



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
December 2013

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Program Planning

Tuesday, December 3, Noon to 1:30 pm

New County Office Building, 1600 Fifth St.

Join us for Pot Luck Lunch provided by the LWV CVA Board!

All members *as well as the public* are encouraged to attend the annual Program Planning meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, at 11:30 am, at the New County Office Building, 1600 Fifth St. **The LWV CVA Board of Directors will be providing a pot luck lunch, as we consider Program Planning at the Local and National levels of the League.** Do we wish to retain current positions, to act on them, and/or to begin new studies with the goal of establishing consensus and positions for action on other issues? This is what your League of Women Voters is all about and program planning is your opportunity to weigh in. You can find a list of Local Positions in our 2013-2014 Membership Directory. For LWV US national positions, click here to access the [LWV US "Impact on Issues 2012-14"](#). For further information, contact President Kerin Yates, 964-1840, or email: kerinyates@hotmail.com.

Our guest speaker at the November 12 LWV CVA Community Dialogue was Meg Heubeck, Director of Instruction of the Youth Leadership Initiative at the UVA Center for Politics. Meg treated us to an exciting "teach in" about a program entitled **Youth Leadership Initiative**, whose goal is to engage young people to be lifetime active members of our democracy. Meg creates the curriculum used and spreads the word to all who will listen. The Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) was established in 1998 by UVA's Professor Larry Sabato as a pilot program to combat the perceived lack of interest in government and an attitude of pervasive apathy and cynicism surrounding politics. The Youth Leadership Initiative pilot program started with 14 schools. Housed online through the YLI website, YLI now provides **free** comprehensive programs of technology-based civics education resources to teachers in over 23,000 schools and organizations worldwide. The curricula contains plans for **On-line Mock Elections; an E-Congress**, where students simulate the role of a representative in the US Congress by researching, drafting original legislation, debating its merits in committee and casting a final vote, along with thousands of other students on the YLI website; and a **Democracy Corps**, which is a service learning program designed to engage students in citizen action while learning about the workings of American Constitutional democracy.

YLI now has many partner organizations from many walks of life. The LWV US is a partner with whom we have developed teaching materials such as "Running a Student Registration Drive" and "Learning from Elected Officials." Other partners include *Running Start, Close Up, World Learning, World Wrestling Entertainment, National Association of Secretaries of State, Public Agenda, and the American Bar Association*. It was obvious that our mission to educate voters and their mission to start young people in a lifetime of Democracy are closely aligned. We need to keep in touch.

*This page is sponsored by Joan Jay of Loring Woodriff Real Estate Associates
phone: 906-1806 or email: joanjayrealtor@gmail.com*

President's Message

Whether your favorite candidates won or lost, as League members, we can celebrate the November 5 election. The League was prominently there – registering voters, encouraging voting, and educating voters through forums and the Voter's Guide. Checking with the local registrars, we found

- 50% of the registered voters showed up to cast their ballot in Albemarle County;
- 48% in Fluvanna; and
- 49% in the City of Charlottesville.

Registrars indicated this level of participation was fairly normal for "governor year" elections. Although the League steadfastly maintained its non-partisanship, I would be amiss at this point in time not to mention two of our LWV CVA members who were on the ballot: Jane DeSimone Dittmar and Liz Palmer. Both are now newly elected Albemarle County supervisors. Our congratulations.

We may feel like resting from our endeavors but a viable democracy needs continual cultivation. I encourage you to keep yourself apprised of what our elected officials do, especially when their deliberations correspond to League positions. We then can make ourselves heard as a group.

In this spirit of educating, I encourage you to attend the LWV VA Women's Round Table Pre-Session in Richmond on December 4 (see details in this newsletter). Many of the topics that will be before the 2014 Virginia General Assembly will be presented there. We will be forming carpools and the Board voted to underwrite 50% of the luncheon costs. I hope you can go. Please call me 964-1840 or email: kerinyates@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

Kerin Yates, president

LWV CVA

In Memoriam

We received the sad news that long-time Leaguer **Mary Burke Wagner** passed away on October 31, 2013.

