



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
 Newsletter
 March 2014

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March Community Dialogue

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

Tuesday, March 4, 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**

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 40th lowest maximum child care provider reimbursement rates. Learn the role businesses play in this endeavor.

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 is your opportunity to explore this critical topic!
 Join us on Tuesday, March 4, noon, at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, 4th St.

***"Lunch with the
 Legislators: Post-
 Assembly Wrap-Up"***
Wednesday, March 19
Meet and Greet 11:30 am;
Luncheon at Noon
The Greencroft Club,
Rte.250 at Rodes Rd.

The state legislators who represent the Charlottesville area have been invited to attend the annual League of Women Voters Legislative Luncheon which will be held this year at The Greencroft Club, on Wednesday, March 19, at noon. In addition to the new venue, and in contrast to our previous tradition of holding this annual luncheon before the Legislature opens, this will be a post-Legislative wrap-up as our local representatives report on the 2014 General Assembly session which will have just completed in Richmond. As always, following their reports, they will respond to audience questions. Reservation deadline is Friday, March 14.

**See page 3 of this newsletter
 for reservation information.
 Invite a friend to join you!**

President's Message

Dear LWV CVA Members:

Just in case you missed it (and it should not be missed), reprinted below from the Thursday, January 30, 2014, *The Daily Progress*, is a "Letter to the Editor" by local Leaguer **Gerry Kruger** (LWV CVA Community Engagement Director). Kerin Yates, President, LWV CVA

To the Editor:

Having been a teacher for almost 40 years and seeing how important good health and nutrition are to the educational experience, I am wholeheartedly in favor of Medicaid expansion.

Students who come from low-income families are constantly trying to keep up with their more affluent peers. Poor health goes with poor school attendance as well as with inadequate brain development.

Moreover, a child who does not feel well cannot make the effort needed to succeed. This is especially true if he or she has also not been afforded the same advantages that children from more privileged backgrounds enjoy. Children who have been read to, received necessary medical treatment, and eaten healthy food have a definite educational advantage over those who have not.

If our state becomes a society of the "haves" and "have nots," we all lose. By budgeting more money to help the poor, we may see actual savings down the road with more employed, contributing members of society.

Some people argue that the federal government cannot afford to give states the Medicaid expansion money it is promising and that the state cannot afford to pick up this expense once federal aid is no longer there. This negative point of view gets us nowhere.

Yes, we can do what we've always done and ignore the needs of the less fortunate, but the most successful people are willing to try something new even if some risk exists. I think the reward of a better educated and healthy citizenry is worth the gamble.

I recently read that a new photo ID card will be provided to voters for free even though voter fraud is not and has never been a problem in Virginia. Photo ID laws usually result in the poor and elderly not voting. It is unconscionable that we are willing to go to such an unnecessary expense for something that actually makes elections less democratic and yet cannot afford to extend health care to those in need. Once again, we are saying to the poor, "You're not important. You don't count."

I ask all of those opposed to Medicare expansion to reconsider your position. You say we can't afford it. I say we cannot afford to do without it.

Geraldine Kruger

Albemarle County

"Lunch with the Legislators: Post-Assembly Wrap-up"

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

The Greencroft Club, Rodes Rd.

Registration at 11:30 am

Luncheon/Program begins at Noon

Join us for the annual get-together with our local state legislators. At this time State Senators **Thomas Garrett (22nd District)**, **Emmett Hanger (24th)** and **Creigh Deeds (25th)**; and our Delegates: **Dickie Bell (20th)**, **Steve Landes (25th)** **Peter Farrell (56th)**, **David Toscano (57th)**, **Rob Bell (58th)**, **Matt Fariss (59th)** and **Lee Ware (65th)** have been invited to attend, and this is a great opportunity to hear what they have to say about the just completed legislative session in Richmond, as well as query them with informed questions while you enjoy a delicious lunch.

This year's luncheon (\$30 per plate) will be held at **The Greencroft Club** just off of Route 250. From town, follow Route 250 west (Ivy Road), for approximately 5 miles, and turn left onto Rodes Road..

Menu is:

Greencroft Chicken sautéed with asparagus tips and cherry tomatoes in a chardonnay basil butter sauce served with chive smashed Yukon gold and seasonal vegetables.
Served with house salad, rolls, iced tea or coffee, and dessert.

OR

Vegetarian option: Greencroft Farm Salad fresh local greens, Caromont Farm cream chevre, Spring Gate Farms poached egg, golden beets, garden tomato and pickled red onion served with Mayer lemon vinaigrette.
Served with rolls, iced tea or coffee, and dessert.

Email lww@lww.avenue.org or call 970-1707 by noon on **Friday, March 14** to make reservations for luncheon.

Cost of Lunch: \$30. Make your check out to the LWV and mail it to the office (use form below):

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

Yes, I plan to attend the Legislative Luncheon on Wednesday, March 19, at The Greencroft Club.

Enclosed is \$30 per plate for reservations for (indicate vegetarian option if desired):

Name(s) _____

Telephone _____

Telephone _____

Telephone _____

**A Day to Experience Our Democracy...
Women's Legislative Roundtable on
League Lobby Day in Richmond**
by Kerin Yates, President, LWV CVA

On February 5, 2014, I was able to attend the Women's Legislative Roundtable (WRT) on League Lobby Day. The room in the General Assembly Building was filled to overflowing with Leaguers, ERA supporters, and NOW members, as Anne Sterling, LWV VA president, moderated the appearance of over 10 legislators who decided that speaking to this group on their bills/work on this day was important. (Link to LWV VA report: http://lwy-va.org/files/wlrt_2014-02-05_report_glaizer.pdf)

Following this event one was free to visit the offices of the legislators, which I did on behalf of our League. I managed to stop by the offices of Rob Bell, Dickie Bell, David Toscano, Matthew Fariss, Lee Ware, and Steven Landes and spoke usually with their administrative assistants to remind them of our presence and our interest in Medicaid expansion and Redistricting legislation. At noon League members assembled in either the House or Senate galleries and were recognized by those chambers.

