

LWV CVA Sunday Seminar

“Mobilizing for Advocacy”

Sunday, January 19, 2020

CitySpace on the Downtown Mall

**Doors open at 1:30 pm for “Meet and Greet”
Meeting will begin promptly by 2 pm**



January brings challenges to keep up with all the activities of our state legislative session—especially this 2020! Many of you have been working hard this past year advocating for the passage of meaningful legislation addressing our many concerns, in particular, the proposed Constitutional Amendment on redistricting; the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; the passage of meaningful gun rights legislation; justice reform legislation; and environmental concerns. There is proposed legislation on the removal of monuments that will affect how Charlottesville and Albemarle County deal with this difficult issue.

Now is the time for all League members to learn how **you as an individual can contact state legislators** and let them know what bills you want them to support! **Come to our “training session” on how you can do this!** We will review and show you how to access the **Legislative Information System (LIS)** so that you can follow the passage of bills through the General Assembly. We will explain how our LWV CVA and the state League (LWV-VA) will send you **“Action Alerts”** and what this means. You can be proactive sitting right at your home computer!

Want to meet with your legislators in person? Find out about the state League’s **Women’s Legislative Roundtable (WLRT)** which meets every Wednesday in Richmond for the months that the General Assembly is in session. (See the article in this newsletter on page 5 with the dates, times, and places.)

In this day and age, all of us must exercise our citizen duties and become engaged in the workings of our democracy! **Join us on Sunday, January 19, at CitySpace on the Downtown Mall. Doors open at 1:30 pm for “Meet and Greet” and the program will begin promptly by 2 pm.** For more information about this meeting, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

28th Annual Vigil & Advocacy Day

Monday, January 20th

*"Our lives begin to end the day we
become silent about things that matter"*
—Martin Luther King Jr.

**JOIN US AT THE STATE CAPITOL TO
REMEMBER MLK AND TO HONOR THOSE VIRGINIANS KILLED BY GUN VIOLENCE**
League members, family and friends are all invited!

Transportation FROM Charlottesville: Our FREE bus departs from Meadows Presbyterian Church, 2200 Angus Road at noon Jan. 20th with arrival in Richmond, 2pm. After the rally we will visit with our legislators. Return time, 6 pm.
For more info contact Gay, 434-409-3324 or ccgvp1@gmail.com.
Sign up @ www.eventbrite.com. Type in "Martin Luther King Day Annual Vigil"

STANDING FOR GUN SAFETY IN MEMORY OF GREAT LOSS:

On the 7th anniversary of the massacre at Sandy Hook December 14, members of the LWV joined others advocating for gun safety at a vigil on the Charlottesville Downtown Mall in remembrance of Sandy Hook, the children's caregivers, their parents and families, and a grieving nation. Gathered in front of the mall Christmas tree on that sunny, but chilly Saturday, advocates for gun safety called out the sites of mass gun violence noted by a solemn gong: Jersey City, Virginia Beach, El Paso, Dayton, Odessa and Midland, The Tree of Life Synagogue, Thousand Oaks, Marjory Stoneman Douglas School, Sutherland, Las Vegas, Mother Emmanuel Church, Orlando, Aurora, Virginia Tech, Columbine and Sandy Hook. Again the gong sounded solemnly as one by one those at the vigil called out the name of a child . . . and the shooter who died 7 years ago through gun violence at an elementary school.

The **LWV CVA Firearms Safety Committee** advocates in tandem with the *Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Safety* and nationwide *Moms for Gun Safety*. To learn more about the committee, or to join, contact Maggie Hoover, committee chair, at maggie.hoover@gmail.com.



LWV CVA members at the Vigil in memory of Sandy Hook and lives lost to gun violence, from left: Lois Sandy, Kit Murphy McNally, Beth Kariel, Valerie Chasin, Rosalie Simari and Pat Cochran.



