



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Loudoun County

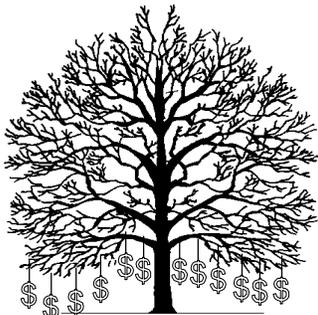
April 2005

Message from the President

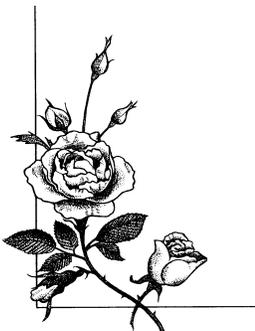
Spring is here at long last and so is our annual drive to register high school students. We are all passionate about our pet projects and want to be involved in projects that will have an impact and will make a difference. Voter registration and making voting accessible to all is one of my great passions! Voter registration has been the strong point of the League for 85 years along with making sure every vote is counted. I am sure a lot of you registered to vote because the League of Women Voters provided the registration process. I can remember how excited I was when I finally became of age (21), registered to vote and actually able to cast my first vote. I have never missed an election that I was qualified for since that time. With the introduction of Motor Voter, the citizens have many opportunities to register either at a DMV, the local registrar's office, or one of the registration drives that are coordinated by many different groups. The League can really shine by educating and registering students. Registering high school students is one of the most exciting and rewarding projects we can give our time to as the students are receptive and excited about the process. This year we will be speaking to the students in the classroom regarding the importance of registering, voting, and how to absentee vote. We also have a traveling plaque that will be given to the school that has the highest percentage of qualified students registering. The plaque will stay in the school for a year and then move on to another school. I ask each of you if you have an hour, ½ day or a full day to contact Jean Brown (540-338-7628 or OaklandBB@aol.com) and schedule yourself to help in this project. This is a fun and fast paced day, you will have all the supplies and instructions you need and you will have an opportunity to talk to the students and see democracy in action. For those of you who have already committed to a school, I thank you for your time and once again ask each of you to participate in this great project.

Betsy

Betsy Mayr, President



Do you want to save the League money and save trees at the same time? Then get your next issue of the Voter by email!!! Let us know by emailing Sheryl at smwolfe@direcway.com



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Wilhemina "Billie" Hetzel



A long-time member of the League of Women Voters, Billie Hetzel was a passionate activist for many social causes. She was involved in a long litany of civil rights causes and battles for equal rights for women. Dedicated to prisoners' rights. She never stopped fighting for the abolishment of capital punishment. Every Christmas, she was responsible for delivering cards and stamped envelopes for members of the Goose Creek Friends meeting, to the inmates at the Loudoun jail so they could send holiday messages to their families.

Billie marched at Selma in the 1960's and she participated in the protests of the Vietnam War. She also served as a hostess for the March on Washington, as an organizer for the Poor Peoples' Campaign, and as a member of the Women's Strike for Peace. She would think nothing of petitioning, picketing and marching in front of the White House. Billie was proud of her participation in the Loudoun Farmer's Market. Most Saturdays, she could be found at one of the local markets selling her organic produce, delicious apple pies, and homemade bread.

Billie passed away on December 14, 2004, at age 96, and all who new her will miss her enthusiasm for life and all that she believed.

Suzanne Richards Kane

Suzanne R. Kane was born in West Haven, Connecticut. She met her future husband, Donald Kane, in 1940 after he returned from the war. Suzanne did her part in the war effort; she attended Penn State and studied aeronautical engineering and worked as an engineering assistant at Curtis Wright in Buffalo, NY.

After the war, she and Don moved to Burlington, Vermont. The next 30 years she dedicated her life to raising her four children. In addition she is survived by 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

After moving to Purcellville in 1968, Suzanne was very active in the League of Women Voters, past-president of the Preservation Societies of Loudoun County, and Purcellville. She was instrumental in the

rehabilitation of the Purcellville Train Station and the Spring House. She also played a major role in the initial years of Purcellville's Heritage Days. She served two terms on the town's planning commission and also was a passionate supporter of the Purchase of Development Rights Program. She served on the League's Board of Directors for years and wrote a *Know Your County* pamphlet and worked on the League's Land Use forums in the 70's and 80's.

Suzanne worked ceaselessly to protect the environment, especially the majestic old trees that graced Purcellville's Main Street. She helped create the Purcellville Tree Ordinance. She fought a courageous battle to preserve the beauty of her beloved Purcellville. She was never afraid to stand up for what she believed in. No matter how involved she was in outside activities, her family always came first. She was loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She died peacefully at home on January 5, 2005 surrounded by her loving family.

