



Fairfax VOTER

June 2018

Volume 70, Issue 10

June Meetings: Units Choice

June unit meetings will not have a specific topic (thus no briefing) this month. Each **Unit** can decide among themselves what they wish to do. This concept gives you the opportunity to talk about whatever your unit wishes. Suggestions are to review the 2017-18 program year—such as, what was the unit’s favorite topic? least favorite topic?—along with any comments or questions your members may have about topics, public forums—too many or not enough—or meals, etc. You are free to do what you want to do—invite a speaker, go to lunch, take a field trip or just meet as usual and enjoy each other’s company.

Calendar

June 2018

- 1 LWVNCA Board meeting
- 11-14 LWVFA unit meetings**
- 12 Primary Elections for House of Representatives and Senate
- 11&13 Skyline Plaza community election
- 15 LWV-VA Board meeting
- 16 LWV-VA Council, Roslyn Retreat Center, 8727 River Rd, Henrico, VA
- 20 LWVFA Board meeting**
- 28-July 1 LWVUS Convention, Chicago
- 30 End of LWVFA fiscal year

See Page 4 for the summer calendar.

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Presidents' Message



Happy summer!

We thank the outgoing 2017-2018 Board and welcome our new 2018-2019 Board. We also want to let you know about upcoming League meetings this summer.

Thank You to the Board

We want to thank all of our outgoing Board of Directors who have volunteered countless hours.

We also want to give a special shout out to Sherry Zachry for all of her years on our Board and for her volunteerism at the League of Women Voters. Sherry most recently led our programs and was our liaison to the League of Women Voters of the National Capitol Area. She also is a former president of our League.

We welcome incoming board members:

- Anu Sahai: Co-president
- Ronna Pazdral: Treasurer
- Wendy Fox-Grage and Deb Wake: Action/Advocacy
- Barbara Nunes: Domestic Violence
- Rachael Hamlet: Liaison, Fairfax County Board of Elections
- Julie Jones: Program
- Mary Valder: Unit Co-Coordinator
- Charleen Deasy (chair), Barbara Ewalt, and Ann Parham: Nominating Committee

Meetings Galore

This month many of us will be attending important League meetings. On June 16 the League of Women Voters Virginia Council will meet at the Roslyn Retreat Center, 8727 River Road, Henrico, VA. At the end of this June our LWV - Fairfax delegation will go to the League of Women Voters U.S. National Convention in Chicago. We hope to learn more about the state and national issues affecting our local League and to network with other Leagues across the country to bring back some best practices.

On July 18 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., we will hold our League

Board of Directors' Retreat at 847 Alvermar Ridge Dr., McLean, VA 22102. The purpose of this meeting is to create our annual business plan, and all are welcome. Please RSVP to president2@lww-fairfax.org.

On August 25 starting at 8:45 a.m. we will have our 2018 Kick Off meeting. It will be held in Conference Rooms 2 and 3, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035. **Unit chairs/co-chairs and voter service chairs are expected to attend, and other members are most welcome!** We will distribute important materials and have a valuable discussion about the upcoming year that you won't want to miss! Please see the article in this Voter for more information.

The next *VOTER* newsletter will be in September. We hope you have a wonderful summer.

Wendy & Judy

*Fairfax County 24-hr.
Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline:
703-360-7273; 711 TTY*

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2017 - 2018

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Subscriptions to the *Fairfax VOTER* are available to non-Fairfax League members for \$15 per annum. Send your check to the above address and request a subscription.

Please e-mail address corrections to the office
or call 703-658-9150.

P.S. from Judy -

A big thank you to Wendy for serving her term as Co-President Extraordinaire. I am grateful for her commitment to the growth of membership, her productive grant writing and her organization of a very successful General Meeting and Redistricting Forum. Her energy and positive spirit have led us on a most successful adventure over the past two years.

Thank you, Wendy!

LWVFA Members Discuss “FIFI” (Metro Funding) in March Unit Meetings

By Deb Wake, LWVFA Metro Fund It/Fix It Task Force Chair

More than one hundred members and guests participated in the March 2018 unit discussions of Metro funding (in the March *Fairfax VOTER* Fund It/Fix It [FIFI] article). Discussions were structured around questions about how Metro is funded, its use and safety, whether/how Metro has improved and its governance.

