



*Charlottesville/Albemarle*  
**League of Women Voters**  
 Newsletter  
 May 2012

Office Phone:  
 (434) 970-1707

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

Fax: (434) 970-1708

E-mail:  
[lwv@avenue.org](mailto:lwv@avenue.org)

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

*2012 LWV C/A May Annual Meeting*

**Thursday Luncheon, May 17, Noon**

**Member/Guest Social at 11:30 am**

**The Greencroft Club, Charlottesville**

*Guest Speakers: Sheri Iachetta, Registrar, City of Charlottesville,  
 and Jake Washburne, Registrar, Albemarle County*

**"What's Happening to Our Election Laws?"**

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Charlottesville/Albemarle will take place on Thursday, May 17, at the Greencroft Club. (See the next page of this newsletter for program and luncheon reservations.)

Our guest speakers will be Sheri Iachetta, general registrar, City of Charlottesville, and Jake Washburne, general registrar, County of Albemarle. They have graciously accepted our invitation to bring us up to date on the changes to Virginia's election laws. So if you want to be in the know about what they and we citizens are facing this upcoming election season, you won't want to miss their presentation.



**Sheri Iachetta Owen** was appointed Registrar of the City of Charlottesville in April of 1999. She is currently in her fourth appointment as Registrar and is proud of her non-partisan reputation she has built during her appointment as well as her efforts to bring Charlottesville and the state of Virginia into the age of Electronic Voting. *Continued on page 6*



**Richard J. ("Jake") Washburne** has been Albemarle County's voter registrar since 2006. Prior to that he was engaged in legal research and writing at the National Legal Research Group in Charlottesville. *Continued on page 7*

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



LWV of Charlottesville and Albemarle County  
Annual Meeting  
Thursday, May 17, 2012  
Member/Guest Social: 11:30 am to Noon  
Luncheon at Noon  
The Greencroft Club  
575 Rodes Rd., Charlottesville

Annual Meeting Announcement of the League of Women Voters of Charlottesville/Albemarle  
Thursday, May 17, 2012, at The Greencroft Club, Charlottesville

**PROGRAM**

**Member/Guest Social 11:30 am to 12 noon (Cash Bar)**

**Luncheon and Presentation by Guest Speakers**

**Annual Business Meeting of Members (following speaker's presentation):**

The Annual Meeting of our League is the time when members vote on the business of the League for the coming fiscal year, 2012-13. **We urge members to attend and give sanction to the proposed merger of Fluvanna LWV with our League; Nominating Committee Report; Recommended Local Program; and the Budget Proposal for 2012-13.** To facilitate your preparation to vote on these items, you will receive the **Annual Meeting Packet** the first week of May. It will contain information vital to the business meeting. ***Please remember to bring this packet with you to the meeting!***

Please join us for luncheon at The Greencroft Club, just off of Route 250. From town, follow Route 250 west (Ivy Road), for approximately 5 miles, and turn left onto Rodes Road. **Social begins at 11:30 with cash bar, followed by luncheon at 12 noon promptly.** Menu is:

**Almond Chicken Salad with Pumpkin Muffins**

Grilled Asparagus

Warm roll with butter

**Dessert:** Raspberry Chocolate Cake

Iced tea or coffee

Note: Vegetarian plate available upon request.

**Cost: \$30 per person. To place a reservation, call (970-1707) or email the League office, [lwv@avenue.org](mailto:lwv@avenue.org). Reservation deadline is: Thursday, May 10, 2012.**

**Checks should be made out to The League of Women Voters and sent to:**

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*President's Message:*    **2012 LWVVA Council and  
2012 LWVUS Convention**

We have two exciting events coming up that I want to make sure you know about so you can put them on your calendar. I hope that you will seriously consider attending one or both as a registered attendee or as a volunteer. It's a wonderful way to meet other Leaguers and swap information about League activities.

