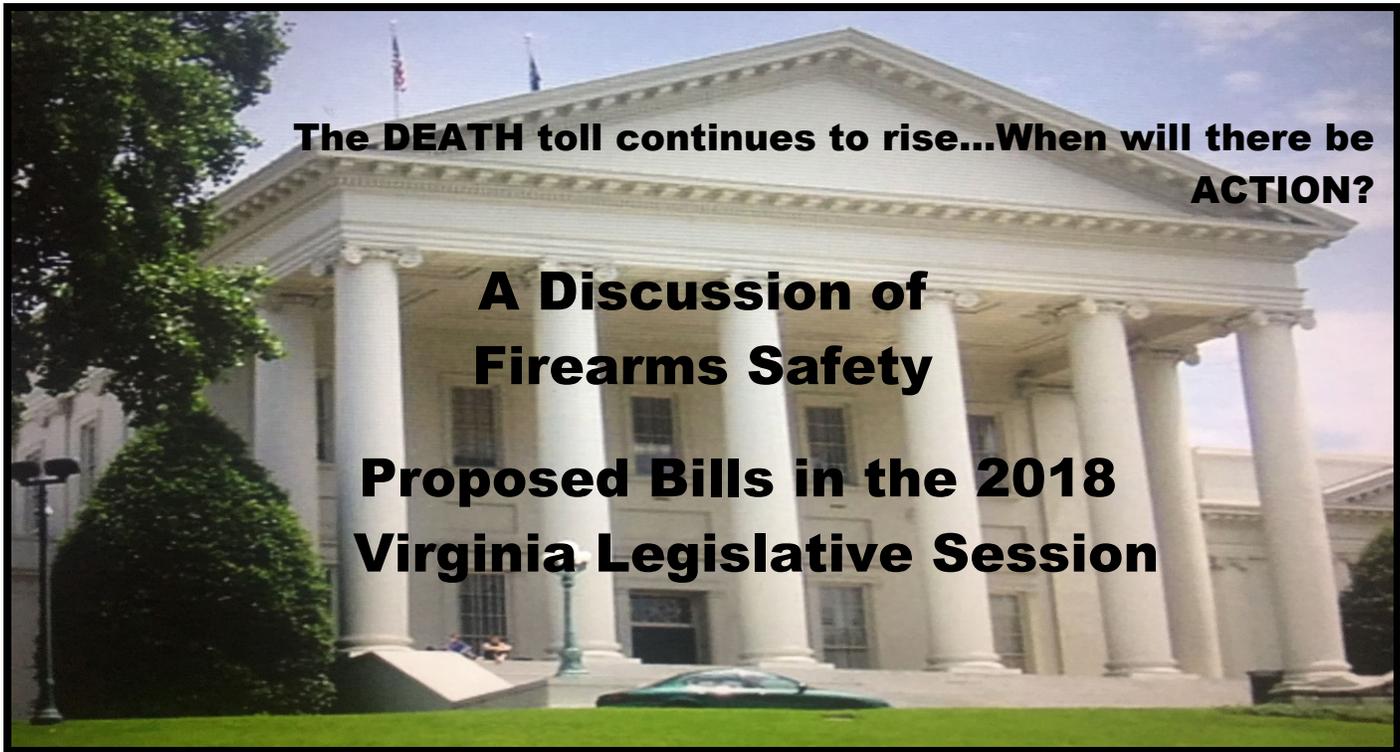




*Charlottesville Area*  
**League of Women Voters**  
 Newsletter  
 December 2017/January 2018

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 (434) 970-1707  
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*Sunday Seminar*

**Sunday, January 21, 2018**  
**2 – 3:30 pm**  
**CitySpace**  
**Charlottesville Downtown Mall**

Following an unprecedented series of mass shootings throughout the country, and the violent demonstrations in Charlottesville last year, **“Gun Safety” was the #2 issue for voters in the Virginia election** (“Health Care” was #1).  
[\[https://www.washingtonpost.com\]](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

SUPPORT FOR SANE GUN POLICIES NOW MATCHES THE SAME LEVEL OF INTENSITY AS THAT BY GUN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. Many incumbent delegates who have long been champions of the gun lobby lost their races. The question now is: **How will this change the future of firearms safety legislation in our state legislature?**

Our January 21st *Sunday Seminar* speakers, **Andrew Goddard** and **Lori Haas**, have been lobbying for public safety gun issues in Richmond for several years and they will update us on the bills that have been introduced this legislative session and the outlook for passage. Lori Haas is a political analyst for the Virginia Center for Public Safety. Andrew Goddard is the president of the Richmond Chapter of the Million Mom March against gun violence and legislative director of the Virginia Center for Public Safety. He has also served on the Board of the Virginia Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and was the first Board Chair of the National Gun Victims Action Council.

