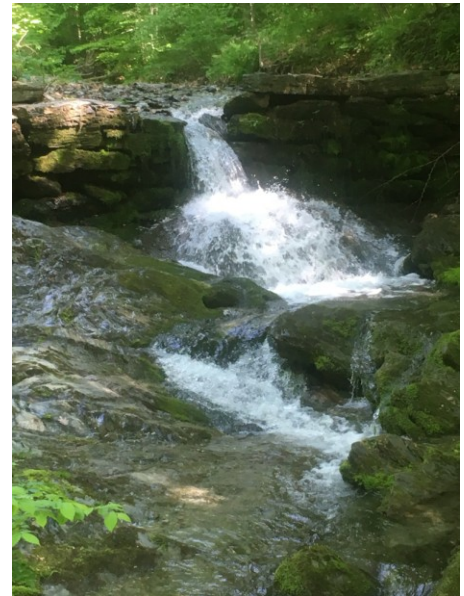


LWV CVA Sunday Seminar – A Free Online Event

February 21, 2 to 4 pm

How's Our Water and Who's Paying Attention To It?

At the LWV CVA *Sunday Seminar* on February 21 the Natural Resources Committee will introduce some of the people who are taking care of the Charlottesville area's water. Join us to find out about them and their water protection efforts.



Two decades ago the LWV CVA produced "*Water in the New Millennium*," a report that described the state of the area's water supply system and recommended steps to guarantee an adequate future supply of safe drinking water. Now we are taking a bird's-eye look at what is being done to protect our water from the time it falls onto the local watersheds, with some of that becoming our drinking water, until it makes its way to the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean.

Water is vital to sustaining life on earth. As stewards of our natural resources we are obligated to take care of this most precious resource. Locally there are many people, organizations, and government agencies that work to keep our water safe and sustainable. At our February *Sunday Seminar* some of them will give us brief descriptions of how they are addressing problems and/or challenges facing the area's water. Come and get a quick introduction to those water stewards and what they are doing.

This is an online event: **Here is the link to get your free Eventbrite "Ticket":**

**To Join the Zoom Sunday Seminar on February 21,
Click here on "[Tickets](#)" and register!**

Or copy and paste this link to your browser:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-s-our-water-and-whos-paying-attention-to-it-tickets-138985321839>

The link to join will be emailed to ticket registrants prior to the event.

For more information about this Seminar, contact Muriel Grim, msggrim2012@gmail.com

President's Message:

Dear Leaguers, With the Virginia State Legislature in session this past month, we have been busy encouraging support of legislation covering issues we hold dear to our hearts. I urge you to check the State League's website lwv-va.org for a list of the priority bills and how to take action in support of them. On January 27, the **Annual Legislative League Day** was held remotely with many legislators participating. We gathered information on bills that inspired attention by our various interest committees. The information shared was remarkably well organized and well documented thanks to many hours of effort by many of our LWV-VA leaders. For those of you who are interested in issues not covered on our local level, the State League issue groups can be found [here](#).

LWV CVA webmaster, Michele Kellermann, has filled our [lwv-cva.org website](http://lwv-cva.org) with a treasure trove of information. Please explore its many crooks and crannies. And this, our monthly e-voter newsletter, also contains important information that I urge you all to read. Check out the Calendar on page 10 to find the scheduled meetings and contact information for our standing committees—if you would like to see the times changed, please let us know! We would love to hear from you.

Pat Cochran, president, League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area, lwv@lwv-cva.org

HELP WANTED – LWV CVA NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT!

The League's program, like Democracy, is not a spectator sport. Consider participating on the LWV-CVA Board. Serving on the Board, which is responsible for executing your League's program, 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 held once a month – usually for two hours or less, the day and time decided by each new Board. Board positions open for election at our 2021 annual meeting in May are:

- Two 2021-2023 Officers: **Vice-President** and **Treasurer**
- Two 2021-2023 Directors: **Community Engagement** and **Voter Service**

Additionally, these off-Board committee positions are open for election in May:

- One 2021-2024 member of the **Mary Stamps White Committee**
- Two 2021-2022 members of the **Nominating Committee**

For more information or to offer your name or another member's name to the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee, please contact Shirley Payne (shirleypayne@outlook.com) or Peggy Slez (mjslez@gmail.com).

Welcome New Members!

