

## February 2013 LWVFC E-Bulletin



### 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](http://www.lwvfallschurch.org).**

Dear League Members,

More than a quarter of our League's membership turned out on Saturday, January 12 for LWVFC's annual program planning meeting. We reviewed proposals to update our local positions and prepared program recommendations for the National Capital Area and Virginia Leagues. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion.

We are especially thankful to the task force chaired by Barry Buschow for its members' in-depth review of LWVFC's local positions, focusing in particular on positions formed prior to the year 2000. Task force members included Martha Close, Anne O. Devereaux, Marty Meserve, Sally Phillips, Richard Snyder, and Jeff Tarbert. Their task was to update, expand or eliminate positions, as deemed appropriate, without changing the intent behind them. Their thorough work led to a lively discussion and a genuine coming together of League members about final recommendations to present to the Board and, ultimately, the membership.

On February 12, the League's Board approved the task force's proposed changes which were amended during the January program planning meeting. The membership will vote on LWVFC's updated local positions at the League's annual meeting in June. To view the revised Falls Church

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#### **2012-2013 LWVFC Board and Off-Board Members**

*President*  
*Edith Snyder*

*Vice President*  
*Linda Garvelink*

*Secretary*  
*Vacant*

League positions, please click [here](#).

In general, planning meeting participants agreed that rather than engage in a long, labor-intensive study requiring League consensus on a new topic, our League should use existing positions to educate and advocate. We also have available to us positions on a variety of issues developed by the regional, state, and national Leagues.

One of the topics the planning meeting identified as critical to our City is community and school safety in light of recent events in Newtown, CT, and elsewhere. Accordingly, the League will host a forum on this topic on February 21, featuring Falls Church Police Chief Mary Gavin and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Toni Jones. Please see details of this event below and plan to attend. Other topics of interest included changing demographics in the City of Falls Church. In the coming months, the League will develop an information paper on this subject as well as others.

Sincerely,  
Edith Snyder  
President

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**LWVFC HOSTS COMMUNITY & SCHOOL  
SAFETY PANEL DISCUSSION FEBRUARY 21**

On Thursday, February 21, 2013, LWVFC will host a panel discussion on community and school safety featuring Falls Church Police Chief Mary Gavin and School Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones. This event will be held from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Dogwood Room in City Hall, 300 Park Ave, Falls Church, VA 22046. Come and hear how the City is addressing safety issues in the wake of recent events.

All are welcome to attend.

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**REMEMBERING TWO FORMER LEAGUE  
LEADERS**

**By Sally Phillips**

**IDA SILVERSTEIN**

Ida Silverstein died Sunday, December 30, 2012, at the age of 92. She was a hard-working and enthusiastic

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Communications  
Sara Fitzgerald

Webmaster  
Bob Donaldson

member of the Falls Church League of Women Voters for well over 50 years.

Betty Blystone remembers that Ida volunteered for the Virginia League of Women Voters State Affairs Committee with Betty, Vivian Watts, and Adelaide Baum. Betty reports:

From our first committee meeting Ida was a leader in the studies as we worked on election laws, tax withholding and other issues on the LWV Virginia's agenda. She was an intrepid researcher and in her inimitable, self-deprecating way always cast a new light on the study materials. The committee members listened to her comments and suggestions and came away ready to follow her lead. Perhaps more than anyone else she framed the discussion that led to consensus. Ida's mastery of the material earned her the respect of the women on the committee and the other League members. Her charming personality earned her their friendship.

Ida graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, Phi Beta Kappa, Class of 1942. She came to Washington and worked for the War Department during World War II. She married Harold Silverstein who served more than three terms on City Council. In addition to the League, she was a member of the Village Preservation and Improvement Society and Citizens for a Better City. Ida was a founding member of Temple Rodef Shalom. Carol DeLong remembers that Ida was always happy to offer her home for various civic functions and served as a gracious hostess.

