

April VOTER



April, 2011



League of Women Voters Lower Cape Fear ,serving Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, and Onslow counties

Hot Topics

The Hot Topic at our luncheon on April 25 will be "War on Water?". Kemp Burdette will speak on several topics affecting the water quality of the Lower Cape Fear Basin including the existing regulations that are currently being reviewed in our state legislature. Kemp is the River Keeper of Cape Fear River Watch Inc. The luncheon begins at 11:30 at McAlister's Deli on South College Rd, Wilmington. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

Welcome

: We extend a big welcome to new member Laura Glover! Jane Bolton and designated "ambassadors" will be welcoming guests and new members at our Hot Topics lunch on March 28 and from now on at our League events.

Would you like to get more involved with the League? The Membership Committee invites you to volunteer as we work to accomplish our goals. Opportunities involving

small to larger amounts of your time are available. Please call Carol Roberts, 910-547-6161, for ideas that you might like to consider

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FACE TO FACE:

A very successful "Face to Face with Your Legislators" was held Sunday, February 27, 2011, at Government Center in Wilmington with between two and three hundred citizens making their way among the assembled representatives. Each one of the legislators seemed to be kept busy, with plenty of people to talk with them, and all left with great bunches of "input sheets" which were used to identify people and their issues. Mr. McIntyre stayed long past the time when most others had left and talked to every single person who came to see him.

The fifth of its kind, this was the first time we tried the meetings on a Sunday afternoon, thus swinging away from the "Breakfast" idea that we had used the previous four years. Last July, when we wondered at the Planning Session what we should call the event since it was no longer breakfast, Sandra Sink immediately came up with the "Face to Face with Your Legislators" as a moniker and it fit nicely.

The refreshments were popular, but of course, people are not as hungry in the afternoon as in the morning. We used the space a little more effectively and were only disappointed in the legislative no-shows. We can see ways to make more improvements for next year.

Sincere thanks to all our Leaguers who helped and who attended. The Board is called upon to do help most of all and should be much appreciated. We'll take volunteers right now for anyone else who wants to be involved!

--Audrey Albrecht, Event Chair

PRIORITIES ON ISSUES:

Our League has several official positions that we have developed in the last few years which appear on our website. (Click on "Advocacy.") For our members at the recent Face to Face event, we prepared a summary of some of the issues that

League members could refer to in talking with our North Carolina representatives and our U.S. Representative.

2011 Priorities at the state level include:

Health Care

The League supported the passage of the recent health care bill by the US Congress and oppose a NC challenge to the law.

Campaign and election reform

We continue to support the check-off and voter-owned elections to include the public financing of judicial and council of state offices.

We are against the additional requirement of a photo identification for voters at the polls.

Environment

Locally, we have a position against the Titan installation of Carolina Cement and would like to intensify air standards.

Access to Government

We continue to work for openness in government and easy access to government documents and meetings.

Tax and Budget Fairness

NC tax codes have not been revised in some years. We think the system needs a complete overhaul with an eye to where the burden falls. We have generally opposed sales taxes.

Redistricting

We believe that citizens should be part of devising new voting districts; that this should not be done solely by legislators.

Grassroots Lobbying Tips

1. To help direct your comments, know the Bill number and Printer's number , (see below)
2. Know the title of the Bill
3. Adding the effect that the Bill would have in your community personalizes your request.
4. In a letter- address to the Honorable... and Dear Representative
5. In the letter
 - a. Introduce yourself by residence, occupation, or community position.
 - b. Identify the bill
 - c. State your position
 - d. Be specific as to why it is your position
 - e. Thank the Senator/Representative for his/her attention
6. By e-mail
 - a. avoid attachments, write directly into the body of the e-mail
 - b. on the subject line, put the Bill number, Printer's number and position
 - c. Use a formal format
 - d. Keep it shorter than a formal letter.

7.Resources

a. US Congress:

www.senate.gov

www.house.gov

b. NC General Assembly

www.ncga.state.nc.us

c. LWV

<http://www.lwv.org>

<http://rtpnet.org/lwvnc>

<http://bettergov.nc/lwvnet.or>

Project Vote Smart:

Non-partisan information on U.S. federal and state candidates, ballot measures, issues and legislation. Includes directory of national and state political ...

www.votesmart.org/

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President MacNamara, LWVUS urges Congress to oppose H.R.910 that will undermine the EPA, especially the clean air act.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE UNITED STATES

March 17, 2011

TO: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

FROM: Elisabeth MacNamara, President

RE: Oppose Stripping EPA of Regulatory Responsibility

The League of Women Voters urges you to oppose H.R. 910 and any other legislation that would undermine the Environmental Protection Agency's responsibility to limit health-threatening pollution. H.R. 910, introduced by Chairman Upton and passed by the Energy and Commerce Committee on March 15, would gut the Clean Air Act and overturn a Supreme Court decision by preventing EPA from regulating greenhouse gases.

For over forty years, the Clean Air Act has been successful in reducing dozens

of different air pollutants, thereby protecting the health and the environment of millions of Americans. For example, since 1990, the Clean Air Act has brought about a twenty-one percent average decrease in ground-level ozone, which is known to harm children, older adults and those with lung diseases, and a seventy percent decrease in carbon monoxide, which is known to harm those with heart or respiratory diseases as well as children and the elderly. Opponents of regulation have made claims that business is hurt and jobs are lost as a direct result of clean air regulations, but, in fact, Americans receive thirty dollars in economic benefits for every dollar spent.

By stopping EPA from regulating greenhouse gases from cars and trucks, H.R. 910 will force Americans to pay higher prices at the pump and increase our country's dependence on foreign oil. Standards on the books today will cut our dependence on foreign oil by about 1.8 billion barrels and save consumers \$3,000 over the lifetime of a vehicle, while keeping billions of dollars in the U.S. instead of sending them overseas to often-hostile regimes.

In passing the Clean Air Act, Congress wisely recognized that it's poorly equipped to make specific technical and scientific determinations. Instead, Congress set overall goals, including protecting public health, and EPA was given responsibility to work with the best scientists and engineers to review scientific data, monitor industrial processes, and develop appropriate controls. In the case of greenhouse gases, the Supreme Court has ratified this process. Bypassing it now would simply substitute raw politics for scientific expertise. The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to oppose H.R. 910. Our health and our economy depend on the Clean Air Act and the EPA's ability to enforce that law.

President
Elisabeth MacNamara