

Candidate Biographies

2nd Vice President

Denise Pierce, from her first civic experience collecting signatures from registered voters for a ballot initiative in 1965, to student teaching government to high school seniors, to working at League headquarters on passing the Equal Rights Amendment, has always been interested in public policy and how citizens can be made aware of the workings of their government. She has used her skills as a graphic artist designing brochures and posters to help nonprofits such as the Fresh Air Campaign to make citizens aware of their child care program for low-income, working parents. She has been an officer in the Loudoun County Democratic Committee and a committee member for more than 10 years. She is a lifelong resident of the Washington, DC, area and has spent most of her life in Northern Virginia, the last 23 years in Eastern Loudoun. She currently resides in Lowes Island on the eastern-most edge of the county. Pursuing her photography hobby she has ridden on almost every road in Loudoun County trying to capture what remains of a once rural area.

Treasurer

Harriet S. "Hatsy" Cutshall, CPA earned a B.S. in biology from The College of William and Mary, and in 1995 completed her certificate in accounting from the University of Virginia, the year before she earned her CPA. She has owned and operated a number of her own small businesses in the alternative energy management field.

In her present position as Controller of the American Society of Appraisers, she oversees the organization's accounting, financial management and reporting, devises and administers the annual budgets in cooperation with the executive vice president, and works closely with the Budget and Finance Committee to administer the long range strategic plans of the organization.

She has worked as a public accountant and spent six years as Finance Director of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), a 501(c)3 that offers training and technical assistance to small communities struggling to meet their water and wastewater infrastructure needs. She served as the project manager for the development and maintenance of the RCAP Data Collection System (reporting database) with the six regional RCAP offices.

She does research, writes and trains on topics related to new and evolving government and non-profit financial management requirements and how they affect small communities.

Board of Directors:

Glenda Parsons' formal education is in economics and international affairs. She has worked 10 years in the health care industry. Her 25+ years of volunteer management experience includes planning formal functions, hosting dignitaries and general level officers both foreign and American, writing press releases, managing volunteer groups with wide ranging competing interests, and starting a Girl Scout chapter in a foreign country.

Over the last 12 years she has developed an extensive network of contacts in Loudoun County, working in a non-profit environment, chairing committees, public presentations and speeches, including a White House event, instituting educational programs, assisting in grant proposal writing, overseeing independent contractors and paid staff, instituted methodologies for termination of services of paid staff at a non-profit, and planned formal functions for the purpose of fundraising. She also ran a small business as a sole proprietor and in partnership for six years.

Susan Gregg Pheiffer was born and raised in Loudoun with roots going back to the earliest Quaker settlers in Lincoln, the only child of parents who were active in the community as well as running a business. After graduating from the Loudoun public school system, she attended college, married, raised two girls and taught in Annapolis public schools. After her father passed away she established residence in Loudoun County (and registered to vote!) in order to look after her mother and family real estate holdings. With her husband and grown daughters, they maintain a home in Annapolis.

Robert Pierce is a second generation member of the League. His mother, Violet Pierce, was active in the League in Lakeland, Florida, where he grew up and participated in many League activities, such as studies of water use in a state running out of drinking water. He is retired from the federal government and currently works part time as a consultant to the U.S. Navy. He has been a treasurer for the Loudoun County Democratic Committee and for a Loudoun County school board candidate. Mr. Pierce has lived in the Washington Metro area since 1965 when he attended the University of Maryland. He has lived in Loudoun County for 16 years and has ridden on even more of Loudoun County's back roads than his wife, Denise, pursuing his hobby of photography.

Nominating Committee:

Gem Bingo, Chairwoman, a Piedmont Environmental Council field officer since 1998, now manages the PEC's Clarke County field office. She previously worked as field officer in the Loudoun County PEC. Her focus is on land use issues and grassroots outreach to help citizens make a positive impact on the future of their communities. She began her citizen activist life while working on her Masters degree and helped form two Loudoun citizen groups working toward more sustainable land use policies. She has strong interest in water resource issues, and has served or is serving with various volunteer water quality efforts and appointed advisory committees and commissions since 1996. She holds an MA in Environmental Education and Ecopsychology from Lesley University and a BA in psychology from Arcadia University.

