



## The **VOTER** NEWSLETTER

### NOVEMBER 2015

#### Mark Your Calendar!

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| November 3        | <b>Election Day</b>   |
| November 6        | <b>First Friday Hot Topic Luncheon</b> , Black Pelican Restaurant, Noon.<br>Speaker: Lynn Bryant, HOTLINE; Lin Logan <a href="mailto:loganedd@charter.net">loganedd@charter.net</a> |
| November 14       | <b>“Around the World” Wine &amp; Cheese Pairing</b> Fundraiser, Trio, 5PM.<br>\$25 PP. Lorelei DiBernardo <a href="mailto:ltd32@charter.net">ltd32@charter.net</a>                  |
| November 18       | LWV Board Meeting, KDH Town Hall Meeting Rm, 10AM <i>(members welcome)</i>  |
| December 4        | <b>Annual Holiday Luncheon</b> , Duck Woods Country Club, 11:30AM.<br>Silent and Live Auctions; Nancy Birindelli <a href="mailto:bbirindelli@aol.com">bbirindelli@aol.com</a>       |
| January 20, 2016  | LWV Board Meeting, KDH Town Hall Meeting Rm, 10AM <i>(members welcome)</i>  |
| February 17, 2016 | LWV Board Meeting, KDH Town Hall Meeting Rm, 10AM <i>(members welcome)</i>  |
| February 2016     | Tentative Natural Resources Program; Details TBD  |
| March 9, 2016     | <b>“Integrative Medicine”</b> , Baum Center, 2PM. Speaker: Christina M Bowen, MD  |
| March 16, 2016    | LWV Board Meeting, KDH Town Hall Meeting Rm, 10AM <i>(members welcome)</i>  |
| April 2016        | Tentative Go-See Tour; Details TBD  |
| April 20, 2016    | LWV Board Meeting, KDH Town Hall Meeting Rm, 10AM <i>(members welcome)</i>  |
| May 4, 2016       | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wine &amp; Cheese Reception</b> at CSI, 4PM. Speaker: Robert McClendon; <b>Low Impact Development (LID)</b>  |
| May 18, 2016      | LWV Board Meeting, KDH Town Hall Meeting Rm, 10AM <i>(members welcome)</i>  |
| May 2016          | Annual Meeting and Luncheon; Details TBD  |

## Co-Presidents' Message

Hello Members! I'm sure that you are enjoying this beautiful time of year on the Outer Banks!

Election Day is right around the corner, so don't forget to vote on November 3<sup>rd</sup>!!!

We were busy with Voter Registration activity in September and set up registration information tables at local Post Offices, the KDH and Manteo Libraries, and at COA. See Audrey Esposito's summary article for the details.

This was followed by 2 weeks of Voter Forums in October in support of elections in all 6 of the incorporated towns. All 6 forums went very smoothly and in all we touched almost 400 Dare County residents during this busy time! Kudos to our Voter Services Co-Chairs, Mary Ellen Hawthorne and Lin Logan for a job well done!

→ We also thank all the assistants who volunteered to make the Voter Forums successful: Colleen Almoney, Ursula Bateman, Nancy Birindelli, Peggy Birkemeier, Carol Butscher, Arlene D'Agosto, Nancy D'Andrade, Lorelei DiBernardo, Tony DiBernardo, Paula Donaghy, Audrey Esposito, Dru Ferrence, Sandy Feyrer, John Gilson, Laura Gilson, Vivian Gould, Judy Justice, Fran Kapinos, Glenda Keel, Carole Kimmel, Joan Liston, Marion Midgett, Annette Ratzenberger, Andrea Schollaert, Colleen Shriver, Mary Jane Slesinski, Geri Sullivan, Jane Welch, Kaye White, & Lori Williams.

As you can see, it takes a village!!!

Our first **First Friday HOT TOPIC Luncheon** is on Friday, Nov 6 at the Black Pelican Restaurant at noon. See the article in this newsletter. Let Lin Logan [loganedd@charter.net](mailto:loganedd@charter.net) know if you are planning to attend.

