



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
 Newsletter
 February 2013

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LWV CVA February Community Dialogue



"Without a Plan, It's Only a Dream"

Our City and County Comprehensive Plans

**Guest Speakers: Kathy Galvin, City Councilor, and
 Wayne Cilimberg, Director of Planning, Albemarle County**

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Noon - 1:30 pm

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

For Lunch Reservations, box lunch \$8, contact the office, 970-1707,
 by Monday, February 4.

The city and county comprehensive plans are the embodiment of the community goals, visions and dreams. Good communities don't just happen. They are planned. What guides local government in that planning process? The community's comprehensive plan is the answer. The Virginia state government requires communities to develop a comprehensive plan to guide decision making from one elected council or board to the next. Charlottesville and Albemarle County are currently updating their comprehensive plans.

Why do we care? Have you ever gotten concerned about something in your neighborhood only to find that it is too late to do anything about it? The way to protect your home is to have the zoning and ordinances that match your interests. Their zoning decisions are based on a comprehensive plan. Do you know what the comprehensive plan says about what can go on in your type of neighborhood? What roads you can expect? How tall structures can be? What developers can do with steep slopes? Whether blinking lights can be on the signs you see out your windows? Can you neighbor dam your stream? Because people have cared, our communities are the special places they are today. How can you review the plans? More importantly how you can influence the plans?

Join the League of Women Voters as we decipher the comprehensive plan. It is the city/county's road map into the future. Guest speakers will be Wayne Cilimberg, Albemarle County Planner and Kathy Galvin, City Councilor. The Natural Resources Committee will give a brief schedule of upcoming meetings and topics.

Wayne Cilimberg has been Director of the Planning for Albemarle County since 1989. He is responsible for the development of plans, policies and ordinances that influence the sense of place and preservation of community heritage that county residents and visitors experience. He is a lifelong native, having grown up in Richmond.

Kathy Galvin received a B.A. in Economics and Geography from Boston University in 1978 and a Masters in Architecture from the University of Virginia in 1986. In November 2011, she was elected to the Charlottesville City Council and serves on the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, Rivanna Water and Sewer and Solid Waste Authorities, Local Climate Action Planning Process, Workforce Investment Council, School Capital Improvement Projects Committee and the Charlottesville Development Corporation.

This page is sponsored by Joan Jay of Loring Woodriff Real Estate Associates

President's Message:

Dear LWV Members and Friends of the League,

The Mission of the LWV is to encourage informed and active participation in government. It is time for the latter! The Virginia Legislature is in session and will be discussing and acting on many issues on which we have positions including,

- Restoration of a felons' rights;
- Improved transportation systems; and
- Support for responsible educational reforms.

Each of these positions promotes social well-being and the need to be adequately funded in order to accomplish its goals. I urge you to keep in touch with the daily happenings in Richmond so you can write, e-mail, phone, personally observe, march! Please note, however, that you can do any or all of these as a private citizen who also is a LWV member, but only the League President/Board may make statements on behalf of the League as a whole.

One excellent way to participate is to attend the Women's Roundtable Meetings held Wednesdays in Richmond through February 13. See page 5 of this newsletter for further information about this excellent opportunity to become informed as well as participate in the work of the League.

Sincerely,

Kerin Yates

President, LWV CVA

Postscript: Before the applause could die or the ink dry, the proposal to restore nonviolent felon's civil rights after completing his/her sentence died in the VA Legislature. Our League has studied this and reached a consensus that restoration is a positive thing for society. It can be argued forcefully that without restoration one is doomed to be unable to support themselves and forced to live "off the dole." Please write your legislator and voice your disappointment. Some say it is possible for the Governor to move forward on this issue as governor and sign the bill into law. Let us as members encourage him to do so.

Coming Soon to Your Neighborhood: Our Annual Finance Drive

Soon after you receive this newsletter, you will be receiving by post our annual request for donations. Of your \$55 annual dues only \$10 is available for local League expenses – rent, publications, salaries, programs, etc. \$45 is a per member payment due to the LWVUS to help carry the costs/programs of our state and national organizations. Please respond to this annual appeal and help fund our local League programs as generously as you can. You may designate your donation your gift to be directed to the Educational Fund or to the League for general expenses. Educational Fund gifts are tax deductible, General expense funds are not because we advocate.

The New Jim Crow

by Michelle Alexander

The League in its 2012 Privatization Study was led into learning about our prison system. Related topics have been drug sentencing in Virginia and the Drug Court in Albemarle County and Charlottesville. To continue that focus, **League member Edith Good** would like to suggest to members that they read ***The New Jim Crow*** by Michelle Alexander. The author is an attorney and a litigator of civil-rights cases. The book is exhaustively researched and takes us through the history of how legislation has made impossible the lives of those who are sentenced and those who survive their sentences and seek return to society. City Councilor, Holly Edwards promoted Alexander's work as did the City's *Dialogue on Race*. Alexander says our crime control is really one of crime creations. Recidivism is rampant as Jeff Gould, Administer of our Drug Court, mentioned in the League's November Community Dialogue. Our thanks to Edith for drawing the Alexander book to our attention.

