**february 1, 2024 unit letter**

**FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS!!!**

Thank you all for regearing so quickly to add the Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy to our schedule. This is what makes the League such a powerful organization. Even though we are large, we are grassroots. We can change course when needed and did so beautifully to discuss this important study from the state of Washington. After reading all your unit reports I think everyone had some excellent discussions.

Now we are on to book selection, book challenges, and reading a banned book. And, of course, we have our Presidential Primary election coming up in March. Fasten your seatbelts!

Judy Smith Unit Coordinator judy.smith@lwv-fairfax.org, 703-342-3353

**LEADERSHIP OPPPORTUNITIES – Alice reilly, Nominating committee**

Any organization is only as good as its members and leadership. LWVFA is a very active and successful organization due to the active involvement of its members in so many ways, whether behind the scenes registering people or up front as a member of leadership. In order to continue the important work of registering voters and providing valuable civic information to the residents of the Fairfax area, LWVFA needs leaders to ensure that this work continues. That means we need you!

Consider volunteering for a leadership position. It is a great way to meet inspiring people and forge new friendships.

Two year positions expiring June 30, 2024:

* Co-president
* Program Coordinator(s)
* Unit Coordinator

Job descriptions for these positions can be found [here](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001gEn_ECh1KaUo4N9aZo2VUu5rrwGJUdZkp_BXRTyaBeDI6EuBeIfqtqqdez1Fka45vqSjfglFTQLKonWNaoh4AGTY-EbR9vjfd29WCWdt3BzjCzi2a86LpXfrpHvB1ov8tZXREknFIQTedrj3Tqd15VBwr3KkETauL4zWP3_ki0E=&c=dkCre30P8eSYTp7gwlMFZ9G74sNjL3Qixu-MLH_82FbgUCaWy5PW8g==&ch=qeruWMJ7dgLhU4A8Ta5dsBmBjt8GRgXL4Xmdx2D8JTo2hJ6ixkeDWg==)on the [League website](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001gEn_ECh1KaUo4N9aZo2VUu5rrwGJUdZkp_BXRTyaBeDI6EuBeIfqtqqdez1Fka45vqSjfglFTQLKonWNaoh4AGTY-EbR9vjfd29WCWdt3BzjCzi2a86LpXfrpHvB1ov8tZXREknFIQTedrj3Tqd15VBwr3KkETauL4zWP3_ki0E=&c=dkCre30P8eSYTp7gwlMFZ9G74sNjL3Qixu-MLH_82FbgUCaWy5PW8g==&ch=qeruWMJ7dgLhU4A8Ta5dsBmBjt8GRgXL4Xmdx2D8JTo2hJ6ixkeDWg==),

If you are interested in serving in one of these exciting volunteer opportunities or have questions, please contact a Nominating Committee member:

Peggy Knight, peggyknight49@gmail.com, 703-772-4939

Mary Valder,  mary.valder@lwv-fairfax.org

Arina van Breda arina@lwv-fairfax.org

Alice Reilly  alice.reilly@lwv-fairfax.org

Charleen Deasy Charleen.deasy@verizon.net, 703-620-3593

**LOCAL NEWS MEDIA– katherine ingmanson**

Katherine Ingmanson is compiling a list of local media to put in the Fairfax Voter. Do you have a local newspaper or source for your local news? Please email Katherine with the name/link to that local news.

katherine@lwv-fairfax.org

**PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH – Judy Helein and Julie Jones**

The program topic for February League Unit discussions is**Libraries, An American Value:  How Books Are Chosen and How Books Are Challenged.**  A briefing is scheduled for discussion leaders on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 10 am via Zoom.  **This briefing is open to all League members.** If you wish to participate, please contact Judy Helein at judy.helein@lwv-fairfax.org by the morning of February 2 so that she can send you a zoom invite.

Units are encouraged to choose a banned book to read in March and discuss why it was selected and challenged.  Each unit can pick one or several books to discuss.  It is a good idea to choose books now so that members have time to read them before the March meetings.

Some suggestions:

            Most banned books:

                        “Gender Queer: A Memoir” by Maia Kobabe

                        “All Boys Aren’t Blue” by George M. Johnson

                        “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison

                        “Crank” by Ellen Hopkins

                        “Lawn Boy” by Jonathan Evison

            Classic Books:

                        “The Catcher in the Rye” by J.D. Salinger

                         “The Grapes of Wrath” by John Steinbeck

                        “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee

                        “The Storyteller” by Jodi Picoult

**WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH – Arina Van Breda**

Reminder - The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is partnering with the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) system and the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center (HRC) to share early voting records of Fairfax County. Here is the key information about this event:

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: City of Fairfax Meeting Room A and B

Library Branch: City of Fairfax Regional Library

There will be a sign up via the FCPL starting on February 7.

As always, we need volunteers for our many and varied voter registration activities. Sign ups are available in each weekend’s ENews and on the volunteer opportunities page of our website.