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**Sunday Seminar: January 21, 2018**

**A Discussion of Firearms Safety Proposed Bills in the 2018 Virginia Legislative Session**

Andrew spent 20 years in international humanitarian relief and development, working and living in a number of developing countries, including Somalia, Indonesia and Egypt. He also worked for eight years in North Carolina and Georgia as a Design Engineer and Project Manager. In January, 2007, he moved to Virginia with his wife Anne and their two children. His interests in mental health and gun safety issues came about as a result of his son's injuries sustained in the Virginia Tech shooting tragedy of April 16, 2007.

Please join us and invite friends to participate in a discussion of this critical issue. *LWV CVA Sunday Seminars* are League events that are open to the public. Parking available in the Market Street garage.

**Lobby Day Rally for Gun Violence Awareness  
Monday, January 15, 2018 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)  
2 pm at the Virginia State Capitol**

For the past 25 years, the Virginia Center for Public Safety, gun violence survivors and gun violence prevention advocates from across the state have participated in a vigil held at the State Capitol to raise awareness about gun violence and the need for firearms safety regulations. On the same day gun rights advocates, organized by the Virginia Citizens Defense League, meet in the morning and depart before the afternoon event. Local media cover the day's events and juxtapose the turnout of each group (the morning rally and the afternoon rally.) In early years the gun rights supporters outnumbered the gun violence prevention advocates by 5 to 1. Since 2013, however, the afternoon crowd of gun violence prevention advocates has grown from 100 to 300 to over 700, far outnumbering the gun rights side. The media coverage of this event is crucial to gaining the public support for sensible gun safety legislation being proposed in the 2017-2018 General Assembly and therefore afternoon turnout is key to our cause.

**WE NEED YOU! Our League's Firearms Safety Committee is coordinating with the Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention (CCGVP) to charter a bus from Charlottesville to Richmond for this event.** The cost will be \$15 a person and we hope to fill at least one bus with enthusiastic supporters of firearms safety legislation. **All League members and friends are invited.** The bus will depart Meadows Presbyterian Church at [2200 Angus Road](#) at NOON for the 2:00 p.m. rally and will leave Richmond for the return to the church at approximately 4:30 p.m. We would encourage all our members and their friends to sign up EARLY in order to ensure a seat on the bus. We will rally with League signs and posters for our cause. **RESERVE YOUR SEAT ON THE BUS!**

Please contact Gay Einstein [ccgvp1@gmail.com](mailto:ccgvp1@gmail.com) to reserve a seat, and let Maggie or I know so we have an idea of the number of League attendees. You can also arrange carpools to drive to the vigil. Please invite friends, and spread the word about this event to other groups you belong to, churches, etc. It will be exciting to share the camaraderie and passion of gun safety supporters from all over Virginia! Hope to see you all there!

For more information contact: Beth Alley, email: [beth.alley@gmail.com](mailto:beth.alley@gmail.com) or phone: 996-8075

## **LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Report**

by Peggy Gilges and Linda Goodling, Committee Co-chairs

Please note: The Natural Resources Committee meeting scheduled for November 15 with Rivanna Authorities Director Bill Mawyer was postponed. Stay tuned for the rescheduled meeting date with Mr. Mawyer!

### **Groundbreaking for the new transfer facility at Ivy Material Utilization Center (MUC):**

NRC members Peggy Gilges and Linda Goodling attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the County's new solid waste transfer facility at the Ivy MUC on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Liz Palmer, a LWV CVA member, spoke at the ceremony about the only sure things in life being "death, taxes and trash," and the essential government role of ensuring responsible and affordable waste disposal for our community.

Since the closing of the County landfill at Ivy in 2001, the County has operated a facility on the landfill site that transfers trash to a mega-landfill in Amelia County, Virginia. However, our transfer facility required updating to meet today's environmental standards and to increase its recycling capability. The new 11,600-square-foot covered facility is designed for greater ease of use and operation. It will open to Albemarle County businesses and residents next fall.



