



# Voter

Oct. 2011

Encouraging active and informed citizen participation in government

## President's Message

In the September *Voter* I promised that in the October issue I would suggest ways to "encourage informed and active participation in government." Now, I'm staring at my blank computer screen, munching on M and M's, and wondering how we do this. Hmm-m-m. M and M's. In my family this is shorthand for the two must-have items when you travel: "**Money and Meds.**"

Now, I have a flash back: Terri Thompson and I are working the Suffolk Peanut Festival registering voters. During the slow times, we talk about the challenges facing our League in 2012: registering voters; getting them informed about the candidates for President, the U.S. Senate, members of the House of Representatives, and other government officials. Then, Terri says, "If we're going to be effective doing all this, we need **M and M's: Members and Money.**"

This rings a bell with me. I know she's right. In these sluggish economic times, how are we going to get new members? How are we going to raise money? We need goals and plans for achieving these goals.

So, this is what we're going to do in October and November, 2011. I will be putting together two committees: a **Membership Committee** and a **Money Committee**. Each committee will set goals, develop a strategic plan, and set up a timeline for achieving the goals. If you are interested in being on one of the committees, or have suggestions, please contact me. ([armstrongv@cox.net](mailto:armstrongv@cox.net); 502-4973)

I invite each of you to get on the League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads **M and M Bandwagon. Together, we can have the members and the money to register and educate the voters for the 2012 elections.**

Virginia R. Armstrong  
[armstrongv@cox.net](mailto:armstrongv@cox.net)

## Public Candidate Forums

The League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads is sponsoring two candidate forums for the public.

In the 21st District House of Delegates, come and hear the views of the candidates, Delegate Ron Villanueva and Adrienne Bennett, on Monday, **October 24** at 6:30 p.m. Landstown High School Auditorium 2001 Concert Drive Virginia Beach

In the 6th District Virginia Senate election, Senator Ralph Northam and Ben Loyola will speak Wednesday, **October 26**, 6:30 p.m. Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Building 49th Street and Elkhorn, Old Dominion University. Adjacent free parking on 49th Street.

## October Unit Meetings

Plan to come to breakfast on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup>, or lunch on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup>, to continue our exploration of the federal role in education. Take a look at the LWVUS [Education Study](#) resources and the consensus [questions](#).

**Last Day to Register for General Election:  
October 17**

**October Breakfast Unit – Education**  
Tuesday, Oct. 25, 7am  
Tabbs Restaurant, 4019 Granby St. Norfolk

**October Lunch Unit – Education**  
Thursday, Oct. 27 Noon  
Bangkok Garden, 339 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St. Norfolk

**Election Day – November 8**

## LWV SHR @ Peanut Fest



### Voter Registration drives

Here's our booth at the Suffolk Peanut Festival which ran October 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. Terri is our Voter Services Chair. Registration drives are planned for the Walmart Supercenter and St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children.

At St. Mary's, on Thursday, October 13th, 2-4 p.m. our League is registering voters. St. Mary's is at 6171 Kempsville Circle, Norfolk, VA 23502. Twisted Sisters Cupcakes has agreed to give a free cupcake coupon to the first 25 people who register to vote!

On Sunday, October 16th League members will be registering voters 2-8p.m. at the Norfolk Walmart Supercenter Store located at 7530 Tidewater Drive.

For more information, contact our Voter Services Chair, Terri Thompson at [tntluck@aol.com](mailto:tntluck@aol.com). Don't forget that October 17 is the deadline for voter registration before the November election.

Carolyn Caywood

### We have a Yahoo group

In order to distribute the Voter and timely messages from our President, we need to get the Yahoo Group updated. This will happen most easily if those of you not currently on the list will join it. If you are on the list, you received a flier about the September 12<sup>th</sup> forum. If you didn't, please go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LWVSHR-Action/> and click on **Join**.

