

League of Women Voters, Montgomery County, Virginia  
**Year in Review: 2016–2017**

The Presidential Election and Nonpartisan Redistricting were the primary focus of the League's election activities. In addition, we co-sponsored Great Decisions again and learned much about Fracking. Most exciting for us, we changed the format of our important Facts for Voters publication. We continued our First Tuesday Lunches with 16 or more members lunching together every month. Here are our League's more important events of the year in review.



**July – October, Election Activities** About 20 of our members were involved in our election activities.

We distributed about 1600 posters and cards in both Montgomery County and Radford City, especially at Virginia Tech and Radford University, informing potential voters how to register to vote in Virginia and how to vote absentee. We registered voters at NAACP, AARP, and Meadowbrook Library events and at Hollins University. Congressman Morgan Griffith (R) declined our invitation to participate in a Candidate Forum with his opponents Derek Kitts (D) and Janice Boyd (I).

**September 17, League Workshop** Four Board members went to the Virginia League Workshop to learn the results of the LWV-VA study of Fracking in Virginia.

**October 4, Program on the Presidential Election** “Anger, Frustration and the 2016 Presidential Election,” a program with four political scientists, Professors Karen Hult, Caitlin Jewitt, Daniel Reed, and Charles Walcott, discussing the Presidential election, was sponsored by the League and by the Tech Lifelong Learning Institute.

**December–February, Redesign and Publication of FACTS** Terry Ellen Carter, Mary Ann Johnson, and Carolyn Rude worked on the redesign and reformatting of our long-term publication, Facts for Voters. We renamed it FACTS, placed more emphasis on voting information, removed some tax and fee information and just made it much more attractive and, we think, easier to use. In the last decade, we have lost some business sponsors; we thank the members who became sponsors or contributed towards our printing costs. We printed and are distributing 7,500 FACTS for 2017.

**January 21, Review of Fracking Study** Members were invited to Lunch, followed by a discussion about the LWV-VA Fracking Study PowerPoint presentation, and then they participated in a Consensus vote on the Study's policy questions.

**February 8–April 5, Great Decisions** We and Tech's Lifelong Learning Institute sponsored eight sessions of the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions program. We thank our Resource People who led each session: Professors Yannis Stivachtis, Bill Ochsenwald, Paul Avey, Ilya Luciak, Paige Tan, Phil Jordan, and Mary Houska.

**February 20, GerryRigged Documentary** The documentary film about partisan redistricting in Virginia was shown at the Lyric Theatre with the Honorable Jim Shuler and Blake Wheelock, Associate Director of OneVirginia 2021, presenting background information. The film presentation was co-sponsored by the League, OneVirginia 2021, Tech's Lifelong Learning Institute, and the Lyric. Jane Sprague did most of the arranging.

**March 2, Panel on Gerrymandering in Virginia** We co-sponsored a panel of former Delegates Shannon Valentine and Jim Shuler along with journalist Bob Gibson who is also past director of the Sorensen Institute for Political Action at the University of Virginia discussed *Gerrymandering in Virginia: How We Can Fix It*. This program has been placed on YouTube and may be accessed from our website, [www.lwvmcva.org](http://www.lwvmcva.org). The other co-sponsors were OneVirginia 2021 and the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech.

**May 10, Annual Dinner** Professors Karen Hult and Charles Walcott spoke on the topic, “Like Nothing We've Seen Before: Trump's First Months in Office,” at the League's annual dinner meeting.