



THE VOTER

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

Celebrating our 48th Year

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

January 2012

www.lwvwilliamsburg.org



Great Decision 2012 Forums

Tuesdays from February 7th to March 27th

Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street

Details inside newsletter.



The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

(No Child Left Behind: Strengths, Weaknesses and the Future)

Dr. Steven Staples, Ph.D.

Executive Associate Professor, School of Education, The College of William and Mary

January 19, 2012 3:30–4:45 PM

Williamsburg Regional Library, 515 Scotland Street, Schell Room
Following the presentation, there will be a moderated discussion with Dr. Staples

An Issue in Public Education Seminar, Sponsored by
The Education Committee of the Williamsburg Area League of Women Voters



Constitutional Conversations

Organized by William and Mary's Student Division of the Institute of Bill of Rights Law
and co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area

Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street

Details inside newsletter.





Note from the President

Kathy Pickering, President

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2011, especially with the lovely weather we are enjoying (or at least we are at the time I am writing this).

We had a very successful breakfast meeting last month. Many thanks to Val Nelson and Nancy Clarke for arranging this event. We are looking forward to another one in the spring.

We enjoyed a great holiday party at Morningside. Kudos to Shirley Smith for finding this facility and for organizing the food and beverage. For those of you involved with other organizations, you might want to consider Morningside for events. They provided great facilities and were terrific folks to work with.

Coming up rapidly is our 2012 Great Decisions program. I hope you have all signed up by now, because as you know the tickets sell out fast. We have another great program, and many thanks to Meda Humphreys and Lois Manes for their hard work.

In January, the nominating committee, headed by Elise Emmanuel, will begin work on the 2012-2013 Board. Please be willing to serve if you are called.

Also in January, I want to have a special Program planning meeting, combined with a hard look at our local studies. Do we need to update or add anything? Remember each Program needs study and action. One important aspect of League Program is that it includes both study and action. Members will be asked to identify positions that should have the highest priority for action. Remember, as you evaluate issues, ask yourself these questions: Is there widespread member interest? Is this a timely issue? Do we have the people to work on this?

The national League is proud to announce the launch of their new website, www.lwv.org on Thursday, December 1. They've built and designed the website as part

of their plans to modernize the way they inform and interact with the public. The new website has a 'members area' that provides Leagues and members with tools and templates to help us more easily do your work in running the League. Over the last eighteen months, LWVUS listened to member views about the website: at small group sessions held at the last national convention, through an online survey, and through comments shared over time about what we wanted from a member section of the LWVUS website. Please be sure to [visit the site](#) next week and help us spread the word!

Happy New Year, Everybody.

Kathy

Kathy Pickering, President, LWV-WA



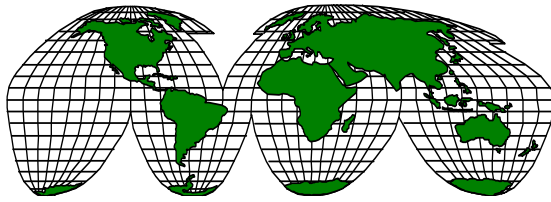
Constitutional Conversations

The *Constitutional Conversations* are continuing. This is a non-partisan, community-based education project organized by William and Mary's Student Division of the Institute of Bill of Rights Law and co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area. Below you will find the dates and titles of the remaining events. These events are being held at the Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland Street and begin at 6:30pm.

For additional details visit the web site <http://constitutionalconversations.org>.

The remaining conversations are:

- January 19, 2012 *The Federal Executive Power*
- February 2, 2012 *The Structure of the Constitution's Protection of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*
- March 1, 2012 *The States and American Federalism*
- April 5, 2012 *Economic Liberties*
- May 3, 2012 *Workshop Wrap Up*



Great Decisions Forums: Schedule for 2012

All the Great Decision Forums are held on Tuesday mornings in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. There are currently series tickets available and the registration form for the series is included in this newsletter. We expect this series to sell out, so if you are interested please return the registration form quickly. Tickets are being mailed and books may be picked up on January 14th (11:30-1:30) and January 18th (1:00-3:00).

