



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
October 2018

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LWV CVA Sunday Seminar

A New Era for the ERA: Diversity Inclusion Bipartisanship



Photo by Guillermo Ubilla

Sunday, October 21, 2018
2 to 4 pm at CitySpace on the Downtown Mall

With ratifications in Nevada in 2017 and in Illinois earlier this year, the **Equal Rights Amendment** is making a comeback. All eyes are on Virginia—the likeliest of the remaining states to become the historic and final state to ratify the ERA. In the six months since the Virginia General Assembly failed to bring two bills out of committee, advocates--some new and some who have been working on the ERA since the 1970s--have not slowed down in their efforts to bring gender equality into the U. S. Constitution. Ninety percent of Americans believe that the Constitution should guarantee equal rights regardless of gender, meaning the ERA has great relevance for all Americans despite a recognized legacy of racism and classism in the movement.

On October 21st, our four Sunday Seminar panelists will speak about today's ERA as a movement that seeks diversity, inclusion and bipartisanship; the history of the movement; where we stand now with ratification of the ERA in Virginia; and how to help it pass in January's GA session. Zakiya Thomas is the Executive Director of the National Women's Party (NWP) and joined the NWP as it entered its second century and embarked on a renewed vision: constitutional equality for women. **Chelsea Higgs Wise** is a clinical social worker and community consultant who works on issues of race and change with campaigns including the statewide *VARatifyERA* campaign. **Trish Wallace** is in charge of Public Policy with the Greater Richmond Branch of the AAUW and also works with the *VARatifyERA* campaign. **Liza Mickens** is a Communications/Public Relations major at James Madison University and was featured in the film short following the August 26th showing of "Iron Jawed Angels" as part of her work with the *VARatifyERA* campaign. **Join us on Sunday, October 21, 2 to 4 pm, CitySpace, Downtown Mall.**

President's Message - Dear Fellow League members.

September proved to be as busy as ever. We had our first *LWV CVA Sunday Seminar* of this fiscal year. The event was particularly nice because it gave all of our members the pleasure of getting to know one another and to explore what we are doing in our committees.

Despite repeated efforts, our annual attempt to organize candidate forums met with many obstacles both here in Charlottesville and around the rest of the state of Virginia. These are stormy political times indeed.

Our membership is growing. This is no small measure due to the efforts of Beth Alley, our Membership Chairman. Thank you, Beth! The roster included 162 names on September 12.

Three of our board members attended the State (LWV-VA) Fall Workshop meeting in Williamsburg this month. Fairness in voter registration, ratification of the ERA, gun safety legislation advocacy, and a continued comprehensive attempt to make diversification in our membership a major objective dominated the day. To that end, I, personally have vowed to support more events held here, in Charlottesville, that celebrate diverse cultures and communities. I invite you all to join me in seriously looking at ourselves and how we decide what events to celebrate. I hope to try to "table" more events in the coming year. Networking within our culturally rich community is stimulating and empowering.

Come on out and help us RATIFY THE ERA here in Virginia. We have an all out push to urge our legislators to act this next legislative session. We need to call and write letters to Mr Cox to allow a vote on the ERA ratification. [Here is a link](#) to his address. We'll be having happy hour postcard writing events in the near future. Check out our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter sites on our website for future activities: lwv-cva.org Thank you, Megan!

I especially want to thank the wonderful people who have been a part of our Voter Registration Team. Karen Gray skillfully set up an online self scheduling event sign up system. This system is something new for us this year.

Until next time,

Pat Cochran

email: patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com

In Memoriam: Peggy King. Sadly we note the passing of Peggy King on August 26, 2018. Peggy was a long-time member of our League, and attended meetings as recently as this past spring. She served as president from 1980-82 and her lasting contribution was starting the Mary Stamps White Fund, raising the required donations to get it matched and underway. The Fund continues to this day to sustain so many of our programs and initiatives thanks to Peggy's foresight.

