



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## BULLETIN

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P.O. Box 10133, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0133  
<http://www.lwvmcva.org>

### Pre-Session Roundtable *Two Locations* Opportunity To Learn

The Pre-Session Women's Roundtable, Dec. 4 at the Virginia Capitol Building, brought members of local leagues and 17 partner organizations to share information about our special focus for the 2014 Virginia Legislative Session.

Action Committee members Cynthia Chappelka, Alison Galway, and Bobbie Littlefield along with State board members from our area Elaine Head, Nancy and Charlie Warren, attended.

It is especially important for us to collaborate with other groups with whom we agree on certain topics, said Bobbie, since the League cannot adequately cover all of the matters for which it has an established position. "We wisely turn to one of our issue partners that may be tracking proposed bills as well as sorting through the thousands of newly filed bills to see what lies hidden in the small print."

Special guests at the luncheon following the Roundtable were the Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the House who told about their activities. Bobbie said, "As best I could tell they are the glue that holds the whole conglomeration together!" Their comments were followed by a surprise visit from Virginia's Governor-Elect Terry McAuliffe, who commented that some of his agenda items would include redistricting initiatives and preventing voter suppression. We will be on the lookout to see how those evolve.

This meeting was open to the public. The LWVVA has sponsored this event for the past thirty years as a centerpiece in its efforts toward an informed and participatory citizenry in its government.

### Great Decisions Programs at Blacksburg and Radford

The League is again offering two opportunities for the public to participate in the popular Great Decisions program, one in Blacksburg and one in Radford. Great Decisions is a non-partisan 8-week program on international affairs prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. The Blacksburg program will be held from 11:30 am – 1 pm, on Wednesdays starting January 15 in the Mary Fessler Community Room of the public library in Blacksburg. The Radford program starts Thursday, January 30, at 6 pm in the Community Room of the public library in Radford.

Participants read an analysis of each topic in a Foreign Policy Association Briefing Book and then watch a DVD of experts discussing the topic. Then, each Blacksburg program will have a resource person to present background information, answer questions, and lead discussion. The Radford participants will divide into small groups to discuss each topic after watching the DVD.

Both programs are free and open to the public. The Foreign Policy briefing book may be purchased for \$20. A copy of the briefing book will be on reserve in both the Blacksburg and Radford libraries.

Participants need to register in advance so that leaders know how many people will be taking part in the program and how many briefing books to order.

To join the Blacksburg group, please contact, as soon as possible, either Nancy Warren (951-1660, [cnwarren@aol.com](mailto:cnwarren@aol.com)) or Jane Sprague (961-1532, [janesprague@verizon.net](mailto:janesprague@verizon.net)). To join the Radford group, please contact Rebecca Shankman ((540) 629-7491, [greatdecisions.radfordva@gmail.com](mailto:greatdecisions.radfordva@gmail.com).)

Additional information is available on the Foreign Policy Association website, [www.greatdecisions.org](http://www.greatdecisions.org).

Detailed information on the topics is on page 3. The topics are:

- Defense Technology
- Israel and the U. S.
- Turkey's Challenges
- Islamic Awakening
- Energy Independence
- Food and Climate
- China's Foreign Policy
- U. S. Trade Policy

You will be able to follow any new information about these Great Decisions programs on our website [www.lwvmcva.org](http://www.lwvmcva.org).

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

*The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.*

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## President's Message from Judy Snoke

# Looking Ahead at Programs

The elections are over and LWVMCVA members are able to look back on a well-organized and comprehensive effort to get out the word.

Under the leadership of Mary Houska and her committee with the support of our co-sponsoring organizations – the Montgomery County, Radford City, Floyd County branch of the NAACP, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, NRV Chapter, and the News Messenger – the League printed and circulated candidate questionnaires, promoted the League's VOTE411.org, held, broadcast, and recorded four candidate forums – all of which are linked to the LWVMCVA website.

About 513 video viewings have been noted, 224 of the Blacksburg forum.

