



*Charlottesville Area*  
**League of Women Voters**  
 Newsletter  
 April 2014

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*April Community Dialogue*

**Child Care - The Cost, the Quality,  
 the Consequences?**

Rescheduled

Tuesday, April 22, Noon - 1:15 pm

Guest Speakers:

**Kristin Szakos, Charlottesville City Council**  
**Gail Esterman, Manager, Child Care Quality**  
**Children, Youth & Family Services**



**Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, 4th Street, Classroom A**  
**Parking available on site on 4th Street (between West Main St. and Preston Av.)**

Because "it does take a village to raise a child," this meeting is for everyone - whether you are a parent or not. You are a citizen of our community. You vote.

The League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area supports community-based efforts to improve the quality, affordability and accessibility of child care in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District, and so we have invited **Kristin Szakos** and **Gail Esterman** to speak on the many factors affecting child care. Learn about the actual costs for care and what those costs buy. Learn about Virginia child care subsidies and when a subsidy really isn't one. Learn about where our State stands, e.g., Virginia with the eighth highest per capita income in the US has the 40<sup>th</sup> lowest maximum child care provider reimbursement rates. Learn the role businesses play in this endeavor. **See pages 2-3 of this newsletter for background information.**

**This is your opportunity to explore this critical topic!** Our original date for this program was in March -- unfortunately we were snowed in and had to postpone. Fortunately, our speakers are able to present in April, so **join us on Tuesday, April 22, noon, at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, 4th St.**

Lunch is available at the Vinegar Hill Café in the Jefferson School Center. Plan to join friends there before or after the noon program. A link to their menu:

<http://www.jabacares.org/page/full/vinegar-hill-catering/>

*This page is sponsored by Joan Jay of Loring Woodruff Real Estate Associates*  
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# Child Care - The Cost, the Quality, the Consequences

"It's not unusual for a county agency to learn that one of its clients must quit his/her job and instead stay home with the children because even State subsidized child care was more than could be afforded. Corporations pay low wages while requiring employees to work part time, short hours and flexible schedules, thereby enabling them to maximize their profits. Virginia's low child care subsidies help the State balance its budget. You and I pick up the tab. People who want to work can't and instead are forced to file for long term public assistance.

A study entitled "Downward Slide, State Child Care Assistance Policies 2012" done by the National Women's Law Center asks "What's Wrong with this Picture?" (see chart below). Reference: [http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/NWLC2012\\_StateChildCareAssistanceReport.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/NWLC2012_StateChildCareAssistanceReport.pdf)

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO CORRECT IT? A single mom is paid \$8.50/hour for working 29 hours/week.

<b>WORKING Parent</b>		<b>NON-WORKING Parent</b>	
Gross monthly income	1,060.00		1,060.00
Less Social Security Tax	81.09		81.09
Net income from employment	978.91		978.91
<b>Child care expense for 1 infant in a licensed child care center</b>	Least expensive		Average priced
<b>Less State Reimbursement * ** ***</b>	838.50		1,182.50
<b>Above market rate</b>	0.00		344.00
<b>State mandated co-pay 10% of gross income</b>	106.00		106.00
<b>Total monthly cost of child care</b>	106.00		450.00
Cost of subsidized housing****	216.00		216.00
Total out of pocket expenses	322.00		666.00
Net cash before State subsidies	656.91		312.91
State subsidies			
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	0.00	0.00	254.00
Utilities subsidy		8.00	
SNAP (Food stamps)****	150.00	150.00	347.00
Total State Subsidies	150.00	150.00	609.00
Net cash/food stamps available for transportation, food, clothing, and miscellaneous expenses	806.91	462.91	609.00

\* the amount of the State reimbursement varies depending on the age of the child  
 \*\* the amount of the State reimbursement varies depending on the type of provider with licensed centers receiving the largest reimbursements.  
 \*\*\* the amount of the State reimbursement varies depending on the county in which the facility is located  
 \*\*\*\* Fluctuates based on income.

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In the first two of the following three examples, a single parent is paid \$8.50 an hour for working 29 hours a week. After deducting FICA, a parent has net income from employment of \$978.91.

In the first example, the least expensive licensed child care center's charge does not exceed the State reimbursement so the single parent need only pay 10% of her gross income for child care. However, in the second example, the average priced child care center's charge exceeds the State reimbursement by \$344 a month, bringing her total monthly cost of child care to \$450.

Would you take a 29 hour a week job that paid no benefits and netted you \$807 a month? What if you knew the State would give you a \$609 monthly subsidy if you remained at home to care for your child yourself? Even if getting to and from work and to and from day care would cost you nothing, a most unlikely scenario, would you be willing to turn over the raising of your child to a child care center rather than raising him or her yourself for a measly \$198 a month? Yet this is what we expect single parent with one infant to do.

