



*Charlottesville Area*  
**League of Women Voters**  
**Newsletter**  
**August/September 2012**

Office Phone:  
(434) 970-1707

Summer Office Hours:  
Mon. 9:30 am to 2:30 pm  
Wed.. 9:30 am to 2:30 pm  
Emerald Young, Office Manager

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Visit Our Website:  
[lwv.avenue.org](http://lwv.avenue.org)

## *LWV CVA Community Dialogue*

# "Will Big Money Buy This November's Election?"

### Two Meeting Times

**Tuesday, September 4, 2012**

**Noon - 1:30 pm**

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

and again at

**7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Tonsler Park Main Meeting Room**

**Cherry Ave. at Fifth St. SW**



We, the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area, are reaching out to all voters to educate and inform you about November's election.

Your participation in this election matters more than any other election we've ever had! Join us at noon **or** 7 pm on Tuesday, September 4, and find out

- Eleven shocking facts about campaign finance!
- What is ALEC?
- What's on Virginia's ballot including the "eminent domain" amendment.
- What you need to do to participate in the upcoming election.

For noon Lunch Reservations, box lunch \$8, contact the office, 970-1707, by Thursday, August 30

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

## ***Introducing Our 2012 LWV CVA President:***

### ***Kerin Yates***

"The League of Women Voters has been my main avenue of citizen participation in our democracy. I first joined in 1961 in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and was subsequently a member in Garrett Park, MD, and Pittsburgh, PA. I joined the Charlottesville League in 2007 and am an active participant in the International Relations/Federal Government group. I have a BS degree in chemistry from Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA, and was a research chemist at NIH for 17 years. In Pittsburgh, I managed a medical lab that checked pacemakers. My volunteer experiences include: cub scouts, literacy groups, treasurer of Hampton Township Library Friends, and Ombudsman, Pennsylvania Department of Aging. In Charlottesville, I am currently a driver for Meals on Wheels and an Officer of Elections, Albemarle County. I've been married 53 years to Professor John T. Yates, Jr. We have two sons, two daughters-in-law, and six grandchildren."

### **LWV of the Charlottesville Area: Board & Committees 2012-2013**

**1932 Arlington Blvd., Suite 111, Charlottesville, VA 22903**

**Office 970-1707 [lwv@avenue.org](mailto:lwv@avenue.org)**

**Office Mgr. Emerald Young**

#### **ELECTED OFFICERS** **(2-year terms)**

**President 2014**  
Kerin Yates

**Vice President 2013**  
Sue Lewis

**Secretary 2014**  
Anne Linden

**Treasurer 2013**  
Pat Hurst

#### **ELECTED DIRECTORS** **(2-year terms)**

**Community Engagement  
2013**  
Gerry Kruger

**Web Master and  
Newsletter Editor 2014**  
Michele Kellermann

**Voters Service 2013**  
Debora Hoard

**Membership 2014**  
Susan Roberts

#### **APPOINTED DIRECTORS** **(2 year terms)**

**Arrangements 2013**  
Lois Sandy

**Natural Resources 2014**  
Linda Goodling

**International  
Relations/Federal  
Government 2013**  
Molly O'Brien  
Marge Cox

**Fluvanna Liaison 2013**  
(Appointed for 1 year)  
Sharon Beeler

#### **OFF BOARD** **Special Committees**

**Women's Issues Study  
Committee 2013**  
(Appointed for 1 year)  
Mimi Bender

#### **Finance Committee 2013**

(Appointed for 1 year)

Carol Hogg, Chair  
Deborah Brooks  
Pat Hurst, Treasurer –Ex  
Officio

#### **Nominating Committee 2013**

(Elected for 1-year)

Chair – Dena Imlay  
Sue Friedman  
Marie Krizek

(Appointed for 1-year)

Susan Roberts  
Linda Goodling

#### **Mary Stamps White** (Elected staggered terms)

Sally Thomas, Chair (2014)

Wayne Harbaugh (2013)

Dena Imlay (2015)

Pat Hurst, Treasurer  
Ex Officio

## ***President's Message:***

"POWER THE VOTE IN 2012"  
The LWVUS 50th Biennial Convention  
Washington, DC June 2012

I had never been to a National Convention even though a member since 1961, so I had decided even before being elected president of our League that I would go and see firsthand what went on. The adjectives "exciting," "informative," "tedious," "lengthy" and "inspiring" all fit. For me, the speakers highlighted the event. Along with **LWV CVA Leaguers Pat Hurst, Sue Lewis, and Anne Linden** who also attended, I heard the Attorney General of the US, Eric Holder, speak in regard to protecting the rights of all citizens to vote, and heard him praise the League for taking on often unglamorous but necessary issues that others neglect or tried to ignore. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton reminded us that the citizens of Washington and many others remain disenfranchised in regard to voting rights and representation. Professor Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, spoke on the verification of campaign ads. A panel starring Eleanor Clift of Newsweek, Mickey Edwards of the Aspen Institute and former Congressman (R-OK), and Trevor Potter, former Chair of the Federal Election Commission, discussed "How Do We Unite and Conquer." And, of course, our President of the LWVUS, Elizabeth MacNamara, spoke and reminded us that the League is not an end in itself. The League is a pathway to an informed and educated citizenry.

