



May 2014 Newsletter

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Dear League Members,

LWVFC's annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2014, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Tea With Mrs. B, located at 136 West Jefferson Street. Parking is readily available in the lot directly across the street in front of the white building. In addition, there is on-street parking from Tea With Mrs. B toward Little Falls Street and in the parking lots just off North Maple Avenue.

We look forward to this new venue and to hearing our guest speaker, Virginia House of Delegates Representative Marcus Simon, discuss his first legislative session and issues of concern to his Falls Church constituents. We will also recognize the winner of our annual scholarship to a graduating George Mason High School senior and honor Renee Andrews, our nominee for and recipient of the state League's annual "Making Democracy Work" award.

**If you have not yet signed up, please do so today! The registration form can be found by clicking [here](#). The agenda for the annual meeting, along with the proposed budget and slate of officers for 2014-2015 can be found [here](#).**

Your printed annual meeting booklet with registration and volunteer forms was mailed to you last month. Please email me at [edithholmes@aol.com](mailto:edithholmes@aol.com) if you did not receive it. Once again, we are indebted to a generous League member who has pledged to match all contributions to our tax-deductible League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) between now and August 31, 2014 up to \$1,000. This match is an excellent reason to make an Ed Fund donation: you get a tax deduction and your donation doubles. Another good reason to make the donation is to help us balance our budget. When you send in your reservation for the annual meeting, please consider adding a check made out to LWVEF.

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

President  
Edith Snyder

Vice President  
Linda Garvelink

Secretary  
Marian (Bunny) Jarrett

Treasurer  
Eleanor Karro

Voter Services Chair  
Regina (Genie) Flahie

Membership Co-Chairs  
Rebecca Shaw  
Pamela Spofford

Fundraising Chair  
Bernadette Baroukh

Liaison to NCA  
Ellen Salsbury

Local Affairs Chair  
Barry Buschow

Administrative Team  
Madalyn Cafruny

Thank you for all that you do for and with the League. I look forward to seeing you at this year's annual meeting!

Edith Snyder

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### **LWVFC HOSTS LWW-VA COUNCIL, ATTENDS LWVNCA CONVENTION**

Our Falls Church League served as host League for the League of Women Voters of Virginia's (LWV-VA) biennial Council meeting on April 26. The meeting, held in Fairfax County at the Hilton Garden Inn on Fair Ridge Drive, attracted approximately 60 attendees. Many thanks to Bob Crowe, Linda Garvelink, Judy Parente, and Ellen Salsbury for attending Council and fulfilling our host role and to Genie Flahie for preparing materials for Council.

Of special interest was a panel of election experts who discussed the topic "Virginia's Election Practices and the Presidential Commission on Election Administration Recommendations." Therese Martin of Fairfax organized the panel and invited the panelists, who included Judy Brown, Loudoun County Registrar; Kimball (Kim) Brace, member of the Prince William Bipartisan Commission on the Election Process; and Brian Schoeneman, Fairfax County Electoral Board Secretary and member of the Fairfax Bipartisan Election Process Improvement Commission. Leslie Reynolds, Executive Director, National Association of Secretaries of State, moderated the panel. To watch the discussion, please visit the video link provided below.

*Cindy Donaldson  
Ann McCleary  
Sally Phillips*

*Special Projects  
Marty Meserve  
Jane Scully*

*Communications  
Mona Johnston*

*Webmaster  
Bob Donaldson*



### **CROWE AND GARVELINK TO REPRESENT LWVFC IN DALLAS**

LWVFC Members Bob Crowe and Linda Garvelink will travel to Dallas next month to represent our League at the 51<sup>st</sup> National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States. The convention, "Power: Our Voices, Our Votes," will run from June 6 through 10. For information about the convention and the meeting's agenda, please [click here](#).

Safe travels, Bob and Linda, and thank you for serving as our delegates to the convention.



### Panel discussion "Virginia's Election Practices" - April 26, 2014

Delegates also voted on LWV-VA's 2014-2015 Operating Fund Budget, program issues, and other matters of official state League business, including a position on uranium mining. The League supports the continuation of the moratorium on uranium mining.

A week later, Bob Crowe, Edith Snyder, and Sandy Tarpinian joined LWVFC members and League of Women Voters of the National Capital Region (LWVNCA) President Virginia Long and Director of Programs Linda Garvelink in downtown Washington for NCA's annual convention. The featured speaker for the May 3 event was Jeanne Allert, founder and CEO of the Maryland Rescue and Restore Coalition, addressing the topic of human trafficking. Jeanne also founded and serves as executive director of The Samaritan Women, a therapeutic residence program for victims of human trafficking in the Mid Atlantic region. Her talk on trafficking as a local issue was eye opening and thought provoking. NCA hopes to work with local Leagues to educate the membership and the public on this topic in the next year.

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### **SUCCESSFUL STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE AT GMHS**

LWVFC members, with assistance from the George Mason High School (GMHS) Student Government Association (SGA), conducted a very successful voter registration event at the school on April 30. SGA members

made posters and announcements and saw to the logistics. League members served as resources to students registering to vote for the first time.

Computers were set up near the cafeteria, and students registered online. Close to 40 students registered, and others received information to enable them to register from home. Linda Garvelink, Cindy Donaldson, Pam Spofford and Genie Flahie staffed the session for the League.

We have been invited to return to the high school in the fall to register first-time voters ahead of the November General Election.



Cindy Donaldson (standing) and Genie Flahie (seated, right) help GMHS students register to vote.

### **MEMORIAL DAY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The City of Falls Church Memorial Day Festival will be held on Monday, May 26, this year. The League will have a booth to hand out information on upcoming elections and distribute balloons with our famous "Democracy Is NOT a Spectator Sport" slogan. Volunteers are needed to

staff the booth. Please contact Genie Flahie if you are able to spare two hours on that day. You can reach her at [genief@verizon.net](mailto:genief@verizon.net). We encourage all League members to consider helping at this event.

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### **LWVNCA HOSTS AUGUST RETREAT**

What does the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) mean to you? Would you like to meet other local League members to talk about issues we have in common, such as membership, fundraising, and how the LWVNCA can play a significant role for local Leagues?

We want to encourage local members, not only local League Board members, to join us on Saturday, August 2, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., in the conference center at NRECA, 4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA. Each League may name three members and their LWVNCA representative to this lively and informative gathering.

To enable planning, NCA has asked us to send the names of our representatives to Diane Hibino, LWV/Montgomery County, MD, at [trihib@verizon.net](mailto:trihib@verizon.net) or call her at 301-263-9876 by June 30. Also, please let Linda Garvelink know if you are interested [gavelink@earthlink.net](mailto:gavelink@earthlink.net). No cost to attend or for parking; lunch will be on your own at Ballston area eateries.

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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.*