



Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LOWER CAPE FEAR

SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Message from our President

While most folks are relaxing in the sun and enjoying summer fun, the League of Women Voters is planning ways and initiating programs to educate the NC public on the changes in the voting laws. We are partnering with groups such as the NAACP, Democracy NC and others to give every eligible voter the chance to vote. Jana and Gail will soon be attending a League meeting sponsored by your State League, the beginning of the grassroots voter protection action. We will have an opportunity to help all qualified voters be ready to cast their votes. Also, coming up are the counties' Board of Elections meetings. If you would like to have an input into the early voting schedule, you need to attend these meetings. An informational email was sent to all members. But if you need more information about the meeting, please contact a board member.

We also must continue to work on our round tables. The concept of the tables was very successful last year and we will continue to develop the projects. We need to continue our work with public education, immigration reform, environmental and women's issues, healthcare, observer corps, voter services and the candidate forums. I want to thank everyone for their hard work in the past year. As we complete our 40th year in Wilmington, I hope we can enter our 41st year with enthusiasm and energy.

– Chris Abrons

Important dates

- July 14: Board meeting
Temptations, 5:30
- July 26: Planning meeting
Oak Room, NE Library, 9:00 a.m.
- July 28: Hot Topics lunch
McAlister's, 11:30
- Aug.11: Board meeting
Temptations, 5:30
- Aug.25: Hot Topics lunch
McAlister's, 11:30

Did You Know?

The League of Women Voters of the United States presented a certificate of recognition to the LWV of the Lower Cape Fear in February 2014 for having increased our membership by over 26% in 2013. Congratulations especially to Carol Roberts, our indefatigable outgoing membership chair!



2014 Annual Meeting Highlights

LWVLCF held its Annual Meeting on June 9, 2014 to adopt a Program for 2014-2015, adopt a budget for the same period, elect new officers and board members, and to share our thoughts, concerns and hopes for League with one another. Several specific matters were brought to the board's attention during the section of the meeting allocated to Direction to the Board; the board appreciated these comments and suggestions and will be addressing them in the coming months.

The Program for 2014-15 is broad and aspirational, encouraging citizen participation in all levels of government, openness in the conduct of government business, and appropriate action as necessary in the areas of immigration, civil rights, voters' rights and the environment. One needs only to glance at the news to know that we have our work cut out for us.

The budget for 2014-15 projects just under \$3700 in revenue, matched by the same approximate amount in expenses. Our largest single expense is for dues to LWVUS and LWVNC, also known as PMP (per member payment). At present, we send \$30 to LWVUS and \$12 to LWVNC for each individual

membership of \$52, leaving \$10 for LWVLCF.

The 2014-15 Officers of LWVLCF are: Chris Abrons, president; Jana Albritton, first vice-president; Loraine Buker, second vice-president; Stephanna Tewey, treasurer; Sheila Fellerath, secretary. Board members are Gail Bromley, Meredith Glicksman, Laura Glover and Myrna Wexler. Gail and Meredith are new to the board and you will find a short introduction to them elsewhere in this newsletter. Loraine served as a board member in 2013-14 and has now assumed an officer's role with particular responsibility for membership; fortunately for us, she is a talented veteran of the membership committee.

It was clear from the conversation and discussion at the Annual Meeting that we have an engaged, energized and growing membership. We're building on the achievements of 40 years, an anniversary we recently celebrated. It promises to be a great year for our League!



Those hands you hear clapping are sending a huge THANK YOU to Carole Ellis and Carol Roberts, both of whom rotated off the board at the Annual Meeting. Carole Ellis is the League for many of us – her years of dedicated service won't soon be matched by anyone and the good news is she's not going anywhere! And what new can we say about Carol Roberts – her creative, sustained and inspired work on membership says it all! Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU BOTH – we wouldn't be nearly the League we are without you!!!

News from the Membership Chair

Loraine Buker, our new 2nd Vice-president and membership chair, is happy to introduce two new members: Kathy Sinclair and Beth Kirschner.

Kathy is a retired educator from northern Michigan and enjoys gardening, singing with the Wilmington Choral Society, and taking advantage of all the cultural events the area offers. She and her husband are happy to be living near their sons and their families; she also appreciates the snow-free winters! Kathy is interested in supporting voter registration and says, "I have learned a lot from the speakers at the LWV luncheons and want to continue attending. I'm happy to become part of this vital organization."

Beth and her husband Brian grew up in Rhode Island, and have lived in Massachusetts, Virginia, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania before moving to Leland in January. They have three children and 4 grandchildren ranging in age from 15 years to 4 months. Beth says, "I joined the league with a special interest in educating young people in the process for voting, and understanding the significance to our country of the choices they make."

Welcome, Kathy and Beth – we look forward to working with you!

News Flash! News Flash! News Flash! News Flash!

Jana Albritton reports that the New Hanover County Board of Elections will meet on Monday, July 7, at 10:00 a.m. at the Government Center to discuss arrangements for early voting in New Hanover County. LWVLCF is committed to maximizing voting opportunities for all; if possible, please attend this meeting and demonstrate your support for convenient and accessible early voting!

New Board Members

Meet Gail Bromley and Meredith Glicksman, the newest members of the LWVLCF Board.

Gail and her husband of almost 47 years moved to Leland from Arizona in 2012. Gail has degrees in education with an emphasis in nutrition, and worked in various settings including a hospital, cooperative extension, and a state agency, all in New York. She retired in 2001.

Why the League? Gail, a self-described political junkie, says, "I wanted to volunteer when I retired and give of my services to the community in which I reside. I also wanted to voice my opinions on public policy issues. The League of Women Voters is a good avenue for my interests, abilities, and advocacy." Gail also enjoys playing mah-jongg and making greeting cards in her spare time.

Meredith's varied career included years as a school psychologist in New York, a researcher in St. Louis, and a clinical monitor of research studies based in Wilmington. During those years she marched, signed petitions and donated time for specific actions but did not participate on an organizational level. Retirement has allowed time for greater involvement - to "weigh in". She says of her new board role, "I am looking forward to continuing the League's work of non-partisan education of citizenry and protecting/insuring voting rights."

Meredith is also quite active with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNCW and helps coordinate SEA (Science and Environmental Academy) and Coffee for the program.

Reminder from the Treasurer

Dues for 2014-2015 are now payable; please send your check to LWVLCF, P.O. Box 4503, Wilmington, NC, 28406-1503. Individual memberships are currently \$52 and family memberships are \$70. For further information contact Stephanna Tewey at 910-793-4101 or stephanna@myway.com

Publicity Team

The Board is happy to announce that Ann Parvin, a League member in Southport, has agreed to assume the position of publicity chair for our League. Ann will handle media contacts to publicize our events and distribute news releases. She will also take over production of this newsletter as of the fall issue.

We are also delighted that Jennifer Stancil, who has stepped down as publicity chair, will continue to manage our Facebook and Twitter activity. Thanks to Jennifer for her dedicated work on publicity over the past couple of years – it has been a very important contribution.

Rounding out our publicity team are Mary Lou Hoffman who continues to manage our web presence at lcflwv.org. and Laura Glover who handles our email communications with efficiency, patience and good humor. Kudos to you both!

Founding and Early Members at 40th Anniversary Celebration



Front: Sue Hayes, Karen Gottovi, Liz Bryan
Rear: Donna Howard, Jo Ann Fogler, Carole Ellis, Cammie Bain,
Mary Cantwell (Millie Jessup in center background) *photo: Carol Roberts*