The **LWVVA Council** is soon and will be held in Charlottesville! Our League is hosting this event on Saturday, May 12 from 9:30 till 3:45. It will be conveniently held at the DoubleTree Hotel off US 29 North. The morning session will be a Roundtable Discussion on creative ideas for invigorating the League in our state and increasing membership. This is an area of discussion dear to all of our hearts and this will be a great opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas with others. The afternoon will focus on "Powering the Vote" and on Polling Place management. **The Registration Form follows this article.**

*We are seeking volunteers for the Council in Charlottesville to help welcome Leaguers from throughout the state. Volunteers will be at the hotel on Friday afternoon/evening to greet out-of-towners. On Saturday, a few of our members will be needed in the morning and throughout the afternoon to help out on various tasks. Please contact Lois Sandy (296-8737) or me (978-4532) if you are interested.*

The **LWVUS Convention** will be held this year very close by, in the heart of our nation's capitol, Washington D.C. Beginning on Friday afternoon, June 8, it will continue through Tuesday noon, June 12. The conference hotel is the Washington Hilton close to DuPont Circle and about 12 blocks from the White House. You might consider taking an Amtrak train and staying at the hotel or perhaps with a friend. There will be workshops on topics ranging from leadership styles to increasing voter registration. The plenary sessions will set the direction for the league over the next two years – new programs and studies to be undertaken, the budget and dues structures, and other processes that are crucial to fulfilling our organization's goals. Registration is \$320 before May 21, and you can register on the LWVUS website. *There is also an opportunity to volunteer (the form follows this article).*

Hope to see you at one or both of these events! Remember our slogan, "Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport!"

*Pat Hurst*  
President. LWV CA



**2012 League of Women Voters of Virginia COUNCIL  
FINAL Call  
"Charting the Course"**

**Saturday, May 12, 2012, 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.**

**DoubleTree Hotel**

**990 Hilton Heights Road (off US 29 next to Sam's Club), Charlottesville VA  
434-973-2121**

Officially, Council is composed of the President and one delegate, but we invite ALL who are interested in learning more about how the State League works and in networking with other Virginia Leagues and MAL Units. The following schedule gives a preview:

**"Charting the Course" for LWV-VA**

8:00 – 9:00 AM ~ Presidents' Breakfast  
9:00 – 9:30 AM ~ Registration

**9:30 – 11:30 AM ~, Roundtable Discussion and Exchange, facilitated by Kelly McFarland Stratman from LWVUS**

**11:45AM – 12:15PM ~ "Powering the Vote" in our Leagues, facilitated by Betsy Mayr**  
12:30PM ~ Buffet Lunch\*

**1:00 – 2:00PM ~"Powering the Vote" through Voter Protection, facilitated by Therese Martin**

**PAVP Panel Discussion on Improving Polling Place Management**

**2:15 – 3:15 PM ~ Plenary Session (Business session)**

**3:15 – 3:45 PM ~ Briefing on LWVUS Convention, June 8 – 12, 2012, in Washington D.C.**

\***The Buffet Lunch** includes Soup, Seasonal fresh cut fruit, Cashew Chicken salad, New York Tuna salad, Marinated pasta salad, Garden salad, Deluxe breads and rolls, Fudge brownies and miniature tea cookies and beverages.

Additional information on LWV-VA website: [www.lwv-va.org](http://www.lwv-va.org)

**Council Registration Form**

*(Hotel rooms are to be booked separately by the individual-see above)*

Cost per person (includes lunch): **\$ 40.00.** Deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>

Please make checks payable to LWV-VA and Mail with form to: **Elaine Head, LWV-VA Treasurer**

507 Monticello Lane, Blacksburg, VA, 24060-8129 (Tel. & Email: 540-552-0263; ehead@swva.net)

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ League

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Arriving on Friday? Y – N

Attending as: Delegate  Non-delegate

# Be an LWVUS National Convention Volunteer, June 8 -12 The Washington Hilton - Dupont Circle, Washington, DC

*And YOU will have a free ticket to see the Capitol Steps (fundraiser for the LWNCA held at the hotel)!*

**Volunteers are needed as follows:**

## **Every day (June 8–12)**

*Registration*—staff registration desk; distribute badges and materials

*Credentials*—certify voting eligibility of delegates; prepare official daily attendance report

*Information*— staff information desk; provide local tourist information to delegates and visitors

*Personnel*—staff volunteer room; assist with assignments; provide back-up to other volunteer areas

*Teller/Elections*—process vote cards; count and record results

## **Friday through Sunday (June 8-10)**

*Hospitality*—greet delegates and guests; host hospitality suite; assist with information

*Dine Around*—staff dine around desk—sign-ups, reservations, information

## **Saturday through Tuesday (June 9-12)**

*Floor Committee:* Doorkeeper—check badges for eligibility to enter; distribute official materials; monitor doors. Usher—distribute, collect, deliver motion slips; collect vote cards; usher guests. Microphone monitor—monitor floor mikes; keep order in lines; assist with vote counts. Timekeeper —notify speakers when time has expired.

