

# Voter

## **League of Women Voters of Loudoun County**

**March 2007** 

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It's online at www.lwvnc	a.org

# League Members & Guests Celebrate Women's History Month with Tea



Birkby House Carriage House was packed Saturday afternoon, March 10 as League members and their guests met for tea in celebration of Women's History Month. Cathleen Magennis Wyatt, President of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground (TJTHG), entranced the audience of more than 50 women and men as she described the history, significance, and

importance of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground.

TJTHG embraces a 175-mile corridor along Route 15 from Gettysburg, PA to Charlottesville, VA, where so much of our nation's history occurred. To learn more about TJTHG and its educational outreach and heritage tourism initiatives, go to www.hallowedground.org. TJTHG Partnership is a public-private non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of the heritage and cultural resources along the Route 15 corridor, also known as the Old Carolina Road.

The tea raised more than \$1,200, which will enable the League to fund its voter service activities such as high school voter registration, Meet Your Legislator Night, and candidate forums.

To order TJTHG Guidebook, see page 2. LWVLC will receive \$4 for each copy purchased.

# **President's Column**

Included with this newsletter is an Update to the Airport Study that was adopted in 1986. There is a meeting on Wednesday, March 28 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Sumner School, 1201 17th St NW, Washington, DC to discuss whether to recommend further study of specific aspects. All local Leagues are encouraged to attend. It is possible that the NCA will make a recommendation to the NCA Convention in May for action to study selected areas from the update. Some of the issues include whether current passenger usage is balanced among the areas three major airports; should steps be implemented to abate noise problems; should other land use policies be considered; and is the current LVWNCA position adequate? Please contact me if you have any comments on the enclosed Update.

Betsy Mayr, President

#### **March Madness**

If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant without even considering if there are men on base.

Dave Barry

# **High Schoolers Meet Their Legislators**

The League of Women Voters of Loudoun County is hosting a "Meet Your Legislator" night with high school government classes from all 10 Loudoun County high schools invited. The event, to be held March 22, 2007 at the Potomac Falls High School Cafeteria, will give students the opportunity to meet and pose questions to the Hon. Mark Herring, (D-33), Hon. Tom Rust (R-86), Hon. Chuck Caputo (D-67), Hon. Bob Marshall (R-13), Hon. Joe May (R-33) and Hon. Dave Poisson (D-32). Each legislator will give a brief opening statement followed by questions from students representing each of the high schools. Last year, the event drew more than 200 students along with teachers and parents. Only the students are permitted to ask questions which, in the past, have been lively but civil. During previous years' events, the students and legislators covered a broad range of subjects, including immigration, transportation, after-school activities, and health insurance.

# Order The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Guidebook

David Lillard's travel guide, *The Journey Through Hallowed Ground: The Official Guide to Where America Happened*, directs visitors from Gettysburg to Monticello. The book guides readers to the homes of American presidents; through the largest collection of Civil War Battlefields; to sites from Colonial times, the Revolutionary War and War of 1812; Native America history of the Susquehannock and Iroquois tribes; African American heritage sites; and the World Heritage site of Jefferson's Monticello and University of Virginia. The Journey Through Hallowed Ground will contribute \$4 for each guidebook purchased by LWV Loudoun County members through May 1. To order, go to www.hallowedground.org and enter LWV07 in the comments section or call 540-882-4929 and mention the code.

# Happy Sunshine Week - (and We're Not Talking About the Weather!)

Sunshine Week, March 11-17, is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the improtance of open government and freedom of information. The goal, much like LWV's, is to enlighten and empower individuals to play an active role in government at all levels.

# Call for Nominations to LWVLC Board of Directors

Several current Officers and Board members' terms expire at the next Annual Meeting. If you would like to be considered, or know someone who would like to serve, please contact Gem Bingol, Nominating Committee Chair, at 703-771-1645; gbingol@pecva.org.

