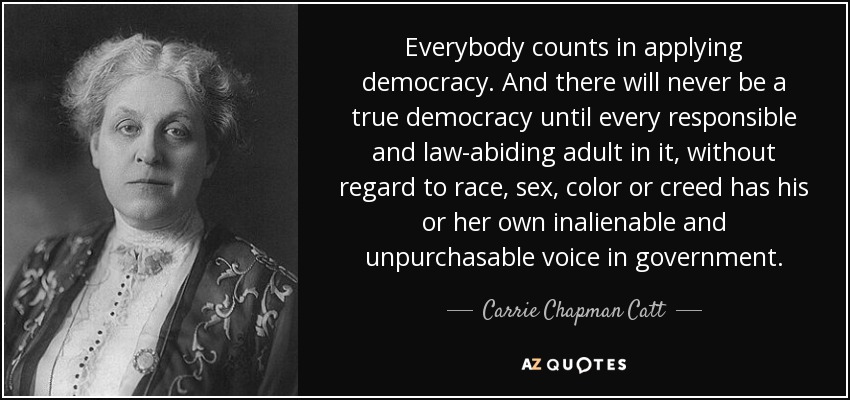
**“The Prince William - Fauquier Voter”**

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**Spring 2025 Newsletter**



**President’s Report – Pat Reilly**

Getting together to protect Democracy and expand the number of voters

Happy Spring. This is the time of year when communities start planning their festive

days, which are opportunities for us to meet the public and talk registering to vote and

how and when to get out and vote. As we vote every year in Virginia, this year for Governor and state offices, it is also the time when politicians throw their hats in the ring, explain what they are for and, in some cases, face a June primary.

On March 22, the League of Women Voters of Prince William and Fauquier Area,

gathered in a beautiful room at the Haymarket-Gainesville Library for a General

Meeting. We learned from Carol Proven about the structure and history of the League

and how we come to the positions that guide our advocacy. We had several new people

join us and others exploring ways to get involved. Thanks to everybody who came.

I explained that my statement, “This is more important than ever because we are living

in a crucial time in which the future of Democracy is threatened and our country’s future

weighs in the balance” was borrowed from a 2021 Annual Report. We’re pretty

consistent in our underlying beliefs.

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Photo by Pete Robinson

I can’t emphasize enough the importance of our being non-partisan when it comes to

the work of explaining the issues and actions at stake. In the last year, our Chapter participated in 90 events, which include community events, school visits, debates, forums, Webinars, public meetings and Voter Registration at libraries, senior residences and public events and schools and my favorite, New Citizen ceremonies in Arlington. We have sponsored a Black Lives Matter Vigil for Peace and Action every Saturday for more than 250 weeks. Yet voter turnout for the last General Election, according to the state Elections Board, was down 5% or hundreds of thousands of eligible voters. So we have to crank up our Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) activities. That means expanding our membership to we can extend our reach. This year, we have two women vying to be governor. So, our popular “Vote Like a Girl” buttons and T-shirts are more relevant than ever, however you read it.

**Biennial Meeting, Sunday, May 18th, 2025.**

**2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

**McCoart Building, Occoquan Room, 1 County Complex Ct., Woodbridge, VA**

**Our special Guest will be Liz White of UpVote Virginia.**

Liz White is the founding executive director of UpVote Virginia and the former executive director of OneVirginia2021. After spending the better part of the last decade on nonpartisan redistricting reform, she wanted to expand the scope of her democracy reform work to elevating the voices of Virginia voters through policies like Ranked Choice Voting.

**Treasurer’s February Report - Shari Oley**

Changes as of February 1, 2025, due to the transformation incorporated by the National League of Women Voters:

* There are no longer different types of membership. Per LWVUS, “Instead of a fixed dues rate, members choose their dues amount – “pay-what-you-can” – with a Minimum of $20; however, the recommended rate is $75 per individual member”.
* All payments now need to go through LWVUS. They set up a portal where each member can go to change any of their contact information and such, and, if they want, to pay their dues and/or donate either directly to our league or to the Educational Fund.
* Please note - If I receive renewal or donation checks now, I must mail them to

LWVUS for them to process.

* When you go through the portal, there is an option there to set up an automatic renewal.
* From now on, our league receives our percentage of member dues directly, so for example, if dues of $70 are paid, we receive only our 20% into our bank account. We no longer have the entire amount in our bank and then pay a single payment annually to both LWVUS and to State of their share based on our roster as of January 31 for the prior year.
* (There will be one final annual payment based on our roster ending January 31 for our 2024 membership. National will help us financially to make this payment as we are no longer getting the total $dues in our account.)
* To date, we have received directly into our bank account four dues’ payments of $15 (i.e., 20% of $70) and one $100 operating fund donation.

