



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
November 2013

Office Phone and Fax:
(434) 970-1707

E-mail:
lwv@lwv.avenue.org

Visit Our Website:
lwv.avenue.org

BE PREPARED TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Polls open from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M.

GENERAL ELECTION REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

Vote411.org - the official LWV US website - gives voters the tools to be prepared for election day:

- Deadlines
- Eligibility Rules
- How to Vote Absentee
- Polling Place Hours and Locations
- State Candidate and Ballot Information

Additional information can be found at <https://www.vote.virginia.gov> or the website for the State Board of Elections www.sbe.virginia.gov

Absentee Voting by Mail

Absentee ballot **application** must be received by 5 P.M. on October 29.

Absentee **ballot** must be received by your local Office of Elections by 7 P.M. November 5

Absentee Voting in Person

For locations, days, and times contact your local Office of Elections:

Albemarle County Registrar (434) 972-4173

City of Charlottesville Registrar (434) 970-3250

In-person voting absentee ends at 5 P.M., November 2.

Identification at the Polls

Voters may use one of the following types of identification:

- Voter ID card
- Valid Virginia driver's license
- Military ID
- Any federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID card
- Valid student ID issued by higher education institution in VA
- Valid employer-issued ID card
- Concealed handgun permit
- Current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or paycheck showing voter's name and address
- Social security card

Voters without ID can cast a provisional ballot, but will need to send identification to their Elections Office by noon, Friday, November 8.

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

President's Message

Looking Far, Far Ahead to when we next draw the lines Redistricting.....

Dear League Members and Friends of the League:

Our League has been very busy this election season doing what the League does – registering voters – educating voters – reminding citizens of the importance of their responsibility to vote. The League also sees as its responsibility protecting the value of that vote.

If you have been a League member for some time or just a concerned citizen, it will not come as a surprise that all votes are not equal and that one of the main road blocks to fairness is the way voting districts are drawn after each census. Whichever party is in control of the Legislature sees that lines are drawn to protect their party's candidates – long called by the name "gerrymandering." This often leaves the voter with a non-competitive race. Groups including the League have partnered before to attempt to change this system and failed. Well – it is time to try again.

Various individuals, company representatives, and the LWV-VA (therefore us) have been meeting to discuss another attempt. For the voting process to be independent, fair and transparent a constitutional amendment must be passed by 2016 so that it can be in effect by 2021 when next we draw new lines. 2016 is just around the corner. The time to begin is now.

If your goal is the equality of each vote, stay tuned for the work ahead. It will be time and effort well spent. For those who may wish to read more about redistricting: link:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/10/the-league-of/309084/>

Sincerely,

Kerin Yates, president

LWV CVA

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. Several legislators have not been able to attend due to pre-legislative committee assignments and have requested for years that we change the date. This year the Board agreed to give it a try. Instead of finding out what the legislators hope to do, we will learn what actually happened.

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

**2013-2014
LWV CVA
Membership
Directories
are in the mail!**
Please let the office (970-1707)
know if you don't receive yours
by the end of October.

LWV CVA November Community Dialogue

"Getting in the Game: How to Engage Young People in a Lifetime of Democracy"

*Guest Speaker: Meg Heubeck, Youth Leadership Initiative Director
University of Virginia Center for Politics*

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

11:45 - 1:00 pm

11:45 am - Meet and Greet; Program begins at 12:15 pm

Albemarle (Old) County Office Building, McIntire Rd., Room 235

To order a box lunch (\$8), contact the office, 970-1707, or email: lww@lww.avenue.org
by Monday, November 11.

How can we engage young people in a lifetime of democracy? This is a subject near and dear to the hearts of Leaguers. You are invited to explore this lesson in civic engagement at our *Community Dialogue* on Tuesday, November 12, with Meg Heubeck, as our guest speaker. The public is invited.

Meg Heubeck serves as the Youth Leadership Initiative's director of instruction and is originally from Baltimore, Maryland. Meg attended Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and completed a Masters of Arts program at Towson University before she began teaching in 1992. Meg taught world cultures, reading, language arts and art at the middle school level for seven years before spending five years teaching high school economics, government, United States history, and art. She was the chairman of the social studies department at Carver Center for Arts and Technology located in Towson, Maryland. As director of instruction, Meg is responsible for developing curriculum materials that will encourage and develop civic engagement in students. She will also assist in aligning these materials with content standards for each of the fifty states.



Voter Service Report

by Dena Imlay, LWV CVA Voter Service Director

2013 Voter's Guide to Local Elections: As part of the partnership by our League with *Charlottesville Tomorrow* to produce a 2013 Voter's Guide to Local Elections, we have obtained and submitted bios and photos of all candidates running for Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and Charlottesville City Council. All these candidates have been interviewed by *Charlottesville Tomorrow* during the period of September 16 through October 2. Printing will take place the second week of October; mailing to all registered city and county voters will occur during the last two weeks of October. The target date for publication on our League website (lww.avenue.org) is October 15. Final school board Voter's Guide content will be sent to *C-VILLE Weekly* on October 18.

