



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

May 2010

www.lwvwilliamsburg.org

LWV-WA Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, June 2nd
5:00-7:00pm**

In addition to the brief business meeting, Elise Emanuel, W/JCC School Board Member will speak and we will conclude with a social hour of light refreshments.

Please let us know if you will be joining us by contacting
league@lwvwilliamsburg.org

Location: Port Anne Club House, Williamsburg
Details inside newsletter.

LWV-WA Member's Tour

Thursday, May 6th

Here is a great way to spend a day in Richmond and get to know our League Members too. We will meet and carpool to Richmond. In the morning we will tour the Virginia State Capitol And Supreme Court, then in the afternoon we will tour the Executive Mansion. We expect to be back in Williamsburg before 5pm.

To register contact league@lwvwilliamsburg.org
Details inside newsletter.

Williamsburg City Council Election

Tuesday, May 4th

Two Council Seats are Open – *Details inside.*



Note from the President

Kathy Pickering, President

We have another very successful Great Decisions series, with many thanks to Edie Meyers and Marilyn McGinty. Edie is turning the reins over to Patricia Albert.

The Coal Plant Forum was held on April 6, in the Williamsburg Library at 10:00 am. Many thanks to all those who participated, including Patricia Albert and Nancy Hummel for organizing the event.

Also our League held a candidates' forum for the Williamsburg City Council on April 20 at 7:00 pm. The election is May 4th with two seats on the council contested.

Next on the calendar is the State Council to be held in Lynchburg on May 1. We would love to see you there.

We are looking forward to the Capitol Tour on May 6, ably put together by Jo-Anne Hand. We will be touring the Capitol Building, the Supreme Court Building and the Executive Mansion. I hope many of you will join us.

Looking further ahead, our Annual Meeting will be held in the Port Anne Clubhouse on Wednesday, June 2 – a different day and different venue from previous years. It will be an early evening program with hors d'oeuvres and beverages. If you want to vote on or suggest any proposals, please come and make your voice heard.

We will be holding a planning session in June, to work on the 2010-2011 Program. So again, if you have any ideas or suggestions, please join us and put them on the table.

Our talented team of Pat Janot, Patricia Albert and Jean Jackson are working hard on the 90th Anniversary celebration, to be held August 29. This will be a gala affair and an important milestone in the history of women's votes.

I hope to see many of you at these events.

Cheers, everyone.

Kathy

Kathy Pickering, President, LWVWA

LWV-VA Member's Tour

Jo-Anne Hand, LWV-WA Board

Here's a Great Way to Spend a Day in Richmond and Get to Know Our League Members Too!

When: Thursday, May 6

Where: Richmond (Carpools will be formed. Meet in the Monticello Marketplace parking lot in front of TJ Maxx at 7:45am)

What: In the morning: Tour the Virginia State Capitol (9:30am) and the Supreme Court (11am)

Group lunch at a nearby restaurant at your own expense

In the afternoon: Tour the Executive Mansion (2pm)

Carpools are expected to arrive back in Williamsburg before 5pm.

To register or for more information, please contact:

league@lwvwilliamsburg.org



Williamsburg City Council Election on May 4!

Barbara Worthen, Voter Service Chair

Five candidates are competing for the two openings on the Williamsburg City Council in the May 4 election:

- Bobby Braxton (Incumbent)
- David Dafashy
- Sean Driscoll
- Scott Foster
- Doug Pons

As this edition of the *Voter* goes to press, the Candidates Forum the league will sponsor on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 PM in the Stryker building is 'history' – so let me thank in advance those who assisted with the forum, particularly Patricia Albert, the moderator, and Nancy Hummel. Both are members of the LWVWA board of directors. The rebroadcast schedule of the Forum can be found at <http://apps.williamsburgva.gov/ch48/ch48.html>

Naturalization Ceremony at Colonial Williamsburg on June 14

Barbara Worthen, Voter Service Chair

While most of our voters service efforts revolve around organizing and running candidate forums before local elections, we again have the opportunity to register brand new voters after a 4:00 PM Naturalization Ceremony for new citizens on Monday, **June 14** at the Capitol in Colonial Williamsburg (CW). We have assisted with voter registration at Naturalizations at CW for the last two years. As a long-time league member, I really appreciate the enthusiasm that the new citizens show in filling out the application to register!

