



*Charlottesville Area*  
**League of Women Voters**  
Newsletter  
May 2018

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## *2018 LWV CVA May Annual Meeting*

**Thursday, May 10, 2018**

**Noon Luncheon at The Greencroft Club**

**Guest of Honor: Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent,  
Albemarle County Public Schools**

At the 2018 Annual Meeting of the *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area*, to be held on Thursday, May 10, we are pleased to honor Dr. Pamela R. Moran on the occasion of her retirement as Superintendent of Albemarle County Public Schools, a position she has held since January 2006. Dr. Moran has graciously accepted our invitation to speak to us at our luncheon. The title of her talk is "Leaders for 2050!"

Dr. Moran oversees a division which includes more than 1,200 teachers educating 13,700 students in 25 schools. During Dr. Moran's tenure, Albemarle County Public Schools has become one of the top performing school divisions for students in the state with an on-time graduation rate of 95 percent. In 2015, a national survey organization ranked Albemarle County Public Schools in the top five of all school divisions in Virginia and among the top two percent of all school divisions in the county.

Dr. Moran's career in public education began as a high school science teacher. She subsequently served as a central office science coordinator and staff developer, elementary school principal, director of instruction, assistant superintendent for instruction, and adjunct instructor in educational leadership for the University of Virginia's Curry School and the School of Continuing Education. She holds a B.S. in Biology from Furman University and Master's and Doctoral degrees from the University of Virginia. Dr. Moran also is an alumnus of the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business Executive Educators Leadership Institute.

Dr. Moran is a leading advocate of an educational model that prepares students for "success in their century, not mine." She emphasizes the value of student-led research, project-based learning and contemporary learning spaces that promote collaboration, creativity, analytical problem-solving, critical thinking, and communications competencies among all students.

Luncheon reservations are necessary for this occasion. Following the remarks of our speaker, we will hold the 2018 Annual Meeting of our League. Please contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840 for further information.



## President's Message

Dear Members:

Our Annual Meeting is fast approaching. **This year you will be receiving your "Annual Meeting Packet" by e-mail.** PLEASE READ IT! Included, in addition to the annual reports, are the items on which you will be asked to vote: new officers, directors, committee members, revisions to our Natural Resources position, 2018-19 budget for the Operating Fund, and an update to the LWV CVA By-Laws. All this normally takes very little time IF members have read the "packet" and given a few minutes to thinking about its content before the meeting. This gives us more time to meet with each other socially and celebrate our considerable efforts to ***Make Democracy Work*** in our 2017-2018 year.

**In case you have put off making a reservation, wait no longer! Pick up the phone, 434 970 1707, or e-mail [lww@lww-cva.org](mailto:lww@lww-cva.org) , give your name, meal preference and put your check for \$30 in the mail (there will be no lunch available to you if we do not have your check in advance of the meeting, and no money or checks will be accepted at the door.) I do hope to be able to greet you personally at Greencroft on May 10.**

A special "Thank-You" is in order to Jim Peterson at [videoprovirginia@earthlink.net](mailto:videoprovirginia@earthlink.net). Jim is generously providing microphones and his expertise to LWV CVA for our annual meeting at no cost to our League. We are most appreciative of his time and effort as a volunteer for this important production part of our program. Another huge thank-you is to our hard-working Assistant to the Board, Jeanne Fradianni, who prepared the packet for emailing. We are grateful for Jeanne's maintenance of our email lists that help us save many dollars in print costs.

***Kerín Yates***, LWV CVA President

### **LWV CVA Firearm Safety Committee to Meet on May 16, 2018**

The Firearm Safety committee is meeting on May 16 at 10:00 am at the home of Maggie Hoover. On the agenda is a presentation of *BeSMART for Kids*, an educational campaign developed by *Moms Demand Action* to help parents and adults prevent child gun deaths and injuries. There are 1.7 million kids who live in homes with guns that are loaded and unlocked and an average of two children die each week. Also on the agenda is a review of the firearm proposed legislation in the last General Assembly, and developing committee goals and plans for 2018 - 2019.

