



Charlottesville/Albemarle
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
June and July 2011

Office Phone:
(434) 970-1707

Fax: (434) 970-1708

E-mail:
lwv@avenue.org

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

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

Introducing Our LWV C/A President - Pat Hurst

Dear League Members,

Since becoming the President of our League in February, I have greatly enjoyed the interaction with members that naturally comes with this position. It does occur to me, however, that although I have been a member our of local League for a few years, many of you do not know my background and experiences. Let me give you a brief sketch.

My home has primarily been Charlottesville since 1982 when I came to study at the University of Virginia for my Masters Degree in Computer Science. By that time in my career, I had been a software programmer, analyst, and project manager in engineering environments such as NASA Langley in Virginia and Lockheed Missiles & Space in California. I also lived in London, England, for some years during the time that airlines were first introducing the computerized reservation systems that we take so much for granted today. Since coming to Charlottesville, I have travelled the U.S. and internationally, teaching various aspects of software engineering, and have spoken at national conferences. The last few years before I retired in 2001, I consulted onsite with organizations such as Xerox, AT&T, and the Small Business Administration. Since retiring, I have been a hands-on owner/landlord of several rental properties, a foster parent for seven years, and have taught for the University of Phoenix online. My two daughters who grew up in Charlottesville now live in New York state. I have four living grandchildren ranging in age from 13 years to a May newborn. I was a member of the League in Hampton-Newport News, VA, in the late 1970s.

Seeing so many of our members at the Annual Luncheon/Meeting on May 10, made for a very special day. We all enjoyed talking with friends not often seen throughout the year in the gracious atmosphere provided by the Greencroft Club. Our speaker, Anne Sterling, our state League's legislative lobbyist and 1st Vice-President, shared her experiences in how the LWV VA pushed for improved redistricting in our state over the past several years, and found places to insert great stories and dramatic moments.

During the business meeting, several Board members presented items that the membership then approved. Treasurer Deborah Brooks presented the Operating Budget for FY 2011-12 that has projected inflows and matching outflows of \$22,900. Our income is anticipated to be short by \$6,930 that will be transferred from our Education Fund and savings to make up the difference. First Vice-President, Sue Friedman, presented the proposed Local Program as unchanged from the previous year. Sue also presented a proposed local study that will examine the implementation of health and family life education in the City and County schools [see inside this newsletter for more information about this study]. Second Vice-President, Sue Lewis, presented the rationale and revisions to the By Laws. The Nominating Committee Chair, Marge Cox, presented the slate of Board officers/directors, the Mary Stamps White Committee member, and the Nominating Committee members that were up for election.

Continued on next page

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I want to congratulate Sue Lewis on her election to the LWV VA Board during the state convention held in Blacksburg over the April 30- May 1 weekend. Sue will serve as 2nd Vice-President, Membership. Sue has contributed much to our local League over the years and we are proud that she aspired to contribute at the state level as well.

I look forward to working with our new Board of Directors and Committees and our entire membership towards an active and successful year.

Sincerely,

Pat Hurst, President, LWV C/A

LAST CALL - Education Study Committee

Four League members have joined the Education Study Committee: Gerry Kruger, Jean Hammond, Debora Hoard and Sue Friedman.

There is still a need for a chair and more members are welcome.

This study will be conducted May-November of this year.

STUDY SCOPE:

The study on the federal role in pre-K through grade 12 public education is to be limited to issues of equity, funding and standards/assessment

STUDY MATERIALS

Five study papers, consensus questions and a Leaders Guide for taking consensus are provided by the LWV US.

EDUCATION STUDY SCHEDULE

(Proposed)

May/June - Local Study Committee reviews LWV US materials and meets

July/August - Committee Plans "Community Dialogue" around Consensus Question issues for September or October

Sept/Oct - "Community Dialogue" meeting provides all sides of the identified issues

November - Member Consensus Meeting

Please email or call your interest to Sue Friedman by ASAP.

964 0878 or sue_friedman@hotmail.com

LWV C/A Approves New Study on Health and Family Life Education

At the May 10 Annual Meeting, League members approved a new local study of the implementation of health education and family life education in the Charlottesville and Albemarle County schools. The study may include: how and in what ways are the standards of learning (SOLs) for health education and the guidelines for family life education being followed; the way in which and by whom the subjects are being taught (including qualifications and training of teachers); and what curricula are being used; how they are developed; what additional information is provided beyond what the SOLs/guidance sets out.

