



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
September 2018

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Look for the LWV CVA “Democracy” banner on Market Street in front of Central Library in the weeks before 2018 Election Day on Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

This Is Our League! Discourse and Desserts

Sunday, September 16, 2018
2 to 4 pm at CitySpace on the Downtown Mall

All members and their guests are invited to a gathering of Leaguers to kick off the new League Year! With the upcoming November 6 elections, the fall season is shaping up to be very exciting. We are energized by our commitment to voter registration. Come and learn what the League does to further our non-partisan political activism and learn the rules of the game for League members. Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Leaguers—those you know and those you have yet to meet—and enjoy some refreshments!

LWV CVA Membership Director Beth Alley is looking forward to assisting all Leaguers in finding opportunities within our League where members can learn about and pursue their various interests, such as voter service, environmental concerns, firearms safety, international relations, federal government, and justice reform. So do plan to spend a few delightful hours over dessert with other Leaguers on **Sunday, September 16, 2 to 4 pm at City Space** on the Downtown Mall—see next page of this newsletter for Entrance Directions to CitySpace and ADA accessibility.

President's Message -

Dear League Members,

Greetings! Our mission to *Make Democracy Work Better* is at its most urgent level these coming few months especially in registering voters to participate in this precious democratic process in which we have the privilege to have a voice. This year we have unexpected numbers of high school and college students excited to engage in this process. Our Voter Service Director, Adena Imlay, is busy organizing candidate debates in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson Counties. Please contact Adena Imlay, denaimlay1@gmail.com, Voter Service Director, or me, Pat Cochran, patcochranLWVCVA@gmail.com if you can help us to register voters and help with candidate debate events. We have numerous new and varied requests for our assistance in this endeavor.



Perhaps you would like to volunteer to be the registration volunteer coordinator! We want to hear from you. If you are interested in participating in this endeavor, I encourage you to view the online registrar training program at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/index.html>. This online education process takes little time and really is full of good information. Remember that September 25 is *National Voter Registration Day*. Mark your calendars! Megan Tracy, our Social Media Director, is coordinating efforts locally and across the state to celebrate National Women's Equality Day on August 26. This effort comports with our local, state and national League effort to facilitate the enactment of the ERA. Stay tuned for further information.

Having participated in both the *LWV-VA State Council* and the *LWVUS National League Convention* this past month, I have learned a great deal. There is great enthusiasm in improving the communication and coordination of our local state and national efforts. There is a definite over-arching move to engage and collaborate with our brother and sister organizations in an effort to broaden the diversity of our membership base and increase the effectiveness of our efforts. Never forget that our greatest strength as an organization is our careful maintenance of a non-partisan posture and a focus on the sharing of facts.

Until next time,

Pat Cochran patcochranLWVCVA@gmail.com

LWV CVA President

Parking/Entrance to CitySpace for "This Is Our League!" on Sunday, September 16, 2 pm.

Entrance Directions to CitySpace, 100 5th Street NE, Charlottesville Downtown Mall

CitySpace is a city-owned meeting space on the Downtown Mall near City Hall and the Post Office towards the Pavilion end of the Mall. It is located adjacent to the Market Street Parking Garage. Take the elevator down from the parking garage to Floor 1, turn left and go up 2 short flights of stairs. At the top of the second flight, go straight along the railing to #100. Enter through the double glass exterior doors which are on a diagonal glass wall. Walk to the rear of the space to the meeting room. (ADA accessibility: Take elevator to floor "G" and use ramp to the Mall, take a right on 5th St., then the CitySpace ramp.)

Summary of the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting on June 20: “Working as a Community to Reduce Greenhouse Gases”

By Muriel Grim, NRC Committee

LWV CVA member Teri Kent gave an upbeat presentation on working as a community to reduce greenhouse gases and the changes to our climate that result from increases in these gases. In the fall of 2017 she collaborated with Grey McLean to build the **C’ville Climate Collaborative (C3)**. Its goal is to have a “collective impact” on the man-made factors affecting global warming at a local level.

As the founder and CEO of *Better World Betty*, Teri, along with other community partners, started the “Better Business Challenge” for which she created a scorecard that businesses can use to record their efforts to reduce their carbon footprints. C3 is using this scorecard as it communicates with businesses and other organizations as part of its mission to make the Charlottesville area a leader in addressing climate change.

C3 is currently using a two pronged approach. First, by using listening sessions, they are engaging various groups, such as faith communities, affordable housing advocates, and past winners of the business challenge award. Second, they are creating two challenges, one for organizations (cvillebizchallenge.org) and one for residents, coming this fall, (cvillechallenge.org). Data are old but numbers from 2011 indicate that 58% of emitted green house gases in this area are from large organizations such as businesses, educational facilities, and churches and 19% are from households.