Approximately 780 enthusiastic Leaguers attended workshops to improve their communication skills, learn their duties as officers, and become more proficient with modern technology. New programs were proposed and many caucuses held to explain and win over our support resulting in the LWVUS program for 2012-2014. Passed at the Convention were:

All current LWVUS positions in the areas of Representative Government, International

Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy were retained.

A concurrence with the Sentencing Policy position of the LWV of the District of Columbia was after lengthy discussion and study passed and is as follows: The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

A comprehensive program should be designed to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance in order to inform our education and legislative efforts as needed. This effort will build on the work of Leagues and the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force.

A study was approved to update the League's position on farming and agriculture.

Leaguers demonstrated their hawking skills by selling all sorts of things to raise funds for their League's work. "Shine a Light on Democracy" pens were sold (actually sold out!) by the LWV of Virginia, along with T-shirts, umbrellas, pins, posters - you name it - by other Leagues. Views were exchanged. Common problems discussed. Solutions suggested.

In the end was I glad I went? Absolutely. Meeting so many other members of like purpose and becoming more familiar with the place of the LWVUS in our League was a positive experience.

YOU can see and hear the Convention. Go to [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org).

Sincerely,

***Kerin Yates***

President, LWV CVA

### ***Office News: New LWV CVA Member***

Teresa Gulyas

6 Spring Oaks Lane

Ruckersville, VA 22968

(434) 985-4890

(434) 817-6900

## **International Relations/Federal Government News** by Gerry Kruger

On May 10<sup>th</sup> the International Relations/Federal Government Committee once again enjoyed Flora Patterson's hospitality. With **Deborah Brooks** we explored the advantages and disadvantages of fracking in regard to the energy crisis and its effects on the environment. Because of the increasing demand for energy, the U.S. increased its imports of oil from 10% in the 1960's to 60% in the 1990's. However, due to a process called fracking and many new discoveries, there is no shortage of natural gas and oil at present, and the U.S. now has sources of fossil fuel in countries such as Brazil and Canada, which are our allies in many respects. This should relieve us of our dependence on the Middle East for fuel. Fracking is a process that uses water and chemicals to allow the withdrawal of gas and oil from shale. Deborah told us how the wells that withdraw the fuels are constructed is key to preventing pollution. The EPA is demanding more regulation in regard to building the wells. Although there are ways to prevent the escape of deadly gases and chemicals into the air and water, there is still the problem of using enormous amounts of water in this process.

**Rosalie Simari's** report on the Euro emphasized why its success or downfall is important to the United States. Essentially the Euro's demise would mean the demise of Europe. In our global economy, this would be disastrous for the world economy because of the instability it would cause. Spain is key to the possible economic collapse of the European Union.

Molly O'Brien's splendid new apartment was the venue for our meeting on May 23. **Natalie Testa** informed us on the dwindling illegal immigration from Mexico. There are several reasons for this: the worsening economy in the U.S., women having fewer children, and getting across the border is becoming more expensive and dangerous. Although our government is encouraging more legal immigration, the process is still difficult and improvements in this area need to be made. Mexico's economy is improving due to improvements in its commerce and education system and its oil discoveries. Still, agriculture is its primary source of revenue. Of particular interest

to us was the fact that women in Mexico are playing a more prominent role in politics. A woman defeated two men running against her in a presidential primary for the July general election.

**Marion Rothman's** report on "Gold Fever" was about Peru and its devastating effect on the health of forests and gold miners. 64,000 acres of woods have been destroyed, and the land is being stripped 50 feet deep. The mining is also harming their water supply. It's easy to obtain a license for exploring in Peru, so the miners circumvent the regulations by saying that they are explorers, not miners. 98% of the operations are illegal. Besides spoiling the land and water, the workers who mine there are in grave danger of losing their lives and limbs. There are many accidents in which the men are crushed. Cave-in's at the edge of the hole kill most victims. On average, four men die per week. Those that survive work 18-hour days.

On June 13 **Flora Patterson**, wearing exotic clothing and jewelry made by the Maasai, sat in the living room of Lois Sandy and regaled the International Relations/Federal Government Committee with anecdotes of her trip to Nairobi, Kenya in 1970. Although Africa's paltry economy cannot be compared with that of the United States, it is growing by leaps and bounds and has a chance to follow in the footsteps of Asia. One-fourth of their growth comes from natural resources, but marketed goods and agriculture are also responsible for their growth. Despite rapid economic growth, the average worker only makes \$2.00 a day, and the average life span in some countries is 50. Still, Africa is becoming part of the modern world. 600 million Africans have cell phones, thanks to help with the infrastructure from China, and the use of mosquito nets has vastly reduced malaria in Africa. HIV is also slightly declining. Some progress has been made in regard to elections in Africa, but there is still much room for improvement. Since 1981 the number of elections that have taken place without battles has decreased to 30. Another area for improvement involves land ownership. There needs to be individual rather than communal ownership.

