**MAY 1, 2024 unit letter**

**BACK TO UNIT MEETINGS!!!**

We are back to unit meetings this month with a deep look at our Virginia Court System. The courts are much in the news these days but we often do not truly understand how they work. Thank you to our program chairs, Julie Jones and Judy Helein, for pulling this study together.

I am pleased to announce that we have a new team taking over on July 1 to lead the units. Linda Beaty will join the Board as unit director. Elizabeth McCormick will take on the role of assistant unit director to oversee the meeting dates and venues. Karen Beck will be moving on after volunteering in the latter role. We appreciate all of her service to the League. Thank you, Karen!

Lastly - Don’t forget to give us information about your June “Do Your Own Thing” meeting if you have not done so already.

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

**BE IN THE KNOW! – Pat Fege and katherine Ingmanson**

**Be in the Know!**

To view our League's successes over the past League year, click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=tmktXj2C9K8&feature=youtu.be).

To find information about the Virginia Primary Elections, go to our [website's home page](https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/) and look at the middle section.

**PROGRAM – Judy Helein and Julie Jones**

**LWVFA MAY PROGRAM – The VIRGINIA COURT SYSTEM**

**Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 3 pm via zoom**

This program is open to all League members and will also serve as a briefing for LWVFA unit discussion leaders.  Join the League on Saturday, May 4 at 3pm via zoom for this very interesting program.

Courts, judges, prosecutors, juries, and defendants are in the news – every day now!  Who appoints or selects the judges? How many courts are there in Virginia? Where do you go if you want a divorce? What do magistrates do?  Find the answers to these questions and others that you might have in the May Voter and/or by attending this session led by LWVFA’s own Julie Jones and Mary Jane Cleary.

Contact Judy Helein at judy.helein@lwv-fairfax.org by Thursday, May 2 to register and receive the zoom link.

The May issue of the VOTER is posted on the website [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/).  The article on the Virginia Court System can be found there.

**KICK-OFF AUGUST 24 – Judy Smith**

The Fairfax League Kick-Off will be on **Saturday morning August 24 at the Fairfax Government Center**. This is the meeting for unit chairs to participate in plans for the 2024-2025 year. Please put this date on your calendar NOW! If you ae not able to come, please designate a replacement from your unit.

**MEMBERSHIP – Donna Blake**

LWVFA Membership Rosters

1. The latest Active Member Rosters are for 2024-April-28.
2. The best practice is to create the Active Member Rosters from a spreadsheet exported from the LWVUS (National) Database to maintain consistency.  Therefore, all changes and additions to the LWVFA membership rolls are made in the LWVUS (National) Database.  Such entries are subject to the rules of the LWVUS (National) Database. However, the Transformation Team has asked Membership Directors to avoid correcting the LWVUS (National) Database so they can find and correct recently identified problems.  Therefore, I am fat-fingering identified corrections to the Active Member Excel spreadsheets individually.    Please check these rosters carefully to catch my mistakes.
3. For those interested:  Many of the Membership Directors have told the Transformation Team that (1) the time to enter data to the LWVUS (National) Database has increased significantly and (2) data entered and registered has disappeared.  Your Membership Director is one of the loud complainants about these problems.
4. At this time, the LWVFA has a total of 379 Active Members:  Primary – 299, Household – 35, Student – 25, and Life – 20.    We only gained ten new members this month.
5. Any changes or additions to member information must be provided to the Membership Director NLT the 21st of each month in order to be incorporated into that month’s Active Member Rosters.  Every effort will be made to distribute that month’s Active Member Rosters by the 25th of each month to the Executive Board, the Unit Coordinator, and anyone who requests the various Active Member Rosters.

LWVFA Membership Information, valid until the end of January 2025, or when the Transformation is implemented.

1. Although the LWVFA fiscal year is 01 July – 30 June of the following year, there is a grace period of 3 months to 30 September.
2. On 10 October the LWVFA members who have not paid their FY25 dues will be moved to the Inactive Roster Lists and will not receive future copies of The Voter.
3. The two weeks between 30 September and 10 October is to allow time for all payments sent by 30 September to be received and processed.

LWVFA Renewals and New Members

1. The LWVFA and Membership Director are looking always for better ways to reach new members and to encourage existing members to renew.
2. After two excellent months, our new member count fell off for this month.  Let’s keep reaching out to friends and invite them to various meetings and activities, especially some of the Zoom meetings.
3. This year, 2024, is an election year and we expect a lot of interest in the LEVFA activities.  Let’s turn this interest into membership whenever possible.

LWVFA Members Moving On – old news

1. Our LWVFA do move a lot, sometimes within the LWVFA but more often out of state.  Be sure to tell your Unit Chair and your Membership Director so we can remove you from Active Status and all of the LWVFA communications.  Also, remember to change any automatic payments such as via PayPal.
2. Our LWVFA members who move out of Fairfax usually join a LWV League at their new address.  Remember to contact your Membership Director to transfer your membership to your new League so no information will be lost, especially your join and expiry dates.
3. Please note that per LWVUS (National) Database rules, a member may belong to only one Local League.

Early Alert!  Starting in late CY24, big changes are coming to the way that the LWV will handle membership at all levels.  Stay tuned and check the LWVFA web site (<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>)

so you don’t miss a thing!

Finally, if you have any questions about your membership, please contact the Membership Director, Donna Blake at membership@lwv-fairfax.org.  Please use the Subject Line:  **Membership Question** so I can give priority to such emails.  Or for a faster response send a text to 703-967-5214.