



# THE VOTER

## Newsletter of the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF THE WILLIAMSBURG AREA

*Celebrating our 48<sup>th</sup> Year*

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

September 2011

[www.lwvwilliamsburg.org](http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org)

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### League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area Membership Kick-Off Reception

*Everything you want to know about the League  
but did not know whom to ask.*

For all members, as well as prospective league members.

**Wednesday, September 21, 2011 5:00-7:00PM**

Port Anne Clubhouse, 211 William Way, Williamsburg  
\$5.00 Donation (*collected at the door*)

**RSVP by September 14, 2011**

Shirley Smith 208-0353 [shirley.smith@us.army.mil](mailto:shirley.smith@us.army.mil)

Carol Wynder 253-7996 [cwynder@verizon.net](mailto:cwynder@verizon.net)

*Directions: South Henry Street (Rte. 132) to William Way, into Port Anne.  
Bear left to clubhouse, located on the left.*



### Prepare for November Elections: Candidates Forums

Come meet the candidates and hear their positions.

**Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7:00 PM**, Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg:  
Forum for the Senate, District One of Virginia

**Thursday, Oct. 20 at 7:00 PM**, James City County Library, Toano:  
Forum for the James City County Board of Supervisors, Roberts District

**Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 7:00 PM**, James City County Library, Toano:  
Forum for the James City Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District

**Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7:00 PM**, Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg:  
Forum for the House of Delegates, District 93

*See details inside newsletter.*





## Note from the President

*Kathy Pickering, President*

I am writing this before Irene hits Hampton Roads, in case we lose power. When Isabel struck back in 2003, my neighborhood was without power for ten days.

We are gearing up for a busy Fall season, so mark your calendars for the following events:

\*Thursday, September 15: Opening program for *Constitutional Conversations*, which we are co-sponsoring with the William & Mary Law School Women's Law Society.

\*Saturday, September 17: Virginia LWV Workshops, in Sandston.

\*Wednesday, September 21: Kick-off and Newcomers' Welcome, reception at Port Anne Clubhouse. See invitation in this newsletter

\*October: Several candidates' forums. Please let Barb Worthen know if you can assist. We are looking help from our members to run these! She can be reached at 220-9296

Wednesday, October 19, Williamsburg Library

Thursday, October 20, JCC Library, Toano

Wednesday, October 26, JCC Library, Toano

Thursday, October 27, Williamsburg Library

\*Tuesday, November 8: Election Day. Please be aware of your new voting district, and your voting place. We are hoping to assist the registrars in getting the word out to all voters.

\*Tuesday, November 15: Breakfast/meeting with a great speaker.

Cheers everyone,

*Kathy*

Kathy Pickering, President, LWV-WA

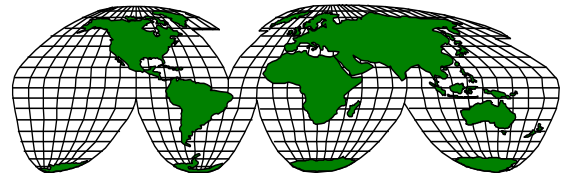
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## Where do you Vote THIS year??

Many changes have been made to voting districts and polling locations within the City and County. For information please check with your local registrar or on our website at

[www.lwvwilliamsburg.org](http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org) and select

'Election Information'.



## Williamsburg Great Decisions: Important Information

*Meda Humphreys & Lois Manes, Co-Chairs Great Decisions*

Save Tuesdays in February and March! The topics for the presentations will include Middle East Realignment, Promoting Democracy, Mexico, Cybersecurity, Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq, State of the Oceans, Indonesia, and Energy Geopolitics, (not necessarily presented in this order). Lois Manes is busy lining up distinguished and knowledgeable speakers and Meda Humphreys will, with the help of Ruth Mullaney and Pat Hood, be organizing the mailings and ordering the books. Stay tuned for further details!

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### REMINDER:

#### Time to renew your membership!!

Please take a moment and fill out the membership renewal form attached in this Newsletter.

**Membership in the League of Women Voters runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Note: If you joined after January 1, 2011 you are paid through June 30, 2012.*

and do not need to renew.

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### Save the Date!

