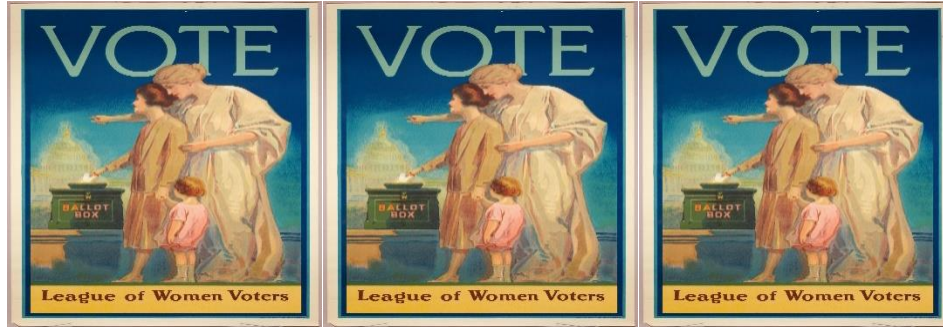


“The Prince William - Fauquier Voter”



Fall 2024 Newsletter



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President's Report – Pat Reilly



Tea for Democracy on September 8th, was a great success thanks to our Meeting Co-Directors Cynthia Chambliss and Sheila Arrington. They found us a very wonderful room and set up a great display of our members' baking skills, which were enjoyed by all. In addition, Sheila documented the kick-off meeting with photos. Thank you to all who brought desserts and helped with the cleanup. Gratitude to the Program Directors Carol P., Judy and Connie for inviting Voting Study Chair Deb Wake as our speaker. There's no better way to kick off our National Voter Registration Week and the forthcoming study consensus process than by hearing from the Chair of the study. Deb didn't disappoint and the discussion after was robust. If you haven't received a link to [The Inalienable Right to Vote](#), please let me know. Thanks to Jane Touchet for bringing as her guest, the once and future member, Shari Oley, who offered to be our treasurer.

The consensus meeting for The Inalienable Right to Vote should be held before

December. I am suggesting any time after Nov. 5. We can do this on Zoom. (Note: The Board voted to have the consensus meeting on Nov. 12.)

Our week in the news – Fauquier Times Citizens story and Lorraine’s amazing LTE on gun violence. I propose we have a place on the website for “Our Views in the News” Westminster program, NVRD and Candidate Forum will be reported live after the fact.

Welcome to our new Treasurer, Shari Oley!

Trish Freed and Grace White agreed to one-year terms as Treasurer for 2023 -2025. Trish served from 2021 through 2024, then Grace White took over in 2024. Grace stepped down from her position last month in preparation for her move to Pennsylvania! And Shari agreed to take on the position of Treasurer this fall.

Shari joined the League of Women Voters back in the 70’s while living in New York State. She became a member of our League in 2016 and actually edited the Newsletter for a while. For 35 years Shari owned her consulting company, developing brochures, writing copy and helping other companies thrive. One of her hobbies is researching and writing papers (hopefully she will share them with us!). She is currently using her talents to revise our membership brochure.

National Voter Registration Day September 17th



The PWFA League of Women Voters Chapter has great working relationship with the Prince William Public Libraries. The photo on the left is from Central Library. Sadly, no one registered, but happily, all who stopped by the table were registered voters! In addition to being at Central, the League was at six Prince William libraries. At Bull Run Library, there were 5 new registrations and at Haymarket, 3 people registered to vote. Other results have yet to come in.

Nonprofit VOTE, is honored to serve as the Managing Partner of National Voter Registration Day, and reported that together we registered 2 million voters this year. The success of the holiday belongs to the many Partners – including you – working in concert as a broad collaborative. Together, we are building a more engaged and representative democracy. Let’s continue this momentum as we approach GOTV season and gear up for next year’s National Voter Registration Day, which will be held on **September 16, 2025!**



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Share the Joy at USCIS New Citizen Ceremonies

Pat Reilly

Where else can you help 376 newly pledged U.S. citizens from 50 nations register to vote in one day? I had that honor on Sept. 21 when I answered the call on Signup Genius to help the Fairfax Area Chapter at the USCIS offices. The League is frequently invited there to offer new citizens the opportunity to register to vote. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Agency does not have offices in Prince William or Fauquier counties.

USCIS in Fairfax City conducts many pledge ceremonies throughout the day for about 400 persons in total. The new citizens, many dressed in colorful native finery, bring along their families and friends to what is a momentous occasion for them. For so many, it is the end of a long journey of many years to get there. They have to pass a test on American history and civics that would challenge most citizens. On the day I was there, two younger guests who came along to watch a family member's ceremony asked to register to vote as well.

