

LWV CVA
President
Pat Cochran

Newsletter
Editor
Michele
Kellermann

LWV CVA Sunday Seminar

WOMEN vs. INCARCERATION
What About Justice?

Sunday, April 19, 2020
CitySpace on the Downtown Mall

Cancelled due to the Coronavirus Outbreak –
To be rescheduled in the early Fall, 2020

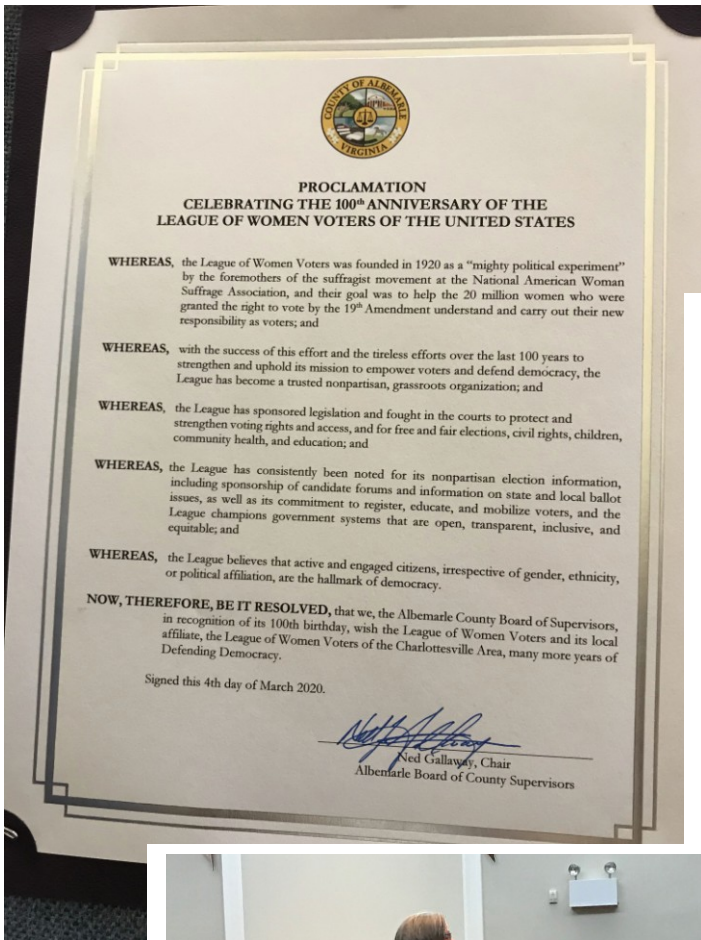
Update on the status of the
League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
2020 Annual Meeting

Dear LWV CVA Members:

At the Board meeting held on March 11, it was decided not to hold the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 3 at CitySpace, as a cautionary measure due to the coronavirus outbreak.

However, the Board agreed to send out the 2020 *Annual Meeting Packet* to all members. The packet will contain the yearly reports of the League's committees; proposed Operating Budget for fiscal year 2020-21; Local Program for 2020-21; and Slate of Officers and Elected Directors for 2020-22. Enclosed with the packet will be a return card for members to use to cast their vote on those items of the Agenda that call for member Action.

Look for the Annual Meeting Packet in your mailbox: Packets will be mailed on or about April 18. Questions or more information, please contact Pat Cochran, lwv@lwv-cva.org.



On March 4, 2020, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors presented a *Proclamation to the League of Women Voters* commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the League in 1920. The Proclamation was read by Board Member Liz Palmer, who is also a member of the League. She related her long ties with our local League and its role advocating for protection of water resources and water quality in the County. In the photos above, see Pat Cochran, president of the *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* before the full meeting of the Board, and receiving the official Proclamation from Liz Palmer. Note the photo with many Leaguers in attendance at this presentation: (seated front row, left to right) Ann Mallek, Charlotte Gibson, Pat Cochran, Donna Price, Liz Palmer, Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Sally Thomas; (back row, left to right) Kerin Yates, Kit Murphy McNally, Gerry Kruger, Rosalie Simari, and Michele Kellermann. Ann Malek, Donna Price, Liz Palmer, and Bea LaPisto-Kirtley are presently members of the Board of Supervisors.

Celebrating 100 Years of the League of Women Voters!

