bylaws, background information has been sent by LWVFA to the local Leagues and MAL Units for consideration and vote at the 2013 LWV-VA convention. The background paper, “Concurrence on Vote Centers in Election Laws,” and text of the concurrence statement can be viewed on page ____. The LWV-VA board recommends adoption of this concurrence to be added to end of the Election Laws position.

**III. No new studies or extensive updates recommended.**

The LWV-VA board does not recommend any new studies or extensive updates for the next biennium. Although the LWV-VA Program Director and Task Forces that reviewed the Government, Natural Resources and Social Policy positions believe that many positions are out of date and thus need extensive restudying and several local Leagues suggested new studies (as well as updating some positions), currently there are insufficient resources and a lack of time and member commitment to undertake new studies or extensive updates at this time. See separate article in this *Virginia Voter* on items suggested by local Leagues.

**IV. Other suggestions/alternatives to new studies or updates.**

The LWV-VA board suggests using the LWVUS positions in *Impact On Issues* for action and advocacy for those issues on which the LWV-VA positions may be inadequate or outdated, until new studies or updates can be completed. (Consultation with LWVUS about applying the position in Virginia is recommended.) Another alternative could be to look at what other state Leagues are studying and/or positions they may have that could be applicable to issues in Virginia. Those positions could be adopted in Virginia by concurrence.

*Respectfully submitted by Linda Rice, LWV-VA Program Director.*
2013-2015 Program Planning Responses from Leagues and Task Forces

Nine Leagues and one MAL Unit participated in the program planning process for the 2013-2015 LWV-VA biennium. The Task Forces (Government, Natural Resources and Social Policy) also gave recommendations in regard to major expansion (restudy/update), minor expansion (editorial edits for consistency, clarity and grammar), no change, or elimination of the current positions as listed in the 2011 edition of LWV-VA’s Positioned For Action.

Responses from the task forces and local Leagues regarding LWV-VA current positions are shown in Summary of Responses by Position Title, listed by individual positions. Summarizing the votes for major/minor expansion, positions receiving total votes, in descending order, are as follows:

6  Mental Health, Justice Positions;
5  Women’s Rights;
4  Adult Domestic Violence, Water Supply;
3  Child Care, Children at Risk, Education, Land Use;
2  Election Laws, Transportation, Air Quality, Smoking in Public, Civil Rights for Felons;
1  Delegation of Power, Fiscal Policy; and
0  Reapportionment / Redistricting.

Note: Fairfax’s concern about Uranium Mining was considered as a vote for expansion of Water Supply/Distribution.

Summary of Responses by Position Title

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position Title</th>
<th>Current-Major Expansion</th>
<th>Current-Minor Expansion</th>
<th>Current-Elimination</th>
<th>Current No Change</th>
<th>Total = Maj &amp; Minor Expansion</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Delegation of Pwr</td>
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<td>Election Laws</td>
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<td>Fiscal Policy</td>
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<td>Reapportionment / Redistricting</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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<td><strong>NATURAL RESOURCES</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking in Public</td>
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<td>Land Use</td>
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<td>Water Supply (includes Uranium Mining)</td>
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LWV-VA Government Positions, 2013

Delegation of Power [Dillon’s Rule], Election Laws, Fiscal Policy, Reapportionment & Redistricting, Transportation, Women’s Rights in Virginia Law

Note to 2013 Convention attendees:
The Government Task Force decided that Government positions needed only simple editing for clarification, grammar and/or consistency of wording. The proposed editorial changes to the wording of the history and the positions are shown in italics and highlights in the positions below.

The LWV-VA board recommends adoption for action of the edited Government positions as follows:

DELEGATION OF POWER [Dillon’s Rule]

Position in Brief:
Support for a balanced partnership between state and local government, including laws, policies and incentives that promote regional coordination and local action; and establishment of uniform powers and responsibilities of local governments by eliminating any out-dated and unnecessary distinctions between cities, counties and towns.

The League’s History
The General Assembly's 1968 approval of the Virginia Area Development Act established the concept of regional districts within the state. In 1971, League consensus was sought on "regional bodies" as "agencies for coordinating activities and programs of local jurisdictions" and as "instruments for solving problems which cross jurisdictional lines and for acting on them."

An update and questionnaire to determine attitudes toward planning districts around the state, distributed to local Leagues at the 1979 LWV-VA convention, resulted in League support for legislation in 1980 calling for a study of the planning district structure in Virginia. The legislation was not passed by the General Assembly.

In 1989, Convention delegates approved a two-year study of “Delegation of Power from the Virginia Legislature to the Localities”. The study highlighted the fact that Virginia operates under a strict interpretation of the so-called Dillon’s Rule which states that localities may exercise only those powers specifically granted to them by the General Assembly.

The following position resulted from combining the “Intergovernmental Relations” and “Delegation of Powers to local government” positions during the LWV-VA board’s review of the state positions during the 1999-2001 bienniums.

The League’s Position
The League of Women Voters of Virginia strongly believes that the powers and responsibilities of local government should be established and defined to achieve a more balanced partnership with state government.

Specifically, the League supports:
• The articulation of statewide authorities, goals and policies to enhance the partnership and shared responsibilities of state and local government, including regional coordination and incentives for innovative local action.

• The concept of regional bodies as agencies for coordinating activities and programs of local jurisdictions and as instruments for solving problems which cross jurisdictional boundaries and for acting
on them.
• Establishing broad categories of responsibility and uniform powers by eliminating out-dated and unnecessary distinctions between cities, counties and towns.

Additionally, the League supports use of coordinating bodies to:

Provide economies by avoiding duplication of under-utilized services where needs are region-wide and where there is agreement on the need and type of service;

• Make uniform or compatible methods of data collection available to aid planning agencies where actions of one locality have significant impact on its neighbors; and

• Benefit localities by exchanging knowledge of other jurisdictions

_The League believes that local government_ should follow similar procedures and should:

• Strive to avoid proliferation of political subdivisions;

• Ensure that the structure of governing boards is accountable and responsible to the citizenry.


ELECTION LAWS – _concurrence statement on Vote Centers proposed - see separate document: “Concurrence on Vote Centers.”_

FISCAL POLICY

Position in Brief:

Support for a responsible, state fiscal policy that includes: a flexible and diverse tax structure that is based on a progressive income tax; continuous evaluation of all programs for need, effectiveness, efficiency, and economy; flexibility in developing local sources of revenue; state commitment to funding of state-mandated programs; and opposition to constitutional or statutory limits on state/local government spending or revenue sources.

_The League’s History_

The first fiscal program item, adopted at the 1949 LWV-VA convention, called for an analysis of Virginia taxes and expenditures. The study was largely informational and resulted in a publication. In 1961, a new LWV-VA fiscal study led to a consensus in favor of income tax withholding. A continuation of this study item in 1963 resulted in additional positions in support for: a statewide minimum tax assessment ratio for all localities in order to strengthen the property tax structure; borrowing for long-term capital improvements, and a constitutional change to establish more flexible borrowing limitations.

The 1965 LWV-VA convention voted to conduct more research of the state’s fiscal policies by agreeing to a new study about the uniform, statewide sales tax. This resulted in a consensus in support of: a local option to levy additional sales taxes; a formula for distributing state revenues; the exemption of food and drugs from sales tax. After being placed on the inactive list of positions in 1966, the LWV-VA convention voted in 1971 to drop the fiscal item, except for the position in support of the exemption of food from sales tax.

In 1975, a League study and evaluation of the budget-making process and sources of revenue for the state government was adopted. The first year was devoted to an overview of state finances, including revenues, expenditures and the budget process, and a consensus was reached. The second year concentrated on an in-depth study of Virginia’s tax structure with a view to proposed changes that would make the system more equitable and revenue producing. These studies resulted in new positions being developed in January of 1977.

At the 1977 LWV-VA convention, a two-year study of state/local finances with emphasis on state/local fiscal relations was adopted which concentrated on understanding the fiscal inter-relationship and on state and local tax and spending limitations. Subsequent League legislative action concentrated on opposing limitations on taxation and expenditures, support of indexing the income tax, and supporting
localities in developing their own sources of revenue.

The League's Position

The League of Women Voters of Virginia advocates tax increases when necessary and believes that any changes in the tax structure should be progressive. The League supports continuing evaluation of all government programs for need and effectiveness, as well as for efficient and economical government operation.

Tax Structure

The League supports:

- A more progressive state income tax, with an increase in the number of income brackets and a raise in the rates in higher brackets;
- The use of progressive income taxes to meet additional revenue needs, with smaller amounts derived from a tax on soft drinks (crown tax), and an increase in the present taxes on alcoholic beverages and tobacco;
- A systematic review of earmarked funds with less reliance on long-term earmarked funds, such as revolving funds, trust funds, or for any sources of revenues designated for specific purposes;
- The designation of highway fund uses to include all means of transportation and related activities; and
- The use of general obligation bonds as needed to finance capital projects.
- Keeping the corporate income tax structure competitive with neighboring states, and opposing any increase in the sales tax unless food is excluded from the increase.

Accountability and Responsibility

The League believes that the growth of state/local government spending can be contained through positive rather than restrictive procedures. Therefore, the League is opposed to statutory or constitutional limits on state/local government spending or revenue sources.

The League believes that elected officials should be accountable for laws enacted and taxes levied and that elected representatives have a responsibility to continually evaluate all government programs to determine public needs as well as real and long range costs.