The study will be conducted by the Women's Issues Committee, which invites members who are not currently on the committee to participate in learning about these important areas. The committee has begun to review the requirements and guidelines and plans to review materials that are recommended by the Virginia Department of Education for the courses, the curricula that are used and the process through which they are adopted. Committee members will also interview key personnel in the city and county and others involved in local health education efforts.

The next meeting of the Women's Issues Committee will be on Tuesday, June 21 at noon in the first floor conference room at 1924 Arlington Blvd. Please call the League office and leave a message for Mimi Bender, the committee chair, if you are interested in joining the study team.

International Relations/Federal Government Committee News

by Gerry Kruger

The International Relations/Federal Government Committee's study of the U.S. Constitution has been well attended and well received. Dr. J. David Gowdy, who instructs teachers at the Washington, Jefferson, and Madison Institute in the teaching of the Constitution, wrote and furnished our study manuals, which are also used in his classes. He led us through a study of the Declaration of Independence as well as the writings of John Locke and Algernon Sidney. Jefferson and Madison both chose the writings of Locke and Sidney, whose works showed their stands on liberty and virtue, as most important for understanding our form of government. On May 25th, we will discuss some of "The Federalist Papers" as well and George Washington's "Farewell Address." There will be a pot luck lunch following this session. We hope to continue our study in the fall.

Reports given by members of the IR Committee in May were on Japan and China. Kerin Yates told us that Japan has the most rapidly aging population and the lowest birth rate in the world. Because of this there are not enough young people to support those over 65 years of age. In addition, their citizens' tendencies to save rather than spend and to deal with their own population rather than reaching out to trade with other countries, has made it impossible for Japan to lessen its debt, which is twice its GDP.

Jean Minehart related some problems with relations between the Obama administration and the Chinese government. Possible reasons are the expected change in leadership in China in 2012, the rise of a younger cadre of conservatives in China, and a rise in nationalism. She also explained the conflicts that have arisen over the ownership of the natural resources that lie in the South China Sea. The United Nations has yet to resolve ownership disputes concerning these riches. We plan to ask the LWV US to consider The Law of the Sea for a national study.

See the calendar section of this newsletter for times and dates of our regular meetings.

Putting Our New Election Laws Positions to Work

The LWV VA working with funds from a LWV US pass-through grant from the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project, needs the help of Virginia's local leagues and League members to carry out several projects during the next two years. At the LWV C/A board meeting on May 16, the Board agreed to participate in the three projects presented. Small grants will be provided to participating local Leagues.

In particular, we will need local Leaguers willing to survey local registrars and electoral boards following the advice and using the survey questions developed by the advisory committee. Proposed time frame: January - October, 2012. We will provide more information about this project as the time approaches.

For right now, we need the names of local League members who have been or are registrars, members of electoral boards or officers of election, who are willing to serve on a six-member advisory committee for the LWV VA. Two meetings are envisioned, with expenses paid. Please contact LWV C/A President Pat Hurst, 978-4532, if you are interested in participating in this project.

2011 Directory of Elected and Appointed Officials

Now online: <http://avenue.org/lwv>

Our popular publication of this directory has been updated for 2011. It is now on our website and can be printed on your home computer. If you are unable to access it, or wish a hard copy, please call the office, 970-1707.

Office News

Welcome New Member: Leslie Wilcox

Finance Drive 2011: We extend a most grateful thank you to -

Donation to Education Fund from Virginia Germino in memory of her mother Audrey Roseborough, who cast her 1st vote in 1924 for Alf Landon.

