

LWV CVA Seminar
Presented by the LWV CVA
Natural Resources Committee
The Dark Side of the Sun?



Renewable Sources of Electrical Power:
Challenges and Promises

Zoom Webinar: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 – Noon

Register in Advance – Click on:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AHvp4YpkQ-a-9562ZXZI8Q

To protect our ecological systems it is crucial that we adopt renewable sources of power. But how do we do it in ways that produce the most benefit and least harm to the environment? It's not as simple as it seems. Our February Seminar addresses some of the complexities involved in having utility scale electric power switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. These complexities include proper siting of solar farms and ability to access the grid. In addition to solutions for renewable energy development problems, best practices and regulations for solar farms, and creative ways of installing small distributive scale solar power will be discussed.

The League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area invites you to join in this **free virtual event** for an enlightening discussion of this timely topic! **Register in advance for this zoom webinar for Tuesday, February 15, at noon. Click on the link above to register.**

The 2022 Virginia General Assembly is now in session! And the LIS (Legislative Information Service) is the tool to use to follow the progress of bills that are being introduced, discussed, and voted on. What is the LIS? It's Virginia's Legislative Information System. The website, <https://lis.virginia.gov/> allows you to access:

- [Bills & Resolutions](#): Status of individual bills and related information
- [General Assembly Members](#): Member sponsored legislation
- [Standing Committees](#): Legislation referred to committee
- [State Budget](#): Budget bills, committees and summaries
- [Daily Floor Calendars](#): Legislative agendas
- [Communications](#): Legislation communicated between houses
- [House Minutes](#) / [Senate Minutes](#): Record of floor sessions
- [Meetings](#): House and Senate committee meeting schedule
- [Statistics](#): Session statistics
- [Lobbyist-in-a-Box](#): Subscription-based bill tracking service
- [Cumulative Index](#): Subject index of bills and resolutions

You can also find the LIS on our LWV CVA website: lww-cva.org. On the home page, click on "Explore the League" and then the "Voting and Elections" dropdown menu, "Legislative Information" which not only has links for Virginia but also for the US Congress.

LWV-VA Women's Legislative Roundtables (WLRTs) are weekly deep dives into our legislative priorities. The 2022 Legislative Session runs Jan. 12- March 12. WLRTs are held each Wednesday 8:30 to 9:30 am, during the session. This year, you can attend in person – at the Tidewater Room of the SunTrust Center, 919 East Main Street, Richmond – or log in to view virtually!

Contact your local League president to join one of these meetings. Click [here](#) to register. When you RSVP you will have a choice to mark how you will attend. We hope to see you in whatever form is easiest for you but an in-person visit makes the biggest impact!

Here are the remaining dates for February through March:

Feb 2 – Vouchers and Tuition Tax Credits to Private Schools; "Portability of Funds diverted from Public Schools to Private Schools".

Feb 9 – Child Protection

Feb 16 – Money in Politics – Reform

Feb 23 – Dark Money – Honest Ads

Mar 2 – Floods – Full Disclosure of Flood Zones

Mar 9 – Final Legislative Push

LWV CVA Gun Violence Prevention Committee Report

By Maggie Hoover and Beth Alley

Numerous bills were recently introduced in both the State Senate and House of Delegates that would repeal or weaken many of the firearm bills passed in the last two years. The goal of the League is to protect the progress that has been made in the Commonwealth to keep all Virginians safe from gun violence. While we oppose any new bills that would weaken or repeal current legislation, we have prioritized three to follow to ensure that they remain unchanged:

1. **Child Access Prevention (CAP) and Safe Storage:** requires gun owners to store firearms unloaded and locked when unattended.
2. **Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO):** allows the commonwealth attorney or law enforcement officers to petition the court to prohibit the possession of firearms on a temporary basis for those individuals at substantial risk to themselves or to others.
3. **Local Ordinance:** allows localities to prohibit firearms in municipal buildings, libraries and events that require permits.

In addition to the protection of the three laws above, the League also supports the following proposed legislation:

1. **Ghost guns:** prohibits owning or selling firearms that are unserialized and untraceable and can be purchased without a background check.
2. **GVP Research Violence Intervention Program:** establishes a *Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention*. Former Governor Northam allocated \$27.4M for the Center.

We are pleased to report that the must-pass Senate Judiciary Committee shot down multiple bills that sought to reverse laws passed in 2020, including our three priorities listed above. The Senate bill to prohibit ghost guns is still to be heard.

