



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

March-April 2011

www.lwvwilliamsburg.org

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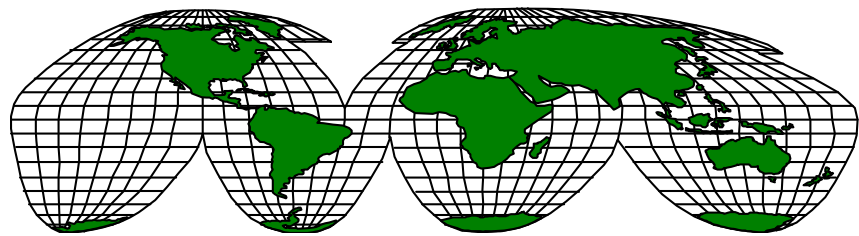
Elaine Themo 565.0975
Linda Rice 566.1825
Jo-Anne Hand 345.6950

Publicity:

Patricia Hood 220.2324

Newsletter Editor:

Doris Tillman 565.7332



Great Decisions 2011 Forums

Tuesdays through March 22nd

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

Location: Williamsburg Regional Library, Scotland Street, Williamsburg

Details inside newsletter.



Breakfast Meeting

Buffet Breakfast at 8:00am

Speaker: Davison Douglas, Dean William and Mary School of Law,
Topic: "The Role of the Supreme Court in American Politics"

Tuesday, April 12th

Open to League Members and their Guests



Note from the President

Kathy Pickering, President

Thanks to the recent beautiful weather we can see Spring on the horizon. And with this comes a flurry of activity for our League.

We held a special meeting in January to discuss the State league positions. These have been revised, and are available for reading on the State website, www.LWV-VA.org.

We are in the midst of another successful Great Decisions series. Kudos to Patricia Albert and Marilyn McGinty for putting together a terrific program. Because of restrictions by the Fire Marshal we were not able to sell as many tickets as in the past. But in spite of this, thanks to adjustments our committee made, we are ahead of budget. Thanks to all of you who helped with the series – greeting, ushering, ticketing, etc.

Some of us attended League Day at the General Assembly in February. We met with our representatives and talked to them about the issues that we considered important, mainly redistricting, as well as transportation and gun control.

We are going to have another breakfast meeting at the Gazebo on April 12. Our guest speaker will be Dave Douglas, Dean of W&M Law School. I hope you can join us there. Tickets are only \$9.00 which includes breakfast. Further information is found in the newsletter.

We are beginning to plan for the State Convention, which will be held in Blacksburg on April 30 and May 1. We are allowed to send the president and five delegates. So let's plan for a full complement.

Our nominating committee is hard at work. If you are asked to join our board, I hope you will say yes. We have had a very active board and I would love to keep it that way.

Cheers everyone,

Kathy

Kathy Pickering, President, LWV-WA

Save the Date – June 1st

LWV-WA Annual Meeting



Breakfast Meeting

Valerie Nelson, LWV-WA Board

We are looking forward to our next breakfast meeting which will be held on Tuesday, April 12 at the Gazebo on Bypass Rd. A buffet breakfast will be served beginning at 8:00 for the cost of \$9.00 per person including tax and gratuity. Our speaker will be Davison Douglas, Dean of the William and Mary School of Law. His topic will be "The Role of the Supreme Court in American Politics". Dean Douglas is an exceptional speaker and the topic is timely. We hope that you will all join us.

An email will be sent closer to the event date, at which time you may RSVP or call Val at 229-1904. The breakfast is open only to League members and their guests.

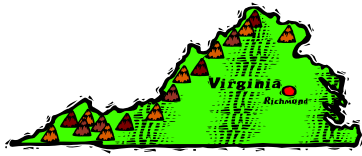


LWVWA Members Attending League Day at the General Assembly, Richmond - Pictured Pat Hood, Linda Rice, Kathy Pickering and Barb Worthen.

VA General Assembly Activities

The LWV-VA web site includes reports from the Women's Roundtable meetings <http://lwv-va.org/publications.html> (meets each Wednesday).

