



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
January 2015

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LWV CVA January Community Dialogue

Redistricting Virginia

"Can Virginians End Gerrymandering?"

Guest Speakers: Leigh Middleditch and Terry Cooper,

"OneVirginia2021" Charlottesville Supporters,

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Meet and Greet: 11:30 am

Program begins at Noon to 1:30 pm

Jefferson School City Center:

African American Heritage Center, 2nd Floor, Room A

233 4th Street NW, Charlottesville, VA 22903

[Parking available on site.]

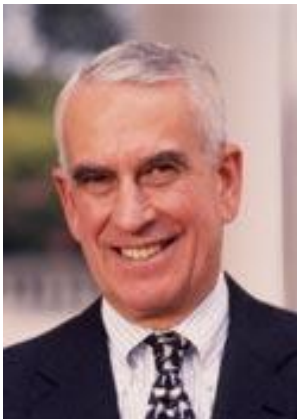
One LWV CVA program goal is to educate and involve the community on the **issue of redistricting and to generate support for permanent change in Virginia's redistricting process**. Leigh Middleditch and Terry Cooper, Charlottesville Supporters, OneVirginia2021, have been invited to speak at the Tuesday, January 6, LWV CVA Community Dialogue, at Noon, at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center. Below are several questions we have asked the speakers to address:

1. Why are we concerned about redistricting now compared to past years? (What has caused it to become enough of a problem to generate a bipartisan movement to change the process?)
2. What other solutions, if any, have been tried before to limit or end gerrymandering?
3. What steps must be taken legally to move forward with a constitutional amendment?
4. What are the goals of OneVirginia2021 and what timelines must be met to reach them?
5. How can the Charlottesville area assist in making a permanent change in Virginia's redistricting procedures?

See next pages for more about our speakers and the LWV VA Position of Redistricting.

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

Join us on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, for a presentation by Leigh Middleditch and Terry Cooper, at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, 2nd Floor, Room A. "Meet and Greet" at 11:30 am; program begins promptly at noon. LWV CVA Community Dialogues are open to the public. Our speakers are:



Leigh Middleditch is a vice president with [McGuireWoods Consulting](#) where his practice is now concentrated in the nongovernmental and exempt organizations fields. Leigh has previously served on the Board of Visitors and as the legal adviser to UVa and was a founder of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. He also held the position of university lecturer in the Law and Darden Graduate Business Schools and is co-author of Virginia Civil Procedure. Leigh has been chair of the University's Health Services Foundation; Virginia Health Care Foundation; Charlottesville-Albemarle Chamber of Commerce; Virginia Chamber of Commerce; Senior Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association, and a member of the ABA Board of Governors. He has also served as a director of the United States Chamber of Commerce; trustee of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Monticello); and University of Virginia Law Association. He currently is on the Board of the Montpelier Foundation; the U.Va. White Burkett Miller Council and Foundation for the Study of the Presidency; and is a Trustee of the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation. Leigh served on active duty with the United States Navy from 1951-1954 and retired as a Captain USNR.



Terry Cooper does political research, principally opposition research for Republican candidates. He is a graduate of Episcopal High School, Princeton University and the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was research editor of the Virginia Law Review, a member of the National Moot Court Team and elected to the Order of the Coif, the law-school equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa. He practiced law with the Wall Street firm Sullivan & Cromwell and held executive positions with three Fortune 500 companies before founding his firm, Terry Cooper Political Research, in 1982. Terry has taught opposition research at the Republican National Committee's Campaign Management Colleges, at American University's Campaign Management Institute, at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management, at the University of Florida and at training programs sponsored by the state Republican parties of Virginia, Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Washington State.

Redistricting Virginia: Some background information about our Community Dialogue on Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Meet and Greet at 11:30 am; Program begins at Noon

Jefferson School City Center: African-American Heritage Center, 2nd Floor, Room A

Parking available on site.

The work of Congress has largely ground to a halt. It seems to be unable to address the problems and opportunities we face in a meaningful way. That same gridlock seems to be invading our state legislature more and more. Leigh Middleditch and Terry Cooper are part of a group that's trying to do something about that. [OneVirginia2021: Virginians for Fair Redistricting](#), is a nonpartisan group that believes that a major cause of our legislative gridlock is gerrymandering, the drawing of legislative districts' lines for the purpose of partisan advantage. The longterm goal of *OneVirginia2021* is to pass a Virginia Constitutional Amendment that requires an "Independent Commission" to draw congressional and state district lines, using objective, non-partisan criteria, that invites public participation and is fully transparent. This must happen before the maps are signed into law in 2021. The short-term goal is to support all legislation and amendments that move them closer to their longterm goal. This is a six year process and every step is important.

