President’s Message

December – Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa – our favorite gift-giving and receiving holidays! Also, International Human Rights Day and Migrants Day, and the Winter Solstice. And, LWV-VA kicked off the 2019 Virginia Legislative Session with our Women’s Legislative Roundtable (WLRT)!

I’ve not contributed to several recent Voter Express editions due to a prolonged back issue which kept me off my feet for almost six weeks. I’m about 80% good-to-go now and can’t fully express my gratitude for the board members and other Leaguers who stepped up and kept things running in my absence. Thanks, guys, you know who you are!

This full Virginia Voter is packed with good information beginning with details about the upcoming Legislative Session and Program Planning, and articles about advocacy and action.

I hope you pay attention to the Nominating Committee’s piece on page 5 – believe it or not, we have less than six months before our Convention in Norfolk, where we will elect new leadership, and we want everyone to consider how they can help lead this us as the League of Women Voters approaches its 100th birthday.

I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the John Marshall Hotel on Dec. 5. I look forward to the celebration of ERA ratification and our weekly WLRTs beginning in January. For lots more news, don’t forget to go to our website lwv-va.org!

-Sue Lewis
Program Planning

It is time to think about what you would like for the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) to pursue in our 2018-19 planning period.

League Program planning begins with the selection of an issue by a local League for study, restudy and/or advocacy in the respective League’s next biennium. If recommended by the Board of LWV-VA and agreed by vote at the Convention, it becomes the topic of study with recommendations for a position or an update at either Council or Convention. This process formulates a position that is used by the state and local Leagues in Virginia to influence public policy.

We are now in the period where local Leagues identify those issues to recommend. The following guidelines help consideration:

- Is there widespread member interest?
- Is this a timely issue?
- Are there already League positions (at the LWVUS level) on the issue?
- Is government action the most effective way to address the problem?
- Is work on this issue likely to attract new members?
- Are there members willing to work on the issue?

The last point is particularly important in that local Leagues proposing a study should be prepared to take a leadership role in implementation, if the study is approved at Convention.

The “League Program” includes both study and action and sometimes can be composed entirely of advocacy (action) on the League’s positions. Advocacy can be holding a forum or seminar on a “hot-button” issue in the community (on which the League has a position) and/or organizing a lobbying effort composed of letters to the editor, lobbying elected officials on legislation and other efforts. Similarly, this might be a review of one or more of current LWV-VA positions or even deleting a position.

A call for input has been sent to each local League president. A report form has been attached. An official recorder should be appointed at the discussion meeting and the responses returned in a timely manner. Members who do not attend a discussion meeting can give input by using the response form and fill in as an individual, following the directions on the form, unless your League has bylaws or policies preventing this.

For LWV-VA program planning, members are asked to review the positions and decide:

1) are there any new issues that should be studied;
2) do any of the current positions need updating (restudy);
3) are there any positions/issues that should have priority for action;
4) are there positions that should be abandoned (deleted) because they no longer apply or have been accomplished; and
5) who is willing to work on the issue?

The position headings are listed on the form.

The LWV-VA website Action and Advocacy page has both the documents of Positions in

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One more aspect to consider before going to the individual LWV-VA positions is to recall the LWVUS Program for 2018-20 (Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions League of Women Voters of the United States), that was adopted at the 2018 National Convention. LWVUS intended that the Campaign be incorporated into all Leagues’ future program planning.

In considering items to suggest for LWV of Virginia please apply this test: “Is this a statewide issue for the League?” LWV-VA interacts with officials elected to state government (Governor’s Office, Cabinet and associated agencies, the members of the General Assembly, etc.) as well as with the U.S. Senators and Representatives from Virginia. Issues that affect the entire Commonwealth of Virginia are appropriate as topics for the state League.

Thank you for your commitment and your thoughtful consideration of this important phase of the LWV-VA work to form positions that are vital to the well-being of the Commonwealth.

WLRT is a Capitol Tradition and WE WILL MAKE HISTORY!