LWV-VA 2020 Women's Legislative Round Table (WLRT) – Richmond, Virginia

On Wednesdays during the 2020 General Assembly Session, the League hosts an hour-long morning briefing by Legislators and/or Advocacy/Issue groups (WLRT Women's Legislative Roundtable Meetings). Thus, we get updates on legislation throughout the Session so that our advocacy messages are very timely. League members who attend on Wednesdays arrange to visit their legislators and committee meetings and floor sessions. To learn more about the Roundtable, read LWV-VA's [brochure](#).

2020 WLRT Schedule: Virginia Legislative Session Begins: January 8th, 2020

Date	Time	Location
1/15/20	8:30 am-9:30am	SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Tidewater Rm 4 th fl)
1/22/20	8:30 am-9:30am	SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Tidewater Rm 4 th fl)
1/29/20	8:30 am-9:30am	SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Tidewater Rm 4 th fl)
2/5/20	8:30 am-9:30am	SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Tidewater Rm 4 th fl)
2/12-13/20	8:30 am -	League Day (see below) – Starts with WLRT at 8:30 am – 9:30 am SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Auditorium - 4 th fl)
2/19/20	8:30 am-9:30am	SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Tidewater Rm 4 th fl)
2/26/20	8am-10am	SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Tidewater Rm 4 th fl)

The League of Women Voters is 100 Years Old: Celebrate the Yesterdays and Tomorrows of Nonpartisan Voter Action at League Day, Wednesday, February 12-Thursday, February 13.

League Day 2020 will be a very special day as we celebrate the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters! We have a full two-day agenda planned. **Come for as much or as little as you can.** Please click the "Register Now" button above for more details and to register.

JOIN US IN

Richmond, VA

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY

[Register Now](#)

February 12, 2020:

8:30 WLRT (Women's Legislative Round Table) in the SunTrust Building Auditorium
9:30 Visit Legislators and their staff
11:00 Line up to be recognized in the gallery of the House and the Senate
1:00pm 100th Anniversary Luncheon at Delta Marriott; special speaker A'Lelia Bundles

February 13, 2020:

9:30 Visit Maggie L Walker's home OR visit Legislators and their staff
12:00 attend Legislative Session
1:00 lunch at American Civil War Museum-Historic Tredegar

LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting Report by Muriel Grim

The Natural Resources Committee met at University Village on December 5, 2019. We discussed preparations for our upcoming February Sunday Seminar that will be about our response to climate change. At the seminar a panel will answer questions that were formulated by the committee and then there will be questions from the audience. The NRC's questions will be decided at our January meeting and will be given to the panelists before the February seminar so that they will be able to carefully prepare their answers. Several possible panelists were considered; they will be contacted over the next few weeks. So that there will be a wide range of expertise on the panel we plan to have panelists representing local governments and the university and NGOs that are concerned with climate change.

There was discussion about things that are being done by citizens and government to reduce greenhouse gases. We will ask the panelists to speak about efforts that will produce the most effect and how we can personally make life-style changes, vote, advocate, and donate time and money in ways that will be most effective.

This led to discussion about the importance of Leaguers attending meetings as observers so that they can report to us and show those holding the meeting that we have an interest. When doing this it would be helpful if we all wear buttons or clothing that identify us as members of the League. Related to this Linda Goodling said she would try to attend the following day's UVA Board of Visitors meeting where a sustainability goals resolution would be considered. (Follow-up: at the meeting the BOV approved the resolution that set sustainability goals for the university which include carbon neutrality by 2030 and being free of fossil fuels by 2050.)

We briefly discussed the Champion Brewing Company request to operate a "farm brewery" on the banks of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir, on Earlysville Road. We decided to get more information as quickly as possible.

In order to finalize plans for the February Seminar at our January meeting, we set the next NRC meeting for January 9, 2020, at 1 pm.

LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Schedule Update: Because the committee's monthly meetings ran into the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the Justice Reform Committee did not meet in November and December. **Our next meeting is January 28 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, murphymcnally@gmail.com.

