

## Bob Donaldson

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**From:** edithholmes@aol.com on behalf of League of Women Voters of Falls Church  
[edithholmes@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2013 9:56 AM  
**To:** robert.donaldson@verizon.net  
**Subject:** October 2013 LWVFC E-Bulletin



October 2013 Newsletter

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League Members:

Late last month, our League lost a long-time, beloved member who was also a genuine pioneer in the City of Falls Church. Jessie Thackrey, a dedicated civic leader who helped found the City and its public school system, died September 28 at her home on West Rosemary Street. Jessie had celebrated her 100th birthday in June.

Born and raised on a farm in Homewood, Kansas, Jessie moved with her husband, Franklin, and their young family from Nebraska to the Town of Falls Church, Virginia, in 1941. The Thackreys were at the center of the effort 65 years ago to form an independent city and school system, separate from Fairfax County.



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### 2013-2014 LWVFC Board and Off-Board Members

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Jessie volunteered and was active in a host of activities in the years that followed. She was an active participant in 4H, president of the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School PTA, and chair of the United Givers Fund, which provided school supplies, clothing and shoes to needy children. She served as editor of several Falls Church City Public Schools newsletters for more than two decades. In addition to her active participation in LWVFC, Jessie was a member of Citizens for a Better City, and she served on the board of Northern Virginia Community College, and chaired this body in her final term. Jessie also became the first female senior warden at the Falls Church Episcopal Church, where she was a faithful member and lay leader for 72 years.

In addition, Jessie served on the Falls Church City School Board from 1962 to 1970, and was vice chair during her second four-year term. While she was on the School Board, Falls Church became the first Virginia school system to offer kindergarten and the first Virginia City school system to integrate its schools voluntarily. Jessie delighted in visiting the City's elementary school classes and did so until a few months ago, telling students at Mt. Daniel and Thomas Jefferson Elementary Schools about life in this country when she was their age, which included dirt roads, country schools, and travel by horse and buggy.

"The trait I most appreciated in Jessie was that she cared," says League member Sally Phillips. "She was a kind, considerate, thoughtful, caring person. I knew her very little, but whenever I was with her, she always cared about listening to me, talking with me, learning about me. It's obvious from her bio that she cared about all people. We need more of her kind in the world today."

**A memorial service will be held at The Falls Church Episcopal Church (the old church) on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 3 p.m.** A reception will be held after the service at the Fellowship Hall on the church's campus. The church is located at 115 East Fairfax Street at the corner of South Washington Street (Highway 29) and East Fairfax Street. All are welcome.

Administrative Team

Madalyn Cafruny  
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Ann McCleary  
Sally Phillips

Special Projects

Marty Meserve  
Jane Scully

Communications

Mona Johnston

Webmaster

Bob Donaldson

**In lieu of flowers**, Jessie's family suggests donations to:  
Falls Church Education Foundation, 800 W. Broad St.,  
Suite 203, Falls Church, VA 22046.

The LWVFC Board approved a motion at its meeting last week to honor Jessie with a resolution commemorating her long years of service to our City and the League. The resolution will be read at the League's Annual Meeting in June and presented to Jessie's family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jessie's daughters Sue Thackrey of Falls Church, who is also a League member, Janet Daugherty of La Mesa, California, and Maureen Lischke of Victor, Montana, son Keith Thackery, also of Falls Church, her eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and the many people-young and old-whom Jessie touched in her rich and meaningful life.

Edith Snyder

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### **LEAGUE EVENTS THIS WEEK AND BEYOND**

- ⌘ **Membership Social/New Member Event** - 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 17 at Dominion Wine & Beer, 107 Rowell Court in the City. All members and their guests are welcome!
- ⌘ **Special Program titled "The Corrupting Influence of Big Money in Elections"** - 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 27 in the Falls Church Community Center. LWVFC Member Robert Crowe will moderate a panel including Mary Margaret Whipple, former Virginia State Senator; Sean Barnett, spokesperson for Move to Amend; and Dick McCall, Falls Church City citizen and former legislative aide and foreign affairs specialist.
- ⌘ **Program from the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) on "Pros and Cons of Legalizing Marijuana and Other Drugs"**  
- 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 17 at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in Washington, DC, followed by an optional lunch and tour of the Portrait Gallery. Speakers include representatives from the region's police, state legislatures, and judiciary. To register or for more information contact: Linda Garvelink  
[garvelink@earthlink.net](mailto:garvelink@earthlink.net)

