



Voter

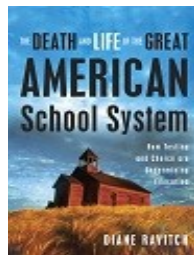
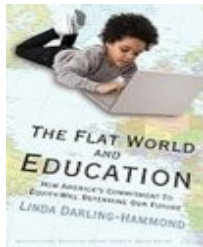
May 2011

Encouraging active and informed citizen participation in government

What is the role of the federal government in education?

LWVUS is asking the question. Do you think that all school policies are local?

The national study committee on education wants YOU to read Diane Ravitch's *The Death and Life of the Great American School System* (N.Y.:Perseus Books Group, 2010) and Linda Darling-Hammond's *The Flat World and Education; How America's Commitment to Equity will determine Our Future* (N.Y.:Teachers College Press, Columbia University, 2010).



DO IT. And be ready to discuss the issues with the Breakfast Group this summer.

May Breakfast Unit - Redistricting.

Tom Chapman, ODU Professor of Political Science and team advisor in the redistricting competition. Tuesday, May 24th 7am - Tabbs Restaurant, 4019 Granby St. Norfolk

May Lunch Unit - Voter's Service

Terrie Thompson, our new Voter Services Chair is seeking ideas and volunteers. Thursday, May 26th NOON - Bangkok Garden 339 W. 21st St. Norfolk

Presidents' Message

Thank you for selecting me to be the President of the LWV-SHR. I will continue the positive leadership provided by our outgoing President, Melanie Perez-Lopez. I will focus on the purpose of the League of Women Voters, which is to shine the light on any limit to voting, and on the decisions made by our elected officials. Our board members are talented and experienced. I look forward to working together to register new voters, provide information on candidates running for office, and study issues that need to be addressed.

Being a member of the League of Women Voters gives each of us the opportunity to work on issues that will make our democracy more effective. While doing this, we learn more about how our government functions, we make new friends and we have good times together. I urge each of you to join me in getting involved in the activities of the League of Women Voters - South Hampton Roads. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Virginia R. Armstrong
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Book Review

Wrong Place, Wrong Time

By John A. Rich, M.D., M.P.H.
2009, Johns Hopkins Press

This is a riveting account of a young doctor, initially working as a family physician who becomes engrossed in treating young black victims of crime and their families. He became concerned by his emergency room colleagues who because of the numbers became numb to their emotional pain and their needs. He tells of his attempting to deal with the complexities of these situations. He does this by telling of individuals and their struggles.

He tells of helping methods he developed that sometimes worked. He is compelling in his plea that these victims should not be abandoned. They truly are suffering from PTSD. He moves from Boston to Baltimore where he tries to start another helping program. I recommend this book.

The Gun Study Committee plans to begin to look for local persons and programs that may try and deal with these traumas.

Come and help us.

Jennette Franklin, Gun Study Chair]

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2011 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION

How many of those reading this article have had an opportunity to participate in a Virginia State LWV convention? On Friday, April 29th, three of our members who had not attended a LWV convention traveled to the Southwest - to Blacksburg – site of the League’s State Convention. Vivian Paige, Virginia Armstrong and Kaye Tice served as our delegates to the convention entitled “Homegrown in Virginia...our Local Leagues!”

The convention was called to order by LWV-VA President, Olga Hernandez at 9 a.m. Saturday morning. This was followed by Blacksburg mayor, Ron Rordam, who welcomed participants to Blacksburg. Many

formalities followed including recognition of those who worked to organize the convention, the appointment of committees for the convention, the credentials report, adoption of rules and procedures of Convention, treasurers report, presentation of the nominees for state offices, presentation of bylaws amendments, presentation of proposed budgets and presentation of Recommended and Not-Recommended Program items.

Local Montgomery County LWV members served as hosts and offered tours of Blacksburg during the lunch/midday break.

Saturday afternoon provided an opportunity to learn about the Membership Recruitment Initiative sponsored by LWVUS. LWV-SHR will be a participating League in this grant funded effort to develop and grow and memberships. It was acknowledged that like many traditional organizations local LWV’s in the state and all over the nation are losing members and “aging out” so there is great interest in focusing on outreach and membership recruitment. From our local league Kaye Tice was introduced as one of the five state coaches – she will work with the Peninsula MAL and the Richmond Metro LWV.

