

2019 LWV CVA May Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2019
Noon Luncheon at The Greencroft Club
Guest of Honor: Deanna Reed, Mayor
Harrisonburg City Council

At the 2019 Annual Meeting of the *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area*, to be held on Thursday, May 9, we are pleased to announce our guest speaker, Deanna Reed, who has graciously accepted our invitation to speak to us at our luncheon.



Growing up in Harrisonburg, Deanna Reed was surrounded by women whose examples of community service inspired her to mentor young women of color. When she returned to the city to care for her aging grandmother, Reed worked in the public schools and became involved in several community organizations, including the African-American Culture Festival and the Harrisonburg Women's Service League, of which she has served as president. For more than thirty years she has also been a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In 2009 Reed co-founded Precious Gems Academy, an after-school mentorship program for students from elementary to high school. In 2015 she became program director for the On the Road Collaborative, a local initiative that connects low-income youth with academic support, career enrichment classes, and leadership development to prepare middle- and high-school students for life after graduation.

Concerned about school overcrowding, Reed began attending city council meetings and was struck by the fact that there were no female members at the time. After unsuccessfully attempting to recruit a woman to run, she decided to run for office herself, winning election in 2016 with the most votes in the council's history. The first African-American woman elected to Harrisonburg's city council, she was also the first to be chosen mayor by the council. As mayor, Reed focuses on education and strives to bring together Harrisonburg's diverse communities. In 2018 *Essence* named her to its list of Woke 100 Women, which highlights African-American change agents.

Luncheon reservations are necessary for this occasion. Following the remarks of our speaker, we will hold the 2019 Annual Meeting of our League. Please contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873, for further information.



2019 Annual Meeting Announcement League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area

Thursday, May 9, 2019

The Greencroft Club, Charlottesville

**PROGRAM: A Celebration of Our Year
Working to Serve, Educate, and Advocate!
Member/Guest Social 11:30 am to 12 noon
Noon: Luncheon and Presentation by
Guest Speaker: Deanna Reed, Mayor, Harrisonburg City Council**

Following the Speaker's Presentation:

Annual Business Meeting of Members

The Annual Meeting of our League is the time when members vote on the business of the League for the coming fiscal year, 2019-20. We urge members to attend and

- **Elect directors and officers for 2019-20** *[See note below from the Nominating Committee.]*
- **Adopt the Operating Fund Budget for 2019-20**
- **Adopt Local Program for 2019-20: Proposed Update of the LWV CVA Child Care position:**
An investigation of the care and protection of children in child care locally to include
 1. Are standards for daycare licensing thorough enough?
 2. Is enforcement of daycare licensing adequate?
 3. Is training and education of daycare workers adequate?
 4. When CPS (Child Protective Services) investigates an incident at a daycare, should families of the children involved in the investigation be given information regarding the investigation?
- **Adopt Proposed Changes to LWV CVA Annual Dues**

To facilitate your preparation to vote on these items, you will be emailed the **Annual Meeting Packet two weeks in advance of the May 9 meeting. Please review!** It will contain information vital to the business meeting. Special note: **Many thanks to Jim Peterson** who once again is providing audio-visual support at our Annual Meeting.

From the LWV CVA Nominating Committee:

The following positions will be voted on at the LWV CVA Annual Meeting on May 9:

- Vice-President - 2019-2021
- Treasurer – 2019-21
- Chair and member of Nominating committee - 2019-2020
- One seat on the Mary Stamps White Committee
- Elected Directors (2) for: Voter Service and Community Engagement – 2019-2021

President's Message - Dear Fellow League members,

May is such a full and exciting month. Spring itself is energizing. Our Annual Luncheon/Meeting is set to happen on May 9th. I look forward to our featured speaker, Mayor Deanna Reed, and completing the annual process of voting on Program issues and new Chairs for our committees. We were very pleased with the use of our new online luncheon reservation system on our website, lwv-cva.org. The online system saved significant processing and clerical time. Thank you.

Our State League has organized its Biennial State Convention for May 17 through the 19th. We have 6 members going to the LWV-VA Convention this year! Kit Muphy-McNally's wonderful April Sunday Seminar on Justice Reform was a wake-up call highlighting the sad state of affairs in our prison systems. I am hoping we have inspired some members to join the committee.