*Continued on next page*

## **International Relations/Federal Government News** *continued from previous page*

**Deborah Brooks** changed the focus of our group from Africa to China by giving some examples of China's attempts to go green. Although China's imports of coal have doubled since a year ago and an increasing number of the Chinese have cars, they have made lowering carbon emissions a priority. Wind turbines are being used there, and solar panels are widespread. When Deborah continued her report at Marie Krizek's home, she told us that polluters are shamed in China, and garage sales are no longer a shameful act. The Chinese have planted 100,000 trees and watched Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth." Although these steps may be too late to prevent global warming, they are noteworthy.

**Gerry Kruger's** report on David Cameron's visit with President Obama in March emphasized the British Prime Minister's character and personality as much as the important issues that the two leaders would discuss. Their talks focused on the unrest in the Middle East and the war in Afghanistan. Cameron is definitely more inclined to want military intervention when there is a humanitarian crisis and/or an issue in the self-interest of Britain.

Next **Marie Krizek** informed us that young Tibetan monks are setting themselves on fire because of China's restrictions and brutal crackdowns. Clerics must denounce the Dalai Lama and are being thrown in jail for simply having a picture of him. They don't consider themselves Chinese and are using extreme measures to draw attention to their ill treatment and their unwillingness to have their culture destroyed.

**Natalie Testa** invited us into her home on July 11 and shared with us the beautiful statuette that she was given upon retiring from her many years of service to the National League. The piece, designed especially for her, represents her work at the local, state, and national levels. She has served as administrative assistant to the LWV-US president and as director of meetings and conventions.

Natalie reported on the National Convention held in Washington, D.C. this summer. The League has a position on alternatives to imprisonment and opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. It will be conducting a study to renew and update its position on agriculture and also will be promoting programs to educate members of the community on campaign finance. Natalie next reported on the risks of philanthropy or "philanthrocapitalism." The danger of the super-rich donating large sums of money is they can essentially make political policies throughout the whole world. They could turn the world into a plutocracy. There need to be more checks and balances on the huge amounts of money that are being donated. But there was good news in Natalie's report, too. Women have taken leadership positions in some third world countries. There have already been some noteworthy successes from policies implemented by African women presidents. The president of Liberia won a Nobel Prize for her efforts to give everyone a stake in the raising up of the country. Of 127 heads of state in the world, only 8 are women.

**Rosalie Simari** summed up the problems that consumers face when eating foods that have been flavor-enhanced and processed with chemicals. Preservatives and additives make foods last, as well as smell and taste good, but can cause allergic reactions, cancer, asthma, or even birth defects. Even though the FDA approves additives, they may not be entirely safe.

The venue for our July 25 meeting was Ginny DeSimone's home where we learned from **Marge Cox** a great deal about Pakistan, which has become more an enemy than ally of the United States. Pakistan is twice the size of California, but has the sixth largest population in the world, and only 1/3 of its women are literate. There is much about Pakistan that is of great concern. Primary among these concerns is an Islamic takeover. The government is becoming less tolerant of religions other than Islam, and religion plays a very important role there. The leader who is about to take over is moderate and appears to be a huge improvement over the present corrupt inept current leader.

*Join us on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 am, as we meet in members' homes and explore world issues that affect our global community. See the calendar on back page.*



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

**LWV C/A**  
**President**  
 Kerin Yates

**Newsletter Editor**  
 Michele Kellermann

**Meetings and Events for August /September 2012: *Mark Your Calendars***

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Fri., Aug. 24, 5-9 pm	"Fridays After Five" - Volunteers' event	Downtown mall	For more information, contact the office, 970-1707
<b>Tues., Sept. 4, Noon and repeated at 7 pm</b>	<b>September Community Dialogue: "Will Big Money Buy This November's Election?"</b>	<u>Noon</u> : New County Office Bldg., 1600 Fifth St., Room A  <u>7 pm</u> : Tonsler Park Meeting Room	For lunch reservations, contact the office, 970-1707, by Thurs. Aug. 30
Thurs., Sept. 6. time TBA	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Boar's Head Inn complex	For more information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Tues., Sept. 11, 4-6 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virginia Nat'l Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Sept. 12, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Gerry Kruger, 989 Allendale Dr., 977-7617	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5528
Wed., Sept. 26, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Molly O'Brien, 250 West. Main St., PH 2, 245-9806	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5528