

January &  
February  
2014

# The DARE Voter

## Mark Your Calendar

(At press time, the details for some of these events are not finalized. Please watch your email for particulars as they become available.)

**February 19, 3:00 – 5:00**, Jockey's Ridge State Park Auditorium – John McCord of Coastal Studies Institute on "Renewal Energy from the Ocean" – dinner after the presentation at Mulligan's – contact Joan Phifer at 480-3200 to reserve your spot

**TENTATIVE DATES** – details to follow

**Date TBA** – Willo Kelly will present a second session about the NC insurance issues after the public hearing deadline on January 31 that will result in a decision about the increase in homeowners rates.

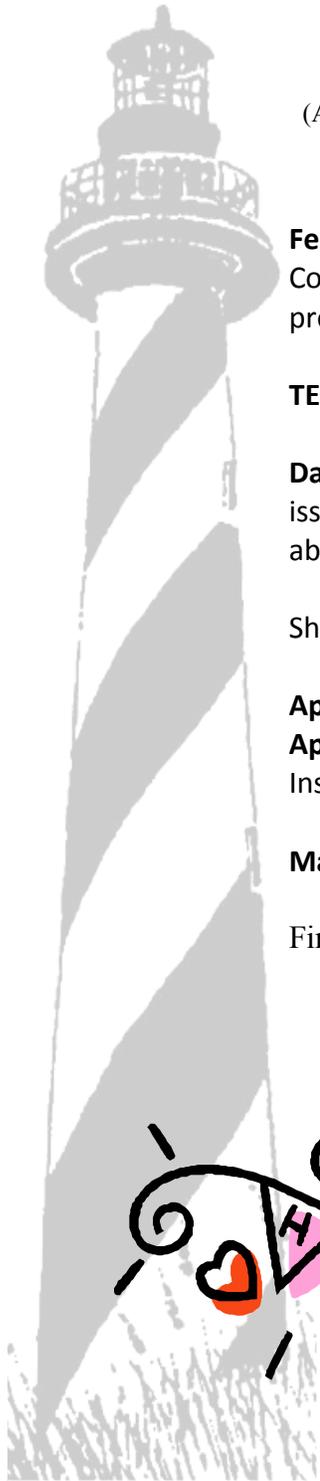
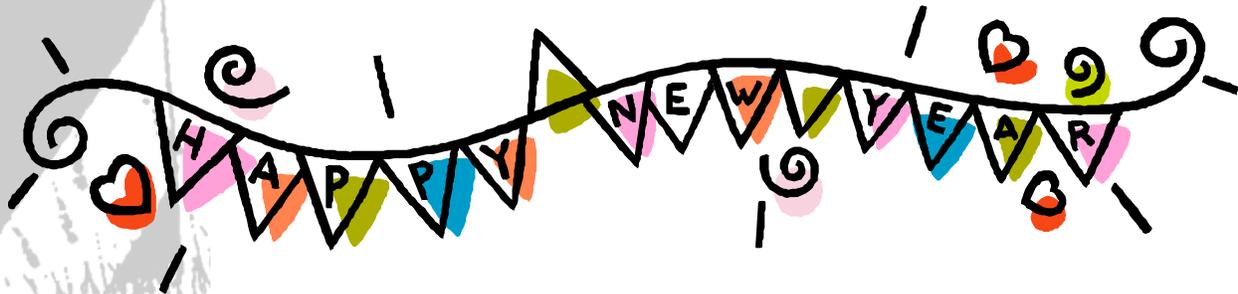
Shipwrecks in the Graveyard of the Atlantic – CSI presentation

**April -- Go-See Tour**

**April 28 – 29** – rescheduled date for the NC State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. June Atkinson's visit to Dare.

**May 2** – Annual Meeting

First Friday Lunch Bunch – watch your email for time and location



## Co-President's Letter

Happy New Year! Our League finished 2013 with a bang and started 2014 with a bang. The Holiday Luncheon and Fund Raiser was a blast. If you weren't there please plan to attend next year. Tony DiBarardo did his usual great job as auctioneer, although he couldn't seem to keep Lori from bidding. Ha! We had some very generous donors for both the silent and live auctions. A rental house, hotel rooms, dinners, shows, ice cream, donuts, pizza and more, were auctioned. The result was another record breaking fund raiser! Thanks to all who participated in our very successful event.

Our January event was also a great success. Nancy Birindeli arranged for Willo Kelly, President of NC 20 to speak at the Kill Devil Hills Town Hall on the new home owner's insurance legislation. She spoke to a packed house due to the timely topic and Audrey Esposito's press release. The lecture was taped and linked into You Tube. We also made the front page of the Coastland Times. Once again LWV have brought much needed information to our community.