## Water

The League of Women Voters, South Hampton Roads voted at its 2011 Annual Meeting to study local issues impacting water in the Hampton Roads area. Susan Sharp is chairing the study and has set up a LWV-SHR Water Study group on Google. If you want to participate, contact Susan at [ssharpbiz@gmail.com](mailto:ssharpbiz@gmail.com)

Susan led discussions at the Breakfast and Lunch Units and the topics of greatest concern emerged as sea level rise and uranium mining's potential for contaminating our drinking water. Susan observed, at our original Water Study meeting (pre Irene) one person (of 12 present) mentioned sea level rise as their most important water issue, while at our second meeting (post Irene) ten (of 16 present) did.

Between the two meetings, 4 people stated a preference to study the issue of uranium mining in Virginia. There has been a ban on uranium mining in Virginia for more than 30 years but there is now an effort to overturn the ban and allow a Canadian company to mine uranium in Virginia.

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### LWV SHR Facebook page

If you are on Facebook, please watch our page for timely announcements. [www.facebook.com/lwvshr](http://www.facebook.com/lwvshr)

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### December Program Planning and Holiday Bizarre Bazaar!

Details on the Program part of the meeting will be coming up shortly, but in the meantime, you can prepare for LWV- South Hampton Road's biggest fundraiser!

The bazaar will have new items and donations up for bid, and you can help by contacting stores and services that you frequent and ask them to donate an item to the League of Women Voter's silent auction, which will be the first weekend in December.

This is the time we also ask members to bring items from home that they wish to put up for bid in the silent auction. We have had dishes, pottery, paintings, vacuum cleaners... all kinds of items that you no longer desire, but someone else might.

Please plan to bring a potluck breakfast or brunch item to share and enjoy.

Melanie Perez-Lopez

## FIRST CALL TO CONVENTION 2012

From LWVUS President Elisabeth G.  
MacNamara



Join Us for the  
**LWVUS 50th**

**National Convention  
in Washington  
DC!**

**June 8-12, 2012**

**Imagine,  
Commit, Act!**

**"The Power of the Vote!"**

**Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut  
Avenue**

YES!! We're finally BACK in Washington, DC for the  
National League Convention!!!

Have "the DC Experience" with many other LWV leaders  
from around the nation!

- Great Speakers
- Interesting Workshops and Training
- Discussing Program and Issues
- Electing Leaders
- Incredible Networking
- Visit DC area sites – the Hill, Smithsonian, the  
Monuments, and many others!!!

<b>Friday, June 8</b>	<b>Pre-Convention Training</b>	<b>2-5 pm</b>
<b>Saturday, June 9</b>	<b>Briefings</b>	<b>10 am- Noon</b>
<b>Saturday, June 9</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	<b>1 pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 12</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Noon</b>

Watch for additional information to assist Leagues in  
fully participating in the Convention. We'll send  
information about program planning process, bylaws,  
awards, the costs, registration, reservations process, and  
how to sign up for convention list serve and others.

**Be part of this exciting opportunity to connect  
with other  
League leaders around the country!**

**League of Women Voters  
1730 M Street NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036**

**Phone: [202-429-1965](tel:202-429-1965)**

## LWVUS Education Consensus Questions

1. The current role of the federal  
government in public education is  
Much too small too small  
about right too large much too large
2. What should be the role of the federal  
government in public education? (Rank)
  - a. To ensure that all students preK-12  
receive a quality education.
  - b. To develop accountability measures  
that will study the progress of all students so  
that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
  - c. To mandate Common Core Standards  
for all students K-12.
  - d. To monitor state efforts for funding
  - e. To measure teacher effectiveness  
through test data.
3. A quality public education is important  
to perpetuate a strong and viable  
democracy.  
Strongly agree Agree No consensus  
Disagree Strongly disagree
4. Currently the governors and state  
education officers have developed  
Common Core Standards that are  
national but not federal. Should the  
standards be mandated of the states in  
order to obtain federal funding?  
(Choose one)
  - a. Special grant programs such as Race  
to the Top
  - b. All programs under Elementary and  
Secondary Education Act where the needs  
qualify for funding.
  - c. All programs receiving federal  
funding from any source
  - d. All of the above
  - e. None of the above
5. Should there be a **national assessment  
aligned** with the common cores  
standards?  
Yes No  
If Yes, Should implementation be voluntary  
or federally mandated? (choose one)

- a. Voluntary
- b. Mandated
- c. Mandated, if fully funded

If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)

- a. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
- b. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.
- c. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically

6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)

- a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
- b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
- c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
- d. No national curriculum.