Middleditch and Cooper will speak at the Tuesday, January 6, LWV CVA Community Dialogue, at Noon, at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center. We have asked them to address our questions (see first page of this newsletter), and consider the position of the League of Women Voters of Virginia on Reapportionment and Redistricting:

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of VIRGINIA

Position for Action in Brief 2014 on

REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING

Support for the establishment, in law, of a politically balanced and independent Reapportionment Commission for each decennial redistricting to prepare, with the Virginia Department of Legislative Services, a plan for submission to the legislature as specified by the Virginia Constitution.

The Commission should be bi-partisan and be composed of individuals who are not elected officials; they should represent the geographical distribution and demographic diversity of the state, and consist of an uneven number of members.

In addition to the Virginia constitutional requirement of equal population, contiguous and compact districts and the need for protection the voting strength of minority groups, the League supports the following considerations in redistricting:

- Natural geographic boundaries;
- Jurisdictional boundaries;
- Communities of interest; and
- Competitiveness

The Virginia Constitution should be amended to provide that redistricting will occur on a decennial basis only.

**Pre-session Women's Legislative
Roundtable** by Pat Hurst

**2015 Finance Drive to Launch on
Saturday, January 24, 2015
9:00 am**

Spend a morning of fun as we write notes and stuff the fund drive letters. **In these tight financial times, our fund drive letters are critical--we need your help on Saturday, January 24.** Frances Schutz, our finance director, has organized the letter-writing and stuffing morning **at the home of Carol Hogg, 270 Ipswich Place.** Carol has been kind enough to host once again! So join us at 9 am--there will be lots of tasty goodies too!

Directions to Carol's house:

From the intersection of Hydraulic Road and Lambs Road (at Albemarle High School), turn onto Lambs Road, and continue for approximately one mile. You will pass radio towers on your right, and just after you pass them, take a right on Ipswich Place. 270 Ipswich Place is the fourth house on the left side of the street.

Phone: 974-7592.

LWV CVA Leaguers **Pat Hurst, Anne Linden, Lois Sandy, and Flo Marks** attended the annual Pre-session Women's Legislative Roundtable on December 3 at the Capitol in Richmond.

The morning session at the State Capital was action packed as 19 representatives of state government, organizations and coalitions reviewed their priorities for the 2015 legislative session with non-stop 10-minute talks. The Virginia Secretary of Finance, Ric Brown, kicked off the speakers and defined the number one issue for the legislative session, the biennial budget and how to close the gap between revenues and expenditures. This was affirmed as the most important issue by a number of subsequent speakers. Other topics included Medicaid expansion and human trafficking. Anne Holton, Secretary of Education spoke on the financial issues facing education in Virginia. Levar Stoney, Secretary of the Commonwealth, who had been asked personally by Governor McAuliffe to attend on his behalf, gave an update on restoration of felon rights in Virginia. To audience applause, Mr. Stoney noted that he was the first African American to be a Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Following a casual buffet luncheon, five speakers addressed the topic of redistricting and elections management. Edgardo Cortes, our new Commissioner of Elections, was the first speaker followed by Viola Baskerville of Integrity Commission and Shannon Valentine of One Virginia 2021, who both addressed redistricting. A panel, composed of Renee Andrew, Falls Church Electoral Board Chairman, and Tracy Howard, Radford General Registrar, spoke to improving election management.

Women's Roundtable meetings are held at 8:30 AM every Wednesday during the Virginia General Assembly Session, starting the Wednesday after the General Assembly convenes in January. For more information go to <http://lww-va.org/wlrt.html>

Welcome New Members!

Joining the LWV CVA are:

Karen Christiansen
4636 Mechums River Rd.
Charlottesville, VA 22901
823-1190

Lena M. Seville
808 Altavista Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22902
(434) 328-2779

LWV CVA Program Planning Meeting Report

The annual Program Planning meeting was held on December 2 at the New County Office Building. It was well attended and all enjoyed the potluck lunch provided by the Board of Directors, with additional dishes by some members. **Pat Hurst, filling in for our V.P. Sue Lewis, moderated the meeting.** The goal was to review the current positions of the Local and State levels of the League and decide if we wish to retain/delete/modify current positions, to expand or restudy current positions, and/or to begin a new study with the goal of establishing consensus and new positions of action on other issues.

State Level Review

Review of the State level positions was very thorough. The Moderator read out loud and in full the LWV VA positions section-by-section. Attendees discussed each section and reached consensus on several changes and a new study. Some of these were:

- **WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND VIRGINIA LAW**
This should be renamed "Individuals' Rights and Virginia Law" and it should be expanded to support policies that address prevention of sexual assault, support/treatment for victims of sexual assault, and treatment/education for perpetrators of sexual assault.
- **WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND VIRGINIA LAW**
The current position of reviewing current trends regarding marriage and civil unions between same sex couples should be restudied and replaced with "Support expansion of the definition of marriage to include same sex couples"
- **ELECTION LAWS**
This should include the requirement that voting machines are secure and auditable.
- **SOCIAL POLICY ADULT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
The current position of "Uniform law enforcement including mandatory arrest, reporting" should be replaced with "Uniform law enforcement."
- **NATURAL RESOURCES**
The current State natural resource positions do not address recent developments in Virginia of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") and energy pipelines. A restudy of current National and State positions and history should be carried out to determine if and how effects of fracking and pipelines could be included in State positions and history.
- **MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCING**
In Virginia, where mandatory minimum sentencing was enacted in 1968, there are over 80 different crimes you can commit that will earn you a mandatory minimum sentence. A new study on mandatory minimum sentencing would look at its effect on courts, prisons, and society in the state of Virginia.