### **Status of Albemarle County's stream buffer review:**

On December 6th, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors heard from David Hannah, the County's Natural Resources Manager, about next steps for assessing local stream buffer regulations. The supervisors agreed with Mr. Hannah's suggested strategy of tackling the "Development Area" first, before addressing "Rural Area" rules. The LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee will continue to watchdog the process and advocate for water quality in our community.

### **Free Christmas tree mulching:**

During this season, the Natural Resources Committee wishes to remind you that if you have a Christmas tree, you have several options to keep it out of the landfill. The Albemarle County Parks Department offers a free Christmas tree mulching service (and free mulch!) for several weeks after the holidays at designated County parks. Other environmentally-friendly options for County residents are allowing the tree to decompose in your yard, or taking your tree to be mulched at Ivy MUC for a modest fee. If you live in the City, the Charlottesville Public Works department has planned curbside pick-up days for Christmas trees the week of January 8, 2018.

## **Firearms Safety Committee News** by Natalie Testa and Maggie Hoover, Committee Co-Chairs

**Update on the National Background Check Database:** The LWVUS is supporting legislation to strengthen reporting to the National Background Check Database (NICS). Following an unprecedented series of mass shootings throughout the country, a bipartisan group of Senators, led by Chris Murphy (D-CA) and John Cornyn (R-TX), is sponsoring the FIX NICS ACT. This would be the first step in the right direction to strengthen federal gun laws, as it will make it easier to legally PREVENT an individual from buying a firearm if that person has previous felonies and indictments, including domestic assaults. If passed, it will hold federal and state agencies responsible for sharing relevant data with the background check system, and compensate states to comply. The League believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the US is a major health and safety threat to our citizens, and strong federal measures must be utilized to limit accessibility and regulate ownership of firearms by private citizens.

Unfortunately this important bill (FIX NICS) has been paired with another bill, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act (HR 38). “Concealed Carry Reciprocity” would gut our gun laws because it would force each state to accept the concealed carry standards of every other state – some states have no standards at all. In addition:

- 12 states allow people to carry concealed firearms without any permits or training
- 20 states allow individuals who have been convicted of violent crimes to obtain concealed carry permits.
- 21 states issue permits to convicted stalkers

**While Fix NICS is an important firearm safety bill, it should not be paired with Concealed Carry Reciprocity. The bad far outweighs the good. Please tell Senators Warner and Kaine to vote “no” on Concealed Carry Reciprocity and propose separate legislation in support of FIX NICS.**

## **LWV-VA School Choice Task Force Update**

Thanks to the incredible work of the “School Choice Task Force,” under the leadership of Carol Noggle, the state League has now published its “talking points” to aid our lobby and you as members to address the many “school choice” bills that will be presented to the 2018 General Assembly. Carol’s latest email contained nine pdf documents which will be available online at the state League website: [lww-va.org](http://lww-va.org). We note that the overall summary of these documents was created by LWV CVA member Gerry Kruger, and concisely charts the issues on Charter Schools, Vouchers, EISTC’s (Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credits), and Virtual (On-line) Learning. Public schools need our support as we deal with the increasing number of so-called school choice bills before our state legislators. Keep yourself informed and ready to tell your Assemblymen what you think as these bills come to the floor.

## **From the LWV CVA Office:**

Beginning with this newsletter, you will be receiving email from our League office at our new email address:

[lww@cva.org](mailto:lww@cva.org)

All correspondence with the League office should be sent to this new email address.

**Please update your address book so that you will receive our newsletter and other member mailings.**

Problems, questions? Call the office, 970-1707.

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

By Gerry Kruger

On November 8 **Molly O'Brien** graciously hosted the International Relations/Federal Government Committee. **Carol Cutler** revealed to us information concerning the 2016 election that is not widely known. The July 21, 2017, issue of *Time Magazine* discusses what our federal government did after it was determined that Russian hackers had broken into a least 20 state and local election systems to alter voter registration. President Obama's White House quietly produced a plan in October 2016 to counter a possible Election Day cyber attack. The plan included:

- The deployment of active and reserve military forces and the National Guard;
- A special interagency to address any post election cyber incidents as well as "planted stories" questioning the results;
- Offering states vulnerability scans for voting machines and voter registration rolls. (Some states refused the help, but Virginia accepted all available help.)