At Peggy's request there will be no service and rather than flowers, contributions to the local branch of the NAACP or to the League of Women Voters would be most appropriate and appreciated. Better yet join them in their worthwhile efforts to support their daily efforts for justice and civil rights for all people: Albemarle-Charlottesville NAACP, P.O. Box 1522, Charlottesville, VA 22902 or <http://www.albemarle-cvillenaacp.org/> The League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 2786, Charlottesville, VA 22902, or <http://www.lwv-cva.org> [Use the "Donate" button at the bottom of the home page.]

Election Day is November 6! Are You Registered to Vote? or have you

recently changed your address? The deadline to register is October 15. Voters may check their registration status and polling locations at the Virginia Department of Elections website:

elections.virginia.gov. Albemarle County has added three voting precincts and has moved polling sites in two other precincts. The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is October 30; the deadline to request an absentee ballot in-person is November 3. Attention Albemarle County voters: Albemarle County has added three voting precincts and has moved polling sites in two other precincts. Voting locations can be checked on the state elections website or by calling (434) 972-4173. **For all area registrar office phone numbers**, go to our website, lww-cva.org and click on “Voter Service” in the pull-down menu under “Explore the League.” OR, if you are a League member, go to the inside cover of our recently mailed *2018-2019 LWV CVA Handbook*.

Ballots statewide will have the U.S. Senate election between incumbent Democrat Tim Kaine, Republican Corey Stewart, and Libertarian Matt Waters. There are also **two proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution**. The first—Article X, Taxation and Finance, Section 6—would allow a county, city or town to provide a partial tax exemption for property that is subject to recurrent flooding. If flooding resiliency improvements have been made on the property. The second—Article X, Taxation and Finance, Section 6-A—would allow surviving spouses of veterans who had a 100 percent service-connection, permanent and total disability who receive a property tax exemption for a primary residence to move to a different primary residence and still claim the exemption.

Voters in the 5th Congressional District will choose between Democrat Leslie Cockburn and Republican Denver Riggleman. The district is geographically the largest in the state and includes the counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Madison, Nelson, and the city of Charlottesville.

In the 7th Congressional District, Democrat Abigail Spanberger and Libertarian Joseph . Walton are challenging incumbent Republican Dave Brat. The district includes Louisa and Orange counties.

On the Charlottesville ballot is a special election for the city School Board: James E. Bryant, who was appointed to the board this spring after a member resigned, is the only person running for the seat.

In Fluvanna County, voters will decide whether to approve a 4 percent meals tax at restaurants. If approved, the tax would go into effect in 2019.

Additionally, **Gordonsville and Stanardsville will hold town elections:** James L. “Jiom” Bradley and Ronald E. Brooks III are seeking one of two open seats for the Gordonsville Town Council. In Stanardsville, Gary E. Lowe is the sole candidate for mayor and four people are running for one of four open seats on the Town council: Richard N. Early Jr., Jon P. Newton, Doris Rorrer Swenson and Jennifer A. Ziros.

Polls will be open from 6 am to 7 pm on November 6. More information about candidates, the proposed constitutional amendments and voter IDs can be found on the state election website:

elections.virginia.gov

New LWV Committee Targets Justice Reform for Women

By Kit Murphy McNally, murphymcnally@gmail.com

Concerned about the state of justice in Virginia and our community, especially as it affects women? Make your voice heard — join the new *Charlottesville Area League of Women Voters Justice Reform Committee* which will meet for the first time later this month. The troubling path that leads women to jail and prison is littered with domestic abuse, discrimination, emotional and mental illness, and drug addiction. There is emerging acceptance across the country of actions and understandings that clear the path toward healthy self sufficiency instead of further debilitating imprisonment for women. Reform follows widespread public recognition of the special circumstances that result in prison for far too many women and the lifelong incapacitation that clings following incarceration.

The LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee will investigate diversions, services and support in the greater Charlottesville area for women headed toward entanglement with the justicesystem. The committee will explore alternatives that are making a difference for women in other jurisdictions. And it will collaborate with other justice reform initiatives such as the Virginia American Civil Liberties Union's new focus on *Women in the Criminal Justice System, Pathways to Incarceration in Virginia*. As the committee moves forward, it will develop positions promoting justice for women to be considered for adoption by the Charlottesville Area LWV, as well as the state League. The committee is already committed to developing a presentation on Justice Reform in April for the League's popular Sunday Seminars. There will be opportunities to collaborate with other justice advocates and to speak with local justice administrators and state policy makers in support of the changes the committee seeks. Justice Reform will meet one to two times a month on a day and time to be determined by those interested.

Chair of this new LWV CVA committee is Kit Murphy McNally, who served as the Executive Director of the Benedict Center, an alternative to incarceration program for women in Wisconsin, and advocated for systemic justice reform in Milwaukee and Wisconsin, as well as nationally on the Boards of the International Community Corrections Association and the National Alliance for Sentencing Advocacy and Death Penalty Mitigation. She is currently volunteering with the Legal Aid Justice Center regarding their lawsuit seeking major health care reform at the maximum security Fulvanna Women's Correctional Center.

For more information or to sign on, contact: murphymcnally@gmail.com or 414-405-3302.

Finance Drive Committee Members needed!

- Do you have some free time between now and the end of January?
- Would you be able to help with organizing the purchase of envelopes, stamps, and other materials needed for the task?
- Do you have experience in asking for donations, in person during a face-to-face meeting, through a letter soliciting donations, or in writing grant proposals?

The Finance Committee could use your help and expertise. There's room for all levels of experience and inclination. There's much to do that does not involve a direct 'ask'. Please contact Frances Schutz, schutz67@embarqmail.com, if any of the above tasks appeal to you. Together, we can get the job done, and provide our League with the financial means to expand the activities that support our mission in our communities.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

For many, home is not a sanctuary. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 1.3 million women and 835,000 men are victims of physical violence by a partner every year. According to *The Huffington Post* [10/23/2014, updated 12/6/2017], the number of U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq between 2001 and 2012 was 6,488. The number of women that were murdered by current or ex-male partners during that same time frame is 11,766. That's almost double the number of people that were killed fighting in war. **Three women are murdered every day by a current or former male partner in the U.S.**

In America, a majority of fatal domestic violence is committed with firearms. At least 52 percent of American women killed with guns are killed by intimate partners or family members. Women are 16 times more likely to be killed with guns in the U.S. than in other developed countries.

[Source: *Everytown for Gun Safety*]

Domestic violence (also called "intimate partner violence" or IPV, "domestic abuse", or "relationship abuse") is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship. [Source: *National Domestic Violence Hotline Website*] Operating around the clock, seven days a week, confidential and free of cost, the **National Domestic Violence Hotline** provides lifesaving tools and immediate support to enable victims to find safety and live lives free of abuse. **The hotline's number is 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).**

The LWVVA and the LWVCVA Firearms Safety committees will concentrate on advocating for legislation (known as "Red Flag laws") that will keep guns away from domestic abusers and from individuals who exhibit warning signs of dangerous behavior. For more information about these committees, contact: Maggie Hoover, maggie.hoover@gmail.com, 703-625-9219.

Welcome LWV CVA Social Media Interns:

Ellie Powell and Rosie Dougherty-Herrman

This past summer LWV CVA began a **Social Media Internship** program. The Social Media Intern will assist the Social Media Director (Megan Tracy) with the development and implementation of the LWV-CVA's social media presence through researching and producing social media content and strategy that aligns with the LWV-CVA's positions and advocacy. I'm pleased to announce our first two Social Media interns.

Ellie (Eleanor Powell) is a sophomore at St. Anne's-Belfield School and has a passion for political science and feminism. Some of you may have seen Ellie at our Women's Equality Day Event or at our Sunday Seminar in September where she helped take pictures for our new Instagram account (@lwvcva). Ellie's taken photography skills she learned with the nonprofit, *Girls on the Run*, and put them to use for us.

