

March  
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.)

**April 4, 10:30 at the Kill Devil Hills Library**, a group of dedicated Leaguers will meet to process the mundane task of stuffing envelopes for the Annual Meeting documents. Willing hands are most welcome to assist to make light work. The "event" will be followed by the monthly First Friday lunch. This is a great opportunity for new members to get involved. Call Mary Jane at 261-1591 to volunteer or to attend the lively lunch bunch which will be held at Plaza Azteca (MP 9 on the bypass) at noon.

**VOTER SERVICE EVENTS** – it is election time again! This time of year is when the League shines in the community to provide information about the upcoming elections. Mary Ellen Hawthorne, Voter Service Chair, has arranged for a reception for all candidates running in the May primary to be held on Sunday, April 6, at Kitty Hawk Town Hall. There will also be two forums for the Board of Education. Avon and Nags Head. Cape Hatteras Secondary School on April 3 at 7:00 and Nags Head Elementary School on April 10 at 7:00. Volunteers are needed to man each of these events. This is another excellent opportunity for new members to see how the League works. Please contact Mary Ellen at 480-1062 to offer your able assistance.

**April 28, 7:00 p.m.** – Dr. June Atkinson, NC State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will be coming to Dare County to address issues concerning recent legislation regarding pre-K-12 education to include budget cuts and other developments. This event was planned for December but had to be rescheduled due to her personal family situation. LWV is the lead sponsor for this special presentation along with the Dare Education Foundation, Dare Literacy Council, Delta Kappa Gamma (educator's sorority), the Dare County Retired Teachers Organization, the Board of Education, and the Dare County Schools. Please mark it on your calendars in RED to be sure to attend!



## Co-President's Letter

While Lin recuperates, first let me say that we wish Lin the most rapid and uneventful recovery on record. We all stand ready to help in any way.

Despite the cold weather, we have kept very busy this winter. Geri Sullivan and her team bundled and distributed the 2014 Citizen's Guide during the last week in January. Copies were presented to the Town Councils and to the Dare County Board of Commissioners along with our thanks for their generous contributions.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, John McCord from the Coastal Studies Institute spoke about capturing the ocean's energy. He emphasized that, although the Coastal Studies Institute faculty members are not in the business of inventing ways to capture wave energy and converting it to electricity, they do research to make the existing technology more efficient. They have measured wave energy from Jennette's Pier and at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Field Research Facility in Duck.

On March 6, Willo Kelly spoke at the Kill Devil Hills Town Hall with an update on the new home owners and flood insurance increases. The Outer Banks Voice taped the presentation. This time Willo brought some good news. The proposed rate increases are being challenged by both state and federal legislators.

On March 19 we had members only (plus one guest each) program and reception at the Coastal Studies Institute in Skyco. Dr. Nathan Richards discussed Maritime Heritage on Outer Banks. His work includes exploring shipwrecks off our coast.

But we have even more in store as we move into Spring (at last)!!!!

On April 4 we will stuff envelopes for our annual mailing, followed by our First Friday Lunch. We are looking for volunteers (for the envelope stuffing, not eating). All are welcome to lunch, whether or not you volunteer for envelope stuffing! Watch your email.

Mary Ellen Hawthorne and her team are planning a reception for the candidates running in the primary election, tentatively planned for April 6 at First Flight High School. They are also planning two forums, one in Hatteras and one in Nags Head, for School Board candidates. She is looking for volunteers to help.

We will continue to inform Dare County citizens of the impact of North Carolina's education legislation on our schools with a visit from Dr. June Atkinson. The Superintendent of Public Instruction for NC had to cancel her December visit due to family health issues. We are happy to report that Dr. Atkinson will speak at the First Flight High School on Monday, April 28 at 7PM. The public is invited, so be sure to come and bring a friend.

Mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting on May 30. Details to follow.....

In closing, I would like to thank Carol Butscher and Lori DiBernardo for a record-breaking fund raising effort. And, of course, I would like to thank all of you who donated and participated in the fund-raising activities.

All the best, Mary Jane

LWVNC News

By: Audrey Esposito

On Sunday, February 9, 2014 Gray Newman, Treasurer LWVNC wrote to League leaders across the state informing them of five resignations from the LWVNC Board of Directors. These resignations included two presidents and the secretary. Gray remains the only existing officer and has taken on the reins of leadership. The remaining members are Bessie Carrington, Audrey Esposito, Judith Scruggs, and Willie Taylor.

We are bound by aspects of our bylaws that allow the board to appoint/elect some positions, but also does not allow us to appoint/elect others, such as president. With these guidelines in mind the remaining board members have been in frequent communication via email and conference calls. One of these calls with representatives from LWVUS was helpful in determining a course of action.

In his letter Gray asked for help in structuring a new board with suggestions of league members who might be appointed to serve until the 2015 Convention. The remaining Board members are reaching out, at this time, to possible candidates.

Brenda Rogers, President of LWV ODC, has volunteered to be the contact person with regard to the redistricting lawsuit that is currently winding its way through the courts.

Gray's letter also served as a Call to Council for 2014, to be hosted by Henderson County from April 11-13 in Flat Rock, NC at the Mountain Lodge and Conference Center. According to Article IX of the LWVNC bylaws council shall be composed of: The Presidents of each local league (or their alternate) and a delegate from each MAL unit with at least 15 members; Other leaders may attend as observers; One delegate chosen by each local league; The board of LWVNC.