State/Local Fiscal Relationship

Since localities in Virginia have only those fiscal powers delegated to them by the state which uses a strict interpretation of Dillon's Rule, the League advocates the following changes in the state/local fiscal relationship:

- Increased commitment by the state to fund its mandated programs
- The state should set basic standards for providing services to all citizens.
- The need for mandated programs should be continuously evaluated and their true and eventual costs should be considered. There is a great variation in the economic strength of
- different sections of the state so the state itself must assume a larger share of the financial burden.
- Increased flexibility for local governments to choose the ways in which they raise revenues. Setting of minimum standards by the state should not preclude the setting of higher standards by localities willing to meet additional costs. Localities should have more freedom to decide how to raise the money for these costs.
- Increased standardization of assessment procedures by the state as well as regulation of local tax administration with allowances for local control to respond to local conditions.
- Increased protection of the local tax base. Exemptions from the property tax should be kept to a minimum, with service charges being imposed whenever practical. Relief given to special classes of taxpayers should be confined to those truly in need; the decision to offer such relief should be at
local discretion.


REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING

Position in Brief:
Support for a decennial redistricting plan approved by the General Assembly, including establishment of a bipartisan commission to prepare a plan for legislative approval, and consideration of natural geographic boundaries, jurisdictional boundaries, communities of interest, and competitiveness in addition to the constitutional requirements.

The League's History

Reapportionment and redistricting are an integral part of our system of representative government. As a result of the problems encountered in the reapportionment and redistricting process in Virginia in 1981, the League adopted a study at its convention in 1983 on the methods and criteria for redistricting.

Members agreed that a reapportionment commission should be established to prepare a plan for legislative approval because such a commission could be objective, devote its full attention to the task, and expedite the redistricting process. The criterion of competitiveness was added in 2007 after an update to this position was adopted as a two-year study at LWV-VA convention in 2005.

The League's Position

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports 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 bi-partisan 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 Voting Rights Act requirements 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 League believes that the Virginia Constitution should be amended to provide that redistricting will occur on a decennial basis only. (1985, 2007)

TRANSPORTATION

Position in Brief:
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, coordinate, 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 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; and the use of a variety of incentives to increase the use of public transportation.

The League's History

In May of 1995, the LWV-VA convention delegates voted to approve the League of Women Voters of the
Richmond Metropolitan Area’s request for concurrence by local Leagues with its transportation position. The position was reached after study of mass transit focused on the Richmond Metropolitan Area in 1987. In August 1995, a copy of the original study, plus material on legislation at the national and state level, that had been enacted since the study, including the 1991 federal transportation law, the Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), was sent to all local Leagues in Virginia. Twelve local Leagues concurred by the end of 1995.

2013 Note: Task Force recommends including Land Use concepts such as transit oriented development (TOD) and other planning practices as they relate to transportation when this position is updated.

The League’s Position

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports regionally balanced transportation systems which efficiently and economically meet regional needs without adversely affecting planned growth of the environment.

The League supports:

• Regional organizations that set policy for a multi-modal public transportation program, that plan, coordinate, 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.

• The use of a variety of incentives to increase the use of public transportation. (1996)

WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN VIRGINIA LAW

Position in Brief:

Support for the legal recognition of marriage as an equal partnership, including policies that recognize non-monetary as well as monetary contributions to a marriage by each partner;

surviving spouse policies that specify that if one spouse dies without a will, the surviving spouse should inherit all property; divorce policies that recognize separately acquired property before marriage and during marriage through gifts or inheritance; elimination of the concept of “fault” in the court’s division of marital property; and legal recognition of valid pre-nuptial contracts.

The League’s History

A study of women’s rights and Virginia law, adopted by a large majority at the 1979 LWV-VA convention, through the not-recommended program process, was an outgrowth of interest in the Equal Rights Amendment and legal rights seminars held statewide by local Leagues the preceding year. The 1981 convention expanded the study to include divorce laws in Virginia because at that time, Virginia laws governing women’s rights in the event of death of the husband or divorce were disadvantageous to women in the state. This position was moved from the “Social Policy” category when the LWV-VA positions were reviewed and reorganized in the 1999-2001 biennium.

Since 1981, many of the League’s recommendations outlined in this position have been accomplished through legislation. In 2012, society’s definition of marriage, divorce and property rights has expanded to encompass the definition of marriage and civil unions between same-sex couples, alimony for the partner earning less money (whether male or female), inheritance for children of previous marriages, etc. Notwithstanding Virginia amending its constitution to ban same-sex marriages in the Commonwealth in 2006 and the effort nationally to limit marriage to those between a man and a woman by passing an act called the “Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA),” the League recognizes that the intent of its earlier positions have been accomplished and the item should be expanded to include a review of current trends.

The League’s Position
The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that marriage is a partnership, that the principles of fairness, equity, and equality should govern the legal rights and responsibilities of each partner in a marriage. To carry out the concept that marriage should be given legal recognition as an equal partnership, we believe that all contributions to a marriage should be recognized, non-monetary as well as monetary.

Until such time as the principle of equally shared marital property is obtained in Virginia Law, we believe that:

- In case of death, if one spouse dies without a will, the surviving spouse should inherit all the property.
- If a spouse renounces a will, statutes regarding augmented estate should provide for the share of the surviving spouse to be at least one half.
- In divorce:
  - Marital property should be defined as all real and personal property excluding all real and personal property acquired before marriage, all property acquired during the marriage through inheritance and/or gifts from someone (other than the other party), and property exchanged for separate property if it has been retained as separate property and not commingled.
  - Fault should not enter into the court’s division of marital property.
  - Prenuptial contracts that fulfill all requirements of contract law should be recognized as valid (1980 &1983).


**LWV-VA Election Laws Position for Concurrence:**

**Vote Centers**

Proposed by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

**Statement to be added to end of Election Laws position:**

The LWV-VA supports pilot programs authorizing Virginia’s local governing bodies to use vote centers in conducting local (i.e., not statewide) primary, special, and May elections when warranted and implemented pursuant to regulations and policies established by the State Board of Elections, especially those requiring a determination that using vote centers will not serve to restrict access to the polls or [further] decrease voter turnout. If proven efficient and effective, the League would support their authorization for continued use at the option of local governing bodies.

**Note:** Background info was sent to Leagues and posted to the Convention website in accordance with bylaws requirements for concurrences.

**ELECTIONS LAWS POSITION WITH CONCURRENCE STATEMENT**

ON VOTE CENTERS [*in red italics*], if approved by 2013 LWV-VA Convention.

**Position in Brief**

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 State Board of Elections 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.

**The League’s History**

When it was reestablished as a state League in 1947, the LWV-VA adopted as its first study, “simplification and improvement of election laws to facilitate and increase registration and voting”. Virginia required a poll tax as a prerequisite for voting at that time. During the 1940s, the League opposed the poll tax and other restrictive voting procedures.

In 1965, the League arrived at a position in opposition to the Freeholder Amendment to the Virginia Constitution, which would have limited voting on bond issues to property owners. Virginia had come under Section 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act in 1965 because the state had a literacy requirement and less than 50% of its voting age population had voted in the 1964 presidential election. The League modified its position in 1967 to seek elimination of the literacy requirement, calling instead for some other means of identification for those unable to sign.

LWV-VA decided to restudy election laws in 1973. The study considered both voter registration and
absentee voting (position adopted in 1975). Arguing against the notion that expanding registration opportunities constituted an illegal “solicitation” of voters, the League asked that Virginia law require election officials to make available and publicize expanded voter registration opportunities throughout their communities and the state. It also asked that election officials carry out a voter outreach program, consider other systems of voter registration, and administer election laws uniformly across the state, including the interpretation of domicile and abode for voter registration. The League stated that the emphasis of absentee voting provisions should be the expansion of opportunities to vote and supported what was later called “no-excuse absentee voting”. Although the League recognized the need to prevent fraud, it believed it is best prevented by proper administration of the law rather than by tightening the law to restrict voting opportunities. Later in the decade, concurrence was taken on two topics: party identification of all candidates on the ballot (1977), and payment by the state of the costs of a recount in a close election (1979). Legislation was subsequently adopted by the Virginia General Assembly on these two issues, and League members did not indicate a need for further change during the 2009-11 study.

In May 1993, Early Voting was adopted as a state study to determine the feasibility of extending the voting period in Virginia. With the imminent introduction of the National Voter Registration Act, popularly known as “motor voter”, it seemed an opportune time to consider other methods to make voting easier. Early voting was defined as a procedure used to permit voting by mail or in person on days other than Election Day. As a result of the study, the League adopted positions supporting the extension of the voting period up to one month, the ability of qualified voters to vote on Saturdays and Sundays, and early voting in person without specifying a reason. The State Board recommended a review of current state positions during the 1999-2001 biennium, at which time it combined the Election Laws and Early Voting positions.

The 2009 Convention adopted a restudy of election laws, particularly because of the enactment of national legislation, such as the National Voting Rights Act (NVRA), Help America Vote Act (HAVA), Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE), since the League’s earlier studies. The study was handled in two parts, with voter registration and management considered during the first year and elections during the second year. Two lengthy studies were prepared and posted on the League’s web site so that the same information would be available to all League members in Virginia. Due to confusion about the relationship of “early voting” to “absentee voting” and the Virginia Code and General Assembly’s use of the latter term, it was used in the study’s consensus questions and materials. The LWVUS has national positions on issues such as opposition to requirements for photo identification and other measures that restrict access to registration and voting, and support of voting systems that are secure, accurate, re-countable, accessible, and provide a voter verifiable paper trail. Therefore, those topics are not covered in the study and are not specifically addressed in the current LWV-VA positions. In 2013, the LWVFA proposed a concurrence to add text regarding vote centers.

