



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

BULLETIN

Volume 42, Issue 7
April, 2014

P.O. Box 10133, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0133
<http://www.lwvmcva.org>

Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 15

Social: 6 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

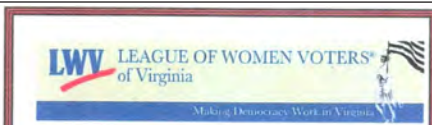
Business Meeting after dinner

Village Center at Warm Hearth, Blacksburg

(Deadline for reservation: May 8. See form on page 2)

Speaker: the Honorable James Shuler, former delegate, Virginia General Assembly

Redistricting-A Reality Check in Virginia
and discussion on roles to influence legislators to accept
a non- partisan commission to draw legislative and
congressional districts.



Houska Honored at State Ceremony



Mary Houska

Mary Houska was among those honored by the Virginia League at the Making Democracy Work event. She joined the League in 2000. She has served in almost all of the offices of the Montgomery County League and in many roles for the Virginia League.

She holds a degree in economics from Simmons College and a Ph.D. from M.I.T. She is professor Emerita of Economics at Hollins University where she served four three-year terms as Economics Department chair and two terms as chair of Russian Studies. She served as a pro

bono consultant to many county and regional boards. She was the first woman to give professional testimony before the State Corporation Commission and was one of two economists, nationally, to research the economics of eastern coal mining and present those results to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House of Representatives. This work contributed to the regulation of surface mining in the United States.

Married, she and her husband Chuck have three children.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

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Proposed Changes in Local Position Executive Sessions

The Board recommends that members approve the following additions to the Local Position on Executive Sessions. These additions were proposed by the 2013-2014 Open Government Study committee. The local position on Executive Sessions is on the league website - <http://www.lwvmcva.org> under Local Position on Executive Sessions and page 8 of the 2012 Member Handbook.

The additions are:

(changes in italic)

In addition to the current position the committee suggests: Continuing our current position on executive sessions with *changes* as follows.

e. Emphasize the presumption of openness of all deliberations of public officials by requiring that agendas of public bodies list all items for open discussion. A public official wishing to close a meeting would need to justify that action by explaining how the harms outweigh the benefits of openness for each item that will be discussed. Time limits for retaining a (required) tape and minutes of the closed meeting should be mentioned in the minutes of open meeting and should reflect the expectation that information will be made available to the public when the clear reason for secrecy no longer exists. In addition any action or votes that occur as the result of secret deliberations must be publicly and specifically explained.

f. As current and future technologies such as internet, phone, email or other media are used to hold meetings, then public notification of and access to those meetings must be provided. Local governments should be cognizant of the digital divide and the importance of ensuring that all citizens, regardless of geographic location or socioeconomic status, have fair and wide access to all public documents and notices.

g. Local governments should ensure that the use of technical terms in documents is explained with an appropriate list of definitions provided.

h. Local governments should continue their current practice of exceeding minimum standards with new state codes and apply the least restrictive option in interpreting and implementing the code.

Open Government Study Committee:

Chair: Carol Lindstrom

Judy Snoke, Darlene Allen, Bobbie Littlefield, Alison Galway

Annual Meeting Reservation

Deadline to make reservation: May 8

Cost for the dinner is \$20

Make checks out to LWVMC and send to Julia Lewis, 1173 Oakland Square, Blacksburg, VA 24060.
For information contact Julia at 540-961-2655

I (We) plan to attend May 15 annual meeting _____

Social at 6 p.m. with cash bar. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by speaker and discussion.
Buffet style. Grass-fed prime ribs of beef, Cedar plank trout, vegetables, potatoes, salad, desserts.

Nominating Committee

Proposed Slate of Elected Positions to serve 2014-2016

To fill the unexpired term of President from July 1, 2014-2015:

a triumvirate of Mary Houska, Amy Mauldon, and Alison Wilson
2014-2016 - 2nd Vice President – Voter Service Mary Houska
2014-2016 - Secretary - Julia Lewis
2014-2016 - Elected Director - Beverly Fleming
Elected Director - Bulletin Editor - Mary Ann Johnson

Nominating Committee Chair (off Board): Karen Novak

Nominating Committee Members (off Board): Jane Sprague
Nancy Warren

Please note: Nominations from the floor welcome only if accepted by the nominee.

