



*Charlottesville/Albemarle*  
**League of Women Voters**  
**Newsletter**  
**September 2010**

Office Phone:  
(434) 970-1707

Fax: (434) 970-1708

E-mail:  
[lww@avenue.org](mailto:lww@avenue.org)

Office Hours:  
Mon. 8:00 am - Noon and  
Tues. 8:00 am - Noon  
Julie Neuman, Office Manager

**Visit Our Website:**  
<http://avenue.org/lww>

*LWV C/A September Community Dialogue*

**"Civility: Part 2 - Engaging Informed Citizens in Democracy"**  
Moderated by Bob Gibson, Executive Director, Sorenson Institute

**Tuesday, September 28 - Noon**  
**Jefferson Madison Regional Library Meeting Room**  
**Central Library, 201 E. Market St., Charlottesville**

Our 2010 Spring "Community Dialogue" on freedom of speech and civility, guided by Bob Gibson, was very well received...and left those in attendance thirsty for more. "Part 2" is an opportunity to continue the discussion, hearing from groups and individuals who educate our citizens about important issues and train them to be more engaged in our democratic process. "Civility: Part 2" encourages the local League to ask:

- How can we more effectively encourage informed participation in our governments and democratic process?
- What can we do to increase citizen understanding of major public policy issues?
- How can we increase the number of citizens who vote in the November 2nd election?
- Can we partner with other organizations?

Bob Gibson, executive director, Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership, will return as our moderator and guide. Bob is a 1972 graduate of the University of Virginia with a B.A. in government and foreign affairs. After serving as news director of WCHV radio, he joined *The Daily Progress* in August 1976 and has held a number of positions with the newspaper. In addition to his newspaper work, Bob hosted a weekly political call-in show on WINA radio in Charlottesville for seven years. He has also hosted a public radio talk show since 2001 on WVTF-FM in Roanoke and Charlottesville. He often serves as host of Evening Edition on public radio WVTF. He has been Executive Director of the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia since 2008.

"Civility: Part 2" is a timely *Community Dialogue* and should remind us that the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, fighting since 1920 to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy.

**So join us September 28th at 12 noon at the Jefferson Madison Regional Library Meeting Room**  
**Bring your lunch or order Bag Lunch at a cost of \$8.00.**  
**To order Lunch, contact the League office by September 24th...**  
**Phone 970 1707 Fax 970 1708 Email [lww@avenue.org](mailto:lww@avenue.org)**

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

## *A Message from our President*

*Dear League Members,*

By the time you read this, the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Equality Day will have come and gone. A recent message in my inbox reminded me that the movie *Ironjawed Angels* is a must see for everyone in acknowledging the hard won fight for women's suffrage. If you have not seen it yet, I highly encourage you to put it at the top of your list---if you have seen it, pass along the recommendation to others who have not. Besides conveying powerful imagery of the effort it took to pass the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the movie also serves as a meaningful example of the importance of remaining focused on a mission while maintaining a vision for the future.

During and after our recent LWV C-A Board retreat, it became increasingly clear to me that whatever plan we have for our local League, it must include a balance of honoring our stable roots while providing flexibility for growth---sounds good in theory but is no easy task. A good place to start, though, is with the LWV core values which include: a **commitment to non-partisanship; grassroots initiatives and consensus-building; participatory, thoughtful, and inclusive processes for decision-making---all contributing to an engaged, educated citizenry that actively informs good governance.**

Perhaps one of the most important habits that the LWV models is that of *consensus*. LWV positions are shaped and decided upon following careful study and a process of consensus which does not insist upon universal agreement or compromise but rather on a shared understanding of a common good or collective sense of purpose. Consensus and nonpartisanship are the hallmarks of the LWV core values, which support the two major arms of LWV: Programs and Positions for legislative purposes and Voter Service for education purposes.

As the LWV on national, state, and local levels moves forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is good to keep our time-tested core values and the history of the League squarely in front of us, because these are the agreements we have made with our communities and the reasons we remain a trustworthy organization. At the same time, realities such as globalization, shifting demographics, and the age of technology (to name a few) create imperatives for growth, flexibility and a renewed sense of purpose. If you have not visited the national League website for awhile, it is well worth it to spend some time exploring from this 'roots and wings' perspective (go to: <http://www.lwv.org>). The state website (<http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org/>) also provides links to our sister Leagues so you can catch a glimpse of what is happening in other League communities around Virginia---and there are many ways to access information on our local League (<http://lwv.avenue.org>) as well as to share your perspective on how the League can strengthen its presence and advocacy in this community.

We have a busy fall ahead, doing what the League does best, by offering many worthwhile opportunities to live our history through participation. Looking forward to meeting with you!

Your president,  
*Loren Intolubbe-Chmil*

## **International Relations Committee News**

by **Gerry Kruger**

The International Relations Committee is fortunate to have **Natalie Testa**, a Fluvanna Leaguer, at most of our meetings. Due to her role in the administration of the national League of Women Voters (LWV-US), we have current information on important happenings at the national level. Natalie reported that during the Atlanta (2010) convention, the League supported same sex marriage as well as lifting travel restrictions on Cuba.

During July and August our members continued to share their knowledge about world issues. **Ginny DeSimone** reported on the Law of the Sea, which was written during the 70's and 80's by the United Nations. Although 158 nations have approved it, the U.S. Senate has not certified it. **Natalie Testa** spoke on Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe. His controversial fast-track land reform program (2000) created a severe deterioration of the Zimbabwean economic situation, however, since the UN instigated switching the monetary system, the economy has shown some improvement.

