



February 2023 "eVoter"

ACTION ALERT!

From the LWV CVA Gun Violence Prevention Committee

The residents of rural Albemarle County are asking for our help and **we only have until Tuesday, January 31, to lend support.** A resident in Free Union has submitted a request to establish a "Major Home Occupation" for the purpose of running a firearm-related business out of his home.

A section of the "Major Home Occupation" Ordinance allows any home in rural Albemarle County to create/make, alter, and store firearms for their customers. According to Section L(6) of the Ordinance: gun sales are prohibited unless the guns are made on-site by one or more family members residing within the dwelling unit.

So many questions arise. Who monitors this? Who ensures guns made have serial numbers? Are the sellers required to do background checks?

If you are an Albemarle resident, PLEASE call/email (or both) your Board of Supervisors and tell them you do NOT want businesses where guns can be created, modified, altered, or stored in any home setting in rural Albemarle.

Diantha McKeel

- C 434-305-0113
- H 434-296-4931
- dmckeel@albemarle.org

Ann Mallek

- C 434-996-6159
- H 434-978-1150
- amallek@albemarle.org

Also, ask that the current Free Union Road request be delayed until this Ordinance can be reviewed. **ACT NOW: We only have until Tuesday, January 31, to request this delay.**

Thank you - Meg Heubeck, LWV CVA President

Maggie Hoover and Beth Alley, LWV CVA Gun Violence Prevention Committee



Leaguers Attend the 31st Annual MLK Gun Violence Prevention Rally in Richmond on January 16

Seven League members joined other Gun Violence Prevention groups from Charlottesville to attend the 31st annual Martin Luther King Day Gun Violence Prevention Rally in Richmond January 16th. [In photo above from left to right: **Judy Freeman, Meg Heubeck, Maggie Hoover, Beth Alley, Stephanie Lowenhaupt** and standing behind them, **Gerry Kruger.**] The group joined other GVP advocates from across the state at the Bell Tower. After listening to four inspiring speakers, many went to the Pocahontas Building to talk to legislators about supporting sensible firearm laws under consideration in the General Assembly.

To further advocate for sensible firearm legislation, several League members gathered signatures on a petition to encourage legislators NOT to reverse the 2020 legislation that allows local governments to determine for themselves the ability to ban guns in their buildings, parks, community centers and at special events. Along with other Charlottesville GVP groups 142 signatures were gathered and sent to Representatives Sally Hudson, Chris Runion, Matt Fariss, Rob Bell and Senator Creigh Deeds. In addition, League members participated in office visits with Representative Rob Bell and Senator Creigh Deeds and communicated through email with Sally Hudson prior to the General Assembly in December.

Advocating for sensible firearm legislation is more important than ever. In 2021 we lost 1255 Virginians in total to gun violence; 508 to homicide; 717 to suicide; 9 to accidental death; and 21 to

unknown circumstances. The 508 individuals who lost their lives to homicide is an 11% increase over 2020. There was a 1% rise in those who lost their lives to suicide. In 2012 homicides dipped to a low of 232, so we

have seen more than a doubling of gun homicides in 9 years. (Virginia Center of Public Safety)

For further information about the LWV CVA Gun Violence Prevention committee, contact

Maggie Hoover, email: maggie.hoover@gmail.com

or Beth Alley, email: beth.alley@gmail.com

LWV-VA Women's Legislative RoundTables Continue in February for 2023 - (WLRT)

In conjunction with the Virginia General Assembly 2023 legislative session, the LWV of Virginia hosts our "Women's Legislative RoundTables" virtually or in-person in the Tidewater Room of the Truist Building in Richmond. These are held every Wednesday at 8:30 am when the General Assembly is in session. LWV CVA Leaguers **Sue Lewis, Pat Cochran, Meg Heubeck, Stephanie Lowenhaupt**, and **Beth Kariel** went to **League Day on January 25**. **Beth Kariel** writes, "We listened to speakers, with an emphasis on reproductive freedom and voters' rights. Then, the LWV-VA was recognized, as we stood in the gallery of the Virginia House of Representatives. Following that, we visited our legislators' offices and spoke with several legislative aides, advocating for bills and issues the LWV-VA supports or opposes. We left early in the morning and coped with rainy weather but we persisted and decided that as League members we truly are "stronger together".