Thank you to all that made calls or emailed to voice support or opposition. Our local GVP Committee receives **"Action Alerts"** from the State League when legislation is being debated so that we can contact our local legislators to express our support or opposition. **If you would like to receive these "Action Alerts"** please email **Beth Alley (Beth.alley@gmail.com)** or **Maggie Hoover (Maggie.hoover@gmail.com)**



"Ghost guns" like the ones in this photo can come from a 3-D printer or be ordered from a gun manufacturer as a kit. None of these "guns" has a serial number and none can be traced.

2022 LWV CVA FINANCE DRIVE UNDERWAY!

Members and friends of the *League of Women Voters* should soon be receiving in their mail a letter from the **League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area** requesting your consideration of financial support for the work LWV CVA does. We ask for your financial support **only once a year** by way of this letter. The letter contains a return envelope addressed to the League at PO Box 92, Free Union, VA, 22940. Please note that should you receive other LWV monetary requests (i.e. from the national organization, *League of Women Voters*), it is not from us!

We thank you for your consideration and support.
Kerin Yates, LWV CVA Finance Drive Chair

LWV CVA Voter Services Report

By Susan D. Roberts, LWV CVA Voter Services Director

The League's elections information website, [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org), is one of the main focuses of the Voter Services Committee. To help us this year, 2022, and this year only, the state League will pay the fee for all local Leagues to use Vote411, which is around \$400 per League. Furthermore, they will find and support an expert familiar with GIS shapefiles, who will input all the district line information into the database that is not already covered by the LWV-US. In February there will be Virginia-specific training sessions with the LWV-US experts on how to input data into the new, redesigned database. This has been a challenge in the past, so we welcome this announcement. These trainings will be completed in plenty of time for any June primaries. LWV CVA President Pat Cochran has agreed to be trained for this task and will sign up for the February training. We are looking for another person from our LWV CVA to be trained as a backup, so if you are even a little bit interested, please contact as soon as possible Susan D. Roberts, email: susanrofva@aol.com or Pat Cochran, email: lwv@lwv-cva.org ASAP.

LWV CVA Educational Outreach Project – Update from Beth Alley

Dear Committee Members,

Gerry Kruger and I wanted to remind you that our January meeting to further the publication of our children's book project was canceled due to omicron. Our publishing expert who had planned to meet with us remains available and we will let you know when we can reschedule. We especially want this to be an in-person meeting so we can get everyone's ideas. Our "Educational Outreach Project" — publishing a book for children about voting -- is open to all. If you think you might be interested in being part of this group, we would love to have you join us. Please reach out to Gerry Kruger (gerrykruger@embargmail.com) or Beth Alley (beth.alley@gmail.com).

LWV CVA Child Care Committee News

By Beth Kariel, Chair, LWV CVA Child Care Committee

We would like to acknowledge the work and contributions that Pamela Northam and her team accomplished during Governor Northam's time as Governor of Virginia. In January, 2020, Beth had the opportunity to meet with Pamela Northam's Chief of Staff and discuss child care licensing in Virginia.

From the Governor's letter (December 2021), we note the following:

- Under Governor Northam, early childhood education is now available to more Virginia families than ever before.
- Since 2018 Virginia has more than doubled public Pre-K funding to serve a record total of more than 25,000 three and four year olds.
- Virginia has expanded access to affordable child care to more families than ever before, serving over 27,000 children and exceeding pre-pandemic participation.
- The Commonwealth has received national attention for investing in an early childhood teacher incentive grant program that has cut turnover in half in participating classrooms.

For information about the LWV CVA Child Care Committee, please contact Beth Kariel, email: bethkariel9@gmail.com

LWV CVA Electoral Board Observer Corps Report

By Kerin Yates, Chair

The Electoral Boards of Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson have not met since our last report. (The City of Charlottesville information was unavailable at the time of this newsletter.) The County of Albemarle did meet on January 12 and discussed the issues dealing with:

- redistricting;
- the new mandate to report early and absentee ballots by individual precincts and not as a group;
- recovering costs (@\$1800) from *PrintElect* due to ballot mixup in some precincts during the last election; and
- the need for better Election Force Software (used to schedule precinct election officials).

Nancy Muir was introduced as a new board member replacing Peter Wurtzer who retired in December after 17 years of service. Full minutes of the meeting can be accessed at

<https://www.albemarle.org/government/elections/electoral-board> .