Most members were aware the League has been involved with Metro from the beginning (1960s). However, some were surprised to learn that Metro’s funding issues have existed from the beginning and were not the result of politicians wanting something shiny for a ribbon-cutting ceremony but from the lack of an established, dedicated funding source.

In general most of us think the current funding formula is fair because costs are split nearly equally among the three regions (Maryland, D.C. and Virginia). Members suggested any change should be in the form of additional money contributed by the federal government or by the state of Virginia (as opposed to the individual jurisdictions). All grasped the importance of funds that are dedicated to Metro operating and capital costs so that it can be financially stable



and debt can be bonded. Everyone seemed to agree that Metro shouldn’t be expected to be self-supporting since most modes of transportation, whether roads, airports, or Amtrak, are not self-supporting. All agreed that raising fares in an attempt to cover the cost of operations would just lead to drops in ridership.

Many of us use the Metro when we go downtown for events but the majority of our members are retired and do not use Metrorail or a Metrobus for regular transportation. In addition many feel that Metro is expensive and weekend maintenance makes it a less attractive option—especially for a family. While recognizing there are ongoing maintenance issues, most of us feel that Metro is safe to ride. A minority have concerns about personal safety, depending upon time of day and location of stop. General consensus is that Metro has improved. Riders especially appreciate the cleanliness of the new cars and the improved visual and audio cues regarding stops.

Many of the respondents agreed that the recommendations in the LaHood report were good but also offered a few more ideas for improvements:

- The decision-making process of the Washington Metro Area Transportation Association (WMATA) Board should continue to be monitored, perhaps by members of LWVNCA.
- More attention should be paid to the bus system. More frequency of small buses to neighborhoods is needed.
- Better connections between buses and Metro.
- Better scheduling especially with longer headways.
- Family ticket/pricing on weekends to entice families to ride instead of driving.
- Better/more signage.

While recognizing that the League’s focus has been on funding rather than on governance, opinions were mixed about the right size of the WMATA board and there was a lot of discussion about what that size might be. In addition some thought that Labor should have a seat on the board and that fewer politicians but more transportation/safety experts should serve on the Board. Most said that there should not be a jurisdictional veto, but some thought that having the option could lead to more compromise.

All credited Metro as the impetus for development around stations. However, there was some concern about whether

enough supporting infrastructure (i.e. parking, dedicated bus lanes, access roads) was being included.

Since the article was published in March the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation funding Virginia’s \$154 million share of Metro’s costs. (Maryland and D.C. are also funding their share of costs.) In addition Virginia

lawmakers passed legislation limiting the participation of alternates on the Metro board and established an oversight committee to which Delegates Vivian Watts (39th District), Dave LaRock (33rd District), and Scott Garrett (23 rd District) have been appointed. Legislators also passed a bill establishing a floor to the gas tax at the 2013 level; this will go into effect July 1, 2018.

Candidate Forums Scheduled for This Fall

One forum for each Congressional District

The public will be invited and will submit questions on cards to the moderator, who will give each candidate the opportunity to answer each question. The forums will be videotaped and posted on our website throughout the campaign season.

- **Sunday, September 16, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**
Congressional District 11: Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030.
- **Monday, September 17, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**
Congressional District 8: Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St, Springfield, VA 22150.
- **Wednesday, October 24, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.**
Congressional District 10: Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly, VA 20151.

Candidate Roundtable—This is a new program that will be taped on Monday, September 24.

LWVFA has arranged with Fairfax Public Access television station to air two one-hour round table discussions with all the candidates for Congressional Districts 8, 10, and 11 participating in a facilitated discussion. The candidates will

be informed of the questions for each session prior to the round table events.

- The first session will be broadcast live on *Inside Scoop* on Monday, September 24, from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- The second session will be taped on September 24 and broadcast on *Inside Scoop* on Monday, October 1, from 8 - 9 p.m.

There is no space for a public audience, but the programs may be viewed on television on Fairfax County Channel 10. Check your cable provider for the correct channel. It will also be live-streamed on the Internet. Videos of each round table session will be available on the LWVFA website.

SignUpGenius will be posted this summer after the candidates have been certified, around the beginning of July. Please keep an eye open for the posting. Please also be prepared to help publicize the events in your neighborhood.