As in the past, we will need a few league members to help with this process. Please contact me at league@lwvwilliamsburg.org to offer. Members have described past ceremonies as both meaningful and inspiring. This is a golden opportunity for the league to truly engage in "Voters Service!"

Great Decisions Thank You

Marilyn McGinty & Edie Meyers, Co-Chairs Great Decisions

The Great Decisions program brings to the Williamsburg community, specialists in a variety of fields who speak to topics of major consequence, as outlined by the Foreign Policy Association. For more than a quarter of a century the LWV-WA has arranged for the eight sessions with the co-sponsorship of the Woman's Club of Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Library. We are grateful to all the volunteers who have helped facilitate these events.

Thank you.

Time to Renew your League Membership

See the membership form on our web site at http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/files/membership_form_may_2008.pdf

If you have joined the League after January 1, 2010, you do not need to renew at this time. You are in good standing until June 30, 2011.

Celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters

We will be hosting a tea to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters in the US. The Tea will be held at the Alumni House at the College of William and Mary on **August 29**. Local leaders and events will be featured in our celebration which will be from 3:00 to 5:00. Please plan to attend with family and friends as guests.

In preparation for the Anniversary Celebration you may enjoy the following books:

Born for Liberty by Sara Evans. A good summary of American women's history

A Shining Thread of Hope: The History of Black Women in America by Darlene Clark Hine. A history most of which we did NOT learn but which helps us all understand American history better.

The Age of Homespun: Objects and stories in the Creation of an American Myth by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. A series of chapters focusing on varied domestic objects that together tell much of colonial/revolutionary women's history, including a pocket book and a blanket.

Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War by Drew Gilpin Faust who is now president of Harvard. It is a different perspective on the war.

Outside the League: Christopher Wren Association Forum on China

The Christopher Wren Association is sponsoring a one-day forum on China and U.S. relations on Friday, April 30. The conference will run from 8:30 am to 4:15 PM at the Williamsburg Marriott Hotel (off US 60 E at Kingsmill). Conference speakers will include the Minister Counselor for Education from Embassy of the People's Republic of China, David Shear, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, and experts on China from several organizations in Washington. Registration is now open to the public. The full program and registration form is on the link below (registration with check for \$125 must be submitted to the CWA office by April 26). For additional details please see:

<http://www.wm.edu/sites/cwa/documents/SecondNotification.pdf#forum>

Sisters on the Planet Climate Leaders Summit, March 2010

Linda Rice, League of Women Voters of Williamsburg

Many of us who live in Tidewater Virginia may not have directly experienced the harmful effects of climate change nor recognize that areas of persistent poverty will experience greater vulnerability from the impact of natural hazards such as floods, droughts, and sea-level rise. Oxfam America and the League of Women Voters have recently joined together to bring attention to the effects of climate change on the needs of our most vulnerable population, women and children. Women are the most vulnerable because in Third World countries they are predominantly the farmers, the wood gatherers, child care providers, and seekers of clean water for their families.

Oxfam America brought together over one hundred "Sisters on the Planet" Ambassadors to Washington, DC to mark International Women's Day and advocate for climate legislation that includes substantial investments in vulnerable communities around the world. I represented the League of Women Voters of Williamsburg and met women from over 25 states. A number of influential women who signed up for this effort include Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, and Noble Peace Prize Laureate Jody Williams.