During August and September of 2017 Obama had sanctioned Russian individuals and ordered 35 Russian intelligence operatives to leave the U.S., but did not reveal the government's level of concern to the American people because voters could think they were trying to help Hillary Clinton's campaign.

The US intelligence community has concluded that the goal of the Russian operation was "to undermine faith in the U.S. democratic process." Intelligence officials are confident that President Vladimir Putin ordered an effort to disrupt the 2016 election, including cyber attacks on email accounts and computers of Democratic Party officials.

An article from the October 29, 2017, *New York Times* discusses the Russian Federal Security Service (FSS), which was the first Russian hacking group to break into the Democratic National Committee computer data in July, 2016. The FSS, also known as "Cozy Bear," is the main successor to the KGB. The hacking and leaks that sprang from this group exposed 60,000 emails from the DNC. Now an investigation of Russian interference with the 2016 elections is taking place, and there have been some indictments of people associated with the Trump campaign.

**Kit McNally's** report on an article from *Atlantic*, "Can North Korea Be Stopped?" gave insight into the relationships among US President Trump, China's leader Xi Jinping, and North Korea's Kim Jong-un and their beliefs regarding the missile crisis. The writer states that Xi Ping won't help Trump overthrow North Korea's leader. China thinks the current crisis with North Korea was caused by the United States, and the writer believes Trump has unleashed a dynamic that he doesn't understand.

Trump has threatened decapitation (assassination), but believing that he is the anointed leader of all Koreans, Kim Jong-un is not likely to back down no matter what threats Trump makes. Trump appears to think war is acceptable if it takes place on the other side of the world. He may be dismissing the fact that a missile hitting South Korea would collapse its economy, hitting markets all over the world.

It would take thirty minutes for an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) to reach Los Angeles from North Korea. Another possible North Korean operation would be to set off a nuclear weapon over the Pacific Ocean and let radiation settle over the US.

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*International Relations/Federal Government Committee News*  
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The article presents four possible scenarios regarding the missile crisis:

1. Decapitation/Assassination of Kim Jong-un, which would be disastrous
2. Acceptance, which requires living with things slightly worse
3. A 50-50 chance that a missile could be shot down. (The author says Kim understands the consequences of a first strike, but it is unknown if Trump does.)
4. Disarmament—the only sensible solution

At present China hopes both sides will show restraint. It doesn't want North Korea to attack the U.S. or be attacked. China may be the most important player in this battle of words and missiles.

December 13 brought our committee together for a lovely luncheon in **Angela Terrell's** bed and breakfast facility, "Angel Nest." **Natalie Testa** updated us on the situation with Rohingya Muslims in Burma, or Myanmar. Although Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's leader won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2012, she has drawn international criticism over her response to the persecution of the Rohingya people. She refuses to speak out regarding what is happening.

Since Buddhism is the dominant religion in the country, the Muslims were herded together in one area and treated mercilessly by the government's army. They have suffered killings, rapes, and whole villages have been razed. As a result, over 600,000 have fled to Bangladesh. Even their camps in Bangladesh have been blown up. Although Aung San Suu Kyi is the elected leader, she cannot control what the military does, and perhaps that is why she doesn't speak out against them. She says that there are two sides to the issue and she must listen to everyone.

Meanwhile there has been an agreement to return the refugees to Myanmar, but each individual must provide documentation of their identity and address. Since their homes were burned, this is a hollow offer. Many groups are providing aid to them, but the Bangladeshi don't want them in their country, and don't want the groups providing aid to be there either. Soon the situation could be beyond critical.

With so many stories of despair in the news, Natalie asked that we present some good news in order to end the year on a more positive note. Several of our members offered some hopeful bits of information. One was the discovery of a possible cure for Huntington's Disease.

The IR/FG Committee wishes everyone Happy Holidays and hopes the new year will bring better news for all of us. We welcome you to join us as we continue to shine light on important global and federal issues. See the back of this newsletter for venues and dates of our meetings.

**2018 Finance Drive to Launch on Saturday, January 27, 2018, 1:30 pm**  
**Westminster/Canterbury on Pantops, Main Building, Bishop Conference Room**

Spend an afternoon of fun as we write notes and stuff the annual fund drive letters! Our fund drive letters are critical to support the work we do as a League--**we need your help on Saturday, January 27**. This year we are holding the launch at Westminster/Canterbury on Pantops in the Bishop Conference Room of the main building. There will be lots of goodies too!

