



*Charlottesville Area*  
**League of Women Voters**  
**Newsletter**  
**March 2015**

Office Phone:  
(434) 970-1707

E-mail:  
[lww@lww.avenue.org](mailto:lww@lww.avenue.org)

Visit Our Website:  
[lww.avenue.org](http://lww.avenue.org)



## "Lunch with the Legislators: Post-Assembly Wrap-up"

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Boar's Head Inn: The Pavilion, 200 Ednam Drive, Charlottesville

*Meet and Greet at 11:30 am*

*Luncheon/Program begins at Noon*

*The state legislators who represent the Charlottesville area have been invited to attend the annual League of Women Voters Legislative Luncheon **which will be held this year at The Boar's Head Inn Pavilion, on Thursday, March 12, at noon.** This will be a post-Legislative wrap-up as our local representatives report on the 2015 General Assembly session which will have just completed in Richmond. As always, following their reports, they will respond to audience questions. Reservation deadline is Monday, March 2.*

**See page 2 of this newsletter for reservation information.**  
**Invite a friend to join you!**

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



# "Lunch with the Legislators: Post-Assembly Wrap-up"

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Boar's Head Inn: The Pavilion, 200 Ednam Drive, Charlottesville

*Meet and Greet at 11:30 am*

*Luncheon/Program begins at Noon*

Join us for the annual get-together with our local state legislators. At this time State Senators **Bryce Reeves, (17th District), Thomas Garrett (22nd), Emmett Hanger (24th) and Creigh Deeds (25th)**; and our Delegates: **Dickie Bell (20th), Steve Landes (25th), Peter Farrell (56th), David Toscano (57th), Rob Bell (58th), Matt Fariss (59th) and Lee Ware (65th)** have been invited to attend. This is a great opportunity to hear what they have to say about the just completed legislative session in Richmond, as well as query them with informed questions while you enjoy a delicious lunch.

This year's luncheon (\$35 per plate) will be held at **The Pavilion, Boar's Head Inn, 200 Ednam Drive, Charlottesville**. From town, follow Route 250 west (Ivy Road), for approximately 2 miles, and turn left onto Ednam Drive.

**Menu:**

**Char-Grilled Marinated Beef Shoulder Tenderloin** served with Wedged Iceberg Salad, and Dessert (chocolate fudge cake). Rolls, iced tea or coffee.

**OR**

**Vegetarian option: Roasted Mushroom Ragout** served with Wedged Iceberg Salad, and Dessert (chocolate fudge cake). Rolls, iced tea or coffee.

**Note: There will be no substitutions allowed as to meal selection at the venue.**

To make reservations for luncheon : Email [lwv@lwv.avenue.org](mailto:lwv@lwv.avenue.org) or call 970-1707 by noon on **Monday, March 2,** and **give your menu selection.** **Cost of Lunch: \$35.** Make your check out to the LWV and mail it to the office (use form below):

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

**Yes, I (We) plan to attend the Legislative Luncheon on Thursday, March 12, at The Pavilion, Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville.**

**Enclosed is \$35 per plate for reservation(s). Please circle meal selection.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal: Beef Tenderloin      Roasted Mushroom Ragout**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal: Beef Tenderloin      Roasted Mushroom Ragout**

## 2015 Finance Drive is Launched! by Frances Schutz, LWV CVA Finance Director

Thanks to the three intrepid Leaguers, Michele Kellermann, Jean Minehart, and Kerin Yates, who joined me at Carol Hogg's gracious home for the finance envelope-stuffing party on January 24. We delayed our start due to ferocious weather forecasts, which turned out to be overblown. Fortunately, much advance preparation meant that we were able to devote most of our time to writing notes on the letters that went out to non-member donors. We all know that personal contact is a crucial aspect of the decision to support an organization, so this was a huge help. We managed to enjoy each other's company during our tasks as well. Our small but mightily busy crew was finished, and the 400-plus envelopes were in the mail before 2 pm! See below for the list of those early birds who set a wonderful example with rapid responses to our letter!

Donations to either the Operating Fund or the Education Fund are always most welcome. Special thanks to those who gave to the Operating Fund, which is not tax deductible. If you haven't already made your donation (and remember we send our request only once a year), please consider responding with a check made out to LWV CVA, indicating "Operating Fund" or "Education Fund." We put every penny we receive to good use fulfilling the mission of the League of Women Voters.

