

Volume LV - No. 4

Opportunities to Serve

[President's Letter continued from page 2]

I also want to remind you to put April 24 on your calendar – for our Annual Meeting. And finally, I am looking for 2 members who want to attend the LWVUS Convention in Atlanta on June 11 – 15. Expenses are paid by the Arlington League. It's an amazing experience to work with, and learn from, over 800 members from around the country!

Our League to Use Modern Technology to Communicate More Efficiently to the Membership for the Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held earlier than usual this year, on Saturday April 24th. Our By-Laws require that certain materials (proposed By-Law changes, budget, and nominating committee report) be provided to the membership no later than 30 days before the date of the meeting. That would be on March 25, too early to guarantee delivery via the April *Bulletin*. Rather than publish the materials in the March *Bulletin*, the Board has decided to send them out via the e-mail list serve by the 23rd of March. They will also be posted on our web site by that date, and then included in the April *Bulletin*. This should result in a more complete nominating committee slate and a more realistic budget than if they were each compiled a month earlier.

If you are not already on our list serve and would like to be included, please send an e-mail to HYPERLINK "mailto:lwvarlington@aol.com" lwvarlington@aol.com. If you do not have access to the internet and would like the Annual Meeting materials in hard copy by March 25, please call Sue Swisher at 703-578-7442.

Program Planning 2010

Fifteen members met on January 21st, prior to the Board meeting, to review our local and national program positions and see if any recommendations would be made to drop items or initiate new studies.

Karen Darner presented a request to discontinue the study on Preschool/Early Childhood Education that was adopted at our 2008 annual meeting. The Board will put this recommendation before the membership at our April Annual Meeting. The principal reason for not completing this study is lack of participation by both members and contacted non-members with preschool children. Karen reported, "Our current positions from 1988 suffice for now, but I believe an update is still necessary. The time *before* school, when we invest in high-quality and accessible early learning is not only cost-effective, but it is during a child's most formative years—we can't lose that time."

Several other local items were discussed (county governance structure, North Tract development, lack of an affordable housing component in Columbia Pike re-development) with the end result being not to recommend new studies, but to set up a committee to review editing our local program. We discussed ways that minor editing changes to existing positions and dates might make them more applicable to current situations. Mileva Hartman and Kristin Goss volunteered to initiate such an effort, starting with the positions on libraries and pre-K education. We also wondered if the process for approving new or revised positions could be done in a more timely manner. Natalie Goldring volunteered to review our Bylaws with that in mind. There was a unanimous decision to propose revising the advisory board position to add a section dealing with school board advisory committees. This recommendation will be brought to the

membership for final decision at the Annual Meeting in April.

Two national program proposals suggested by other Leagues were discussed: a study of the role of federal government in public education (which was included in the last *Bulletin*) and another proposal which would establish a Department of Peace. In the end, a decision was made to submit a proposal to study marriage equality to the National Board for consideration. An on-going discussion of program planning with Leagues across the country is available on the national web site.

Census 2010 Kick-Off on February 13 at Ballston Mall

By Bonnie Franklin

Representing the League, Kristin Goss and Bonnie Franklin are attending meetings of Arlington County's Complete Count Committee for the 2010 Census. The Committee includes representatives from the following sectors: government, education, faith-based communities, media, community-based organizations (like the League), and business. The mission is to actively develop and implement 2010 Census outreach to every Arlington County resident, with the primary focus on hard-to-count communities. The hard-to-count community includes those who are linguistically isolated, homeless, young, and living in group quarters.

The committee has formed different sub-committees to address these various constituencies about the importance of completing the Census form. The League is on the Young/African American sub-committee. The sub-committee plans to get the word out along the Metro corridors through condo, civic association, and apartment newsletters and by encouraging stores, restaurants, and clubs to have posters and promotional events. We're looking into doing something in connection with the February 20 Black Heritage Day at Drew School and the March 17 Pub Crawl in Clarendon.

On Saturday, February 13, the Census Van will be parked at Ballston Mall from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In the Food Court area, there will be a stage set up to anchor the following activities:

County Board proclamation urging residents to get involved in the 2010 Census
Ethnic dance performances showing the diversity of Arlington and that everyone counts!
Employment Opportunity Session for jobs with the 2010 Census
Plan a trip to the Ballston Mall that day for your Valentine Day shopping and check it all out!