Remember, we are sponsoring a **Wine & Cheese Pairing** fundraiser on Saturday, Nov 14, 2015, at 5pm upstairs at TRIO. For more details, see the article in this newsletter. Reserve your spot by contacting Lorelei DiBernardo [ltd32@charter.net](mailto:ltd32@charter.net).

And while you have your calendar out, reserve Friday, December 4 for our **Annual Holiday Luncheon and Auction** at Duck Woods Country Club. The fun starts at 11:30 and will feature both Silent and Live Auction offerings, as well as great food and conversation! Cost: \$20. Contact Nancy Birindelli [bbirindelli@aol.com](mailto:bbirindelli@aol.com) for your reservation.

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

### FINAL NOTICE -- HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP???

Please check your records. Have you renewed your membership in our League? For your convenience, a renewal form is included in 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.

Very soon we will be finalizing our list of members in the LWV of Dare. I would hate to drop your name from our roster (and from the roster of the LWV of US and LWV of NC).

**Submitted by Lori Williams, Membership Chair**

## First Friday Hot Topic Luncheon on November 6th

League members plus guest are invited to our First Friday Hot Topic (FFHT) Luncheon on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Black Pelican Restaurant. This year we are enhancing our First Friday Luncheons with a speaker to talk to us about a local concern or resource.

Our first FFHT luncheon speaker will be Lynn Bryant, Executive Director of the Outer Banks Hotline Crisis Intervention and Prevention Center. The work that Hotline provides is important to our community and to Health Care issues, in general. I asked her to provide us with a status and update on their Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs as well as their prevention initiatives. I have heard her speak before and she is an excellent and impassioned advocate for the victims of this (mostly) Women's Health Issue.

We will order off the menu, and as we conclude our meal, Lynn will begin her presentation. Lynn will be accompanied at this event by Michael Lewis, who works closely with her at Hotline.

Please RSVP to Lin Logan at [loganedd@charter.net](mailto:loganedd@charter.net) as Lin will be taking the reservations for this event.

## Wine & Cheese Pairing on November 14th

The Dare County LWV is planning a Wine & Cheese Pairing fundraiser for Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 5pm. Attendees will travel "Around the World" tasting wines from North America, Europe, and the Southern Hemisphere. The event will be held upstairs at TRIO in Kitty Hawk, and all LWV members plus a guest are invited to attend. The cost is \$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. Seating is limited so email Lorelei DiBernardo at [ltd32@charter.net](mailto:ltd32@charter.net) to reserve space for you and your guest! You may pay at the event.

## Observer Corp Program

The Dare County LWV is planning to reactivate an Observer Corp Program. An Observer Program is designed as a structured way to enhance knowledge of local government, to learn about the issues facing the community, and to increase transparency and accountability of government, all of which are historically vital goals of the League! 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.

We are interested in establishing an Observer Corp for the Dare County Board of Elections & 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**

## Dare Leaguers Participate in Voter Registration Drives

On September 9<sup>th</sup> and September 22, National Voter Registration Day Dare League members registered new voters at the local libraries, College of the Albemarle, Hot Line in Manteo, Dare Center, Manteo, and had permission to sign up voters at the local post offices. Glenda Keel, Marion Midgett and Audrey Esposito coordinated the effort and gathered a worthy group of League volunteers: Peggy Birkemeier, Fran Kapinos, Annette Ratzenberger, Nancy Birindelli, Barbara Becker, Jane Welch, Marty Hamed, Roy Hiller, Colleen Oaksmith, Nancy Proctor, Lorelei DiBernardo, Courtney Gallop, Lynn Benna, Mary Ann Remer, Gail Sonnesso.

For over 95 years the League has been protecting the rights of citizens to vote and encouraging citizen participation. Our League carries on the tradition and will be registering new voters in the coming months in preparation for the 2016 elections.

Hats off to all the terrific League volunteers for a job well done!