## **Questions? Contact :**

**Diane Hibino** [trihib@verizon.net](mailto:trihib@verizon.net) 301-263-9876 or **Anne Kanter** [akanter@cox.net](mailto:akanter@cox.net) 703-448-6626

-----  
*Detach and return form to:* Diane Hibino, 5051 Waukesha Rd., Bethesda MD 20816

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **League** \_\_\_\_\_

**Area(s) of Interest:** *(please mark in order of your preferences – 1, 2, 3, etc.)*

*Floor Committee:* Doorkeepers \_\_\_ Ushers \_\_\_ Timekeepers\_\_\_ Microphone Monitors\_\_\_

*Other:* Registration\_\_\_ Credentials \_\_\_ Information \_\_\_ Personnel \_\_\_ Teller/Elections \_\_\_

Dine Around\_\_\_Hospitality\_\_\_ Whatever else you need\_\_\_

**Dates:** Please choose times and days you are available to work and indicate AM, PM or all day. The number of hours you will be asked to work will depend on the number of volunteers and their areas of interest.

Friday, June 8 (PM and/or Eve) Saturday, June 9 Sunday, June 10 Monday,

June 11 Tuesday, June 12 (AM only)

**If you are willing to work more than one day, please indicate here.**

## **2012 LWVUS Privatization Study Completed** by Marge Cox

The International Relations Committee took on the task during this past year of managing the Charlottesville/Albemarle County League's participation in the LWVUS Study on Privatization. Having undertaken this important work, our committee members were more than a bit frustrated by the late delivery of the questions to be answered from the national committee and by the rather sketchy background research available from LWVUS. There is nothing like a challenge for League members, and the IR committee members did a wonderful job of researching the issue on their own.

Three areas of privatization were studied in detail, and the information was then reported first to the IR committee and then to the League membership at the February Community dialogue. Leslie Wilcox gave a detailed report on the current state of prison privatization, one of the largest (and growing) areas of

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page: Privatization Study Completed*

privatization. Deborah Brooks reported on some of the legal aspects of the issue, especially those involving access to general data and program evaluation. Jean Minehart discussed the charter school data available and particularly the results of a major Stanford University study on the effectiveness of charter schools nationwide.

At the March Community Dialogue, the questions provided by the national League were considered and discussed and a consensus was reached. The detailed questions have already been provided both on our website and in the Newsletters. The most important conclusion of our own study is the following: the contract governing the entity that is privatized has to be very carefully written to insure compliance with government regulations and guarantee public access to data and practices. In addition, standardized evaluation procedures need to be developed so that comparisons between a government run institution and a similar private one will be clear and meaningful.

LWVUS will present the national results of the study at the upcoming convention this June in Washington, D.C.

*Continued from front page*

**Sheri** has a less traditional path to politics. She is a graduate of Radford University having received her Bachelor of Arts in Music Therapy and Voice Performance as well as a Masters of Science. Upon graduation from Radford, she was approached to help found a Self Defense company. Through this business endeavor, she traveled across the United States training police officers in how to teach self defense to women in their communities. The organization she helped spearhead grew into one of the largest women's self defense organizations in the country. She currently sits on the Board of Directors.

As Registrar Sheri has had the opportunity to sit on many task forces that have been pivotal in deciding the future of elections for not only the City of Charlottesville but also for the United States training police officers in how to teach self defense to women in their communities. The organization she helped spearhead grew into one of the largest women's self defense organizations in the country. She currently sits on the Board of Directors.

As Registrar Sheri has had the opportunity to sit on many task forces that have been pivotal in deciding the future of elections for not only the City of Charlottesville but also for the United States and Virginia. Locally, she oversaw the task force appointed by the City Council to transition the Charlottesville City School Board from appointment-only to directly elected offices.

Sheri is no stranger to Richmond when the General Assembly is in session. She spends a great deal of her time helping draft and support legislation that impacts elections and Registrars in the state of Virginia as well as serves as an expert in the field of voter registration and election administration to her state delegate and senator. She was appointed to the General Assembly's task force on electronic voting.

In 2008, Sheri was invited to testify at the House of Representatives, Committee on House Administration, on "Ensuring the Rights of College Students to Vote".