 Our fiscal year has now changed to the calendar year

* This will be reflected in our revised bylaws.
* This will also change our budgeting for 2025. I would like to get our revised budget done by March 30th based on our new fiscal year because our current budget doesn’t mesh with or reflect the new transformation changes.

**Membership Committee:** **Jane Touchet, Membership Records Chair**

Our local chapter welcomes these new members to our Prince William - Fauquier League!

* Kathryn Kadilak joined in February. She lives in The Plains
* Stephanie Martinez joined in March 2025. She lives in the Dale City area of Woodbridge.
* Linda Pelletier joined in February 2025. She lives in the Lake Ridge area of Woodbridge.
* Ruth Solomon joined in 8/28/24 (according to US database). She lives in Gainesville.

**Voter Services**, Laura Feld-Mushaw

On March 19th and 20th, Judy Hingle, Trish Freedman, Lucia Anderson, Barb Greiling, and Laura Feld-Mushaw registered Seniors at Freedom Senior High School.   The students were just completing their units on the three branches of government and the process of checks and balances. League members discussed Real ID with the students. Many seniors mentioned they have no plans on getting a driver’s license in the near future because they can’t afford a car and insurance. They said Uber is convenient and cost effective as well as public transportation. We discussed the importance of getting a State ID or Real ID.  Many of the students have a passport, but having two formal pieces of ID is important.

We registered over 70 voters on paper plus showed them how to register online at PWCVOTES.org.   A person can register online if they have a driver’s license or a permit.

A big thank you to Mr. Trotter and his team for inviting us.

We are working on a schedule for Osborn Park Voter registration in early May.

If you have not recently visited PWCVOTES.org, the Election Office website…. Please do so.  The Election Office has updated its information, has a new section explaining voter security and other improvements.

**Strategic Plan 2025/2026**

The Executive Board met in January to discuss how best to strengthen membership

involvement with the LWV PWFA chapter. In order to move in that direction, the Board

determined that a more explicit Strategic Plan was needed, and a Strategic Planning Committee was established. With Connie Gilman as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, the group met twice to arrive at a model for a Strategic Plan, with three main goals and sub-goals, summarized briefly below:

Main Goal A: Increasing active participation of current and new members

- Facilitate avenues of information and efficient use of volunteers

- Establish an annual calendar of LWV PWFA events

- Articulate standard operating procedures

Main Goal B: Empowering voters

- Educate voters on LWV VA positions on proposed VA constitutional amendments

- Register voters

- Voter education resources

Main Goal C: Identifying local initiatives

- Educate the public about land use

- Follow up on previous local initiatives

The Board decided that, with the Strategic Plan as a guide, Board members would each

personally reach out to a subset of existing members to describe elements of the Strategic Plan and discuss how members could become more involved in working to advance LWV PWFA’s goals. These personal discussions would include member availability and special talents and interests, such as communications, voter outreach, budget planning, and advocacy.

**Calendar of Events**

[This is our new shared calendar. Click here to be taken to our interactive calendar. If an event is underlined, you can click on it and register.](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_2yg-B4CcKpDu_f8x-OAa-NEN08RcYTYLhn5WFHJH3Y/edit?gid=2008777860#gid=2008777860).

Check out our upcoming events for members and the public!

Date & Time & Description All are held on Zoom, unless otherwise noted. Zoom info will be sent with SignUp Genius confirmation.

ELECTIONS

At the biennial meeting on May 18th, 2025, a slate of officers for the next two years will be introduced. There are critical vacancies: President, Vice President, Advocacy Director, Program Director, Member Services Director, Fauquier Unit Chief. However, all positions are open. Job descriptions are available on the LWVPrinceWilliam.org website. Each area of work has a committee to help, so there is plenty of work to go around.

Non-elected:

Ex-Officio Past President.

Please consider your talents and offer you name to the nominating committee, via chair Ruthann Litchford, [r.litchford@live.com](mailto:r.litchford@live.com)

A certificate of appreciation

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Universal Human Rights Day Celebration,

Report submitted by Laura Feld-Mushaw

January 11, 2025 was the Universal Human Rights Day Celebration for Prince William County Human Rights Commission. The 60th Anniversary of this event was 2024.

On Jan. 15, 1993, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors authorized the creation of a Human Rights Commission. The Human Rights Commission enforces the Human Rights Ordinance through the investigation of complaints, provides outreach and education to the public, staffs the Human Rights Commission and responds to public information requests.   Not all counties in Virginia have a Human Rights Commission with enforcement authority.

This year's event was held at the McCourt Building in the BOCS Chambers.    Each organization that was a member of the Coalition for Action received a certificate.  I was proud to accept the certificate for all of the LWV-PWFA. The Coalition for Action will soon be getting ready to work together for the 2025 Elections.

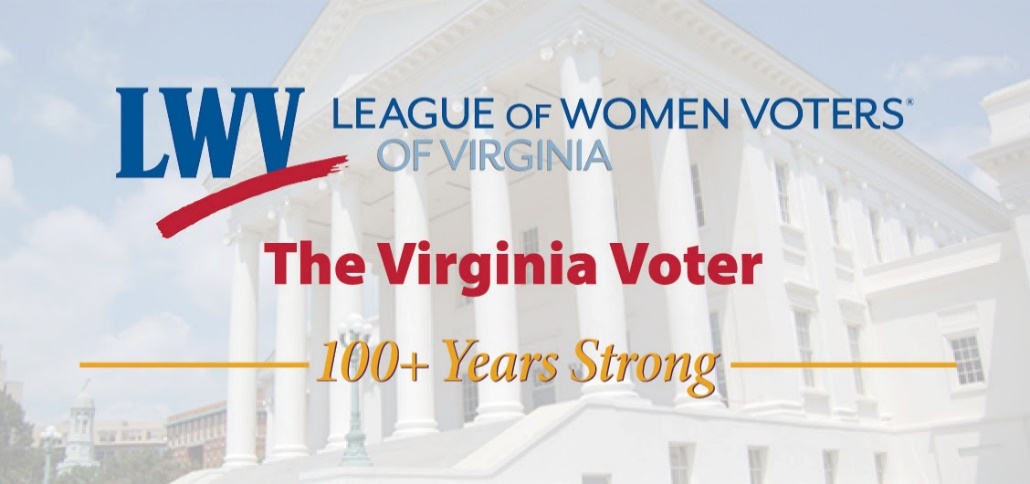
The organizations that are members of the Coalition for Action are: Prince William NAACP; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Prince William County Alumnae Chapter;  Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; The Links, Incorporated – Old Dominion Chapter;  Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter; League of Women Voters of Prince William-Fauquier Area; Unity in the Community; Black Women on Deck; National Council of Negro Women; National Coalition of 100 Black Women; Gainesville-Manassas Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.;  Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Northern Virginia Democracy Center in association with The Center for Common Ground; Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; Prince William County Chapter Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Jack and Jill; Black Women United for Action; Virginia NAACP Region 3, (Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria Counties); Win With Black Women Virginia.

**Just in case you don’t read the National League updates, you may be interested in**:

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| [**LWV et al v Trump**](https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/court-cases/league-women-voters-v-trump) |

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| On April 1st, 2025, the League of Women Voters filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump over his recent Executive Order (EO). While entitled “Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections,” the EO disenfranchises possibly up to 160 million voters. [see the order [**here.**](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/preserving-and-protecting-the-integrity-of-american-elections/)]  The Executive Order, according to the pleadings, violates the constitutional separation of powers; as the executive branch executes laws, it does not create them. The EO also illegally orders the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to change voter registration within 30 days to require a passport (only half of citizens have one) or other citizenship document to register to vote. Plus, the EAC is to decertify all state voting machines across the country until a new federal standard is developed. There is no current federal standard. Election officials doubt the new systems would be ready for the 2026 federal elections, although Virginia is doubly hurt by this EO, since we actually have an election this year, for Governor, Attorney General and Lieutenant Governor.  Additionally, states are to hand over voter rolls and information to Elon Musk's DOGE staff, and it changes the deadline for absentee and mail ballots to the day of the election, in spite of 18 states having different deadlines. An extra burden will be placed on military voting overseas to prove attachment to a state.  Article 1, Section 4, of the Constitution assigns the “Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections . . . shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations....” The Executive Branch is not included in this task.  **The SAVE ACT**  Speaking of which, Congress is contemplating making a nationwide voter registration law, which is also going to disenfranchise millions. The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (SAVE Act) has been introduced in the House, where it is expected to pass once brought to the floor. Predictions are that it will not pass the Senate. The Act requires proof of citizenship to register to vote. A passport works, but also a birth certificate - providing your name on the birth certificate matches the voter's current name. Estimates are that 69 million women who changed their names upon marriage, will not be able to register to vote.  Currently only citizens are allowed to register to vote. There is an oath, under penalty of prosecution, that you must take before registering. The system is not broken, but it will be if these “fixes” are allowed to go into effect.  The League asks you to [**Tell your members of Congress to oppose the SAVE Act.**](https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-your-members-congress-oppose-save-act) |

