

LWV CVA 2019-20 Program Planning

**Sunday, December 8, 2019
1:30 to 4 pm at CitySpace
on the Downtown Mall
Meeting will begin promptly
at 1:30 pm**



Then LWV CVA vice-president, Rosalie Simari, leads the Program Planning meeting in 2018 on national and local Programs. Following the two-year cycle, program planning this December will again focus on national and local programs.

What is "Program Planning"? Program Planning happens annually at the local League level. It is the time when we consider the positions taken by our League on the local and state or national levels. Our positions give the League a voice and are the result of an established process: the LWV takes action on an issue or advocates for a cause when there is an existing League position that supports the issue or speaks to the cause. **Without a position, League action/advocacy cannot be taken. This is what your League of Women Voters is all about and Program Planning is your opportunity to weigh in.**

For 2019, we will study **Local** and **National League positions** in preparation for our May 2020 LWV CVA Annual Meeting as well as the June LWV US convention, this year in Washington, DC. Do we wish to retain current positions, to act on them, and/or to begin new studies with the goal of establishing consensus and positions for action on other issues? As part of this review, we will hear from committee members who will be suggesting updating current local program "Action" statements. Our recommendations from this meeting will be presented to our members for approval at the Annual Meeting in May.

Continued on next page

LWV Sunday Seminar - Program Planning - December 8

Continued from previous page

Program Planning this year will be led by Carol Cutler, LWV CVA Vice-President, and Rosalie Simari, LWV CVA Membership co-chair. See page 3 of this newsletter for the format of what we will be doing in the **Local Program** part of the meeting. Note: As part of the local program planning this year, there will be an update presentation on the Child Care study. In addition, the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee has submitted a proposal to update our local Natural Resources position with a statement on Climate Change. Besides these Child Care and Natural Resources “Action” proposed revisions, there will be presentations on suggested revisions to Education, Government, Health Services in Public Schools, and Health and Family Life Education. **(See pages 6 – 11 in this newsletter for proposed revisions.)**

To prepare for our 2019 meeting, check out our **Local Program** as described in the *LWV CVA 2019-2020 Membership Handbook*. On pages 14 -18, you will find “Action” items on: Child Care, Education, Firearms Safety, Government, Health and Family Life Education, Health Services in Area Public Schools, Housing, Natural Resources (Energy, Land Use, Water, Waste Management), Regional Library System, and Transportation. (These positions can also be found on our website: lwv-cva.org under the pull-down menu, “Explore the League” – Advocacy, then click on “Local.”) Carol recommends that you read the Program section (pages 14-18) of the *LWV CVA 2019-20 Membership Handbook* ***before*** you come to the meeting—meeting time is short, there are many decisions to be made, and your advance preparation will make a real difference! For further information about Program Planning, contact Carol Cutler (434-293-2463 or gertrude3@icloud.com).

For LWV US positions, click here on the 2018-2020 issue of [“Impact on Issues, a Guide to Public Policy Positions”](#) for a complete pdf copy. LWV US has alerted us to a proposed change to “Representative Government/Electoral Process” (see page 10 in “Impact on Issues” for the description of this position.) We plan to have a “League Concurrence” program on this position at a January or February Sunday meeting in 2020 with more information coming in the January newsletter.

We hope that all members will attend **Program Planning on Sunday, December 8, 2019, at CitySpace, Charlottesville Downtown Mall (parking in the adjacent Market Street parking garage). Doors open at 1:30 pm and the meeting will begin promptly after that.**



Come to *League of Women Voters of Virginia* Pre-Session

The 2020 session of the Virginia General Assembly, scheduled to begin on January 8, promises to be dynamic. It is no exaggeration to say that the eyes of the Nation will be upon us as lawmakers decide issues such as the passage of the ERA, anti-gerrymandering redistricting reform, gun violence prevention, and voting rights protections to name a few.