Joan Czarnecki



Joan was past-president of the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia from 1973 - 1974 when she suffered a severe stroke. She continued in her duties as president as long as she could, but soon had to resign her post. While president, she devoted much of her time and energy to advancing the cause of Home Rule for the District of Columbia. Many of the D.C. League members who attended the League Convention with Joan, held in San Francisco that year, remember the delight with which Joan received the news of the passage of the Home Rule Act. It was a heady experience.

The Czarneckis ultimately moved to Leesburg and Joan joined the Loudoun County League. Being homebound did not stop her and she continued to fight for good causes using her phone and her pen as weapons. She was a very special person who will be missed by all. Joan died January 4, 2005. She is survived by her husband, Marian, and two sons and a daughter.

Continued next page



Carl Joseph Niederpruem

In memory of Carl, who passed away in February, we reprint this biography written by Joan Rackham from our November 2002 issue. We will all miss his humor, intelligence, and friendship very much.

Carl (ever disappointed that it wasn't spelled with a proper "K", the more so for regularly having to help others with the German vowels in "Niederpruem") and Pat became members of the Loudoun County League of Women Voters soon after moving to Leesburg in 1993.

Born in Buffalo and raised in Spencerport, New York, World War II took Carl abroad. While in the service, Carl traveled through Europe and Africa and studied at the Sorbonne and in Biarritz. During these years, his appreciation for art, the theatre and great music deepened, and when he returned to the States, Carl chose to settle in Rochester, a city he's loved from childhood because of the cultural opportunities it offers.

He joined the Eastman Kodak Company, working in Research Laboratories Administration for forty-four years. After work, Carl golfed, he curled, he sailed. He made furniture in his woodworking shop and he tended elaborate gardens. He took music lessons and learned the organ. (Carl played the left hand and the pedals; "Pat got the good stuff, the melody with her right.") And, he served his community – as a director on the Board of the Rochester YMCA, as an Indian Guide leader, as reinvigorator of the junior program at the Rochester Curling Club, and as a member of the volunteer police force in the town of Greece.

Although he claims it's because Pat "always volunteers" him, Carl's community service continued when they came to Virginia. From 1994 - 99, Carl sat on the Board of the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter. Since 1994, he's tended to the vast collection of shells and mollusks at the Smithsonian Naturalist Center, helping with their vast collection. For the past nine years he's delivered food to the homebound every week through the Area Agency on Aging meals program.

"It's all fun," he says. And then he reminds Pat that she's only allowed to roll her eyes once a day.

William H. Hines



The following was taken from a Washington Post article by Yvonne Shinhoster Lamb:

League member William M. Hines, a former Washington Star and Chicago Sun-Times reporter who was considered the godfather of NASA space reporting, died Feb. 28 of complications from treatment for pneumonia. He lived in Washington before moving to Lovettsville in 1987.

Bill grew up in San Francisco, where his father was the publisher of the old San Francisco Bulletin. He attended Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C. "But," his wife recalled, "when he was offered a job at the Chattanooga Times, he took it."

Bill, who had a keen interest in science, persuaded his boss to allow him to report on the country's space program shortly after the Russian spaceship Sputnik went up in 1957. Bill, a probing, impatient, sometimes abrasive reporter, was legendary among journalists for his thorough reporting and quick writing speed. In news conferences, where he would sit like a coiled cobra waiting to strike, he would sometimes leave NASA spokesmen speechless with his incisive questioning, colleagues said.

After leaving the Star in 1968, Bill worked at the Chicago Daily News and later became Washington bureau chief of the Chicago Sun-Times. He retired from the Sun-Times in 1989 and continued to do freelance writing about space, physics, molecular biology and other topics. He frequently was on "Meet the Press" and other television news shows.

In later years, he had a passionate interest in the proper use of the English language and, as his wife put it, "all things cats." Mouse Trap Farm became the name of his 18th-century log cabin in Lovettsville. He was interested in preservation and was involved in the Old House Group in Lovettsville. He edited the group's newsletter, as well as one for Ralph Nader's Health Research Group.

He is survived by his wife, Judith Randall Hines, who lives in Lovettsville; two children from his second marriage and two grandsons.



State Convention April 30 – May 1

Holiday Inn Select
2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg
Phone: 540-786-8321

The convention has important business before it. We will determine our program for the next two years. We will vote on proposed bylaw changes, a proposed two-year budget, and elect officers and board members to lead us from 2005 to 2007.

