

LWW[®] VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Loudoun County - Newsletter - August 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a very interesting few months as I am sure all of you will agree!

We have much to celebrate - the Loudoun League membership has surged from 69 members to just under 300 members. This is good news and I am grateful for all the new members. You each had different reasons for joining the Loudoun League, but no matter what the reason, we welcome you and do hope you will become involved in areas you are interested in.

The strength of our League is you, the membership. In this issue of *The Voter* is a survey that I ask each of you to take the time and fill out. We need to know where your interests are so we may provide programs suited to our membership. The League is and should always remain a place where your voice can be heard. There are many positions taken by the League and I think it is vitally important to hear all sides of an issue and find a middle ground where all members can agree. During this membership surge as I spoke to many of you, all of you were surprised the League had any positions as most of you thought all the League does is register voters and provide debates for the candidates. The League does this and much more - we educate voters as this is the doorway to true democracy.

And, there are many opportunities for each of you to become involved at the local level - August 15 we will be at the Bluemont Concert and we will need 10 - 12 volunteers to work the evening and others to provide refreshments for the event. In September and October we will step up our voter services and all are encouraged to become involved in what ever ways you can be involved. Denise Donnelly our voter services chair is coordinating a Wolf/Socas event in October; she is coordinating a voter registration at the local colleges and I am hopeful we can go into the high schools to register those seniors that will turn 18 on or before November 2. Denise is also working on a forum for late September/October. This is a very ambitious schedule, but we can only do these projects if we have help. Please contact either Denise Donnelly (703-443-8108 or DDofVA@aol.com) or myself (703-777-9425 or emayr59433@aol.com) if you would like to become involved.

We had a great board retreat in July at the home of Jean Brown. There are many exciting plans for the upcoming year that you will be reading about in the *Voter*. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

- *Betsy*

In This Issue of the VOTER...

BOARD MEMBERS FOR
2004-2005

THE LEAGUE SPEAKS WITH
ONE VOICE!

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME
WITH THE LEAGUE

MEMBER SURVEY

A STATE STUDY:
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

CALENDAR

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME WITH THE LEAGUE

We have many opportunities for involvement in the League. You can volunteer for just a few hours once a year, once a month, once a week or we could use you FULL TIME!! You pick the time and we will put you to work. If you're interested in any of the opportunities below, please contact Betsy at 703-777-9425.

Opportunities Available:

Join our League's **Observer Corp!** League observers regularly attend local meetings of interest and report back their observations either at Board meetings or in articles in the *Voter*. Observers are needed for meetings of the: Board of Supervisor, Finance Committee, Land Use Committee, School Board, and Transportation Committee to name just a few. Maybe you already are attending your favorite Loudoun County meeting and would be willing to write an article about your observations in our *Voter!* Please contact Betsy if you're interested or have an idea for an additional meeting we should add to our list.

On **August 15** – volunteer to help out at the **Bluemont Concert** or volunteer to send some baked goods or drinks.

Join the **Voters Service** team! Voters Service is the work we do to educate voters. Work on candidate forums, Voters Guides or on our new Elementary School Voter Outreach this year. Contact Denise Donnelly at 703-443-8108.

POLL WORKERS NEEDED!!!!

The Loudoun Electoral Board is looking for many good people to work the polls on election day as an Officer of Election. The hours are long but very rewarding at the end of the day as you realize just how many voters were processed and voted because you took the time to volunteer. If you feel you can't work the entire day, then find a friend or significant other to split the day with. The stipend for the day is \$100 and for 1/2 day is \$ 50; for more information on becoming an Officer of Election please contact Dianna Price at 703-777-0548.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2004-2005

*At our well-attended Annual Meeting in June, new officers, directors and nominating committee members were elected. The following is complete list of the Board for this year. Newly-elected members are listed in **bold print**. The span of years following each name is the term of office.*

Officers

President: Betsy Mayr
(2003-2005)

1st Vice President: Jean Brown
(2003-2005)

