



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
May 2014

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2014 LWV CVA May Annual Meeting

Wednesday Luncheon

May 14, Noon

Member/Guest Social at 11:30 am

The Greencroft Club, 575 Rodes Dr., Charlottesville

Guest Speaker: Kat Imhoff, President & CEO,

The Montpelier Foundation

"Dolley and the Politics of Hospitality"



The 2014 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area will take place on Wednesday, May 14, at the Greencroft Club. **(See pages 3-4 of this newsletter for program and luncheon reservations.)** Our guest speaker, **Kat Imhoff**, President & CEO of The Montpelier Foundation, will regale us with stories of the famous Mrs. Madison of Virginia: **"Dolley and the Politics of Hospitality."**

For more about Ms. Imhoff, see next page

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

Continued from front page

In her role as CEO, Ms. Imhoff oversees all aspects of The Montpelier Foundation and the strategic integration with The Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution to ensure participation in civic dialogue, help improve the public's understanding of the founding principles of the United States, and deepen their understanding of, and participation in, our democracy. All of which furthers the mission to inspire the continued public engagement with American constitutional self-government.

For more than 30 years, Ms. Imhoff has devoted her career to preservation, conservation and planning to inspire the next generation of engaged citizens. She has served as the Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance of Virginia, Vice President for Conservation and Development of the Piedmont Environmental Council, and the Executive Director of the Commission on Population Growth and Development, a thirty-three member legislative study commission established by the Virginia General Assembly to promote growth management legislation.

Prior to joining Montpelier in January 2013, Ms. Imhoff was the State Director for The Nature Conservancy in Montana. For five years, she led a successful effort to conserve an ecologically intact unit of 310,000 acres of land in the Northern Rockies. This land now completes a corridor of environmental protection extending across Montana from Wyoming to Canada.

Before her key leadership role at The Nature Conservancy, she served as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (TJF) which owns and operates Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, also a World Heritage site.

Her achievements while at TJF included the planning and design of a 43,000 square foot LEED certified visitor center and administrative complex for Monticello, management of more than 2,300 acres, and view shed protection. She also led the national Bicentennial Lewis and Clark Trail Commemoration.

This continuing dedication to preservation has been recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Virginia Wildlife Federation, and the Piedmont Environmental Council. It also led to her gubernatorial appointment as chair of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the largest holder of easements in the United States. She also served on the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Ms. Imhoff will regale us at our Annual Meeting with a delightful rendition of stories about "Dolley and the Politics of Hospitality," so be sure to join us for luncheon on Wednesday, May 14, 11:30 am at The Greencroft Club. See next page for luncheon reservations.





LWV of the Charlottesville Area
Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 14, 2014
 Member/Guest Social: 11:30 am to Noon
 Luncheon at Noon
The Greencroft Club
575 Rodes Dr., Charlottesville

Please join us for Annual Meeting of the LWV of the Charlottesville area. Following our luncheon and the presentation of our guest speaker, Kat Imhoff, President & CEO, The Montpelier Foundation, we will hold our Annual Business Meeting to conduct member business for the coming fiscal year which begins July 1, 2014 (see next page of this newsletter for "Program.") The venue for this occasion is 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 Drive. **Social begins at 11:30 with cash bar, followed by luncheon at 12 noon promptly.**

Menu is: Served with rolls, iced tea or coffee, and dessert (Fresh Berries with Crème Anglaise)

Caramont Chicken: Caesar Salad and baked Caramont chicken breast stuffed with spinach and Caramont Farm chevre served with roasted red pepper coulis and lemon orzo;

or

Vegetarian option: Vegetarian Soup and Cyprus Salad: fresh local greens with roasted red peppers, red onions, kalamata olives, feta cheese & pepperoncini's with an Italian herb vinaigrette.

Cost: \$35 per person. To place a reservation, call (970-1707) or email the League office, lwv@lwv.avenue.org and indicate your menu choice. Caramont Chicken is assumed to be your choice unless you specify Vegetarian option. No substitutions on the day of the luncheon.

Reservation(s) must be received by Wednesday, May 7.

.....*Cut Here and Return with check*.....

Checks should be made out to The League of Women Voters and sent to:

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

Caramont Chicken is assumed to be your choice unless you specify Vegetarian option. No substitutions on the day of the luncheon.

