



The Lower Cape Fear Voter

Summer 2013

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

Upcoming Events

July Hot Topic Luncheon

Community discussion
with NHC Sherriff Ed
McMahon
McAllister's Deli
July 22
11:30am – 1:00pm

August Board Meeting

Temptations Café
August 12
5:00pm-7:00pm

August Hot Topic Luncheon

Topic TBA
McAllister's Deli
August 26
11:30am-1:00pm

September Board Meeting

Temptations Café
September 9
5:00pm-7:00pm

September Hot Topic Luncheon

Topic TBA
McAllister's Deli
September 23
11:30am – 1:00pm

From the President...

A word about our non-partisan policy. In July of 1995, our LWV adopted a NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL POLICY. Like Leagues around the US, we are reviewing our policy with our membership. The following is a summary of the policy.

In order to protect the League's non-partisan reputation, it is important that the members and the public understand the following:

Our members are encouraged to become active in the political process.

League members should refrain from wearing political banners or buttons to League functions. Also, no member can bring a candidate's information to League meetings. On the other hand, League members should not identify themselves as a League member while working on a partisan activity.

Members of the Board (except the president and Voter Service Chair) can participate in partisan party activities in a very low key role.

All Voter Service activities must be non-partisan, and our group cannot maintain relationships with any organization that engages in partisan politics.

If one of our members, family members or relative, runs for political office, we must maintain our non-partisan policy and separate ourselves from the candidate. We cannot endorse any member who participates in partisan politics.

The LWV can accept gifts from office holders or candidates as long as those individuals know that we are unable to endorse their candidacy.

Our membership list is for LEAGUE USE ONLY and it cannot be shared without Board approval.

As we all know, unique situations and events occur. The Board will use this policy as a guideline when issues arise.

I hope our members take every opportunity to become active in our League. Hope to see you at the Hot Topic on July 22.

-Chris Abrons, LWV-LCF Board President

LWV-LCF 39th Annual Meeting

The following is from the Annual Meeting minutes, taken by Sheila Fellerath, Secretary

On May 13, 2013, the LWV-LCF held its Annual Meeting at Temptations Café. Following social time and dinner, President Carole Ellis introduced Jo Nicholas, President of LWV North Carolina. Nicholas began her remarks by asking "Who are the members of the League of Women Voters?" and then suggesting a variety of descriptive terms for the busy, active, engaged, and productive people who comprise League's membership. She noted that we pride ourselves on our nonpartisan stance and our ability to hold a diversity of opinion while still arriving at consensus on policy positions adopted by League as an organization.

Nicholas briefly reviewed the activities of the State League during the past year, including work on redistricting litigation, voter rights, and environmental issues including fracking. She noted the League's general success in increasing membership and specifically congratulated Carol Roberts for the splendid work she has done as Membership Chair of LWV-LCF. She encouraged those present to take some time over the summer to relax and regroup, and to return to League work energized and ready to focus on projects and events that are possible. Nicholas concluded her remarks by giving an overview of the State Convention, scheduled for May 29-31 in Charlotte, and encouraged as many members as possible to attend. She also took note that one of our members, Jennifer Stancil, is running for a State Board position.

Carol Roberts announced that 20 members and one guest were present, and that 17 new members had joined since the Annual Meeting one year ago.

Sheila Fellerath moved the Adoption of the Bylaws Changes as proposed in the meeting booklet. The motion was seconded and Fellerath explained that the purpose of the changes was to bring our bylaws into conformity with the template used by National in order to make our bylaws easier to update and keep current. The Bylaw Changes were adopted unanimously. (All members should be operating from the new bylaws, which were distributed via email by Laura Glover previously in the year.)

Laura Glover moved the Adoption of the Proposed Budget as printed in the meeting booklet. The motion was seconded and then Stephanna Tewey, treasurer, made a brief presentation. She pointed out that the proposed budget was based on a slight increase in individual dues, from \$50 to \$52, in order to provide the local league with a little more revenue; \$30 of each individual's dues currently go to National, and \$12 go to State. The proposed budget was adopted unanimously.