Marlene Wecker Barney has lived in Virginia since 1971, and in Loudoun County (Sterling) since 1994. She has been married to her husband, Tony, for 12 years; they have one adult daughter, Luann. Marlene holds a BA in English with minors in Education and Social Studies from the University of Maryland, and is currently working towards a Masters in Special Education at Old Dominion University.

Ms. Barney is presently a Special Education teacher at Park View High School in Sterling, and also operates a community-based, residential real estate business affiliated with ERA Teachers, Inc., in Herndon. In 1998, she retired as a manager with AT&T Information and Technology Services. Prior to her AT&T career, she wrote instructional materials.

As a Loudoun County resident, Marlene has been actively involved in her community. In addition to being on the Nominating Committee of the Loudoun County Chapter of the League of Women Voters, she has served on the Boards of the Sterling Community Coalition, and the Chatham Green Condominium Owners Association. She also is a member of the county Student Minority Achievement Advisory Committee, the Sterling Foundation, and the Loudoun County Democratic Committee. In 2003, Marlene ran for the School Board to represent the Sterling District.

For the past 14 years, Marlene and her husband have produced community television programs in Fairfax and Loudoun counties, including "WomanSide" an award-winning interview program that encourages women and teenage girls to take positions of leadership.

Andrea Gaines is a marketing and creative professional with 20 years experience in both the for-profit and not-for-profit worlds. Her specific expertise lies in helping organizations tailor their messages, image and graphic approach to the audiences and constituencies most sympathetic to their core mission. Andrea moved to Loudoun County from Reston, Virginia in 2000, and is very active in community affairs, including efforts to slow growth, preserve historic structures and encourage people to live in harmony with nature. In the early 1990s Andrea worked as a lawyer in the District of Columbia. In the mid 1990s she worked as Creative Director at a local marketing agency and fundraising firm. She now runs a marketing and graphics business from her home in the village of Lincoln.

Proposed Rules of Procedure

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to allow the members, acting together, to consider and decide proposals for bylaws changes, annual budget, a local program (in even-numbered years), to elect officers and directors, and to hear recommendations and reports from committees.

1) Guidance

The Bylaws of the League of Women Voters and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised ("Parliamentary Procedure") will guide the proceedings.

2) Discussion

Only members in good standing in the League of Women Voters of Loudoun County will be permitted to speak and vote.

- a) Speakers shall identify themselves by name.
- b) Each speaker will be allowed two minutes, unless otherwise announced.
- c) The Chair will not recognize a person the second time until all have had an opportunity to speak.
- d) Debate must be germane to the subject.

3) Voting

In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, cumulative voting is not permitted. Each voting member may vote only once for a candidate

4) Motions and Amendments

- a) Lengthy motions and amendments shall be written and submitted to the Secretary.
- b) An amendment may be amended only once.

5) Procedure for Program Adoption

- a) Non-recommended program items may be brought to the floor for a consideration by a majority vote of those present. To be approved for a program item, it must have a 2/3 vote of members present.
- b) After presentation of recommended program items, only questions of clarification will be permitted.
- c) Adoption of Program: Motion(s) to adopt program items and recommended items (in the order in which they were voted consideration) will be taken up one at a time for formal motion, further debate, possible amendment and vote.
- d) A majority vote of voting members present and voting shall be required for adoption of proposed program.
- e) No other issues may be presented since only program issues submitted by the deadline (January Program Planning Meeting) may be considered.

6) Scope of Program Items

In adopting a single-list program, members do not adopt the scope or level of activity of an item. This is determined by the Board based on the desires of the membership.

