



The Lower Cape Fear Voter

Autumn 2013

The League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear
Serving Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, and Onslow Counties
www.lcflwv.org

Upcoming Events

October Hot Topic Luncheon

Brunswick County
Sherriff
McAllister's Deli
October 28
11:30am – 1:00pm

VIVA -Wine and Cheese

Temptations Café
October 30
5:00pm-7:00pm
(see page 3 for more info)

November Board Meeting

Temptations Café
November 11
5:00pm-7:00pm

November Hot Topic Luncheon

Immigration
McAllister's Deli
November 25
11:30am-1:00pm

December Holiday Social

Laura Glover's home
December 9
Time TBD

From the President...

Years ago, I was having a conversation with a woman about my involvement at a soup kitchen. She replied "I never knew poor people lived here. Why don't they just get a job"? I will never forget this conversation. Like many people in the US, she had blinders on her eyes. She didn't want to know about poverty. She did not want to be involved with different people. She just wanted to stay in her little safe world.

In the past weeks, it has become very clear there are many people living in the North Carolina suffering in poverty. Poor people can easily become invisible. We need to keep the poor in mind as we do the work of the League. We need to give them a voice or represent them when we speak out. Our State has done away with many safety nets that the poor rely on. We have seen them lose food stamps, health care, child care and senior programs. Many other programs have been eliminated or reduced. What will happen to the poor without help? Let's not forget that many working families are falling further and further behind despite their best efforts and also have come to rely on safety net programs. They are not "lazy" or "takers". They are simply trying to keep up.

It has been increasingly clear that there are vast differences between existing political parties as to the role Government should play in people's lives. Voting is the way we Americans choose between these differing philosophies. People can no longer sit on the sidelines on Election Day and allow others to decide for them. We need to get out the vote for every election from local to state to federal. We must lead the way by continuing to educate every voter as to the importance of deciding our own futures.

-Chris Abrons, LWV-LCF Board President

Round Table Updates

The Lower Cape Fear League has created Round Tables to organize interested member's efforts on priority issues.

Immigration

The Immigration Roundtable met once in late August to discuss the issues that we want to approach on Immigration. We will be responsible for the November Hot Topics Program which will discuss the issue of the importance of allowing NC children of the undocumented to attend community college and state universities paying in state tuition. Currently these individuals must pay out of state tuition even though they have lived in NC for long periods. We also discussed the economic benefits of the passage of the present immigration bill in Congress though some group members do not believe this bill is the best it could be. There was also discussion on the contributions that religious groups may be making in the lobbying effort to get this bill passed. We invite any interested member of the League to join us at our next roundtable meeting which will be sometime the first week in October.

-Carole Ellis

Education

The Education Roundtable held its first meeting in September in the meeting room of Myrtle Grove Library with six members in attendance. Education is a subject that is a very hot topic and a subject undergoing scrutiny by many groups. We reviewed the goals of the Education Roundtable of LWV in the Piedmont Area and agreed that the necessary components of public education for all children are being challenged by poverty, funding and equity, privatization and resegregation of schools. We decided to invite a representative of an educational group to attend each meeting to discuss that particular group's focus and goals for students.

The safety of our students has become another issue of importance to all. How does a school system work toward that goal? A School Resource Officer from New Hanover County will be at our next meeting on October 17, to explain how SRO's will benefit our educational system.

Don Hayes, chairman of the New Hanover Schools Board of Education will be our guest at the November 21st meeting.

Our roundtable includes Jana Albritton, Barbara Brandes, Lois Fox, Blair Hurst, Maggie Parish, Nancy Pritchett, Carol Roberts and Anne Cousineau, chair. All members are not only welcome but encouraged to attend any of our meetings. Meetings will be the third Thursday of each month beginning at 1:30 and ending by 3:00 at Myrtle Grove Library.

-Anne Cousineau

Voter Registration

National Voter Registration Day & High School VRD Results 2013

08-30-13 Laney High School 224 registered

(September 01, 2013 preregistration repealed when VIVA became state law)

09-17-13 Ashley High 9 registered

09-23-13 Mosely PLC 6 registered

09-24-13 CFCC N & WECHS 6 registered

09-24-13 UNCW & IBECHS 1 registered

09-26-13 New Hanover High 3 registered

10-08-13 Hoggard High School 4 registered



Sheila Fellerath, Lois Fox, and Jana Albritton register voters at Hoggard High School

The results speak for themselves. The good news is we can begin registering young people after February 10, if 17 turning 18 by November 4, 2014. -Jana Albritton

Update on the Equal Rights Amendment

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

By targeting the women's right to vote this year, our NC legislature may have lit the fuse in the renewed grassroots push spreading rapidly across our state for passing an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

H.B. 589, the Voter Identification and Verification Act (VIVA) requires strict forms of photo ID assaulting a woman's right to vote as guaranteed by the 19th Amendment and thus undermining her ability to address every issue of inequality. VIVA impacts women substantially disproportionately within a pool of voters: *Women are 54% of all active registered voters, but 66% of the active registered voters without a NC photo ID.* <http://www.democracy-nc.org/downloads/NoIDDDataSheet.pdf>

Had we had an ERA, sex would be a constitutionally suspect classification putting women on a stronger legal footing to join those challenging VIVA on the grounds of suspect classification of race. Sex discrimination cases do not require the same high level of "strict scrutiny" nor have to meet the same high level of justification that the classification of race currently requires.