2013 Local Candidates Forums: (Check our website for updates - lww.avenue.org)

Charlottesville City Council –Thurs Oct 17, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center auditorium, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, doors open at 6:00 pm
<http://www.cvilletomorrow.org/calendar/15694-city-council-candidate-forum/>

Greene County Board of Supervisors -- Sat Oct 19, 6 pm, William Monroe High School Performing Arts Center, with LWV CVA moderator, Tara Boyd, and timekeeper, Susan Roberts

Albemarle Supervisor Jack Jouett District –Tues Oct 22, Jack Jouett Middle School, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, doors open at 6:00 pm <http://www.cvilletomorrow.org/calendar/15723-jack-jouett-candidate-forum/>

Charlottesville School Board -- Wed Oct 23, Johnson Elementary School, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, doors open at 6:00 pm; co-sponsored with *Charlottesville Tomorrow*

Albemarle School Board – Wed Oct 30, Greer Elementary School, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, doors open at 6:00 pm; co-sponsored with *Charlottesville Tomorrow*

Does It Matter? Does It Help the League? Standing on the Downtown Mall on a chilly September day. Passing out election material in ninety degree heat. Driving to JMU to register students. Helping with forums where attendance is less than minimal. All take hours out of one's day. Those of you that have participated have likely asked yourselves is it worth the effort? And the answer is, "Yes it is!" From a report to the Board from Frances Schutz on Old Farm Day and the Fluvanna County Forum: "I was told that some in the Chamber of Commerce hadn't known the LWV still had a presence in Fluvanna. Our visibility at both events helped therefore to restore our image of presence."

All our members thank those that have been able to participate in Voters Service this election season and especially to **Dena Imlay** who spent countless hours shepherding our efforts. **Sue Lewis, Audrey Dannenberg, Gerry Kruger, and Kerin Yates** at PVCC registration, **Tara Boyd** on Ch 29 speaking about registration and the Oct 15 deadline; **Carol Hogg and Marge Cox** with **Diana Meade** at the Chamber of Commerce Forum in Scottsville; **Gerry Kruger and Kerin Yates** at the Downtown Mall on National Voter Registration Day; **Frances Schutz, Sharon Beeler, Kerin Yates, Mary Kalchbrenner, Sallie Kate Park** at "Old Farm Day" in Fluvanna County; **Barbara Drake, Susan Roberts, Kerin Yates** at JMU registration drive; **Frances Schutz** at the Fluvanna County Forum; and still to come: **Susan Roberts and Tara Boyd** at the Greene County Forum on Oct 19; **Michele Kellermann** moderating the school board forums with **Lois Sandy and Kerin Yates** as timekeepers on Oct 23 and 30; and **Dena Imlay** on WTJU on Oct 31 speaking to the importance of voting.

The Commissioner of What? by Kerin Yates

"Commissioner of the Revenue of the City of Charlottesville" is quite a title but very few can tell you what this commissioner does or who he/she is. In the course of preparing voter guide information and since it was the only competitive race in the city of Charlottesville, I decided that the very least I could do was "google it". And as many of these searches go, it really was quite interesting. New information usually is.

The position was created by an act of the Virginia General Assembly in 1786. In general, the act was an attempt to make uniform and permanent the process by which taxes were assessed. The position was charged with the responsibility of assessing the county levy both for personal property taxes and land taxes and that only "discreet and reputable persons" be considered. The Assembly recognized the pivotal role of the Commissioner and tried to make the appointment as incorruptible as possible by stating:

Members of either House of Assembly, persons holding any office in civil government, naval officers practicing Attorneys, or Physicians, Clerks of Courts, Inspectors, ordinary-Keepers, Sheriff or their Deputies or the Collector of public taxes SHALL NOT be capable of acting or serving as Commissioner. (For more history see Hampton.gov/document-center/home/view/515.)

Whether the position was an appointed one or an elected one has changed many times. In 1908 it was declared an elected office and remains so today. The office itself, depending on the jurisdiction, collects and administers up to a dozen or more separate taxes. For the City of Charlottesville, Raymond Lee Richards, the current Commissioner of the Revenue, assesses personal property taxes, administers and collects business licenses tax, meals tax, bank franchise tax, cigarette tax, Virginia sales and Use tax among many. The office will assist with the filing of Virginia income taxes if a federal tax return and W-2 forms are provided. Real estate tax relief and rent relief programs for the elderly and disabled and tax incentives for technology business also comes under the commissioner's purview.

The person holding this office, by the very nature of the position, has access to private financial records of both individuals and businesses. Therefore, what was true in 1786 when the position was created, is still true today. The Commissioner must be a person of "discreet and reputable" character.

Back to the coming November 5 election. Three candidates are for this position on the ballot. Two are listed as Independent and one was selected in the Democratic primary. They are, in alphabetical order, Todd Divers, Taneaia M. Dowell, and John Gunter. See their bios on the League of Women Voters web site lww.avenue.org. We encourage all registered voters in the city to make themselves aware of each candidate's qualifications. This may not be a prominent race, such as the one for governor, but the position is considered to represent the closest link between voters and elected government.

The League of Women Voters believes that every race is important.

Each time a person volunteers to become a candidate for public office is a significant event and one that is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of our democracy. Our thanks to those who do.