7) Procedure for Nominations from the Floor

After the nominating committee has presented its report, the Chair will call for further nominations from the floor for those offices open for election this year. Voting members should stand and state the name of the member they wish to nominate. The person being nominated must be a member in good standing in the League of Women Voters of Loudoun County and must agree to be nominated. Voting will take place once there are no further nominations and nominations have been closed.

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET
July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

EXPENDITURES:	APPROVED	APPROVED	PROPOSED
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
A. Operating Costs			
1. P.O. Box Fee	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
2. Office Supplies	300.00	300.00	100.00
B. Board and Administrative Costs			
1. President	100.00	100.00	100.00
2. Secretary	10.00	10.00	10.00
3. Treasurer	35.00	35.00	10.00
4. Administrative Committees			
a. Finance	500.00	500.00	30000
b. Membership	350.00	350.00	250.00
5. Public Relations	200.00	200.00	100.00
6. Board Meetings	0.00	112.50	150.00
7. Website Maintenance	0.00	0.00	160.00
C. Conventions and Meetings			
1. State Council/Convention	300.00	300.00	300.00
2. National Convention	500.00	500.00	500.00
3. NCA Annual Meeting	75.00	100.00	75.00
4. Unit Meetings	100.00	100.00	150.00
5. Local Annual Meeting	1225.00	1225.00	1225.00
6. Workshops/Training	300.00	300.00	100.00
D. Financial Support for League			
1. NCA League PMP (\$.50 single/\$.80 household)	39.30	117.70	61.10
2. State League PMP (\$15.00 per Individual/ \$22.50 per Household)	1008.00	3495.00	1785.00
3. National League PMP (\$23.80 per Individual/ \$35.70 per Household)	1753.20	5535.40	2832.20
E. Voter			
1. Printing and Postage	1800.00	1800.00	1000.00
F. Educational Activities			
1. Program Committees			
a. National	0.00	0.00	250.00
b. State	0.00	0.00	250.00
c. Local	0.00	500.00	500.00
d. Voter Service	500.00	500.00	200.00
G. Position Support/Action	25.00	25.00	25.00
TOTALS	\$917570	\$16160.60	\$10488.30
INCOME:			
A. Dues			
1. 2004-2005 (61+11)	\$3742.00		
2. 2005-2006 (196+74)		\$11184.00	
3. 2006-2007 (103+32)			\$5712.00
B. Contributions			
1. Member	800.00	500.00	500.00
2. Non-Member	500.00	800.00	500.00
3. Fundraising	3018.25	2451.60	3526.30
4. Annual Meeting	1225.00	1225.00	250.00
TOTALS:	\$9263.25	\$16160.60	\$10488.30

PROPOSED EDUCATION FUND BUDGET
July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

EXPENDITURES:	APPROVED	APPROVED	PROPOSED
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
A. Educational Activities			
1. Program Committees			
a. National	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. State	0.00	0.00	0.00
c. Local	0.00	0.00	0.00
d. Voter Service	500.00	500.00	500.00
TOTALS	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
INCOME:			
A. Contributions			
1 Member	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
2. Non-Member	100.00	100.00	100.00
TOTALS	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00

Public Policy Positions

Education

The League of Women Voters of Loudoun County supports adequate funding of public schools to ensure adequate teacher training and pay, safe and pleasant physical facilities, the development of well-rounded and challenging curricular and extra-curricular programs, and the development of special programs for at-risk children and schools.

