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# When is Enough *Enough*?

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## **LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: “When is Enough *Enough*?”**

**Presented by the LWV CVA Firearms Safety Committee**

**Sunday, March 17, 2019, 2 – 3:30 pm**

**CitySpace, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville**

**Guest Speakers: Ruth Hoffman, Co-Chair, LWV-VA Firearms Safety Task Force**

**Andrew Goddard, Legislative Director of the Virginia Center for Public Safety**

### **WHEN IS ENOUGH *ENOUGH*?**

#### **A sampling of proposed legislation that failed before crossover in the 2019 General Assembly:**

- Any person who leaves a loaded unsecured firearm in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any person under the age of 18 is guilty of a Class 6 felony – **FAILED!**
- Requires Universal Background checks – **FAILED!**
- Prohibits bump stocks and other devices that increase the rate of fire - **FAILED!**
- Holds parents/guardians liable for injuries resulting from their child bringing a firearm to school when there is clear and convincing evidence that parents/guardians failed to reasonably secure the firearm – **FAILED!**
- Authorizes any locality by ordinance to prohibit the possession or carrying of firearms and ammunition in a public space during a permitted event - **FAILED!**

#### **A sampling of proposed legislation that did survive crossover in the 2019 General Assembly:**

- Repeals a law against carrying dangerous weapons into houses of worship
- Allows concealed carry without a permit
- Legalizes the manufacture and distribution for export of bladed weapons (switchblade knives) that are illegal to possess in Virginia

**Ruth Hoffman, Co-Chair of the League of Women Voters of Virginia’s Firearms Safety Task Force**, will set the stage for our discussion and walk us through America’s history with gun violence, how we got to where we are and the momentum going forward. Mrs. Hoffman is recognized for her expertise in gun violence prevention policy. She is also a volunteer with *Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America* serving as the Virginia Chapter’s Membership Lead for two years and now leads the *BeSMART* campaign for Virginia.

**Andrew Goddard, Legislative Director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence**, has had a front row seat in the committee meetings while sensible firearm bills are being debated and has often testified. On Sunday, March 17, at CitySpace he will share his insights into why these and other bills can’t get passed. These insights can provide the basis of our strategy for the 2020 General Assembly. Mr. 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 was the first Board Chair of the National Gun Victims Action Council and he served on the state board of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services from 2008 to 2012. Mr. Goddard knows firsthand the devastating effects of gun violence as his son was injured in the tragic shooting massacre at Virginia Tech in April 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.**

*President's Message* - Dear Fellow League members,

Before you know it, our Annual Meeting will be here!

**LWV CVA Annual Meeting  
Thursday, May 9, 2019, Noon Luncheon  
The Greencroft Club**

We are delighted to announce that our guest speaker that day is Deanna Reed, the first African-American woman elected to the Harrisonburg City Council in 2016, and the first chosen by the Council to serve as its mayor. So mark your calendars now to attend this important annual League event, the time when we elect directors and officers for 2019-20; adopt the operating fund budget for 2019-20; and adopt Local Program for 2019-20. **Information about making your luncheon reservation(s) will be available in the April newsletter: there will be a choice of menu at \$30 per meal.**

Please note: Bobbie Williams, LWV CVA Nominating Committee chair, will be wrapping up her term this year, as will past-president Kerin Yates and board member, Dena Imlay. **The Nominating Committee requires a Board member and two other LWV members.** Bobbie is encouraging some enthusiastic volunteering to fill the two other positions, if she continues for another term. The names must be submitted for the Annual Meeting in May. If you are interested or just want more information, contact Bobbie at [bbwms44@gmail.com](mailto:bbwms44@gmail.com).

We have three outstanding members who are very interested in further exploration of daycare regulations and how those regulations are enforced. Daycare licensing is critically important and will be the topic of a study proposed by LWV CVA member Beth Kariel to update our local position on Child Care (see page 4 of this newsletter). Please let me or Beth Kariel, [bethkariel9@gmail.com](mailto:bethkariel9@gmail.com) know if this topic captures your imagination. We hope to hear from some of you. Come talk to us at the next Sunday Seminar!

