



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

Summer 2009

www.lwvwilliamsburg.org



League of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area 2009 Membership Kick-Off Party

“Everything you wanted to know about the League but didn’t know whom to ask!”
Intended for new and ‘not so new’ as well as prospective league members.

Sunday September 13, 2009

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Port Anne Clubhouse

RSVP by September 9th

to league@lwvwilliamsburg.org

Three Candidate Forums

Sponsored by LWV-WA

Thursday, Oct 8th at 7:00pm Candidates for W/JCC School Board

Wednesday, Oct 14th at 7:00pm Candidates for House of Delegates, District 93

Thursday, Oct 22nd at 7:00pm Candidates for House of Delegates, District 64

And a Gubernatorial Debate

Sponsored by LWV-VA and AARP

October 12th at 8:00pm from the studios of WCVE in Richmond

Details inside!



Note from the President

Kathy Pickering, President

Welcome back everyone, after what I hope has been a great summer for you. As always, we have lots going on in the next few months and are pretty excited about our future plans. There are lots of opportunities for new and not so new, members to join various committees and become more active in our league.

As of this date three members will be attending the LWV-VA Workshop in Charlottesville on Saturday, August 29. It should be an interesting session, with information on how to be on Face Book and how to Twitter.

We are planning a 2009 Kick-Off Party for our Williamsburg Area League on September 13. You have already received an invitation via e-mail from our Membership Chair, Carol Wynder. I do hope you are planning to attend. It is a great opportunity for new members to meet the rest of us, sign up for various committees, and generally get a feel for how our league works.

We will be hosting several candidates' forums in October, prior to the elections in November. In addition to our local forums, there will be a televised Governor's debate from Richmond on October 12.

In 2009-2010, we are going to be studying Felons' Rights and the Virginia Election Law. We have chairs for both of these committees and if you would like to participate in these activities, please contact league@lwvwilliamsburg.org for Felons' Rights, or league@lwvwilliamsburg.org for Virginia Election Law.

I urge you to write to our representatives in support of Health Care Reform. There are far too many Americans without any health insurance, and I am not just talking about those out-of-work. Many workers, especially those who are self-employed, simply cannot afford the heavy premiums. Check the national LWVUS website, www.lwv.org for more information, a sample letter and an easy electronic way of contacting your national representatives concerning this issue.

Our Representative is:

The Honorable Robert Wittman

Contact him via Web Form on his website at wittman.house.gov

Washington office:

1318 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4601

Phone: (202) 225-4261 and Fax: (202) 225-4382

Local office:

4904B George Washington Memorial Highway
Yorktown, VA 23692

Phone: (757) 874-6687 and Fax: (757) 874-7164

Our Senators are:

The Honorable Mark Warner

Contact him via Web Form on his website at warner.senate.gov

Washington office:

459A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4601

Phone: (202) 224-2023 and Fax: (202) 224-6295

Local office:

101 Main Street, Ste. 4900
Norfolk, VA 23510

Phone: (757) 441-3079 and Fax: (757) 441-6250

And

The Honorable Jim Webb

Contact him via Web Form on his website at webb.senate.gov

Washington office:

248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4604

Phone: (202) 224-4024 and Fax: (202) 228-6363

Local office:

222 Central Park Avenue, Ste. 120
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Phone: (757) 518-1674 and Fax: (757) 518-1679

I look forward to seeing you on September 13th at the 2009 Kick-Off Party.

General Election – November 3rd

Polls open across Virginia from 6:00am to 7:00pm. The ballot includes Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and all members of the Virginia House of Delegates. Also JCC Board of Supervisor and School Board members are included.



Three Candidate Forums to Prepare You for Elections on November Three!

Barb Worthen, Voter Service LWV-WA

The league is sponsoring three local forums to help you prepare for the General Election on November 3rd.