7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)

- a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
- c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
- d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
- e. Provide diagnostic information on each child.

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents,

teachers, students and the community? (choose one)

- a. Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
- b. Data should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
- c. Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.

9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):

- a. Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
- b. Reward schools that achieve high scores
- c. Rank teachers based on student test score data
- d. Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
- e. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (choose one)

- a. Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
- b. A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
- c. Competitive grants only
- d. No federal funding

11. If the federal government’s role is the concern of the “common good” then: (choose one)

- a. Mandates only should be sanctioned.
- b. Mandates and funding should both be provided.
- c. Funding should be provided through grants only.
- d. A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
- e. No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.

12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order)
- a. high quality teaching/learning
  - b. adequate and current learning materials
  - c. clean and well maintained physical facilities
  - d. food and health care
  - e. safe and secure neighborhoods
  - f. secure housing

13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered “categorical” rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.

Strongly agree   Agree   No  
 consensus   Disagree   Strongly  
 disagree

14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children?

Strongly agree   Agree   No  
 consensus   Disagree   Strongly  
 disagree

15. Federal support for early childhood education programs ( e.g.Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition,

and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.

a. Strongly Agree   Agree   No  
 consensus   Disagree   Strongly  
 Disagree

b. This funding should be extended to :  
 All children

only those with special needs   special needs first

To see these questions on the LVA US website, please go to Public Education Study [Consensus Kit Materials](#). This link will take you to all the LWVUS [Education Study](#) resources. If you would like to facilitate discussion of these questions, please let Virginia R. Armstrong know – [armstrongv@cox.net](mailto:armstrongv@cox.net) .

***Please print your own copy of the questions to bring to the Unit meeting of your choice.***



***Remember the “good old days” in education?***

## LVA-SHR CALENDAR 2011-2012

### July 2011

- 4 Independence Day
- 9 Board meeting -YWCA 10am**
- 26 Breakfast Unit –Tabb’s – 7 am
- 28 Lunch Unit –Bangkok Garden - Noon

### August 2011

- 6 Board meeting -YWCA 10am**
- 25 Lunch Unit –Bangkok Garden - Noon
- 26 Women's Equality Day
- 30 Breakfast Unit –Tabb’s – 7 am

### September 2011 – Education Consensus preparation

- 1 **ODU Welcome voter drive**
- 5 Labor Day
- 12 Community Forum – NSU – 6:30pm
- 17 Constitution Day
- 17 **LWV-VA Workshops –Richmond**
- 22 Lunch Unit – Bangkok Garden – Noon
- 25 General Meeting – YWCA –3 pm**
- 27 Breakfast Unit—Tabb’s – 7 am

### October 2011 – Education Consensus process

- 1 Board meeting – YWCA –10 am**
- 6-9 **Suffolk Peanut Festival voter drive**
- 13 **St. Mary's voter drive, 2-4 p.m.**
- 16 **Walmart voter drive, 2-8 p.m.**
- 17 **Last Day to Register for General Election**
- 24 **Forum 21<sup>st</sup> District House of Delegates**
- 25 **Breakfast Unit—Tabb’s – 7 am**
- 26 **Forum 6<sup>th</sup> District Virginia Senate**
- 27 **Lunch Unit –Bangkok Garden - Noon**

### November 2011 - Election review

- 5 Board meeting – YWCA –10 am**
- 8 ELECTION DAY**
- 17 Lunch Unit – Bangkok Garden – Noon
- 25 Thanksgiving**
- 29 Breakfast Unit—Tabb’s – 7 am
- 30 Consensus results do to LWVUS

### December 2011 - Preview general assembly

- 3 Program Planning meeting/holiday party**
- 7 Women's Roundtable (WRT) Pre-session & Luncheon, Richmond @ Capitol Bldg.**
- 13 Breakfast Unit—Tabb’s – 7 am
- 15 Lunch Unit – Bangkok Garden – Noon; Bill of Rights Day
- 17 **Tidewater Women's Roundtable 9am Max & Erma's Airport Hilton**

