



Charlottesville/Albemarle
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
June and July 2010

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

Consensus Meeting for LWV C/A Members
Tuesday, June 1, Noon
New County Office Bldg., 1600 Fifth St., Room A
(Bring Your Own Lunch!)
LWV - VA Election Laws Study

At the May 2009 Convention, the League of Women Voters of Virginia adopted a two-year update study and review of its current positions on Virginia's election laws. The first year of the study looks at **voter registration, provisions for voting by military and overseas voters, and the governmental structure responsible for administering elections in the Commonwealth.** We have received the consensus questions for this Study, and the LWV C/A will hold a Consensus Meeting on Tuesday, June 1 at noon, in the New County Office Building, 1600 Fifth St., Room A. See page 2 of this newsletter for consensus questions for this study. For background information, go to:

<http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org/files/> and click on "election laws study march 2010."

LWV C/A Natural Resources Committee Meeting:

Thursday, June 10, 4:30 pm
Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
145 Ednam Dr. (Boar's Head Inn Complex)

Everyone is welcome to come hear a presentation by Leslie Middleton who will be speaking at the next Natural Resources Committee meeting on Thursday, June 10, at 4:30 pm at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 145 Ednam Dr. (Boar's Head Inn complex).

Leslie Middleton was hired by the Commission as transitional staff in January 2009 and as the Commission's first Executive Director in April 2009. Leslie grew up in Massachusetts and spent a decade working at sea in commercial fisheries and oil production maritime support before returning to the University of Rhode Island to obtain a BS in Mechanical and Ocean Engineering in 1983. Leslie became a research engineer for the US Navy, developing systems specifically for the emerging field of remotely-operated vehicles (Port Hueneme, CA); facilitating the development and deployment of fiber optic cable systems (Arlington, VA); and developing shipboard solid and plastic waste handling and processing equipment for deployment on Navy ships (Annapolis, MD). Upon moving inland to the Rivanna watershed, Leslie founded the Rivanna Watershed Center, a community-based non-profit promoting watershed conservation and collaborative watershed education and protection. Prior to coming to the Rivanna River Basin Commission, Leslie was the Virginia Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in Richmond, coordinating multiple programs in Virginia. As the Commission's first Executive Director, Leslie is responsible for the strategic development of the organization and building partnerships within the basin, the Commonwealth, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In her spare time, Leslie can be found (outside) volunteering for Rivanna Master Naturalists and StreamWatch, sailing with her husband on the Bay and its tidal tributaries, or (inside) writing about these experiences.

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

LWV-VA ELECTION LAWS STUDY, PART I: CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. Do you approve the following overall statement (taken from League of Women Voters principles) for the League of Women Voters of Virginia position on election laws?

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations, and administrative procedures should be designed and uniformly applied, with adequate funding available, to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia.

Yes _____

Yes, with changes _____

If "yes with changes," what changes would you propose?

2. a. What sources and methods of funding would you support to provide equal and easy access to voter registration? Do you believe that funding for Virginia's voter registration system should be provided:
- Totally by the Commonwealth, or
 - Shared by the Commonwealth and localities?
- b. What sources and methods of funding would you support to provide equal and easy access for voting in federal and statewide elections? Do you believe that funding for Virginia's election system should be provided:
- Totally by the Commonwealth, or
 - Shared by the Commonwealth and localities?
3. Please respond yes or no to each of the following and explain if necessary. Do you believe that voter registration is necessary to:
- Facilitate the voting process
 - Prevent voter fraud
 - Other:
4. Do you believe that voter registration as carried out in Virginia affects voter turnout?
5. Which of the following voter registration measures would you support to increase voter participation in Virginia? (you may select more than one)
- No voter registration
 - Same (election) day registration
 - At the county/city central elections office
 - At the precinct polling place
 - Decreased time between the registration deadline and election day
 - Online registration
 - Statutory requirements that election officials carry out a vigorous voter registration program covering all eligible Virginia citizens
 - Universal voter registration of all Virginia residents who are U.S. citizens upon their 18th birthday
 - Other:
6. Please answer following questions.
- Do you support voter registration affiliation by party?
 - Do you oppose voter registration affiliation by party?
7. Virginia's definition of residency for the purpose of voting requires individuals to have both domicile and abode. In August, 2009, the State Board of Elections adopted a policy to establish uniform interpretation, broad construction, presumption of intent and consistent application of the requirements to assure all citizens of their right to vote. Do you support application of this statewide policy to determine voter residency, rather than policy set by local registrars?

