



The *VOTER* NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

Co-President's Message

Hello Members! Spring is here and so is the last Co-Presidents' Message that I (Mary Jane) will write. It has been an honor to serve as your Co-President for such a long time, four years, but who's counting?

We have had a busy two months.

- At the Hot Topic Lunch on March 4, Susan Smith, from the **Beach Food Pantry**, told us about the mission of the Food Pantry and about their new facility in the old Max's Bagels store. They are always looking for donations and volunteers. Stop in and see them when you are going past.
- On March 9, we had a very informative explanation of "**Integrative Medicine**" with Dr. Christina Bowen. We had a large turnout and everyone enjoyed hearing about this 'holistic' approach to wellness.
- The Hot Topic Lunch speaker in April was Holly Meekins, Dare County **Home Health and Hospice Services**. This group provides so many more services than we realize. Please contact them if you ever have home health care issues.
- On April 20, Dee Lees-Shepard, PhD, discussed and demonstrated "**Therapeutic Yoga.**" This licensed branch of yoga is designed to improve overall wellness and is particularly useful for those with limited mobility. All attendees left very relaxed and refreshed after participating in gentle seated yoga exercises.

But the best is yet to come!

On Wednesday, May 4 we have the **3rd Annual LWV Wine & Cheese Reception** at the Coastal Studies Institute in Skyco. Robert McClendon, Sustainable Design Specialist, will discuss **Low Impact Development** (LID) and application for the Outer Banks. LID's goal is to mimic a site's pre-development hydrology by using techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate and retain water runoff close to its source. There is no charge for LWV members and a guest. Lorelei DiBernardo is taking reservations. Let her know if you plan to attend by email LTD32@charter.net today!

Don't forget to also make your reservations for the **Annual Meeting and Luncheon** at Kelly's Restaurant and Tavern on Friday, May 13 at 11:30. We will be installing the new Board Members and our guest speaker will be Paul N. Tine (Independent), a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Call Nancy Birindelli (261-3915) for reservations. You may pay (\$20) at the door. Bring a friend!

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so ASAP! The form is included in this newsletter or can be printed from our website http://www.lwvdarenc.org/join_form.html.

Submitted by Mary Jane Slesinski

Special Primary Election: June 7, 2016

As you already know, the Congressional Districts were redrawn in North Carolina just before the Primary Elections on March 15. This all came down too late for the ballots to be reprinted and the voting machines reprogrammed. Therefore, the results for the candidates for the US House of Representatives from North Carolina were discarded.

There will be a special primary for these candidates. Again, this includes only candidates for the two major parties. Voters registered as Democrats or Republicans must vote only for the candidates on the ballot for their party. Voters registered as Unaffiliated may request either ballot.

There will be only one site for early voting, the Dare County Administration Building in Manteo. On Election Day, June 7, you will vote at your designated polling place. Details are reproduced from the Dare County Board of Election website below:

- Congressional Primary Election: June 7, 2016; 6:30 AM - 7:30 PM
- Mail-in Absentee Voting Begins: April 18
- One Stop Voting Begins: Thursday May 26 - Friday June 3; 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Closed Monday May 30 Memorial Day
Tuesday May 31 - Friday June 3; 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday June 4; 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

SITE #1 - DARE COUNTY Administration Building - Board of Elections Office

954 Marshall C Collins Dr Manteo NC 27954

These are the candidates from District 3 for the June 7th Primary Election:

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 3	DEM	David Allan Hurst
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 3	DEM	Ernest T. Reeves
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 3	REP	Phil Law
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 3	REP	Taylor Griffin
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 3	REP	Walter B. Jones

Submitted by Mary Jane Slesinski



Poll Monitors for the 2016 Primary Election

Co-President Lorelei DiBernardo, Secretary Glenda Keel, Marion Midgett, Colleen Oaksmith, and Audrey Esposito attended a Poll Monitor Training under the direction of Bob Hall from Democracy North Carolina. NAACP, IGNITE NC, and Common Cause were co-sponsors for this effort. The training, in Elizabeth City, prepared Leaguers for participation in working outside the polling place as a non-partisan individual helping “all voters and making sure that the law as it is works for everyone.”

