



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
 Newsletter
 November 2012

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Tuesdays and Thursdays

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

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Visit Our Website:

lww.avenue.org

LWV CVA Community Dialogue

"Sentencing Reform"

Two Meeting Times

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Noon - 1:30 pm

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

or

7 pm* - 8:30 pm

County Office Building, McIntire & Preston, Room 235



Here are the facts:

The United States incarcerates more of its citizens than any country in the world.

We have 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prisoners!

Come and learn about two newly adopted LWV US positions:

- Opposition to mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses, and
- Exploration and use of alternatives to imprisonment.

Speakers:

- Denise Lunsford, Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney, will give insight into minimum sentences and how they are being applied.
- Jeff Gould, Administrator for the Charlottesville/Albemarle Adult Drug Treatment Court, will address the alternatives to incarceration and their benefits. (Mr. Gould will speak at noon only.)

The program will be offered twice:

- At the New County Office Building on 5th Street Extended, Room A, at 12:00 noon, and
- At the County Office Building, McIntire & Preston, Room 235, at 7 pm.

*Ample parking is available. However, do not park in any assigned parking spaces. They are reserved for 24 hours, 7 days a week, and you may be ticketed.

For noon Lunch Reservations, box lunch \$8, contact the office, 970-1707,
 by Thursday, September 27.

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

***Our Guest Speakers for the November 13
Community Dialogue are***

Denise Lunsford, Albemarle County
Commonwealth's Attorney



and **Jeff Gould**, Drug Court Administrator,
City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County



Mr. Gould administers the local "drug court," an alternative to jail time for convicted illegal drug addicts that includes drug testing, addiction treatment and weekly check-ins with a judge.

Mr. Gould will be our guest speaker at the noon session of the November 13 Community Dialogue. See front page for details.

About our LWV CVA Facebook Page

Our League has a great Facebook page that is devoted to pictures of League members and our events! Started in the summer of 2011, there is coverage of members representing the League at various events and our officers for the year 2011-2012. There are quite a few from the three Candidate Forums held last fall in Scottsville, Charlottesville, and Greene County. Our successful Legislators Luncheon last January and Members Luncheon in May are also among the events covered.

You can access our Facebook page in two ways:
(1) a link on the webpage for LWV CVA at lwv.avenue.org/ or
(2) go directly to the page by pasting this link into your browser:
<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.153824174713652.32886.153821488047254&type=3>

We hope to add more pictures this year with events such as Candidate Forums, Community Dialogues, and luncheons. If you take pictures this year that you would like to share, please send them to Pat Hurst, phurst@embarqmail.com.

New LWV CVA Member:

We extend welcome to:
Muriel Grim
1305 Branchlands Dr.
Charlottesville, VA 22901
740 808 7179
msgrim2012@gmail.com

Muriel recently moved from southeast Ohio where she was active in the Athens County LWV. She is interested in environmental issues and voter services.

***Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
presents:***

**"Last Word with Bob Gibson"
Saturday, November 3, 2012
5 pm to 7:30 pm
Burley Middle School
Rose Hill Drive, Charlottesville**

President's Message:

Dear LWV Members and Friends of the League,

Registration for the November election is over! There is still time however to apply for absentee ballots. That deadline is October 30. So far our League has assisted over 240 citizens to register, apply for absentee ballots, and re-register with name and address changes. It is an effort that everyone who participates walks away feeling good about.

As I started to think about this piece, I thought I might skip the subject of elections altogether since there seems to be a quite credible flood of "how to" information available to the community. But several e-mails from League members/channels addressed to our League office caught my eye.

One of these shows up every election. It urges people NOT TO VOTE! The rationale? To demonstrate their opposition against various inequities in the country. Definitely NOT League logic!

Another addressed the history of the Presidential Debates. Have you ever wondered why we are not a sponsor? We were at one time! In 1976, 1980, and 1984. Then in 1987 things happened. We withdrew. The two major political parties were attempting to dictate every aspect of the debates. The LWV US Education Fund Board of Trustees voted unanimously not to continue to participate. They considered the format and the restrictions of participation demanded by the parties to be a fraud on the American people.