Name(s) and meal choice(s) -

Amount enclosed: _____



2014 Annual Meeting Announcement
League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at The Greencroft Club,
Charlottesville

PROGRAM

Member/Guest Social 11:30 am to 12 noon (Cash Bar)
Luncheon and Presentation by Guest Speaker
Annual Business Meeting of Members (following speaker's
presentation):

The Annual Meeting of our League is the time when members vote on the business of the League for the coming fiscal year, 2014-15. We urge members to attend and

- Elect directors and officers for 2014-15
- Adopt the Operating Fund Budget for 2014-15

To facilitate your preparation to vote on these items, you will receive shortly in the mail the **Annual Meeting Packet**. It will contain information vital to the business meeting. ***Please remember to bring this packet with you to the meeting!***

President's Message:

Dear LWV CVA Members and Friends of the League,

Under the LWV US "Powering the Vote" banner [LWV US website: <http://www.lwv.org>]:

- The League fought against voter photo ID laws. In 2013 Virginia made photo ID a requirement (more on this--see below).
- The League fought against last minute registration purges. Virginia purged 30,000 names before the November election.
- The League fought for expanded early voting. North Carolina, among others but not Virginia, shortened the number of voting days.
- The League fought for campaign finance reform. The US Supreme Court came down on the side of Citizens United and then McCutcheon.

Those sentences can be depressing. Probably if I were responsible for women being given the right to vote or seeing that the civil rights amendment passed, they would never have seen the light of day. This is of course not because I do not fervently believe in them. I most certainly do. I say this because it is a question of individual perseverance on issues not quickly resolved. Thank goodness the League is not short on these qualities. Perseverance and resolution define League actions. Despite "defeats" we continue to work for ends that we through education and deliberative decision have adopted as League positions. As a body we come together to do what individually we may not be able to accomplish.

Now back to the item on Virginia voter photo ID. To bring you up to date: The regulation does not go into effect until July 1, 2014. The State Board of Elections (SBE) has been working on the details, the "who, what and where." Our League State Board has asked to be informed of all SBE meetings and has tried to be present at each one. It is presumed by those who follow the issue closely that the SBE thinks it best to get past the June primaries/elections before publicizing the mandate. This is to avoid confusion at these June elections. The League has concentrated on opposition to voter photo ID. Perhaps we need at this point to concentrate on how to assist those individuals affected. It is anticipated mainly minorities will be. Our efforts should begin as soon as the SBE has determined the "who, what and where." Time flies and one can only imagine the steps and research involved to make sure that what is required to cast one's vote is in place for the October registration deadline. Stay posted. Summer may be coming but it is not going to be all vacation.

I hope to greet each one of you at the Annual Meeting May 14 and would at anytime like to hear in what direction you wish our League would invest its energy.

Sincerely,

Kerin Yates

President, LWV CVA

Welcome New LWV CVA Members

Mary-Huffard Kegley

Shannon Joyce

Ann Dye

Dumisile Martin

Priscilla Randall

International Relations /Federal Government Committee News by Gerry Kruger

On April 9, the International Relations/Federal Government Committee enjoyed **Lois Sandy's hospitality and baking**. However, the reports that were presented, although timely and intriguing, didn't leave a good taste in our mouths!

First Liz Kutchai reported on a book by Alan Weisman, *Countdown: Our Last, Best Hope for a Future on Earth?* Weisman points out the dire consequences of over-population and the urgency to do something about it. He asks questions such as how many people can our planet hold? Is there any acceptable, nonviolent way to convince people that it is in their best interest to limit copies of themselves? What species or ecosystem is essential to our survival? If we are able to reduce our growing population, how do we design an economy for our shrinking population and then for a stable one? Weisman insists that either we control our own numbers or nature will do it for us.

In the past, death rates exceeded or equaled birth rates, but with modern medicine prolonging lives and the bounty of food that fertilizers make possible, we now have two biological contenders—the reproduction of humans versus the production of food. Birth control being frowned upon by some groups and cultures exacerbates the problem. If we adopted a one-child policy worldwide, in 100 years we'd be down to ¼ of the present population, 1.79 billion. This is considered a sustainable number.

It seems that the Chinese are one of the few peoples of the world that are willing to go to such lengths to reduce their population. This is because they experienced the worst famine in history where 40 million people starved to death.

Liz regaled us with a wide variety of anecdotes about methods used in several countries to decrease population growth, including horseback doctors in Iran that carried contraceptives to households, and Thai women being rewarded with pigs for not getting pregnant. The most effective deterrent for overpopulation is education.

Jane Foster presented two different points of view about NAFTA. *Bloomberg Businessweek* extolled NAFTA's benefits in regard to Mexico. It helped expand the middle class due to good jobs in manufacturing. Their economy, which once was based on agriculture, is now based on manufacturing. Mexico is also increasing its number of engineers. This could positively affect the US because illegal immigrants may not need to come here for better-paying jobs, and manufacturers in the US may not be able to move their plants to Mexico to take advantage of low wages.

