

October &
November
2013

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.)

Monday, November 11, 12:00 – NC State Senator Bill Cook – a report on the General Assembly – Duck Woods Country Club. Cost: \$20.00. **Pay at the door.** For reservations, contact Audrey Esposito – 261-8052 or aud.espo@yahoo.com OR Nancy Birindelli - 261-3915 or Bbirindelli@aol.com with **menu selection by November 6.**

SOUP: potato leek

A: pecan crusted chicken over seasonal salad

B: roasted pork loin with fresh ginger marsala sauce, whipped potatoes and seasonal vegetables

DESSERT: cheesecake with berries

Cash Bar

Friday, December 6 – Annual Holiday Luncheon and Silent and Live Auctions – Duck Woods Country Club. Cost: \$20.00. Reservation form included in this newsletter. **Deadline for reservations: Monday, November 25.** Indicate your luncheon selection by contacting Lin Logan at 480-2866 or loganedd@charter.net.

Menu selection:

SOUP: pear and sweet potato bisque

A: Chicken breast stuffed with cranberries and walnuts, herbed rice pilaf, spiced brandy au jus, broccoli

Sicilian style winter veggie ragout over farfalle pasta topped with ricotta salata

DESSERT: mini snowballs

Cash Bar: bloody mary, mimosa and wine

SILENT AUCTION: contact Carol Butscher at 261-6983 or cab313@yahoo.com OR Lori DiBernardo at 261-4365 or LTD32@charter.net with items that you will donate by December 3!

Wednesday, December 18 – Dr. June Atkinson, North Carolina State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction – “The Status of Education in North Carolina: the impact of the state’s budget cuts on PreK-12 education”. Co-sponsored with the Dare Education Foundation, the Dare Literacy Council, and the Dare County North Carolina Retired School Personnel Association.

Lunch – 1:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Pier House – an informal presentation followed by a Q & A with Dr. Atkinson for the board members of the sponsoring groups, the Dare County Board of Education, and LWV members with a special interest in public education. Cost: \$25.00. Reservation form will be distributed via email shortly.

Public Meeting with Dr. Atkinson – First Flight High School Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. – open to the school staff, parents, and the general public.

January TBD – Willo Kelly will present the facts about the increases in the new federal flood insurance program – not to be missed!

First Friday Lunch – watch emails about the monthly luncheon for members.



Co-President's Letter

As I am writing this, Lin is enjoying a wonderful river cruise in Europe. Meanwhile the Board has been hard at work planning some great League activities. First, to review recent activities, the League's Kick-Off Event was a barbecue at the Duck Woods County Club in September. State Representative Paul Tine attended and shared his views on funding education in NC. Audrey's summary appears below. Candidate Forums were held in the towns from Duck to Manteo during the beginning of October. Most candidates attended, and there was very good voter turnout. Lin and I would like to personally thank each and every one of you who participated. Extra special thanks go to Mary Ellen Hawthorne, who, once again, oversaw the entire process.

Reserve the date: On Monday, November 11, the League will have lunch with NC State Senator Bill Cook at the Duck Woods Country Club. There will be ample time for questions. (See the calendar announcement above.)

The annual Holiday Luncheon and Silent Auction will be held on Friday, December 6, at the Duck Woods County Club. Meanwhile, please remember that we need donations for the silent auction. Tony DiBernardo will again act as auctioneer, and we know how much fun that will be!!!!

Also on December 18, the League will welcome June Atkinson, the first woman elected State Superintendent of Public Schools of North Carolina, to the Outer Banks. She has served in this position since August 2005. She will have lunch with LWV Board and others and in the evening she will speak at First Flight High School about how the new laws will affect education in North Carolina. The meeting will be open to the public. Please attend and invite all your friends. (See details in the calendar section.)

In January, we will start the New Year (can you believe 2014???) on a serious note. Willo Kelly will make a presentation about the rise in the cost of flood insurance on the Outer Banks. As usual, this meeting will be open to the public and is sure to be well attended. Details are yet to be determined.

Again, I would like to thank the Board members and all the League members who have been working so hard to bring us these great programs. I hope you will show your appreciation by attending as many of them as you can.

Best wishes to all,
Mary Jane

LWV of Dare BBQ is Fall Kick-Off By Audrey Esposito

A Kick-Off BBQ was held on Thursday, September 26th at Duck Woods Country Club in Southern Shores. Forty-eight members and guests, including NC State Representative Paul Tine, enjoyed an old fashioned BBQ as well as the "League" trivia game planned by Co-president Mary Jane Slesinski. Members, spouses, and future members, randomly divided into teams, did quite well with answering the questions. Prizes were given to the winning teams. Fun was had by all!

Before playing the lively game, Representative Tine spoke to the group about his job as our representative and his work on the Education Committee. He also answered questions from the audience. Those in attendance were certainly glad that Rep. Tine came to the BBQ and took the time to speak personally with Leaguers and guests, as well as to the whole group.

This definitely was a super way to kick off the 2013-2014 year, especially with six voter forums following shortly behind!

Voter Forum Recap

Town Coordinators Reporting

DUCK – Nancy Birindelli – There were 7 candidates running for 5 seats. The incumbents were in attendance but the two opposing candidates were not; hence, the forum was altered to become a meet and greet. Each candidate gave a short prepared statement, and then time was well spent for the 12 voters and 4 League members in attendance to ask questions. Pat Hayward was the timer.

