



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

# THE DC VOTER

*A Voice for Citizens - A Force for Change*

Volume 87, Issue 02

February/March 2011

## President's Message

By Billie Day

Spring is in the air and many exciting things are stirring at LWVDC. First, plan to attend the All Members Social to greet old friends and/or bring a guest. See below for details.

*This is the time of year for membership renewal.* You will be receiving your renewal form in March along with a reservation form for the **Annual Meeting and Luncheon to be held at Clyde's Gallery Place on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, Emancipation Day in DC.** We hope you have saved that date to come together for our annual business and election of new officers.

April 26<sup>th</sup> is the election to fill the vacancy at large on the DC Council. The winner must only receive a plurality. At our online Voters Guide you will be able to read about the candidates, several of whom you heard speak at our forum last September. Other election information is avail-

able at [www.dcboee.org](http://www.dcboee.org).

With the changes in leadership of the House of Representatives, there are challenges to democracy and autonomy in the District of Columbia. I urge you to keep up with developments on the website of Congresswoman Norton at [www.norton.house.gov](http://www.norton.house.gov) and of DC Vote [www.dcvote.org](http://www.dcvote.org).

Looking far ahead to June, we will begin a new membership development program with support from LWVUS. We will need your support, too!

As always, my sincere thanks to the many dedicated Leaguers who make our programs happen! I look forward to seeing you all at one of our upcoming events, and especially at our Annual Meeting.

---

## March 6th: General Membership Social

Kick off National Women's History Month with your local League on Sunday, March 6, from 2-5 pm. This meeting is a great opportunity to catch up with members you haven't seen in a while and to **introduce potential new members to the League's** program and activities.

This is the 2011 version of last year's "New Member Tea" which it has been called in our previous calendar announcements for the year. It will be held at the office space we where we moved last spring. This is an opportunity for members to see our new working space and location.

Members are asked to bring a covered dish and a potential new member (and remember men are LWV members, too). Questions/RSVP\* to Alex Dickson at 202-276-2589 or [dickson.alexandra@gmail.com](mailto:dickson.alexandra@gmail.com).

*\*If you have signed up through your Unit, you do not need to respond again.*

Office location: 11<sup>th</sup> floor, 1100 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and L St., NW). Easily accessible from Red Line (Farragut North), Blue/Orange Lines (McPherson Square), or 16<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> Street bus lines.

# LWVDC MEMBERSHIP FORM

2011

The date of renewal for all memberships is March 31 of each year. For questions about membership please call the League office at 222-0710.

Annual Dues Rate

\$45 individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 Joint Household \_\_\_\_\_  
Make check payable to LWVDC

For a small handling charge, you may also join or renew online at [www.lwvdc.org](http://www.lwvdc.org).

(Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Street Address** **Apt. No.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**State zip code**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**telephone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**email address**

In addition to my dues, I enclose a contribution to:  
LWVDC Education Fund (tax deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
LWVDC General Fund (non-deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please write separate checks for each.

Send membership form and check(s) to:  
LWVDC, 1100 Fifteenth Street NW, 11th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Affiliation with the national League is included in your LWVDC dues. You become part of important work throughout the United States. Keep up with the work you support and news of LWV US at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

You also become part of a regional network with Leagues throughout Maryland and Virginia  
LWV NCA (National Capitol Area) [www.lwvnca.org](http://www.lwvnca.org)



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Officers and Contact Information

**President**

Billie Day 222-0710  
drbad1@hotmail.com

**1st Vice President**

Kathryn Ray kcrdlb@gmail.com

**2nd Vice President**

Geraldine Whitley 882-6480

**3rd Vice President**

Goody Braun goody.solomon@verizon.net

**Secretary**

Ken Nesper kenesperjr@netzero.net

**Treasurer**

Abigail Nichols 331-9757  
abigail\_nichols@hotmail.com

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Madlyn Calbert (Congressional)	832-7305
Liz deBagara (DCVote liaison)	lizdebagara@gmail.com
Alexandra Dickson (Membership)	276-2589
Jean Hall (Membership)	lwvdc@aol.com
Barbara Luchs (VOTER Mailing)	363-0853
Jack Mathison (Gun Control)	362-4612
Dr. Lee Etta Powell	686-0090
Leona Rumsey	863-7484
Constance Tate (Education)	882-0387
Jonathan Talbot (Public Relations)	jonmtalbot@gmail.com
Joan Wilson (Private Elections)	237-6264

**ON-GOING COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Bed & Breakfast**

Please contact office 222-0710

**Budget**

Chris Matthews chrismatt@igc.org

**Membership**

Alexandra Dickson dickson.alexandra@gmail.com

**Nominating Committee**

Julia Cuniberti 387-0122

**Private Elections**

Joan Wilson 237-6264

**Voters Service**

Elinor Hart 387-2966  
Judy Smith (Naturalization Services)

**UNITS**

Naomi Glass 829-8852

The DC VOTER is a publication of the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## Reminder: League Membership Programs Have Changed!