After we know which candidates will be certified please go to the website of the candidates in your own constituency and send an email that you are looking forward to seeing him/her at the League forum on _____ (date). Of course, please write as an individual, not as a League member.

Questions or comments? Contact Sidney Johnson, sidneyjohnson3@verizon.net 703-476-0581.

Summer Calendar

July 2018

- Note: No LWVFA unit meetings in July
- 1 Start of LWVFA fiscal year
 - 11 LWVFA Legacy Committee meeting
 - 18 LWVFA Retreat, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

August 2018

- Note: No LWVFA unit meetings in August
- 7 Fairfax VOTER September deadline
 - 11 LWNCA Workshop: Creating Strong

- Leagues: A Leadership-Membership Workshop, Bethesda, MD
- 15 LWVFA Board meeting
- 25 **Fall Kick Off** and At-Large Briefing, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, 8:45 a.m. to noon; Briefing begins at 12:15 p.m.
- 26 Women’s Equality Day: 19th Amendment ratified

Know Your League . . .

Observer Corps Keeps League Well Informed on Local Government

LWVFA has a group of dedicated members (the Observer Corps) who serve as representatives or observers on various boards, authorities, commissions, and committees for Fairfax County, Fairfax City and Fairfax County Public Schools. The Observer Corps monitors governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community, and keeps LWVFA informed so issues of concern can be addressed in a timely way. Local League observers are the eyes and ears of the League, pinpointing issues for local study and action. Depending on the group, meetings can occur monthly, quarterly, or as needed. You may even be able to be an LWVFA observer from your home since some meetings are broadcast on Channel 16! For a list of boards or committees go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/>, <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-council-boards-and-commissions>, and <https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/school-board-committees>.

If you are interested in being a member of the Observer Corps or would like more information, please contact Peggy Knight at 703-772-4939 or peggy.knight1@verizon.net. Here are summaries from current LWVFA observers. Due to space limitations, more detailed summaries are available on the website and in the League office on Hummer Road.



Fairfax County Criminal Justice Advisory Board

The very interesting speakers and the issues they discussed at the 2017-2018 monthly meetings of the Fairfax County **CJAB** included the following: “Drones Operating in Your Backyard” by Carol Might, an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration; “Update on the Veterans’ Treatment Docket” by Donald Honeycutt, Docket Coordinator of the General District Court; the County Civilian Police Review

Board by Chairperson Adrian Steele, and the Independent Police Auditor by the Auditor, Richard Schott; and gang issues in the County Jail by Capt. Sonny Cachuela of the Sheriff’s Office. The Chairperson of the Board is Joy Bryan from the Lee District, and Brian LeClair of the Mt. Vernon District is Vice-Chair.

Mary Jane Cleary is the League Representative.

Engineering Standards Review Committee

During the first four months of 2018 the **ESRC** is focusing on updating the Public Facilities Manual (PFM) to be clearer and more relevant and allowing the use of modern (electronic) technology, including changing paper submissions to electronic submissions. Some of the topics covered in the PFM include: Geotechnical Guidelines, Tree Conservation, Condominium Conversion Regulations, Debris Landfill, Erosion and Sediment Control.

Bob Meredith is the LWVFA Representative.

Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee

The Airport Advisory Committee was formed to advise the Fairfax Board of Supervisors on all airports and aircraft operations affecting Fairfax County. The meetings of 19 appointed members are on the second Tuesday every other month. The Committee is currently interested in proposed development near Dulles Airport and County-wide aircraft noise complaints being changed with new flight patterns. County residents with noise complaints should contact the Noise Office of Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA). The Committee proposes that the Board of Supervisors have specific information to help manage constituent expectations as to their noise concerns.

Julie Jones is the LWVFA Representative.

Community Action Advisory Board

On Tuesday May 1, the **CAAB** selected projects to receive Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding in FY 2019-2020 funding cycle through the Consolidated Community Funding Pool process. A total of \$861,421 of Federal Block Grants is being awarded to programs serving working families and individuals living at 125% of poverty or below. Community Action serves working poor citizens. A family of four qualifies with a maximum income of \$31,375.

Marcia McDevitt is the LWVFA Representative.

