



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PRINCE WILLIAM AREA

Officers

President

Carol Proven

1st Vice President

Barbara Amster

2nd Vice President

Connie Gilman

Treasurer

Grace White

**Corresponding
Secretary**

Jessie Barringer

**Acting Recording
Secretary**

Barbara Greiling

Voter Services

Carol Noggle

Membership

Jane Touchet

Newsletter Editor

Karen Kallmeyer

The President's View

DECEMBER 2018

In our Fall newsletter, I spoke of Women's Equality Day, which celebrated the passage of the 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote. I spoke also of the efforts of many of us to secure an Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. We are continuing the fight this year and throughout the next General Assembly, by urging our lawmakers to ratify the ERA in Virginia, ensuring equality for all in the US Constitution. Many counties have passed a resolution in favor of the ERA ratification, but some, sadly and shamefully, have not, including our own Prince William County. Ac

Today I am not listing all the wonderful things we have done in the past few months. I am issuing a call to Action! Let's become advocates for the ERA – write letters to the editor, visit your County Board of Supervisors and let them know what the truth is about the ERA, what it will do and that no one needs to fear it. Advocacy and education are what the League does best – so let's do it.

The General Assembly session opens on January 9, and the League of Women Voters has "our day" every Wednesday, when we gather to discuss upcoming legislation, meet with legislators who bring us up to date on what is happening with their bills, and then we can visit with our delegates and representatives later that day. I urge you to make the trip to Richmond and speak with your representatives, let them see your face and hear your voice, and know the issues you support and why. If you cannot go to Richmond, let your voice be heard through emails, phone calls, and the popular postcard parties.

Who are your representatives at the General Assembly? Go to <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/> and at the top of the page is a banner "Click here for Bill Tracking, Meetings, Who's My Legislator?" (<https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov/>) – put in your address, and selecting your address from the dropdown list, you will see all of your representatives, Virginia and US. The Virginia delegate and senator have emails listed beside their names, and clicking on More Info, there is a page with all their contact information. You can email, call or write – but let them know that you care what they are doing.

How can you find out information about our issues? Use the website for the Virginia League of Women Voters - <https://lww-va.org/> and under "Action and Advocacy", you can see LWV-VA 2018 Legislative Priorities. If you would like to see each position, in full or in brief, click on "Our Positions". Take a few minutes to look around our State website. You will not be disappointed. And don't miss out January 13th program on how to advocate for LWV related issues before the General Assembly. It should be especially useful this year.

I wish all of you a very Happy Holiday Season; 2019 is going to be an exciting year!

Carol Proven

In This Issue...

Upcoming Events

*Jan 13, 2019 -1:30pm
General Meeting
Central Library

*Jan 15, 2019-9:30am
Executive Board Mtg.

*Jan 16, 2019 8:30am
Round Table in
Richmond, VA

*Jan 16, 2019
Lunchtime Planning
To choose books for
Next year.

*Jan 21, 2019
Sips and Civility

*Jan 27, 2019 – 2 pm
Book Discussion
Chinn Park Library

Nominations for 2019-21 Officers

2019 is just around the corner. It's time to think about our own election of Officers and Directors. The election will take place in June, but the Nomination Committee will be sending voting members a survey early in the year to gather your interest in elected leadership and committee participation beginning July 1. You'll also be able to recommend other voting members.

The Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the Prince William Area require the election of officers every two years. The next election will be at the June 2019 Annual Meeting, and new officers will begin their terms on July 1.

The elected officers who are members of the Executive Committee are the President, Vice President, additional Vice Presidents as needed, the Secretary and a Treasurer. Additional members of the Board of Directors are elected at the same time.

All elected and appointed Officers or Directors must be voting members of LWV-PWA and must meet the requirements of the nonpartisanship policy.

LWV-PWA members represent a diverse community of experiences, ideas and viewpoints. Your voice at the leadership table is needed to support the League of Women Voters national mission of empowering voters and defending democracy in Manassas, Manassas Park, Prince William and Fauquier Counties.

