



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

**E-mail:**  
[lwv@lwv-cva.org](mailto:lwv@lwv-cva.org)

**Visit Our Website:**  
[lwv-cva.org](http://lwv-cva.org)

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 2786  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
**Telephone:** 434 237-3264



## **Tuesday November 6 is Election Day!**

Polls will be open from 6 am to 7 pm on November 6. More information about candidates, the two proposed constitutional amendments, and voter IDs can be found on the state election website: [elections.virginia.gov](http://elections.virginia.gov)

## *LWV CVA Sunday Seminar*

# **“Reviving Democracy: Election Reform in Virginia”**

**Sunday, November 18, 2018**

**2 to 4 pm at CitySpace on the Downtown Mall**



Guest Speakers: **Ryan Snow** and **Sally Hudson**

In an era of divisive politics, voters are hungry for concrete proposals to promote more competitive and representative elections. **Virginia has several potential reforms coming to its General Assembly in January 2019.** Join us on **Sunday, November 18, 2018**, for a discussion of key bills up for debate this legislative session, from ranked choice voting to campaign finance reform. **Our guest speakers are: Sally Hudson**, economist and assistant professor of Public Policy at UVA. In 2017, she founded *FairVote Virginia*, [<https://www.fairvote.org/>] a cross-partisan coalition working to advance ranked choice voting in Virginia. **Ryan Snow** is a civil rights lawyer and advocate focused on voting rights, redistricting, and campaign finance reform. A 2018 graduate of UVA’s School of Law, Ryan now serves as Legal Fellow in the Voting Rights Project of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

## President's Message -

Dear Fellow League members,

Our October Sunday Seminar about the ERA ratification effort made me proud to be a member of our 98-year-old organization. The discussion panel was inspiring. If you missed it, you can view a video of it by going to our website, [lww-cva.org](http://lww-cva.org) and clicking on the Facebook icon at the bottom of the home page.



I would like to thank all the members of our Voter Registration Team who have lent their time and effort towards the overall mission of the League to make our democracy strong through educating and empowering voters. (See the report on page 4 on our Leaguers who attend the Naturalization Ceremony in Charlottesville and register new citizens as voters.)

Recent outreach efforts at the *Ruidosa Women's Music Festival* at IX Park and the *UVA 5K Community Bridges* run and celebration event of Charlottesville non-profit organizations brought ample opportunities for conversation around League support and advocacy for Gun Safety Legislation, Environmental Preservation, ERA Ratification, and Redistricting Reform.

I'm looking forward to our first meeting of the newly established Justice Reform committee.

Finally, VOTE!! Our League Banner flies across Main Street in Charlottesville two weeks prior to the election to remind everyone how important it is to vote! Check out page 3 of this newsletter for what's on the ballot, and where to find information about this election. See page 4 for getting a ride to the polls.

Until next time,

**Pat Cochran**

email: [patcochranlwwcva@gmail.com](mailto:patcochranlwwcva@gmail.com)



Panelists at the LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: **A New Era for the ERA: Diversity, Inclusion, Bipartisanship**, held October 21: [from left to right] **Liza Michens**, communications/public relations major at JMU; **Trish Wallace**, Public Policy chair with the Greater Richmond branch of the AAUW; **Chelsea Higgs Wise**, clinical social worker who works on issues of race and change with campaigns including the statewide VAratifyERA campaign; and **Zakiya Thomas**, executive director of the National Women's Party.

**Election Day is November 6!** Voters may check their registration status and polling locations at the Virginia Department of Elections website: [elections.virginia.gov](http://elections.virginia.gov). 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](http://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 which appear as two ballot questions**: **The first—Article X, Taxation and Finance, Section 6 - *Should a county, city, or town be authorized to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to recurrent flooding, if flooding resiliency improvements have been made on the property?*** [A "yes" vote will authorize the General Assembly to allow localities to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to recurrent flooding, if improvements have been made on the property to address flooding. A "no" vote will not allow such a tax exemption.]

**The second—Article X, Taxation and Finance, Section 6-A— *Shall the real property tax exemption for a primary residence that is currently provided to the surviving spouses of veterans who had a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be amended to allow the surviving spouse to move to a different primary residence and still claim the exemption?*** [A "yes" vote will allow these surviving spouses to move to a new principal place of residence that is owned by the surviving spouse and still claim the tax exemption. A "no" vote will not allow such surviving spouses to move and still claim the tax exemption.]