We are looking for volunteers to staff tables on the dates listed above and/or to make calls or visits to businesses and condos in the Wilson/Clarendon corridor, urging them to post signs and materials about the importance of completing the Census form. These are great chances for us to reach out to new and different people. Please contact Bonnie Franklin at 703-578-1935 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:BFrank317@aol.com"](mailto:BFrank317@aol.com) \t "_blank" BFrank317@aol.com if you want to participate.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, **February 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th** - **Legislative Roundtable in Richmond, VA**

Thursday, **February 18th** 7:00 pm, **Board Meeting**, Glebe School, 1770 N. Glebe Rd.

Sunday, **February 21st** 2:00-4:00 pm **Celebrate 90 Years of the League** at the Central Library
Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy Street

Wednesday, **March 3rd** - **Legislative Roundtable in Richmond, VA**

Thursday, **March 18th** 7:00 pm, **Board Meeting**, Glebe School, 1770 N. Glebe Rd.

Thursday, **April 1st** **Census Day**

Thursday, **April 15th** 7:00 pm, **Board Meeting**, Glebe School, 1770 N. Glebe Rd.

Wednesday, **April 21st** - **Virginia General Assembly** reconvenes in Richmond, VA

Saturday, **April 24th** 9:30 am – noon, **LWV-Arlington Annual Meeting**,
Sheraton National Hotel,
900 S. Orme St., Arlington, VA

Saturday, **May 1st** - **LWV-VA Council** in Lynchburg, VA

Saturday, **May 8th** - **LWV-National Capital Area Annual Meeting**

Friday - Tuesday, **June 11-15th** - **LWVUS 49th National Convention** at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis,
65 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta, GA

LWV National Capital Area News

By Melpi Jeffries, Chair, LWNCA Electricity Study

LWVNCA is currently pursuing two studies, an "Update on NCA's Water Supply Study" and a "Study of the Adequacy and Reliability of Electricity in the National Capital Area," which hopefully will be presented next year. The Water study is being chaired by Norma Merritt. [HYPERLINK "mailto:properbostonian@juno.com" \o "mailto:properbostonian@juno.com" \t "_blank" properbostonian@juno.com](mailto:properbostonian@juno.com), 301-292-3233. The Electricity Committee is chaired by Melpi Jeffries, [HYPERLINK "mailto:melpijeffries@msn.com" \o "mailto:melpijeffries@msn.com" \t "_blank" melpijeffries@msn.com](mailto:melpijeffries@msn.com), 301-530-5452. Both committees have met and organized their studies, but both could use your help. Committees generally meet in the 10th floor LWVUS Board room at 1730 M St, N.W., Washington D.C. Please join us. If you need more information please contact Norma or Melpi.

The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area

Offers an evening of laughs with the fabulous

**Capitol Steps Comedy Group
Friday, March 12, 2010 at 7:30 pm**

In the Reagan Building located at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue in D.C.
Tickets are \$45 - **Reservation deadline is March 5, 2010**

Mail the form below with a check written to LWWNCA to:
Barbara Sherrill, 4826 N. 17th Street, Arlington, VA 22207

The Federal Triangle metro stop (orange/blue lines) is connected to the Reagan Building and International Trade Center by a covered passageway. The Metro Center metro stop (red line) is two blocks away, and the Smithsonian metro stop (orange/blue lines) is within walking distance.

Capitol Steps Comedy Evening March 12, 2010

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Address: _____
League: _____

Number of Tickets at \$45 each: _____ E-mail
address _____

**League of Women Voters of Arlington
P.O. Box 100577
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703-522-8196
www.LWV-ArlingtonVa.org**

February 2010

**League of Women Voters
of Arlington, Virginia**

BULLETIN

President: Nancy Tate
Editor: Susan Trice

February 2010 In This Issue

Celebrate the League's 90 th Birthday	1
Election Registration Law Change	1
Letter From the President	2
Program Planning 2010	3
Census 2010 Kick-off	4
Remembering Nancy Lee Head	4
Upcoming Events	4
LWVNCA News	5
An Evening with the Capitol Steps Comedy Group	5

Celebrate the League's 90th Birthday!
Sunday, February 21st 2-4 p.m.
Arlington Central Library Auditorium

We will:

Honor our five 50-year members with a retrospective of their thoughts on the League's proudest achievements;
Run a slide show of Arlington League members throughout the years, together with a

montage of stories and memories of what the League has meant to each of us;
Welcome County Board Chair Jay Fisette, who will read a Board Proclamation declaring
Feb. 21 "League of Women Voters Making Democracy Work Day" in Arlington;
Enjoy a specially decorated birthday cake and warm conversation.

