



**League of Women Voters
of Falls Church**

*A Voice for Citizens and
A Force for Change in the United States*

The League of Women Voters of Falls Church is a nonpartisan organization that serves the citizens of Falls Church City through encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy. For more information, go to www.lwvfallschurch.org.

Dear League Members,

Happy New Year to all! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that you're ready to jump into 2012 with renewed interest in the political process and our League mission. On January 7th, an interested group of League members met for Program Planning. We covered a lot of territory in the course of the morning. In a nutshell, here's what happened: we got a very comprehensive report from Voter Service Chair, Edie Snyder, on what's coming in the next few months; decided to go forward with the LWVUS Privatization Study; voted to award a \$2000 scholarship to a graduating George Mason Senior; and discussed the correct League method of reexamining local positions. Other topics in the Board Meeting that followed were the continuing leadership of our local league and a future report on revisions to the by-laws. Thanks to Pam Spofford for a splendid job on refreshments at the meeting.

Elsewhere in this bulletin are detailed articles about some of the items mentioned above. Be sure to check the calendar for upcoming events and date changes. We've also included a letter from last year's scholarship winner, Josh Asadi and an article from Jerry Barrett, chair of our recent local study on Northern Virginia Community College.

We have been asked by the Arlington and Alexandria Leagues to participate in an event honoring retiring state senators Mary Margaret Whipple and Patricia Ticer. This will take place in March, as part of Women's History Month. Details will follow as they become available.

The study done on Arts in the City is getting good publicity in terms of the budget discussions. I made a presentation on the consensus recommendations to City Council in late November.

If you haven't made any New Year's Resolutions, resolve now to be more involved with the League. We need each and every one of you!

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**2011-2012
LWVFC
Board and
Off-Board
Members**

Sincerely,
Ellen Salsbury
President

LWV-US PRIVATIZATION STUDY

Program Chair Linda Garvelink presented the highlights of the national study at the Program Planning meeting and we decided it was a topic of high interest. A committee of Linda, Joan Lewis, and new member Wendy Frieman, will look over the current materials provided by LWVUS and guide us through the research. An informational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13 at the Community Center from 11:30 to 1PM. This will be a good opportunity to hear how privatization works on many levels in government. Details on speakers, lunch, and reservations will be coming soon. Make a special effort to get to this meeting, as what you learn will enliven our consensus discussion (Date for consensus meeting will be early April). For further information on this study, contact Linda Garvelink at garvelink@earthlink.net. Please click [here](#), for a brief listing and summary of the Privatization Resources provided by the LWVUS.

Get Ready, Get Set for a Full Election Season

2012 will be particularly busy for voters-and consequently for the League-with as many as four elections on the calendar this year. The first contest is the presidential primary, scheduled for March 6, and consisting of those Republican candidates who have qualified to be on the Virginia ballot. March 6 is also the day that candidates for Falls Church City Council and School Board must file their declarations and petitions to run for office in the next local election on May 1. If needed, a second primary election for Democratic and Republican candidates for US Senate and House of Representatives will be held June 12. And, finally, on November 6, voters will go to the polls to select the next president of the United States, one of two Virginia senators, and the member of Congress representing Falls Church.

Among the challenges the League will have in educating voters are how the City will handle the open School Board seat for a remaining 1 ½-year term and the planned consolidation of the City's five wards to three. It appears that the special election for the School Board position vacated by Chairman Pat Riccards to become CEO of a Connecticut education reform organization will be held concurrently with the regularly scheduled City election in May. Approved by City Council last month, the plan to streamline Falls Church's polling places is now being considered by the US Department of Justice. When and if the new ward map is finalized, voters may find themselves voting in one ward for all four elections or in a new ward at some point in 2012.

The change in wards will mean yet another issuance of new voter registration cards with voters' new polling places; new cards were mailed to voters on the eve of the November 2011 election to reflect the City's incorporation in a new Virginia Senate District. Still another consequence of last year's redistricting remains to be settled: Falls Church may remain in the 8th Congressional District, now represented by Jim Moran, or the City could be included in another district, perhaps the 11th currently represented by Gerald

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Madalyn
Cafruny
Pam Spofford
Joan Lewis
Jerry Barrett
Webmaster
Cathy Kaye
Special Projects
Marty Meserve
Jane Scully

Connelly. The state will have to determine which district represents the City prior to the June 12 primary.

