



June 2015 Newsletter

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Dear League Members,

This is my first letter to you as president for the coming year. I'm returning to this job with renewed energy and excitement for what's to come. It promises to be a year filled with programs dealing with local, state and national issues. I look forward to seeing both new and longtime members engaged in the many activities planned for the coming months. If you haven't volunteered in the past, rethink that decision; there are many rewarding short-term jobs to be done. It may be the beginning of summer and downtime for some, but that hasn't stopped your local committee chairs from getting ready for the fall.

It's going to be a full election season, so be on the lookout for our reminder postcard with all the important dates. Mona Johnston, our very able Communications Chair, is responsible for getting that to you and maintaining our Facebook page.

Voter Service Co-Chairs Grace Risetto and Sandy Tarpinian are already working on the City Council Candidates Forum, which we will again cosponsor with the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS). With both local and state elections in November, the League will supply the voting public with our usual complete voter guide. There will be a kick-off membership event in late summer/early fall to mark the opening of our fall activities.

Local Action Chair Wendy Frieman is putting together a committee to look at analyzing the financial picture in Falls Church. The results will be presented at an informational forum in October. Stay tuned. It will be interesting!

Keep up with events and activities on our website and like us on Facebook. If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact me at [ellensals@aol.com](mailto:ellensals@aol.com).

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

*President*  
*Ellen Salsbury*

*Vice President*  
*Linda Garvelink*

*Programs Co-Chairs*  
*Robert Crowe*  
*Renee Andrews*

*Local Affairs Chair*  
*Wendy Frieman*

*Secretary*  
*Martha Cooper*

*Treasurer*  
*Ruth Rodgers*

*Voter Service Co-Chairs*  
*Grace Risetto*  
*Sandra Tarpinian*

*Membership Co-Chairs*  
*Pamela Spofford*  
*Judy Parente*

*Liaison to NCA*  
*Ellen Gross*

*Administrative Team*  
*Madalyn Cafruny*  
*Genie Flahie*  
*Edith Snyder*

*Special Projects*  
*Cindy Donaldson*

Sincerely,

Ellen Salsbury

*Bunny Jarrett  
Marty Meserve  
Jane Scully*

Communications  
*Mona Johnston*

Webmaster  
*Bob Donaldson*

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### **THANKS FROM TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER**

On behalf of Tahirih and our clients, I would like to say "THANK YOU" for your incredibly generous in-kind donation drive on May 16, 2015! There were so many wonderful donations that I brought a new piece of furniture into the office to fit it all. Please find a more detailed letter of gratitude [here](#).

I welcome you to share it with all of the League members. Thank you for your support of our clients and the community!

Sincerely,

Lee Hopkins,  
Social Services Program Manager  
Tahirih Justice Center

### **STILL NEED TO RENEW YOUR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP?**

Don't delay any longer! Renew today using [this form](#).

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**



### **GMHS STUDENTS REGISTERED TO VOTE**

LWVFC conducted a voter registration drive at George Mason High School (GMHS) on May 26, which led to the registration of some 15 students.

The LWVFC Voter Services team sent registration forms home with those students who didn't have their Social Security numbers available. The team also gave each student a "request for absentee ballot" form and explained how to submit this request for the election November 3 if they are out of town attending college.

Many thanks to the five volunteers who helped with registrations: Renee Andrews, Grace Rissetto, Ellen Salsbury, Sandy Tarpinian, and Rosemary Ziskind.

#### **Saturday, August 1**

LWVNCA - "Membership and Leadership Development Forum" National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Ballston Arlington, VA

#### **Sunday, August 30 (tentative)**

LWVFC - "Get Out the Vote" Membership Ice Cream Social and Meeting  
Location - TBD

#### **Wednesday, September 16 (tentative)**

LWVFC - "Meet the School Board Candidates Forum"  
Location - TBD

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Thursday, October 1

LWVFC - "Council Candidates  
Forum"  
Falls Church City Council  
Chambers



### JOIN THE VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

With important City Council and School Board elections this November and plenty of candidates running for these positions, our League will be sponsoring Candidate Forums and Meet and Greets, in addition to preparing the Voter Guide and **WE NEED YOUR HELP** for a variety of "short-term, one-time" tasks, such as:

- ⌘ Helping set up for Candidate Forums or Meet and Greets
- ⌘ Distributing the Voter Guide to area locations
- ⌘ Hand out Voter Guides at polling locations on Election Day
- ⌘ Registering high school students for the fall election
- ⌘ Represent the LWVFC at PTA Info Night, the Fall Festival, or other events

If you are willing to help with these important League efforts, please let Sandy Tarpinian ([shoptarp@gmail.com](mailto:shoptarp@gmail.com)) or Grace Rissetto ([gracerissetto@yahoo.com](mailto:gracerissetto@yahoo.com)) know that you want to join their team to help get out the vote and information on the candidates running for office.

### INFO PAPER ON FALLS CHURCH CITY FINANCES

Wendy Frieman is assembling a team to prepare a short information paper that will give Falls Church citizens

important facts and context for understanding City finances. The paper will include information on what makes our City different from surrounding communities, on legal and regulatory constraints, and on revenue sources. Other Leagues have prepared similar papers in recent years. We will complete the paper over the summer so that it can be distributed at a LWVFC event in the fall. If you are interested in contributing to this effort, please contact Wendy at [friemanw@gmail.com](mailto:friemanw@gmail.com).

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mona Johnston is recruiting committee members interested in assisting with the League's communications efforts. Examples of tasks to assist with include:

- ⌘ Layout & design of the monthly e-Bulletin
- ⌘ Distribution of press releases
- ⌘ Video recording LWVFC programs
- ⌘ Editing/Producing LWVFC videos for FCCTV
- ⌘ Development and posting of Facebook messages

No experience is necessary - just a willingness to learn!

This is a great opportunity to learn new skills. If you are interested in helping out in any of these areas, contact Mona at [monajohnston@verizon.net](mailto:monajohnston@verizon.net).

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

More than 63 delegates (of a possible 91 delegates) from across Virginia met in Charlottesville, Virginia on Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31, to celebrate the 37th Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. Sara Fitzgerald and Linda Garvelink represented the League of Women Voters of Falls Church as our delegates. The full report is available [here](#)

The Convention began with the usual business of the League: presentation and approval of the Proposed Rules and Procedures for the Convention, the appointment of Convention Committees (Credentials, Resolutions, Elections, and Reading), report of the 2014 Convention Minutes Reading Committee, the Credentials report, the adoption of the Order of Business, and the presentation of

the Treasurer's report. The nominees for the 2015-17 Board of Directors were presented as well as the proposed LWV-VA operating fund budget.

Program Chair Linda Rice presented the Board recommended program for 2015-17; she also presented the program items received from various local League boards that were not recommended. The Board recommended and the Convention approved a proposed study of "The Impacts of Fracking in Virginia" (suggested by various local Leagues). Major or minor expansions of existing positions or new studies on women's rights in marriage, mental health, reapportionment/redistricting, election laws, adult domestic violence, and uranium mining were not approved.

President Anne Sterling made comments on the health of the League. She said that while she had hoped to reverse the decline in membership, it had declined 3 percent over the past two years, and two local leagues (Alexandria and Virginia Peninsula) had disbanded, transferring their assets to the state League. Although the League faces many challenges financially and would not have made its 2013-15 budget without an anonymous donation of \$10,000 to the operating fund, the spirit and contributions of League members and the accomplishments of the LWV-VA are commendable. The League remains a recognized source for non-partisan information and an effective player in getting out the vote.

A panel discussion by outside experts on redistricting reform and talks on restoration of the voting rights of felons and the potential for natural gas development in the George Washington National Forest and Tidewater Virginia were well received.



Linda Garvelink received an award from the state League for her work with LWWUS the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program in Virginia.

During the time when delegates offered direction to the new Board, Sara Fitzgerald asked Board members to review whether additional financial support could be provided for redistricting reform efforts in the coming legislative session.

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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.*

### [Forward email](#)



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