



# THE VOTER

Newsletter of the

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF THE WILLIAMSBURG AREA**

*Celebrating our 54<sup>th</sup> Year*

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

January 2017

Website: [www.lwvwilliamsburg.org](http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVWilliamsburg>

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## **Announcing the 2017 Schedule for Great Decisions**

**Make sure you register! Call or email Doris Margulies, 258-1067, or [grandemargulies@cox.net](mailto:grandemargulies@cox.net)**

- February 7. Conflict in the South China Sea.**  
Col. Larry Wilkerson, (USA Ret.), former Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell.
- February 14. The Future of Europe.**  
Professor Clay Clemens, The College of William and Mary.
- February 21. Nuclear Security.**  
Joseph Cirincione. President, Ploughshares Fund.
- February 28. Saudi Arabia in Transition.**  
Michael Holtzman, Colonial Williamsburg VP for Communications. Former Partner, BLJ Worldwide (numerous clients in Middle East).
- March 7. Latin America's Political Pendulum.**  
Professor Robert Holden, Old Dominion University.
- March 14. Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan.**  
Phyllis Bennis, Director, New Internationalism Project, Institute for Policy Studies.
- March 21. Trade and Politics.**  
Professor John Boschen, Brinkley-Mason Professor of Economics and Finance, College of William and Mary School of Business.
- March 28. U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum.**  
Steve LeVine, Washington Correspondent for Quartz; Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University.

Lectures begin at 10:30 A.M. at the Williamsburg Library Auditorium, 515 Scotland St. Registrations are on-going and will continue until the Library Theater is sold out. A limited number of stand-by tickets will be available on the day of each program as available at a cost of \$10. Those who have already registered will receive tickets in the mail in early January. .



## President’s Message to the Membership – Reflections on My First Six Months

Mary Schilling, President, LWV-WA

As I look back, here are the highlights from my first six months as your League president:

- The Annual Meeting, where I introduced myself to the membership, met many of you for the first time, and felt warmly welcomed in my new role. Thank you!
- On Flag Day, my first Naturalization Ceremony, on the grounds of the Colonial Capitol, where young children waved flags and new citizens were asked to pledge their full allegiance to this country and to honor their own heritage and cultures.
- The Fall Membership Reception, featuring Dr. Quentin Kidd’s thoughtful talk on Populism in the context of the unprecedented 2016 Presidential Election.
- Redistricting Programs presented by OneVirginia2021 and the GerryRIGGED film showing, convincingly arguing the need for fair and objective re-districting.
- Candidate Forums for 1st Virginia Senate, 93rd Virginia Delegate, and Powhatan District School Board, well-orchestrated and attended and providing great voter information.
- My first ride in a red convertible (!) in the W&M Homecoming Parade, a great “get-out-the-vote” initiative while also raising the visibility of the League in the community.
- A personal lesson in civics as a Volunteer at the Office of Elections providing administrative support during in-person absentee voting and serving as an Election Official at the polls on November 8 – a 15.5 hour day!

And culminating in the festive Holiday Reception at our home. A wonderful way to enjoy League

friends, launch the holiday season, and close out a very busy year!

Looking forward to 2017:

- We are excited to offer the annual Great Decisions lectures, our signature program series on foreign and global affairs. Doug Wood has secured outstanding speakers, and Doris Margulies has ably managed the registration process. We expect full enrolment and a packed house in the Williamsburg Library theatre on Tuesday mornings in February and March. We hope to see you there! See details in this newsletter.

- Our League will engage in a two-session Consensus Study on Fracking, beginning with an information brown bag session on February 6 and a follow-up brown bag discussion of consensus questions on February 13. All members are invited to participate in these discussions of a critical study issue identified by the State League. Attendees of the LWV-VA convention in June will reach consensus on this important issue; thereafter the League can take action on its position. See article for background and details.

Finally, with this issue we want to thank Doris Tillman for her many years creating and publishing our newsletter, The Voter. Well done! And, with this issue, we introduce Madeline Vann who now assumes that role. With experience as a freelance writer and in communication and publications, working with Phoebe Kent as editor, she is well prepared to continue Doris’s good work. We are grateful for her willingness to continue to move our newsletter forward.

