

League of Women Voters Dare County, NC

October 2014 Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar

2014 - 2015

- November 4 - ELECTION DAY - VOTE
- November 19 - Presentation on Fracking, Pitts Center, Southern Shores, 7:00 p.m.
Dinner at Coastal Provisions at 5:00. RSVP to Nancy Birindelli (261-3915 or Bbirindelli@aol.com) by Nov. 17.
- December 5 - Annual Holiday Luncheon and Auctions, Duck Woods, 11:30 a.m.

Tentative schedule

- January 21 - Health discussion with Carmen Hooker Odom
- February 18 - Abuse of Prescription Drugs
- March 18 - Girl Power
- April 15 - Go See Tour to the Colored School at Jarvisburg, NC, with lunch
- May 6 - Rising Tide
- May 29 - Annual Meeting
- June - Planning Retreat



CO-PRESIDENTS LETTER

Early voting has started and Election Day is November 4th. As a League we have done our due diligence with three voter registration tables and four candidates' forums. The turnout has been terrific. Well over 100 at the NC State Forum on Sunday afternoon and the same for the Judicial and Law Enforcement Officials on Wednesday evening. The Commissioners Forum packed KDH Town Hall and all the candidates went to Buxton for our rescheduled meeting there. The Town of Kill Devil Hills paid for the taping of the Commissioners' Forum and put it on Public Access Channel 191. We paid for the video taping of the State Forum and had it placed on YouTube.com for everyone to see. John Towler, videographer, did a great job at both Forums. I hope you will view the video and send it along to others interested in being an informed voter.

Each Forum needs about six members to participate. This October our team Captains were, Mary Ellen Hawthorn, Marion Midgett and Nancy Birindelli. Forums also require timers, questions screeners, greeters, moderator, and card collectors. Thanks to all who participated and if you couldn't volunteer this time think about volunteering for the next time.

We had over fifty folks come to our Kick-Off Event in September. We played a short video, put out by National, about the role of the League in communities and then our Board members stood and explained why they enjoy serving. We had a nice buffet and then played our trivia game. Mary Ann and Bob Remer and Glenda and Earl Keel were our winning team. Congrats! I think everyone meet someone new and had a good time. Courtney Gallop attended and decided to rejoin the League. Welcome back Courtney! Thanks to Carol Butscher for all her hard work in organizing this event.

Geri Sullivan has organized a committee to look into the needs of Dare County residence needing a government photo ID for 2016 election. We have obtained a list of registered voters in Dare County that do not have driver's licenses. We are making plans, in case the Court Case in July 2015 doesn't strike down the ID law. If you would like to participate please give Geri a call.

We're now on Facebook. Please check our page out. Nancy Proctor created the page and Audrey Esposito helps her keep it updated. There is a link to our Web page that Mary Jane Slesinsky monitors. Thanks to all three of them.

We hope there is a good turnout at the polls for this mid-term election. I know you will vote, but try to help others realize the importance of voting.

Sincerely, Lin

P.S. We have some nice looking free League bumper stickers that read YOUR VOTE COUNTS. If you would like one, email or phone me, and I will make sure you get one.

\$ FUND RAISING \$

Our Fall Fund Raising campaign is in full swing. Letters to various businesses, governments etc. have been sent and the money is starting to come in!

BELK CHARITY DAYS: We are participating in Belk Charity Days on November 8, 2014 again this fall. Pre-sale begins October 28th. Two tickets have been mailed to each member. This is an easy fund raiser for the League and we make approximately \$1000 for our General Fund. This fall sale is a good way to get a start on your holiday shopping. If you need additional tickets, you can contact Carol Butscher at 261-6983 or cab313@yahoo.com.



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON/AUCTIONS: Save the date – December 5, 2014 at Duck Woods Country Club for our annual holiday luncheon and auctions. Start collecting those silent auction items. More details later!

CAROL BUTSCHER

Surveying the School Scene

Marion W. Midgett, Education Chair

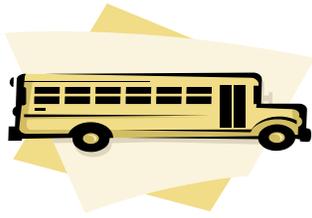
This is a bits and pieces report from summer 2014 Board of Education special meetings and State news.

Dare County

- Director of Secondary Instruction, Nancy Griffin, a vital member of the central office staff, retired in June.
- Newly elected board members, Joe Tauber and Charlotte White took office in early July.
- Also in July, the BOE approved many administrative personnel shifts, school to school, school to central office, and within the central office. (The Coastland Times, August 24, 2014, 1B)
- The implementation of the student laptop initiative for students in grades 6 through 12 has been adjusted. A news release in August stated: “Due to the delay in receiving information regarding state funding allocations for this school year, the district is now planning to phase in implementation of this initiative over the next two years. The goal is to distribute laptops to students in grades 9—12 during the 2nd quarter of this year and to students in grades 6—8 during the next school year. Details will be forthcoming.”
- The Manteo Elementary School eight classroom addition is framed up and is scheduled to be ready for use in January.