**Voters in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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. "Jim" 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](http://elections.virginia.gov)

**CAR2Vote will provide voters in Albemarle County and Charlottesville with free rides to get ID to vote, vote early absentee in person, and vote on Election Day.**

CAR2Vote is an all-volunteer group that organizes every election season to make sure that people who want to vote but do not have transportation can get to the polls on election day. We can also provide rides to voters who wish to vote “absentee in-person” at the local registrar’s office.

To sign up for a ride, visit [CAR2Vote.weebly.com](http://CAR2Vote.weebly.com) or call (434)260-1547 and leave a message.

### **Naturalization Ceremony – Voter Registration**

Each month, members of our League, led by **Audrey Dannenberg**, attend the Naturalization Ceremony held at the United States District Court Western District of Virginia in Charlottesville to register our newest citizens to vote. The ceremony is conducted by the Honorable Joel C. Hoppe, United States Magistrate Judge. The ceremony includes the Oath of Citizenship, presentation of certificates, and the Pledge of Allegiance. At the end of the ceremony the new citizens are given the opportunity to share their experiences of becoming a United States citizen, many of which are very moving.

This month, October 19, League members **Karen Christensen**, **Kit Murphy McNally**, and **Maggie Hoover** welcomed 39 applicants from 27 countries. Twenty of these new citizens registered to vote.

The next Naturalization Ceremony is November 9 at 11:00 a.m. at the Charlottesville Courthouse. The public is invited to attend. For more information about this effort by our League, contact Audrey Dannenberg, <mailto:aadann@gmail.com>.

### **Welcome New Members!**

James H. Moak  
445 Rookwood Drive  
Charlottesville, 22903  
[jamesmoak@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesmoak@yahoo.com)  
home: 434 296 3154  
cell: 434 962 7979

Melissa Martz  
2667 English Oaks Circle  
Charlottesville, 22911-8268  
[Melissa.D.Martz@gmail.com](mailto:Melissa.D.Martz@gmail.com)  
home: 202-236-6635  
work: 434 995 3790

Sharon A. Baiocco  
2062 Aviano Way  
Charlottesville, 22911  
[sbaiocco@comcast.net](mailto:sbaiocco@comcast.net)  
home: 434-293-7797

#### **2018-19 LWV CVA Handbook Update:**

New address: Beth Kariel  
2607 Jefferson Park Circle  
Charlottesville, VA 22903

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

By Gerry Kruger

On October 10<sup>th</sup> we journeyed through miles of green meadows to **Beth Alley's** home for the International Relations/Federal Government committee meeting. **Ginny DeSimone revealed the similarities between the economic problems our country faces today and those of Teddy Roosevelt's time.** Her report was based on *The Bully Pulpit; Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism* by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

After the Civil War, our economy changed from agrarian to industrial. With this change the gap between the rich and poor had never been wider. Millions were allowed to prosper at the expense of the workers. Many were suspicious of large corporations and believed the only way this phenomenon could be corrected was with government intervention. Roosevelt believed progressives provided the answer. As head of the Civil Service Commission, he fought corruption and believed in equal opportunities for all citizens. Later Roosevelt became immensely popular because of the publicity he received from leading his Rough Riders on a charge up San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War,

However, his beliefs went against many in his own party. He believed trust reform was necessary. Trusts allowed companies to destroy their competition. The New York state Republican party leadership wanted to be rid of him and his progressive ideas. They convinced McKinley to accept Roosevelt as his running mate in the 1900 election. If he were to become Vice President, they could keep him under control. The plan backfired when McKinley was assassinated and Roosevelt became president.

Next **Rosalie Simari reported on a program that was sponsored by the Center for Politics and the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia. There are a series of programs that are open to the public throughout the year. The topic of the one she attended was "Is Democracy in Decline?"** The speakers who participated were from non-profit organizations. One was affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Another was loosely affiliated with the Democratic Party.

The focus of the speakers was the inequality that exists in our country and the world. They believe that democracy cannot exist with huge gaps in equality. Seven out of ten people in the world live in poverty. The speakers asserted that people's ability to influence inequality is declining. The solution: public outcry—marches and protests.

