



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
 Newsletter
 December 2014

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lww.avenue.org

Program Planning

Tuesday, December 2, 11:30 am 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 2, at noon, at the New County Office Building, 1600 Fifth St, Room A. **The LWV CVA Board of Directors will be providing a pot luck lunch, as we consider Program Planning at the Local and State 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 2014-2015 Membership Directory. For LWV VA state positions, click here to access the [LWV VA "Positions for Action in Brief"](#). For further information, contact President Kerin Yates, 964-1840, or email: kerinyates@hotmail.com.

We Need Your Help! In a mere two months, the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area will begin its annual exercise in supporting our work -- the Finance Drive. **Before the envelope-stuffing party, we need the help of all members to put on your thinking caps, and see if you can provide us with any name(s) of such friends who might be approachable through our finance letter.** There are many folks in the community who support the mission of encouraging informed, active participation of citizens in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy. **We need to contact them via our finance drive letter** in the hope that they will support our efforts with a donation to either the Education Fund or the Operating Fund. So as we give thanks for many blessings in our lives in the next few weeks, I ask you to **please send your suggestions** via email to the League office lww@lww.avenue.org (or phone 970-1707) or to me at Frances Schutz schutz67@embarqmail.com (or phone 979-5413). Timing is everything, so the sooner the better--**a suggestion would be to think and act before mid-December**, however, if a lightning bolt of inspiration hits after that, don't let the idea of tardiness stop you from getting in touch. **THANK YOU! Frances Schutz, 2014-15 LWV CVA Finance Chair**

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

President's Message - Below is an email I received from LWV VA President Anne Sterling

Dear League Presidents, Board members, and Local Members, I'm really writing to every League member in Virginia, so please send this around. . .

- 1.) **Photo ID.** Your efforts to register Virginia citizens and alert them to Photo ID. . . were effective and widespread. Your work-- both alone and in coalition-- was reflected in the relatively glitch-free roll-out of this new law on Election Day. I've been so proud of your efforts. League leaders who worked with the new State Department of Elections-- encouraging them to work with registrars and citizens-- also helped the situation. Thank you!
- 2.) **Repeal.** And yet. . . though it's hard to prove the existence of discouraged voters, it's possible that there was a Photo ID turnout depressant factor. We know that any requirement increasing the number of hoops to jump through. . . will have some effect. The League opposes Photo ID across the country-- and I believe we should not just accept that it will continue long-term in Virginia. I'd like to hear from you about asking like-minded Delegates and Senators to introduce repeal bills in both houses in 2015. Repeal efforts are an effective way of protest-- asserting that we don't just accept this law forever into the future. What is your view?
- 3.) **Registrations.** Presidents, please send Voter Service Director [Sue Worden \(dwwarden@comcast.net\)](mailto:dwwarden@comcast.net) your best estimate of the number of voters registered after July 1st by your local League. Our Photo ID coalition partners are asking for this number-- and it would help our state board, too. (I know your Photo ID efforts may have downsized your registration work, this year!)
- 4.) **Felons Voting Restoration.** Linda Rice and I recently met with Secretary of the Commonwealth Levar Stoney. At our conference, his director for Restoration of Rights sat in. The Secretary is working to spread the word about Governor McAuliffe's goal to restore the rights of 20,000 former felons.
 - A.) If your League is looking for a program, Secretary Stoney and his director are willing to travel to you, and give a presentation.
 - B.) If someone in your League could drive to Richmond once a week-- a person with good data entry and telephone skills-- the Secretary could use that volunteer to assist former felons in regaining their vote. In either case, please notify [Linda Rice \(lindarice678@cox.net\)](mailto:lindarice678@cox.net)
- 5.) **Integrity Commission.** Last month, the Governor appointed a new Integrity in Government Commission to suggest measures to restore citizens' faith in government officials. Specifically, he asked that they recommend measures to restore confidence in how Virginia handles:
 - A.) Campaign finance
 - B.) Ethics
 - C.) RedistrictingWe have positions covering these topics, but they are broad. The commission is seeking specific ideas-- as soon as possible-- on all these topics. One idea is that an Ethics Commission should be funded directly by citizens-- by adding it to the list of contributions on Virginia tax forms. Another is that redistricting reform should be accomplished by establishing an independent commission, with specific rules for drawing fair and unbiased districts. What suggestions do you want LWV-VA to offer the Commission? Please send to the president (nimbleleap@aol.com) right away.
- 6.) **Pre-Session Round Table.** [Carol Noggle](#) and [Therese Martin](#) are organizing a roomful of stars on December 3. Luncheon tickets are \$40-- and you won't regret signing up! The morning is free, as always. If you haven't found our email, ...**see next page in this newsletter.** Please attend this wonderful event!