At **LWV-VA** Pre-Session forum you will learn how partner organizations' legislative priorities tie in with ours and how we can work together to achieve success. There is no better way to get ready for action and **become informed and prepared for advocacy and action on important issues during the General Assembly Session this winter.**

We hope to see you at the John Marshall Ballrooms, in Richmond on December 4, 2019 for Pre-Session. This year we will have two options for your attendance. You can attend the breakfast and morning session from 9am-12:30pm for \$20. However, for \$50, you can attend the entire pre-session forum from 9am-3pm and enjoy a plated lunch with special speakers in addition to the breakfast and morning session. Please RSVP here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pre-session-tickets-77142534397>

From Kerin Yates, LWV CVA Liaison with OneVirginia2021:

A REMINDER TO ACT NOW on the Constitutional Redistricting Amendment

The Virginia General Assembly that will convene January 8, 2020 will be the session that is a “make or break” moment for ending gerrymandering in Virginia. **The constitutional redistricting amendment that the General Assembly passed in the 2019 session must be passed again – without ANY changes.**

Postcards and letters to your representatives, letters to the editor, e-mails, social media with friends declaring your support and asking their support for passage are important not only in our immediate area but maybe even more importantly across the state. Please act. See information at lwv-va.org (when it opens, click on “Action and Advocacy”, then 2020 Legislative Priorities) and onevirginia2021.org.

2019-20 LWV-CVA Nominating Committee Seeks Input: Each year, the LWV CVA Nominating Committee prepares the slate of nominees for election to the Board of Directors at the spring Annual Meeting. Next May members will be electing **Officers:** President, Secretary; **Elected Directors:** webmaster/newsletter editor, membership; and **Off-Board committees:** one member to Mary Stamps White, Finance Drive chair, and at least two members to the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee.

This year's Nominating Committee is comprised of two members at large, Donna Price and Kerin Yates, and Board members Lisa Hilgartner and Marge Cox. **They invite you to consider** participating on the 2020-21 LWV-CVA Board and offering your name to the Nominating Committee. Serving on the Board of Directors gives one a new perspective on the League and its activities. No experience necessary. Past and current Board members are ready and willing mentors. Board meetings are once a month – usually for two hours or less. Board meeting day is decided by each new Board. For more information, contact Kerin Yates, 434-964-1840, or email: kerinyates@hotmail.com.

**LWV CVA Firearm Safety Committee invites you to join them
on December 14 and January 20.**

December 14: Along with the *Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention*, we will gather to honor the victims of school shootings at a Vigil at the Downtown Mall. December 14 is the anniversary of Sandy Hook. We participated last year and it was a very moving experience. A bell is rung for each name read. The time for the event has not been established.

January 20, MLK Day: Again, this year, we will join the CCGVP for a bus trip to Richmond to attend a Vigil/Rally scheduled for 2:00 pm. After the rally we will then visit our legislators from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. There is a possibility of a celebration at the Capitol Ale House from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in one or both of these events, please contact:

Maggie Hoover - maggie.hoover@gmail.com

Beth Alley - beth.alley@gmail.com



International Relations /Federal Government Committee News by Gerry Kruger

Once again **Molly O'Brien** graciously hosted the International Relations/Federal Government Committee on November 13th. **Kathy Suddeth's** report was centered on the history of the bellicose relationship between Kashmir and India, and the present situation in the area since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has stripped away the rights of Kashmiris and imposed harsh restrictions. Modi belongs to an extreme rightwing Hindu group, and most Indians support his government.

Kashmir became a territory after the August 5, 2019 crackdown and lost status to the formal state of India. Businesses, schools, and elections were all affected. Since the crackdown, violence and insurgency has increased, and the whole economic structure of Kashmir has been destroyed. Pleas from Pakistan's leader for other countries to take action have been unsuccessful, most likely because of India's superior economic power.

Next **Carolyn Fitzpatrick** gave a thought-provoking summary of an *Economist* article called "The Generation Game." She presented the stark differences between the family lives of boomers and millennials.