International Relations Committee News by Gerry Kruger

The International Relations Committee heard a timely report by Jean Minehart on the economic situation in Greece. Twenty percent of the people there are living below the European Union poverty line, and the rich are using offshore havens to hide their wealth and avoid taxes. The poor won't accept lower wages, and the people retire in their fifties and receive pensions, which the government can't afford. The Germans, who retire at 65, are adamant about not bailing them out, but the situation could destroy the European Union if they don't. This is indeed a serious global problem.

Natalie Testa gave us an interesting comparison between China and America. China's economy is 1/3 of the U.S.'s and their GDP is 1/4 of the U.S. economy. Our defensive capabilities are six times that of China's. China is now torn between becoming greener or becoming richer because they have a serious problem with pollution. In spite of China's holding much of our debt, there is little chance that they would do anything to harm relations between the two countries.

We extend an open invitation to join us at 9:30 a.m. for coffee, socializing, and stimulating, timely reports. Check the calendar on the last page of this newsletter for June meeting dates and places. For more information about the IR committee, contact Director Flora Patterson, 295-5532, or email: floramaepatterson@gmail.com

Office News

Welcome New Members:

Local Members:

Mary Rose Curtis
Anne Taylor
Dianne Murray

National Members:

Mildred Abraham
Ellen Humphries
Evelyn Harris
Virginia Gardner

Finance Drive Update:

Josephine Roberts (LWV C/A Member)
contributed to the *Operating Fund*

Carol Jackson (LWV C/A Member)
contributed to the *Education Fund*

Many thanks! Keep those donations coming in--we can still use help to meet our goal for the *Operating Fund*.

New Meeting Date/Time Suggested for LWV C/A Board of Directors

Beginning with the September meeting, the newly elected Board of Directors for 2010-11 will meet on the third Monday of the month, from 4-6 pm.

June 8 Primary to be held in City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County Precincts

Selection of the Republican Party candidate for the 5th District U.S. Congressional Seat will take place on Tuesday, June 8, at local precincts in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. As there is no party affiliation required for registered voters in the State of Virginia, any current registered voter can vote in this primary.

To see the ballot, go to:

http://www.albemarle.org/upload/images/Forms_Center/Departments/Registrar/Forms/June_2010_Albermarle_Sample_Ballot.pdf

For further information about voting and voter registration go to our website, <http://avenue.org/lwv> and click on Voter and Election Information on the Home Page.



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LWV C/A
President
 Marguerite Cox

Newsletter Editor
 Michele Kellermann

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Tuesday, June 1, noon	Consensus Meeting for Members on LWV VA Election Laws Study	New County Office Bldg., 1600 5th St., Room A	For further information, contact the office, 970-1707
Tuesday, June 8	2010 Primary Elections: Republican candidates for U.S. 5th Congressional District	City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County precincts	For more information, go to our website: http://lwv@avenue.org
Wednesday, June 9, 9:30 am	International Relations Committee Meeting	Home of Lois Sandy, 1666 Franklin Dr., 296-8737	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532
Thursday, June 10, 4:30 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting with guest speaker: Leslie Middleton	Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 145 Ednam Dr., (Boar's Head Inn complex)	For more information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Tuesday, June 15, 4-6 pm Cancelled	LWV C/A Board Meeting Cancelled		
Wednesday, June 23, 9:30 am	International Relations Committee Meeting	Home of Natalie Testa, 70 Wildwood Dr. (Lake Monticello) Palmyra, VA, 589-4067	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532