

League in Action!

April 2019

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President's Message

By Tina Norkus

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Tina in Richmond advocating for change!

Happy Spring! The days are finally longer than the nights and fast upon us is the anniversary of the LWVFRA. In July of 2019, we will celebrate our third birthday. As we move into our fourth year, we have a lot to celebrate and much more work to do.

We celebrate the adoption of the first official position of LWVFRA on [Affordable Housing for Low-Income Seniors](#) in the Fredericksburg Area. The efforts of Gerald Anderson, Elaine Diepenbrock, Cathie Fisher Braman and Diane Shea resulted in a well-researched and timely [study](#) on the topic of affordable housing for low-income seniors. Their efforts are a testament to the skills and dedication our members bring to our mission. Gerald Anderson has agreed to chair the Senior Affordable Housing Committee tasked with advocating our newly adopted position. He will need volunteers to work with him to develop and implement strategies moving forward. If you are interested in being part of this exciting opportunity to make a real difference in our community, please contact Gerald at glanderson1947@gmail.com.

We also celebrate the work of the Voter Services Committee. From the beginning, LWVFRA has made the registration of new voters one of our primary objectives. We've had some singular successes in just the last few weeks; special thanks to Sue Botts, Jayne Mayne, Beth Spragins and Becky Beam! We also have some great opportunities on the horizon; see the Voter Services article for details. In order to build on our momentum, we need to form a strong Voter Services Committee. If you'd like to volunteer for this committee, please contact our Voter Services Chair, Sue Botts (suebotts1@gmail.com).

Lastly, we celebrate the efforts of our Membership Committee: Lena Gonzales Berrios, Brenda Hooper and Meaghan Sekinger. Over the past year, they developed a powerful set of tools to help us communicate our mission to current and future members. We attract new members by sharing the LWVFRA vision with friends and acquaintances, by participating in community events and by targeting communication to potential partners. We now need volunteers to help spread the word. Activities can range from stuffing envelopes to speaking to a community organization and everything in between. Please contact Lena Gonzales Berrios (lwwframembership@gmail.com) to add your creative voice to the Membership Committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

8th LWVFRA Board Meeting

22nd Earth Day

29th General Meeting: Friends of Rappahanock as Guest Speaker

May

3rd LWVFRA Spring Fling @ Aladin's Off Rt. 17

7th Community Conversations: Civic Engagement @ Salem Church Library

13th LWVFRA Board Meeting

17th -19th LWV-VA 39th Biennial Convention, Norfolk, VA

20th Community Conversations: Civic Engagement @ Porter Library

No General Meeting in May!

June

10th LWVFRA Board Meeting

24th LWVFRA Annual Meeting & Birthday Celebration!

Committee Updates

Communications

In the calm of winter, LWVFRA was busy advocating for changes to Virginia law to end partisan gerrymandering and to get the Equal Rights Amendment ratified. In working with our advocacy partners, LWVFRA made incredible progress towards ending partisan gerrymandering in Virginia! While the ERA did not pass, we made considerable gains in increasing awareness at the state and national level. Did you engage in the 30 Days of Activism calendar, which focused on these two issues? We had Leagues from across the United States participate in our 30 Days of Activism last December!

The Communications Committee continues to update League members through e-mail, social media and our quarterly newsletter. Please help promote our League's activities by following us on Facebook and Twitter as well as "liking" and/or "sharing" our posts.

We hope you can join us for our "Spring Fling" on Friday, May 3rd as we celebrate the adoption of our first local position statement on affordable housing for low-income seniors. More information on page 4 of the newsletter!

Facts For Voters

Directory of
Fredericksburg Area
Public Officials &
Government Offices

2019

Compiled by
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF FREDERICKSBURG AREA
lwvfra.org

Published and available digitally @ lwvfra.org
Collect a copy at our next League sponsored event!

Membership

Spring into the League!

Members are mobilizing to register and educate voters, participate in community civic engagement events and distribute the latest edition of Facts for Voters 2019. Being a member of the LWVFRA means that you are part of important local, state and federal initiatives. Why not recommend to your friends and families that they join the LWVFRA to increase our ability to bring about positive change in our community?

- Annual membership is \$50 per year, and members are encouraged to make an additional one-time \$50 donation to become a Founding Member (Limited to 100 members).
- Additional family and student memberships are \$25 each per year.
- Membership renewals are due on each member's anniversary date.

Contact the Membership Committee at our new email address lwvframembership@gmail.com with any questions and find membership details at <http://lwvfra.org/join.html>.