But there's another problem: there is but one licensed child care center in the area that charges the equivalent of the State reimbursement and that facility has a 65 child capacity. This makes your chances of actually netting \$807 a month practically nil.

**Is there a way out?** The issue of the minimum wage is again in the news. But as you can see from our example, even being paid \$8.50 an hour (the current federal minimum wage is \$7.25) is inadequate. What we need to be looking at is a minimum monthly income after deductions for taxes and child care.

Certainly a number of options need to be considered. Following are just a few.

- Reducing the State mandated 10% co-pay to 1 or 2% for people living below the poverty level.  
Increasing State child care providers' reimbursements across the board. Having only one area licensed child care center that does not charge more than the State reimbursement is grossly inadequate.
- Increasing the subsidies i.e. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families paid low-income working parents so they can afford to work.
- Providing trained pre-school teachers to work with licensed child care centers, thereby reducing the costs incurred by these facilities and thus the costs they pass on to working parents at the same time enabling these facilities to incorporate well designed school readiness programs.

Continuing to keep people impoverished is clearly not acceptable. But by working together, we can solve this problem.

**Join us on Tuesday, April 22, noon, at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, 4th St. to explore this critical issue of our times.**

Many thanks to **Anne Linden, LWV CVA Social Policy Director**, for doing the research and interviews and inviting speakers for this important topic. Because of the rescheduling of this program, she is unable to moderate the meeting, as she will be in Ethiopia.

## Lunch with the Legislators

March 19, 2014



Debora Hoard, LWV CVA Voter Service Moderator, opens the question period during the annual "Lunch with Legislators" program, held for the first time post-session this year on March 19. Seated on the dais of The Greencroft Club dining room are area State legislators (from left to right) Sen. Bryce Reeves (R-17th District) Sen. Tom Garrett (R- 22nd District), Sen. Creigh Deeds (D- 25th District), Del. Rob Bell (R-58th District), and Del. David Toscano (D-57th District). [Not in photo: Sen. Emmett Hanger, R-24th District.] Each gave his perspective on the work completed and not completed in the 2014 General Assembly before answering questions on the Virginia Retirement System mandate, Medicaid expansion, fair redistricting, and mental health legislation.



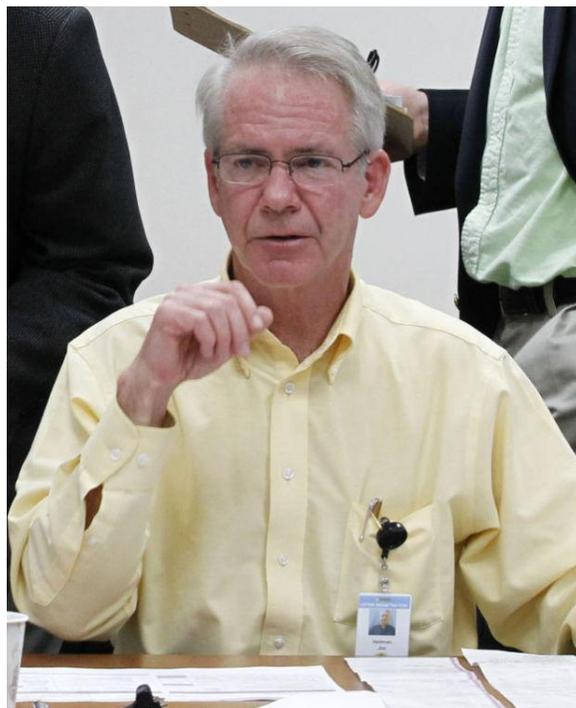
State Senator Bryce Reeves (R- 17th District) responds to audience questions on Medicaid expansion.

## *President's Message*

Dear LWV CVA Members:

The LWV of Virginia at their "Make Democracy Work" Spring Awards Luncheon honored eleven Virginia citizens for their informed and active participation in our democratic process. **Jim Heilman, our League's nominee, was one of these.**

Mr. Heilman, until March 10, served as Chairman of the Albemarle County Electoral Board, an appointed position, and is currently secretary of this three-person Board. Jim worked in election campaigns and administration for over 37 years and as appointed Registrar of Voters for Albemarle County from 1987 to 1999.

