



# The Lower Cape Fear Voter

Winter 2014

The League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear  
Serving Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, and Onslow Counties  
[www.lcflwv.org](http://www.lcflwv.org)

## Upcoming Events

### **February Board Meeting**

*Temptations Café*

February 10, 5:00pm-7:00pm

### **February Hot Topic Luncheon**

*Katrina Knight*

*Good Sheppard Center*

*McAllister's Deli*

February 24, 11:30am-1pm

### **March Board Meeting**

*Temptations Café*

March 10, 5:00pm-7:00pm

### **March Hot Topic Luncheon**

*ERA Ratification*

*McAllister's Deli*

March 24, 11:30am-1:00pm

### **April Board Meeting**

*Temptations Café*

April 14, 5:00pm-7:00pm

### **Contested Primary Party Forums**

*April-Dates TBD*

*See page 2 for more info...*

### **April Hot Topic Luncheon**

*Amy Feath, Carousel Center*

*McAllister's Deli*

April 28, 11:30am-1:00pm

### **LWVLCF 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon**

### **& Annual Meeting**

*May 17<sup>th</sup>*

*Madeline Suites UNCW*

## **From the President...**

North Carolina is not a paradise for the poor.

No child desires to grow up poor. No person wishes to grow up to be homeless or hungry. No one wants to spend their short life on earth mentally ill or disabled or addicted to drugs. But the fact is many are trapped in an endless cycle. These are the people who need our help. There are many Federal and State programs to support their lives. However, North Carolina has not been in a very generous mood. Programs that helped the disadvantaged have disappeared. Some programs have been cut but others are lost in a new malfunctioning multimillion dollar computer system.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or food stamps has been held hostage by a new computer system. SNAP is used by 1.7 million North Carolinians. Families with children make up about 2/3 of the recipients. Other recipients include the elderly, disabled adult, veterans and those with emergency needs such as displaced persons from natural disasters. The computer problems have slowed the delivery of benefits to over 30,000 applicants. All of these delays have caused a strain on local food banks and soup kitchens. NC has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest level of food insecurity in the US.

Since North Carolina has been unable to fix the computer mess, the Federal Government has sent two warning letters to pull federal funding. This funding is to be used for the distribution system. This funding is needed to fix the computer system. Any loss would delay the processing system even more. To date, the Department of Health and Human Services has not fixed the system. We must work to stop the hemorrhage of benefits to those who need them.

North Carolina is not a paradise for the poor. Indeed, NC is a state that is not fulfilling its duty to provide food, health care and support to all.

-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.**

*We heard from the Education, Immigration, and Voter Services Roundtables in the last edition of The Lower Cape Fear Voter. Following are updates from Health Care, Women's Issues, and Environment.*

### Health Care:

The Health Care Roundtable is need of leadership. Please contact Chris Abrons if you are interested.

### Women's Issues:

LWVLCF Women's Issues Roundtable held their introductory meeting on Tuesday November 19, 2013 at McAlister's Deli. The group discussed what the overview and focal points should be for the roundtable, and decided upon: reproductive rights, sex trafficking, women in government leadership, mothering, and ERA ratification. We are hoping to stay current on information and news surrounding these topics. The Women's Issues Roundtable has coordinated the March and April Hot Topic presentations, with ERA Ratification with guest speaker Marena Groll scheduled for March, and Amy Feath, the Executive Director for the Carousel Center for Abused Children, scheduled for April.

### Environment:

A new Roundtable on the environment was added to the League's roundtables at the January Board Meeting. Maggie Parish has volunteered to take the lead. Anyone willing to participate in the Roundtable for the Environment, please let Maggie know of your interest.

### Save the Date!

## LWVLCF's 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting & 40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Ticket Price: \$30

Madeline Suites, UNCW Campus

*Program and Speaker to be determined*

### Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Contested Primary Party Forums

Forums for the May Primary elections in the Federal Offices (Congress), State Offices- (House and Senate), and local Offices (Commissioners, Board of Education, and Sheriff) will be held in April. The forum schedule will be announced after filing ending 2/28/14.

Moderated by Jon Evans, WECT/Fox Wilmington

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear, and WECT/Fox Wilmington.

Thank you to New Hanover County Senior Resource Center for hosting the forums.

