



The League of Women Voters - Richmond Metro Area

## The Leaguer

April 2024 - Vol. 103 No. 2

This issue of The Leaguer has information about topics that will be considered at the annual all-member meeting on May 4. Please review the proposals for our 2024-2025 advocacy positions and plan, bylaws change, budget, and board nominees, so that you can be an informed voter! Click the included links to see the details.



May 4 - 10:00 am to 1:30 pm

Virginia Museum of History & Culture

428 North Arthur Ashe Boulevard Richmond, VA 23220

Join us for a day filled with engaging discussions, important decisions, and an inside peek of the VMHC. This in-person event is a fantastic chance to connect with fellow Leaguers and elect your new Local League Board. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to learn, share ideas, and be inspired. We can't wait to see you there!

## Special Events:

### Private group tour of the museum library Entry to the exhibit *Julia Child: A Recipe for Life*

Taking advantage of our meeting location at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, attendees will have the opportunity to tour the museum's research library. Included in the tour is special access to the library's manuscript vault, which contains some of the museum's most important collections, and an up-close examination of original manuscripts, including items related to the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia, the LWV's historical predecessor. After the meeting concludes, attendees are invited to tour the rest of the museum's exhibits, including the newly opened [Julia Child: A Recipe for Life](#). Those attendees that are VMHC members have complimentary admission. Those that are not members will have the ability to purchase a ticket for the special reduced rate of \$5.

Please register **by April 30** on Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/4akKRRs>

Cost: **\$25** includes lunch, program, and special museum activities.

[Register Now](#)

Links to the detailed documents for our Annual Meeting:

- Proposed Advocacy Plan: <https://bit.ly/43vcjd6>
- Nominee Biographies: <https://bit.ly/Nominees24>
- Proposed Changes to Bylaws: <https://bit.ly/4cqtCQC>
- Proposed Budget: <https://bit.ly/BudgetFY25>

## A Message from the Co-Presidents

This note highlights some of the League's accomplishments this year, as well as the measures to be voted on at our annual meeting on May 4th.

Our Voter Service activities began with a September all-member "Refresh" meeting, where members volunteered for registration events, candidates' meetings, VOTE411, Voter Fact Sheets, and Call 12. We continued and expanded our high school Civics Education Program and established a relationship with VCU's VCU Votes class. We expect these programs to grow in the future and funding is included in the proposed budget.

Advocacy areas of interest included public education, affordable housing, transportation, and campaign finance. At the General Assembly members participated in the weekly Women's Legislative Round Table meetings and in League Day in February. Our all-member advocacy planning meeting in January developed the 2024-2025 program to be adopted at the annual meeting.

Our members also attended local electoral board and school board meetings, started locality-based unit meetings, had an outing on the PULSE bus to the Library of Virginia, and held an online discussion of *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*.

The national LWV is engaged in a multi-year reorganization process called Transformation, which will result in changes for local and state Leagues. To prepare, new bylaws to become effective as required will be presented at the annual meeting. Also, a new fund-raising effort is included in the proposed budget.

We hope to see you at the annual meeting where we will vote on these measures and on a slate of officers and directors. We also will be able to socialize in person (not ZOOM!) and enjoy a special presentation by staff of the Museum of History and Culture.

--- Co-Presidents Anna and Evelyn

## Proposed Changes to Advocacy Positions

A **position** is a statement of principles regarding an issue that allows the League to advocate on that issue. A position is adopted after careful study and consensus by League members. Each year we review our local positions, and in alternating years we review the national and state positions. After each review, we may propose changes that may require new studies prior to formal adoption.

Review of *Impact on Issues*. At the Advocacy Program Planning meeting in January 2024, members reviewed the national League's positions for 2022-2024. No changes or new studies were recommended at this level. Three proposals by other Leagues to amend the national positions were considered:

A video by the Washington state LWV explained a study they conducted on the [decline of local news](#). Attendees voted to concur with LWVWA **Local News** position as written.

The LWVUS **Climate Change** Interest Group has requested to add Climate Change as a top-level LWVUS focus area. After discussion, members voted to support recognizing the importance of Climate Change as essential to Making Democracy Work (the current top-level focus); however, we would not like to see this topic elevated in a way that is detrimental to current priorities.

Members also discussed the request by LWV Vermont to update the LWVUS position on **Healthcare** based on their state study. We were not able to reach consensus and so we did not concur with the LWVVT position.