On Wednesdays during the Virginia General Assembly session, the League of Women Voters of Virginia hosts the Women’s Legislative Round Table (WLRT). The 2019 edition is the short legislative session. AND 2019 SHALL BE THE YEAR THAT VIRGINIA RATIFIES THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT! On Wednesday, January 9, 2019, we will join ERA advocates in Richmond to urge our state’s legislators and staffs: The time has come for Virginia to become the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

On Wednesday, January 9, 2019, we will join ERA advocates in Richmond to urge our state’s legislators and staffs: The time has come for Virginia to become the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Look for briefing plans and scheduling details on the website, LWV-VA.org. We start the celebration on January 9, 2019.

Also, plan to participate in the regular Wednesday briefings of WLRT from January 16 to February 27. League members and friends gather in the Tidewater Room on the 5th Floor of the SunTrust Center, 919 East Main Street. From 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., we have coffee, pastries, and information on upcoming legislation. Legislators and advocates drop in as they are available to share what they are working on legislatively. Afterwards, League members can observe committee and subcommittee meetings or visit with their delegates and senators to share their opinions and concerns about legislative issues. One delegate said that he expects 3,200 bills to be introduced. He chuckled as he calculated a rate of four minutes for consideration of each bill. Especially because the schedules are so heavy, Leaguers are

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encouraged to make appointments in advance with the Richmond offices of the legislators.

WLRT offers an exceptional educational opportunity – for both legislative novices and experienced nerds. There is no charge and no registration process for WLRT. We take part in the legislative process of the longest serving, and continuously active, deliberative assembly in the world – the Virginia General Assembly.

LWV-VA holds a block of hotel rooms throughout January and February at The Berkeley Hotel, 1200 E. Cary St., for members from far-flung parts of the Commonwealth who must stay overnight to make the 8:30 a.m. early start schedule. If you would like to use a room on a shared basis, please email LWV-VA Treasurer at treasurer@lwv-va.org for availability and instructions.

Special plans for WLRT are scheduled for League Day on Wednesday, February 6. Check the website at LWV-VA.org and stay alert for developments. On February 6, WLRT will meet at the SunTrust Center in the Tilghman Room on the first floor.

LEAGUE DAY is February 6! Show League Strength in the Galleries

LWV-VA League Day at the General Assembly is Wednesday, February 6, 2019. Start your day at a session of the Women’s Legislative Round Table (WLRT) from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Tilghman Room in the SunTrust Building.

After WLRT, League members from across the Commonwealth can network as they wend their way to the Capitol. Although there is very little time between the WLRT and the necessary lineup for the recognition ceremonies in the Senate and House Galleries, League members are encouraged to plan ahead for a quick visit to the offices of their Senators and Delegates to share concerns and hopes for legislative action.

By 11:00 a.m., lines for the Galleries security checks are forming. League members choose either the Senate or House Gallery. All must arrive at the lines early and organize, as a group, to facilitate going through security and get seated together. This requires patience. To have the best effect, members must be seated in the galleries by 11:50 a.m. because the legislative session begins promptly at noon. After each respective chamber is called to order, a Senator or Delegate will introduce the representatives of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. The Lieutenant Governor in the Senate and the Speaker of the House recognizes the League members. Following the introductions, groups are urged to leave the galleries to make way for other groups or individuals who want to watch the legislative proceedings.

Following the visit to the Capitol, League members gather for lunch and networking with other League members. Following lunch, members may go back to the Capitol to the Galleries to watch more of the General Assembly or to take guided tours of the historic building. Later in the afternoon, members may observe various committee meetings or visit the offices of legislators.

Plan your car pools. Check the timelines for public transit to Richmond: Leaguers can take Amtrak to Richmond. If your train arrives at Main Street Station, take Uber or Lyft or walk to the SunTrust Center at 919 East Main Street, Richmond. If your train arrives at Staples Mill Station, take Uber or Lyft to the SunTrust Center or to Broad Street to a platform for the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) Pulse, the new rapid bus transit system running down Broad Street. Buy your ticket on the platform before the bus arrives.
Action Alerts Have Begun!