Oxfam also recognized several women who experience the impacts of climate change and are working on solutions, locally and globally. The stories of these women are touching and inspiring. Constance Okollet is a farmer from Eastern Uganda. In 2007, heavy rains destroyed the homes and food supply of her village. The community also suffered an unprecedented drought that dried up crops and wells. Constance is a leading force in establishing the Osukura United Women Network, Uganda in order to address the effects of climate change. Another activist is Marisa Maracavillaca who is the leader of the National Indigenous Women's Organization of Peru and a farmer. She worked on her family's land and became concerned about the effects of devastating rainfall and erratic temperature changes on agriculture. She explained that unpredictable weather has decreased harvests and threatens their ability to obtain viable seed.

Adaptation programs such as those conducted by Oxfam America allow communities to

prevail by adopting practices that will help them deal with climate impacts. Even with successful climate legislation, the effects of climate change will continue for many years. For example, in Bangladesh, community members are planting mangrove trees to act as a buffer to strong storms and reduce floods. Villagers in Ethiopia are deepening and repairing ponds to hold more water and distributing drought tolerant goats to help families maintain this food source in time of decreased rainfall.

Oxfam and the League of Women Voters support adaptation because it is also a matter of national security and economic opportunity for US businesses and workers. The US military sees climate change as a threat which will undermine global security as conflicts develop over scarce natural resources. US retailers such as Nike, Levi Strauss, and Starbucks support adaptation as a way to protect their global supply chains and US consumer prices.

The House of Representatives has already passed strong legislation, so now it's up to our Senators! Take a moment to contact our Senators Mark Warner (202) 224-2023, <http://warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Contact> and Jim Webb (202) 224-4024 <http://webb.senate.gov/contact.cfm>. Tell them how important it is to Virginia and the world that they support comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation that will reinvigorate our economy, create jobs, and provide a proactive approach for US and global communities to respond to extreme weather events.

Additional information may be found on the LWV-US web site www.lwv.org and a detail fact sheet at http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Climate_Change&CONTENTID=13387&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

Examples of other calls for action are:
<http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/Advocacy/AdvocacyLetters/2010/climatesenatecomprehensivebill.pdf>
[http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/Advocacy/AdvocacyLetters/2010/climateOpposeMurkowskiAmendmentltr1-8-10\(Final\).pdf](http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/Advocacy/AdvocacyLetters/2010/climateOpposeMurkowskiAmendmentltr1-8-10(Final).pdf)
<http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/Advocacy/AdvocacyLetters/2009/FINALfactsheetonMenendezltr11509.pdf>



League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area Annual Meeting 2010

During our Annual Meeting on Wednesday June 2nd, beginning at 5:00pm in the Port Anne Club House, the LWV of the Williamsburg Area membership has an opportunity to meet other members of our league and to get involved with our league activities. We will have a brief business meeting at 5:00pm, Elise Emanuel, W/JCC School Board member will speak then we will finish the meeting with wine and hors d'oeuvres.

This year our business meeting will include votes on the proposed board members, potential changes to our By-Laws and our budget for '10-'11. Details of these proposals are found within this newsletter.

Our local schools are facing many challenges this year and Elise Emanuel will provide us an update on plans and approaches.

Please let us know if you plan to come by contacting league@lwvwilliamsburg.org

Also, note the change from our normal Saturday date to a Wednesday meeting date.

2010 By-Laws Proposed Change

The proposed change is to Article V11, Section 1 and would reduce the number of members on the Nominating Committee from five to three.

Current: The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members. The Chair and two members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these three members shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the Board shall appoint two of its members to the committee.

Proposed: The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members. The Chair and one member, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these two members shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the Board shall appoint one of its members to the committee.

2010 Nominating Committee Report

Submitted by Loretta Hannum Chair, Janet Fuchs, Pat Hood, Jean Jackson and Joyce McKnight

During the Annual Meeting, the LWVWA membership will vote on the following:

Nominations to LWV-WA Board of Directors for Term Ending 6/30/12

President
Kathy Pickering
Secretary
Jo Solomon
Great Decisions Co-Chair
Patricia Albert
Voter Editor
Doris Tillman
Parliamentarian
Mary Swain
At Large
Linda Rice

Proposed for 2010-2011 Nominating Committee

Carol Talbot, Chair
Janet Fuchs
Diane Lederer

Continuing on the LWV-WA Board with their term ending on 6/30/2011 are:

First Vice-President
Nancy Hummel
Second Vice-President
Valerie Nelson
Treasurer
Nancy Clarke
Member at Large
Elaine Themo,
Jo-Anne Hand
Great Decisions Co-Chair
Marilyn McGinty
Special Events/Hospitality
Pat Janot
Publicity
Pat Hood
Voter Service
Barbara Worthen
Membership
Carol Wynder



Mr. David Hudgins, Nancy Hummel (LWV-WA Vice President) and Dr. Christine Llewellyn

LWV-WA Forum – Proposed Surry Coal Plant

On April 6th, the LWV-WA held a forum to discuss the proposed Surry Coal Plant. Mr. David Hudgins from ODEC & the Association of Electric Cooperatives spoke in support of building the coal plant, and Christine Llewellyn, MD, Director, Williamsburg Climate Action Network, spoke in opposition to the plant. Many thanks to all our Williamsburg Area League members who helped make the Forum a success.

Additional information on the proposed Surry County Coal Plant may be found at:

Williamsburg Climate Action Network – WCAN’s web site

www.williamsburgclimate.org

Wise Energy for Virginia’s web site

www.WiseEnergyForVirginia.org

Dominion Electric Cooperative’s web Site

<http://www.dom.com/dominion-virginia-power/powering-virginia/index.jsp>



LWV-WA Education Committee Report

Cindy Rudy, Chair Education Committee

One of the standing committees for the LWV-WA is the Education Committee. The following are excerpts from the year-end Education Committee Report.

The Education Committee’s focus in September was the Academy of Life and Learning (ALL) program in WJCC schools. The program had gained some press attention because of a seeming lack of commitment by the division and the school board. The students and the program had been shifted to various locations for the past several years which has been a cause for concern among our committee members and the public. The program and its principal have done good work with the students although, the focus and students continually seemed to shift and little continuity seemed to be in place. We were interested to learn that the school division was considering moving the program to James Blair when that building renovation occurred. The move would have allowed program growth and continuity. When school budget concerns arose, discussion of ALL and its future were lost in the conversations about money.

Simultaneously, a group of citizens formed the Citizens for Education group. Led by Jennifer Taylor and Lois Hornsby, the community participants focused on drop out rates in WJCC, the perception of a lack of clarity and transparency of the statistics related to causes for dropouts released by WJCC schools, and the economic cost of the dropouts to the city and county. In order to hear both sides of the issue, the Education committee invited Dr. Mathews to our November meeting. He graciously accepted and addressed our questions and concerns. Lois Hornsby also attended. It was apparent that the Citizens for Education and Dr. Mathews did not see eye-to-eye. As a result of hosting Dr. Mathews and allowing Mrs. Hornsby to attend, they reached a better understanding and hopefully a better working relationship.

Several of our committee members have attended each of the Citizens for Education meetings, beginning in December. They have listened, learned as well as offering concrete suggestions.

In the meantime, the LWV-WA Education Committee has been discussing each update from the school division and the Citizen's committee as well as paying close attention to the budget woes in WJCC and elsewhere. When the WJCC schools budget was completed, the ALL program suffered an 11% cut in its funding which will obviously affect the program for next year. Budget issues have hit all school divisions roughly and every community will see the impact of millions of dollars in cuts on the number and quality of services that divisions can provide.

In addition, several bills passed in the General Assembly session this year that will have an affect on school divisions locally and state-wide. **HB111** allows delayed implementation of certain new Standards of Accreditation provisions until July 2011 with the exception of graduation and completion index rules. With budget cuts across the board, this will be of some help to schools. **HB196** delays implementation of additional graduation requirements until July 2011. **HB1388** establishes guidelines for virtual school programs across the state. Although there are several divisions who already have virtual schools in place, (York does), the state wishes to stimulate the growth of this kind of program and ensure that standards and processes are more uniform as new programs develop.

Our committee's final meeting is set for May 6th.

Note: Next year, Loretta Hannum has volunteered to act as a liaison from the LWV-WA to the Citizens for Education committee.

LWV-VA Election Laws Study

At the May 2009 Convention, the League of Women Voters of Virginia adopted a two year update study and review of its current positions on Virginia's election laws. The first year of the study looks at voter registration, provisions for voting by military and overseas voters, and the governmental structure responsible for administering elections in the Commonwealth. During the second year, attention will be directed to the elections themselves. The LWV-VA Study Committee has made progress and has requested that Local Leagues provide responses to the Consensus Questions included on the next page. Chris Faia has agreed to coordinate our Williamsburg Area responses. Any member who is interested should send their response by May 15th to Chris at the contact information below.

In August the LWV-VA Board will review the consensus questions/responses and propose updates to our positions based on the first year of the study.

**LWV-WA Members should send responses by May 15, 2010
to Chris Faia. Members can email to league@lwvwilliamsburg.org
or paper mail to P.O. Box 1086
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1086**

Consensus Questions for Election Laws Study

1. Do you approve the following overall statement (taken from League of Women Voters principles) for the League of Women Voters of Virginia position on election laws?

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 designed and uniformly applied, with adequate funding available, to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia.

Yes _____

Yes, with changes _____

If "yes with changes," what changes would you propose?

2. a. What sources and methods of funding would you support to provide equal and easy access to voter registration? Do you believe that funding for Virginia's voter registration system should be provided:
 - Totally by the Commonwealth, or
 - Shared by the Commonwealth and localities?b. What sources and methods of funding would you support to provide equal and easy access for voting in federal and statewide elections? Do you believe that funding for Virginia's election system should be provided:
 - Totally by the Commonwealth, or
 - Shared by the Commonwealth and localities?
3. Please respond yes or no to each of the following and explain if necessary.
Do you believe that voter registration is necessary to:
 - Facilitate the voting process
 - Prevent voter fraud
 - Other:
4. Do you believe that voter registration as carried out in Virginia affects voter turnout?
5. Which of the following voter registration measures would you support to increase voter participation in Virginia? (you may select more than one)
 - a. No voter registration
 - b. Same (election) day registration
 - At the county/city central elections office
 - At the precinct polling place
 - c. Decreased time between the registration deadline and election day
 - d. Online registration
 - e. Statutory requirements that election officials carry out a vigorous voter registration program covering all eligible Virginia citizens
 - f. Universal voter registration of all Virginia residents who are U.S. citizens upon their 18th birthday
 - g. Other:
6. Please answer following questions.
 - a. Do you support voter registration affiliation by party?
 - b. Do you oppose voter registration affiliation by party?
7. Virginia's definition of residency for the purpose of voting requires individuals to have both domicile and abode. In August, 2009, the SBE adopted a policy to establish uniform interpretation, broad construction, presumption of intent and consistent application of the requirements to assure all citizens of their right to vote. Do you support application of this statewide policy to determine voter residency, rather than policy set by local registrars?

Mark Your Calendar!!

May 1	LWV-VA Council, Lynchburg
May 4	Williamsburg City Council Elections
May 6	LWV-WA Member's Tour , Richmond VA
May 15	Responses due on LWV-VA Election Laws Consensus Questions
June 2	LWV-WA 2010 Annual Meeting , Port Anne Club House, 5-6pm
June 11	LWVUS 49 th Annual Convention, Atlanta Georgia
June 14	Naturalization Ceremony, Colonial Williamsburg, Capitol
June 16	LWV-WA Planning Session, Port Anne Club House, 4pm
August 29	90 th Anniversary Celebration, William & Mary Alumni House

REMINDER:

Time to renew your membership!!

Please take a moment and fill out the membership renewal form on our web site at

http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/files/membership_form_may_2008.pdf

Membership in the League of Women Voters runs from July 1st to June 30th

Note: If you joined after January 1, 2010 you are paid through June 30, 2011 and do not need to renew.



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