Alliance for Human Services

The Fairfax County **AHS** advocates for human services programs. During the County budget process members

meet with County Supervisors, testify at budget hearings, educate concerned citizens and stay current with proposed changes. A newsletter will be published in May with current Fairfax County issues affecting human service delivery. The program for the Annual Meeting in mid-June will also be included.

Marcia McDevitt is the LWVFA Representative.

Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees

This past year the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees revised their Friends of the Library agreement, per the request of Fairfax County. The County and trustees wanted to clarify the relationship between the parties and ensure that all Friends Groups are operating in compliance with Federal, State and County regulations. After many months of lively discussion and revision the final version was passed in January and presented to the 23 Friends of the Library groups. Currently a handful of Friends have signed the document while others continue to review it.

In March the Trustees adopted Strategic Plan 2018-22, which emphasizes access, innovation, civic engagement, technology and literacy. This document will serve as a road map for library services for the next five years.

Upcoming new services from the library include:

- ❑ The Memory Depot will open this summer at the Virginia Room and Sherwood Library locations. It provides a resource center for digitizing VHS, audio cassette, photos, negatives and slides.
- ❑ An online readers' advisory service will launch over the summer.
- ❑ Virtual reference services will be implemented in the fall.

Jessica Storrs is the LWVFA Observer.

Board of Supervisors (BOS) Transportation Committee

Alignment between various transportation and supervisory boards resulted in Metro being funded for full amount: \$154M for Virginia's portion. This is the first time in Metro's history that it will have dedicated funding! Silver Line phase 2 is on schedule to open August 2019, thanks to applying lessons learned in construction of Phase 1 and working on integration now rather than after completion.

The Committee is monitoring I-66 tolling and its impact on congestion on other roads; no major changes on any of them have been seen, with some reduction of congestion on Route 50. A Northern Virginia Transportation Committee (NVTC)

grant paid for buses and operation of a new bus route: 699, running from the Government Center to four stops in D.C., 15-30 min frequency, \$4.25 fare.

On I-66 outside the Beltway preliminary construction began at the end of March. Soon they will be setting up longer lane shifts, and can start removing vegetation and working on outside lanes, moving traffic to the inside. Four lanes of traffic will be maintained during peak periods. Signage will be more static when the system is completed but dynamic message boards to notify motorists will be salvaged. All features of design - bike trail and more final details (utility relocations, drainage)--are still unknown. The final noise study and work with impacted communities are ongoing. HOV2 will continue during construction.

The Comprehensive Plan on Embark Richmond Highway Corridor and Multimodal Project, which was created using interdisciplinary methods and staff as well as community input, was approved in February 2015. The plan would weave together transportation modes/options, hoping to reduce traffic on Richmond Highway while maintaining surrounding neighborhood stability and preserving character and buffering these neighborhoods. Planning continues on extending rail and creating new road systems that tie to existing systems to create more walkable areas. The overall estimated project cost is \$215M. \$44M for construction has been secured as of February 2018.

Deb Wake is the LWVFA Representative on the BOS Transportation Committee and Chair of the Metro Fund It/Fix It Task Force. (There was an extensive article about this in the March 2019 Fairfax VOTER.)



FCPS Advanced Academic Program Advisory Committee

AAPAC to the FCPS School Board met once a month during the 2017-18 school year. The Committee's charge this year was to "study and review best practices for ensuring equitable access to advanced opportunities in order to make recommendations for strengthening the impact of the K-12 Young Scholars model." The Young Scholars model is a program within which public school students from underrepresented groups are identified as potentially gifted and provided with resources and support to realize that potential. Recommendations from this year's AAPAC

were sent to the School Board in early May.

Samaine Lockwood is the LWVFA Representative.

FCPS Advisory Committee on Students with Disabilities

ACSD is charged with looking “for unmet needs” within the County. This is a legal requirement in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The ACSD actively sought ways to promote meetings through all available channels of communication, and organized into five subcommittees to meet the Committee’s charge and more. It is evident that the ACSD is genuine in seeking stakeholder (parent, student, teacher) input, and celebrates the “progress” of students within its mission.