Source material: Charlottesville.org/index.aspx?page=22 via Commissioner of the Revenue Charlottesville VA; Hampton.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/515.

Remember Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport!

Our calendar is bursting with dates, times, and places of Fall 2013 election events. **This is the time of the year when you as a Leaguer want to support forums and meetings with your attendance, and take a friend to vote on election day, Tuesday, November 5.**

International Relations /Federal Government Committee News

by Gerry Kruger

September 25 was a special day for the members of the International Relations/Federal Government Committee. **Lydia and John Peale**, son of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, **shared the experiences they had living in China.** Lydia was born and raised there. She was the granddaughter of an American doctor, who started a hospital in China and had six children. One of them, her father, became a missionary in China.

In 1940, during World War II, her parents brought the family home, but Lydia and John went back to China in 1985 for their wedding anniversary. In 1991 they both taught in an English Foreign Affairs College and traveled all over China.

Many Americans harbor negative impressions of this country, but the couple pointed out the positive aspects as well. It is a beautiful country. They showed us breathtaking photographs of the scenery and wonderful artwork, some of it over 400 years old. There are also programs being started to help the poor. John spoke of a 10-year urbanization project that provides homes for them. When they visited the hospitals, they had made great strides since Lydia's grandfather had practiced there and were equipped with modern technology. The Chinese practice western as well as traditional Chinese medicine, some of which we use in our country, such as acupuncture. The Chinese people are also friendly and warmhearted. They made friends that they keep in touch with **today**.

On the other hand, there is much graft and corruption in government and little or no transparency. Pollution is a huge problem although they are working to improve it. For example, they are trying to cut down on their use of coal. They told us of a school in a bubble that was built so the children wouldn't have to wear masks. When Chiang Kai Shek was in power, he courted the United States, but when the Communists took over in 1949, we lost China as an ally.

Lydia and John's presentations ended with a tour of their home, filled with museum quality works of art. Among them were jade screens, carved chests, paintings, and china.

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.

Celebrate the sixty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the UNITED NATIONS

at a special presentation sponsored by the Blue Ridge Virginia Chapter of the
United Nations Association of the USA

"Human Rights, the UN, and a World in Crisis"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. William Schulz, President of the Unitarian-Universalist Service Committee.
(Previously Rev. Schulz served for 12 years as Executive Director of Amnesty International
and before that as President of the Unitarian Universalist.)

Sunday, October 20, at 3:00 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church – Unitarian Universalist
717 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, Virginia

The presentation will be followed by a wine, cider and cheese reception to toast the founding of the United Nations. The presentation is free and open to the public.

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

Note: For a complete listing of **2013 Local Election Forums**, see page 4 of this newsletter

| Date/Time | Event | Place | Contact |
|--|---|--|--|
| Wed., Oct. 16, 4:30 to 6 pm | Natural Resources Committee meeting | Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd. | For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865 |
| Thurs., Oct. 17, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm | Charlottesville City Council Candidates Forum | Jefferson School African-American Heritage Center, Charlottesville | For further information, go to http://www.cvilletomorrow.org/calendar/15694-city-council-candidate-forum/ |
| Sat., Oct. 19, 6 pm | Greene County Board of Supervisors Forum | William Monroe High School Performing Arts Center | For further information, contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651 |
| Sun., Oct. 20, 3 pm | Celebrate the 68th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations | Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church, 717 Rugby Rd. | For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840 |
| Tues., Oct. 22, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm | Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Forum: Jack Jouett District | Jack Jouett Middle School | For further information, go to http://www.cvilletomorrow.org/calendar/15723-jack-jouett-candidate-forum/ |
| Wed., Oct. 23, 9:30 am | International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting | Home of Marge Cox, 514 Rosemont Dr., 245-5228 | For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228 |
| Wed., Oct. 23, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm | Charlottesville School Board Candidates Forum | Johnson Elementary School | For further information, contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651 |
| Wed., Oct. 30, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm | Albemarle County School Board Candidates Forum | Greer Elementary School | For further information, contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651 |
| Tues., Nov. 5: Polls open 6 am to 7 pm | Election Day! | Your local polling place | For further information, check the Vote411.org website |
| Tues., Nov. 12, 11:30 am - Meet & Greet; 12:15 pm - Program | LWV CVA Community Dialogue: "Getting in the Game: How to Engage Young People in a Lifetime of Democracy" | Albemarle (Old) County Office Bldg., McIntire Rd., Room 235 | For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840 |
| Tues., Nov 12, 4 to 6 pm | LWV CVA Board Meeting | Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd. | For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840 |
| Wed., Nov. 13, 9:30 am | International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting | Home of Ginny DeSimone, 1365 Tattersall Court, Keswick, 295-5365 | For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228 |
| 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 |



League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
1932 Arlington Blvd. #111
Charlottesville, VA 22903-1560

LWV CVA
President
Kerin Yates

Newsletter Editor
Michele Kellermann

*LWV CVA November Community Dialogue is open
to the public - Bring your friends!*

**"Getting in the Game: How to Engage Young People in
a Lifetime of Democracy"**

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