



The Voter

Winter 2013

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

Upcoming Events

Face to Face with Your Elected Officials

Northeast Library

February 16

10:00am-12:00pm

February Hot Topic Luncheon

Human Trafficking

McAlister's Deli

February 25

11:30am-1:00pm

March Board Meeting

Temptations Café

March 11

5:00pm-7:00pm

March Hot Topic Luncheon

Reproductive Rights

McAlister's Deli

March 25

11:30am-1:00pm

April Board Meeting

Temptations Café

April 8

5:00pm-7:00pm

April Hot Topic Luncheon

Topic: TBA

McAlister's Deli

April 22

11:30am-1:00pm

**The League of Women Voters of the
Lower Cape Fear invites you to:
"Face to Face With Your Elected Officials"
Saturday, February 16, 2013
10:00am to 12:00pm**

New Hanover County Library, Northeast Branch, Military Cutoff Rd.

"Face to Face" offers the public an opportunity to meet with their elected officials on a one-on-one basis in a relaxed atmosphere. Ask them the questions that are most important to YOU.

We are expecting representation by the NC State Legislature, New Hanover County Commissioners, City Council of Wilmington, town governments of Carolina, Kure, and Wrightsville Beaches, and the New Hanover County Board of Education.

March is Women's History Month

The Lower Cape Fear has a rich history, of which women have been an integral part. In 1914, as women across the country were vocalizing their efforts in the campaign for voting rights, the suffrage movement organized in Wilmington. In March 1915, a Women's Suffrage League was founded.* Around the same time, Wrightsville Beach became the first city in the United States to give women the right to vote. When the city incorporated, all women who owned property were given the right to cast a ballot in town elections. *

Katherine M. Cowan became the first female mayor of Wilmington in 1924, succeeding her deceased husband. * In 1961, Hannah S. Block became the first woman to be elected to Wilmington City Council, where she served until 1963, also presiding as the first female mayor pro tempore. Vivian Wright was the first female to be elected to the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners, on which she served from 1972 to 1980.

*information from the New Hanover County Library Local History Collection

Get to know your LCF Board Members

Welcome to the new League members who joined in 2012:

Nancy McCullough

Lois Fox

Lorraine Thaden

Jennifer Stancil

Blair Smith

Jeanne Johnson

Carol Beaven

Amy Brock

Elizabeth Redenbaugh

Johnette Fields

Bonnie Lewis

Christine Albrons

Jo Ann Bruce

Carole Ellis, President

I am a native of Wilmington and I have been a member of this League since 1973. I have served as president three times including presently. I believe that the League of Women Voters on every level (national, state, local) makes a difference in our country. The most important thing a member of the League can do for self and community is engage in the work of the League.

Myrna Wexler, Board Member

Myrna Wexler, a retired teacher, moved to Wilmington in 1996 from Long Island NY. She is a political junkie. She serves on several Boards, is involved in activities at UNCW, past and is a present volunteer at several area museums, county venues and local events, historic preservation and in the arts.

Sheila Fellerath, Secretary

Sheila Fellerath is finishing her second term on the board of LWV-LCF and serves as recording secretary for 2012-2013; she also coordinates the League's Observer Corps activities. Sheila's involvement with League began when she was living in Alaska and joined the Tanana Valley LWV in Fairbanks. She was on the board there and served two terms as president; she was also active in the state League in Alaska.

Sheila is a graduate of the UNC School of Law and was in private practice in Asheville for 17 years before moving to Alaska. In Alaska she moved to higher education and taught the law courses for the political science department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Sheila is married to John Fellerath (who often attends the Hot Topics lunches) and they have three grown children, all married, and three grandchildren. Among other activities in Wilmington she is a regular volunteer in the library of her neighborhood elementary school.

Carol Roberts, Membership

Moving from Virginia as a retired elementary teacher in 2004, I have found living in Wilmington to be an engaging and wonderful experience. I have enjoyed getting involved in such activities as Newcomers Club, book groups, Cape Fear River Watch, kayaking, church, volunteering with kids, and singing with the Wilmington Choral Society. Several years ago I was invited to attend a meeting of the League of Women Voters and discovered an organization with which I could identify and become involved. I was asked to work with membership and soon became chair of the Membership committee. I have found this aspect of the league to be rewarding and fun, as it has become a great way to meet current and new members. Bringing in new members and helping them get involved with the league is my goal and challenge. Making friends with like-minded, inquiring people has become a real benefit of league membership and involvement.

