



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOUDOUN COUNTY • NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2004

CALENDAR 2004

FEBRUARY:

4 Women's Roundtable 9:30am-10:30am Held in the General Assembly Building, Conference Room, 5th Floor East. This is an opportunity to get a perspective on what is happening in the session of the legislature in Richmond. The Roundtable is held every Wednesday during the session. Other dates are: **February, 11, 18, 25** (same time and location).

7 Absentee Voting **Last day to vote absentee for the February 10 primary!** Contact the General Registrar at 703-777-0380 for in-person voting times and more details.

10 Presidential Primary 7:00am – 7:00pm VOTE TODAY in the Democratic Presidential Primary. See the State Board of Elections website at <http://www.sbe.state.va.us/Election/Candidates/Lists/> to view candidate lists.

11 League Day in Richmond **Reserve this date on your calendars NOW!!** All members are encouraged to attend to learn how to effectively lobby in Richmond, visit your legislators and work with other League members on legislation of interest to us.

23 LWVLC Unit Meeting 7:00-9:00pm **Program Choosing & Selection of U.S. President.**
Thomas Balch Library

24 LWVLC Board Meeting 7:00pm Held at 1109 Nickels Pl, SW, Leesburg. Call 703-777-9425 for more details.

MARCH:

15 Unit Meeting 7:00pm-9:00pm Location to be determined

23 LWVLC Board Meeting 7:00pm Held at 1109 Nickels Pl, SW, Leesburg. Call 703-777-9425 for more details.

Mark these future dates on your calendars now:

May

1,2 **LWVVA Council:** Details to be announced. Held in Blacksburg, VA

June

11-15 **LWVUS National Convention:** Held at the Washington Hilton Hotel, in Washington, D.C. **See details in this VOTER.** If you would like to volunteer call Janet Hays, 703-860-0112 or Shirley Olson, 703-860-0512. Volunteers will receive a free ticket to see the Capitol Steps performance on June 13.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Following are my comments made to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, January 20, 2004.

Good Morning. I am Betsy Mayr, President of the League of Women Voters of Loudoun County. The League has testified many times before this Board and other governmental bodies since our founding in this county 58 years ago. However, given that many of you are new to the Board, I thought it prudent to take a moment to introduce you to what the League of Women Voters is about.

Since our inception, our mission has been to encourage citizens to become active and informed in government and in the democratic process, and to engage communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.

And at the core of what we do, we work to ensure that the processes necessary for real democracy are not weakened.

After a lengthy study process in June 1984, League members nationwide came to consensus on the following public policy position concerning the Citizen's Right to Know:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens at all levels of government. The League further believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

Many actions of this Board at its January 5th meeting were executed without proper notice to the public, staff and other Board members. This is in direct opposition to everything the League has long worked for. As we have done since our founding in 1920, we will continue to speak out forcefully against any such action taken by any board that

weakens our citizens' ability to participate fully in the process of government.

The League would like to work with this Board over the next four years to ensure that the rights of the citizens of Loudoun County are protected and that the public has what they need to be active and engaged in the democratic process of government here in this county.

Thank you.

Betsy

LOUDOUN COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS: *Make Your Voice Heard!*

The Board of Supervisors...

normally holds its regular business meetings on the **first and third Tuesdays of each month**, at **9:30 a.m.** The Board's monthly **public hearing** is held on the **second Tuesday of the month** with public comment at **6:30 p.m.** Board meetings are carried live on Cable Channel 3 in Loudoun County. For more information about these meetings, visit their website at:

<http://www.loudoun.gov/bos/home.htm>

The Loudoun County School Board...

meetings are held on the **Second and Fourth Tuesdays of each month** except in July, August and December, when no fourth Tuesday meetings are planned. Meetings are held at the LCPS Administrative Offices, 102 North St., NW, Leesburg. Board meetings are carried live on Cable Channels 23/24 and at 9 a.m. on Saturday. For more information about these meetings, visit their website at:

<http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/schoolboard/>

Make Your Voice Heard at the General Assembly

We urge members to participate by contacting your representatives with your positions on State issues. Remember, if you address a League issue do so as an individual. Only the President speaks for the League. ***Contact information on next page.***

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA: **COMMUNICATIONS AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Virginia Online Legislature: <http://legis.state.va.us>

This web site provides **contact information for legislators**, membership on committees, and much more. You can even determine who your legislators are. Click on **“Who’s My Legislator”** on the top right of the page and then type in your address. You will find out the name of your legislators and how to contact them.