Membership Chair

Lena Gonzalez Berrios, lwvframembership@gmail.com

Committee Updates

Program Planning

LWVFRA Adopts First Local Position

After obtaining approval from the Board of Directors to study affordable housing for low-income seniors in the Fredericksburg Area, a committee chaired by Gerald Anderson (glanderson1947@gmail.com) was formed in January of 2018.

The committee met with a variety of local organizations and experts and organized an informational meeting for League members and the community to hear first-hand from those experts. The committee also read reams of statistics from federal and state government sources, examined other studies on options that had the potential to increase the supply of affordable housing and discussed which options had the potential for support by government jurisdictions in Planning District 16. After compiling all of the information into a comprehensive report, the committee offered a series of recommendations that:

- could be accomplished without additional state legislative approval
- could be adopted by one of more local political jurisdictions, whether individually or jointly
- had the potential to increase affordable housing options in a relatively short period of time; and
- were practical and affordable for local jurisdictions

The Board approved a set of consensus questions based on the recommendations and the League membership reached final agreement on March 25th, 2019. Congratulations to everyone who took part in the process! The Senior Affordable Housing Committee is encouraging members to join as they develop an action plan to implement the League's [position](#). The newly adopted position can be found on www.lwv.org.

Director of Program Planning

Diane Shea, shea.sullivan70@gmail.com

Voter Services

The Voter Services Committee has been busy registering high school seniors in area high schools this spring. In March, we visited Mountain View High School (Stafford). Beth Spragins and Sue Botts operated the registration table and Principal Jim Stemple provided support with morning announcements and table setup. At Courtland High School (Spotsylvania County), Jayne Mayne, Becky Beam, Tina Norkus, and Sue Botts registered 94 high school seniors in their government classes. Mrs. Mastin and Mr. Mouser, government teachers, led the effort by announcing this 2-day event in their classrooms and on the school announcements. Many thanks to school personnel for their leadership on this important task!

Future events:

Tuesday, April 9th & Thursday, April 11th at Stafford Senior High School

May 9th & 10th at Massaponax High School from 7:25 am to 1:15 pm.

High School seniors will register in their government classes with exact schedule to come soon. Help will again be needed; please contact Sue Botts and let her know if you are available in early May.

Voter Services Chair

Sue Botts, sbotts11@gmail.com

[540-376-2219](tel:540-376-2219)

LWVFRA SPRING FLING!

Join us for a fun and engaging happy hour as we celebrate the adoption of our position on Affordable Housing for Low-Income Seniors! Bring a friend or family member

When: Friday, May 3, 2019

Time: 4:30-6:30 pm

Location:

25 South Gateway Dr.
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

RSVP: None Required!



Community conversations

Connect with local leaders committed to voter engagement, volunteerism, and cultivating community. Learn how you can get involved, have a voice and make a difference. In partnership by LWVFRA & Central Rappahannock Regional Library. Meaghan Sekinger, LWVFRA's Director of Communications, will be serving as a panelist on May 7th!

5/7/19 at Salem Church Library from 7:00-8:30 pm

5/20/19 at Porter Library from 7:00-8:30 pm

Join us for our April General Meeting!

In celebration of Earth Day, the primary League topic for the general meeting on April 29th will be "Protecting the Rappahannock River: Advocacy and Education." The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Fredericksburg Library auditorium located at 1201 Caroline St.

Our speaker will be JoEllen Santulli, Communications Director for the Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR). Friends of the Rappahannock, an advocacy, restoration and education organization that is headquartered in Fredericksburg. FOR's projects include planting trees in riparian buffers to reduce storm water runoff, teaching environmental awareness to preschool and elementary students, working with partners to secure funding for the Chesapeake Bay program and opposing proposed federal wetlands revisions.

The second topic of the general meeting will be a wrap-up of key League issues considered by the 2019 Virginia General Assembly, presented by Diane Shea, LWVFRA Program Planning Director.

If there is sufficient time, we will begin preliminary discussions of potential 2019 study and/or action items.

Be sure to join us for an informative and stimulating evening; and bring a friend!



The League of Women Voters of the Fredericksburg Area would like to thank the following members who have demonstrated their commitment to the League and to the mission of Empowering Voters; Defending Democracy!

Caroline Parr- For the third year in a row, Caroline has taken on the difficulty and extremely time-consuming project of editing and compiling our Facts for Voters guide. Her continued commitment to this project is a wonderful contribution to LWVFRA and we thank her for it!

Brenda Hooper- As one of the original members of LWVFRA Board of Directors, Brenda has been instrumental in building the foundation for our local league. She has served as Membership Co-Chair over the past 2 years and has provided us with the tools needed to attract and retain our membership. Brenda has recently decided to resign from her Board position, and we thank her for her dedication and volunteerism over the past three years!