



Charlottesville/Albemarle
League of Women Voters
 Newsletter
 February 2011

Office Phone:
 (434) 970-1707

Office Hours:
 Tues. 10:00 am - 2:30 pm
 Thurs. 10:00 am - 2:30 pm
 Julie Neuman, Office Manager

E-mail:
lwv@avenue.org

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

February Community Dialogue: Treva Cromwell Legacy Series

“A Whodunit Mystery”

Presented by the LWV C/A Natural Resources Committee
Tuesday, February 22, 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, Feb. 17: (434) 970-1707 or email: lwv@avenue.org

The February Community Dialogue meeting is billed as **A Murder Mystery: The Whodunit focuses on the Chesapeake Bay. Who is killing the Bay? What weapons are being used? What can we do about it? And, who will pay the cost of reviving the victim?**

If you're vaguely aware that something is lurking in the waters of the Bay, or if you are a long-time advocate for the VA DEQ and DCR TMDL's WIP, the program will expand your knowledge (and your grasp of the acronyms).

No one has signed a death certificate for the Bay, but it does have a dead zone where fish, crabs, oysters and plants can't survive. Its water quality was assessed as "poor" in a recent EPA "Bay Health" report, due to meeting only 24% of health goals. What we're doing to the air and the land around the streams that flow eventually into the Bay gets us to that failing grade. We also have local waterways that get a failing grade. Is there a connection?

A few facts:

When the Bay was explored in 1607 by Captain John Smith, the level of nitrogen naturally eroding into the Chesapeake was about 50 million pounds. By the middle of the 1980's, the level had increased to 360 million pounds, about 7 times as much, primarily due to population growth around the Bay and its estuaries.

- The average depth of the Bay is 21 feet, but much of it is only five-or six-feet deep.
- An overabundance of nitrogen and phosphorous are the two main pollutants of the Bay. They come from sewage treatment plants, farmland, pavement runoff, etc. Air pollution from power plants, cars, and factories also affect the Bay.
- When sediment enters the Bay, especially at such a high rate, it blocks out the sun. This stops photosynthesis from occurring which kills the plants on the Bay floor.

Join us on **Tuesday, February 22, at 11:30 am** at the **New County Office Building (Room A)**, 1600 Fifth St., Charlottesville, to get some answers. **Rick Parrish, Southern Environmental Law Center**, and **Mark Graham, Director of Community Development, Albemarle County**, will discuss issues surrounding the proposed clean-up of the Bay, both the large legal issues and local impact.

This page is sponsored by Joan Jay of Roy Wheeler Realty

A Message from our President

Dear League Members,

This year marks the 91st Birthday of the League of Women Voters. The League was founded on February 14, 1920, by Carrie Chapman Catt, six months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment. If you visit the national League website, you'll find an interesting timeline which speaks to the ways in which the League has made adjustments to the organizational structure and contributed to the tenets of participatory democracy through decades of social and political change. Impressively, as the concluding section of the timeline points out, "while the League's programs, priorities and procedures have changed over the years to meet changing times, a League pamphlet written in 1919 describes with remarkable accuracy its basic aims today: The organization has three purposes: to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms and to support needed legislation."

As an example of organizational growth, the League is keenly aware of the impacts of globalization, and continues to expand its interests to encompass and support the tenets of democracy around the world. While the details of what is happening in each context may be different, the fundamental needs are the same: to educate and advocate for inclusion, equity, transparency, and participation. Whether it is the issue of reprecincting in the City of Charlottesville, redistricting around the state, election finance at the national level, or supporting the leadership role of women in shaping the Kenyan constitution, the League demonstrates in multiple ways its ongoing commitment to the vision of Carrie Chapman Catt and other founders.

Although there are countless ways to recognize the League's 91st birthday in the weeks and months ahead, there are two which seem particularly relevant to me right now; these are to attend at least one of the League-sponsored Women's Roundtables during the current General Assembly session (and offer to ride with a friend or two) **AND/OR** contact our local League office to volunteer as an official League observer to any one of our local government meetings. Both of these activities provide opportunities for increased awareness and are models for effective civic participation.

The board would also like to encourage you to commemorate the League through your financial support. Our local League has made significant contributions to the community through the Voters' Guide, the Legislative Luncheon, and debates & forums, to name a few. You will be receiving an appeal letter soon as part of our Annual Fund Drive, and your monetary contribution is a meaningful way to support the work of the League in addition to your civic presence.

