



Voter

League of Women Voters of Loudoun County

October 2006

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The Importance of One Vote

One vote ...

- in 1771 gave America the English language instead of German;
- elected Thomas Jefferson President in 1800 in the House of Representatives after a tie in the Electoral College;
- in the Electoral College elected Rutherford B. Hayes to the presidency in 1876;
- in the Senate saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment conviction;
- kept Aaron Burr, later charged with treason, from becoming President;
- made Texas part of the United States;
- in 1920 won the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote. Tennessee, the last state needed to pass the amendment, ratified the amendment; and
- admitted California, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon to the Union.



What's on the Ballot?



Look inside for information on the
Marriage Amendment, Voters Guide, and
Loudoun Bond Referenda



It was standing room only at the 10th Congressional District Forum at the Dulles Hyatt as four candidates responded to questions from a media panel and from the audience.

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Speakers Address Bond Referenda Issues

Three County executives, Paul Arnett, Comptroller; Terri Laycock, Assistant County Administrator; and Wayde Byard, Public Information Officer, Loudoun County Public Schools, spoke September 14 at a Unit Meeting. Mr. Arnett made it clear that when we vote on bond referenda for schools, we are *not* voting for or against the project – just the funding mechanism. The School Board has already determined a need for the school. If the school bonds are not approved, it simply means that the projects will most likely be built with a different - and more expensive - funding mechanism. Delays in obtaining other funding, such as through a state loan, may further increase the cost of a project.

Mr. Byard reinforced Arnett's remarks by pointing out how much the county has grown and what a challenge this presents when there is continuing flow of children who must be educated and not enough classrooms to accommodate them. He noted that the School Board is trying to keep small class sizes. Schools are a vital part of the community as they are frequently used by many civic organizations and churches that pay for the use of a school.

Ms. Laycock addressed the transportation bond issues. She noted that the General Assembly has failed to address Loudoun's transportation needs. Therefore, the county must resort to bond referenda. One bond referendum is for design only, which assumes the state will actually undertake the building and construction of the improvements, and another is for completion of an existing project. She gave five sources of funds to build roads: 1. federal, 2. state, 3. local (2% of gas tax is returned to the locality), 4. special tax districts (such as Rt. 28) and 5. developer proffers. If these monies are not approved and the roads not built, the developers may do it in exchange for increased density.

Those people who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do.

Isaac Asimov

Get To Know Your League

** All Members Please Attend **

Saturday, November 4, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve
Visitor Center

Two long-time League leaders, Lulu Meese and Molly O'Brien, are coming to Loudoun to help us learn, among other things:

- The fun and satisfaction from working together to promote Informed Citizen Participation;
- How the League is organized;
- How to enlist new members to grow as an organization;
- Why we need to know other levels of League (State, National, and ILO);
- What the Local League Board does and how they do it;
- Why it is important to evaluate a meeting or event and file the results.

Lulu Meese is a member of the LWV of Waynesboro and current President of the LWV of Virginia. Molly O'Brien is a member of the LWV of Charlottesville and current Events Coordinator for the LWVVA.

Directions

From Leesburg, Route 15 South. Approximately 1/4-mile South of Bypass, Left on Evergreen Mills Rd. (Rt. 621) for 5 miles. Right on The Woods Rd. (Rt. 771) for 1 mile. Entrance to Banshee Reeks on Left.

From Gilbert's Corner. North on Rt. 15, cross Goose Creek Bridge; take immediate Right past the bridge on Oatlands Mill Rd. (Rt. 650). Right on Rt. 771; entrance to Banshee Reeks is on Right.

From Beltway. Dulles Toll Rd/Greenway West towards Leesburg. Exit at Rt. 659, Belmont Ridge Rd. South. Right on Ryan Rd. (Rt. 772). At stop sign, Right on Evergreen Mill Rd. (Rt. 621). Cross Goose Creek and 1 mile to The Woods Rd. (Rt. 771). Turn Left. Entrance to Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve is on the Left after about a mile.

The Visitor Center is on the Right from the Parking Lot. For information on Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, go to www.bansheereeks.org.

President's Column

By Betsy Mayr



Vote November 7 & Bring a Friend!

National, State, & Local League News

LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate reports that the LWV had the highest rating as the source most used to secure nonpartisan information. The Herb Block Foundation has awarded the League a grant to develop material on openness in government. The League is also embarking on a membership recruitment initiative with five pilot Leagues and six assisting Leagues that will develop and test messages to reach a target audience of women in or approaching retirement, ages 50 to 65.

National Capital Area held a President's Brunch October 6 and a reception for the LWVUS Board on October 27. On December 7, 2006 NCA is hosting a Seminar on the Relationship of Congress to the District of Columbia, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Washington, DC. Two panel discussions will be followed by refreshments.

Howard County is celebrating its 60th year.

Falls Church is developing "Deliberate Democracy," which develops questions for elected officials with student moderators.

Montgomery County has targeted precincts with low voter turnouts to receive its largest ever Voters Guide.