*Review of LWVRMA Positions*. Members expressed interest in starting a local study on encouraging the Local Board of Elections to hire Election Officers for part-time positions on election day, rather than requiring workers to be on duty for as long as 16 hours. **A motion to begin a study on part-time positions for local election workers was approved.**

The complete position statements at the national, state, and local level can be found on our website under the *Members* menu option, or at these links: [LWVUS](#) - [Virginia](#) - [Richmond Metro](#).

## Proposed Advocacy Plan

At the January meeting, we began by reviewing the activities that our League carried out this year in advocating for our priorities.

Alice Tousignant then led attendees in a brainstorming exercise to identify goals for the coming year, to associate them with specific actions, and to categorize them according to the committee or group that should consider them for implementation.

The full list of goals and actions can be viewed at this link: <https://bit.ly/43vcjd6>.

## Nominations for 2024-2025

Officers and Directors serve for two-year terms, with half of the positions elected each year at an all-member meeting. The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee for 2024-2025. The board positions to be elected at this year's Annual Meeting are marked with an asterisk (\*) below.

Short biographies of the candidates may be viewed at this link: <https://bit.ly/Nominees24>.

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee: Penny Adams (chair), Karen Rosenblum, Carol Stephens, Trish Schwagemeyer, and Lorraine Waddill.

**Co-Presidents** - Evelyn Glazier and

Anna Mason

**Vice President (Program)** - Sam

Florer

**Vice President (Operations)** - Fran

Eckenrode

**Vice President (Voter Service)** -

Mary Crutchfield\*

**Secretary** - Georgia Coopersmith\*

**Treasurer** - **OPEN\***

**Nominating Committee 2025-2026:**

Penny Adams\*

Karen Rosenblum\*

Carol Stephens\*

**Directors (2 year term):**

Doris Bey

Vickie Parrish

Nancy Priddy

Trish Schwagemeyer

Ann Way

Joice Conyers\*

Marilyn Breslow\*

Louise Evans\*

Aria Lovelace\*

**Director (1 year term):**

Jane Newell\*

## Proposed Change to Bylaws

LWVUS has embarked on an initiative called *Framing the Future Membership*

*Transformation*. Because the new membership model will involve differences in how dues

are determined, collected, and shared among the national, state, and local Leagues, some sections of our bylaws must be changed to make them consistent with the new processes.

- Article VI Section 3, *Quorum*, clarifies that membership status is determined by a person's listing in the official roster.
- Article IX Section 2, *Finance Committee*, eliminates reference to per-member payments to the national and state Leagues.
- Article X Section 2, *Dues*, is replaced by language aligned with the new membership model, including tying the term of membership to one's joining or renewal date rather than to a fiscal year.

The proposed changes will take place after the new LWVUS computer system has been deployed to all Leagues in 2025. We will have a presentation on the membership changes at the Annual Meeting.

You can read the full text of the Bylaws, with the proposed changes displayed in color, at this link: <https://bit.ly/4cqtCQC>.

## **Proposed Budget, FY 2024-2025**

At the Annual Meeting, we will vote to approve the proposed budget, which is available at this link: <https://bit.ly/BudgetFY25>

Our **income** is from three sources: membership dues, fundraising, and the LWVRMA Education Fund. This year, our local League retains about 36% of member dues; the remainder is passed along to the Virginia and US Leagues (called "Per Member Payment," or "PMP"). FY 2026 will mark the beginning of a new member model, resulting in our local League retaining a smaller percentage of member dues.

Our **expenses** include operating costs around Membership, Administration, and Program. Included are member engagement, Zoom, website, insurance, registration for delegates to League Convention and Council, program planning, voter service, and

member events, among others.

In keeping with our goal to engage younger voters and influence first-time voters to become life-long voters, the FY25 budget contains funding for student interns as well as funding for student Voter Service activities at the high school and university levels. Funds for billboards were not included in the FY25 budget to allow focus on engagement of young and first-time voters.

The Education Fund can be used for education-related expenses like voter service materials and activities, public programs, and part of our PMP. The General Fund can be used for other League expenses. After FY25, our local League will receive a smaller portion of member dues as a result of LWVUS's *Framing the Future Membership Transformation* initiative. In recognition that it takes money to better achieve our local Program goals, the Finance Committee recommends conducting a fundraising campaign in 2024 to increase funds in both the Ed Fund and the LWVRMA General Fund. The target for the campaign is \$8,000. Moving forward, the Finance Committee intends to build a LWVRMA culture of annual giving and legacy giving among its members to enable our future work.

