



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
*of Dare County*

## NEWSLETTER

### SEPTEMBER 2015

#### Mark Your Calendar!

- September 16      LWV Board Meeting, KDH Town Hall Meeting Room, 10AM
- September 18      Kick-Off Dinner, Duck Woods Country Club, 6PM, Nancy [bbirindelli@aol.com](mailto:bbirindelli@aol.com)
- September 22      National Voter Registration Day, Audrey [audreyesposito36@gmail.com](mailto:audreyesposito36@gmail.com)
- October 2            First Friday Lunch, Black Pelican Restaurant, Noon
- October 9            Last Day to Register to Vote in November Election
- October 21          LWV Board Meeting, KDH Town Hall Meeting Room, 10AM
- October 22          Early Voting Begins Dare County BOE Office & Baum Center  
See p. 3 or click here for details and hours: <http://www.darenc.com/boe/info.asp>
- October 30          Early Voting Ends at Baum Center
- October 31          Early Voting Ends at BOE Office
- November 3          Election Day
- November 14        “Around the World” Wine & Cheese Pairing Fundraiser at Trio *Details page 5*
- December 4         Annual Holiday Luncheon, Duck Woods Country Club, 11:30AM *Details TBD*

#### Voter Forums:

- Duck                    October 5      Duck Town Hall, 6PM, Nancy Birindelli [bbirindelli@aol.com](mailto:bbirindelli@aol.com)
- Kill Devil Hills      October 5      KDH Town Hall, Mary Ellen Hawthorne [ghaw@charter.net](mailto:ghaw@charter.net)
- Kitty Hawk            October 7      Kitty Hawk Town Hall, Lorelei DiBernardo [ltd32@charter.net](mailto:ltd32@charter.net)
- Manteo                October 8      County Commissioners Meeting Room, Marion Midgett 473-3057
- Nags Head            October 8      NH Town Hall, Audrey Esposito [audreyesposito36@gmail.com](mailto:audreyesposito36@gmail.com)
- Southern Shores    October 14    Kitty Hawk Elementary School, Fran Kapinos [fkapinos@aol.com](mailto:fkapinos@aol.com)

\*\*\*\*\* **All Forums begin at 7 PM (except Duck)** \*\*\*\*\*

## Co-Presidents' Message

Hello Members, Hope you had a great summer with lots of company! We have all done a ton of cooking and laundry. Now we are ready to get back to our League activities. While you were enjoying your summer, your Board has been busy planning an exciting year.

We will start off with some fun (and only a little business) at our Fall Kick-off Dinner at the Duck Woods Country Club on Friday, September 18, at 6PM. The cost will be \$25 dollars. Guests are welcome. Nancy Birindelli will take reservations at [bbirindelli@aol.com](mailto:bbirindelli@aol.com) or 261-3915. The choice of entree will be salmon, chicken or pasta primavera. The deadline for reservations is Monday, September 14. You may pay at the door. See the attached flyer for details.

We are asking for volunteers for Voter Registration drives in September at COA and other locations. Contact Audrey Esposito at [audreyesposito36@gmail.com](mailto:audreyesposito36@gmail.com) for details and to volunteer.

We also need a lot of volunteers to work at the town Voter Forums in October for all six towns, except Duck. Because only incumbents are running in Duck, there will be a 'meet and greet' prior to their rescheduled town meeting on October 5. Please see the list of Forums on the bottom of the first page of the newsletter and call the contact person to volunteer. We need timers, greeters, question reviewers and others. See page 3 for the 2015 Dare County voting schedule.

There are many other ways you can become more active in your League. See the Committee Reports in this newsletter for details. Contact the Committee Chairs to ask questions and volunteer. We would like to see you all out helping in some way, large or small.

The "First" First Friday Lunch will be on October 2 at the Black Pelican Restaurant at noon. Watch your email for details.

The Dare County LWV is planning a Wine & Cheese Pairing fundraiser for Saturday, November 14, 2015. This "Around the World" event will be held upstairs at TRIO in Kitty Hawk, and all LWV members plus a guest are invited to attend. See details later in this Newsletter.

And while you have your calendar out, reserve Friday, December 4 for Holiday Luncheon and Auction at Duck Woods Country Club. We always have a great time at this annual event!

I know you have all been waiting to hear about our former co-president, Lin Logan. I am happy to report that her surgery in August was successful, she is recovering and just rarin' to go! We are hoping she will participate in all of our planned activities.