# Future Voters-LWVLC To Register Students In 10 High Schools

The Loudoun LWV is currently visiting all 10 high schools' government classes to register high school seniors who are eligible to vote. Those who will be 18 years of age on or before November 6, 2007, can register. Experience has shown that the students are excited about this rite of passage into the adult responsibility of becoming educated on the issues and getting involved in the electoral process. Those registered will have the opportunity to vote for candidates for local and state office. The team leaders and schedule are:

- Loudoun Valley and Loudoun County TBD (Eleanor Towe)
- Heritage (registration completed) and Potomac Falls April 16-17 (Peggy Maio)
- Freedom (March 26-27) and Stone Bridge (March 29-30) (Jean Sagan)
- Briar Woods (April 16-17) and Broad Run TBD (Glenda Parsons)
- Dominion completed (Denise Moore)
- Park View (April 11-12)

Politicians are like diapers. They both need changing regularly and for the same reason.

Unknown

# LWVUS Staff Describes National LWV Activities, Value

LWVUS staffer Kelly McFarland Stratman was the guest speaker at the February Unit Meeting. She spoke on the League's national efforts to build visibility, gain new members, and advocate for change.

A large percentage of our dues go to the National League. How is the money used?

Advocacy. The LWVUS lobbies Congress and the executive branch. Current issues include Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics & Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, and Health Care.

**Education.** Staff translates complex issues into information and reports for laymen. The current educational priority is Redistricting.

**Public and League Communication**. LWVUS offers press release templates and a variety of communication vehicles for state and local Leagues.

**Services to Leagues.** Staff provides ad hoc assistance and problem solving to Leagues and their members. Staff provides training, maintains a membership database, and assistance on membership recruitment.

**Convenion and Council Meetings.** Convention is in Portland, OR in 2008. The 2007 Council

is June 9-11 in Washington DC.

McFarland Stratman encouraged us to share our stories through the LWV Storybank. The LWVUS is collecting personal stories from League members to on what League means to them, how the experience made a difference, and what it has meant to ther community. To submit a story, go to www.lwv.org/Storybank.



# National, State, & Local League News

#### **National LWV**

The LWVUS recently launched a two-year Immigration Study to help communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. For more information, go to www.lwvus.org.

#### **Local Area Leagues**

Anne Arundel MAL: Susan Cochran reported that the Anne Arundel LWV, a member-at-large League since 2003, has received approval by the Maryland League to become a local League, effective for the 2007-08 year.

**Arlington:** Barb Sherrill and Eileen Williams discussed a project they are starting to help immigrants become citizens. The February meeting was a party for members and a collection of items for a group in Arlington addressing homelessness.

**Virginia:** Olga Hernandez reported on the Lobby Day activities on February 7. The state bill requiring paper ballots for elections passed in the Senate 36:4. The House of Delegates has still to vote on the bill.

Maryland: Joan Trafton reported that 75 people attended their recent workshops on the Equality of Opportunity State Study and Voter Services. The entire state had voters guides on the State LWV Web site, even areas without Leagues. There are three MAL units and two of them will become Leagues by the June1-3 State Convention-Anne Arundel and Carroll Counties. The Talbot League is now known as Mid-Shore League and encompasses three counties; the change was approved in January by LWVUS. On February 28th, the State Legislative Day will be held in Annapolis 8:30 am -1:30 pm.

**Montgomery County:** Melpi Jeffries reported they are having a unit meeting on Equality of Opportunity. In May 2007, they are planning special activities for their millennium celebration.

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.

George Jean Nathan

#### **National Capital Area**

Elinor Hart shared a letter from Mary G. Wilson discussing the 2007 legislative priorities. LWVUS pledged to focus on campaign finance reform, civil liberties, DC voting rights, election administration, ethics and lobbying reform, global climate change, and healthcare reform. They will continue their commitment to maximizing voter education and participation leading up to the election seasons. She also encouraged members to read personal success stories or share their own League experiences on the LWV Storybank.