Key observations:

1. In all meetings they looked to see if they were meeting the charge of the Committee to examine practices throughout the school division related to maximizing inclusion to educate students with disabilities in the general education or their school base.
2. To better address the lack of public engagement and encourage leadership development within ACSD, the Committee created five subcommittees on: follow-up, unmet needs, pre-K-6 inclusion, secondary inclusion, and budget.
3. The Parent Resource Center (PRC) created informational videos in Arabic, Korean, and Spanish. It held, and continues to hold, free Countywide workshops on topics such as “scream free parenting,” siblings of special-needs students’ education, and depression in adolescents. PRC also received a Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) grant for “Library Time” with preschoolers; it will be a four-week session in July. The Special Education Conference (SEC) was held on April 21; 780 people registered to attend, 134 came from out of County, and 300 were parents. Five sponsors fully funded the event.
4. The Department of Special Services presented the annual plan for special education funding. They highlighted that approximately 13 percent of FCPS students are enrolled in special education services. The costs for Total Special Education are \$520,075,466, 84.1 percent of which is funded locally.

Andrienne Konstas-Salvette is the LWVFA Representative.

FCPS Student Health Advisory Committee

The purpose of SHAC is to “assist with the development of health policy in the school division and the evaluation of the status of school health, health education, the school environment, and health services.” The SHAC members engage the public and develop, assess, and review the FCPS Wellness Policy and Regulation (View [Student and Staff Health and Wellness Policy 2100](#), [Student and Staff Health and Wellness Regulation 2100](#)), and make recommendations to the School Board while also serving as a vehicle for public engagement. The use of advisory committees within Fairfax County Public Schools is perceived to provide the public an open meeting from which to make a 3-minute public comment. However, there is not a reporting requirement, tally or analysis of the comments received by at least two of the advisory committees.

A specific concern of the Committee is the handling of chemicals: a) parents may not be currently informed by the schools that their children are exposed to cleansers and/or sanitizers when it is their turn to wipe down the cafeteria table; b) monitoring efforts to ensure the children are washing their hands afterwards to reduce their exposure and potential health risks (splashes, potential eye or skin exposure) from the chemicals, and (c) a recommendation for an alert or specific language from the LWV to the Fairfax County Public Health Department encouraging them to adopt the most current food code regulations (2017), so it is clear who is responsible for cleansers and/or sanitizers./ The key issues discussed in 2018 by SHAC subcommittees include:

- Food Insecurity
- Communication and Information Distribution
- Recess
- AP Class Limits/Stress
- Cleaning Chemicals

Carol Stiller is the LWVFA Representative.

Fairfax County Electoral Board*

LWVFA has been observing the monthly meetings of the County’ Electoral Board since 2008, with Olga Hernandez being the chief, and long-term, observer. She was joined in recent years by Therese Martin and Maggie Luca, and most recently, by Judy Helein, Rachael Hamlet and Jacob Hurt. The meetings are open to the public except for portions of the meetings dealing with matters exempt from the open-meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) law, and comments are allowed.

The Electoral Board decides and makes recommendations concerning issues such as: locations and timing of in-person absentee voting; assignment of the number of election officers per precinct; numbers of pieces of equipment and numbers of ballots per polling place; new and revised precincts; use of budget resources, assignment and training of election officers; and provision of sample ballots to registered voters both online and in print. Recently, it has considered issues such as how to handle problems with registrations and address changes from DMV offices, differences between precinct lines determined on maps from written descriptions, and other problems in applying technology to what were once paper processes.

Major decisions in recent years have involved the purchase and introduction of new election equipment that has played a significant part in helping reduce Election Day lines while providing more security and efficiency. LWVFA members were invited to help review, try and comment on equipment during the selection process, and now benefit during their service as election officers. Residents can read about the actions and decisions of the Electoral Board by viewing its minutes at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/electoral-board/electoral-board-minutes>.

The fact that minutes are readily available is actually due to Olga's monitoring of the Fairfax Electoral Board and problems in obtaining a report of meetings on a consistent and timely basis. She brought the lack of a state-wide requirement for the timely publication of Electoral Board minutes to the attention of Senator David Marsden, whose 2016 Senate Bill 89 establishing such requirements was enacted with no opposition by the General Assembly. It became law on July 1, 2016.

Observing the decision-making process whereby Virginia election laws and regulations are applied in carrying out elections at the local level – as well as service as election officers -- enables League members to participate directly in preserving the democratic process and helping to ensure free and open elections. It has also been an integral part of the process whereby LWVFA members have been able to follow, act upon, comment, and help influence election laws and process from the General Assembly, through the State Board of Elections and State Department of Elections, to the Fairfax Electoral Board and into its implementation at the polls. The introduction of photo ID is one example that immediately comes to mind, but that is a long story in itself.