Elizabeth Westbrook
35 Cross Creek Lane
Ft. Valley, VA 22652
540-933-6902
941-448-7818
email: verybusybeth@icloud.com

Marilynn R. Philippi
4721 Helios Path
Barboursville, VA 22923
434-981-9910
email: marilynn.philippi@gmail.com

Stephanie Lowenhaupt
414 Key West Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22911
434-979-2636
email: slowenhaupt@gmail.com



From the *League of Women Voters of Virginia*

Website: lww-va.org

For Current LWV-VA Action Priorities, click on:

<https://lww-va.org/action/> which includes the following FactSheet -

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Support [SB1101](#) (Ebbin) and [HB1933](#) (Levine)

Executive Summary. **SB1101** and **HB1933** would add Virginia to the list of **16 states** that are already members of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Without amending the US Constitution, the Compact is the only way to ensure the US President will be elected by the popular vote of all voters.

Issue. The goal of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is to ensure that every vote matters in presidential elections, so all voters have a fairly equal voice in the election.

*Joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact will **restore power to the voters**, instead of disenfranchising millions*

What is the Compact?

- The Compact will guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most people's votes across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- The Compact is a **state-based approach** that **preserves the Electoral College, state control of elections, and the power of the states** to control how the President is elected, without having to amend the US Constitution.
- **16 jurisdictions** with 196 electoral votes have already joined the Compact, including 4 small states (DE, HI, RI, VT), 8 medium-sized states (CO, CT, MD, MA, NJ, NM, OR, WA), 3 big states (CA, IL, NY), and the District of Columbia. The bill will take effect when states that collectively have 74 electoral votes enact it. A state may choose to withdraw from the compact.
- The Constitution supports the Compact, by allowing a state the flexibility to award all of its electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in the nation.

How Will the Compact Work?

- The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact will go into effect when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough to elect a President (270 of 538).
- Virginia, if added to the Compact, will award its 13 electoral votes to the candidate who receives the most votes across all 50 states and DC, regardless of which candidate wins Virginia.

LWV CVA Firearms Safety Committee Report by Beth Alley and Maggie Hoover

Several members of the LWV Gun Violence Prevention committee joined numerous other GVP groups across the state to participate in a large virtual rally on Martin Luther King's Day. Governor Northam, Attorney General Herring and other prominent figures in the struggle for Sensible Gun Legislation all spoke at what was the 29th rally in support for this issue. In light of the current events in Washington DC and across the Nation more than ever, it is crucial to improve gun safety laws in the interest of public safety. For more information about this committee contact Beth Alley at beth.alley@gmail.com or Maggie Hoover at maggie.hoover@gmail.com.

The following is GVP Legislation which has been filed and has the League's support:

1) HB 2276 (Simon)

Prohibits the manufacture, import, sale, transfer of or possession of Ghost Guns, Downloadable Guns & Undetectable Guns

2) HB2081 (Levine)

Bans guns at polling places

3) HB1992 (Murphy)

Mirrors federal law that prohibits those convicted of misdemeanor assault/battery of a family member from purchasing a firearm

4) SB1381 (Ebbin)

Prohibits possessing or transporting a weapon within Capitol Square or into buildings owned by the Commonwealth. If passed, this would essentially codify the rules passed by the GA last year and codify Northam's executive order.

LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Report by Muriel Grim

At the regular January meeting of the Natural Resources Committee, we made plans for the February Sunday Seminar (see front page of this newsletter for "tickets" to this virtual meeting). We decided that because the seminar will be occurring so close to the time the Comp Plan Study meetings are held that we would cancel the February Comp Plan meeting. We will do Chapter 8, *The Development Areas*, in March. For more information about the Natural Resources Committee, contact Muriel Grim, msggrim2012@gmail.com.

Note the following WLRT (LWV-VA Women's Legislative Round Table) event scheduled for Wednesday, February 3 (8:30 am) has as its focus: "Environment; updates on remaining legislation. This is a virtual meeting and the zoom link can be obtained by clicking on:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-legislative-roundtables-tickets-133592010299?utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=email&utm_content=notification&utm_campaign=following_published_event&utm_term=Women%27s+Legislative+Roundtables%21&aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail

Justice Reform Committee Considers Popular Tactic: Bookgroup

By Kit Murphy McNally, LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Chair

Impressed with the successful bookgroup format of the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee study of the Albemarle Comprehensive Plan, the Justice Reform Committee will discuss adapting a similar path to understanding and supporting justice reform at the February 19 meeting at 11 am via zoom.