Equal Rights Amendment Update by Megan Tracy

Our deepest thanks to all of you who have worked so long and hard to support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in Virginia! We are almost there. State Senator, Jennifer McClellan (SD-9) and Sen. Mamie Locke (SD-2) have filed SJ 1 for the 2020 General Assembly. Chief Patron, Jennifer Carroll Foy (HD-2) has filed HJ 1 in the VA House. The LWV-VA is joining once again with *VARatifyERA* on January 8th to welcome legislators back on Opening Day of the General Assembly. *VARatifyERA* has a day of activities planned AND is arranging for a bus to leave from Charlottesville on the morning of the 8th. Full details and the day-long activities can be found here: <https://varatifyera.org/january-8th-welcome-back/>. Note that the campaign will have a hospitality suite the morning of the 8th in case it's quite cold!

Other ERA dates to keep in mind: January 13th is the "tentative" date for the passage of SJ1 and HJ1 out of their respective chambers. January 20th is the "tentative" date for the final passage of HJ1 and SJ1. Keep an eye out on *VARatifyERA*'s webpage for confirmation of these dates and an update on planned activities (<https://varatifyera.org>). For more information on the ERA, contact Megan Tracy at kiskamet@gmail.com.

International Relations/Federal Government Committee Report by Gerry Kruger

The International Relations/Federal Government Committee met in Beth Alley's home on December 12 for our program and annual holiday luncheon in spite of Beth's being in New York due to a family medical emergency. Our members shared the hosting duties, with Rosalie Simari taking over the lion's share of hostess responsibility. A special surprise was the appearance of Flora Patterson who brought a smile to both old and new members. Even those who had never met her had heard how much she meant to our League during her many years in Charlottesville.

Marge Cox began by reporting on Russia's moves to control the Arctic region's northern sea route, which passes along the country's northern coast in the Arctic. Russia requires foreign military ships to give advance notice and obtain permission to use the passage. The new Russian rules require that foreign military ships take on board Russian pilots while sailing. Even if the foreign vessels meet all Russia's requirements, the Russian authorities still can reject their request for passage without explanation. In the event of an unsanctioned passage, the foreign vessels could be arrested and even destroyed.

The Arctic has a wealth of oil in the Arctic fields as well as natural gas and valuable minerals. Russia is not the only country that borders and claims the Arctic. It is under the jurisdiction of Canada, Norway, Russia, Denmark (via Greenland), Iceland, Sweden, Finland and the United States.

To prove Russia's dominance in the area, Putin launched Thunder 219 in October. At this time Russia tested its arsenal of missile launchers, aircraft, surface warships, and nuclear submarines. A Russian news release has also announced that Russia's claim to the Arctic has been proven by testing.

Marge's report was followed by a delicious lunch. We're so grateful to Beth for offering her home even though she had to be away. Join us each month as we explore issues at home and abroad. See page 12 of this newsletter for January time and place.

LWV CVA 2020 Finance Drive “Party”
Saturday, January 25, 2020, 10:00 am to 2 pm
Westminster/Canterbury on Pantops, Main Building, Bishop Conference Room

You are invited to drop by for as much time as you can spare on **Saturday, January 25, between 10 am and 2 pm in the Bishop Room (first floor in the main building) at Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge** for our annual Finance Drive envelope stuffing party. You can help by writing a short note on a letter to someone in the wider community whom you know, or just to stuff those envelopes with the materials we’ll gladly provide. In addition, we’ll provide light snacks, some hot water and coffee, and lots of friendly conversation to lift your spirits, and make the time seem to fly by. You’ll leave positively glowing with good League cheer. We look forward to seeing you there!



On December 18, in response to mounting pressure for Second Amendment Sanctuaries, LWV CVA President Pat Cochran went before the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors to reiterate our League's positions on Firearms Safety including our advocacy for gun safety legislation.

Welcome New Member!

