

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Dear League Members,

It is hard to believe that it has been two months since LWVFC's annual meeting and that we are now mid-way through the summer. I hope you are enjoying some time off or at least a slower pace.

Our 63<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting was a joyful occasion as we recognized the winner of our 2014 scholarship, graduating George Mason Senior Allyson Della Queva, who plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College this fall, and honored Falls Church Electoral Board Chair Renee Andrews, our nominee for and recipient of the state League's annual "Making Democracy Work" award.

We also welcomed our guest speaker, Virginia House of Delegates Representative Marcus Simon, who discussed his first legislative session and issues of concern to his Falls Church constituents. Our venue, Tea With Mrs. B, proved a warm and inviting environment. Special thanks to Ann McCleary, Ellen Salsbury, and Ellie Karro for making the meeting arrangements.



From Left: Incoming LWVFC Membership Co-Chair Sarah Snyder with scholarship winner Allyson Della Queva, and her mother, Esther Della Queva.

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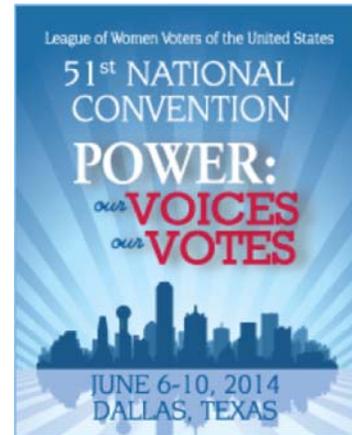
Delegate Marcus Simon addressed League members and guests during LWVFC's annual meeting in May.

We followed the annual meeting with a strong presence at Falls Church City's annual Memorial Day festivities. The League had a booth from which we handed out information on upcoming elections and distributed balloons with our famous "Democracy Is NOT a Spectator Sport" slogan. We are indebted to outgoing Voter Service Chair Genie Flahie for organizing our booth and appreciate the time several volunteers spent representing the League that day.



Members Sara Fitzgerald and Sally Phillips represent LWVFC at the Memorial Day booth opposite City Hall.

Lastly, I am pleased to report that, once again, members have generously matched the \$1,000 pledge of one among us to the tax-deductible League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). We are grateful to this donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, and thank everyone who contributed. Your donations to the Education Fund play a significant role in helping us balance our annual budget.



**CROWE AND GARVELINK  
REPRESENT LWVFC IN  
DALLAS**

Robert Crowe and Linda Garvelink, LWVFC members and co-vice presidents of programs, travelled to Dallas in June 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," ran from June 6 through 10. The meeting featured concurrence with a position on human trafficking adopted by the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, which all Leagues may now adopt as their own, and a comprehensive, three-part national program combining study and review of key, specific structures of American democracy, including the process of amending the US Constitution, campaign finance, and redistricting.

Please read [Linda's](#) and [Bob's](#) in-

depth reports reflecting on their experiences as our delegates in Dallas.

If you have not yet renewed your LWVFC membership for the 2014-2015 League year, you will receive a letter and renewal form in August. Please respond when you receive this mailing.

We will put your dues and gifts to good use as we prepare voter education materials for the General Election for the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate on November 4<sup>th</sup> and plan programs for the year ahead. The Board is finalizing a calendar of League activities now, but please save Sunday afternoon, September 28<sup>th</sup> for LWVFC's initial program, a forum with members of the Falls Church Electoral Board about voting issues in the City and Virginia.

Meantime, I wish you a pleasant remainder of the summer!

Edith Snyder

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### **LWVFC HOSTS AUGUST RETREAT**

What does the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) mean to you? What issues do we have in common? How can the LWVNCA play a significant role for local Leagues?

**On Saturday, August 2, LWVNCA will host a retreat for local League members** from 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. Please let Linda Garvelink know if you are interested in attending ([garvelink@earthlink.net](mailto:garvelink@earthlink.net)). No cost to participate or for parking. Lunch will be on your own at Ballston area eateries.