A very interesting panel discussion on redistricting followed with Judge Sam Johnston who served on Governor McDonnell’s Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission on Redistricting, Sophie Huemer and Anne Whitesell students from Roanoke College who participated in the collegiate mapping competition and Roanoke Times reporter, Christian Trejbel, who has written extensively about redistricting.

Judge Johnston spoke with humor and optimism that some progress was made by virtue of the creation of the commission. The students talked about how they approached the task of using available data to create balanced districts and noted that competing students created maps that looked different but still reflected better balance based on the perspective they were coming from – sociological, mathematical, geographical, etc. The reporter, Christian Trejbel, was more pessimistic. During the Q & A Vivian Paige, suggested participants might want to read Tom Schaller’s *Whistling Past Dixie*. Virginia Armstrong was so impressed with the two college women who spoke that she offered to give them memberships to LWV for the next year. Her offer was accepted with enthusiasm.

National LWVUS President, Elisabeth MacNamara, was the special guest for the entire convention weekend. She provided the after dinner speech Saturday evening. Here are a couple of Elisabeth MacNamara’s quotes as provided by Virginia Armstrong. First a broad thought:
"Everything we do should focus on elections. The 19th Amendment gave us the power of the vote. Now, we are finishing the fight. The power of the vote requires advocacy, community service, and elections."

Second a comment and advice directed to local Leagues: "Now is the time to decide on debates, set up candidate guidelines and criteria. Each League can set its own criteria for who can be in the debate. Make sure all this information is in the League's minutes in detail. This is a good basis against suing."

Before the banquet's program was closed there was special entertainment provided by award winning singer Lucy Goldberg and Celtic harpist pianist, David Scheim.

The evening concluded with a caucus about the proposed Program for 2011-2013. The topics are the result of the direction to the board that local leagues provided from general membership meetings. Resolutions to be submitted had to be submitted no later than 10 p.m. – interestingly the instruction was that they could be handed to or slipped under the door of the rooms of the resolutions committee members. On the behalf of the LWV-SHR Gun Study Committee Kaye Tice and Vivian Paige handed out copies of the resolution created from the study groups' Proclamation about Making Common Sense of the Second Amendment. The Resolution Read as follows:

Kaye Tice
League of Women Voters South Hampton Roads (LWV-SHR)

Whereas, the Second Amendment: A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court in a 5/4 decision on June 26, 2008, recognized an "individual's" right to bear arms, but the decision also identified regulation that is presumptively lawful; and

Whereas, "Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited....[It is] not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose....[N]othing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms." *District of Columbia v. Heller*, J.Sca, P.54.
therefore,

Be it resolved, That

All guns should be registered using the latest technology;
Registration should follow the gun;
All buyers of guns should undergo background checks;

Every buyer should be licensed. To obtain a license the applicant must pass a standardized test on safety and proficiency;
Law enforcement should never be outgunned. Large ammunition clips and 'aftermarket' magazines should be limited accordingly;
Schools, public parks, public buildings and places of worship should be free of guns, by law;
In establishments serving alcohol, guns should be prohibited;
The Commonwealth of Virginia should allow localities to enact gun regulations that meet the needs of their communities as long as those regulations are more restrictive than state law.

During the closing session Sunday morning we were informed that the resolution was out of order but the Resolutions Committee Chair, Lynn Johnson (LWV Richmond Metro) read the resolution and a number of members from the floor expressed interest/support for what we were trying to do. Richmond Metro and Montgomery County League members asked to be able to work with SHR to help move the state toward adopting a position on firearms.

LWVUS President, Elisabeth MacNamara, led a session on Nonpartisanship and Election 2012. She talked about the fact that it is often necessary to explain that while the League does not endorse candidates or participate in partisan activity the League is most definitely political in terms of how issues are embraced. One important piece of advice she imparted was that local leagues should have board insurance and that the national LWV has an agent (for board insurance) who can be a resource for local leagues who do not already have coverage.