If you have ideas, concerns or questions, please contact any of the Nomination Committee members:

Barbara Amster, First Vice President autodidact1000@aol.com

Jane Touchet, Membership Chair janetouchet@gmail.com

Judy Hingle, Nomination Committee Chair jkhingle@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER Opportunities and Events

It's Easy to Volunteer and Sign Up for LWV- PWA Opportunities and Events!

LWV-PWA is an active organization with a variety of ways to participate. Events and opportunities range from voter registration and education to presentations on important issues to book clubs to informal gatherings called Sips and Civility. Add participation in state and national League activities and new ideas from members, and there is a lot to keep track of.

SignUpGenius is the online platform we use to make it easy to volunteer and register for activities that interest you. You will see invitations and announcements for upcoming events sent directly to your inbox, but all of the same information is available to you through a web link and on our website.

Website: princewilliamlww.org



Click on the green SignUpGenius button in the [Calendar of Events](#)

or

Web Link: bit.ly/LWV-PWASignUps

Save this link in the "Favorites" area of your web browser for easy access.

Using either one of these tools, you'll be able to see upcoming opportunities, check on and change events you have sign up for. Information is grouped by month of the event. Prefer to see events by date? Just click on the "list view" icon in the "View Available SignUps" bar above the event announcements.

New invitations will arrive in your inbox. When you sign up for an activity, a confirmation email with the name of the activity, date, time and location will be sent to your email. Two days before the event, a reminder email with the same information will be sent. If you need to change your sign up, you can change the time, delete a sign up, or add additional sign ups on the main page for the event.

Your active participation makes LWV-PWA a respected non-partisan source for voter education and information in the Prince William Area. Thanks for all that you do!

Questions? Please contact Judy Hingle jkhingle@gmail.com

VOTER SERVICES

Why do we give voters the receipt when they register to vote, and keep a list of the names of those we register? Today I learned of the value when one of the persons at the Fairmont Retirement Center called me. We had registered her when we also collected absentee ballot by mail requests there on October 4th. I listened to her message first -- she was not happy. She had not received anything in the mail and thought Virginia was doing a bad job. She wanted to vote! She had moved from Florida. I recalled that she claimed she had used her Louisiana license for a photo ID here --- but I never believed that could be. When I called her she explained her dismay. I decided to go to the election office because I could not find her on the Dept. of Elections website. I was in a panic to think something we did had fallen through the cracks. I checked my Election Office folder first and found her on the Fairmont list. That list would also be at the EO and they would have her form that we submitted. The wonderful EO person quickly looked her up while I held my breath. Hooray! She is in the system so she can vote. Mailings are way behind so that is why she has not received her info. If we had not left her a receipt with my phone number (or someone's) she could have really had a hassle. She was very happy when I called with the good news. She had also gone to the DMV to get a photo ID and knows where to go to vote. Her birth year, by the way, is 1928. As I said before, "These Seniors want to vote".
Carol Noggle, Voter Services

REPORT ON HAYMARKET DAY, OCTOBER 20,2018

What a crowd today and what great League helpers at Haymarket Day!

Even the weather was good all day.

Thank you, thank you for informing hundreds of Voters and potential voters about the election, the two ballot questions, about VOTE411, and trying to clarify that we are nonpartisan even if we are located next to a particular Party's tent.

A few candidates and current officeholders stopped by. AG Mark Herring was there early, Del. Roem, Candidate Vangie Williams, School Board member Alyson Satterwhite, BOCS Chairman and Senate Candidate Corey Stewart, Gainesville Supervisor Candland. There may have been others that I didn't see.

The AARP tent was on the other side of us, OneVirginia2021 (with member Lucia Anderson) was nearby, and the Indivisible NOVA West group was not far away.

Carol Noggle

OPIOID FORUM NOVEMBER 17, 2018 – A HUGE SUCCESS

More than 80 people gathered on Saturday, November 17 at Manassas Park Community Center for an all-day forum on opioid addiction. We co-sponsored with the Lifelong Learning Institute-Manassas, and the Prince William County Office of Community Services.