The Home Energy Challenge will start this fall. The concept is to have neighborhoods or other distinct entities compete to see which ones can create the greatest reductions in carbon usage. Currently Charlottesville’s annual use of carbon is 1.12 times the national average and 2.24 times the UK usage. There is a carbon footprint website that does the carbon related calculations for the user. It will calculate our footprints and, taking into account where we live, it will show us what our energy usage costs financially and what information resources are available to us. On February 21, 2019 there will be a celebration of the reductions our area has achieved by participating in the challenge.

Teri passed out cards summarizing the ways people can support the effort, including joining the energy challenges, encouraging others to take up the challenge, getting energy audits, and communicating with our city and county officials when they publish emissions data this year. Information about C3 is on its website, www.cvilleclimate.org.

In addition to learning about C3 and its plans, we discussed the status of recycling in the county and the June 26, 2018 hour of reduced energy use. The goal of the reduced energy use hour is to unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment. This action is led locally by *UVA Saves*, with information on the Sustainability UVA website. After the meeting Sally took folks to a 6th floor vantage point from which they could see the newly installed solar panels at St. Anne’s Belfield.

The next meeting of the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee will take place on Wednesday, September 19 at 1:30 pm, University Village, 500 Crestwood Drive, Charlottesville. Join us and continue the conversation started in July: how can we increase the public’s and officials’ understanding of our Comprehensive Plans?... and other current topics. For more information about this committee, please contact, Sally Thomas, writeinsal@aol.com. **See next page for minutes of the July 18 meeting.**

Minutes of the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee held on July 18, 2018

By Muriel Grim msgrim15@comcast.net

Update on Albemarle County proposed zoning text amendment to remedy stale commercial and industrial zoning in the Rural Area: In June the Board of Supervisors decided to table the proposed amendment to allow time to further vet some of the issues and questions raised with the proposal. The goal is to find a clearer way to define the uses that are allowed on Rural Area parcels that have stale commercial and industrial zoning. Restrictions are currently based mainly on water usage.

Smart growth and the Comprehensive Plan: Discussion of zoning led to a discussion of why growth management plans exist and how important comprehensive plans are. Most citizens and possibly some members of the Board of Supervisors do not realize how the factors that make a county a desirable place to live are dependent on the existence of and adherence to a smart growth management strategy that is incorporated into the comprehensive plan. This is an overarching topic that affects all aspects of land and resource use. We decided that it is important for the county to educate its citizens about the necessity and the characteristics of good planning. Some related issues that are now the center of focus, in addition to the stale zoning, are Crozet development, the Chris Greene Lake algae bloom, completing the water supply plan, large social events in the rural areas, and the funding of storm water management measures.

The Natural Resources Committee should consider advocating for the county to undertake more education on its growth management policy. This topic might be a good subject for our February Community Dialogue. At our next meeting on September 19 (1:30 pm, University Village), we will consider this idea in more detail. For more information about this committee, please contact, Sally Thomas, writeinsal@aol.com.

From the Office: Member Dues Reminder!

Have you paid your LWV dues for the 2018-19 fiscal year? If you have not already done so, please remit:

Individual - \$55

Household - \$82.50

Student - \$25

Life Members – No dues are required

Mail your check, payable to League of Women Voters to our office:

League of Women Voters

PO Box 2786

Charlottesville, VA 22902

Dues are payable at the beginning of each fiscal year (July 1) for full-year membership. Members who join after the first day of the fiscal year and before four months prior to the start of the fiscal year shall pay full dues. Those members joining in the four months prior to the start of the fiscal year shall pay full dues, but not be billed again for dues during the next fiscal year. Thank you!

LWV CVA Members Beware!

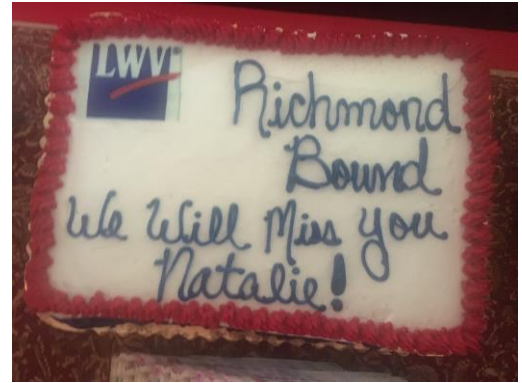
Across the League here and in Richmond, we have been experiencing disturbing email phishing and scamming attempts.

Please take care and note the source of any emails you may receive from Pat Cochran. We are looking into this at the state and national level.

When in doubt about the authenticity of an email please forward it to lwv@lwv-cva.org or simply delete it.

LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee Bids Farewell to Natalie Testa!

The International Relations/Federal Government committee honored Natalie Testa at a pot-luck luncheon on July 25 at the home of Maggie Hoover. Natalie, along with Molly O'Brian, has chaired the International Relations/Federal Government committee for the past six years. The members thanked Natalie for all her work in organizing the committee and wished her well as she moves to Richmond.