The League observer position is Vacant.

* Olga Hernandez also monitored the City of Fairfax Electoral Board. This report was prepared by Therese Martin.

Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Coordinating Council

The DVPPCC meets quarterly in the Fairfax County Courthouse from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. The remaining 2018 meeting will be July 19, with the October annual meeting date to be determined. Theresa Brion attended the January meeting, which focused on housing. Among the County's greatest challenges are its expansive geographic perimeter, its density, and its shortage of not-yet-developed land. Residents within certain regions live a significant distance from the County's limited supply of domestic violence shelter housing. This raises particular concerns for undocumented residents, families with school-age children, and others who are in particular distress. Despite that fact, singles may have greater difficulty in accessing resources, because most shelters are designed to house adults with dependent children. The County also has a "no turnaway" policy for housing those determined to be in imminent risk, even though the shelters generally are at 100 percent or above capacity. The coordinated entry system for providing County residents access to a broader range of housing options is expanding, and progress continues to be positive and promising.

Barbara Nunes is the League Representative, and Theresa Brion is an alternate.

NEW FAIRFAX AREA MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members - April 2018

Caroline D'Aguiar

Tamara Lords

Elizabeth MacGowan

Ellen & Tom Murphy

Judy Robison

Kathryn & Peter Scudera

Jon Stehel

Denver Supinger

Paige Valentine

Daphne Van Tiem

Apologies to
Frank Bernheisel for misspelling his name
in the May VOTER.

PROGRAM NOTES

By Sherry Zachry, Program Director (Outgoing)

I hope you enjoy your last unit meeting of this League program year (2017-18). “Units Choice” is scheduled to give you the opportunity to talk about or do whatever your unit wishes. I especially enjoy the June meeting to reflect with my unit members and friends on about LWVFA has accomplished during the year and the many great discussions we’ve had.

If you do not regularly attend a unit meeting, think about doing so next year, starting in September (see list of meetings on last page of the *VOTER*); or attend the At-Large meeting (and Discussion Leaders’ Briefing) held at the LWVFA office on the first Saturday of the month when a discussion topic is scheduled. Since June has no topic no Briefing/At-Large meeting was held.

As those who attended the 70th LWVFA Annual Meeting in April know we approved the **LWVFA Program for 2018-2020**. It includes a position review/update of the LWVFA Transportation position, an editorial update of the “Juveniles”

position, and continued focus on voter education, outreach and turnout, along with monitoring Metro operations and funding. We also readopted our positions in **HERE WE STAND**, so our booklet will now be titled “Here We Stand – Full Position Statements of LWVFA – As of June, 2010; Re-adopted April 21, 2018.”

In addition to our “formal” League Program for the next biennium LWVFA has traditionally offered topics for unit group discussion several months of the year. Background information about the topic is included in the *Fairfax VOTER* for that month. The determining factor for the topics scheduled is **member interest**. You can show that interest by signing up to work on an informational article about the topic, under the guidance of the Program Director.

Potential discussion topics for 2018-2019 range from how the Fairfax County Planning Commission works, the relationship between Fairfax County and Fairfax City, the value of citizen advisory groups to how the County is dealing with the opioid crisis or keeping its air and water clean, among other things. Look for the list at your June unit meeting or go to the LWVFA website, Units page, to view (<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/unit-meetings-1/>); send an email to Sherry at Programs@lwv-fairfax.org indicating your interest and contact information. The LWVFA Board will use the volunteer lists to schedule the topics receiving the most interest.

Lastly, **Julie Jones** (former LWVFA president) was elected to take my place as LWVFA Program Director for 2018-2020. She will be communicating with you starting in July; her email is dave.julie.jones@verizon.net. Feel free to communicate with her, as well as with me for the rest of my term. Enjoy your summer.

2018 KICK OFF SAVE THE DATE



Mark your 2018 calendars for the LWVFA Fall Kick-Off on Saturday, August 25, 2018, at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, 22035. We will meet in Conference Room 2/3 on the main level.