Making Democracy Work,

Mary Schilling  
President, LWV-WA

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## Feb. 6 & 13: Informational Meetings and Consensus Discussion on State League Fracking Study Issue

Sue Delos, LWV-WA and LWV-VA Fracking Study Committee member

LWV-VA requested that local Leagues study the issue of hydraulic fracturing or fracking (a means of extracting oil and natural gas from underground rock) several years ago. The current

LWV-VA natural resource positions do not address recent developments in Virginia of hydraulic fracturing and energy pipelines. The LWV-VA wants to be prepared to take action if rumored fracking in portions of Virginia, including the Tidewater area north of here, become a reality. Accordingly, the LWV-VA fracking committee spent about 18 months gathering data on fracking in general, and what is particularly relevant to our own state. Our report and the related consensus questions are available at <http://www.lwv-va-natres.org/final-committee-report-and-consensus-questions/>.

Fracking affects health as well as natural resources. Because fracking and pipeline effects are not addressed in the current LWV-VA positions, Leagues throughout the state are asked to study the issues and consider the six consensus questions so that attendees of the state League convention in June 2017 can reach consensus on a position.

The scope of the study may include: impacts of water withdrawal on ground water and surface water supplies; impacts of inadequate treatment of wastewater from fracking on drinking water; health, safety and ecological effects of natural gas pipeline and/or rail transport of shale oil through Virginia. The topic is a complicated one for those who are unfamiliar with the issues; therefore, local Leagues are encouraged to hold an informational meeting prior to addressing the consensus questions.

Fracking has been done in Virginia for over a century but differently from how it is conducted in other states like Pennsylvania. As a member of the state fracking committee, I will oversee our informational meeting. I will summarize our background information and try to answer your questions. We hope to have our eminent geologists, Jerre Johnson and/or Alan Falquet, present to answer questions as well.

The tentative date for the informational meeting is Monday, February 6, with a brown bag lunch at 12:30 at the Stryker Building. The consensus meeting is scheduled for the following week, Monday, February 13, same time and place. This consensus is particularly timely as the hints from the incoming Trump administration are that they want to turn energy and environmental issues back to the states for regulation. I hope to see you all at these meetings.

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## November Civics Summit in Richmond

*Loretta Hannum, LWV-WA Education Specialist*

I attended the annual Civics Summit in Richmond at the State Capitol on Wednesday, Nov.16. Delegate Richard L. Anderson, Chair of the Virginia Commission on Civics Education, welcomed the attendees, middle school and government teachers. WJC Schools had one teacher attending from Berkeley Middle School - a disappointing number but one better than the last few years! The first session was a presentation on "How Teachers Can Promote Civic Engagement" by Dr. Nancy Gansneder, Director of the Academy for Civic Renewal at the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia. Dr. Gansneder provided many ideas for resources for teachers including the Close-Up Foundation and National Issues Forum. She also included a guideline for Community Conversations (sound familiar?) including these questions as examples: What kind of Community (School) do you want to live (learn) in? Why is that important to you? How is that different from how you see things now? What are some of the things that need to happen to create that kind of change? Think, Talk, Reflect, Act.

The sessions before and after lunch were devoted to presidential and congressional election analysis by Dr. Quentin Kidd, Vice-Provost and Director of the Judy Ford Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University and Dr. Robert Holsworth, retired Founding Director of the Center for Public Policy and the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at VCU, and an introduction for teachers to the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP) site with which some of us are familiar. The day was brought to a close with sessions devoted to Lobbying and Campaign Contributions. These I thought were directed more at some general background knowledge for teachers and more difficult to translate into 8th grade Civics classes.

The takeaway for me from this day, as well as the previous years I have attended, is that understanding the Constitution and having general knowledge about our government are very important; however, even more important is involving students in their government at the local and state levels as this is where students begin to see

how governments affect them most directly. The Berkeley teacher mentioned having taken her students for a tour and presentation at the Courthouse (conveniently located near Berkeley) and said how excited they were to go and how much it opened their eyes to the role local law enforcement and legal procedures play in their civic lives.

One last takeaway which relates directly to what we in the League try to do: legislators will tell you that personal letters carry much more weight than e-mails and, of course, a personal visit to the legislator's home office and the office in Richmond are even more important. This wasn't anything new to me or to us, but it was re-affirming to hear it shared with the attendees. Many people mentioned to me, when they found I was there as a League member, how they picture the League personifying this as a way to influence legislation. So let's keep up the good work and try to encourage our teachers to involve their students as much as possible in this direction.

P.S. The lesson also was that not all lobbying is bad!

### **Leaguers Mingle at Holiday Reception**

*Nancy Campbell, Hospitality Chair*

On Saturday, December 4, President Mary Schilling and her husband, Don, opened the doors to their lovely home and extended warm greetings and gracious hospitality to nearly 70 members and their spouses, including many new to our League.