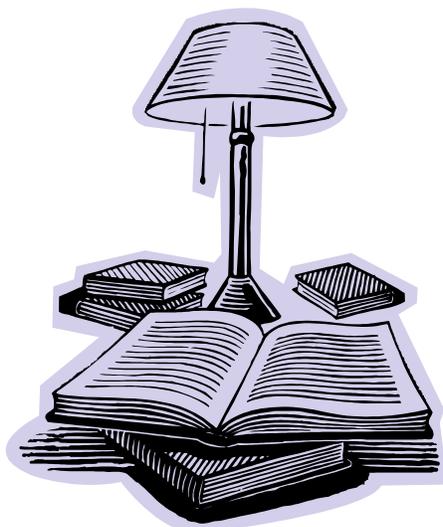


During that time he became involved with elections in young, conflicted democratic countries all over the globe and has now assisted in over 19 countries by observing, monitoring, studying, and administering their elections. Among others he has helped in the Sudan, Iraq, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan, Nepal, and Pakistan. He is planning as of this writing to assist the May election in Ukraine.

In addition to his service with elections, Jim played an early and major role in initiating services in our community for AIDS/HIV citizens and in bringing ROSMY (Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth) to assist our LGBT youth. He has served on the Board of Hospice of the Piedmont. The award event was held this past Saturday (March 22) in Richmond at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. LWV CVA members **Lois Sandy, Natalie Testa, Kerin Yates, Deborah Brooks, Sally and George Thomas and Sue Lewis** were able to attend.

Sincerely,

**Kerin Yates, president**  
LWV CVA



### **League Members are reading:**

*The Mighty & The Almighty* 2007  
**Madeleine Albright** The role of religion in shaping America's approach to the world.

*Locked in the Cabinet*  
**Robert B. Reich** 1997 A close-up view of life as a Cabinet member. Enlightening, entertaining, and a bit frightening.

## ***International Relations /Federal Government Committee News***

by Gerry Kruger

The International Relations/Federal Government Committee returned to Marge Cox's home for our February 26 meeting, looking forward to her wonderful hospitality. **Jane Foster's report on Iran** from the November 30 ECONOMIST focused on the deal in which the United States, France, Germany, Britain, Russia, and China are involved. Not surprisingly, these countries are not in agreement about whether to trust that Iran will not try to fool inspectors, whose job it is to allay their concerns that Iran will develop nuclear weapons in exchange for an end to sanctions. They are split in their opinions about this. Iran denies it seeks to build nuclear arms and feels that its nuclear program is symbolically important if they are to appear to be an advanced and sovereign nation. Their nuclear program is their answer to the West that they feel exploits them.

**Lois Sandy** gave us an interesting **background report on Bibi, better known as Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's first Israeli-born Prime Minister.** Educated in the U.S. outside Philadelphia, he returned to Israel to serve in the military and rose to the rank of captain. Then he returned to the states to study at MIT. As a result, he was always interested in American politics. Israel today is more diverse and more complicated than it was under Netanyahu's predecessors. His skepticism is apparent when he says, "Don't trust, verify. It is better to be a victor than a victim." He doesn't trust peace treaties.

**Pat Hurst** wrapped up our meeting with a summary of **how manufacturing has changed in the United States and China.** In 1980 one in five Americans had a job in manufacturing and it was 20% of our economy. Now only one in ten work in manufacturing and it's about 10% of our economy. For China, on the other hand, manufacturing is 30% of the economy. Lower wages and devalued currency has lured companies to manufacture their goods in China. Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) International is an example of this. Its corporate headquarters is in Cork, Ireland, but its operational headquarters is in China. The owner started with a \$20,000 investment that resulted in revenue of \$413 million in 2010. The Foxconn Complex in China is the largest manufacturer of electronics in the world measured by revenue.

The downside of manufacturing in China is its treatment of workers. Fueled by long hours, low wages, and no social outlets, the suicide rate of workers is so high that nets have been placed around the dormitories where they live to prevent them from jumping to their deaths. The future of manufacturing in the United States lies in small companies and innovation, which is our strong suit. 3-D printing, communications, and technologies that shorten the manufacturing process and lower the cost will be key to our success in this field.

On March 12, we gathered in Becky Thomas's cozy living room to hear presentations by **Natalie Testa on Burma, Jean Minehart on Chile's newly elected female president, and Kerin Yates on Mali's terrorist training ground.**

**Natalie's report showed the dire consequences of "pseudo-democracy" in Burma.** Buddhists make up an overwhelming majority of the population with Christians and Muslims being a very small minority. Presently Buddhists are persecuting Christians and Muslims with impunity. Aung San Suu Kyi is chairperson of the National League for Democracy in Burma. She was detained under house arrest for 15 years, becoming one of the world's most prominent political prisoners. Among her many awards was the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. Now at age 68, she has been elected to Parliament and plans to run for

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president. In spite of her high regard for peace and human rights, she has been strangely silent about the violence being done to Christians and Muslims by Buddhists.