Current Officers and Elected Directors fulfilling present term of office 2013-2015

1st Vice President -Amy Mauldon
Treasurer - June Schmidt
Elected Director – Publicity - David Scheim
Elected Director – Action - Bobbie Littlefield

Six appointed Directors will be asked by the new Board to also serve as Board members in the coming year from July 1, 2014-2015. This will include Webmaster, Membership, Program Planning and three non-portfolio directors.

Fund-raising

The fundraising drive is a great success. Our thanks go to Harriett Cooper, finance chair. We gratefully thank all contributors including those not wishing to be named.

Members

Phyllis Albritton in honor of Mary Houska
Susan Anderson
Millie Wiggert in honor of Judy Snoke
Shirley Strother
Helen Ballas
David Scheim in honor of Harriett Cooper for doing fund-raising and much more year after year
Mary Powe
Alison Wilson in honor of Judy Snoke and in memory of Betty Williams
Nancy and Charles Warren in honor of LWVMC Board
Judy Snoke
Bev Fleming in honor of our co-presidents
Lindsay B. West in memory of Betty Williams and thanks for Facts for Voters

Marquita Hill
Julia Lewis in memory of Deloris Pourchot
Bea and Ted Ake
Jo Ann Underwood in memory of Virle Payne
Josie Shotts in memory of Betty Williams
Nancy Alexander in memory of Betty Williams
Ann Hess in honor of Mary Ann Johnson
Mary Houska in memory of Betty Williams
Sheila Reyna
Carol Linker in memory of Beatrice Heiner
Wayne Worner

Friends

Janice Woodard
Pauletta and Jim Copenheaver
Jim and Margaret Shuler
Lillian “Peg” Moore
Bernice Frith
Joe and Linda Powers
Ellen Glover in honor of Jane Sprague
Marilyn Klemperer Thanks for all you do for All of us
Robert Hendrickson
Madison Marye
Erica Williams
Ann Goette in memory of Mary Ellen Lloyd
Debbie Nuss in honor of Mary Houska for her long-time service to the League
Nannie Hairston in memory of Mary Fessler
Bruce Grimes in honor of Harriett Cooper
Stephanie Gilmore



Judy Snoke, who resigned as president because of illness, is continuing to recover. She has returned home with ongoing physical therapy.

Directions to The Village Center at Warm Hearth for the annual meeting

From Blacksburg: Travel South Main St. (rt. 460 east – business)

There is a sign for Warm Hearth at the traffic light on rt. 460 at the intersection of state rts. 643 (Yellow Sulphur Road) and 808, (High Top Road) From Blacksburg, turn right down High Top Road; continue about two-tenths mile and turn right onto Warm Hearth Dr. Continue along Warm Hearth Dr. to the second road to the left. There is a sign for the Village Center. Turn left to the Center.

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Calendar

May 6 - 11:45 a.m..First Tuesday Luncheon, 622 North Main
May 13 - 1 p.m. (note time change) Board meeting, Community Room, Blacksburg branch
Floyd-Montgomery Regional Library
June 3 - 11:45 a.m., First Tuesday Luncheon, 622 North Main
June 17 - 11 a.m..(note this is third Tuesday) Board meeting, Community Room, Blacksburg
branch Floyd-Montgomery Regional Library
June 1 to June 30 - membership annual renewals

Bulletin Sponsors

Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg's Retirement Destination - (540) 552-9176

Runabout Sports – A Great Place for Shoes (540) 552-9339

Education Programs & Services LLC – Wayne “Dempsey” Worner (540) 552-8807

Companion Animal Clinic, Inc., Blacksburg (540) 552-6800

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY

Become a member of the League of Women Voters. The annual membership fee is \$50. This payment includes local, state, and national membership dues. Members receive The National Voter, The Virginia Voter, and The Montgomery County Bulletin.
Email: Membership@lwvmcva.org. Or email Alison Wilson at alisonwilson@verizon.net