Legislative Information System: <http://leg1.state.va.us/>

This site provides status information on legislation introduced with bill summaries and the text of the bills. Detailed information on all **meetings** is also available by clicking on “meetings” under “session tracking”.

Constituent Viewpoint Opinion Line: 1-800-889-0229; 698-1990 (in Richmond)

By calling this number between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. each day, one can register opinions on legislation before the General Assembly and have that information communicated to one’s legislators.

Mail can be sent to legislators as follows:

House of Delegates, P.O. Box 406, Richmond, Virginia 23218

Senate of Virginia, P.O. Box 396, Richmond, Virginia 23218

Legislative Information: 804-698-1470 (General Assembly Information)
804-698-1500 (House of Delegates)
804-698-7410 (Senate)

Loudoun District Numbers:

Senator Mims: 33rd District

Delegate Black: 32nd District

Delegate May: 33rd District

Delegate Rust: 86th District

Delegate Reese: 67th District

Delegate Marshall: 13th District

Legislators’ Phone Numbers: The phone numbers for individual legislators can be obtained from the legislative information desks and the online legislative information system. They can also be determined if one knows the district a legislator represents. Call a delegate at the General Assembly by dialing 804-698-10xx, replacing the xx with the delegate’s two digit House district number. Call a senator by dialing 804-698-75yy, replacing the yy with the senator’s two-digit Senate district number.

Clerks’ Offices: 804-698-1619 (House of Delegates)
804-698-7400 (Senate)

FAX Numbers: 804-786-6310 (House of Delegates)
804-698-7651 (Senate)

Bill Room: To request copies of bills (if one does not have access to the internet) call the bill room at 804-786-6984. One can obtain copies of any bill, resolution and document by visiting the bill room in the basement of the General Assembly Building or on the first floor of the Capitol.

E-mail Addresses at the General Assembly:

Please note that legislators frequently have personal e-mail addresses that they use more frequently than their legislative e-mail addresses. Some legislators may not even use the e-mail address indicated below. One should check with their offices before using the following:

House of Delegates (insert _ after “del”): del (last name)@house.state.va.us

Senate of Virginia: district()@sov.state.va.us

(Parentheses () in E-mail addresses indicate information that varies with each legislator. For example, after “district” insert the two digit number of the Senator’s district (eg., 01). Do not include the parentheses in the E-mail address used.

FEBRUARY UNIT MEETING

Our monthly meeting will be in the **Thomas Balch Library** on **Monday, Feb. 23rd, 2004 at 7:00pm.** (Note date change for this month from the 3rd Mon. to the 4th Mon.) National issues are on the agenda. First will be **LWVUS Program Planning** so that our League will have a voice in the actions of the National League's Convention in June. Second will be a discussion of the LWVUS Board recommendation for the **Update of the League's position on *Selection of the President.***

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process prior to the biannual National Convention. The current Program includes topics that have been studied and discussed by Leagues across the Country with the consensus that was reached. These positions are expressed broadly so they can be applied for action not anticipated at the time of the study.

We are being asked to review the positions and recommend whether to retain as is, restudy, update or drop. (Positions are dropped when the objectives have been reached or they are no longer needed.)

The planning process is available to Leagues on-line in the Members Site on the LWVUS website at <http://www.lwv.org/leaders.html>. The website also includes **IMPACT ON ISSUES** in its entirety so those League members with access to the Internet can read the positions in depth before the meeting.

The second agenda item is discussion of whether we **concur** with the proposed update of the current Program item, *Selection of the President.* (Concurrence is the act of agreeing with a stated position. Consensus is the result of the process through which an agreement is reached)

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

DO YOU CONCUR WITH THE PROPOSED NEW LWVUS POSITION ON THE SELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT?

The League of Women Voters has long been among the staunchest supporters for the direct election of the President. The League has testified and lobbied for legislation to amend the Constitution to replace the Electoral College with direct election. The measure, which passed the House and nearly passed the Senate in 1971, has been revived in each Congress. In 1997, the LWVUS again called for abolition of the Electoral College and for direct election of the President and Vice President in testimony before the House Subcommittee on the Constitution. The League has also supported national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections to ensure equity for voters from all states and to facilitate the electoral process.

