

LWW



League of Women Voters

42nd Biennial Convention



Women: Elect and Be Elected



League of Women Voters of Virginia Convention Workbook

Women Elect and Be Elected

Index

1. Convention Schedule...3
2. Proposed Convention Rules...5
3. Proposed Parliamentary Procedures...6
4. Proposed Bylaw Changes...8
5. Resolution Policy and Procedure...17
6. Plenary Schedule...20
7. Nominations Committee Report...22
8. Candidate Biographies...24
9. Program (Proposed Right to Vote Position)...40
10. Recommended Program Study...50
11. Proposed Operating Fund Budget FY 2026...52
12. Proposed Ed Fund Budget FY 2026...53
13. Number of Delegates Per VA League...54
14. Convention Committees 2025...55
15. Our Speakers...59
16. Minutes of 2023 (41st Convention)...65
17. State of the State Report...90
18. 43rd Biennial Convention...93

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League of Women Voters of Virginia

Convention Schedule — *June 13th-15th, 2025*

May 14th, 2025, 6:30-8:00PM

Program: Review of the right to vote completed study
Discussion of updating women's rights position

May 20th, 2025, 7-8PM

The review of bylaw changes to be made at convention

May 21, 2025, 7-8PM

Budget preview (FY26' Operating Fund Budget)

Convention

Hilton Garden Inn Fredericksburg
1060 Hospitality Lane,
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-548-8822

June 13, 2025

4:00-7:00PM— Hilton Garden Inn Dinner Trolley Registration and dining information

6:30PM— Pick up at the Hilton Garden Inn

Drop-offs at two locations featuring the following restaurants:

First Drop-off:

Deutschland Downtown
Fahrenheit 132
La Petite Auberge
Mellow Mushroom
Rebellion Bourbon Bar
Sedona Taphouse
Ristorante Renato
Harry's Ale House

Second Drop-off:

J Brian's Tap Room
Bello Manzo
Sammy T's

8:30PM— Return to Hilton Garden Inn

June 14, 2025

Fredericksburg Convention Center
2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-548-5555

8:00 - 11:00AM — Conference Center Lobby for Registration

8:00 - 9:00AM Ballroom B & C

9:00AM — Ballrooms D,E,F

- Welcome Cathie Fisher Braman, LWV Fredericksburg Area President
- Welcome Kerry B Devine, Mayor of Fredericksburg

9:30AM – 12:30PM — Plenary Session

11:00AM — Conference Center Lobby, Break

12:30 – 2:00PM — Ballroom B & C

Lunch

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Farnsworth, Mary Washington University

2:15 – 3:15PM — Choice of three breakouts:

1. **Ballroom D:** Dr. Jatin WRIGHTEN, Virginia Commonwealth University, Encouraging Reluctant Voter
2. **Ballroom E:** Michelle Moffit, Virginia Civic Engagement Center—Canvassing, Phone Banking—Reach People Where They Are
3. **Ballroom F:** Anu Sahai, LWV VA First VP & member of LWV UN Group UN and Worldwide Efforts to Encourage Women in Office

3:15 – 3:30PM — Conference Center Lobby, Break

3:30 – 4:30PM — Ballroom B & C

Transformation Update for all members

4:30 - 5:00PM — Rooms 1 & 2 Breakouts for Presidents and Treasurers

- Tracy Adkison, LWV VA Board Liaison to LWV US
- Jane Newell, Strategic Transformation Coordinator, LWV VA

5:00–5:30PM—Room 1, Resolutions Committee Meeting

5:30PM—Ballroom B & C

Dinner

6:30–7:30PM—

- Showing of the movie “Invisible Warriors: African American Women in WWII”
- Presentation by Director and Producer, Gregory Cooke

June 15, 2025

8:00-9:00AM—Ballrooms B & C

- Breakfast with a presentation on legacy donations for local leagues.
- Val Kaiser, EldenStreet Financial, Herndon

9:00AM--Ballrooms D,E,F
Gloria Custalow, Mattaponi Tribe
9:30-12:00PM--Ballrooms D,E,F
Plenary

12:30-2:00 PM--(Optional Tour: \$25)
Civil Rights Tour of Fredericksburg--pick
up at Hilton Garden Inn

League of Women Voters of Virginia

Proposed Convention Rules

1. Only accredited delegates representing local Virginia leagues and members at large (MALs) and the LWV-VA board members (state board) may vote. The Convention shall be the sole judge of whether a Delegate is qualified to vote.
2. Only accredited delegates and those authorized by the presiding officer may address the Convention.
3. In debate, no person shall speak more than once on a motion until all others who wish to speak have done so; no person shall speak more than twice on the same motion; debate shall be limited to two minutes per speaker unless other procedure limits take precedence.
4. Each speaker shall use a microphone and announce their name and local league name when recognized by the presiding officer to address the Convention.
5. Main motions and amendments of substantial length must be in writing on paper. One copy shall be delivered to the presiding officer, and one copy shall be retained by the maker of the motion.
6. When a vote is in progress, the doors to the meeting room shall be closed, and no one may enter or leave.
7. The minutes of the Convention shall be received by the LWV-VA Board by September 1, 2025, after review by a committee appointed by the President to review and approve the minutes.
8. Only announcements that relate to the business of the Convention or the welfare of the participants shall be made. Announcements shall be made only by persons designated by the Presiding Officer to do so.
9. Cell phones shall be turned off or muted during Plenary sessions, workshops, and the banquet.

League of Women Voters of Virginia

Proposed Parliamentary Procedures

1. To make a motion or amend a motion, a Delegate must:

- Go to a microphone;
- Be recognized by the Presiding Officer;
- State their name and local League;
- Then, state the motion (or amendment to a motion).

2. The motion (or amendment) must be seconded. It is not necessary to agree with a motion to second it. A second only implies that there is more than one person who wishes to discuss the motion. A motion coming from the State Board or a committee does not need a second.

3. The Presiding Officer then places the motion (or amendment) before the convention for discussion. The Delegate who made the motion may speak to the motion (or amendment) first.

Note: Once a motion is placed before the assembly by the Presiding Officer, it is under the control of the assembly and does not belong to the Delegate making the motion. For example, it cannot be withdrawn later without permission of the assembly.

Note: An amendment(s) to a motion that is on the floor may have two amendments pending at one time. However, the first amendment must relate to the main motion, and the second amendment must relate to the first amendment to the motion.

4. To table a motion or postpone indefinitely: A request to table a motion is useful to suspend consideration of a motion in order to deal with another matter that has come up

unexpectedly and which must be dealt with before the pending motion can be properly addressed.

A request to postpone a motion indefinitely would kill that motion.

A request to table a motion should not be used to kill the motion on the floor or to temporarily postpone consideration of a motion.

5. To close debate on a motion, a Delegate must:

- Go to a microphone;
 - Be recognized by the Presiding Officer;
 - State their name and League;
 - Then, move to 'Close Debate' and 'Call for the Previous Question.'
 - The motion must be seconded, and there is no discussion.
- After the motion to 'close debate' is approved, there will be an immediate vote on the pending motion.

6. To Request a Point of Order or Request for Information:

• If a Delegate believes there was a breach of parliamentary procedure, they may interrupt the motion by going to the microphone, raising the red card that has been provided, and requesting a "Point of Order." They may also make a "Request for Information" in the same manner if they think there might be a breach but are unsure. The Presiding Officer will address the question.

• If the point of order refers to an action made by someone other than the Presiding Officer, the Delegate should give the Presiding Officer time to correct the problem.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA BYLAWS

For 2025 Convention Approval

As amended: June 2, 2013, June 18, 2016 (pursuant to LWVUS action), May 23, 2021, June 3, 2023, February 10, 2025, June 15, 2025.

ARTICLE I. Name and Office

Sec. 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Virginia, hereinafter referred to as LWV-VA or the state League. This state League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to as LWVUS.

Sec. 2. Office. The principal office of the LWV-VA shall be at such place as the board of directors shall determine.

ARTICLE II. Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWV-VA are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Sec. 3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance with diversity, equity, and inclusion, in principle and in practice.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

- a. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, the state League and the LWVUS: (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who chose not to join a local League shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members, excused from the payment of dues, and (4) those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either full or part time with an accredited institution.

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV. Officers

Sec. 1. Election, Qualifications and Term. The officers of the LWV-VA shall be a president, or co-presidents, and a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer who shall be voting members of the LWV VA. They shall be elected by the convention. They shall take office on July 1 following convention and shall serve for two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Sec. 2. The President. The president or co-presidents shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors or designate another person to do so; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; shall appoint an elected member of the board to sign with the president, all contracts and other such instruments when so authorized by the board; may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes; and shall perform such other duties as the board may designate. The office of the president may be filled by two persons, to be called co-presidents. Thus, the term president shall refer to either a president or two co-presidents in these bylaws.

Sec. 3. The Vice-Presidents. The two vice-presidents, in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that neither vice-president is able to serve in this capacity, the board of directors shall fill the vacancy from among the elected directors. The vice-presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and board may designate.

Sec. 4. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep or cause to be kept minutes of convention, council and of meetings-- whether in-person or electronic--of the board of directors and executive committee and present them to the board for approval at its next meeting. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The secretary shall perform such other duties as customarily pertain to the office.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer. The treasurer, or a duly appointed assistant, shall collect and deposit all monies received. The treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in financial institutions designated by the board of directors, and shall disburse the same in accord with the adopted budget or upon order of the board of directors. The treasurer shall present periodic statements to the board at its regular meetings and an annual report to the convention or council. The books of the treasurer shall be reviewed when a new treasurer takes office and no less frequently than biennially and a report shall be presented to the board at its next meeting.

Sec. 6. Transfers of Property. With prior approval of the board, either the president or the treasurer shall have the authority to assign, endorse, transfer and deliver, in the name and on

behalf of the LWV-VA, any certificate of stock, bond, note or other security or property belonging to the League.

2

ARTICLE V. Board of Directors

Sec. 1. Selection, Qualifications and Term. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWV-VA, six directors elected by the convention and not more than six directors appointed by the elected members of the board. All directors shall be voting members of the LWV-VA. The elected directors shall take office on July 1 following the convention and serve for two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The term of office of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with that of the elected directors.

Sec. 2. Vacancies. Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled, until the next convention, by vote of the remaining members of the board.

Sec. 3. Powers.

- a. The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the convention.
- b. The board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program on state governmental matters as adopted by the convention and/or council.
- c. The board shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the board of directors of the LWVUS for the organization and development of local Leagues; guidance of and cooperation with Inter-League Organizations (hereinafter referred to as ILOs); promotion of League program; financial development; and such other matters as the national board may delegate to it. It may form Leagues-at-Large where circumstances dictate such organization and shall adopt rules and procedures for the formation and operation of such Leagues-at-Large.
- d. The board shall have the power to appoint off-board chairs with organization or program

portfolios; to create such special committees as it deems necessary; and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

Sec. 4. Regular Meetings. There shall be at least four regular meetings of the board of directors annually. A minimum of two of these shall be in-person meetings. Notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be given by mail or electronic communication at least two weeks before the meeting. No action taken at any regular board meeting attended by three fourths of the members of the board shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the board to receive any notice properly sent or because of irregularity in any notice actually received. More than three unexcused absences in one fiscal year shall constitute a resignation.

Sec. 5. Special Meetings. The president may call special meetings of the board of directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the board. Notice of the time and place of the special meeting shall be given at least six days before the meeting, provided, however, that during a convention the president may, or upon the request of five members of the board shall, call a special meeting by handing the members of the board a written notice of the time and place of said meeting.

Sec. 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. Up to one quarter of the members of the board may participate in an in-person meeting by means of conference telephone or by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear or communicate electronically with one another. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Sec. 7. Executive Committee. An executive committee composed of the president or co-presidents, the vice presidents, the secretary and the treasurer shall make decisions between regular board meetings on matters that require immediate attention. The committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the state board and shall keep minutes and report to the board at its next meeting on all actions taken.

Sec 8. Electronic Meetings. Regular and special meetings of the board of directors and executive committee may be conducted by electronic means, such as telephone conference calls, video conferencing, or e-mail.

3

ARTICLE VI. Local Leagues, ILOs and Leagues-at-Large

Sec. 1. Local Leagues.

- a. Local Leagues are those Leagues within the Commonwealth of Virginia that have been so recognized by the LWVUS.

The state board has responsibility for the establishment of new Leagues and shall recommend to the national board that it grant recognition as a local League to any group of members of the League in any community within the state in which no local League exists, provided the group fulfills state and national requirements.

- b. In the event of recurrent failure of a local League to fulfill these requirements, the state board shall recommend to the national board that it withdraw recognition from the local League. All funds held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the LWV-VA after obligations have been met.

Sec. 2. Inter-League Organizations (ILOs).

a. Members enrolled in local Leagues may organize ILOs in order to promote the purposes of the League and to take action on county, metropolitan or regional governmental matters.

~~b. The state board shall recommend to the national board that such an ILO be recognized provided requirements adopted by the national convention have been fulfilled. In the event of recurrent failure of an ILO to fulfill these requirements, the state board shall recommend to the national board that it withdraw recognition from the ILO. All funds held by an ILO from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be prorated among the member Leagues.~~

Sec. 3. Leagues-at-Large.

a. The state board may authorize the establishment of Leagues-at-Large in communities where circumstances dictate such organization. Leagues-at-Large shall fulfill state League requirements.

b. In the event of recurrent failure of a League-at-Large to fulfill these requirements, the state board may withdraw recognition from the League-at-Large. All funds held by a League-at-Large from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the state League after other obligations have been met.

4

ARTICLE VII. Convention

Sec. 1. Place, Date, and Call. A convention of the LWV-VA shall be held biennially in the odd-numbered years at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors. A first call to convention shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues ~~and ILOs~~ and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least six weeks before the date fixed in said call. Thereafter the board may advance or postpone the opening date of the convention by not more than two weeks. A final call giving the exact time and place of the convention shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues ~~and ILOs~~ and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least thirty days before convention.

