



April 2015 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear LWVFC Members,

With the arrival of this season, the League of Women Voters of Falls Church (LWVFC) is planning our annual meeting, which will take place next month.

Please complete the [reservation form](#) for that event, which includes brunch, on Saturday, May 16. We will convene at Creative Cauldron in Falls Church from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting this year has the arts as its theme. We are excited to welcome composer and actor **Matt Conner** as our guest speaker to talk about the critical importance of a wide range of arts to the health and vibrancy of any community-and certainly of Falls Church.

The **deadline for registering for the meeting is May 12.**

As you prepare for our annual meeting, please take time to review this [document](#) which includes the agenda as well as the proposed budget and slate of officers for 2015/2016. You will be asked to vote on the budget and the slate. You also have or will soon receive these materials by mail. We will provide a complete booklet with reports on LWVFC programs, local affairs, voter service, communications, and membership for the current League year when we meet.

As always, we ask that you send separate checks for each type of payment or contribution to the League's General Fund, Education Fund, and Scholarship Fund. We deeply appreciate your contributions beyond the annual dues, which go almost entirely to support the League at the national, state, and regional levels. We depend on your additional contributions to fund our local programs and voter service efforts as well as LWVFC's annual scholarship to a graduating George Mason High School senior.

This year, we are also asking for **donations** of women's deodorant, feminine hygiene products (pads and/or tampons), toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner and skin cream for the **Tahirih Justice Center in Falls Church.**

In This Issue:

[League Supports the Arts Before City Council](#)

[Program on Civic Creativity Recorded for Rebroadcast](#)

[Donations Sought for Tahirih Justice Center](#)

[LWVNCA May 2 Convention Features United Nations](#)

[State League Convention Focuses on Redistricting](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[VPIIS Attic Treasures Sale this Weekend](#)

[Spread the Word! LWVFC on Facebook](#)

2014-2015 LWVFC Board and Off-Board Members

President
Edith Snyder

Vice President, Programs
Linda Garvelink

Co-Chair, Programs
Robert Crowe

Co-Chair, Local Programs
Dick McCall

Chair, Local Affairs
Wendy Frieman

Secretary
Marian (Bunny) Jarrett

Treasurer
Eleanor Karro

Voter Service Co-Chairs
Grace Rissetto
Sandra Tarpinian

Membership Co-Chairs
Pamela Spofford
Sarah Snyder

Fundraising Chair

This organization works to protect immigrant women and girls seeking justice in the United States from gender-based violence (see the article below). Please bring these items to the annual meeting, and we will ensure that the Center receives them.

Thank you for all that you do for the League. I look forward to seeing you at what I anticipate will be an informative and enjoyable meeting.

Edith Snyder



LEAGUE SUPPORTS THE ARTS BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

LWVFC's Local Affairs Chair Wendy Frieman appeared before the Falls Church Council on Monday, April 13, to support operational funding for the arts in the 2015-2016 budget. Her remarks relied on LWVFC's position on this subject; her text follows. Thanks to Wendy for representing the League so well.

Good evening, Mayor Tarter and City Council Members: In 2011 the Falls Church League of Women Voters published a study, backed up by sound methodologies and empirical data, that clearly demonstrates how important the arts are to Falls Church. Tangible benefits include economic growth and improved student test scores. Less tangible benefits include stronger social bonds and a stronger sense of community.

Our fine and performing arts groups compete for talent and donations with those in the nearby communities of Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, the District, and Bethesda, all of which have active arts programs. The City's arts organizations still produce quality programs, arts education, and performances. As one example, just last week Alan Naylor won the prestigious Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical for his

Bernadette Baroukh

Liaison to NCA

Ellen Salsbury

Administrative Team

Madalyn Cafruny

Cindy Donaldson

Genie Flahie

Special Projects

Marty Meserve

Jane Scully

Communications

Mona Johnston

Webmaster

Bob Donaldson



LWVNCA Convention

Saturday, May 2

Washington, DC

LWVFC

Saturday, May 16

Annual Meeting

Creative Cauldron

Guest Speaker-Matt Conner, composer and actor

LWVFC

Saturday, May 25

Volunteer to help staff our booth at the City's Memorial Day festivities.

LWVFC

May 26, 27, or 28

Register George Mason High School seniors to vote

LWV-VA Convention

May 29 - 31

Tool Kit for Redistricting Reform

Charlottesville, VA

performance in "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris," a Creative Cauldron production earlier this season.

Yet financially, most of these organizations are in the incubator stage, and need operating as well as programmatic funds. I have attended numerous public meetings on the City budget and fully appreciate the difficult tradeoffs the Council is facing this year. Despite these constraints, the League hopes that the Council will find a way to provide the much needed operating support for our arts organizations in this budget cycle. To reap the enormous benefits they can provide, we need to nurture them during these crucial years as they continue to grow, thrive, and excel.



**48th Annual
Attic Treasures Sale**

Saturday, April 25
9 a.m.

Falls Church Community
Center
223 Little Falls Street

Donations Needed!

Clean out your attic, basement, closets, garage and donate to a community cause.

