



THE VOTER

**Newsletter of the
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF THE WILLIAMSBURG AREA**

Celebrating our 46th Year

P.O. Box 1086, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1086

March-April 2010

www.lvwwilliamsburg.org

Great Decisions 2010 Forums

Tuesdays through March 23rd

Refreshments are served from 9:45-10:15am with the lecture and questions/answers from 10:30am-Noon.

Location: Williamsburg Regional Library, Scotland Street, Williamsburg

Details inside newsletter.

Proposed Surry Coal Plant - Forum

Tuesday April 6th, 10:00am

Location: Williamsburg Regional Library, Scotland Street, Williamsburg

Additional information inside newsletter.

Williamsburg City Council Candidates Forum

Tuesday April 20th, 7:00pm

Williamsburg City Council Chambers, Stryker Building
(adjacent to the downtown Williamsburg Regional Library)

Prepare for the Williamsburg City Council Elections on May 4th

LWV-WA Member's Tour

Thursday May 6th

Our League is arranging for our members to tour the VA Capitol, Supreme Court and Executive Mansion.
Save this date and plan to join us. Friends are welcome.

Details will be provided later – including registration information.



Note from the President

Kathy Pickering, President

Well, we are off to a great start in 2010. We had a fun Holiday Party on January 10, with about 45 people in attendance. Good food, good company, what more could one ask for.

On January 27 seven members of our league (Kathy Pickering, Barb Worthen, Pat Hood, Linda Rice, Jo Solomon, Loretta Hannum and Lynn Gordon) attended League Day at the Capitol, and heard some interesting speakers, including Nancy Rodriguez, the Secretary of the State Board of Elections. (The League is working closely with Nancy on election-related issues); Melissa Gorman, University of Richmond Juvenile Justice who has introduced two bills regarding juveniles in correctional facilities; Del. Vivian Watts, who is following bills relating to estate tax. As well, we heard from Sen. Jill Vogel, Del. C. Herring, Alex Blakemore, Julie Dime, Sen. Chip Peterson and Sen. Mamie Locke. Following the presentations we adjourned to go visit our representatives, primarily Delegates Barlow, Pogge and Abbitt, and Senator Norment. We then had lunch at the Tobacco Company, and walked back to the General Assembly Building for a session on how a budget is prepared and passed. All in all, a busy and interesting day.

On a more somber note, I am sorry to report the passing of Frances Burlock, who was one of the founders of the League of Women Voters in the Tidewater area. She was in her 90s. I have sent a note of condolence to the family.

We are now in the swing of our 2010 Great Decisions program, and I am pleased to say we are sold out, although stand-by tickets will be available. Many thanks to Edie Meyers, Marilyn McGinty and Patricia Albert for putting this program together. Also, please don't forget to stop by the table outside the Auditorium for your copy of "Virginia Women & The Vote, 1909-2009". (Each member has a copy set aside and they are available at league events.)

Celebrations are underway for the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. This is going to be a year-long celebration. We are not doing anything for February 14, having decided to put all our eggs in one basket

and having a grand party in August, when women actually gained suffrage. Watch out for more information later. Pat Janot, Special Events chair, is putting this one together with Patricia Albert and others.

Coming up on our agenda is an invitation to go to Washington on March 8 and 9, to an event sponsored by Oxfam to talk about climate change. If anyone is interested in going, please contact Olga Hernandez, president of LWVVA.

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

**Tuesday, April 6, 10:00am: We will sponsor a forum on the proposed Surry Coal Plant. Nancy Hummel is heading this one.

**Tuesday, April 20, 6:00pm: Candidates forum for Williamsburg City Council. Two positions are open and four persons have announced their candidacy. Many thanks to Barb Worthen, Voter Service chair, for organizing this.

**Saturday, May 1, LWV-VA Council in Lynchburg. More on this later.

**Tuesday, May 4: Election Day for the City of Williamsburg council.

**Thursday, May 6: We are planning a trip to the Capitol, to include tours of the Capitol, the Supreme Court and the Executive Mansion. So hold this date. Jo-Anne Hand is in charge of this project.

**Wednesday, June 2. Our Local League's Annual Meeting. More on this later. Pat Janot is working on this.

**June 11-14: The biennial convention of LWVUS. These are always fun, and I would love to see a large number of our league members there. Once again, more on this later.

**Sunday, August 29: Grand celebration for the 90th anniversary of women's suffrage.

As you can see, we have a very busy few months ahead. If any of you want to volunteer to help with any of the above projects, we would love to have you aboard. Don't forget, this is your league. And also don't forget, all members are welcome to come to our board meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm in the Williamsburg Landing Auditorium.

Cheers, everyone.

Kathy

Kathy Pickering, President, LWV-WA



2010 Great Decisions Lecture Series

Edie Meyers, Co-Chair Great Decisions

The League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area, the Woman’s Club of Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Regional Library continue the Foreign Policy Association’s Great Decisions Program 2010.