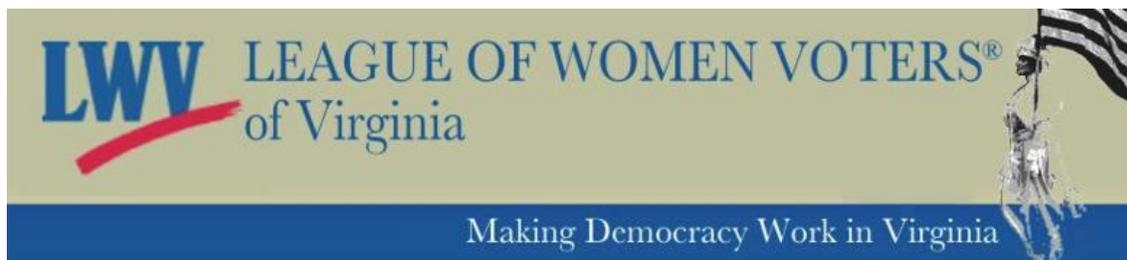
This Thanksgiving, my grateful thanks will center on each of you-- and your efforts for good government. As the Statue of Liberty holds the torch, I think of you upholding our Commonwealth.

Anne

Sincerely,

Kerin Yates, president

LWV CVA



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

Join us Capitol Square in Richmond on Wednesday, December 3rd to hear first hand 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 (\$40) and panel discussion 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.

Seating for the luncheon is limited so register today. [Click Here](#) for the agenda and registration form. For more information contact Carol Noggle: cnogg@comcast.net

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, no later than Monday, November 24. We will be forming carpools and the Board voted to underwrite 50% of the luncheon costs.

Anne Sterling, President, LWV-VA
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International Relations /Federal Government Committee News

by Gerry Kruger

Marge Cox was our hostess for the International Relations/Federal Government Committee on September 24. First, Flora Patterson explained the complicated, intricate, and complex structure of the European Union. Of its 28 members, 10 don't use the Euro. Among them are the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Romania, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Croatia.

The legislature consists of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. However the Council of the European Union is the branch that actually writes the legislation. The executive branch is the European Commission. All the heads of state are in the European Council. There are also a Court of Justice and a Court of Auditors in addition to the European Central Bank.

Economically the European Union is not doing well. Bonds yields are low. Unemployment is high, inflation is too low, and they fear deflation.

Lydia Peale reported on the relationship between the United States and China and what its growth means to us. Her discussion was based on *The China Choice* by Hugh White, published in 2012.

As China grows the rivalry between the two countries increases. The result of this rivalry depends on the choices made in Beijing and Washington. White says China will eventually have a larger economy than America and the richest in the world. According to the IMF by 2016, China's economy will be three times that of the U.S.

White thinks we should consider being non-competitive with China. He advises us to take a step back and not worry about preserving the status quo in regard to our ranking.

Liz Kutchai's home was the venue for our October 8th meeting. Liz summarized an article by a UN demographer who says the world's population will continue to grow through the end of this century rather than leveling off by 2050 as previously predicted, thanks largely to higher than expected birth rates in sub-Saharan Africa. There is a 60% likelihood that the world population in 2100 will be between 9.6 and 12.3 billion:

	<u>NOW</u>	<u>2100</u>
WORLD POPULATION	7.2 billion.	10.9 billion
AFRICA	1.1 billion.	3.5-5.1 billion
ASIA	4.4 billion.	5 billion (at most)

Kerin Yates shared with our group two emails from Anne Linden, who is currently in Western Ukraine. Anne founded a nonprofit there to prevent fetal alcohol syndrome and has been traveling there every year to manage it.