Sec. 2. Composition. The convention shall consist of:

- a. delegates chosen by the members of local Leagues in the number provided in Sec. 4 of this Article;
- b. the presidents of local Leagues and chairs of Leagues-at-Large or an alternate in the event the president or chair is unable to attend;
- c. the members of the board of directors of the LWV-VA;
- ~~d.~~ LWV-VA off-board committee chairs with portfolios;
- e. one delegate from each of the llo's**
- f.e.** delegates, chosen by the board of the LWV-VA, to represent the members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large, in the number provided in Sec. 4 of this Article.

Sec. 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting. All delegates shall be voting members of the League. No delegate shall be entitled to more than one vote and absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Representation. The members of the LWV-VA who are organized into local Leagues ~~or Leagues-at-Large~~, and members-at-large ~~not organized in a League-at-Large~~, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall be entitled to voting representation in the convention as follows:

- a. The members in each local League or League-at-Large shall be entitled to two delegates; when a local League membership reaches 25 voting members, it shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional twenty-five voting members or major fraction thereof belonging to said local League.**
- b. The members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large shall be entitled to one delegate; when the number of members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large reaches 25 voting members, they shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional 25 voting members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large or major fraction thereof. of such members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large. c. Leagues-at-Large will have one delegate.**

The official membership count shall be determined by national office records of voting members **as of February 1 as reported to the national office in the membership count of the year in which the convention is held. LWV-VA will report the delegate count to the local League presidents three months before the Convention.**

Sec. 5. Powers. The convention shall consider and authorize for action a program; elect officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; adopt a budget for the next fiscal year; give guidance to the board on program and methods of work; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 6. Quorum. Thirty percent of the possible number of voting delegates other than the members of the state board shall constitute a quorum provided that a majority of local Leagues are represented.

ARTICLE VIII. Council

Sec. 1. Place, Date and Call. A meeting of the council shall be held biennially, approximately twelve months after each convention at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors. A formal call giving the exact time and place of the council shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues ~~and ILOs~~ and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least six weeks before a council meeting. In the event of an emergency, the board may call a special council meeting.

Sec. 2. Composition. The council shall consist of the presidents of local Leagues and the chairs of Leagues-at-Large or an alternate in the event the president or chair is unable to attend; one delegate chosen by each local League and League-at-Large with a maximum of two delegates from each League. The council also includes members of the state board; ~~one delegate chosen by the board of each ILO~~; and one delegate chosen by the board of the LWV-VA to represent the members-at-large not organized in a League-at-Large.

Sec. 3. Delegates' Qualifications and Voting. All delegates shall be voting members of the League. The council shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Sec. 4. Powers. The council shall give guidance to the board on program and methods of work; adopt changes in the program, if recommended by the board, following the procedures described in Article X; adopt a budget for the next fiscal year; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 5. Quorum. Ten delegates, other than the members of the state board, shall constitute a quorum provided that a majority of local Leagues are represented.

ARTICLE IX. Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of five members, of whom three shall not be members of the state board. The three to be elected by the convention shall include the chair. Promptly after convention, the board shall appoint two of its members to the committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board.

Sec. 2. Suggestions for Nominations. The nominating committee shall request suggestions for nominations through the president of each local League ~~and ILO~~ and chair of each League-at-Large by advising them of the offices to be filled and the address to which suggestions are to be sent. Any LWV-VA member may submit suggestions to the nominating committee.

Sec. 3. Report of Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee containing its nominations for officers, directors and the chair and two members of the next nominating committee shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues ~~and ILOs~~ and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large ~~four months [June 3, 2023]~~ **four weeks** before convention. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention at its first session. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Sec. 4. Election. The election shall be the responsibility of an election committee appointed by the president at the first session of the convention. Election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE X. Principles and Program

Sec. 1. Principles. The governmental Principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

6

Sec. 2. Program. The program of the LWV-VA shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those state governmental issues chosen for concerted study or concurrence and action by the convention or, if recommended by the board, the council. Information on governmental issues designed for member information and education may be prepared and disseminated by the board at any time.

Sec 3. Program Adoption.

- a. LWV-VA committees and task forces, local League boards, and voting members of the LWV-VA may make recommendations for new issues for study, amendment or elimination of current LWV-VA positions, or concurrence with a new support position. Recommendations must be submitted to the state board at least three months before convention or council.
- b. Any such League board, LWV-VA study committee, task force or voting member shall send to the board accompanying background information on the issue proposed for study, concurrence, amendment or action, including the timing, need and importance of the issue for study or action, and the rationale for seeking the proposed form of obtaining member agreement.
- c. The board shall consider all properly submitted recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues ~~and LLOs~~ and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least four weeks before convention or, if the board recommends, the council.
- d. The convention or council shall adopt or amend the program proposed by the board by a majority vote of those present and voting.
- e. e. A program recommendation properly submitted by the deadline but not proposed by the board may be adopted by the convention only if its consideration is ordered by a majority vote of the convention and the proposal receives approval by a three-fifths vote of the convention delegates present and voting at a subsequent session of the same meeting.

Sec. 4. LWV-VA Program Support Positions. After the LWV-VA board approves new or amended positions for inclusion in LWV-VA program, they become the LWV-VA's positions and the basis for action on the issue. Changes to the positions may be made by the convention or council according to the procedures and limitations described in this Article.

Sec. 5. Program Action. Local Leagues may act only in conformity with, not contrary to, the positions taken by the LWVUS or the LWV-VA. Action on state governmental matters on the basis of local positions should be undertaken only after consultation with the state board. Members may act in the name of the LWV-VA only when authorized to do so by the state board.

ARTICLE XI. National Convention and Council

Sec. 1. National League Convention. The state board, at a meeting before the date on which

names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates to national convention in the number allotted the LWV-VA under the provisions of the LWVUS bylaws.

Sec. 2. National League Council. The state board, at a meeting before the date on which names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates to national council in the number allotted the LWV-VA under the provisions of the LWVUS bylaws.

ARTICLE XII. Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWV-VA shall be from July 1 through June 30 of the subsequent year.

Sec. 2. Membership Dues. Members shall pay dues in accordance with LWVUS policy. All members shall pay dues except for those exempted from paying dues in Article III. Membership lasts for one year after joining or renewal. Members who fail to renew within the period specified by LWVUS will be removed from the roster.

Sec. 3. Budget. The board of directors shall submit to the convention and council for adoption a budget for the next fiscal year. A copy of the budget shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues ~~and LLOs~~ and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least four weeks before the convention or council. A budget shall be adopted by a majority vote of the convention or council.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee that shall be appointed by the state board for that purpose at least three months before convention or council. The treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the budget committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.

Sec. 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWV-VA, all moneys and securities that may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the LWV-VA shall be paid to the LWV VA Education Fund after the state board has paid or made provisions for payment of all the liabilities of the LWV VA. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed that may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWV-VA shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as the board of directors in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE XIII. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any convention or council by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed amendment was submitted to the state board at least three months before convention by a local League board or was proposed by the state board. The state board shall send all such proposed amendments to the presidents of local Leagues ~~and LLOs~~ and to the chairs of Leagues-at-Large at least four weeks before the convention or council at which they will be considered.

League of Women Voters of Virginia

Resolution Policy and Procedure

Resolutions on urgent matters of public policy express the will of the LWV-VA Biennial Conventions during the time of its convening. Any registered delegate to the Convention, seconded by another registered delegate, may offer a resolution.

There are two forms of resolutions: one issue-driven on a specific topic of import to the League and courtesy resolutions used to honor a long-time member who has passed or who has achieved something of excellence.

Committee. At least three weeks before the convention, the President will appoint a Resolutions Committee consisting of a minimum of three registered convention delegates with local leadership or state board experience. The LWV-VA President will name the chair.

Criteria. Resolutions shall meet the following criteria:

1. Complies with this Resolutions Policy and Procedure.
2. Consistent with LWV-VA and LWVUS principles and positions.
3. Addresses a single, topical issue pertinent to Virginia that (a) requires governmental action at the state level; or (b) pertains to the internal administration of the League; and (c) can be implemented using existing League resources.
4. Does not circumvent the program planning process.
5. Resolution language is clear, specific, stated affirmatively, and its intent is not subject to potential misinterpretation.

Note: This process and criteria shall not apply to courtesy resolutions.

Submissions.

Delegates are strongly encouraged to submit proposed resolutions together with background material at least three weeks before the start of convention but no later than 1:30 P.M. on Saturday, June 14, 2025, the first formal day of the convention. Submitted material shall include:

- Pros and cons of the resolution,
- Explanation for choice of a resolution as an appropriate method to implement LWV-VA Program and assurance that it carries member understanding and agreement. LWV-VA shall post material submitted on the LWV-VA website with convention information and email the link to all members who are registered at the Convention.
- Explanation for choice of a resolution as an appropriate method to implement LWV-VA program and assurance that it carries member understanding and agreement. LWV-VA shall post material submitted on the LWV-VA website with convention information and email the link to all members who are registered at the Convention.
- Be as close to the final form as possible. (see sample)

These are not required for courtesy resolutions. For courtesy resolutions, information about the person and their accomplishments in and outside of the League are required.

Presentation of the proposed resolution must be submitted using this google form (send to info@lwv-va.org) can be found at this [link](#).

Open Meeting. The Resolutions Committee shall meet at 5:00 pm, Saturday, June 14, 2025, in Meeting Room 1, between the two plenary sessions of the convention to hear from proponents who have submitted resolutions.

Deliberation. The Committee will deliberate in executive session and decide by majority vote. The committee shall assure that suitable resolutions conform to carry into effect the submissions referred to it. The committee shall recommend appropriate action on each to the Convention.

Action by Convention: The Resolutions Committee Chair will move to adopt each resolution recommended for approval by the Resolutions Committee. Delegates will have the opportunity to debate each recommended resolution. Following debate, the LWV-VA President will call for a vote. A majority vote is required to adopt a resolution. Delegates

may override, by a two-third vote, the decisions of the Resolutions Committee regarding resolutions.

The format for proposed resolutions is.

Proposal for LWV VA to adopt a resolution that _____

Each paragraph then begins with WHEREAS, which lays out the issue.

The final paragraph starts with THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LWV OF VIRGINIA.....

Resolutions should be no more than one page.

League of Women Voters

Order of Business

Plenary Schedule—June 14th, 2025

Call to Order—Joan Porte, (LWVVA) President

Introduction of Parliamentarian—Donald Garrett - Joan Porte

Introduction of LWV VA Board—Joan Porte

Credentials Report—Fran Eckenrode (LWVRMA) , Chair, Credentials Committee

Convention Standing Rules—Dede Goldsmith (LWVWC), Chair, Standing Rules Committee

Convention Workbook—Anu Sahai (LWVVA) Co-Chair, Convention Committee

Minutes of 2023 Convention—Joan Porte

Appointment of 2025 Minutes Readers—Joan Porte

BREAK

Treasurer’s Report—Andrienne Konstas Salvette (LWVVA), Treasurer

Proposed Bylaw Changes—Jane Newell (LWVVA), Strategic Transformation Director

Nominating Committee Report—Les Solomon (LWVVA), Chair

Announcements and Resolution Committee Reminder—Joan Porte

League of Women Voters

Order of Business

Plenary Schedule—June 15th, 2025

Call to Order—Joan Porte, (LWVVA) President

Credentials Report—Fran Eckenrode (LWVRMA), Chair, Credentials Committee

Program—Alice Tousignant (LWVVA), Program Chair, Carolyn Caywood (LWVSHR)

Adoption of Right to Vote Position

Adoption of Proposed Study to Update Women's Rights Position

Adoption of LWV VA Becoming a 501 (C) 3 Organization—Janet Boyd (LWVVA) Budget Committee Chair

Adoption of FY26 Operating Fund Budget - Janet Boyd (LWVVA) Budget Committee Chair

Presentation of Resolutions—Susan Bivins (LWVVA), Chair, Resolutions Committee

Courtesy Resolutions

Report of the League—Joan Porte

Guidance to the 2025-2027 Board from Delegates and Observer—Joan Porte

Unfinished Business—Joan Porte

Invitation to 2027 LWV-VA 43rd Biennial Convention—Joan Porte

Committee Building—Joan Porte

Adjournment—Sine Die

LWV-VA Nominations Committee Report

LWV-VA Nominees for LWV-VA Board 2025-2027

We are happy to note that we have two members of the LWV Virginia Youth Council nominated for positions, **Fiona Morris** and **Phoebe Scarborough**.

NOTE: We had so many people who wanted to serve on the Board, (YES!) that we had to adjust the slate. The bylaws allow for the nominating committee to have a slate with the officers and six directors. Well, we had NINE directors willing to serve (again, yay us!)

The bylaws also allow for the new board to appoint six directors.

Three of those directors, **Evette Barton**, **Jane Newell** and **Alice Tousignant**, were appointed by the board two years ago. To keep in compliance with the bylaws, they will be considered for reappointment by the new board in July. We left their information in this book.

This is a nice problem to have!

Officers

President	Joan Porte (LWVAAC)
First Vice President	Anu Sahai (LWVFA)
2nd Vice President	Erni Bridges (LWVFA)
Treasurer	Andrianne Konstas-Salvette (LWVFA)
Secretary	Kathleen Montgomery (LWVPWF)

Directors

Janet Boyd (LWVAAC)

Barbara Boardman (LWVFA)

Donelda (Donnie) Carson (LWVSHR)

Frances “Fran” Eckenrode (LWVRMA)

Phoebe Scarborough (LWVAAC)

Fiona Morris (LWVWA)

Nominating Committee Members:

- Priscilla Godfrey (LWVLC) —Chair
- Susan Bivins (LWVWA)
- Margaret Heubeck (LWVCA)

Submitted by FY23/25 Nominating Committee:

- Les Solomon, Chair (LWVWA)
- Carolyn Caywood (LWVSHR)
- Mary Crutchfield (LWVRMA)
- Board Reps:
- Anu Sahai (LWVFA)
- Erni Bridges (LWVFA)

League of Women Voters of Virginia **Report of Nominating Committee—Candidates Biographies**

Board Committee:



Joan Porte— President (LWVAAC)

Joan served as President of the League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City for the past five years and as the First Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Virginia for four and two years as the President of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. She also served as the Vice President of Arlington and Alexandria City.

