



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

January-February 2010

www.lwvwilliamsburg.org

Holiday Party!! “Hold on to the Season”

Sunday, January 10, 2010

5:00pm to 7:00pm

Location: Williamsburg Landing, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Road
Main Building, in the Auditorium, Parking in rear

You are all invited to join us for our annual festive occasion.
There is a nominal fee of \$5.00 per person (*pay at the door*)

RSVP by January 7th

Contact us at league@lwvwilliamsburg.org

We hope that you will attend!!

League Day at the General Assembly

Join local league members from across the state, receive General Assembly updates in the Women’s Roundtable and meet with our local legislators in Richmond.

Wednesday, January 27

For car pool information contact us at

league@lwvwilliamsburg.org

Great Decisions 2010 Forums

The Foreign Policy Association’s Great Decisions Program 2010 will be offered on Tuesday mornings from February 2 through March 23.

Single tickets are \$40, including book. Couples tickets are \$65, including book.

A Registration form can be found on our website at

www.lwvwilliamsburg.org



Note from the President

Kathy Pickering, President

Seasons Greeting to everyone.

I am very pleased to report that the breakfast with Cathy Lewis in November was a great success, with 40 people attending. Many thanks to Valerie Clarke and Val Nelson for arranging this event.

We also had a very good turnout for the Pre-session Roundtable at the Capitol on December 2, with ten members of our league in attendance. We heard some very good speakers during the morning, and of course everyone was worried about how budget cuts would affect their programs. Our luncheon speakers, Del. Terry Suit and Del. James Massie, were optimistic about the incoming leadership and focused strongly on the budget. By the way, did you know it costs \$500,000 to maintain one rest area on our Interstates. I raised the question about privatizing them and was told this has to have federal approval. So, if you want Virginia to save this money, and perhaps have a burger or chicken salad at the rest stops, contact your congressman, the Hon. Robert Wittman, at wittman.house.gov. or write him at 318 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-4601.

Our Holiday party is scheduled for Sunday, January 10 and I hope to see a lot of you there. I will have copies of the book Virginia Women and the Vote 1909-2009 for everyone. There is an optional donation of \$10.00 per book, and the money will stay in our league.

Looking further ahead, League Day at the General Assembly is scheduled for January 27. This is a great opportunity to see the House at work, and to meet your delegates and senator.

We also have the speakers and topics for our 2010 Great Decisions program in place, thanks to Marilyn McGinty and Edie Meyers. This perennially popular program sells out, so if you have not sent in your reservation, please do so quickly.

Hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season, and look forward to seeing you on January 10.

Kathy

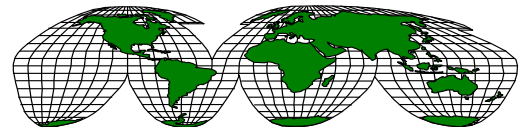


Williamsburg League's Holiday Party 'Hold on to the Season'

This year our Williamsburg League's holiday party has been moved to Sunday, January 10 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Save the date, mark your calendar and plan to bring your spouse or friend. It will be held at the Williamsburg Landing, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Road in the Main Building in the 'Auditorium'. There is parking in the rear and you may enter through the side doors. When you enter the Landing, identify to the guard that you are attending the League Holiday Party. There is a nominal fee of \$5.00 per person which you pay at the door.

If you plan to attend please let us know by January 7 by contacting us at league@lwvwilliamsburg.org

Join us for our League's Holiday Party!



2010 Great Decisions Lecture Series

Edie Meyers, Co-Chair Great Decisions

Great Decisions ticket sales have been brisk! There is room for a few more season ticket holders so hurry to complete your Registration Form and get your money in. The lecture series runs Feb. 2-Mar. 23, on Tuesdays. Single tickets are \$40, including book. Couples tickets are \$65, including book. The registration form is attached in this email and can also be downloaded from the LWV-WA website at www.lwvwilliamsburg.org.

The Great Decisions 2010 program is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area, the Woman's Club of Williamsburg, and the Williamsburg Library. Co-Chairs, Edie Meyers and Marilyn McGinty will be managing the lecture series, this year.

