



# Voter

**League of Women Voters of Loudoun County**

**May 2006**

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**Candidate Forums in Leesburg, Purcellville**

The LWV Loudoun candidate forums for the town elections brought out 60 - 80 residents each from Leesburg and Purcellville, who quizzed the candidates on traffic, growth, taxes, and other issues. Thanks to Bob Gordon, moderator and Leesburg Town Council candidates Marty Martinez, Kevin Wright, Steve Skirkanich, Ken Reid, David Butler, Tom Marshall, David Miles, and Todd Severance. Frank Holtz was unable to attend. Thanks to B.J. Webb, moderator for the Purcellville forum and mayoral candidates Bob Lazaro Jr., Karl Phillips, and C. Susie Windham and Town Council candidates Timothy Iversen, Tom Priscilla Jr., Steve Varnecky, James Vogt, and James Wiley.

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**Automatic Voter Registration?**

In the New York Times, April 6, 2006, John B. Anderson and Ray Martinez III advocate automatic voter registration for all high school seniors. "Only 72% of eligible citizens were registered to vote in 2004... And the registration rate among 18- to 24-year-olds was a dismal 58%, which helps explain why voter turnout for this age group in the presidential election was far below the national average. That's simply unacceptable," say Anderson and Martinez. They maintain that students needing community service hours to graduate could work in election offices to fulfil that requirement. "Of course, voter registration is no guarantee of turnout, but it is the first — and often, most difficult — step. There is perhaps no better place to begin this critical task than our high schools. By improving our registration and education efforts, we will not only help protect the voting preferences of younger Americans but the long-term vitality of our participatory democracy. Let's not leave any voters behind." To read the full article, go to [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) (free registration required).

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**We're a Step Ahead of the NY Times**

The League has visited seven of eight high schools in Loudoun County to register eligible seniors to vote. To date, 1,174 new voters have registered. Congratulations to Jean Brown, who coordinated the effort, and her team.

## President's Column

We have had a great year in League and had many successes. I ask each of you to make an effort to come celebrate with us on June 10, 2006 at Tuscarora Mill Restaurant in Leesburg from 11:30 to 1:30. We will elect a 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and three Board of Director members. The nominating committee, led by Gem Bingol, has really done an outstanding job this year in finding qualified members to serve our local League for the next two years. The annual meeting is about celebrating our accomplishments, electing officers, making new friends, and reacquainting ourselves with friends.

*Betsy*

## Social Sciences Fair

The League has been invited to judge the annual high school Social Sciences Fair at Freedom High School in South Riding May 31 - June 1. The League also awards a prize to a project in keeping with League values.

## Meet Your Legislator in April

Mark Herring (33<sup>rd</sup>), Del. Chuck Caputo (D-67<sup>th</sup>), Del. Robert Marshall (R-13<sup>th</sup>), Del. David Poisson (D-32<sup>nd</sup>), and Del. Tom Rust (R-86<sup>th</sup>) met more than 200 students and teachers from Loudoun County's high school government classes on Tuesday, April 4 at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn.

Each legislator noted accomplishments or failures of the 2005 General Session. The students wanted to know about immigration, transportation, after-school activities, health insurance, and more. The legislators were impressed with their depth of understanding of the issues.

Thanks to Sheryl Wolfe, moderator, and League members Marina Amat, Kristen Kalina, Denise Donnelly, Barbara Bearman, and Joan and Fred Hand

*I'm not afraid of storms for I'm learning to sail my ship.*

Louisa May Alcott

## National, State, and Local League News

### LWV National Capital Area

The NCA invites Loudoun County League members to attend the NCA Annual Meeting May 13.

### League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (NCA) Convention, Saturday, May 13, 2006

9:30 am to 12:30, Arlington Hilton Hotel and Towers, 950 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, Virginia  
(Ballston - MU Metro stop).

Reservation Deadline: May 10, 2006

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$28.00 Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations

Please make check payable to LWVNCA and mail to:  
Pat Sullivan, 16 W. Walnut, Alexandria, VA 22301  
Questions? Call Pat at 703-739-0731 or e-mail fjsull@gmail.com

## 2006 Calendar

Date	Time	Place	Description
Saturday, May 13	9:30 - 12:30	Arlington Hilton & Towers, Arlington VA	NCA Annual Meeting Call Pat Sullivan 703-739-0731
Tuesday, May 23	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Leesburg Airport	LWVLC Board of Directors Meeting Open to all League members
Friday - Tuesday June 9-13		Minneapolis, MN	LWVUS 47th National Convention "Meeting in the Middle"
Saturday, June 10	11:30 am - 1:30	Tuscarora Mill Restaurant, Leesburg	LWV Loudoun County Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 27	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Leesburg Airport	LWVLC Board of Directors Meeting Open to all League members

*Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to reform (or pause and reflect).*  
Mark Twain

## More National, State, and Local League News

### Area League Annual Meetings

Fairfax	April 22
Howard County	April 24
District of Columbia	April 27
Anne Arundel	April 29
Virginia Council	April 20-30
Arlington	May 6
Frederick County	May 6
Prince George's County	May 6
Maryland Council	May 20
Montgomery County	May 22
Falls Church	June 3
Loudoun County	June 10
Alexandria	June 10

### \$1 Million Towards DC Voting Rights

The DC League will receive \$200,00 as part of a grant from the District of Columbia government to help educate the public about the District's lack of voting rights in Congress. DC Vote and Our Nation's Capital will receive grants of \$500,000 and \$300,000 respectively.

### NCA Board Nominees

Nominees for the NCA Board are:

Vice President - Andrea Gruhl

Treasurer - Bonnie Franklin

Delegates - Elinor Hart and Virginia Long

Nominating Committee - Edie Smolinski, Patricia Behenna, Aleen Starkweather

*Do not go where the path may lead; go instead  
where there is no path and leave a trail.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*If there is no struggle, there is no progress.*

Frederick Douglas



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF LOUDOUN COUNTY**

P.O. Box 822, Leesburg, Virginia 20178

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

**Please make checks payable to: *LWVLC* and send them to:**

Joan Hand, Treasurer  
35909 Bell Road  
Round Hill, VA 20141

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(703) 777-9425, [www.loudoun.va.lwvnet.org/](http://www.loudoun.va.lwvnet.org/)

**Betsy Mayr – President**

**May 2006**