My heart aches for all those who worked so very hard on ratification of the ERA here in VA. While I'm sad that the effort was blocked by so few, I'm encouraged by our members' continued enthusiasm for finding a way to get the ERA ratified in Florida or North Carolina or Georgia. Indeed, it is time! The Virginia campaign was extremely well organized and documented thanks to the efforts of LWV CVA member Kate Bird. I hope Virginia's efforts will be shared to further the cause.

I'm grateful and proud of Frances Schutz and Michele Kellermann's fine management of the annual Program Planning meeting in February. I know I certainly gained a new understanding of how the League develops its positions. If you missed it this year, you will have a chance to participate in the process when we have a consensus meeting on the proposed study to update child care in the coming year.

I hope to see you at **our next Sunday Seminar on March 17** presented by our LWV CVA Firearms Safety Committee.

*Pat Cochran*

LWV CVA President, email: [patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com](mailto:patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com)

## LWV-CVA Program Planning for 2019-20

Summary of suggestions taken on February 19, 2019 at Program Planning

LWV-CVA Positions	Retain	Update	Take Action	Delete	COMMENTS
<u><b>CHILD CARE</b></u>		X			Are standards for daycare licensing thorough? Is enforcement of licensing adequate? Is training and education of daycare workers adequate?
<u><b>EDUCATION</b></u>	X				
<u><b>GOVERNMENT</b></u>	X				
<u><b>HEALTH AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES IN AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b></u>	X				
<u><b>HOUSING</b></u>	X				
<u><b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b></u>	X				
Energy	X				
Land Use	X				
Water	X				
Waste Management	X				
<u><b>REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM</b></u>	X				
<u><b>TRANSPORTATION</b></u>	X				
<u><b>FIREARMS SAFETY</b></u>	X				

(Use back of form/additional page as needed)

1. Is there a **new study** (one only) on a local issue you would suggest? Describe issue and give scope for the study. List volunteers willing to work on the study. **[No new studies suggested.]**

2. Is there an **update** (restudy) of a current position (one only) you would suggest? List reason for restudy and define scope. Also **give volunteers willing to work on the update.**

**Update the local Child Care position: Is current day care licensing adequate?** Beth Kariel and Kathryn Dillon will study whether standards are thorough; whether enforcement is adequate; and whether training and education of daycare workers is adequate. They will investigate the care and protection of children regarding out of family CPS (Child Protective Services) cases, specifically cases that occur at daycare centers.

3. Is there a position you want to **delete**? Explain why you think the position is no longer needed or valid. **[No positions to be deleted.]**

4. Is there a LWV-CVA position you think needs to be emphasized for **action**? If so, what **type of action** would you like to see? (e.g. holding a forum, lobbying elected officials, etc.) If more than one position is selected for advocacy/action, prioritize the items in chart above. **[No positions emphasized for action.]**

**Note:** We had no new studies to recommend to the LWV-VA, and just a few minor edits to suggest. *Our local study on Child Care Safety and perhaps one on Women and the Justice System may provide the basis for statewide study, update, or concurrence in the near future.*





## Equal Rights Amendment's Last Gasp in Virginia!

Republican leaders in the House of Delegates blocked an obscure legislative maneuver by Del. Hala Ayala, D-Woodbridge, to force a floor vote on the **Equal Rights Amendment**. Seen in the photo at right is LWV CVA past president **Kerin Yates** looking on as Ayala speaks.



The *League of Women Voters of Virginia* actively supported the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment by the Virginia General Assembly, joining with *VARatifyERA*, *NOW* and other statewide organizations in rallies at the State Capital. Sadly, it failed to win passage despite last minute maneuvering to get it to the assembly floor for a vote. For more photos, click on our Facebook icon at the bottom of the home page of our LWV CVA website: [lwv-cva.org](http://lwv-cva.org). Many thanks to Megan Tracy, LWV CVA social media director, for her up-to-the minute posts! And kudos to LWV CVA member Kate Bird, super organizer of the ratify effort, as well as all of our Leaguers who made the drive to Richmond!