The election for the new VA LWV was held and they are as follows:

President – Lynn Gordon
1st Vice President – Anne Sterling
2nd Vice President – Sue Lewis
Secretary – Sherry Zachry
Treasurer – Hatsy Cutshall
Event Planner – Molly McClenon
Associate Legislative Coordinator – Carol Noggle
Voter Services – Betsy Mayr
Technology – Vivian Paige
Virginia Voter Editor – Flo Marks
Administration – Carla Wiley
Nominating Committee Chair – Mary Houska

After addresses by the new state president, Lynn Gordon, and outgoing president Olga Hernandez, announcements and direction to the new board from members at the convention the convention was closed.

Kaye Tice

Secretary Connaughton Speaks to the League at Annual Meeting

Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia, The Honorable Sean T Connaughton, was the featured speaker at our Annual Meeting on May 5, 2011. Our venue for both our business meeting and our transportation program was the Roper Center for the Performing Arts, on the urban campus of Tidewater Community College. The Secretary spoke of the infrastructure initiatives that will get a boost from the increased bonding authority requested by Governor McDonnell and approved by the General Assembly in its 2011 session. The announcement of the signing into law was made by the Governor on April 20, appearing before the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Secretary Connaughton's background is in the maritime industry and he addressed the needs for improved non highway infrastructure important to the Port of Virginia. His goal is to move containers off the highways and onto barges and trains. Also a high priority is the building of a new highway 460, which is seen as favorable to both freight movement and economic development in the corridor. Further, the widening of interstate 64, both on the Peninsula and Southside will provide some traffic relief. He mentioned the expansion of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel before mentioning the Patriots Crossing, the latter thought by some to be the least disruptive and more friendly to both the military and the Port of these two crossings. When asked about the needs of the military to get in and out of Norfolk and the Hampton Roads area quickly in times of mobilization, he forecasted disaster along Interstate 95 with the opening of a new military facility between Quantico Marine Base and the Pentagon. This was cited as an example where the military planned a facility on its property and has left the connecting infrastructure to the state. In this case, the state does not have the resources to increase traffic flow along the already gridlocked I95.

The Midtown/Downtown/Martin Luther King project is moving forward as a Public/Private Partnership (PPP). There is the expectation that the Commonwealth will partially subsidize the tolls for the improved and enlarged tunnels. A toll will be placed on both crossings but there was no speculation as to when this user fee will be in place. There was no time to discuss timetables for local projects or the advantages of PPPs over state and federally funded projects. In this, he also commented that federal and state governments needed better coordination in developing long-range plans. Having said this, he failed to acknowledge that the legislators often disregard the plans made regionally while promoting projects beneficial to their constituent base. On a hopeful note, Secretary Connaughton mentioned that the challenge for the next legislative session is to devise and pass a sustainable revenue stream for infrastructure now that borrowed funds are jump starting a number of projects. All in all, the new

borrowed monies will be distributed across 900 projects around the state.

In discussing the passenger rail connection between Norfolk and Washington, via Petersburg, he stated his expectation that it will be opened before the end of 2013. If the connection follows the ridership patterns of the new service between Lynchburg and Richmond, the state will not need to provide much in the way of subsidies. This is counter to the situation of most passenger rail segments but is in keeping with Virginia's experience with the Lynchburg service. There was nothing mentioned about light rail or other public transit modes sought in the region.

Many other topics were touched upon, many questions remained unasked and unanswered. Perhaps we can have another opportunity to sit down with the Secretary when he is in a position to address a broader range of Hampton Roads specific projects. As for two of the most exciting transportation projects, he mentioned the leasing of the APM shipping facility by the Virginia Port Authority and the transfer of space station support from Florida to Wallops Island. He graciously invited us to come for a tour of the new APM Terminal and to view a space launch at Wallops Island.

Guests at our meeting were Lynn Gordon, President Elect of the LWV of Virginia (formerly President of the SHR league), and Anne Sterling, our very own mentor from the state and outstanding lobbyist for the League in Richmond. Also among our guests were members of the HRTPO who provided a report on Hampton Roads and the Transportation Planning Organization, *At a Glance*, and a table top display. In addition, engineers and planners from the city of Norfolk, representatives from the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee, a candidate for the 90th state legislative district, and many others. Thanks to all who made the event a success.

Randy Lougee

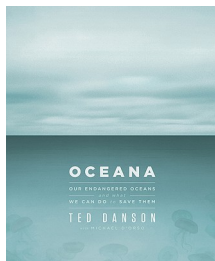


Thanks to our past president!