We will have had two Candidate Forums for the upcoming primaries by the time you read this. The forums are organizational feats! I would like to thank all of our members who have contributed to their success. Dena Imlay did a fine job organizing as Voter Services Chair. Megan Tracy did a terrific job of managing the video live stream of the events on our Facebook site which you can access on our website lwv-cva.org. Lisa Hilgartner gave a polished and professional interview on WINA on our behalf. Peyton Williams did a stellar job as moderator at the 57th District Delegate Candidates Forum. And Donna Price made us all proud with her moderating of the Charlottesville City Council Candidates Forum.

I am looking towards reactivating our Voter Registration Team concept this summer. There will be community events where our voter registration activities are of value as well as community education and outreach. I would certainly welcome your participation. I am looking for a member who may be interested in implementing a well-defined, organized LWV US high school voter registration program in one or more of our local high schools.

Beth Kariel hopes to extend her childcare committee efforts through new committee members. Find out more from Beth, email her at: bethkariel9@gmail.com

I would especially like to hear from you with your ideas for next year's Sunday Seminars. In June, our Board will be meeting to form next year's plans for activities and events. We are looking to hire someone as a part-time administrative assistant. Send us an email at lwv@lwv-cva.org

Almost one year has elapsed since my term as president of our local League began. I continue to marvel at the breadth of experience of our League community. Learning from all of you has truly enriched my life. Your ideas and willingness to help sustain me. Thank you.

Pat Cochran

LWV CVA President, email: patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com

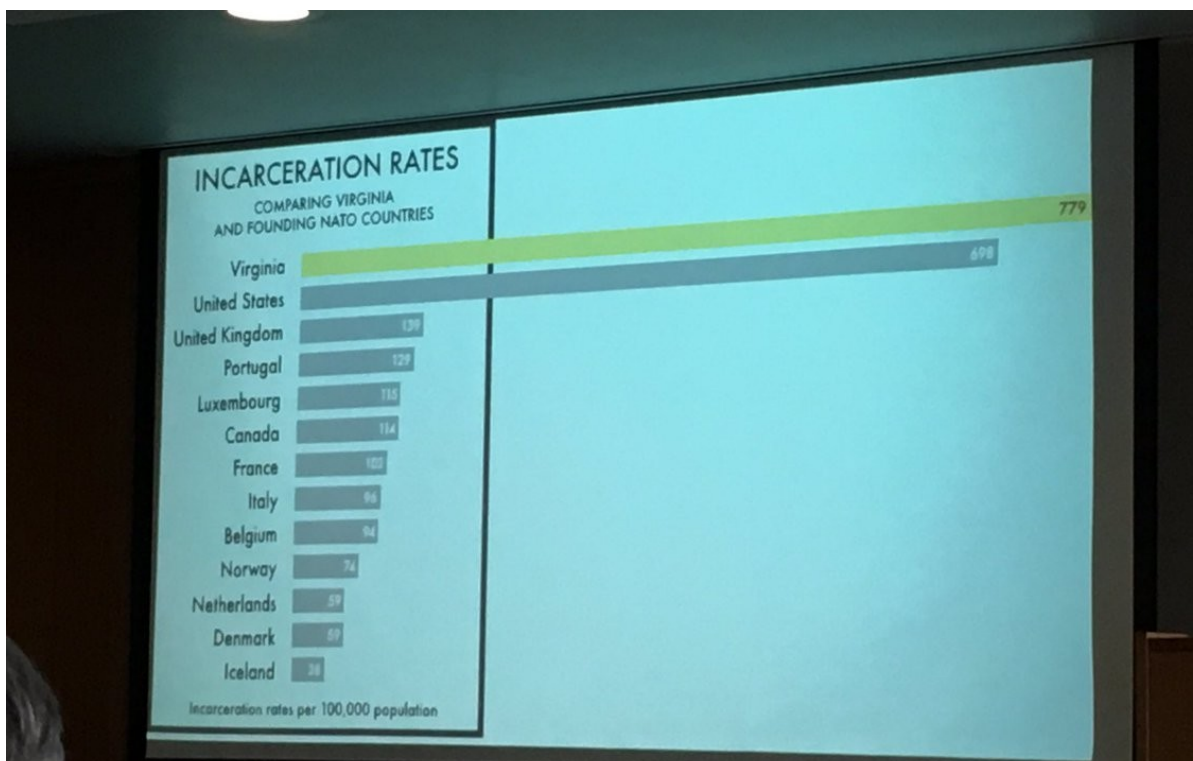
Justice Isn't Always for All: A Report of the April 14 LWV CVA Sunday Seminar