The “Story of the League of Women Voters: Past, Present, Future!” and the history of our own local League as told by our Presidents, starting with Mary Stamps White, was on display for the month of March at Northside Library, Charlottesville. A “Birthday Party” was held on March 5, for all members, and especially honored our Past Presidents and Life Members--we were delighted that so many of them were able to attend. It was quite a reunion!



Pat Cochran (center) introduces two new members Anita Pilling and Rice Wagner to Sally Thomas



Past Presidents and Life Members gathered for a photo: (standing left to right) Sally Thomas, Edith Good, Ruth Wadlington, Molly O'Brien, Pat Cochran, Deborah Brooks, Kerin Yates, Allie Miller; (seated left to right) Nancy Button, Sue Lewis, Lois Rochester, Betty Scott.



Gerry Kruger, in the spirit of the twenties, wears her purple dress and boa. With Nancy Button, Ruth Wadlington, and Lois Rochester



Sue Lewis is wearing her purple with yellow banner Virginia League t-shirt; Audrey Dannenburg reads about the League Presidents on display.



The Birthday Cake! And the League's Suffragette Doll--Carrie Chapman Catt! (Thanks to Life Member Flora Patterson for giving us the doll.)



Life Member Molly O'Brien and Shirley Payne, who wrote and designed the "A Look to the Future" display



Carol Cutler (in pink) chats with Anita Pilling as others read about the LWV CVA Presidents "In Their Own Words"



Allie Miller chats with Beth Kariel, as Shirley Payne and Gerry Kruger look on.



Past President Carol Hogg with husband Dave looks over her contribution to the "In Their Own Words" display



Smiles all around: left to right – New LWV CVA Member Carol Wise, Rosalie Simari, Kit Murphy McNally



Every attendee took the time to read and enjoy the display: "Celebrating 100 Years of the League of Women Voters"



Two members of the Charlottesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority joined us: Gwen Hairston (back to camera) chats with Beth Alley (right); Marie Whitten (left at table) talks with Molly O'Brien and Sue Lewis



Albemarle County Board Supervisor and long-time League member Ann Mallek (left) chats with Michele Kellermann



Long time LWV CVA Member Mimi Bender (center) talks to Lisa Hilgartner, chair of the organizing team for the display "Celebrating 100 Years!" as Rosalie Simari looks on



Gerry Kruger, left, points out the section of the display she designed, "How It All Began...." to former LWV CVA president Deborah Brooks



Life Member Jean Minehart (right) chats with Life Member Allie Miller

With many thanks to Lisa Hilgartner, chair of the LWV CVA Centennial Committee, and Leaguers Shirley Payne, Gerry Kruger, Carol Cutler, Beth Kariel, Pat Cochran, and Michele Kellermann. Lisa writes: After a month of hard work the Centennial Committee gathered and set up materials for the Northside Library display that will be up through the month of March. Membership brochures are part of the display and they will be periodically replaced all through the month. The Library was presented with two books-- ***The Suffragist Cookbook*** and ***Gibson Girls and Suffragists*** (a book on how social media of that age and general culture of the time led to the passage of the 19th Amendment). Both books are available on Amazon. The committee will take down the display on or just before March 30. The materials that were displayed will be carefully removed and archived at our office for possible future displays.

2019 LWV CVA Finance Drive Report by Kerin Yates, LWV CVA Finance Drive Chair

On behalf of the LWV Charlottesville Area Board, "Thank You" to all who have so far contributed to our 2020 100th Anniversary Finance Drive. Since over 80% of your "Member Dues" fund our State and National Leagues, our Annual Finance Drive is crucial to continuing the service we provide to our local LWV CVA community. As of March 11 we have received \$4870.

If you have not yet contributed to the fund drive, I urge you to do so. No donation is too small and every dollar spent is given careful consideration by your Board to see that it furthers the League's mission, *Making Democracy Work*. If our Finance Drive letter has disappeared from your desk or has never appeared in your mailbox, you may contact Kerin Yates at 434-964-1840 for another or simply mail your check to LWV-CVA, PO Box 2786, Charlottesville, VA 22902. Please indicate on your check if your donation is for our "Education Fund" which is tax deductible or our "Operating Fund" which is not. If you prefer to donate on line: go to lww-cva.org and click on the "Donate" button at the bottom of the home page.

Our 2020 Finance Drive to date (March 11), has received a total of \$4870.