On Primary Day Audrey, Lorelei, and Glenda were stationed at Southern Shores polling site, while Marion and Colleen were at the Manteo site. The hours covered were from 6:30 a.m. to poll closing. Voter experiences were documented, including problems. Well over 300 exit surveys for UNC-Charlotte research were handed out to voters as they exited the polls. If necessary, a Help Hotline staffed by attorneys and voting rights experts was available if the voter experienced a problem voting. Incidents were documented by poll monitors.

There were 700 poll monitors across the state on Primary Day. The information gathered is being studied and the results of issues compiled in preparation for the General Election 2016. Plans are to have poll monitors again throughout the state on November 8th, 2016. Hopefully some of the problems encountered by voters in the primary will be eliminated as a result of this research.

Submitted by Audrey Esposito



LWV-North Carolina Council Meeting: April 29 & 30

I just returned from the LWV-North Carolina Council meeting, which was held in Wilmington NC this year. This 2 day event was jam-packed with speakers, workshops & caucuses. Topics included the environmental issues facing NC, Voter Registration and Voter Forum success stories, provocative presentations on the state of public education in NC, as well as on the perceived overreach of the state into the decision making and policies of local municipalities.

Overall I found the event both educational and inspirational! It was also a wonderful opportunity to meet women and men from various parts of NC (including 5 other Dare County members) who are active in their local LWV chapters. If any of you have an interest in attending next year's session, I would highly recommend it!

Submitted by Lorelei DiBernardo

Summer Time: Be Safe Be Vigilant

Summer at the Outer Banks is a wonderful time for residents and visitors. With our beautiful beaches easily accessible and our proximity to sound side water sports, extended time out in the sun is high on many people's to do list. This is also time for many of us to focus on outdoor entertainment and take advantage of the fresh fruits and vegetables available from many of our local farmers. Who doesn't enjoy fresh corn on the cob or fresh picked strawberries and tomatoes to go with those grilled hamburgers and hotdogs!

It should not be a surprise to our readers about the debates currently on-going concerning our toxic food, (GMO, pesticide residues, lack of nutrients) and the other environmental impacts, (fluoride in the water, toxins in plastics, BPA in cash register receipts), that we all encounter in our everyday lives. Many people feel as if there isn't anything they can do, but in today's world there are many, many resources available to education and inform the average person. This information enables you to become more effective in your purchasing decisions and allows you an opportunity to purchase only those products that you believe are consistent with the way you want to live your life.

One key source you should visit on a regular basis is the Environmental Working Group web site <http://www.ewg.org>. They are well respected and provide many consumer guides for free. If you have never visited the EWG web-site now may be an appropriate time to familiarize yourself with their testing activities, read the consumer guides, and use them to guide your activities this summer.

Below is an excerpt from their website -

The Environmental Working Group's mission is to empower people to live healthier lives in a healthier environment. With breakthrough research and education, we drive consumer choice and civic action. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment.

They publish many guides assessing the health risks of many products that you and I use. Pesticides residue in fruits and vegetables is just one of many guides that you should be aware of. They publish a list of the dirty dozen fruit and vegetables and update that every year.

Another important guide lists the best and worst sunscreens, bug repellents and bottled waters. Since summer time is all about having fun and enjoying life, take the time now to read these guides so you are informed when you go to CVS and see the shelves of sunscreen, or you enter the local markets and determine whether you should spend that extra money to buy organic. Your health, your family's health, is so important to enjoying a full life. In today's world there is so much conflicting information it's good to know you can go to a trusted source to make informed decisions. Enjoy the summer.

