

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County Activities for 2007-2008 Year

September – Judy Snoke volunteered to lead the local part of the state League study on Felons Civil Rights. Joining Judy on the study committee are: Barbara Boyd, Ryan Donnell, Bev Fleming, Janet Hahn, Mary Holliman, and Nancy Warren. Judy and Mary Houska went to the Virginia League Workshop where the study was launched.

October – Karen Cronin and Nancy Warren organized three Candidate Forums: 1) Constitutional Officers, Ann Hess moderated; 2) General Assembly, Beth Obenshain moderated; 3) Board of Supervisors and School Board, Carl McDaniels moderated. We videotaped all three Forums to be broadcast on WTOB and Charter Communications' local access station. Connie Anderson posted the Voter Guides on our web site. Karen and Nancy made hard copies of the Guides for the libraries.

October – The League was asked to participate in the Town of Blacksburg's decision about changing its Town Council election day from May to November. Mary Houska moderated a Council conversation with citizens and participated in an ad hoc Town committee to study the question along with LWV member Lindsay West and CF president Dave Britt with Councilwoman Mary Holliman as chair. The committee recommended November elections in odd years and that is what Council adopted.

October 27 – The League sponsored a table at the NAACP banquet.

December – February – Program Chair, Amy Mauldon, put together an outstanding program on Immigration. Unfortunately, it had to be rescheduled two times and the December 4 program finally took place in February. The panel discussion was superb with Christine Poarch, an immigration lawyer, Kris Tilley-Lubbs, a Virginia Tech professor, and Dr. Robert Solomon. Amy moderated the panel with great expertise. The program was videotaped and shown on WTOB for about a month.

November – A family emergency forced Sheila Reyna to resign her position as League Secretary and Barbara Boyd, an experienced League member from Wisconsin and Illinois generously agreed to take over.

November – Our Board voted to assume the sponsorship of the local Great Decisions programs. These had been sponsored by the Blacksburg branch of AAUW. Dee Pourchot and Connie Anderson, League members, had been leading the program for AAUW. A number of Leagues in Virginia sponsor their local Great Decisions programs.

November – Connie Anderson put together our 2007 – 2009 Member Handbook and they were printed and mailed.

January – League members met in the Library to come to consensus on the national League study on Immigration.

January 23 – The first of eight Great Decisions sessions started. Dee Pourchot was assisted by Jane Sprague and Connie Anderson. We enrolled 41 people in Great Decisions. Jane arranged to have the DVDs for each session replayed on WTOB.

January 31 – Our lobbying delegation [Alanna Malone, Amy Mauldon, Joan Zajak and Mary Houska] rode to Richmond on The Planned Parenthood bus (thanks to Susan Anderson) to speak to our 4 General Assembly members to advocate that they vote for 1) the Bi-Partisan Redistricting Bill; 2) safeguarding elections by passing the rest of the Hugo bill; and 3) prevent firearms sales to the mentally ill. In Richmond, we picked up copies of the state League's Legislature Directory for both Montgomery and Washington Counties. [The box must have weighed 25 pounds; Thank Goodness that Alanna and Amy were along because we had to carry it about 7 blocks!]

February 1 – A group of us met at Bev Fleming's to count and then distribute 10,000 FACTS for VOTERS, our most popular publication. This was the 16th year that Bev had handled FACTS for the League.

February 21 – We sponsored a breakfast with Blacksburg Town Council and some staff.

March – Harriett Cooper launched our annual finance drive. Were it not for your generosity we would not be able to Videotape our Forums and Programs to replay on local access cable stations and lend out to members.

April 10 and 14 – Nancy and Karen organized Candidate Forums for Blacksburg and Christiansburg Town Councils and assembled Voter Guide information on the candidates. Connie put them on our web site. The Blacksburg Forum was broadcast on WTOB and videotaped for numerous rebroadcasts.

April – The Board nominated Bev Fleming for the Outstanding New River Valley Volunteer award.

May 3 – Robin Lawson, Karen Cronin & Mary Houska attended the LWV VA Council Meeting in Charlottesville.

May 12 - Our Annual Meeting with Prof. Karen Hult discussing "Media Coverage & the 2008 Presidential Campaign."

June 13 – 17 – Karen Cronin will represent our League at the LWV US convention in Portland, Oregon.