Therese Elron
1125 Garth Rd
Charlottesville, VA
22901
434-284-2784
thelron@mac.com

A Note from Beth Kariel, LWV CVA Child Care Committee:
During the General Assembly, I will be following Governor Northam's budget proposal of a 95 million dollar plan to improve quality and availability of early childhood education to low income families across Virginia. For more information about the LWV CVA Child Care Committee, contact Beth at bethkariel9@gmail.com.

Summary of Proposed Program Planning revisions at meeting 12. 8.19, and Board meeting 12.15.19
For further discussion by Board 1/15/20 for final approval
Submitted by Carol Cutler, Vice-President and Rosalie Simari, Membership
Edited by Michele Kellermann and Mimi Bender (12.20.19)

LWV CVA Local Program	Retain	Update	Take Action	Delete	COMMENTS
Child Care		X			1) Send study recommendation to state league Council by June 6, 2020 for state-wide concurrence to changing “minimum” licensing to “adequate” licensing in the LWV-VA Position on Child Care 2) Hold local consensus meeting to approve adding to current program statement 1) improved training and education for local childcare workers and 2) participation of local child care providers in state child care quality improvement efforts to current program statement.
Education		X			Restudy to add “internet access and cyber education.”
Firearms Safety	X				
Government		X			Add five statements related to local application of LWV-VA positions on election systems, and redistricting (see attached, pages 8-9 of this newsletter)
Health and Family Life Education and Health Services in Area Public Schools		X			Restudy to address behavioral health services and education in schools.
Housing	X				
Natural Resources		X			Add one proposed statement on climate change related to local application of LWV-US position on climate change; updates on energy and water (See attached, page 10 of this newsletter)
Regional Library System	X				
Transportation	X				

Report is continued on next page

2019 Program Planning Report (Continued):

1. Is there a **new study** on a **local** issue you would suggest?
 - 1) **Yes. The LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee, in accord with state and national LWV policies, will study elements of the local criminal justice system to ensure fairness and equity for people who may be affected by Virginia's state and local systems of justice.**
List volunteers willing to work on the study. **Kit Murphy McNally**
2. Is there a restudy of a current position you would suggest?
 - 1) **Yes. A restudy for the "Education" position to assess the need for increased internet access and cyber education in schools.**
List volunteers willing to work on the restudy: **Michele Kellermann**
 - 2) **Yes. A restudy for "Health and Family Life Education and Health Services in Area Public Schools" position to assess how behavioral health matters are handled in the schools; training for school personnel in recognizing crisis behavior; and the adequacy of the FLE curriculum to address positive coping skills, resilience and suicide prevention.**
List volunteers willing to work on the restudy: **Mimi Bender, Carol Cutler**
3. Is there a position you want to **delete**? Explain why you think the position is no long needed or valid.
No.
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.**

LWV CVA Members Present at 12.8.19 Program Planning: Maggie Hoover, Kit Murphy McNally, Mimi Bender, Sallie Kate Park, Kerin Yates, Frances Schutz, Michele Kellermann, Lois Sandy, Pat Cochran, Muriel Grim, Beth Kariel, Lisa Hilgartner, Sue Lewis, Gerry Kruger, Beth Alley, Carol Cutler, Rosalie Simari, Megan Tracy

LWV CVA Members Present at 12.11.19 Board meeting: Pat Cochran, Michele Kellermann, Rosalie Simari, Beth Kariel, Beth Alley, Megan Tracy, Maggie Hoover, Lisa Hilgartner, Carol Cutler, Mimi Bender, Gerry Kruger, Sue Lewis, Kit Murphy McNally, Kerin Yates

[Note: LWV-CVA Members: Please look at this again as it has changed since our Program Planning meeting on 12.8.19 and the Board meeting 12.11.19.

The last five 2019 statements were formatted in the same manner as the Natural Resources statements. No deletions are proposed.

Five additions refer to local application of LWV-VA Positions.

Some long standing Board members question whether the updated statements are necessary; IR/FG committee submitted for consideration.]

Proposed Program Update for Government

The LWV-VA Positions on Election Laws, Reapportionment and Redistricting attached *are for reference only*.