Since 1986, she has been the owner of Blue Horizons Travel Inc, that arranges corporate travel services. Before that, she worked as a lobbyist and PAC director for several trade associations in Washington. She holds a Political Science degree from The George Washington University with a minor in Journalism.



Anu Sahai—First Vice President (LWVFA)

Anu Sahai has been a league member since 2016 and served as Co-President of the Fairfax Area league where she currently co-chairs action and advocacy. She has also served two years as First Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. She has represented the League LWV thrice as a delegate at the United Nations–Commission on the Status of Women and was instrumental in the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County passing a resolution endorsing the provisions and best practices of the Convention Eliminating all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Anu has a BA in Economics from Delhi University and a degree in Law from the Faculty of Law, Delhi University. She worked in Legal Aid for several years in India before coming to America in 1991; she worked in Immigration law from 1992 until 1999. Anu has been a discussion leader and a moderator at the candidahts. te forums. She feels very strongly about voter suppression and women's rig



Second Vice President—Erni Bridges (LWVFA)

Erni Bridges was born and raised in Newport News, Virginia, by an amazing close family that believed in giving back to their community... always. Erni attended an HBCU (Norfolk State University), majoring in Sociology. As a former military spouse, she lived in Europe for over 15 years, where she

volunteered many hours for the American Red Cross, Army Community Service Centers (supporting families), Officers Wives Club (President) and the Army War College.

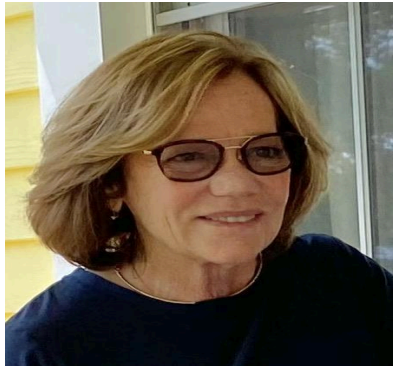
Professionally, Erni worked as the Vice President of HR for a custom publishing company with offices in Washington, DC and in New York City. Wanting to give back to her community as in her youth, a few weeks after retiring, Erni joined the Fairfax League in 2018 where she quickly became involved in registering high school voters. In 2019, Erni was elected to the state League board, where she developed and administered the Intern and the Youth Council Programs.



Andrianne Kostas-Salvette—Treasurer (LWVFA)

Andrianne has served as Membership Director of the League of Women Voters of Virginia from 2018 to 2021. She has served two years as LWV of Virginia Treasurer. She is a member of LWV of the Fairfax Area, where she serves as an observer for Fairfax County Public School's Advisory Committee on Disability Services and authored their "Virginia's Cannabis Legislation" study.

She is a chief/assistant chief officer of elections and volunteers with her P.T.A. auditing, creating budgets, coordinating events, and supporting teacher wellness. She owns Bloom Impact, a floral design business in Northern Virginia. Andrienne received her B.A. in International Affairs from James Madison University and her M.B.A. from the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business with focus on accounting and marketing. She served as an Agroforestry Extension Agent Volunteer for the Peace Corps in Cameroon from 2006-2008. She is a mother of two and can be seen at ERA rallies with her husband.



Kathleen Montgomery— Secretary (LWVPWF)

Kathleen holds a PhD in Sociology from New York University. She is Professor Emerita and Professor of the Graduate Division of the University of California, Riverside, and has held visiting scholar appointments at the Universities of Oxford, Sydney, Stanford, and UCLA. She is an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and was named UCR's Distinguished Emerita in 2023.

Kathleen has been active with the League of Women Voters at the local, state, and national levels. She served for five years on the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Orange Coast (CA). After moving to Virginia in 2024, she joined the League of Women Voters of Prince William-Fauquier Area (VA). Her roles with the state and national League of Women Voters include serving several years as a LWVUS delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, as a panel moderator at the LWV National Convention, and as a representative of her local League to the State Convention.

Directors:



Evette Barton (LWVCA)

Evette is a dedicated leader and advocate for DEI. She has served on the Board of the League of Women Voters of Virginia for the past two years. She focuses on policy reform and creating more inclusive communities.

Her academic background in sociology, education, and criminal justice has provided her with a broad understanding of societal dynamics and effective strategies for community engagement. These fields have equipped her to design and implement initiatives that foster positive, lasting change.

She is also the author of "Finding Strength in the Shadows: A 90-Day Affirmation Journal for Healing."



Barbara Boardman (LWVFA)

Dr. Barbara Boardman, received her medical training at Temple University and Harvard School of Public Health. She did her internship in Pediatrics at Weill-Cornell Medical Center and a residency in Pediatrics at the Boston Medical Center and a residency in Preventive Medicine at Harvard Public Health.

She is Board Certified with the American Society of Pediatrics and has served the Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Pediatrics as co-organizer of their state lobby day 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, co-chair of advocacy from 2020-2024 and has been a Medical Society of Virginia Pediatric delegate from 2019-2024.



Janet Boyd (LWVAAC)

Janet Boyd is an attorney and lives in Arlington, Virginia, with her husband, Rob, and two young cats, brothers Cisco and Poncho. Janet has served as Chief for the Glencarlyn Precinct for over 25 years. Since April 2020, she has served on the LWV-VA Board as Director of Voter Services, and assisted in preparing two elections related Studies: Election Position (2021) and Money In Politics (2023). Since 2022, she has served as a co-leader of the Voting & Elections Issue Group. Janet is a member of the League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City. She has been a member of the LWVUS Lobby Corps. She has served two terms as a director of the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

Prior to retiring in 2019, Janet worked as a tax and political compliance attorney and lobbied Congress and the Administration (both for Dow and as a partner in the law firm of Akin, Gump, in Washington DC).



Donelda (Donnie) Carson (LWVSHR)

While she grew up in Michigan, Virginia has been home for nearly 50 years. As a (retired) clergy spouse, she raised 2 children in parsonages from the Blue Ridge to Tidewater. Donnie discovered the League of Women Voters when they moved to Smithfield during Covid shutdown and Donnie needed to find a community where she could invest her energy to engage voters in a purposeful way.

With a BS in biology from Central Michigan University and an MEd from James Madison University, being a middle school teacher and later a reading specialist were the bookends of her career. In between, she was an engineer with DuPont, a bank teller, a child care provider, and an office manager.



Frances (Fran) Eckenrode (LWVRMA)

Fran Eckenrode is a native Virginian who left the state early in her working life and returned to Virginia in 2021 to enjoy a moderate climate. After retiring from corporate life, she joined the LWV of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and served on the Board in various positions including co-president. Fran enjoyed a career in Pharmaceutical Chemistry R & D and currently teaches pharmaceutical manufacturing and regulatory science for Purdue University in a program that serves Sub-Saharan Africa. Her interests include public health and voter education, and she enjoys ballroom dancing and gardening. Fran earned a BS in Pharmacy from VCU and a PhD in Medicinal and Natural Products Chemistry from the University of Iowa. She is a licensed Pharmacist in Virginia.



Fiona Morris (LWVWA)

Fiona Morris is from Cary, Illinois, and is a student at the College of William & Mary, studying public health and government. At William & Mary, she is a part of the Washington D.C Summer Institute Cohort, the Leadership Accelerator Program, Innocence Project, a literacy tutor with the Arc of Greater Williamsburg, and a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. Passionate about civic engagement and health policy, she became involved with her League of Women Voters, advocating for voter education and community empowerment. Now, she serves on the youth council, where she works to amplify young voices in policy discussions and promote civic engagement amongst her peers.

Additionally, she is furthering this mission by starting a local chapter at her college, aiming to engage students in nonpartisan political activism. Through this initiative, she aims to increase voter turnout among young people and foster informed discussions on key policy issues.

Furthermore, Fiona has worked with nonpartisan organizations in the past to advance political awareness.



Jane Newell (LWVRMA)

Jane Newell served as President of the Richmond Metro League for the 2021-2023 term. Since joining the LWV in 2017, she has worked on the Election Laws study team, founded an election modernization discussion group, joined several issue groups, and served on the Richmond Metro board.

Jane's career encompassed a wide variety of technology and project management positions in government, banking, energy, and technology sectors as well as volunteer positions in organizations such as the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and in Project Management Institute chapters.

Jane holds a Master of Science degree in Computer Science from George Washington University, a Bachelors in Mathematics Education from Virginia Tech, and has held PMI's Project Management Professional (PMP) certification since 2001. Jane retired from the Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA) in 2017.



Phoebe Scarborough (LWVAAC)

Phoebe is a rising senior in the Honors College at Virginia Tech. She is a student ambassador for her major, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE). With the League, she has served as a member of the Youth Council with a special interest in voter education and fighting the spread of misinformation. She works on the Rumor Radar of our partner site, VerbaAI. She is a member of LWV Arlington and Alexandria City but is working with LWV Montgomery County to start a student chapter at Tech.



Alice Tousignant (LWVRMA)

Alice Tousignant has spent her career working on expanding and advocating for affordable housing and ending homelessness. She is retired from Virginia Supportive Housing where she served as executive director for over 16 years. Alice serves on the League of Women Voters-VA Board and is the LWV-VA Program Chair. She also Chairs the LWV-VA Affordable Housing Committee and the LWV-Richmond Metro Affordable Housing Committee. Alice holds a Masters of Social Work from VCU. She has been a member of the LWV VA Board for two years.

Nominating Committee:



Priscilla Godfrey (LWVLC) —Chair

Priscilla Godfrey has been a member of the LWV Loudoun County chapter since 2014. She is also a past president of this organization. She has been involved at the state level with the WLRTs, the Education Funding Group and the Voter Services Group. In her spare time, she makes and exhibits quilts locally and around the country. A few years ago she had the opportunity to experience the national convention in Washington, D.C.



Susan Bivins (LWVWA)

Susan Bivins is in her third year as President of the Williamsburg Area League of Women Voters. She's a Virginia native and Virginia attorney and retired as a civilian for the Department of the Army in 2018. She has two sons, two grandchildren, and two cats.



Margaret Heubeck (LWVCVA)

Since 2004, Meg has been a Director of Instruction of the Youth Leadership Initiative at the nonpartisan civic education unit of University of Virginia Center for Politics.

She is a graduate of the University of Virginia, Curry School of Education with an M.Ed. in Curriculum, Towson University, Concentration in Urban education Masters of Arts in Teaching and Randolph-Macon College, major in history, minor in studio art Bachelor of Arts.

In addition to her work in the League, where she served as President of the LWV of the Charlottesville area, she serves as President of the Advisory Board of the Mediation Center of Charlottesville.

Program

Proposed Right to Vote Position

Added language is highlighted

Deleted language is ~~stricken through~~

FINAL DRAFT RIGHT TO VOTE POSITION

Table of Contents

GOVERNMENT

.....	4
Affirmation of Right to Vote.....	4
Delegation of Power.....	4
Election Laws.....	5
Fiscal Policy.....	11
Money in Politics.....	13
Reapportionment and Redistricting.....	14
Transportation.....	15
Women's Rights in Virginia Law.....	15
NATURAL RESOURCES.....	17
Air Quality.....	17
Environmental Justice.....	18
Extractive Industries: Hydraulic Fracturing; Uranium Mining.....	19
Land Use.....	23
Water Supply and Distribution.....	24

SOCIAL	
POLICY.....	26
Adult Domestic Violence	
.....	26 Adult
Justice.....	
.....	26 Affordable
Housing.....	29
Child Care	
.....	3
1 Children at	
Risk.....	33
Education.....	
.....	34 Juvenile
Justice.....	
.39 Behavioral	
Health.....	41
[Civil] Rights of Felons in Virginia	
.....	43 Offender Re-entry
.....	44 Local
News Concurrence	45
 PRINCIPLES.....	 46

p. 4 Affirmation of Right to Vote

Position in Brief

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes voting is an inherent and fundamental human right to be exercised in the Commonwealth by its adult citizens. This inalienable right should not be abridged by law, except while persons are incarcerated after being convicted of a felony or for persons who have been adjudicated to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting. The right to vote is foundational to democracy and the right from which all other rights flow.

Position

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, "Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world; Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his

country, directly or through freely chosen representatives; The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.”

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia also believes that the right to vote is an inherent and fundamental human right. Because democracies draw their authority from the will of their adult citizens, exercise of this inalienable right should be guaranteed by law except under very limited circumstances. The right to vote must never be held hostage for payment of fines or fees or any other unrelated matter. Exercise of the right to vote may be suspended

a) while a person is incarcerated after being convicted of a felony, but should be restored immediately and automatically upon release, or

b) if a court has specifically examined evidence and explicitly ruled that a person does not have the capacity to understand the act of voting.

