



Charlottesville/Albemarle
League of Women Voters
 Newsletter
 April 2011

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<http://avenue.org/lww>

LWV C/A April Community Dialogue: Open to the Public

**"The Redistricting Puzzle:
 Putting the Pieces Together"**
Tuesday, April 26, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
New County Office Building
1600 Fifth Street, Room A



**For Box Lunch Reservations (\$8), contact the League office by
 Thursday, April 21: (434) 970-1707 or email: lww@avenue.org**

Once every decade after the official census, the State of Virginia is charged with solving the redistricting puzzle. In 2011, Governor McDonnell established an independent bipartisan advisory commission on redistricting, and during the month of March this commission held four public forums around the state as part of its goal to ensure bipartisan citizen involvement in the General Assembly and Congressional redistricting process. Citizens were able to present their ideas about how new political district boundaries should be drawn in keeping with population changes recorded by the 2010 Census. With broad public input and with the assistance of impartial experts, the Commission has been charged to make recommendations about new district maps for the 100 seats in the House of Delegates, 40 seats in the state Senate and Virginia's 11 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Join us on April 26th at 11:30 am at the New County Office Building (Fifth Street Extended) as we hear an overview of the redistricting process from **Sean O'Brien**, executive director, Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier, and member of Governor McDonnell's Bipartisan Redistricting Advisory Commission. Dr. O'Brien will share an update on the process, as well as what is still to be finished. We will then hear from Charlottesville Registrar **Sheri Iachetta** and Albemarle County Registrar **Jake Washburne** as to how the known and predicted redistricting changes will impact our local precincts and voting locations. You won't want to miss this once-every-decade event!

***You Are Invited* to Join a New Series of Meetings on the U.S. Constitution**

Sponsored by the LWV C/A International Relations and Federal Government Committee

Would you like to re-sharpen your knowledge of the United States Constitution? The LWV C/A International Relations/Federal Government Committee is planning a two-session class to review the Constitution with instructor J. David Gowdy, JD. Mr. Gowdy founded *The Washington, Jefferson & Madison Institute* in Virginia in 2004, where he teaches continuing education courses on the lives and writings of the Founding Fathers and on the Constitution to high school government and history teachers. He is author of *Seven Principles of Liberty* and *Thomas Jefferson & James Madison's Guide to Understanding and Teaching the Constitution*. Participants will receive a copy of his *Guide*. We will meet on **Wednesdays, April 27 and May 25 from 9:30 to 11:30 am**. These discussions are intended for both men and women and will be held at Flora Patterson's home at 685 Flordon Drive in Charlottesville. Everyone is welcome. Please respond by email to flormaepatterson@gmail.com if you are able to come. Directions will be emailed to you, but feel free to call Flora at 295-5532 with questions.

This page is sponsored by Joan Jay of Roy Wheeler Realty

Report on City of Charlottesville Reprecincting Advisory Group

By Loren Intolubbe-Chmil

In January of 2011, in conjunction with redistricting work at the state level, Charlottesville City Council gave support for the City Registrar's Office to appoint an advisory group that would meet to discuss recommendations based on a state law and federal guidelines mandate for the City of Charlottesville to adjust its voting precinct boundaries. This mandate came as the result of a burgeoning voter population in the City, capacity issues of existing polling places, and concerns regarding the contiguousness and compactness of existing and future precincts. I served as the local League of Women Voters representative, along with others who represented polling and precinct officials, local political party leaders, community-based organizations, and UVA political experts (nine members in total, plus city registrar, Sherri Iachetta and additional registrar/city staff).

The group has met a total of four times since January 24, and will submit a recommendation to City Council on March 21. The group received current census numbers in February 2011, upon which precinct size and scope were considered. Other criteria for reprecincting included: number of citizens who voted in the last Presidential election; access to public transportation or walkability to polling places; number of voting age citizens within a precinct; potential voting places within each precinct; compliance with states laws and federal guidelines; and minimizing the likelihood of having to adjust precincts before the next census. The group considered countless configurations, coming to consensus on a nine precinct model, which is the model for recommendation to City Council.