We will continue to inform Dare County citizens with a summary of the impact of North Carolina's education legislation on our schools, from Dr. June Atkinson. As you recall the Superintendent of Public Instruction for NC had to cancel her December visit due to family health issues. We are continuing to communicate with her and hoping to arrange time in April.

An upcoming event is also going to be very interesting. On February 19<sup>th</sup> John McCord from the Coastal Studies Institute will be speaking on capturing the ocean's energy. We will be going out to eat afterwards at Mulligan's. (see article and poster)

Geri Sullivan has been hard at work on the 2014 Citizen's Guide. We should have them ready to bundle and distribute by the last week in January. We need members who can help deliver and present to the Towns. Give Geri a call if you can donate a few hours of your time.

A few more notes. At this time we do not have a program planned for March. If you have an idea please give me a call. The First Friday Lunch Bunch had a lovely lunch at Café LaChine. Friday February the 7<sup>th</sup> at noon is our next lunch. I will send out more details later. If you won a gift certificate at the auction don't forget to use it and when you do please mention the League appreciated their contribution. And lastly, I have included an updated membership roster for 2014.

Fondly,  
Lin

## **Renewal Energy from the Ocean Program**

By Lori DiBernardo

The Dare County League of Women Voters is pleased to announce an exciting program on sustainable energy uniquely focused on North Carolina! John McCord, from the Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) in Skyco, will speak on the topic of “Renewable Energy from the Ocean.” This fascinating presentation will be held on Wednesday, February 19 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Jockey’s Ridge State Park Auditorium. The general public is invited to attend.

CSI is a marine research institute that was founded in 2001. John, the Education Programs Coordinator for CIS, will enlighten our audience on the on-going research project that focuses on the potential of waves, tides, and currents to generate energy. Researchers have been working with partner universities, as well as private industry, for over 3 years to broaden their knowledge base and to identify potential applications and technologies in this exciting arena of sustainable energy. John will bring us up to date on this important research and its implications for our region.

Dinner at Mulligan’s restaurant will follow the presentation. All members interested in joining us should contact Joan Phifer (480-3200) by Friday, February 14.



[www.LWVDareNC.org](http://www.LWVDareNC.org)

## Report on Fund Raising

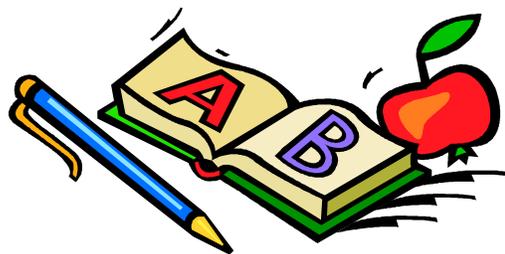
By Carol Butscher

Our Fund Raising Campaign for 2013 was a HUGE success. The letter solicitation for the 2014 Citizens Guide produced over \$6,000!! This is the largest amount that we have ever received – is the recession finally over? Thanks also to our many members who donated money throughout the year.

The Christmas Silent and Live Auctions were also a success with \$1,776 added to the operating fund coffers. Thanks to all the members who donated items for the Silent Auction and thanks to Lori Williams and Lin Logan for gathering items for the Live Auction. Tony DiBernardo served as our auctioneer again and “squeezed” as much money from the members as he could.

Editor’s note: An additional fund raising effort was the fall Belk Charity Sale. Members purchased their \$5.00 tickets and saved tremendously at the very special sale. Belk then divided the proceeds of the day with each of the participating organizations who had a member present at 5:00 a.m. the day of the sale. LWV had two hardy members who arrived at the bewitching hour – Carol Butscher and Lori DiBernardo – and were given an extra \$185 for their efforts. The total revenue from the sale was \$665!!

Treasurer’s note: The operating budget has a balance of \$10,600 with the assets cited above. And, with the fund raising efforts for the Citizens Guide printing, the donations that were deposited into the CEF (Citizens Education Foundation) for a tax deduction are ample to cover the production costs! GOOD WORK TO ALL!!



### Surveying the School Scene

By Marion W. Midgett, Education Chair

The Dare County Board of Education met for regular meetings on November 12, 2013 at Cape Hatteras Elementary School, and on December 10, 2013, at Manteo Middle School; they also met in special session on December 4, 2013 to receive the district accreditation External Report from AdvancED. The following covers highlights of those meetings.

### Recognitions

At the regular sessions, several schools’ Classified Employees of the Year and Teachers of the Year were recognized. Students and staff of the Dare County Alternative School were congratulated for a NC School Board Association Video Contest Honorable Mention award; and, that school’s whole staff was recognized for receiving the NC Department of Public Instruction’s Green Ribbon Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Award.