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 (**TJPD, 1998**) particularly of the section on Government Goal: **governmental decisions** made in an environment that promotes widespread, informed, and civil public participation. [1990]

Action: Adhering to the position of the LWV-VA relating to election laws,

LWV-CVA : Support public education on vulnerabilities in our local election system and the potential for disruptive disinformation campaigns or voter suppression, and work with others, such as local registrars, in making our voting systems accurate.

Support transparency, security, and accountability in local post-election audits and risk-limiting audits.

Support dissemination of local voting information by public announcements and offering nonpartisan candidate forums

Adhering to the LWV-VA position on reapportionment and redistricting, support local efforts to promote fair state redistricting laws. (2019)

For reference: League of Women Voters of Virginia, Positions in Brief, updated Spring, 2019 – see next page.

Proposed Program Update for Government

Continued from previous page

From the LWV-VA Positions in Brief:

ELECTION LAWS

Position in Brief: The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations and administrative procedures should be uniformly designed and applied, and adequately funded to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia.

Specifically, the League supports measures to ensure the availability of voter registration and to encourage and facilitate increased voter participation in elections, including: absentee voting by mail and in- person without a reason; an adequate number of voting machines and trained election officers; the use of satellite voting; split shifts for election officers when needed; and measures that take advantage of technological advances such as online voter registration and the use of electronic poll books. The League also supports the shared funding of statewide registration and voting systems by the localities and the Commonwealth; providing adequate authority and resources to the Department of Elections (ELECT) and the State Board of Elections (SBE) for oversight and enforcement of laws and standards for registration and elections uniformly throughout the Commonwealth; and the use of secure electronic means to facilitate voter registration and absentee voting for Virginia's military and overseas voters. (2011, 2015

REAPPORTIONMENT& REDISTRICTING

Position in Brief: Support for a decennial redistricting plan approved by the General Assembly, including establishment of a bipartisan commission to prepare a plan for legislative approval, and consideration of natural geographic boundaries, jurisdictional boundaries, communities of interest, and competitiveness in addition to the constitutional requirements.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports the establishment, in law, of a politically balanced and independent Reapportionment Commission for each decennial redistricting to prepare, with the Virginia Department of Legislative Services, a plan for submission to the legislature as specified by the Virginia

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.



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 January 2020:
Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Jan. 8	Virginia General Assembly opens for 60-day session	Richmond Capital Building	Further information available at https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/
Thurs., Jan. 9, 1:00 – 2:30 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
Wednesdays, Jan. 15, 22, 29 8:30 to 9:30 am	Women's Legislative Round Table (WLRT)	SunTrust Center, 919 E Main St, Richmond, VA (Tidewater Rm 4 th Floor)	Further information available at https://lww-va.org/womens-legislative-round-table/
Wed, Jan 15, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Marge Cox, 514 Rosemont Dr., 434-245-5228	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 434-245-5228
Wed., Jan 15, noon to 1:15 pm	LWV CVA Firearms Safety Committee Meeting	TBA	For further information, contact Maggie Hoover, 703-625-9219
Wed., Jan. 15, 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting	TBA	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Sun., Jan. 19, 2 – 4 pm; doors open at 1:30 pm	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: "Mobilizing for Advocacy"	CitySpace, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Mon., Jan. 20, bus to rally at noon	MLK Day: Attend rally in Richmond and honor those Virginians killed by gun violence	Free bus leaves from 2200 Angus Rd at Noon—must make reservation!	Further information or to make reservation, call Gay 434-409-3324 or ccgvp1@gmail.com
Sat., Jan. 25, 10 am to 2 pm	LWV CVA Finance Drive "Party": Preparing our fund drive letters/envelopes	Westminster-Canterbury, Pantops, Bishop Room	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Tues., Jan. 28, 11:00 am to 12:30 PM	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting	Center for Non-Profit Excellence, 1701-A Allied St. Charlottesville	For further information, contact Kit Murphy McNally, murphymcnally@gmail.com