**Submitted by Audrey Esposito**

### News from the State Board (LWVNC)

I was recently elected to the State Board of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina (LWVNC). There is a lot going on in North Carolina and I will try to keep you informed on some of our activities.

LWVNC is working with Times Warner cable to partner in the upcoming candidate forums for the primaries for NC Governor and Senator.

LWVNC, along with 30 other State Leagues, signed on to public comments sent by the LWVUS to the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Science Advisory Board on Assessment of Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water.

As the environmental liaison for the NC LWV Board, I attended a conference in New Bern sponsored by the NC Coastal Federation (Shaping Our Economic Future: Offshore Drilling in NC). It was a very well run conference with excellent informative presentations on varied aspects of offshore drilling off North Carolina including past history of drilling, economics, and biological and physical impacts. There were attendees from many NC coastal communities. Our local area was well represented in the audience as well as among speakers (Willo Kelly from the Outer Banks Homebuilders and Realtors Associations and Lee Nettles from the Outer Banks Visitors' Bureau.)

There is very good information about offshore drilling and other NC environmental issues at:  
[www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)      [www.coastalreview.org](http://www.coastalreview.org)      [www.dontddrillnc.org](http://www.dontddrillnc.org)

**Submitted by Lori Williams, LWVNC State Board Member**

## Fundraising

This time of each fiscal year, there is a flurry of activity about monetary issues.

Dues requests are being finalized. The per member payment (PMP) is made to LWV-NC and LWV-US. Both of these payments have been made. Our membership number is at 77.

The **Citizens Guide** solicitations for donations have been sent, and funding is being received from local businesses, towns and the county. Our Citizens Education Foundation (CEF), the tax-exempt organization, is the recipient of those donations. When the Citizens Guide is printed, the bill is paid from those tax-exempt funds. Our balance is now about \$5,000 with several large donors' contributions still pending. The Citizens Guide costs about \$4,000 to print.

The **Belk Charity Day Sale** raises funds for our LWV twice a year. This fall the sale is on Saturday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. Tickets were sent to members to be purchased at \$5.00 each. The buyer then takes the ticket(s) to Belk for the sale to purchase items with very deep discounts. LWV receives approximately \$600 per sale.

The **Holiday Luncheon** is on the horizon – December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Duck Woods Country Club. As you are aware, there is a silent auction and a live auction. For the silent auction, members are requested to provide an item (a creative basket, a gently used treasure, or something that is just gathering dust at your house but would be a valuable asset in someone else's home, or anything that a member believes would be sellable). The silent auction takes place prior to the luncheon. Following lunch, the fun begins with Tony DiBernardo serving as the auctioneer to solicit bids from members on the large array of donated items from local businesses. This event has been very popular for the past three years. The combined revenue from these two auctions is about \$2,500.

With the successful fundraising activities that have taken place, the Board has decided to keep the cost of the Holiday Luncheon at \$20.00 for members. A members-only wine and cheese will be held at the Coastal Studies Institute in May at no cost. And the most important part is that the annual dues have remained at \$50 for many years due to the generosity of the members in the various fundraising efforts.

Thank you for your past and future contributions.

**Submitted by Nancy Birindelli, Treasurer**

## Gun Violence Prevention Roundtable / League Action Group

The Orange-Durham-Chatham (ODC) Counties league has asked us if anyone in our League chapter would be interested in participating in this Action Group Roundtable Team. The team is working on ways to prevent gun violence and has partnered with 2 organizations (*North Carolinians Against Gun Violence* and *Moms Demand Action*), to generate awareness and interest and to influence the NC Legislature on this topic. If you have an interest in this type of advocacy or would like to learn more, contact Lorelei DiBernardo [ltd32@charter.net](mailto:ltd32@charter.net) and she will share your name and contact information with the ODC team leader.

## Surveying the School Scene

The Dare County Board of Education met on September 8 and October 13, 2015 for regular sessions. They met at First Flight High and First Flight Middle respectively. The Board tours each school the day of the meeting where they interact with teachers and students. At each session the BOE hears recognitions; hosts students and their teachers during “instructional highlights” segments; deals with routine agenda and business items; and hears reports presented by the superintendent, other staff, or the board attorney who attends each meeting.