Sally Thomas in her email to Kerin writes: "You may not have known her, but Mary was an effective, loyal, hard-working member of our League. She was membership chair when I was president and we decided to increase our membership to 300. Mary did it! And many members have enjoyed OLLI courses, a program that Mary was crucial in starting."

LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Annual Holiday Party/Pot Luck Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, at 6:30 pm, to be held at the home of Susan Roberts, 595 Glengarry Court, Earlysville, 964-9644. Spouses are invited. Driving directions will be emailed by Susan.

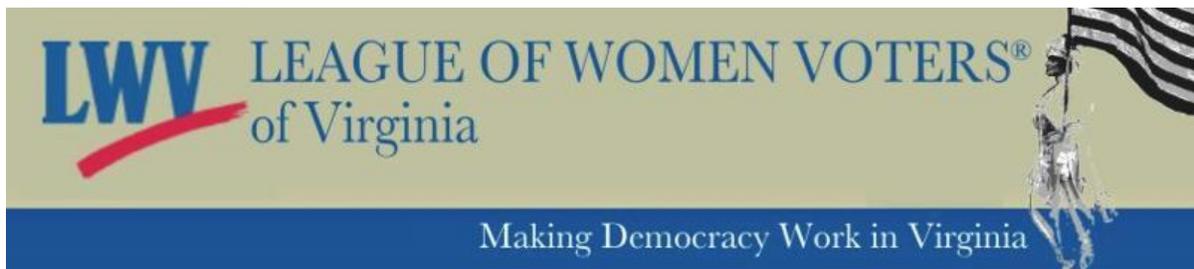
2014 Legislative Luncheon Date Alert

When filling out your calendar for 2014, whether it be electronic or paper, PLEASE NOTE, the annual LWV CVA **Legislative Luncheon** this year WILL NOT be the first Friday in January of 2014 and we have selected a NEW SITE.

Mark your calendar: **March 19, 2014 - 11:30 am at The Greencroft Club.** Plan to be there.

2013-14 LWV CVA Membership Directory Correction

Jean Minehart's phone number should be: 971-1801



Women's Round Table - Pre-Session (Free) Wednesday, December 4, 9 am to Noon Capitol Building, House Room 3. Richmond

Join us on Capitol Square in Richmond on December 4th to hear firsthand about the pressing issues that will come before state legislators. **The day begins with The Pre-Session Women's Round Table (free) in House Room 3 followed by a luncheon meeting (\$35) and keynote speaker in Senate Room 3.** As always, speakers from widely diverse sectors are being invited. Speakers include non-profit advocates and members of the Governor's cabinet.

Networking with activists and many advocacy groups is one of the top reasons given for attending. A full morning of five-minute power speeches from issue experts who have been on the front lines during General Assembly sessions will preview, predict, and prepare us for action in January. These experts have vast diverse experiences in witnessing and influencing a wide range of legislation - governance, education, health care, juvenile justice, women's rights, voters' rights, election laws, open government, ethics, safety, environment and conservation, etc. Representatives from the Governor's Cabinet enlighten us on their priorities.

December 4th is just one month after the election so the transition to a new administration and changes in Delegates will create an atmosphere of anticipation not to be missed.

League members and guests who have attended the Round Table say this:

- "The most valuable part was the parade of organizations."
- "The most valuable part was the opportunity to hear the "wish list" of the various groups."
- "I'm new to legislative awareness and advocacy, so I think it was awesome...."
- "I think hearing from folks who are part of the administration was illuminating."
- "It gives an idea of what might actually be priorities and likely to get signed if passed by the GA."
- "...nice to find information on issues and partner with like-minded groups to support their legislative efforts."
- "I was impressed with how much was accomplished in so little time."
- "The comments of the agencies and directors gave me a clearer picture of how difficult the work of legislators is..."
- "I was just curious the first time I attended but now it is a "must do!"
- "I can see how important our voice in the League is."
- "It was a good pre-session and the LUNCH, as usual, was excellent!"