#### Breakfast Meeting *Valerie Nelson*

Our Next "Speaker Breakfast"

**Tuesday, November 15, 8:00 AM**

Venue to be Announced

Guest: Gordon Morse  
Former Editorial Writer for The Daily Press  
And Virginian-Pilot Associate Editor

*Watch for More Information*



## New Voting Districts!

## New Polling Places! New Candidates!

Barbara Worthen (Voter Services, Chair)

If voters weren't confused enough about their election choices this fall, they will be even more confused now that the 2011 redistricting process has meant major changes to voting districts in the Historical Triangle Area. Due to redistricting, many voters live in new districts, with new precincts and new polling places. Hopefully the league can help inform voters of the changes!

We have been encouraging our members to volunteer to assist the voter registrars in their localities, whether James City or York Counties, or the city of Williamsburg as local officials advertise the new districts and polling places. I feel that the registrars are making a sincere attempt to get the updated information to the public, in addition to their mailing of new voting cards to citizens that inform them of the changes. But if past experience is any guide, even Superman – or Superwoman – will not be able to prevent *some* segment of the voting public from going to the wrong polling place, being denied the right to vote there and then roundly criticizing the registrars, and probably groups like the league of women voters, too, for not “informing us about these changes!”

One role we can fill ourselves is our sponsorship of candidates' forums. We have scheduled four for October:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7:00 PM at the Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg:** Forum for Senate District One of Virginia. The incumbent is John C. Miller of Newport News; challenger is Mickey P. Chohany of Williamsburg. Senate District One now includes the city of Williamsburg; in JCC it includes Jamestown A & B, Powhatan B & D, and Roberts A & C voting districts; and in York County it includes Magruder and Queens Lake districts.
- **Thursday, Oct. 20 at 7:00 PM, James City County Library, Toano:** Forum for the James City County Board of Supervisors, Roberts District. The ‘incumbent’ is John McGlennon; challenger is Jack Fraley. Note that the James City County voting districts have all changed as well as the senate and house of delegates

boundaries. John McGlennon was formerly in the Jamestown district.

- **Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 7:00 PM, also at the James City County Library, Toano:** Forum for the James City Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District. The incumbent is Mary Jones, challenger is Carlton Stockton.
- **Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7:00 PM, Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg:** Forum for the House of Delegates, District 93. Incumbent is Robin Abbott; challenger is Michael (Mike) Watson. House District 93 now includes the city of Williamsburg; in JCC it includes the Roberts voting district and Jamestown A; and in York County, Kiln Creek district.

The first part of each forum will be questions from the moderator; the second part will be written questions from the audience. All the candidates have agreed to appear at these.

There are several ways to check which district you now live in, regardless of where you live in the historic triangle. One of the best is the State of Virginia Board of Elections website, always full of good, easily accessible information for Virginia voters. Anyone can log onto the web site at [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov) and click on the “Where do I Vote” link on the home page. Or you can contact your local registrar. See additional information on all this on our web site [www.lwwilliamsburg.org!!](http://www.lwwilliamsburg.org!!)

Several other offices are on the ballot. While we would like to have forums for all the contested races, we are limited by space, time and womanpower.

### Presenting these forums requires Your Help!

As always, we depend on YOUR help to put these on! We need members to help advertise these forums, prepare forum programs, and run the forums themselves. I thank those of you who have already volunteered.

However, due to the fact that we're running four and that I will be touring England from October 2 through October 15 (!), we will definitely need members to pitch in. Please give me a call or email ASAP so I can get preparations well underway before October 2. Thank you! Barb Worthen (220-9296) or [bjworthen@earthlink.net](mailto:bjworthen@earthlink.net).



## Annual Meeting 2011

During our league's Annual Meeting in June, we were delighted to have Jeanne Zeidler, former Mayor of Williamsburg as our guest speaker.

Thanks to those who helped make the event successful! A special thanks to Kathy Pickering, Pat Janot and the Board members for the hor d'oeuvres.

