



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

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## *2014 LWV CVA September Community Dialogue*

# "Voter, Are You ID Ready?"

**Presentations by**

**Sheri Iachetta, Registrar, Charlottesville**

**Jack Washburne, Registrar, Albemarle County**

**Joyce Pace, Registrar, Fluvanna County**

**Tuesday, September 2**

**Member/Guest "Meet and Greet" at 11:30 am**

**Program: Noon to 1:30 pm**

**New County Office Bldg., 5th Street, Room A**

Please join us for an informative meeting for all voters! Our **Community Dialogue meeting on Tuesday, September 2, at noon** (Member/Guest "Meet and Greet" at 11:30 am) will launch the 2014 Election season in our area.

Local registrars, Sheri Iachetta (City of Charlottesville), Jack Washburne (Albemarle County), and Joyce Pace (Fluvanna County), will present the latest information on the new photo ID law that went into effect July 1, 2014. They will explain how the law is being interpreted by the State Board of Elections [renamed Department of Elections as of July 1] and what it means for you the voter when you go to the polls to vote this November.

Further, they will present their plans for **National Voter Registration Day on September 23, 2014**. Ms. Iachetta has secured the Charlottesville Mall Pavilion for the day to do a big promotion. She expects to have a dozen or so laptops available for people to register online, as well as cameras to take photos for voters who don't have valid ID. There will be assistance in filling out absentee ballot applications, and just making people aware of the ballot information and the constitutional amendment on the ballot.

So join us in supporting our local registrars in our mission to educate and inform voters!

*This page is sponsored by Joan Jay of Loring Woodruff Real Estate Associates  
Phone: 906-1806 or Email: [joanjayrealtor@gmail.com](mailto:joanjayrealtor@gmail.com)*

## ***President's Message:***

Dear LWV CVA Members and Friends of the League,

September is for many organizations a “Here We Go Again Month” after less demanding summer weeks. Our League is one, but actually a great deal of work has been taking place affecting issues intimately associated with our mission. These include voting requirements, fair redistricting, the League’s National Convention, and summer meetings of our International Relations/Federal Government Committee and our Natural Resources Committee. Be sure to familiarize yourself by reading these topics in this newsletter.

In this “My Message” I would like in particular to call your attention to the new Voter Photo ID regulation. Our League along with other voting rights advocates lobbied long and hard against this. We were present at meeting after meeting of the Virginia State Legislature and then the State Board of Elections as they passed and defined this requirement. The League felt the photo ID requirement unnecessary and affected minorities and the elderly disproportionately. First we attempted to block the requirement of a photo ID altogether. When that failed, we then attempted to block the requirement that a photo ID whether it had expired for its intended use or not was a valid photo. Why? Many elderly people who no longer drive do not renew their driving license but use it for identification purposes. We again were not successful.

The Photo ID regulation was signed into law in March of 2013, to become effective July 1 of 2014 and was completed in its final current form on August 4, 2014. This has left the registrars and anyone actively participating in voter registration little time to educate our citizens about the requirement and little time for citizens to make sure they are able to comply. Thus our upcoming Community Dialogue meeting with local registrars from Albemarle County, City of Charlottesville, and Fluvanna County on September 2 is extremely important. All League members will find this meeting valuable and I encourage you to bring anyone you know that participates in voter registrations.

The current regulations as provided by the Virginia Department of Elections [note: As of July 1, the former State Board of Elections became the Department of Elections] can be found on our website <http://lww.avenue.org>, (click on "Voter and Election Information" on the home page menu), and at the following link at the DOE website: <http://sbe.virginia.gov/index.php/registration/how-to-register/> as well as the new regulations for voter identification: [Voter Identification Chart](#).

Bring your questions. Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, September 2, as we begin a busy League year. Meet and Greet at 11:30; program begins at Noon to 1:30 pm in the Albemarle County New Office Building, on 5th Street, Room A.