New LWV-VA Publication: *Virginia Women & the Vote 1909 – 2009*

One hundred years ago in 1909, a group of women met in Richmond — 61 years after Seneca Falls — to establish Virginia’s Equal Suffrage League (ESL), a precursor of today’s League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA). These pioneers of southern suffrage were pillars of society; they had the status to have a voice in a very traditional region. They dealt with ridicule, their efforts were dismissed, but they persevered.

The suffrage movement was sweeping the west as several western states had already allowed women to vote. Some of the Suffragists who would picket the White House in 1917, held by a president born in Virginia, Woodrow Wilson, were incarcerated at the Occoquan Workhouse in Lorton, Virginia. The history of women’s vote is intertwined with the history of Virginia. Yet Virginia did not formally ratify the 19th amendment until 1952!

The idea for a book about women’s suffrage in Virginia was conceived by current LWV-VA President Olga Hernandez when she read about the founding of the Equal Suffrage League in Virginia in 1909. *Virginia Women & The Vote* chronicles the events of those 100 years that began with the ESL which became the League of Women Voters of Virginia and the many contributions made to the Commonwealth by the women who led these organizations.

All of the women who struggled to have their voices heard and engage in issues facing Virginians are detailed for the first time by League Historian Bernice Colvard in this comprehensive history spanning 1909 to 2009. The legacy of those Virginia women is very much alive today and continues to be a beacon to all who value good government and an informed citizenry without partisan overtones.

Read these stories and understand what Susan B. Anthony meant when she reportedly said “There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers.” As stated by LWV-VA President Hernandez, “We’ve come a long way, but still have far to go. All women [and men], young and not so young, need to continue this work. The League of Women Voters [which now includes men] is as necessary today as it was in the last century.”

There is one copy of this publication set aside for each member and these will be distributed at our Holiday Party and other League events. There is an optional donation of \$10.00 per book, and the money will stay in our league. Additional copies cost \$10.00 each and can be ordered by contacting publications@lwv-va.org or 703-831-8595.



League Day at the General Assembly

League Day is your opportunity to go to Richmond with a group from the other leagues in Virginia. Planned for Wednesday, January 27, we’ll again attend a Women’s Legislative Roundtable session and hopefully meet with some of our local delegates and Senator Tom Norment. Since the legislative sessions starts on January 13, by the 27th there should be plenty to talk about! Also, the League will attend a legislative session and be recognized as a group for our contribution.

Contact contacting us at league@lwvwilliamsburg.org so we can form carpools.



Women’s Legislative Round Table

The Women’s Legislative Round Table is a non-partisan forum for the discussion of public policy issues and the legislation to address them. This forum is moderated by the LWV-VA and meets on Wednesday mornings during the General Assembly session. Legislators come and speak about pending legislations. Non profit groups speak about issues that they are tracking and advocating. It is an opportunity for citizens to learn about what is happening at the legislature during the session. Local Leagues across Virginia participate and often lobby specific issue.



Mark Your Calendar!!

- January 10 **LWV-WA Holiday Party, “Hold on to the Season”,** Williamsburg Landing
- January 13 General Assembly 2010 Session Convenes
- January 20 Women’s Legislative Roundtable, Richmond
- January 27 **League Day** and Women’s Legislative Roundtable, Richmond
- February 3, 10, 17, 24 Women’s Legislative Roundtable, Richmond
- February 2 **Great Decisions Lecture:** *Global Financial Crisis*, Williamsburg Library
- February 9 **Great Decisions Lecture:** *Peace Building*, Williamsburg Library
- February 14 League of Women Voters Turns 90
- February 16 **Great Decisions Lecture:** *Russia/Neighbors*, Williamsburg Library
- February 23 **Great Decisions Lecture:** *Special Envoys*, Williamsburg Library
- March 2 **Great Decisions Lecture:** *Globalized Crime*, Williamsburg Library
- March 9 **Great Decisions Lecture:** *Preventing Genocide*, Williamsburg Library
- March 16 **Great Decisions Lecture:** *U.S.-China Security Relations*, Williamsburg Library
- March 23 **Great Decisions Lecture:** *The Persian Gulf*, Williamsburg Library



www.lwvwilliamsburg.org

Serving the people of the City of Williamsburg and the counties of James City and York

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