Our newest intern is **Rosie (Rosemary) Dougherty-Herrman** who is currently a sophomore at Western Albemarle High School. Rosie has been a staff writer for the Western Hemisphere Newspaper—skills we will put to use in her role of staff intern. Her initial focus for the League will be on our push to ratify the ERA.

International Relations /Federal Government Committee News

By Gerry Kruger

September 12th found the International Relations/Federal Government Committee once again in **Molly O'Brien's** downtown home with old and new members, and guests filling every seat. **Lois Sandy's report on the ascent of Saudi Arabia's crown prince Mohamed bin Salmon** was a tribute to her exhaustive research. It was based on an article in *The New Yorker*, "The Ascent: A Saudi Prince's Quest to Remake the Middle East" by Dexter Filkins.

Lois began by explaining President Trump's plan regarding Saudi Arabia. He wanted to destroy ISIS in Iraq and Syria, curb Iranian behavior, and force the Gulf states to stop funding Islam. He sent Jared Kushner to meet with Mohamed bin Salmon three times to convey America's support, but to also insist that the status quo had to change. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the world's last surviving monarchies and has been ruled by six brothers, all sons of King Abdul-Aziz al Saud. Its exports are overwhelmingly in oil and it imports everything else. Seventy percent of its population is under 30, and there is free education and health care, subsidized food, electricity, and housing.

Now that the price of oil is going down and alternative energy sources are more prevalent, the crown prince is on a mission to transform the economy and society of Saudi Arabia. He wants to encourage entrepreneurship and foreign investment, privatize state-owned industries, augment the workforce with women, and encourage nonprofit organizations and civic-minded volunteers. He has also been aligning himself with the United Arab Emirates and its most important leader, Mohammed bin Zayed, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, who has pro-American sentiments and purchased billions of dollars' worth of American weapons. The two leaders are like brothers and share the same view of geopolitics. Both view any outreach to Iran as dangerously misguided and didn't like Obama's negotiating with them to limit their nuclear program.

In December of 2016, Mohammed bin Zayed met with Kushner, Bannon, and Michael Flynn, the national security advisor, in Trump Tower and shared a common fixation on Iran. In May of 2017 Trump visited Saudi Arabia. There the Saudis and Qataris agreed to fight terrorism, and the U.S announced it would sell the Saudis one hundred ten billion dollars' worth of arms.

However, major changes took place in the succeeding months. This began when Mohamed bin Salmon rather than the expected choice for the next leader, Mohammed bin Navef, became crown prince of Saudi Arabia; the U.S. Embassy moved to East Jerusalem from Tel Aviv; and the Gulf monarchies, led by Saudi Arabia, entered an open confrontation with Qatar. They announced they were blockading Qatar and cutting off diplomatic relations with them, accusing them of funding terrorists and aligning with Iran.

Although the U.S has an air base in Qatar, which also funds its construction and housing, Trump tweeted that there could no longer be funding for radical ideologues. Secretary of State Tillerson phoned Mohamed bin Salmon to tell him this was no time for war, but their conversation didn't go well, and in June Mattis approved a deal to sell Qatar twelve billion dollars' worth of American-made F-15 fighter jets. Qatar remains under blockade, and the U.S. still has no diplomat in place in Saudi Arabia. Mohamed bin Salmon proceeded to make sweeping reforms. Women were allowed to drive and cut funding for the Wahhabi creed (said to have encouraged terrorism and anti-Western ideas).

The new Saudi leader received praise from the West, but he also began to eliminate potential opponents of his rule and enforced a crackdown on the press and pro-reform groups. He arrested human rights activists and pro-democracy advocates. He gathered and detained 200 of the country's wealthiest men, accused them of wrongdoings, and made them pay and sign a non-disclosure agreement before being allowed to leave.