The proposed updated position continues to support direct election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College. However, in the past 30 years, much has changed in the presidential selection process and we need to define and measure our values against other factors that appear to have dramatically altered the process. Today, the process of selecting the President is dominated by questions of campaign strategy and campaign finance, the role of the parties in the primaries and caucuses leading up to the convention, the role of the media and the effect of developing technologies. If the League's concerns include encouraging the best candidates and promoting the highest participation by informed voters, we need to understand the impact of the process on those values.

Convention 2002 adopted a process to update the Selection of the President position in order to address these gaps and examine other changes that have taken place since the League's last study on this subject over 30 years ago. A task force of state and local League representatives has been working with the LWVUS Board and staff to guide the update process. **Now your input is needed!**

Every member's opinion counts.

A proposed new LWVUS position on the Selection of the President has been developed, and the LWVUS Board is seeking concurrence directly from individual League members. **You will find the proposed position, along with a response form, in your January/February 2004 National Voter** and online in the Position Update section of the LWVUS members' site.

It's easy to participate. Attend the unit meeting. Bring your National Voter.

We are being asked whether we strongly support, accept, or do not accept the proposed position. After you have studied the position and formed your opinion, send in your concurrence response to the LWVUS office, preferably online in the Position Update section of the LWVUS members' site (<http://www.lwv.org/concurrence/>). Or you may respond by mail.

Postmark deadline is March 1, 2004. Online deadline is March 4, 2004.

If you want to do more to prepare . . . Reread the articles on the presidential selection process that have appeared in the recent issues of The National Voter. These are available on the LWVUS website at <http://www.lwv.org/positionupdate/>.

Explore additional background information posted in the Position Update section of the LWVUS members' site.

MEMBER NEWS

Past President, Pat Niederpruem is doing fine but says that Carl had an "incident" and was hospitalized temporarily. He will now go into the Assisted Living part of Green Spring Village. We sorely missed the Niederpruems after they left, but Pat feels they made a wise move.

We saddened by the news that **Libby Dumaine** passed away after a long illness. We will miss her.

LWVLC Volunteer Opportunities

LWVLC Board Secretary:

Record the proceedings at League meetings. If interested, call Betsy at 703-777-9425.

Fundraising Committee:

We will be holding some sort of fundraising event this year. We need committee members to plan and orchestrate this event. If interested, call Sheryl at 540-439-9501.

Just Do It – Call us before we call YOU!

LWV NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA NEWS NOTES

**The League of Women Voters ®
of the Fairfax Area**
presents

***CIVIL LIBERTIES: THE PATRIOT ACT
A Public Forum***

**Saturday, February 21st
10:30am - 12:00 noon**

The Westpark Hotel

8401 Westpark Drive, Tysons Corner, VA

Panel Discussion Moderator:

William Sessions, Former Director, FBI

Panelists:

Dan Bryant, Esq., U.S. Dept. of Justice

Alice Fisher, Esq., Latham & Watkins LLP

Lara Flint, Esq., Center for Technology

Patrice Webb, Esq., ACLU

The forum is free, lunch is available for \$20 following the forum portion. Those who want to join us for lunch must make reservations by February 14.

For information call: 703-658-9150

MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES!

Sunday, April 25th

Demonstrate your support for a woman's right to choose and participate in this march on Washington. Co-sponsored by the **League of Women Voters of the United States**. The march begins at 12:00noon from the Lincoln Memorial. Participants may begin assembling at 10:00am. A rally will be held from 1:00pm-4:00pm. For more information call 202-349-3838 or visit their website at:

<http://www.marchforchoice.org/>



LWV Virginia has a new look!!

Visit the new website at:

<http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org/>

Is there a **STAR** on YOUR Mailing Label?

If so, please use the form on the back of the VOTER & send your 2004 dues to:

Susan Parks
LWVLC Treasurer
452 Dry Mill Rd. SW
Leesburg, VA 20175

LWVUS CONVENTION: JUNE 2004

Start planning your summer now to include attending the LWVUS Convention:

June 11-15, 2004

At the

Washington Hilton Hotel on Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C.