**Jean Minehart regaled us with the story of Michelle Bachelet**, who has recently been sworn in as the president of Chile for the second time. Like Virginia's governors, Chile's presidents may not succeed themselves. She also served as president from 2006 to 2010. A consummate socialist, she advocates higher taxes on the wealthy to pay for social safety nets for the underprivileged as well as free education through the university level for all the children of Chile, one of the richest countries in Latin America.

Ms. Bachelet brings to her office a background that includes being a public school student in Bethesda, Maryland, a single mother, a pediatrician, a brigadier general, an exile in Australia, and a victim of torture in a detention center. It is no wonder that she reaches out to those that lack privilege and affluence.

**Kerin Yates** told us that **terrorist training camps in Mali** led by notorious jihadists are gaining footholds in many areas. After being under French rule, Mali became a so-called democracy in 1991. Due to many uprisings and much unrest, jihadists can safely train terrorists there and easily slip into Europe. The U. S. military had a plan to take out one of their most notorious leaders, but our ambassador vetoed this plan. Meanwhile Mali is becoming a fertile training ground for suicide bombings, murders and other acts of violence.

We invite you to join us for sometimes alarming, but always intellectually stimulating reports and discussions as we gather twice monthly to hold our meetings. See the calendar on the back of this newsletters for dates and places.

**Coming in May!**  
**2014 Annual Meeting**  
**League of Women Voters**  
**of the Charlottesville Area**

**Wednesday, May 14**  
**The Greencroft Club**  
**Rodes Drive**

**Program:**  
**11:30 am - Registration and Cash Bar**  
**Noon - Luncheon**

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Kat Imhoff, President,**  
**James Madison's**  
**Montpelier**  
**Business Meeting**  
**2 pm - Adjournment**

In April, you will receive in the mail, the packet of information for the Annual Meeting containing Annual Reports of the LWV CVA Directors and information on Nominees for 2014-16 Offices, Treasurer's Report, 2014-15 Proposed Budget, and 2014-15 Proposed Program.

Next month's newsletter (May) will have luncheon reservation information.

## Finance Drive Update by Pat Hurst, LWV CVA Treasurer

Following our tradition, on the last Saturday in January, several League members and our Board Assistant, met at the home of Carol Hogg to stuff envelopes for our 2014 Finance Drive. Almost 400 letters were mailed to those on our donors list and to our members. As of March 17, 2014, the donations received by our league totaled \$4,610. Comparing this to last year, it is almost two-thirds of total donations received in 2013. If true to patterns set in previous years, receipts should continue through December and are expected to approach last year's total of \$7,386. Our members have contributed 62% of the total received this year. Here is an interesting factoid: thus far, the majority of members (72%) have designated their donations be used for the Operations Fund whereas the majority of nonmembers (61%) have designated the Education Fund.

We urge you to make your donation if you haven't already done so!



Seated from left to right preparing the Fund Drive letters: **Jeanne Fradianni**, LWV CVA Board Assistant, **Michele Kellermann**, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster, **Carol Hogg**, Finance Drive Chairperson, **Kerin Yates**, President, **Molly O'Brien**, International Relations Director. For additional pictures of this and other League functions, please visit our Facebook page accessible on our website, [lww.avenue.org](http://lww.avenue.org). [In the dining room are **Deborah Brooks**, **Gerry Kruger**, and **Marge Cox**.]

### Welcome New LWV CVA Members!

We are pleased to welcome:

**Maggie and Michael Hoover**

of Lake Monticello

and

**Martha Hunt** of Charlottesville.

We look forward to meeting them at upcoming events.



League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area  
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**LWV CVA**

**President**

Kerin Yates

**Newsletter Editor**

Michele Kellermann

**Meetings and Events for March/April/May 2014:  
 Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., March 26, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Molly O'Brien, 250 West Main St., #602, 245-9806	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228
Tues., April 8, 4 to 6 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., April 9, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Deborah Brooks, 3080 Branham Pl., 295-7696	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228
Wed., April 16, 4:30 to 6 pm	Natural Resources Committee meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
<b>Tues., April 22, Noon - 1:15 pm</b>	<b>LWV CVA Community Dialogue: "Child Care - The Cost, the Quality, the Consequences?"</b>	<b>Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, 4th St., Classroom A</b>	<b>For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840</b>
Wed., April 23, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	TBD	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228
Wed., May 14, 11:30 am - 2 pm	2014 LWV CVA Annual Meeting. Guest Speaker: Kat Imhoff, Montpelier	The Greencroft Club, Rodes Dr.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840