In partnership with the LWV VA Firearm Safety Committee, the LWV CVA committee focuses on firearm safety issues that relate to child access laws, domestic violence, universal background checks, national conceal carry reciprocity, banning assault weapons and high-capacity gun magazines, and the restriction of gun silencers. Our committee's purpose is to educate League members and the Charlottesville Area community on the importance of firearm safety laws. The committee also participates in gun violence prevention rallies and partners with other gun violence prevention groups in the Charlottesville area such as *Moms Demand Action* and the *Charlottesville Coalition of Gun Violence Prevention*.

New members are welcome. If interested, please email Maggie Hoover at [Maggie.hoover@gmail.com](mailto:Maggie.hoover@gmail.com) or Natalie Testa at [Natesta@embarqmail.com](mailto:Natesta@embarqmail.com).

## Report from the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee by Peggy Gilges

Bill Mawyer, Executive Director of the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) and Rivanna Solid Waste Authority (RSWA), met with the Natural Resources Committee on March 28 to talk about the County's long-term community water supply plan. The plan was adopted by the County in 2006 to ensure an adequate drinking water supply and greater protection against extended droughts, such as the one this area experienced in 2002. The plan also strives to balance the water needs of our environment with human demand, allowing the Moormans and Rivanna Rivers to maintain flow levels that support our local ecosystems.

The principal elements of the plan are increasing the capacity of the Ragged Mountain Reservoir (the dam was raised to deepen the reservoir in 2014), and constructing a water pipeline connecting the South Fork Rivanna and Ragged Mountain Reservoirs. At this time, expenditures are also required to upgrade and/or repair water pipelines and pumping stations and provide sediment removal and water treatment (currently new granulated carbon filtration systems are being installed).

We have three reservoirs for the City and the County's urban ring: Sugar Hollow, South Fork Rivanna and Ragged Mountain. The water supply plan, once fully effectuated, will ensure that we have the ability to move water between the South Fork and Ragged Mountain reservoirs and to the different water treatment facilities in response to our current and projected water demands.

Several water projects are in the works, including the acquisition of easements for the water pipeline from South Fork to Ragged Mountain and upgrading of the Observatory Hill water treatment facility. Improvements to our water supply system are funded by those who use the system, through the Albemarle County Service Authority (ACSA) and City of Charlottesville.

We are fortunate to be able to source our water from our own reservoirs, which themselves are largely sourced by streams and rivers that originate in the County. The County's Comprehensive Plan protects our watersheds, and healthy watersheds provide high-quality water. As the County projects a growing population and greater climate change impacts, RWSA is carefully planning and building the infrastructure investments we will need to be well prepared for the future.

The May meeting of the NR Committee will be held **May 16 at University Village from 1:30-3 pm**. We will have Greg Harper, Chief of Environmental Services for Albemarle County, to talk to us about stormwater issues. Join us—all League meetings are open to the public.

*Welcome New LWV CVAMembers!*

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

By Gerry Kruger

**On March 28 at Dena Imlay's home, the International Relations/Federal Committee was treated to Dena's elegant cuisine and Dr. Cate Wallace's intriguing research on Christian Fundamentalism's far right agenda.** Cate, who recently moved to Charlottesville from Chicago, has authored 11 books. She is a literary critic, cultural historian, and Christian humanist.

Having been brought up in an Irish Catholic home and attending Catholic school, she was well versed in Christian theology, systematic thinking, and philosophy. But her college years opened her up to ideas surrounding Romanticism and the American and French Revolutions. Study of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who was both theologian and poet, made her examine Christian fundamentalism with a critical eye.

Her research found several factors led to the rise of the Religious Right and the Republican base as we know it today. Before the Civil War, a libertarian economic agenda with policies that made the rich richer and opposed protecting the common good was not a popular one. Neither was a militaristic foreign policy that repudiated diplomacy and traditional alliances in favor of attacks on other nations.

But Evangelical Fundamentalism after the Civil War reflected white male authoritarianism, opposition to science and evidence-based rational argument, and a willingness to demonize anyone who questioned their authority. These beliefs were especially important in the South, where Evangelical Fundamentalism abounds.

Over 85 years all of the above beliefs merged and gave rise to the hard right, which she believes to be at odds with democracy and the teachings of Jesus. It consists of three stages that Dr. Wallace explained to us, after having read and researched several authors.

**STAGE ONE 1933-1955-** Nichole Hemmer in *Messengers of the Right* tells us that libertarians sought political influence against the New Deal, Social Security, and labor rights.