The Virginia Public Access Project

If you missed "Following the money in Virginia politics" by Vivian J. Paige on the op-ed page of the Wednesday May 11, 2011, *Virginian Pilot*, you can read it here: <http://tinyurl.com/63q5rhz>

League member Paige introduces The Virginia Public Access Project – <http://www.vpap.org/> "VPAP is one of those non-biased sources that helps voters to reduce information costs. It provides a treasure trove of data easily and readily available to all of us."



Oceana: Our Endangered Oceans and What We Can Do to Save Them by Ted Danson with Michael D'Orso.

Knowing that D'Orso was a local journalist, I wondered if the Chesapeake Bay's troubles would be mentioned, but actually *Oceana* is as much about food politics as the environment. The two main issues for Danson are offshore oil and industrial fishing and what unites them is greed and utter disregard for sustainability.

The authors remind us to pay attention to more than the big accidents. "The little spills associated with oil extraction, transportation and consumption add up to about 195 million gallons every year. That's as much as one Deepwater Horizon gusher." On top of these leaking dribbles of oil all over the world's ocean, there is the insidious effect of burning fossil fuel. Not only is it raising the ocean's temperature, the carbon dioxide from fossil fuel makes the ocean acid, threatening coral and shellfish.

The second issue, industrial-scale fishing is consuming seafood faster than it can reproduce, and using highly destructive and wasteful methods. As fish become more scarce, all sorts of fraudulent, illegal, and exploitative activities follow. The fish on your menu may well be mislabeled. Trawlers are registered in countries eager to collect fees but with

no interest in policing them. And other ships continue to fish after being allegedly decommissioned, while crew conditions amount to near slavery. Other poor countries sell fishing rights out from under their own people to these fish factories that destroy the livelihood of subsistence fishermen.

Moreover, the industrial fishing fleet is a big consumer of fuel and government aid. Daniel Pauly is quoted, "There is surely a better way for governments to spend money than by paying subsidies to a fleet that burns 1.1 billion liters of fuel annually to maintain paltry catches of old growth fish from highly vulnerable stocks while destroying their habitat in the process."

The hoped-for solution was aquaculture. Some aquaculture, like oysters, is good for the environment, but other seafood has been industrialized to a scale that harms the sea. Crowding thousands of salmon together makes them vulnerable to disease which must be combated with drugs. And as predator fish, farmed salmon are a big consumer of the catches of menhaden and other small fish on which ecosystems depend. I was shocked to learn it takes 3 to 5 pounds of other fish to make a pound of farmed salmon.

Each chapter offers suggested actions we can take locally and the book concludes with an extensive reading list. The layout of the book is very graphic, like a magazine with sidebars, and reminds me somewhat of Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*. One annoying detail is that many of the most interesting illustrations are not captioned.

Carolyn Caywood

Please welcome our newest members!

Ms. Amy Howell, a graduate student at ODU, joined this month.

Terri Thompson joined in November and shortly thereafter took a leadership position as chairman of the Voter Services committee.

Dr. Norma Pinkleton joined in November to support us, even though she lives in Hampton.

Ms. Glenda Bluhm joined in November.



CALENDAR 2010-2011

July 2010

- 4 Independence Day celebrated on the 5th
- 19 G.A. Legislation Pre-filing begins

August 2010

- 18 speech at Army Corps of Engineers
- 26 Women's Equality Day 19th Amendment ratified
- 28 LWV-VA Workshops in Hampton, VA**

September 2010 – Voter Registration Drives

- 6 Labor Day
- 11 Board meeting; Patriot Day**
- 17 Constitution Day
- 18 & 25 Voter Reg. drives
- 23 Norfolk lunch unit – Painted Lady-noon**
- 28 Norfolk breakfast unit—Tabb's – 7 a.m.**

October 2010—Gun Study

- 2 Board meeting**
- 9 2nd cong. Debate --- 7pm
- 11 Columbus Day observed
- 12 Last Day to Register for General Election
- 15 3rd cong. Debate – 7pm
- 28 Norfolk lunch unit—Painted Lady-- noon**
- 26 Norfolk breakfast unit—Tabb's 7 a.m.**

November 2010 – Food policy

- 2 ELECTION DAY IN VA
- 6 Board meeting; Daylight Savings Time ends**
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 12 Gun symposium—u of Richmond
- 19 Norfolk lunch unit—Painted Lady-- noon**
- 25 Thanksgiving
- 30 Norfolk breakfast unit – Tabb's 7 a.m.**

December 2010

- 1 Women's Roundtable (WRT) Pre-session & Luncheon, Richmond @ Capitol Bldg.
- 4 **Program Planning meeting**
- 14 **Norfolk breakfast unit—Jesse Richman, 5th annual election wrap up meeting.**
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 21 Winter begins
- 31 Happy New Year

Notes: Event dates are shown in bold - All Board members are expected to attend.

January 2011 – General Assembly Preview

- 8 Board meeting**
- 12 General Assembly (GA) Convenes (short 45 day session)
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 19 WRT Richmond
- 26 WRT Richmond
- 27 Norfolk lunch unit—Pasha Mezze- noon**
- 25 Norfolk breakfast unit – Tabb's 7 a.m.**

February 2011- Women's History Month/ Voting

- 2 League Day @ G.A. Richmond /WRT
- 2 Approximate G.A. Crossover date
- 5 Board meeting**
- 9 WRT Richmond
- 14 League Founded 1920 (91th Anniversary!)
- 16 WRT Richmond (last one this session)
- 21 Presidents' Day
- 22 Norfolk breakfast unit—Tabb's 7 a.m.**
- 24 Norfolk Lunch unit – Bangkok Gardens - noon**
- 25 Approximate G.A. Sine Die

March 2011 –State Election Law Consensus

- 5 Board meeting**
- 13 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 13-19 Sunshine Week (open government)
- 24 Norfolk lunch unit-Bangkok Gardens- noon**
- 29 Norfolk breakfast unit—Tabb's 7 a.m.**

April 2011 -- Transportation

- 2 Board meeting**
- 11 Last Day to Register for City/Town Elections
- 13 NARO film 'Living for 32'**
- 21 G.A. Reconvene session
- 24 Easter
- 18 Passover begins @ sundown thru April 25
- 26 Norfolk breakfast unit—Tabb's 7 a.m.**
- 28 Norfolk lunch unit- Bangkok Gardens—noon**
- 30 LWV-VA Convention in Blacksburg**

May 2011 -- Annual meeting

- 1 LWV-VA Convention in Blacksburg**
- 5 Annual meeting 3:00-6:30p.m.**
- 23 Last Day to register for Primary
- 24 Norfolk breakfast unit- Tabb's 7 AM**
- 26 Norfolk lunch unit- Bangkok Garden Noon**
- 30 Memorial Day

June 2011

- 4 Board meeting**
- 14 Primary if needed
- 17-20 LWVUS Council**

2011-2012 Board of Directors

Officers

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2nd Vice Pres.-Membership: Lee Barr
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Transportation Chair: Randy Lougee
rtlougee@yahoo.com

Gun Study: Jeanette Franklin, Kaye Tice
jfranklin16@cox.net

Thanks to the outgoing board!



Participate, don't spectate:

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Unit Meeting – *note the date!*

- Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 7 a.m.
- Tabb's Restaurant, 4019 Granby St
- Topic: Redistricting
- \$5 continental breakfast available
- For more information, contact Unit Leader Martha Rollins, 423-0205

Guest - Tom Chapman, Professor of Political Science at ODU, was the faculty advisor to the ODU team in the statewide college competition to draw redistricting maps. *Please note that the date is May 24 to avoid the Memorial Day holiday.*

Lunch Unit Meeting – **YES there is one in May!**

- Thursday, May 26, 2011, Noon
- Bangkok Garden, 339 N. 21st Street
- Topic: Voter Services
- For more information, contact Jeanette Franklin jfranklin16@cox.net

Terrie Thompson, our new Voter's Service Chair will present a program on her vision for the coming year in Voter's Service. We are invited to participate, offer ideas and volunteer for projects.

The VOTER is published 10 times per year to inform members of LWV-SHR about League activities and events and to provide other information of interest to League members.

Submissions from all members are encouraged. The deadline is the 10th of the month.

Send submissions to newsletter@lwv-shr.org or cacaywood@cox.net.

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