Studies have been completed and positions formed. Now is the time for Advocacy and Action – the whole reason we study and deliberate! Please respond to Action Alerts as soon as you can so that our action is timely and coordinated. And remember to record your activity on our Advocacy Challenge webform:

Prize Awards are being offered for the most active leagues and a metric applied to make smaller leagues competitive with those with more members.

1st Prize: $650 • 2nd Prize: $200 • 3rd Prize: $150

Nomination Process for the LWV-VA Board

Kathleen Matusiak leads a Nominating Committee of five League members dedicated to finding leaders who will step forward to guide the State League Board for the upcoming biennium. Where are the Leaguers with the grasp of the issues and the insight to help all of us do what we can do? Let’s find the talent we need to strengthen our organization and each other. Every League member knows how important it is to all of us that some will accept responsibility. Every League member has experienced the remarkable turnaround that service to others creates meaning in our own lives.

The nominating committee continues the talent search for people to serve on the LWV state board for the next two-year term, July 2019-June 2021. Suggest a member to serve on the next LWV state board. Reach out to the talent you see in action. Boost the League! Please share your ideas for new leaders with the committee members.

Send your email suggestions to Kathy Matusiak kmatusiak@comcast.net. Just a short profile with contact information will do. Do you know the name, the League affiliation, and the area of expertise? Why do you think the person would contribute to the work of the State League Board? Maybe you can see yourself working with the State League Board! All recommendations are thoughtfully considered. Leadership matters on issues and organizational development. Talk about these very important positions at your local League functions and urge each area of the League to be represented on the State League Board.

Nominating Committee members are Kathy Matusiak (Chair), Linda Garvelink, Dianne Blais, Anne Sterling, and Lynn Johnston.

https://lwv-va.org
“Advocacy” or “Lobbying”?

It is common for Leagues to support their advocacy activities with only non-charitable contributions. However, this is unnecessary. Leagues may, and are encouraged to, use charitable contributions to support their non-lobbying advocacy activities. **Advocacy encompasses pleading for or against causes, as well as supporting or recommending positions.**

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

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

To constitute **direct lobbying**, a communication must either:

1) Be directed to a legislator, their staff or other governmental employee who may participate in the formulation of legislation,
   a. AND refer to
   b. AND express a view on specific legislation;

OR

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

To constitute **grassroots lobbying**, a communication must be:

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

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

*Source: LWVUS*

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**LWV-VA League Day at the General Assembly is Wednesday, February 6, 2019.**

**Join us in Richmond and begin 2019 with a show of League strength!**

Start your day at a session of the Women’s Legislative Round Table (WLRT) from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Tilghman Room in the SunTrust Building in downtown Richmond. *(See article page 4)*

https://lwv-va.org
Successful Action on Gun Violence

It’s time that we make a difference and the time is now to take a stand against gun violence. That is the sentiment of communities across the United States, so in Virginia we took a stand and created the first special interest license plate, bearing the legend, “STOP GUN VIOLENCE.”

Working with the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and activists across Virginia, we spoke with over 6,000 people, to promote the “STOP GUN VIOLENCE” license plate.

The process wasn’t easy. To start, we learned from the Virginia DMV the requirements for approving a new special interest license plate. We enlisted an artist to design the logo of a hand with a broken heart – “stop breaking hearts.”

New special interest plates must be approved by legislation. Our chief patron was Delegate Marcus Simon (D-Fairfax/Falls Church) and co-patron was Senator Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria).

Next, the DMV required 450 completed and prepaid applications. After two years of attending farmers’ markets, fall festivals, and Memorial Day parades, we had 530 applications from citizens in Richmond, Warrenton, Harrisonburg, Roanoke, Winchester, Falls Church, Williamsburg, Fairfax, and even Bloxom. We were ready to proceed.