Nancy Pritchett, Chair of the 2012-2013 Nominating Committee, presented the Slate of Candidates as printed in the meeting booklet. After a second, and a call for nominations from the floor, Wexler moved that the nominations be closed and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees. The motion was approved unanimously. The Officers and Board Members for 2013-2014 are: President, Chris Abrons; 1st Vice-President, Jana Albritton; 2nd Vice-President, Carol Roberts; Secretary, Sheila Fellerath; Treasurer, Stephanna Tewey; Elected Directors, Loraine Buker, Carole Ellis, Laura Glover, Myrna Wexler. The Nominating Committee for 2013-2014 is Anne Cousineau, Chair, Sue Cause, Member. A third member of this committee will be appointed by the Board at its first meeting.

Carole Ellis, outgoing president, spoke briefly and encouraged members to continue the good work that we do. She also referenced her written message on the back page of the printed program. She urged members to ask people to join League, especially our younger members. She thanked the outgoing board for its service and again expressed appreciation to Jo Nicholas for attending our Annual Meeting and addressing the gathering. Myrna Wexler presented Ellis with a small gift in appreciation for her dedicated service as president.

Chris Abrons, incoming president, also addressed the group briefly, outlining her hopes for League activity on a number of issues in the upcoming year including the environment, gun violence, education, issues related to voter rights and health care issues, particularly as they impact older women. She announced that the annual retreat will be held on June 10, at a time and place to be decided.



LWVNC 2013 Conference

On Friday, May 30, four Lower Cape Fear LWV members: Carole Ellis, Chris Abrons, Jana Albritton, and Jennifer Stancil, traveled to Charlotte, NC to attend the 34th Biennial LWVNC State Conference. The LCF representatives participated in a President's Wine and Cheese Reception on Friday night during which they shared information on what our LCF League has accomplished in the last year, as well as learned what other Leagues around the state are doing to further their mission. On Saturday the convention convened with speakers conducting workshops on "Mission, Members, and Money." One of the speakers was a former student of Carole's! During Saturday's programs, Jana Albritton was awarded with a certificate for her excellent service as a State Coach to local Leagues in NC as part of the Membership and Leadership Development Program. The certificate was presented by Mary Klenz of the LWVUS and signed by LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara. That afternoon, the members attended caucuses on Immigration, Health Care, Education, and Campaign Finance Reform. The day wrapped up with an Awards Banquet, during which League leaders across the state were recognized by their peers for outstanding service. On Sunday morning the meeting resumed and the group discussed and voted to adopt both the LWVNC Program and Budget. Carole Ellis was thanked for her service on the LWVNC Board, and Jennifer Stancil was elected to the LWVNC Board for the 2013-2015 term. The LCF members traveled back to Wilmington on Sunday afternoon with a renewed passion for furthering the mission and goals of the League of Women Voters.

Here are some impressions of members who attended the conference:

Jana: The biggest development that came to us everywhere we turned it seemed was the Round Table concept. It was talked about extensively in the Membership Leadership Development workshop held before convening. Round Tables were "sold" as a great tool for membership recruitment and retention. It seems to have caught on here, too. Ann Cousineau is raring to go with a Public Education Round Table. She has thought about it and begun planning what needs to happen in this group. Stay tuned for more on how to join the Public Education Round Table.

Carole: I attended the Immigration Caucus at the State Convention. Most of the time was taken by a representative of the Henderson League (the League itself has done tremendous study on the problem of immigration policy as it is) in which the representative presented the myths about undocumented immigrants. They do not take jobs that Americans will take-on the contrary they take the jobs Americans do not want. They contribute taxes and social security to the federal government, and they provide valuable services to agriculture and some food industries in this state as well as construction and landscape jobs. They are contributing to our economy rather than detracting from it. The session was also graced with the presence of several of the state Hispanics students who were brought here at an early age and have completely Americanized yet they cannot attend state colleges with in state tuition. One of them had won a scholarship and admission to UNC but when it was disclosed that he was undocumented all of that was denied to him. He was very bright and presented a good case for creating a path to citizenship for people with his same circumstance. I came away with the impression of how much fear these contributing people have of the lack of good immigration policy in the United States. It is imperative that this change for their good and for the good of this country.

