

Dear League Members:

I have exciting news to report and appreciation to convey: LWVFC members responded rapidly to the challenge from a generous League member to match contributions to the LWV Education Fund up to \$1,000. In a little more than two weeks after a written appeal was sent out with the registration form for the LWVFC Annual Meeting, members contributed \$1,010, triggering the full value of the match.

Why does this matter so much? As Sally Phillips, chair of the 2013-2014 Budget Committee explained in the appeal: "The League pays for its activities through two separate funds-the General Fund and the Education Fund. The General Fund finances advocacy and political action; contributions to it are not tax-deductible. The Education Fund finances our voters' service and community education efforts; contributions to it are tax-deductible. We are also able to pay half our per-member payments (totaling \$3,500 in next year's budget) from Education Fund money. So we can put to good use all the contributions to the Education Fund that we can get. (Our Scholarship Fund is a separate entity altogether; contributions to it are tax-deductible and go entirely to fund a scholarship for a George Mason senior.)

"In recent years donations to the Education Fund have been minimal and most of these expenses have come from our General Fund cash. To be cost-effective, voters' service and community education expenses should come from tax-deductible contributions to the Education Fund, not from non-tax-deductible contributions to the General Fund."

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

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*Linda Garvelink*

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*Marian (Bunny) Jarrett*

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*Rebecca Shaw*  
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*Fundraising Chair*  
*Bernadette Baroukh*

*Liaison to NCA*  
*Ellen Salisbury*

Thanks to all who have contributed to the Education Fund thus far this year, and special thanks to the member who led the way with such a thoughtful and openhanded matching gift. Your actions demonstrate the vitality of our League and the commitment of its members.

Fall will soon be here and with it election season and a variety of related League activities. Please be sure to mark your calendars for two voters service events co-hosted by LWVFC and The Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS). They are:

- ⌘ Sunday, September 8, 3:00 pm at the Falls Church Community Center for a forum on a ballot referendum about the City's plan to sell the water system, and
- ⌘ Wednesday, September 25, 7:30 pm at City Council Chambers for a forum for the candidates for City Council.

In addition, the League will hold a membership social:

- ⌘ Thursday, October 17, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Dominion Wine & Beer, 107 Rowell Court, Falls Church (former location of Dominion Jewelry)

**View our full calendar of events by clicking [here](#)**

On a personal note, I want to let you know that because my husband, David Snyder, is running for City Council this fall, I will absent myself from all League decisions having to do with voters service through the election on November 5. Vice President of Programs Linda Garvelink will convene the Board on voters service matters during this period and will work with our very able Voter Service Chair Genie Flahie to publish the Fall 2013 Voters Guide and conduct our water referendum and Council candidate forum and other election-related activities. I will continue to handle other non-election related aspects of administering the League in collaboration with the Board. Please contact Genie (703) 532-7713 or email her at [genief@verizon.net](mailto:genief@verizon.net) if you would like to help with voters service efforts.

Lastly, if you have not yet renewed your LWVFC membership for the 2013-2014 League year, you will receive a letter and renewal form in August. Please respond when you receive this mailing. We depend on

Local Affairs Chair  
Barry Buschow

Administrative Team  
Madalyn Cafruny  
Cindy Donaldson  
Ann McCleary  
Sally Phillips

Special Projects  
Marty Meserve  
Jane Scully

Communications  
Mona Johnston

Webmaster  
Bob Donaldson

your active participation in our League and ensuring an informed electorate is among the best of causes.

I hope you are enjoying your summer, and I look forward to seeing you at League activities this fall.

Sincerely,

Edith Snyder  
President

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### **VICTORIA MYNATT RECEIVES LWVFC SCHOLARSHIP**

Victoria Mynatt, recipient of the 2013 LWVFC Scholarship of \$2,000, attended this year's Annual Meeting with her mother Bernice and brother Roman. A graduating senior, Tori came to George Mason High School for her senior year having spent the prior three years at three different schools in California.

Throughout the many transitions in her young life, Tori has remained a strong student and maintained a positive attitude in the face of constant change. In addition to her classes and activities at GMHS, Tori volunteers twice a week at Sunrise Senior Living Center. She plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College this fall. The League was delighted to host Tori and her family at the meeting and luncheon.

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### **CHIEF GAVIN ADDRESSES ANNUAL MEETING**

Falls Church Chief of Police Mary Gavin spoke at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the LWVFC on June 8, describing what it is like to be "an officer and a lady."

Chief Gavin, the first woman to lead the City's police department, began her presentation by congratulating LWVFC scholarship recipient Victoria Mynatt and noting the importance of Tori's family members who joined her at the League's annual meeting. Gavin spoke of her own parents who were her moral compass and of the impact of receiving a small scholarship that enabled her to go to Eastern Kentucky University, describing it as "a watershed moment."



Before coming to this City in 2007, Chief Gavin spent 21 years with the Arlington County Police Department. In addition to earning her bachelor's degree in law enforcement from Eastern Kentucky, she has completed several professional development courses.