Alexandria is focusing on affordable housing this year.

District of Columbia is doing a Library Study and working on affordable housing for renters.

Arlington's program theme is "Democracy Working for Everyone" with discussions on balance of powers and immigration.

Calendar

2006

November 4 Unit Meeting "Understanding
10 - 1 League" Banshee Reeks *
December 6 VA Pre-session Roundtable
Richmond

2007

January 10 General Assembly Opens
February 7 Local LWV Lobby Day Richmond
April 28-29 LWV VA Convention Richmond
May 12 NCA Annual Meeting
June 9-11 LWVUS Council Meeting

* Open to all League members

Sterling Fest

The day was dreary, cold, and windy, but that did not deter Chuck Harris and Glenda Parsons from setting up the League Booth at 8:30 a.m. The League was ready to register voters, hand out what is on the ballot and the constitutional amendments, and have a great day talking to people about League and what we do. Sterling Fest organizers first decided to open the outdoor events at noon, but the weather did not clear and weather forecasts did not indicate the rain would end. So for the second year in a row Sterling Fest was cancelled. Thanks to Chuck and Glenda for braving the winds and the rain and waiting for the decision to be made. Thanks also to Jean Sagan and Jean Brown for volunteering to serve a shift at our booth.

After the New York YWCA announced typing lessons in 1881, vigorous protests were made on the grounds that women would break down under the strain.

Internet Sources of Information

LWV US - www.lwv.org/

LWV VA - <http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org>

General Assembly - <http://legis.state.va.us/>

VA Board of Elections - www.sbe.state.va.us/

Glossary of League Lingo

There are certain terms that are unique to the League of Women Voters - "League Lingo." Some are listed here to help new members.

ACTION. Promoting the League's positions on local, state, and national public policy issues to government officials, the media, and the public.

ACTION ALERT. Request from the LWVUS or state League to take action in support of a League position.

ANNUAL MEETING. Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaw changes, and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER. A non-voting member of the League, such as a person under 18 years of age or a non-citizen.

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

CONCURRENCE. Agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members or by another League.

CONVENTION. A state or national League meeting held every other year at which delegates elect officers and directors for the biennium, adopt program, make bylaw changes, and adopt a budget, usually for one year. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention, local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.

COUNCIL. An assembly of delegates held in alternate years to adopt a budget and assess program developments. Local Leagues send delegates to state council, state Leagues to national council.

DPM. Duplicate Presidents Mailing, a subscription available to any member, containing the material sent in regular national or state League mailings to local League presidents.

EDUCATION FUND. The tax-deductible arm of national, state and large local Leagues, handling funds to be used only for educational purposes, not for action on issues.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER. One who has been a member for 50+ years. Life members are excused from dues payment and their Leagues pay no per member payment (PMP) for them.

ILO. Inter-League Organization, formed by local Leagues within a county, metropolitan area, or region to act on issues that are beyond the local League area in scope.

MAL. Member-at-large, a member who resides outside the area of, and is not enrolled in, a local League.

MAL UNIT. A state-recognized group of members-at-large, in an area where there is no local League.

PMP. Per Member Payment, the amount of money paid to the LWVUS and the state League on behalf of each member.

POSITION. A statement of the League's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate board and used as a basis for League action.

PRINCIPLES. Governmental standards and policies supported by the League as a whole. They constitute the authorization for adoption of program at all levels.

PROGRAM. Selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state, and national levels for study and action.

PROGRAMS. Plans for speakers, discussion, or other activities for League meetings.

UNIT. Groupings of members within large local Leagues to provide more opportunity for discussion. Units may be time-oriented (day, evening, lunch hour) or geographically oriented, or both.

VOTERS GUIDE. Nonpartisan publication giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.

VOTERS SERVICE. Year-round activity to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters and presenting factual, nonpartisan information on candidates and election issues are basic voters service activities.

VOTING MEMBERS. All League members who are U.S. citizens and at least 18 years old.



Judy M. Feder, Democrat - Challenger



Neeraj C. Nigam, Independent - Challenger

Loudoun & Fairfax Leagues of
Women Voters Host
10th Congressional District Forum
October 17, 2006



Media Panel:
Moderator Hillary Howard,
Washington Post Radio
Bruce DePuyt , Channel 8 "NewsTalk"
Steve Cahill, *Fairfax County Times*
Brian McNeill, *The Connection*
Newspapers
Charlie Jackson, *Leesburg Today*



Frank R. Wolf, Republican - Incumbent

Thanks to Our Sponsors
Carter Braxton Real Estate Company
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Photos by Robert Pierce



Jean Brown keeps the candidates on time.



Wilbur N. Wood III, Libertarian - Challenger



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOUDOUN COUNTY
P.O. Box 822, Leesburg, VA 20178**

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

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

Hatsy Cutshall, Treasurer
20371 Cockerill Road
Purcellville VA 20132

Name _____

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City & State _____

_____ \$72 Family

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**Betsy Mayr – President
October 2006**