Thanks go to our Finance Committee: Marianne Feeney, Evelyn Glazier, Sarah Scott, and Fran Eckenrode (chair). The committee also acknowledges valuable assistance from Jane Newell, Anna Mason, Mary Crutchfield, and Carol Stephens.

## **Member Corner**

Our League is 128 members strong, including 11 student members!

**Welcome** to these new members who have joined since mid- December:

*Diane Black, Carol Fruhwald, Michele Hickey, Ryan Humphrey, Savannah Morris, Skylar Quina, Albert Rees, Julia Robeson, Roxane Rucker, Janet Schlesinger, Judith Scovronski, Peggy Stansbery, Melanie Stensrud, Jennifer Swanson, and Caitlyn Wilson-Steiner.*

## Dues are Due!

Spring is here and that means it is time to start renewing our membership in LWV-RMA. We have had a very busy and effective 2023-2024. Perhaps you have joined one of our new committees, like Education or Transportation, or helped with voter registration or lobbied our delegates and senators. Whatever ways you have participated this year and in the past, we value your continued participation and membership.

Renewals are due by July 1st. Many of you like to pay by check at the Annual Business Meeting in May. We welcome your checks then. Dues are \$75 and the year runs from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. You may also renew online at our website <https://www.lwv-rva.org/join-lwv-rva-form/>.

Please consider rounding up your dues to \$100. That gives our local league a little more money to pay for our monthly and yearly expenses!

Remember that students are free, but we need you to renew each year that you are a student.

If you have any questions, please call Carol Stephens at 678-206-4929.

## Get your League Gear at our Store

On our online store, you can buy a tee shirt, ball cap, mask, and mug with our League logo. Two new items for this spring include a snazzy tie-dyed tee and one with our new tagline - *Voting is a Revolutionary Act*. Visit our Bonfire store here:

<https://www.bonfire.com/results/lwv%20richmond/>

**At the Annual Meeting, we'll have buttons** with the new tagline. Get some to show your League spirit!





## Calendar

Watch the Mini-Leaguer for Zoom links and more information.

<b>Special Meetings</b>		
May 4	LWVRMA Annual Meeting	10:00 am - 1:30 pm at VA Museum of History & Culture Evelyn Glazier / Anna Mason
Jun 8	LWV-VA Council	Zoom
Jun 27-30	LWVUS National Convention	Washington, DC
<b>Recurring Meetings</b>		
2nd Wed.	Communications	5:30 pm - Apr 10, May 8, Jun 12 Kelly Coleman
3rd Mon.	Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI)	5:00 pm - Apr 15, May 20, June 17 Doris Bey
3rd Tue.	Board of Directors	5:15 pm - Apr 16, May 21, June 18 Evelyn Glazier / Anna Mason
3rd Thu.	Voter Service	5:30 pm - Apr 18, May 16, June 20 Mary Crutchfield
4th Mon.	Electoral Board Observation	1:30 pm - Apr 22, May 27, June 24 Mary Grace Boyle
4th Tue.	Membership & Engagement	2:30 pm - Apr 23, May 28, June 25 Carol Stephens
4th Tue.	Education	6:30 pm - Apr 23, May 28, June 25 Candace Graham
4th Wed.	Affordable Housing	Noon - Apr 24, May 22, June 26 Alice Tousignant
4th Thu.	Events Planning	4:00 pm - Apr 25, May 23, June 27 Fran Eckenrode

## Contact Us

How can YOU get involved? Our Richmond area league is active all over the democracy space. Send an email to [communications@lwv-rva.org](mailto:communications@lwv-rva.org) and we'll connect you with the Board officer or Committee chair whose portfolio matches your interests.

Co-Presidents: Evelyn Glazier, Anna Mason  
 VP Program: Sam Florer  
 VP Operations: Fran Eckenrode  
 VP Voter Service: Mary Crutchfield  
 Secretary: OPEN  
 Treasurer: OPEN  
 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: Doris Bey

Communications: Kelly Coleman  
 Education: Candace Graham  
 Electoral Board Observation: Mary Grace Boyle  
 Housing: Alice Tousignant  
 Membership: Carol Stephens  
 Nominations: Penny Adams  
 Transportation: Vickie Parrish

*The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.*

*We are fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy of LWV US.*

*We work to encourage informed and active participation in government and influence public policy through education and advocacy.*

*Views expressed by non-League links are not necessarily those of the League. These links are provided as a service to readers.*

*The content of this newsletter is subject to LWV RMA Bylaws, guidelines, and policies.*



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