Last, but most important, if you have not renewed your membership, please do so ASAP! Contact Lori Williams at 252-261-5275. We really want to see each and every one of you at all of our 2015-2016 activities. A membership renewal form is included at the end of this newsletter.

***Submitted by Mary Jane Slesinski and Lorelei DiBernardo, Co-Presidents***

## 2015 Election Schedule

- Municipal Election: November 3, 2015
- One Stop Voting: October 22 to October 31, 2015

### **SITE #1 - DARE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE**

954 Marshall C Collins Dr  
Manteo NC 27954

Monday – Friday beginning October 22, 2015 – October 30, 2015  
From 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM  
Saturday October 31, 2015 from 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

### **SITE #2 - BAUM CENTER**

300 Mustian Street  
Kill Devil Hills NC 27948

Monday–Friday beginning October 22, 2015 – October 30, 2015  
From 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

All registered voters in Dare County are eligible to vote in absentee no-excuse one stop voting. Persons with questions about registration, absentee ballots, one-stop voting and other election matters may call the Election Office at 252.475.5630 or 475.5631.

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## LWV of NC, 35th Convention, June 5-7 2015

### **Speaking Out, Reaching Out: Opportunities and Challenges**

The League of Women Voters of Dare had five members attending Convention in Durham: LWVNC Board members Nancy Birindelli and Audrey Esposito; and Dare members Lorelei DiBernardo, Lori Williams, and Marion Midgett. Twelve Leagues and two MAL units were represented .

In addition to conducting the required business items for Convention, delegates and visitors had the opportunity to select from concurrent workshops, caucus events, and panel discussions throughout the weekend. Presentations by speakers with expertise on the topic included: Fundraising 101, Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins; Advocating for League Positions, Mary Klenz, C/M and Janet Hoy, ODC; Social Media: an Effective Tool for Promoting the League, Jen Jones; Strategies and Tips for Candidates' Forums, Lee Luebbe, Henderson; Equal Rights Amendment: Why We Still Need It, Roberta Madden and former Senator Ellie Kinnaird; Caucus on Global Human Rights, Catawba Valley League.

Dr. Yevonne Brannon, Public Schools First NC introduced Dr. June Atkinson, Superintendent of Public Instruction NC who spoke on The Status of Public K-12 Education. Jane Pinsky, Director, North Carolina Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform and Melissa Price Kromm, Director, NC Voters for Clean Elections discussed Redistricting and Campaign Finance Reform.

A panel including the Executive Directors of the NC State Board of Elections and local boards of election discussed the changes, challenges, and preparation facing state and local boards for the upcoming 2015-2016 elections.

Two Leagues, Henderson and Piedmont Triad shared their model educational and advocacy

programs that promote the League position of immigration. Lee Luebbe and Whitney Vanderwerff presented.

Janet Hoy, ODC, provided information on the statewide roundtable approach to the issue of Medicaid Expansion through the Close the Gap campaign. Representatives from many Leagues across the state are working collaboratively to leverage our impact across the state.

The Keynote Speaker on Saturday evening was Anita Earls, Southern Coalition for Social Justice. Anita represents LWFNC in the challenge to the Voter ID law. As of this writing, we await the decision on the case, since final arguments were heard more than a week ago. Ms. Earls spoke of court rulings across the country challenging state laws that require a photo ID and restricted access to the polls as well as “Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.”

Every two years, at State Convention, League members adopt a program for study and action. The process as specified by the Bylaws is for local Leagues to make suggestions for State program at least three months prior to Convention and then for the State Board to formulate a proposed program and submit that program to the local Boards at least two months prior to Convention. The 2015-2017 Action Areas recommended by the Board will in no way interfere with the areas that are focused on by the local leagues. It is hoped that statewide resources can be marshaled more effectively and “bring to bear the strength of our collective energy in a coordinated way.”

The Action Areas, and the Lead person at the state level:

Fair Elections: (including campaign finance reform and redistricting) Walter Salinger, Peg Chapin  
Voter Protection: Mary Klenz

Health Care: Janet Hoy

Budget and Tax Policy: Mary Klenz

Education: Jo Nicholas

Immigration: Judith Scruggs

Environment: TBD

The following members of the League of Women Voters have been elected for 2015-2017 as Officers and Members at Large:

CoPresidents: Mary Klenz, Willie Taylor      Vice President: Pat Adams

Secretary: Jana Albritton      Treasurer: Bill Wilkes

Members at Large: Peg Chapin, Janet Hoy, Louise Romanow, Margaret Salinger, Walter Salinger, Judith Scruggs, Lori Williams.

