





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

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*LWV CVA supports this important local event!*






**WHY**  
 Because it's your  
**RIGHT!**



Join the City of Charlottesville Office of Human Rights, the NAACP and the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center for a discussion on the new voter ID law and why it's important to exercise our right to vote. There will also be a showing of the PBS video "Freedom Summer".

**October 7, 2014**  
**6:00pm**  
**Jefferson School African American Heritage Center**

*This page is sponsored by Joan Jay of Loring Woodruff Real Estate Associates  
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# "Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport"

**Are you prepared to vote on Tuesday, November 4?**

**First, are you registered to vote?**

**Voter Registration Deadline is Tuesday, October 14.**

**Need to Register?**

In order to vote in Virginia, you must be registered. The deadline to register to vote is 21 days before most elections, and this year it is October 14, 2014. For specific information about who is eligible to register and vote in Virginia and how you can register to vote, please visit <http://sbe.virginia.gov/index.php/registration/how-to-register/>.

**Already Registered but Moved or Changed Your Name?**

If you are already registered but have moved or changed your name, then you need to update your registration. You may become ineligible to vote if you move and do not update your registration – even if you are registered. The deadline to update your registration is the same as that for registering to vote.

**Need to Check your Registration?**

You can check your voter registration status at <https://www.voterinfo.sbe.virginia.gov/PublicSite/Public/FT2/PublicLookup.aspx?Link=Registration> to see if you need to register to vote or to update your registration. Or use the League website: [Vote411](http://Vote411)

**Need an Application?**

There are several ways to register to vote or update your voter registration:

- Information and registration forms for persons living overseas or in the military are available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).
- Virginia residents may register online at <https://www.vote.virginia.gov/>
- Mail in applications are available at <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Files/Forms/VoterForms/VoterRegistrationApplication.pdf>, as well as all Jefferson Madison libraries and post offices. DMV and other agencies also have paper applications. A full listing of agencies that have paper applications is available at <http://sbe.virginia.gov/index.php/registration/how-to-register/>.
- In person at any General Registrar's office. See next pages for area Registrar offices/phone numbers.

**You can check your voter registration status and polling place at the Department of Elections** [note: as of July 1, the State Board of Elections became the Department of Elections] website, [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov) or call (804) 864-8901 or (800) 552-9745, 8 am to 5 pm weekdays.

Or click on [City of Charlottesville](#) or [Albemarle County](#) or [Fluvanna County](#) for information about voter registration and elections in your area. Voters in Fluvanna County may also link, [Facts for Voters 2014](#). Other area registrars: [Greene County](#) - 434 985 5213; [Louisa County](#) - 540 967 3427; [Nelson County](#) - 434 263 4068.

## **Photo ID is required for voting in Virginia, effective July 1, 2014.**

Voters must present one of the following forms of identification when voting in person:

- Valid Virginia driver's license or DMV-issued photo identification card; your license expiration date must not be more than 12 months
- Valid Virginia DMV-issued Veteran's ID card
- Valid U.S. Passport
- Employee photo identification card issued by employer in the ordinary course of business
- Other government-issued photo ID card (issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth)
- Virginia College or university student photo ID card
- Virginia Voter Photo ID card issued by any local general registrar's office

If you don't have one of these forms of identification, please visit your local voter registration office for a free Voter ID card. You will fill out a short application, have your picture taken, and sign a digital signature pad. The card will be mailed directly to your address.



**National Voter Registration Day  
Tuesday, September 23. Local fire truck  
flew the American flag.**

**League Members volunteered to assist  
Charlottesville and Albemarle registrars  
with voter registration on the Downtown  
Mall. Pictured are (left to right): Karen  
Christiansen, Kerin Yates, Jake Washburne  
(Albemarle County Registrar); Michele  
Kellermann, and Susan Roberts.**

# What's on the 2014 Virginia Ballot:

## **Vote for Member, United States Senate**

Ed W. Gillespie - Republican  
Mark R. Warner - Democrat  
Robert C. Sarvis - Libertarian  
[Write-in]

## **Vote for Member, House of Representatives, 5th District**

Robert Hurt - Republican  
W. Lawrence Gaughan - Democrat  
Paul F. Jones - Independent  
Kenneth J. Hildebrandt - Independent Green  
[Write-in]

## **Proposed Constitutional Amendment: Article X. Taxation and Finance.**

### **Section 6-A. Property tax exemption for certain veterans and surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action.**

Ballot question: Shall Section 601 of Article X (Taxation and Finance) of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to exempt from taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any member of the armed forces of the United States who was killed in action, where the surviving spouse occupies the real property as his or her principal place of resident and has not remarried?