SOUTHERN SHORES – Vivian Gould – The Southern Shores Candidates' Forum was held on October 3 at the Pitts Center. The facility has a seating capacity of 100. All seats were filled, and about 20 folding chairs were set up to accommodate the rest of the attendees. Mayoral candidates Tom Bennett, Susan Dineen, George Kowalski, and Gary McDonald attended as did Leo Holland, unopposed candidate for Town Council. Lin Logan did a superb job as moderator. Other League members assisting were Paula Donaghy, Dru Ferrence, Pay Hayward, Nancy Proctor, and Annette Ratenberger. The questions were pertinent and varied. The candidates all were well prepared, and everyone came away much more informed.

KITTY HAWK – Lin Logan – There was no forum in this town as the incumbents were running unopposed and requested that no event be held.

KILL DEVIL HILLS – Mary Ellen Hawthorne – Four candidates attended, three for town council and one, unopposed, for mayor. One candidate declined to participate. There were approximately 30 attendees including League members, an average attendance for KDH. There was a courteous exchange between the audience and the candidates. Dru Ferrence served as moderator, Lin Logan and Kaye White were screeners, Pay Haywood again served as timer, and Lori DiBernardo was the floor monitor. The forum was videotaped by the town and aired twice on Channel 20.

NAGS HEAD – Audrey Esposito – All seven candidates were present for the Nags Head forum, three mayoral and four town commissioners. There were approximately 50 in the audience including LWV members. Nancy Proctor moderated, Carole Burchett and Geri Sullivan screened questions, Pay Hayward was the timer, and Lori Williams, Carole Kimmel and Barbara Mercado signed in the audience and took question cards. The forum was taped by the town and appeared on Government Access Channel 20 on October 11th and 12th at 7:00 p.m. as well as being streamed on the web via Dare County site. Neil Keller of the Outer Banks Sentinel was reporting the event.

MANTEO – Marion Midgett – Three candidates participated, one notified LWV as not attending, and two did not show without notification. There were approximately 35 in attendance including LWV members. There were sufficient questions for one hour with some being posed by LWV. Kaye White was the moderator; Robert Perry, Jane Welch, Vanzolla McMurrans-Smith, and Martha McFadden served as assistants. Pat Hayward did her usual great responsibility as timekeeper.

Mary Ellen Hawthorne: The League is pleased with the results of the 2013 Municipal Election Forums. We thank the Town Administrations for their cooperation in allowing the use of the town halls, for the towns that agreed to provide staff for taping the event, and especially the candidates who participated in the events. We also express our appreciation to Audrey Esposito for collecting the materials that were printed in the Coastland Times, and the Sentinel as well as on the OB Voice as a Voters Guide. And, of course, a big thank you to all the League members who worked the forums! This is what we do and do so well.



**BRING A FRIEND TO THE
DARE COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND AUCTION**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 6, 2013
11:30**

DUCK WOODS COUNTRY CLUB

\$20.00

Menu

Soup: Pear & Sweet Potato Bisque

Entree:

- 1) Chicken Breast stuffed With Cranberries & Walnuts, Herbed Rice Pilaf, Spiced Brandy Jus, and Broccoli**
OR
2) Sicilian style Winter Veggie Ragout over Farfalle Pasta Topped w/ Ricotta Salata

Dessert: Mini Snowballs

Rolls and Butter

Cash Bar (Bloody Marys, Mimosas & Wine)

**DON'T FORGET YOUR SILENT
AUCTION DONATION**
**Call Lin Logan for reservations and food
choice by**

**Friday November 25, 2013
480-2866**

Surveying the School Scene

By Marion W. Midgett, education chair

The Dare County Board of Education met for regular meetings on September 10 at First Flight High School and on October 8 at Manteo Elementary. The following covers highlights of those meetings and additional notes about workshop/special meetings held from May 31 through August 6, 2013.

NOTES ON SPECIAL MEETINGS

The Board continued study and planning of the Manteo Elementary one-story addition (see July newsletter). The members addressed design and cost issues and met with the County Commissioners to request funding of \$3 million which was later approved.

Part of the plan was to remove the “old gym”, a WPA building on the MES campus which was for many years home to the Dare County Alternative School. After approval by the Town of Manteo in July to go ahead with demolition in 90 days, the Board was approached in August by the Manteo Preservation Trust asking that the Board save the old building. A committee met with the Trust four times but eventually rejected the group’s proposals. The building was demolished on October 5. Reporting for the Board, member Bea Basnight said, “The decision was in the best interest of the children.”

While the “WPA building” issue received much attention, the important thing to know is that MES will be getting eight long needed new classrooms during the 2014-2015 year alleviating the current very crowded conditions.

Other meetings were held to reorganize the Board (elect Chair and Vice Chair) and to fill the opening created by the resignation of Anthony Fletcher representing District 4 (Hatteras Island). Sproul and Cahoon were re-elected. Daniel C. Couch was appointed to finish Fletcher’s term ending June 30, 2014.

RECOGNITIONS

At both sessions, several individuals, staff members, students, and support department staffs were recognized.

INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

In September, the FFH Journalism Education students showed through a student-produced video and in-person explanations how they use multi-media to create their award winning Nighthawk News print and on-line newspapers and stand-up video news broadcasts. This year they are using new equipment purchased with a \$3,000 grant from Charter Education, Channel 19.

REPORTS AND BUSINESS

September – Superintendent Burgess presented an Opening of Schools report. This will be sampled in the next newsletter.

October – Under new business, Dr. Burgess presented the first reading of the Dare Schools Strategic Plan for 2013-2018. This also will be covered in the next newsletter, pending approval by the Board.

The Elementary and Secondary Directors presented the first reading of individual School Improvement Plans.

Dr. Burgess presented for a first reading the revisions to policies about collections, solicitations, and fund-raising activities, plus fund-raising request from revisions.



LWV – Dare
P.O. Box 689
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949
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 Janet Jordan

Board Members: Mary Ellen Hawthorne

(2013-2014) Marion Midgett

Geri Sullivan

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.