- **Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7:00 PM, James City County Library at 7770 Croaker Road, Toano:** Forum for candidates for the Williamsburg-James City County School Board from the Powhatan District. The incumbent is Joe J. Fuentes; challenger is Gualano Davis. Ann Kahn, a member of our league who has been part of our Education Committee for several years, will moderate.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 7:00 PM, Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg:** Forum for candidates for the House of Delegates, District 93 (which includes the Roberts A and B precincts in James City County, as well as precincts from Newport News). The incumbent is Republican Phillip Hamilton, who is challenged by Democrat Robin Abbott. The event will be moderated by Lynn Gordon, First Vice President of the LWV of Virginia and a board member of our local league as well.
- **Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7:00 PM, also at the Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg:** Forum for the three candidates for the House of Delegates, District 64. Incumbent Democrat Bill Barlow is challenged by Republican Stan D. Clark and by Albert Burckard, Jr., who represents the Independent Green party. Patricia Albert, board member of our league will moderate.

The first part of each forum will be questions from the moderator; the second part will be written questions from the audience.

Mark your calendars, also, to watch the Virginia **Gubernatorial debate between Bob McDonnell and Creigh Deeds on Monday evening, October 12 at 8:00 PM** from the studios of WCVE in Richmond. The League of Women Voters of

Virginia and the AARP of Virginia are the joint sponsors. Moderator for the debate will be Judy Woodruff, Senior Correspondent, *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. This debate will be broadcast live across the state by all PBS television and radio stations and some commercial networks. Richmond television stations CBS 6 WTVR and WCVE are co-producing and distributing the debate to all Virginia broadcasters. (See the LWVVA web site for additional details at www.lwv-va.org).

Other local offices are up for re-election, including House of Delegates District 96, (represented by Delegate Brenda Pogge) as well as the James City County Board of Supervisors from the Powhatan and Jamestown precincts and the Williamsburg-James City County School Board from the Jamestown District. In all of these races, however, the incumbent is unopposed.

Presenting these forums requires Your Help!

Advertising these three local forums and presenting them in 'league like' fashion, -- that is, well organized, effectively run, and with good nonpartisan information available-- requires your help! By advertising these forums and then actively participating in one or more of them, you'll better understand election laws, see firsthand who your candidates are, encourage citizens to take an interest in voting who might otherwise stay home, plus enjoy meeting new league friends.

How to do all this: Join me on Tuesday, September 22 at a **Voters Service Coffee** at 10:00 AM at my home, 210 Old Cart Road, Williamsburg. In addition to forum preparation, we'll have a brief discussion led by Chris Faia, LWVVA member, who has served on the Electoral Board of the City of Williamsburg. She will review some of the problems we have with Virginia elections, including a discussion of the new State Board of Elections guidelines on Voter Residency and registration of college students. Note that residents of the City of Williamsburg have expressed a keen interest in those guidelines since our city is clearly a 'college town.'

I look forward to an interesting discussion -- as well as fun as we prepare for the forums! Please join us - give me a call at 220-9296 so I can give you directions. (*Old Cart Road is in Powhatan Secondary, not far from the Monticello Marketplace and Ukrops Supermarket.*)



Annual Meeting 2009

During our Annual Meeting on Saturday May 30th, the LWV of the Williamsburg Area membership had an opportunity to meet other members of our league, to discuss our league activities and to enjoy an excellent lunch. This year our luncheon meeting included Professor Heather Huyck speaking on “Suffragists and Suffragettes: 1848 – 1921”.

Thanks to those who helped make the event successful, including: Kathy Pickering, Patricia Albert and Valerie Nelson.

The Annual Meeting included review of our league’s activities for 2008-2009 and election of officers and board members for 2009-2010.

Highlights and Activities for the Year July, 2008 – June, 2009

- Coordinated the Great Decisions program. The 2009 topics featured the following world issues:
 - *Human Rights*
 - *Cuba*
 - *Rising Global Powers*
 - *Global Food Crisis*
 - *Afghanistan and Pakistan*
 - *The Arctic*
 - *Egypt*
 - *Energy*
- Participated in the National League of Women Voters’ biannual meeting in Portland, Oregon, June 14-17
- Held new members reception on September 11th
- Published six editions of our newsletter *The Voter* and successfully converted to electronic distribution
- Organized and held voter registration drives and provided election information to voters