- The **deadline** for registration is **April 13**
- Registration cost is **\$30.00**
- Single day registration fee is \$15.00.
- Loudoun County can send up to **11 delegates**
- **The League will pay registration fee for any Loudoun delegates** and delegates will need to pay for their room.
- Rooms are reserved for Loudoun delegates. If you would like to attend, please **contact Betsy** at (703) 777-9425.

Silent Auction: Convention Fundraiser

Contribute an item to sale at a silent auction to be held at the State Convention. **Call Lulu Meese** at (540) 942-2428 to donate an item. Many thanks for your creative ideas to make this a success!

Loudoun is the Host League for this Convention!!

Volunteer to work at the Convention and attend for FREE!

Contact Betsy
at (703) 777-9425 or
EMAYR59433@aol.com.

LWVUS Web Site Takes on New Look!

Check out the new LWVUS web site at:
www.lwv.org

Its focus is on what **you** can do about national issues. Check it out!

Virginia 2005 Election Dates

PRIMARY ELECTION:

- Election date: **Tuesday, June 14**
- Last Day to register: **Monday, May 16**
- Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot:
By Mail: **Thursday, June 9**
In Person: **Saturday, June 11**
- Candidates certified **April 20**

GENERAL ELECTION:

- Election date: **Tuesday, November 8**
- Last Day to register: **Tuesday, October 11**
- Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot:
By Mail: **Thursday, November 3**
In Person: **Saturday, November 5**
- Candidates certified **June 20**

LWVUS Wins 2005 Freedom Award

The LWVUS was notified that it has been chosen as the recipient of the 2005 Freedom Award, given yearly by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). The NASS Freedom Award recognizes and honors those who contribute significantly to the cause of free elections in the United States. The League was honored for its 85-year commitment to the election process.

New LWVEF Publication

*Citizens Building Communities:
The ABCs of Public Dialogue*

This new LWVEF publication has already won praise. "As the first accessible, affordable primer on the variety of successful methods out there for engaging the public in dialogue. *Citizens Building Communities* is a landmark resource for the rapidly growing field of public dialogue and deliberation." - *Sandy Heierbacher, National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation*. Copies may be purchased by contacting pubsales@lwv.org and at www.lwv.org for just \$4.95.



Local Government Study Panel of Constitutional Officers

Contributed by Board Members Kristen Kalina & Jean Brown

The March 14th meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. President Mayr introduced the guest speakers for the evening: Commissioner of Revenue, Bob Wertz; County Treasurer, Roger Zurn; and Loudoun County Sheriff, Steve Simpson. The League was especially interested in their opinions of their offices and their positions as elected vs. appointed. It was pointed out that the Sheriff would always be elected, in accordance with state code.

Commissioner of the Revenue, Bob Wertz

Mr. Wertz said there are 128 commissioners in Virginia. Four counties do not have Commissioners. They are Henrico, Albemarle, Prince William and Fairfax but each has a Director of Tax Administration. He reminded everyone that his performance is evaluated every four years at the polls.

Mr. Wertz explained that he and the Treasurer both work closely with the Department of Financial Services for Loudoun County. He explained that the office of Financial Services does not receive the financial assistance from the state that his office and Mr. Zurn's office receives. If these offices were folded in to the department of Financial Services, all of the state's multi-million dollar supplementary funding would be forfeited.

Mr. Wertz also reminded the crowd that his office holds extremely confidential information about citizens and he feared that this confidence may be breached more easily under a different system of government.

Treasurer, Roger Zurn

Mr. Zurn said that only he and George Titus have held this office, with George holding it for about 30 years. He talked about the benefits of being "elected" as opposed to "appointed." He noted the "sense of independence" that he had in his dealings with the Board of Supervisors, explaining that he and the other elected constitutional officers could speak out freely without the fear of retribution.

He said that his office leads the state in terms of web-based technology. Even Fairfax has asked for their help in setting up the same sort of thing. Zurn says they take customer (voter) satisfaction very seriously. He proudly announced that as the county has grown from 100,000 to 250,000, his staff has only grown by 4 people.

Loudoun County Sheriff, Steve Simpson

Mr. Simpson said that the Loudoun County Sheriff's office is the largest full service Sheriff's office in Virginia. This is mainly due to the fact that other larger jurisdictions, like Fairfax, also have a police department. He talked about politics in law enforcement, in thinking about hiring law enforcement that would be answerable only to the nine elected members of the Board of Supervisors.

Elaborating on the comments of Mr. Zurn, he confirmed the freedom "to speak out" as an elected official vs. that of an appointed individual. He revealed that the average stay for a Chief of Police in Virginia is 2-3 years. He also discussed "court security" with the crowd. He pointed out that training of deputies takes about a year. Recruiting takes about a month. There is a 3-month training period after graduation. Training costs about \$8,000 per person. Retention is very high.

