



The Voter

Serving Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender and Onslow Counties

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
www.lwv.org

September 2010

League of Women Voters Lower Cape Fear

- Citizens like you who are actively affecting change on the local, state and national levels, we are a non-partisan group that meets throughout the year to address issues that include, but are not limited to, voter education and election information. Find us at www.bettergov.nc.lwvnet.org



Items of Interest, and Hot Topics to be Addressed

NOTE: If you have not already done so, please plan to renew your membership. We always welcome new members as well. At the last League Board Meeting, the board members voted unanimously to increase our dues from \$45 to \$50. Treasurer Stephana Tewey will take your registration at any Hot Topic meeting, Board meeting, or at other times convenient for you.

GOOD WEBSITES

LWV-LCF has god representation on our LWVNC Board with Carole Ellis serving as current vice-president and Audrey Albrecht also on the Board.

League members (whose dues go primarily to the US and the NC organizations) should be reminded that both have excellent websites that inform you more about your organization. www.LWV.org is the U.S. site and, www.LWVNC.org gives more information about state activities and other local leagues. Both are also linked to our website www.bettergov.nc.lwvnet.org. Check them out and register as a member for the “Members Only” portion.

IMMIGRATION

Board members here as well as at the State and National levels are concerned about recent emotional and negative actions and opinions about the immigration issue.

We hope to launch an educational program in September based on our own nation-wide study two years ago in which, of course, LWV-LCF, as many of you remember, participated. Please attend the lunch with League, Monday, September 27, for a review and to find out how you can help. We will have a presentation of the elements of the national position of the legislature that we hope will ensue.

DATE SET FOR MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS

The Board decided at the Planning Session in July to set February 27 as the date for “Face to Face” meetings with representatives for our area, Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties. More as details are developed.

Inside this issue:

Convention	Pg. 2
Hot Topic Lunch	Pg.3
Political Reform	Pg.4
BOE and Vote 411	Pg.5
Government Guide	Pg.6
Government Guide	Pg.7
League Leaders	Pg.8
Calendar	Pg.8

LWVUS CONVENTION—ATLANTA

Three LWV-LCF members attended the June 12 convention of LWVUS in Atlanta. Sue Tuman was the local delegate and Carole Ellis and Audrey Albrecht were delegates from the North Carolina State Board. North Carolina totally had one of the largest delegations at the convention representing various local leagues. Various proposals and positions and actions were discussed and delegates approved, among other measures, a study of the Federal role in education, a study of private contracting for public business, and a resolution against oil drilling techniques that cause environmental damage.

Workshops on a variety of eral North Carolina delegates about “FRACKING,” a increasingly to blast out ground with high water stroying most of the sur- other problems on the sur- under consideration in North which have applied for per- and oil rights. Gas compa- and out of state are sending agreements to residents in checks ready to sign.

“Clean Water NC” reports companies in these leases to landowners is an attempt change current “injection infraction of waste or toxic drofracking for gas in North sional well driller who par- Carolina Division of Water ings on injection wells said, can control where or how far lying.” The result? Uncontrolled fracturing that can allow contaminated groundwater and gas to move to areas where water was previously safe. One of the important issues our delegates tried to address -



issues were presented. Sev- attended the presentation method which is being used natural gases far under- pressure, in the process de- rounding area and causing face. This method is already Carolina for several areas mits to lease the mineral nies from North Carolina out signature-ready lease Lee County, some with

that the investment of the and the royalties they offer to build a critical mass to well” rules that prohibit any materials, preventing hy- Carolina. They cite a profes- participated in recent North Control stakeholders meet- “If anyone tells you that they the fracturing will go, they’re

Audrey Albrecht



In celebration of Women's Equality Day, the League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear will feature local author Georgia Mullen at their luncheon on Monday, August 23, at McAlister's Deli, 740 South College Road. After researching the issues of temperance, abolition of slavery, women's rights, and the leader for Women's rights, Elizabeth Cody Stanton, Georgia wrote her first book, *A SHOCKING AND UNNATURAL INCIDENT*. This historical fiction showcases three women whose lives reflect those issues. Georgia will speak on what her research taught her about those issues and Elizabeth Cody Stanton's First Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848. The luncheon begins at 11:30 with the meeting beginning at 12:00. This luncheon is open to the public, so feel free to bring a friend.

Another event celebrating Women's Equality Day will occur on Thursday, August 26. Past president Audrey Albrecht and First Vice President Laurie Goldwasser will be guests of Jemila Ericson on her Midday Cafe at 12:20 p.m. to discuss the history of the day and its importance to all of us.

Please plan to attend the Hot Topic lunch, and tune in to Midday Cafe on Thursday.