P. 5 Election Laws; Position in Brief

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations and administrative procedures should be uniformly designed and applied, and adequately funded to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia. The League believes the fundamental right to vote should be protected in the Constitution of Virginia.(2025)

The League further believes that democratic government, at the state, as well as federal, levels depend upon the voters’ faith in the integrity of

election processes and election outcomes. Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Virginia supports election laws, policies, and funding to ensure that elections are secure and the outcomes verified. Specifically, the League supports measures to ensure the availability of voter registration and to encourage and facilitate increased voter participation in elections, including: absentee voting by mail and in-person without having to provide a reason; an adequate number of voting machines and trained election officers; the use of satellite voting; split shifts for election officers when needed; online voter registration; the use of electronic poll books; and measures that take advantage of technological advances, as long as they are secure. (2011, 2015, 2021, 2025)

....

p.11 Election Laws; Voter Access (2021, 2025)

- LWV-VA supports the fundamental right to vote and supports measures that seek to enhance voter access and voter participation. Equally, LWV-VA opposes measures that seek to infringe on this fundamental right or create barriers to voters casting ballots. Voter suppression efforts can include but are not limited to: manipulation of the registration process; policies that make voting difficult, time consuming or dangerous; ~~felon~~ **felony disenfranchisement; disenfranchisement of those who have been adjudicated to retain the right to vote despite mental incompetence;** disenfranchisement of those with the mental capacity to understand voting and disinformation that confuses voters or discourages them from casting their vote. These examples have changed over time and will

continue to evolve. Thus, Leagues across the Commonwealth should monitor activities and adapt accordingly.

- The LWV-VA opposes the requirement that a voter present a photo ID at any voting location ~~place~~ in order to be able to vote.
- The LWV-VA supports the review of all election laws and regulations to ensure that measures do not infringe on the right to vote nor unduly burden or restrict the rights of individuals or groups, as was previously required under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

P. 41 Behavioral Health

Position in Brief:

Support for comprehensive behavioral ~~healthcare~~ ~~health-care~~ that includes both mental ~~health~~ ~~illness~~ and substance use disorder.

- Access for all people to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral ~~healthcare~~ ~~health-care~~, including needed medications and supportive services.
- Coordination of comprehensive and integrated care among Health and Human Services (specifically Behavioral Health) and other state departments such as Medical Assistance Services (Medicaid), Public Safety (re-entry planning, identification of behavioral health needs in jails/prisons, patient's rights, substance abuse, and drug/mental health courts), Housing (Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing), and Education (health education from early childhood through adult). These agencies must provide this care along with a focus on community-based services such as Community Service Boards (CSBs).
- Realignment of the funding equation so that a higher proportion of funds go to CSBs rather than state institutions. This will result in more cost-effective care that is more responsive to client's needs.
- Adequate funds and other incentives to ensure sufficient trained staff at all levels of service.
- Continued efforts to decrease the stigmatization of behavioral health problems and care.

The League's History

At its 1985 convention, the LWV-VA adopted a two-year study of mental health services in Virginia. As a first step, in March 1986, the League prepared a document describing the public mental ~~healthcare~~ health care system in Virginia; its history, organization, financing, and clients. A second resource document was distributed in December 1986 dealing with goals for the ~~behavioral~~ mental health system, who the system should serve, factors for use in allocating state funds to communities, and a statewide comprehensive management information system.

Additional issues warranting study, identified during the first two years, resulted in a two-year extension by the 1987 convention delegates. In March 1988 a resource document on involuntary civil commitment and patients' rights was ~~released~~ issued. Issues of the 1988 and 1989 Virginia Voter provided resource material on housing for the mentally ill and on organization, management, personnel and hospitalization issues.

At its 2017 convention, the LWV-Virginia approved a study to update ~~to~~ its existing ~~behavioral~~ mental health position, adopted in 1987 and 1989, that would also integrate the current language of the LWVUS Behavioral Health Position adopted at the 2016 LWVUS Convention. "Behavioral health" is today's nationally recognized terminology. It includes both mental illness and substance use disorder.

The League's Position

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the goals of the state's behavioral health care system should provide:

- A. Access, Diagnosis, and Integration of Care Access for all Virginians with behavioral health issues (including opioid abuse) to early, affordable and timely community-based in-patient and out-patient care and diagnosis including:
 - Case management, counseling, care-coordination services and medication management
 - Behavioral health care for Virginians that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care

- Community-based and family-focused behavioral health screening, diagnosis and treatment for children and adolescents in Virginia
- Community Service Boards (CSBs) that reduce wait time for services by adopting “same day access/assessment” statewide, sharing best practices and hiring more licensed behavioral health providers
- An alternative transportation model to reduce demands on law enforcement for transporting patients to hospitals
- Expansion of tele-mental health infrastructure, especially for rural counties
- Vocational services to promote self-sufficiency and a positive self-image

B. Diversion from The Criminal Justice System

The League acknowledges that there is an intersection between behavioral health and the criminal justice systems. Accordingly, we urge implementation of the following:

- Behavioral health screening of jail inmates

- Specialty behavioral health and drug courts and dockets in all judicial districts in an effort to decriminalize addiction related arrests
- Therapeutic drop-off centers
- Expansion of Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) programs
- Decriminalizing the reporting of overdoses or drug abuse so friends and family do not fear retribution
- Civil commitment procedures that provide the client with legal counsel and treatment
- Training about the nature and treatment of mental health illness and related issues for justice system personnel involved in civil commitment in Virginia
- Excluding from the death penalty those who suffer from a behavioral health crisis
- Excluding from the death penalty those who suffer from a serious mental illness at the time of their crime

C. Housing

The League recognizes the need for affordable and permanent supportive community-based housing and residential services. These services would enable Virginians with a wide-range of behavioral

health needs to live as independently as possible in their home communities. Some required initiatives are:

- Enhanced funds for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund
- Private/public partnerships to obtain housing for ~~the mentally ill~~ people with behavioral health conditions
- Consider a waiver for Medicaid to pay for counseling for housing options
- Establish tax credits or other financial incentives for landlords and developers who build affordable housing, and local government policies that increase affordable housing stock
- Provide training in independent living skills
- Offer case management which will coordinate needs for food, clothing, and medical care for those in housing to include homeless shelters

D. Behavioral Health Workforce Development

The League urges the Commonwealth to adopt the following practices to correct high turnover, insufficient staffing, and inadequate training:

- Sufficient qualified and well-trained staff in public and private settings, at all levels, from certified peer specialists to psychiatrists
- Promotion of full use of internet technology for communications and secure information sharing
- Enhancement of pay scales for providers in state institutions to compensate for dealing with challenging patients

E. Opioid Abuse

The League recognizes that the resolution of the opioid crisis requires cooperation among community stakeholders such as CSBs, law enforcement (see Section B -Diversion from Criminal Justice), and non-profit organizations. We urge educational programs that de-stigmatize addiction. The league supports:

- Treatment and Recovery

- Reducing overdose deaths by increasing access for first-responders and laypersons to medications that counteract opioids
 - Expanding the use of research-based, medication-assisted treatments (MAT) as part of a recovery program to counteract addiction
- Reducing the supply of both prescription and illicit opioids
 - Prevention and Education
 - Encouraging non-pharmacological research and improved training for medical professionals in pain management
- Promoting of proper storage and disposal of prescription drugs
 - Monitoring the prescription and distribution of opioids
 - Establishing effective health education programs in schools and community organizations to educate students, parents and community leaders on the dangers of opioid abuse and how to recognize the signs of addiction
 - Health education from early childhood throughout life that integrates all aspects of social, emotional and physical health and wellness.

F. Financing

LWV-VA supports the continuing partnership between federal, state, and local governments in financing behavioral health programs and services as follows:

- Use Medicaid as an important component of funding along with money from the state's general funds and from local communities
- Undertake a gradual fiscal realignment of the current behavioral health system so that a higher percentage of funds will be allocated to CSBs. (STEP-VA)
- Provide full funding to enable all 40 CSBs to provide "same day access" and primary care screening
- Allocate funds for schools (K-12 and college) and public health departments to work with CSBs in coordinating diagnosis and treatment

- Provide additional resources for first-responders to better respond to an emergency situation that involves opioids
- Align DMAS and DBHDS so that services will be managed using standardized managed care practices and data reporting tools.

G. Voting

LWV-VA supports the preservation of the right to vote for all who understand the act of voting. This determination should be based on evidence and made by a court of competent jurisdiction.

p.43 *Social Justice*; [Civil] Rights of Felons in Virginia (formerly Restoration of Civil Rights of Felons

Position in Brief:

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the civil rights of **all those convicted of a felony** felons, regardless of the nature of their crime, should be restored automatically upon their release from incarceration ~~or upon completion of probation or parole~~ and that the process should be easy to understand, accessible, transparent and fair with information about the process made available to all.

The League's Position

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that:

- The civil rights of **those convicted of a felony** felons in Virginia should be restored automatically ~~either~~ upon their release from incarceration ~~or upon completion of probation and parole~~. (2025)
- The procedure should be identical for all **convicted of a felony**, felons regardless of the nature of their crime.
- The process should be easy to understand, accessible, transparent and fair • Information about the process should be available to **all those convicted of a felony** felons, the justice-judicial and-correction correctional systems, ~~system~~ and the general public. (2009)

Recommended Program Study: Update on Women's Rights Position

LWV SHR Request

The LWV-VA position on [Women's Rights in Virginia Law](#) **Pow** is out of date and yet, the legal protection of women's rights feels very precarious. The LWVSHR recommends that a state study group be formed to archive those parts of the position that have long since become law and to consider whether there are any other areas of Virginia law affecting that are lacking. The study group may also wish to consider how "marriage" and "women" are defined since this is no longer as clear-cut as it was in 1979.

A study of women's rights and Virginia law was adopted at the 1979 Virginia Convention and expanded in 1981. In 2013 it was noted that many of the League's recommendations outlined in this position had been accomplished through legislation. In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that state-level bans on same-sex marriage were unconstitutional. The 2017 Convention adopted a study to update the position, and in 2019 the Convention added a statement opposing sexual harassment but did not address the older parts of the position. In 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA, but, despite the required number of state ratifications, the federal government has taken no action to acknowledge the ERA as the 28th Amendment.

The legal rights of women in Virginia are relevant to several Issue Groups. **Reproductive Health** and **Domestic and Gun Violence Prevention** are obviously impacted, but there also may be connections to **Affordable Housing, Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice, Child Care, Education, and Physical Health**. LWVSHR hopes that there will be volunteers from Issue Groups interested in working on this update. Since women's rights are an issue of equal importance to all local Leagues, we hope there will be widespread support for this study.

Is the position still relevant? ***Not in its present form.***

Is the position applicable to current public policy issues or concerns? ***Not in its present form.***

Have circumstances changed? **Yes.**

Are there new laws that impact this position? **Yes.**

Do members still understand and agree with this position? ***Not in its present form.***

Will LWV-VA goals be achieved with a position on this issue? ***The affected issue groups indicate these are important League concerns.***

Can the issue be resolved by government action? At what level? ***Yes, at state and federal.***

Does the League already have a position at any level that could address the issue? ***LWVUS: Public Policy on Reproductive Choices; Equality of Opportunity;***

Can the League's involvement make a difference? ***Yes.***

Is there enough enthusiasm for the topic? ***We believe so.***

Do we have the resources (both monetary and human) to work on it? ***Yes***

Proposed Operating Fund Budget FY 2026

	FY 2024/2025 Budget	Actuals as of April 7	DRAFT FY 2025/2026 Budget	Notes
REVENUES				
Affiliations				
MAL Units/Individuals Dues	\$ 536.00	\$ 265.40	\$ 4,000.00	we will still invoice for PMP as well as receive directly from LWV-US
LL Membership Dues	\$ 23,776.00	\$ 18,054.77	\$ 41,000.00	
Shared Insurance	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.12	\$ 866.33	
Donations				
Members	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 504.50	\$ 1,000.00	Members can donate easily while renewing their
Nonmembers/Businesses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 189.42	\$ 1,000.00	
Ware Sales	\$ 500.00	-	\$ 200.00	
Statewide Meetings				
LWV-VA Convention (odd years)	\$ -	\$ 3,214.83	\$ -	
LWV-VA Council (even years)	\$ 7,000.00	-	\$ 2,000.00	Virtual - zoom (if we have any programing outside of zoom)
WLRT/League Day	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 2,876.31	\$ 4,000.00	
Presession		\$ 170.05	\$ -	Virtual
LWV-VA Ed Fund Expense Reimbursement	\$ 1,305.00		\$ 1,160.30	Rev-up pays us a nominal fee of \$50 to cover taxes, +
Internet Web Hosting	\$ 200.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 200.00	
Video Conferencing (Zoom)	\$ 900.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 900.00	
Local League Loan Program	-	-	\$ 5,000.00	This is a zero-interest rate loan that will help leagues
Miscellaneous		\$ 3.28		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 42,217.00	\$ 25,878.68	\$ 61,326.63	
EXPENSES				
Board & Administrative				
Administrative Committees	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	
Membership & MAL Unit Organization	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	to help with rebuilding Roanoke and the expansion of
BOD Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,068.88	\$ 2,000.00	
LL Liaisons, Travel, & Support	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 49.05	\$ 800.00	
President	\$ 500.00	\$ 493.37	\$ 1,000.00	
DEI	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	design and production for T-shirts or other wares
Public Relations/Media/Editor/Social media	\$ 200.00		\$ 500.00	We need to pay for boosting posts. Many of our posts
Secretary/Treasurer	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00	
Office Operations				
Office Support/Data Entry	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,184.58	\$ 12,000.00	\$2184.58 is the expense related to updating the
Equipment Purchase & Repair	\$ 750.00		\$ 2,900.00	if we get someone to do data entry, we will need to
Equipment Supplies & Desktop Software				Canva renewal
General Copying /Printing				
General Supplies & Postage	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,514.88	\$ 1,000.00	
Insurance	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 2,693.00	\$ 3,448.00	
Internet tools/services/phone/zoom	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 3,204.64	\$ 6,500.00	Zoom-\$1,632.18 + Google
Office Rent and utilities	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,400.00	
State Corporation Fee/Solicitation Fee	\$ 150.00	\$ 39.80	\$ 150.00	
Other Design, Printing & Publications			\$ 400.00	
PayPal Fees	\$ 150.00	\$ 46.42	\$ 150.00	
In-Kind Offset	\$ (2,355.00)	\$ (933.29)	\$ (755.63)	
Donation Solicitation	\$ 250.00	\$ 174.75	\$ 500.00	
Special Events -LL Loan Program			\$ 5,000.00	
Wares Purchases	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,300.00	
LWV Meetings				
LWV-VA Convention (odd years)	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 55.65	\$ -	
LWV-VA Council (even years)	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Presession			\$ 550.00	
LWVNCA BOD Annual Convention & Worksh	\$ 300.00		\$ -	
LWV-VA LL Presidents Meeting			\$ 400.00	If you decide to do an in-person meeting
LWVUS Convention (even years)	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 5,500.00	
LWVUS Council (odd years)		\$ 1,568.00		
Position Support				
Intern Program	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,400.00	
Advocacy & Action Coordination			\$ 2,436.00	Part take in Valentines at Capitol or other events
Coalition Dues/Meetings	\$ 500.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 500.00	
Legislative Coordinator/Lobbyist	\$ 200.00		\$ 600.00	
WLRT/League Day	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,217.25	\$ 5,500.00	
Miscellaneous		\$ 102.00		PayPal Fees etc.
Final PMP LWVUS	\$ 1,072.00	\$ 1,040.00	\$ 448.26	We had lower MAL numbers this past January.
Transfer to/from /Checking or Savings				
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 43,317.00	\$ 24,473.98	\$ 61,326.63	
			\$ -	

NOTES:
The Operating Fund Budget committee (Jane Newell, Liz Schaffer, Jerry Wirth, Janet Boyd, Andrianne Konstas, and Joan Porte) met in March to discuss and devise the draft budget for FY 2025/2026.