The February dates/registration are:

- WLRT, February 1, 2023. Register [here](#).
- WLRT, February 8, 2023. Register [here](#).
- more dates may be added once the rules (calendar) are established by the House.

Advocacy Alerts

- [Legislative Priorities](#)
- Talking Points – coming soon
- Active Alerts

Tracking Legislation

- [LIS – Legislation Information System](#)
- [VPAP: Your Window into Virginia Politics](#)
- [Richmond Sunlight: Tracking Virginia's General Assembly since 2007](#)

General Assembly

- [Find your Legislator](#)
- [Virginia General Assembly](#)

- [Managing Hearings – video](#)

LWV CVA Child Care Committee Update

From Beth Kariel, Child Care Committee chair

Beth has been working with the state League child care issue group and the LWV-VA board, evaluating child care bills that are being introduced to the 2023 General Assembly. We have been meeting on zoom more frequently and we have presented written commentary on child care bills. As everyone knows, the short session is quite a whirlwind and it's challenging but important to follow the bills that are being introduced. For more information about this committee, contact Beth Kariel email: bethkariel9@gmail.com.

LWV CVA Health Care Committee Report

By Stephanie Lowenhaupt, Health Care Committee chair

The Health Care Committee has been working on identifying legislation specific to health care equity and access in line with the LWV national position. In this year's Virginia General Assembly 2023 session **“Cover All Kids”** (SB1327 and HB2210) would establish a program to provide state-funded comprehensive health care coverage for individuals in the Commonwealth who **(i)** are under 19 years of age, **(ii)** are not covered under a group health plan or health insurance coverage, and **(iii)** but for their immigration status would be eligible for Medicaid. The other legislation we are closely following are budget amendments by Senator Deeds and Delegate Sickles to streamline Medicaid enrollment for SSI recipients. The LWV-VA has signed as a supporter of both bills. After the legislative session, we plan to focus our work on access to transportation for medical care in our service area. The prevailing needs to access care that have been identified as most acute are bus routes and shelters, handicap access, ride sharing access, and increasing Jaunt routes to outlying areas.

If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact me at slowenhaupt@gmail.com. We would welcome your participation.

International Relations/Federal Government Meeting Report

By Gerry Kruger

The LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee met at Northside Library on January 12, 2023. Attendees were Rice Wagner, Kathy Sudduth, Carol Cutler, Jean Minehart, Diane Skalak, Susan Roberts, Lois Sandy, Elaine Longerbeam, Katie Angioletti, Gerry Kruger, and our guest Judy Brownrigg.

Committee Chair Rice Wagner previously sent out a *Washington Post* article entitled *“Leaders of Democracies Increasingly Echo Putin in Authoritarian Tilt.”* Wagner led an animated discussion of the article by Matt Fisher, published on October 16, 2022. The article gave examples of Italy, Brazil, the Philippines, and Hungary electing right-wing leaders, who promise a return to order, traditional

values, and to focus on frustrations of working people. It also discussed divisions in the US Congress, with more Republicans adopting the strong-man rhetoric that played well for former President Trump. Fisher insists globalization, political polarization, the rise of social media, and a collapse of trust in major institutions are to blame. Our group discussed these as well as the prevalence of oligarchy and theocracy, as well as autocracy as polarizing factors. We also blamed 24-hour cable news, which many of us have watched more often during the pandemic.

The author pointed out that the democratic process is said to be unable to “produce effective, charismatic leaders.” We discussed the charisma and popularity of our present President compared to past presidents. We agreed that autocrats use fear to maintain control over citizens and political leaders.