The potential for justice reform is promising in the Virginia General Assembly session underway, along with actions already being taken by local Commonwealth attorneys and new presidential support for justice reform nationally. The challenge the Justice Reform Committee faces is acquiring a solid understanding of what problems remain for women caught up the system and how new local, state and national actions can be supported to enhance justice for more women in the local five county area.

The pursuit of deeper understanding by way of bookgroup heads the agenda for the February 12 meeting on zoom at 11 AM. Committee member Traci Griggs proposed a process for study which may stand as framework for a bookgroup.

The committee has discussed the value of prosecutorial discretion in sentencing, the problem with cash bail, alternatives to incarcerations, mental health training for police, crisis intervention teams and restorative justice, among other evolving practices focused on front end alternatives in the community. But the process of reading materials specifically related to issues of women caught up in the justice system, then calling on justice officials to discuss the situation through an interactive zoom session is a new approach.

The outcome of justice reform legislation in the current short term of the General Assembly may produce opportunities for local reform and measurement of success. The *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* will be watching any new laws, and the how the related actions of police, jail administration, commonwealth attorneys and courts impact women in the LWV CVA area (city of Charlottesville, and counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Nelson, Greene and Louisa).

Progressive prosecutors in Albemarle and Charlottesville are already proposing or using front end options such as the elimination of cash bail, supervised pretrial release, treatment court and some alternative referral to programs such as *Georgia's House*.

Much has been studied and written about the justice system in recent decades. The *National Institute of Corrections* is just one entity that has studied sentencing alternatives in depth and given judgment on success. But success is not a hard and fast point in a life. Everyone and every practice evolve. The LWV CVA and its Justice Reform Committee are watching, learning and speaking up.

Interested in learning more about justice in our five-county area with the LWV Justice Reform Committee? Contact Kit Murphy McNally at murphymcnally@gmail.com.

LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee News

By Gerry Kruger

The International Relations/Federal Government Committee met virtually on January 13, 2021 and continued our study of the Middle East. **Bobbie Williams**, who had visited Iran in 2016, treated us to a comprehensive review of Iran's history from 500 until today.

The people of Persia, as it was originally named, have retained their culture throughout history in spite of being invaded, captured, and used as a waterway from Asia to Europe. Despite being taken over by the Greeks and Romans and later the Turks, they managed to retain their belief in the one God of Muhammed's vision in the late 500's. Muhammed's daughter married Ali. After Muhammed's death, the Muslims split into Shi'a and Sunni. Shi'a Muslims are descended from Ali and the Sunni are Arabs. The Sunni were the upper class and had power as well as wealth. The Shi'a were common people such as farmers and traders. Today there are three divisions in Iran. The third group is made up of poets, dancers, Christians, and Jews.

For centuries the Ottoman (Sunni) and Persian (Shi'a) Empires were at War. Eventually the Ottoman Empire became Turkey, less religious and more westernized. The Pahlavi line came into power in Persia in the 1900's. The first shah changed its name to Iran, westernizing it and giving women more freedom. The clerics had power over religion and the shah had power over politics.

After World War I the British drew new boundary lines that separated Iran and Iraq. After World War II, the son of the first Shah gained power with the help of the US, but eventually was overthrown by the clerics. The Ayatollah Khomeini took control of all aspects of government and shredded all western influence, again putting restrictions on women, movies, and outside news. When Khomeini died, the new ayatollah took over. Ayatollah Khomeini is a holocaust denier but is not as strict and allows the people more freedom.

When Bobbie was in Iran in 2016, their guide told them they weren't allowed to take pictures of the embassy where the hostages were taken captive during the Carter presidency. He told them that Iran is only using uranium for medicine and utilities, and the US is considered a terrorist government because of its support of Israel, who has nuclear weapons. The people say they have nothing against Americans, just their government. They blame the US for our treatment of Iraq. Iran has a Parliament, which is called the Council of Guardians, but the ayatollah can overrule it.

During the Obama administration Iran agreed not to enrich uranium for ten years. Inspectors oversaw their destruction of large centrifuges. Then President Trump pulled us out of the agreement.

Overall, Bobbie felt safe during her visit. The people were friendly and sold beautiful textiles, and the museums and art were fabulous. To learn more about Iran, several members recommended reading *Desert Queen* by Janet Wallack. It's about the life of Gertrude Bell and has been made into a movie called "Queen of the Desert." Our next virtual meeting will take place on February 17 at 10 am. Join us as Lydia Peale discusses the roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Contact Marge Cox, (email: margevfcox@gmail.com) for zoom link.

