



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

May 2011

www.lwvwilliamsburg.org



Williamsburg Area League of Women Voters 2011 Annual Meeting

Please come and help wrap up our year.

Wednesday, June 1st, 2011

5:00-7:00 pm

Port Anne Club House

Program

Short Business Meeting

Speaker: **Jeanne Zeidler**, former Mayor of Williamsburg

Wine and Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

There is a nominal fee of \$10.00 per person (pay at the door)

RSVP by May 30

To Pat Janot at league@lwvwilliamsburg.org

Details inside newsletter.

Time to Renew your Membership!!

Please take a moment and fill out the membership form included in this newsletter.
Your membership is important and includes national, state and regional membership!

Membership in the League of Women Voters runs from July 1st to June 30th

(Note: if you joined after January 1, 2011, you are a member through June 2012 and do not need to renew.)

If you have questions please contact

Carol Wynder at league@lwvwilliamsburg.org

Note from the President

Kathy Pickering, President

Another Great Decisions series is now history, and it was most successful. I heard from many people that they thought the speakers were all great, and the operation ran very smoothly. Very many thanks to Patricia Albert and Marilyn McGinty, and all the folks who supported the events by staffing the doors, ticket table, etc. Also, in spite of the fact that we had to restrict the number of attendees because of the Fire Chief enforcing the code, we still were able to make standby tickets available. Great job, everyone.

We also had another very successful breakfast meeting on April 12 with speaker Davison Douglas, Dean of the William & Mary School of Law. Many thanks to Val Nelson for putting this together.

Also, you will find inside the Newsletter the proposed slate of officers and board members for the coming year. Nancy Hummel and her committee have worked hard on getting this together. If any of you have any other suggestions, or objections, please let me know and I will pass your comments on to Nancy. We will be voting on the new slate at the annual meeting.

Speaking of which, our Annual Meeting will be held at the Port Anne Clubhouse on Wednesday, June 1, from 5:00-7:00 pm. We have a great speaker, former Mayor of Williamsburg Jeanne Zeidler. Please plan to attend.

A few of us will be at the State Convention in Blacksburg April 30-May 1. I will give a brief report at the annual meeting.

It has been a very busy season, and coming up in June will be not only the annual meeting, but our planning session for 2011-2012, plus several candidates forums this fall. And most likely we will be asked by Colonial Williamsburg to assist with the Naturalization Ceremony which is usually held mid-June. So if you are asked to help in any of these events please say 'yes'.

Cheers everyone,

Kathy



Breakfast Meeting: Supreme Court and American Politics

Barbara Worthen, LWV-WA Board

The LWV-WA breakfast meeting on April 12th at the Gazebo restaurant was well attended. Our speaker Davison Douglas, Dean of the William and Mary School of Law, discussed "The Role of the Supreme Court in American Politics". Dean Douglas explained how the court's decisions will continue to be controversial. While he showed how the court and the citizens' perception of the court have changed over time, he indicated that the very nature of the wording of the Constitution invites interpretation, and thus the decisions of the Supreme Court will create both praise and condemnation.

He discussed the analogy of a justice to a baseball umpire, which he said Justice Roberts used at his confirmation hearing: that a justice of the court is like an umpire calling balls and strikes, who makes a decision based on the rules of baseball that specify the actual 'strike zone' for the batter. However, Dean Douglas said the "rules" of the constitution, for example, the idea of "Equal Protection of the Laws" afforded citizens, is NOT like the baseball rules. IF the rules of baseball were written like the Constitution, they might read "the batter will have a chance to put the ball in play." Well, what does that mean??? Indeed, he emphasized that the Constitution is full of such generalities.

Another example he gave is the issue of the new health insurance mandate. A case can be made for its adherence to the Constitution; a case can be made for it to be judged unconstitutional.

Clearly we who attended not only were able to eat a delicious breakfast and fill our stomachs, but we had our minds filled as well. And I could not help but wish I had attended more of the Constitutional Conversations that the W&M Law School has presented this year! Note, however, that the Conversations' Wrap up Workshop is on **May 5 at 6:30 PM** in the Williamsburg Regional Library.

Women's History Month: March

In March, as part of the Women's History Month, LWV-US issued a remembrance and salute to the women political pioneers who opened doors and stepped forward first. This included Geraldine Ferraro as the first woman on a major party's presidential ticket, Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman justice of the Supreme Court and Jean Kirkpatrick as the U.N. Ambassador.

In Williamsburg we remember Evelyn M. Hailey who recently passed away. A longtime League member, she was the second woman ever elected to the Virginia Senate. While in office, she was an advocate for woman's rights, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Community College system.

We owe a lot to the pioneers!



League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area Annual Meeting 2011

During our Annual Meeting on Wednesday June 1st, beginning at 5:00pm in the Port Anne Club House, the LWV of the Williamsburg Area membership has an opportunity to meet other members of our league and to learn about our ongoing and new activities.

We will have a brief business meeting; then **Jeanne Zeidler**, former Mayor of Williamsburg, will speak. There will be opportunities to meet and talk with other leaguers and enjoy drinks, wine and hors d'oeuvres.

This year our business meeting will include votes on the proposed board members and our budget for '11-'12. Details of these proposals are found within this newsletter.

Please let us know if you plan to come by contacting Pat Janot, league@lwvwilliamsburg.org by May 30th. There will be a nominal fee of \$10 payable at the door. The Port Anne Club House is located at 211 William Way, Williamsburg 23185.

Hope you can come and bring a friend!



2011 Nominating Committee Report

*Submitted by Nancy Hummel Chair, Janet Fuchs,
and Carol Wynder*

During the 2011 Annual Meeting, the LWVWA membership will vote on the following:

Nominations to LWV-WA Board of Directors

Vice President

Elaine Themo (6/30/13)

Treasurer

Jo-Anne Hand (6/30/13)

Member at Large

Jane Busch (6/30/13)

Great Decisions

Meda Humphreys (6/30/13)

Lois Manes (6/30/12)

Special Events

Shirley Smith (6/30/13)

Education

Sharon Kiefer (6/30/13)

Proposed for 2011-2012 Nominating Committee

Elise Emanuel, Chair

Joyce McKnight

The following members are continuing on the LWV-WA Board with their current roles:

President

Kathy Pickering (6/30/12)

Secretary

Jo Solomon (6/30/12)

Voter Service Chair

Barbara Worthen (6/30/12)

Member at Large

Linda Rice (6/30/12)

Membership

Carol Wynder (6/30/12)

Voter Editor

Doris Tillman (6/30/12)

Parliamentarian

Mary Swain (6/30/12)



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

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

- April 30-May 1 **LWV-VA 2011 Convention**, Blacksburg
- May 4 LWV-WA Board Meeting
- May 5 Constitutional Conversations, presented by William and Mary School of Law, 6:30PM, Williamsburg Regional Library
- June 1 **LWV-WA Annual Meeting**, 5:00PM, Port Anne Club House

Redistricting

Barbara Worthen, LWV-WA Board

So far, it appears, based on the discussions at the General Assembly and at the James City County Board of Supervisors, the 'business as usual' attitude has prevailed; that is, redistricting is being done by the usual method: the majority parties in the various legislative bodies create new districts for their own partisan advantage, not with an eye toward redistricting's best practices (compactness, contiguity, communities of interest, competitiveness.) Watch the news - and hold your nose - as redistricting plans are finally approved! To help follow developments, check out the LWV VA web site information on redistricting at

<http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org>



Reminder:

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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