



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
August/September 2015

Office Phone and Fax:
(434) 970-1707

E-mail:
lww@lww.avenue.org

Visit Our Website:
lww.avenue.org

"This Is The League!"
Or
What Every Member Ought to Know about
Our League

Tuesday, September 1
11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Ivy Creek United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
674 Woodlands Road, Charlottesville

From Charlottesville, take the Earlysville Rd. and turn left onto
Woodlands at the reservoir. Go approximately 2 miles.

A new "League Year" is ready to begin, and it's time to catch up with each other and share our perceptions of the LWV today in an informal, congenial dialogue. For all of us, new members and long-time members, this is an opportunity to learn about important League programs locally, across the State, and nationally. Our *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* invites you to ***join fellow League members for a light luncheon provided by the Board*** in the beautifully renovated Fellowship Hall of the Ivy Creek Church, 674 Woodlands Road, Charlottesville.

This page is sponsored by Joan Jay of Loring Woodriff Real Estate Associates
Phone: (434) 906-1806 or Email: joanjayrealtor@gmail.com

2015-16 LWV CVA Board of Directors

ELECTED OFFICERS

President 2016

Kerin Yates

Vice President 2017

Sue Lewis

Secretary 2016

Gerry Yemen

Treasurer 2017

Rosalie Simari

Click on this link for 2015-16
[LWV CVA By-Laws](#)

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Community Engagement 2017

Gerry Kruger

Membership 2016

Susan Roberts

Voters Service 2017

Dena Imlay

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster 2016

Michele Kellermann

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Natural Resources 2015

Linda Goodling

Arrangements 2015

Sharon Beeler

International Relations/Federal Government 2015

Molly O'Brien
Natalie Testa

Social Policy 2015

Anne Linden

OFF BOARD SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Finance 2015

Frances Schutz , chair

Deborah Brooks

Rosali Simari , Treasurer -
ex-officio

Nominating Committee - 2015-16

Mimi Bender, chair

Natalie Testa

Lulu Williams

Membership, Susan
Roberts, ex-officio

Molly O'Brien, ex-officio

Mary Stamps White Committee

Sally Thomas, chair 2015

Dena Imlay 2018

Wayne Harbaugh, 2016

Rosalie Simari ,
Treasurer, ex-officio

Social Policy Committee

Anne Linden, Child Care

Mimi Bender, Health
Education and Services in
the School

2015 Elections: Tuesday, November 3

What is VOTE411?

VOTE411 is the website developed and maintained by the League of Women Voters of the United States Education Fund and is accessible with the following url: vote411.org. When you open the website, you can access voting information by entering your street, city, state, and zip. Once you insert this information, you can register to vote, or if you are already registered, you can check your poll location. Further, you can find out all election dates and other important deadlines, along with voter guide information on the local candidates, including any forums scheduled.

Included in this newsletter [see the article on page 4, **VOTE411 Uncovered!**] is the process each local League can follow to support VOTE411. Note: the questions for candidates on page 5 were prepared for VOTE411 by our LWV CVA.

Don't forget: Our LWV CVA Website will link you to all important area Voter and Election information on your computer or mobile phone. Go to: lww.avenue.org and click on Voter and Election Information.

LWV CVA Co-Sponsors Candidate Forum with Sierra Club

Sept. 24 at 7 pm

**Lane Auditorium, Albemarle
County Office Building, McIntire
Road**

The Sierra Club's Piedmont group is organizing a nonpartisan forum on environmental issues for the **Albemarle Board of Supervisors candidates** on **September 24** in Lane Auditorium, at **7 pm**. The LWV CVA will co-sponsor this event.

Want to talk to a real live person about any voter questions? Here are the LWV CVA area voter registrar office phone numbers:

- City of Charlottesville – 434 970 3250
- Albemarle County – 434 972 4173
- Fluvanna County - 434 589 3593
- Greene County - 434 985 5213
- Louisa County – 540 967 3427
- Nelson County – 434 263 4068

2015 Elections: Voting Deadlines

Last day to register to vote or update registration: October 13 by 5 pm.

Absentee Voting at your Voter Registration Office is available September 18 to October 30 during office hours—contact your local registrar's office.

Do you need an Absentee Ballot mailed to you? Your absentee application may be submitted NOW, and must be received no later than Tuesday, October 27 (5 pm). But don't delay—your voted ballot must be received by the registrar's office by election day or it cannot be counted.



VOTE411 Uncovered!

By Maggi Luca, Carol Noggle, and Lois Page, LWV-VA

[Ed. Note: The following article is taken from the Summer 2015 issue of the *LWV Virginia Voter*.]

Although VOTE411 has been around for several years now, many Virginia Leaguers still find it a mystery! Below we uncover VOTE411—read on!