October 24th marked another well-attended International Relations/Federal Government Committee meeting. **Rosalie Simari** welcomed us into her home, and **Shirley Payne** and **Kit Murphy McNally** were our speakers. Shirley, who recently joined our League, offered a well-researched **report on the integrity of the coming midterm 2018 elections.** First she explained the notable events that led up to current concerns about meddling. These events included the indictment of Russian nationals on conspiracy charges for organizing a massive propaganda campaign including social media posts, online ads, and organizing political rallies in order to influence the 2016 presidential election.

*Continued on next page*



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

**Continued from previous page**

Congress appropriated \$380 million in grants for state election upgrades. However, a few weeks later two top cyber security positions were eliminated. Numerous pieces of legislation regarding election security have been introduced in Congress, but have stalled for one reason or another.

There have been some notable state-level actions as well. Virginia was awarded a five-year \$9.1 million grant for cyber security training and updating. Moreover a handbook was published to assist election officials and technical support teams. But an audit issued by an elections commission revealed that Virginia election systems have multiple problems, including an unreliable technical system and a leadership structure susceptible to undue political influence. With multiple episodes related to hacking and companies such as Facebook reporting millions of accounts being hacked, new guidance in strengthening security is now available. The problem is finding money to implement these measures.

The potential of the 2018 midterm elections being compromised is definitely a concern. One poll showed that one in three Americans believe a foreign country is likely to change vote totals. The Justice Department is concerned that Russia, China, and other foreign actors, such as Iran, could influence Americans' perceptions and decision making in both 2018 and 2020.

Our second speaker, **Kit Murphy McNally**, **shared an article by Jill Repore about victims' rights**. Until 1975 victims rights were not part of the national discussion. The Victims'-Rights Movement began with a book called *The Victims* by an attorney, Frank Carrington. It was published with the aid of the Heritage Foundation. The Warren Court had issued a number of decisions that protected the rights of the defendants and also outlawed capital punishment. Carrington's book characterized such rights as "soft on crime." It was a manifesto against the Warren Court.

The judge in the 1997 trial of Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma bomber whose actions caused hundreds of deaths and injuries, refused to allow all the victims to testify. Victims are now considered not only the dead and wounded, but also the family, friends, even fellow church members as well. In the more recent trial of Larry Nassar, the Olympics doctor who sexually abused his young clients, 156 victims were allowed to give testimony. Victims' testimony has a direct bearing on verdicts, sentencing, and parole.

Now 32 states have passed amendments on victims' rights, and on November 6, five more states will vote on victims' rights amendments. The Victims' Rights Movement hopes to have enough states to add an amendment to the Constitution.

Victim-impact statements have been used in determining length of sentences and parole. Often judges' hands are tied due to mandatory minimum sentences set by Congress, not judges. Another factor that affects defendants is race. Victim-impact statements of whites often carry more weight than those of blacks, especially if jurors are white.

Our committee welcomes new members, who appreciate learning more about global concerns and issues involving our government. Please see the last page of this newsletter for meeting times and places.



League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area  
PO Box 2786  
Charlottesville, VA 22902

***President***

Pat Cochran

***Newsletter Editor***

Michele Kellermann



Vote on November 6!

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Oct. 31, 9:30 – 11:00 am	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting	CVille Coffee, 1301 Harris St., Charlottesville	For further information, contact Kit Murphy McNally, 414-405- 3302
Tues., Nov. 6, polls open 6 am; close 7 pm	<b>ELECTION DAY!</b>	Your precinct!	For further information, go to <a href="http://elections.virginia.gov">elections.virginia.gov</a>
Wed., Nov. 14, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting/Program: "A Thread of Hope" representing Guatemalan Crafters	Home of Gerry Kruger, 989 Allendale Dr., 977- 7617	For further information, contact Elaine Longerbeam, 540-832- 7296
Wed., Nov. 14, 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting	Westminster-Canterbury, Pantops	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, <a href="mailto:patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com">patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com</a>
Sun., Nov. 18, 2 – 4 pm	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: "Reviving Democracy: Election Reform in Virginia"	CitySpace, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, <a href="mailto:patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com">patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com</a>
Wed., Nov. 28, 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