

LWV CVA Sunday Seminar

"Improving Early Childhood Care and Education"

Guest Speaker: Gail Esterman, Director of Early Learning

ReadyKids

Sunday, November 17, 2019

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

**Doors open at 2 pm for "Meet and Greet"
Program begins promptly at 2:30 pm**

Early childhood care and education is important because many families need child care and there is not enough affordable, quality child care in our region. The Child Care Committee of the *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* is currently doing a study of child care in order to update our position.



The focus of the study is on child care licensing and enforcement as well as education and training for those who work in child care. The role that government should play in child care is being considered. While it's a good sign that in June, 2018, Governor Northam reestablished the Children's Cabinet, which is being led by First Lady Pamela Northam, real results and evidence of improvement in local child care is something we need to monitor.

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It's important that we be advocates for children, not only for their well being but for the well being of society generally. Early childhood is a time of development and growth, socially, emotionally and intellectually. Good early childhood experiences can have positive lifelong effects on children. However, inadequate care can have negative lifelong effects on children. We should have high expectations for child care and provide enough resources for high quality child care for children in Virginia.

We are delighted that **Gail Esterman, Director of Early Learning at ReadyKids**, will be our guest speaker. Gail will be telling us about the many positive initiatives that are going on at the state and federal levels, to improve early childhood care and education. One initiative is "Virginia Quality", which is the state's voluntary quality rating and improvement system. It includes regulating authority, quality rating standards and professional development. Following Gail's presentation, Beth Kariel and Kathryn Dillon, of the League's Child Care Committee, will give a presentation about the results of their study of child care licensing.

Join us for this informative meeting on **Sunday, November 17, 2019, at CitySpace, Charlottesville Downtown Mall (parking in the adjacent Market Street parking garage). Doors open at 2 pm; program begins promptly at 2:30 pm.** All League seminars are open to the public.



Program Planning Meeting set for Sunday, December 8, in CitySpace from

1:30 to 4 pm. At this important League meeting, LWV CVA members will review our Local Program. *It's not too early to begin to prepare for this meeting* by reviewing pages 14 – 18 in our 2019-20 LWV CVA Handbook "Positioned for Action" or go to our website, lwg-cva.org and click on the drop-down menu "Advocacy" then "Positions: National, State, Local." A full notice to this meeting—what Program Planning is about and how members can prepare to participate—will be laid out in our December newsletter.

Election Day is November 5!

Voters may check their registration status and polling locations at the Virginia Department of Elections website: elections.virginia.gov. **The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is Tuesday, October 29—your request must be received by your Registrar by 5 pm; the deadline to request an absentee ballot in-person is Saturday, November 2.** Voting locations can be checked on the state elections website or by calling 804-864-8901 or 800-552-9745.

Registrar office phone numbers are:

City of Charlottesville – 434 970 3250

Albemarle County – 434 972 4173

Fluvanna County – 434 589 3593

Greene County – 434 985 5213

Louisa County – 540-967-3427

Nelson County – 434 263 4068



Go to our website, lww-cva.org for “What’s On Your Ballot?”

And click on the links that take you to your city or county registrar’s website with sample ballot information.

Wanted: Memorabilia from The Past

League Members, do you have any keepsakes from past *League of Women Voters* history? Please contact me to tell me what you have. I’ll be putting together the display for our League’s 100th birthday in February and I’m seeking materials that you may have. Having personal history materials adds local interest to the display. Please contact Lisa Hilgartner by email at lisamezzo@gmail.com and let me know what you have and its size. If you have objects, like a doll or campaign pins, I’ll be able to see if I need a display case to put them in. Just let me know. Thanks!

International Relations /Federal Government Committee News by Gerry Kruger

On October 9, 2019 the International Relations/Federal Government Committee met in the lovely home of **Deborah Brooks. Shirley Payne** presented an astounding report on deepfake threats. Shirley's background is computer technology, and she was able to break a very complicated topic into understandable pieces.

"Deepfake" is a term for malevolent forms of media generated from artificial intelligence. It uses media such as texts, images, videos, and audios to create something that never actually existed. It could easily be used to influence voters in the 2020 presidential election.

This technology also has beneficial uses. It could be used to create historical documentaries used for teaching children, but unfortunately in the wrong hands it could be used to attack journalists, celebrities, or political opponents.

As deepfake technology spreads and becomes less costly, and the level of expertise required to produce these fakes is lowered, it becomes an even larger, more costly threat. Journalism, the judicial system, human rights, and politics could easily fall prey to its malevolence. Not only can it be used to discredit politicians. It will most likely be used against people who lack the power and means to defend themselves--women, minorities, people from the LGBT community, and poor people.

Most frightening is its capability to incite violence, discredit leaders and institutions, or tip elections.

Several groups are working on ways to detect fake images. Presently Facebook is partnering with Microsoft, MIT, and other institutions and has committed \$10 million to developing tools to better detect altered videos.

In addition the House and Senate have introduced bills related to deep fakes. California's governor has signed two bills-- one criminalizing distribution of audios or videos discrediting political candidates within 60 days of an election, and another dealing with pornographic deepfakes.

The use of deepfakes is an area which must be attacked with the same vigor necessary for fighting a war.

Join us for our next IR/FG Committee meeting as we gather at 9:30 am to discuss yet another compelling issue or two. Check the back of this newsletter for the date and place.

A Fond Farewell to Dena Imlay, LWV CVA Board Member! At its meeting on Wednesday, October 9, the LWV CVA Board celebrated Dena Imlay, who has served as the Voter Service Director for three two-year terms, and regularly participated in IR/FG meetings, and is now leaving us to move to College Station, (vicinity of Houston) Texas. The Board saluted Dena with good wishes and many fond remarks--she will be missed! Dena, in reply, writes: "I want to tell all of my League friends that I will really miss you and remember you as I start a new life in Texas. Although there is no *League of Women Voters* that I have found in College Station, I will take my League experience and work tirelessly to do the League's work where I can. It has been my privilege and honor to know all of you."