Submitted by Lynda Burek, Health Director

Observer Corp Report

The Observer Corp team has recently added a new member: Welcome Barbara Becker! Members attended the Dare Co Board of Commissioners (BOC) meetings in March and April and here are some of the highlights:

- In March it was announced that the Dare County Standard & Poor's bond rating was upgraded from AA to AA+, which is certainly a positive reflection on Dare County's financial processes.
- A proposal from an external firm was approved by the commissioners for conducting a Compensation study of Dare County employees. The study should be completed by September 2016.
- In April a Public Hearing was held to obtain public input on the proposed Service District for the oceanfront properties in the Buxton beach nourishment area, which involves 35 properties. No strong objections were heard and many who spoke support the action.
- A 2015 state law which prohibits local governments from regulating building design elements for one & two family structures will require changes to the Dare Co Zoning Ordinance and a public meeting will be held on this topic in May.
- A remote link between the BOC meetings and the Fessenden Center in Hatteras is targeted to be up and running for Public Comments starting in May.
- Dewey Hemilright, a commercial fisherman, made an educational presentation (PSA) on "gassed fish". He reported that carbon monoxide is used as a fish preservative by the seafood industry which extends the bright color of the fish artificially and masks the age of the fish. Although Canada, Japan, and the European Union have banned the practice it is still prevalent in the US. He asked the BOC (and the general public) that when purchasing fish to ask for "wild caught natural" fish ... Ask if it is "gassed" ... And to ask for local caught fish.

Submitted by Lorelei DiBernardo

Board of Elections Report

Audrey Esposito attended the Dare County Board of Elections meeting on March 29, 2016.

Since Chair Donna Elms was absent, the Board decided to table in depth discussion of the Primary Election. Carole Warnecki indicated there was a heavy voter turnout, but believed there were no major problems.

Recount Results: David Twiddy was declared winner: 4484 votes; Brandy Foreman 4436.

Submitted by Audrey Esposito

Board of Education Report

The Dare County Board of Education met on March 8, and April 12, 2016 for regular sessions. They also met for Budget workshops on April 19 and April 26, 2016.

At both regular meetings the Board handled routine business matters such as: revised policies concerning discipline policies for student athletes, a revised student code of conduct, a revised policy relating to employment of relatives, the End-of-Year Remediation Plan, revisions to the Use of School Facilities policy, and revisions to the policy regarding the Board's and District's relationship/contract with the school attorney.

One business matter of note was the new Dare School's *Renewal and Non-Renewal of Teachers on Term Contracts* policy. This follows the General Assembly's elimination of career status (aka tenure) in 2013 and confusing and unpopular rules for rewarding teachers since then. In April the BOE approved the local policy which includes provisions that mitigate the impact of the loss of career status for teachers who have a proven record of proficient performance over a number of years.

A second business matter of note in April was the Superintendent's presentation of the 2016—2017 Proposed Budget. The total District budget amount is \$55,018,772, with a local appropriation of \$21.1 million. The figures represent a 2.04 percent increase over the operating budget for the current year. In March the Board received the 2014—2015 audit report from a representative of their accounting firm. The rating given was "unqualified" which is the highest rating. The auditor praised the increase in the rainy-day fund balance which grew by \$600,000 to \$800,000. The projected amount for next year is \$900,000.

Also in March, Sue Burgess and Trip Hobbs presented to the Board a report about the "College Now" concept that staff has been planning and researching for several years. The initiative is based on the "Early College" model, but with changes. One of which is that instead of requiring five high school years to complete, this program would start in eighth grade. COA would be the college partner. There would be tuition free college classes for CTE (career and technical educ.), associate's degree, and transfer pathway courses. It's important to note that "College Now" is still a concept which has not been finalized.

BOE Election Results

The 'One and Done' Election was on March 15, 2016

The successful candidates who will assume office on July 1, 2016 are as follows:

District 1—Bea Basnight (incumbent)

District 2—Ben Sproul (incumbent)

District 4—Mary Ellon Balance, Hatteras

District 5—David Twiddy, Roanoke Island

See League Election Info handout or Citizens Guide for district designations/ boundaries.

Submitted by Marion W. Midgett, Education Chair



League of Women Voters of Dare County
Membership Renewal Form - 2016-2017

ANNUAL DUES

Individual membership: \$ 50
Household membership: \$ 75
Amount enclosed (checks payable 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