The League’s 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.

Role of the Commonwealth

Funding the cost of maintaining a statewide system of voter registration, and providing equal and easy access for voting throughout Virginia, are responsibilities shared by the Commonwealth and local governments. The Commonwealth should provide additional funding where localities are financially unable to support an accessible and well-managed election system.

The State Board of Elections must be given adequate authority and resources to: enforce election laws and mandatory standards for local election offices; encourage best practices in registration and elections management, especially in training election officers and officials; provide adequate oversight of registration and elections at locality and precinct levels; and oversee implementation of election laws, regulations and policies to ensure their consistent application across the Commonwealth.

Registration
Because the system of voter registration affects voter turnout, and because federal legislation has extended the availability and ease of voter registration in Virginia,

- Voter registration opportunities must be available, by mail and in person, consistently throughout the Commonwealth;
- A uniform system of voter registration is required to facilitate voting and prevent fraud; and
- Additional measures should be adopted to increase the availability of voter registration, especially those that utilize technological advances or provide cost savings, including:
  - Online voter registration,
  - Reducing the interval between the registration deadline and Election Day to the smallest number of days consistent with effective elections management, and
  - Same-day registration at county and city central election offices.

- In defining domicile and abode to determine residency for purposes of registration, a statewide policy should be applied and enforced to ensure:
  - Uniform interpretation
  - Broad construction
  - Presumption of intent
  - Consistent application.

- Voter registration by political party should not be adopted in the Commonwealth.

**Elections**

Election laws must be designed to facilitate voting and encourage participation of a large percentage of citizens in all elections. To this end, laws, policies and procedures affecting the voting process should be applied consistently in all parts of the Commonwealth, both prior to the election and at the polls on Election Day.

**Prior to the Election**

The LWV-VA supports:

- Legislation to allow all registered voters to vote absentee prior to Election Day without specifying a reason. Both choices—voting in person or by mail—should be offered. (This no-excuse absentee voting is sometimes called “early voting”.)
- The use of satellite voting facilities, in areas where distance or inadequate transportation make it difficult for voters to reach a central election office for in-person absentee voting;
- The provision by all localities of evening and weekend voting hours at central and satellite offices, for several weeks before general elections;
- The use of electronic means for submitting absentee ballots by military and overseas voters if it can be accomplished while maintaining ballot security and integrity; and
- A pilot program of all-mail voting to test its use in some elections.

**At the Polls**

The following should be required throughout Virginia to ensure an efficient voting process:

- Electronic poll books, with back-up paper copies for emergencies;
- Appropriate precinct sizes and numbers of voting machines to minimize voting delays;
- Well-trained officers of election; and
- Polling places selected to maximize voter participation and near public transportation, wherever possible.
The LWV-VA is concerned that Virginia’s polling hours might not be optimal for all areas of the Commonwealth, especially those close to adjacent states, and is concerned about the effect of long hours on officers of election. Split shifts and poll closing specialists should be used in all localities to ease the burden on officers of election, help in their recruitment, and ensure well-managed elections. Legislation should be enacted to provide authority to the Courts to extend the polling hours in case of disasters and other emergencies that prevent the voters from getting to the polls, and include the provisions needed to ensure fair access to the polls throughout the Commonwealth. (2011)

The LWV-VA supports pilot programs authorizing Virginia’s local governing bodies to use vote centers in conducting local (i.e., not statewide) primary, special, and May elections when warranted and implemented pursuant to regulations and policies established by the State Board of Elections, especially those requiring a determination that using vote centers will not serve to restrict access to the polls or [further] decrease voter turnout. If proven efficient and effective, the League would support their authorization for continued use at the option of local governing bodies. (2013)
Note to 2013 Convention attendees: As stated in the LWV-VA Recommended Program for 2013-15, the LWV-VA Board recommended archiving the LWV-VA Natural Resources positions because they are significantly out of date (and most have been accomplished through legislation) and instead using the LWVUS Natural Resources positions, as listed in LWVUS Impact On Issues, for LWV-VA advocacy or action in Virginia (link to LWVUS positions http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues-online-edition).

If the 2013 Convention approves this recommendation [of archiving], it is anticipated that the LWV-VA Natural Resources positions will be stored electronically for future reference as to member agreement from 1972 – 1992. When needing to advocate in Virginia on future environmental issues, the LWVUS Natural Resources positions can be used until such time as the LWV-VA is able to comprehensively update its own positions. (Consultation with LWVUS about applying the position in Virginia is recommended.)

Following is the text of the current LWV-VA Natural Resources positions, as shown in the 2011 edition of Positioned For Action, along with simple edits of grammar and format as recommended by the Natural Resources Task Force. The simple edits of grammar and format appear in italics/highlights to improve readability in the event these positions are re-adopted at the 2013 Convention. Some added wording is included in the “history” section of each position [in italics/highlights] in order to update the legislative situation as of 2013.

AIR QUALITY

Position in Brief

Achieve and maintain acceptable air quality by adopting strict vehicle emission standards, development of alternative fuels, and programs and regulations that encourage efficient modes of transportation.

The League’s History

Following adoption of this local position in 1992, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area prepared and sent information packages to all the local Leagues in Virginia, to allow for concurrence to be taken at the 1993 State Convention. The delegates concurred with the following position on Air Quality. 2013 Note: the California Standards have been superseded by stricter national standards and the Clean Air Act of 1990 has also been superseded by stricter regulations. Most of these recommendations have been accomplished (or exceeded) legislatively in Virginia and in the U. S.

The League’s Position (Current)

In order to achieve and maintain acceptable air quality the League of Women Voters of Virginia believes:

• Adoption of the California Standards for low emission vehicles is necessary to achieve and maintain compliance with the Clean Air Act of 1990.
• Development of less polluting alternative fuels should be a high priority with preference for compressed natural gas, reformulated gasoline, electricity and hydrogen. The total environmental impact of a fuel should be considered, including tail pipe emissions and pollution produced during manufacture and disposal.
• A change in parking subsidies away from those favoring low occupancy vehicles to those favoring efficient transportation modes, and greater emphasis on local program and regulations encouraging employers to institute transportation management systems which foster efficient transportation modes. (1993)

The League’s Position (with simple edits)
In order to achieve and maintain acceptable air quality the League of Women Voters of Virginia believes Virginia should:

- *Adopt the California Standards for low emission vehicles to achieve and maintain compliance with the Clean Air Act of 1. Develop less polluting alternative fuels, a high priority, with preference for compressed natural gas, reformulated gasoline, electricity, and hydrogen. The State should consider total environmental impact of a fuel, including tail pipe emissions and pollution produced during manufacture and disposal.*

- *Change parking subsidies from those favoring low occupancy vehicles to those favoring efficient transportation modes. Place greater emphasis on local program and regulations that encourage employers to institute transportation management systems which foster efficient transportation modes.* (1993)

**AIR QUALITY - Smoking in Public**

**Position in Brief:** (current)
Support for limiting smoking in public to designated areas so that nonsmokers are not exposed to smoke

**Position in Brief:** *(with simple edits)*

*Limit smoking in public to designated areas so that nonsmokers are not exposed to smoke.*

**The League’s History**
The League of Women Voters of Waynesboro conducted a study of smoking in public places and reached consensus. Following adoption of this local position, they prepared information packets for all local Leagues in Virginia and distributed them at Council '88. At Convention '89, the delegates voted to concur with the following position on Smoking In Public. 2013 Note: This position has been accomplished by legislation, rendering it useless and could therefore be dropped.

**The League’s Position (current)**

Inhaling tobacco smoke voluntarily or involuntarily is a medically recognized health risk; therefore, smoking in public should be limited to designated areas in such a way that nonsmokers are not exposed to smoke. (1989)

**LAND USE**

**Position in Brief:** (current)
Support for state policies that include creation of a state long-range comprehensive land use plan coordinated with local and regional plans, state protection of critical environmental areas through some land use controls, and assistance to and increased flexibility for localities in land use planning and control.

**Position in Brief:** *(with simple edits)*

*Support state policies that include creating state long-range comprehensive land use plan coordinated with local and regional plans, protecting of critical environmental areas through some land use controls, and assisting to and increasing flexibility for localities in land use planning and control.*

**The League’s History**

In 1972, in response to a growing desire on the part of Leagues for a national focus on land, LWVUS convention delegates adopted land use as a new study. During the last year of the two-year study, the national League gave state Leagues the opportunity to add state land use study to their program agenda without going through the convention adoption method. Local Leagues used consensus questions formulated by the national board to reach consensus on state land use, some at the same meetings where they reached consensus on national land use, others had additional meetings to reach state consensus or mailed questionnaires to their members.

Action has focused on coastal resource preservation and planning, preservation of prime agricultural land and strip mining legislation. *2013 Note: Again, many of the recommendations of this position have been
accomplished through legislation, nationally and in Virginia. Also, today's land use processes have become a function of government comprehensive planning, thus this position would be more appropriate in the Government positions category with cross-reference to the Natural Resources positions.

The League's Position
The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the Commonwealth should have a long range comprehensive plan reflecting the needs and interests of citizens and flexible enough to meet future needs. The plan should be a coordinated one including plans and policies of local, regional and state governments. Implementation should maximize local decision-making with some provisions subject to state established standards and review.