By Alexandra Dickson

In the past, membership to the national League (LWVUS) came by joining our local chapter (LWVDC) or through the national organization (who referred the name to the local for inclusion in its activities). As of January 1, 2011, the national League no longer has an independent membership program. This means that there is no national membership available and to be considered an LWV member, one must pay dues to a local chapter.

We want to keep everyone in our League and we are encouraging all members and interested parties to join the local chapter. In November, we mailed reminders to all LWVUS members whose membership expired through December. If you received a letter and did not respond, you are no longer on our local membership roster.

By joining the local League, you are financially supporting our grassroots efforts within the city. We believe our non-partisan efforts in voter education, registration and issue advocacy play an important in the civic life of

our city. We hope you do too and encourage you to join us in support by updating your membership.

Joining the local league will ensure you continue to get this newsletter and all other mailings.

If you have been a national member, you may have received a request for support from the national office. This fundraising campaign will solely support the national LWVUS and we encourage all members to support them in any way they can.

As noted above, we have mailed reminders to all members whose membership has expired through December 2010; however, we could use some help following up on this issue. We are hoping to call all national league members in the area (recently expired or current) to remind and encourage them to join our local League.

If you are willing to help by calling a few members, please contact Alex Dickson (202.276.2589 or dickson.alexandra@gmail.com).

## Calberts Honored at UNA-NCA Luncheon

The United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), in partnership with the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights and D.C. Commission on Human Rights, held its annual Human Rights Luncheon in December 2010 in conjunction with local community groups.

LWVDC members and friends attended to honor Dr. Madlyn and Rev. William Calbert for more than 50 years of dedication to human rights activism. In attendance were: Naomi Glass, Sheila and Spurgeon Keeny, Sarah McMeans, Christine Matthews, Vivianne Mozon, Constance Tate, Geraldine Whitley, Joe Barbiero, Rhonda Glenn, Melody Webb, Maria Valle, and Billie Day.

UNA-NCA presented the 2010 Louis B. Sohn Human Rights Award to Daniel B. Magraw Jr., President Emeritus and Distinguished Scholar at the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL). Professor Magraw is recognized especially for his contributions to the rela-

tionships between environmental protection, environmental justice and human rights, as well as for his extensive advocacy for civil liberties and human rights. Under his leadership, the Center for International Environmental Law emerged as a world leader in developing relationships between human rights and environmental law.

The District of Columbia Office of Human Rights and D.C. Commission on Human Rights presented the 2010 Cornelius R. "Neil" Alexander Humanitarian Award to Dr. Frank Kameny, a human rights activist and one of the founders of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender affairs civil rights movement both nationally and locally.

The event, which was took place in the elegant Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office Building, was, as always, a truly memorable occasion at which sponsoring organizations rededicate themselves to promoting and protecting the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. LWVDC is an associate member of UNA-NCA.

# December Green Bag Luncheon with Kathy McNeely

by Joan Wilson

Another intriguing approach to the environmental crisis was laid out in the December first Green Bag gathering, thanks to a lively topic and knowledgeable speaker. Her focus was on food supply and impact of food systems on communities. She spoke from varied experience in Africa, Central America and the USA as a Maryknoll lay missionary with extensive academic and organizational background.

She opened with a poster displaying a typical and popular meal - a hamburger, French fries and a glass of Coca-Cola. With each item she identified areas through which each was processed. Beginning with the beef, she listed the cost of raising the animal, transporting it for slaughter, expense of butchering, possible overgrazing and depletion of fodder and water, problems of pollution from animal waste, pressure on water supply etc. She similarly indicated the many processes involved in growing and preparing potatoes; or obtaining and processing the ingredients for the Coca-Cola. The list was dizzying.

Pointing out that seed supply was a crucial base for agriculture she reminded her audience that four companies dominate that role in the United States, namely **Monsanto, Land o' Lakes, DuPont, and Delta and Pine Land.** This concentration of big business rather than

small family farming has resulted in vast areas dependent on fertilizer and pesticides to maintain their corn which come from the big companies. These prohibit farmers from collecting seeds from their own harvest, making them dependent on the suppliers. Monocultivation poses serious problems, some just now unfolding.

Because with trade agreements the United States has marketed its exported corn at low prices, farming in Mexico has been unable to compete, leading many to have to emigrate to feed their families. Some overseas farmers have resisted this competition by organizing themselves to repair eroded and drained soil, using traditional techniques to terrace and water their land. By avoiding mechanized farming, they are protecting their communities and maintaining the food supply for their households.

With mechanized farming and seed control by a few large companies, small family farms are disappearing in the United States. This may produce serious consequences for biodiversity.

The speaker concluded by reminding her audience of the sacred aspect of food, of celebration of bonds over meals and wine - in every religion. We need to be alert to the cultural impact of our current practices.



## Plan Now to Attend the March Green Bag Lunch!



Bring a healthy lunch, a curious mind and maybe even a few friends to the March Green Bag Lunch.



This month, our speaker, Roy Simon of the Environmental Protection Agency, will speak on Drinking Water Source Protection.