“What School Shooters Have In Common”

A Report by the LWV CVA Firearm Safety Committee

By Maggie Hoover, LWV CVA Secretary, and Firearm Safety Committee chair

An “Opinion Piece” in the October 8, 2019 edition of *Education Week* reported on a study conducted by Julian Peterson and James Densley that explored the life histories of mass shooters in the United States. Julian Peterson is a psychologist and professor of criminology and criminal justice at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota and James Densley is a sociologist and professor of criminal justice at Metropolitan State University also in St. Paul. The project was funded by the National Institute of Justice, the research arm of the U. S. Department of Justice. Their database went back as far as 1966 and included every shooter who killed four or more people in a public place. In addition, they analyzed every active shooter incident at a K-12 school since 1999, the year of the Columbine High School massacre. They interviewed shooters who are now in jail and their families, students who planned a shooting but changed their minds, survivors and first responders, teachers and administrators. They read media and social media, “manifestos,” suicide notes, trial transcripts, and medical records.

Their goal was to find new, data-suggested pathways for preventing school shootings. What did they find? There is no one profile of a school shooter and no one predictor of a school shooting. However, they found that school shooters are almost always a student at the school, and they typically have four things in common: They suffered an early-childhood trauma and exposure to violence at a young age; they were angry or despondent over a recent event, resulting in feelings of suicide; they studied other school shootings, notably Columbine, often online, and found inspiration, and they possessed the means to carry out an attack. Their data shows that 80 percent of school shooters got their guns from family members, most often from parents and grandparents.

Their recommendations: To mitigate childhood trauma, school-based mental-health services such as counselors and social workers are needed; schools should adopt curriculum focused on teaching positive coping skills, resilience, and social-emotional learning; train school personnel to recognize crisis behavior, crisis intervention and suicide prevention as in 80 percent of cases, school shooters communicated to others that they were in crisis, whether through a marked change in behavior, an expression of suicidal thoughts or plans, or specific threats of violence, and, lastly, schools need a formal system in place for students and staff to anonymously report a student in crisis

Their conclusion is that schools must do more than just upgrade security or have students rehearse active shooter drills as there is no evidence that any of this works. During their research they interviewed several students who planned to commit a school shooting, but changed their mind. In every case this was because an adult reached out and made a connection that gave them hope.

For more information about the LWV CVA Firearm Safety Committee, contact Maggie Hoover, maggie.hoover@gmail.com

LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Report – October 24 Meeting

By Muriel Grim, LWV CVA Natural Resources Director

The Natural Resources Committee met at University Village on October 24, 2019.

Because our scheduled November meeting falls on Thanksgiving Day and our December meeting falls on the day after Christmas we will hold a combined November-December meeting on December 12.

We decided that our February Sunday Seminar will detail the relationships to climate change of the topics that were addressed in the Albemarle County Climate Action Plan “Climate Mondays” meetings. We also will ask the presenters where possible to address the amount of impact that each topic has on global warming.

Regarding updates to NRC Program Positions we will recommend adding references that complement the LWVUS policy position on climate change and also some wording changes to the statement on water.

Our suggestions for the LWV-CVA celebration of the LWV 100th birthday are two forms of community outreach. The first would be to reach out to some local African American community organizations to begin ongoing collaborative work on voting rights issues especially as they relate to women. The other would be to participate in the Dogwood Festival parade dressed as women from each of the decades of the LWV hundred years from the suffragists to children who represent our future.

The next meeting of the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee is Thursday, December 12, at 2:30 pm at University Village (small conference room), 500 Crestwood Drive. For further information about this committee, contact Muriel Grim, msggrim2012@gmail.com

LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Schedule Update: Because our monthly meetings will run into the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the Justice Reform Committee will not meet in November and December, but will be conducting interviews with region Magistrates prior to the January 28 meeting at the revised time of 11 am to 12:30 pm at the Center for Non-profit Excellence, 1707-A Allied St., Charlottesville. For more information about the work of this committee, contact Kit Murphy McNally, murphymcnallyu@gmail.com.

2019-20 Handbook Errata: Please make the following correction to our New Member listing in your Handbook Member Roster for:

Christine Oots
3168 Timberwood Parkway
Charlottesville, Va. 22911
501-920-4233
christine_oots@msn.com



League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
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Pat Cochran

Newsletter Editor

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Vote on Tuesday, November 5!

Go to our website, lwv-cva.org for

“What’s On Your Ballot?”

And click on the links that take you to your city or county registrar’s website with sample ballot information.

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Tues., Nov. 5, Polls open 6 am to 7 pm	VOTE: 2019 General and Special Elections	Your local precinct	Go to elections.virginia.gov to check for your polling place
Wed., Nov. 13, 9:30 am	LWV CVA International Relations/Foreign Gov’t Meeting	Home of Molly O’Brien, 250 West Main St., #602, 434-245-9806	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228
Wed., Nov. 13, noon to 1:15 pm	LWV CVA Firearm Safety Committee	Westminster-Canterbury, Pantops	For further information, contact Maggie Hoover, 703-625-9219
Wed., Nov. 13, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Westminster-Canterbury, Pantops	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873
Sun., Nov. 17, 2 – 4 pm	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: “Improving Early Childhood Care and Education”	CitySpace, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville,	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873
Thurs., Dec. 12, 2:30 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	University Village (small committee room), 500 Crestwood Dr.	For further information, contact Sally Thomas, 434-295-1819