

LEAGUE LINGO

ACTION/ADVOCACY - Promoting the League's positions on local, state and national public policy issues to government officials, the media and the public.

ACTION ALERT - Request from the LWVUS, state or local League to take action in support of a League position (aka: "Call to Action")- may or may not be related to specific legislation. Action Alerts to individual League members (i.e., not to the local or state League President) ask that members take action as an **individual**, not as a League member.

ACTION using Advocacy - Promoting a League position [through informational/educational activities] not connected to specific legislation; if specific legislation has been introduced, then the lobbying falls under full action category which cannot be performed by a 501(c)3 organization, according to IRS guidelines.

ACTION using Lobbying - Contacting government officials, media or the public- either in support of or against - specific legislation, using a League position as the basis for the action.

ANNUAL MEETING - Local equivalent of a convention. Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaw changes and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: A non-voting member of the League, such as a person under 18 years of age or a non-citizen

CONCURRENCE - Agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by another League, study committee, task force or League board.

CONSENSUS - Collective opinion of a substantial number of members, representative of membership as a whole, reached after objective study and discussion of an issue.

CONVENTION - A state or national League meeting held every other year at which delegates elect officers and directors for the biennium, adopt program, make bylaw changes and adopt a budget. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention, local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention. (State conventions are usually held in odd-numbered years; national in even numbered years)

COUNCIL - An assembly of delegates held in alternate years [to convention years] to adopt a budget and assess program developments. Local Leagues send delegates [Pres. & one delegate] to state council, state Leagues to national (LWVUS) council.

DATABASE - League membership list maintained online via the LWVUS website.

DEBATE/FORUM - Public, convened meeting to discuss public issues or to question candidates for public office.

EDUCATION FUND - The tax-deductible arm of national, state and large local Leagues, handling funds to be used **only** for educational purposes, not for action on specific legislation. (Ed Fund is a 501(c) 3 organization).

E-MAIL - Electronic mail created on the computer and distributed by means of the internet.

ILO - Acronym for an Inter-League Organization, formed by local Leagues within a county, metropolitan area or region to act on issues that are beyond the local League area in scope. An ILO can include different states, and local jurisdictions in a region with common regional interests, but would not include all areas of the state (such as: LWNCA - LWV of the National Capital Area).

ITEM - An issue/topic selected for study by a League.

IMPACT ON ISSUES - Document listing all LWVUS positions

LIFE MEMBER: A person who has been a member for 50 years or more. Life members are excused from dues payment and their Leagues pay no per member payment (PMP) for them.

LWNCA - The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (an Inter-League Organization composed of Leagues of D.C., Northern VA and Leagues of Maryland that surround D.C.).

LWVUS - The League of Women Voters of the United States (the national League).

LWV-VA - The League of Women Voters of Virginia (a state League).

MAL: Acronym for Member-At-Large, a member who resides outside the area of, and is not enrolled in, a local League.

MAL UNIT: A state-recognized group of Members-At-Large, in an area where there is no local League. They may become a full League when they meet the criteria.

MEMBER AT LARGE (MAL): a state League member not associated with a local League; groups of MAL members in the same geographic area can form a MAL Unit of the state League.

PMP - Acronym for Per Member Payment, the amount of money paid annually to the LWVUS and state Leagues [and ILOs] on the number of members in the local League as of the end of January.

PORTFOLIO - Area of responsibility, one's League job.

POSITION - A statement of the League's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate board and used as a basis for League action.

POSITIONED FOR ACTION - Document listing all the LWV-VA positions as determined by the membership.

PRINCIPLES - Governmental standards and policies supported by the League of Women Voters as a whole. Principles constitute the authorization for adoption of program [positions] and are included as the foundation for all statements of position at all levels of League.

PROGRAM [League definition] - Selected governmental issues chosen by League members at the local, state, regional and national levels for study leading to positions and action on said positions.

PROGRAMS - Plans for speakers, discussion or other activities for League meetings.

RESOURCE PERSON - The person serving as a "background expert" for a discussion topic - helps the discussion leader with questions about the subject under discussion - is usually a member of the study committee on the topic.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Media portals used to help communicate League interest and activities between League and the public online.

STUDY [RE STUDY] - A topic or issue that is adopted at League annual meeting or convention in order to pursue consensus.

TASK FORCE - Group of members working on a particular project, similar to a study committee, but not necessarily conducting a "study" in the League sense.

UNIT - Groupings of members within a large local League or state to provide more opportunity for discussion. Units may be time-oriented (day, evening, lunch hour) or geographically oriented, or both.

VIRGINIA VOTER - Newsletter of the LWV-VA. It is distributed via email, USPS for those without email, and posted on the LWV-VA.org website.

VIRTUAL MEETING - Meeting of members of a League board where a decision is reached via email or other electronic means including a telephone conference call and minutes of the meeting are recorded.

VOTE411.ORG Web portal of LWVUS for election information.

VOTERS GUIDE - Nonpartisan publication giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.

VOTERS SERVICE - Year-round activity to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters and presenting factual, nonpartisan information on candidates and election issues are basic voters service activities, i.e., All election related projects, activities.

VOTING MEMBERS: All League members who are U.S. citizens and at least 18 years old.

WEBSITE - an internet "address" (such as www.lwv-va.org) created by individuals or organizations for use in communicating electronically on the internet. The first page of the site is called a "home page." The person managing the site is called a "Webmaster" or Web Administrator. (Note: a website's address is usually preceded by "www." - which means 'worldwide web'.)

WRT - Women Legislative Roundtable, a forum moderated by the LWV-VA in Richmond during the General Assembly session to discuss issues of public policy being considered during the legislative session.

(Adapted from LWVUS "League Lingo" by LWV-VA, 2011)