	Members:	Non-Members
Operating Fund:	\$2865	\$655
Education Fund:	\$ 675	\$675
Total Donations	\$3540	\$1330

The *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* has only one Finance Drive a year. This is done by mail at the end of January. Should you receive mail requests for League donations at any other time, it is not us. Please notify us if you have any questions.

Welcome New Members!

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From LWV-VA: We are grateful to thoughtful legislators and staff for an excellent session. To see how they voted on any bill below, visit this [tracking page](#) and click on the bill number, then click the link, scroll down, and click on the last House or Senate vote. Bill patrons (even if they are not your own personal legislator) should be thanked in addition to thanking one's own legislator. Please [contact those legislators](#) to thank them for their votes!

LWV CVA Firearms Safety Committee Report by Maggie Hoover and Beth Alley, co-chairs

2020 Legislative Update: The Firearm Safety Committee had an active and celebratory year with the passage of 7 out of 8 of bills that were the Governor's priorities. Even though some may be more "watered down" than purposed it is a great accomplishment after decades of harmful legislation and failed efforts for sensible gun laws.

- Background checks will be expanded to all gun sales. The original proposal called for background checks to be applied to transfers, but that didn't make it into the final legislation.
- Handgun purchases will be capped to one a month. People with concealed carry permits will be excluded from this.
- Virginia has joined other legislatures in passing a "red flag" bill to allow courts to temporarily ban people from possessing firearms if there are clear signs that they pose a danger to themselves or others.
- Local governments will be able to ban weapons from certain buildings and events.
- The penalty for recklessly allowing a firearm to fall into the hands of a child younger than 14 would be enhanced from a Class 3 misdemeanor to Class 1 misdemeanor.
- A person subject to a permanent protective order is prohibited from possessing a firearm while the order is in effect.
- In-person training will be required for obtaining concealed carry permits. Currently, people can take online courses, which aren't standardized.
- Guns and ammunition in licensed and voluntarily registered family day homes will have to be locked up in separate containers.
- People can voluntarily register for a "do not sell" list if they don't want firearms sold to them. The goal of the proposal is to reduce suicides.
- Gun owners will have to report their lost or stolen firearms within 48 hours of discovering they are missing.
- A buyer of a gun safe can receive a tax exemption for safes that cost \$1,500 or less.
- The newly formed Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Grant Program will administer grants to six cities, including Roanoke, to assess community violence.

2020 Legislative Update on Education by Carol Noggle, LWV-VA Board Member

Dear Education Friends,

I reported before on these 2020 bills:

- Delegate LaRock's bill (Parental Choice ESAs) has not had a hearing -- it seems he did not come to the committee meeting again -- Hooray!
- Delegate Bulova's bill to discontinue the Virginia's EISTC was in the House Finance Committee this week. The only action was to continue it to next year, so perhaps we can get it to pass in 2021.

Below is a brief list of a variety of education bills that did pass.

2020 General Assembly wrap-up: Education-related Legislation

The considerable increase in funding for public education and teachers was definitely a highlight for education legislation this year. A wide array of helpful legislation passed including increased teacher pay, improving discipline and interaction with Resource Officers, curriculum additions, an increase in curriculum hours for all kindergarten children, requirements for a nondiscriminatory dress code (Dress Code Equity Act), appropriate treatment of transgender students, giving advance notice to parents regarding lockdown drills, adding extra planning time for teachers (did not pass), access to graded work for suspended students, online mental health awareness training required for public school employees, parental education materials on tobacco and nicotine vapor products, in-state tuition for certain refugees and immigrants, expanded training of school resource officers to include mediation and conflict resolution and alternatives to physical restraint, and increased minimum staffing ratio for school counselors and school nurses.

Two education bills that are specifically related to our League's recent Position on the standards and criteria for School Choice Options were introduced. HB521 would have repealed the scholarship tax credit program – Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credits (EISTC). The League opposes this program because it sends funds to private schools and, thereby, reduces Virginia's general funds for our public schools. The League supported the repeal. HB521 was withdrawn before it was assigned to a committee, but may be introduced next year.

HB678 would have established vouchers, named Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts, that would allow the transfer of local public-school funds to parents to use for their children's private schooling. The League opposes these ESAs. This bill was on the committee docket more than once but was not actually presented by the patron so it was quietly dismissed.

Submitted by Carol Noggle, LWV-VA Board Member. Contact: 703-743-1831 or 571-437-8343 (cell)