On the other hand *Public Citizen* published an article on NAFTA in its newsletter entitled "A Tale of Broken Promises." Because of NAFTA the US trade deficit with both Mexico and Canada has increased. Companies have fired US workers and moved operations to Mexico, and it has caused downward pressure on wages in the US. It has also been devastating to the farmers and food service workers in Mexico. The article criticizes the Obama administration for trying to make more NAFTA's.

Rosalie Simari was able to provide some hope for the future with some predictions from *The Economist* for 2014. The forecast is that the Arab world will be better off. The Arab "awakening" forced change mainly for the better. The Muslim Brotherhood is now in retreat and numbers of Islamists are shrinking everywhere. Syria will "burn itself out" as the rivalry between jihadists and Islamists worsens, and Egypt must have parliamentary elections if it is to succeed as a democracy.

Please join us for lighter fare as our members search for more palatable topics in future meetings. See the Calendar on page 8 of this newsletter for May and June meeting times and places.



Mission: OneVirginia2021 advocates for a redistricting process that is fair, transparent and accountable to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

OneVirginia2021: Why Redistricting?

Every ten years, Virginia redraws the districts for state and federal legislatures. This process allows our government to adjust districts to accommodate growing and shifting populations, thus assuring that all voters have fair representation in the government. But fairness is compromised if the districts are manipulated to stack the deck in favor of one political party. In Virginia, the legislature has set district boundaries every ten years. And, the party in power runs the process. There are no good folks and bad folks here. Each party has been guilty of setting the boundaries to their advantage if they are in the majority when the ten year point arrives.

The current redistricting scheme had some bizarre outcomes; sitting legislators of the opposing party being “redistricted” out of office; districts being arranged so there are “safe” majorities of voters favorable to the party in power, districts with crazy boundaries that split logical communities and discourage voter engagement. And, most of all, partisan redistricting is a major factor in the polarization we see in the U.S. Congress and in the Virginia legislature. Fixing the redistricting process will not completely correct this polarization, but a fair, non-partisan approach will have a major impact.

As active citizens and members of the League we certainly know about gerrymandering. We have read, discussed, and bemoaned this for years. At this time in our state we have the opportunity to act to help eliminate this practice by joining together with OneVirginia2021: Virginians for Fair Redistricting. OneVirginia2021 is an effort to bring meaningful redistricting reform to our Commonwealth by Virginians advocating for an amendment to the Virginia constitution that will create a non-partisan, independent redistricting commission. Please read about the organization at [One Virginia2021.org](http://OneVirginia2021.org).

The LWV CVA Board has voted that our League join as a Charter Member (\$100 annually). Your League Board urges each one of you to also join as individuals or to make a contribution. Membership in OneVirginia2021 demonstrates your belief that districts belong to citizens and not to any legislator, interest group or political party. It means you are joining with other Virginians to stand for fair, non-partisan redistricting in our Commonwealth. (Please call Kerin Yates, 964-1840, for further information.)

The League at "Fridays After Five"

Our League will again participate in Charlottesville’s “Fridays After Five” at the Pavilion on the Downtown Mall. What participation means is volunteering as a group to man an assigned concession. For this we earn funds for the League. We are paid \$9 per hour for the number of volunteers they request. In addition to raising funds, volunteering to work one of the concessions is a fun social event and a venue for interacting with League members in a different setting.

WE NEED FOUR VOLUNTEERS for: June 20 - to serve sodas; and EIGHT VOLUNTEERS for: July 25 to man the beer/wine tent. Contact the League office, 970-1707, or email: lww@lww.avenue.org if you are able to volunteer for either (or both) of these dates.



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

LWV CVA
President
 Kerin Yates

Newsletter
Editor
 Michele Kellermann

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Tues., April 22, Noon	LWV CVA Community Dialogue: "Child Care - The Cost, the Quality, the Consequences"	Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, 4th St., Charlottesville	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., April 23, 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., May 14, Noon	LWV CVA Annual Meeting/Luncheon Guest Speaker: Kat Imhoff - "Dolley and the Politics of Hospitality"	The Greencroft Club, 575 Rodes Dr., Charlottesville	Complete info on program and registration/reservations in this newsletter, or contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., May 21, 4 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Wed., May 28, 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, 245-5228
Tues., June 3, 4 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Fri., June 6 - Tues., June 10	LWV US Convention 2014: "Power Our Voices - Our Votes!"	Dallas, Texas	For further information, go to: LWV US website
Wed., June 11, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Rosalie Simari, 107 Rowledge Pl, 295- 7325	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228
Fri., June 20, 5 - 9 pm	"Fridays After Five" - 4 volunteers needed to serve sodas	Charlottesville Downtown Mall	To volunteer, call the office, 970- 1707, or for further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., June 25, 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