Donations will be accepted at the Community Center this **Friday, April 24 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

No junk please! The following items are welcome:

- ε Toys, plants (no trees or shrubs), jewelry, hardware, housewares, antiques, collectibles, musical recordings and instruments, baked goods.
- ε Everything clean, in good condition and easy to sell in 4 hours.
- ε Each item must be light enough for one person to lift.
- ε No clothing, text books or magazines.

Contact Nisha Sensharma to volunteer at 703-532-4744 or nisensharma@gmail.com.

More sales mean more Neighborhood Trees, better Summer Concerts in the Park and other community-building projects. Besides the bargains, this



**CHOOSING TO
PARTICIPATE**

The Power of Civic Engagement

**PROGRAM ON CIVIC CREATIVITY RECORDED
FOR REBROADCAST**

Fortunate were those who participated in last Sunday's thought-provoking forum on "Civic Creativity: Beyond Civic Engagement Finger-Wagging." Organized by LWVFC's Programs Co-Chair Bob Crowe, the forum featured Peter Davis, Falls Church native and co-founder of Our Common Place of Falls Church.

Noting the decline in citizen participation in a wide range of civic organizations from parent-teacher associations to churches, Pete urged us all to follow the example of the Progressives of the late 19th and early 20th century who did not wait for government to solve the intractable problems society faces. He noted that many of the civic groups we value today, including the League and the Village Protection and Improvement Society (VPIS), got their start in this period.

Pete called for a revitalization of our civic infrastructure.

Small group discussions followed his presentation to discuss ways in which civic engagement can be improved in response to the realities of contemporary life.

You, too, can be part of this discussion by viewing the program and joining the conversation Pete will continue. For the first time, we recorded the program for eventual viewing on the League's website and Facebook page as well as Falls Church Cable TV (FCC-TV). Mona Johnston, LWVFC's communications chair, and member Angelika Greer have attended classes in the use of FCC-TV's equipment and plan to record future League programs for wider distribution.

Post production work is underway. Once the presentation is available its FCC-TV debut broadcast date will be promoted both to League members and throughout the community.

Our Common Place is a community web platform that is designed to make it easier for Falls Church residents to share and connect with each other. For more information on Our Common Place of Falls Church, which is scheduled to re-launch later this year as a nonprofit organization, please go to:

<http://www.FallsChurch.OurCommonPlace.com>



DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

Lee Hopkins of the Tahirih Justice Center in Falls Church spoke at the January forum on human trafficking that

year's event will feature the music of Andrew Acosta and a fantastic cake sale.



DATE TO REGISTER GMHS STUDENTS TO VOTE CHANGES TO LATE MAY

Due to a conflict with the George Mason High School International Baccalaureate (IB) exam schedule, the date the League will visit the school to register eligible students to vote will change from May 5 to sometime the last week of May. Please watch for the new date; we welcome volunteers to help with this voter registration effort.

NEW MEMBER

LWVFC is pleased to welcome as a new member longtime City resident and very active citizen Keith Thurston. We are glad to have you join us Keith!

LWVFC hosted with the League in Arlington and the Association of American University Women (AAUW) in Falls Church. Lee is the daughter of the LWVFC's Voter Service Co-Chair Sandy Tarpinian. Lee told us about the horrific situation many immigrant women and children face, including gender-based violence as well as being "sold" for work or sex. These women and children are often taken advantage of and abused by people who purport to help them, including gangs, employers, and even their friends and family members.

Following the human trafficking forum, in addition to other actions, the LWVFC Board committed to collecting various personal items that these women and children need. In response to our request, LWVFC members have already donated a keyboard and mouse to complete a computer that had been donated to a Tahirih client. The recipient uses the computer to prepare resumes, and her children make use of it for their homework.

Members also have donated various personal products; however, the need is great. Accordingly, we will again collect these items at the LWVFC annual meeting on May 16. If you would like to contribute, please bring women's deodorant, feminine hygiene products (pads and/or tampons), toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, and skin cream to the meeting. All sizes - regular, travel or bulk - are welcome.

For more information on Tahirih, please visit:

<http://www.Tahirih.org>

LWVNCA's MAY 2 CONVENTION FEATURES **THE UNITED NATIONS**

The LWVNCA will hold its annual convention on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at Clyde's Restaurant in Washington DC, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at about 1:00 p.m. The deadline to [register](#) is April 27.

The program features Chris Whatley, executive director of the United Nations Association of the USA, speaking on "The United Nations Today," and the announcement of the winning program of this year's Naumann Award.

For more information, please visit:

<http://lwvnca.org/ConventionCall.html>

STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION FOCUSES ON REDISTRICTING

Final planning is well underway for the 37th League of Women Voters of Virginia Biennial Convention in Charlottesville, Virginia, May 29-31, 2015.

This year's theme is "Tool Kit for Redistricting Reform: What It Is, Why It Is Needed, and How You Can Help." The program is designed to provide guidance for League activities over the next three years. As additional convention details are finalized, they will be made available at: <http://www.lwv-va.org>

Please [register](#) for the convention hotel by April 24 and for the convention itself by May 22. Please let Edith Snyder know if you would like to attend and represent LWVFC as a delegate; email: edithholmes@aol.com.

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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