Kit Murphy McNally, Natalie, and Jean Minehart



Molly O'Brien and Natalie



Dena Imlay, Ginny DeSimone, Natalie, and Bobbie Williams



Left to right: Lois Sandy, Rosalie Simari, Valerie Chasin, Gerry Kruger, and Natalie Somer

Welcome New Members!

[as of July 31, 2018]

Lisa Hilgartner
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League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area Seeks Social Media Intern

The League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The LWV-CVA covers the Thomas Jefferson Planning District, which includes Charlottesville and the five surrounding counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson.

The Social Media Intern will assist the Social Media Director 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. This is an unpaid position. Hours are flexible, 4-5 hours/week. This is a summer, semester and/or academic year position.

What we offer: The internship is unpaid. Social Media Interns will become members of the LWV-CVA. Interns will also learn to use various types of social media platforms and social media management tools.

We are pleased to announce our first Social Media Intern has been selected—Ellie (Elanor) Powell. Ellie is a rising junior at Saint Anne's-Belfield School and comes to us with an interest in Virginia's political system along with experience volunteering with the Central Virginia chapter of the non-profit, *Girls on the Run*. For *Girls on the Run*, she has worked as a staff photographer with her work appearing on their website and promotional materials. Ellie is adept at various forms of social media and we look forward to using her skills in our existing social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) along with helping us create our new Instagram site.

Please note: **We are still seeking a second social media intern for this academic year. For a complete description of "Responsibilities" and "Qualifications," as well as information about the application process, contact Megan Tracy, LWV CVA Social Media Director, kiskamet@gmail.com.**

Firearm Safety Committee Report

By Maggie Hoover, chair,
LWV CVA Firearm Safety Committee

The Firearm Safety Committee held its quarterly meeting August 15 at the home of LWV CVA President Pat Cochran. The meeting was an educational one. **Gordon Matthew was our guest speaker.** Gordon is a former Marine Corps Officer familiar with weapons and ammunition, including the AR-15. The committee felt it was important to understand firearms, particularly assault weapons, in order to increase our credibility in discussing firearm safety issues.

On August 19, LWV CVA members **Lois Sandy and Maggie Hoover** presented the **BeSMART program** to the Ivy Creek Methodist Church [pictured at right].



BeSMART is a program developed by *Moms Demand Action for Gun Safety* to bring together parents and all adults concerned about kids, guns and safety. American kids are 11 times more likely to die from gun violence than children in other developed countries. Each year an average of 1,300 children age 17 and under have their lives cut short by gun violence. Each year nearly 300 children age 17 and under gain access to a firearm and unintentionally discharge it, injuring or killing themselves or someone else; and every year nearly 500 children 17 and under die by suicide with a gun. (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, "Fatal Injury Reports, National and Regional, 1999-2013"). Many of these shootings could easily be prevented if the gun had been secured. Securing guns is the single most important thing we can do as individuals to reduce child gun deaths. A properly secured gun must be locked and unloaded with ammunition stored separately.

If you are interested in joining the Firearm Safety Committee or which to know more about the BeSMART program, please contact Maggie Hoover (maggie.hoover@gmail.com).

Our office has moved! As a cost saving measure, the LWV CVA Board of Directors voted to leave our Arlington Blvd office. On July 1, the LWV CVA office moved to 703 Concord Avenue (in the *Virginia Organizing* building). We have a new mailing address:

League of Women Voters, PO Box 2786,
Charlottesville, VA 22902
And a new telephone number: 434 227-3264
Our email address remains unchanged:
lwv@lwv-cva.org

Welcome New Members! (as of August 8):

Mary L. Barrick
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Donna Price
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League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
PO Box 2786
Charlottesville, VA 22902

LWV CVA

President

Pat Cochran

Newsletter Editor

Michele Kellermann

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

| Date/Time | Event | Place | Contact |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Sat., Sept. 8, 8 am to 4 pm | LWV VA 2018 Workshops | The Woodlands Conference Center, Williamsburg VA | For further information, go to lww-va.org |
| Wed., Sept. 12, 10:00 am | International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting | Home of Molly O'Brien, 250 West Main St., #602, 245-9806 | For further information, contact Elaine Longerbeam, 540-832-7296 |
| Wed., Sept 12, 1:30 – 3:30 pm | LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting | Westminster-Canterbury, Pantops | For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com |
| Sun., Sept. 16, 2 – 4 pm | LWV CVA: "This Is Your League!" – Discourse and Desserts | CitySpace, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville | For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com |
| Wed., Sept., 19 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 |
| Wed., Sept. 26, 10:00 am | International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting | Home of Lois Sandy, 1666 Franklin Drive, Charlottesville, 296-8737 | For further information, contact Elaine Longerbeam, 540-832-7296 |
| Tues., Sept. 25 | National Voter Registration Day! | [Local plans are TBA] | For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com |