



May 2015 Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear LWVFC Members,

What a joyous event our annual meeting proved to be as we celebrated arts in the City at Creative Cauldron last Saturday, May 16!

Thanks to Laura Connors Hull, founder and producing director of Creative Cauldron, and to Gina Caceci, president of the Cauldron's Board and a League member, for welcoming us so warmly. Thanks, too, to composer and actor Matt Conner for his honest and moving remarks and performance. Our brunch, catered by Pizzeria Orso, was delicious and bountiful.

Marty Meserve, Linda Garvelink, and Ellen Salsbury also deserve our appreciation for making the arrangements for this meeting, as does Ellie Karro for producing the annual meeting booklet.

During this meeting, we announced the award of our League's annual scholarship to a graduating George Mason High School student. We were pleased to have with us-and so to be able to congratulate in person-Sara Campbell and her parents, Heather and Paul Cannon. Sara plans to attend Brigham Young University in Salt Lake City, Utah, this fall. A dancer and a pianist, she auditioned for and was accepted into BYU's Theatre Ballet program. Sara looks forward to furthering her education and plans to approach it with her mother's maxim ever in mind: "Come what may, and love it!"

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Deadline Is Friday

Memorial Day LWVFC Booth Needs  
Volunteers

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Upcoming Events

## 2015-2016 LWVFC Board and Off-Board Members

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Genie Flahie  
Edith Snyder

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Cindy Donaldson



GMHS Senior Sara Campbell was this year's recipient of the League's scholarship. She is pictured with Edith Snyder, who finished her term as LWVFC President at the Annual Meeting May 16.

If you were unable to attend the annual meeting, you will shortly receive the annual meeting booklet, which reviews local League accomplishments in the 2014-2015 year and provides the budget and slate of officers for 2015-2016, both of which were approved by the membership at the meeting. Special thanks to members who have agreed to serve on the new Board, particularly Ellen Salisbury, who is returning as president. I also want to thank those Board members who are leaving their roles of the past year-Linda Garvelink as vice president, programs; Bunny Jarrett as secretary; Ellie Karro as treasurer; Ann McCleary as a member of the administrative team; and Sarah Snyder as membership co-chair.

If you have yet to renew your membership for the upcoming year, please do so today, using this [form](#). We depend, not only on your dues, but your contributions to fund our voter service activities and programs. Thank you for any donation you are able to make.

The end of one League year and the beginning of the next always invites reflection, but particularly when stepping down from the role of president. The League is especially valued in the City for the nonpartisan, "honest broker" role we have played and, I hope, will continue to exercise

*Bunny Jarrett  
Marty Meserve  
Jane Scully*

Communications  
*Mona Johnston*

Webmaster  
*Bob Donaldson*



**LWVFC  
Saturday, May 25**  
Volunteer to help staff our booth at the City's Memorial Day festivities.

**LWVFC  
Tuesday, May 26**  
Register George Mason High School seniors to vote

**LWV-VA Convention  
Friday, May 29 - Sunday, May 31  
Tool Kit for Redistricting Reform  
Charlottesville, VA**

**LWVFC (co-sponsor)  
Thursday, June 4  
Forum to Focus on Redistricting Reform  
GMU - Arlington Campus  
3351 N. Fairfax Drive, Rm. 120  
6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

in discussions of critical local issues. I also hope we will continue to make progress in growing our membership and involving all members in the work of the League, adapting to new technology, and developing innovative ways of raising funds to support our core voter service and program missions.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be of service to an organization as well respected as the League in Falls Church and to work with a wonderful Board and members. Thank you.

Edith Snyder

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### **STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION FOCUSES ON REDISTRICTING**

The deadline to register for the 37th League of Women Voters of Virginia Biennial Convention in Charlottesville, Virginia, May 29-31, 2015, is this **Friday, May 22**. The convention has as its theme "Tool Kit for Redistricting Reform: What It Is, Why It Is Needed, and How You Can Help."

The program is designed to guide local League activities over the next three years. For more information about the convention, please visit <http://www.lwv-va.org>.

Again, please [register](#) for the convention by May 22.

Thus far, Linda Garvelink and Sara Fitzgerald are attending for LWVFC and serving as our delegates to the convention. Sara is a member of the national League's Redistricting Task Force.

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### **VISIT OUR MEMORIAL DAY BOOTH**

Stop by LWVFC's booth on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, and pick up information about the November 3, 2015 General Election for state and local offices, including Falls Church City Council and School Board. Contact Sandy Tarpinian at [shoptarp@gmail.com](mailto:shoptarp@gmail.com) if you have an hour or two to staff the booth on Memorial Day.

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## **HELP LWVFC REGISTER GMHS STUDENTS TO VOTE**

Falls Church League Voter Service Co-Chairs Sandy Tarpinian and Grace Risetto are leading LWVFC's efforts on Tuesday, May 26, to register eligible George Mason High School students to vote. Please contact Sandy at [shoptarp@gmail.com](mailto:shoptarp@gmail.com) or Grace at [gracerisetto@aol.com](mailto:gracerisetto@aol.com) if you would like to help.

We welcome volunteers for this voter registration effort and for all voter service activities between now and the election this fall.

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## **JUNE 4 FORUM TO FOCUS ON REDISTRICTING REFORM**

The issue of partisan gerrymandering and why redistricting matters will be the topic of a June 4 program hosted by the George Mason University School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs at its Arlington campus. The program is also sponsored by the Falls Church and Arlington chapters of the League of Women Voters, the Northern Virginia chapter of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and OneVirginia 2021, a coalition of organizations working to reform the

way the state draws its legislative and congressional districts.

Featured speakers will be Brian Cannon, executive director of OneVirginia2021, and Sara Fitzgerald, a member of the Falls Church League who also serves on the redistricting task force of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Frank Shafroth, director of George Mason's Center for State and Local Government Leadership, will moderate the discussion.

The forum will explore the impact of redistricting on partisan politics, ideas for reforming the process, and how citizens can get more involved in seeking changes.

The event will be held from 6:30-9 p.m. in Room 120 of Hazel Hall on GMU's Arlington campus at 3351 N. Fairfax Drive. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is requested because space is limited. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/why-redistricting-matters-tickets-16914510757> for more information and to register.

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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.*

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