The Schillings not only decorated their home, but also arranged a shuttle from the parking lot to the house. Members contributed abundant, delicious hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and desserts. No detail was neglected, and everyone enjoyed a gala evening with old and new friends.

The League is indeed grateful to the Schillings for such a festive beginning to the holiday season! And we extend our appreciation in advance to the Schillings for 2017, as Mary and Don have volunteered to host our Holiday Reception again next year.

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*Gov. Terry McAuliffe stands by the staff and team that helped with the administrative detail on the restoration initiative.*

### **Governor's Reception Celebrating Restoration of Rights**

*Mary Schilling, LWA-WA President*

At a festive occasion in the Executive Mansion on Dec 7, 2016, a large crowd gathered to celebrate the Restoration of Rights for ex-offenders of Virginia who have completed their sentences, paroles, and probations. The reception was the culmination of a long process, one to which Gov. Terry McAuliffe was fully committed on moral grounds – because it is “morally right.”

The Governor's first attempt to address the issue was to restore the rights of all 200,000 ex-offenders in the state by executive order, bringing the state in line with some 40 states that allow people to become full citizens following completion of sentence, parole, and probation. This effort was met with resistance; state Republican leaders claimed that the Governor had overstepped his legal authority: they said that using a blanket order goes against the state's constitution.

McAuliffe began reviewing cases one by one and signing each clemency petition individually. Republican legislators then sued him for contempt of court. The Supreme Court of Virginia, however, did not accept their argument, and the Governor continued a case-by-case review, leading to his ultimately signing 206,000 individual petitions restoring their civil rights to vote, serve on a jury, run for office, and serve as a notary public.

At the Reception with beneficiaries of the restoration process, representatives of agencies, his staff and members of the community, the Governor spoke of one man who came to him and movingly

expressed his deep appreciation, noting that he had not been able to vote in nearly 40 years. Another thanked him and said how much he was looking forward to voting after so many years. Sadly, he died before the Election, but, in McAuliffe's words, we can be comforted by the fact that "he died a full citizen." The gathered guests were clearly moved as they cheered and applauded throughout the Governor's remarks.

The LWV of Virginia has supported the Restoration of Rights, and several members of our League provided administrative support as volunteers. We are grateful to them for their commitment to this cause. The reception was a celebration of full citizenship for many in attendance and an expression of thanks to all those professional staff and volunteers who brought the Governor's commitment into reality.

Gov. McAuliffe noted that his two proudest moments as Governor were, understandably, his inauguration and the day he stood on the steps of the Capitol and announced his commitment to restore civil rights to ex-offenders. He persisted on the issue until he achieved his ambitious goal. While Virginia was earlier near the bottom of the list of states as measured by restoration, it is now ranked third in the country.

"I will continue to sign orders until I have completed restoration for 200,000 Virginians. My faith remains strong in all of our citizens to choose their leaders, and I am prepared to back that faith with my executive pen. The struggle for civil rights has always been a long and difficult one, but the fight goes on." Gov. Terry McAuliffe, July 25, 2016



*Linda Rice, Gov. McAuliffe and Mary Schilling at the reception, celebrating the restoration of rights.*

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## **Education Committee Members Share with Consultants the Qualities They Seek in a New Superintendent**

*Sharon Kiefer, Education Committee member*

Many issues were discussed at the November 28 Education Committee meeting. Among them was the search for the new superintendent. At the last minute, we did have an opportunity to meet with the consultants. The LWVEC and Citizens for Education spent an hour with BWP & Associates, an educational leadership search firm located in Libertyville, Illinois, hired by the School Board. According to their website, BWP & Associates' mission is to help School Boards find "outstanding leaders who focus on successfully meeting the educational needs of students in their charge."

Prior to the meeting, Loretta Hannum, Tressell Carter, and Sharon Kiefer met to talk about what we wanted to say. We discussed the characteristics we'd like in the new Superintendent. They included:

- \* Someone who takes time to "seek-out" all stakeholders, including teachers and students;
- \* Someone who listens and hears all voices (not just those who agree with her/him);
- \* Someone who works to improve the in-school culture so all parents/citizens and teachers/staff feel welcomed and included;
- \* Someone who likes creative thinking, meaning a willingness to hire principals and teachers who are "different"/"creative" in their problem-solving approaches to teaching children with learning issues;
- \* Someone who provides leadership to ensure that teachers and staff represent the demographics of the children in the schools and the community; and
- \* Someone who works with the funding bodies and "sells" public education as essential to economic success of the community.