To register see attached Flyer. [Click Here](#) Or call LWV CVA President, Kerin Yates, 964-1840. Half cost of the luncheon is being unwritten by our League if you make your reservation with Kerin by no later than Monday, November 25.

Anne Sterling, President, LWV-VA
president@lwv-va.org
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International Relations /Federal Government Committee News

by Gerry Kruger

The basement storage room of Molly O'Brien's condo was the unlikely setting for the **October 23rd** meeting of the International Relations Federal /Government Committee. A broken elevator in her high rise wasn't enough to deter Molly or her stalwart committee members.

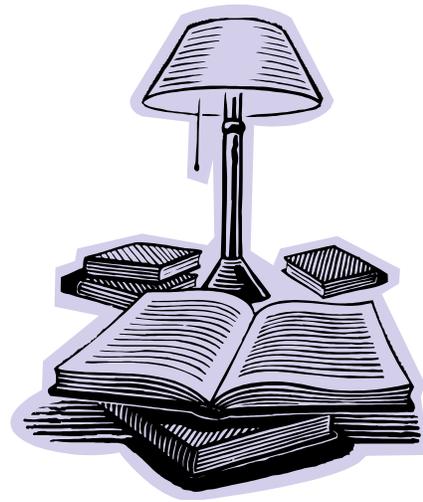
Lydia Peale shared an article that questioned the possibility of the end of our war on terror. The author pointed out that we are still using drones and holding suspected terrorists without trials or hearings. There are 164 men--too dangerous to free, but too hard to try--being held in Guantanamo. He thinks the war on terror may be permanent.

Suggestions for ending the war are to:

- admit that we can't win this kind of war and realize that occasional violence does not necessitate war;
- manage the violence of terrorists the same way we manage natural disasters such as earthquakes;
- forego tactics of war such as preventive detention and killing based on status;
- limit the use of drones and when necessary only use them in self-defense with no harm to innocent civilians;
- keep our actions against terrorists transparent; and
- remember that the values of Americans--"The American Creed"-- go against many of the practices now being used.

After a good deal of discussion sparked by this topic, we traded our underground quarters for the sunlight of a cool fall day.

Our biweekly meetings feature interesting presentations and great opportunities to bond with fellow League members. Check the calendar for dates and venues and make it a point to join us.



LWV CVA Book Corner

At various meetings members in conversation and discussions have shared books/articles that they have found interesting. We thought the newsletter might allow Leaguers to share these with our entire membership. E-mail your league oriented reads to lww@lww.avenue.org.

From Gerry Yemen: Two books I have read that make a good juxtaposition on political ideology and our government.

Young Guns : A New Generation of Conservative Leaders by Eric Cantor, Paul Ryan, and Kevin McCarthy, (politicians) who lay out their ideas and values about how the country should be led; and

It's Even Worse than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided with the New Politics of Extremism by Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein (political scientists) who suggest that political dysfunction can be traced back to long-term political trends. Best part is they recommend that greater public participation might offer some remedy!

From Deborah Brooks: ***An Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America*** by Henry Wiencek.

From John Peale: ***Wild Swans*** by Jung Chang recounting the lives of three generations of Chinese women.



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LWV CVA

President

Kerin Yates

Newsletter Editor

Michele Kellermann

**Meetings and Events for November/December 2013:
 Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Nov. 20, 4:30 to 6 pm	Natural Resources Committee meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Tues. Dec. 3, 11:30 am	LWV CVA Program Planning/Pot Luck Lunch provided	New County Office Bldg., 1600 Fifth St.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Dec. 4, 9 am; 12:15 - Luncheon	LWV VA Pre-Session (State Legislature) Women's Roundtable/Luncheon	Richmond - Capitol Bldg., House Room 3; Luncheon in Senate Room 3	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Tues., Dec. 10, 4 to 6 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Dec. 11, 6:30 pm	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Annual Holiday Party	Home of Susan Roberts, 595 Glengarry Court, Earlysville, 964-9644	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228
Wed., Dec. 18, 4:30 to 6 pm	Natural Resources Committee meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865