Nominating Committee for 2015-2017: Chair, Audrey Esposito; members: Kathleen Balogh, Kathy Bergquist, Jana Albritton, Peg Chapin.

This very busy, informative Convention was adjourned on Sunday morning, June 7, 2015.

***Submitted by Audrey Esposito, Retiring Secretary LWFNC***

## HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP???

Summer is a busy time but fall is coming soon and our League will soon be very busy with many interesting programs and candidate forums. Think back; check your checkbooks. Have you renewed your membership in our League? In actuality, about a third of our members have not yet renewed their membership. For your convenience, a renewal form is included at the end of this newsletter. If you are not sure if you have renewed, you can contact me at [lwms@embarqmail.com](mailto:lwms@embarqmail.com) or 261-5275.

***Submitted by Lori Williams, Membership Chair***

## CITIZENS GUIDE

Preparation for the 2016 Citizens Guide will begin late September. Volunteers are needed to proofread, make phone calls to contacts, and in January we have a bundling/distribution party! Doesn't that sound like fun? Please let Carol Butscher know if you are willing to help. You can reach her at [cab313@yahoo.com](mailto:cab313@yahoo.com) or 261-6983.

***Submitted by Carol Butscher, Citizens Guide Editor***

## LWV Wine & Cheese Pairing Fundraiser

The Dare County LWV is planning a Wine & Cheese Pairing fundraiser for Saturday, November 14, 2015. This "Around the World" event will be held upstairs at TRIO in Kitty Hawk, and all LWV members plus a guest are invited to attend. The cost will be \$25 per person and will include 3 wine stations. Each station will feature 3 – 4 wines from a particular wine growing region of the world, as well as complementing cheese and crackers. There is a maximum number of 30 participants, so don't wait to reserve a space! Email Lorelei DiBernardo at [ltd32@charter.net](mailto:ltd32@charter.net) to reserve space for you and your guest!

***Submitted by Lorelei DiBernardo, Co-President***

## Observer Corp Program

The Dare County LWV is planning to reactivate an active Observer Program. An Observer Program is designed as a structured way to: enhance knowledge of local government, learn about the issues facing the community as well as the process by which these issues are being addressed. Increasing transparency and accountability of government is a vital goal of the League and has been for decades! Our intention is to promote knowledge of governmental initiatives, to increase awareness of community challenges, and to share these learning with membership and the general public. The Observer Corp will be composed of a team of members who will attend local governmental meetings, note what happens at the meetings, and report back to the League (and hopefully) to the community.

Our current Education Director, Marion Midgett, is already active in this way: She regularly attends Dare County Board of Education meetings and reports on what occurs. (See "**Surveying the School Scene**" below). We are interested in establishing an Observer Corp for the Dare County Board of Elections & /or the Board of Commissioners. Anyone interested in volunteering for this program or for learning more, please contact Lorelei DiBernardo at [ltd32@charter.net](mailto:ltd32@charter.net).

***Submitted by Lorelei DiBernardo, Co-President***

## Surveying the School Scene

The Dare County Board of Education met in May and June 2015 for regular meetings. To cover differences over funding matters, it met in joint session with the County Commission on June 10<sup>th</sup> in the morning and observed the County Commission Budget Workshop that evening. All of these were after the last *Dare Voter* deadline.

The following summarizes the actions and decisions during those meetings.

At the regular meetings, the 2015—2016 budget was presented and passed. It was prepared using the new *School Funding Formula* explained in the *May Dare Voter*.

Other business covered at those two meetings were a new grading policy for grades 3 through 8 to bring it in line with the previously adopted state-mandated grades 9 through 12 ten point scale (90—100, etc.), a revised safety policy, and revamped behavior policies and student code of conduct. The budget sticking point this year concerned paying for raises for the county paid teachers that make up 25% of the total number of teachers. The amount needed is projected to be \$500,000 based on the increase North Carolina will likely give to state paid teachers in this year's budget (not passed at press time).

In the past, the Commissioners always funded such raises outside of the regular school district's yearly budget. This year they refused early on. After haggling and then searching for and finding money, they agreed to add \$400,000 for the raises, leaving the District to find \$100,000. County Commission Chair Bob Woodward happily told the audience that there would be no tax increase. BOE Vice-Chair Bea Basnight, who along with the other members was very happy, reminded, "That extra money will have to come from programs."

