



Charlottesville/Albemarle
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
April 2012

Office Phone:
(434) 970-1707

Fax: (434) 970-1708

E-mail:
lwv@avenue.org

Office Hours:
Tues. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thurs. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Emerald Young, Office Manager

Visit Our Website:
lwv.avenue.org

LWV C/A April Community Dialogue

LWV C/A Women's Issues Committee presents

"Health and Family Life Education: It's More than Sex"

Guest Speaker: Vanessa Wigand

Principal Specialist for Health Education,
Physical Education, and Drivers Education

Division of Standards, Curricula and Instruction, Virginia Department of Education

Tuesday, April 3, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

New County Office Building, 1600 Fifth St., Room A

For Lunch Reservations, box lunch \$8, contact the office, 970-1707,
by Thursday, March 29.

Last spring, our local League voted to study the implementation of health education and family life education (FLE) in the Charlottesville and Albemarle County schools. The **April 3 Community Dialogue** will present an introduction to these areas of education as well as the roles of the legislature, Virginia Department of Education (DOE), and localities in deciding what is taught in these programs, by whom the subjects are taught, how much school time is involved, and other issues.

As the principal specialist for Health Education, Physical Education, and Drivers Education, Vanessa Wigand is responsible for developing state policies and standards of learning, providing guidance to local school districts, and (depending on the area of instruction) developing or identifying curricula and tools for instruction. Her professional roles in these areas for twenty years provide expertise and insights, which she will share with us.

This timely Community Dialogue will increase your understanding of the scope and goals of health education and family life education subject matter, which as our title notes is more than sex. We will also examine the interrelationship of the two programs, the discretion that is given to localities and the challenges that the state and localities face in providing instruction in these areas.

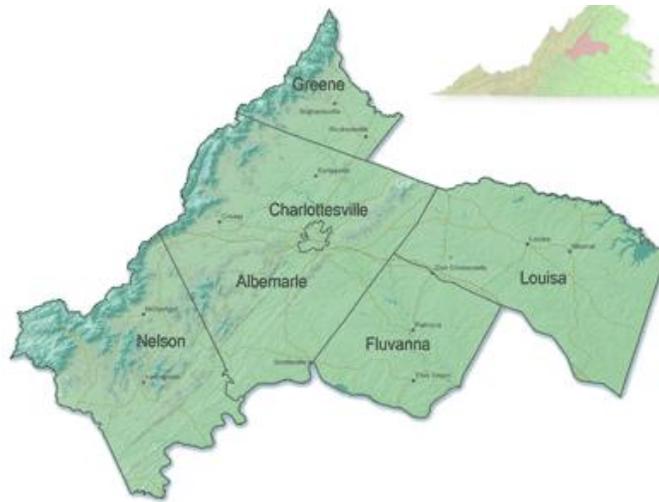
Please join us for this enlightening presentation and discussion at the New County Office Building, Room A, on Tuesday, April 3. For Lunch Reservations, box lunch \$8, contact the office, 970-1707, by Thursday, March 29.

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

President's Message: Merger in the Air

Our league was recently asked by the LWV of Fluvanna to consider a merger with their league. Their membership has dwindled in recent times and they feel unable to continue as a league on their own. Our Board of Directors was very receptive to the idea and felt it would be a win-win opportunity. Merger will provide to the Fluvanna members the opportunity to join a viable league that can offer opportunities of continued and direct league involvement. Our league will benefit from infusion of new members who can bring fresh ideas and a new energy to the existing membership. In February, our Board voted to go forward with the planning. A steering committee was formed and we are in full swing putting together the details of how this would work best for both of our leagues. This committee is composed of myself as President of our league, Frances Schutz and Elaine Longerbeam as Co-Presidents of the Fluvanna LWV, and Sue Lewis as State League Advisor. I would like to share with you the plans for this proposed merger.

Our geographical area will be broadened so that it covers not only Fluvanna but additional neighboring counties as well. This will provide us with increased opportunities to provide voter/other services and to attract new members. The region covered by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission was chosen as appropriate for our goals. This is shown in the map and includes the city of Charlottesville and the five surrounding counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson.



The Congressional Districts for this area are the Seventh that represents Louisa and the Fifth that represents the remaining counties/city. The population of the area covered by our league will increase from 142,445 to 234,712. From the 2010 U.S. Census the population breakdown is as follows:

- Charlottesville – population 43,475
- Louisa – population 33,153
- Nelson – population 15,020
- Greene – population 18,403
- Fluvanna – population 25,691
- Albemarle – population 98,970

Befitting to our new area, the official name will be LWV of the Charlottesville Area. For short we will refer to it as LWV-CVA. Referring to it informally as the Charlottesville Area LWV will also be acceptable. We had lengthy discussions about this, trying to find the right tone and abbreviations. I hope that you agree this has a nice “ring” to it.