**2nd Vice President: Sharon LaMagra
(2004-2006)**

**Secretary: Kristen Kalina
(2003-2005)**

Treasurer: Joan Hand (2004-2006)

Directors

Voters Service Chair:

Denise Donnelly (2003-2005)

Dorothy Roberts (2003-2005)

Peggy Maio (2003-2005)

Marina Amat (2004-2006)

Eleanore Towe (2004-2006)

Voter Editor/Webmaster:

Sheryl Wolfe (2004-2006)

Membership Chair:

Jean Sagan (2004-2006)*

Special Events:

Susan Parks (2004-2006)*

Voter Editor/Affordable Housing Chair:

Eileen Levandoski (2004-2006)*

Nominating Committee (2004-2005)

Carol Hanes, Chair

Genie Hopkins

Jeri McGiverin

* *appointed by the Board*

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MEMBER SURVEY

Please take time to fill out and mail in the survey below and return your survey to: **Jean Sagan, 23347 Watson Rd, Leesburg, VA 20175**, OR email Sheryl Wolfe at **smwolfe@direcway.com** and she will email you an electronic copy you can fill out online and email it back in! This information is very valuable to us. Please fill it out and send it in **TODAY!**

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Email _____ FAX _____

Address _____ Zip _____

1. I belonged to the following other League(s): _____
 2. I have the following work experience or educational background that might contribute to League studies or activities:

 3. I am a member of the following organizations:

 4. I am particularly interested in the following issues or activities:

 5. I would be willing to do any of the following (Check as many as apply):
 - Register voters
 - Help with a fundraising project
 - Help with candidate debates
 - Prepare food for a meeting
 - Help with Voter's Guide
 - Write *Voter* articles
 - Research study items
 - Use home computer for projects
 - Chair an event or activity
 - Observe local meetings (Local govt meetings, Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, committees, etc.)
 - I can obtain discounts in purchasing equipment, supplies or services. Please specify:

 6. I like to be reminded about League events by (check as many as apply):
____ Emails _____ Phone calls
____ I read about it in the Voter _____ Please do not call
 7. I would prefer meetings be held:
____ Morning ____ Afternoon ____ Evening
____ Monday ____ Tuesday ____ Wednesday ____ Thursday ____ Friday ____ Saturday ____ Sunday
In which town? _____
 8. Other ideas I have for League. (Please use additional sheets if needed.)
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A STATE STUDY: RESORATIVE JUSTICE

Your opportunity to contribute to the making of a position!

At the LWWVA Convention delegates voted to do a study over the next 2 years to update our state position on Justice. In upcoming months our League will hold meetings where our members will study and discuss this issue and later come to **consensus****. Consensus reports from all Leagues in Virginia will be summarized and if there is consensus among Leagues, those items would be appended to the current position. This is one of the first steps in developing a position. Participation from a large number of our members is key to developing a position that represents us. Watch your future issues of the *Voter* for information about this study and the time and location for meetings.

Our current state Justice position was adopted in 1974. However, new ideas and alternatives have been developed and implemented. The following is the current state position on Justice:

JUSTICE (1974) Support for a judicial system that serves all people without discrimination, including:

- Judicial selection by the General Assembly with use of a nominating commission of laypersons and lawyers.
- Sentencing by judges, not juries, with the availability of a pre-sentencing report.
- Corrections system that is adequately funded, efficiently administered, and humane.
- Corrections system that protects society and rehabilitates offenders, while offering deterrence, diversion, protection and restitution programs.
- Local jails and community-based corrections facilities that are professionally administered and use community resources in the rehabilitation and treatment of prisoners.
- Policies that remove juveniles from jails and provide a network of community services.
- Community programs for delinquency prevention

Leagues will study alternatives to the prevailing justice, including restorative justice, that may reduce the cost of corrections, reduce crime and reduce recidivism.

Restorative justice was identified as a major trend in the state courts for 1997. Yet, most citizens know little about the process. In the United States we are familiar with the system of retributive justice, which is focused on answering the questions of

- What laws were broken?
- Who broke them?
- Who is guilty and should be punished?