### Highlights and Activities for the Year July, 2010 – June, 2011

- Coordinated the Great Decisions program. The 2011 topics featured the following world issues:
  - *Ascendant Germany*
  - *US National Security after 9/11*
  - *Global Governance*
  - *Crisis in the Caucasus*
  - *Rebuilding Haiti*
  - *Sanctions and NonProliferation*
  - *Horn of Africa*
  - *Responding to the Financial Crisis*
- Celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women's Suffrage/ New Members party on August 29
- Held a candidates forum on October 13
- Held a showing of the film 'Iron Jawed Angels' on September 15
- Hosted a breakfast meeting with speaker Nancy Rodrigues on September 30
- Held the annual Holiday Party on December 3
- Held a breakfast meeting with speaker Davison Douglas on April 20
- Held our Annual Meeting on June 1, 2011
- Attended the following LWVVA programs:
  - Attended the summer workshops in Hampton on August 28, 2010
  - Pre-Session Roundtable on Dec. 1, 2010
  - League Day at the General Assembly on February 2, 2011
  - State Council in Blacksburg on April 30-May 1
- Held consensus discussion and provided feedback to LWVVA's positions
- Co-sponsored Constitution Day forum with the William and Mary Law School Women's Society
- Followed through on members' recommendations by changing formats and adding events
- Maintained up-to-date e-mail addresses for better communication with members
- Published six editions of our newsletter *The Voter*. Most members using electronic version and providing availability on website.

### 2011-2012 Board

Many thanks to retiring board members Valerie Nelson, Nancy Clarke, Patricia Albert, Patricia Hood, Pat Janot and Marilyn McGinty for their contribution to the League activities.

Thank you to the 2011-2012 board for their willingness to serve: Kathy Pickering (President), Elaine Themo (Vice President), Johanna Solomon (Secretary), Jo-Anne Hand (Treasurer), Barbara Worthen (Voter Service), Sharon Kiefer (Education), Meda Humphreys & Lois Manes (Great Decisions), Carol Wynder (Membership), Doris Tillman (Newsletter Editor), Shirley Smith (Special Events), Mary Swain (Parliamentarian) and Linda Rice & Jane Busch (At Large Board Members).

In addition, we would like to thank David Scherer (Publicity) and Loretta Hannum (Liaison for Citizens for Education) for their willingness to provide support.

## Constitutional Conversations

The Williamsburg Area League of Women Voters is a co-sponsor in the upcoming *Constitutional Conversations*. This is a non-partisan, community-based education project organized by William and Mary's IBRL:SD (The Institute of Bill of Rights Law: Student Division). Below you will find the dates, times and descriptions. These events will be hosted at the Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland Street. Questions may be directed to: Julie Silverbrook at [julie.silverbrook@constitutionalconversations.org](mailto:julie.silverbrook@constitutionalconversations.org) or visit <http://constitutionalconversations.org>.

**October 6, 2011 6:30 – 8:00 PM: *The Constitution Outside of the Constitution*** - Many commentators have argued that the American “constitution” consists of a much wider range of legal materials than the document ratified in 1789 and its subsequent amendments. We will explore the legal norms and texts that have shaped and reshaped the contours of our constitutional government.

**November 3, 2011 6:30 – 8:00 PM: *Are Judges Political? Judicial Review and Theories of Constitutional Interpretation*** - The Supreme Court’s decision to use its authority to review the constitutionality of federal, state, and local laws is one the most politically sensitive and consequential acts the Court can undertake. We will explore the concept of judicial review, as well as the impact of different theories of constitutional interpretation on judicial behavior.

**December 1, 2011 6:30 – 8:00 PM: *The Federal Legislative Power*** - A basic principle of American government is that Congress may act only if there is express or implied authority to act in the Constitution. We will explore Congress’s authority under the Constitution to legislate.

**January 19, 2012 6:30 – 8:00 PM: *The Federal Executive Power***- Ever since American Historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. used “imperial presidency”, the term has become central to the debate over the balance of power under our system of government. We will explore the boundaries of the Federal Executive Power.

**February 2, 2012 6:30 – 8:00 PM: *The Structure of the Constitution’s Protection of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*** - The text of the Constitution contains few provisions concerning individual liberties.

In part, this was because the framers believed that an enumeration of rights was unnecessary. A Bill of Rights, protecting individual rights, was ultimately drafted and ratified. We will explore how the Constitution and Bill of Rights protect our most precious civil rights and civil liberties.

**March 1, 2012 6:30 – 8:00 PM: *The States and American Federalism***- Federalism in the United States is the evolving relationship between state governments and the federal government of the United States. Since the drafting of the U.S. Constitution, and with the end of the American Civil War, power has shifted away from the states and toward the national government. We will explore the historical foundations and future of Federalism in America.