Sincerely,

***Kerin Yates***

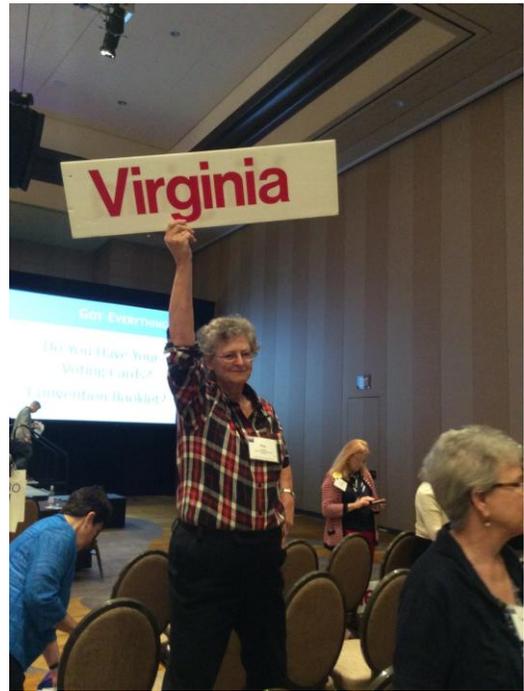
President, LWV CVA

# Report on the LWV US National Convention 2014

by Pat Hurst and Flo Marks

The League's 51<sup>st</sup> National Convention was held June 6-10 this year in Dallas, Texas. There were 650 delegates from around the country making this a very successful and energetic meeting. We were welcomed on the first day with our logo projected on the Omni Hotel, the convention center. At convention we re-elected Elisabeth MacNamara as president for a third term, passed the proposed 2014-2016 budget, amended the Bylaws, adopted national program for the biennium, heard from numerous interesting speakers, and spent time in workshops and caucuses on a variety of topics.

Attending from our local league were Pat Hurst and Flo Marks, who jointly submitted this report. There were 19 delegates from Virginia leagues. [Right photo: **Flo Marks raises the Virginia placard at Convention.**]



One of the most exciting things to occur at Convention was the floor nomination of Florida LWV President Deirdre Macnab, who ran on a platform of membership growth, diversity, innovation and inclusivity, to challenge Elisabeth MacNamara for the presidency of LWVUS. Macnab, who initially accepted a nomination from the LWVUS Nominating Committee for a seat on the 2014-16 national board, withdrew her candidacy after learning that the official slate did not include any minorities, young people or men. Instead, she launched her bid to run for the presidency from the Convention floor, saying the national leadership's lack of inclusivity and the stagnation of membership growth - now at historically low levels - is putting the future of the League of Women Voters at stake. After a spirited Q&A session for a lunchtime audience, the voting commenced. Elisabeth won the election with 422 votes to 193 for Deirdre, with a vote count of 615.

## Important Motions Approved

- (1) **Carbon Emissions** - The LWVUS should support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system.
- (2) **Felony Rights** - Be it resolved, we, the delegates to the 2014 Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to: Strongly advocate for passage of legislation that restores voting rights in federal elections to citizens with felony convictions who have been released from prison or who have been paroled or placed on probation; Use the resources of LWVUS to provide support to Leagues who are working to repeal state felon disenfranchisement laws.
- (3) **Per Member Payment (PMP)** - Motion to adopt a PMP rate of \$32 for the FY 2015-2016 [Note: It currently is \$31].
- (4) **Human Trafficking** - The LWVUS Board recommends a concurrence with the Human Trafficking position of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey as follows: The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing

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laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

(5) **American Democracy** - Motion to adopt a comprehensive three-part program combining study and review of key, specific structures of American democracy, consisting of:

- A study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, including constitutional conventions;
- A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of change since the Watergate reforms, in order to enhance member understanding of the new schemes and structures used to influence elections and erode protections against corruption in our political process, and to review possible responses to counter them in the current environment of rapid change; and
- A review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress, through the existing redistricting task force, for the purpose of developing action steps

### **Important Motions Defeated**

(1) **Living Wage** - A much-discussed motion for concurrence was the Kansas LWV's position on the Living Wage: "It is reasonable to expect government and for-profit businesses that receive tax incentives and/or other public funds to pay a living wage in order to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency. Other businesses should be encouraged to do likewise.

A living wage should provide sufficient income without government assistance, for food, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, health care, education, child care, and a small amount of discretionary income..."

Many delegates seemed to support the concept but disagreed with the details. A delegate pointed out that without government assistance an individual would need a minimum wage of \$22/hour. The vote on this motion was too close for a voice vote and was defeated by a card vote: Total votes cast = 471; Yes = 254; No = 214.

(2) **Economic Inequality** - A Motion to consider adoption of a study on Economic Inequality, which would identify the social and political impacts of economic inequality on our democracy and seek appropriate policy solutions, was also defeated. Many delegates supported this concept but seemed to feel that the motion was not well defined.