The National Election Center appointed Sheri to the Election Official Task Force that was charged to create a universal, but flexible manual for Pollworker Training that could be used in any locality. She also sits on the legislative committee for the Election Center.

Aside from being Registrar for the City of Charlottesville, Sheri is the Worship Director for Broadus Memorial Baptist Church. She is married to Pat Owen and has three children, Adam, Reid, and Will, and the family dog, Molly.

*Continued from front page*

**Jake** grew up in Baltimore County, Maryland, earned a B.A. degree from Duke University, and earned a J.D. degree from Washington and Lee University. Jake (mostly) enjoys the voter registration and elections process, even in presidential election years. Since 2010 he has served on the Legislative Committee of the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia. Jake and his wife Mollie live in western Albemarle County, where they occasionally have time to miss their 3 grown-and-flown children, but more frequently are occupied with their 2 new puppies.

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

**Deborah Brooks** offered her mountaintop home for our March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, the perfect venue for a beautiful spring day! Natalie Testa's report on Bhutan gave us a respite from the weighty topics that are usually presented at our meetings. She informed us that the General Assembly of the United Nations made happiness a millennium goal for July. It invited its member countries to take measures that aid in the pursuit of happiness and well-being as they develop public policies.

The king of Bhutan has placed environmental concerns and spiritual well-being over rampant capitalism. He said, "We're not interested in gross national product, but gross national happiness." After a survey on happiness, it was found that people who still lived by the customs of the old culture were happiest. As the people of Bhutan become better educated and move to the cities, they often lose much of their culture. This tends to make them less content in general.

Can Liberals survive the decline of the middle class? According to **Liz Kutchai's** study, only if:

- 1) there is state-led investment in jobs, education, and research;
- 2) there are policies that benefit the people; and
- 3) there is an acceptance of globalization

Always girded with statistics to back up her claims, Liz presented research from several trusted sources that show the demise and shrinking of the middle class over the last 40 years.

**Deana Imlay's** lavender, pink, and fuchsia azaleas were in full bloom on April 11th, where **Lois Sandy** informed us of a U.S. health clinic that specialized in giving the elderly more care for less cost with amazing results. The emphasis in this Well Point Medicare Advantage plan is on close monitoring of the elderly to tend to their medical needs in a timely fashion, including giving them free rides to doctor's visits! This is drastically reducing the cost of their care and cutting down on hospital visits and expensive medical procedures. Basically they are treating little problems before they require extreme measures such as an amputation or surgery. A doctor coordinator serves as a liaison between the hospital and home care.

**Ginny DeSimone's** report examined the situation in Great Britain that led to their decline after being a world power and compared it to that of the United States. Just as the United States and Germany threatened Great Britain's supremacy, China appears to be a threat to our place in the world today. Although we face problems with educating the poor and minorities, budget and trade deficits, and a decline in engineering, these problems can be fixed. What is hurting the US the most is the inflammatory gridlock that pervades our political system and stifles problem solving. As a result, dominance appears to be shifting from the United States to the rest of the world.

Our second and fourth Wednesday morning meetings evoke everything from optimism to despair, but I guarantee you'll come away better informed! See the back of the newsletter for dates and places and join us.



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/May/June 2012: *Mark Your Calendars Now!***

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
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
Thurs., May 3, 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
Tues., May 8, 4-6 pm	LWV CA Board Meeting	Virginia Nat'l Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Pat Hurst, 978-4532
Wed., May 9, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Flora Patterson, 685 Flordon Dr., 295-5532	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5528
Sat., May 12, 9:30 am to 3:45 pm	<b>LWV VA Council</b>	<b>The DoubleTree Hotel, Rt. 29 North (next to Sam's Club)</b>	<b>For further information, contact Pat Hurst, 978-4532</b>
Thurs., May 17, Noon (Social begins at 11:30)	<b>LWV C/A 2012 Annual Meeting</b>	<b>The Greencroft Club, Rodes Rd. (US 250)</b>	<b>For luncheon reservations (by Thurs. May 10) and more information, contact the office, 970-1707</b>
Wed., May 23, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Molly O'Brien, 250 West Main St., PH2, 345-9806	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5528
Fri., June 8 to Tues., June 12	<b>LWV US 2012 Convention</b>	The Washington Hilton, Dupont Circle, Washington, DC	For further information, contact Pat Hurst, 978-4532
Wed., June 13, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Lois Sandy, 1666 Franklin Dr., 296-8737	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5528