## General Assembly Votes to Create Virginia's first Redistricting Commission!

By Kerin Yates, LWV CVA Liaison with *OneVirginia 2021*

On February 24, ***OneVirginia2021*** supported actively by the LWV of Virginia was thrilled to report that the Virginia General Assembly had taken the first crucial step toward truly reforming the way Virginia draws its legislative districts. The proposed **Redistricting Commission** includes citizens and calls for full transparency.

**The amendment to the Virginia State Constitution as written must be passed again in 2020 General Assembly.** Passage would allow the amendment to be then voted on in the November 2020 election and, if passed there, would be used to draw the district lines following the 2020 census. Read more at our website: [lww-cva.org](http://lww-cva.org) and at the state League's site: [LWV-VA.org](http://LWV-VA.org).

Thank you to all who participated through the years to bring us to this point. The task is not completed but we have made a very good start.

### 2019 Finance Drive Update

By Frances Schutz, LWV CVA Finance Drive Chair

On behalf of the LWV CVA Board, huge thanks to all who have so far participated in our 2019 Finance Drive!

Kudos to the 18 League members who answered our call to become **Early Birds**, by giving before January 15. They gave us a great start, with donations of \$1021.00 to the Operating Fund, and \$605.00 to the Education Fund.

Then there were the three relatively new members on the team who organized the mailing materials for about 400 envelopes on January 25, so that the fabulous fourteen who showed up on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> were able to add personal notes to many letters, and finish in what I believe may have been near-record time. We all had fun, and I am delighted that the work has begun to bear fruit.

Since we send a significant portion of our dues to the LWV-VA and LWV US as our Per-Member-Payments, our Finance Drive is a crucial source of funding for our local activities and activism. Donations to *either* Fund are always welcome. We need both funds to be healthy in order to continue to provide established services, and to envision new ones for the future.

2019 To date [February 22], we have received **\$5145.00** as follows,

#### **Members:**

Education Fund: \$1105.00

Operating Fund: \$ 2271.00

Total Donations: **\$ 3376.00**

#### **Non-Members:**

Education Fund: \$894.00

Operating Fund: \$875.00

Total Donations: **\$1769.00**

## ***LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee News***

### **Benefits of “Smart Growth” planning highlighted at League forum, “What’s the Use of Planning?”**

#### **A Summary Report of the LWV CVA Sunday Seminar on February 10, 2019, by Sean Tubbs**

The combined population of both Albemarle County and Charlottesville is expected to grow to over 200,000 people in the next few decades, but staying true to long-held plans will help ensure both the environment and our quality of life is not compromised.

“It is very hard to fix the design mistakes of the suburbs once you have built them,” said Stewart Schwartz, the founder and executive director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth. CSG is a nonprofit organization that campaigns for urban revitalization, better transit, affordable housing and more walkable communities.

“Without good planning and engagement, we end up with sprawl,” Schwartz added.

Schwartz was one of two speakers at a LWV CVA Sunday Seminar on February 10 on the importance of urban planning. The other guest was Karen Firehock, the executive director of the Green Infrastructure Center, a nonprofit organization that advises communities on how to conserve and restore natural resources.

“As we try to grow in a tight urban pattern, I want everyone to also remember that we want to think not only about [built] infrastructure, but also think about the green infrastructure,” Firehock said. “That’s the tree canopy, streams and all of those elements we need to create a livable city.”

The forum was organized by the Natural Resources Committee as a way to educate attendees on the importance of a state-mandated document called the Comprehensive Plan plays in every community across Virginia.

“We are really invested in our local planning process,” said Sally Thomas, a former member of the Albemarle Board of Supervisors and NRC member. “However, we don’t see a lot of investment by others in the community right now.”

Since 1980, Albemarle’s Comprehensive Plan has divided the county’s land into rural and growth areas. Five percent of the county’s 726 square miles are set aside for new businesses and dense developments.

“For a long time, the decisions have been examples of what we call planning for smart growth,” Thomas said.

That planning lured Firehock here from the D.C. area in the early 1990’s so that she could be closer to opportunities to kayak. Since then she has been a member of the Charlottesville Planning Commission and is a current member of the Albemarle Planning Commission.