State

- The budget was finally passed in mid-August as some schools were opening and after the time for spending decisions.
- Public school teacher raises are included in the final budget: 7% average; quite high for beginning teachers (15—17%; low for 29/30 year teachers (1.7% or less)
- Career status is still gone.
- Current teacher assistant positions are preserved.
- On August 21, 2014, a North Carolina judge ruled unconstitutional the new school voucher program for low-income families. “The vouchers pay for students to attend privately run K-12 schools that do not have to meet state curriculum requirements, violating the state constitution,” Wake County Superior Court Judge Robert Hobgood said.



Save the Date!

Hydraulic Fracturing (AKA “Fracking”): Just the Facts! Our Natural Resources program is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th from 7 – 9 PM at the Southern Shores Pitts Center Meeting Room.

Hydraulic Fracturing is a process of deep drilling used to extract gas and oil from shale deposits. Commonly referred to as “Fracking”, this drilling process is set to begin in North Carolina next year. While proponents of “Fracking” cite greater energy independence and financial advantages, others are concerned about water usage, toxic waste water disposal, and possible ground, air, and water contamination. Plan on attending this program to learn more and to obtain fact-based information on the process.

We have assembled a Panel of 4 speakers, each with expertise in different areas related to the topic of Hydraulic Fracturing, to shed light on this topic. All Outer Banks residents are invited to attend this program to learn more about the process and how it may impact North Carolina and the Outer Banks. More details will follow in our next newsletter.

League members are invited to join us for dinner at 5pm before the program at Coastal Provisions Oyster Bar and Wine Bar Café, 1 Ocean Blvd, Southern Shores (in the Southern Shores Crossing Shopping Mall). Please contact Nancy Birindelli at (252) 261-3915 or bbirindelli@aol.com if you are able to attend the dinner.

Lorelei DiBernardo

Natural Resources Director



The League of Women Voters

Presents

Hydraulic Fracturing (aka “Fracking”) Just the Facts!

A Panel Discussion Featuring Four Guest Speakers

**Find out what Fracking is all about and what it means for
North Carolina and the Outer Banks.**

Wednesday November 19, 2014

Pitts Center Southern Shores, NC

7:00 – 9:00 PM



Voter Services Committee Report

By Mary Ellen Hawthorne



Four forums were held in conjunction with the November 4 elections. Attendance was excellent!! The candidates provided good answers to the questions posed by members of the audience. The questions were good, varied, and provided an opportunity for the candidates to share their thoughts and platforms.

Oct. 8, Kill Devil Hills Town Hall – Dare County Commissioners – coordinated by Mary Ellen Hawthorne, Moderator was Lin Logan. The session was taped by John Towler and aired on the government access channel on the 14th and 15th. It is also available on You Tube LWV Dare. Attendance was standing room only over seventy.

Oct. 19, Nags Head Elementary School – Candidates for the NC Senate and House – coordinated by Nancy Birindelli, Moderator was Lin Logan. The forum was extremely well attended with more than 80 people in the audience. It was also videotaped and is currently available on You Tube LWV Dare.

Oct. 21, Cape Hatteras Secondary School – Dare County Commissioners – coordinated and moderated by Mary Ellen Hawthorne. This event was rescheduled from Oct. 15 due to inclement weather, so the advertising was not as effective as for the others. More than 20 citizens attended.

Oct. 22, Nags Head Town Hall – judicial candidates for sheriff, district attorney, and clerk of the superior court. Coordinated by Marion Midgett, moderated by Mary Jane Slesinski. Again, there was a standing room only crowd of over 100. This was the first ever forum for these candidates.

A special thank you to all of the members who worked the forums serving as a coordinator, moderator, question reviewer, timer, and greeter. The success of these events is due to the dedication of the League members.

Audrey Esposito deserves much credit for her incredible work as the PR person. The publicity in the various media (newspapers, radio, website, and Facebook) certainly informed the public in many ways, and the attendance numbers indicated that the word did get out to the community. If you have not seen it yet, buy a copy of the latest Sentinel. The new editor, Mark Jurkowitz, presented almost the entire edition to the League and its work with photos, interesting articles, and the Voters' Guide. Early voting began on Oct. 23 and continues until the 31st. VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4 if you did not get to an early voting location. No photo IDs are required for this election but will be in 2016 if not overturned by the courts.

Lin Logan, Co-president (2013–2015) 480–2866

Mary Jane Slesinski, Co-president (2014–2016) 261–1591

Lorelei DiBernardo, Vice-president (2014–2016)

Glenda Keel, Secretary (2013–2015)

Nancy Birindelli, Treasurer (2014–2016)

Elected Board Members

(2013–2015)

Audrey Esposito

Carol Butscher

(2014–2016)

Marion Midgett

Lori Williams

Appointed Board Members (2014–2015)

Ursula Bateman

Mary Ellen Hawthorne

Geri Sullivan

Committee Chairs

Citizens Guide – Geri Sullivan

Education – Marion Midgett

Fundraising – Carol Butscher

Health – Ursula Bateman

Hospitality – vacant

Membership – Lori Williams

Natural Resources – Lorelei DiBernardo

Newsletter – Nancy Birindelli and Lauren Logan

Nominating Committee – vacant

Program Coordinator – vacant

Public Relations – Audrey Esposito

Voter Services – Mary Ellen Hawthorne