Ida combined good humor, graciousness, and intelligence into one tall, attractive woman. She was a real League contributor and an asset to the City of Falls Church.

### **ELICIA C. "LEE" WOLFE**

Elicia C. "Lee" Wolfe died Monday, January 14, 2013 at the age of 85. Lee was a past president of the League of Women Voters of Falls Church and served on the Virginia state board of the league. While on the state board, she was actively involved in the league's ultimately unsuccessful campaign for the ratification of

the Equal Rights Amendment.

Elicia Charlotte Intrator was a native of the Bronx, NY, and a 1949 political science graduate of Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. She moved to Fairfax County in 1965. According to her son, Lloyd Wolfe, Lee briefly served as a city planner for Alexandria's planning commission before joining the Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) in Alexandria as a technical editor in the early 1970s. Her husband of 58 years, computer pioneer Eric Wolfe, died in 2007. Soon after, she moved from Falls Church to the Landow House, an assisted-living facility in Rockville. Survivors include her two sons, Lloyd of Arlington and Dean Wolfe of Fairfax County; a brother; and three granddaughters.

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### **SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2013**

Thanks to generous donations from members and friends and the League's successful holiday party, the LWVFC will again sponsor a scholarship for a graduating George Mason High School senior. In addition to graduation, criteria for the \$2,000 award include consideration of financial need and a preference for a student planning to attend community college. In granting this scholarship, the Falls Church League seeks to provide assistance to graduating students whose academic performance alone might not meet the criteria for the most competitive scholarships, but whose personal qualities demonstrate a strong likelihood of success in higher education. We ask members to encourage students they know and think would be eligible for this scholarship to apply by completing the essay question: *What difficulties have you overcome related to your family circumstances, learning differences, financial situation, or other challenges?* This essay must be returned by April 9 to Judy Bracken in the GMHS College/Career Center.

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### **KEEPING UP TO DATE ON ACTIONS OF THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

As a League member, your friends and neighbors will likely ask you about what is going on in the Virginia General Assembly. A quick and easy way to find out about legislation of concern to the League is to check the news and views section on the LWV-VA website.

Please [click here](#) regularly to remain up to date and to participate in issues that command your interest.

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### **FEBRUARY 23: INVITATION TO FALLS CHURCH FROM THE ARLINGTON LEAGUE**

Coffee and Conversation With Duke University's Kristin A. Goss, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Political Science and Director of Duke in DC Program. The program begins at 10:30 am in the parlor of the First Presbyterian Church, located at 601 N Vermont Avenue, Arlington VA (at intersection with Carlin Springs Road in Ballston area, parking available in church lot).

Dr. Goss-or as LWV-Arlington knows her, enthusiastic Arlington League Board member Kristin-will speak on two topics on which she has studied extensively and published. Her new book, *The Paradox of Gender Equality*, concerns the role of American women's groups and gives considerable coverage to the League of Women Voters. An earlier work, *Disarmed: The Missing Movement for Gun Control in America*, is especially timely today with the swelling public support for gun control as a result of the events in Newtown, CT, and elsewhere. Because of her expertise, Kristin has been approached by the media to provide comments and she recently contributed an article entitled "Why We Need to Talk About Guns" for the first online edition of *Newsweek* magazine.

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### **FEBRUARY 27: VOTING RIGHTS RALLY AT THE US SUPREME COURT**

On Wednesday, February 27th, the Supreme Court will review *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, a case that questions the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965, the landmark legislation that outlawed discriminatory voting practices. We encourage your participation! Come volunteer for the event (details below) or simply attend. The League firmly believes the Supreme Court must uphold Section 5 or erase 50 years of progress for minority voters. When the Voting Rights Act was last reauthorized in 2006, Congress declared that without its protections, "racial and language minority citizens will be deprived of the opportunity to exercise their right to vote."

In conjunction with many national partners, the League is participating in a rally at the Supreme Court on February 27, starting with a press briefing at 8:30 am followed by the rally from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

League members interested in attending or volunteering at the rally should contact Virginia Clairmont at [vclairmont@lww.org](mailto:vclairmont@lww.org) at LWVUS.