Date: Wednesday, March 2nd



Time: 12:30pm



Place: LWVDC, 11th floor conference room, 1100 15th Street, NW



## LWVDC Program Reports

by Kathryn Ray

### *Local Program*

Following the program planning meeting January 26, the LWVDC Board is considering examining the following two subjects through a series of programs with the goal of reaching a greater understanding of complex issues: Land Use/Neighborhood Preservation; The Fiscal Implications of Statehood.

The following topics were identified as potential speaker program topics and/or committee discussions: Battered/Homeless Children; DC Public Hospital; Disaster Planning; Elementary and Middle School Curriculum/Civics and DC history.

HIV/AIDS will be followed up by the Health Committee, chaired by Goody Braun.

Melody Webb will explore grant opportunities to develop a League program that will take voter education and registration activities into halfway houses and other places where ex-offenders gather for counseling and support.

### *NCA Program*

Responses of LWVDC members have been submitted to LWV-NCA. Of the four topics suggested The Safety of the Water Supply; and, Regional Efforts to Reduce the Area Carbon Footprint were a close first and second. The Governance of the Metro Transit System; and, Extending the Adequacy/ Reliability of the Electric Grid Transmission System were a close third/fourth to each other, but the numbers were far below the top two areas of interest. Gun control was also mentioned.

An immediate follow-up to the interest expressed regarding the electric grid were discussions at the February Unit meetings.

## Mrs. Jean Fleming

by E. Patricia Hallman

*(Editors note: Many members have expressed their high regard for Jean Fleming and her work with the League.)*

Mrs. Jean Fleming, a dedicated member of the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia died on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Ingleside Nursing Center.

The League has lost a truly dedicated friend and member who was an outstanding activist in her role on the Voter Service Program. We remember Jean constantly wearing the tri-cornered hat at all events; manning the Voter Service Projects in the city, while the League Members registered prospective voters in front of stores; and, handing out Taxation Without Representation Flyers in the front of the Post Office on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Jean Fleming was a very sincere person, highly respected by her fellow Leaguers, and well versed on D.C. Representation issues and the Coalition for Self Determination. Jean hosted the Voter Mailing Committee at her home.

Memorial Services were held at the Ingleside Residence on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Jean is survived by her two sons and several grandchildren.

### *Our Sincere Thanks*

*...to the following for their generous contributions to the LWVDC General Fund and Education Fund.*

Armstrong, Winifred  
 Bailey, Mary  
 Beaufort, Dennis  
 Brown, Janet  
 Catlin, Susan (in memory of G. Louise Perry)  
 Day, Billie  
 Ensor, Joan  
 Gemmill, Robert  
 Hale, Lauren  
 Hall, Jean  
 Hallman, Patricia  
 Hatry, Audrey  
 Howard, Natalie (in memory of Jean Fleming)  
 Keeny, Sheila and Spurgeon  
 Landesman, Betty  
 McMeans, David and Sarah  
 Nadel, Ruth  
 Nelson, Carl  
 Nichols, Abigail  
 Overton, Ellen  
 Ray, Kathryn  
 Smith, Dane and Judith  
 Street, Emily  
 Wilson, Joan

# Mark These Dates!

Wednesday, April 6th  
Board Meeting at 9:40am

&

Green Bag Lunch at 12:30pm  
*Both events are at the LWVDC office.*

Saturday, April 16th

*Annual Meeting & Luncheon*  
at

Clyde's, Gallery Place

Reservation forms will be mailed directly to all  
active members.

You may also download a form at [lwwdc.org](http://lwwdc.org).



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1100 15th Street, NW, 11th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Non Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
WASH. DC Permit  
# 8260

*CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED*

**DATED MATERIAL**

**Contact us at:** (tel) 202 222-0710 (website) [www.lwwdc.org](http://www.lwwdc.org)  
(fax) 202 783-0444 (email) [lwwdc@aol.com](mailto:lwwdc@aol.com)



*Get the latest updates at our page:  
League of Women Voters of Washington DC*

## CALENDAR

### March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:40am Board Meeting <sup>1</sup>  12:30pm Green Bag Luncheon Speaker Series <sup>1</sup>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 2pm All Member Social <sup>1</sup>	<b>7</b> 10:30am Unit Council Meeting <sup>2</sup>	<b>8</b> 10:00am Naturalization Ceremony <sup>3</sup>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:45am SW Unit <sup>4</sup>  12:45pm NW Day Unit <sup>5</sup>	<b>16</b> 9:45am Upper 16th Unit <sup>6</sup>	<b>17</b> 9:45am CC/ Ingleside Unit <sup>7</sup>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Call for time Evening/ Saturday Unit <sup>8</sup>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

<sup>1</sup>LWVDC offices, 1100 15th Street NW, 11th Floor. <sup>2</sup>Naomi Glass, 5533 33rd St. NW, 686-0124.  
<sup>3</sup>Judy Smith, 882-3021. <sup>4</sup>Leona Rumsey, 863-7484. <sup>5</sup>Barbara Yeomans, 363-8940. <sup>6</sup>Vivianne Mozon, 722-0480. <sup>7</sup>Ruth Allen, 362-8953. <sup>8</sup>Call Naomi Glass, 686-0124.

The DC VOTER is a publication of the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.