On January 23, 2018, Carol Luten, founder of the program, and Delegate Simon introduced House Bill 287 to the House Transportation committee. We learned after the presentation that a fifteen-year-old student armed with a pistol at Marshall County High School in Benton, Kentucky had just killed two students and wounded 18 more. HB 287 passed in committee and was sent to the House floor for debate. In 2018, 81 sensible gun violence prevention bills were sent to the General Assembly and 79 were summarily thrown out without discussion. Two remained, HB 287 and an amendment that Senator Creigh Deeds (D-Bath County) introduced prohibiting minors who have been committed or detained for mental health treatment, from purchasing a firearm when of legal age.

Once HB 287 reached the House floor, sparks began to fly. Majority Leader Todd Gilbert (R-Shenandoah) stated that it was not just “a little ol’ license plate bill…I think the delegate understands it’s much more than that…It’s him trying to build a narrative that gun violence is somehow different from regular violence.” Through compromise, the bill became revenue sharing starting in 2020 with the funds benefitting Virginians with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse.

HB 287 was presented on February 14 to the Senate Transportation committee. Minutes after speaking we learned that 17 students were shot, and 14 were wounded at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida by a former student with a semi-automatic rifle.

On the last day of the 2018 General Assembly,
nerves were frayed, but eventually special interest license plate bill HB 287 finally passed, and Governor Northam later signed it into law.

Throughout the process, we were able to keep the message in focus. In the end, the obstacles came out in our favor, and the conflicts helped spread the message. The license plates now serve as moving billboards, encouraging drivers to create change, join a prevention movement, support sensible gun legislation, and have hope.

They are available at DMV offices throughout Virginia and on the DMV website at: https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles/#splates/category=category

FACT: More Virginians are killed annually by gunfire than in car accidents.

-Carol Luten, LWV of Falls Church

MORE GUN VIOLENCE FACTS

- 96 Americans die from gun violence each day.
- 91% of Americans want universal background checks.
- 84% of NRA members support background checks.
- In the U.S. there are more gun dealers than Starbucks & McDonalds combined.
- Since 1968 more Americans have died from gunfire than from all U.S. wars.
- Gun violence is the 2nd leading cause of death in children ages 10-19.

Source: Center for American Progress – Virginia Under the Gun

2019 ERA Effort Recruits and Engages Members

At the end of this midterm election season (depending on certified elections), LWV-VA has 1,840 members. While we can expect membership to dip following the elections and the holidays, the increase in voter turnout is an indicator of increased civic engagement. Virginia voter turnout this year was 57% – a 15-point increase over 2014 midterm elections turnout.

Many of the voters who turned out on Election Day are committed to helping Virginia ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). They are turning to LWV-VA for information and guidance on the ERA, asking to create Local Leagues throughout the state or simply to hold discussions on the ERA. Local Leagues can help these newly engaged voters by explaining what the ERA is and what it would do for Virginians and all Americans.

Virginia’s ERA ratification efforts are also a great way to engage members. LWV-VA has a long-established position in support of ratification. The mission statement of LWVUS also speaks to equal rights. Citizens feel comfortable about speaking to their state representatives about supporting ratification and expressly affirming the equality of women in the Constitution of the United States of America. No one needs an advanced degree or the credentials of an engineer, teacher, doctor, or even an attorney to understand the feeling of equality.

Let’s grow our membership. Let’s engage everyone to help Virginia ratify the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT! #VA4ERA
Local League Activities

Montgomery County – Redistricting

Montgomery County defines its voter registration drives in an expansive way as “voter registration and education.” Whenever we go somewhere to talk about voting, we also take redistricting materials and a sign. This way we have enlisted several dozen people for OneVirginia2021 and have distributed information.

The multi-purpose approach helps us attract visitors who are already registered to vote and who might not otherwise stop by our table. We then offer them our “Facts” booklet and other literature. This fall, many were interested in the state’s brochure on the two proposed constitutional amendments.

We tried some new places for voter registration and information this year, trying to penetrate locations and groups that we don’t usually meet. One of our members, Susan Gurley, spent four days at the Montgomery County Thrift Store and two more days at the Christmas Store (a service of our Emergency Assistance Program). She didn’t register many voters, but she did talk to a lot of people and handed out literature both on voting and redistricting, and signed up some people for OneVirginia2021. She also developed good relationships with the managers of these organizations. Carol Linker joined her on some of these days.

