



Charlottesville/Albemarle
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
October 2010

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LWV C/A Co-Sponsors Live Debate with Charlottesville Newsplex

**Debate between 5th District Candidates Set for
Tuesday, October 19, 7 p.m.**

In accordance with guidelines adopted by the state League of Women Voters in 2006, our local League of Women Voters of Charlottesville/Albemarle will team with Charlottesville Newsplex to sponsor a **televised debate on Tuesday, October 19.**

U.S. Fifth Congressional District incumbent Rep. **Tom Perriello** (D-Ivy) and GOP challenger candidate/Virginia State Senator **Robert Hurt** will square off at **7:00 p.m. at Piedmont Virginia Community College's Dickinson Building.** Monticello Media Group will join in radio broadcasting the live debate, which will also be available for viewing via the Newsplex website. News Anchor Dan Schute will serve as moderator and a panel will ask questions of the candidates. The live audience, and those watching and listening via TV, radio and website, will also be invited to submit questions. The panel will include representatives from Newsplex, Monticello Media, the League of Women Voters, and Piedmont Virginia Community College.

Loren Intolubbe-Chmil, President of the LWV C/A, reported that the Virginia League of Women Voters (LWV-VA) adopted guidelines in 2006 which provide that candidates, who are supported by at least 15% of respondents in a nonpartisan poll, be invited to participate in debates. Accordingly, candidates Perriello and Hurt were invited to participate in this forum, and both have accepted our invitation. The League's mission is to promote citizens' receiving information on issues from the candidates, so they can make informed choices on election day.

In addition to co-sponsoring the debate, our local LWV C/A will also publish and have available at the forum, our **VOTER'S GUIDE 2010.** This eight-page (four color pages) insert will appear in *The Daily Progress* on Tuesday, October 19, and as in past years, there is an overrun of several thousand copies that are distributed to schools, libraries, and newsstands throughout the Charlottesville/Albemarle County area. In the Voter's Guide, the 5th district candidates for the U.S. representative were asked to respond the following questions:

- Energy - How do you propose to balance the need for affordable energy with the need to protect the environment and natural resources?
- Immigration - Specifically how would you change U.S. Immigration policy?
- Economy - What legislation would you support to stimulate job growth?
- Fifth District question: How do you propose to best serve the diverse geographic, economic, ideological and political interests and needs of the Fifth District?

Election information is available at our website: <http://avenue.org/lwv>

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

A Message from our President

Dear League Members,

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, our League is off to a very busy start. Between public meetings, community dialogues, and debates, to name a few, we find ourselves civically engaged in a variety of ways. I have come to realize that the common thread that runs through all of these activities, and which intersects with virtually every aspect of our lives, is *civility*---a concept and practice which has been the topic of much discussion recently, yet seems to be largely elusive among us in our public discourse. One thing that strikes me in particular is how frequently the claim is made that it is the ‘other’ side, whoever that is, which is being less civil---and rarely is this claim quite true. Rather, we (as members in a society) continually relinquish our right and responsibility to disagree and dissent *for the public good* through engagement in civil discourse. Much like the consensus process which makes the League the unique organization that it is, civil discourse seeks common interests and a collective good while taking into account the reality of diverse and valued points of view.

One of my favorite scholars and philosophers, Maxine Greene, has written prolifically with the aim of inspiring the many ways that we, as US and global citizens, might be able to reclaim our public spaces and in the process our public discourse. In **The Passion of the Possible: Choice, Multiplicity, and Commitment**, Greene argues that

dialogue must be governed by agreed-upon rules of civility and friendship. The ethical commitments that arise out of communication of this kind must be marked by passion, by an attentiveness to the deficiencies, the particularities, the possibilities of the world. They must be part of a community in-the-making, with more and more persons included, all articulating visions of still untapped possibility.

This perspective is an invitation for us to engage in such a way that we rely less on the fallacy that there is a right/wrong or that a single conclusion is the only (best) outcome, and to rely more on our civic imagination, which cultivates the habit of active listening and willingness to accept that civic engagement is a work-in-progress, rather than an end game.

I am looking forward to the multiple opportunities we have available to us this fall---and far into the future--- for civic and civil participation.