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**Should LWV VA Become Solely a 501 C (3)  Organization?  For All But Especially Convention Delegates!**

April 30th, 7 -8 PM [RSVP](https://click.everyaction.com/k/104925494/536884472/-429027166?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAxOS8xLzExMTM3OSIsDQogICJEaXN0cmlidXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZCI6ICI4Y2U0ODQ3Yi1lODBlLWYwMTEtOTBjZC0wMDIyNDgyYTlmYjciLA0KICAiRW1haWxBZGRyZXNzIjogImNvbm5pZXdnNTFAZ21haWwuY29tIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=4hR1GIAleWzcrWILM24SrWHDGa9Zw49Xmc2dbE2YNjs=&emci=cb635f5b-460a-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=8ce4847b-e80e-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=3967213)

Join us  - whether you will be a delegate to the 2025 Convention or just interested in this topic.  LWV Virginia: Should We Become at 501 C (3) Entity Only?

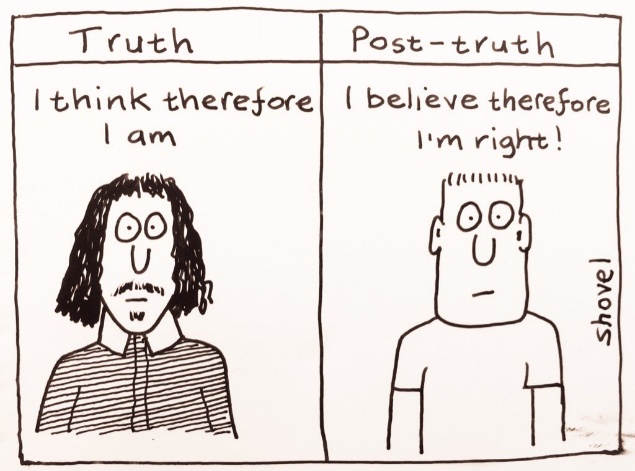
Our speaker will be Tom Carson, husband of former LWV US President, Chris Carson, who has helped many state and local leagues combine their Education and Operating Funds into one entity.  This event is open ONLY to League Members.

**Download Cards to Protect Immigrants**

You can [download](https://click.everyaction.com/k/104925509/536884487/-1645141099?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAxOS8xLzExMTM3OSIsDQogICJEaXN0cmlidXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZCI6ICI4Y2U0ODQ3Yi1lODBlLWYwMTEtOTBjZC0wMDIyNDgyYTlmYjciLA0KICAiRW1haWxBZGRyZXNzIjogImNvbm5pZXdnNTFAZ21haWwuY29tIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=4hR1GIAleWzcrWILM24SrWHDGa9Zw49Xmc2dbE2YNjs=&emci=cb635f5b-460a-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=8ce4847b-e80e-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=3967213#item-4477) cards for immigrants in many languages.

These cards have information in the second language and English for them to present if they are being wrongfully threatened by ICE.

**Start Now to Fight 2025 Election Disinformation**



[This Photo](https://polarjournal.org/2020/02/16/anthropology-and-fake-news-a-conversation-on-technology-trust-and-publics-in-an-age-of-mass-disinformation/) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)

The 2024 election cycle highlighted the need for reliable election information to be available throughout the election cycle. In Virginia, the election cycle is underway once again. Making the public more aware of the systems in place to ensure election integrity is the best way to undermine false information.

 Since the most reliable source of such information is each local election office, the Mis/Dis Information Task Force encourages local Leagues to actively share the information their local Registrars provide about how each election will be conducted, and what protections are in place to ensure the integrity of the voting process.Leagues and League members can share such information in various ways, including reposting election office information on social media.  As part of this effort, Leagues are encouraged to consult with their city or county Registrar’s Office on the challenges they face and the best ways to be of assistance.

Local Leagues are also encouraged to utilize the various League tools available to track and report mis/disinformation. These include VerbaAI, which works with LWV-VA to flag mis/disinformation.