In addition the League's General Assembly page (www.lwv-va.org/va_genassembly.html) has pointers on how to track General Assembly activities and how to contact your representatives (including a full Legislative Directory). Check it out!!



Redistricting – *For Real*

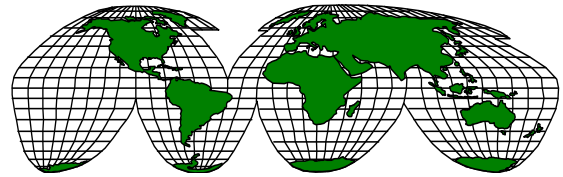
Barb Worthen, Voter Service Chair

For several years now, the League of Women Voters in Virginia, with support from the local leagues--including the LWV Williamsburg-- have been working hard lobbying for new redistricting laws for Virginia to take effect with last year's 2010 Census. Many other organizations and individuals joined us in these efforts. The goal was to take the redistricting process out of the hands of the General Assembly, whose members too often see redistricting as an "incumbents' protection act" and replace the redrawing of legislative districts by a new-partisan commission, whose members would lack "skin in the game." Our efforts failed; no changes to the current process were legislated.

Or maybe we didn't fail; for today, as a result of our efforts, many Virginians are more knowledgeable about the process of redrawing legislative boundaries and more concerned about its outcome than they were in the past. For example, this winter, Christopher Newport University is sponsoring a contest among college students to write the 'best' redistricting plan for Virginia; 15 teams of students, including two teams from William and Mary, have accepted the challenge. On Tuesday, March 22, the winning plan will be announced and will be displayed in at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, with a reception in honor of the winning team. The judges are Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institute and Norm Orenstein of AEI. If nothing else, will this winning plan embarrass the General Assembly into writing a plan that at least looks relatively rational? We can only hope!

Want to see what the winning plan looks like and congratulate the winning team? The display and reception are sponsored by the League of Women Voters in Virginia, so league members are encouraged to attend and bring any other interested Virginians. The **date is March 22, the time is 2:00 to 5:00 pm; the Library is located at 800 E. Broad Street, Richmond.**

For more information on the 2011 redistricting, access the *Redistricting 2011* on the LWV-VA web site at www.Virginia.va.lwvnet.org There is also a link to the page from our web site www.lwvwilliamsburg.org . Check them out and stay tuned as the process unfolds!



2011 Great Decisions Lecture Series

Patricia Albert & Marilyn McGinty, Co-Chairs

The LWV-WA, along with the Woman's Club of Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Regional Library, continue our 28th year of bringing the best and the brightest of current foreign policy experts to our 2011 Great Decisions Forums.

The lectures are held in the
**WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL LIBRARY
515 SCOTLAND STREET
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA**

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

This year there were a more limited number of season tickets sold, due to strict enforcement by the Fire Marshal on room capacity for the Williamsburg Library. We are still making stand-by tickets, for \$10, available the day of the lecture, on a space-available basis.

The remaining forums are:

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

Pictures from the Great Decisions Series are posted on our web site – see *Photo Gallery* on <http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/GreatDecisions.html>

LWV-VA Convention: April 30-May 1st

Our League will be sending a delegation to the 2011 LWV-VA Convention in Blacksburg. If you are interested in attending please contact Kathy Pickering at 253-1833 or kpickering3@cox.net .



Mark Your Calendar!!

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

2011

March 1, 8, 15, 22	Great Decisions Lecture , Williamsburg Library
March 1	LWV-WA Board Meet
March 22	Redistricting Map Competition – Award Ceremony (hosted by LWV-VA)
March 31	Election Laws Materials Due
April 4	Registration Due for LWV-VA 2011 Convention
April 6	LWV-WA Board Meet
April 12	LWV-WA Breakfast Meeting , 8:00AM, Williamsburg
April 30-May 1	LWV-VA 2011 Convention , Blacksburg
June 1	LWV-WA Annual Meeting



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