

**Women's Legislative Roundtable
4th Floor East Conference Room
January 20, 2016**

Carol Noggle, LWV-VA 2nd Vice President and Legislative Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 8:30am. Carol introduced the LWV-VA Co- Presidents Lois Page and Dianne Blais and former LWV-VA. President Anne Sterling.

The first legislator to speak is new to the General Assembly this year, **Delegate Jennifer B. Boysko** [D - 86th]. She said she is on the Counties, Cities & Towns Committee and on the Privileges & Elections Committee. Del. Boysko is patron of the following bills;

HB106 is a town charter bill for the town of Herndon.

HB355 is a forensics bill. It adds a victim advocate to the Forensic Science Board, and the Department of Forensic Science's policy board.

HB509 is a bill that creates the position of a Chief Information Security Officer. She said that there has been some controversy over this bill and it has been put off for a week.

HB199 This bill allows any locality to fund mental health treatment & counseling for a member of a volunteer fire or rescue company.

HB1078 In certain towns where there is no newspaper circulated, this bill allows that legal notices be published on the locality website.

H1082 Allows the DMV to issue a driving privilege card to people who have been granted a period of stay authorized by the Attorney General of the U.S., who are not otherwise eligible for a temporary drivers license.

HB1225 This bill removes the prohibition on the provision of coverage for abortion in qualified insurance plans that are sold through a health benefits exchange operating in Virginia.

Delegate Sam Rasoul [D - 11th], was the next speaker.

He said he has been working on voting rights issues and redistricting. He said that this year there is a bill **HB1040** to establish a new system for open primaries called "Top Two." He said there would be one big primary for all republicans and democrats and independents. The top two vote getters would go on to the next election. He said, "Right now we [legislators] have almost zero incentive to compromise. This system would force me to find ways of coming to the center."

When asked if he has seen the video announcing the "Jerry Mandering" campaign he said yes.

"I look forward to supporting Jerry Mandering in his campaign."

He added, "Incumbents may not like it. In the last election 79 out of 140 races had no competition. Think about how many people feel dis-enfranchised by the system now."

Some of Del Rasoul's bills listed in the LIS;

HB303 Virginia Interim Redistricting Commission; criteria for remedial redistricting

HB1037 Voting Systems; prohibits use of direct recording electronic machines on or after July 1, 2017

HJ18 Constitutional amendment; term limits for members of the General Assembly

Delegate Vivian E. Watts [D - 39th]

Del. Watts said she wanted to talk about redistricting. She said that when she read the suit [re -the 3rd District] about packing the districts she was disappointed that it didn't include pages of background on split precincts. This is a problem in her district. She said, "No one knows what my district is. There are too many split precincts. The lines don't even respect geographic features like rivers. In 2011 after all the districts around mine were drawn I got all the leftovers."

Delegate Paul E. Krizek [D - 44th]

Del. Krizek said he thinks the party system is a good system. He said his district, [the 44th] is compact, contiguous, has two schools and stops at the river. “ One of the problems when you re-district every 10 years is that people don’t know who they’re voting for. We should not be splitting precincts,” he said. His suggestion was to let a computer draw the districts. “We have the technology. We need to take it out of human hands.”

Del Krizek is patron of **HB135** that allows Virginia Native Americans living in other states to have in state tuition.

HB144 is a bill to honor Native Americans as well as Columbus on Columbus Day, the 2nd Monday in October.

Del. Krizek ended his talk saying that he is part of a caucus of 34 that have been good to him. He invited us to visit him in his office. ”My door is always open. You are welcome to come visit.”

Delegate Betsy Carr [D- 69th]

Del. Carr said she is on the Appropriations Committee, and the Sub Committees ,Compensation & Retirement and Public Safety. She is carrying about 11 bills. She said that in one of the committees they are looking at poverty in Richmond. They are looking at the areas of housing, health and transportation.

One of her bills **HB934** concerns expungement of certain misdemeanors.It allows a person who has been convicted of certain misdemeanors who has completed all terms of probation to file a petition for expungement 10 years after the conviction.

Del Car is patron of **HB959** Commission for the Commemoration of the Centennial of Women’s Right to Vote. This Commission is charged with planning and leading the commemoration throughout Virginia in 2020.

Del. Carr is also working with a national group on a commemoration of World War 1. She said that this will be a great opportunity for education of the public and to honor our veterans.She mentioned that the Carillon is the state’s only monument to WW1.

She ended by giving an invitation to visit her in her office, Room 527.

Senator Dave W. Marsden [D 37th]

Senator Marsden shared with us that he has just finished reading the book, “Sapiens”, which he said explains how homo sapiens developed and became successful. He said the book explains that homo sapiens created mythology and formed villages and then towns where all believed in the same myths or gods and believed and trusted in their leaders. He said, “ The problem we have today is that people have lost trust in things; banks, and leaders in government.” He also said, ”Economic disparity makes it difficult for us to work together in Virginia. People in rural areas of Virginia are resentful and untrusting of leaders of state government and leaders in Washington.”

He ended by saying that we all need to express ourselves with a sense of humor and we need to try to be understanding.

LWV-VA Co-President Lois Page asked for the people who were attending the meeting to introduce themselves. Then she asked if there were any announcements. Donna Granski [LWV-RMA] talked about the Centennial Rally for Equal Rights February 16 at the Capitol. Mary Crutchfield [LWV-RMA] added that people who want to go to the lunch at the Library should make reservations soon. Candace Graham [Women-Matter] announced that February 3 is LWV Lobby Day and Women’s Equality Coalition Lobby Day. Anne Sterling[LWV-RMA] said One Virginia 2021 is having their Lobby Day on that day as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.