Program Planning 2013

LWV CVA held its 2013 Program Planning meeting on December 4, 2012, at the Albemarle County Office Building Complex on 5th Street Extended. Twenty-six members attended and enjoyed lunch provided by the LWV CVA Board.

LWV CVA and LWV-VA current positions were reviewed together, since several positions deal with the same issues. Members voted to retain all positions for both levels of the League, and had the following comments and recommendations:

All Local Positions: Review and update for applicability to our newly expanded territory, especially Fluvanna County. Positions that would be pertinent are Government, Health Education and Services, Housing, Regional Library System and Transportation.

LWV CVA Child Care: Pay more attention to local efforts and keep members informed about the issue; speak out at public meetings of the governing bodies, and form a committee to follow this issue. See article below on this page for further information.

LWV CVA Education: Update this position to include Pre-K education, work-force readiness, and funding issues. Several members were interested enough to form a nucleus of a study committee.

LWV CVA Transportation: Update to include pedestrian issues.

For State Positions:

LWV-VA Child Care: Follow state initiatives and monitor at the local level.

LWV-VA Education: Monitor and speak out on funding issues, including expanding the position to cover universal Pre-K.

LWV-VA Justice: Update to include Drug Courts.

New Study Issues:

New study issues were brought up, including uranium mining at the state level, and fluoridation of our local water supply. It was felt that there will be several leagues recommending the uranium mining issue, and there was not enough local support to study the fluoridation issue.

Forms for submitting our recommendations to LWV-VA will be available in January, with a February 23, 2013, deadline. **Input is still welcome. Contact Sue Lewis, 295-1485.**

Submitted by Sue Lewis
LWV CVA Program Vice President

Child Care Review

One of the subjects put forward at the Program Planning meeting was the availability and quality of child care in our community. Anne Linden and Lois Sandy, as interested Leaguers, have initiated a review of this important subject. If this topic is of particular interest to you, consider joining them. E-mail Anne Linden: alinden4@gmail.com.

To those of you who like to write:

Consider doing a piece on local politics, natural resources, local planning, or any League endeavor. The LWV CVA has been offered space in *C'Ville Tomorrow* for occasional articles. They will allow graphs and charts. Contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840, if you are interested. The space will have a constant header . . .likely to be "Learn with the LWV".

International Relations/Federal Government News by Gerry Kruger

The November 14th meeting of the International Relations/Federal Government Committee took place at the home of **Anne Linden**. Twenty years ago Anne was sent to the Ukraine to work in the Peace Corps. Now she returns two times a year and runs a non-profit that deals with fetal alcohol syndrome. Our meeting at Anne's began with a self-guided tour of her home, which was filled with pieces of art she has collected from the Ukraine. We saw beautifully carved boxes, paintings, water colors, Pisanki (decorated eggs), icons, dolls-- a virtual museum!

The Ukraine's economy has shown very little growth since the fall of the Soviet Union. Much of its failure to grow is caused by corruption. Also people suffer from huge health problems. Although it has an abundance of natural resources, air and water pollution are a problem there. Forty-seven percent of the people die of alcohol-related diseases, and there are serious health problems related to the Chernobyl nuclear accident. After the accident many children were born with disabilities.

In spite of the people's dire circumstances, their resilience is apparent in their art and culture. They celebrate more than 100 holidays! We enjoyed learning about this country from the perspective of one who has insight gained from years of working there.

Our last meeting of 2012 was a holiday celebration at **Molly O'Brien's**. We reminisced and told stories about Christmases past and enjoyed delicious treats, furnished by our members. **Lois Sandy's** anecdote about her father's sawing off their "bargain" Christmas tree branches and gluing them to the bare spots was one of the funniest stories!

On January 9, 2013, the IR/FG Committee kicked off the new year in the home of **Jean Minehart**. **Deborah Brooks and Natalie Testa** gave eye-opening reports about Egypt and what is happening there since the Arab Spring. Deborah presented a report about a splinter group of militant Islamic extremists called Salapis written by Bobby Ghosh. Salapis make up a small part of the Muslims in Egypt, but have infiltrated many other countries. Their puritanical brand of Islam requires that they go back to past tenets—no frivolity, music, TV, and the woman's place "is in the home." They abhor President Obama's ties with the new democracies in the Middle East and claim that the West undermines the Muslim faith. Their rage against those that oppose them and their values has resulted in extensive and horrific violence. Osama Bin Laden was a Salapi and they are suspected to have been involved in the Benghazi attack.

