



THE VOTER

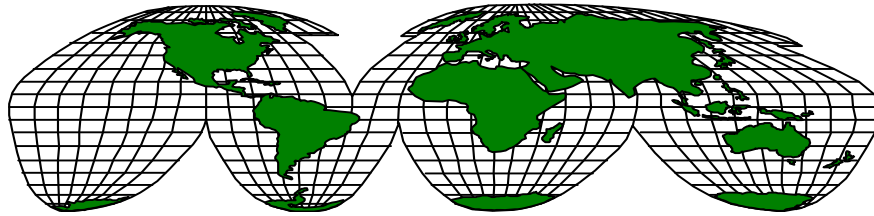
Newsletter of the
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF THE WILLIAMSBURG AREA

Celebrating our 47th Year

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

January-February 2011

www.lwvwilliamsburg.org



Great Decisions 2011 Forums

Tuesdays from February 1st to March 22nd

Location: Williamsburg Regional Library, Scotland Street, Williamsburg

Refreshments are served from 9:45-10:20am
with the lecture and questions/answers from 10:30am – Noon.

Details inside newsletter.



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, February 2nd

For car pool information contact Kathy at league@lwvwilliamsburg.org



Note from the President

Kathy Pickering, President

Hello, everybody. I hope you are all enjoying a very good holiday season. We had a very successful holiday party at the Port Anne Clubhouse with about 40 people in attendance. Good food, good company, what more can a person ask for.

On December 1st, eight members of our League went to Richmond for the pre-session roundtable and heard an excellent panel of speakers, including Dave Tyeyar, deputy secretary of transportation, who spoke about the Governor's plans for tackling the transportation problems. At lunch we heard Rick Brown, secretary of finance, who had just come from a budget meeting with the Governor, Chistina Nuckols, editorial writer with the *Virginian-Pilot*, and Michael Sluss with the Richmond bureau of the *Roanoke Times*.

A group of us were planning on going to the redistricting hearing in Richmond on December 17, but due to the bad weather it was canceled. It is supposed to be rescheduled but as of today we have not heard anything. Let's hope we can all go, and do our part to stop the gerrymandering that goes on.

In January we will be discussing the State Program positions. Our suggestions must be sent by January 29. Please refer to the following URL, and let me know if you have any suggestions.
<http://members.lwv-va.org/prog.html>.

On February 2nd it is League Day at the General Assembly, and I urge you to try to attend. We listen to a panel of speakers in the morning, and also try to see our representatives. It is important to make our presence felt and let them know we are listening to them.

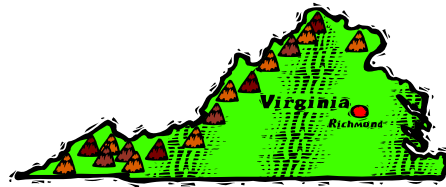
Once again we are looking forward to a very successful Great Decisions program. Many thanks to Patricia Albert and Marilyn McGinty for their hard work in putting this together.

I hope you all stay healthy in 2011, and I wish you a Happy New Year.

Cheers, everyone.

Kathy

Kathy Pickering, President, LWV-WA



Redistricting: Where do we go from here?

Barbara Worthen, Voter Service Chair

With the 2010 census complete, the states now need to redraw their political districts to comply with the 'one person, one vote' principle. And with Virginia's next election coming up in 2011, the process in Virginia needs to proceed ASAP.

As many of you know, the Virginia League of Women Voters has worked diligently, along with many others, to take the process, if only initially, out of the hands of the General Assembly and create a kind of nonpartisan commission to form new districts based on various accepted criteria, including the need for competitive districts. The theory is that the parties and incumbents in power are thus prevented from creating "safe districts" for themselves that guarantee their on-going representation in the legislatures.

Many observers feel the current system only exacerbates the fact that the moderate candidates today are being pushed out of both parties by their extremists who tend to vote in the primaries; indeed winning a primary is often equivalent to winning the seat in the general election. So why not appeal to the extreme of your party and win the primary, then (likely) go onto win the general election?

The best source of information on the process itself and how it will unfold in Virginia is the LWV of Virginia web site. If you click on the site at <http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org> you will be on the main home page which highlights the current activities. If you go down to <http://www.lwv-va.org/redistricting2011.html> you will find an excellent source of background information and news. There are also links to other respected organizations and their information on the 2011 redistricting process.

Come election season, watch for the new districts! Nobody likes *change* but in the case of legislative districts, *change* is almost guaranteed every 10 years.

The league "lost" its long battle to win a better procedure after the 2010 census; perhaps the good news is we can take what we learned from that effort and make reform happen by 2020!



Save the Date: LWV-WA Breakfast Meeting

Please put Tuesday, April 12 on your calendars. We will have our next breakfast that morning. Our guest will be Dave Douglas, Dean of the William & Mary Law School. His topic will be "The Role of the Supreme Court in American Politics". He is a terrific speaker, and I think the subject should be really interesting.

More details will be provided in next newsletter.



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, February 2, we'll again attend a Women's Legislative Roundtable session and hopefully meet with some of our local delegates and Senator Tom Norment. Also, the League will attend a legislative session and be recognized as a group for our contribution.. Contact Kathy Pickering league@lwvwilliamsburg.org so we can form carpools.