Donations to Education Fund: Members - Leah Gropen and Lois Sandy
To Operations Fund: Members - Sue Lewis, Lois Sandy, Joyce Colony, Sally Thomas and Joyce Kerns

Donation to Operations Fund: Nonmember - David Hirschman

League of Women Voters of Virginia 2011: New *Election Laws* Position

As a result of Consensus Meetings held across the state, the LWV VA has published its final version of the 2011 Election Laws Position. Please check our website to read the new position in its entirety:

<http://avenue.org/lwv> Excerpted below are two sections concerning, "Prior to the Election" and "At the Polls" that contain LWV VA recommendations:

Prior to the Election

The LWV-VA supports:

- Legislation to allow all registered voters to vote absentee, without specifying a reason, prior to Election Day. Both choices— voting in person or by mail-- should be offered. (This no-excuse absentee voting is sometimes called “early voting.”)
- The use of satellite voting facilities, in areas where distance or inadequate transportation make it difficult for voters to reach a central election office for in-person absentee voting;
- The provision by all localities of evening and weekend voting hours at central and satellite offices, for several weeks before general elections;
- The use of electronic means for submitting absentee ballots by military and overseas voters if it can be accomplished while maintaining ballot security and integrity; and
- A pilot program of all-mail voting to test its use in some elections.

At the Polls

The following should be required throughout Virginia to ensure an efficient voting process:

- Electronic poll books, with back-up paper copies for emergencies;
- Appropriate precinct sizes and numbers of voting machines to minimize voting delays;
- Well-trained officers of election; and
- Polling places selected to maximize voter participation and near public transportation, wherever possible.

The LWV-VA is concerned that Virginia’s polling hours might not be optimal for all areas of the Commonwealth, especially those close to adjacent states, and also concerned about the effect of long hours on officers of election.

Split shifts and poll closing specialists should be used in all localities to ease the burden on officers of election, help in their recruitment, and ensure well-managed elections.

Legislation should be enacted to provide authority to the Courts to extend the polling hours in case of disasters and other emergencies that prevent the voters from getting to the polls, and include the provisions needed to ensure fair access to the polls throughout the Commonwealth. (2011)

Meetings and Events for June/July 2011: *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wednesday, June 8, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Gerry Kruger, 989 Allendale Dr., 977-7617	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532
Wednesday, June 8, 6 pm	Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Work Session	County Office Building, McIntire Rd.	For more information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Thursday, June 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, June 20, 4-6 pm	LWV C/A Board Meeting	Jordan Bldg., Pepsi Place (behind Senior Center)	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707
Tuesday, June 21, noon	Women's Issues Committee	First floor conference room, 1924 Arlington Blvd.	For more information, contact, Mimi Bender, 220-4500
Wednesday, June 22, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Rosalie Simari, 107 Rowledge Pl., 295-7325	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532
Monday, July 4, 9 am	U.S. Citizen Naturalization Ceremony	Monticello grounds	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707
Friday, July 8 and Friday, August 26	Fridays After Five: LWV C/A volunteers pour beer	Charlottesville Downtown Mall	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707
Wednesday, July 13, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Ginny DeSimone, 1335 Wimbledon Way, 244-0605	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532
Wednesday, July 27, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Deborah Brooks, 3080 Branham Pl., 295-7696	For more information, contact Flora Patterson, 295-5532
Wednesday, August 3, 9 am to noon	LWV C/A Board Retreat	Home of Lois Sandy, 1666 Franklin Dr., 296-8737	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707

*We're planning a Summer Evening of
Dinner and Theater!*



UVA's Culbreth Theater presents *My Fair Lady* the dates of June 30 through July 9, and we are hoping to organize a pleasurable evening of dinner followed by the show. Look for a postcard sometime in June with information about this event, and how to send in your reservations.



LWV C/A
President
Pat Hurst

Newsletter Editor
Michele Kellermann

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

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Attendance Urged for Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Meeting on June 8

The LWV C/A Natural Resources Committee would like to alert League members to an important public work-session of the Board of Supervisors **on June 8 in Albemarle County's Office Building on McIntire Road, at 6 p.m.** The League has consistently supported long-range planning for the protection of natural resources and neighborhoods, anticipating traffic impacts, reducing the waste of energy, etc. The NRC is concerned that decisions to be made at the June 8 meeting may lead to a much reduced role for environmental issues in future planning processes. Being present (and wearing your "League of Women Voters" button!--call Pat Hurst to get one if you don't have one, 978-4532) at the June 8 meeting to show support for this issue is important. Please plan to attend if you can. If you'd like more information, you may contact NR Committee Chair, Linda Goodling, at Goodling_home@earthlink.net or 434 296 9865.