Please join us!

If you need a ride, please contact Vice President
Kristin Goss ([kagoss HYPERSLINK "mailto:kagoss@aol.com" \t "_blank" @aol.com](mailto:kagoss@aol.com);
703-920-7870).

Election Registration Due Date Law Changed Effective January 1, 2010 in Virginia

§ 24.2-416. Closing registration records before elections. In any county, city, or town in which an election is being held, the registration records shall be closed for the purpose of registering voters on the election day and during the period in advance of the election as provided in this section. The registration records shall be closed during the twenty-eight days before a primary or general election. Beginning January 1, 2010, the registration records shall be closed during the 21 days before a primary or general election. If the registration records have not been closed previously for a primary or general election, they shall be closed during the six days before a special election called by the Governor, Speaker of the House of Delegates, or President pro tempore of the Senate, or pursuant to rule or resolution of either house of the General Assembly and during the thirteen days before any other special election.

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The League of Women Voters is a

nonpartisan, political membership organization that encourages informed and active participation in government,
works to increase the understanding of major public policy issues through education and influences public policy through advocacy.

We welcome both female and male members.

For more information please visit our national organization website at HYPERLINK "<http://www.lwv.org>"

www.lwv.org

or the LWV of Arlington website at

www.LWV-ArlingtonVa.org

or contact

Membership Chair Joan Howe

703-527-6592

bob-joanhowe@verizon.net

Letter from the President Nancy Tate

I'm pleased to report that the Arlington League has kicked off 2010 with two successful events! The first was our annual hosting of a public hearing so that Arlington representatives to the VA Senate and House of Delegates could hear the views of Arlingtonians before the legislative session started in Richmond. Thirty members of the public testified, as did I. I presented the League's views and positions on how to deal with the financial crisis in Virginia, and on other legislative matters. You can read my statement on our website, as well as the article in the *Sun Gazette* that quoted me, at HYPERLINK "<http://www.lwv-arlingtonva.org>" www.lwv-arlingtonva.org.

While the first event was a service to our community, the second – Program Planning – was for our members. We had a good turn-out of members interested in determining what, if any, new or revised positions were needed by our Arlington League and by the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). We will be asking the national League to do a study on "marriage equality". Whether or not LWVUS will undertake this study or any other will be determined at the national Convention in Atlanta. Our discussion of local positions resulted in some innovative ideas, in terms of both editing existing positions to make them more current and usable and in terms of the ratification process. We also recommended taking a look at school board advisory committees. Discussion and decisions on these will take place at the April Annual Meeting. See more on this discussion on page 3.

In January, we also saw the continuing participation by Bonnie Franklin and Kristin Goss in Arlington's Complete Count Committee, which has the goal of minimizing the population undercount in the 2010 Census. The League is on a subcommittee focusing on African-American and youth participation. We will be looking for volunteers in February and March to help. See more details on page 4.

I recently created a committee on the subject of the recent petition to change Arlington's form of government. The committee, headed by Madeline Jervis, will make recommendations to the Board as to whether the League should undertake education and/or advocacy (or neither) on this topic this year. Other committee members include Marjorie Hobart, Marjie Mayor, Barb Sherrill, and Eileen Williams. If you are interested in

participating, contact Madeline at 703 532-0534 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:weehame@earthlink.net" \t "_blank" weehame@earthlink.net](mailto:weehame@earthlink.net).

We have some other activities coming up! On February 21, we will be having a "birthday" celebration, in honor of the League's 90th anniversary. A lot of fun activities are being planned, and County Board Chair Jay Fisetta will attend to present us with a proclamation.

See the details on page 1 and in the calendar of events – and be sure to come and see old and new friends!

[Continues on page 3]

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Come and Celebrate the League's 90th Birthday!
Sunday, February 21st 2-4 p.m.
Arlington Central Library Auditorium

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League Mourns Loss of Nancy Lee Head

The Arlington LWV sadly lost another remarkable member. Nancy Lee Head passed away at her home on January 15th. Nancy was an activist, advocate, educator and lay minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She dedicated her life to matters of social justice and worked tirelessly to raise awareness of patients' rights and mental health issues.