According to the LWV website, VOTE411.org is a nationwide online network of electoral information that is made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). It is an innovative voter information resource that provides citizens across the country with nonpartisan educational information and addresses the issues foremost in the minds of American voters. Also available are early voting options, absentee ballot information, and poll locations.

The online voters' guides have candidate information and answers to locally-generated questions that can also be downloaded and sent to print media. The process works something like this:

- 1) Leagues wishing to participate must sign up with LWVUS. An invoice is sent to the local League, but LWV-VA has agreed to cover the costs of any coverage requested by local Leagues. All local Leagues are already covered for candidates for their General Assembly races. Prince William Area, Richmond Area, and Fairfax Area Leagues have requested coverage for local races as well, and we have paid for that. We have heard of other local leagues who wish to be added. Any local League that is willing to take on local races as well should let LWV-VA Voter Service Director Maggi Luca know by August 31.
- 2) Local leagues will determine by going to the www.elections.virginia.gov who the candidates are for their area, at the very least their local candidates for the General Assembly.
- 3) Send these candidates' names, contact information, office, and the questions you have decided to ask them, two are provided by the state Board to VOTE411. [See page 6 for questions prepared by the LWV CVA.]
- 4) Prepare a letter of invitation to participate. Include how many characters (not words) each candidate may have for each question and explain about the character limit and how to calculate it. Contact Carol Noggle cnogg@comcast.net for a sample letter to the candidates. Send this to VOTE 411.
- 5) When the candidates receive your email invitation directly from VOTE411, they are told how to respond. The message includes the questions and a link to VOTE411 where they enter everything--name, bio, website URL, their headshot photo, and the answers to the questions. It also includes an email and phone number for any questions the candidate may have.

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VOTE411 UnCovered! – Continued from previous page

6) When the candidate responds you will see their response on the site. You will check the response and send another message to the candidate if something needs to be adjusted. We hope that all candidates will participate.

7) You can also send a reminder email to the candidates. When you are ready to go public with the guide online, you should notify the candidates first so that they can see what VOTE411 will look like for the public.

8) If your League has chosen to cover local races, you will need to agree on questions for those candidates as well and go through the same process.

9) Remember that you can download all this information to a Voters' Guide for print media. Downloading the Voter Guide is not hard -- once you know how to do it, of course. There is a widget for posting wherever you want – including on Facebook. Help is a phone call away!

10) PUBLICIZE!! All this work is for nothing if no one uses it. And remember, younger voters are used to getting all their information online. And we want their attention. Some ideas for publicizing:

- Add a link to VOTE411 with directions for use to your Facebook page. Don't have a Facebook page? Someone will help you set one up. It's easy!
- Charlottesville has arranged to have a VOTE411 banner across the main street [Market Street in front of Central Library];
- Write letters to the Editor of local papers;
- Put directions on your websites;
- Mention it frequently at any candidate events (and while you are at it, ask people wanting more info to sign up for League emails);
- Print up some business cards with VOTE411 address and your League name and website to hand out wherever you can;
- Issue press releases;
- Make Public Service Announcements; and
- Use ideas of your own creation (send us your ideas).

Voter's Guide Questions Prepared for LWV CVA Area Candidates

The following questions were prepared by the LWV CVA Board of Directors at their July 1 meeting to be submitted to VOTE411, the LWV US website for voting and election information. The questions will be used for Virginia House of Delegates and State Senate candidates:

1. What measures would you support to increase transparency in voting at the subcommittee and committee levels of the Virginia General Assembly?
2. What measures will you support to continue protection for the Chesapeake Bay watershed?
3. What measures will you support to increase funding for pre-Kindergarten education?
4. How would you strengthen ethics reform legislation in Virginia?

International Relations /Federal Government Committee News

by Gerry Kruger

On June 24 the International Relations/Federal Government Committee was treated to **Lois Sandy's** hospitality and views of the Southwest Mountains from her living room. **Marge Cox's** report on Russia was entitled "Russia's Global News Network." It detailed the widespread effect of the Russian government's control on the news.

Putin's emphasis on the economy and investing in oil along with getting rid of the oligarchs that kept the poor from getting money has resulted in per capita income increasing from \$1300 in 1990 to \$14,600 today. However, this prosperity comes at great cost. Putin's intolerance for any and all opposition to his government is similar to Stalin's. He even uses the same rhetoric as Stalin did. He refers to those who criticize the government as "national traitors."

In fact, since 1972, 36 journalists have been murdered for speaking or writing against the government. Boris Nemtsov, a liberal politician and critic of Vladimir Putin and his war in Ukraine, was planning to write an expose when he was assassinated on February 21, 2015. Although Putin has not been credited with involvement in the murder, it is likely that his lieutenants were responsible.