The League's part in the ceremonies is particularly well organized by Arina van Breda, director of Voter Registration for the Fairfax League, who is herself a naturalized citizen. She has been doing this for a long time and trains volunteers beforehand online and in email. She stresses that it's an honor to be invited by USCIS, so we work closely with them to see that the VR part goes smoothly and quickly. Registration forms are placed on the assigned seats for citizen candidates to fill out while they are waiting for the ceremony to start. LWV volunteers line up with clipboards at the exit of the rooms to quickly review the forms and give applicants a receipt.

Coincidentally, the Fauquier Times publisher, Scott Elliot, wrote a personal piece in the paper's LIP newsletter about his experience covering such ceremonies:

"When I was a reporter, I mostly hated it when an editor sent me out to cover some sort of ceremony or presentation. Usually, these events were boring and I felt like they were taking me away from more important stories I would otherwise be working on.

I had two exceptions to this rule for events that I would always jump at the change to cover: graduations at which adults earned their high school diplomas and naturalization ceremonies for new U.S. citizens.

The reason why was simple: the people you write about in those stories are usually filled with joy. In both cases, it's the happy end of a long journey that often leads to a better life and a sense of genuine accomplishment."

So the next time Arina von Breda puts out a call to us for help, sign up and let's carpool to one of my favorite activities.

Update from Action/Program Director, Carol Noggle

During September I delivered documents for 19 people who completed Voter Registration and/or Absentee Ballots by mail applications at Carter's Mill and at the Lake Manassas health care/rehab facility.

Barbara Amster and Donna Anstee and I were at the Lake Manassas facility on a Sunday which was actually a **very** good day to be there because many family members -- of all ages, including grandkids -- visited. The families helped the residents with the applications and made sure the name, address, and SS# were accurate. Barbara took forms to different areas of the building and assisted there. Some of the employees, from various nearby jurisdictions, also registered to vote.

There was one story during September registrations that needs to be shared with our members and even beyond. One resident registered and this November will be her **FIRST** time to Vote! Her birth year is **1938!!** She came by wheelchair from her room with her family, to our table. She was a bit tearful, as were we.

Thank you, thank you to our members who initiated and helped with the visit to Carter's Mill in September, Fran Croson, Linda Grant, and Carol Zeitlein-Schneier.

It is working well to tear off the receipt from the VR form and also give the person our pre-printed receipt with the "I Registered to Vote" sticker attached. (We still have a significant amount of our receipts prepared with contact info and sticker.)



This reminder was written for a past newsletter and seems very relevant for the Fall 2024 newsletter. It was written by Trish Freed, former Treasurer.

"Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy."

We take this mission very seriously and all that we do as a chapter revolves around this mission. This is a Presidential election year and there is much work being done. Our efforts to register voters in high schools, on college campuses, at community events, and in senior centers are more important than ever. We are printing voter education materials for distribution at all these events that will list pertinent voter information and we'll be on hand to help voters identify their new voting districts, which may have changed since the last time they voted due to redistricting.

For all these voter outreach and education activities to happen, though, we need your help. Please support our Education Fund by making a tax-deductible donation. Our



Education Fund provides our local league with the funds that allow us to provide all the voter outreach activities listed above. As always, we appreciate your support. To make a tax-deductible donation to the Education Fund via your credit card click here:

[Donation to LWV Education Fund VA-116.](#)

Or you can send a check payable to the LWV Education Fund and note our League ID: VA 116 in the Memo line. Mail to: LWV-Prince William Fauquier Area, Shari Oley, 14557 Crossfield Way, Woodbridge, VA 22191. email: oleysmc@gmail.com.

LWV-VA Right to Vote (RTV) Study

The state league selected only one study at their 2024 meeting, [The Inalienable Right to Vote](#). Deb Wake, former State League President, discussed this topic at the Tea for Democracy

All local Leagues in Virginia are currently reviewing this study. On November 17th, there will be a virtual presentation on the study. Meanwhile, the PWFA League is reviewing the study and sharing comments. We are asked to share our chapter's consensus on the actions proposed in the study. At the September Board Meeting, the president, Pat Reilly, urged members to read the study group's report *The Inalienable Right to Vote* in preparation for a consensus meeting, which should be held before Dec. 15. (Note: The board agreed on a Zoom meeting for Nov. 12 at 6 p.m.) Communications director Carol Proven has sent the link to the report to all members along with additional information from Deb Wake, the state study chair.