Looking forward,
Loren Intolubbe-Chmil, President
League of Women Voters Charlottesville/Albemarle

Women's Roundtable Session

Meet with lobbyists and members of the General Assembly to share information & ideas on issues important to women and the League. We provide a non-partisan forum for the discussion of problems and the legislation to address them. **February meeting dates are: Wednesdays, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, and Feb. 16, 8:30 am at the Virginia General Assembly, 9th and Broad Sts., Richmond.** It's easy to organize a carpool by calling our office, 970-1707, leaving your name and expression of interest in the meeting you would like to attend. Our office manager, Julie Neuman, will get back to you about any others who might want attend.

See [Past Roundtable Sessions](#) reports and the [Women's Roundtable Brochure](#).

Please contact LWV-VA President, Olga Hernandez for more information at 703-831-8595 or by [Email](#).

LWV C/A Office News:

Welcome new local members **Debora Hoard** and **Barbara Stitt**.

Donations in memory of Virginia Schatz from Dr. George Hanna & Joan Scott Hanna; and Ralph & Jean Mineheart.

Donations to the Ed Fund - **Sally Telford** and **Walter Hauser**

Donation to Op Fund - **Rosalie Simari**

THANK YOU!

Board President Intolubbe-Chmil Stepping Down From Post

Loren Intolubbe-Chmil announced at the LWV C/A Board Meeting on January 17 that she will be stepping down from her position as President, citing work and travel schedule conflicts. The Executive Committee of the Board will act in her stead for the remainder of her term which ends at June 30, 2011. Calendar events planned for this period will remain as scheduled.

International Relations Committee News by Gerry Kruger

Our latest December meeting was held at the home of Marge Cox, who also reported to us on the austere steps the new Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron has taken to trim the United Kingdom's deficit. In contrast to the terms of Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair, the Cameron government is less centralized and is even encouraging coalitions of business and government to work together to cut spending for social programs.

Next Pat Hurst shared her study of comparative salaries in the United States. It came as no surprise that Washington, DC, San Jose, CA, San Francisco and New York City have the highest paying jobs; and Idaho Falls, ID, and Blacksburg, WV, have the lowest.

Pat Hurst also hosted our January 12th meeting where Jean Minehart gave an extensive explanation of the rivalry that exists between China and India. Together they compose 40% of the world's population. China's economy is largely based on manufacturing while India's emphasis is on services. India also exports raw materials to China to be used in manufacturing. In spite of their dependence on each other, there are many economic and political problems that taint their relationship. These include competition for water, oil, and gas supplies as well as border disputes. Furthermore, India's relationship with the U.S. is a source of fear and distrust of its neighbor.

The euro was the topic of Shirley Munson's report. This currency was first proposed by an international commission, but now it has caused much consternation in Germany as countries like Ireland and Greece deal with failing economies. Germany feels it must "bail out" troubled European Union countries in order to keep the euro strong. Adding to this turmoil are the protests of citizens as their governments try to rein in spending.

As we study troubling international developments, we clearly see the importance of the League's "...commitment to international cooperation as an essential path to world peace..." (Impact on Issues, p. 30)

Join us as we delve into serious world issues on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Check the back of this newsletter for meeting dates and times and contact Flora Patterson at 295-5532 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE for Pro-Choice Lobby Day 2011

Every year, legislators from around Virginia convene in Richmond to debate potential laws that impact us all, from budget cuts to attempts to restrict access to basic reproductive health care. And while we know **PREVENTION** is a moderate, common-sense approach to issues like unintended pregnancy and sexuality education, anti-choice members continue to introduce outrageous legislation that would give a fetus full constitutional rights (thus outlawing some forms of FDA-approved birth control) or impose medically inaccurate abstinence-only education on school children. *That's why we need YOU to join for Pro-Choice Lobby Day 2011!*

REGISTER NOW

Date: Thursday, January 27, 2011

Time: 8:00am until 2:00pm

Location: Virginia General Assembly (9th & Broad Streets)

Details of the day are still being planned and as the big picture comes together, we will ensure you have the most up-to-date information. However, we want to make sure you plan to be there and can invite as many of your friends, family, colleagues, and classmates as possible to make this year's event the biggest and best yet! For more information, contact Mimi Bender, email: mbender@juno.com

League of Women Voters of Charlottesville/Albemarle 2011 Legislative Luncheon

Photos by Lois Sandy



League Members enjoyed hearing from four local state legislators on Friday, January 7, 2011, at the annual **Legislative Luncheon** held in the new Pavilion of Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville. We are greatly appreciative of the time that Delegate Rob Bell, State Senator Creigh Deeds, State Senator Emmett Hanger, and Delegate David Toscano took from their busy schedules to inform us about issues that will be forthcoming in this legislative session in Richmond. Over 80 members and guests of the League were in attendance.