State Control of Land Use:
We believe that the state should reassume certain elements of its legal authority to control the use of land. Stronger state control, with impact statements required as deemed necessary, is needed for land use activities of more than local impact (including the siting of energy facilities, large scale public or private development, major transportation facilities, and waste disposal facilities).

Increased state control is needed for certain land areas of statewide concern such as:

- Wetlands
- Crucial watersheds
- Flood plains
- Productive agricultural and forest lands
- Unique scenic and historic areas
- Shorelines of major waters and
- Unique wildlife habitats.

Regional Planning
The League believes that the state should support increased regional planning on matters of regional concern.

State Assistance to Localities
The League believes that the state should give assistance to localities for land use planning and control by:

- Increasing financial aid for research and technical assistance;
- Collecting, analyzing and disseminating economic, environmental and social data;
- Authorizing and encouraging innovative land use planning and regulatory techniques such as land banking, planned unit development, transfer of development rights, and timed development ordinances. (1975)

WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION
Position in Brief:
Support a comprehensive state effort to protect the water supplies, including recognition of the connection between ground and surface water, sharing in the use of ground water, state collection of information on water resources and planning for future use, and land use policies that guarantee protection of water resources.

The League’s History
In 1981, the League adopted a study of water supply and distribution in Virginia. Leagues were concerned about the ability of the state laws, regulations, and procedures to protect the water supply. There were also problems and conflicts between "water rich" and "water poor" users and concerns about whether Virginia had sufficient information and adequate laws and procedures to settle these issues.
Local Leagues studied the situation in their localities and then statewide. At the end of the study, the state League published a prize-winning publication explaining in clear layman's language the doctrines governing Virginia's water laws and the complexities involved in finding solutions to the problems of supply and distribution. Consensus was reached in November 1983. 2013 Note: new legislation regarding water supply and environmental protection of rivers, watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay has been enacted regionally and in Virginia since this position was written.

The League’s Position

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that modifications should be made to Virginia's water laws, based on the riparian doctrine and the Ground Water Act of 1973.

Specifically we believe that:

• The law should recognize the connection between ground and surface water;
• Decisions about reasonable use of ground water should include the concept of sharing, as in the riparian doctrine;
• Exemptions in the Ground Water Act of 1973 should be tightened; and
• If the resolution of conflicts is in the Courts, expert technical advice should be provided.
• The League believes that the state must fulfill its responsibility for gathering information about Virginia’s water resources, planning for future supply, and giving assistance to localities about their water supplies; and that:
• The designated agency must be strengthened and adequately funded;
• The state should have a strong land use policy that recognizes that water and land-use planning are indivisible; and
• The state should take the lead, both by education and by legislation, in promoting water conservation. (1983)
LWV-VA Social Policy Positions, 2013

Adult Domestic Violence, Education, Civil Rights of Felons, and Mental Health Positions

Note to 2013 Convention attendees:
The Social Policy Task Force decided that the Adult Domestic Violence, Education, Civil Rights of Felons and Mental Health positions under the Social Policy category needed only simple editing for clarification, grammar and/or consistency of wording. The proposed editorial changes to the wording of the history and the positions are shown in italics and highlights below.
The other Social Policy positions of Child Care, Children at Risk, Justice, Juvenile/Adult Restorative Justice, and Juveniles are addressed in a proposed concurrences in separate documents.
The LWV-VA board recommends adoption for action of the edited Social Policy positions as follows:

ADULT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Position in Brief:
Address the crime of adult domestic violence through uniform law enforcement, including mandatory arrest and reporting; educational and training programs for medical, clerical, law enforcement personnel, and the public on the problem of adult domestic violence, as well as conflict resolution; and assistance and training programs for victims.

The League's History

Because League positions did not address legislation that might evolve from the Governor's Task Force on Adult Domestic Violence, the state Convention adopted a one-year study on adult domestic violence in 1991. The scope, which included the elderly and adult children living at home, uniform law enforcement, intervention before and after violence occurs, education of all persons involved in domestic violence, including victims, abusers, law enforcement personnel, court personnel, and the community in general.
Local Leagues used a questionnaire to determine local and state roles in policy and procedure by interviewing shelter and service personnel who deal with adult domestic violence.

The League's Position

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that Adult Domestic Violence should be addressed as a crime by state and local law enforcement agencies and the judiciary with an increase in state funding for support services.
The League supports:

• A written, mandatory arrest policy as a uniform procedure used by law enforcement agencies, with reporting of adult domestic violence calls; mandatory.

• Training related to domestic violence and conflict resolution curriculum for all sectors of government involved with treatment;

• Expansion of the Family Life Education curriculum to include topics about domestic violence and conflict resolution;

• Expansion of the current Police Academy curriculum to better address the problems of adult domestic violence;

• Public education through use of public service announcements;

• Funding for job training programs for victims;

• Training for doctors and clergy in causes and issues of adult domestic violence; and
• Monitoring at local government level policies regarding shelter maintenance and services. (1992)

EDUCATION

Position in Brief:
Support 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 Learning 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.
• 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.

Elements of a quality education also include: school-based teamwork, goal-setting and decision making, and application of learning to life experiences.

The League’s History

According to the 1970 Virginia Constitution, the state must provide quality public school (K-12) education, set Standards of Quality (SOQ)—now called Standards of Learning (SOL)—and share the cost with the local governments. As local Leagues studied their own school systems, they questioned whether the formulas to distribute the state monies were fair. In 1979, a state study of financing education in Virginia was adopted. The 1991 Convention adopted a new statewide study on Financing Public Education.

The 1997 Convention approved a study “of the essentials of quality education, including alternatives, initiatives, vouchers, charters, contracts, etc., in the public schools.” The study coincided with new state legislative and administrative initiatives to improve the quality of public schools in Virginia.

In the 1999-2001 biennium, the LWV-VA Board recommended a review of current state positions. The following position was derived from combining Financing Public Education and the Education positions.

The League’s Position
The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that state funding for elementary and secondary public schools should insure a high quality education with equal educational opportunities for all children.

**PART I: Funding**

In order to accomplish this goal, the League supports the following:

**Funding for Standards of Quality (SOQ)**

- Funding the SOQ by including all actual costs to localities;
- Establishing the SOQ to exceed the average level of practices in school divisions when evidence exists that the average level is inadequate; and
- Adopting a per-pupil cost figure which represents actual costs per pupil for school systems in Virginia.

**Local Effort**

- Improving the formula for determining the measure of local ability to pay and using it in the distribution of all state school funds;
- Increasing the state's share of the costs of education;
- Providing state funds to local school divisions for capital outlay, using an improved measure of local ability to pay and priorities of educational need; and
- Requiring at least a minimum local effort in funding school costs.

**Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Funding**

- Providing state funding for half-day pre-kindergarten programs for all at-risk-children; and
- Providing funding for full-day kindergarten programs provided at the option of localities.

**Other Funding**

- Funding fully the actual costs to local school division of state and federal mandates which are not included in the SOQ;
- Continuing the current methods of financing capital costs by low-interest loans and bonds;
- Continuing state funding of a share of the employer costs in local school budgets for Social Security, retirement, and group life insurance.

We oppose placing a limit on the amount of local education funding which exceeds the cost of state requirements. (1993)

**PART II: Quality Education**

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes the following elements are essential to quality education in the public school system, K-12:

A challenging curriculum, high expectations of students and teachers in mastering that curriculum, and appropriate assessments of student achievement. The following elements of the curriculum are essential:

- Four core disciplines: English, Mathematics, Science, History and Social Studies;
- Art, Music, Physical Education, Health and Foreign Languages;
- Analytical skills, application of knowledge and decision-making;
- Technology integrated throughout the curriculum;
- Strong remedial programs implemented at the earliest indication of a student’s academic weakness;
- Special offerings for at-risk and gifted students and educational programs for students with special needs, using specified minimum standards;
- Education for students with limited English proficiency, in which emphasis is placed on teaching English, while other course content is presented in English;
- Career and Technical Education - Professional education of principals and teachers, and on-going
staff development;
• Class size appropriate to instructional goals;
• A safe environment for students and staff; and
• discipline, providing preventative programs and a well-defined system of rules, consistently enforced;
• Guidance Counselors for academics and support services; and
• Parental and community support and involvement.
• 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)
• The LWV-VA believes that the following are important elements of quality education in the public system, K-12:
  • School-based teamwork, goal-setting and decision-making;
  • Application of learning to life experiences in further education, work, and leisure activities; and
  • Incentives, recognition, and awards for both students and teachers. (1999)

CIVIL RIGHTS OF FELONS IN VIRGINIA

Position in Brief:
The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the civil rights of felons, regardless of the nature of their crime, should be restored automatically upon their release from incarceration or upon completion of probation or parole and that the process should be easy to understand, accessible, transparent and fair with information about the process made available to all.

The League’s History
In 2005, the Voters Service Committee of the LWV of Lynchburg held a series of informational meetings to better understand the process by which felons could regain their civil right to register to vote. The process was neither predictable, consistent, nor transparent. Some members were concerned about the large number of citizens ineligible to register and its depression of voting, others were concerned with the unfairness of someone who had “paid their debt to society” not being allowed to participate. It became apparent that it was a state-wide problem and that change could only be made at the direction of the Governor or by a constitutional amendment.