### **Caucuses**

There was an array of caucuses held in early morning and after dinner hours. They seemed to be well attended with topics such as Restoring Felon Voting Rights, Climate Change, The Affordable Care Act and Universal Healthcare, Ending Jim Crow in Alaska, Prison Gerrymandering, and Redistricting Reform. Particularly interesting was the caucus on School Choice.

The caucus on School Choice was particularly illuminating. Leagues in Florida, New York, Kansas, Washington D.C., Tennessee, and Minnesota presented results of studies in their states. Some interesting facts include:

- Charter goals are to improve instruction and close achievement gaps
- Charters are part of the public school system and paid for by taxpayer dollars
- Public funding follows the student to a Charter school
- 2.1 million students (4.25%) of public school students are in charters in 42 states

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- 39% of students in Washington DC attend charters
- Nationwide, average enrollment for charters is 336 and for traditional schools 677
- Stanford University's annual studies since 2009 have shown there is little difference in the academic performance of students attending charters versus traditional public schools, except for slightly higher performance in reading for African-American children from poor communities.

**New Leagues**

The convention recognized 10 new leagues formed throughout the United States. One is Virginia's own LWV of the Prince William Area.

**Looking Forward**

The next National Convention will be closer to home in June 2016 in Washington D.C. It is a wonderful experience to meet members from across our country, learn about political issues of the day, and to socialize with other Virginia leaguers. Mark your calendar!

**In Memoriam  
Jane Foster  
1924-2014**

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of **Jane Hart Brown Foster**, long-time active member of the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area. Jane rarely missed attending our Community Dialogues and Annual Meetings, as well as regularly attending and participating at the meetings of the International Relations/Federal Government Committee. In fact, she gave a report to this committee at the April 9 meeting on two different view of NAFTA.

Jane's commitment in support of voting rights for felons, as well as championing a living wage for University workers, was well known. Jane will be missed not only by the League, but by the entire Charlottesville community, as noted in a "Letter to the Editor" (The Daily Progress, July 19, 2014) by League member Dena Imlay,

"Jane's civic contributions for more than six decades are well-known to our community. Yet a remarkable fact that is not well-known is her staunch support of the Virginia Organizing Project. Jane routinely responded to action alerts, housed interns from all over the world in her home, and participated in many actions.

"Even in her senior years, every Friday at 4 p.m. for 107 weeks — except for when she was out of town visiting family — she stood up for a living wage. Standing on the street corner, rain or shine, with her indomitable spirit, this remarkable woman shared the story of race relations in our community that she knew so well. And so Jane Foster will be sorely missed, yet her legacy lives on."

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

The June 11 International Relations/Federal Government meeting at the home of Marge Cox began with **Flora Patterson's report on Europe's immigration crisis**, which grew exponentially with the Arab Spring revolutions. In 2011 refugees from Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt arrived in large numbers to European Union countries in Southern Europe. In 2013 there were 350,000 applications for asylum for Syrians. The refugees predominantly move by land to entry points in Europe and bring with them disease and crime. Smuggling is their primary business.

The country that is being hit the hardest is Greece because immigrants can easily slip through Turkey to Greece. With its already skyrocketing unemployment rate, there is no way they can handle the problems and expenses that go hand in hand with this huge influx. An added problem is that Muslims don't integrate with non-Muslims under Sharia Law.

Still some countries are fighting back and hoping to change the growing problem as unrest in Arab Spring countries continues. For example, Italy's migrants face fines and deportation, and aiding them is a punishable offense there. The European Union countries not affected to any extent by the flow of immigrants to Europe are those in Northern Europe such as Sweden and Finland.

Now a task force has been formed to manage the crisis in order to increase cooperation among the countries affected. They hope to establish an asylum system and remove the gray area that now exists between asylum seekers and refugees. They also propose having migrants apply for asylum before they leave their countries.

**Gerry Kruger followed with a report on the book, I AM MALALA**, written by the Pakistani girl who was shot by the Taliban in 2012, Malala Yousafzai. Malala was ten years old when the Taliban came to the Swat Valley in northern Pakistan in 2006. They didn't call themselves Taliban then, and their leader Fazlullah captivated the people with his daily and nightly sermons on the radio, calling himself an "Islamic reformer and interpreter of the Quran." Malala's father, a teacher who had schools in Swat, tried to warn their friends and neighbors that he was just fooling them and was no scholar, but many refused to listen, giving Fazlullah their life savings and allowing his men to burn their TV's, DVD's, and any possessions that he said brought on the wrath of God. Soon there were public floggings and alarming violence. Policemen were killed, so-called Islamic lawbreakers were killed and their bodies put on display in the town square, and finally schools were bombed.

