



Charlottesville/Albemarle
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
August 2010

Office Phone:
(434) 970-1707

Office Hours:
Tues. 1-5 pm and
Thurs. 8:30-12:30 pm
Julie Neuman, Office Manager

E-mail:
lwv@avenue.org

Visit Our Website:
<http://avenue.org/lwv>

Dear League Members,

As your new president of the Charlottesville/Albemarle League of Women Voters, I am looking forward to what is already shaping up to be a very active year ahead! Before I get started on sharing a few thoughts as I take on this position, I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to Marge Cox for her impressive leadership. Marge's hard work and organization have made it pretty easy for me to step in. Much appreciated!

I became a League member about 15 years ago---it was one of the first things I did when my family and I moved to Charlottesville (after some years in the surrounding countryside). My entry into the League was an open house hosted by Mary Wagner, where I found a home filled with members and other interested community folks like me. I met so many provocative women that evening and decided to join right away. I soon after attended the Women's Issues Committee meeting at the invitation of Mimi Bender, who had been one of many welcoming League members that open house night. Since that time, I have served in several different roles, and appreciate being a part of a community of devoted citizens who manage to put their personal ideologies aside to advance civic education, participation, and engagement---precisely what the League has stood for over the last century. As president, my goal is to work collaboratively to continue and strengthen that mission.

To that end, during a time when many non-profits are grappling with ways to sustain and grow in support, I would like for us to work as an organization to reach out to people and places that represent multiple perspectives and backgrounds. From social networking to partnership-building to speaking engagements, there are many ways in which the League has carved out a reliable presence and has the opportunity to do even more so. My hope is that we can follow through on the many creative and useful strategies for reminding people who we are, offering a better understanding to those who *think* they know who we are, and to strengthen the League with active, committed members and supporters who reflect the many dimensions of our community.

The League is important to me for reasons that stretch far beyond the committees I serve on, the positions I hold, or my politics and preferences. I joined the League because I believe, as I know we all do, that an active, informed citizenry is the foundation of a healthy democracy. At a time when ideologues are wielding way too much influence, and people, as NPR recently reported, are resistant to questioning their positions even when presented with counter evidence, the most important thing I think we can do is be the best at what we are. How we do that holds many possibilities: joining the Observer Corps (arguably one of the most important services the League performs); attending our Community Dialogues with friends, neighbors, and skeptics; representing the League at civic functions; recruiting others to attend public meetings...the list goes on. Let us know what ideas you have and how you would like to be involved. I am looking forward to working with everyone in my new position.

Sincerely yours,

Loren Intolubbe-Chmil, incoming President, LWV C/A, 2010

This page is sponsored by Joan Jay of Roy Wheeler Realty Co.

LWV Charlottesville/Albemarle Officers and Directors 2011-2012

1936 Arlington Blvd., Suite 116, Charlottesville, Va 22903

Office 970-1707; Fax 970-1708 lwv@avenue.org

Office Mgr. Julie Neuman (H) 823-4686 julien@nexet.net

OFFICERS

President 2012

Loren Intolubbe-Chmil
1320 Riverdale Drive
Charlottesville, Va 22902
984-6611; 409-9302
lgic@embarqmail.com

Vice President 2012

Programs & Positions

Sue Friedman
2544 Brandermill Place
Charlottesville, Va 22911
(w) 973-6122; (h) 964-0878
Sue_Friedman@hotmail.com

Vice President 2011

Organization & Education

Gerry Kruger
989 Allendale Drive
Charlottesville, Va 22901
977-7617
gerrykruger@embarqmail.com

Vice President 2011

Community Engagement

Molly O'Brien
250 West Main St. PH 2
Charlottesville, Va 22902
245-9806
cmneirbo@comcast.net

Secretary 2012

Patricia Hurst
12 Georgetown Green
Charlottesville, Va 22901
978-4532
phurst@embarqmail.com

Treasurer 2011

Deborah Brooks
3080 Branham Place
Charlottesville, Va 22903
295-7696
deborah@dwbrooks.com

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Natural Resources 2012

Linda Goodling
740 Mechums West Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22903
296-9865
Goodling_home@earthlink.net

International Relations 2012

Flora Patterson
685 Flordon Drive
Charlottesville, Va 22901
295-5532
floramaepaterson@gmail.com

Web Master and Newsletter Editor 2012

Michele Kellermann
102 Smithfield Court
Charlottesville, Va 22901
979-7146
michele.kellermann@gmail.com

Women's Issues 2012

Mimi Bender
2050 Fray Road
Ruckersville, Va 22968
974-7270; 220-4500
mbender@juno.com

Membership 2011

Marie Krizek
230 Carrsbrook Drive
Charlottesville, Va 22901
973-0324
candmkrizek@embarqmail.com

Voters Service 2011

Bob & Nancy Button
2670 English Oaks Circle
Charlottesville, Va 22911
975-0884
bbutton@embarqmail.com
nbutton@embarqmail.com

Open Position - TBA

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Arrangements 2012

Lois Sandy
1666 Franklin Drive
Charlottesville, Va 22911
296-8737
sandyloisjc@yahoo.com

Finance Chair 2012

Ruth Wadlington
1620 Keith Valley Road
Charlottesville, Va 22901
rwadlington@comcast.net