The Action Committee is gearing up to advocate and lobby in Richmond. Lobby Day is Feb. 5

A program on sustainable community planning is being planned to be held in January or February. Meghan Dorsett will be organizing this programs which, she hopes, will lead to a study and a new position.

The LWVUS is working on the Agriculture Update. It is seeking a new consensus on Federal agriculture policy. The study now underway is focusing on a broad range of topics in technology and finance. Many leagues across the country are looking at local issues in agriculture, at the range of Federal agriculture programs and their local impacts because our national picture is too diverse and complicated for a short study.

Our spring program will seek to illuminate the importance of agriculture in Montgomery County and our region. It will look at the amount of federal and state support money that comes in and how is it spent. The panel discussion will bring in program participants, academic experts, service providers, marketers, and students to help us understand our local strengths and challenges.

An evening reception for the Blacksburg Town Council is being planned by program chair Amy Mauldon. Dessert will be served.

Important Dates: Wednesday, Feb. 5 – State League Lobby Day

Sunday, April 13 – Local Program Planning Meeting

Thursday, May 15 – Local Annual Meeting.

## Local League History

# Elliston Woman Early League Member (she was aunt of former state senator)

The League of Women Voters of Virginia was founded on November 10, 1920, by Virginia women who had been active in the Suffrage movement. Throughout the 1920s, they worked to get women to register to vote and to become politically active. Three women from Roanoke were on the founding Board, Miss Lucinda Lee Terry, Mrs. M. M. Caldwell, and Mrs. E. W. Speed.

Nannie Kent Ellis, former Senator Madison Marye's aunt from Elliston, was one of those early League members. Senator Marye describes his aunt as a self-educated active League member. When sorting through family papers, Senator Marye found a copy of the November 1925 Virginia League of Women Voters' Bulletin. In that 1925 Bulletin were "Miss Sherwin's Four Tests of Citizenship."

First, Seeking accurate information of all public questions.

Second, Taking party membership responsibility.

Third, Accepting individual responsibility for forming public opinion.

Fourth, Voting.

Welcome, New Members

Vicky Moore

Carolyn and Don Rude

Thank you to Contributors

Lorene Jones

Clara Anne Graham

# 2014 Great Decisions Discussion Topics

*These topic descriptions are from the Foreign Policy Association*

## **Defense Technology** by Peter Singer

From robotic planes to cyber-weapons to 3D printing and human enhancement, new “game-changing” technologies are moving from science fiction to battlefield reality --- all during an age of fiscal austerity. What are the “killer applications” of the 21st-century battlefield, and in turn, what are the issues that the U. S. must navigate in adapting to them?

## **Israel and the U. S.** by Seth Anziska

Modern Israel’s struggles with the Palestinians have turned what was meant as a safe haven for Jews into the center of a decades-long conflict. The Arab Spring, Iran’s nuclear ambitions, failed peace talks, and Israel’s own decision to give Washington the ‘cold shoulder’ have put new strains on the 65-year-old “special relationship” between Israel and the U. S.

## **Turkey’s Challenges** by Lenore Martin

Turkey: a nation at a crossroads, a bridge over an ever-growing chasm between East and West. Turkey’s first Prime Minister Kemal Ataturk envisioned a modern, democratic nation-state built on the ashes of the Ottoman Empire with strong ties to Europe, not the Middle East. But as clashes between secular and religious groups show, the soul of Turkey is still very much up for grabs.

## **Islamic Awakening** by John P. Entellis

The aftermath of the Arab Spring has resulted in unforeseen changes in the political landscape in many countries, especially regarding the role of Islam and democracy. How have the countries in the Maghreb reacted, including Tunisia, where the Arab Spring began? Is U. S. foreign policy adapting successfully to all of the changes in the region?

## **Energy Independence** by Jonathan Chanis

Energy independence, by taking the bargaining chip of oil dependence off the table, would be good for American foreign policy. But the very technological advances that make independence possible have created a dilemma for lawmakers. Should the U. S. encourage more traditional fuel production or invest in the young technology of renewable resources?