### National

School and student research has been telling us for some years that American schools begin too early in the day. A new CDC study says this leaves students "groggy and grumpy" (sound familiar?). 8:30 A.M. is the start time recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics in *Time*, August 24, 2015, p.14. A local survey reveals that only First Flight Middle begins at 8:30 A.M. All other middle and high schools begin at 8:00 A.M.

### State

The North Carolina Supreme Court in July upheld the voucher program that has been described and discussed here in other issues. The \$4000—plus grants go to low income students for private school tuition. A concise and balanced discussion of the ruling and its implications can be found in Patrick Gannon's column, "Today in North Carolina", in *The Coastland Times*, August 2, 2015, editorial page. (This is a good column to read regularly for NC government news and views.)

Funding for teacher assistants is still up in the air as the NC House and Senate have not agreed on a budget which may include large cuts in the number of state paid assistants. The Senate budget is the most unfriendly to education.

Dare hopes to save the positions of its current assistants, but it is unable to hire for its unfilled slots because of the uncertainty. Placement of current assistants is also difficult without knowledge of how many a school will have. School began on August 24.

Continued next page

## **Dare County**

During a special July meeting for reorganization, the BOE reelected Ben Sproul as Chair and Bea Basnight as Vice-chair.

Below take note of information about an opportunity to attend a local Education Forum.

***Submitted by: Marion W. Midgett, Education Chair***

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### **Education Forum... “Honest dialogue to meet a challenging future!”**

It has come to the attention of the League of Women Voters, Dare, that a nonpartisan forum on Education will be held on September 2, 2015 at the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau/Roanoke Island Visitors Center. This is located at the base of the Virginia Dare Bridge on Roanoke Island, 1 Visitors Center Circle, Manteo, NC 27954. This forum is open to the public at no cost and no advance registration required.

NC School Boards Association Government Relations Director, Leanne Winter, and Hyde County Schools Superintendent Randolph Latimore, PhD. will discuss educational concerns and how to help meet the challenges facing us in NC. Each will offer their perspectives about education in North Carolina and be available to answer questions.

Two additional events focusing on education will be held: Southern Shores at the Pitts Center, 5375 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Southern Shores, November 12<sup>th</sup>; and Fessenden Center, 48630 NC Hwy. 12 Buxton, October 14, 2015.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. This is our organization’s mission statement.

Every two years at State Convention, latest being June 5-7, 2015, League members adopt a program for study and action. The 2015-2017 Action Areas include: Fair Elections, Voter Protection, Health Care, Budget and Tax Policy, Education, Immigration and Environment. The upcoming Education Forum should provide more information to Leaguers about Education in our state.

More information available at [www.daredemocrats.com](http://www.daredemocrats.com)

*Submitted by Audrey Esposito, Publicity Chair*

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ANNUAL FALL KICK-OFF MEETING

SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

6:00 PM

DUCK WOODS COUNTRY CLUB

\$25.00 per person

## MENU

Butternut Squash Soup

Choice of:

- 1) Salmon with cous cous & asparagus with red pepper coulis
- 2) Chicken Marsala with rice & chef's vegetable
- 3) Vegetarian pasta

Rolls & butter

Mini snowballs for dessert

Cash Bar

Please contact Nancy Birindelli at 261-3915 or [bbirindelli@aol.com](mailto:bbirindelli@aol.com) with your reservation & entrée selection.

LET HER KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS!

**RSVP BY SEPT. 10!!!**



League of Women Voters of Dare County  
Membership Renewal Form - 2015-2016

**ANNUAL DUES**

Individual membership: \$50  
Household membership: \$75  
Amount enclosed (checks made out to LWV of Dare) \$\_\_\_\_\_

**CITIZEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Please consider enclosing a contribution to the Citizen Education Foundation (CEF). Contributions provide direct support for citizen education programs and the publication of the annual Dare County Citizens Guide which provides information about government and services to county residents.

Amount enclosed (checks payable to LWV-CEF): \$\_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S)\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_

STATE, ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE - IF YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AT ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN UPDATE OUR RECORDS AND KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ALL OF OUR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

I/we are interested in assisting with: Voter Services\_\_\_\_; Education\_\_\_\_; Health\_\_\_\_;  
Natural Resources\_\_\_\_; Public Relations\_\_\_\_; Citizens Guide\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have any interests/talents that you would be willing to share to assist our league?**

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Please remit to: League of Women Voters of Dare  
PO Box 689  
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949