So who does run the Presidential Debates? The "Committee on Presidential Debates" (CPD) chaired by former chairs of the Democratic and Republican parties. This committee has decided that for a third party or independent candidate to be invited they must have a minimum of 15% in "opinion polls".

In 2004 the Citizens Debate Committee was formed of many nonpartisan American organizations to whose goal was to wrest the

control of the presidential debates from political control. Their rule for inclusion is triggered by a 5% showing in NATIONAL polls that ask ELIGIBLE voters which candidates they would like to see included. Five percent is the percentage that matches the federal requirement for public financing for minor parties.

Lastly, there was an e-mail from Barbara Simons, LWVSF, and Kathy Dopp that discussed problems by voting with mailed absentee ballots. The reader was referred to a NY Times article by Adam Liptak (Oct 6, 2012) "Error and Fraud at Issue as Absentee Voting Rises." The essence: statistics show that votes cast by mail are less likely to be counted, more likely to be compromised and more likely to be contested than those cast in a voting booth. Certainly a topic worth more study.

Looking past the election, our League will present a Community Dialogue in November on a newly adopted LWV US position – **Opposition To Mandatory Minimum Sentencing for Drug Offenses and Support for Alternative Means to Incarceration.** This may be a new issue for many, but it follows naturally though unintentionally our two-year study on privatization and an IR topic presented by Gerry Kruger on an article by Truthout, "School to Prison Pipeline." We are looking forward to sharing the reasons behind the adoption of this position. Our League will be testifying in support of this position as the subject arises in our community. Plan to join us on November 13. See front page of this newsletter for details.

Sincerely,
Kerin Yates
President, LWV CVA

In Memoriam:

Long-time LWV CVA member **Elizabeth Menaker** passed away in July 2012, at age 94. Her relatives wrote, "The League had been an important part of her life." The family made a contribution in her memory to our League, for which we are very grateful.



League of Women Voters
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LWV C/A
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Important Dates for Voting in this November's Election

- 10/30/2012** 5pm Deadline for absentee ballot APPLICATIONS to be received by registrars
- 11/03/2012** 5pm Deadline to vote by absentee ballot **IN PERSON AT OFFICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION**
 (Recommend calling your registrar's office. Date is statewide. Individual office hours vary.)
- 11/06/2012** Election Day: Polls open 6 am to 7 pm

Registrar Telephone Numbers:

- Albemarle County [434 972 4173](tel:4349724173)
- City of Charlottesville [434 970 3250](tel:4349703250)
- Fluvanna County [434 589 3593](tel:4345893593)
- Greene County [434 985 5213](tel:4349855213)
- Louisa County [540 967 3427](tel:5409673427)
- Nelson County [434 263 4068](tel:4342634068)

You can check your voter registration status at the State Board of Elections website: www.sbe.virginia.gov

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Sat., Nov. 3, 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm	"Last Word with Bob Gibson" presented by the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center	Burley Middle School, Rose Hill Drive	For further information, go to http://jeffschoolheritagecenter.org/
Tues., Nov. 6	Election day	Your local precinct as shown on your voter registration card; or go to www.sbe.virginia.gov	For more information call your local registrar: See above.
Tues., Nov. 13, Noon and again at 7 pm	LWV CVA Community Dialogue: "Sentencing Reform" with guest speakers, Denise Lunsford and Jeff Gould	Noon: County Office Bldg., 1600 Fifth St., Charlottesville; 7 pm: County Office Bldg., McIntire & Preston, Rm 235	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Tues., Nov. 13, 4-6 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virginia Nat'l Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Nov. 14, 4:30 pm	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Anne Linden, 1455 Glenside Green, 973-4802	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5528
Wed., Nov. 21, 4:30 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virginia Nat'l Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865