Updated information will be available by clicking [here](#). And additional information regarding where to meet up with the League team on the day-of will be forthcoming. Stay tuned!

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### **FEBRUARY 28: STORM WATER MANAGEMENT IN FALLS CHURCH CITY-WHAT'S THE PLAN? WHO'S GOING TO PAY FOR IT? AND HOW?**

This question-and-answer session features representatives of the Falls Church Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) and the City's Director of Public Works, Bill Hicks. Co-hosted by Citizens for a Better City (CBC) and the Falls Church Republican and Democratic Committees and sponsored by Falls Church American Legion Post 130, this forum will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at Post 130, 400 N Oak Street, Falls Church, and is open to all. The discussion will address why WAC was formed in 2009, the proposed solutions WAC developed, and the current status of its Watershed Management Plan, which was approved by the City Council in February 2012.

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### **MARCH 2: INVITATION TO THE LEAGUE FROM THE FALLS CHURCH HOMELESS SHELTER**

#### **Come to the Cabaret!**

Dinner, dancing and an auction to support the work of the homeless shelter. The event will feature music from Blue Pop & the Plucker and the Sudden M Pac band with emcee Rob Donovan. The Cabaret will be held at The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Free parking is available in Taylor Street Garage near the Ballston Metro. Tickets are available online by clicking [here](#) for \$35 per person or \$60 for two. The cost is \$40 per person at the door.

Checks may be made payable to Falls Church Shelter, c/o Sophie Darling, 305 Kent St, Falls Church, VA 22046.

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## **MARCH 16: DEMOCRACY IN ACTION AWARDS CELEBRATION**

On March 16, the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) will host the Democracy in Action Awards Celebration at The Westin Richmond Hotel. The event is part of the League's statewide campaign to recognize women who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the areas of good governance and active civic engagement.

This year's inaugural Celebration features one of Virginia's finest and most prominent leaders and our City's former state senator, Mary Margaret Whipple, who will deliver the keynote address. Six elected leaders will be paid special tribute for their commitment to governing well in Virginia. In addition, seven extraordinary local leaders in the commonwealth will be recognized as engaged citizens.

Honorees for the Good Governance award are Sen. Janet D. Howell, Council Member Judith N. Knudson, Del. Jennifer L. McClellan, Sen. Linda T. ("Toddy") Puller, School Board Member J. Marie Waller, and Del. Vivian E. Watts. Honorees for the Engaged Citizenship award include Kristin Goss, Jill Hanken, Therese Martin, Mary Sue Terry, Sally Thomas, Shannon Valentine, and Barbara Worthen.

The event begins with a reception from 6:30 pm-7:00 pm at the hotel, located at 6631 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23230, followed by dinner and the awards ceremony from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Individual tickets are \$95. Sponsorships are available. If you are interested in attending the event or becoming a sponsor, please see <http://www.lwv-va.org> or contact LWV-VA Treasurer Elaine Head, (540) 552-0263 or [DIA@lwv-va.org](mailto:DIA@lwv-va.org).

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### **News & Notes from LWFNCA**

**By Olga Hernandez, LWFNCA Secretary**

LWFNCA will hold its Annual Convention on May 4,

2013. A new idea for LWNCA fundraising will be put in practice at that gathering. Fundraising Director Andrea Gruhl will assemble items from each member League for a silent auction. Each will be asked to donate at least one item or service of value on which attendees can bid. More information on this event will be available soon.

LWNCA encourages local Leagues to write letters to the editor, the LWVUS and legislators using the LWVUS Gun Control position asking all to prioritize and support reasonable gun policy for public safety.

LWVUS has informed LWNCA that the 2016 Convention will again return to DC. The event will be held at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park hotel located at 2660 Woodley Road NW. This hotel has a better floor plan and is closer to a Metro station.

[Forward email](#)



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