At the 2007 LWV-VA Convention delegates voted to adopt a “Study of the Restoration of Civil Rights of Felons in Virginia as a state study.

The state study committee met in Charlottesville. The core group consisted of about 8-10 members although over 20 members participated at one time or another. Fourteen local Leagues participated in the study. Thirteen versions of an informational brochure were written that could be distributed to the general public with information specific to each area where there was a local LWV. The LWV-VA Board approved the consensus statement early in 2009.

The League’s Position
The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that:
• The civil rights of felons in Virginia should be restored automatically either upon their release from incarceration or upon completion of probation and parole.
• The procedure should be identical for all felons, regardless of the nature of their crime.
• The process should be easy to understand, accessible, transparent and fair
• Information about the process should be available to felons, the justice and correction system and the general public. (2009)
MENTAL HEALTH

Position in Brief:
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 established criteria for allocation of funds; adequate and appropriate housing; comprehensive and consistent service delivery in all local communities; and advocacy programs that ensure patients’ rights at all levels.

The League’s History
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, whom 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.

The League’s Position

Organization and Management
The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the goals of the state’s mental health care system should:

- Provide quality mental health care which utilized the most current knowledge and which respects the dignity and human rights of each individual;
- Enable the mentally ill to attain their highest level of functioning to lead lives as normal as possible;
- Meet mental health needs of all Virginians regardless of mental disorder, race, creed, age, sex, or ethnic origin;
- Endeavor to prevent mental illness and to reduce its incidence and severity. (June 1987)
- A public mental health care system should include:
  - Commitment to quality community-based services;
  - A long-range comprehensive plan for meeting clients needs;
  - Clear lines of authority and accountability;
  - Coordination among the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) and other agencies providing services to mental health clients;
  - Evaluation of program effectiveness and administrative efficiency; and
  - Sufficient number of qualified and well trained staff. (June 1989)

In allocating state funds among community services boards, it is essential to maintain current programs and fill identified service gaps.

It is important to use additional factors in allocating state funds as follows:

- Total population of area served;
- Encouragement of local support;
- Economic resources of the community;
- Local tax effort; and
- Number of mental health clinics in the system.
The state should institute a data gathering and analysis system that provides uniform statewide data for planning and evaluating the mental health care system in Virginia. (June 1987)

The state should review the organization and structure for delivery of mental health services at the local level. (June 1989)

In order to recruit and retain qualified staff in the mental health care system, the DMHMRSAS should:

- Increase pay and improve work environment;
- Form linkages with universities;
- Provide stipends to students, in return for services, in fields for which there are demonstrated recruitment and retention difficulties; and
- Provide in service training. (June 1989)

**Housing**

LWV-VA believes that in order to obtain adequate and appropriate housing for the mentally ill, the government of Virginia should:

- Provide funding; technical assistance to housing providers and public education;
- Enact statutes to affirm state responsibility;
- Encourage private/public sector cooperation to obtain housing for the mentally ill. (January 1989)

**Clients**

League of Women Voters believes that it is essential that the state's mental health system serve:

- The chronically mentally ill--those suffering from a severe and persistent mental or emotional impairment that seriously impairs their functioning; and
- People suffering from an acute mental disturbance which produces serious impairment and distress in social relations and vocational functioning.

It is important to provide needed services to people under major stress and/or at risk of developing mental or emotional disorders. (June 1987)

The state's mental health care system should provide the specialized services and specially trained staff required to meet the mental health needs of special populations such as children and adolescents, the elderly, people under the purview of the courts, the dual diagnosed (mentally ill/mentally retarded and mentally ill/substance abusers), and immigrants. (June 1987)

The DMHMRSAS should study the characteristics and needs of clients in state hospitals, especially those who are either frequently readmitted or have long term hospital stays, and should institute suitable changes to deal with identified problems. (June 1989)

**Patients' Rights**

LWV-VA supports the rights of mentally ill persons as defined by the Supreme Court, federal and state court rulings, laws, rules and regulations; internal and external advocacy programs to ensure patients' rights, and the appointment of persons who are mentally ill to the State Human Rights Committee, to local human rights committees for facilities and for community services boards. (September 1988)

**Civil Commitment**

The League of Women Voters believes that the state's civil commitment procedures should provide:

- Counsel be appointed for the patient as soon as possible to allow time to confer and consider options;
- An individual detained pending commitment hearings should be offered non-emergency treatment; and
- Training about the nature and treatment of mental illness and related issues should be provided to justice system personnel involved in civil commitment in Virginia. (September 1988)
LWV-VA Social Policy Positions for Concurrence: Adult Justice

PROPOSED CONCURRENCE STATEMENT for ADULT JUSTICE POSITION

Note to 2013 Convention attendees:
The reworded LWV-VA Adult Justice position is proposed to replace the “Justice and Adult/Juvenile Restorative Justice” positions currently in Positioned For Action, September 2011 edition. For the sake of clarity and simplification, the current position supporting restorative justice has been incorporated into this position, rather than be addressed as a separate position. Reference on restorative justice practices can be found at the following link: http://www.cehd.umn.edu/ssw/rjp/PDFs/RJ_Dialogue_Evidence-based_Practice_1-06.pdf. Also, the following proposed new position provides significant elaboration of the current positions.

The LWV-VA board recommends adoption of this reworded position at LWV-VA 2013 Convention, June 1-2 through the concurrence process.

ADULT JUSTICE (FORMERLY JUSTICE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE)
The League’s Proposed Adult Justice Position, June 2013

Position in Brief:
Support for an adequately funded judicial and corrections system that serves all people without discrimination and incorporates restorative justice practices; provides judicial selection by the General Assembly with use of a nominating commission of lay persons and lawyers; sentencing by judges; an effectively administered corrections system that protects society and rehabilitates offenders; professionally administered local jails and community-based corrections; and policies that include alternatives to incarceration and use of community volunteers.

The League’s Position
The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the system of justice within the Commonwealth should be conducted in a just and dignified manner, incorporate effective restorative justice practices, and minister to all people without legal, economic or administration discrimination. It requires efficient administration, competent personnel who are given a clear assignment of responsibility and compensation reflecting their training and responsibilities, adequate financing and facilities, and coordination among levels of government and components of the justice system; and the active and informed participation of citizens.

Courts
The League believes that transparency within our court system fosters the active and informed participation of citizens who should be served without discrimination. We support mandatory training programs and minimum qualification requirements for state magistrates. All courts in the Commonwealth should have sufficient personnel to provide efficient disposition of cases.

Judicial Selection
The League believes that to maintain the objectivity and independence of the judiciary, the judicial selection and reappointment process should:
• Include opportunities for participation by laymen as well as lawyers;
• Consider the review of qualifications and endorsements from State and Local Bar Associations;
• Minimize politically partisan decision-making;
• Provide broad geographical representation for Statewide appointments;
• Reflect the ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the citizenry; and
  Provide timely and thorough information to the public.

We support the present system of election and re-election of judges by the General Assembly with a nominating commission to present a slate of names for each judicial office.

**Sentencing**

The League believes that judges, rather than juries, should have the power of sentencing. Judges should have discretion in choosing punishment appropriate for the crime. LWV-VA recognizes the importance of keeping citizens safe but urges discretion in legislating more mandatory minimum sentences. Mandatory minimum sentences usually lead to longer periods of incarceration which can have negative economic effects on state budgets and negative societal effects on the families of incarcerated individuals. LWV-VA supports alternatives to prison for non-violent crimes. A pre-sentencing report, including a victim impact statement and the opportunity for presentation of testimony and argument should be available to the judge or jury charged with sentencing. Restorative justice practices should also be available to the court prior to sentencing.

**Corrections**

The League believes that the goals of Virginia’s corrections system should be to protect society and to punish and rehabilitate offenders.

To achieve these goals, the League believes that an effective correctional system requires adequate financing; effective administration, planning and coordination among related agencies; an adequate number of trained, fairly-paid and competent staff to provide the appropriate programs, services and safety for the community, prison personnel and inmates; humane, non-discriminatory, dignified treatment of inmates and personnel; and the participation of citizen volunteers in its programs.

The League believes that corrections systems at all levels in the Commonwealth – state, regional and local – should include deterrence, re-entry, restitution, and diversion programs, including community-based alternative and probation programs;

• Reflect and implement restorative justice principles and practices
• Use a classification system to place the offender in the most effective treatment programs at the proper level of security;
• Provide appropriate alternatives to incarceration, both before and after the trial, for the accused and convicted offender—especially for first-time offenders, misdemeanants, and those charged with offenses classified as victimless crimes;
• Use all available community resources in the rehabilitation and treatment of inmates, including pre-trial, alternative, and work release programs; and
• Provide the number and types of effective vocational, educational, counseling, mental health, and rehabilitative programs to meet the needs of the inmates. Programs should periodically be evaluated for effectiveness.

The League believes that the Commonwealth should meet all national standards and maintain and enforce regulations establishing minimum standards for facilities, inmate care, personnel, training, operations and programs for corrections systems at all levels and ensure full funding to meet these standards, paying all state costs and allowing localities to supplement with local monies when needed.