Albemarle County Electoral Board Virtual Meeting January 13, 2021

DRAFT Minutes submitted by Kerin Yates, LWV CVA Electoral Boards Observer Corps

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street

Attendance: Jim Heilman, Michael Rodemeyer, Peter Wurzer, Jake Washburne, Clarice Schermerhorn, Lauren Eddy, and Erin Davis Guest: Kerin Yates, League of Women Voters.

The minutes for December 9, after a modification by Peter concerning drop-off centers, were unanimously approved. Letter from Electoral Board to Board of Supervisors (BoS) and others **requesting a work session concerning budget and space needs.** The response to our letter was discussed. Jake noted that BoS Chair Ned Galloway responded that Jake should confer with Lance Stewart, Director of Facilities and Environmental Management, about our space needs going forward. This has happened. Lance has determined that, due to many staff in our building continuing to telework, we should be able to continue to use the 5th Street Office Building for our regular office and for Early In-person Voting (EIP). It was determined that we could use Conference Room A for general elections and Conference Room B for primaries. Jake has asked that Lance put that in writing. There was a suggestion that Lance also confirm this in writing with the BoS. Jim asked that Jake set up a meeting with the Office of Management and Budget to discuss budgetary issues.

Public Confidence in Election Integrity. Michael proposed lobbying ELECT to implement a program to explain election integrity in Virginia to the public. Discussion ensued. Michael agreed to draft a letter explaining what we think is needed and share it with the Virginia Electoral Board Association. Risk-limiting Audit (RLA). Plans for holding a statewide RLA of the November 3, 2020 presidential election in February were discussed. Election Official Management System Upgrade. Clarice and Erin noted that they have checked out a new software system for tracking our election officials. As required, the County's Information Technology Department has been sent a notice of what is in the new proposed system. Discussion ensued. Election Official Appointments. Jake asked Clarice to send notice to the County political party chairs informing them that it is time for them to recommend appointments.

DRAFT Executive Session. Michael moved the following: RESOLVED, that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion of the performance of employees, as provided by section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 9:58 am. The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:30 am. Michael moved the following: RESOLVED, that to the best knowledge of each member of this Board (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of Chapter 37 (Virginia Freedom of Information Act) of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which today's executive session was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 am.

Respectfully submitted, James M. Heilman Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board

Report from Electoral Board meeting for Louisa County - January 11, 2021

DRAFT of minutes summary submitted by Karen Davenport, LWV CVA Electoral Boards Observer Corps

Registrar's Report – Mrs. Cris Watkins

New Equipment Purchase

A motion was made by Mr. Haymore to supplement the current *Smartmatic* purchase order to fulfill the remaining balance of equipment needed by the County of Louisa. The motion was carried by acclimation.

Update on CARES and Grant

The Louisa County Finance Office is continuing to finalize the accounting and reporting of the monies used to fulfill the 2020 President Election.

Update on Office Relocation

It is understood that the Louisa County Administrator and Assistant Administrator is planning to revisit the move of the General Registrar's Office to the Henson Building.

Candidate Forum – 2021

A Candidate Forum is planned for February 23, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Louisa County Administrative Building.

Legislative Report

New laws are currently being presented and/or comingled for the 2021 Legislative Session. *[Note: I will make a note to ask about this at the next meeting. KD]*

Cybersecurity Assessment

The Cybersecurity Assessment was keyed into Integra prior to the December 31, 2020 deadline.

Redistricting

The Division of Legislative Services has released a Guide to Local Redistricting. The U.S. Census Bureau will be releasing numbers to the Commonwealth on April 1, 2021.

Precincts

A short discussion was held regarding selected precincts that the Electoral Board and General Registrar would like to move/merge dependent upon redistricting border changes. Yancyville, Cuckoo, and Trevilians Fire Station. *[Note: I will also follow-up with this at the next meeting. KD]*

Election Officers

The Louisa County Electoral Board and General Registrar are reviewing Election Officer assignments with a plan to ensure equal party recognition with Chief, Assistant Chief, and Backups for both positions.

Election Officer Training

Election Officer Training in 2021 will require the additional training to assess the new equipment and procedures to include a new Electronic Pollbook, scanner, and printer.

Triggering Events

Triggering Events were reviewed respective to 2021, knowing that many documents will need to be updated to address new procedures, new equipment, and a possible office move.

Chairman's Report

After Action Review of the November Election: The after-action review of the November election was attended by members of the community and commonwealth. The one hour brief was met with high approval by all who attended.