### **Explanation of Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

The proposed amendment would authorize the General Assembly to exempt from taxation the real property of any surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who was killed in action, as determined by the US Department of Defense. The exemption would apply to the spouse's principal place of residence even if the surviving spouse moves to a new principal address within the Commonwealth. The amendment does not require the surviving spouse to have been residing in the Commonwealth at the time the veteran was killed in action. The exemption would end if the spouse remarries.

A "yes" vote will make effective legislation exempting from real property taxation (real estate tax) the principal residence of the surviving spouse of any member of the US armed forces who was killed in action.

A "no" vote will leave the Constitution unchanged.

To read "Pro and Con Arguments" for this proposed amendment and for information about the candidates (voter's guide), be sure to check out the League's website for elections: [Vote411](#). After you enter your own street address, the website will take you to the link, "Show My Races." Click on this link and you will have a personalized page for the races for your voting precinct as well as information about the proposed constitutional amendment.

# Who Can Vote Absentee?

## Valid reasons for voting absentee include:

- Students at institutions of higher learning and their spouses
- Absent for business, personal business, or vacation
- Unable to go to the polls due to physical disability, illness or pregnancy
- Primary caretaker of ill or disabled family member
- Religious obligations that preclude in-person voting at the polls
- Working (or commuting) 11 of the 13 hours the polls are open (between 6:00 am and 7:00 p.m.)
- First responder (law enforcement, fire fighter, emergency technician, search and rescue)
- Awaiting trial and under confinement
- Confined for misdemeanor convictions
- Serving as an electoral board member, registrar, election official, or voting machine custodian
- Active duty uniformed services or merchant marine personnel and their dependents
- Temporarily residing outside of U.S.
- Regularly employed outside the U.S. and dependents
- Authorized representative of a candidate or party inside the polling place

Absentee ballots are now available for the November 4 election.

[Download a Virginia Absentee Ballot Application](#). Or request a ballot be mailed to you by contacting your local registrar's office. **October 28, 2014 (5 pm) is the date by which applications for ballots to be mailed must be received by the Registrar.**

**You may also vote by absentee ballot IN PERSON at your local Voter Registration office.**

Your Registrar's office is open daily as well as the two Saturdays prior to a November General election for in-person voting. Check your Voter Registration office below for exact times.

Albemarle County: 5th Street County Office Building, 434 972-4173.

Charlottesville City: 120 7th St. NE, Rm 122, 434 970-3250

Fluvanna County: 211 Main St., Palmyra, 434 589-3693

Greene County: 32 Stanard St., Stanardsville, 434 985-5213

Louisa County: 1 Woolfolk Av., Louisa, 540 967-3427

Nelson County: 434 263-4068

**Last date to vote by absentee ballot in person at the Office of Voter Registration (your local registrar's office): Saturday, November 1, 5 pm.**

**2014-15 LWV CVA Membership Directories** have been mailed to members. If you have not received yours, please call the office, 970-1707. Please note: Jean Minehart's email address is: [jbminehart@gmail.com](mailto:jbminehart@gmail.com)

## **2014 Election Voter Service Report** by Dena Imlay, LWV CVA Voter Service Chair

About 150,000 Virginians may lack proper ID to vote. LWV CVA is making a concerted effort to turn that around. At every turn we are publicizing voter information and registering voters.

Information on the 5th Congressional District race is scheduled to be put on the [VOTE411](#) website. We had been waiting for responses from the Green Party candidate, Ken Hildebrandt, and incumbent Robert Hurt, with no response at all after repeated overtures. (We are asked to say "candidate has not responded yet".)

**October 4:** Nelson County voter registration will be offered in Lovingston at the Food Lion 10 am - 2 pm.

**October 7:** LWV CVA and the City Registrar will conduct a voter registration drive in the evening at the Jefferson School.

**October 13:** LWV VA is co-sponsoring with AARP a debate between the U.S. Senate candidates, Mark Warner and Ed Gillespie, at 7 pm. CBS and PBS will carry the program and there will be live streaming to the Charlottesville area. Go to the LWV VA website for information about this debate: [lww-va.org](http://lww-va.org)

Opportunities for participating in voter registration events are available. Please contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651, or Kerin Yates, 964-1840.

### **LEAGUE ENJOYS MEDIA BLITZ** by Gerry Kruger, LWV CVA Community Engagement Director

The League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area is becoming a hot item with the local media! First *The Daily Progress* printed our news release about the Community Dialogue on September 2 with the three local registrars from Charlottesville, Fluvanna, and Albemarle. Next Channel 29 News interviewed Community Engagement Director **Gerry Kruger** about it. The interview aired early in the morning on the day of our event.

Channel 19 showed up at the Community Dialogue to interview our president **Kerin Yates**, voter service chair **Dena Imlay**, and **Gerry Kruger** about the new photo ID law, which places an added and unnecessary burden on the poor and elderly.