Kevin Kruse in *One Nation Under God* speaks of wealthy businessmen funding "prayer breakfasts" and attacking the New Deal as "godless communism." By the 1950's piety and patriotism characterized the "hard right fringe" of the Republican Party. It opposed a public agenda in favor of a militaristic foreign policy.

**STAGE TWO 1955-1979-** William Martin, author of *With God on Our Side*, writes of the white Southern opposition to desegregation as an evangelical phenomena because Southerners were predominantly evangelical. They opted to protect white supremacy as they did slavery rather than follow the teachings of Jesus. They opposed civil rights for black people, then for women, and finally for gay people.

**STAGE THREE 1979-2010-** From the founding of the Moral Majority to Citizens United: According to Martin, the Moral Majority in 1979 used their religious influence to support libertarian economic policies and an aggressive, militaristic foreign policy. "Big government" became cultural code for opposing equal civil rights for all and opposing abortion; evangelicals believed in mandatory prayer in schools, were against requiring public schools to teach science, and were against public education in general.

Jane Meyer writes in *Dark Money* that money from the Koch brothers flowed to support the libertarian economic agenda and created the Tea Party. Nancy McLean in *Democracy in Chains* tells of James Buchanan, an economist and philosopher. He argued that democracy is a bad idea. If everybody votes, they will vote for politicians that protect their rights and provide government services--services that serve the common good. He argued that rich people are suffering and oppressed due to taxation that supports a safety

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net that they don't need and diminished profits from businesses no longer free to pollute, abuse workers, or deceive customers. Buchanan concluded that the rich could fight back with voter suppression, gerrymandering, and attacking government and government programs such as Social Security, and public education. They could support candidates that would serve the needs of the 1% and fund think tanks to support them with clever and deceptive rhetoric. Before there was democracy this is how governments operated.

Buchanan taught at George Mason University, where Nancy McLean spent years reading his letters, his lecture notes, and his books, both published and unpublished in order to authenticate her book.

Buchanan and the Kochs met in Charlottesville where Buchanan was on the UVA faculty before going to George Mason. They shared a passion for opposition to public education and later poured money into his program at GMU and his agenda.

However, this alliance never would have succeeded without the Religious Right because it gave crucial moral legitimacy to the takeover of the Republican Party. They used an extensive broadcasting network to argue that the Democratic Party is immoral. Progressive Christians argued back, but never had the megaphone provided by the dark money of the Koch network.

When Donald Trump was elected, he received 81% of the white evangelical vote and 60% of the white Catholic vote. Fundamentalism and America-first Trumpism are:

1. Anti-civil rights
2. Anti-science
3. Violent (gun culture, neo-Nazi marches, wars of choice, threatening nuclear attacks)
4. Judgmental, hate mongering, demonizing
5. Authoritarian
6. Opposed to progressive ideals like social and economic justice, and inclusiveness

Dr. Wallace closed with some suggestions for us who wish to confront fundamentalism. She says we need to have a unified message rather than confront each issue simultaneously. Americans are obligated to speak the truth and serve the common good. These are the foundational tenets of American democracy, and our democracy needs defending.

**On April 11<sup>th</sup> Molly O'Brien graciously hosted our meeting once again. Rosalie Samari began the program with her report entitled "African Solar Power Brokers."** American venture capitalist firms are providing solar systems in Africa by placing solar panels on roofs of buildings. Now vaccine for yellow fever can be safely stored and Africans can charge cell phones. The things we take for granted are possible for the African population for the first time—refrigeration, lights, cell phone chargers, electric fans, even flat screen TV's. Of course many Africans cannot afford these modern conveniences, but there are centers that they can visit and enjoy them. It is estimated that in 2040, 500,000,000 people in the world will still be without power. An advantage of solar power is that it doesn't require infrastructure. All it needs is an open field or the roof of a building. It was thought that foreign aid would bring electricity to sub-Saharan Africa, not venture capitalists. But this appears to be working well, and American companies are hiring African workers.

One of the goals of the Paris Accord is to help poor countries with renewable energy. Despite the fact that our president pulled the United States out of the Accord, this new development helps to compensate for it.