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### **STERLING URGES LEAGUE MEMBERS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PHOTO ID REGULATION**

**DEADLINE: MONDAY AUGUST 4, 2014**

Following public comments on proposed regulations needed to implement legislation requiring photo identification for voting in Virginia that was scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2014, the State Board of Elections

(SBE) adopted a definition of the word "valid" that qualifies some, though not all, types of eligible identification documents. The League of Women Voters of Virginia was pleased with the definition adopted on June 10th. After receiving a complaint from the Virginia Senator who had sponsored the legislation, a majority of the SBE, at its meeting on June 24, 2014, approved inviting comments on a revised definition of the term "valid." The proposed revised definition is as follows, with the deletions from the adopted definition crossed out and the proposed new wording underlined:

"Valid" for all purposes related to voter identification means documents having legal effect, legally or officially acceptable or of binding force, and appearing to be genuinely issued by the agency or issuing entity appearing upon the document where the bearer of the document reasonably appears to be the person whose photograph is contained thereon. Such documents shall be accepted up to 30 days after expiration.

The League of Women Voters supports retention of the current definition of "valid" that was adopted on June 10th and urges you to submit comments to the SBE (now Virginia Department of Elections). We believe that the current definition clearly reflects the purpose of the ID, which is to demonstrate that the person proposing to vote is the person whose photo is on the ID. Any expiration date included on the card is not relevant for this purpose. On the other hand, we find the proposed substitute definition to be confusing and its reference to an expiration date to be unnecessary and irrelevant. The League believes that use of the proposed new definition would:

- ε require election officers to make legal determinations for which they lack the necessary data and qualifications.
- ε likely result in significant delays at the polls and workload for election officers during the post-election canvass.
- ε result in a discriminatory application of the ID requirement to Virginia voters because not all eligible IDs, including the new Virginia voter photo ID, include expiration dates. Further, how are election officers supposed to determine whether an otherwise acceptable ID without an expiration date is current?
- ε impose significant hardships on many elderly registered voters who could have difficulty in

obtaining a free photo ID for the very reasons that they now [are able to] rely on expired or other not eligible photo identification for their normal everyday needs.

You may submit comments by mail, email, or fax to Myron McClees, Policy Analyst, 1100 Bank St., Richmond, VA 23291, 804.864.8949, 804.371.0194 (fax), Myron.McClees@elections.virginia.gov or to Susan Lee, Manager, 804.864.8928, [Susan Lee's email](#).

Written comments must include the name and address of the commenter. In order to be considered, written comments must be received by the last day of the public comment period. Persons are encouraged to submit comments online from July 14, 2014 through August 4, 2014 using the Regulatory Town Hall website [www.townhall.virginia.gov](http://www.townhall.virginia.gov). You can find further information at:

[Townhall Link](#)

~Anne Sterling, President, LWV-VA

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**REDISTRICTING LEADS VIRGINIA LEAGUERS'  
LIST OF CONCERNS; VIRGINIA TOWN & CITY  
PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON THE TOPIC**

In a recent message to local League presidents, Anne Sterling, president of the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA), noted that **redistricting reform topped the list of issue priorities in a recent survey of the commonwealth's LWV members.**

For background on this issue, President Sterling recommended an article written by Bob Gibson and Matt Scoble and published in the June 2014 issue of *Virginia Town & City* titled "Redistricting: In Search of a Better Solution."

The article describes the problem, its history, and efforts by a group called OneVirginia2021 to rework the process. OneVirginia2021 aims to convince "the General Assembly and a majority of Virginians to adopt a constitutional amendment to create compact districts with more competition." Read the complete story - [article link](#).

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**SPECIAL SUMMER FITNESS OFFER FOR  
LWVFC MEMBERS**

Through Labor Day, September 1, **24 Hour Fitness of Falls Church** is extending a special offer to members of the League of Women Voters of Falls Church. Sign up either for 1 week free at the gym and try out the pool, the cardio machines, and a spinning class (a \$50 value), and 1 complementary 60-minute session with a personal trainer (a value of up to \$83/hour).

Among the benefits of a gym membership and guided training are getting stronger, improving heart health, losing weight, toning the body, increasing bone density levels, addressing knee and back problems, and looking and feeling better. *Please see Amanda or Aaron for more details and mention this offer when you contact them.*

Bring a local Virginia ID. 24 Hour Fitness is located at 1000 East Broad Street in Falls Church.

## 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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