

**LWV-US CONVENTION AT A GLANCE**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
**June 10-13, 2006**

**Theme: Meeting in the Middle**

<b>People</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Other</b>
<p>Nominating Committee's slate was elected. New President is <b>Mary Wilson</b> from New Mexico.</p> <p><b>Anne Sterling</b>, LWV-VA Board Member/Lobbyist from Richmond, was elected to a position on the 2006-2008 LWV-US Nominating Committee.</p>	<p>Recommended Program was adopted, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 3-year study on Immigration Policy</li> <li>• Concurrence on abolition of the death penalty</li> <li>• All existing LWV-US positions</li> </ul>	<p>Recommended Budget was adopted with an amendment to add \$45,000 to income from Nationally Recruited Members (NRMs) [making the national membership rate \$55 instead of \$50] and increasing NRM Rebates by \$45,000 [\$10 per NRM instead of \$5].</p>	<p>Passed these <b>by-laws</b> changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widened our purpose by deleting "of citizens" so that we promote civic participation of the entire public.</li> <li>• Removed lump-sum life membership option [still have honorary category].</li> </ul>
<p><b>24 Delegates</b> from Virginia (out of about 750 nationwide) represented the state and every local League.</p> <p>LWV-VA Vice-President <b>Olga Hernandez</b> ably led the delegation.</p> <p><b>Bonnie Franklin</b> and <b>Anne Kanter</b> were the other two LWV-VA delegates.</p>	<p>Non-recommended items passed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement of a paper trail on electronic voting systems</li> <li>• Action for internet neutrality</li> <li>• Inclusion of position on Checks and Balances in the Democracy Agenda action project</li> </ul>	<p>LWV-US Budget totals about \$4.3 million for the year 2006-2007 and depends more heavily on contributions and grants than per member payments.</p>	<p>Defeated by-laws changes that would drastically change the way that the Board conducts its business and national officers and directors are elected.</p>
<p>There were two ultimately unsuccessful nominations from the floor for Director/Trustee positions. One was <b>Debbie Nuss</b> from LWV Montgomery County, representing Lynchburg. She was nominated by <b>Mary Houska</b>, president of Montgomery Co.</p>	<p>Considered, but rejected, these non-recommended items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Care as a priority</li> <li>• Climate change as a priority</li> <li>• Requirement for cable to carry public affairs</li> <li>• Update of apportionment study</li> </ul>	<p><b>Per Member Payments</b> Approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$26.30 for 2006-2007</li> <li>• \$26.80 for 2007-2008</li> </ul>	<p><b>Keynote address</b> "American Democracy in a Partisan Era" was by Dr. Thomas Mann, co-author of a new book <u>The Broken Branch</u> about Congress.</p> <p>There was also a <b>judicial panel</b> on "Understanding the System to Defend the Courts."</p>
<p>During direction to the Board, Delegate <b>Anne Kanter</b> suggested a fund to subsidize membership dues where needed.</p>	<p><b>Pat Brady</b>, member of Fairfax Area LWV and representing Fluvanna Co., was one of the presenters in a workshop on Redistricting in the States.</p>	<p><b>Sheryl Wolfe</b> of Loudoun LWV served on the Budget Committee.</p>	<p>Minneapolis rolled out the red carpet with welcoming billboards. Marshall Field's gave an opening reception at the store. <b>Garrison Keillor</b> was the banquet speaker.</p>