Fazlullah insisted that girls should stay home and not attend school. Malala's father began to speak on the radio, saying what was happening in Swat was not about Islam. Then Malala began to do television interviews about girls dropping out of school because of the militancy and girls' rights. In January of 2012, she heard that the Taliban had named her as a person who needed to be killed for spreading secularism. She was shot as she rode home from school and miraculously recovered after many surgeries. She is now living in Birmingham, England, with her family and has started The Malala Fund to promote education for girls, and girls' rights, in countries around the world.

The IR/FG committee decided to meet during the rest of the summer despite smaller attendance. Look for times and places for the August/September meetings on the back of this newsletter.

## **Report of the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee** by Muriel Grimm

The Natural Resources Committee continues to follow the updating of the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan, particularly as it relates to water resources. We commented at Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings, met with county staff members, and provided written statements regarding the 2013-14 revisions of the plan. The Board of Supervisors is reviewing each chapter of the plan and expects to finish its review at the end of the year. At their June 4 meeting they discussed the Natural Resources section and the League concerns were raised once again.

In the final version of the plan we hope to see that some entity will have an overview of the activities of the several county departments that maintain different parts of our water systems. Without an overview, duplication of effort or serious omissions may occur. Also, we have suggested reestablishing an up-to-date, well-maintained database, recording quality and quantity of surface and ground water. This database is needed for informed decision making about any actions that might affect the county's water. Finally, we suggested expanding some references to education of citizens (especially those dependent on their own ground water supply) and cooperation with local organizations and other government agencies (federal, state, and local) to protect our water resources.

We are also concerned about the limited scope of the solid waste section of the Comprehensive Plan. To begin to address trash issues we held a League Community Dialogue Meeting last February. In addition to describing waste management in the Charlottesville area, speakers presented information about communities, both in the U.S. and around the world, that have adopted the "zero waste" concept. Zero waste is an effort to reuse and recycle solid waste so that nothing ends up in a landfill. Of even more interest is the related idea of using trash as a resource for economic growth. The Natural Resources Committee will continue the discussion by inviting more speakers on solid waste to the February 2015 Community Dialogue.

Join us for our regularly scheduled monthly meetings, the third Wednesday of the month, at the Virginia National Bank Building on Arlington Blvd. (at Emmet Street), beginning at 4:30 pm. Our next meeting is Wed. September 17. For more information, email Martha Levering: [eemie50@yahoo.com](mailto:eemie50@yahoo.com)

**A special note from the Natural Resources Committee:** Our Trash...We are still in it together..City Council of Charlottesville does consider waste handling to be a core government service.. Therefore, The City of Charlottesville has replaced its small recycling bins with 65 gallon capacity containers to encourage householders to tip the balance from trash to recycling. Along with the US Supreme Court, we agree that waste disposal is an important function of local government. Recycling and trash are and should be a government responsibility and service to our community.

### **"Facts for Voters for Fluvanna County"**

This popular booklet, provided by the LWV CVA Education Fund, was updated and published for 2014. League members Frances Schutz and Sharon Beeler distributed copies to the Fluvanna County Registrar, as well as County courts and government offices, the library, and the Fork Union Community Recreation Center.

**OneVirginia2021**, which advocates for "a redistricting process that is fair, transparent and accountable to the citizens of the Commonwealth," is seeking volunteers at the UVa vs Richmond football game on Saturday, Sept. 2, to gather signatures on a petition supporting redistricting. For more information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840.



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

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

**Meetings and Events for August/September 2014: *Mark Your Calendars Now!***

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Aug. 27, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Gerry Kruger, 989 Allendale Dr., 977-7617	For further information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245-9806
<b>Tues., Sept 2, Program begins at Noon</b>	<b>LWV CVA Community Dialogue: "Voter, Are You ID Ready?"</b>	<b>New County Office Bldg., 5th Street, Room A</b>	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Tues., Sept. 9, 4 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Sept.10, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Carol Jackson, 500 Crestwood Dr., #2501, 293-9766	For further information, contact Molly O'Brien, 245-9806
Wed., Sept. 17, 4:30 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virginia National Bank Bldg., Arlington Blvd.	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Tues., Sept. 23	National Voter Registration Day: Register to Vote; Get your Photo ID	Charlottesville Pavilion, Downtown Mall	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Sept. 24 , 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 Molly O'Brien, 245-9806