The League posed three questions for consideration about the opioid epidemic: What is it? How does Virginia law impact this disease? What can we do about it? Participants watched the very wrenching film, *Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict*, and heard from a variety of outstanding speakers including law enforcement officers, health care professionals, elected officials and people whose lives have been devastated by opioid drugs. Carol Noggle from the PWA League gave an excellent session on how to advocate opioid legislation.

Katrina King, recovering from addiction, demystified the disease and said it can happen to anyone. She summarized well the path ahead, "it will take a two-pronged effort to combat the opioid epidemic: helping those who are already addicted while simultaneously preventing others from becoming addicted in the first place."

Participants agreed that the forum was a huge success. We thank the opioid planning committee and the many volunteers who made this event possible.

YES VIRGINIA, THERE IS AN ELECTION THIS YEAR

		<p>The Commonwealth of Virginia holds an election of some group of officials each year. The rotation cycles through all of the federal, state, and local officials every four years.</p>
Year One	2016	PRESIDENTIAL YEAR
Federal Offices	President, Vice President All 11 Virginia members of the U.S. House of Representatives. They are elected every 2 years.	
Year Two	2017	
State Offices	Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, 100 Delegates to the Virginia General Assembly. Delegates are up for election every 2 years	
Year Three	2018	MIDTERM Halfway between the 2 presidential years.
Federal Offices	One Senator (Kaine was last elected in 2012 for 6 years) All 11 Virginia members of the U.S. House of Representatives	
Year Four	2019	
State and Local Offices	All 40 state Senators, 100 state Delegates, county Board district Supervisors, Chair of county Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, School Board, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board and the Commonwealth's Attorney. The Clerk of the Court is elected every 8 years.	
Year One	2020	PRESIDENTIAL YEAR
Federal Offices	President, Vice President One U.S. Senator (Warner was last elected in 2014 for 6 years.) All 11 Virginia members of the U.S. House of Representatives.	
		<p>In addition, there are local elections for Mayor and City or Town Councils. In any year there may be an election of an official, a Constitutional Amendment, a bond issue, or a referendum.</p>

BOOK DISCUSSION

***American Political Parties and Elections:
A Very Short Introduction***
By L. Maisel

Date: 01/27/2019 (Sun.)

Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm EST

Location: [Chinn Park Regional Library](#)
[13065 Chinn Park Dr, Woodbridge, VA 22192](#)

Our last four book discussions have been interesting and invigorating. Consider joining and sharing your ideas with other like-minded (or not) members. Differences of opinions make discussions very lively! If you have a friend or two who is interested, bring them!

EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

Education Happenings: Advocacy, Awareness, Student Involvement in Prince William and Fauquier County per LWV-PWA members.

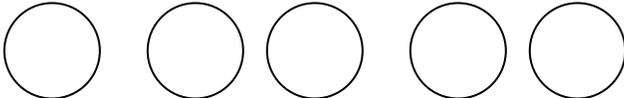
An opportunity in PW county to expand the public’s awareness of some of the League’s positions on Education arose because of the special November election for our school board chairman. We co-sponsored two debates of the candidates and led the question committee for both. We drafted over 30 questions including whether or not the candidates would support vouchers or tuition tax credits for private schools (one candidate had a resounding “no”), what policies they support to eliminate discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation, how they would reduce school suspensions, and how they would assure necessary counseling.

An increase of ten minutes in our allotted time for high school voter registration per class means we can discuss advocacy; that is, how students/residents can contact their legislators and influence them. We describe an actual education-related issue that was introduced to legislators by an 8-year-old Prince William student. The second grader advocated for an increase in recess time – 15 minutes is not enough. (One senior immediately agreed, “Amen!”) It is a concrete example of “How a Bill Becomes a Law in Virginia.” Now school districts, per SB273, can add 15 minutes of “instructional recreation time” in elementary schools.

The additional ten minutes with seniors also mean we can discuss the change in the U.S. Constitution to allow 18-year olds to vote. (Carol Noggle could not vote when she was 18.) More revealing to them are examples that show how difficult it was to pass the test used in Louisiana in 1963 to qualify to register to vote. Is our 2018 no-test required, just fill in the blanks and sign process – too easy and not seem so important?