Timeline:

Friday, June 11: Leadership and Development Training is scheduled from 2:00 - 5:00pm. **Registration** begins at 5:00pm and an **Opening Reception** and **Caucuses** are scheduled for the evening.

Saturday, June 12: Plenary Session will take place from 1:00pm - 5:00pm. Optional **Dine-Around** will be held in the evening.

Sunday, June 13: Plenary Session will take place from 9:00am - 11:00am and 2:00pm - 5:00pm. Performance of the musical group the *Capitol Steps* will take place in the evening.

Monday, June 14: Plenary Session will take place from 9:00am - 12noon and **Workshops** from 2:00pm - 5:00pm and the **Banquet** (included in the registration fee) will be held from 7:30pm - 9:30pm.

Tuesday, June 15: Closing Plenary Session will take place from 8:30am - 12noon.

For more information visit the LWVUS website at:

www.lwv.org

ALSO: If you are new to League, check out the wealth of information in this section of the website for **NEW LEAGUE MEMBERS!**

See the **Convention volunteer opportunities** on the next page.

Would You like to See The Capitol Steps Musical Political Satire For Free ??

Sunday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m. In the Ballroom of the Hilton Washington Hotel

Be a LWVUS National Convention Volunteer, June 11-15

And you will have a ticket to the fundraiser for the LWVNCA

We are looking for volunteers for at the 2004 convention to be held at the Hilton Washington Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. Volunteers are needed for many different types of jobs, some behind the scenes and some on the floor of the convention. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of an exciting League function. It's work, but it's a lot of fun too. Like seeing the Capitol Steps.

Volunteers are needed as follows:

Every day (June 11-15)

Registration—staff registration desk; distribute badges and materials

Credentials—certify voting eligibility of delegates; prepare official daily attendance report

Information— staff information desk; provide local tourist information to delegates and visitors

Personnel—staff volunteer room; assist with assignments; provide back-up to other volunteer areas

Teller/Elections—process vote cards; count and record results

Friday through Sunday (June 11-13)

Hospitality—greet delegates and guests; host hospitality suite; assist with information

Dine Around—staff dine around desk—sign-ups, reservations, information

Saturday through Tuesday (June 12-15)

Floor Committee: Doorkeeper—check badges for eligibility to enter; distribute official materials; monitor doors. *Usher*—distribute, collect, deliver motion slips; collect vote cards; usher guests.

Microphone monitor—monitor floor mikes; keep order in lines; assist with vote counts.

Timekeeper—notify speakers when time has expired

Questions? Contact Janet Hays, 703-860-0112, hays@wizard.net or Shirley Olson, 703-860-0512, mwon4abm@aol.com

Detach and return form to Janet Hays, 2511 Trophy Lane, Reston, VA 20191. We'll contact you soon.

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ League _____

Area(s) of Interest: (please mark in order of your preferences – 1, 2, 3, etc.)

Floor Committee: Doorkeepers____ Ushers____ Timekeepers____ Microphone Monitors____

Other: Registration____ Credentials____ Information____ Personnel____ Teller/Elections____

Dine Around____ Hospitality____ Whatever else you need____

Dates: Please choose times and days you are available to work and indicate AM, PM or all day. The number of hours you will be asked to work will depend on the number of volunteers and their areas of interest.

Friday, June 11 (PM and/or Eve)_____ Saturday, June 12_____ Sunday, June 13_____

Monday, June 14_____ Tuesday, June 15 (AM only)_____

If you are willing to work more than one day, please indicate here _____.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOUDOUN COUNTY
PO Box 822
Leesburg, VA 20178

Please add my voice to the over 120,000 members and supporters nationwide!

Name _____

Street _____

City & State _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Please mail check payable to LWVLC to
Susan Parks
LWVLC Treasurer
452 Dry Mill Rd, SW
Leesburg, VA 20175

_____ \$48 Individual _____ \$72 Family



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOUDOUN COUNTY
P.O. Box 822, Leesburg, Virginia 20178
(703) 777-9425, <http://www.loudoun.va.lwvnet.org/>

Do You See a STAR on YOUR label?
2004 Dues are past due!

Betsy Mayr – President

February 2004