***Continued on next page***

Next Elaine Longerbeam's report on "The Rise of Populism" was taken from an article in *The Atlantic* and based on an interview with a University of Georgia professor, Cas Mudde. According to Mudde, populists are dividers, not uniters. They split society into two groups—pure people and the corrupt elite. They consider just one group legitimate. The pure group has values and the elite are only concerned about money and position. Thus populists alone represent the "real people." They only lose if the real people do not have a voice. They make frequent accusations concerning conspiracy theories that are the result of something going on behind the scenes, and insist they were created by elites in an attempt to keep the people down.

They use short, simple slogans and engage in boorish behavior in order to appear as real people. President Trump was not originally a populist, but he became one as the 2016 campaign proceeded. As immigration increases, the power of populism grows. It chips away little by little until the opposition wanes. Populists want judges appointed who won't oppose them. Generations after they leave office, their followers are still loyal to them and are politically influenced by them.

Mudde doubts that Trump, who is clearly not a commoner, will remain a populist throughout his tenure and will likely have more elitist tendencies as he remains in office. However, he has consistently opposed elites, who he accuses of being insufficiently tough on immigrants and radical Islamists. Due to his authoritarian streaks, he has been labeled a "populist-authoritarian."

Mudde concludes that populists can endanger democracy. "Populists in power tend to undermine countervailing powers, which are courts, which are media, which are other parties." The other side is the enemy and you don't make deals with the enemy.

Join us every second and fourth Wednesday as we meet in the homes of members and discuss issues related to international affairs and the federal government. See the back of this newsletter for dates and venues.

**Note: During the summer months the IR/FG Committee will be meeting once a month instead of twice. The dates will be June 27, July 25 And August 22. Locations have not been finalized, so please contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067, if you do not receive the committee notices.**

### **Redistricting Reform in Virginia: Will It Happen ?**

By Kerin Yates, LWV CVA President

Ten months are left to put in place the gold standard for redistricting reform in Virginia, a constitutional amendment. Why a constitutional amendment? Because other types of law are too easily overturned. Many of you are aware of this but now is the time not only to be aware but to make a concerted effort to make this happen. If redistricting reform does not happen in the Virginia General Assembly in 2019, our representatives will again pick their constituents--not the other way around. Remember a census is coming in 2020! New lines will be drawn.

The LWV is committed to stopping gerrymandering. This has been our position since the 70's. We have listened, demonstrated, lobbied our representatives, and worked with like-minded groups such as *OneVirginia2021* whose only issue is redistricting reform.

Consider doing all you can to help now. Ten months go by very quickly. It is a make or break moment. For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840, or email: [kerinyateslwvcva@gmail.com](mailto:kerinyateslwvcva@gmail.com)



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**LWV CVA**

**President**

Kerin Yates

**Newsletter Editor**

Michele Kellermann

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

| Date/Time  | Event   | Place   | Contact  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Wed., April 25,<br>9:30 am   | International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting  | Home of Kit Murphy McNally, 2101 Timber Meadows, 414-405-3302                   | For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067   |
| Wed., May 9,<br>9:30 am  | International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting  | Home of Marge Cox, 514 Rosemont Dr., Charlottesville, 245-5228                  | For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067   |
| <b>Thurs., May 10,<br/>11:30 – Meet &amp; Greet; Noon - Luncheon</b> | <b>LWV CVA Annual Meeting with Guest Speaker, Pam Moran, Superintendent Albemarle County Public Schools</b> | <b>The Greencroft Club, 575 Rodes Rd., Charlottesville</b>                      | For further information, contact KerinYates, 964-1840. Luncheon reservations with check must be received by Tues., April 24! |
| Wed., May 16,<br>10 am   | LWV CVA Firearm Safety Committee Meeting  | Home of Maggie Hoover, 2 Hilltop Circle, Palmyra, 703-625-9219                  | For further information, contact Maggie Hoover at <a href="mailto:Maggie.hoover@gmail.com">Maggie.hoover@gmail.com</a>       |
| Wed., May 16,<br>1:30 – 3:00 pm                                      | LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting: Guest Speaker: Greg Harper                                     | University Village (small committee room) at 500 Crestwood Dr., Charlottesville | For further information, contact Sally Thomas, 434-295-1819  |
| Wed., May 23,<br>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., May 23,<br>1:30 – 3:30 pm                                      | LWV CVA Board Meeting – All members welcome   | Westminster Canterbury, Pantops, Charlottesville                                | For further information, contact KerinYates, 964-1840  |