*The Daily Progress* added excellent coverage of the Community Dialogue on September 3, and as a result of all the publicity, Marcello Rolando of radio talk show *Charlottesville This Week* (CTW) interviewed **Dena Imlay**. This 20-minute interview aired on Sunday, September 21. A second interview with Dena Imlay and **Gerry Kruger** on National Voter Registration Day (September 23) aired on September 28.

**To hear the CTW interviews visit their website and scroll down to 9/21/14 and 9/28/14 podcasts:**

<http://www.thereasonablevoice.com/#!ctw/c1fyh>

This proves once again that our core beliefs about democracy, the importance of an informed electorate, and getting out the vote are worthwhile and respected by the media and the public. Take pride in your membership and support of the League of Women Voters!



A view of the New Ragged Mountain Reservoir taken from the new earthen dam. The brown line is part of the old dam.

## League Recognized at the Dam Dedication

by Linda Goodling, LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee

The League of Women Voters received high praise from several officials and speakers at the dedication of the New Ragged Mountain dam on September 18th. The Chairman of the Board of the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, the Chair of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, and the Executive director of RWSA, all formally thanked the League for its years of efforts on behalf of an adequate water supply for our city and county. Liz Palmer was singled out for special appreciation while League members Linda Goodling, Jane Dittmar and Sally Thomas, along with Liz, joined the ribbon cutting ceremony. The Natural Resource Committee, especially Liz and Sally, put in countless hours researching and attending meetings to help bring about this best possible plan.

Treva Cromwell would have been very proud of her little flock and what we've accomplished. In years past, she was chair of the Rivanna Authority as was another of our members, Jack Marshall. As a matter of fact, The League took part in a discussion of our water supply in April of 1999 and published a booklet, [Water in the New Millennium](#), which outlined our concerns for balancing the needs of our citizens and the environment. Fifteen years later, we are celebrating the conclusion of one part of that discussion. (We still have the issue of how to monitor our groundwater and wells.)

The dam's statistics are impressive and the view was beautiful. Almost all the bare earth will be under water as the reservoir fills. It's an earthen dam built of dirt from within the bowl of the reservoir. Because most of the materials were used from the site, it saved the wear and tear of heavy materials being trucked in. A circumferential walking trail will open in October so our members and everyone can go to see it. The trail eventually will include a floating bridge and provide a circular hike, but the bridge won't be installed until the water level is higher. The lake will also be available for fishing and non- gasoline

A very special touch to the day occurred when a bald eagle soared overhead during the ceremony.

The **LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee** continues its review of the Comprehensive Plan. New members are always welcome to committee meetings which are held on the third Wednesday, at 4:30 pm, at the Virginia National Bank Building, on Arlington Blvd. Call Linda Goodling for further information, 296-9865.

## *International Relations /Federal Government Committee News by Gerry Kruger*

On August 13 **Flora Patterson's** cheery home was a stark contrast to **Natalie Testa's** report on Rwanda 20 years after the brutal killings of the Tutsi and Hutu tribes. There were house-to-house and face-to-face killings that were even condoned by the church leaders. Almost a million Rwandans were killed.

Their leader Paul Kagame, who is credited with stopping the killing, is still in power. Rwandans are not allowed to mention their tribes again. Every April they go to mass graves and light candles which burn for 100 days. They meet in the largest stadium in the country and leaders from all over the world attend. There they re-enact the history of the country.

As a result of the killings, the population is 70% women, which means Rwanda now has predominantly female leadership. Women are also heavily involved in the judicial system. According to David Brooks they are doing better than the people around them. Their economy is growing. The per capita income has tripled.

Rwandans don't have the freedom we have in the United States, and they have been criticized concerning human rights. If people in a village are told they must build a school, they must do so or suffer punishment. For example, their chief may be humiliated in public. Still, the people of Rwanda vow to stay there, and they welcome peacekeepers.

Rosalie Simari's report on new technology emerging in Kenya and Tanzania was uplifting after Rwanda's dark history. The people of both African countries can pay for almost anything with their smart phones. 16% use "mobile money," whereas only 5% of Americans do so. This has evolved due to a lack of regulation. Since they are not using banks, this practice doesn't fall under regulatory laws.

**Gerry Kruger's** home was the setting for the International Relations/Federal Government Committee meeting on August 27. **Susan Roberts** explained the roller coaster ride of Shinzo Abe, Japan's embattled prime minister. His plan to revitalize Japan's economy, better known as "Abenomics," has resulted in 15 years of stagnation and inflation. Japan's economy thus far in 2014 is shrinking by 6.8%, which is far more serious than expected. Although companies are doing well, Japan's public debt is the largest in the world. Sales taxes have increased from five percent to eight per cent and next year will increase to ten per cent.