For example, millennials are having fewer children. Rather than walking or biking, their children are driven everywhere. Most are engaged in screen time for the majority of their days, and are increasingly addicted to the Internet.

A huge majority of today's children come from urban households and one-parent families. Marriages are at an all-time low. Divorces are at an all-time high, and single-parent homes are generally poorer. Most women -- both married and single-- work. The United States is one of the few developed countries that does not provide federal maternity leave.

Children born between 1995 and 2012 are exposed to an enormous amount of data that can never be retracted. They spend most of their time indoors with adults rather than siblings or friends. This may be partly because they have fewer safe places such as schools and churches, and parents are afraid of what will happen if they spend time away from home with friends. Surveys show that the happiness gap between children of the affluent and the working class is widening. The affluent are more likely to be enrolled in sports, camps, and organized activities which require fees and transportation.

On the positive side, child mortality rates are dropping, fewer children go hungry, and more finish secondary school and go on to higher education.

Our committee invites you to join us for stimulating discussions of timely global and government issues in members' homes. See the Calendar on page 12 of the newsletter for times and meeting places.

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.

LWV-CVA Program Planning for 2019-20 (See pages 7 – 11 in this newsletter for Proposed Revisions)

LWV-CVA Local Program	Retain	Update	Take Action	Delete	COMMENTS
Child Care					
Education					
Firearms Safety					
Government					
Health and Family Life Education and Health Services in Area Public Schools					
Housing					
<u>Natural Resources:</u>					
Energy					
Land Use					
Water					
Waste Management					
Regional Library System					
Transportation					

(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. _____

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.** _____

3. Is there a position you want to delete? Explain why you think the position is no longer needed or valid._____

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._____

LWV CVA Child Care Study Update:

Study Questions

1. Are standards for child care licensing thorough enough?
2. Is enforcement of child care licensing adequate?
3. Is training and education for child care workers adequate?
4. When CPS (Child Protective Services) investigates an incident at a child care center, should families of the children involved in the investigation be given information regarding the investigation?

Current “Action” Statement in LWV CVA 2019-20 Handbook for Members under “Local Program: Positioned for Action”

Child Care:

Action: Support of community-based efforts to improve the quality and affordability and accessibility to child care in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District. To advocate for 1) Increased business and local government support for child care and 2) improved information for parents and the community at large regarding available child care and performance of child care providers. [2001]

Proposed addition to the above Action statement based on the Study findings:

Support efforts to improve child care licensing standards, with a goal of having them be more in line with the “Caring for Our Children Basics: Health and Safety foundations for Early Care and Education” from the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Support improvement of licensing enforcement regulations.

Support and encourage competent personnel in the Virginia Department of Social Services Child Care Licensing Division.

Support “Virginia Quality”, the state’s quality rating and improvement system, which includes training and mentoring, and encourage local centers to participate in “Virginia Quality”.

Support improved and increased training and education for local child care workers.

Support government transparency, whenever possible, while still protecting the confidentiality of children, in Child Protective Services (CPS) cases that occur in child care centers, so that parents have representation and access to information about cases involving their children.

Acknowledge the child care crisis of a lack of quality, affordable child care in our region. Recognize that cost is a major contributing factor to the crisis and encourage more study into alleviating cost, probably through government subsidies. [2019]

For more information about the Child Care Study, see the “Child Care Study Presentation” which Beth Kariel made at the November 17 Sunday Seminar posted on our website: lwv-cva.org.

LWV-CVA Natural Resources Committee Proposed Program Updates

Add

Climate Change:

Action: Adhering to the position of the LWVUS related to combating climate change, we support inclusion of goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science in the plans and decisions adopted by our local governments and the activities of our communities. [See LWVUS Position on Climate Change below.]

Energy:

Current version

Action: Support for environmentally sound policies and activities that promote efficient use and conservation of energy and the use of renewable energy sources.