**Mail your check to: League of Women Voters, 1932 Arlington Blvd. #111, Charlottesville, VA 22903.**

### 2015 Fund Drive Contributions (as of 2/9/2015)

	OP Fund	ED Fund	Totals
2015 Members	\$1,033	\$1,400	\$2,433
Non-Members	\$475	\$850	\$1,325
Totals	\$1,508	\$2,250	\$3,758

#### Members we thank for Ed Fund donations:

Joyce Colony  
Marguerite Cox  
Jeanne Huber  
Gerry Kruger  
Karen & Lembit Lilleleht  
Sue Rainey  
Nesta Ramazani  
Betty & John Scott  
Shelah Scott  
Ruth Wadlington

#### Friends we thank for Ed Fund gifts:

Willie & Ellen Anderson  
Richard & Kathleen Bonnie  
Madison & Pat Cummings  
Cheryl Gomez  
Ann Harrod  
William J. Kehoe  
Faylene & Stephen Macko  
Charles & Sharon McCurdy  
Elizabeth Merrill  
Carol Hurst & Jon Nafziger  
Jean Newsom  
Beverly Ogilvie  
Jean O. Wilhelm

#### Members who donated to the Operating Fund:

Virginia DeSimone  
Peggy Gilges  
Edith Good  
Wayne Harbaugh  
Adena Imlay  
Michele Kellermann  
Joyce Kerns  
Peppy Linden  
Flo Marks  
Jean Minehart  
Frances Schutz  
Natalie Testa  
Gerry Yemen

#### Friends who gave to the Operating Fund:

James Cooper  
Sam & Mary Fisher  
Kevin Lynch  
Mort & Joey Roberts  
Margaret VanYahres

#### Members & Friends who gave to both Funds!:

Audrey Dannenberg  
Marie-Jose & Andre Derdeyn  
Sue Friedman  
Carol Hogg  
Maggie Hoover  
Donna Goings  
Til Purnell

## *President's Message*

In the LWV US newsletter of 2/12/2015, President Elizabeth MacNamara reminded us that February 14 would mark the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League of Women Voters. She also reminded us of the reputation that the League has built over the years. On 2/11/2015, the League had been asked to testify at a rare public hearing of the Federal Election Commission on "issues of money in politics," one of the few invited speakers to represent citizen's views.

The Virginia General Assembly, if it closes as scheduled, will end February 28. If you have not been following what is going on, I urge you to do so. Five minutes of your time each day can make a difference and you will have made yourself a more knowledgeable citizen. At the state level, Carol Noggle, LWV VA Legislative Coordinator, and Anne Sterling, LWV VA president, have been more than busy helping us to fulfill the "active participation in government" portion of our mission statement. Thanks to them, those of us not able to be "in Richmond" have been made aware of legislation where the League has consensus and rallied us to support or oppose bills relating to those causes. If you are a League member, **you should be receiving regular emails from the LWV VA about the status of the bills supported by the League along with links to your state senators and delegates to let them know this.**

While trying to follow what was happening in Richmond I was made aware of several sites that you may also find of interest. Google [vpap.org](http://vpap.org). This is the **Virginia Public Access Project** of which we are a partner and whose mission is to connect Virginians to nonpartisan information about Virginia politics in easily understood ways. Other websites available to keep up with what's happening are: <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/>. And the Richmond Sunlight website, <https://www.richmondsunlight.com/> recommended by the Montgomery County LWV for ease of use.

One of the leading issues that our League has supported here in the Charlottesville area as well as at the state level, is that of "redistricting." Unfortunately, the push to change the way Virginia decides on voting districts failed again.

The House Privileges & Elections Subcommittee met at 7am February 13 in a room packed with supporters of redistricting reform to take up SB 1000 and SB 824. SB 1000 would have placed the task of redistricting in the hands of the Div. of Legislative Services. SB 824, Senator Miller's Bill, would have provided for a referendum question on the Nov 2015 ballot so that voters could weigh in on establishing an independent commission. Delegate Landes made the motion to kill SB 824 and it was dispensed with in just 3 minutes. This bill had passed in the Senate 39-0.

Needless to say our we will continue our work on this issue. You can ask your delegates why bills did or did not pass or were not even discussed at our annual Legislators Luncheon, Thursday March 12 at the Boar's Head Inn. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

*Kerín Yates*, President

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area

### **Welcome New League Members:**

**Amy and Aaron Laufer**  
110 Warren Lane  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
434 825-6806  
[amy@amylaufer.com](mailto:amy@amylaufer.com)

**Pam Riley**  
1375 Gristmill Dr.  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
434 984-0282  
[rileydrexel@aol.com](mailto:rileydrexel@aol.com)

### **Memorial Service for Jessie Hook**

**Planned:** The family of Jessie Hook has given us the date of Saturday, February 21, at 10:00 am to celebrate the life of Jessie Hook. Place: University Chapel, followed by a reception at The Colonnades, 2600 Barracks Rd.

## ***International Relations /Federal Government Committee News***

by Gerry Kruger

On January 28 the International Relations/Federal Government Committee enjoyed a pretty winter drive to Susan Roberts's Earlysville home. **Natalie Testa began with a report on the Berlin Wall**, and cleared up some misconceptions about its undoing.

In 1961 Nikita Khrushchev agreed to the barrier to keep East Berliners from leaving. It began with barbed wire and guards and later the wall was added. It was 850 miles long and was up for 28 years. While more than 5,000 East Germans escaped, thousands were killed trying to escape.

In the late 1980's Gorbachev was in power and promoted policies of openness and transparency in the Soviet Union. East Germany agreed to give Visas to more people. The press leaked word that the borders of East Germany would be open, and soon there were throngs of people leaving. The guards couldn't shoot them all, so the fall of the Berlin Wall was actually a spontaneous, not a planned, event.