<i>Draft Ed Fund Budget For Review Only- to be voted on by Board in July</i>			
	FY 2025	Actuals as of April 1	Draft Budget FY 2026
REVENUES			
Bequests & Memorials			
Donations			
Members	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 14,922.46	\$ 8,000.00
Nonmembers	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 9,381.74	\$ 3,000.00
Grant LWV US - Make Dem		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Grant LWV US - Returning			\$ 750.00
Grantn LWV US - High			\$ 750.00
Grant LWV US - New Citizen			\$ 750.00
Misc	\$ 100.00	\$ 350.50	
Trainings	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 486.00	
Total	\$16,100.00	\$ 29,140.70	\$ 28,250.00
EXPENSES			
Administrative Expenses			
Reimburse Admin Expense	\$2,475.00	104.17	\$ 1,000.00
Bank Fees (Ck printing)	\$ 100.00	\$ 155.00	\$200.00
State Corp.	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
PayPal Fees	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 100.00
Development		2748.29	\$1,000.00
Educational Activities		\$ 1,020.00	
Democracy Truth Grant		\$ 2,450.00	
Making Democracy Work		\$ 1,867.67	
LWV-VA Studies	\$ 300.00		
Save Act			\$ 7750.00
LWV-US Studies			
Scholarship for Members	\$ 600.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 600.00
Trainings	\$ 5500.00		
Other Projects: DEI	\$ 500.00		\$ 1000.00
Voters Service Activities			
Informational Voters Service	\$ 5000.00		\$2,500.00
State Candidate Debates	\$ 2500.00		\$5,000.00
Vote411	\$ 2500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6000.00
Consultant /Printing			\$ 2000.00
Voter Service Coordination	\$ 250.00		0
Voter Protection	\$ 250.00		\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 20,375.00	\$ 14,445.13	\$ 28,250.00
In-Kind Offset	(\$ 4000.00)		\$ 0.00
Transfer to/from Savings	(\$ 275.00)		
EXPENSES	\$ 16,100.00	\$ 14,445.13	\$ 28,250.00

This was for a rush printing, will not be the case in the future

League of Women Voters of Virginia

Number of Delegates Allowed Per League

As of Jan 31, 2025

Number of Delegates Per League—for June 2025 Convention in Fredericksburg area

Local League	League Type	Active	Delegates
VA 100 LWV of Charlottesville Area	Local	133	7
VA 102 LWV of Arlington and Alexandria City	Local	281	13
VA 103 LWV of Fairfax Area	Local	519	23
VA 104 LWV of Loudoun County	Local	47	4
VA 105 LWV of Richmond Metro	Local	148	8
VA 106 LWV of Lynchburg	Local	43	4
VA 108 LWV of Montgomery County	Local	119	7
VA 112 LWV of Falls Church	Local	72	5
VA 114 LWV of South Hampton Roads	Local	118	7
VA 116 LWV of the Prince William-Fauquier	Local	58	4
VA 121 LWV of Williamsburg	Local	285	13
VA 129 LWV of Washington County	Local	38	4
VA 135 LWV of Fredericksburg Area	Local	31	3
VA 136 LWV of the Northern Shenandoah Valley	Local	58	4
VA 000 LWV Virginia	State	18	1

Convention Committees 2025

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to serve on a Convention Committee. It takes a good deal of work to pull off a Convention, and their assistance is crucial.

Budget Committee:

Janet Boyd (LWVAAC) - Chair, Andrianne Kostas-Salvette, (LWVFA) - *Ex officio* - Treasurer, Jane Newell (LWVRMA), Liz Scheffler (LWVAAC), Jerry Wirth (LWVNSV)

Credentials Committee:

Fran Eckenrode (LWVRMA) - Chair, Lisa Hilgartner (LWVCVA)

Election Committee:

Jane Hill (LWVWC) - Chair, Miriam Fleitman (LWVCVA) and Kathleen O'Hara (LWVFC)

Minutes Readers for 2025 Convention:

Linda Laurence (LWVFC), Karen Siracusa (LWVWA), Carol Proven (LWVPWF)

Nominating Committee:

Les Solomon (LWVWA) Chair - Carolyn Caywood (LWVSHR), Mary Crutchfield (LWVRMA)

Board appointees- Anu Sahai (LWVFA), Erni Bridges (LWVFA)

Registration Team:

Chris De Rosa (LWVAAC), Connie Potter (LWVAAC), Anu Sahai (LWVFA)

Resolutions Committee:

Susan Bivins (LWVWA) Chair, Kim Harris (LWVCVA), and Pamela Berg (LWVAAC)

Standing Rules Committee:

Dede Goldsmith (LWVWC) - Chair, Nancy Priddy (LWVRMA)

Timers:

Saturday - Abby Anderson (LWVWA), Priscilla Godfrey (LWVLC)

Sunday - Kathleen Montgomery (LWVPWF) Karen Griffin (LWVFB)

Workbook Committee:

Kristina Savage (LWVVA), Mia Nicholson (LWVVA) —Youth Council Members

Thank you to Victoria Mathews of the Fredericksburg Economic and Tourist Board for her help in setting up programs and providing materials.

Right to Vote Position Study Committee

League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City,

Chris DeRosa, Lisa Koteen Gerchick and Liz Scheffler

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

Deb Wake, Chair, Arina van Breda

League of Women Voters - Roanoke Unit

Shirley Everett

League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads

Carolyn Caywood

League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area

Patricia Evers-Black, Linda Rice, Karen Siracusa

Issue Group Leaders

- Affordable Housing: Alice Tousignant
- Child Care: Maria Posey
- Education: V. Denise Harrington
- Environment: Carolyn Caywood
- Electoral College Abolition Task Force:
- Domestic and Gun Violence Prevention: Christine Payne (Acting)
- Mis/Disinformation Task Force—Liz Scheffler and Nancy Tate
- Physical Health Task Force—Mimi Bender and Stephanie Lowenhaupt
- Redistricting: Chris DeRosa
- Reproductive Health: Sara Dalton (Acting)
- Transparency: Carolyn Caywood
- Voting & Elections Janet Boyd, Lisa Koteen Gerchick

Sign up for issue groups here: <https://my.lwv.org/virginia/issue-groups>

Webmaster:

Nancy Priddy (LWVRMA)

Newsletter Editor:

Debbie Churchman (LWVAAC)

Parliamentarian:



Donald Garrett is a Professional Registered Parliamentarian based in the Northern Virginia / DC-Metropolitan Area. He combines his experience with analysis and member engagement with an expert command of *Robert's Rules of Order* to provide [accurate and timely advice](#) to organizations of all sizes. His personal touch puts clients at ease as they navigate through prickly meetings and confusing motions.

Professional Memberships

- Professional Registered Parliamentarian, National Association of Parliamentarians (2014-Present)
- Committee on Organizational Excellence Chairman, National Association of Parliamentarians (2019-Present)
- Board of Directors, Virginia State Association of Parliamentarians (2016-Present)
- Member, National Association of Parliamentarians (2009-Present)
- Youth Judge and Mentor, Future Business Leaders of America (2012-Present)
- Chief Election Officer, appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Elections (2012-Present)

Our Speakers



Kerry B Devine, Mayor of Fredericksburg, VA

A native of New York, Kerry has resided in Fredericksburg, Virginia since graduating from the University of Mary Washington. She is a mother of four and a Social Studies Teacher. She currently teaches in Stafford County.

Kerry served on the Fredericksburg City School Board from 1996-2004. She has served on the Fredericksburg City Council since 2004. As a member of the City Council she serves on the Fredericksburg Clean and Green Commission, the Arts Commission, Central Rappahannock Regional

Library Board and the Fredericksburg Regional Alliance.



Dr. Stephen Farnsworth, Professor and Director, Center for Leadership and Media Studies, Mary Washington University

Dr. Farnsworth is a sought-after political commentator on subjects ranging from presidential politics to the local Virginia congressional races.

He is author or co-author of seven books on presidential communication. His work, "Presidential Communication and Character: White House News Management from Clinton and Cable to Twitter and Trump," examines how the last four U.S. presidents sell themselves and their policies in an

ever-expanding and sometimes precarious media environment.

Among his other books are "The Global President;" "Spinner in Chief: How Presidents Sell Their Policies and Themselves;" "The Nightly News Nightmare: Media Coverage of U.S. Presidential Elections, 1988-2008;" "The Mediated Presidency: Television News and

Presidential Governance;" "Political Support in a Frustrated America;" and "Late Night With Trump: Political Humor and the American Presidency."

A professor at University of Mary Washington for nearly two decades, he established the University's Center for Leadership and Media Studies. He is recipient of the 2017 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award by the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV), and was recognized for his service to the national political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha. The University has bestowed four teaching honors, including the Alumni Association Outstanding Young Faculty Member Award, the Mary W. Pinschmidt Teaching Award, the Richard Palmieri Outstanding Professor Award and the Waple Research Professorship Award. He received his Ph.D. from Georgetown University.

Dr. Jatia Wrighten, *Assistant Professor of Political Science, Virginia Commonwealth University*



Dr. Wrighten conducts research on Black women, state legislatures, and leadership, with an emphasis on intersectionality. She created the novel theory, the Heavy Lifters Theory, to explain the primary differences between Black male and Black female legislators as it relates to leadership in state legislatures. She continues to research and provide instruction that emphasizes themes of equity, justice, and political effects for the most marginalized groups in the United States as an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in the Political Science Department. Jatia uses her degree to teach and serve as a mentor to a future generation of scholars.



Michelle Moffit, *Director of Civic Engagement, Virginia Civic Engagement Table*

Michelle Moffit serves as the Director of Civic Engagement for the Virginia Civic Engagement Table (VCET), leading the organization's program and policy work. She is a native

Virginian from Salem with over a decade of experience in campaign and advocacy spaces. After working her first campaign at 21, she found passion and purpose in electoral politics. She worked three caucus states for Hillary Clinton, a priority target DCCC race in Nebraska's famed second congressional district, then returned back home to the mountains that raised her. Working in the top legislative district in 2017, her field program secured a decisive victory; here, a filmmaker followed the campaign, resulting in the [Virginia 12th documentary](#). Her campaign work continued through 2020's presidential primary followed by a mayoral race before landing at VCET in 2021.

Michelle prides herself on her humor, leaning on that to form authentic bonds and partnerships within the Virginia progressive community. She lives in Richmond's Church Hill neighborhood with her partner and their crew of rescue animals.

Tracy Adkison, *National Board Member, League of Women Voters of the United States*



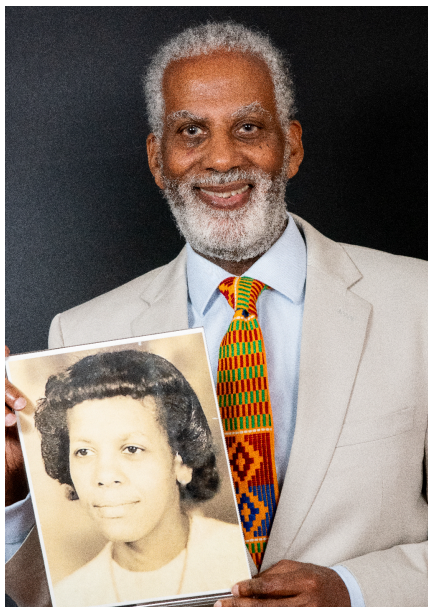
Tracy Adkison is a national community leader and advocate. By trade, she is an award-winning project & asset manager. She is a member of the Project Management Institute.

Tracy made history by being elected the first African American president of the League of Women Voters of Georgia. Before that she was on the Board of the League of Women Voters Atlanta/Fulton.

She was appointed to the LWVUS & EF Board in 2022 and serves as the liaison with many State Leagues including League of Women Voters of Virginia.

She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Women's Agenda. Tracy has been tirelessly registering voters, hosting forums, training leaders, and forming new leagues. She served as a Ruth S. Shur Fellow, training states on leadership.

Gregory S. Cooke, M.A., Producer and Director *"Invisible Warriors: African American Women in WWII."*



Gregory is and has been having a "remarkable and blessed life." He is the director of *Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II*, a critically acclaimed documentary about 600,000 "Rosie the Riveters" who courageously triumphed over racism and sexism to create job opportunities in industry and government for themselves and future generations of Black women. His initiatives helped secure participation of Black "Rosies" at the 2024 Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington D.C.