Sincerely,

Loren Intolubbe-Chmil, President, LWV C/A

Office News:

Temporary relocation of our office will take place on Monday, September 27, when we move to 1932 Arlington Blvd. (just next door to our current office) while our building undergoes renovation. Our mailman has been alerted to forward our mail, and our telephone number, fax and emails will stay the same. We have a month-to-month lease for the next year until renovations to our present office are complete, at which time we will decide whether to remain at that address.

Report from the LWV Natural Resources Committee on the Water Supply Plan

by Liz Palmer

The Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters has studied water supply planning in this community for more than forty years. As a League, we were the first to raise alarms about the condition of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir and about the supply-and-demand crisis of our local water system. The League helped get citizens involved in, and helped shape, the Water Supply Plan. It was approved in 2006 by the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA), City Council, the County Board of Supervisors, the Albemarle County Service Authority (ACSA), and well-informed residents after several years of study of alternatives and numerous public hearings. The Plan was granted a permit in 2008 by state and federal regulators as the “most practicable, least environmentally damaging” alternative.

A short description of the Water Supply Plan:

The South Fork Reservoir is 7 ½ miles long and drains 260 square miles of the county. That large watershed produces a great quantity of water, but because the water washes down lots of sediment, damming it creates a reservoir that collects a lot of sediment while losing its capacity to store the quantity of water needed during droughts. The Ragged Mountain Reservoir sits in a natural bowl with a small protected watershed. It’s a great place to store water but doesn’t collect enough water from its own watershed to meet community needs. Today, it gets its water largely from the Moorman’s River, through a failing pipeline built in 1927. The Plan is to build on the best characteristics of our watershed. It enlarges the reservoir at Ragged Mountain with a new, earthen dam and it continues to get most of its water from the South Fork Rivanna River. During times of plenty, excess water will be pumped via a pipe from the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir (SFRR) to the Ragged Mountain Reservoir for storage. During times of low flow in the Rivanna River, stored water can be sent back to the SFRR water treatment plant. The Plan provides enough water for human use but also, uniquely, restores the health and flow to two rivers: the Moormans and the Rivanna. Having adequate storage allows these two rivers to flow naturally. That aspect is important to environmentalists, but also, of practical importance, meets the requirements of the Clean Water Act which the permitting agencies must uphold. It’s not just a luxury to have healthy streams--it’s in the law.

Recently, numerous studies have been done seeking an alternative to the 2006 plan.. One proposed alternative is to dredge the reservoir and build a smaller Ragged Mountain Reservoir. A letter from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality sent in August and based on computer modeling, said those measures will not meet the projected long-term demand or provide sufficient stream flows in the Rivanna and Moorman’s Rivers to comply with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality permit. Consultants earlier had reached the same conclusions.

Other proposals contain commendable aspects such as greater conservation and waiting for new technologies to allow less water consumption. The 2006 Plan is already based on the lowest per capita water usage of any community in Virginia, so the Natural Resources Committee, and the League in its statements, has not seen reasons to change our support of that plan. It will provide a sustainable water supply. It is environmentally sound and fiscally responsible.

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As this note is being written, the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority is being charged to take several actions):

1. Meet with DEQ for advice on phasing the pool height of the Ragged Mountain Reservoir (assuming the dam is built but the reservoir is not completely filled for several years).
2. Obtain detailed scope of work and fee for final design of the Ragged Mountain Dam (awaiting final decision on dam height from RWSA Board).
3. Review phasing with the existing Dam Expert Panel.
4. Issue an RFP for partial dredging of South Fork reservoir (probably following expert advice on the wording of that RFP).
5. Schedule the next joint 4-party meeting (RWSA, ACSA, City and County).

In addition, the ACSA and the City Public Works Department are charged with developing a new cost-share agreement for water supply projects, assuming continuation of the present philosophy that City residents should not pay for County growth, and each party should deal with aging infrastructure.

Read your local newspaper and/or Charlottesville Tomorrow website or RWSA website for updates. Come to NR committee meetings if you are intrigued! The Natural Resources Committee meets every second Thursday of the month at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (in the Boar's Head Inn complex), at 4:30 pm. For more information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865.

The Water Supply Plan will be the topic of discussion at the next LWV C/A *Community Dialogue*, scheduled for Tuesday, October 26. Time and date to be announced with a special postcard mailing to members, and posted on our website. All meetings are open to the public.

