South Hampton Roads, Here We Come!!!
I hope you all have registered for the marvelous convention we are about to enjoy. Many members have been working hard behind the scenes to make this a meaningful opportunity to network, develop new skills, and to share ideas. The new board will be officially elected as we thank the current board for their persistence and wonderful service.

Be sure to read the material on our special Convention page of the website. The workbook is there and gives you a chance to better prepare for decision making at Convention. Delegates to Convention will receive a printed copy when they register. By viewing online or downloading the workbook, you can read it and make a list of important things with the page number so you will be all set to ask questions or make suggestions.

Convention Documents
Read Full Convention Workbook HERE
Specific items to vote on here:
- Nominating Committee Report
- Program Report
  - Women’s Rights & Sexual Harassment Report
  - Recommended Program for 2019
- Treasurer
  - Operating Fund Budget

From the President
May – my favorite month! Besides my birthday and Mother’s Day, it also brings the flowers promised by the April showers! May also gives us several special days, including Cinco De Mayo, World Press Freedom Day, the start of Ramadan, World Fair Trade Day, Victoria Day for our Canadian friends and Memorial Day for the US (sometimes called Decoration Day in earlier times). Graduations begin, local Leagues continue with Annual Meetings, and best of all, our 39th Convention in Norfolk!

This issue has lots of good information from LWV-VA and LWVUS – check them all out!

This being my penultimate President’s message, I’m reflecting on the past two years. I’ve already written something for the Convention Workbook, and will have more in my spot on the Convention agenda, so I’ll just say that’s it’s been a real honor to serve the League in Virginia – for these years as your President, and the many years on the State Board in various capacities.

More later, and I hope to see many of you in Norfolk on May 18 & 19!

Sue Lewis

Ready for More Engagement?
The following Facebook Groups are available on our LWV VA Website: lwv-va.org

LWV-VA Advocacy: This is a group to specifically address Advocacy during the Legislative Session but, can cover the course of the full year since there are many groups and public meetings held throughout the year that are related to potential legislation and to regulations. Join the group to share your ideas, learn from others, and to keep up with the latest in Action Activities.
LWV-VA Behavioral Health: This group has been merged with the Health Care Group. Please join there.

LWV-VA Centennial Group: This group is for LWV members to discuss ways to observe the centennial of the 19th Amendment. Share what local Leagues are planning. Suggest what might be done statewide.

LWV-VA Climate Change: A meeting place for LWV members to discuss issues related to Climate Change, including but not limited to Sea Level Rising, Impact on food supply, Drought and Flooding, and much more.

LWV-VA Communications Team: This group is for League Leaders and members who have an interest in League communications using social media (websites, email, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, etc.) and printed materials (press releases, newsletters, graphics, League documents, etc.) where sharing of ideas can help us to increase League Visibility. If you have ideas about templates, content, management, software, or other topics. This is the place to be.

LWV-VA Education: Covers Pre-K through 12 and is directed to the LWVUS position and the LWV-VA position.

LWV-VA Fracking, Uranium, and other Extractive Industries: Originally established as a tool for the Fracking study group, this has now expanded to include any members (and guests) with an interest in Fracking. We also discuss pipeline issues. Through the sharing of important news, it will allow us to be better prepared for any Fracking issues that may arise during the Legislative Session.

LWV-VA Health Care: Members of WV-VA can meet here to share news related to Health Care and to discuss some of these issues. Join us and share the information you find and your insights into what is a very complex issue.

LWV-VA Immigration: Come and join us as we share breaking news and ideas on the current crisis in Immigration and work towards a better future.

LWV-VA Redistricting Group: This is a group for members and friends interested in the issue of Redistricting in Virginia. Share information and discuss Redistricting here.

LWV-VA Social: Originally intended for use by members working with social media. This has grown into a place where members (and guests) can share just about any type of information that may be relevant to League. It is the “social” meeting ground for members to discuss League related issues. A different group has been established for only those interested in Communications and is listed below.

LWV-VA Transportation: A discussion group for members and friends who are interested in discussing and sharing information about the transportation issues important to League.

LWV-VA Women’s Rights & the VA Code: A sharing place for the Women’s Rights and the Virginia Code Study group to share information and to get information from members. A great place to talk about how the Virginia Code could be changed and why from the perspective of women’s rights.

LWV-VA Voting & Elections: Members of LWV-VA can meet here to share news related to voting rights, voter suppression, & election modernization, and to discuss these issues. Join us and share the information you find and your insights into these critical issues for our democracy. Come share the news you’ve found and let’s talk about these issues.

The following is a “private Facebook group”. This means that people can NOT find that the group exists and cannot see the posts unless they are a member. Any current member of the group can add people to this group, but they must be approved by Administrator before it goes into effect. Only members can post to the group and make comments.

LWV of Virginia for Gun Safety: This is a Facebook Group for members of the League of Women Voters of Virginia who are interested in gun safety. Members come here to inform and to be informed. As participants, we are encouraged to share local and national articles, research, memes, and events to raise awareness of the growing activity and progress in the gun violence prevention movement.
From the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS)

LWVUS Policy Book Available

Chris Carson

League Launches Campaign Around For the People Act

Chris Carson
The League opines that the American people need to understand what issues their Senators have with this legislation. The American people deserve to know why the Senators don’t want to ensure that every eligible citizen is able to register and vote. They deserve to know what harm will be caused by taking the politics out of redistricting; and, why we should allow big money interests to hide in the shadows and influence the votes of the American people.

The text of For the People Act can be found at: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1/text

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Webinars and Discussion Guide

Chris Carson
These webinars (DEI Info) share terms and theories in the DEI space and why DEI should intersect with our League work. A discussion guide is available on the League Management Site at lwv.org. The League DEI Committee, chaired by Dr. Deborah Turner, wants to hear from you. Please share questions, stories, and feedback by email to cdavis@lwv.org.

League Urges Presidential Candidates to Disclose Their Big Money Campaign Fundraisers

Chris Carson
LWVUS has joined a broad cross-partisan coalition for the subject purpose. These large dollar donors, commonly referred to as bundlers, often raise thousands, even millions of dollars, to help raise funds necessary to wage competitive campaigns. By law, individual donors are prohibited from contributing more than $5,600 to a single Presidential candidate’s campaign. For more information go to: lwv.org.

Voting Rights Advancement Act

Chris Carson
The April 23 webinar is available on the League Management Site, lwv.org. While you check this out, you can register for the May and June webinars.

Resource Page for 100th Anniversary

A landing page is available for activities and opportunities in connection with the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment and the League’s 100th birthday next year. Toolkits, Exhibits, Partnerships, and Convention details are on the League Management Tab HERE.
