

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League Members:

Your League has had a busy and productive fall thus far, and we have one more major event to come before year's end.

Some 29 people, including several prospective members, attended LWVFC's lively social at Dominion Wine & Beer on October 17.



October's program on "The Corrupting Influence of Big Money in Elections" had excellence attendance from community members.

Ten days later, we hosted a program titled "The Corrupting Influence of Big Money in Elections" at the Falls Church Community Center. Forty people came to this event, which featured League member Robert Crowe as moderator and former Virginia Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, retired legislative aide and foreign affairs specialist Dick McCall, and Move to Amend spokesperson Sean Barnett as speakers. Many thanks to Vice President Linda Garvelink for organizing these well received programs, and to Communications Chair Mona Johnston for effectively publicizing these events as well as the League's election activities.

As Election Day approached, LWVFC worked to

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publicize the November 5 date and to provide citizens with information on the candidates and the issues to make informed decisions at the polls. The League placed its VOTE! banner on the fence at Brown's Hardware on the corner of Washington and Broad Streets, and arranged for the City's electronic signs along Broad to display reminders to citizens to vote.



LWVFC also added its guide of local City Council, School Board and constitutional officer candidates and the water system referendum to the national League's online VOTE411 system. In addition, we printed our guide to local elections in the October 24th edition of the Falls Church News-Press. We are indebted to Voter Services Chair Genie Flahie for managing the League's voter registration, absentee voting, and voter education efforts throughout election season. Thank you, Genie.

Since November 5th, the Board has decided that for future elections, we will staff tables at the City's polling places to provide our nonpartisan guide to voters as they arrive to cast their ballots. We hope to involve George Mason High School students in this effort to give voters one last opportunity to make informed choices.

Our final event for 2013 is LWVFC's annual Holiday Party. This signature event raises funds for the scholarship we award annually to a graduating George Mason High School student and for our voter education efforts. In the article that follows this letter, we ask that you participate in this fundraiser in a variety of ways and that you come and join in the fun on December 8. I look forward to seeing you there.

Meantime, a very Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Edith Snyder

Communications
Mona Johnston

Webmaster
Bob Donaldson

REMEMBERING EILEEN WILLIAMS

Long-time League member Eileen Williams passed away on November 4. Eileen was a staunch supporter of all levels of the League of Women Voters and is remembered particularly for her years of service as secretary of the National Capital Area (NCA) League. Eileen's daughter, Rebecca Williams, has expressed her deep thanks and gratitude for the numerous cards and the beautiful flowers her mother received from League members prior to her death.

Eileen was born in Denver, CO and was an educator of nurses for many years in Denver and at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, CO. After retiring to Arlington, VA, she became active in the League as well as the Arlington County Civic Federation, her condominium association, and her church. In addition to her daughter, she is survived by her nephew and niece, Dan and Amy Moore, and great-nephew and niece, Mathew and Maria Moore. She was preceded in death by her parents, Wallace and Vera Moore and her brother Gordon Moore.

A gathering of family and friends will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the League of Women Voters, Arlington, VA.



**HOLIDAY PARTY STILL NEEDS YOU TO
VOLUNTEER!**

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December 8th will be here before we know it. You should have received invitations to the event in a new venue this year: the party will take place in the **Fellowship Hall of the Falls Church Episcopal Church, 115 E Fairfax Street, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Plan to bring your family, and use the extra invites we sent to you to invite your friends. The more the merrier and the more successful the party will be.

At this time, members are asked to volunteer for the following:

- ε Set up early afternoon on Sunday, December 8
- ε Clean up afterwards
- ε Be a greeter and/or sell raffle tickets during the event
- ε Assist at the bake sale
- ε Assist with the appetizer and sweets buffet during the event

Contact Bernie Baroukh at blf2475@aol.com or 703/992-9433 or Ellen Salsbury at ellensals@aol.com or 703/534-2159, and let us know how you would like to participate.

BAKE SALE. Grace Risetto will be in charge of the bake sale. Dust off your recipe file and bring us your best efforts. Donations need to be at the party by 5:30 p.m., so we can price ahead of time. The offerings in the past have been terrific! Please contact Grace at gracerisetto@yahoo.com, and let her know what you are bringing.

MERCHANT DONATIONS MANAGER. Cindy Donaldson has assigned League members to follow up with the local merchants we have contacted. Our list is quite long this year, so there should be some wonderful donations. If you have a merchant you want to contact personally, please let Cindy know at cindy.donaldson@verizon.net - we don't want to contact anyone more than once.