## *President's Message -*

Dear Members,

While you are preparing for the holidays, our state legislators are consumed with preparing to present our concerns through bills at the 2018 Virginia General Assembly which opens on January 10. When you can catch your breath, please take time to consider our League positions and the bills that might pertain to them. Take time to tell your legislators what you feel is important. Our state League will be following the daily activities of the Assembly - its committee meetings and its voting - and will be asking you to provide support for those issues for which we lobby. Mental health, Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), school choice, firearms safety are among the many items that will come up.

I recommend that before the General Assembly begins you become familiar with the new LWV-VA [lww-va.org](http://lww-va.org) and LWV CVA [lww-cva.org](http://lww-cva.org) websites and the use of Facebook by both groups (see article below). The state and our League have spent significant funds and time to bring you the information you need to be an active citizen and League member. It is now up to you to take the time to learn how to use these excellent tools where you can find League positions at the local, state and national levels, along with our Directory of Elected Officials which lists local legislators and their email addresses. Also just published on our website under the "Pre-Session" headline on the home page is the chart created by LWV CVA member Kate Bird, summarizing the presentations made at the December 6 Pre-Session Roundtable in Richmond with links to the various organizations represented.

But first, Happy Holidays! Looking forward to our continued work together in 2018.

In League,

*Kerin Yates*

LWV CVA President

### *Our New League Website: [lww-cva.org](http://lww-cva.org)*

By Michele Kellermann, LWV CVA Webmaster

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website for the *League of Women Voters for the Charlottesville Area*. The home page features two headlines (known as "blog posts" in today's website parlance) with our latest League news including announcements of upcoming events such as Sunday Seminars, or special events like Program Planning. Also on the homepage is the "Calendar" of events for the current month. Under the menu heading, "Explore the League," there are drop-down menus for **Voter Service, Advocacy**, as well as information about our League and how to join under the **LWV CVA** menu. And you can download the latest **Member Newsletter**. Please spend some minutes to tour all the menu options: you will be amazed by the goldmine of information that our website holds. Along with the front page news, and the drop down menus, at the bottom of our website is a **Donate** button. We urge you to consider clicking the button and making a contribution to our League before the end of the 2017 year! Also at the bottom are the links to our social media pages, **Facebook** and **Twitter**: we are delighted to have active accounts thanks to our Director of Social Media, Megan Tracy. So keep in touch with the League!

Questions? Feedback? Send your comments to Michele Kellermann, LWV CVA webmaster, at [michele.kellermann@gmail.com](mailto:michele.kellermann@gmail.com).

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League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area  
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**LWV CVA**

**President**

Kerin Yates

**Newsletter Editor**

Michele Kellermann



**Meetings and Events for January 2018:  
Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Jan. 10, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Becky Thomas, 2308 Glenn Court, 973-5054	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067
Wed., Jan. 10, 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Westminster Canterbury, Pantops, Charlottesville	For further information, contact KerinYates, 964-1840
Mon., Jan. 15, 2 pm	<b>Lobby Day Rally for Gun Violence Awareness</b>	Richmond capital (noon bus from Charlottesville – see page 2 of this newsletter)	For further information, contact Beth Alley, 996-8075
Wednesdays, Jan. 17, 24, 31 8:30 – 9:30 am	<b>LWV VA Women's Legislative Roundtable (WLRT)</b>	Credit Union House of Virginia, 108 N. 8 <sup>th</sup> St, Richmond	For further information, go to <a href="http://lwv-va.org">lwv-va.org</a>
Wed., Jan. 17, 1:30 – 3:00 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	University Village (small committee room) at 500 Crestwood Dr., Charlottesville	For further information, contact Sally Thomas, 434-295-1819
<b>Sun., Jan., 21, 2 – 3:30 pm</b>	<b>LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: A Discussion of Firearms Safety</b>	<b>CitySpace, 100 5<sup>th</sup> St., NE, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville</b>	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067
Wed., Jan. 24, 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
Sat., Jan. 27, 1:30 pm	<b>LWV CVA Finance Drive Launch</b>	Westminster Canterbury, Pantops, Main Building, Bishop Conference Room, Charlottesville	For further information, contact KerinYates, 964-1840