When the precincting decision has been made (at the latest, this will be summer 2011, upon U.S. Department of Justice approval), the League and other community organizations in the City will be instrumental in voter education as to new precinct boundaries and polling places. Rising voter population growth is a wonderful problem to have, and this advisory group process was a great experience in collaboration, shared expertise, and a focus on a common good. I am looking forward to working with League members on this and other voter education opportunities in the near future!

International Relations Committee Report

By Gerry Kruger

As we prepare to leave the cold dark days of winter, IR Committee members have been deluged with dreary economic and political news around the world. Light appears to be flickering as spring approaches and a climb out of recession is anticipated for much of Europe and the US as the rest of the world watches China with caution. In the past two months, **Pat Hurst, Shirley Munson, Dena Imlay, and Natalie Testa** have provided insight into China's growing prosperity, the European Union, Russia's attempt to discourage extremism among Muslims in the Caucasus, and Ireland's bankruptcy.

Pat tells us that no one is sure what path China will take. While it holds \$800,000,000,000 of our debt, our trade deficit with China is a problem. Will it be content with its present state of power, and can it increase its power without a stable relationship with its neighbors?

Shirley is our expert on the Euro and the 27 countries that make up the European Union, which is 7% of the world population. The EU's economy is larger than the United States, Japan, and Russia.

Dena says that Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey fund fundamentalists in Russia and provide them with literature that promotes extremism. To combat this, Russia encourages the Sufi groups, the more peaceful of the Muslim groups. Russia has spent \$30,000,000 to influence a moderate Muslim approach.

Natalie reports that the leaders of Germany and Ireland have been meeting to discuss the fact that Ireland cannot repay the loan of \$112,000,000,000 that it received during its economic crisis. She also tells us that the US now ranks last among 22 industrialized countries in giving foreign aid. This money is needed for combating such diseases as HIV and malaria. Less than 1% of our budget goes to foreign aid.

As our members analyze situations worldwide, we are reminded of the League's "commitment to international cooperation as an essential path to world peace." (LWVUS *Impact on Issues*, p. 30) Better understanding of the problems that our fellow countries face brings us closer to this path. After these woeful reports, we all look forward to our study of the Constitution, which begins in March and continues through May. **See first page and the calendar at the back of this newsletter for the dates of our Constitution study as well as our meetings.**

Finance Drive 2011: We are so grateful to the following LWV C/A members and community nonmembers for their support in our recent fund drive effort. Without your financial assistance, our work as a nonpartisan organization in this very politicized world could not continue. With great appreciation, we say **thank you** to:

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Total 2011 Finance Drive as of March 18th:

Operations - Members \$2557.50	Non-members \$600.00	Total \$3157.50
Ed fund - Members \$1560.00	Non-members \$1575.00	Total \$3135.00
Grand Total \$6292.50		

Please, if you haven't already done so, mail in your donations (specifying Operating Fund or Education Fund) to League of Women Voters, 1932 Arlington Blvd., Room 111, Charlottesville, VA 22903-1559. Thank you so much!



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LWV C/A
Newsletter Editor
Michele Kellermann

Meetings and Events for April 2011: *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wednesday, April 13 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
Thursday, April 14, 4:30 pm - 6 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting: Guest Speaker, Alyson Sappington, District Manager, Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District	Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 145 Ednam Dr. (Boar's Head Inn complex)	For more information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Monday, April 18, 4:00 pm	LWV C/A Board Meeting	Jordan Bldg., Pepsi Place (behind the Senior Center)	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707
Tuesday, April 26, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm	LWV C/A Community Dialogue: "The Redistricting Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together"	New County Office Bldg., Fifth St., Room A	For box lunch reservations (\$8), call the office, 970-1707, by Thursday, April 21
Wednesday, April 27, 9:30 am	"U.S. Constitution Meeting" sponsored by IR/FG Committee	Home of Flora Patterson, 685 Flordon Dr., 295-5532	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532
Saturday, April 30 - Sunday, May 1	LWV VA Convention 2011	Blacksburg Hilton Gardens Inn	For more information, go to http://www.lwv-va.org/
Tuesday, May 10, Noon	LWV C/A Annual Meeting - Guest Speaker: Olga Hernandez, LWV VA President	The Greencroft Club, Charlottesville: Reservation info in the May Newsletter	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707