024-2025 Study: Inalienable Right to Vote

The study on the Inalienable Right to Vote began several years ago and is reaching its consensus stage during the winter of 2024-25. The materials below will be very useful in forming our consensus results.

[Right to Vote presentation for LWV-PWFA](#) This was given on Sept. 8, 2024 during our Tea for Democracy kickoff Meeting.

[Right to Vote script for slides](#) This is the script for the presentation.

[Final Draft of Inalienable Right to Vote study](#)

The following is a recording of the study briefing:
September 12:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pZBU3sILfV4vsomjQAVkCMoEwkeMpzTe/view?usp=sharing>

Electoral Board Update, by Carol Noggle

The Governor has just finalized Executive Order #35. The Governor's EO#35 describes in detail the many ways that the Virginia Department of Elections "scrubs" the voting rolls and how frequently. The department works on that task daily.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/eo/EO-35-Comprehensive-Election-Security-Ensuring-Legal-Voters-and-Accurate-Counting---vF---8.7.24.pdf>

The Chair of our Election Board, Keith Scarborough, stated that there is Federal law 18.611 that addresses the consequences of a non-citizen voting. [https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:18%20section:611%20edition:prelim\)](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:18%20section:611%20edition:prelim))

The local election office is dependent on daily reports from the Virginia Department of Elections. It is also why people who come to the poll for Same Day Registration must use a Provisional Ballot.

The PW Electoral Board continues to have only 2 members since one member has moved away. There has not been a proposal for a Republican to replace him. The Party will need to take action since the Board needs to have 2 Republicans and 1 Democrat.

Director of Elections, Eric Olsen, presented a lengthy report with many details clearly presented with slides. These showed the readiness for the election including equal Democrats and Republicans for Chief Election Officers at each precinct. In the past, significant recruiting was needed to have enough Republicans. They still need more Republicans in the eastern part of the county and there is still time to train new officers.

They have 123 new Election Officers. One EO changed his/her Party affiliation.

Eric also described their careful process for receipt of the ballots by mail. A person in the audience had heard of a situation where there were 2 ballots from the same person. Eric Olsen assured them they thoroughly follow through on any such event. There had been an instance when a voter did not know he was registered to vote so applied again. There was also a case of an error by the DMV so the Election Office helped correct that.

Both members of the Board commended the work of Eric Olsen on several issues.

One Chief Officer who is assigned to a different polling place for this election was concerned about parking on election day because he learned that the teachers will be at work that day. He was advised to work with the principal to mark parking places to be used for voters only.

The staff is tracking the workload and the time involved for about 148 tasks. The tasks include answering phone calls.

During public comment time, there were comments on what kinds of audits would be done and what the budget provides for.

Another person asked what the status is of using Ranked Choice Voting in the future.

One query was about preventing noncitizens from voting. Another was about the validity of using a "Driver's Privilege Card" for identification.

Eric Olsen responded to the statements after all of them were made. He stated that the EO has an obligation to educate the public, so they are regularly developing ways to do that.

Per usual, there was a significant number of details so it is very helpful to project slides with solid information. Those can be viewed online later as part of the record of the meeting.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Remember to schedule YOUR mammogram today!

Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP) launches Civic Engagement Navigator.

This update is from Chris Piper, Executive Director.

Teachers across Virginia now have access to new resources that help inspire students' interest in Virginia civics and enhance their data literacy skills. The nonpartisan, nonprofit Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP) launched Civics Navigator last month. The program is designed for all educators — including public, private, homeschool, and higher education teachers, as well as parents and caregivers.

Civics Navigator offers a constantly expanding, searchable database of civics resources focused on teaching Virginia government and politics. Educators can easily find teaching tools that fit their needs, whether they are looking for a bell-ringer activity or a rich data visualization for students to analyze.

Three **unique** features make Civics Navigator a valued resource for teachers.

The Digital Resource Library has up-to-date data visualizations and interactive digital tools.

Civics Navigator email updates make it easy to use the latest information from VPAP. Subscribers receive data visualizations, discussion prompts, and context for this election season, as well as instructional guides that bring Virginia civics to life.

Training opportunities will connect educators of all types from across Virginia to learn how to effectively employ Civics Navigator in the classroom. For more information or to subscribe to Civics Navigator, click [here](#).