She described the challenges of a drafty house with high ceilings, no insulation, and no heat in 32-degree weather because Russia has cut off gas to Western Ukraine. According to a friend, Crimea is

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

within a week of running out of water. The Ukrainian soldiers must provide their own boots, uniforms, blankets, helmets, sleeping bags, and first aid kits because the government doesn't have the funds to furnish them. Anne bought a US-made uniform for a friend who will be training in East Ukraine because it would provide more warmth and protection than the Ukrainian-issued uniforms. She also learned that Russian television spreads Putin's propaganda that is easily believed by Eastern Ukrainians who don't have any way to uncover the truth.

Anne's article in the October 12th *Daily Progress*, "There Better Ways to Help out Ukraine," explained why the United States should **not** provide military support to Ukraine in its fight against Russia.

Natalie Testa began our October 22 International Relations/Federal Government meeting at Marge Cox's home with background information on Ebola. The first case in 1976 was named for the Ebola River in Zaire. Before 2014 the disease was so deadly that it wiped out entire villages, so it didn't spread to other villages. Last January in Guinea, however, the first person to die from the disease was a two-year-old child whose mother was cleaning bats for consumption. Perhaps blood from the bats splashed on the child and he put his hands in his mouth. When the disease spread and health care workers came to the village to tend to the sick, they caught the disease and it eventually spread to other African countries.

For three months after the baby died, no one realized the cause was Ebola. They assumed the disease was cholera since the symptoms of cholera and Ebola are similar. After three months, a world-renowned expert discovered that everyone with Ebola had hiccups, so at last they knew what disease they were treating. Now the World Health Organization, an arm of the UN, is battling this epidemic.

Next Rosalie Simari reported on a graduation speech given by Strobe Talbott, president of the Brookings Institute---"Putin vs. the Twentieth Century." In the speech he compared Vladimir Putin to Nikita Khrushchev, who was fired because of the Cuban missile crisis and kept under house arrest until his death.

Putin compares himself to Peter the Great. His annexation of Crimea was the first expansion of Moscow's government since 1945. Talbott calls Putin's actions scary and compares his brand of nationalism to Nazism. He says Russia's invasion of Georgia in 2008 was a "dry run" for Crimea, that Putin is bad for the entire world. He thinks Putin will ultimately fail for three reasons:

1. His nationalism may backfire.
 2. He is losing support among Russians.
 3. He is offering a reinstatement of the worst of the USSR.
- Talbott thinks President Obama needs to spell out how Putin should be dealt with.

A special thanks to Marge Cox and Liz Kutchai for frequently offering their homes for our meetings. The International Relations/Federal Government Committee welcomes new members who wish to become better informed about world events and issues. See the back of this newsletter for the dates and venues of our meetings.

Welcome New LWV CVA Members!

Teresa Gulyas, 4000 City Walk Way #141, 962-2642
Susan Shome, 820 E. High St., #11, 328-2779
Alicia L. Lenahan, 1420 Villaverde Lane , Cville, 971-7515



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LWV CVA
President
 Kerin Yates

Newsletter Editor
 Michele Kellermann

2015 Legislative Luncheon Date Alert

When filling out your calendar for 2015, whether it be electronic or paper, PLEASE NOTE, the annual LWV CVA **Legislative Luncheon** this year will be **March 12, 2015!**

**Meetings and Events for December 2014:
 Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Thurs., Nov. 20, 4:30 to 6 pm (No meeting in December)	Natural Resources Committee meeting	Home of Sally Thomas, 889 Leigh Way, 295-1819	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 953-4535
Tues. Dec. 2, 11:30 am	LWV CVA Program Planning/Pot Luck Lunch provided	New County Office Bldg., 1600 Fifth St., Room A	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Dec. 3, 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. 9, 4 to 6 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	To be announced	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Dec. 10, 10:00 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Annual Holiday Party	Home of Molly O'Brien, 250 West Main St., #206, 245-9806	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228