“When I’m sitting up there on the dais representing the Samuel Miller District and somebody wants to do something different, the first thing I do is look at the Comprehensive Plan and see what it says,” Firehock said. “Even if I don’t totally agree with it, it’s the policy that has been created by our collective so that is my Bible and what I look to.”

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## ***LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee News***

### **Benefits of “Smart Growth” planning highlighted at League forum, “What’s the Use of Planning?”**

*Continued from previous page*

Schwartz said his interest in smart growth was influenced by reading the book *Geography of Nowhere*. James Howard Kuntsler’s landmark work describes the trend in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to create places where people must have cars in order to get to work, stores and recreation. In response, his organization created a guide called the *Blueprint for Better Regions* in 2002.

“What it talked about was that if we grew out around our Metro, revitalize D.C., and create walkable communities, we would actually make the roads better,” Schwartz said. “We’ve met with developers and conservationists at the same time and agreed that if we were to redevelop parking lots into mixed-use walkable places with higher density, they’re going to retrofit the stormwater and control what they’re not controlling now.”

Schwartz said smart growth communities ensure there are safe ways for people to walk and ride bicycles for more than just recreation. There also must be reliable bus routes as part of a strategy to get people out of their cars.

“Transportation is now the number one sector in the United States for greenhouse gas emissions because we’re driving so much and electric vehicles won’t solve this,” Schwartz said. “We have to reduce vehicle miles traveled.”

Another tenet of smart growth is to spend money on infrastructure in places where it makes sense.

“Albemarle has run public water to the places where growth is [desired] and we have restricted it from the places where we want to keep it rural,” Firehock said.

Firehock said it is important for communities to connect green space in order to allow wildlife to travel from place to place.

“I am really concerned with not allowing our rural areas to be broken up into smaller and smaller fragments that can’t support our native species,” Firehock said. In her professional capacity, Firehock is working to help inform decisions about how to preserve habitat during a time of population increases.

Within urban areas, Firehock said the Green Infrastructure Center advises communities to create street networks that are as environmentally friendly as possible. That includes installing street trees and managing stormwater.

“We still have a real problem in Charlottesville that most of our run-off doesn’t go to any treatment and it goes right into the stream,” Firehock said, adding she looks forward to helping inform the redevelopment of sloped parking lots that make flash floods worse.

Albemarle is currently in the process of adding an action plan to preserve biodiversity in the rural area. New language will be added to the Comprehensive Plan as a result.

**For further information about the work and meeting times of the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee, contact Sally Thomas, (434) 295-1819.**



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

By Gerry Kruger (February 13 report); Marge Cox and Valerie Chasin (February 27 report)

Once again Molly O'Brien hosted the International Relations/Federal Government Committee on February 13, 2019. First **Bobbie Williams** gave us some background information on **the growing number of Chinese immigrants living in Italy**. During the 1980's they settled in an area near Florence and worked for the artisans and crafters that made mostly leather goods. Soon, however, they worked on the side to create their own businesses and sold copies of the products of the high-end businesses for lower prices. This practice created friction between the Italians and the Chinese. Over time more and more Chinese immigrants have settled in this area of Italy, often replacing those who die and using their immigration papers. The authorities have investigated this and found as many as 8,000 registration violations.

**Natalie Somer reported on an article from *The New Yorker* called "McPolitics."** She explained how our politics have evolved from being focused on what is happening locally to what is happening nationally. No longer are politicians interested in helping solve the problems of their constituents. Politicians now promote the ideology of their parties. This promotes divisiveness and is exacerbated by cable television's 24-hour news channels. Politics is now similar to a national chain like Amazon or McDonald's, thus "McPolitics."

On February 27, the Committee met at the home of Lois Sandy. We were informed by two reports: First, ***The Enemy of my Enemy*--presented by Marge Cox**. While the Arab states are anxious to solve the Israel-Palestine conflict, they appear to be ready to accept conditions less favorable to Palestine than the Obama administration hoped to get. The ties among Sheldon Adelson, the Kushner family, Netanyahu, and evangelical Christians have had a powerful influence on the current U. S. policy for the Middle East. That policy has become steadily more aligned with the Likud Party in Israel. The movement of the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and the withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal are direct results of the pressure from the outside influences.