More specifically, the LWVLC:

- Supports continuous curriculum units on Family Life Education for grades K-12.
- Supports the availability of adequate guidance services in public schools.
- Supports adequate funding for school libraries to maintain a high standard of quality.
- Supports competitive salaries for teachers.
- Supports local control of education by locally chosen school boards.
- Supports laws which protect a child's health and/or safety.
- Opposes the Parental Rights Amendment or the inclusion of the Parental Rights Amendment language in any legislation.
- Supports Loudoun County Public Schools policies that prohibit student possession of any weapon for any reason while under school control or supervision.
- Believes that an effective public education assessment program should determine each student's progress, knowledge, and critical thinking skills in addition to determining the effectiveness of the educators and the curriculum. LWVLC supports a public education assessment program which:
 - is non-threatening
 - considers both a student's long-term and short-term performance
 - measures strengths and weaknesses of students, teachers and the system
 - considers class participation and in-class performance
 - utilizes a "portfolio" of various examples of a student's work
 - utilizes multiple assessments of a student's achievement

- utilizes a variety of assessment tools and techniques (such as objective and subjective tests, lab work, class projects, essays)
- Believes that an assessment program should ensure that each child reaches his or her full potential.

Land Use

The League of Women Voters of Loudoun County supports and encourages the following positions:

- Development guidelines that aspire to the highest community standards, are sensitive to the integrity of social, economic and natural systems and are in harmony with the county's character and goals.
- Consideration of all purposes of zoning, as defined in the Virginia State Code, in local use decisions.
- Evaluation of long-term consequences of land use decisions, specifically on the environment (i.e., soil erosion, water quality and supply) highway congestion, the burden on the school system, fiscal impact, preservation of prime agricultural land, and scenic and historic resources.
- The legal doctrine of "presumption of legislative validity" as it is applied to land use decisions by local governments, based on the premise that local governing bodies are the appropriate decision makers, being closest to local conditions, and that it is the role of the courts to ensure fairness of the proceedings.
- Implementation of open space and environmental protection policies.
- Public acquisition of open space easements, especially in critical environmental areas, areas of scenic, natural and historic significance, and agricultural lands.
- Implementation of a transportation plan that results in a pattern of development consistent with land use and fiscal policies, and with consideration for the health, safety and convenience of local citizens.
- Adherence to the planning process, as set forth in the Comprehensive Plan, the goals and purposes, as set forth in the Comprehensive Plan, and the following elements of the Comprehensive Plan in particular:
 - Preservation of the agricultural industry and the best agricultural soils to "preserve the cultural, social, economic, environmental and aesthetic amenities provided by agricultural land use;"
 - Active County programs and policies to preserve open space and farmland;
 - Density transfers from agricultural and open space areas to designated growth areas within a planning district, and the concept of Purchase of Development Rights;
 - The budgeting and expenditure of county funds for agricultural land preservation programs including the strengthening of Agricultural and Forestal Districts.
- Provision of a range of housing opportunities for low and moderate income families.

Water and Sewer

The League of Women Voters of Loudoun County supports and encourages the following positions:

- Protection of all watersheds serving Loudoun County in order to maintain purity of the drinking water supply and the health of in-stream aquatic systems.
- Payment of the costs of new community water and sewage systems by the users of each separate system.
- Regular pumping of septic tanks and checking of distribution boxes.

Solid Waste Disposal

The League of Women Voters of Loudoun County supports the following positions:

- Establishment of a program for the collection of hazardous waste by the county.
- The covering or containing of solid waste transferred through the county.
- Containment of any solid waste buried in the county to prevent contamination of the environment.
- Volume reduction of solid waste through recycling.

- Monitoring by an appropriate governmental group of burn temperature, air emissions, environmental impact of residue disposal in landfills, including air, water (surface and ground), and soil testing, when incineration is used as a method of solid waste disposal.

Domestic Violence

The League of Women Voters of Loudoun County supports the following positions:

- Adequate shelters for abused women and their children if the current shelter becomes insufficient.
- Emphasis on adequate programs and personnel in Loudoun County for counseling and rehabilitation of abusers as well as the abused.
- Continuing inclusion of education about spouse abuse and its causes, treatment, and prevention in the curriculum in the Loudoun County school system.
- Enforcement of existing state laws to protect the victims of abuse.

Local Government

The League of Women Voters of Loudoun County supports the following positions:

- Alternative methods of financing local government to lessen the reliance on real estate taxes for revenue.