The League believes that the Commonwealth and local communities should educate the public to the merits and needs of alternatives to incarceration, the financing and other needs of local jails, and the use of trained community volunteers.
LWV-VA Social Policy Positions for
Concurrence:
Juveniles & Juvenile Restorative Justice

PROPOSED CONCURRENCE STATEMENT for JUVENILE JUSTICE POSITION

Note to 2013 Convention attendees:
The reworded LWV-VA Juvenile Justice position is proposed to replace the “Juveniles and Adult/Juvenile Restorative Justice” positions currently in Positioned For Action, September 2011 edition. For the sake of clarity and simplification, the current position supporting restorative justice has been incorporated into this position, rather than be addressed as a separate position. Also, the following proposed new position provides significant elaboration of the current positions. To view the proposed changes compared to the current position, see “Adult & Juvenile Justice 2013 Concurrence -Comparison” document on the LWV-VA Convention website at: http://lwv-va.org/Convention2013.html.

The LWV-VA board recommends adoption of this reworded position at LWV-VA 2013 Convention, June 1-2 through the concurrence process.

JUVENILE JUSTICE (FORMERLY JUVENILES)
The League’s Proposed Juvenile Justice Position, June 2013:

Position in Brief
Support for an adequately funded and separate Department of Juvenile Justice that emphasizes prevention and rehabilitation, to include: individualized treatment and training programs, with vocational and alternative education opportunities, family parenting support, mental health and substance abuse counseling, community education and recreation programs for young children, alternatives to incarceration such as community service and residence in small group homes and the removal of juveniles from adult jails and their placement in a juvenile detention facility as necessary.

League’s Position
LWV-VA believes that responsible government shares in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare. Accordingly, LWV-VA supports a separate Department of Juvenile Justice with adequate funding to meet the unique needs of this age group. The League believes that the juvenile justice system must emphasize prevention and rehabilitation as well as those general goals of the corrections system. Juvenile delinquency cases are cases involving a minor under the age of 18 who has been accused of committing an offense that would be considered criminal if committed by an adult.

Prevention programs should be provided for children identified with certain risk factors such as: parent incarceration, household history of sexual or drug abuse, child history of behavioral difficulties at an early age. Rehabilitation programs at juvenile facilities should be designed to provide treatment and training specific to the needs of each child and should include counseling, vocational training and accredited academic programs. LWV-VA also urges the Commonwealth to develop activities, programming and training consistent with the values and principles of restorative justice in responding to crime.

Courts
LWV-VA supports having all cases involving juvenile defendants assigned to Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, where such cases are heard by a judge, rather than a jury.
Sentencing
Sentencing should take into account a youth’s age, maturity, family circumstances, and potential for rehabilitation. Whenever feasible, juveniles sentenced to a period of incarceration should serve their sentences in a juvenile detention facility, rather than an adult jail. LWV-VA believes that a mandatory life sentence without parole for a juvenile is cruel and unusual punishment, even when the crime is violent. (See U.S. Supreme Court Decision – Miller vs. Alabama – June 2012).

Corrections-Incarceration
LWV-VA supports:

- Assignment of juveniles to juvenile detention facilities whenever possible and their removal from adult jails.
- Banning and/or minimizing solitary confinement of juveniles

Corrections-Alternatives to Incarceration

- Community delinquency prevention programs;
- Adequately staffed and structured alternative education programs or community service for all juveniles who have been expelled or suspended from school or paroled from correctional facilities;
- Mental health and substance abuse programs (in and out patient) oriented to the special needs of juveniles for those identified as needing services. They should include early assessment, evaluation, treatment and follow-up by qualified personnel;
- A variety of pre-and post-dispositional community-based services as mandated by the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act;
- Establishment of small therapeutic group or foster homes for juveniles
LWV-VA Social Policy Positions for 
Concurrence: 
Child Care

CONCURRENCE STATEMENT For SOCIAL POLICY – CHILD CARE
(See red text at end of position)
PROPOSED BY THE LWV-VA Board & Recommended for adoption.

CHILD CARE

Position in Brief
Support state policies that promote quality child care that is affordable, accessible, and available, including minimum comprehensive state license standards for care facilities, incentives for development of programs, financial assistance for low income families, coordinated resource and referral systems, and training for care givers and parents.

The League’s History
With the increase in the number of employed mothers and single parent families and the reported difficulties parents have in finding good, available and affordable child care, many Leaguers thought the time had come for the League of Women Voters to study what role, if any, the state should have in child care. At the 1985 state convention, delegates adopted a two year study of the issue. The final report along with consensus questions was sent to the local Leagues early in the fall of 1986. Consensus reports were returned by mid December of 1986 with 17 of 19 local Leagues reporting. The board developed and approved complete consensus in February 1987 with modifications for clarity approved the following April.

The League’s Position
The League of Women Voters of Virginia strongly believes that the state has a role to play in child care in the Commonwealth to ensure that children in these services receive the quality of care consistent with their developmental needs. The state’s role should include licensing all of the following care facilities:

• Child care homes for more than five, and up to ten children;
• Child care centers of ten or more children;
• Family child care systems;
• Church-sponsored child care;
• Facilities run by hospitals for their own employees;
• Facilities run by universities/colleges for staff and students;
• Facilities run by governmental units;
• Drop in centers;
• Before and after school programs; and
• Nursery schools (no more than four hours per day per child).

The state should have a role in monitoring an up-to-date listing of child care facilities. The following minimum standards should be required for licensing and should cover:

• Space and physical facilities, including equipment;
• Health and sanitation;
Staff/child ratios;
- Qualifications of staff (training, experience, absence of criminal record);
- Admissions policy (health and immunization records);
- Identifier and locator information; and
- Written statements to parents (on operations policies and procedures).

Minimum standards should be required for licensing for group size in:
- Centers of ten or more children;
- Family child care systems; and
- Nursery schools.

The state should provide:
- Some form of financial assistance to increase the affordability and availability of child care. Such assistance could include direct subsidies to low income parents; direct subsidies to providers to allow enrollment of low income families; start up or improvement loans to providers; tax relief to parents; incentives to employers offering child care benefits to employees; and matching local funds for those jurisdictions which help fund child care;
- Free training to care givers and other staff to improve the quality of child care;
- Education to parents about quality child care, and
- Assistance to child care facilities in dealing with liability insurance.

The General Assembly should authorize local school boards and governments to provide before- and after-school child care for school-aged children. We support central coordination of child care policies in an existing agency of the state government which is adequately funded and staffed. (1988)

Further, the state shall ensure that all professionals involved in providing full-time or part-time child care for pay on a regular basis or persons associated with or employed by any private(profit or non-profit) or public organization responsible for the care, custody or control of children report child abuse or neglect (2012).
LWV-VA Social Policy Positions for Concurrence: Child-at-Risk

CONCURRENCE STATEMENT For SOCIAL POLICY – CHILDREN AT RISK
(See red text at end of position)
PROPOSED BY THE LWV-VA Board

CHILDREN AT RISK
Position in Brief:
Support for state and local policies that recognize the basic needs of all children, including shelter, family/community support, health care, food, education, and personal safety, including funding of preventive services, rehabilitative programs, family support programs, crises services, court costs and detention; evaluation of programs and services; state mandated case planning and management systems; and internal and judicial grievance procedures.

The League’s History
As stated by Virginia Governor Gerald L. Baliles, at-risk children are often conceived in poverty and are delivered into a world of hunger, inadequate health care, poor housing, and even homelessness. As these children struggle through adolescence, they begin to feel alienated from their communities. Many become underachievers in school, substance abusers, teen parents, and delinquents. As at-risk youth grow into adulthood, they may pose political, economic, and social threats to society.

The 1987 LWV-VA convention delegates adopted this issue for a two year study. The committee began their work with three regional workshops in the fall. Local Leagues interviewed caregivers of the children at risk. The reports from the local Leagues, together with information gathered from state agencies, congress and other states, provided the background information used. A 1988 fall workshop and leaders guide were provided for our local League leaders in early October to prepare them for their consensus meetings. The board adopted the following position in February 1989.

The League’s Position
The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the state government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to meet the basic needs of at-risk children. The state government should establish a policy defining and supporting a minimum quality of life, with the legislators defining standards to meet the basic needs of these children.

We believe the basic needs to be: shelter, family/community support, health care (including mental health care), food, education (including vocational training) and physical safety.

The League supports:
• Funding priorities in the following order of importance: preventive services (including rehabilitative programs), family support services, crises services, court costs and detention (secure and other);
• Evaluation of services and program effectiveness, determination of overlapping services, gaps in services, or unmet needs of children by citizens committees/task forces;
• A state mandate directing communities to develop case planning and case management systems to assure timely access to services. The case management process should include representatives of local and state agencies, guardian/parent, court intake officers, court child advocates, and the non-profit sector; and
• The continued use of internal grievance procedures for persons who feel mistreated by agency decisions or judicial remedies. (1989)
The state law that requires all professionals involved in providing full-time or part-time child care for pay on a regular basis or persons associated with or employed by any private (profit or non-profit) or public organization responsible for the care, custody or control of children report child abuse or neglect (2012).
At its meeting on March 6, the LWV-VA Board of Directors approved for submission to the 2013 Convention the following amendments to the bylaws, which had been proposed by the bylaws committee composed of: Betsy Lawson, Sue Lewis, Mary Grace Lintz, Martha Rollins, and Therese Martin (chair). Proposed deletions are highlighted in yellow text and additions/substitutions are in red text. Any member having questions about the proposals should contact Therese by e-mail at: bylawschair@lwv-va.org.

As amended: May 1, 2011

ARTICLE I. Name and Office

Sec. 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Virginia, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWV-VA, or, as the state League. This state League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS.