Stephanna Tewey, Treasurer

Stephanna Tewey, Retired educator and current treasurer for the League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear. As a member of the Lower Cape Fear League for the last five years and I have enjoyed working with the board. I first learned about the League of Women Voters when I read biographies of women who led the movement that gave women voting rights at the beginning of the 20th century. As a long time political activist, I find satisfaction in giving my support to an influential nonpartisan organization that works for peace and justice on the local, state and national level. Two activities of the League I have been involved with besides being treasurer are "Face to Face with Your Elected Officials" and the monthly "Hot Topics" luncheons. Most of all I appreciate the opportunity to work with the women who believe in promoting good government.

LWVNC First-Time Voter Project 2012

Lower Cape Fear Chapter Signs On

By Jana Albritton

A synopsis in anecdotal form of our events and experiences.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Eight events in six different venues in two counties yielded 183 persons completing voter registrations with about 73 folks taking away information. A core of volunteers worked 27 shifts and racked up 150 hours registering voters, addressing postcards, and/or organizing an event.

DID WE REGISTER AN IMPACT?

I think the first time voter project made an impact in our community. A woman showed up at the Senior Center to early vote who we registered. She even brought in her postcard from the LWV-LCF to show me she had received the One Stop Site info. That made my day!

CFCC AND WILMINGTON EARLY COLLEGE HIGH

We were given the red carpet treatment and a very busy location to set up to help register voters of all ages for the first time. We found at least one first-timer in his 50s deciding that the time was now here to take the electoral plunge. The younger set were very eager to have this opportunity, too.

POPLAR GROVE FARMER’S MARKET

Unfortunately we only had one voter change her address at Poplar Grove, but we did give people info on early voting.

CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Fall Fest at the CFCC Main Campus in downtown Wilmington was a happy, noisy success. The challenge was talking and hearing over the music provided for this outdoor student oriented event.

STARWAY FLEA MARKET

The Starway Flea Market used to be a drive-in movie theater location. It is a bustling little hive of retail and resale activity. You can even get your hair cut there if you need to. We found vendors and customers alike who needed to update registrations or register for the first time. We heard some interesting stories from folks who were not yet citizens and from a brand new citizen, too. Many of the Hispanic or Latino people we talked to were not able to register, yet. We hope to continue to engage **new citizens** after our experience here by keeping in touch with the immigration officer who sets up oath ceremonies in our area. We want to be there to help the new citizens register on day one.

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“A series of local League voter registration projects supported by a grant from the NC League of Women Voters Education Fund.”



Jana Albritton and Anne Cousineau register voters at Starway Flea Market.

A project to engage new citizens and community college students...in the electoral process to redress the fact that young people, new citizens and other communities remain severely underrepresented in our nation’s electorate.

First-Time Voter Project, cont...

LANEY HIGH SCHOOL

Johnette Fields and Loraine Buker organized a very successful first-time voter drive at our northernmost county high school. Jana Albritton joined as the third member of the Laney Team. We registered 60 souls during the school day. It became quite a challenge when earnest young social studies teachers brought entire classes to us. We quickly found a solution in the nearby library which had enough tables and chairs to accommodate the large numbers. Luckily, we had enough pens and registration forms to go around and the kids were very skilled at filling in the required information. The peppermints were a big hit, too.

POSTCARD PARTY

After all the registering was done, we had to address and mail out the reminder postcards. Ten of us made short work of this duty at Jana's home. Friendly political chat around the table made for a fitting end to this voter service project.
-Jana Albritton

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Brunswick County held its annual Intercultural Festival on September 8, 2012 at the Brunswick County Community College in Shallotte. Leland LWV members set up an information table where we registered 11 voters and gave out election information.
-Carol Roberts

Interested in joining the League?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

Through participation in League projects, you will:

- contribute valuable service to the community
- gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics
- discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community
- make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in League who share your interests

To learn more, visit: www.lcflwv.org/join

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Serving New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, and Onslow Counties
P.O. Box 4503
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www.lcflwv.org
www.facebook.com/LWVLCF
www.twitter.com/LWVoftheLCF

The League needs your help!

The League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear has many volunteer opportunities!

Whether you have one hour to give each month or ten, we have a way for you to help make a difference.

- Social media
- Observer Corps
- Newsletter
- Event coordination
- Voter registration drives
- Fundraising

If interested, please contact:

Carole Ellis at
(910) 791-0922 or
cellis13@ec.rr.com

-or-

Carol Roberts at
(910) 547-6161 or
carolwroberts@gmail.com

Look for the Spring edition of The Voter in April!