### January 2012 - Immigration

- 7 Board meeting -YWCA 10am**
- 1? **General Assembly (GA) Convenes**
- 14 Tidewater Women's Roundtable 9am Max & Erma's Airport Hilton**
- 16 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- 26 **Lunch Unit –Bangkok Garden – Noon**
- 31 **Breakfast Unit –Tabb’s – 7 am**

### February 2012 - League birthday (Iron Jawed Angels)

- 1 **League Day/WRT Richmond**
- 4 Board meeting -YWCA 10am**
- 14 **League Founded 1920 (92<sup>d</sup> Anniversary!)**
- 21 **Presidents' Day**
- 23 **Lunch Unit –Bangkok Garden - Noon**
- 28 **Breakfast Unit –Tabb’s – 7 am**

### March 2012 - Privacy

- 3 Board meeting -YWCA 10am**
- 11-17 **Sunshine Week (open government)**
- 16 **Freedom of Information Day**
- 22 **Lunch Unit –Bangkok Garden – Noon**
- 27 **Breakfast Unit –Tabb’s – 7 am**

### April 2012 - Environment (Water & Food)

- 14 Board meeting – YWCA –10 am**
- 24 **Breakfast Unit –Tabb’s – 7 am**
- 26 **Lunch Unit –Bangkok Garden – Noon**

### May 2012 -- Role of government & tax policy

- 5 Board meeting – YWCA –10 am**
- 19 **LWV-VA Council - Charlottesville**
- 23 Annual meeting 3:00-6:30p.m.**
- 22 **Breakfast Unit –Tabb’s – 7 am**
- 24 **Lunch Unit –Bangkok Garden – Noon**
- 27 **Memorial Day**

### June 2012 - Basic Human Rights

- 2 Board meeting – YWCA –10 am**
- 8-12 LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC**
- 26 **Breakfast Unit –Tabb’s – 7 am**
- 28 **Lunch Unit –Bangkok Garden – Noon**



Notes: All Board members are expected to attend event dates shown in bold.

# 2011-2012 Board of Directors

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2nd Vice Pres.-Membership: Lee Barr  
[abarr67@att.net](mailto:abarr67@att.net) 757-440-1460

Secretary/Asst to Pres: Susan Sharp  
Email: [secretary@lwg-shr.org](mailto:secretary@lwg-shr.org)  
757-581-6192

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Action Chair: available

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Transportation Chair: Randy Lougee  
[rtlougee@yahoo.com](mailto:rtlougee@yahoo.com)

Gun Study: Jennette Franklin [jfranklin16@cox.net](mailto:jfranklin16@cox.net),  
Kaye Tice

## Upcoming Events

### Forum - 21st District House of Delegates

- Delegate Ron Villanueva and Adrienne Bennett
- Monday, October 24, 6:30 p.m.
- Landstown High School Auditorium
- 2001 Concert Drive Virginia Beach

### Breakfast Unit Meeting – Education

- Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011, 7 am
- Tabb's Restaurant, 4019 Granby St
- Topic: Federal role in education
- \$5 continental breakfast available
- For more information, contact Unit Leader Martha Rollins, 423-0205

### Forum - 6th District Virginia Senate

- Senator Ralph Northam and Ben Loyola
- Wednesday, October 26, 6:30 p.m.
- Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Building
- 49th Street and Elkhorn, ODU

### Lunch Unit Meeting – Education

- Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011, Noon
- Bangkok Garden, 339 N. 21st Street
- Topic: Federal role in education
- For more information, contact Jennette Franklin [jfranklin16@cox.net](mailto:jfranklin16@cox.net)

The VOTER is published 10 times per year to inform members of LWV-SHR about League activities and events and to provide other information of interest to League members.

Submissions from all members are encouraged. The deadline is the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Send submissions to [newsletter@lwg-shr.org](mailto:newsletter@lwg-shr.org) or [cacaywood@cox.net](mailto:cacaywood@cox.net).

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