Sec. 2. Office. The principal office of the LWV-VA shall be at such place as the board of directors shall determine.

ARTICLE II. Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWV-VA are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, the state League and the LWVUS;

(1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;

(2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;

(3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV. Officers

Sec. 1. Election, Qualifications and Term. The officers of the LWV-VA shall be a president, or co-presidents, and/or a first vice-president, and/or a second vice-president, or a combination thereof not to exceed three positions, a secretary, and a treasurer who shall be voting members of the LWV-VA. They shall be elected by the convention. They shall take office on July 1 following convention and shall serve for two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified.
Sec. 2. The President. The president or co-presidents shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors or designate another person to do so; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; shall appoint an elected member of the board to sign with the president, all contracts and other such instruments when so authorized by the board; may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes; and shall perform such other duties as the board may designate. The office of the president may be filled by two persons, to be called co-presidents. Thus the term president shall refer to either a president or two co-presidents in these bylaws.

Sec. 3. The Vice-Presidents. The two vice-presidents, in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that neither vice-president is able to serve in this capacity, the board of directors shall fill the vacancy from among the elected directors. The vice-presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and board may designate.

Sec. 4. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep or cause to be kept minutes of convention, council and of meetings—whether in-person or electronic—of the board of directors and executive committee and present them to the board for approval at its next meeting. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The secretary shall perform such other duties as customarily pertain to the office.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer. The treasurer, or a duly appointed assistant, shall collect and deposit all moneys received. The treasurer shall be the custodian of these moneys, shall deposit them in financial institutions designated by the board of directors, and shall disburse the same in accord with the adopted budget or upon order of the board of directors. The treasurer shall present periodic statements to the board at its regular meetings and an annual report to the convention or council. The books of the treasurer shall be reviewed when a new treasurer takes office and no less frequently than biennially and a report presented to the board at its next meeting.

Sec. 6. Transfers of Property. With prior approval of the board, either the president or the treasurer shall have the authority to assign, endorse, transfer and deliver, in the name and in behalf of the LWV-VA, any certificate of stock, bond, note or other security or property belonging to the League.

ARTICLE V. Board of Directors

Sec. 1. Selection, Qualifications and Term. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWV-VA, six directors elected by the convention and not more than six directors appointed by the elected members of the board. All directors shall be voting members of the LWV-VA. The elected directors shall take office on July 1 following the convention and serve for two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The term of office of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with that of the elected directors.

Sec. 2. Vacancies. Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled, until the next convention, by vote of the remaining members of the board.

Sec. 3. Powers.

a. The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the convention.

b. The board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state governmental matters as adopted by the convention and/or council.

c. The board shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the board of directors of the LWVUS for the organization and development of local Leagues; guidance of and cooperation with Inter-League Organizations (hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as ILOs); promotion of League program; financial development; and such other matters as the national board may delegate to it. It may form member-at-large units where circumstances dictate such organization and shall adopt rules and procedures for the formation and operation of such units.

d. The board shall have the power to appoint off-board chairs with organization or program portfolios;
to create such special committees as it deems necessary; and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

**Sec. 4. Regular Meetings.** There shall be at least four regular meetings of the board of directors annually. A minimum of two of these shall be in-person meetings. Notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be given by mail or electronic communication at least two weeks before the meeting. [There shall be a minimum of two meetings in person annually.] No action taken at any regular board meeting attended by three fourths of the members of the board shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the board to receive any notice properly sent or because of any irregularity in any notice actually received. More than three unexcused absences in one fiscal year shall constitute a resignation.

**Sec. 5. Special Meetings.** The president may call special meetings of the board of directors, and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the board. Notice of the time and place of the special meeting shall be given at least six days before the meeting, provided, however, that during a convention the president may, or upon the request of five members of the board shall, call a special meeting by handing the members of the board a written notice of the time and place of said meeting.

**Sec. 6. Electronic Board Decisions.** Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if the text of the resolution or matter agreed upon is sent either in writing or electronically to all of the Directors in office and if the majority of such Directors consent to such action either in writing or electronically. Such consent shall have the same force and effect as a vote of the Board of Directors at a meeting and may be described as such in any document executed by the LWV-VA.

**Sec. 7. Quorum.** A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. Up to one quarter of the members of the board may participate in an in-person meeting by means of conference telephone or by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear or communicate electronically with one another. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

**Sec. 8. Executive Committee.** An executive committee composed of the president or co-presidents, the vice presidents [(s)], the secretary and the treasurer [, or a combination thereof not to exceed five positions,] shall make decisions between regular board meetings on matters that require immediate attention. The committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the state board and shall keep minutes and report to the board at its next meeting on all actions taken.

**Sec 8. Electronic Meetings.** Regular and special meetings of the board of directors and executive committee may be conducted by electronic means, such as telephone conference calls, video conferencing, or e-mail.

**ARTICLE VI. Local Leagues, ILOs and Member-at-Large Units**

**Sec. 1. Local Leagues.**

a. Local Leagues are those Leagues within the Commonwealth of Virginia that have been so recognized by the LWVUS.

b. The state board has responsibility for the establishment of new Leagues and shall recommend to the national board that it grant recognition as a local League to any group of members of the League in any community within the state in which no local League exists, provided the group fulfills state and national requirements.

c. In the event of recurrent failure of a local League to fulfill these requirements, the state board shall recommend to the national board that it withdraw recognition from the local League. All funds held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the LWV-VA after the national per member payment and other obligations have been met.

**Sec. 2. Inter-League Organizations (ILOs).**

a. Members enrolled in local Leagues may organize ILOs in order to promote the purposes of the League.
and to take action on county, metropolitan or regional governmental matters.

b. The state board shall recommend to the national board that such an ILO be recognized provided requirements adopted by the national convention have been fulfilled. In the event of recurrent failure of an ILO to fulfill these requirements, the state board shall recommend to the national board that it withdraw recognition from the ILO. All funds held by an ILO from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be prorated among the member Leagues.

Sec. 3. Member-at-Large Units.

a. The state board may authorize the establishment of member-at-large units in communities where circumstances dictate such organization. Member-at-large units shall fulfill state League requirements.

b. In the event of recurrent failure of a member-at-large unit to fulfill these requirements, the state board may withdraw recognition from the unit. All funds held by a member-at-large unit from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the state League after other obligations have been met.

ARTICLE VII. Convention

Sec. 1. Place, Date, and Call. A convention of the LWV-VA shall be held biennially in the odd-numbered years at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors. A first call to convention shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least six weeks before the date fixed in said call. Thereafter the board may advance or postpone the opening date of the convention by not more than two weeks. A final call giving the exact time and place of the convention shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least thirty days before convention.

Sec. 2. Composition. The convention shall consist of:

a. delegates chosen by the members of local Leagues in the number provided in Sec. 4 of this Article;

b. the presidents of local Leagues and chairs of member-at-large units or an alternate in the event the president or chair is unable to attend;

c. the members of the board of directors of the LWV-VA;

d. LWV-VA off-board committee chairs with portfolio; and

e. one delegate chosen by the board of each ILO.

Sec. 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting. All delegates shall be voting members of the League. No delegate shall be entitled to more than one vote and absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. Delegates of local Leagues that have failed to make a reasonable effort to meet the fiscal year’s per member payment to the LWV-VA shall be denied voting privileges. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Representation. The members of the LWV-VA who are organized into local Leagues or member-at-large units in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be entitled to voting representation in the convention as follows: the members in each local League or member-at-large unit shall be entitled to two delegates; [each local League having more than fifteen] when a local League membership reaches 25 voting members, it shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional twenty-five voting members or major fraction thereof belonging to said local League. The official membership count shall be determined by national office records of voting members as reported to the national office in the membership count of the year in which the convention is held.

Sec. 5. Powers. The convention shall consider and authorize for action a program; elect officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; adopt a budget for the next fiscal year; give guidance to the board on program and methods of work; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 6. Quorum. Thirty percent of the possible number of voting delegates other than the members of the state board shall constitute a quorum provided that a majority of local Leagues are represented.
ARTICLE VIII. Council

Sec. 1. Place, Date and Call. A meeting of the council shall be held biennially, approximately twelve months after each convention at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors. A formal call giving the exact time and place of the council shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least six weeks before a council meeting. In the event of an emergency, the board may call a special council meeting.

Sec. 2. Composition. The council shall consist of the presidents of local Leagues and the chairs of member-at-large units or an alternate in the event the president or chair is unable to attend; one delegate chosen by each local League and member-at-large unit; the members of the state board; and one delegate chosen by the board of each ILO.

Sec. 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting. All delegates shall be voting members of the League. Delegates of local Leagues that have failed to make a reasonable effort to meet the fiscal year's per member payment to the LWV-VA shall be denied voting privileges. The council shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Powers. The council shall give guidance to the board on program and methods of work; adopt changes in the program, if recommended by the board, following the procedures described in Article X:

a. in the event of an emergency, the council may change the program upon recommendation of the state board or a local League, using the following procedure:

(1) at least three months before the council meeting any local League board proposing a change shall submit it to the state board which shall decide whether to recommend it;

(2) at least six weeks before the council the state board shall send to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units all proposed changes and

(3) the change is adopted by a two-thirds vote.

b. the council shall adopt a budget for the next fiscal year and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 5. Quorum. Ten delegates, other than the members of the state board, shall constitute a quorum provided that a majority of local Leagues are represented.