We’ll have coffee at 8:45 a.m. with the workshop starting promptly at 9 a.m. All Unit Chairs please plan to attend. It is desirable that unit Voter Services chairs attend as well. All League members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The September Briefing for Discussion Leaders will follow Kick-Off at 12:15 p.m..

For questions please contact Mary Valder, Unit Coordinator, mmvalder@aol.com

Our Donors and Supporters

The LWVFA Board wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous support.

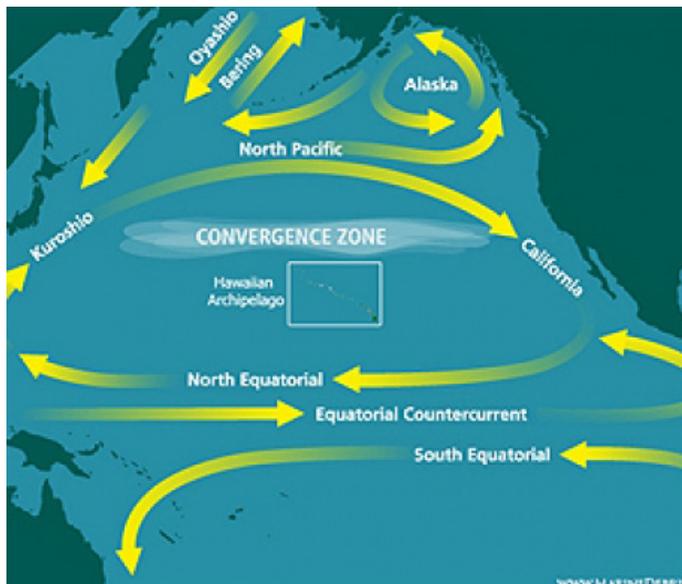
Anne Andrews, Edith Appel, Nadyne Hick, Janice Hill, Doris James, Sidney Johnson, Janice Kuch, Deb Wake and members of the **Greenspring Unit**.



Environmental Update . . .**Waterborne Plastics**

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Since at least the mid-1980s the Great Pacific Garbage Patch has swirled halfway between California and Hawaii. This jumble of fishing nets, bottles, bags, and other plastic items mostly floats invisibly in small pieces below the surface in a soup of tiny bits of plastic debris. The Patch recently was found to hold at least 79,000 tons of plastic and cover an area three times the size of France. The debris entangles and kills all sorts of marine animals by entangling them or lodging in one-way throats. It also breaks down into microscopic particles consumed by fish and filter feeders like mussels and oysters, which we eat with unknown effects on our health.



This map is an oversimplification of ocean currents, features, and areas of marine debris accumulation (including “garbage patches”) in the Pacific Ocean. There are numerous factors that affect the location, size, and strength of all of these features throughout the year, including seasonality and El Niño/La Niña. (NOAA Marine Debris Program)

Each ocean has at least one such accumulation zone. Plastic items we don’t recycle or landfill articles tend to collect in them. With 8 million tons of plastic entering the oceans annually a new report by the British government projects that the amount of plastic in the oceans could triple by 2050.

The Ocean Cleanup Foundation, based in the Netherlands, has an ambitious plan to eliminate half of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch over five years. Having tested a moored 100 meter-long barrier segment in the North Sea in 2016 the prototype has evolved into a fleet

of floating screens. This passive cleanup system will use ocean currents to collect and concentrate plastic as small as one cm in diameter for retrieval by large ships.

The first screen is being tested near San Francisco Bay for possible release in August. The pace of the roll-out for full-scale deployment by 2020 will depend on available investment capital, operational risk-assessment results, and the development of land-based recycling capacity. Recycling revenue will help fund extending the cleanup to the other patches and explore developing spin-off systems to intercept plastic before it reaches the oceans.

This is not a technological fix. What’s really needed is a behavioral change. Consumers should reduce their plastic footprint - by replacing with reusable versions the 90 percent of our daily plastic items we immediately throw away, especially water bottles; buying in bulk; recycling more; and avoiding cosmetic products containing microbeads.

For example, many aquariums are phasing out single-use plastics, including the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach and the National Aquarium in Baltimore. According to the Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup, straws are among the top 10 most commonly littered items. It estimates that Americans throw away 500 million single-use plastic straws every day. Straws that end up in the ocean take decades to biodegrade. If you feel a need to use a straw you can switch to paper or reusable straws.