Updated version

Action: Support for environmentally sound policies and activities that promote efficient use and conservation of energy, the use of renewable energy sources, **and the reduction of greenhouse gases.**

Water:

Current version

Action: Support of policies and procedures which promote long-range planning and conservation of water resources through water conservation and watershed management of ground and surface waters, specifically: (1) develop conservation programs that include drought management as a key element in water supply planning, (2) reduce water usage by pricing and water-saving plumbing codes, (3) require users of ground water supplies to meet or exceed the standards of the State Department of Health, and (4) support septic system regulations that protect groundwater. Support for policies that protect surface water, ground water, and drinking water from contamination. Continued studying and monitoring of both ground and surface water issues and the implementation of water management plans, and advocating where appropriate.

Updated version

Action: Support of policies and procedures which promote long-range planning and conservation of water resources through water conservation and watershed management of ground and surface waters, specifically: (1) develop conservation programs that include drought management as a key element in water supply planning, (2) reduce water usage by pricing and water-saving plumbing codes, (3) require users of ground water supplies to meet or exceed the standards of the State Department of Health, and (4) support septic system regulations that protect groundwater. Support for policies **and infrastructure** that protect the **quality and quantity of** surface water, ground water, and drinking water. **Support for policies that manage storm water runoff to control erosion, silting, and transport of pollutants.** Continued studying and monitoring of both ground and surface water issues and the implementation of water management plans, and advocating where appropriate.

LWVUS Position on Climate Change (adopted January 2019)

Position In Brief: The League is calling for prompt action to cut this country's GHG emissions, invest in a clean energy economy, and help the world's poorest countries tackle the challenges of climate change. The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. The League believes that an international approach to combating climate change — including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources — is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decisions, at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global.

LWV CVA Proposed Update on “Government”

Revisions discussed at the FG/IR meeting Nov 13, 2019 at Molly O’Brien’s related to the Government statement in of current “Action” statement the 2019-2020 membership book and website lwv-cva.org

Current:

Government: Action: Support of long-range planning; sharing and/or consolidating resources, services, and structures; and increased cooperation between Charlottesville Area and the University of Virginia. Support of a fair and flexible tax system necessary for responsive government, using the following criteria in evaluating taxation proposals and/or reform measures: equity, including the ability to pay and benefits received; consistency with social and economic goals of the community and the LWV; efficiency of administration, including computation, payment and collection methods, and public understanding; adequacy of revenue, including ability to adjust to changes in economic conditions. Support for increasing the number of magisterial districts in the County to an odd number (7 or 9). Support for a mix of urban and rural residents in each district, taking into account natural geographic boundaries and communities. Encourage the Board of Supervisors to appoint a task force to study the feasibility of seeking a charter for the County. Support of the Sustainability Accords, particularly of the section on Government Goal: Governmental decisions are made in an environment that promotes widespread, informed, and civil public participation. [1990]

Suggested 2019 Update:

Government

Action:

Support of long-range planning; consolidating resources, services, and structures; and increased cooperation between Charlottesville Area and the City of Charlottesville and the University of Virginia.

Support of a fair and flexible tax system necessary for responsive government.

Support of the Sustainability Accords, particularly of the section on governmental decisions made in an environment that promotes widespread, informed, and civil public participation.

Support a fair election system that strictly follows election laws and the nonpartisan administration of election rules and procedures for electing public officials for federal, state, or local governments.

Support public education on vulnerabilities in our election system and the potential for disruptive disinformation campaigns, and work with others who participate in making our voting systems accurate.

Support for local and state government supporting fair state redistricting laws.

Support transparency, security, and accountability in the certification and reporting of election results, including post-election audits and risk-limiting audits.

Support citizens right to vote as outlined in the U.S. and Virginia Constitutions and local Dept of Elections monitoring any instances of voter suppression.

Support dissemination of voting information by public announcements, notice of registration deadlines, forums, and other voter services.

Support for Virginia constitutional amendment resolution passage of SJ306. (Women's Rights and Virginia Law.)

Follow relevant events and general conditions abroad to help inform current League actions and articulation of future ones.