We hope that our comments were "heard" by the consultants charged with finding the best person as W/JCC's next superintendent. The target date for hiring a new superintendent is the end of February 2017.

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**Mary Schilling and Jo & Les Solomon at the Women's Legislative Roundtable Pre-session on Dec 7. Also attending from Williamsburg but not pictured: Rubyjean Gould, Madeline Vann, Linda Rice.**

**Women's Legislative Roundtable Pre-Session on December 7 Was Optimistic and Overwhelming**  
*Jo and Les Solomon, Board members*

An overflow crowd was on hand in Senate Room 3 of the State Capitol to hear presentations from 17 representatives of nonprofits and four Secretaries from the Governor's Cabinet. This annual event, held on Wednesday, Dec. 7, and sponsored by LWV-VA, provides a unique opportunity for Leaguers and friends to learn what other groups will be advocating and what cabinet members expect will occur during the upcoming General Assembly. LWV-WA former President Linda Rice said she "was impressed by the passion and optimism expressed" by some of the speakers.

An impressive contingent of LWV-WA members attended the Pre-Session Women's Legislative Roundtable: President Mary Schilling, Rubyjean Gould, Linda Rice, Jo and Les Solomon, and Madeline Vann. Speakers discussed filed and hoped-for legislation for the upcoming 30-day short General Assembly session.

As LWV-WA board member Jo Solomon noted, "So many of the issues addressed are at the core of the League's mission to Make Democracy Work." Education, gun violence, legal aid justice, ACLU, mental illness, Freedom of Information Act

(FOIA) issues, and voter protection were but some of the subjects addressed. However, "the loan industry's substitution for 'payday lending' restrictions with outrageous, usurious rates with misleading descriptions; the 40 percent increase in higher education, and the exceptionally large number of pre-K to 3rd-grade students expelled from schools for up to 364 days evoked gasps from the assembled Leaguers," commented Rubyjean Gould, LWV-VA Voter Service Co-chair. New member Madeline Vann said the amount of information presented made her "thankful to be a part of a group that has, as its mission, ensuring that all eligible voters have access to the legislative process."

Though the Pre-Session covered so many divergent topics, as noted by President Mary Schilling, "there seemed to be a common thread and a shared understanding of the critical importance of working collaboratively to make a difference in the lives of all Virginians."

So, Leaguers, come join us in Richmond for the weekly Women's Legislative Roundtables, beginning Wednesday, January 18 through Wednesday, February 22. You'll hear the latest legislative news, meet with our legislators or their aides, and learn a lot. We carpool to Richmond – contact Rubyjean Gould (gouldrl@cox.net) if you'd like to attend one or more of the informative sessions. The General Assembly Women's Roundtable Sessions begin at 8:30 AM in Richmond. We depart from Williamsburg at 7 AM.

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**Middle School 'We the People' Competition Held in December**

*Doris Margulies, LWA-WA member and three-year 'We the People' volunteer*

The Middle School Southeastern Virginia Regional Finals of 'We the People' was held on December 14, 2016, in Virginia Beach, VA. Two teams of students competed in the Simulated Congressional Hearings that were held at Brickell Academy for Advanced Academics & Arts at Old Donation School, a VB magnet school for gifted students.

'We the People' is the most extensive program in the country to educate young people about the history and principles of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The curriculum was developed by the Center for Civic Education. The

purpose is to revitalize educational programs on the Constitution and civic education in our nation's schools. The Montpelier Foundation, located at James Madison's Montpelier near Orange, Virginia, administers the Virginia program.

After studying the prepared textbooks, participating classes competed in these hearings. Each member of the class becomes an expert witness on one of the six units in the text and then testifies in small groups before a panel of judges.

A Brickell Academy class of 35 participated, as did eleven students from the Virginia Beach Boys and Girls Club. This latter group was coached by two VB police officers who served as judges at the State Finals last year. Given that their coaches were not teachers and the students worked on their own after school at the Boys & Girls Club, their performance at the Regional Finals was quite remarkable; they placed second to the classroom team from Old Donation' Brickell Academy.

Doris & Harvey Margulies represented our LWV-WA and served as Timers for the hearings. Emily Voss, State Coordinator for Virginia 'We the People' and Education Director of the Robert H Smith Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier, announced at the awards ceremony that there will be middle school state finals in the spring.

This year the State Finals for high school teams will be held in Charlottesville on Jan. 27, 2017. The National Finals take place in Washington, DC.