Several League members hosted OneVirginia2021 information tables at the polls. We also talked about redistricting and passed around the action form at our November “First Tuesday” League lunch. We certainly include our own members in every public education outreach!

- Carolyn Rude, LWV of Montgomery County

Roanoke Valley – ERA

The League of Women Voters of the Roanoke Valley is excited about working to make sure Virginia is the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Then the ERA can finally be added to the Constitution. LWVRV member Freeda Cathcart greeted the ERA bus tour when it came to the Virginia Women’s Conference at the Hotel Roanoke. People were encouraged to sign the bus and sign the VARatifyERA petition. People can sign the petition online by going to https://varatifyera.org/petition/. Another way to help ratify the ERA is to write to your state delegate or state senator to ask them to support HJ 579.

Every week there is a national ERA strategy call hosted by KatrinaDream.org with inspirational guest speakers, updates from unratified states, announcements with a Salon time for activists to network and support each other. Freeda Cathcart co-hosted The Call on November 18 with guest speaker Virginia Delegate Hala Ayala, one of the Chief Patrons for the ERA Bill HJ 579. People can join on the weekly call on Sundays at 4 p.m. by dialing 563-999-2090 access code 898879#.

-Freeda Cathcart, LWV of Roanoke Valley

Loudoun County – Disability Rights

Recently, the League of Women Voters of Loudoun County discussed different ways we can reach underserved areas. One of our members, Claire Crook, shared her experience at the polls with her first-time-voting daughter who has an intellectual disability. The election officials at the poll did not allow Claire to vote with her daughter, despite her

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Local League Activities continued
daughter’s wanting Claire to be with her. Instead, one of the officials walked Claire’s daughter through the voting process. Claire watched while the official guided her daughter to vote for the person opposite the one that her daughter asked for.

“I did not advocate for her at the time, shamefully, because I was afraid that people would say she shouldn’t vote because of having an intellectual disability and not being able to speak well or very clearly,” Claire explained.

However, because of the experience, Claire has since learned that she can vote with her daughter. Claire feels strongly that others with a disability and their advocates need to know they have rights. She said, “I want people to know that these folks can vote and do vote. Many states are trying to take voting rights from these folks. Due to barriers in voting, many of these individuals are routinely dropped from active voter data and must register to vote time and time again.”

Claire and members the LWV of Loudoun County are creating a handout stating the facts of disability voting rights to educate voters and to present at polling stations.

-Joanne McAlpine, LWV of Loudoun County

South Hampton Roads – Legislative Collaborative Table

The League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads is a member of the regional Legislative Collaborative Table (LCT), a group of 23 local organizations that have pursued a year-round advocacy plan to build skills and confidence in members and the public, while building relationships with legislators. In addition to the LWVSHR, the LCT includes organizations such as the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, the Virginia Interfaith Center, AARP, Mothers Out Front, PFLAG, Virginia Beach National Alliance on Mental Illness, and the Sierra Club. In late spring, members of these organizations were invited to meet to establish this year’s top priorities. They decided that this year the priorities would be redistricting reform and voter access, immigration, carbon cap and trade, non-discrimination and ERA ratification, criminal justice reform through Step VA, and public transportation funding. Redistricting reform topped the list especially to meet the state legislative timetable for a Virginia Constitutional Amendment.

Over the summer, a volunteer steering committee of the LCT planned a fall briefing session on the top priorities. Four of the seven steering committee members were Leaguers and half the presentations were organized by League members. The September 30 meeting, popularly called the “Social Justice University,” was well attended. Invited speakers stressed the importance of each of the priorities, gave information about bills, and suggested strategies and talking points that could be presented to legislators. For example, Brian Cannon of OneVirginia2021 spoke about the importance of redistricting and the impact on Virginia of gerrymandered districts, including the costs to taxpayers for legal fees. Mike Tidwell of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network spoke about sea level rise and why Virginia should
Should the League Evolve?