# League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area Annual Convention

Saturday, May 12, 2007 9:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Westbury Ballroom, Jurys Washington Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Delegates and guests welcome.

To register, mail completed form below with \$30 check payable to LWVNCA to Mrs. Bonnie Franklin, 3076 S. Woodrow St., #A2, Arlington, VA 22206. Telephone: 703-578-1935. Email: bfrank317@aol.com. Deadline for registration is Tues., May 8. Registration is nonrefundable; substitute attendees OK.

Designation for 2007 NGA Commention
Registration for 2007 NCA Convention
Name:
Address:
Official delegate from your League? Vos. No.
Official delegate from your League? YesNo
Phone:
Email:
Local LWV:

## 2007 Calendar

March	Women's History Month
March 22	Meet Your Legislator
March 27	Board Meeting*
7:00 - 9:00	Leesburg Police Station
April 24	Board Meeting*
7:00 - 9:00	Leesburg Police Station
April 28-29	LWV VA Convention Richmond
May 12	NCA Annual Meeting
May 22	Board Meeting*
7:00 - 9:00	Leesburg Police Station
June 9-11	LWVUS Council Meeting

#### \* Open to all League members

#### **Internet Sources of Information**

LWV US - www.lwv.org/
NCA - www.lwvnca.org
LWV VA - http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org
General Assembly - http://legis.state.va.us/
VA Board of Elections - www.sbe.state.va.us/
LWVLC - www.loudoun.va.lwvnet.org

An election is coming. Universal peace is declared and the foxes have a sincere interest in prolonging the lives of the poultry.

T.S. Eliot

#### **Answers:**

- 1. C. Women made \$438/week; men made \$703/week; 62.5% of men's pay.
- 2. True.
- 3. True. Mary Dixon Kies received this patent in 1809. Until 1840, only 20 other patents were issued to women.
- 4. D. Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981.
- 5. A.
- 6. A Maryland & Virginia. B. DC
- 7. True. In NY women earn \$614/week; men \$738/week, 83.2% of men's pay.
- 8. B. In 1925, Nellie Tayloe Ross was elected governor of Wyoming.

# Think You Know Women?

- 1. Nationally, in 1979 women made what percent of men's pay?:
  - A. 45.5% B. 75% C. 62.5%
- 2. True or False: The name of the first woman chief of the Cherokee Indian Nation is Wilma Mankiller
- 3. True or False: In 1809, the first woman to receive a US patent invented a proces for weaving straw with silk or thread.
- 4. Who was the first female justice of the US Supreme Court?
  - A. Shirley Chisholm
  - B. Ruth Bader Ginsburg
  - C. Ann E. O'Connell
  - D. Sandra Day O'Connor
- 5. According to the Dept of Education, what is the most popular college major for women?
  - A. Business, marketing, & management
  - B. Psychology
  - C Education
  - D Biology
- 6. Match DC, Virginia, & Maryland with its median weekly full-time salary:
  - A. Women \$603/week; Men \$742/week
  - B. Women \$730/week; Men \$855/week
- 7. True or False: Women in New York state have a higher weekly salary on average than women in Virginia.
- 8. From which US state elected the first woman governor?
  - A. Arkansas
  - B. Wyoming
  - C. Georgia

See answers at left.

Reprinted from the Washington Business Journal, December 1-7, 2006.

# Join the League of Women Voters of Loudoun County

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

Name			
Address			
City, Stat, ZIP_			
Telephone		E-mail	
_	\$48 Individual	or\$72 Family	(payable to LWVLC)
continue its payable to the <b>LV</b>	s work to promote inform	med participation in gove	oun County with a donation so it can rnment. Please make donation checks WVLC Education Fund are tax
deddellere within		ll, 20371 Cockerill Rd., P	rurcellville. VA 20132

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOUDOUN COUNTY P.O. Box 822 Leesburg, VA 20178 (703) 777-9425

www.loudoun.va.lwvnet.org/

Betsy Mayr – President March 2007