## Voter Registration Update

### Board of Elections Observation:

*The New Hanover County Board of Elections members choose to call meetings when needed and required. They do not have a regular monthly meeting schedule. The most recent meeting was January 13. The early voting calendar and sites are settled. We had to meet a 300 hour benchmark. New Hanover County will have 5 sites. They will serve voters on two Saturdays. Training of new judges is a high priority, too. Classes are being offered on a continuing education schedule. Courses will also be available "on demand" and via video later. Marvin McFadyen and staff developed a training manual that will belong to judges as a take-home resource to keep current before election days. Election day employment opportunities exist. Contact your elections office staff for more information.*

### Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Voter Registration Activities:

*We have had teams downtown at this food pantry most Saturdays this month. We have had only three registrations completed, but we are EDUCATING as well on Voter ID and other elections changes in conjunction with [Operation Jumpstart](#), a statewide campaign for volunteers who want to spend a few hours over the next few months to help people register to vote, understand the new election rules, or get the right ID for voting by 2016.*

*This ambitious program is coordinated by Democracy North Carolina, a nonpartisan organization with a growing organizing and training staff, in partnership with two dozen other nonprofit groups*

*-Jana Albritton*

## LWVLCF Observer Corps

### New Hanover County

The New Hanover County Board of Commissioners will be holding their regular meetings on Mondays this year. The meetings will be held at the NHC Courthouse 24 N. Third Street. A sign-up sheet for anyone interested in attending will be available at the LWV meeting February at McAlister's Restaurant.

-Lois Fox

### Brunswick County

Brunswick County Observer Corps- In 2014, the Brunswick County Commissioners are meeting once a month, instead of their traditional two times a month. Their regular meetings are held the third Monday of every month, or the next Tuesday if that Monday is a holiday. The regular meeting now starts at 6:00 PM, putting the closed session at the end of the meeting. The Brunswick County website [www.brunasco.net](http://www.brunasco.net) is user friendly and all of the commissioner's scheduled meetings, along with their agendas and minutes are easily accessible.

If anyone has additional questions and/or would like to attend a Brunswick County Commissioner's meeting, please call/e-mail Sue-Ann Rush @ 910-392-

4161/sue\_ann\_rush@Hotmail.com

-Sue-Ann Rush

## Welcome to our new members!

**Joan Rosko Miller:** Hello! I was born and raised on Long Island, NY. I taught Spanish at the high school level in NYC and the Chicago suburbs. Additionally, I taught English to speakers of other languages from elementary through adult levels. Sandwiched between my 22-year career in education, I worked in Sales and Marketing for 18 years for two Fortune 500 companies. During that time I lived in Richmond, VA where I met my husband, Ron, of 18 years. We moved to the Wilmington area in June of 2006, and we recently joined the Waterford community along with our beloved Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, "Bentley." It has taken me two years to get completely comfortable with retirement. Although I have never been interested in politics as much as my husband, decisions made by our State legislators impacting teachers, immigrant children and voter access have led me to join the LWV. I'm active in my church and enjoy playing pickleball.

My name is **Barbara Curry**. I am a retired teacher/media specialist from Maryland. My husband and I moved to Leland in 2006 to enjoy the warmer weather and beaches. I have always been interested in politics and volunteered with some local campaigns in Maryland. Lynn Levin and Carol Beaven encouraged me to join the League and I look forward to becoming more informed about national, state, and local issues. The Hot Topics luncheons are great!

**Lyle Sullivan** grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan where her family ran a dairy. She has always loved to travel. She graduated from the University of Hawaii, school of education. After teaching in the states for three years she was hired by the Department of Defense Overseas School System to teach the children of Army and Air Force members who were stationed in Kaiserslautern, Germany. After 34 years as an elementary classroom teacher and then a Math and Reading Specialist she retired in 2012 and moved to Wilmington. One of the hurdles she observed for Americans living overseas was voting in state and national elections, and having those votes counted. That process was always complicated. She is very interested in helping people in the Wilmington area register to vote.

**Guy and Cindy Linn:** Guy was an air traffic controller at the Washington En Route Center in Leesburg, then a subject matter expert for CTA working on next generation air traffic control issues. He volunteers at WHQR one day a week and is keenly interested in political issues. Cindy is a life-long educator, teaching primarily in middle schools. She is Nationally Board Certified (2001, renewed 2011), and holds a Masters in Educational Leadership. She would like to volunteer in education, but has not yet found her niche. Both Guy and Cindy are avid readers. Their interest in the League is because of its record in actively advocating for people to vote no matter their party leanings.

### February Education Roundtable Meeting

LaChawn Smith Director of Instructional Services New Hanover County will meet with the Education Roundtable to discuss the Common Core State Standards. As you may know, the Common Core State Standards was developed by governors and other state education leaders who want all states to have the same rigorous educational standards. That might sound simple and correct but the program has some opposing it. You're invited to participate in the conversation with LaChawn at Myrtle Grove Library from 1:30 - 3:00 on Thursday, February 20, to learn more about these changes in education.

-Anne Cousineau



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Serving New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, and Onslow Counties  
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[www.twitter.com/LWVoftheLCF](https://www.twitter.com/LWVoftheLCF)

Look for the Spring Edition of The Lower Cape Fear Voter in April 2014!