

September 2023 "eVoter"

LWV CVA Community Dialogue:

The League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area is proud to present a community dialogue open to the public to learn more about how the LWV CVA supports and defends democracy!

"We Are The League!"

Sunday, September 17, 2 - 4 pm

The Center at Belvedere: 540 Belvedere Blvd. Charlottesville

Guest Speaker: Dr. Stephen J. Farnsworth, University of Mary Washington

Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

Join the LWV CVA for our annual "Meet the League" Community Dialogue on **September 17 from 2-4 pm at The Center at Belvedere**. Our session will begin with a talk about current Virginia politics from Dr. Steven Farnsworth, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs & Director, Center for Leadership and Media Studies, University of Mary Washington, and how state actions are affecting policy in Charlottesville. The second half of the event will involve both an introduction to the League's current committee chairs and a brief description of how our committees get work done and promote civic engagement. We will end our session with a round-robin activity where you can socialize with members and talk to committee chairs prior to indicating how you might be able to help the League.

The goal is to leave knowing what actions YOU will take to help LWV CVA strengthen democracy and civic engagement during this year.

All of us hope you will join us and BRING-A-FRIEND to expand our mission.

Thank you for your continued support. For more information, contact LWV CVA President Meg Heubeck, email: mfheubeck@virginia.edu

Democracy & Constitution Days Celebration!

Saturday, September 16, 2023, at 2 pm

"Freedom Of Speech Wall" on the Downtown Mall, Charlottesville

Join the Sierra Club (Virginia Piedmont Group) for a non-partisan, non-political, pro-democracy rally to celebrate our democracy and honor our Constitution. Music! Speakers! We're partnering with the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area; Charlottesville and Albemarle Democratic Parties; Charlottesville Center for Peace and Justice; and the Quaker Social Concerns Committee. For further information, contact Stephanie Lowenhaupt, email: slowenhaupt@gmail.com

International Relations/Federal Gov't Report

By Rice Wagner, LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Gov't Committee Chair

The LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee met on Wednesday, August 16th, at the Northside Library, Charlottesville. We had an excellent presentation (with discussion) by Diane Skalak regarding the American Judicial System. The presentation included a packet of information which was helpful in understanding the intertwining of our courts and legal issues. In September, we will explore the Supreme Court, both the size and the lack of a formal ethical guideline.

Our meetings for the next three months will be on **the third Wednesday from noon to 2 pm at the Northside Library**: The dates are: September 20, October 18, and November 15. In addition, Anita Pilling is working on a possible field trip to Richmond during the month of October. We invite anyone who is interested in our meetings or the field trip to contact Rice Wagner, email: ricew123@icloud.com or Anita Pilling, email: anitapilling.ap@gmail.com for more information.

Voter Service Notes from Susan Roberts, LWV CVA Voter Services Director

1. **National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 19.** Note: I am waiting for permission to have a table at Stonefield like we did last year--will need volunteers to register voters or to just encourage people to register themselves online. I will be asking for two hour shifts during the hours of 11 am until 2 pm. More information to come!

2. **Forum on Ranked Choice Voting: Saturday, September 23, 2 - 3 pm at the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library in Crozet.** The League of Women Voters, the Veterans for Political Innovation, and UpVote Virginia will host a community public forum to explore and discuss the timely topic of ranked choice voting, a method of voting that may (or may not) be coming to a voting booth near you in the next year or two. The forum will be held at the Crozet branch of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library on Saturday, September 23, from 2-3 pm. Invited guests include White Hall District Supervisor Ann Mallek and Brad Rykal, who is campaigning to replace Ann as White Hall Supervisor. The public is invited to attend.

In-person voting (Fall elections) at your local registrar's office begins on September 22!

For more election information, contact Susan Roberts, email: susanrofva@aol.com

Gun Violence Prevention Committee "Social Event" Set for October 6 - by Beth Alley and Maggie Hoover, LWV CVA Gun Violence Prevention Committee Chairs

Calling all GVP Committee Members and all League members interested in Gun Violence Prevention Initiatives!

Date: October 6, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Beth Alley

210 Willow Brook Road

Earlysville, VA 22936

RSVP: Beth.alley@gmail.com

Please join us to help plan this year's GVP Committee activities and to discuss our involvement in communicating the need for sensible gun safety laws to protect our Virginia citizens. According to the latest information from Johns Hopkins, the overall gun death rate slightly decreased in 2022; however, gun suicides reached an all-time high and the gun suicide rate among black teens surpassed the rate among white teens for the first time on record.