2010 Election Information

**Last day to register: October 12th, 2010
General and Special Election November 2nd, 2010
Last date of Request Absentee by mail October 26th, 2010
Last date of Absentee Vote in person - October 30th, 2010**

The City of Charlottesville's General Registrar's Office is located at 120 7th St. NE Rm. 122, and is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Albemarle County Registrar's Office is located at the 5th Street County Office Building, in the Human Services wing.

**On the Ballot:
U. S. Representative, 5th Congressional District
Proposed Virginia Constitutional Amendments**

**The LWV C/A Voter's Guide
will be published as an insert in
The Daily Progress
and available on Tuesday, Oct. 19. at the 5th District Candidates' Forum,
as well as newsstands, libraries, and schools throughout our area. It will also be
available on-line at our website: <http://avenue.org/lwv>**

International Relations Committee News

by Gerry Kruger

In August, the International Relations Committee reflected on the role that the League of Women Voters plays in our community, state, country, and the world. We decided as a group to be more cognizant of the issues that the League adopts and to discuss in our meetings how they relate to the reports we give. In addition, we hope to make our community more familiar with the work of the organization to which we belong.

At the home of **Ruth Hanft** we had the privilege of seeing slides of her husband Herb's participation in the movement to take refugees from Europe to Palestine in 1947. Due to strict quotas in the U.S. and Britain, there were no other places for many refugees to go. They were living in tents in Europe under poor conditions with little to eat. Without the sanction of the United States, the 10 people in Herb's group suffered great discomfort and eminent danger as they risked their lives for this courageous undertaking. In 1948, Israel became a Jewish state. All of us are grateful to Herb for his presentation, but especially for his heroism.

In September Ruth's report was "The End of Men." She critiqued an article about the rise of women in the workforce and reasons for future female dominance. Ruth cautioned us about believing that there is no reason to be concerned about women's rights. For example, there are colleges that are beginning to set quotas on women's admissions because female students are outnumbering men.

Pat Hurst's revelations on genetically modified organisms focused primarily on plant foods. Sixty to seventy percent of the processed foods on grocery store shelves have genetically modified ingredients. Presently the USDA does not require that they be labeled as such. Although these products last longer and resist diseases, testing of animals has produced some alarming results, and several European countries and Russia are not promoting them. The LWV position in 1988 supported "sustainable agriculture and action to reduce the use of toxic chemicals on the farm."

Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet nation in Central Asia, was the topic that **Rosalie Simari** brought to us. Although the country has U.S. and Russian military air bases, it has recently seen the worst ethnic violence in its modern history.

We look forward to more stimulating topics as we continue meet this fall on the second and fourth Wednesday's of each month at 9:30. Check the calendar on the back page of this newsletter for October meeting dates. We welcome you to join our committee, which is growing steadily!

**Welcome New LWV C/A
Members:**

**Terri Powers
Meredith Richman**

***Know someone who is interested in joining the
League of Women Voters? Please relay to them
that membership information and application are
available at our Website:***

<http://avenue.org/lwv>

and click on "Joining the League."

***Or contact the League office at 970-1707, and request
a brochure, entitled "League Membership 101"***



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LWV C/A
President
Loren Intolubbe-Chmil

Newsletter Editor
Michele Kellermann

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Tuesday, Oct. 12	Last date to register to vote for the November 2, 2010, election	City Registrar, 120 7th St., NE, or County Registrar, 5th St. County Office Bldg.	For more information, go to our website: http://avenue.org/lwv
Wednesday, Oct. 13, 9:30 am	International Relations Committee Meeting	Home of Jean Minehart, 1714 Yorktown Dr., 971-1801	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532
Thursday, Oct. 14, 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
Monday, Oct. 18, 4-6 pm	LWV C/A Board Meeting	Jordan Bldg., Pepsi Place (behind the Senior Center)	For more information, contact Loren Intolubbe-Chmil, at lgic@embarqmail.com
Tuesday, Oct. 19, 7 pm	5th District Candidates Debate	Dickinson Bldg., PVCC	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707
Tuesday, Oct. 26, Noon	LWV C/A Community Dialogue: Water Supply Plan	To be announced	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707
Wednesday, Oct 27, 9:30 am	International Relations Committee Meeting	Home of Marion Rothman, 2239 Shepherds Ridge Rd., 973-4902	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532