OFF BOARD

Special Tasks

Nominating Committee

Marge Cox, Chair 245-5228
margevfcox@earthlink.net

Tara Boyd 242-1591
Tboyd@leclairryan.com

Dena Imlay 296-6651
arlimlay@comcast.net

Marie Krizek – Ex Officio
candmkrizek@embarqmail.com

Open Position - TBA

Mary Stamps White

Sally Thomas 2013 295-1819
WritelnSal@aol.com

Wayne Harbaugh 2012 293-2432
vwharbaugh@aol.com

Tara Boyd 2011
Tboyd@leclairryan.com

Deborah Brooks –Ex Officio
deborah@dwbrooks.com

LEAGUE CELEBRATES AUGUST 26th WE DO ? WHY ? by Molly O'Brien

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution Bill of Rights states: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

To celebrate the 19th Amendment, in August of every year, all levels of League (National, State, Interstate and Local) remember **August 26th** as **Women's Equality Day**. This amendment to our Constitution was ratified in 1920, but rejected by Virginia! It passed finally in Virginia on February 21, 1952. (Played a little 'catch up' there!)

I was going to write about the efforts and the many severe agonies suffered by our foremothers, but Nancy O'Brien (unfortunately not related to me) thoughtfully sent me an excellent piece. The photos and text tell it all! These wonderful and brave women made our lives what we enjoy today - freedom as adults to make our own lives, to work outside the home - or not , to own car dealerships, go into space (thank you, Nancy Ride), to be stay-at-homes Moms - or not , as everyone knows the list never stops. Now is the month to make our own "Thank you, Foremother" list . The story of the women's vote is heartbreaking both here and in England. There's yet another fabulous story - the Pankhurst sisters and their organization are a legend for our time.

You can read all of this for yourself by going to:
<http://thenewagenda.net/2010/06/01/must-see-courage-in-women-is-often-mistaken-for-insanity-women-get-the-right-to-vote/>

Also check out:
<http://virtualvictorian.blogspot.com/2010/05/how-women-fought-for-right-to-vote.html>

Office News:

Welcome New Member: Morgan Butler

Donations to the LWV Education Fund:

John Baldino of Notta Farm (on behalf of the Education Fund Coalition); and **Lorraine Cote**.

THANK YOU!

International Relations Committee News by Gerry Kruger

International Relations committee members continued to study and discuss world economic issues in the months of May and June. Lois Sandy, Shirley Munson, Pat Hurst, Marian Rothman, and Jean Minehart shared their readings on Norway's pension fund; the effect of raising China's currency on the U.S.; Greece's economic problems and their effect on the rest of the European Union and the United Kingdom; and how Germany's economic freedom since the fall of the Berlin Wall has outpaced political freedom.

Several members studied how other countries around the world affect us now and will have a heavy impact on us in the future. Natalie Testa offered an opinion of the need to keep international students who come to the U.S. to study in this country in order to take advantage of their energy, brains, money, and talent. Many return to their native countries—a huge loss for us. Liz Kutchai continues to share her concerns about the growth of the world's population and how it will change the face of politics and the world order in years to come. Predominantly Muslim countries have the highest rate of population increase in the world while China and India have 59% of the world's population.

The Middle East was the topic explored by Ruth Hanft. Fatah, which wants a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, has become a key in the fight against extremists. Fanatical Islamist groups have worked with the poor in the past to gain their loyalty by building schools and giving them aid. Now they are in competition with Fatah which is taking over these charitable operations.

Finally: Rosalie Simari examined privacy issues that have risen from the widespread use of and rapid advances in technology. The United States appears to be more concerned with privacy issues after breeches have taken place. Great Britain is in favor of more regulation to prevent such intrusions.

This year Molly O'Brien represented the Charlottesville/Albemarle members at the LWV convention in Atlanta, Georgia in June and shared highlights at the June 23 meeting. We encourage you to join us on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings at 9:30 as we meet in the homes of IR members and enjoy just the right mixture of fun, food, and provocative discourse. Check the calendar on the last page of this newsletter for August meeting dates and places.



League of Women Voters
of Charlottesville/Albemarle
1936 Arlington Blvd. #116
Charlottesville, VA 22903-1559

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LWV C/A
President
Loren Intolubbe-Chmil

Newsletter Editor
Michele Kellermann

Meetings and Events for August 2010: *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wednesday, Aug. 11, 9:30 am	International Relations Committee Meeting	Home of Dena Imlay, 2014 Meadowbrook Rd., 296-6651	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532
Thursday, Aug. 12, 4:30 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 145 Ednam Dr., (Boar's Head Inn complex)	For more information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Friday, Aug. 20, 9:00 am to noon	LWV C/A Board Meeting Retreat	PVCC Stultz Workforce Center	For more information, contact Loren Intolubbe- Chmil, at lgic@embarqmail.com
Wednesday, Aug. 25, 9:30 am	International Relations Committee Meeting	Home of Ruth Hanft, 606 Rainier Rd., 295-8674	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532

Note to LWV C/A Members: Unfortunately, in this day and age of identity theft, I was the victim of a common internet scam. An email with my address was sent to my entire contact list, including members of the League, that was completely bogus. Please be assured that this email was not from me, nor were any responses you might have gotten by replying to it. It behooves everyone: never respond to email "cries for help," even when it looks like the address is genuine, as these scams are rampant. Just hit the delete button. Michele Kellermann, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster