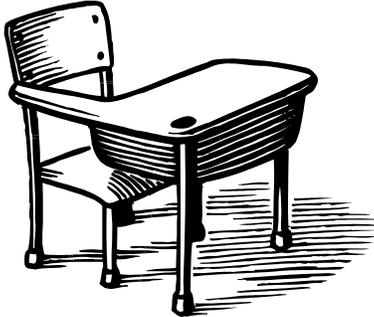




Charlottesville/Albemarle
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
August and September 2011

Office Phone: (434) 970-1707	Office Hours: Tues. 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Thurs. 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Julie Neuman, Office Manager
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LWV C/A September Community Dialogue/Consensus Meeting



"The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education"

Tuesday, September 6, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

New County Office Building, 1600 Fifth St.

Joining Us for the Meeting will be:

Dr. Rosa Atkins, Superintendent, Charlottesville City Schools

Dr. Pamela R. Moran, Superintendent, Albemarle County Public Schools

For Lunch Reservations, box lunch \$8, contact the office, 970-1707, by Thursday, September 1.

In 2010 the LWVUS approved a process, scope and timeline for a study on the **Role of the Federal Government in Public Education**. Questions were developed, studies conducted and papers written. Now it's time for our local League chapters to do what we do best - **examine the issues through study of the papers, discussion with community leaders and each other in order to come to consensus**. Our effort and responses will direct the LWVUS in developing its position and therefore its actions on this important issue in the coming years.

Our first Community Dialogue of the fall will focus on **Part 1 of the LWVUS study: Common Core Standards/Curriculum and Assessments**. (A second meeting in November will consider **Part 2 of the LWVUS study: Funding and Equity**.) Joining us at the September 6 meeting are the two foremost educational specialists of our community: Dr. Rosa Atkins, superintendent, Charlottesville City Schools, and Dr. Pamela R. Moran, superintendent, Albemarle County Public Schools. Among the issues we will be debating ... *How do we perceive the role of the Federal Government in Public Education currently? Who develops common core standards? How are national standards related to state curriculum? Who/how are assessments developed and used?*

Following discussion, LWV C/A members will be invited to give consensus to Part 1 of the Study Questions. (Full consensus questions for this meeting are on pages 3-4 of this newsletter). **Please turn to page two of this newsletter to determine how to prepare for this important meeting.**

The LWV C/A International Relations/Federal Government Committee Invites You to the Third in the Series on:

"The U.S. Constitution" with J. David Gowdy, JD
on Thursday, September 15, at 9:30 am to Noon
at the home of Flora Patterson, 685 Flordon Dr.

Would you like to re-sharpen your knowledge of the United States Constitution? The LWV C/A International Relations/Federal Government Committee continues its review of the Constitution with instructor J. David Gowdy, JD. This meeting is for all Leaguers and their friends whether or not they have attended prior meetings. Our first two sessions with Mr. Gowdy mostly consisted of the philosophical basis for the Constitution – the Federalist papers, etc. This will be our final session. Mr. Gowdy suggests that you peruse the crucial documents, the *U.S. Constitution* and the *Bill of Rights*, to make the most of his presentation. 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. Potluck salad luncheon follows the meeting.

September Community Dialogue/Consensus Meeting
"The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education" - Part 1: Common Core Standards/ Curriculum and Assessments

See Pages 3-4 of this newsletter for Consensus Questions. (See front page and calendar on last page for meeting time/place information.)

To prepare for the meeting we encourage all League members to go to the LWVUS website (<http://www.lwv.org>) and search for Education Study where five papers will give you a broad sense of each issue we will tackle. Or follow the links on this page to each individual article.

The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives
[Role Of Federal Government In Public Education: A Historical Perspectives](#) (PDF File)
Common Core Standards and Assessments
[Common Core Standards and Assessments](#) (PDF File)

You can get a head start on the **November** meeting on **Funding and Equity Issues** by reading the papers in the links below:

Funding and Equity Issues
[Funding and Equity Issues](#) (PDF File)
Early Childhood Education
[Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding](#) (PDF File)
Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children who are Disadvantaged
[Legislation and Funding for the Education Of Children Who are Disadvantaged](#) (PDF File)

If you have any questions, or want additional information before the meeting please contact any of the members of the Education Study Team:

Sue Friedman: sue_friedman@hotmail.com
Jean Hammond: jeanlovham@aol.com
Debora Hoard: debora02420@yahoo.com
Patricia Hurst: phurst@embarqmail.com
Loren Intolubbe Chmil: lgic@embarqmail.com
Gerry Kruger: gerrykruger@embarqmail.com
Sue Lewis: swlcville@embarqmail.com

In Memoriam: Lynne Carter

"Lynne" died peacefully at her home in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Tuesday, May 31, 2011. She was **Lifetime Member** of the Charlottesville/Albemarle League of Women Voters, and we will sadly miss her.

League of Women Voters of Virginia
Fall Workshops
Saturday, September 17
DoubleTree Hotel
Richmond Airport
5501 Eubank Rd.
Sandston, VA

8:30 - 9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 9:50 Advocacy in Your Local League
10:00 - 11:30 Marketing through Social Media
Presidents Workshop
Voters Service Exchange
11:45 - 1:15 Luncheon and Speaker
1:30 - 3:00 League 101
Treasurers Workshop
Public Access to Voter Protection/Election Laws
3:00 - 3:30 Town Hall

Registration for Fall Workshops
Due Date: September 5, 2011

Name: _____

Address: _____

League: _____

Email: _____

Choice: Morning Workshop:

Choice: Afternoon Workshop:

Choice of Lunch:

Crab Cake Sliders w/Cole Slaw and Fries

Pasta Primavera

Spinach Salad - topped w/ Chicken

Spinach Salad - topped w/shrimp

Cost: \$45 per person.

Send to: LWV VA c/o Hatsy Cutshall
2468 Ridgehampton Court
Reston, VA 20190

For more info: president.lwvva@gmail.com

International Relations/Federal Government Committee News

by Gerry Kruger

Although the summer months were filled with exciting topics and great camaraderie, we were saddened by Flora Patterson's retirement as chair of our committee. Flora's leadership, creativity, and passion for the League are legend. Under her guidance all National studies became the responsibility of this committee. For example, the WTO and NAFTA studies took two years, and our committee presented two informational meetings and a consensus meeting for the general league. There were also skits and huge celebrations for UN day. Flora invited internationally renowned experts to speak at our Town Hall meetings, and helped us keep abreast of developments in countries in every corner of the world. At our last meeting Flora summed up our accomplishments through the decades. Never taking credit for the huge popularity of this group, she wrote, "I love this committee because some of the most interesting people in Charlottesville are part of it and you all keep me learning and thoroughly enjoying it." Well, Flora, the same holds true for our feelings about you.

On June 28, 14 of our members met at Savour Restaurant to give Flora a surprise farewell dinner. I wrote the following sonnet for the occasion.

ODE TO FLORA

**Shall I compare thee to a sunlit day?
So full of joy, yet thou dost never play
When IR meetings are about to start.
For each and every member hath a part,
Thou printeth out for us a sign-up sheet.
We talk and analyze, but first we eat.
For thou dost know those things for which we
yearn:
Great issues of the world we want to learn.
An understanding of all humankind
Will help us work together as one mind.
No man's an island; let us all be bound
In hope and education that is sound.
As long as there's a C/A LWV,
We all do vow no other matcheth thee.**



Topics studied during the summer months began with **Shirley Munson's** report on 3-D printing, the latest manufacturing technology that allows computers to create 3-dimensional products by making a series of 3-D cross-sectional slices that are then printed on top of each other. Imagine being able to print a shoe or a piece of jewelry on a computer!

Natalie Testa, our frequent visitor from the Fluvanna League, gave us fascinating information about the Tri-lateral Commission that is headed by David Rockefeller and their discussion of the Arab spring among other topics. There are no goals or decisions made at these meetings and no discussion of public policy. This conference, attended by 300 non-public officeholders, had representatives from the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Natalie made all the arrangements!