Individual, stand-by tickets are on a space available basis the day of the lecture. For individuals seeking stand-by tickets, please sign up when you arrive at the Library. Seating for stand-by tickets begins 10 minutes before the lecture.

Refreshments are served by the Williamsburg Woman's Club from 9:45 to 10:20. The Lecture will begin at 10:30 and will include a question and answer portion with the Forum ending at 12:00. (Except for the Lecture on 3/13 which begins at 10:00).

The current schedule for the topics and speakers is as follows:

2/7 State of the Oceans

J. Emmett Duffy, Ph.D., Professor, VIMS College of William and Mary

2/14 Mexico

George Grayson, Ph.D., Class of 1938 Professor, Government College of William and Mary

2/21 Exit – Afghanistan & Iraq

Col. Lawrence Wilkerson, USA Ret. Former Chief of Staff for Secretary of State Colin Powell

2/28 Cybersecurity

James Philput, Senior Information Security Engineer, Cybersecurity consultant

3/6 Energy Geopolitics

Molly K. Williamson, Former Sr. Foreign Policy Advisor to Secretary of Energy; Foreign Service Career Minister

3/13 Middle East Realignment

Debra I. Shushan, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of Government at the College of William and Mary
*** this lecture will begin at 10:00am because Dr. Shushan must leave by 11:30*

3/20 Promoting Democracy

Barbara K. Bodine, Ret. Foreign Service, Ambassador, Yemen, 1997-2001 Lecturer, Public & International Affairs Princeton University

3/27 Indonesia

Don R. Rahtz, Ph.D., J.S. Mack Professor, Mason School of Business College of William and Mary

Education Committee: Open Meeting

The LWV of Williamsburg's Education Committee is holding an open meeting on Thursday, January 19, 3:30pm at the Williamsburg Library, Schell Room. Dr. Steven Staples, Adjunct Professor of Education, College of W&M and former Superintendent of York County Public Schools, will discuss *No Child Left Behind* as well as the current content of the reauthorization legislation now in Congress.



League Day at the Virginia General Assembly

League Day is your opportunity to go to Richmond with other league members of Virginia. Planned for Wednesday, February 1, we will attend a Women's Legislative Roundtable session (receive briefings on current pending legislation) and hopefully meet with some of our local delegates plus Senator John Miller. Also, the League will attend a legislative session and be recognized as a group for our contribution.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Kathy Pickering at 253-1833 or email kpickering3@cox.net so we can form carpools.



Mark Your Calendar!!

For full calendar of events see www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/calendar.html

2012

- January 11 VA General Assembly Convenes, Richmond
- January 18, 25 Women's Roundtable, Richmond
- January 19 LWV-WA Education Committee - Open Meeting: **"No Child Left Behind and Pending Legislation"**, Dr. Steve Staples, Williamsburg Library, 3:30pm
Constitutional Conversations, *The Federal Executive Power*, Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
- February 1 **League Day/Women's Legislative Roundtable**, Richmond
- February 2 **Constitutional Conversations, *The Structure of the Constitution's Protection of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties***, Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
- February 7 **Great Decisions Lecture, *State of the Oceans***, Williamsburg Library
- February 8, 15, 22, 29 Women's Legislative Roundtable, Richmond
- February 14 **Great Decisions Lecture, *Mexico***, Williamsburg Library
- February 21 **Great Decisions Lecture, *Exit-Afghanistan & Iraq***, Williamsburg Library
- February 28 **Great Decisions Lecture, *Cybersecurity***, Williamsburg Library
- March 1 **Constitutional Conversations, *The States and American Federalism***, Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
- March 6 **Great Decisions Lecture, *Energy Geopolitics***, Williamsburg Library
- March 13 **Great Decisions Lecture, *Middle East Realignment***, Williamsburg Library 10:00am
- March 20 **Great Decisions Lecture, *Promoting Democracy***, Williamsburg Library
- March 27 **Great Decisions Lecture, *Indonesia***, Williamsburg Library
- April 5 **Constitutional Conversations, *Economic Liberties***, Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm



LWV of the Williamsburg Area serves 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