

*Join the League Today*

*When you act with other  
League members,  
your voice is magnified.*

***You can enhance your skills in***

Networking, Lobbying  
Investigating issues  
Facilitating community dialogues  
Communicating with elected officials  
and the communications media.

Annual dues are \$45

Household membership dues for  
two or more members who share  
an address are \$67.50.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to:  
League of Women Voters (LWVMC)  
and send to Betty Williams, 607 Progress St.,  
Blacksburg, Va. 24060  
Or call her at (540) 552-2357

Membership dues and contributions to the League of  
Women Voters are not deductible as a personal or business  
expense for tax purposes.

*League members are  
a little like Marines...*

I think the world might be a better place if  
it were run by the League of Women Voters.  
You may think, as I once did, that the League  
of Women Voters is just a bunch of little old  
ladies. But we ignore little old ladies at our  
peril, especially these ones. League members  
are a little like Marines. Same drive. Same  
esprit de corps. And I don't think you're ever  
an ex-League member. Wrap them in camo,  
strap them into parachutes and drop them  
behind enemy lines and they'd get things  
done likety-split.

*John Kelly, columnist  
Washington Post, May 15, 2007*



## The League of Women Voters is

..... a citizens' organization that  
researches issues and educates the  
public and decision-makers.

.....comprised of men and women  
who want to make a difference in our  
communities, our country, and our  
world.

..... nonpartisan. It does not support or  
oppose candidates.

It also mobilizes people to vote and to  
have a say in the complex decisions that  
affect everyone.

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*Help us  
make democracy work.*

*Join the League.*

# We're Shaping the Future, Now...So Can You.

*In the New River Valley, the League provides many ways for citizens to learn about and participate in the local government.*

## **Arranging local Candidate Forums**

House of Delegates and Senate, Town Councils of Blacksburg and Christiansburg  
Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, School Board, and Constitutional Officers  
Radford City Council, School Board and Constitutional Officers

*Most Forums were video-taped and broadcast on local access cable and some are available on the video archives of Blacksburg.gov*

## **Helping citizens register to vote**

## **Preparing, giving out Facts for Voters and Voters Guides**

*These brochures give citizens information about government and candidates. Voter Guides are available on our website: <http://civic.bev.net/lwvmc>*

## **Sponsoring education events**

*Breakfasts with Town Councils, Board of Supervisors and School Board members  
Talks by local experts on issues such as the media in presidential campaigns, environment, voting machines, global warming*

## **Supporting legislation**

*Contacted legislators about reform of election procedures to include the addition of voter-verifiable paper ballots to computer voting machines; about non-partisan redistricting, and about safety on Interstate 81*

## **Advocating in citizens' interests**

*For open government sessions and citizens' rights.*



*Blacksburg Town Council Candidate Forum*

## ***Decades of Achievement***

The National League of Women Voters grew from the women's suffrage movement which worked to secure passage of the 19th amendment which ensures women the right to vote. Its work continued through the decades.

- 1920s - secured passage of the first federal maternal and infant health care program
- 1930s - helped shape the Social Security Act and fought for Child Labor laws
- 1940s - built public support for creation of the United Nations
- 1950s - sponsored the "Freedom Agenda," a nationwide program of community education and civil liberties discussion
- 1960s - fought against discrimination in education, employment, and housing
- 1970s - sponsored televised Presidential debates; campaigned for the Equal Rights Amendment; built support for the Clean Water Act.
- 1980s - played a lead role in the push for fairer tax policies; worked to increase the availability of quality child care
- 1990s - led the successful campaign for passage and implementation of the "Motor Voter" Law; advocated for campaign finance and health care reforms
- 2000s - offered the first candidate debates on-line through a nationwide, Internet based, voter education program (DNet DemocracyNet); launched a vigorous campaign for election administration reform.

## **Mission**

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