By Kit Murphy McNally, LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee

With striking illustrations *Legal Aid Justice Center* attorneys, **Shannon Ellis** and **Kim Rolla**, underscored how Virginia, the eighth wealthiest state in the Union, has systematically criminalized and incarcerated residents who are overwhelmingly poor and often experiencing mental illness. And once in prison, there is no parole.

It is time to decriminalize poverty, Rolla says, the human cost of incarceration is unacceptable. That human cost has been explicitly demonstrated through the LAJC litigation against the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women where 63% of the inmates have nonviolent convictions and 66% are in need of mental health services, Ellis reported. Many of the 1200 women incarcerated, often far from their families, are impoverished moms and sole caregivers.

The LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee, open to all interested in education and action, sponsored the seminar and meets monthly on the last Tuesday from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM. If interested in joining or learning more, contact Kit Murphy McNally, murphymcnally@gmail.com.



If Virginia were a country, its rates of incarceration would outpace other countries including the US!

International Relations /Federal Government Committee News

By Gerry Kruger

On April 10th the International Relations/Federal Government Committee enjoyed a country drive to Scottsville, where Donna Price hosted our meeting in her cottage, part of which was built in the 1700's. Beth Alley led a discussion based on **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness**, a book that discusses race-related issues specific to African-American males and mass incarceration in the United States.

Our members were asked to bring in articles that showed examples and the effects of this. Some of these examples were lower wages and joblessness, arrests made because an out-of state person may not be aware of a particular state law, and groups being ordered to leave the DMV when bringing people to register to vote.

E-carceration is a system now being used to empty overcrowded prisons. Allowing non-violent prisoners to be on monitors instead of in prison sounds reasonable, but this costs the prisoner \$300 to \$400 dollars a month and is cost-prohibitive for the poor. Another factor that has contributed to mass incarceration is that prosecutors' job security is based on how many people they put in prison.

The IR/FG Committee welcomes all! Check the Calendar on the back page of this newsletter for May meetings.

LWV CVA Finance Drive

By Frances Schutz, 2019 Finance Drive Director

Huge appreciation to all who have participated thus far in our annual Finance Drive! With only two months left in our current fiscal year, we are still shy of our fundraising goal for our Education Fund. We had budgeted receipts of \$3900, and have collected \$2206. We have had outstanding support for the Operating Fund, amounting to \$3963. Our total collected so far is \$6119. The FY 19 budget projected a total of \$7500.

There is still time for you to help us reach our goal. Donation to either fund advances the mission of the LWV, and we hope you'll consider helping us to bring this total up to meet our budget projections. Any amount of support will be appreciated.

In addition, those of us who have achieved the age of 70.5, and are facing mandatory minimum annual withdrawals from IRAs, may arrange to have some of that directly deposited into the Ed Fund, and it is not counted as income under current tax laws. Feel free to consult with your financial institution or advisor as to how to proceed. Thank you!

Welcome New Members!

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Coverage of the LWV-VA 2019 Convention

Friday evening, May 17 to Sunday, May 19, 2019,

Norfolk Waterside Marriott, 235 E Main St, Norfolk, VA 23510 .

[Registration deadline was April 25, 2019]

We hope that all League members who are able to do so come to the [Convention](#). However, we know that is not always possible for folks and we want those members who can not attend to be as much of a participant as possible. So, we will be covering Convention activities using our Facebook Group, [LWV-VA Social](#). You must be a member of this group in order to post and view what others have posted.

This is one of several special groups that we have available for our members. They are for members only and allow us to communicate with each other easily.

You have to request to be added to these groups, so if you want to follow Convention activities, join the group. Anyone who is a member of the group can post their photos, videos, comments, etc. directly to the group.