Secure Electronic Media in Closed Meetings

A discussion ensued regarding the use/ownership of electronic devices in Closed Meetings. Mrs. Watkins will discuss this issue with the County Attorney for advice on how to reduce the risk of having electronic recording devices in a Closed Meeting.

Pamphlet to Explain Mail In Ballots Voting

Mrs. Wolf presented the possibility of designing a pamphlet to inform the voting community of the entire voting process including registration, mail in voting and in-person voting. She also plans to include frequently asked questions.

Report from Electoral Board meeting for Greene County

Minutes summary submitted by Rice Wagner, LWV CVA Electoral Boards Observer Corps

Please note from Rice Wagner: Below is a copy of the last posted minutes for the Greene County Electoral Board. Note that it was in November. I called the office and received the following information:

Dec. 17--minutes not posted yet, Registrar retired so worked on replacing him/her, also change in memberships

Jan. 13--minutes not posted yet

No meeting scheduled at this time

Possible upcoming elections:

June--Democratic primary

August--possible (but doesn't look likely) election due to redistricting (doesn't feel the census numbers will be in for the redistricting group to be able to proceed in time for an August election)

November

No excuse early voting will continue.

Last posted minutes:

The Greene County Electoral Board met November 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM at the Registrar's office in Stanardsville, VA. The meeting continued on November 7, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

Present:

Ellen Deane-Chairman

Douglas Miller-Vice-Chairman Geraldine H. Gilbert-Sec Jennifer Lewis-Fowler-Registrar Susan Birkhead, Clerk of Court

Purpose of the Meeting – Canvass of Votes for November 3, 2020 Election

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Deane. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Motion was made and approved to go into closed session for Provisional Ballot Canvass. Total Provisional Ballots – 48: Accepted - 30 Rejected - 18

Motion was made and approved to come out of closed session.

Greene County saw 79% voter turnout for the election. Regular canvass meeting continued on November 7, 2020. Votes certified in Greene County:

President and Vice President

President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Michael R. Pence R 6,866

Joseph R. Biden and Kamala D. Harris D 4,163

Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy F. "Spike" Cohen L 241

Writeln 41

Member United States Senate

Daniel M. Gade R 6,661

Mark R. Warner D 4,529

Writeln 6

Member House of Representatives

Robert G. "Bob" Good R 6,593

B. Cameron Webb D 4,562

Writein 61

Proposed Constitutional Amendment #1 Yes 6,593 No 4,562

Proposed Constitutional Amendment #2 Yes 9756 No 1265

The Electoral Board continued meeting to complete paperwork on November 9, 2020 at 10 AM. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ellen Deane-Chairman

Geraldine H. Gilbert-Sec.

Douglas Miller-Vice-Chairman

Meetings and Events for February 2021: Mark Your Calendars Now!

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed, Feb 3 – 8:30 am	Women's Legislative Roundtable (WLRT) – Final Wednesday for this legislative session	Virtual Meeting - Richmond	See page 4 of this newsletter for registration to WLRT meetings
Wed., Feb 17, 10 am	LWV CVA International Relations/ Federal Gov't Meeting	Virtual Meeting	Contact Marge Cox, 245-5228, or email margevfcox@gmail.com for zoom link
Wed., Feb 17, 3:00 – 5:00 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873
Fri., Feb 19, 11 am	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Kit Murphy McNally, email: murphymcnally@gmail.com
Sun., Feb 21, 2 – 4 pm	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: How's Our Water and Who's Paying Attention to it?	Virtual Meeting	Click on this ticket link to register for the zoom meeting: tickets
Tues., Feb 23, 1 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Muriel Grim, email: msgrim2012@gmail.com
No NRC Comp Plan meeting in Feb; next meeting in March	LWV CVA Natural Resources "Comprehensive Plan Study Group" Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Muriel Grim, email: msgrim2012@gmail.com

LWV CVA Launches Annual Finance Drive

In a few days (or perhaps weeks--being that prompt mail delivery cannot be counted on these days) you should as a member or a friend of the LWV of the Charlottesville Area receive our ANNUAL and ONLY 2021 request for financial support. With your support our League was able to take an active role in assisting with our 2020 elections, promoting passage of Virginia Constitutional Amendment #1 which provided redistricting reform; continued our public educational seminars; and as a part of the state league (LWV-VA) litigated for voting reforms and ballot protection. To continue those efforts that you value – registering voters and influencing public policy through education and advocacy – we hope you will contribute as generously as you can. Thank you.

The 2021 Finance Committee and the LWV CVA Board of Directors



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