Happy 91st Birthday League of Women Voters – February 14th

91 years ago, Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed a League of Women Voters to "finish the fight" and work to end all discrimination against women and so the League of Women Voters was founded on Valentine's Day in 1920, six months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Today, we remain a grassroots organization with **more than 150,000 members and supporters and 850 Leagues throughout all 50 states.**

Read our history, see historical photos and more at League of Women Voters of the US.



Emerging Program to Help Homeless

Nancy Hummel, Member LWV-WA

It has been several years since the League studied local homelessness, but now concrete things are happening! The Interfaith Community on Homelessness (ICH), a multitude of faith groups here, has organized an extensive unique expanded Information and Referral (I&R) Program through United Way of Greater Williamsburg. Much of the funding for this expansion is coming from the faith community. People who are homeless will be referred to the office, where volunteer counselors will review their situation and refer them to appropriate local social programs. A data base will keep track of who is being served and how.

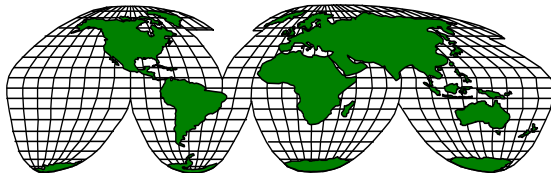
Office space next to United Way has opened up at Triangle Community Services on Waller Mill Road. The office suite is being painted, and volunteers will begin running the I&R in January. The office will be staffed with two counselors and one receptionist per shift, all volunteers. Shifts run for 3 ½ hours in the morning and in the afternoon. Volunteers may choose to work weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. Of course there is training for these positions.

The program needs volunteers. Although it originated through the faith consortium, all volunteers are welcome and appreciated. If you are interested in looking into this area of community service, please contact David Hartsough 469-3445, hartHt20Tec@aol.com.



Support Needed: Publicity

Pat Hood is looking for someone to support the publicity effort. The role requires a digital camera, willingness to attend selected events, take photographs, and document events. If you are interested, contact Pat Hood, league@lwvwilliamsburg.org



It is Time for **GREAT DECISIONS**

2011! *Patricia Albert & Marilyn McGinty, Co-Chairs*

The LWVWA, along with the Woman's Club of Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Regional Library, is proud to present our 28th year of bringing the best and the brightest of current foreign policy experts to our Great Decisions Forums.

This season's lectures include exciting topics on Haiti, U.S. National Security, the Horn of Africa, Financial Crisis, Ascendant Germany, Sanctions and Non-Proliferation, Crisis in the Caucasus, and Global Governance.

For many years we have been able to keep our costs to our loyal audience as low as possible; however, with rising costs, we have had to modestly increase the price of our tickets this season. We feel that you will still appreciate the inordinate value of a Great Decisions series ticket.

This year, too, there will be a more limited number of available tickets, due to strict enforcement by the Fire Marshal on room capacity for the Williamsburg Library. Once we reach the capacity number of tickets, we must close registration. As in the past, stand-by tickets will be available the day of the lecture, only on a space-available basis.

We look forward for another exciting season and hope to see you at GREAT DECISIONS!

Great Decisions Lectures:

Location:

**WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL LIBRARY
515 SCOTLAND STREET
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA**

Times:

REFRESHMENTS 9:45 - 10:20
(COURTESY OF THE WILLIAMSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB)
SEATING 10:20
LECTURE 10:30 - 12:00



Great Decisions Forums: Schedule for 2011

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. 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.

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

2/1 Ascendant Germany

Clay Clemens, Ph.D., Chancellor Professor of Government at the College of William and Mary

2/8 U.S. National Security: 10 Years after 9/11
General Anthony Zinni, U.S. Marine Corps, (Ret.)

2/15 Global Governance

Michael J. Tierney, Ph.D., Hylton Professor of Government and International Relations at the College of William and Mary

2/22 Crisis in the Caucasus

Allen Lynch, Ph.D., Director Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies at the Univ. of Virginia

3/1 Rebuilding Haiti

Reginald Gordon, CEO, Richmond Chapter of the American Red Cross

3/8 Sanctions and Nonproliferation

Amy Oakes, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of Government at the College of William and Mary

3/15 Horn of Africa

David H. Shinn, Ph.D., Former Ambassador to Ethiopia

3/22 Responding to the Financial Crisis

John J. Merrick, Jr., Associate Professor of Business, Mason School of Business at the College of William and Mary



Mark Your Calendar!!

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

2011

January 5	LWV-WA Board Meeting, Main Building Williamsburg Landing, 4:00PM
January 19, 26	Women's Legislative Roundtable Session, Richmond, 8:30AM
February 1, 8, 15, 22	Great Decisions Lecture , Williamsburg Library
February 2	League Day and Women's Legislative Roundtable Session, Richmond, 8:30AM
February 9, 16	Women's Legislative Roundtable Session, Richmond, 8:30AM
February 14	Happy 91 st Birthday to League of Women Voters
March 1, 8, 15, 22	Great Decisions Lecture , Williamsburg Library
March 31	Election Laws Materials Due
April 12	LWV-WA Breakfast Meeting , 8:00AM, Williamsburg
April 30	LWV-VA Convention



www.lvwwilliamsburg.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@lvwilliamsburg.org