Join now and be sure to answer the two questions so your member status can be verified. If you wait till the last minute, there may be a delay in getting that verification.

To learn more about this and other Facebook Groups that we have check out our Facebook Groups page on the website at <https://lww-va.org/members-corner/facebook-working-groups/>

We are also using the hashtag #LWVVA2019 on Twitter, but please remember that Twitter is public.

A note from LWV CVA Life Member Molly O'Brien, who sent in this article :

Michele, I thought our members might be interested in this very nice piece about **Lulu Meese**—our very own ERA advocate [*and LWV CVA Life Member*]. She's well but does not cross the mountain so she does not attend our meetings. She's very happy to have had this piece in her paper, "Ten Who Loved Waynesboro," which reads

"No discussion of elections can take place without mention of **Lulu Meese** who twice served as president of the Virginia League of Women Voters (1975-79 and 1996-97). She was recognized in 1986 by the Waynesboro Kiwanis as the Outstanding Citizen of the Year, by the Waynesboro City Council as Outstanding Volunteer (1991), by the Virginia Planning Commission as Outstanding Citizen (1997) and in 1998 received the Waynesboro Outstanding Woman Award."

From "The Waynesboro News Virginian"

Update on Firearms Safety Legislation by Natalie Testa

[Reprinted from the *LWV of Richmond Newsletter*]

The League of Women Voters has strong national positions on Firearms Safety issue which are invoked to lobby for and against legislative bills at all three levels of government.

On the national level, a bill passed the House last month to require universal background checks for gun purchases, but it has little chance of passage in the Senate this year, despite the fact that 90% of gun owners support universal background checks. The Supreme Court recently upheld a law to ban bump stocks, which was a hopeful decision, but this type of ammunition only accounts for .00001 of gun deaths. Background checks would save many more lives but are fiercely opposed by gun rights activists. The US now has more guns than people and more Americans die from guns every 10 weeks that died in the entire Afghanistan and Iraq wars combined. More restrictions on types of legal firearms are needed. Experts have suggested that gun deaths could be reduced by one third or 13,000 lives annually. Contrast our long years of lobbying for gun safety laws with New Zealand where much stricter laws were enacted into law 10 days after a mass shooting last month.

On the state level, in the recent session 36 bills were introduced by gun safety advocates and only 3 got past the Senate Courts committee process only to die in the Finance Committee. They included penalties for paramilitary activities, trigger activators that increase the rate of fire on guns, and possession of firearms by people under protective orders.

Of the nine bills opposed by gun safety advocates, three were passed by both Senate and House and sent to the Governor. Letters were written urging the Governor to veto these bills, which would have established school protection officers with no provision for training, permitted the manufacture of switchblade knives (which are illegal in VA) as long as they were not sold in the state, and made it easier for out-of-state visitors to obtain concealed handgun permits (the League opposes these permits). Governor Northam, who had introduced a number of gun safety bills that failed in the session, did veto these three bills.

LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee to Meet on Thursday, May 23, 2:30 pm, at University Village (small committee meeting room), 500 Crestwood Drive. There will be an update on planning issues in Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

Note: The Natural Resources Committee meets the fourth Thursday of the month. New members always welcome.

Call Sally Thomas for directions: 434-295-1819

A Suggested Read from Kerin Yates, who notes that many global topics are considered in:

Thank You for Being Late
By Thomas Friedman

(2016 Macmillan)



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 May 2019:
Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., May 8, 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 Elaine Longerbeam, 540-832- 7296
Thurs., May 9, Noon Luncheon	LWV CVA Annual Meeting: Guest Speaker, Deanna Reed, Harrisonburg City Mayor	The Greencroft Club, 575 Rodes Dr., Charlottesville	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Fri. – Sun., May 17 – 19	LWV-VA 39th Biennial Convention	Waterside Marriott, 235 E. Main St., Norfolk	For further information, go to https://lwv-va.org/39th-biennial- convention/
Wed., May 22, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Deborah Brooks, 3080 Branham Place, 434- 295-7696	For further information, contact Elaine Longerbeam, 540-832- 7296
Thurs., May 23, 2:30 – 4 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