See <https://www.earthday.org/> to learn more about what you can do as a consumer as well as how to organize to end plastic pollution and how to teach students to do so.

Congratulations!

The Northern Virginia Rain Barrel Partnership received the Diane Hoffman Cooperator of the Year Award in March. See <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/rain-barrel> to find out how to order a rain barrel or to register for the next build-your-own workshop (\$55), Saturday, June 9, at the Fairlington Community Center in Arlington.

Don Demetrius, Chief of Fairfax County’s Watershed Planning and Evaluation Branch, retired this year after more than 30 years of distinguished public service. Don’s early career included the Kingstowne watershed plan and Van Dorn Street extension drainage studies. In 2001 he became chief of the newly-formed Floodplains and Special Projects Branch, reviewing floodplain studies and managing stream rehabilitation projects. Don later led an effort to develop a flood response plan and implement an automated flood warning system for the County.

Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: Units Choice

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At Large Meeting” and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of May 12, 2018, the locations were correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations.

Note: NO BRIEFING IN JUNE.

Thursday, June 7

10:30 a.m. McLean Day (McL)

6657 Madison McLean
McLean, 22101
Contact: Anjali, 703-509-5518 or
Sheena, 703-481-0933

Monday, June 11

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive
Springfield, 22150
Contact: Edith, 703-644-3970 or
Gloria, 703-852-5113

9:45 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, 22306
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561 or
Diana, 703-704-5325

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

Plans to go out for lunch
Contact: Kathleen, 703-644-1555
or Sherry, 703-730-8118

7:15 p.m. Fairfax City Evening (FCE)

The Green Acres Center
4401 Sideburn Road
Fairfax, 22030
Contact: Elizabeth and Amy,
Fairfaxcityunit@lwv-fairfax.org

7:00 p.m. Reston Evening (RE)

Hunter Mill District Community
Room
North County Government Center
1801 Cameron Glen Drive
Reston, 20190

For information, email rachel.roberts.rmr@gmail.com

Thursday, June 14

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

11908 Paradise Lane
Oak Hill, 20171
Contact: Barbara (703) 437-0795

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

7827 Anson Court
Springfield, 22152
Contact: Marge, 703-451-0589

10 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Sully Government Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly, 20151
Contact: Leslie, 571-213-6384

1 p.m. Fairfax/Vienna (FX-V)

Oakton Regional Library, Room 1
10304 Lynnhaven Pl.
Oakton, 22124
Contact: Bob, 563-299-5316 or
VoterRegistration@lwv-fairfax.org

Wednesday, June 20

Mount Vernon Evening (MVE)

Time and Place to be decided
For information, contact: Jane,
703-960-6820

September Meetings: Fall Kick Off



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403
 703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

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 June, 2018

Wendy Fox-Grage, Co-President
 Judy Helein, Co-President
 Ron Page, Editor
 Liz Brooke, Content Editor

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person at least 16 years old, male or female, may become a member.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Dues: Individual \$65 _____ Household \$90 (2 persons, 1 Voter) _____ Student \$32.50 _____
 Dues year is July 1 – June 30 (A subsidy fund is available; check here _____ and include whatever amount you can afford.)
 Membership Status: New _____ Renewing _____ Reinstatement _____ Donation _____
 (Dues are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check or PayPal Payment to “LWVFA Ed Fund.”)

(Please print clearly)

Name _____ Unit (if renewing) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Phone (H) _____ (M) _____ E-Mail _____

Please make checks payable to “LWVFA” and mail to: **LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003-2403**
 OR Join Online at: www.LWV-Fairfax.org/join.html.

I am interested in becoming involved in (please indicate by circling the appropriate bullet(s)):

- **Providing organizational support** (graphics design, website development/maintenance, fundraising/ grant writing).
- **Voter Services** (e.g., voter registration drives, candidate forums, developing Voters’ Guides).
- **Researching/writing about issues in which LWVFA has an interest** (e.g., environment, firearms safety, mental health, schools, domestic violence, criminal justice; or, chairing an LWVFA study committee on voter turnout or human trafficking).
- **Representing the League in governmental fora** (e.g., serving as LWVFA representative on Fairfax County citizens’ committees and agencies, such as affordable housing, and Fairfax County Public Schools).
- **Other** _____