These are some of the actual questions from the 1963 Louisiana Literacy test that was timed, and given under pressure by the election “judges”.

1. Spell backwards, forward.
2. Circle the first, first letter of the alphabet in this line.
3. Write the word vote upside down, but in the correct order.
4. In the first circle below write the last letter of the first word beginning with “L”.



5. Divide a vertical line in two equal parts by bisecting it with a curved horizontal that is only straight at its spot bisection of the vertical.

January will bring more high school voter registration opportunities that will continue into the spring. This is a great way for new volunteers to get comfortable with the voter registration process. These high school events bring seniors and teachers together for 30-minute sessions for voter education and registration. You’ll always have an experienced LWV-PWA mentor to work with! These events are presented in cooperation with the Prince William County Election Office and the Prince William Bar Association.

FAUQUIER ACTIVITIES AND ERA

The southern end of the LWV-PWA includes Fauquier county and we’ve been busy building our presence and gaining momentum. We were able to register voters on Vint Hill Day at Lord Fairfax Community College and at booths at Warrenton First Fridays. Handing out the “Top Ten” and League information led to many conversations about what the League does and represents.

The 13 voter registrations were a small part of the impact we’re seeing in Fauquier. It’s pleasant to see the reactions of people when they realize the League of Women Voters is active in their area.

With the League’s current focus of ERA ratification in Virginia we held the first Postcard Party at McMahon’s Pub. This was very well-attended, and we are planning future postcard events to continue encouraging our state legislators to commit to a ‘yes’ vote and make Virginia the 38th and last state to ratify the amendment.

Our most recent activity was co-sponsoring, with LFCC, a screening of the documentary “Equal Means Equal”. This was an excellent opportunity to educate the community on the facts surrounding the ERA and included a Q&A with Shyamali Roy Hauth, Military & Veterans Executive Chair of Virginia Equal Rights Coalition. Our hope is to continue membership growth in Fauquier as well as have a great time gathering in the community. Future Postcard Parties are being planned and we’ll send out the dates as they develop. Although we are at the southern bit of the Prince William Area we’d love to have you join us!

Ruthann Litchford

MEET THE MEMBER – JANE TOUCHET

I am Jane Touchet, a long-time Prince William resident and Membership Chair of our PWA League. I moved from New Jersey with my parents in 1959 when they built Story Book Land, a children’s attraction on Route 1 in Woodbridge. At that time my name was Jane Tice. Marriage to Paul Touchet, three daughters, and a career change to nursing ensued. I graduated from George Mason University with a BSN in Nursing, with Distinction, at age 47, proving that it’s never too late to learn. Although a nurse, a wife and mother of three, I found time to become involved in the political scene in PWC.

While stuffing envelopes in a local campaign office, I met Sheila School, another volunteer. I was fascinated that Sheila was a school teacher and her last name was School. We became fast friends. While I was a dedicated partisan, Sheila preferred the non-partisan endeavors of groups like the League of Women Voters and felt their role in promoting democracy was crucial. She shouted their praises on many occasions, and with encouragement and support from Sherry Zachary of the FFX League, Sheila and Shirley White became the original co-chairs of the Prince William Area League. Because I was Sheila’s friend, I went along for the ride, and I became more and more impressed with the League’s work to encourage citizen action and voting as a way to promote democracy. Sadly Sheila School, my mentor, passed away three years ago. She had inspired me to get involved and promote the work of the LWV. I then became the membership chair last year. I have been pleased with the influx of over 30 new members this year. If you have a friend who would like to join please send them to me: janetouchet@gmail.com.

Not only is the LWV is an important vehicle for education and promotion of voting, we discuss and support issues that mean so much to all of us, especially to women. Passage of the ERA in Virginia is an important goal for the coming year. And registering as many new voters as I can is my personal goal. Won’t you join me?

NEW MEMBERS

Shirley Buchanan- Manassas, VA
Sharon H. Kalb– Montclair, VA
Johnette & Caitlyn Fisk– Haymarket, VA
Helen Lohr (student) – Warrenton, VA
Lyssa White – Manassas, VA
Kelly Litchford (student) – Warrenton, VA