As I sat in the General Assembly building cafeteria with my morning coffee and later when I walked the halls looking for legislator's offices, it occurred to me how wonderful this was. Here were you, me, and our neighbors meeting to discuss how we shall live together. Here was Democracy.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit on Capitol Hill when our Legislature is in session, I recommend you do so. Thanks to the League, I have.

There is still time this year. They do not adjourn until March 8.

**Welcome New LWV CVA
Members!**

We are pleased to welcome:

**Evelyn T. Harris
Peggy Gilges**

and look forward to meeting them
at upcoming events.

Finance Drive is Launched!

Kudos to all the wonderful Leaguers below who spent a cold Saturday morning on January 25, at the warm home of **Carol Hogg**, working assembly-line style to get the finance drive letters stuffed along with writing personal notes on each letter:

Kerin Yates, Marge Cox, Michele Kellermann, Jeanne Fradianni, Pat Hurst, Deborah Brooks, Molly O'Brien, and Gerry Kruger.

Especial thanks to Finance Chair, **Carol Hogg**, for organizing and hosting the morning and feeding us such delightful goodies!

If you haven't already made your donation (and remember we send our request only once a year), please consider responding with a check made out to LWV CVA, indicating "Operating Fund" or "Education Fund." We put every penny we receive to good use fulfilling the mission of the League of Women Voters.

**Mail your check to:
League of Women Voters
1932 Arlington Blvd. #111
Charlottesville, VA 22903-1560**

International Relations /Federal Government Committee News

by Gerry Kruger

The January 22 meeting of the International Relations/Federal Government Committee was cancelled due to inclement weather, and **Jean Minehart** both hosted and reported at our February 12 meeting. **Her presentation on Cuba reminded us that it has been 54 years since the Cuban Revolution that ousted Batista.** During this time Cuba's former prosperity has deteriorated to the point that few people can afford to buy a house or car. The average person would have to spend his lifetime earnings on a car. There are more bikes than cars in Cuba today, and they must import 80% of their food.

The year 1991 was the end of Soviet support for Cuba. At that time people in prisons lived better than most Cubans. Even the highly educated have little income. It's possible for a street hawker to make more than a surgeon. Senior citizens' pensions are about six dollars a month. Tourism is the primary source of Cuba's income. They have made over five billion dollars on tourism. Prostitution and drugs are as rampant as they were during Batista's rule.

There is much speculation about what will become of Cuba when Fidel Castro and his brother Raul are no longer living or young enough to remain in power. It is said Cuba may go the way of one of three countries: North Korea--a young man takes over; Afghanistan--a tropical Taliban presides; or Russia--a Putin comes in from the army.

Marge Cox followed Jean with **the causes and results of global warming and rising seas.** Fifty percent of light from the sun gets to the earth's surface. Ninety percent of this light returns and is re-radiated in all directions. Since part of this re-radiation is back to the earth, the result is warmer average surface temperatures or the greenhouse effect. This was originally caused by volcanic activity. The greenhouse effect is necessary for life on earth, but there can be too much of a good thing. When humans burn fossil fuels and fill the atmosphere with gases such as carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, or use aerosols that destroy the ozone layer, on average the earth will be warmer, some parts wetter and some parts drier

As things get warmer, there is more water vapor and more rain and snow. At the same time, the ice pack in North America is decreasing. Among the results of global warming are more heat in cities, changes in the water supply, flash floods, drought, species losses, less frequent cold days and frost and more frequent and hot days and hot nights. By 2020, Africa rains are expected to have decreased by 50%.

Due to our fossil fuel driven civilization releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, in the last 100 years the earth has warmed one degree Fahrenheit, an unusual amount in our planet's history. When covered with 3,000 ft of ice, the earth was only 9 degrees colder. By 2050, 250 million people will be affected by global warming. As of now 136 cities are at risk. 40 million people are in those cities now, and three trillion dollars in assets are at risk.

After so much talk of the weather, we left Jean's to await the snow storm predicted to be a severe one. Hopefully the weather will improve by our next meeting. See page 6 of this newsletter for the time, date, and place.



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

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Feb 26, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Becky Thomas, 2308 Glen Court, 973-5054	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228
Wednesdays, Jan. 22, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12	LWV VA Women's Legislative Roundtable	Richmond - Capitol Bldg.	For further information, go to LWV VA website
Tues., March 4, Noon - 1:15 pm	LWV CVA Community Dialogue: "Child Care - The Cost, the Quality, the Consequences?"	Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, 4th St., Classroom A	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Tues., March 11, 4 to 6 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., March 12, 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., March 19, Noon	Luncheon with the Legislators: Post-Assembly Wrap-up. Reservations necessary - due March 14	The Greencroft Club, Rodes Rd., Rte. 250 west of Charlottesville	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., March 19, 4:30 to 6 pm	Natural Resources Committee meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Sat., March 22, 11:00 am - 3 pm	LWV VA "Making Democracy Work" Awards Luncheon	Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Henrico, VA	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
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