**April 5, 2012 6:30 – 8:00 PM: *Economic Liberties*** Economic liberties generally refer to constitutional rights concerning the ability to enter into and enforce contracts, as well as to acquire, possess, and convey property. We will explore how the Supreme Court’s treatment of government economic regulation has changed.

**May 3, 2012 6:30 – 8:00 PM: *Workshop Wrap Up***

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## Volunteer! LWV-VA Positions Review

Linda Rice, LWV-WA and LWV-VA Board

The 2011 Convention of LWV-VA adopted "a review of all positions contained in *Positioned for Action*, Updated May 2011, for consistency, clarity and timeliness." The VA board recommended that three task forces be established for each major category - Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy - with a chair for each task force. Their work would occur from July '11 through June '13.

The 2011 edition of *Positioned for Action* is posted on the LWV-VA website ([www.lwv-va.org](http://www.lwv-va.org)), under publications tab. This is the document that will be used for the review. The chairs of the task would coordinate the review by email and/or telephone with their task force members. Currently, we have one participant for Government, four participants (and chair) for Natural Resources, and four participants for Social Policy. Participants are from various local LWV leagues.

For more information and to volunteer, please contact the Program Director Linda Rice, 757-566-1825 or [jrice@widomaker.com](mailto:jrice@widomaker.com).



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WILLIAMSBURG AREA (LWVWA)**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Name of Member(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** (9 digits if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal** \_\_\_\_\_ **Returning** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Individual (\$50)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Family (\$80)**  
**Additional Donations:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Individual** \_\_\_\_\_ **Family** \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in the League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area also includes membership at the national, state and regional levels.

**Total Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: LWVWA**

**Mail Check and Application to:**

**LWVWA  
 Attn: Membership  
 P.O. Box 1086  
 Williamsburg, VA 23187-1086**

Dues are not tax deductible.

For tax-deductible contributions, make a separate check payable to: *LWV Education Fund*

**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT - BE INVOLVED**

[www.lwvwilliamsburg.org](http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org)

**Please complete page 2 of application!**

3/7/2011

**What interests or expertise do you have to help with the various League of Women Voters study and administrative programs? Check all that apply.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Skills                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising/Development         | <input type="checkbox"/> Team Building              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Editing            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership/Committee Chair _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                |

**PROGRAMS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Finance          | <input type="checkbox"/> International Relations           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights/Human Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Election Laws             | <input type="checkbox"/> Observer Corps                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment               | <input type="checkbox"/> Reapportionment and Redistricting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Decisions           | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care               | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia State Government         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness              | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Service                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Issues                    |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                       |



## Mark Your Calendar!!

For full calendar of events see [www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/calendar.html](http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/calendar.html)

### 2011

September 15	<b>Constitutional Conversations</b> , Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
September 17	<b>LWV-VA Workshops</b> , Richmond
September 21	<b>LWV-WA Fall Members Reception</b> , Port Anne Clubhouse, Williamsburg, 5:00pm
October 5	LWV-WA Board Meet, 4:00pm
October 6	<b>Constitutional Conversations</b> , Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
October 17	Last Day to Register for the November General Elections
October 19	<b>Candidates Forum</b> for VA Senate, District One, 7:00pm
October 20	<b>Candidates Forum</b> for the JCC Board of Supervisors Roberts District, 7:00pm
October 26	<b>Candidates Forum</b> for the JCC Board of Supervisors Berkeley District, 7:00pm
October 27	<b>Candidates Forum</b> for the House of Delegates, District 93, 7:00pm
November 3	<b>Constitutional Conversations</b> , Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
November 8	<b>General Election</b>
November 15	Breakfast Meeting, 8:00am
December 1	<b>Constitutional Conversations</b> , Williamsburg Library, 6:30pm
December 2	LWV-WA Holiday Party 5:00pm

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### Education Supplement

Please take a look at the Supplement to this newsletter. The Education Committee has pulled together a fact sheet from LWV-US materials. Watch for action from our committee (including articles in *The Virginia Gazette*). Pending national legislation will potentially impact our local schools and we need to be informed.

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**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