When I was a child in school in the turbulent and terrifying 1960s, I watched many teachers contort themselves into new, shaggier, and absurd versions of themselves in the attempt to be “relevant.” One teacher played Simon and Garfunkel’s “Feeling Groovy” and instructed us to define how and when we did, indeed, feel groovy. Another insisted that we call him by his first name because he was our “cool pal.” Young teens are masters of sarcastic judgment and we made full use of these superpowers as we watched these pathetic adults (ancients to us) contort themselves into false and vapid personalities that fit about as well as their newly purchased bell-bottoms.

Since the 2016 elections, many new and highly partisan groups have come to the political arena. They are harnessing newly found energy and, in most cases, making positive change to the system. However, the birth of these groups has shaken some in the League of Women Voters (LWV), making them feel rather Jurassic and worried about being left in the dust of these newly evolved species.

Some members have proposed that we join forces with these new groups. In fact, some members recently hosted a table at a highly partisan women’s event. The rationale was that LWV should entice attendees to see the group as a modern, relevant entity. Many in the LWV were gripped with the same fear that my teachers experienced fifty years ago – a fear of being out of place in a new world.

Working to collaborate with partisan groups is a dangerous and unnecessary path. Being part of the League of Women Voters makes us very relevant. Our nonpartisanship is what gives us increased credibility now and in the future.

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The political climate of today cannot be sustained if our country is to survive intact; the rhetoric must cool down or we are in bigger trouble than we may imagine. Indeed, a study of history shows other times when we were this polarized. Canings occurred in the Senate before the Civil War. Other turbulent times were the strikes and anarchist attacks of the 1930s and even the 1960s. Our universe is nothing if not cyclical. When we are in the thick of the crisis, it often appears that normality is gone forever. While many of these partisan groups will continue in some form, they also will have to evolve when precious quiet times return.

Even during this highly energized, divided time, LWV’s nonpartisanship is something to celebrate, not hide. It is because we are nonpartisan that the LWV can access venues from which others are barred. It is because we do not take sides that the public values our educational forums. Our nonpartisan stance allows us to sponsor our famous candidate debates and forums.

We should celebrate that asset that makes us separate and special.

Should we evolve? Of course! Stasis equals death. Only after intense debates did the LWV finally decide to support the Women’s March in January 2017 and related events. The movement was birthed from a specific election of a special person. Some might ask, “Wasn’t it a partisan act to join forces with them?” However, the answer is no.

The self-stated mission of the March was to “harness the political power of diverse women and their communities to create transformative social change.” It was born from the anger that sexual harassment was not then – and still is not – taken seriously: many perpetrators are promoted rather than punished. The Unity Principles of the ongoing March organization include affirming reproductive rights, civil rights, and rights for workers, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities. There is little there that Carrie Chapman Catt or Susan B. Anthony would take umbrage to. They, too, believed in the “power of women” to make social change.

Nowhere does the March manifesto say you must support one party over another. The manifesto states goals and tells women and male allies to act. Do these goals align more with one political party and spectrum than another? Certainly. However, the LWV always was and always will be a progressive organization. Progressive movements shake the status quo. There is no sin in making change. We would have no LWV if not for women who sought change. The error comes when we lose our soul.

It is counter to LWV principles to attend events and ally with groups formed to elect Democratic women, such as Emily’s List. When groups have the expressed goal of electing one party over another, we in LWV need to avoid official connections with them. When we sit at a table or support an event with such entities, we are no longer nonpartisan.

But there are so many groups with whom we can safely commingle. Moms Demand Action, Planned Parenthood, NAACP, and ACLU are just a few examples.

The LWV Board’s encouragement to reach out to students and engage in action as well as study are all necessary steps in our evolution. Equally smart was the adoption of the slogan “We believe in the power of women.” The political revolution afoot is not red or blue: it is pink. Woman have said “Enough!” and the LWV is working hard to respond to those sentiments. LWV does not have to lose itself, as did those teachers so long ago, who not only looked foolish and out-of-their-skin but who also lost the respect of those they sought to inspire.

Joan Porte, LWV of Arlington