It is our sincere hope that a Study Committee can be formed by our League to encourage civics education and ultimately the participation of our local school system in 'We the People.' Teachers can participate in training for the program tuition free. Perhaps the League could consider providing a stipend for travel and expenses for area teachers to participate in this important program.

Anyone interested in joining this effort, please contact Doris Margulies by phone: 258-1067, or email: [grandemargulies@cox.net](mailto:grandemargulies@cox.net)

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## **The 2016-2017 LWV-WA Board**

### **Officers:**

- President – Mary Schilling
- Vice-President – Anne Bradstreet Smith
- Secretary – Dorothea Neiman
- Treasurer – Barbara Worthen

### **Elected Directors:**

- Education Chair: Studie Watkins
- Great Decisions: Doug Wood
- Hospitality: Nancy Campbell
- Membership (Database Manager): Les Solomon
- Voter Service Co-Chair: Rubyjean Gould

### **Appointed Directors:**

- Great Decisions Co-Chair: Doris Margulies
- Voter Service Co-Chair: Maryann Simpson
- Member at Large & Co-Editor Newsletter:  
Phoebe Kent
- Member at Large: Linda Rice
- Member at Large: Jo Solomon
- Parliamentarian: Mary Swain

### **Nominating Committee:**

- Chair: Flora Adams
- Member: Diane Lederer
- Member: Carol Deakins

## Get to know your board:

### Front row, left to right:

Mary Swain, Nancy Campbell, Mary Schilling,  
Anne Smith, Dorothea Neiman,  
Rubyjean Gould

### Back row, left to right:

Phoebe Kent, Maryann Simpson, Jo Solomon,  
Les Solomon, Doug Wood, Carol Deakins,  
Doris Margulies



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## Reminder: Time to renew your membership!!

**Membership in the League of Women Voters runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Note: If you joined after January 1, 2016, you are paid through June 30, 2017 and do not need to renew.*

If you have questions please contact [league@lwvwilliamsburg.org](mailto:league@lwvwilliamsburg.org)

## 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

See <http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/join.html> for membership application.



## Mark Your Calendar!!

For full calendar of events see <http://www.lwvwilliamsburg.org/calendar.html>

<b>Jan 4</b>	<b>LWV-WA Board Meeting</b>	<b>4-5:30 pm</b>	<b>Williamsburg Library, Rm B</b>
Jan 6	Electoral votes counted at US Capitol		
Jan 11	General Assembly convenes		
Jan 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day		
Jan 18	LWV-VA Women's Roundtable	8:30 am	Richmond
Jan 20	Presidential Inauguration Day		
Jan 23	OneVirginia2021 Lobby Day		Richmond
Jan 25	LWV-VA Women's Roundtable	8:30 am	Richmond
<b>Jan 26</b>	<b>LWV-WA Board Planning Mtg</b>	<b>4-5:30 pm</b>	<b>Williamsburg Library, Rm B</b>
Feb 1	LWV-VA Lobby Day @ Gen Assembly		Richmond
<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>LWV-WA Board Meeting</b>	<b>4-5:30 pm</b>	<b>Williamsburg Library, Rm B</b>
<b>Feb 6</b>	<b>LWV-WA Information Meeting on Fracking</b>	<b>12:30 pm (Brown Bag)</b>	<b>Stryker Building</b>
Feb 7	Great Decisions (GD): Conflict in the South China Sea – Col. Larry Wilkerson, former Colin Powell Chief of Staff	10:30 – noon	Williamsburg Lib Auditorium
Feb 8	LWV-VA Women's Roundtable	8:30 am	Richmond
<b>Feb 13</b>	<b>LWV-WA Consensus Meeting on Fracking</b>	<b>12:30 pm (Brown Bag)</b>	<b>Stryker Building</b>
Feb 14	97th anniversary of LWV founding GD: The Future of Europe W&M Prof. Clay Clemens	10:30 – noon	Williamsburg Lib Auditorium
Feb 15	LWV-VA Women's Roundtable	8:30 am	Richmond
Feb 20	President's Day		

Feb 21	GD: Nuclear Security Ploughshares Fund President Joseph Cirincione	10:30 – noon	Williamsburg Lib Auditorium
Feb 22	LWV-VA Women’s Roundtable	8:30 am	Richmond
Feb 27	General Assembly Sine Die		
Feb 28	GD: Saudi Arabia in Transition CW Communications Vice President Michael Holtzman	10:30 – noon	Williamsburg Lib Auditorium