Restorative justice recognizes three key parties to crime, the offender, victim, and community. In an effort to serve the needs of these three parties, restorative justice is a model for the criminal justice system that is dedicated to restoration, healing, responsibility, and prevention. It answers the questions

- What harm has been done?
- What must be done to repair the harm?
- Who should do this?

The budget crisis in Virginia makes the issue even more compelling in this state. In this study we will seek and explore alternatives to the current system.

**** CONSENSUS:** Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue.

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CALENDAR

August

- 15 **Bluemont Concert**
Our League will provide the volunteers and the refreshments for the concert. Call Betsy to volunteer at 703-777-9425.
- 15 **Voter (newsletter) Deadline for Articles**
Do you have an idea for a topic for our newsletter? Contact one of our editors, Sheryl Wolfe (540-439-9501) or Eileen Levandoski (540-668-6237).

September

- 13 **Unit Meeting: Introduction to the League, 7:00pm-9:00pm,**
Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company, 215 Loudoun Street, Leesburg.
Attend this month's Unit Meeting and learn about the League: our history, how meetings are run, how positions are developed and what it means to be a League member. Guests are welcome!
- 15 **Voter Deadline**
Submit an idea for a newsletter topic! Contact one of our editors, Sheryl Wolfe (540-439-9501) or Eileen Levandoski (540-668-6237)
- 18 **LWVVA Fall Workshops, 9:30 am-2:00 pm, Charlottesville (specific location TBA).**
The schedule: 9:30-Registration, 10:00-Speaker on Public Relations and Funding, 10:45-Workshops: Fundraising & PR, and Action on League Positions, 12:00-Lunch, 12:45-2:00-Workshops on Restorative Justice.
- 28 **Board Meeting, 7:15pm-9:15pm, Leesburg Executive Airport, 1001 Sycolin Rd,**
Leesburg. Come observe a Board meeting of our Board. If you are planning to present or discuss something with the Board, please call Betsy at (703-777-9425) two weeks prior to the meeting.

October

- 4 **Voter Registration Deadline, 5:00pm**
- 11 **Unit Meeting:** Topic to be announced, 7:00pm-9:00pm, location to be announced.
- 15 **Voter Deadline**
- 26 **Board Meeting, 7:15pm-9:15pm, Leesburg Executive Airport, 1001 Sycolin Rd,**
Leesburg. Come observe a Board meeting of our Board. If you are planning to present or discuss something with the Board, please call Betsy at (703-777-9425) two weeks prior to the meeting.
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HOW TO ACCESS THE LEAGUE ON THE INTERNET

In the last few years League has improved our use of the Internet dramatically and no one benefits from this more than our new members! If you're a new member of the League or even if you've been a member for some time, check out the information about the League that is available online. **Lots is new!**

1. LWV of Loudoun County: <http://www.loudoun.va.lwvnet.org/> - Here you can find our calendar of events, past and current issues of our newsletter the *Voter*, a history of our League, links to numerous government and League sites, November 2004 election information, and much, much more.
2. LWV of Virginia: <http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org/> - Here you can find the latest issues of the state *Voter*, legislative newsletters issued while the General Assembly is in session, election information and many links to sites in government and League.
3. LWV of the US: <http://www.lwv.org/> - If you're a new member, this site is a MUST SEE! There is tons of information about how the League works and how you can get involved. There are two sections of this website that are available to members only and an ID and PASSWORD must be entered. Here are the steps to access these "members only" sites:
 - From the home page at lwv.org click on "MEMBERS SITE" on the bottom right side of the screen.
 - Enter the ID "lwv" (without quotation marks) and the password "carriecat".
 - You now have access to member information about the League, National board meeting reports and many, many other resources. Start clicking away!
 - To access information for League leaders, on the members-site, click on "State and Local Leaders" on the lower left of the screen. Enter the ID "leaders" (without quotation marks) and the password "grassroots".You will have access to additional information about the League. In particular, please read the publication *In League*. This is a 139-page detailed document about the inner workings of the League.



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

BETSY MAYR – PRESIDENT

AUGUST 2004
