



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

November-December 2009

www.lwvwilliamsburg.org

**League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area
Fall Breakfast Event with Cathy Lewis
(Host of "HearSay" and "What Matters")**

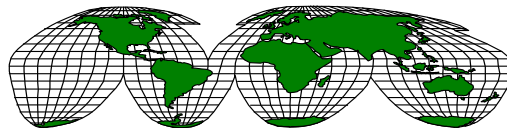
**Tuesday November 17, 2009
8:00 AM**

The Gazebo
409 Bypass Rd., Williamsburg

Breakfast buffet \$9.00 per person
(includes drinks, tax and tip)

RSVP by November 13th
league@lwvwilliamsburg.org

We hope that you will all attend!



Great Decisions 2010 Forums

The foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions Program 2010 will be offered on Tuesday mornings in February and March. This lecture series sells out quickly. League members who have renewed for '09-'10 will receive registration forms in November. To ensure receipt of tickets, please return registration form, with payment, quickly.



Note from the President

Kathy Pickering, President

Hello, everybody. We have started the new season with a bang. We held a very successful series of Candidates' Forums, and many thanks to Barb Worthen for organizing these so well. Those of you who joined us on October 12 at the Port Anne Clubhouse enjoyed a fun evening as we watched the televised gubernatorial debate. Kudos to the State league for doing such a good job.

We instituted a "Long Range Planning" committee last year, to discuss the possibility of having different events to those we have had in the past. One of their suggestions is now coming to fruition. On November 17 there will be a breakfast meeting at the Gazebo restaurant, and our speaker is Cathy Lewis of radio and TV fame. It will start at 8:00 am and last no longer than 90 minutes. You have already received your invitation via e-mail, and I hope you are planning on attending. This will be a great opportunity to meet some of your fellow leaguers and also listen to a good speaker.

The Women's Legislative Roundtable is scheduled in Richmond on Wednesday, December 3. Last year we had a very good turnout, and I hope many of you are planning to join us. It is always interesting and a great way to meet members of other leagues.

Our League Holiday Party is being held late this year. Save the date of January 10! More details will be provided later.

We hope to see you at one or more of these events. Stay involved with our league.



New Date for League Holiday Party!!!

This year our League's holiday party has been moved to January 10 at 6PM. Save the date, mark your calendar and plan to bring your spouse or friend. More details will be provided.

Join us for our League's Holiday Party!

Voter Service Activities

Barb Worthen, Chair Voter Service

Our Next Project? The 'new, improved, better-than-ever' Facts for Voters

Now that the three forums we sponsored prior to the November 3 elections are behind us, the next Voter Service project for us is to revise our Facts for Voters publication. (Facts for Voters is a booklet for local citizens that includes such information as voting eligibility requirements and who our representatives are and how to contact them.) We last published the Facts in 2006; since then we have elected many new representatives who need to be included in the 2010 revision.

As always, we need some volunteers to help with this very worthwhile project! We not only distribute some 'hard' copies to the community, but post the text on our web site www.lwvwilliamsburg.org too.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

It takes a 'whole village' of league members to conduct these forums! Know that as I talked with the candidates prior to and after the forums (planning started back in May!), the candidates and their staffs spoke highly of the league's organizational skills and professionalism in running these events. So thank you to all our volunteers - you create and maintain that excellent reputation.

I know I will probably miss some of you, but let me try to acknowledge you anyway: Chris Faia, who spoke to our committee meeting on September 22 about various voting issues in Virginia and who chairs our league's elections laws study; Ann Kahn, Lynn Gordon, and Patricia Albert, who moderated, plus Anne Sterling who attended the October 14 forum as a representative from the LWV of Virginia board; Ruth Mullaney, our very faithful timekeeper; Jane Nichols and Nancy Hummel, who assisted the Hopewell Citizens for Good Government organization with a candidates forum in their community; Kathy Pickering who chaired the October 22 forum; plus LWVWA forum volunteers including Carol Talbot, Carolyn Weeks, Chris Faia, Diane Lederer, Elaine Themo, Jean Jackson, Jo-Anne Hand, Josephine Hargis, Kathy Pickering, Madelyn Larkin, Mary Swain, Nancy Hummel, Nancy Patron, Nora Dillon, Pat Janot, Patricia Albert, Susie Dorsey, Valerie Nelson, and Vivian Bland.

2010 Great Decisions Lecture Series

Edie Meyers, Co-Chair Great Decisions

The Great Decisions 2010 program, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area, the Woman's Club of Williamsburg, and the Williamsburg Library, will be offered again on Tuesdays, Feb. 2-March 23, 2010. Co-Chairs, Edie Meyers and Marilyn McGinty will be managing the lecture series, this year.

In November, registration forms will be mailed to League members. Tickets, which include briefing books, are \$40 for individuals and \$65 for couples. Return the registration form with a check as soon as possible, as the program fills to capacity, early.

The Foreign Policy Association has released the following list/description of topics for the 2010 lectures.

Special Envoys

Special envoys can help bring attention and diplomatic muscle to resolve conflicts and global challenges but they also bring with them their own "special" problems. Will the Obama administration's reliance on special envoys increase the ability of the U.S. to deal with major international issues or complicate our diplomatic options?