LWV CVA Program Planning Update

By Carol Cutler, LWV CVA Vice-President, Program Planning Chair

A “Concurrence Meeting” was held on Zoom January 16, 2022, with 25 League members attending. Following a report by Michele Kellermann on the “Education” restudy, the group concurred on adding two areas (in red bold below) to the LWV CVA Education position as follows:

Education

Action: Support of equal access to a quality public 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, and the Counties of Albemarle, and Fluvanna, Nelson, Louisa, and Greene. Support for local policies that promote learning by recognizing that the basic needs of all children include health care and adequate nutrition. 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 enable students to critically evaluate information found on the internet and in other media including skills to understand individual rights and privacy.** 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] **Support for cost-effective secure high speed internet access throughout the Charlottesville Area.** [2022]

During the concurrence discussion, League members offered several suggestions to updating other action statements in the Education position. These suggestions will be taken into consideration at a future LWV CVA Program Planning meeting.

In addition to the concurrence by members on the Education position cited above, Carol Cutler presented an update to the “Election Integrity” and “Electoral Systems” sections of the LWV CVA “Government” position (see 2021-22 LWV CVA Handbook, p. 16) reflecting the 2021 update of the state “LWV-VA Election Laws” position. Carolyn Caywood and Lisa Gercheck (one of the developers of the state League’s position), reviewed the update (see LWV CVA January 2022 Newsletter “The Voter”). Our local LWV CVA subcommittee, Carol Cutler, Shirley Payne and Karen Christiansen, recommended the position update be considered for concurrence at the January 16 meeting. However, at that time members did not come to any agreement on this update. Therefore, the suggested update will be considered again at the Annual Program Planning meeting (in December, 2022) when the complete Government position will be reviewed.

Continued on next page

LWV CVA Program Planning Update

Continued from previous page

Other activities related to LWV CVA 2021-22 Program Planning include:

A consideration for a new LWV CVA Health position is in progress with a focus on gathering facts about local dental services with committee Jane Eggleston, Stephanie Lowenhaupt, Kobby Hoffman, Bobbie Williams, Mimi Bender and Rosalie Simari.

Mimi Bender continues to lead an update to the *Health and Family Life Education and Health Services in Area Public Schools* looking at mental health services and mental health promotion for students. Committee members are Carol Cutler and Carolyn Fitzpatrick.

These reports will be reviewed at the annual Program Planning meeting. Questions, comments? Contact Carol Cutler, email: gertrude3@icloud.com.

LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee News

By Kit Murphy McNally, LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee, Chair

The LWV CVA Justice Committee met on January 28 and made the decision that for now they would no longer meet as a committee. Members were “zoomed out” and felt the initial goal of initiating “alternatives to incarceration”, especially locally and especially for women, was not possible due to the enormous amount of time required that members felt they could not give. Members will continue to monitor the justice system and report on such via articles in the LWV CVA Voter. A slew of new bills has just dropped in Richmond. Some will be short-lived, but others bear watching and responding. At this moment there are 146 relating to justice issues. Current LWV-VA positions on adult justice include:

- Serves all people without discrimination and incorporates restorative justice practices;
- Support for an adequately funded judicial and corrections system;
- Provides judicial selection by the General Assembly with the use of a nominating commission of lay persons and lawyers;
- Sentencing by judges;
- Effectively administered corrections system that protects society and rehabilitates offenders;
- Professionally administered local jails and community-based corrections. Policies that include alternatives to incarceration and use of community volunteers.

Members can track the pending legislation using LIS (Legislative Information Service—see page 2 of this newsletter) and by downloading the Virginia 2022 General Assembly Tracker. If interested in tracking pending legislation, contact Karen Kallay <kakallay@gmail.com> heading up the LWV-VA Justice Committee. Contact Kit Murphy McNally <murphymcnally@gmail.com> regarding justice issues of concern or promise, especially involving women.

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 2022 annual meeting in May include:

- Two 2022-2024 Officers: **President** and **Secretary**
- Two 2022-2024 Directors: **Newsletter Editor/Webmaster** and **Membership**

For more information or to offer your name or another member's name to the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee, please contact Nominating Committee chair Sue Lewis, swlcville@gmail.com.

Meetings and Events for February 2022: *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wednesdays, Feb 2, 9, 16, and 23 – 8:30 -9:30 am	WLRT – Women's Legislative Roundtable	Hybrid: virtual and in person in Richmond	For complete information and registration, go to: https://lwv-va.org
Tues., Feb 15, Noon – Note new time/date: Originally scheduled for Feb 13	LWV CVA Seminar – “The Dark Side of the Sun?” A Zoom Webinar presented by the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee	Zoom meeting – see front page for link	For further information, contact Muriel Grim, email: msgrim2012@gmail.com
Wed., Feb 16, 3:00 – 5:00 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873
Tues., Feb. 22, 1 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Muriel Grim, email: msgrim2012@gmail.com



LWV CVA President
Pat Cochran

Newsletter Editor
Michele Kellermann