**Valerie Chasin followed with a report on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**, a controversial trade pact negotiated by the administrations of U.S. President George H.W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Valerie covered some of the history about how the leaders of the three countries signed the agreement in December 1992; it was approved by the three countries' national legislatures in 1993, and went into effect in January 1994.

In November 2018 a renegotiated pact was signed by President Trump, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, and is now branded the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement ((USMCA). The deal still needs to be ratified by the three countries' legislatures, and it is unclear what lawmakers will do. Our talk today included the changes in the following provisions: country of origin rules, labor provisions, access to the Canadian dairy market, intellectual property and digital trade, no section 232 tariff protections, and a sunset clause. The presentation concluded with a review of some of the initial responses from the U.S. Congress. [Sources used: Encyclopedia Britannica Online and articles from VOX and *The New York Times*.]

The LWV CVA IR/FG Committee invites you to join the lively and informative programs that take place in committee members' homes. **See the Calendar at the end of this newsletter for our March meetings.**

## *Upcoming LWV CVA Sunday Seminar*

**Sunday, April 21, 2019**

**2 – 3:30 pm**

**CitySpace, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville**

### **“Seeking Justice Reform for Women”**

Injustice in the justice system is finally coming to light, especially as it disproportionately affects primarily African American and Latino men. But women in conflict with the law remained in the shadows until the ***Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville*** revealed the inadequate and sometimes deadly medical care for women at the **Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women**.

The LWV CVA *Sunday Seminar* on April 21 will feature Angela Ciolfi, Attorney and Executive Director of LAJC, discussing significant reforms that would positively affect the lives of at-risk women; and Shannon Ellis, the Lewis F. Powell Fellow at LAJC, will talk about the women at FCCW whose sometimes tragic experiences stoked a successful lawsuit against the State of Virginia.

The League’s new Justice Reform Committee is sponsoring the Seminar — new members to the Committee are welcome. If interested contact, **Kit Murphy McNally 414-405-3302**.

## **Welcome New Member!**

Elizabeth Kade  
105 Waterford Court  
Charlottesville, VA 22902 9013  
202-577-4513  
[elizabeth.kade@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.kade@gmail.com)

### **MARCH 8 LECTURE**

Kerin Yates relays the following announcement with the note that **Dahlia Lithwick** in 2015 and **Risa Goluboff** in 2016 were the featured speakers at the LWV CVA Annual Meeting.

### **TANDEM SPEAKS!**

Speakers: **Dahlia Lithwick**, senior editor at *Slate*, and **Khizr Khan**, lawyer and constitutional rights expert.  
Moderator: **Risa Goluboff**, dean of UVA's School of Law.

**Friday, March 8**

**7 - 9 pm**

**PVCC V. Earl Dickinson Bldg.  
501 College Dr., Charlottesville**



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

**LWV CVA**

**President**

Pat Cochran

**Newsletter Editor**

Michele Kellermann

***Save the Date!* LWV CVA Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, May 9, 2019, Noon Luncheon**

**The Greencroft Club**

Guest Speaker: Deanna Reed, Harrisonburg City Council

Luncheon Reservations to be announced in the April Newsletter

**Meetings and Events for March 2019:  
*Mark Your Calendars Now!***

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Fri., March 8, 7 – 9 pm	Tandem Speaks!	PVCC: V. Earl Dickinson Bldg., 501 College Drive	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., March 13, 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 Elaine Longerbeam, 540-832- 7296
Wed., March 13, 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting	Westminster-Canterbury, Pantops	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, <a href="mailto:patcochranlwcva@gmail.com">patcochranlwcva@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sun., March 17, 2 – 3:30 pm</b>	<b>Sunday Seminar: "When is Enough Enough?"</b>	<b>CitySpace, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville</b>	For further information, contact Maggie Hoover, <a href="mailto:maggie.hoover@gmail.com">maggie.hoover@gmail.com</a>
Wed, March 20, 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
Wed, March 27, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	[To Be Announced]	For further information, contact Elaine Longerbeam, 540-832- 7296