## **Food and Climate** by William Sweet

Even as a sixth of the world population suffers from chronic hunger, a changing climate threatens to wreak havoc on already insecure and vulnerable populations. As food and water become scarce and once fertile land becomes barren, the U. S. finds itself faced with new challenges in securing the globe. The U. S. is getting ready, but can it lead the way to climate reform?

## **China’s Foreign Policy** by David M. Lampton

China has gone to great lengths to emphasize the “peaceful” nature of its meteoric rise. Yet few dispute that China is the dominant regional power in Asia—and in recent years Beijing has begun to flex its muscles regionally in order to advance its strategic interests. What does the rapid rise of this new superpower mean for other countries in the region, and are there potential points of conflict with the U. S. as it “pivots” to Asia?

## **U. S. Trade Policy** by Michael O. Moore and Robert Maxim

America’s foreign policy tools are not limited to sanctions, treaties or military campaigns---they also include the sales pitch. The logic behind this “economic statecraft” is simple: promote the benefits of democracy and the free market. In so doing, the U. S. will gain valuable and stable partners, both in business and in diplomacy in a climate where China and other emerging nations battle the U. S. for global influence.

## League Leaders

### Elected To State Board

Elaine Head and Nancy Warren, from the Montgomery County League, were elected to the Virginia League Board at its convention in June.

Nancy is chair of Resource Development. Nancy’s Co-Chair is her husband, Charles Warren, whose position is off-Board.

Elaine is the Virginia League Treasurer. Elaine was originally appointed Treasurer by the state Board in early 2012.

Mary Houska was elected the off-Board Chair of the state League Nominating Committee.

## Action Committee from Bobbie Littlefield

### Participate in Lobby Day, Wednesday, Feb. 5

League Lobby Day is Wednesday, Feb. 5 and the Action committee is making some plans. We will let you know as soon as arrangements are made.

Action Committee is *Moving Ahead* - Come Join Our Lively Committee - We are busy organizing our materials so that we can

1. track our priority issues as they move through the different layers of our U.S. Congress and Virginia’s legislative branches;
2. track our representatives in government to determine where their efforts are focused, (what bills they are patroning) and, identify their levels of concurrence with the League’s positions on the issues

The Committee is planning the dissemination of Action Alerts that come from a couple of sources, (LWV US, LWV VA and some may be local - LWV MC), and where it is currently ‘activated,’ or where important decisions are preparing for a vote. League members have carefully studied and arrived at “Positions for Action” on several important matters currently being debated in Congress and among Virginia’s lawmakers. Our next step is to do our best to influence decisions about the priorities and policies of our country and communities.

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## Calendar

Jan. 7 - 11:45 a.m. First Tuesday, Famous Anthony's Restaurant  
Jan. 14 - 11 a.m. Board meeting, Blacksburg branch library community room  
Jan. 15 - 11:30 a.m., Great Decisions Blacksburg, Blacksburg branch library community room  
Jan. 30 - 6 p.m., Great Decisions Radford, Radford library community room  
Feb. 4 - 11:45 a.m. First Tuesday, Famous Anthony's Restaurant  
Feb. 5 - State League Lobby Day, Richmond  
April 13 - Local Program Planning Meeting  
May 15, 2014 - Annual meeting, Warm Hearth

## Bulletin Sponsors

**Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg's Retirement Destination - (540) 552-9176**

**Runabout Sports - A Great Place for Shoes (540) 552-9339**

**Education Programs & Services LLC - Wayne "Dempsey" Worner (540) 552-8807**

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### JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY

Become a member of the League of Women Voters. The annual membership fee is \$50. This payment includes local, state, and national membership dues. Members receive The National Voter, The Virginia Voter, and The Montgomery County Bulletin. Email: [Membership@lwvmcva.org](mailto:Membership@lwvmcva.org). Or email Alison Wilson at [alisonwilson@verizon.net](mailto:alisonwilson@verizon.net)