FOOD. Linda Garvelink is organizing the food. Look for Board members' signature dishes at the party. If you would like to make a contribution of food or funds for food, please contact Linda at garvelink@earthlink.net.

SERVICES FROM MEMBERS. We are looking for someone to manage this job. Our very talented League members have always added to the auction by donating services, such as offering a meal, a day sail, a skill like teaching knitting, a tour, or supplying a handyman. Don't wait to be asked! We have a list to work from, but need several members to make phone calls. Please contact Ellen or Bernie for this important addition to the silent auction, or to help make a few calls.

DONATIONS. We are looking for collectible items and antiques, artwork, needlework, ceramic/glass, table linens, decorative trays, kitchenware, toys (new or vintage), etc.

The committee is skilled at putting together baskets, so if you have a theme and don't want to artfully arrange things, we will do it for you!

DONATION DROP-OFF. Once again, Ellie Karro, 810 Park Avenue, 703/532-9344 or eleonor.karro@verizon.net, has graciously offered her home for "staging." Please contact Ellie to arrange a mutually convenient time to drop off your donation between December 2 and December 6. No donations will be accepted on December 7 or 8.

Thank you for bringing your time, talents, and donations of food and items to this year's Holiday Party! We look forward to seeing you there.

~Bernie Baroukh and Ellen Salsbury

**REGISTER FOR LWV-VA's PRE-SESSION
WOMEN'S ROUND TABLE ON CAPITOL
SQUARE**

On Wednesday, December 4, 2013, the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) will host its annual pre-session round table on legislation likely to come before the 2014 General Assembly. Speakers will include representatives of non-profit organizations and members of the Governor's Cabinet.

This session is free and open to the public. It takes place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Capitol Building, House Room 3 (enter at 1000 Bank Street in Richmond), with a luncheon following at 12:15 p.m. in the Capitol Building, Senate Room 3. Reservations are required for the luncheon; the form is available [here](#). The luncheon costs \$35 if you register by November 27 and \$40 after that date.

Speakers confirmed for the morning of December 4th include:

- ε Ben Greenberg of Virginia Organizing
- ε David DeBiasi of AARP
- ε Jill Hanken of the HAVCare Coalition and Virginia Poverty Law Center (major advocates for Medicaid expansion)
- ε Tarina Keene of NARAL
- ε Hope Amezquita of ACLU
- ε James Parrish of Equality Virginia
- ε Anne Marie Morgan of Virginia Public Radio (on ethics in governance)
- ε Leigh Middleditch and Grant Tate (redistricting reform)
- ε Andy Goddard of VA Center for Public Safety (gun safety reform)
- ε Sara Okos of The Commonwealth Institute of Fiscal Analysis
- ε Emily Francis of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters
- ε Jeree Thomas of JustChildren, Legal Aid Justice Center
- ε Viola Baskerville, CEO of the Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth, former Delegate; (STEM education for children)
- ε Edgar Aranda-Yanoc of the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
- ε Robin Gahan of the Virginia Interfaith Coalition for Public Policy
- ε Therese Martin of LWV-VA
- ε Secretary of Finance, Ric Brown

LWVFC's Linda Garvelink plans to attend the pre-session and is making the drive to Richmond. Please contact Linda at garvelink@earthlink.net if you are interested in attending with her. For more information about the round table, please contact LWV-VA Legislative Coordinator Carol Noggle at cnogg@comcast.net.

**VOTE IN THE ANNUAL MARY ELLEN
HENDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTION!**

You are invited to participate as a "voter" in the annual MEH Middle School Election Campaign Project. Seventh-grade civics classes will be making their election presentations on December 11 and 12.



Students have created political parties, nominated candidates, developed platforms, researched issues, and developed campaigns. Teachers are looking for community volunteers to watch the presentations, provide feedback, and vote for their preferred candidates.

In the past, student platforms have included initiating a school basketball tournament, starting a welcoming committee, serving breakfast at school, and adding a grade-level bulletin board. Who knows what this year's political parties will promote?

The winning projects will be funded by a PTA grant and implemented by the parties. Volunteers are needed for about an hour on the following days:

Wednesday, December 11 at 8:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.

Thursday, December 12 at 7:40 a.m., 8:45 a.m.,
and 1:15 p.m.

If you are able to attend, please RSVP via this [link](#).
Thank you for working with our students!

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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