POLITICAL REFORM WRAP-UP OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION

►**VOTER-OWNED ELECTIONS:** Senate Democratic leaders finally decided to include expansion of public campaign financing in the ethics legislation at the last minute. But the hasty timing, ambitious scope of the proposal, and anxiety of Democratic Senators in swing districts, along with the hostile reaction from Republicans and a smear campaign led by Charlotte's Pat McCrory, doomed the proposal. However, a special 10-member commission was created to study expansion of the Voter-Owned Elections program for Council of State offices and make recommendations in early 2011. So look for new legislation to expand VOE next year!

►**NEW DISCLOSURE OF BIG MONEY:** The US Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision gave corporations, certain nonprofits and unions new ways to influence elections through advocacy advertising and other spending that is "independent" of direct contributions to candidates. H-748 will now provide even more information than the previous law required.

►**ENFORCEMENT & RESTRICTIONS:** Money laundering involving more than \$10,000 is now a felony offense; this happens most often when a donor uses other people or business money to funnel large donations into a candidate's campaign. We've been trying to change this crime from a misdemeanor to a felony for years. Thanks to all the attention on Rusty Carter, the governor and legislative leaders agreed. Also: New restrictions on gifts to state officials were added, the crime of exchanging contributions for contracts is clarified, and state employees are barred from lobbying the agency they left for at least six months.

►**OTHER IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE:** The Ethics Reform bill (H-961) includes many other good features. For example, (1) the State Board of Elections is required to create a searchable database on the Internet of contributions to statewide, judicial and legislative candidates, parties and PACs; (2) political appointees must report campaign donations over \$1,000 that they make in the previous year to the official making the appointment; (3) a new NC OpenBook website will provide details about all grants and contracts over \$10,000 awarded by state agencies; (4) more information about state employees' personnel status, disciplinary action, etc., is now public; (5) a mediation process is established for seeking public records and people can win attorney fees if their request is improperly blocked; and (6) lobbyists must report more information about their income and activities.

Submitted by Charles West, Jr.

Your Board of Elections

Brunswick

M-F (8:30-5:00) Mr. Greg Bellamy

BRUNSWICK.boe@ncmail.net

PO Box 2

Bolivia, NC 28422

10 Referendum Dr. NE

Bolivia, NC 28422

Phone: 910-253-2620

Fax: 910-253-2618

Onslow

M-F (8:00-5:00) Ms. Rose Whitehurst

ONSLow.boe@ncmail.net

521 Mill Avenue

Jacksonville, NC 28540

Phone: 910-455-4484

Fax: 910-455-1390

Pender

M-F (8:00-5:00) Mr. Dennis E. Boyles

PENDER.boe@ncmail.net

PO Box 1232

Burgaw, NC 28425

807 S. Walker St.

Burgaw, NC 28425

Phone: 910-259-1220

Fax: 910-259-1269

New Hanover

M-F (8:00-5:00) Ms. Bonnie Williams

NEWHANOVER.boe@ncmail.net

230 Government Center Dr., Ste. 180

Wilmington, NC 28403

Phone: 910-798-7330

Please consider attending any meeting listed for your County.

If you find this is something you are interested in doing, consider doing this as part of an observer corp. For more information, contact any League Leader listed on page 8.



Wilmington City Council	First and Third Tuesday each month Council Chambers, 2 nd Floor, City Hall Third and Princess Streets, 341-7816	6:30 p.m.
Wilmington Planning Commission	First Wednesday each month Third and Princess Streets, 341-4626	7:30 p.m.
New Hanover County Commissioners	First Monday each month Third Monday each month Assembly Room, County Courthouse 24 North Third Street, 341-7149	6:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m.
New Hanover County Planning Board	First Thursday each month 24 North Third Street, 341-7165	7:00 p.m.
New Hanover County Board of Education	First Tuesday each month Spencer Building, 1802 S. 15 th St. 763-5431	7:00 p.m.
Brunswick County Commissioners	First and Third Monday each month Commissioners' Chambers, Central Services Building 1, Government Center Old Ocean Highway, Bolivia, NC 28422	6:30 p.m.
Planning Board	Regular Meeting – 2 nd Monday each month Brunswick County Commissioners' Chambers Work Session – 4 th Monday each month Kay Moore Board Room, Health Department	6:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
Board of Education	September, October, November, December Board Conference Room 35 Referendum Way, Bolivia	6:30 p.m.
Pender County Commissioners	First Monday of each month Third Monday of each month Public Assembly Room, 805 S. Walker Street Burgaw, NC 28425	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
Planning Board	First Tuesday of each month 805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC 28425	7:00 p.m.
Board of Education	Monday West Pender Middle School	7:00 p.m.
Onslow County Commissioners	First and Third Monday each month Courtroom 1 E, W. Summersill Building 109 Old Bridge St., Jacksonville, NC	6:30 p.m.
Planning Board	First Thursday each month, 455-3661	6:30 p.m.
Board of Education	First Tuesday each month 200 Broadhurst Road, 455-2211	7:00 p.m.