A full report on recommendations will be submitted to the State League for consideration.

Local Level Review

Due to time limitations, the review of the Local level positions was brief. However, several changes to current positions were proposed and include:

- **NATURAL RESOURCES: Energy**
The following sentence should be added: "Support for development and usage of alternative energy sources according to ecology's sustainability principles (i.e. how biological systems remain diverse and productive).
- **NATURAL RESOURCES: Land Use**
The following sentence should be added: "Encourage collaboration and joint action between city and counties on issues related to land use."

A full report on recommendations will be submitted to our local league's Board of Directors for consideration.

International Relations /Federal Government Committee News

by Gerry Kruger

The International Relations/Federal Government Committee met at Jean Minehart's home on November 12. **Dena Imlay and Lois Sandy portrayed the ill treatment and dearth of rights for women in Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.**

In Afghanistan women are not allowed to enjoy the freedom that men have, such as the opportunity for education. Laws that allow the abuse of women continue to be passed. Women are still stoned for committing adultery even if they've been raped. Dena also described a practice that began in 1900, whereby a girl in Afghanistan is permitted to dress as a boy, attend school, and enjoy the privileges of a boy until she reaches puberty.

Lois's report focused on the rights of women in Saudi Arabia. Women there protested to win the right to drive without male guardians. There are 110 laws which ban women from driving. As a result of their protests, women have been given the right to drive alone although there are restrictions on age, time of day, and days of the week. They must cover their faces and refrain from wearing make-up as they drive.

Two-thirds of the women in Saudi Arabia are unemployed. Consequently King Abdullah ruled that women were to replace all men in lingerie shops. The clerics fought this and insisted that it would encourage prostitution. Hundreds of shops closed.

Some strides are slowly being made. A law banning women with law degrees from practicing law has been lifted. There has also been a recent move to allow physical education for girls.

Following our discussion of women's rights was "**Hot Enough for You?" a May, 2014 article from the SMITHSONIAN, presented by Gerry Kruger.** A professor at Arizona State described the psychological effects that a hotter world could have on us. These include more aggressive behavior, domestic violence, police violence, violent crime, and even war. Presently there is research being done on the 28 Caribbean economies to find out why hotter surface temperature surfaces depress economic activity.

Last June the temperature in Phoenix reached 118 and electric bills reached over \$400. The poor in densely populated cities suffer most. Not only do cities have more asphalt, automobiles, air conditioners, appliances, and light bulbs, all of which generate heat. They also have fewer trees, shrubs, and lawns, which provide, shade, intercept sunlight, and act as a cooling agent when the water evaporates from their leaves.

If it's any consolation, some places like Canada and Scandinavia will not have the bitterly cold weather they now experience, but if you hear that someone is "steamed up" or "fired up" in the future, it may mean that climate change is partly to blame!

Join our committee as we continue to address timely topics that affect our lives and our world. See the back of this newsletter for times and places.



League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
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LWV CVA

President

Kerin Yates

Newsletter Editor

Michele Kellermann

2015 Legislative Luncheon Date Alert

When filling out your calendar for 2015, whether it be electronic or paper, PLEASE NOTE, the annual LWV CVA **Legislative Luncheon** this year will be **March 12, 2015! (Venue to be announced.)**

**Meetings and Events for January 2015:
 Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Tues. Jan. 6, 11:30 am - Meet and Greet; Program begins at noon	LWV CVA Community Dialogue: Redistricting Virginia	Jefferson Center: African- American Center, 2nd Floor, Rm. A. 233 4thSt. NW	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Tues., Jan. 13, 4 to 6 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (Boar's Head Inn Complex)	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Jan. 14, 21, and 28, 8:30 - 9:30 am	LWV VA Women's Roundtable	Richmond - Capitol Bldg., House Room 3	For further information, go to LWV VA website: http://lwv-va.org/wlrt.html
Wed., Jan 14, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Lydia Peale, 250 Pantops Mtn. Rd., #407, 996-5710	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067
Wed., Jan. 21, 4:30 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Home of Martha Levering, 712 Grove Avenue, 971- 7694	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Sat. Jan. 24, 9 am to 12 noon	LWV CVA Annual Finance Drive "Letter-Stuffing Party"	Home of Carol Hogg, 270 Ipswich Pl., 974-7592	For further information, contact Frances Schutz, 979-5413
Wed., Jan. 28, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Susan Roberts, 595 Glengarry Ct., Earlsville, 964-9644	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067