- Held a candidates’ forum for the House of Representatives, VA First District on October 22
- Hosted a breakfast for National League President Mary Wilson on October 28
- Developed a local Voters Guide for the ’08 election which we distributed and made available on our website
- Celebrated the Holiday Season at our annual Holiday Party in November.
- Spoke to the NAACP on October 11
- Attended and participated in the following State League events:
 - Summer workshops in Richmond
 - Women’s Roundtable ‘Pre-session’
 - League Day at the General Assembly in Richmond
 - LWV-VA State Convention in Reston May 2-3
- Spoke to the Kingspoint Women’s Club on October 21
- Attended the NAACP 100th anniversary function on February 11
- Held consensus discussion and provided feedback on LWV-VA’s ‘Civil Rights of Felons’ study
- Attended the Community Resource Meeting sponsored by United Way on April 29
- Assisted the Stonehouse Homeowners Association by counting their ballots at their annual election on May 19
- Participated in the Naturalization Ceremony at Colonial Williamsburg on June 15

2009-2010 Board

Many thanks to retiring board members Jane Nichols, Carolyn Weeks and Suzanne Creasey for their contribution to the League activities.

Thank you to the new board members: Pat Janot, Nancy Clarke, Marilyn McGinty, JoAnne Hand and Cindy Rudy for their willingness to serve.

Naturalization Ceremony, June 15, 2009

Colonial Williamsburg had a very successful turnout for the June Naturalization Ceremony, when 104 people became Americans. Participating from our local league were: Kathy Pickering, Doris Tillman, Barbara Worthen, Edie Meyers, Elaine Themo, Nancy Hummel, Carol Talbot and Flora Adams. Five of us were in costume, and were a great hit with the crowd. Many thanks to John Hummel and Joe Meyers who were on hand to take photographs.

Our League provided information on voting and registered over 20 new citizens with other new citizens taking forms home with them. It was a great day! We are looking forward to participating again next year.



Assistance to Stonehouse Association Election

Our league was approached by the Association at Stonehouse to assist in their annual election of directors. Kathy Pickering and Barbara Worthen provided assistance. The Association expressed their appreciation in a letter to the League.

The Association at Stonehouse would like to again extend our sincere thanks for the assistance from the League of Women Voters at our recent Annual Meeting. Kathy Pickering and Barbara Worthen were an invaluable asset, lending legitimacy and confidence in the election of our new Directors. They gave freely of their time, sharing their experience and knowledge with the community. Their professional presence at the meeting has resulted in many positive comments from our residents. It was an honor to work with them both, and my personal gratitude cannot be expressed enough. It is our sincere hope that we will retain this relationship and work together again in the future. Please accept the enclosed certificates for Kathy and Barbara as a token of our appreciation.



Mark Your Calendar!!

- September 13 – **LWV-WA Fall Kick-Off**, 3-5:00pm, Port Anne Clubhouse
- September 22 – **Voter Service Coffee**, 10:00am, Barbara Worthen’s Home, 210 Old Cart Road, Williamsburg
- October 7 – LWV-WA Board Meeting
- October 8 – **Candidates Night for WJC Board of Education, Powhatan District**, 7:00pm, JCC Library, Toano
- October 12 – **Gubernatorial Debate**, 8:00pm, broadcast live by Public Radio and Television stations.
- October 14 – **Candidates Night for 93rd District House of Delegates**, 7:00pm Williamsburg Regional Library, Scotland Street, Williamsburg.
- October 22 – **Candidates Night for the 64th District House of Delegates**, 7:00pm, Williamsburg Regional Library, Scotland Street, Williamsburg
- November 3 – **General Election**, Polls open from 6:00am-7:00pm
- November 16 – General Assembly 2010 Session Prefiling begins
- December 2 – **Women’s Legislative Roundtable Pre-Session Meeting and Luncheon**, Richmond
- January 13 – General Assembly 2010 Session Convenes, 9:00am

Voter Service Coffee – September 22, 10:00am.

Join League members in reviewing current issues in Virginia elections and discussing the “League approach” to Candidate Forums and Debates. For questions contact

league@lwvwilliamsburg.org



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.

Contact us at league@lwvwilliamsburg.org