GOVERNMENT GUIDE

NOTE: Vote411 WILL SOON HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING CANDIDATES FOR ALL

4 COUNTIES.

THE WHITE HOUSE, www.whitehouse.gov, President Barack Obama, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20500, 202-456-1111 (public comment line)

US SENATE, www.senate.gov

Richard Burr, (R), 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-3154, 1-(800) 685-8916 (toll free in NC)

Kay Hagan, (D), 840A Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-6242

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, www.house.gov

Congressman Mike McIntyre, 2437 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-225-2731

Congressman Walter Jones, 2333 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-3415

NORTH CAROLINA (serving Brunswick, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender counties)

NC SENATE, 300 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh NC 27603-5925

Julia Boseman (D), Juliab@ncleg.net, 919-715-2525

Harry Brown (R), District 6, Harry.Brown@ncleg.net, 521 Legislative Office Building

R. C. Soles, Jr. (D), Rcsoles@ncleg.net, 919-733-5963

NC HOUSE, 300 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

George Cleveland (R), District 14, George.Cleveland@ncleg.net, 919-715-6707

W. Robert Grady (R), District 15, Robert.Grady@ncleg.net, 919-715-9644

Dewey Hill, Deweyh@ncleg.net, 919-733-5380

Carolyn Justice (R), Carolynju@ncleg.net, 919-715-9664

Danny McComas (R), Dannym@ncleg.net, 919-733-5786

Frank Iler (R), Frank.Iler@ncleg.net, 919-301-1450

Russell Tucker (D), Russellt@ncleg.net, 919-715-3021

Sandra Spaulding-Hughes (D), Sandrah@ncleg.net, 919-733-5754

SPEAKER OF HOUSE

Joe Hackney (D), Joeh@ncleg.net, 919-733-5752

SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Marc Basnight, Marcb@ncleg.net, 919-733-6854





League of Women
Voters Lower Cape Fear

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Phone: 910-328-2424
E-mail: suetuman@charter.net

LEAGUE LEADERS

SUE TUMAN—PRESIDENT

AUDREY ALBRECHT—PAST PRESIDENT

LAURIE GOLDWASER—1ST VICE PRESIDENT

ANNE COUSINEAU—2ND VICE PRESIDENT

STEPHANNA TEWEY-TREASURER

SUE CAUSE-SECRETARY

OTHERS

CAROLE ELLIS, MARYLOU HOFFMAN,

MAGGIE PARISH, CAROL ROBERTS

PUBLIC RELATIONS

ANNE COUSINEAU, 791-4999

THE VOTER

LOIS BASILIERE, 520-4494

A SPECIAL THANKS TO BOARD MEMBERS WHO HAVE RESIGNED FROM THE BOARD (BUT NOT THE LEAGUE) FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS;

JANA ALBRITTON, SANDRA SINK

Calendar Dates for 2010-2011

Sept. 7	Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Temptations, dinner at 5:45 p.m.
Sept. 27	Hot Topic Sponsored by League, LWV's Immigration Position
Oct. 5	Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Temptations, dinner 5:45 p.m.
Oct. 25	Hot Topic Sponsored by League, Environmental Issue
Nov. 2	General Election
Nov. 2	Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Temptations, dinner at 5:45 p.m.
Dec. 7	Board Meeting/Holiday Social, to be announced
Jan. 4	Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Temptations, dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	Hot Topic Sponsored by League
Feb. 1	Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Temptations, dinner at 5:45 p.m.
Feb. 27	Face to Face with Your Legislators, 3-5 p.m. NHC Government Center
Feb 28	Hot Topic Sponsored by League, Political Reform/Who is Really in Charge?
March 1	Board Meeting/Program Planning, 7 p.m., Temptations, dinner at 5.45 p.m.
March 28	Hot Topic Sponsored by League, Women's History month
April 5	Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Temptations, dinner at 5:45 p.m.
April 25	Hot Topic Sponsored by League
May 3	Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Temptations, dinner at 5:45 p.m.
May 2011	Annual Meeting, date, time and place to be announced
July 16, 2011	Program Planning session (tentative date)

Board meetings: open to all League members; held the first Tuesday of the month at Temptations Deli, 3501 Oleander Dr, in Hanover Center, Wilmington; beginning with an informal dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by the board meeting at 7 p.m.

Lunch with League: fourth Mondays at McAlisters Deli, 740 S. College Rd, Wilmington, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in August, September, October, January, February, March and April.