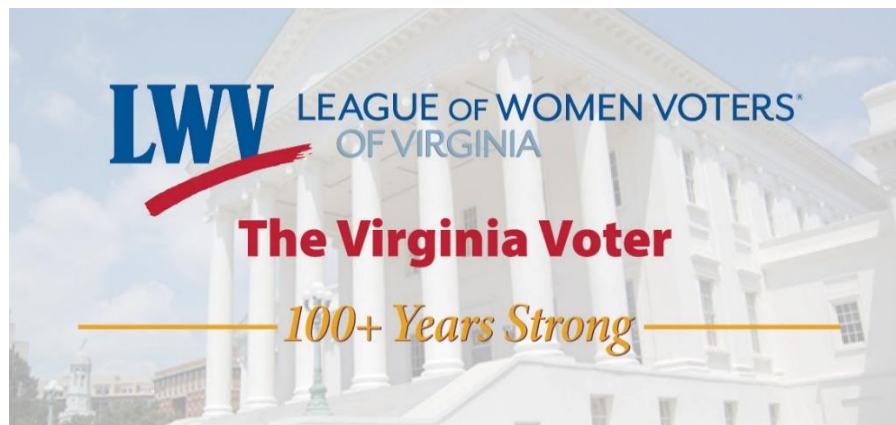
Greetings!

Sgt. Kristine McDonald, the Programs Coordinator at the Prince William Adult Detention Center, contacted me by email earlier this week to tell me about an inmate who wants to register to vote. He told the Sgt. that he has been registered to vote somewhere at some time in Virginia. He is not charged with a felony and is awaiting a trial date for his case. She said his trial is not scheduled until next year! (At first, she thought that if she gave me the form that I could provide a ballot at the same time.)

Sgt. McDonald, had given this person a VR application. I agreed to go to the ADC and get the completed form to take to the Election Office. She left the completed form at the security check-in desk so I did not have a chance to talk to her. I took the application directly to the PW Election Office. Erica Bruce considered the application as a simple change of address so she would not need to do any research to determine where he was registered before.

VERY exciting to actually help an inmate register to vote!! Erica and Kista Tucker (usually the greeter at the EO window) and I had a little celebration!

Carol Noggle



Virginia State League **Upcoming Events** - All Virtual

Should Virginia Be a Citizen Initiative state?

November 17, 2024, 2-3:30 p.m.

Virginia voters currently have no option for enacting statutes or constitutional amendments without General Assembly approval. By contrast, the citizens of 24 states, mainly in the West and Midwest, can petition to bring proposed laws and/or constitutional amendments up for popular vote. Citizen initiatives can be an effective tool when a state's General Assembly fails to enact legislation that aligns with the opinion of the majority of voters. However, the citizen initiative process also can be used in ways that are undeniably detrimental to the common good.

The LWV-MD has recently (2021) adopted a position in support of citizen initiatives, and the LWV-VA is exploring the possibility of concurring with their position. To that end, we are hosting a virtual educational session on citizen initiatives that will feature Elaine Apter, who chaired the Maryland League's study committee. Elaine will be reviewing their study's findings regarding the advantages and disadvantages of citizen initiatives and the rationale behind the position they adopted.

Please plan to join us on Sunday, November 17th, from 2-3:30 pm. [RSVP here](#)

Pre Session is Dec 4. 2024!

We will be hosting our annual pre-session virtually on December 4. Pre Session is a time when we bring in our partners to discuss their legislative agendas. More information to come.

The Following Information was submitted by E.J. Scott on: Upcoming Civic Engagement Trainings and Activations

EJ Scott is a member of the NAACP serving as the 1st Vice President of the PWNAACP. The Prince William Fauquier Area League has supported PWNAACP efforts for years, and partnered with them often. She sent this note along with the information below to our League.

“I hope this email finds you well. As you all may know, we are 40 days away from the November 5th Election. As we gear up for election day, we ask that you join the Civic Engagement team in our series of upcoming trainings and activations to ensure that we can increase Black voter engagement!”

Upcoming Training and Activations

Biweekly GOTV Activation

- Description: Join us for our biweekly GOTV activations as we prepare for the upcoming election and work to enhance Black voter participation! During each Biweekly Activation, we will phone into our Battleground states to ensure that community members have registered, made a plan to vote, and have access to the information on key issues.
 - **Thursday, October 17th at 8 PM ET**
 - **Thursday, October 31st at 8 PM ET**

Become a Canvassing Board Monitor Training

- **October 10th at 7 PM ET**
 - Description: Join "Empower Your Vote: Become A Canvassing Board Monitor" and help ensure election integrity! Learn how to attend and observe Canvassing Board and Election Board meetings, and report any issues. Work with the NAACP Election Protection Team and local advocates to keep elections transparent and accountable. Don't miss this chance to make a difference—register now and help ensure every vote counts!