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International Relations/Federal Government Committee News

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While preaching austerity to his countrymen, he has spent lavishly on yachts, homes, and vacations. He has gained control of the army, interior ministry, and national guard. Mohamed bin Salmon looks to China with its dynamic economy, literate population, and authoritarian rule and aspires to emulate it.

Next **Jean Minehart reported on Julian Jackson's biography of Charles DeGaulle**, former prime minister of France. Jackson says DeGaulle gave the French a "belief in the myth of the greatness of France." In spite of a personality that was cold, arrogant, and showed contempt for human nature, DeGaulle inspired the French with what the author says was a life that was "one long bluff."

DeGaulle was a career military man and well educated. He was a conservative Catholic, yet wasn't anti-Semitic. He is best known for his role in three historic events: World War II, France's loss of Algeria in 1958, and the factory workers' protests in the streets of Paris in 1968.

In 1940 he refused to surrender to the Germans and went to London. He spoke on the BBC from London calling for the French to resist the Germans. Then in 1958, he came out of retirement to lead what is known as the Fifth Republic of France after the Algerian War. He had a way of making the French think he was victorious even though they lost Algeria.

When the factory workers protested in 1968, DeGaulle retreated to his country home, then returned, organized a counter demonstration, and put down the rebellion. [Val Chasin, an IR-FG member, was a high schooler, staying in Paris at this time, and watched the protests from her hotel window!] He retired a year later. Under Charles DeGaulle France was modernized and remained a bureaucratic state. Jackson concludes that although he had a hateful, vain, and ungrateful side, he had a lasting legacy because myths and symbols matter if a country is to be great.

Lois Sandy welcomed us into her home on September 26, where **Marge Cox** and **Donna Price**, one of our newest members, gave reports on Brazil and Armenia. Marge described in detail the horrific and dangerous living conditions that many in Brazil suffer. Brazil has the largest number of Catholics in the world, is a major exporter of raw materials, has almost every variety of gems known to man, and a high literacy rate. However, 40% of Brazilians have taxable income of \$2,000 a year.

Although Brazil has more than 300 known native types of fruit, nutrition is a huge factor in the health of the poor. Large global food conglomerates are largely to blame. Companies such as Nestle's are sending their products to be sold by food vendors to poor areas. They hire locals to sell the products and lobby the government to introduce crops such as sugarcane, corn, and soybeans in order to produce them.

These companies are providing jobs, but imperiling health. As a result, poor children, as well as their parents, are obese and at the same time malnourished. Children are sedentary and watch TV instead of playing outside due to the dangerous conditions of the areas in which they live. Many have diabetes and heart conditions, but health providers have a difficult time persuading parents that there is something wrong with their children. It has been impossible to change their eating habits.

Donna, who has visited Armenia, explained the complex historical background of Armenia and its culture, while providing numerous visual aids and relics. Armenia is one of the world's oldest centers of civilization. Its capital dates back to the eighth century B.C., and Christianity was its founding religion. Christian icons abound there, and Donna passed around several of the examples she collected.

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During the 17th century Armenia was divided into east and west sections. The western portion was under Ottoman rule and the other side was under Persian occupation. The Ottoman government carried out systematic massacres and forced deportations of Armenians during the 18th century. Then only eastern Armenia survived, but constant turmoil continued. This included World Wars I and II and becoming a republic of the Soviet Union. In 1991 Armenia declared independence. Hostility still exists between Armenia and southwestern Azerbaijan populated primarily by Armenians. This is mainly due to religious and cultural differences and the annihilation of more than a million Armenians by the Ottoman government before and during World War I.

Once again, our group was enlightened by these informative presentations. See the back of this newsletter for the future dates and venues of our meetings. New members are always welcome. A special thanks to Donna Price, who gave an excellent report after attending one meeting!

Welcome New Members!