Jean Minehart spoke on Australia's "Dutch Disease." Because Australia's natural resources are plentiful, their currency is stronger. This brings about prices that are too high to be competitive, which in turn causes manufacturing jobs to be shipped to lower-cost countries. The result is fewer exports and more imports.

Lois Sandy's report on the "Return of Prosperity" gave an in-depth analysis of the Milton Friedman economic view espoused by Arthur Laffer. Laffer is on the side of those who would have the government cut spending rather than spend in order to stimulate the economy.

LWVUS Consensus Questions: Common Core Standards and Assessments

General Questions:

1. The current role of the federal government in public education is
 - Much too small
 - Too small
 - About right
 - Too large
 - Much too large
2. What should be the role of the federal government in public education? (Rank)
 - ___ To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
 - ___ To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
 - ___ To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.
 - ___ To monitor state efforts for funding
 - ___ To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.
3. A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - No consensus
 - Disagree Strongly
 - Disagree

Common Core Standards and Assessments

4. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? (Choose one)
 - Special grant programs such as Race to the Top
 - All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding.
 - All programs receiving federal funding from any source
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
5. Should there be a **national assessment aligned** with the common cores standards?
Yes _____ No _____
If **Yes**, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (choose one)
 - Voluntary
 - Mandated
 - Mandated, if fully funded
If **No**, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)

- Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
- Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.
- Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically
- Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
- Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.

- Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically

6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)

- A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
- A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
- A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
- No national curriculum.
-

7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)

- ___ Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- ___ Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
- ___ Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
- ___ Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
- ___ Provide diagnostic information on each child.

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)

- Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
- Data should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
- Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.

9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):

- Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
- Reward schools that achieve high scores
- Rank teachers based on student test score data
- Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
- Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

Dear Members: Beginning with the 2011 August/September newsletter, all LWV C/A members will receive the newsletter electronically addressed to your email. We have made this decision based on the poor track record of the bulk mail delivery of the hard copy of our newsletter in recent months. Unfortunately, these delivery delays meant that important meeting notifications were missed. Also, the zero-cost of emailing versus the increasing costs of printing and mailing was a factor.

The best part of downloading the newsletter on your home computer is that you can go directly to the innumerable links that are cited in today's fast-paced information age. You can access for example all of the background information to the Education Study that will be the focus of our League study this fall. This will save much paper that normally would be used to make hard copies of these documents.

Therefore, attached is both a Word document and a PDF file for the August/September newsletter. For the best and clearest screen, we recommend that you "**Download**" the document rather than simply View it. You can set up a file (i.e., **LWV Newsletters**) on your home computer to save the document and then read it or print it at your leisure.

Michele Kellermann, Newsletter Editor



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LWV C/A
President
 Patricia Hurst

Newsletter Editor
 Michele Kellermann

Meetings and Events for August/September 2011: *Mark Your Calendars*

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wednesday, Aug. 10, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Molly O'Brien, 250 W. Main (PH2), 245-9806	For more information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245-9806
Thursday, Aug. 11, 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
Wednesday, Aug. 24. 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Shirley Munson, 3400 Indian Spring Rd., 973-4137	For more information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245-9806
Friday, August 26	Fridays After Five: LWV C/A volunteers pour beer	Charlottesville Downtown Mall	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707
Tuesday, Sept. 6, 11:30 am	LWV C/A Community Dialogue/Consensus Mtg. on "The Role of the Federal Gov't. in Public Education"	New County Office Bldg., 1600 Fifth St.	For lunch reservations (by Thurs. Sept. 1) and more information, contact the office, 970-1707
Thursday, Sept. 8., 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
Thurs., Sept. 15, 9:30 am	"The U.S. Constitution" with J. David Gowdy	Home of Flora Patterson, 685 Flordon Dr., 295-5532	For more information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245-9806
Wed., September 28, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Ruth Hanft, 606 Ranier Rd., 295-8674	For more information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245-9806