## **Instructional Highlights**

The purpose of most “highlights” segments is to demonstrate the new way teachers and students are meeting the more rigorous North Carolina curriculum by using creative activities, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking, just to name a few.

In November, Cape Hatteras third graders showed how they learn STEM concepts through a “math scavenger hunt” using advanced problem-solving skills. In December, Manteo Middle seventh grader Language Arts/Social students demonstrated how “text sets” are used to help them broaden their understanding of complex concepts. “Text sets” or text-centered instructional materials were chosen by the teachers to form a related set of anchor-text (book) and supporting or related materials (articles, films, pictures, documents, etc.). From these, the students learned facts and gained similar and differing ideas of or approaches to a topic or unit of study. The students then connected concepts through research, writing, and debate; thus, they learned to argue in support of or against “sides” that emerged. The topic covered by this group was “justice”.

## **Reports and Business**

### **November**

Margie Parker, the Director of Elementary Instruction, explained the ongoing/upcoming school and district accreditation process. For three years, various stakeholder groups have been working toward school and district accreditation through AdvancED, the international parent accrediting agency for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS.CASI). The process required comprehensive school and district internal reviews and self-assessments in relation to the AdvancED standards. Ms. Parker called the study a “continuous improvement process, a looking in the mirror, and a looking to the future.”

Local documents were submitted in October. The External Review Team was scheduled to visit the district December 1-4, 2013.

The Board approved the Dare Schools Strategic Plan for 2013-2018. It fulfills one of the BOE goals and is necessary to achieve accreditation. It consists of:

Mission: Educate Every Child

Vision: all students will graduate on time, prepared for college, careers, and life  
Assessment of progress under existing goals to include areas of notable achievement and areas of improvement

Suggested wording for goals for 2013-2018 to include strategies to achieve goals and indicators of success

The plan includes input from parents, teachers, students, and administrators. It can be viewed at the following link: [http://daretolearn.org/board\\_of\\_education/draft\\_strategic\\_plan](http://daretolearn.org/board_of_education/draft_strategic_plan). Individual School Improvement Plans were also approved.

### **December**

The AdvancED External Review Team visited December 1-4. The team included three educators from North Carolina and three from out-of-state. They interviewed 153 people (stakeholders) and visited 5 schools and 36 classrooms and studied over 250 documents (evidence). They were at Buxton when word came about the imminent Bonner Bridge closing. The group raced to the bridge, just making it on as the south end closed.

At the special December 4 meeting, they presented their findings to the BOE. The review was glowing! Dare received high ratings for eight "Powerful Practices" cited by AdvancED:

- Culture of high expectations (college and career ready)
- Efforts to involve families
- Valuing employees (recognitions, internal promotions)
- Business and Community Partnerships
- Seeking and obtaining grants
- Affordable housing for teachers
- All schools are pursuing district goals
- Effective and efficient fiscal planning and procedures

Lead evaluator, Dr. Patricia Woodruff, remarked that the team was not aware of any other school district visited by AdvancED which has received commendations for as many as eight "Powerful Practices", which she describes as good enough to "put people on planes" to fly them here to see it. She also commented that Dare's scores on the "Index of Educational Quality" represented the only ones of which team members were aware in which all four scores were in the top quartile (3 to 4).

In addition, the team cited two "Required Actions":

Develop district policies and proceed to ensure common grading criteria in all schools, across grade levels and courses that are well understood by all stakeholders and regularly evaluated by the district.

Develop a comprehensive assessment system that ensures consistent measurement and regularly evaluates the effectiveness of the system in improving instruction and student learning across all educational programs and system divisions.

The team recommended that Dare County Schools be accredited pending final review by the AdvancED Accrediting Commission. At the December 10 regular BOE meeting, Superintendent Burgess reported the team's findings and recommendation.

## TV NOTES

Cable Channel 19, the Education Channel, broadcasts *Dare Education Awareness*, a news magazine showcasing Dare Schools, COA-Dare Campus, and UNC Coastal Studies Institute, daily at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., noon, 4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. In January, look for a segment about the Manteo High created phone app for a Manteo walking tour, a COA-Dare Campus jewelry program segment, and a UNC Coastal Studies segment about a UNC Institute for the Environment visit.

For those without cable service, the education channel can be watched through online streaming video. Access it by visiting [www.darenc.com/EdChannel](http://www.darenc.com/EdChannel) and click on the Ed Channel logo at the bottom of the page. There is also a YouTube channel for on-demand video segments and magazine episodes. Find it at [www.youtube.com/edchannel](http://www.youtube.com/edchannel) of dare.