Due to a very generous bequest to the state league last year, the state board has voted to cover all registration, lodging and meals (except Friday night dinner) for the designated delegates.

The theme of Council: Power: Eight Issues= One Voice.... These are the LWVNC Issues of Emphasis for 2013-2015: Voter Protection, Education, Redistricting, Health Care, Environment, Immigration, Campaign Finance Reform, Ratify ERA in NC

Board members are working diligently by communicating with each other, contacting coalition partners, representatives from LWVUS, and league leaders across the state to bring this Council to League members in North Carolina.

The Board of LWVNC is meeting the challenge of these resignations and is moving forward with the help of dedicated League members across this state. Indeed, we are ONE VOICE.

## **Surveying the School Scene**

Marion W. Midgett, Education Chair

The Dare County Board of Education (BOE) met for a regular meeting on January 14, 2014 at First Flight Middle School. In addition, the capital improvement planning committees of the BOE and Board of Commissioners (BOC) met together on January 6; and on February 13 the BOC committee met to consider the BOE request. The regular February meeting was cancelled due to snow. The following covers highlights of those meetings focusing on reports and new business.

### **Reports**

#### 2012–2013 Audit Report

The auditor from Douglas A. Hollowell, P.C. reviewed its report of the State required annual audit of the Dare Schools administrative unit accounts and the accounts of the individual schools. The rating given was “unqualified”, the highest possible.

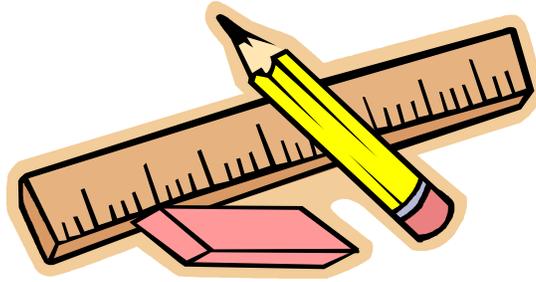
She did reference that the unassigned fund balance had decreased for the period and that the Food Service and the After-school Care proprietary funds were negative. In addition, she mentioned two minor findings pertaining to the State required “concussion regulations”: two documents needed signatures. On a personal note, I am impressed that the State includes evidence of compliance with concussion regulations in audit requirements.

Finally, the auditor mentioned that the NC Excellence in Accounting award had been given to the Dare finance staff for 2012–2013 and for many years before.

#### Read to Achieve

Margie Parker, the Director of Elementary Instruction, reported on the K–3 literacy initiative passed into law in July 2012 and effective for 2013–2014 third graders. The law set up a comprehensive plan for reading success in the early grades and promotion from third grade. The plan includes teacher training, pre–K instruction, grade 1–3 instruction, testing, re-testing, comprehensive standards, portfolios for each student, regular on-going communication with parents, home RX solutions, and summer reading camps after third grade for students with reading deficit.

Students at risk must attend the reading camp in order to catch-up and be promoted. The summer camps will run for six weeks, four days/week, three hours/day at three sites in Dare. State funding is available.



## Business

First reading of Dare Schools 2014–2015 to 2018–2019 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)—Presented by member Ben Cahoon and Director of Facilities & Maintenance Jim Winebarger

Each year the BOE prepares a CIP that includes necessary repairs and upgrades for submission to the Board of Commissioners for funding. Included is a list of items from the plan which the Board considers to be priority (\$1,006,000) and those unfunded from last year. The total request for 11 schools, 1.2 million sq. ft. of buildings, and 65 acres for 2014–2015 is \$2,665,000.

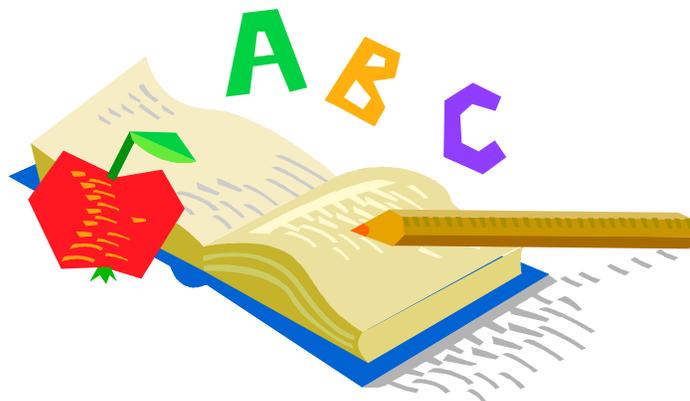
The members were particularly candid about their disappointment in not receiving what has been needed in previous years. The funding they've been getting was described as only a "few cents per square foot." The adjective "anemic" was used.

The BOE/CIP had presented the above plan on Jan. 6 to the BOC/CIP. Then after the BOC committee met on Feb. 13 in response to the request, the Commissioners and County Manager proposed that Dare County would like to take over maintenance and repair of all Dare Schools. (The regular meeting outlined above fell between these two meetings.) The proposal was reported at the Feb. 17 regular Commission meeting.

Now the BOE has a very big decision to make. Read more about this in Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy's article in The Coastland Times, Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014, page one.

## Note

On Monday evening, April 28, the NC State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. June Atkinson will be speaking to the public at First Flight High School presented by our Dare LWV. This is a big deal! Please plan to attend.





**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: *Vacant*  
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.