Throughout this election season, the League of Women Voters of Falls Church will work to keep voters informed through its website, voter's guides published for the May local election and the November federal election, and a forum for City Council candidates that will be held April 19 and cosponsored with the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS). The LWVFC will also conduct voter registration events, beginning in February for the presidential primary (last day to register to vote is February 13) and continuing through April for the City elections (April 9), May for the June primary (May 21), and October for the November election (October 15). The League will remind voters when and where to vote, and how to vote absentee in person and by mail.

If you would like to help with voter services this year, please contact Edith Snyder at edithholmes@aol.com or 703-618-1642.

Thank You!

We would like to thank all the business donors that helped make our Annual Holiday Party/Fundraiser a huge success.

Aislinn Nails and Spa
Art & Frame of Falls Church
BJ's Wholesale Club
Brown's Hardware
Callison, Pam
Clare & Don's Beach Shack
Creative Cauldron
Dominion Jewelers
Economy Party Supplies & Costumes
Galleria Florist
Ledo Pizza & Pasta
The Local Market
Mad Fox Brewing Company
Mostly By Mollye
Natalia's Elegant Creations
One More Page Books
Of All The Beads
Pancha Dulce
Perfect Endings
Pizzeria Orso
Present Nail Spa

Red, White, and Bleu

Sam's Farm

Sfizi Cafe

Smokey's Garage

Spectrum Cleaners

Stifel & Capra

Trader Joe's

Vantage Fitness

Vitalia MedSpa

Wright-Touch Plumbing

Please take a moment to thank these merchants for their continued support of the League's efforts.

News from the LWV-VA

Join us!

Women's Legislative Round Table

Date: Every Wednesday starting January 18, 2012

Time: 8:30am

Location: General Assembly Building, 7th floor West Conference Room

Lobby and Observe

Attend committee hearings, House and Senate floor session, and/or meet with your delegates. League Day, when the LWV-VA is recognized by the General Assembly, is Feb 1, 2012.

HIGHLIGHTS TO CHOOSE FROM

- Come the day before (Tuesday) and meet LWV-VA President Lynn Gordon and Legislative Coordinator Carol Noggle in the General Assembly Building cafeteria for lunch at 11:30am. Hear what is coming up and choose what hearings you would like to attend. (If you miss lunch, call Carol at 571-437-8343 before 3:30pm.) Free Hotel Stay Available (see below)
- Participate in the Women's Round Table; 8:30am-9:30am; General Assembly Building, 7th Floor West Conference Room. Learn from legislators and other lobbyists what is happening at General Assembly.
- On Wednesday, attend committee hearings before and/or after Round Table
- Meet Lynn and Carol for lunch Wednesday at 11:30am in the General Assembly Building cafeteria to discuss what went on at the hearing(s) you attended

- Observe either the Senate or House session
- Attend afternoon committee hearings and touch base with Carol and/or Lynn before returning home

Lynn Gordon, President
League of Women Voters of Virginia

Free Hotel Stay

Want to come on Tuesday? The LWV-VA will pay for a double occupancy room to be shared with another LWV member.

To make a reservation: contact Molly McClenon, no later than Sunday night, before each weekly Round Table.

mcclenon@cstone.net or 434-384-7430

Commonwealth Park Suite Hotel, 901 Bank Street, across from the Capitol.

LWV-VA League Day

Feb 1, 2012

LWV-VA to be recognized by the General Assembly

For further information, please contact Carol Noggle at 571-437-8343.

Legislative Action Alerts from the LWV-VA

LWV-VA TOP PRIORITY FOR ACTION ON LEGISLATION

Redistricting Commission Bills were heard in Senate Privileges and Election Committee on

Tuesday, January 17th.

(check with Carol Noggle at 571-437-8343, cnogg@comcast.net for further information)

Contact Senators on this committee to SUPPORT a bipartisan appointed commission to establish boundaries after the 2020 census.

Tell Your Legislators . . .

To Support Senate Bill 446 and Senate Bill 189 because

- You don't want the 2021 redistricting to be a repeat of 2011.
- Citizens should be encouraged to run for office not discouraged because politicians are entrenched by incumbency.
- You want a fair process of electing leaders.