Sheriff Simpson noted, as did Mr. Wertz, that state funding in his budget would be lost from his office if a police department was created to overtake duties. He estimated it at over \$8 million.

After a question and answer period, President Mayr thanked all three of our guest speakers who had helped all of us understand their jobs more fully. The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 p.m.

Member **Jack Shockey** would like to network with other members and has asked that anyone interested contact him at:
shockeyjointventure@erols.com
540-338-4206

To protect the privacy of our members, membership lists are not published.



Register Our High School Students to VOTE – We NEED YOUR HELP!

Work is now underway to register our students to vote. Please contact **Jean Brown** for more information at (540) 338-7628 and if you can help on the following dates:

April 20-21, Stone Bridge High School

April 26-27, Potomac Falls High School

May 12-13, Park View High School

**Annual Meeting:
Sunday, June 26**

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Meeting to be held at the **Holiday Inn at Historic Carradoc Hall** at 1500 East Market Street in Leesburg.

At this important meeting we will:

- **Elect** officers and Board of Directors Members: **President, 1st Vice President, Secretary, three Board members and 3 members of the nominating committee.**
- Approve program
- Approve budget
- Approve bylaws changes

Lunch will be served from 11:00am - 12noon followed by our Keynote Speaker, **Sean O'Brien** from the **Thomas C. Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership**, an organization that seeks to improve political leadership in Virginia, thereby strengthening the quality of governance at all levels of government.

Please note that if you want to attend this meeting as a voting member, your dues need to be up-to-date. Please call Jean Sagan at (703) 327-4346 if you have any questions regarding the status of your membership.

Complete details of this meeting will be sent in the May issue of the Voter. Mark your calendars today!

At the February 22, 2005 Board meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the following addition to the *Policies and Procedures* for our League:

Annual dues are due on the last day of the month in which the member joined. New members are accepted up until two weeks preceding the Annual Meeting. This will give the League ample time to prepare for the Annual Meeting.

To check on the status of your membership dues, please contact Jean Sagan at (703) 327-4346.

Last day for new members to join who want to attend the Annual Meeting as voting members is:

June 12th

Congrats Are In Order to:

Board member **Kristen Kalina** and her new baby:
Lyla Madeline Kalina
Born: February 8, 2005

Our new grandparents of **TWINS:**
Eleanore & Jim Towe AND
Denise & Bill Donnelly

Do **YOU** have aspirations of holding an **elected position** within our League?

Contact **Carol Hanes**
Nominating Committee Chair
(703) 777-771
carol_hanes@hotmail.com.



April

18 **LWVLC Unit Meeting with Loudoun Board School Board Chairman John Andrews**
Chairman Andrews will talk and answer questions about how sites are selected for our schools and the use of eminent domain. All members and guests are welcome.
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Loudoun County High School, 415 Dry Mill Rd., SW, Leesburg

26 **League Board of Directors Meeting**
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Leesburg Airport Building

30 **LWV of Virginia Convention, Day 1.** See page 4 for more details.

May

1 **LWV of Virginia Convention, Day 2.** See page 4 for more details

14 **LWV of the National Capital Area Annual Meeting**
Elect Board members, approve budget, program and bylaws changes and meet members from Leagues in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia!! Brunch served followed by a Keynote Speaker from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. All members are welcome.
Time: 9:30a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Location: Hilton Arlington & Towers, 950 North Stafford Street in Arlington

23 **LWVLC Unit Meeting: Topic and speaker to be announced.**
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Loudoun County High School, 415 Dry Mill Rd., SW, Leesburg

24 **League Board of Directors Meeting**
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Leesburg Airport Building

For more information about any of the above events, contact Betsy Mayr at (703) 777-9425.

And Mark Your Calendars...

LWV Loudoun County Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 26
11:00am – 2:00pm
Holiday Inn at Historic Carradoc Hall
1500 East Market Street in Leesburg
See page 6 for more details.

The Voter is a monthly newsletter produced by and for the League of Women Voters of Loudoun County. Suggestions for articles, announcements and other material are welcome – subject to editing for clarity and space - and should be directed to: President: Betsy Mayr EMayr59433@aol.com or the Editor: Sheryl Wolfe smwolfe@direcway.com.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOUDOUN COUNTY
 PO Box 822
 Leesburg, VA 20178

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

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Please make checks payable to:
LWVLC and send them to:
 Joan Hand, Treasurer
 35909 Bell Road
 Round Hill, VA 20141

_____ \$48 Individual _____ \$72 Family



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**Volunteer to register our
 High School students to
 VOTE!**

See **PAGE 6** inside for
 dates and locations.

Betsy Mayr – President

April 2005