[2019]

LWV CVA Proposed Update to Health and Family Life Education and Health

Services in Area Public Schools

Current Action Statement as found in LWV CVA 2019-20 Handbook (page 16):

Health and Family Life Education and Health Services in Area Public Schools:

Action: Support of the following health services and programs: a dedicated health facility which conforms to state and national guidelines; a full time health professional for each school health facility; school advisory boards which include health professionals, parents, and community members; a qualified and trained director of school health programs; and health and family life education in our area schools which includes: regular periodic review of curriculum to ensure updating with new information or materials and to meet needs that are identified, more age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, continued training of teachers in health and family life curricula and issues, use of experts to participate in health and family life education of students and teacher training, identifying additional resource materials and making them available to students, parents and teachers, increasing community and family understanding of and involvement in health and family life education. (2013)

Suggestion Revision(s):

Health and Family Life Education and Health Services in Area Public Schools

Action: Support of the following health services and programs: a dedicated health facility which conforms to state and national guidelines; a full time health professional for each school health facility; a qualified mental health professional for each school; school advisory boards which include health professionals, parents and community members, a qualified and trained director of school physical and mental health programs; and health and family life education in our area schools which includes: regular periodic review of curriculum to ensure updating with new information or materials and meeting needs that are identified, more age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, continued training of teachers in physical and mental health and family life curricula and issues; use of experts to participate in physical and mental health and family life education of students and teacher training, identifying additional resource materials and making them available to students, parents, and teachers, increasing community and family understanding of physical and mental health and family life education.

Updates related to the “Action” statement on Education in LWV CVA Handbook 2019-2020 and website lwv-cva.org. Suggested revisions/additions are underlined.

Education

Action:

Support of equal access to a quality public elementary and secondary educational system from pre-kindergarten through high school with adequate funding, competent personnel, well-maintained facilities, and adequate resources and supplies.

Support of specified statements to assure quality education, particularly addressing the needs of diverse student populations in the Charlottesville Area school systems, including the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and Fluvanna County.

Support for local policies that promote learning by recognizing that the basic needs of all children include health care and adequate nutrition.

Support for local policies that promote learning by recognizing the basic needs of all children include mental and physical health and adequate nutrition. (2019)

Support and funding for pre-kindergarten programs and full-day kindergarten programs for all students.

Support for curriculum and programs that prepare students for a 21st century workforce by providing emphasis on scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematical skills.

Support for curriculum and programs that prepare students for a 21st century workforce by providing emphasis on scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematical skills that correlate with critical thinking, and the cyber age.

Support for increase in internet access and cyber education. This includes teaching about artificial intelligence and how to be discriminating readers and listeners in dealing with media as early as first grade. Support all aspects of community education, including teaching about gun safety, violence prevention, and protection. (2019)

Support of all aspects of community education. Support of specific ways to attract and retain quality classroom teachers and to encourage excellence in teaching. Continued monitoring of local school systems, with special emphasis on expenditures and funding sources, education and extracurricular programs, salaries and responsibilities, and citizen involvement. Special attention to potential major changes in local school systems. [2013]



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 December 2019:
Mark Your Calendars Now!

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Dec. 4, 9 am to 3 pm	LWV-VA Legislative PRE-SESSION	Richmond, John Marshall Ballrooms	RSVP: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ore-session-tickets-77142534397
Thurs., Dec. 5, 1 pm - 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
Sun., Dec. 8, 1:30 – 4 pm	LWV CVA Program Planning	CitySpace, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873
Wed., Dec. 11, noon to 1:15 pm	LWV CVA Firearm Safety Committee	Westminster-Canterbury, Pantops	For further information, contact Maggie Hoover, 703-625-9219
Wed., Dec. 11, 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Westminster-Canterbury, Pantops	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873
Thurs., Dec. 12, 10:30 am	LWV CVA International Relations/ Federal Gov't "Holiday" Gathering	Home of Beth Alley, 210 Willow Brook Rd, Earlsville, 434-996-8075	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 245-5228