Gavin said she has been fortunate to have good mentors and good training throughout her career. Most of her mentors were men; women were her peers. She commented that police officers walk around with a certain amount of fear and that both men and women understand this. Gavin noted that men protected her in her work like big brothers. She never encountered harassment or discrimination, noting that in police work there is simply an appreciation for being a cop, not for being male or female.

Chief Gavin spoke of the constantly evolving nature of police work. For example, the crack epidemic in the 1980s and the Rodney King incident in the 1990s both changed the way police work; officers now expect to be taped wherever they go. The 2000s brought terrorist attacks and increasing gun violence. "We had to adjust to the reality that some people would fly planes into buildings and shoot children and staff at an elementary school." One response from law enforcement has been what is called "community policing": police get to know people and work with them rather than just responding when a crime is committed.

Getting to know people, especially kids, has been one of the best parts of her job. She greatly enjoyed being an SRO, or School Resource Officer, in Arlington County public schools. SROs are viewed by students and teachers as part of the staff, Gavin said, adding that is often intimidating for the police to go into a school, into a culture they do not know. She and her officers regularly visit the Falls Church City Public Schools, frequently having lunch with the students.

In response to questions from the audience, the Chief emphasized the importance of working with other jurisdictions and with state and federal entities as a team. She also reported that the crimes in The Little City tend to be like those in the region as a whole. In the summer, stealing theft of copper from construction sites happens frequently. Other typical crimes are driving under the influence and burglaries.

~Bunny Jarrett

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### **FALL FESTIVAL HELP NEEDED**

LWVFC is sponsoring a booth at the Little City's September 7 Fall Festival. We need volunteers to staff the booth that day. We hand out voter information and balloons for the kids, encourage membership, and answer questions about upcoming elections.

This is one of the main events where we make known our presence in the City. Can you spare two hours? The following shifts are available:

- ε Set-up 7:45 to 9:00 am
- ε 9:00-11:00 am
- ε 11:00 am-1:00 pm
- ε 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
- ε 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

So, find a League buddy and sign up for a shift, or we can pair you with another volunteer. Call me at (703) 532-7713 or email at [genief@verizon.net](mailto:genief@verizon.net). Thanks in advance.

~Genie Flahie

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### **REPORT ON 2013 LWV-VA CONVENTION**

Madalyn Cafruny, Ellen Salsbury, and Linda Garvelink journeyed to Williamsburg, Virginia, in early June as the LWVFC's delegates to the League of Women Voters of Virginia's biennial convention.

They attended the pre-convention workshop on Saturday morning, June 1, featuring Anne Schink, the LWVUS liaison to LWV-VA. Anne traveled to Williamsburg from her home near Portland, Maine. Anne shared ideas from *The Four Fold Way: Walking the Paths of the Warrior, Teacher, Healer and Visionary* by Angeles Arien, PhD. Using the principals of native spirituality and shamanism, Anne helped delegates consider our own personalities and work ethics and those of our LWV colleagues. The workshop encouraged participation and introspection and helped us recognize various work styles and traits with the goal of interacting more effectively as League and Board members.

After a break for lunch in the lovely Market Square of

Williamsburg, the 35<sup>th</sup> LWV-VA Convention was called to order by Lynn Gordon, president 2011-2013. The convention had two plenary sessions. During the open plenary session, various LWV-VA committees presented the background studies and motions for 2013-2015 activities, including nominations for the coming two years. Caucuses on issues related to program and budget were convened at 9:30 p.m. after the convention banquet.

All motions were acted on in the closing Plenary Session on Sunday, June 2. Convention delegates elected the Board of Directors, including Anne Sterling, president; Sue Lewis, first vice-president; Linda Rice, second vice-president; Margaret Hardy, secretary; Elaine Head, treasurer; and directors Brenda Carswell, Olga Hernandez, Carol Noggle, Nancy Warren, Lois Page, and Sue Worden. The Nominating Committee includes Mary Houska, chair; Dianne Blais, and LWVFC's own Ellen Salsbury.

The convention also approved the state League's budget, and delegates directed the new LWV-VA Board to update its positions having to do with natural resources, uranium mining, and fracking. These positions can be found on the LWV-VA website at <http://www.lwv-va.org/positions-priorities.html>. Uranium mining and fracking will likely continue to be discussed and legislated in the General Assembly.

The Board of the LWV-VA has already agreed to form a committee to amend its state air quality and water supply and distribution positions by March 2014. These amendments would then be presented to the state LWV-VA Board for action. If you are interested on working on this committee, please contact Linda Rice, Second Vice President, LWV-VA by October 1, 2013 at [lindarice678@cox.net](mailto:lindarice678@cox.net) or call (after 7:00 pm) 757-566-1825.

~Linda Garvelink

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### **ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

Voters in Virginia can now register online or make corrections in their registration information, and LWVFC is helping publicize this new capability.

Thanks to a partnership between the State Board of Elections and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

(DMV), citizens can now complete these processes online if they can provide the Virginia DMV customer identifier number that is displayed on driver's licenses or DMV-issued identification cards. Citizens who do not have that number can still fill out the registration application online, but they will be required to print it out and return the completed application to the appropriate local voter registration office.