The monthly LWVUS Democracy Integrity Briefings and bimonthly working group meetings are open to all League members. The briefings identify real-time mis/dis information around the country and how to respond. You can [register](https://click.everyaction.com/k/104925501/536884479/2072237961?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAxOS8xLzExMTM3OSIsDQogICJEaXN0cmlidXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZCI6ICI4Y2U0ODQ3Yi1lODBlLWYwMTEtOTBjZC0wMDIyNDgyYTlmYjciLA0KICAiRW1haWxBZGRyZXNzIjogImNvbm5pZXdnNTFAZ21haWwuY29tIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=4hR1GIAleWzcrWILM24SrWHDGa9Zw49Xmc2dbE2YNjs=&emci=cb635f5b-460a-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=8ce4847b-e80e-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=3967213) for monthly briefings. Register for the bi-weekly working group meetings [here.](https://click.everyaction.com/k/104925502/536884480/413157642?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAxOS8xLzExMTM3OSIsDQogICJEaXN0cmlidXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZCI6ICI4Y2U0ODQ3Yi1lODBlLWYwMTEtOTBjZC0wMDIyNDgyYTlmYjciLA0KICAiRW1haWxBZGRyZXNzIjogImNvbm5pZXdnNTFAZ21haWwuY29tIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=4hR1GIAleWzcrWILM24SrWHDGa9Zw49Xmc2dbE2YNjs=&emci=cb635f5b-460a-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=8ce4847b-e80e-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=3967213)

This proactive  tracking effort is in addition to other LWVUS resources found on the national website under the [Democracy Truth Project.](https://click.everyaction.com/k/104925503/536884481/2072237961?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAxOS8xLzExMTM3OSIsDQogICJEaXN0cmlidXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZCI6ICI4Y2U0ODQ3Yi1lODBlLWYwMTEtOTBjZC0wMDIyNDgyYTlmYjciLA0KICAiRW1haWxBZGRyZXNzIjogImNvbm5pZXdnNTFAZ21haWwuY29tIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=4hR1GIAleWzcrWILM24SrWHDGa9Zw49Xmc2dbE2YNjs=&emci=cb635f5b-460a-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=8ce4847b-e80e-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=3967213)

Working closely with local Registrars and proactively fighting mis and dis information are not only important but build on the voter education work that Leagues already provide.

If you are interested in joining the Mis/Dis Task Force [go to.](https://click.everyaction.com/k/104925505/536884482/-1054410317?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAxOS8xLzExMTM3OSIsDQogICJEaXN0cmlidXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZCI6ICI4Y2U0ODQ3Yi1lODBlLWYwMTEtOTBjZC0wMDIyNDgyYTlmYjciLA0KICAiRW1haWxBZGRyZXNzIjogImNvbm5pZXdnNTFAZ21haWwuY29tIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=4hR1GIAleWzcrWILM24SrWHDGa9Zw49Xmc2dbE2YNjs=&emci=cb635f5b-460a-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=8ce4847b-e80e-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=3967213)

**Come to Convention**

June 13 – 15, 2025

Fredericksburg Convention Center,

2371 Carl D Silver Pkwy,

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**Theme:** Women Elect and Be Elected

Registration Information and Details are located [HERE](https://click.everyaction.com/k/104925492/536884469/824773914?usp=sharing&ouid=115703848971133150575&rtpof=true&sd=true&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAxOS8xLzExMTM3OSIsDQogICJEaXN0cmlidXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZCI6ICI4Y2U0ODQ3Yi1lODBlLWYwMTEtOTBjZC0wMDIyNDgyYTlmYjciLA0KICAiRW1haWxBZGRyZXNzIjogImNvbm5pZXdnNTFAZ21haWwuY29tIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=4hR1GIAleWzcrWILM24SrWHDGa9Zw49Xmc2dbE2YNjs=&emci=cb635f5b-460a-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=8ce4847b-e80e-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=3967213)

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**League Meetings are open to all members!**

Board of Directors Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 pm

(No Board Meeting in November and December)

General Meetings and Events notices are sent to the members. Watch for upcoming emails!

**LWV-PWFA Website**: [www.princewilliamlw.org](about:blank) **LWV-PWFA Email**: [lwvpwfa@gmail.com](about:blank)

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**2023-2025 Board of Directors**

**Officers:**

President                            Pat Reilly

Acting Vice President                   Carol Proven

Recording Secretary        Barbara Greiling

Treasurer    Shari Oley

**Directors:**

Voter Services Co-Directors         Laura Feld-Mushaw & Carol Proven

Volunteer Director                             Judy Hingle

Membership Records Director         Jane Touchet

Membership Outreach Director       Catherine Ring

Action/Program Director                   Carol Noggle

Meeting Co-Directors                         Cynthia Chambliss & Sheila Arrington

Newsletter Editor Connie Gilman

Book Discussion Connie Gilman

Non-elected:

Ex-Officio Officer       Janet Gorn

Please send in ideas for the Summer 2025 Newsletter by June 23rd. Better yet, submit an article, ask some questions, share a joke!

Connie Gilman, Newsletter Chair, conniewg51@gmail.com