Addressing Voter Intimidation in 2024

- **October 16th at 8 PM ET**
 - Description: Join "Empower Your Vote: Addressing Voter Intimidation in 2024" to learn how to keep voting safe and fair. Discover how to spot and report voter intimidation, de-escalate tense situations, and help vulnerable communities vote safely. Collaborate with election officials and community leaders to ensure peaceful voting. Get practical tools and insights from our expert panel and participate in an interactive Q&A. Don't let intimidation silence voters—register now and stand up for fair and safe voting!

National Election Protection Training

- **October 19th at 10 AM ET**
 - Description: As we approach the 2024 election, your role as an NAACP member is more crucial than ever. Empowering voters with the knowledge and confidence they need to cast their ballots is essential. That's why we're excited to invite you to our National Election Protection Training Webinar—an uplifting and informative session designed to equip you with the tools to help voters take charge of their voting experience. Why You Should Attend: -- Learn from Experts: Gain insights from civic engagement leaders, voting rights specialists, and attorneys. -- Empower Voters: Discover the best ways to inform and inspire voters to participate with confidence. -- Use Practical Tools: Access the latest tools and strategies to support your efforts on the ground. Make a Difference: Join a community dedicated to ensuring every voter's voice is heard. PS. Share this invitation with other NAACP members. Together, we can ensure every

voter is confident, ready to participate in our democracy, and that every vote counts!

National Election Protection Training

- **October 19th at 1 PM ET**

- Description: As we approach the 2024 election, your role as an NAACP member is more crucial than ever. Empowering voters with the knowledge and confidence they need to cast their ballots is essential. That's why we're excited to invite you to our National Election Protection Training Webinar—an uplifting and informative session designed to equip you with the tools to help voters take charge of their voting experience. Why You Should Attend: -- Learn from Experts: Gain insights from civic engagement leaders, voting rights specialists, and attorneys. -- Empower Voters: Discover the best ways to inform and inspire voters to participate with confidence. -- Use Practical Tools: Access the latest tools and strategies to support your efforts on the ground. Make a Difference: Join a community dedicated to ensuring every voter's voice is heard. PS. Share this invitation with other NAACP members. Together, we can ensure every voter is confident, ready to participate in our democracy, and that every vote counts!

Canvass Board Monitor Training

- **October 22nd at 8 PM ET**

- Description: Join "Empower Your Vote: Become A Canvassing Board Monitor" and help ensure election integrity! Learn how to attend and observe Canvassing Board and Election Board meetings, and report any issues. Work with the NAACP Election Protection Team and local advocates to keep elections transparent and accountable. Don't miss this chance to make a difference—register now and help make sure every vote counts!

Ballot Curing: Mistake with Your Ballot? Let's Cure It!

- **October 24th at 8 PM ET**

- Description: Join "Empower Your Vote: Mistake with Your Ballot? Let's Cure It!" and learn how to fix mistakes with your in-person, mail-in, or absentee ballot to ensure your vote counts. Discover the importance of provisional ballots and safeguards for voters with registration or eligibility issues. We'll guide you through curing ballot issues so administrative errors don't prevent your vote from being counted. Don't miss this chance to make sure your voice is heard—register now!

Defending Voter Challenge and Purges

- **October 28th at 8 PM ET**

- Description: Join "Empower Your Vote: Defending Voter Challenges" and learn how to tackle common voting obstacles! Discover how to navigate third-party voter challenges, understand their impacts, and prevent voter intimidation. Empower voters with knowledge of their rights, manage

provisional ballots, and access real-time assistance. Participate in a live Q&A with our expert panel. Register now and be prepared to defend your vote!



League Meetings are open to all members!

Board of Directors Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 pm
(No Board Meeting in November and December)

General Meetings and Events notices are sent to the members. Watch for upcoming emails!

LWV-PWFA Website: www.princewilliamlwv.org

LWV-PWFA Email: lwvpwfa@gmail.com



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Book Discussion

Connie Gilman

Non-elected:

Ex-Officio Officer

Janet Gorn



Please send in ideas for the Winter 2025 Newsletter by December 15th. Better yet, submit an article, ask some questions, share a joke!
Connie Gilman, Newsletter Chair,
conniewg51@gmail.com