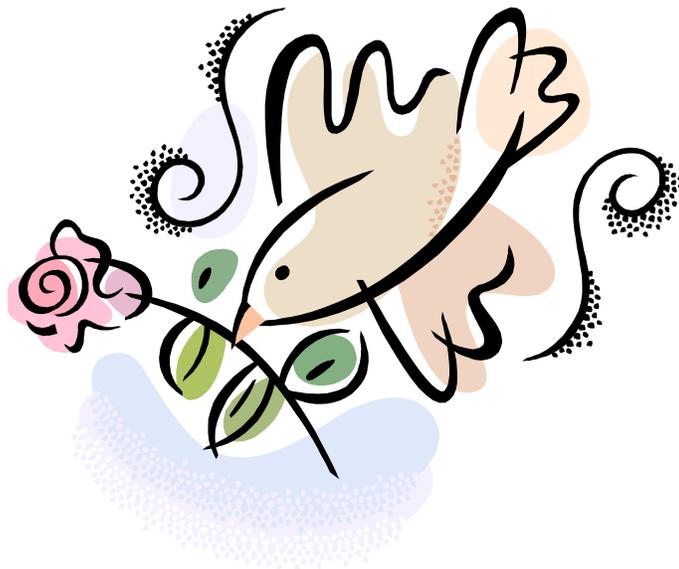
**Diane Henderson**

1931-2013

Diane D. Henderson, 82, died Dec. 4th  
in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

In 1986, she moved with her husband to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, where she served on the Southern Shores Town planning board prior to becoming a council member elected in 1993 for a 4-year term. Council initiatives included setting up recycling for the town and the development of a town website. Mrs. Henderson and her husband were among founding members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Outer Banks. She also helped to start a chapter of the League of Women Voters on the Outer Banks.

In the spring of 1987 Diane Henderson and thirty six Dare County residents formed the first League of Women Voters on the Outer Banks. Their first project was a Community Workshop that reviewed every aspect of life on the Outer Banks and involved over one hundred participants. A strong foundation was laid for the Dare County League. Due to her work with the Dare County League Diane was awarded the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award in 1990.



# Thanks

\*Joan Liston and Pat Hayward for making  
phone calls for the Citizen's Guide

\*Mary Jane Slesinski and Carol Butscher  
for proof reading the Citizens Guide

\*Carol Butscher for arranging the lunch-  
eon at Duck Woods

\*Nancy Birindeli for arranging Willo  
Kelly's talk

\*Lori Williams for soliciting for the live  
auction

\*Joan Phifer for helping at the luncheon

\*Nancy Birindeli and Audrey Esposito for  
all the hard work for Dr. Atkinson's visit

# “RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM THE OCEAN”

PRESENTED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2014  
JOCKY'S RIDGE AUDITORIUM  
3:00 – 5:00 PM

JOHN MCCORD  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS COORDINATOR  
COASTAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

DINNER AT MULLIGANS  
5:30PM

CALL JOAN PHIFER TO RESERVE  
480-3200

## BRING A FRIEND





**LWV – Dare**  
**P.O. Box 689**  
**Kitty Hawk, NC 27949**  
[www.LWVDareNC.org](http://www.LWVDareNC.org)

Address Service Requested

## League of Women Voters of Dare County

### Officers:

Co-presidents:

Lin Logan (2013-2015) - 480-2866

Mary Jane Slesinski (2012-2014) -261-1591

Vice President: *Vacant*

Secretary: Glenda Keel (2013-2015)

Treasurer: Nancy Birindelli (2012-2014)

Elected Lori DiBernardo (2012-2014)

Board Members: Audrey Esposito (2013-2015)

Carol Butscher (2013-2015)

Lori Williams (2012-2014)

### Committee Chairs:

Citizens Guide: Geri Sullivan

Education: Marion Midgett

Fundraising: Carol Butscher

Health: Janet Jordan

Membership: Lori Williams

Newsletter: Nancy Birindelli and Lauren Logan

Nominating Committee: *Vacant*

Program Coordinator: *Vacant*

Public Relations: Audrey Esposito

Voter Services: Mary Ellen Hawthorne

Natural Resources: Lori DiBernardo

Program: *Vacant*

Appointed Geri Sullivan

Board Members: Mary Ellen Hawthorne

(2013-2014) Marion Midgett

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to both men and women. Annual dues, payable July 1, are \$50 for individuals and \$75 for households. To join, send a check made payable to: League of Women Voters of Dare County, P.O. Box 689, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949.