We hope to have a current member of the Fluvanna LWV be a member of the Board of Directors next year. They have been invited to suggest a candidate for Chair of the Social Policies Committee, a new committee that will be put into place next year as a replacement for the current Women’s Issues Committee (the new committee will provide for an expanded range of topics). This committee is expected to be very popular and to make a substantive contribution to our membership and thus, to our Board activities.

Continued on next page

President's Message - Continued from previous page

Financially speaking, there will be no impact on our budget for next year. It will be a “wash.” The Fluvanna LWV will transfer funds remaining at the time of merger to our league. Also, dues from Fluvanna LWV members for next-year renewals will be revenue for our league. The specifics are such that the transferred funds and revenues will be sufficient to meet next year’s financial obligations for the increased membership.

Membership of both leagues must approve this merger. The Fluvanna LWV met in a specially called meeting on February 28 and gave their approval. Our members will be asked to vote on this proposed merger at our Annual Meeting to be held Thursday, May 17. The Fluvanna LWV currently has 12 members and our league currently has 134.

The steering committee is in the process of submitting to the LWV-VA an application for merger. After expected approval, it will be forwarded to the LWV-US for expected Board approval in June. Our goal is to have the merger become effective on July 1, the beginning of our new fiscal year.

Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or comments about the proposed merger.

Pat Hurst, President, LWV Charlottesville/Albemarle

International Relations/Federal Government News by Gerry Kruger

Members of International Relations/ Federal Government Committee were treated to panoramic views of the mountains surrounding Charlottesville at the February 22 meeting in the home of **Lois Sandy** as well as on March 14 when we visited **Marge Cox**. We also welcomed **Jane Foster**, a long-time member of our League, as a new member of our committee.

Gerry Kruger presented an article by Truthout, a progressive non-profit news organization. The “School-to-Prison Pipeline” caused much discussion as it implicated *No Child Left Behind* and zero tolerance discipline policies as a cause of the rising number of high school drop-outs and growing prison population. There has been an explosive increase in the prison population in the United States in the past forty years. Gerry pointed out that there are a disproportionate number of minorities dropping out of high school and entering prison.

Rosalie Simari’s report “Beyond the PC” asserted that technological advances are quickly changing the way we do everything. Smart phones and tablets surpassed PC’s last year and will eventually replace them. In England one in four people are using smart phones. Children all over the world are playing with Xboxes. In China, 400,000 people are working to make computer chips and batteries. One problem this presents is what will be done with discarded computers and parts.

Fast trains in China that can travel at 300 miles per hour were the subject of **Natalie Testa’s** report. They can turn a trip which formerly took all day into a four-hour excursion. However, the downside is that poor materials were used to build them, and there was a serious train wreck soon after they were in use. This, combined with complaints about terrible food and WIFI not working, means China’s wish to outdo Japan’s bullet train has so far not been fulfilled. Tickets for these trains cost more than unskilled worker’s week’s pay and are not ridden by the masses. China is also rapidly building expressways, which are subsidized by charging tolls.

Pat Hurst explained the use of Managed Care to quell the out-of-control cost of health care for the poor, or Medicaid. This entails paying a set rate for care rather than a fee for each service. In some instances, the rates paid to the administrators of the network are cut if patients get sick. There are more incentives to keep patients well in this type of program, and preventive measures are encouraged.

For our next meeting we will move back to the city and visit **Dena Imlay**. Join us as we explore new topics and become better-informed League members.

Welcome new LWV C/A Member: **Sheila Holsinger**, 709 Grove Ave., Charlottesville 22902, 295-3205, smholsinger@aol.com



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

Non-Prof.Org
 U.S Postage
 PAID
 Permit No.74
 Charlottesville, VA

LWV C/A
President
 Patricia Hurst

Newsletter Editor
 Michele Kellermann

Meetings and Events for April 2012: *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Sunday, March 18, Noon - 3 pm	FOCUS Women's Fair exhibit	City Space	For more information, contact Pat Hurst, 978-4532
Wed., March 28, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Deborah Brooks, 3080 Branham Pl., 295- 7696	For further information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245- 9806
Tues., April 3, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm	LWV C/A Community Dialogue: "Health and Family Life Education in City/County Schools"	New County Office Bldg., 1600 Fifth St., Rm. A	For lunch reservations (by Thurs. March 29) and more information, contact the office, 970-1707
Thurs., April 5, 4:30- 6 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virginia Foundation for the Humanities: Boar's Head Inn complex, Ivy Rd.	For more information, contact Linda Goodling, 296- 9865
Wed., April 11, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Dena Imlay, 2014 Meadowbrook Rd., 296- 6651	For further information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245- 9806
Wed., April 25, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Marge Cox, 514 Rosemont Dr., 245-5528	For further information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245- 9806