ε **Annual LWVFC Holiday Party** - 6:00-8:30 p.m.  
on Sunday, December 8 at the Falls Church  
Episcopal Church (please see the article on the  
Holiday Party below)

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### VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES...AND THANKS

Fall is the busiest time of year for Voters Service, and this year is no exception. In cooperation with the Village Preservation Improvement Society (VPIS), we had a successful candidates' Forum for City Council candidates. There were 75 people in attendance. Thanks go to Madalyn Cafruny, Ellen Salsbury, Cindy Donaldson, Bunny Jarrett, Mona Johnston, Sally Phillips, and Barry Buschow for their help. Tapped by Falls Church Cable Television (FCC-TV), the forum can be viewed below:



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For the first time, we are using the national League's web-based Vote411 online system as our mechanism to ask and assemble candidates' responses to our questions. A really big thanks goes to our webmaster, Bob Donaldson, whose knowledge and persistence conquered many obstacles facing LWVFC as a first-time user of this system. Make sure you visit [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) and check out the information on State and local races from Governor to Dogcatcher (just kidding).



Next, we are working on producing our Voters' Guide which will be published in the Falls Church News-Press on October 24. The banners reminding citizens to vote that used to grace Washington and Broad Streets may no longer be hung over the streets. Thanks to Ellen Salsbury for finding alternative means to publicize the election, and Pam Spofford for updating the banner. Look for our VOTE banner on the Brown's Hardware fence at the corner of Broad and Washington Streets and a notice of the November 5th Election Day on the State Theater marquee on Washington Street and on the schools' marquees. And, above all, remember to VOTE!

~Genie Flahie, Voters Service Chair



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### **REPORT FROM RICHMOND: LWV-VA FALL WORKSHOPS**

Attending League of Women Voters of Virginia workshops always offers a mix of positive results. Attendees can talk with state Board members and other local leaders and learn valuable information from sessions on a variety of timely topics.

As LWVFC's only delegate this year at the workshops in Richmond on September 28th, I attended two sessions: "Will Virginia Be the Next North Carolina?" and "Putting a Face on Legislative Action." Two other workshops- "Increasing Civil Rights for Felons" and "Local Leagues Power the Vote"-were the day's other offerings. Handouts are available if anyone is interested.

Olga Hernandez, presenter for the session on changes in North Carolina's election laws, made some sobering observations on where Virginia could be headed as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision on the Voting Rights Act and the changes passed into law by Virginia's General Assembly.

For instance, in 2014 Virginia will require a photo ID. North Carolina's strict list of government-issued IDs goes into effect in 2016. NC will no longer allow the use of student IDs or utility bills. While in Virginia we have a 45-day period of absentee voting in person, NC has reduced the time for such voting from 17 to 10 days, eliminating a weekend and a Sunday. NC will no longer count a provisional ballot if it is cast outside the home precinct, even if it is cast in the home county. The list goes on and on.

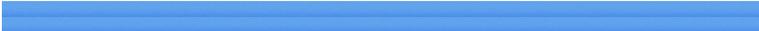
To date, three lawsuits have been filed against the state of North Carolina, including one in which LWV-NC is a party, and one from the Justice Department.

Lorraine Gates Schuyler, author of *The Weight of Their Vote: Southern Women and Political Leverage in the 1920s*, was the keynote speaker. She discussed the difficulties faced by both White and African American women in terms of voter mobilization and access. Women faced poll taxes, literacy tests, once-a-year registrations, and even polling places in saloons as obstacles to voting. Many African American women took their cases to court.

Early on, the LWV advocated for permanent registration, secret and simplified ballots, open primaries not conventions, and voter guides. The 19th Amendment was rejected by resolution in Virginia and was not ratified until 1952.

Carol Noggle, LWV-VA Legislative Coordinator, presented "Putting a Face on Legislative Action." She outlined a number of ways for LWV members to follow legislation. Her discussion and knowledge of the General Assembly left little doubt that she is an accomplished General Assembly watcher. Lobbyist-in-a-Box is an example of a way to follow five bills online free of charge. It allows you to see the status of bills and the final votes in the House and Senate, plus many other details. Richmond Sunlight is a site dedicated to transparency. Again, details on the sessions I attended and those I could not cover are available.

~Ellen Salsbury





## **THE HOLIDAY PARTY NEEDS YOU!**

Please make a note on your calendars to attend the League's Annual Holiday Party on **Sunday, December 8th from 6pm - 8pm**. We are excited about our new venue! The event will be held at **The Falls Church Episcopal Church**, located at 115 E Fairfax Street, Falls Church, VA 22046. As in previous years, we invite you to bring spouses, partners, and friends.