At the heart of Japan's economic problem is lack of business and the shrinking working age population. The future looks less than promising with wages continuing to fall. Legalizing casino gambling is even being considered although conservatives are against it. Also Abe wants Japan, which has a history of xenophobia, to be more welcoming to immigrants.

It seems that Abe does not fare much better with the international community. Last year he made a visit to the controversial Yasukuni War Shrine, which includes the names of convicted war criminals. China, Korea, and the US all condemned his visit. Also Japan is working on revising their constitution to allow armed forces for self-defense. Some in the United States see this as a smoke screen that they may use to separate themselves from us as allies. While the US public is ambivalent about Japan's interest in militarization, Washington supports it. China is increasingly suspicious of it and is expanding its defense spending by double digits.

On the other hand, Abe is traveling extensively in search of partners for technology, but he is not talking to China or Korea. China has stated that his visit to the shrine closed the door on possible talks, and Japan's investments in China have decreased.

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**Rosalie Simari** continues to keep us informed on the latest technology. This time she touted the prospects of improving batteries so that they can store energy for longer periods of time. If energy storage time in batteries can be improved, we can lower the demand for fossil fuels and make technology more accessible to undeveloped countries. It is predicted that by 2025 more people will not be using electricity. This could also impact our economy.

**Jean Minehart** reported that Europe is changing its tune regarding climate regulations. Having formerly led the drive for more climate rules, now they are considering easing regulations due to a troubled economy. The European Union has proposed an end to some regulations. Most companies employ some green practices because of some sort of savings, but it's becoming a matter of energy vs. economy. The United Kingdom, which welcomed the EU proposals, is even considering fracking.

**Carol Jackson's** home with its enchanting mountaintop views served as our venue for the September 10th meeting. **Pat Hurst** presented research by French economist Thomas Piketty, who studies wealth and income inequality. Piketty believes the disparity between rich and poor is increasing and offers charts and graphs that prove it.

He asserts that wealth skyrockets because it is inherited and invested while wages and income for those that work for a living remain stagnant. When the rate of return on capital exceeds economic growth, inequality grows because profits and investments grow faster than wages. Although Piketty thinks the only way to solve the problem of income inequality is a world-wide tax on wealth, he says this will never happen. He predicts that political policies will continue to concentrate wealth in the hands of the few, a situation that some think could even lead to a police state or severe uprising.

On the afternoon of President Obama's speech to the nation on his strategy for dealing with the Islamic State, **Deborah Brooks** outlined key reasons for its increasing threat to the Middle East and the world.

One reason for their amazing sweep to power is the funds they have amassed by selling illicit oil, robbing banks, and stealing antiquities. Also the densely populated countries of Syria and Iraq and the unguarded territory between them made it easier for them to slip into these countries. Then the fact that al-Maliki disbanded the group that provided protection in Iraq after the United States left allowed the terrorists to advance without much opposition. Deborah predicted that air strikes without putting boots on the ground would be a likely choice for our president. Her prediction was on target.

Want to become better informed about issues both here and abroad and better acquainted with your fellow League members at the same time? Join our committee as we delve deeply into current events and issues. See the back of this newsletter for the times and places we meet.

**Anne Linden**, our off-Board Social Policy Child Care specialist, is well known for her **involvement in Ukraine**. Anne has spent large parts of the past 22 years in Western Ukraine: as a Peace Corps volunteer for three years starting in November 1992, as a USAID subcontractor in 1996, as an ESL instructor in 2000, and as a presidential election observer in 2004. In October, 2008, Anne founded Ukraine Works Ltd, an organization working to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in Ukraine. Knowing of the work Anne does to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in Ukraine, Congressman Robert Hurt invited her to hear Ukrainian President Poroshenko address a joint session of Congress on September 18, 2014. Needless to say Anne accepted. Should you be interested in President Poroshenko's address, it can be accessed at <http://www.theguardian.com/world/petro-poroshenko>.



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**LWV CVA**  
**President**  
 Kerin Yates

**Newsletter**  
**Editor**  
 Michele Kellermann

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
<b>Tues., Oct. 7, 6 pm</b>	<b>"Why Vote? Because It Is Your Right!"</b>	<b>African American Heritage Center, Jefferson School</b>	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Oct. 8, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Liz Kutchai, 126 Bollingwood Rd., 296-0541	For further information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245-9806
<b>Mon., Oct. 13, 7 pm</b>	<b>"The People's Debate: Virginia Senate Seat with Mark Warner and Ed Gillespie"</b>	<b>Richmond; and broadcast on CBS and PBS locally.</b>	<b>For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840</b>
Tues., Oct. 14, 4 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Oct. 15, 4:30 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Wed., Oct. 22, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Deborah Brooks, 3080 Branham Pl., 295-7696	For further information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245-9806