U.S.-China security relations

China's influence is growing, along with its military expenditures. How will this growth affect China's relations with its neighbors and with the U.S.? Will China's expanding military and economic power affect traditional U.S. roles and U.S. alliances in East Asia? How will countries like Japan, South Korea and India respond?

Preventing genocide

Post-election rioting in Kenya in December 2007 brought pressure on Nairobi, from international and regional diplomats, to end tensions and avert bloodshed on a massive scale. What lessons can be learned from the intervention in Kenya? What does it mean for the UN's emerging "responsibility to protect" doctrine?

Globalized crime

From the booming sex trade in Eastern Europe, to online fraud syndicates in Africa and the drug cartels of Asia and Central America, crime is becoming increasingly organized and globalized. How can countries better protect citizens seeking the benefits of a globalized world from being exploited? What international actors can effectively fight global organized crime?

Global financial crisis

The global financial crisis that began in late 2007 revealed major deficiencies in the regulation of markets and institutions – all of which came perilously close to collapse. Emergency measures to prevent a full collapse of the global financial system have led to mixed results. How will governments and the world community respond to this challenge?

Russia and its neighbors

Russia's policy of maintaining a "sphere of influence" in former Soviet satellites has been challenged in recent years by movements against pro-Russia regimes. Russia has pushed back by cutting Ukraine's natural gas supply and intervening in Georgia's campaign in South Ossetia. Will Russia regain its traditional leadership role in the region?

The Persian Gulf

Now more than ever, the Persian Gulf region offers many difficult challenges to U.S. policymakers. How will Obama's direct appeal to Arabs and Muslims impact U.S. foreign policy in the region? What will the fallout of withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq be? Can the U.S. and its allies prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons?

Peace building and conflict resolution

U.S. campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown that military force alone cannot ensure peace in all conflicts. How can the U.S. successfully integrate the tools of peace building into its statecraft? At what point do poverty, disease and climate change threaten national security? What role can non-governmental actors play in supporting government led efforts?



League Day at the General Assembly

Pre-Session of the Women's Legislative Roundtable and LWV-VA Luncheon

What impact will the November election have on the league's legislative priorities? What impact will the economy have on the state's budget?

Save the date of December 2nd for a day in Richmond that will offer networking, plus inside information about the 2010 General Assembly Session. The full day of activities, in the new Capitol addition, will begin with the Pre-Session of the Women's Legislative Roundtable (free) in House Room 3, followed by LWV-VA Luncheon Meeting (\$30) in Senate Room 3. You must register by November 23rd for the luncheon.

If you have never attended the Pre-Session, this is a wonderful way to become informed and prepared for the 2010 General Assembly Session.

League members from across the state will attend this information-packed day. The LWV-VA will moderate a pre-session meeting of the Women's Legislative Roundtable, in which members of executive branch, legislative body, media and lobbyists will discuss the issues to be addressed by the General Assembly during the 2010 session. This is followed by the LWV-VA sponsored luncheon meeting which always includes some very interesting quest speakers plus a great opportunity to meet and network with other league members.

The registration form was included in the Fall edition of the *Virginia Voter* and is available through our Williamsburg web site at http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/files/wrt_registration_form.pdf (go to our main web site at www.lwvwilliamsburg.org and select 'Calendar of Events').

We will be car pooling and will return by mid-afternoon. If you are interested or have questions contact league@lwvwilliamsburg.org

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 on January 27th.

During the day, we attend a session of the General Assembly where the League is recognized and commended for their efforts. The legislative session starts on January 13th so there will be many things to discuss. This annual event helps raise the awareness of the League's presence and supports our lobbying efforts. Hope you can attend!

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Contact: league@lwvwilliamsburg.org
for car pool information.

LWV-US Action

Health Care: Fighting for the Public Option

The League is following Congressional action on health care closely, lobbying, [restating our support for the public option](#) and [asking voters](#) to urge their Senators and Representatives to support strong health care reform legislation. We aired a health care reform TV ad in three states urging viewers to take direct action. This battle will only heat up in November, and the public option hangs in the balance.

Climate Change: League to Observe UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

The League has actively been lobbying for strong legislation. The League recently secured its official Observer status for the [United Nations Framework Climate Change Conference \(UNFCCC\)](#) in Copenhagen this December. Eight League members who are active on climate change issues were selected to serve as delegates to the conference.

[Sign Up to Receive League Action Alerts](#) and visit the national web site www.lwv.org.



League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area Fall Breakfast Event

Cathy Lewis

Host of "HearSay" and "What Matters"
speaking at the

BREAKFAST EVENT OF THE FALL

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at 8:00 AM

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tax and tip.

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league@lwvwilliamsburg.org



Mark Your Calendar!!

November 17	LWV-WA Fall Breakfast Meeting , Speaker Cathy Lewis, 8:00AM, The Gazebo (pre-registration required)
November 19, 20	Events for 100 th Anniversary, Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond
November 20	Equal Suffrage League's 100 th Anniversary
December 2	Women's Legislative Roundtable Pre-Session Meeting and Luncheon , Richmond (pre-registration required)
December 15	Bill of Rights Day
January 13	General Assembly 2010 Session Convenes
January 10	LWV-WA Holiday Party , 6:00PM
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 14	League of Women Voters Turns 90



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