The following briefly covers a report presented by the superintendent in September. Superintendent Burgess presented a Summary Accountability Report of Dare Schools performance in the 2014—2015 North Carolina’s Standardized Testing Program.

- Program now known as READY (formerly called ABCs)
- Tests measured 2 ways:
  - Achievement* (formerly “proficiency”)--percentage of students on or above grade level
  - Growth*—percentage of students who made at least one year’s worth of expected academic progress

The results follow a new curriculum (all subjects, all grades) instituted three years ago featuring more rigorous material and advanced concepts that were pushed down to lower grades, creating learning gaps; and new higher cut scores.

- Lower test results were registered statewide beginning in 2013, the first year of the new curriculum.
- From the beginning, Dare’s scores dropped, but beat the state average across the board:

|         |              | 2012           | 2013           |
|---------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sample: | Grade 4 Math | Dare/93, NC/87 | Dare/54, NC/49 |
|         | Grade 5 Math | Dare/90, NC/83 | Dare/54, NC/50 |
|         | Grade 6 Math | Dare/87, NC/81 | Dare/53, NC/41 |

- Elementary and Middle Schools are accountable for EOGs (end of grade tests) given to grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 in reading, math, and science (grades 5 and 8)
- High Schools are accountable for EOCs (end of course tests) given to Math I (algebra), Biology, and English II (10<sup>th</sup> grade) students.
- Other High School Accountability Factors are used: ACT scores, Math III pass rate, on time graduation rate, and Work Keys (Career & Tech) scores
- New State Accountability System (first used for 2013—2014):
  - A—F Letter Grades* for evaluation of individual Schools (replaces former recognition system—excellence, distinction, progress, etc.)

15 Point Scale used:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 85– 100 | A |
| 70 – 84 | B |
| 55 – 69 | C |
| 40 – 54 | D |
| 0 – 39  | F |

## Surveying the School Scene (cont'd)

School performance grades were established by the general assembly; 14 states use letter grades for schools; all 14 states calculate differently.

- NC School Performance letter Grades are based on:  
80%--*Achievement* (as measured by EOGs/EOCs)  
20%--*Academic Growth* (see above)

Weighting achievement scores more heavily than academic growth adversely affects schools with higher numbers of:

- Economically disadvantaged students (Dare=44%)
- At risk students
- Disabled students
- English Language Learners (formerly English as a Second Language students; Dare=6.7% or 325 students)

The Dept. of Public Inst. and *The News and Observer* have noted the high correlation between letter grades and poverty levels.

- Overall Dare School Performance Grades:

--- B's – 50% of Dare schools

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| First Flight HS | 80 |
| Kitty Hawk ES   | 79 |
| Manteo HS       | 76 |
| Nags Head ES    | 75 |
| First Flight ES | 71 |

--- C's – 50% of Dare Schools

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Cape Hatteras ES | 67 |
| Manteo MS        | 63 |
| First Flight MS  | 63 |
| Cape Hatteras SS | 56 |
| Manteo ES        | 55 |

- Dare Schools Performance Grades compared to the rest of NC:

| Grade | Dare | NC  |
|-------|------|-----|
| A     |      | 6%  |
| B     | 50%  | 24% |
| C     | 50%  | 42% |
| D     |      | 22% |
| F     |      | 6%  |

- Individual school report cards are posted on district/school websites and sent home to parents
- What the schools are doing to raise low performance:
  - Intervention programs using daily tutors (begun last year) and summer reading camp
  - In addition, there will be strategy planning and identification of indicators of success as well as monitoring of progress by teachers and principals.
  - External resources will be used, e.g., Dept. of Public Inst. and Meredith College Math Institute consultants and presenters, and math workshop/NERESA to be hosted by Dare Schools.

**Submitted by Marion Midgett, Education Director**



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 tax deductible 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/assist our league?**

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