It took two years to remove the wall, and today a little more than a mile remains in Berlin. There is actually more of it in the US than in Germany.

Stark differences still remain between the east and west sectors. Most of the young people went to West Germany where the standard of living is higher and less joblessness exists.

**Marge Cox gave a fascinating report on some new discoveries in medical technology that could save millions of dollars in health care.** It seems a young Turkish UCLA professor has succeeded in turning a cell phone camera into a powerful detector. The parts for his gadgetry cost about ten dollars, and allow him to detect such things as cancer cells that are now requiring mechanisms as large as a washing machine. The U.S. Army is also researching ways that soldiers can use phones to monitor their health.

**Natalie closed our meeting by returning to the topic of Germany, this time providing some background information on German Chancellor Angela Merkel.** She was born in West Germany, and her family moved to East Germany when she was very young. She visited Russia in high school and still speaks Russian fluently as well as other languages. This is one of the reasons she has had a warmer relationship with Putin than other world leaders. Always a brilliant student, she obtained a visa to work on her PhD in quantum physics in West Germany.

She is divorced and has no children and says her second life began when the wall came down. Her non-threatening, behind-the-scenes type of personality has served her well. She began working in a small office and quickly rose through the ranks because of her reputation as a hard worker, agreeable nature, and intellect.

*Continued on next page*

**Lydia Peale hosted our meeting on February 11 in her new home.** With sunlight streaming through windows that treated us to mountain views, **Dena Inlay presented a revealing study of Pope Francis, the 266th Pope.** He chose the name Francis because he wants to concentrate his efforts on the poor and suffering. Although he is considered the most liberal Pope, even accepting homosexuals, he strongly supports the church's doctrine on abortion and birth control, and same-sex marriage. Since he was chosen to lead the Catholic Church, his humility, his strong stance against sexual abuse by priests, and his more modern views have made him popular and revived an institution that was on the decline. He also travels widely to promote peace and hopes to inspire action against climate change.

**Jean Minehart reported on George Church, an extraordinary scientist and physicist.** He is a professor of genetics at Harvard University, who has initiated numerous projects in this field. He developed the first method of genome sequencing, a laboratory process that determines the complete DNA sequence of an organism's set of genes. At the same time he founded 12 companies and was responsible for the development of commercial genome sequencing, which brought down the cost.

Other projects of his include converting carbon dioxide into fuel, reversing evolution, reversing the aging process, and bringing back extinct animals. He also warns of possible bio-terrorism.

The International Relations/Federal Government Committee welcomes new members and invites you to see the end of this newsletter for meeting dates, times, and places.

***LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee to meet on Wednesday, March 18, 4:30 pm***

The March meeting of the Natural Resources Committee will be held on **Wednesday, March 18, at 4:30 pm, at the home of Joy Matthews, 1152 Allen Farm Lane, Earlysville.** (Joy's phone is 434-974-9063.)

Program will include a video of a panel discussion of **the role of local non-profit organizations in developing the city/county long-range water supply plan and the decision to build a new dam at the Ragged Mountain Reservoir.** Participants in the panel were Tom Frederick, director of Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, Ridge Schuyler, representing The Nature Conservancy, and Sally Thomas, speaking of the role the Charlottesville/Albemarle League played in that, and other, water planning projects. The panel discussion took place during a class for a UVA course, Planning for Nonprofits, in the School of Architecture's Urban and Environmental Planning program. Faculty leading the course are Barbara Brown Wilson and Robbi Savage (Director of the Rivanna Conservation Society).

For further information about the meeting and the work of the Natural Resources Committee, contact Linda Goodling, 434-989-4407.



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

**LWV CVA**

**President**

Kerin Yates

**Newsletter Editor**

Michele Kellermann

**Save the Dates! May 30 and May 31**  
**The Annual LWV VA Convention will be held in**  
**Charlottesville at the Holiday Inn on Emmett**  
**Street. More information in the May newsletter.**

**Meetings and Events for February/March 2015:**  
**Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Feb. 18, 8:30 am	LWV VA Women's Roundtable: Wednesdays through General Assembly Session	Richmond - General Assembly Bldg.	For further information, go to LWV VA website: <a href="http://lwv-va.org/wlrt.html">http://lwv-va.org/wlrt.html</a>
Wed., Feb. 25	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
Tues., Mar. 10, 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., Mar. 11, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Jean Minehart, 1714 Yorktown Dr., 971- 1801	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067
<b>Thurs., Mar. 12 - Noon</b>	<b>LWV CVA Legislative Luncheon: Post Assembly Wrap-up</b>	<b>Boar's Head Inn: The Pavilion:</b> Ednam Drive, Charlottesville	Reservations must be made by Monday, March 2, noon. Call the office, 970-1707, or email: <a href="mailto:lwv@lwv.avenue.org">lwv@lwv.avenue.org</a>
Wed., Mar. 18, 4:30 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Home of Joy Matthews, 1152 Allen Farm Lane, Earlsville, 974-9063	For further information, contact Linda Goodling, 296-9865
Wed., Mar. 25, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Rosalie Simari, 107 Rowledge Place, 295- 7325	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067