All voter registration application submissions are subject to review and approval. Citizens will be notified by mail by the local voter registration office once their application has been processed. Go to [www.SBE.Virginia.gov](http://www.SBE.Virginia.gov) for more information or to register.

This year, the November 5 election will decide the races for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, members of the House of Delegates, and for the City of Falls Church, the sheriff, treasurer, commissioner of revenue, and members of the Falls Church City Council and School Board. Here are important dates for this year's election:

- ε **September 20:** In-person absentee voting begins in the Registrar's office at City Hall.
- ε **October 15:** Last date to register to vote in the November election.
- ε **October 29:** Last date to request a mail-in absentee ballot
- ε **November 2:** Last day for in-person absentee ballot.

Check the website of the Falls Church League, [www.lwvfallchurch.org](http://www.lwvfallchurch.org), for more information about the election and candidates as the election approaches.

~Sara Fitzgerald

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### **Press Release from LWV-VA:**

### **AARP AND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS URGE KEN CUCCINELLI TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE**

AARP Virginia and the League of Women Voters of Virginia today called on gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli to face off against Terry McAuliffe in the

People's Debate, the statewide debate traditionally held each election season.

"All voters in Virginia deserve a chance to see the candidates who want to be their Governor debate," said League of Women Voters President Anne Sterling, representing 14 local leagues in communities throughout Virginia.

Cuccinelli did not respond to a certified letter received by his campaign on July 12, 2013, according to the U.S. Postal Service return receipt. The letter gave Cuccinelli a July 19 deadline to respond to the debate invitation. The certified letter was sent in response to news reports quoting Cuccinelli campaign staff members indicating that the candidate does not intend to participate in the People's Debate.

The groups offered to negotiate with both candidates the terms of the debate so they would be comfortable participating. The letter was signed by Sterling and AARP Virginia State President Bob Blancato, who represents more than 1 million AARP members in the Commonwealth.

"We want to ensure that the People's Debate will take place, because most voters can't attend a debate hosted by lawyers at a fancy resort, or a debate organized by a business group with a pricey entrance fee," said AARP Virginia State Director Bill Kallio.

Cuccinelli faced McAuliffe on Saturday morning, July 20, during the Virginia Bar Association's summer meeting at The Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, VA. The debate was free for lawyers and their guests attending the conference, but required a meeting attendee name badge. The least expensive registration rate for the conference was \$155 for judges or lawyers employed by the government. Other lawyers had to pay \$255. The debate was moderated by Judy Woodruff, senior correspondent and co-anchor of "PBS NewsHour, who also was the moderator for the 2009 People's Debate sponsored by AARP and the League of Women Voters.

The candidates will face off again on September 25 in McLean in a debate hosted by the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Capital One Bank at their headquarters. The debate is open to chamber members for a fee of \$150. After September 4 the debate will be open

to the public if there is room, at a cost of \$250, with no discounts for students or senior citizens. The Chamber debate is moderated by Chuck Todd, political director and chief White House correspondent for NBC News and host of MSNBC's "The Daily Rundown."

"Why would a candidate agree to debates with hefty price tags that cater to lawyers and business executives while turning down a debate that can be seen in every home in the Commonwealth?" Kallio said.

The People's Debate, held each election year on Columbus Day, has been a must-do campaign event for statewide candidates. Current Governor Bob McDonnell faced Senator Creigh Deeds at the People's Debate in 2009, while current U.S. Senator Tim Kaine debated former Senator George Allen in 2012. The 2012 debate was seen by more than 200,000 voters across the Commonwealth, being carried live in every television market in Virginia as well as C-SPAN. It also was streamed live on the CNN and Washington Post websites and the websites of numerous Virginia-based news organizations.

McAuliffe, the Democrat in the race, promptly accepted the groups' first invitation, which was issued May 20. Cuccinelli, who represents the Republicans in the contest, did not respond. On July 3 the Cuccinelli campaign told a reporter that the candidate does not plan to participate. Cuccinelli also was critical of the People's Debate in remarks to the press on a July 8 campaign stop in Hampton Roads.

"If Mr. Cuccinelli doesn't agree to participate in the People's Debate, the majority of ordinary Virginians won't have a chance to see the two candidates for Governor debate the issues that matter most to them," Kallio said.

AARP Virginia and the League of Women Voters of Virginia have traditionally sponsored the People's Debate for gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races. It is the only debate representing the issues of concern to ordinary citizens that is broadcast statewide. Other debates are sponsored by groups representing the business and legal community, while the People's Debate tackles issues that are important to the average voter. Neither group endorses or contributes money to candidates, political parties or campaigns.

"We are hopeful that Mr. Cuccinelli will agree to face Mr. McAuliffe in the People's Debate and give all Virginians a chance to see the candidates answer questions," Sterling said. "There is still time to make this happen."

Media partners for the People's Debate are WTVR-TV (CBS) and WCVE-TV (Virginia Public Television). The media partners distribute the debate to broadcasters statewide in order to make the forum available to voters across Virginia.

Both the League of Women Voters of Virginia and AARP Virginia are on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter @aarpva and @LWVVA.

## 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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