For our next meeting on February 16 at noon, we will read the rest of this article and make up discussion questions for it. **We also decided to hold the rest of our 2023 meetings at Northside Library on the 3rd Thursday of each month at noon.** Feel free to bring your lunch and eat with us. We welcome new and old members to join us as we explore important issues that our world is facing. Let Rice Wagner know if you would like her to send you the above-mentioned article.

Email: ricew123@icloud.com

LWV CVA Program Planning - 2022-23 Report Approved

The LWV CVA Board of Directors reviewed this report at its Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 18. [Click here](#) for the complete report of our meeting on December 3, 2022, which includes:

- LWV CVA Program Planning for 2022-23 – Checksheet for Local Program
- LWV CVA Proposed Updates to Local Government Position: (1) Election Integrity and (2) Electoral Systems
- LWV CVA Proposed Addition to Local Program: Health Care Equity
- LWV-VA Programs Reviewed by LWV CVA – Response Form
- LWV-VA Studies for 2023 Consensus Response Forms: (1) Child Care;

(2) Environmental Justice; (3) Education Equity; (4) Money in Politics

The report now goes to LWV CVA membership for approval at its Annual Business Meeting in May. For more information about Program Planning, contact Carol Cuter, email: gertrude3@icloud.com

LWV CVA Voter Service:

Louisa County hosts "Candidate Information Forum"

From Karen Davenport, LWV CVA Louisa County Electoral Board Observer Corps

From Cristy E. Watkins
Louisa County Director of Elections and General Registrar
1 Woolfolk Ave., Suite 205
Louisa, VA 23093
VREO/ CERA
540-967-3427

2023 LWV CVA Finance Drive Underway

By Kerin Yates and Maggie Hoover, Finance Drive Committee

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, and Maggie Hoover, 2023 LWV CVA Finance Drive

HELP WANTED – LWV CVA Nominating Committee Seeks Input!

By Kerin Yates, chair, LWV CVA Nominating Committee

At our Annual Meeting in May, we will do what we do at every Annual Meeting – elect leadership for the upcoming year, among other things.

Our Officers and Directors are elected for two-year terms, with staggered terms. This year we will be electing the **Vice-President** and the **Treasurer**, along with **two Directors, Community Engagement and Voter Services**.

Your nominating committee, Kerin Yates, Anita Pilling and Susan Roberts, are looking for your input (and volunteering) for these positions. Please reach out to us if you want to suggest someone or let us know if you are interested in serving.

Our deadline for nominations is the first week of March, so don't be bashful! Please contact Nominating Committee chair Kerin Yates, email: kerinyates@hotmail.com

Welcome New Member!

Elizabeth Bach
505 Kellogg Dr.

Charlottesville, VA. 22903

Her email is,
elizabeth.i.bach@gmail.com

Phone:
708-205-7165

LWV CVA Calendar of Events for February 2023 - Mark your Calendars!

LWV-VA Women's Legislative Roundtables - Wednesdays, continuing on February 1 and 8. Meetings will be both virtual (zoom) and in person. See above for links.

LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting - Zoom on Wednesday, February 15, 1 - 3 pm. Agenda and Link forthcoming from President Meg Heubeck.

LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Gov't Meeting - In-person meetings on the third Thursday of the month at Northside Library at noon. February meeting: Thursday, **February 16, noon.** For more information contact Rice Wagner, email: ricew123@icloud.com

Louisa County Candidate Information Forum - "Want to Run for Office?" - In-person meeting on **Thursday, February 16, 6 pm.** Louisa County Office Building, Public Meeting Room. For more information contact: Cristy E. Watkins, 540-967-3427.

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
President: Meg Heubeck
eVoter Editor: Michele Kellermann
Visit our website: lwv-cva.org

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We are committed to applying the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of our operations and activities. We support governmental policies that apply these principles in addressing the social, environmental and economic problems in our communities.

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area | PO Box 2786, Charlottesville, VA 22902

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