Jennifer-I attended the Campaign Finance Reform Caucus led by a representative of the Piedmont Triad League. The group has formed a "Roundtable," which meets monthly with coalition partners. They are eager to partner with other local Leagues throughout the state! I can make copies of the handout for anyone interested. Overall at the conference, I was impressed by the determination to ensure that the LWVNC continues its strong leadership role in the state. Also, the willingness of fellow members to share information and help to elevate other local Leagues was inspiring.



Update from Membership Chair, Carol Roberts

What are some of the advantages to league membership?

- Personal education...learning about local, state, and national issues to become a more informed citizen
- Finding ways to make your voice heard, individually and collectively as a league
- Volunteering to help shape community policy
- The opportunity to develop and use your leadership skills

What else would you add?

Roxanne Noble has lived in Vermont, Connecticut, Virginia, Washington DC, and now lives in Hampstead NC. She founded Noble Care Management, a company in which she goes to clients' homes, to the hospital, or to rehab to advocate for the highest quality and most timely care for the client and the family. She has been an RN for 36 years, and works directly for clients ensuring their needs are met. Her main interests include health care and healthy living, friendship, travel, and watching out for imbalance in government.

We also welcome Marena and Kevin Groll as new members. They live in Sneeds Ferry. Marena is very involved with the ERA campaign in North Carolina.

Be in the know!

Sign up for LWVNC and LWVUS email alerts and news here:

www.lwvnc.org

www.lwv.org

As a LWVLCF member, you will receive email alerts and news automatically.

Please remember that all information sent out to the LWVLCF email group is restricted to League-related business and must be approved by the Board President.

Court Upholds Deeply Flawed Redistricting Plan League of Women Voters Vows to Continue the Fight

Raleigh, NC—On July 8, 2013, a three-judge panel in North Carolina state court unanimously rejected a challenge to the 2011 redistricting plans for Congress, State House and State Senate. The League of Women Voters of North Carolina (LWVNC), a plaintiff in the case, issued the following statement following the ruling:

"The League has said from day one that this hyper-partisan redistricting map was intentionally designed to further legislators' partisan goals at the expense of voters. We also pointed to specific tactics utilized to limit the influence of minority voters," said League of Women Voters of North Carolina president Jo Nicholas. "Despite the clear evidence that the Legislature's plan harmed voters in 2012, the Court unfortunately decided to uphold it."

"We are down, but we're not out. Along with our co-plaintiffs and concerned voters across the state, we vow to continue exploring every possible opportunity to stand up and protect voters from harm," concluded Nicholas.

During the course of the trial, LWVNC and co-plaintiffs offered clear evidence that the state's 2011 redistricting plan directly contributed to voter confusion and unconstitutionally segregated voters by race on Election Day 2012. Post-election analysis conducted by the nonpartisan Southern Coalition for Social Justice showed that the 2011 redistricting plan placed one in four North Carolina voters into "split precincts", leading to widespread confusion about who would be on one's ballot come Election Day 2012. What's more, these districts placed a difficult burden on hardworking elections officials, who often struggled to assign voters living in split precincts to the correct districts. Across the state, hundreds of voters assigned to the wrong district received the wrong ballot on Election Day. Those living in minority communities were particularly hard-hit.

"Our elections deserve to be free, fair, and accessible for all. The League will continue to fight for fair redistricting and work with voters to stand up against the voter suppression tactics that continue to threaten nearly half a million eligible voters in our state," concluded Nicholas.



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Serving New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, and
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Look for the Fall
Edition of The Lower
Cape Fear Voter in
October!