Communications Efforts in 2011

by Michele Kellermann

Newsletter Editor/Website Master

Dear Members: In this day and age of electronic flow of information, I want to review with members how to keep abreast of **local League news**. We publish our newsletter once a month (with some bi-monthly issues) and it is sent to members by U.S. postal mail **or** electronically using a mail list that goes to a member's email address. Unfortunately, our bulk mailing of the hardcopy of the December/January newsletter was mishandled by the post office facility in Richmond resulting in members not receiving it in a timely fashion or at all.

This is to remind members that receiving the newsletter via your email address is an excellent alternative to the hardcopy mailing. Not only does the newsletter arrive in full color on your computer screen, but the beauty of being able to use the website links mentioned in many of the articles is a real bonus. For example, if you want to make a lunch reservation, you just click on the League office address and voila! An article about a League study may cite a link about background information. Remember you can make your own hardcopy of the newsletter by simply printing it on your home printer. So if you were disappointed in not receiving your newsletter this month, please contact the office, 970-1707, and ask to have your name placed on the email mailing list. If you want, we will be glad to keep your name on the U.S. mail list too; then if your newsletter doesn't arrive in the mail (as it should by the first week of the month), you will have access to it via email.

We also urge you to check our **League website** on a regular basis. The home page highlights upcoming events, and you can click easily on the "Calendar" which lists monthly activities or go to "Upcoming Events" which are taken directly from each month's newsletter. Other pages have many valuable links for members to use. For example, **there has been a great interest in tracking bills at both the state and national levels of government. You can do this by clicking on "Legislative Information" on our League homepage, and following the links once you open that page.** Don't be shy about using the website! You will be amazed by all the information you can access! Start by going to: <http://avenue.org/lwv>

That's our LWV C/A web address--check us out!

In Memoriam

Virginia Margaret Bogert Schatz died on Sunday, November 28, 2010, in North Branford, Connecticut. Her obituary in *The Daily Progress* says:

"With generosity, gusto, and good humor, Mrs. Schatz raised three sons, ran a busy household, and supported her husband's career as a chemistry professor. She was also active in civic life, serving on Charlottesville's School Board, City Planning Commission, as its vice-chair and first-ever female chair, League of Women Voters, and Democratic Committee. She kept a hand in science, conducting postdoctoral research at the University of Virginia in the surgery and biology departments. She was also an avid amateur archaeologist, horsewoman, and opera buff."

The League of Women Voters of Charlottesville/Albemarle greatly appreciates donations made in Ginny's memory by Dr. George Hanna & Joan Scott Hanna; and Ralph & Jean Mineheart.

Consensus Meeting Slated for Tuesday, March 22

Preparation of the questions for the LWV VA study of **Election Laws, Part II**, are underway and will be available for members in the next newsletter. A consensus meeting to consider these questions will be held on Tuesday, March 22, at 11:30 am, New County Office Building, Room A, 1600 Fifth Street, Charlottesville to consider these questions. In order for the League to advocate for a particular policy on any issue, we must have consensus of the members for that position. Please put the March 22 date on your calendar and plan to attend this important meeting. For further information at this time, contact Sue Lewis, by email: swlcville@embarqmail.com



League of Women Voters
of Charlottesville/Albemarle
1932 Arlington Blvd. #111
Charlottesville, VA 22903-1559

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LWV C/A
Newsletter Editor
Michele Kellermann

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wednesday, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, and Feb. 16, 8:30 am	Women's Roundtable Sessions	Virginia General Assembly, 9 th and Broad Sts., Richmond	For more information, go to the LWV VA website: www.LWV-VA.org
Thursday, Feb. 3, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm	Pro-Choice Lobby Day 2011 [Registration link in this newsletter on page 3]	Virginia General Assembly, 9 th and Broad Sts., Richmond	For more information, contact Mimi Bender: mbender@juno.com
Wednesday, Feb. 9 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
Monday, Feb. 14, 4:00 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
Thursday, Feb. 17, 4-6 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
Tuesday, Feb. 22, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm	LWV C/A Community Dialogue: "A Whodunit Mystery" presented by the Natural Resources Committee	New County Office Bldg., Fifth St., Room A	For box lunch reservations (\$8), call the office, 970-1707, by Thursday, Feb. 17
Wednesday, Feb. 23, 9:30 am	International Relations Committee Meeting	Home of Jean Minehart, 1714 Yorktown Dr., 971-1801	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532