Interestingly enough, Salapis were formerly opposed to elections, but they now see elections as a way of spreading the power of the Sharia in government. Since they are backed by Saudi Arabia, their resources to influence elections are limitless.

Natalie continued to focus on Egypt as she told about how dangerous Egypt has become, especially for women. President Morsi who was the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, wants to see all of Egypt under Sharia law. The protests of the Arab Spring changed Egypt politically, but under Morsi they have reverted to the old practices in their treatment of women. Under Mubarek women protested openly, but now women who protest are detained and tortured by the Muslim Brotherhood. There is a culture of brutality toward women.

Although this meeting was a sobering experience for us, we appreciated Deborah's and Natalie's research and came away much better informed.

This committee continues to find new ways to keep us well informed about international relations and the federal government. Join us on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Check the calendar on the back page of this newsletter.

Free Room Arrangements Available for 2013 Women's Legislative Roundtable Meetings

LWVVA will again be offering **free hotel rooms, double occupancy, for up to four people on Tuesday nights before the Women's Legislative Roundtable (WRT) meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings.** The WRT begins January 16 and will run through February 13, 2013. These rooms will be available on Tuesday nights throughout the Session (this is the 45- day session) for League members who would like to attend the WRT and observe the General Assembly at work on Wednesdays. Room reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis and names of the person(s) wanting the room(s) must be sent to Molly McClenon at mcclenon@cstone.net seven days prior to the Tuesday date.

What is Women's Legislative Roundtable? The Women's Legislative Roundtable (also referred to as WRT) was begun by the LWVVA to provide an opportunity for individual legislators to talk informally to interested Leaguers and others about the status of their own legislation and also about legislation of interest to the League. Starting with the first Wednesday of the Legislative Session in January, WRT meets each Wednesday morning at 8:30 am every week through January and February, and up to the end of the session. Meetings are held in a room in the General Assembly building in Richmond reserved by a member of the General Assembly for this purpose, and are open to anyone who wants to keep up to date on issues of interest. Each meeting is moderated by a representative of the LWVVA.

2013 Finance Drive to Launch on Saturday, January 26, 2013 9:00 am

Spend a morning of fun as we write notes and stuff the fund drive letters. **In these tight financial times, our fund drive letters are critical--we need your help on Saturday, January 26.** Carol Hogg, our finance director, will host the letter-writing and stuffing morning at her lovely home at **270 Ipswich Place.** So join us at 9 am--there will be lots of tasty goodies too!

Directions to Carol's house:

From the intersection of Hydraulic Road and Lambs Road (at Albemarle High School), turn onto Lambs Road, and continue for approximately one mile. You will pass radio towers on your right, and just after you pass them, take a right on Ipswich Place. 270 Ipswich Place is the fourth house on the left side of the street.

Legislative Luncheon a Success!

The 2013 Legislative Luncheon held Friday, January 4, at the Boar's Head Inn, was a huge success. We had 92 in attendance!

Many thanks to the legislators who were present: **Sen. Creigh Deeds, Del. Rob Bell, and Del. David Toscano. Sen. Steve Landes, Sen. Bryce Reeves, and Sen Thomas Garrett** were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts, but they did send representatives on their behalf.

The event earned us the lead front page story in ***The Daily Progress*** (Saturday 1/5/2013) and TV coverage, both evening and morning by **Channel 29** and **Newsplex.**

Overheard upon leaving from a member of the Boar's Head Staff: "This is the first time I have heard civil discourse between citizens and their representatives--no yelling, no shouting." They were impressed.



League of Women Voters
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LWV C/A
President
 Kerin Yates

Newsletter Editor
 Michele Kellermann

Meetings and Events for January/February 2013: *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Jan. 23, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Marge Cox, 514 Rosemont Dr., 245-5528	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5528
Sat., Jan. 26, 9 am	Finance Drive 2013 Letter Writing Campaign Launched	Home of Carol Hogg, 270 Ipswich Place, 974-7592	For more information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wednesdays, Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13 - 8:30 - 9:30 am	Women's Legislative Roundtable (WRT)	Virginia State Legislature, Richmond	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Tues., Feb. 5, Noon - 1:30 pm	LWV CVA Community Dialogue: "Without a Plan, It's Only a Dream" - Our Comprehensive Plan	New County Office Bldg., 1600 Fifth St., Room A	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Feb. 6	League Lobby Day	Virginia State Legislature, Richmond	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Tues., Feb. 12, 4-6 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virginia Nat'l Bank, Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Feb. 13 , 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Bobbie Williams, 108B Oakhurst Circle, 245-0406	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5528
Wed., Feb. 20, 4:30 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virginia Nat'l Bank, Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Wed., Feb. 27, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Liz Kutchai, 126 Bollingwood Rd., 296-0541	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5528