Tuesdays through March 23rd

Refreshments are served from **9:45am - 10:15am** with the lecture and questions/answers from **10:30am - noon**.

Individual, “standby” tickets are \$5 on a *space available* basis the day of the lecture. For individuals seeking standby tickets, please sign up when you arrive at the Library. Seating for standby tickets begins 10 minutes before the lecture. The remaining forums are:

3/2 *Special Envoys*

Ambassador James R. Bullington (Ret.),
U.S. Foreign Service

3/9 *Preventing Genocide*

Prof. Nancy Combs, Ph D, Marshal/Wythe School
of Law, College of William and Mary

3/16 *U.S.-China Security Relations*

David Shear, Deputy Asst. Secretary,
U.S. State Dept.

3/23 *The Persian Gulf*

Amb. W. Nathaniel Howell, Ph D, Islamic & Persian
Studies, University of Virginia

VA General Assembly Activities

The LWV-VA web site, www.lwv-va.org includes reports from the Women’s Roundtable meetings (meets each Wed.). In addition their League’s General Assembly page (www.lwv-va.org/va_genassembly.html) has pointers on how to track General Assembly activities and how to contact your representatives (including a full Legislative Directory). Check it out!!

Williamsburg City Council Candidates Forum set for April 20

Barb Worthen, Voter Service

To help voters in Williamsburg prepare for the city council election on May 4, we are conducting a candidates forum on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00pm in the council chambers of the Stryker Building (adjacent to the downtown Williamsburg library). Two seats are in play, those of Mayor Jeanne Zeidler (who is not re-running) and Councilman Bobby Braxton. While the filing deadline for candidates is not until March 2, we know more than two, plan to run.

Moderator is Patricia Albert, an LWVWA board member and resident of the city. The forum will be broadcast live by the city on cable channel 48 and rebroadcast several times prior to May 4.

The first part of the forum will be questions from the moderator; the second part will be written questions from the audience.

As always, presenting forums in ‘league like’ fashion, -- that is, well organized, efficiently run, and with good nonpartisan information available -- requires your help! We need to advertise the forum and run it effectively to maintain our reputation as ‘experts’ in elections. Please contact us at league@lwvwilliamsburg.org to volunteer to help. Thank you!

Introducing New Web Site Pages!

Barb Worthen, Web Master

We have added some new features to our LWV-WA web site, including a page for Great Decisions and a page for the Newsletter. The Newsletter page, which offers recent editions of the LWV-WA Voter, even includes a link to a new “Photo Gallery!” Check out the pictures in it – you may see yourself on the web!

Note that we show no names or phone numbers on any of these pages or pictures. We feel the web site should be available to the general public as well as to our members, so we want to maintain your privacy.

Please take a look at these additions by accessing the site at www.lwvwilliamsburg.org and let me know what additional changes you would like to see, or, better yet, send us some picture files you’ve taken of recent league activities and we can post them, too.

Mark Your Calendar!!

March 2	Great Decisions Lecture: <i>Special Envoys</i> , Williamsburg Regional Library, Scotland St.
March 9	Great Decisions Lecture: <i>Preventing Genocide</i> , Williamsburg Regional Library
March 16	Great Decisions Lecture: <i>U.S.-China Security Relations</i> , Williamsburg Regional Library
March 23	Great Decisions Lecture: <i>The Persian Gulf</i> , Williamsburg Library
April 6	Forum – Proposed Surry Coal Plant , 10:00am, Williamsburg Library
April 20	Williamsburg City Council Candidates Forum , 7:00pm, City Council Chambers Stryker Building, Williamsburg (adjacent to Williamsburg Regional Library)
May 6	LWV-WA Member's Tour , Richmond VA

Forum – Proposed Surry Coal Plant

On Tuesday **April 6th** at 10:00am in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre, Williamsburg, the LWV-WA will hold a forum to discuss the proposed Surry Coal Plant. Mr. David Hudgins from ODEC & the Association of Electric Cooperatives will speak in support of building the coal plant, and Christine Llewellyn, MD, Director, Williamsburg Climate Action Network, will speak in opposition to the plant. Please plan on attending and invite your neighbors.

Save this Date!!

Our League will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday **June 2nd**. Please save this date. It is a great opportunity to visit with members and to discuss activities for the next year.



www.lwvwilliamsburg.org

Serving the people of greater Williamsburg and surrounding areas

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government at all levels. We do this in two ways: one is through Voters Service activities that provide nonpartisan information and programs to the public, the other is through our advocacy activities on issues we have studied.

Who are the members?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

Why should I join?

Through participation in League projects, you will

- contribute valuable service to the community
- gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics
- discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community
- make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in League who share your interests

Contact us at league@lwvwilliamsburg.org