ARTICLE IX. Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of five members, of whom three shall not be members of the state board. The three to be elected by the convention shall include the chair. Promptly after convention, the board shall appoint two of its members to the committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board.

Sec. 2. Suggestions for Nominations. The nominating committee shall request suggestions for nominations through the president of each local League and ILO and chair of each member-at-large unit by advising them of the offices to be filled and the address to which suggestions are to be sent. Any LWV-VA member may submit suggestions to the nominating committee.

Sec. 3. Report of Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee containing its nominations for officers, directors and the chair and two members of the next nominating committee shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of Member-at-Large Units at least four weeks before convention. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention at its first session. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Sec. 4. Election. The election shall be the responsibility of an election committee appointed by the president at the first session of the convention. Election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE X. Principles and Program
Sec. 1. Principles. The governmental Principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

Sec. 2. Program. The program of the LWV-VA shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those state governmental issues chosen for concerted study or concurrence and action by the convention or, if recommended by the board, the council. Information on governmental issues designed for member information and education may be prepared and disseminated by the board at any time.

Note to the convention: for clarity, the entire proposed new wording of the section on program adoption is shown immediately below, followed by the earlier version.

Sec 3. Program Adoption

a. LWV-VA committees and task forces, local League boards, and voting members of the LWV-VA may make recommendations for new issues for study, amendment or elimination of current LWV-VA positions, or concurrence with a new support position. Recommendations must be submitted to the state board at least three months before convention or council.

b. Any such League board, LWV-VA study committee, task force or voting member shall send to the board accompanying background information on the issue proposed for study, concurrence, amendment or action, including the timing, need and importance of the issue for study or action, and the rationale for seeking the proposed form of obtaining member agreement.

c. The board shall consider all properly submitted recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least four weeks before convention or, if the board recommends, the council.

d. The convention or council shall adopt or amend the program proposed by the board by a majority vote of those present and voting.

e. A program recommendation properly submitted by the deadline but not proposed by the board may be adopted by the convention only if its consideration is ordered by a majority vote of the convention and the proposal receives approval by a three-fifths vote of the convention delegates present and voting at a subsequent session of the same meeting.

[former Sec 3 a.]

(1) Local League boards may make recommendations to the state board at least three months before convention.

(2) The state board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program which shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least six weeks before convention.

(3) The convention shall adopt the program proposed by the state board by majority vote.

(4) A program recommendation submitted by a local League at least three months before convention but not proposed by the state board may be adopted only if its consideration is ordered by majority vote of the convention and the proposal receives a three-fifths vote at a subsequent session.]

[former Sec 3 b.]

(1) Any League board or LWV-VA study committee or task force that plans to propose the adoption or amendment of a state League position by concurrence on the floor of convention shall give notice to the state board of its intent to do so at least three months before convention.

(2) Any such League board or LWV-VA study committee or task force shall send background information, including pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale for using this form of member agreement, to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least six weeks before convention.

(3) A two-thirds vote is required to amend or adopt a state League position by concurrence on the floor of convention.]
Sec. 3. Council Program Consideration. The council may change the program as provided in Article VIII, Sec. 4.

Sec. 4. LWV-VA Program Support Positions. After the LWV-VA board approves new or amended positions for inclusion in LWV-VA program, they become the LWV-VA’s positions and the basis for action on the issue. Changes to the positions may be made by the convention or council according to the procedures and limitations described in this Article.

Sec. 5. Program Action. Local Leagues may act only in conformity with, not contrary to, the positions taken by the LWVUS or the LWV-VA. Action on state governmental matters on the basis of local positions should be undertaken only after consultation with the state board. Members may act in the name of the LWV-VA only when authorized to do so by the state board.

ARTICLE XI. National Convention and Council

Sec. 1. National League Convention. The state board, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates to national convention in the number allotted the LWV-VA under the provisions of the LWVUS bylaws.

Sec. 2. National League Council. The state board, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates to national council in the number allotted the LWV-VA under the provisions of the LWVUS bylaws.

ARTICLE XII. Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWV-VA shall be from July 1 through June 30 of [each] the subsequent year.

Sec. 2. Financial Support.

a. Financial responsibility for the work of the League as a whole shall be assumed annually by local Leagues.

b. Members of local Leagues shall pay annual dues to the local League. Each local League shall make a per member payment directly to the LWV-VA, the amount of such payment to be determined by the convention or council. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, the local League shall make a payment equal to one and one-half times the determined per member payment. A local League shall be excused from making a per member payment for honorary life members.

c. Members-at-large shall pay annual dues to the LWV-VA, the amount to be determined by the state board. The LWV-VA shall make a per member payment to the LWVUS for members-at-large.

Sec. 3. Budget. The board of directors shall submit to the convention for adoption a budget for the next fiscal year, specifying the per member payment rate. A copy of the budget shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least [six] four weeks before the convention or council. A budget shall be adopted by a majority vote of the convention or council.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee that shall be appointed by the state board for that purpose at least three months before convention or council. The treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the budget committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.

Sec. 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWV-VA, all moneys and securities that may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the LWV-VA shall be paid to the LWVUS LWV-VA Education Fund after the state board has paid or made provisions for payment of all the liabilities of the LWV-VA. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed that may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWV-VA shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as the board of directors in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE XIII. Parliamentary Authority
The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any convention or council by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed amendment was submitted to the state board at least three months before convention by a local League board or [h]as [been] proposed by the state board. The state board shall send all such proposed amendments to the presidents of local Leagues and ILOs and to the chairs of member-at-large units at least [six] four weeks before the convention or council at which they will be considered.

Notes
Anne Barker Schink is a member of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). She was elected in June 2012.

Ms. Schink has been a League member since 1972. She has served in a variety of positions at the local and state levels. In Haverford Township, Pennsylvania, she was local League president. After moving to Lower Merion Township, she joined the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania State Board. For six years Ms. Schink worked on human resources, social policy and women’s issues, authoring a study of Divorce Reform in 1980. She served as state president from 1983-87. During that time LWVPA sponsored political campaign debates for U.S. Senate, Governor and various Congressional races. It conducted a study and led advocacy efforts to oppose the legalization of gambling. She was a member of the LWVUS committee for the Meeting Basic Human Needs study from 1987-89.

In 1993, Ms. Schink moved to Maine where she joined the League of Women Voters of the Portland Area. She has served on the state board of the League of Women Voters of Maine for several years, creating *Cracking the Code: How to Analyze a Bill* (a workshop for citizens and League members) and *Forums in a Box* (a toolkit for organizing and conducting candidates and issues forums). She has represented the LWVME on the Coalition for Maine Women and the Choice Coalition. Professionally, Ms. Schink was the Program/Training/Disability Officer at the Maine Commission for Community Service for 12 years. During that time, she worked directly with AmeriCorps program directors, staff and AmeriCorps members to strengthen programs through training and technical assistance. She organized conferences, training events and small meetings. Ms. Schink has also provided professional coaching support to program directors and staff on grants management, program design, goals, objectives, and evaluation. She supported programs to recruit, retain and include individuals with disabilities in all parts of the AmeriCorps programs. Most recently, Ms. Schink has worked as a consultant in volunteer management, training and facilitation. Her clients include AmeriCorps programs, state service commissions, nonprofit organizations and religious congregations. With a colleague she created Competencies for Managers of Volunteers, including a Novice to Expert Continuum, that assist managers of volunteers to assess and document their professional skills. She co-authored chapters on Advocacy and Professionalism for the *Volunteer Management Handbook 2nd Edition*, published by Wiley in 2012.

For the past ten years Ms. Schink has served on the InforME Board, a legislatively created board that oversees the contract with Maine Interactive Corporation which manages the [www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov) website. This website has consistently received national Best of the Web awards for its innovative applications that improve access to e-government, e-commerce and e-democracy services.

Ms. Schink has a BA in English from Russell Sage College. In 2007 she received her national Certification in Volunteer Administration (CVA). She has certificates in training for trainers, facilitative leadership, advanced facilitation, multi-party mediation, and fundraising management. Ms. Schink lives in South Portland, Maine. She has two adult daughters, a son-in-law and two grandchildren who also live in Portland, Maine.
Christina Bellantoni joined the PBS NewsHour in January 2012. In her role as Politics Editor, she directs coverage of campaign, White House and congressional news and appears on the program for on-air analysis.

Bellantoni has spent over a decade covering national political and business news in Washington, D.C., and California. She served as Associate Politics Editor at Roll Call for more than a year before joining the NewsHour. She has appeared regularly as a political analyst on national television programs such as "Hardball," "Countdown," "On the Record w/ Greta Van Susteren," "Reliable Sources," "TopLine," "The Rachel Maddow Show" and "The Daily Rundown."

Prior to her time at Roll Call, Bellantoni was a senior reporter-blogger at Talking Points Memo's Washington bureau covering the White House and national politics. Before joining TPM, Bellantoni was a White House correspondent for The Washington Times, a post she took after covering the 2008 presidential campaign. She joined the Times in December 2003, covering state and congressional politics before moving to the national political beat for the 2008 election.

Bellantoni began her journalism career in 1998 covering business in her home state of California. She won two national journalism awards for Best Scoop in 2001 for her story in Silicon Valley Biz Ink that revealed the San Jose Sharks were up for sale.

A graduate of University of California, Berkeley, Bellantoni majored in mass communications. She led a study group for undergraduate students as an Institute of Politics Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School in fall 2011.