There are two bills to support: Senator Jill Vogel's (SB446) and Senator John Miller's (SB189)

They are nearly identical except that SB446 would establish the appointment of a 7-member commission and SB189 a 5-member commission.

Members of the Committee:

Obenshain (Chairman), Howell, Martin, Deeds, Puckett, Edwards, McEachin, Petersen,

Smith, Northam, Vogel, McWaters, Carrico, Reeves, and Garrett

Attend the meeting

LWV-VA Board members will be testifying at the meeting but your contacts and/or attendance are vital.

Want to come on Tuesday and attend the Women's Round Table? The LWV-VA will pay for a double occupancy room to be shared with another LWV member.

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Molly McClenon or 434-384-7430

Commonwealth Park Suite Hotel, 901 Bank Street, across from the Capitol.

A Message from Jerry Barrett, the chair of our study on the Northern Virginia Community Colleges (NVCC) regarding the NVCC Pathways Program

Pathways to the Baccalaureate

Seven years ago, NVCC began the Pathway to a Baccalaureate Program to aid Northern Virginia High School graduates who have both the desire and the capacity to achieve such a degree but whose likelihood of academic success and access to higher education would be significantly limited unless they received special support and structural guidance. NVCC, George Mason University and Northern Virginia K-12 schools responded to this need by creating the Pathways Program, which now serves students at 37 high schools in seven Northern Virginia school systems, including Falls Church's George Mason high school.

The Pathways counselor at GMHS, who is a NVCC staffer, meets with students during regular school hours in workshops or one on one counseling sessions, providing a one-stop case management model to guide students through all aspects of getting started at NVCC. That assistance can include: the application process, placement test preparation, application for financial aid and scholarships, and, even course registration at NVCC.

The LWV scholarship is now getting appropriate attention at GMHS, according to GMHS Judy Bracken, through the Pathways counselor, listing on a scholarship database that students and parents have access to, and once at NVCC, counseling and guidance continues to help the student complete an Associate's Degree. With that degree and a 2.5 GPA, students are guaranteed admission to GMU or any other four year college in Virginia.

Jerry Barrett, EdD

An Update from our 2011 LWVFC Scholarship Recipient, Josh Asadi

I am doing well in NVCC right now; I have a 4.0 as of last semester and for the most part enjoy my time there. My aim is to receive an AA in computer science, so my courses follow an outline that my counselor had given me. Last semester I took Calculus, and intro to computer science, Honors English and an some kind of student development class. Starting tomorrow, I will be taking the next level of Calculus, English, two

computer sciences and history 101. I hope that the extra class this semester will not be too much for me to handle.

I work part time in addition to my studies at FCCTV. I am employed there as a Freelance, so there is no set schedule for me. My job ranges from scheduling shows to operating the camera during meetings at City Hall. I may have to try to get a weekend job as well since my mother is planning on leaving sometime in the near future.

As for GMU, I am not sure. I thought that would be my choice but it is looking like JMU might be the better option for me. I will not be living on campus either way; I plan on splitting rent with a few of my friends and Harrisonburg is a really nice, affordable place to live. JMU had been an option for me anyway and is of no further tuition cost so it's looking like I may roll down that path.

Thank you for your help last year, once again. The boost it provided me was something that I appreciate wholeheartedly.

Happy New Year to you as well.

Regards,
Josh

Help Wanted

Calling on all members to volunteer to take leadership roles for the upcoming year.

If you are interested, please contact Ellen Salsbury at ellensals@aol.com

Condolences

The League extends condolences to League member, Mayor Nader Baroukh on the death of his grandmother, Tavous Lavian, who passed away in December.

We are also saddened by the death of long time League member Bob Perry. For many years, Bob was League treasurer and made some very shrewd financial decisions for which we are grateful. He took part enthusiastically in our activities and made admirable contributions to the mission of the League. Our sincerest sympathies go out to his widow, Nancy Perry, a 50 year member of the League and to his family.

2011-2012 Calendar

Please click on the following [link](#), for the complete calendar.

Here are a few of the upcoming events:

February 7, 2012

Board Meeting

March 6, 2012

Presidential Primary Election

March 13, 2012

Lunch & Learn, Privatization of Government Services

April 19, 2012

City Council Candidates' Forum

[Forward email](#)