The ERA passed both houses of Congress in 1972 and was sent to the states for ratification. But, by the final deadline it had been ratified by only 35 states, falling [three states](#) short of the 38 required to put it into the Constitution. NC was one of the states that refused to ratify the ERA.

In 2013, fighting numerous assaults on women's rights, four U.S. Congressional joint resolutions bills were introduced to pass an ERA - S.J. Res. 10, H.J. Res. 56 for the traditional Article V ratification process and S.J. Res. 15, H.J. 43 for the "three-state strategy" to remove the time limit for ratification. Likewise, grassroots support is building for a state ERA to ensure that a women's right to vote and every other right that is her human due is fully constitutionally protected. To receive information on how to coordinate an ERA rally in your area contact Marena Groll, nc4era@gmail.com . Please visit <http://equalrightsamendment.org/> for more information on the ERA.

-Marena Groll

Halloween Horrors or NC Election Law after VIVA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 5:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

Temptations Cafe

Wine & Cheese by LWV; a la carte ordering option, if desired by guest.

Wear something Halloweeny!

Please join the League of Women Voters and our guest, North Carolina Center for Voter Education, a nonpartisan voter education organization, as they provide an educational presentation on the sweeping new North Carolina elections law that was passed by the legislature this year. They will focus on the voter ID requirement, along with changes to early voting and the elimination of same-day registration. Bring a friend!

Welcome to our new members!

Helen Jugovic

My name is Helen Jugovic. I am an immigration attorney based in Wilmington, NC since 2008. Originally from Illinois, I lived in Chicago before relocating to study law at Wake in 2003. I've had my own solo practice for a few years now, and spend a lot of time advocating for immigration reform. I'm married to Ante Tarokic, a Vox TV crew member from Croatia, and we have a beautiful baby girl (14 months old) named Adriana. My parents retired and live in Croatia. Ante was their next door neighbor on Island Pasman in Croatia, so I ended up marrying "the boy next door." I'm interested in university education and legal clinics and hope one day we'll see Wilmington have an immigration clinic open.

Sue-Ann L. Rush

Sue-Ann is originally from The Finger Lakes Area of Western New York State, and moved to the Wilmington area from Massachusetts with her husband Mike in 2004. Her professional career has included teaching 3rd grade and elementary physical education, Sales/Marketing and Instructor for American Airlines, Northern Telecom Corporate Customer Services Manager, Telecommunications Analyst/Consultant, Management Positions in Home Health Monitoring Systems, Volunteer Coordinator for New Hanover County Home Delivered Meals, and Coordinator for New Hanover County Elderly Transportation Services from which she retired in March of 2013.

The LWV appeals to Sue-Ann as it is a way of making a difference through education of voters, and assisting them in making informed decisions.

Carol Morris

Introduced to LWV's by long-time friend Lois Fox. Married 45 years to Ken Morris. 2 daughters. 6 grandchildren (5 boys 1 girl ages 15 to 6). Moved to Wilmington in 1979 for the first time while husband was stationed here with the US Coast Guard. Moved back here in 1986 and worked as a nurse in Home Health for close to 20 years. Retired from full time work as a nurse educator at NHRMC 4 years ago. Now work part time for UNCW as a clinical nursing instructor in community health. Volunteer Nurse at Cape Fear Clinic, a free clinic for people without insurance. Interested in working with the LWV's on education about the Affordable Care Act and voters' rights.

Christie Binzen

I moved to Wilmington from Vermont two years ago to help my son and his wife with their new baby and to live near the beach in warmer weather. I worked on the presidential campaign last fall, registering voters and going door to door. I am very concerned that legislation passed this spring by the NC legislature will result in decreasing voter turn-out. I joined the LWV specifically to help with voter registration and participation.

Donna Ringlestein

I am an RN of 42 years with a specialty in HIV nursing. My husband and I moved to Wilmington 1 year ago as 2 of our 4 children live in NC. I love politics - local, state, and national. I've always admired the fine work of the League. We are from Chicago, Illinois, home of the Cubs, the Bears, and the Blackhawks and lots of snow and cold.

Ann Parvin

I moved to the Southport area 7 years ago from New Jersey where I was an active member of the Moorestown Area League of Women Voters. Glad to see that there is a growing Brunswick County participation in this local League. The current direction of the NC legislature has prompted me to rejoin LWV efforts, especially in Voter Service. I retired from a job in Verizon Human Resources, and moved to Brunswick County to continue my husband's residential building company after he passed away in 2005. I closed that company but continue in a marketing job with another local builder, Southern Comfort Homes. I have been blessed as a first time grandmother this year, with baby Carianne living within babysitting distance!



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Serving New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, and
Onslow Counties
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Look for the Winter
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