The Holiday Party is the League's main social event of the year. Co-chairs Bernie Baroukh and Ellen Salisbury are energized to make this a huge success! It's the only fundraiser we hold, and the monies raised enable us to pay for the many outreach activities that are part of the LWVFC mission.

We need volunteers to:

- ε \*Set up in the early afternoon of December 8th
- ε \*Clean up after the party
- ε \*Sell raffle tickets during the event
- ε \*Fold invitations and stuff envelopes
- ε \*Assist with the bake sale during the party
- ε \*Assist with the hors d'oeuvres buffet during the party

More specifically, we need more good volunteers to take on various tasks to complete the work. There are lots of jobs to be done, most of them small ones that can be easily accomplished in a short period of time. Look over the list and contact Bernie Baroukh at [blf2475@aol.com](mailto:blf2475@aol.com) or (703) 992-9433 or Ellen Salisbury at [ellensals@aol.com](mailto:ellensals@aol.com) to let us know what you'd like to do:

**BAKE SALE** - We need a chairperson to head up the bake sale, and we also need donations of goodies for sale, plus 3-4 volunteers to run the sale. Shifts are usually 30-45 minutes. Let us know what you are donating and if you can volunteer.

**COORDINATOR OF SERVICES FROM OUR**

**MEMBERS** - Each year League members donate services, such as offering a meal, supplying a handyman, teaching a skill, etc. We need someone to contact League members. We'll have a list for you to work from. (We encourage all members to come forward with your ideas and not wait to be called.) We need several members working on this committee to each make a few phone calls. It's quick and easy!

**MERCHANT DONATIONS MANAGER -**

The manager coordinates volunteers and keeps track of donors and donations. In addition to the manager, we need 2-3 people who aren't shy to follow up by visiting these merchants to secure donations and then pick them up before the party. Previous donors will be contacted by letter before they are contacted personally. If you want to contact a favorite retailer or restaurant, let us know by emailing Bernie at [blf2475@aol.com](mailto:blf2475@aol.com) or Ellen at [ellensals@aol.com](mailto:ellensals@aol.com). We don't want to ask the same business twice. Also, we can supply you with a letter and an invitation to give to the donor.

**FOOD** - the most important part of the party! Linda Garvelink has agreed to chair the Food Committee, and we are looking for a co-chair to assist her. Each Board member will bring his/her signature dish and Linda and her co-chair will supplement with additional appetizers and desserts. Tom Clinton has agreed to set up the very popular bar for us. We also need additional people to keep trays filled, pick up, etc. Board members, let Bernie know what you plan to bring.

**PRICING AND SET UP** - The day before the party we price the items and put together baskets. You get to preview all of the items. The day of the event we need several people to bring items into the party room and set up the tables and "stage" the event.

**CLEAN UP** - the more the merrier! This is really important. The more volunteers, the quicker we are done. As you can tell, this party is a group effort but well worth the time and energy. Get in on the fun and volunteer. All of these are short-term jobs that will be shared throughout the evening. You can volunteer and have ample time to enjoy the party.

If you're willing to help with one of the above activities, please contact Bernadette Baroukh at (703) 992-9433 or

[blf2475@aol.com](mailto:blf2475@aol.com).

And finally...do you have goods or services that you would like to donate to the auction?

The Holiday Party committee is interested in the following:

- ε Collectible items and antiques, artwork, needlework, ceramics/glass, jewelry, table linens, decorative trays, kitchenware, toys that are new or vintage, etc. The committee will also be happy to put together theme baskets (i.e. "It's a Party!" from a member's donations of chips, salsa, margarita mix, etc.). If you need some ideas, please let us know.
- ε Services, such as pet sitting, a dinner for 6-8, a special entrée or dessert to be prepared on request, teaching a skill, game, or hobby, a wine or beer tasting in your home for 10-12, etc.
- ε Bake sale items: home-prepared cakes, cookies, pies, candies, nuts, etc.

If you can contribute an item for auction, please contact Ellie Karro at (703) 532-9344 or [ellie\\_karro@yahoo.com](mailto:ellie_karro@yahoo.com). Drop off deadline is December 6th. Items can be dropped off during the week of 12/2 - 12/6 at Ellie's home located at 810 Park Ave, Falls Church, VA 22046.

~Bernie Baroukh and Ellen Salisbury

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## About Us

The League of Women Voters Falls Church is a non-partisan 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.

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

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