Propaganda and suppression have successfully molded public opinion. The primary Russian TV network is "RT International" (formerly "Russia Today"). It transmits global news and has enormous reach. One and one half billion people have viewed it. A sophisticated propaganda machine, it is the most powerful arm of Putin's government, and its anti-American propaganda has increased tremendously in the last 3 or 4 years.

81% of the people have negative feelings toward the United States. 71% think the European Union is terrible.

Maggie Hoover invited us to her home on the lake for our July 22 meeting. Her report on Cuba was embellished by the delicious Cuban foods she served us. Cuba has one of the best health systems in the world and very little crime, but has not kept pace with technology. Only 5% are connected to the Internet.

Since the early sixties, the relationship between the U.S. and Cuba has sharply declined, and Communism has been its form of government. Cuba's people have endured a Spartan standard of living and substandard economy as result of sanctions and embargos. In 1975 the Organization of American States lifted its sanctions against Cuba, but the U.S. maintained its own sanctions.

In February 2008 Fidel Castro resigned as President, and his brother Raul Castro was declared President. Now the U.S. and Cuba are restoring their relationship. John Kerry will be the first U.S. Secretary of State to visit Cuba since 1945.

Today Cuba is beginning to build hotels for tourists to visit, and some other countries have established trade with Cuba and even have ports there. How all of this will work is uncertain.

Although Americans may again travel to Cuba, we are only allowed to visit for cultural enrichment. Visiting for pleasure is prohibited until Congress approves the lifting of the embargo that has been in effect for decades.

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International Relations/Federal Government Committee News
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Natattie Testa explained the inevitability of drones becoming ubiquitous in our society as we find more and more uses for them. They were first used by the military for observing borders and by police for search and seizure. But now drones are used for commercial purposes as well.

Drones can check on livestock, fertilize plants and kill weeds, which makes them a boon to agriculture. They can also be used for bridge inspections, deliveries of medicines and supplies. In Africa they are used to track poachers.

Movies, news, and sports events also use drones to capture spectacular views cheaply and safely. The commercial drone market has huge potential, but in the U.S. the FAA's regulations could diminish their progress. There is a 500-foot altitude limit, and only daytime flights are allowed. Also there is little money for testing. Other countries have different rules for different weight classes.

There will be only one IR/FG meeting in August. In September we will resume the two-meetings-a-month schedule. Join us as we explore issues and topics that are interesting and relevant to the League. See the back of this newsletter for dates and places.

**“Fridays After Five”
Six (6) Volunteers
Needed
To sell bottled beer
On
Friday, September
11
On the Downtown Mall
nTelos Pavilion
from 5 to 9 pm**

**We really need your help
manning this event as it is an
important fund-raiser for our
local LWV CVA! It's really fun!**

**Please let Kerin Yates know if you
are able to volunteer, 964-1840.**

**Rotary Club Needs Volunteers for
Pre-School Book Program**

The Rotary Club of Charlottesville has elected to sponsor **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** in the Charlottesville area. This is a program that mails each registered child a free age-appropriate book each month from birth to six years old. The program began in Tennessee, Dolly Parton's home state, and is now offered throughout Tennessee, where it has made a tremendous difference in the reading competency of children in that state. Sponsoring organizations must pay a specified amount and get volunteers to register the children. Ms. Parton's team takes care of book selection and mailing. Soon there will be a need for volunteers to help register children in our area. The League hopes to recruit volunteers for this. Look for more details in future newsletters.



League of Women Voters
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LWV CVA
President
 Kerin Yates

Newsletter
Editor
 Michele Kellermann

Meetings and Events for August/September 2015: *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Aug. 26., 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't Committee Meeting	Home of Natalie Testa, 70 Wildwood Dr., Lake Monticello, 589-4067	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067
Tues., Sept. 1, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm	"This Is the League!" for LWV CVA Members: Lunch provided	Ivy Creek United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 674 Woodlands Rd., Charlottesville	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Sept. 9, 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 Natalie Testa, 589-4067
Wed., Sept. 9, 4-6 pm	LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting	Virginia Foundation for the Humanities conference room at the Boar's Head Inn complex	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Fri., Sept. 11, 5 to 9 pm	"Fridays After Five" – 6 Volunteers needed to sell bottled beer!	Charlottesville Downtown Mall – nTelos Pavilion	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Tues., Sept. 22	National Voter Registration Day Event	To Be Announced	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Sept. 23, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	To Be Announced	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067
Thurs., Sept. 24, 7 pm	Sierra Club Forum on Environmental Issues for Albemarle Board of Supervisors	Lane Auditorium, Albemarle County Office Bldg., McIntire Rd.	For more information, contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651