As a committee we will continue to coordinate with the Charlottesville Coalition of Gun Violence Prevention and other partners in attending rallies such as the December Vigil for Sandy Hook and Other Victims of Gun Violence; the "Just Ask" Day at the Downtown Mall and the trip to Richmond for the GVP Martin Luther King's Day Vigil. When the General Assembly is in session we will communicate "Action Alerts" for legislation that we either oppose or support.

Any thoughts and ideas on how to make our committee as effective as possible? Let's discuss! Although not mandatory, if you have an article or information relating to any GVP topic please feel free to share it with the group.

Most importantly, come to enjoy an afternoon with like-minded League members!

We hope to see many of you on October 6. Questions, comments, please email: Beth Alley, Beth.alley@gmail.com or Maggie Hoover email: maggie.hoover@gmail.com

LWV CVA Community Engagement Report by Lisa Hilgartner, chair

"Facts for Voters" for Albemarle County is now available. [Click here](#). Or go to our lwv website: <https://www.lwv-cva.org/about-2/directory-of-elected-officials/>

The LWV CVA Community Engagement team met in late August and reviewed and updated our media contacts--print, web, radio and TV.

As usual we will be making and mailing out the postcards for our Community Dialogues and other annual events.

We will be working with the Voter Services Committee to aid in getting the word out about General Election dates, where to vote and what is on the ballot for our area.

If you are interested in working with us to do this work for the League, contact Lisa Hilgartner, lisamezzo@gmail.com or call 434-466-9960.

LWV CVA Education Committee Launches!

By Kim Harris, Education Committee Director

We are launching an Education Committee, to be led by Kim Harris. We are still looking at several possibilities for focus areas, but may incorporate curriculum standards, restrictions on books or subjects, and how to improve the environment for teachers. If you are interested in joining the committee, please reach out to Kim at kwharris555@gmail.com or 410-302-6010. Thank you!

Update your LWV CVA 2023-24 Handbook:

Welcome New LWV CVA Members!

Pamela Dolgin 216 Glenleigh Rd. Charlottesville VA22911 zinniacolor@gmail.com 540-272-4001

Sage Bradburn 67 Oak Forest Circle Charlottesville VA22901 sage.bradburn40@gmail.com 434-981-6319

Diane Ritter 117 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Charlottesville VA23911-8515 diritter7@yahoo.com

Noemi Paz 150 Burnet St. Charlottesville VA22902 dr.npaz@gmail.com 407-616-3071

Gweddette Crummie 1234 Pebblebrook Ln. #107 Charlottesville VA22902 gcrummie@gmail.com 434-906-0003

Terry Newell 5624 Upland Dr. Crozet VA22932 Responsibleleader@gmail.com 434-987-1684

DeAnn and Joe Posey 2426 Redbud Ln Charlottesville VA 22911 jwposey@me.com 757-208-6998

Sadly, we report the passing of long-time member **Virginia Meislahn**. Obituary in *The Daily Progress*: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dailyprogress/name/virginia-meislahn-obituary?id=52834010>

Handbook Errata: Note the mailing address for Susan Mark should be 1421 Midland St., Charlottesville.

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

Democracy and Constitution Days Celebration! - "Freedom of Speech" Wall on the Downtown Mall Charlottesville - Sat Sept 16, 2 pm

"We Are the League!" - LWV CVA Community Dialogue - The Center at Belvedere - Sun Sept 17, 2-4 pm

National Voter Registration Day - Tues Sept 19

LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Gov't Commiitte Mtg - Northside Library on Wed Sept 20, Noon to 2 pm

LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting - Northside Library on Wednesday Sept 20, 3 - 5 pm. Also available by zoom - contact Meg Heubeck for link - email: mfh2n@virginia.edu

"Ranked Choice Voting" Forum - Crozet Library - Saturday, Sept 23, 2 - 3 pm

Gun Violence Prevention Committee - "Social Event" - Home of Beth Alley, 210 Willow Brook Road Earlysville, VA 22936 - Friday, October 6, 2 pm, RSVP: Beth.alley@gmail.com