Gregory is a 2024 recipient, President's Lifetime Achievement Award, and of the 2023/2024 Library of Congress - Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) grant. He is on the National World War II Museum advisory board: "Fighting For The Right To Fight; is an inaugural recipient of the Better Angels/Lavine/Ken Burns Fellowship (2020), and also received the Congressional Black Caucus, Veterans Braintrust Award (2019). Gregory received documentary sponsorship from the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2020)

Gregory is the Executive Producer and driving force behind the documentary, *Choc'late Soldiers from the USA (CSUSA)*, the "illuminating story" of 140,000 African American men and women who form an unexpected bond with British civilians during World War II. CSUSA received the first ever Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust Award for film in 2014, and won film awards at Indiefest and Bakersfield (2013).

Gregory has a potpourri of media highlights including providing historical commentary on *CBS Saturday Morning*, a full-page publication with photographs in the *Washington Post*, and WWII film critiques on *Turner Classic Movies (TCM)*. He has also been featured at more than 70 educational, cultural and corporate venues and has appeared on podcasts and various media outlets. Gregory is featured in *The Women of World War II* (PBS currently running); *My Father's War: How Pearl Harbor Transformed America*; *World War II Battles in Color: The Bulge* (Smithsonian).

Gregory earned his BA/English, American International College, and MA/Journalism, The Ohio State University. Gregory maintains connections with many former students, and coaches them about the Spiritual ways of “The Force.”



Val Kaiser

Val is a senior wealth advisor with decades of experience in financial services. In 2015, she and Tony Fulkerson founded EldenStreet Financial, a financial services firm that specializes in financial business and estate planning. Their focus is tailored insurance and investment solutions with ongoing monitoring to reduce risk and support wealth accumulation.

Val is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Professional and holds FINRA series 7, 63, and 65 licenses. She is an investment advisor representative with Eagle Strategies LLC and a registered representative with NYLife securities LLC.

Val and her team help clients optimize personal and business assets to enhance retirement security through tax efficient strategies. Named to the Forbes Top Financial Security Professionals Best-In State List since 2022, Val has also served on national boards, including the New York Life Agents Advisory Council. Her affiliations include the Financial Planning Association and NAIFA. She has held executive leadership roles with the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce serving as Chairman from 2019-2021 and other community organizations.

Val lives in Sterling, Virginia with her husband Bruce where they enjoy their large family of five grown children, including six grandchildren and Georgie, their Maine coon cat.

Gloria Custalow



I am Gloria Moonlight Custalow. I'm a dedicated advocate for women's equality and rights within the tribal governance of the Mattaponi Indian Reservation, located in West Point, Virginia. As a resident of the reservation, I am deeply committed to promoting the voices and rights of women in my community.

In addition to my advocacy work, I'm the owner and instructor at hair fashions beauty academy situated in Aylett, Virginia.

Inspiring others to stand up for equal rights within the tribe. My dual roles as an educator and advocate highlight my passion

for uplifting my community and ensuring that women have a fair and equal place in tribal governance.

Minutes 2023 41st Biennial Convention

League of Women Voters of Virginia

Minutes of the State Convention

Saturday, June 3, 2023

President Deb Wake called to order the State Convention Meeting, **Preserving Democracy in the 21st Century**, at the College of William & Mary, on June 3, 2023, at 8:43 a.m. Secretary Jes Davis took the minutes. President Wake welcomed convention delegates and guests. LWV of Williamsburg Area President Susan Bivins welcomed the convention delegates and gave a few short remarks on the importance of history and democracy in the context of the Colonial Williamsburg area and the College of William & Mary. She also introduced William & Mary's Provost and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Peggy Agouris. Dr. Agouris' opening keynote address focused on the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the pursuit of a stronger democracy. She shared how her role as Provost fosters an environment of rigorous and inclusive learning and the importance of democracy in that environment.

President Wake offered logistics for how delegates can vote.

President Wake called to order the Plenary session at 9:27 a.m. President Wake recognized and thanked the Convention Planning Committee for their hard work and dedication to putting together the convention. The Planning Committee members included:

- Joan Porte – chair; LWV of Arlington and Alexandria City (LWV-AAC)
- Susan Bivins – LWV of Williamsburg Area (LWV-WA)
- Erni Bridges – LWV of Fairfax Area (LWV-FA)
- Janet Boyd – LWV-AAC
- Debbie Combest – LWV of Fredericksburg Area (LWV-FRA)
- Brenda Beebe Duncan – LWV-WA
- Patricia Evers – LWV-WA
- Rochelle Kithcart – LWV-WA
- Kristy Lockhart – LWV of South Hampton Roads (LWV-SHR)

- Tracey Ray – LWV-WA
- Linda Rice – LWV-WA
- Martha Stewart – LWV-SHR
- Sudie Watkins – LWV-WA

Arlington and Alexandria City President Joan Porte reported that LWV-AAC has 245 members including the largest number of student members in Virginia and brought twelve delegates. Highlights of this past year for LWV-AAC:

- Focused on ranked choice voting this past year. Arlington was the first locality to use the Department of Elections office to implement ranked choice voting. LWV-AAC also hosted virtual training on rank choice voting.
- Active members of LWV-AAC worked to register returning citizens to vote.
- Member Krista Jones also started a podcast this past year.

Charlottesville Area President Meg Heubeck reported that LWV-CVA brought four delegates. LWV-CVA has approximately 120 members.

Highlights of this past year:

- Developed a coloring book about the League and its history.
- Members participated in the state childcare program study.
- The local issue focus this year was healthcare, particularly how transportation impacts healthcare.

Fairfax Area Co-President Katherine Ingmanson reported LWV-FA brought ten delegates. They have a total of 392 members.

Highlights of this past year:

- There are several members who are serving on the state board.
- LWV-FA celebrated its 75th anniversary in April 2023.
- Voter registration has been their focus this year. LWV-FA has registered over 1,500 new citizens and 2,000 students.

Falls Church President Kitty O'Hara reported LWV-FC brought one delegate. They have sixty-five members including four life members.

Highlights of this past year:

- Working with LWV of Fairfax Area to register new citizens.

Fredericksburg Area Debbie Combest reported LWV-FRA is a young league that was formed in 2016. They brought two delegates. They have forty-five members.

Highlights of this past year:

- High school registration has been successful this year.
- They pursued a joint venture with Germanna Community College to host a General Assembly candidate panel at the Criminal Justice Reform Forum. There was a focus on reentry of felons.

Loudoun County President Priscilla Godfrey reported LWV-LC brought two delegates. The local League has between 35 to 37 members.

Highlights of this past year:

- LWV-LC organized primary election forums with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority incorporated.
- At one high school the League registered two hundred students in one day.

Lynchburg Co-President Jennifer Gauthier reported LWV-LY brought four delegates. LWV-LY has sixty-one members.

Highlights and observations this past year:

- Membership has increased due to challenges to democracy at local and national levels.
- Focus has been on voter registration, restoration of rights, educating about local government, local advocates series, hosting an event on environmental justice, and oversight of the city budget.
- Budget cuts have impacted schools, transportation, schools, and housing and parks.
- There have been contentious elections.

- Being vigilant about the city council who are imposing restrictions on personnel.

Montgomery County Programs Chair Beth Obenshain reported these highlights and observations for the past year:

- LWV-MC organized with VT Engage (engage.vt.edu) to encourage young women to accept the challenge of political leadership. Monthly leadership talks on Zoom were attended by members throughout the state.
- The NAACP and LWV-MC co-hosted a voter education forum, with the support of the local Unitarian Universalist church.
- LWV-MC alongside the Hokies Vote Caucus of Virginia Tech worked in a local high school.
- With the NAACP, they co-hosted eight candidate forms from August-October.
- Staffed voter registration tables at the local farmers' market.
- A major project was co-leading with the Washington County League the Education Equity Study.

Prince William-Fauquier Area President Pat Reilly reported LWV-PWFA covers two counties and four cities. The League has seventy-nine members and brought four delegates to this Convention. LWV-PWFA amplifies its voice through partnerships.

LWV-PWFA reported these highlights and observations for the past year:

- They registered 2,000 voters with the partnership of the Prince William Bar Association's "So You're 18" program, telling youth what they are liable for when at 18. Prince William county has fourteen public schools.
- Hosted a debate that was standing room only.
- In Warrenton, participated with five other organizations in a weekly Black Lives Matter vigil,
- Celebrated Juneteenth event
- Staffed several voter registration tables.

Richmond Metro Area President Jane Newell reported LWV-RMA bought eight delegates and three observers.

LWV-RMA reported these highlights and observations for the past year:

- 140 members.
- Enjoyed emerging from pandemic mode and acting more in person.
- Programs geared towards local advocacy, housing, issues rank choice voting.
- Planning to set up advocacy units by county and city.
- Partnering with other organizations.
- Participating in all statewide issue groups
- Have new committees on education.
- Setting up voter services tabling wherever welcome: naturalization ceremonies, senior residential homes, farmers market, local high schools.
- Candidate forums
- Special elections kept the League busy; posted fact sheets. Updated our information in VOTE411; answered phone calls about elections.

Roanoke Valley President Camille Leonard reported they bought two delegates and have twenty-eight members.

Roanoke reported these highlights and observations for the past year:

- LWV-RV experienced a full board switch over, including the loss of the voter services chair.
- Main accomplishments were voter services hosting five events (at a naturalization ceremony, at two colleges, at a high school) that registered fifty persons.
- Attending an abortion rights protest to show support for the preservation of these rights.

South Hampton Roads President Heather Miller Tokarz reported that South Hampton has 114 members and bought seven delegates.

The League reported these highlights and observations for the past year:

- LWV-SHR area is diverse, urban, rural,
- A local League member is also on the state board.
- Navigated the transition from all online to going back in person.
- Had four local studies: local recycling, local journalism, reviewing and updating gun legislation, and local government.
- Delta, Links, and NAACP collaboration
- Hosted candidate forums: there were thirty-nine races in the area.
- Active in the legislative collaborative table. Recommend picking hot topic issues that we all can advocate for.

Washington County President Merry Jennings reported three delegates. The League has forty-seven members including four student members.

The League reported these highlights and observations for the past year:

- Working with MoCo to create the education equity study; six members on this study.
- The League is active in voter registration with colleges and high schools. Fifty students at Emory and Henry at athletic practice. Using student government.
- Spoke at zoning commission meetings and town council meetings. Concerned about zoning and abortion clinics.
- Working with a women's resources committee to help women and families.
- Focused on education equity, student voter registration, voter education, candidate forums.
- Concerned about preserving democracy.

Williamsburg Area President Susan Bivins reported that LWV-WA has 302 members with fifteen delegates and six observers.

The League reported these highlights and observations for the past year:

- Gave three scholarships to seniors graduating from the local high schools; in 2022, funded one scholarship.
- Expanded collaboration through the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

- Cooperated with NAACP in Juneteenth celebration.
- Support an Observer Corps who attend meetings.
- Sessions with local senators and delegates.
- Voter registration drives are robust and held at community colleges, senior centers and nursing homes, high schools.
- Worked with the student engagement committee and Real People Educating Others for a backpack give away.
- Worked with Suds and Votes so that people know what early voting is.
- Hosted tables at a naturalization ceremony
- Now on ClubExpress platform for website
- Developing our social media presence on Twitter, Facebook and more.

President Wake introduced the state board members, First Vice President Joan Porte, Second Vice President Erni Bridges, Secretary Jes Davis, Treasurer Debbie Combest, and Directors Janet Boyd (Voter Services), Carolyn Caywood (Programs), Denise Harrington (Advocacy), and Andrianne Konstas-Salvette (Membership). President Wake thanked the board for their ability to work as a unit and directing the work of the State League.

President Wake thanked the Convention Committee members for their willingness to say 'yes' and learn something new. The Convention Committee members included:

- Credentials Committee: Peggy Layne (LWV-MC) and Corinne Ladd (LWV-SHR)
- Convention Standing Rules: Dede Goldsmith (LWV-WC) and Nancy Priddy (LWV-RMA)
- Workbook Committee: Deb Wake (LWV-VA) and Joan Porte (LWV-AAC)
- 2023 Readers: Karen Siracusa (LWV-WA), Jan Willinger (LWV-LY), Susan Roberts (LWV-CVA)
- Election Committee: Faye Pritchard (LWV-AAC), Abra Smith (LWV-WA), Shirley Everette (LWV-RV)
- Timers: Karen Kalley (LWV-FRA), Lois Page (LWV-FA), Kerin Yates (LWV-CVA), Julie Jones (LWV-FA)

- Resolutions Committee: Fran Eckenrode (LWVRMA-chair), Pat Reilly (LWVPWF), Judy Collins (LWVARLALX), Candi Bradshaw(LWVWA), Jeanne Hanewich (LWVSHR)

President Wake introduced the Parliamentarian, Rhiannon Liker. She noted her extensive credentials. Rhiannon Liker is a long-time member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, two term secretary of the Virginia State Association of Parliamentarians, and webmaster/PR Chair for the M. Stanley Ryan Unit of Parliamentarians in Richmond, Virginia as well as past president. She is also the secretary of Richmond Toastmasters Club and a past District 66 (Greater part of Virginia) Toastmasters parliamentarian as well as past district treasurer. Her great-great-great grandfather was Brigadier General Henry Martyn Robert, and she is a member of Robert's Rules Association as well, though she is happy to be passing this responsibility on to her youngest cousin soon!

President Wake called for the Credentials Committee report. Peggy Layne of the Committee reported that there were seventy-nine local delegates present and nine state board members. This made for a total of eighty-eight delegates.

The motion to approve the Credentials report passed and the Credentials report was accepted.

President Wake called on the Convention Standing Rules Committee Chair Dede Goldsmith to present their report. Chair Goldsmith read the rules from page five of the workbook and motioned to adopt the standing rules of the 2023 Convention as read. **The motion passed and the standing rules were accepted. Chair Goldsmith motioned to approve the standing rules as written. The motion passed.**

Convention Chair Joan Porte moved to approve the workbook as submitted. The motion passed and the workbook was adopted. The 2023 Convention was now organized.