Judy Harmon
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In Memoriam: Joyce Kerns

We are sad to note the passing of Joyce Kerns on September 20. Joyce was a member of the League since 1971 and served on its Board as Secretary for several terms and, in more recent years, on the Women's Issues Committee, where she worked on studies regarding child care access and affordability and health education and services in local schools. She was a long-time advocate for League positions on social policy and women's rights. Outside of her League activities, she also served as an election official spending long hours at the polls for many years. We will miss her dedication, energy and her compassion for others.

The family is arranging a memorial service for Joyce at Westminster Presbyterian Church which will be announced in *The Daily Progress*.

LWV CVA Handbooks for 2018-19 have been mailed! Below are updates:

Audrey Dannenburg's primary phone number is correct but the second number is incorrect and needs to be simply crossed off. There is no second number for Audrey Dannenburg.

Karen Christiansen has a new phone number:
434-812-2293

Sue Lewis has a new address:
701 East High St, #105
Charlottesville, VA 22902

LWV CVA Celebrates Women's Equality Day

On the evening of August 26th, a sold-out crowd gathered at Violet Crown Cinema to celebrate Women's Equality Day and kick off Virginia's statewide campaign to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The Charlottesville area chapters of the *League of Women Voters* and the *National Organization for Women* partnered to sponsor the event, which was hosted by Virginia's Delegate David Toscano and Senator Creigh Deeds, seen in photo at right with Megan Tracy, LWV CVA Social Media Director, and Alicia Hefner, co-chair, ERA Charlottesville Now Task Force.



Photos by Guillermo Ubilla

Attendees enjoyed a screening of *Iron Jawed Angels*, a film that recounts the efforts of Alice Paul and other suffragists who fought for women's right to vote and succeeded with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Paul also authored the Equal Rights Amendment, so it's fitting that this film is helping to kick off ERA ratification efforts around the state. Event organizers honored the Delta Sigma Theta sorority Charlottesville alumnae chapter to commemorate the organization's historic participation in the 1913 women's suffrage parade, which is depicted in the film.

The event was one of eight events coordinated across the state at locations including Richmond, Hampton Roads, Roanoke, Prince William, Fairfax/Loudoun, and Alexandria. Momentum for ratification is building across the state – after Nevada's ratification in 2017 and the Illinois ratification on May 30, 2018, only one more state is required for complete ratification. Virginia is well positioned to be the final, historic state to pass the ERA. Following the film, attendees viewed a short film developed by the *VARatifyERA* campaign that addressed dramatizations in the film that minimized, among other things, racial tensions of the time and that full women's enfranchisement would take the passage of the 24th Amendment, the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act. Harrisonburg Mayor Deanna Reed and Delta Sigma Theta alumnus spoke briefly about the sorority and its role in the broader women's movement past and present. Delegate Toscano and Senator Deeds then discussed how to bring ratification of the ERA in Virginia during the next legislative session.

To learn how you can help ratify the ERA in Virginia, visit VARatifyERA.org. And keep an eye out for ERA-focused and LWV-sponsored events this fall—including the LWV CVA Sunday Seminar on October 21!



Del Toscano and Sen Deeds with members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Charlottesville NOW and the LWV-CVA.



Deanna Reed, Mayor of Harrisonburg and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Alumnus.



League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
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LWV CVA

President

Pat Cochran

Newsletter Editor

Michele Kellermann

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Oct. 10, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Beth Alley, 210 Willow Brook Rd., Earlysville, 996-8075	For further information, contact Elaine Longerbeam, 540-832-7296
Wed., Oct. 10, 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting	Westminster-Canterbury, Pantops	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Mon., Oct. 15, 5 pm	Deadline to register to vote on November 6	Your registrar's office: go to lwv-cva.org for area registrar's phone numbers	For further information, go to elections.virginia.gov
Wed. Oct. 17, 1:30 – 3 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
Sun., Oct. 21, 2 – 4 pm	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: Ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment	CitySpace, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Wed., Oct. 24, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Rosalie Simari, 107 Rowledge Place, 295-7325	For further information, contact Elaine Longerbeam, 540-832-7296