**Jean Minehart** told us that China's new "silk roads" are pipelines, railroads and highways. The Caucasus region, rich in oil and gas, is supplying China in order to satisfy its ever-increasing energy needs. Also, it is estimated that by 2025, it will take two days to travel by railroad from Shanghai to London.

**Liz Kutchai** reported on Japan's shortage of nurses. Due to the long life span of the Japanese, there is a disproportionate elderly population in need of health care. They are bringing in nurses from the Philippines. The nurses must learn Japanese in three years or be sent back.

According to **Deborah Brooks**, Denmark is the greenest country in the world. They aim to derive 100% of their power from wind power. In comparison, the US derives less than one percent of its power from wind. Denmark's local governments run incineration plants for waste that produce clean energy. New York City alone adds 10,000 tons a day to landfills. Denmark and Germany have the highest recycling rates in the world.

**Carol Jackson** brings a storehouse of global lore to our group since she has lived in many countries all over the world. She regaled us with stories of her life in the Sudan and the plight of women in this country. The literacy rate in the Sudan is 20% and for women it is half of that. She also lived in Indonesia and was runner-up in the national golf championship!

**Pat Hurst** explained the damage that severe storms are doing to ice shelves in Antarctica. Storms create wave energy that open crevices and reduce the integrity of the shelves. This triggers their collapse: 14 % of their size was lost in one year.

**Shirley Munson** detailed the dire situation in Iran. There are one thousand political prisoners, many of whom are suffering horrendous torturing and killing. Two 19-year-old men were hanged just last month. Homes are being invaded and arrests are being made without cause. In addition to political unrest, Iran is plagued by inflation, high unemployment, and debt.

Our committee invites you to attend our meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. to enjoy just the right mix of social and intellectual stimulation! Check the calendar on the last page of this newsletter for September meeting dates and places.

## 2010 LWV-US National Convention in Atlanta by Molly O'Brien

It was with great pleasure that I was able to attend the June 2010 Convention of the national League of Women Voters (LWV-US) in Atlanta, and I am delighted to report that after several Conventions where new studies were *not* adopted, we now have two exciting studies: (1) **Federal Role in Public Education**; and (2) **Privatization**: "the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector" ( Report of Convention Action 6/14/10).

We also voted the money to pay for them! (Remember years ago, when we adopted a health care study but did not fund it, well that study went NOwhere.) This is so important, especially now, as finding outside sources to fund our work is sometimes a problem. As we all know, like all organizations, the work of the LWV is funded by our dues and in our case by grants and the like. We voted a dues increase - don't panic people - remember you get what you pay for and if we want a League that really is IN the community, we will have to pay for it.

With these new studies we will have interesting and important jobs to offer our members--remember that **studies are the heart of League work**: we study, create a position through consensus, and then support our positions in the legislative process of our local, state, and national governments. This may spark some of our longtime, but not very active, members to become involved once again. The National Board will select members from around the country to serve on the Study Committees, and local Leagues should receive some information by early winter. We will then set our two study committees to work, so they will be able to present the material to our League. These meetings will be programmed into our yearly calendar. This is very exciting and the League (on all four levels--National, State, Inter-League and Local) will have a chance to be revitalized, have fun, learn and then lobby on these two new issues.

In addition to the two studies the Convention voted to: (1) reaffirm our support of the abolition of the Electoral College; (2) support the Marriage Equality Act; (3) concur to update our Arms Control position; (4) and pass a resolution for the "Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster." Many more up-to-date motions and resolutions were passed. The excitement and move forward at this convention came from, what looked like to me, young women - the under-50 crowd! There were high heels, very nice tattoos, more men than I have ever seen at a League meeting (back in the '70's I voted against letting men in League--just a little protest of mine), and the attendees were upbeat, full of ideas, and lots of "let's take action."

For a full report you should go to the LWV/US web site ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)). We are such a nifty organization, but many Leagues have wandered from our purpose and main function--study, learn, lobby and Voter's Service! Let's tune in to the momentum so excitingly expressed at Convention!

## 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.

**Office News:  
Welcome New Member  
Anne Linden.**

**Thanks also to Joyce  
Colony for a donation to  
the LWV C/A Education  
Fund.**

**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"

**Dear Members: Below is the "Membership Directory Advertisement Submission Form." Our Directory will be published this October, 2010, and we count on your advertising to help cover the cost of printing. Please consider placing an ad in this year's Directory. We look forward to hearing from you by September 10.**

**Contact Person :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Business Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address :** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

- YES** Please run an ad in your 2010-11 **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY.**
- The ad size I want is: Full page @ \$120 \_\_\_\_\_  
Half page @ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_  
1/3 page @ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_
- Please use the **enclosed, camera-ready** ad for this year's **Directory 9/10**
- E-mail Camera-Ready** ad for this year's **Directory** by 9/10 at [lwv@avenue.org](mailto:lwv@avenue.org)
- Please run the same ad from last year.
- Check is enclosed.  Please send a bill for the ad(s).

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**Many thanks from the League of Women Voters of Charlottesville/Albemarle**



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**LWV C/A**  
**President**  
Loren Intolubbe-Chmil

**Newsletter Editor**  
Michele Kellermann

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wednesday, Sept. 8, 9:30 am	International Relations Committee Meeting	Home of Rosalie Simari, 107 Rowledge Place, 295- 7325	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295- 5532
Thursday, Sept. 9, 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, Sept. 20, 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
Wednesday, Sept. 22, 9:30 am	International Relations Committee Meeting	Home of Shirley Munson, 3400 Indian Spring Rd., 973-4137	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295- 5532
Tuesday, Sept. 28, Noon	LWV C/A Community Dialogue: "Civility: Part 2"	Central Library, 201 E. Market St., Charlottesville	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707