Addressing the Minutes of the 2021 Biennial Convention, President Wake recognized the Readers Committee.

President Wake called on First Vice President Joan Porte to present the Planning Committee on the agenda. **First VP Porte motioned for the Convention workbook to be accepted as presented. The motion passed and the Convention agenda was approved.** President Wake noted the minutes from the 2020 LWV-VA Convention can be found beginning on page 60 of the workbook. She thanked the readers, Carol Proven (LWV-PWFA), Rebecca Lawson (LWV-RMA), Sue Botts (LWV-FRA), and former Secretary Martha Rollins (LWV-SHR).

President Wake called on Treasurer Combest to introduce the Treasurer's report. Treasurer Combest stated the State League is in good financial shape regarding both the State's Education Fund and the Operating Fund for fiscal year 2022-23. The Education Fund appears in the budget - but it is not voted on by the delegates. The Operating Fund will be put to a vote before the delegates.

The Operating Fund balance was more than expenses due to the impact of COVID. The Educational Fund managed seven grants. Treasurer Combest reminded the Council that the Education Fund (appearing on page 23) is for information only. Treasurer Combest introduced the Chair of the Budget Committee, Cathie Braman. Chair Braman thanked the committee members Grace White and Debbie Combest for meeting and drafting the budget. She discussed the LWV-VA Education Fund of \$20,000 from last year and noted we will not encumber the costs of the convention for the upcoming fiscal year. Delegate Denise Harrington asked Treasurer Combest to explain the costs associated with travel and there was some discussion of this.

Treasurer Combest motioned to adopt the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as presented. The motion was passed, and the fiscal year 2023-24 budget was adopted. President Wake noted that the Education Fund budget is voted on by the new board in July.

Second VP Erni Bridges addressed the convention on the proposed LWV-VA bylaw changes. **She read Bylaws Proposal #1 Article IX Nominations and Elections and made a motion to approve this proposal.**

There was a discussion of the bylaws.

- Kathy O'Hare of Falls Church asked why does the proposed bylaw change require that the LWV-VA Nominating Committee send its recommendation to local Leagues four

months before convention? President Wake responded that it has been customary for the Nominating Committee to report out early as the report impacts the Local boards' transition planning and slate selection. The LWV-VA Nominating Committee has two years to prepare its slate. It shouldn't all happen in February. Carolyn Caywood, on the Nomination Committee, noted the importance of serving on League boards and committees. Andrianne Konstas-Salvette (LWV-VA Nominating Committee) observed that 'it's been a struggle' and this offers us an opportunity for leadership development and pulling in newer members; a 20-month period offering guidance to help transition and provide consistency which sometimes fails when you only have a month turnaround in nominations. Sometimes people are like "okay I'm done" and then go on vacation. And new board members like oh okay. Gives time to understand what happens or gives more time if someone can't fulfill their position, providing backups.

- Chris DeRosa (LWV-ACC) asked if once the report is submitted can it be amended; if we find new members to join or do we have to do it on the floor of the convention? The committee's role doesn't end until June 30, you'd still work to find qualified candidates that could result in nomination from the floor. Online capabilities allow us to get information out quicker. This is there to help with the transition.

The motion to approve the bylaw changes passed. President Wake recessed 10:26 a.m. Business resumed at 10:35 a.m.

President Wake introduced LWV-VA Program Director Carolyn Caywood to present the four state position studies: (1) Childcare; (2) Education Equity; (3) Environmental Justice; and (4) Money in Politics. Caywood noted that the study committees involved forty-two members from twelve leagues. and 14 Leagues participated in the consensus process.

On behalf of the Childcare Study Committee, supported by the LWV-VA board, Director **Carolyn Caywood motioned to adopt the updated Childcare position in full.** The position in brief states:

Support for state policies that promote quality childcare that is affordable, accessible, and equitable In particular, we support policies that ensure all young children (0-5) receive safe, high-quality education, and care consistent with their cultural and developmental needs; that all school-age children (6-12) have a safe, nurturing place to go after school until they can look after themselves; that all parents - especially

minority and low-income parents - have access to affordable childcare while they work; that quality childcare providers can remain operational.

Carolyn Caywood moved for the adoption of the revised position on Education Equity. She requested that on behalf of the Education Equity Study Group, and supported by the LWV-VA board, we adopt the new Education Equity position in full. The additions, in summary, are:

Full funding of regularly updated Standards of Quality, including minimum standards for school construction, renovation, and maintenance.

A school funding formula for operational costs that increases the state share to guarantee all school divisions can offer programs and services at equitable levels.

State acceptance of fiscal responsibility with the locality for construction and maintenance of safe, accessible, and up-to-date public-school facilities.

Amending Article VIII. Section I of the Virginia Constitution to ensure that an education of high quality is established and continually maintained.

Co-Chair Beth Obenshain (LWV-MC) spoke on behalf of the Education Equity Study Group. She noted these issues:

- Dramatic inequalities in school funding exist within Virginia depending on a student's zip code. The state's failure to adequately fund public schools and the dependence on local funding for education has created funding gaps that can total as much as \$200,000 between a class of twenty in Northern Virginia vs. a class in rural and poorer urban communities. The state's funding formulas fail to balance income disparities among school systems. Lack of state funding guarantees inequity.
- Average teacher salaries are \$10,000 less than the national average. When compared to other states VA ranks 50th in salary compensation (at the bottom). A root cause is the state's lack of funding for public education.
- The state's school policies fail to work, and Leagues must have a vigorous voice in addressing this.
- Obenshain spoke about Governor Youngkin's proposed tax cuts versus the Virginia Senate's proposals to increase funding for public education.
- The Virginia Dept. of Education made a mistake in accounting that reduced public schools' expected funds by \$200 million dollars.

- School education issues can cross the aisle in the Virginia legislature. The General Assembly dedicated \$450 million to school construction (2022)
- The League with its strong voice can make a difference in education equity.

Chris Anderson (LWV-SHR) commented:

- She was a bit concerned to see in the motion only one mention of public-school facilities and worried about money being siphoned off for private schools.
- Looking at the executive summary of the study, the total focus is on public schools' study did not go into a lot of detail about vouchers, because at the last convention
- A League study was approved previously that all funds should go to public schools and not be used for vouchers.

Carolyn Caywood moved adoption of the position in brief for Environmental Justice.

She said:

“On behalf of the Environmental Justice Study Committee, and supported by the LWV-VA board, I (Carolyn Caywood) move that we adopt the new Environmental Justice position in full. The position in brief states: Support for environmental justice as a guiding principle for all branches of state government. Support for an expansive view of environmental factors that impact quality of life now and in the future, for meaningful community engagement from the beginning and throughout environmental decision-making, and for use of modern tools and changed practices to ensure that past environmental injustices are not repeated but are mitigated. “

Study member Anna Weber (LWV-AAC) made comments:

- In 2021 the League agreed to start the Environmental Justice study
- In addition to supporting environmental justice, there is a need for year-round advocacy process and scrutiny of all levels of government about environmental protection, for the fair treatment and meaningful engagement of all people with the respect of enforcement of regulations and policies. We need to have a goal that everyone is free from environmental problems and has a healthy environment to live and work in.

Carolyn Caywood moved the adoption of the position in brief for Money in Politics, as follows:

“On behalf of the Money in Politics Study Committee, and supported by the LWV-VA board, I (Carolyn Caywood) move that we adopt the new Money in Politics position in full. The position in brief supports limiting campaign contributions; regulating use of funds for campaign-related expenses; establishing an independent state agency to provide oversight and enforcement of campaign finance related activity; and regulating dark money campaign donations and preventing foreign governments from interfering with our state elections.”

Janet Boyd (LWV-AAC) spoke to the above Money in Politics motion:

- Virginia is below the norm.
- Virginia needs a developed policy that places limits on campaign contributions including types of donors - Virginia doesn't limit contributions and is highly influenced by money and we don't have a way to know or stop it; we need enhanced auditing and reporting.
- Virginia needs the establishment of a new agency focused on dark money and the importance of tracking (the Department of Elections currently does it, but it is not their main priority)

Questions and comments arose.

- Lois Page (LWV-FA) noted we don't have much regulation.
- Anne Brennen (LWV-WA) asked what is a legitimate campaign related expense. Do you mean child/elder/healthcare as well as wages loss are or are not legitimate? They would be legitimate expenses.

Carolyn Caywood moved to retain all remaining policy “positions or action” adopted for the 2023-2025 Biennium. This will be voted on during the Sunday business session. Caywood reports there was a proposal for a new study which was recommended by the LWV-VA board. The Voting and Elections group proposed a study addressing universal suffrage as expressed in Senator Locke's 2021 bill SJ272 - a bill which originally called for the universal right to vote.

Pam Berg spoke to the motion.

- The Voting and Elections issue group has proposed a new study addressing universal suffrage based on Senator Locke's bill.
- What makes this proposed study different is that it would examine the history and underpinnings of the right to vote and could find an explicit right to vote instead of an implicit one. Other topics that could fall within its scope are which specific rights are conferred upon a citizen; a youth voting rights act, and Virginia House of Delegate Rasoul's bill; issues that invalidate the voting rights act; restoring civil rights and voting rights; and relationship of mental competency to voting rights.

Questions and comments arose.

- Kitty O'Hara (LWV-FC) noted that there are also places where non-citizens vote. The understanding is that this proposed new study is going to have to be carefully scoped.
- Dede Goldsmith (LWV-WC) asked if Senator Locke supports adding the condition of fundamental right to vote. In the 2021 version, Locke's bill did contain this language.

An attendee noted that

- In Virginia, a constitutional amendment bill must pass through the General Assembly once, then taken up again after another election for the General Assembly. Passed again and then it could go on the ballot.

President Wake stated there were no not-recommended program studies. President Wake moved into discussion of resolutions. One resolution was submitted to the Resolutions Committee. Any additional resolutions had to be submitted by 1:30 p.m. to be considered. There was a resolution at the last biennial convention to remove witness signatures. This was litigated and became law. Public meeting for the Resolutions Committee is at 5:30 p.m. – this is the opportunity to answer any questions. She invited everyone to join. The Resolutions Committee then will hold a closed session to decide on recommendations.

Nominating Committee Chair Mary Crutchfield provided their report. She recognized the committee. The nominations are:

Officers

President: Joan Porte (LWV of Arlington & Alexandria City)

1st Vice President: Anu Sahai (LWV of Fairfax Area)

2nd Vice President: Erni Bridges (LWV of Fairfax Area)

Secretary: Charity Boyette LWV of (Montgomery County)

Treasurer: Andrienne Konstas-Salvette (LWV of Fairfax Area)

Directors

Janet Boyd (LWV of Arlington & Alexandria City)

Denise Harrington (LWV of Williamsburg Area)

Krysta Jones (LWV of Arlington & Alexandria City)

Nominating Committee

Les Solomon (Chair) (LWV of Williamsburg Area)

Carolyn Caywood (LWV of South Hampton Roads)

Mary Crutchfield (LWV of Richmond Metro Area)

Chair Crutchfield moved to approve. President Wake opened the floor for additional nominations. Motion will be voted on in the Sunday session.

President Wake noted the importance of diversifying the league membership. She noted that LWVUS President Dr. Turner can be seen in a video addressing upcoming transformation projects for the Leagues.

President Wake made announcements for upcoming afternoon sessions.

The June 3rd, Saturday, the Plenary Session recessed at 11:46 a.m.

President Wake called upon Martha Stewart (LWV-SHR) to introduce the lunch keynote speaker Brenda Andrews, publisher for the New Journal and Guide Newspaper. Andrews' address focused on the importance of the Black Press for a diverse and responsive democracy. More information about the New Journal and Guide newspaper can be found at <https://thenewjournalandguide.com>.

The first round of breakout sessions, held from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m., were:

- Credit Equity and its Impact on Racial Disparities in Homeownership: Is there a Fix? led by Thomas Fitzpatrick and Brenda Hicks
- Ranked Choice Voting: Local Advocacy for Election Reform led by Chris DeRosa and Jane Newell
- Behavioral health breakout led by Kim Bobo, an Executive Director at the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy VICPP)

After a fifteen-minute break the second round of breakout sessions took place:

- Domestic Violence: Societal Stigma, Child Abuse, and How to Help Your Community led by Elijah Lee and Juanita Graham
- Furthering Environmental Justice in Virginia led by Dr. Mary Finley-Brook
- Preserving the Oral Histories of Your League led by Beth Cogswell.

At 4:45 p.m. Dr. Sarah Thomas, Associate Director of the Lemon Project led a special tour of the Hearth Memorial.

At 5:30 p.m. the Resolutions Committee met for a public meeting to hear any new resolutions. The Resolutions Committee immediately after met in a closed meeting.

At 7 p.m. attendees heard from the dinner keynote speaker, A.E. Dick Howard of the University of Virginia School of Law.

Minutes 2023 41st Biennial Convention

League of Women Voters of Virginia

Minutes of the State Convention

Sunday, June 4, 2023

Sunday, June 4th President Wake called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Linda Rice (LWV-WA) introduced the keynote speaker Kimberly Hundley from the Williamsburg-James City County School Board. Ms. Hundley's address focused on the importance of school boards and civic engagement.

At 9:29 a.m. the Credentials Committee Chair Peggy Layne confirmed the presence of eighty delegates for the official voting role at the 2023 convention.

President Wake brought to the floor the motion for the adoption of the updated Childcare Position.

Beth Kariel (LWV-CVA) noted that in childcare situations:

- Children suffer inconsistent health and safety problems.
- Frequent staff turnover overworked and underpaid staff.
- Parents struggle to find affordable childcare.
- The proposed LWV-VA position would allow us to advocate for policies to improve these conditions.

Tracey Charity (LWV-WA) noted that:

- She was working full time with a child that has a disability.
- She experienced firsthand how difficult it is to find childcare for disabled children. There weren't useful lists and she had to make a hard decision whether to continue to work.
- She fully supports the proposed position and study.
- This study will have weight; our leagues are a big voice in the community.

President Wake took a vote. The motion to adopt the Childcare position passed.

President Wake brought to the floor the motion for the adoption of the updated Education Equity Position.

Jeannette Potter (LWV-WA) commented :

- She is a retired teacher.
- Does study only pertain to public schools? People may think it is advocating for private schools.

Merry Jennings (LWV-WC) commented:

- We already have an adopted position that strongly opposes public funds going to private schools. We are not addressing that in the Education Equity study. Here we are looking at equity in funding.

Beth Cogswell (LWV-AAC) noted that:

- The more emphasis we put on public education the better.

Carolyn Caywood (LWV-SHR) noted that:

- Public education is mentioned all over the full Education Equity position.

Denise Harrington (LWV-WA) commented:

- She was speaking for the position.
- She recommended an amendment that we add public education to the first two paragraphs to ensure the passage of the position.

Peggy Layne (LWV-MC) commented:

- The League supports state funding for public schools.
- Public money should go to public schools and the proposed Education Equity position should clarify support of public schools.

President Wake brought to the floor the motion for the adoption of the updated Education Equity position in full.

Merry Jennings (LWV-WC) commented:

- The proposed Education Equity aligns well with the Childcare position. Under part 2 the education position with funding. Want to strike the wording in part 2 “The general assembly will provide Pre-K for all children.” Want to change it to say “the state position should provide with other governmental agencies to provide pre-school education. The positions should be correlated with one another.

The motion to adopt the updated Education Equity position in full passed.

President Wake brought to the floor the motion for the adoption of the Environmental Justice position in full. There was no debate on the position. The motion passed.

President Wake brought to the floor the motion for the adoption of the Money in Politics position in full. The motion passed.

There was discussion on the Money in Politics position:

- Chris Anderson (LWV-SHR) suggested that there should be a more explicit state about funding for this.
- Janet Boyd (LWV-AAC), speaking on behalf of the Money in Politics Study group, noted that it is incorporated into the language of the full study that there is lack of funding.

President Wake on behalf of the board noted that LWV-VA will retain all remaining policy positions for action adopted for the 2023-2025 board.

The LWV-VA Voting & Elections Issue group has proposed a new study, the Right to Vote, to address universal suffrage as expressed in Virginia bill SJ272.

There was discussion and comments on the proposed Right to Vote study:

- Pam Berg (LWV-AAC) encouraged approval of the proposed study because we are living in a time that requires us to not have any ambiguity about the right to vote.

- Denise Cook (LWV-WA) noted voting is our core mission. This is the last great frontier. Our advocacy in this area is important.
- Evet Martin (LWV-WA) recalled John Lewis's words "You better vote."
- Chris DeRosa (LWV-AAC) urged everyone to support this study. We couldn't get the constitutional amendment to pass on restoration of voting rights to returning felons and so it's left up to the governor to grant the right of returning citizens to vote. This shouldn't be left to one person.

President Wake called the motion that would approve a study on the Right to Vote. The motion passed, and a new program was adopted.

President Wake recessed at 9:54 a.m. At 10:12 a.m. President Wake called the meeting to order.

President Wake clarified the parliamentary procedures for amending motions.

Fran Eckenrode (LWV-RMA) provided the Resolution Committee Report. She noted that:

- A resolution is a firm decision to do or not to do something.
- In LWV, resolutions express the will of the League at the time of the convention.
- Any registered delegate may offer a resolution which must then be seconded by another delegate.
- There is an online resolution procedure to follow and there was one resolution submitted.
- Resolutions must comply with League Resolution policy and procedures and be consistent with the LWV-VA and LWVUS principles and positions.
- Resolutions must address a single pertinent action of state government or eternal league policy and with league resources.
- Resolutions cannot circumvent the process. The language must be clear, stated affirmatively, not subject to potential misinterpretation.
- Yesterday at 5 p.m. the Committee had a public meeting for all resolutions; then the Committee moved into a closed session for discussion.

Carolyn Caywood submitted a resolution on transparency in government. The resolution was evaluated by certain criteria. There is an LWV-VA or LWVUS position on which it is based,

there is background and information included in the resolution and evidence provided that it is current and timely.

Transparency is a key tenant of good government. The LWVUS has a position on the citizens right to know and participation adopted in 1984 that states the LWVUS depends on informed and active participation.

The Committee unanimously voted to accept the resolution. Fran Eckenrode (LWV-RMA) motioned to adopt the resolution.

Denise Harrington (LWV-WA), Advocacy director, fully supports the transparency resolution.

President Wake called a vote for the resolution to support transparency. The motion passed, and the resolution was adopted.

During the discussion of the resolution there were points made on what we should do once resolutions are passed. Should there be a press release? One suggestion was to form an issue group on transparency. To serve on this, contact Carolyn Caywood.

President Wake brought the courtesy resolutions to the floor which the LWV-VA Board has approved. Director Denise Harrington read the resolutions. Note that:

- There was a resolution for the recognition of the Convention Committee along with the subcommittee.
- Jennifer Gautier (LWVLY) presented a resolution for the recognition of the memory of Carla Heath.
- Katherine Ingmanson, (LWV-FA) presented a resolution in memory of 50+ year League member Patricia McGrady.

President Wake gave the Biennium Report. She noted:

- The impactful bills that passed in 2021 such as the Virginia Voting Rights Act.
- The placement of drop boxes as a mechanism to submit votes
- Curating ballots allows the registrar to correct so ballots will be counted.
- Pre-registration of 16-year-olds
- Virginia went from the 49th most difficult state to vote for to the 11th easiest state to vote in.
- Removing the witness signature from mail-in ballots.
- Today we at Convention accepted four new positions; these serve to educate our voters; we want to share with the community. New advocacy tools.

- On redistricting. We had new maps because the U.S. [Census?] made it a priority and we were one of the few states that got it done. It was messy, but the key thing is that more power was restored to voters, because we had a seat at the table.
- Because of redistricting, we have a lot of new information to give to voters this year. They might not be voting for the same person. We are seeing more candidates.
- We will have our first rank choice voting in Arlington and we support rank choice voting as an opportunity to have less contentious voting and have more moderate candidates. Voters do not waste their vote by voting for who they really choose.
- We hope that the elections go well.
- There is a continued need for representation and to restore power to the voters and how they are represented.
- The League is working to preserve democracy in the 21st century.
- She recognized the LWV-VA board. She noted all the work done not by the LWV-VA president, but by the board, issue group leaders, and all our League members. Special thank you to Joan Porte and Erni Bridges for all they have done for voters.

President Wake brought the slate of nominations for the 2023-2025 LWV-VA board. She motioned to approve the new officers. The motion passed.

President-Elect Joan Porte gave brief remarks:

- Thanking President Wake on her contributions to the League in the last four years
- She is planning to
 - Increase information on the LWV-VA website to help grow and maintain local Leagues.
 - To continue the issue groups; to help grow and turn leaders into a more effective force and make presents known in Richmond.
 - To re-do and rethink events to make them more equitable and more powerful.
- Noted that the LWV-VA board is currently Northern Virginia 'heavy' and promised to work with all leagues.
- Reassuring Convention that she will reach out to engage and involve leaders from across the state and she welcomes advice and suggestions.

President Wake called for the delegation to provide guidance for the 2023-2025 Board to consider as they take office.

This guidance was offered:

- Beth Kariel (LWV-CVA) encouraged the new board to spread the work as a lot of our leaders work professionally themselves.
- Chris DeRosa(LWV-AAC) thanked all the newly elected board members for agreeing to be a part of the leadership team and pledged to help in any way.
- Linda Rice (LWV-WA) thinks a lot of members get excited about going to the general assembly for WLRTs. It's important to contact those legislators before the General Assembly starts. We are in an election year and unsure who might win, but it's extremely important not to wait. They start drafting bills in the summer.
- Denise Harrington (LWV-WA) noted there is an advocacy calendar and resources are available. Blogging might be helpful to raise awareness for members. We get a lot of information that only goes to issue groups. She would like the membership to be kept informed.
- Carolyn Caywood (LWV-SHR) commented that we have what's a once in a lifetime opportunity. We have a lot of people who are running for the first time. Talk up VOTE411. Build relationships. Even if candidates don't win, they'll probably run again. Pitch VOTE411 now- don't wait until November.
- Heather Miller-Tokarz (LWV-SHR) noted that the League kept some things since COVID such as virtual WLRT. She could attend all meetings because it was available on Zoom. As someone who works must account for travel time - it's not the timing of the meeting, but the travel time that is impactful.
- Alice Tousignant (LWV-RMA) noted she joined the league in 2017 and has not been a member for long; it amazed her what the processes were; never seen an

organization that has so many rules; sometimes we let processes get in the way of what really needs to happen; if we really want to do something, we need to do it. Figure out what in our process will let us do it.

- Les Solomon (LWV-WA) was fascinated with the discussion relating to William & Mary; we need to learn how to recruit and engage young people; we can engage with the business school to solve economic issues
- Evette Barton (LWV-CVA) is a DEI coordinator; she wants everyone to reach out; would like to know what is going on at local leagues; want to get more people who look like her in 2025
- Meg Heubeck (LWV-CVA) would like the League to address workers' rights and right to work in Virginia as particular to the teaching profession.

President Wake called for unfinished business. Debbie Combest addressed the delegation to invite them to Fredericksburg for the 2025 LWV-VA 42nd Biennial Convention.

There will be an email asking one to complete a survey for the convention.
the meeting adjourned. Sine Die.

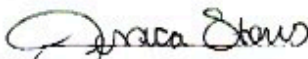
At 11:24 a.m.

President concluded with a thanks to all the speakers, First VP Porte for managing the chat, committee members who helped to run the council, and all the study members. She offered a special thanks to the state board and all members of LWV-VA. She also encouraged members to join issue groups to stay involved. President Elect Porte also noted that information on upcoming events can be found in the Google Drive folder for Council.

First VP Porte motioned to adjourn the meeting and Second Vice President Bridges seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Jes Davis, Secretary

Approved:


Jessica Storrs LWV-FA)


Karen Siracusa (LWV-WA)

State of the State Report

A brief list of accomplishments 2023-2025

Voting:

- Text banked 800,000 Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) women to remind them to vote in the 2023 and 2024 November elections
- Mailed more than 600,000 get out the vote (GOTV) postcards to infrequent voters in 2023 and 2024.
- Created a website to debunk and report election mis/disinformation

<https://my.lwv.org/virginia/combat-election-mis-and-dis-information>

- Worked closely with the Campaign Legal Center, the Fair Elections Center, and Nolef' turn to address the purging of 3500 returning citizens with restored voting rights who were suddenly removed from voting roles before the November 2023 election
- Brought suit against the Department of Elections to stop the purge of seven thousand mostly naturalized citizens from the voting roles
- Worked closely with "10 Minutes of Truth" to reach returning citizens just prior to release to educate them on applying for restored rights.
- Sent 7000 postcards to returning citizens to inform them of their voting rights.
- Translated voter information into more than six languages in 2023 and 2024 and distributed through local leagues and partners.
- Worked with the disability community to increase awareness of new laws making it easier to vote.
- Established a program to provide election information to food banks, shelters, and small businesses.

- Worked with student members to create social media videos containing important voting information.
- Distributed voting information libraries throughout Virginia
- Created an interactive map to find drop boxes and placed it on our website.
- Created “How to Be a Virginia Voter” on our website.
- Since our last Convention in 2023, the Local and State Leagues have managed all Special, Primary elections and races in the Commonwealth, providing details on thousands of candidates to voters through our Vote411 voter specific website.
- Our Local Leagues reached out to high schools throughout the Commonwealth to assist the schools in registering their students. Schools that participated in the LWV-VA High School Challenge received a commendation letter from the President of the State League.

Advocacy:

- Continued Women’s Legislative Roundtables every Wednesday during the General Assembly with 80- 120 people attending virtually
- Held successful Lobby or “League Days” in 2023 and 202
- Saved more than \$80,000 from the 2023 budget due to be “clawed back” but earmarked for voting and elections.
- Passed (although vetoed) legislation designed clarify rules on removal of rights for people with developmental disabilities

Youth Council:

- We have a Youth Council! Currently, we have thirteen members, two of whom will serve on the Board
- Establishing on-site student chapters at Virginia Tech, Virginia Commonwealth University, and William and Mary University!

Transformation:

- Gathered local League contacts each month to inform and discuss LWV transformation and new membership systems and processes.
- Updated state bylaws and budgets to adhere to LWVUS guidelines for transformed membership management.
- Planned state actions to support local Leagues operating in the transformed membership process.
- Planned state actions to build Leagues through members-at-large, Leagues-at-Large, and state liaisons to local Leagues.

DEI:

- Statewide DEI Committee Established: A dedicated team representing local Leagues collaborated to guide DEI strategy, education, and action across the state
- Community Partnerships: We partnered with the Youth NAACP for a Capitol rally, amplifying youth voices in civic engagement.
- Conference Engagement: LWV-VA participated in the IMPACT Conference at VCU, connecting with students, educators, and advocacy leaders around equity and democracy.
- Digital Education & Storytelling: Our DEI-related social media posts throughout the year highlighted historical contributions and promoted awareness of underrepresented communities.
- Framework for Action: We developed clear goals around increasing representation, promoting cultural competency, addressing systemic disparities, and ensuring accessibility and inclusion within League operations

Membership:

- Convened and facilitated sessions with local league membership directors featuring speakers and sharing best practices
- Assisted with the launch of the LWV of the Northern Shenandoah Valley

- On-going rebuilding of the Roanoke Unit
- Consistently promoted LWV-VA in communities to increase diversity of membership

In 2027,
the 43rd Biennial Convention of the LWV of Virginia
Will be held in Roanoke, Virginia!

