



League of Women Voters Lower Cape Fear, serving Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, and Onslow counties

# VOTER

MAY 2011

**Our Mission: To protect our coast, its air, its water, its people and their right to fully participate in the democratic process.**

## **MAY HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON**

On Monday, May 23, at our Hot Topics Luncheon we will learn how the state and national leagues support the local league. As most of you know, we are well represented at the state level with Carol Ellis as vice president of the North Carolina League and Audrey Albrecht on the board of directors. Carol will lead the discussion which will also include news of the state convention being held on the weekend prior to our meeting. Any questions that you may have on the workings of the state and national leagues will be answered. The luncheon will be at McAllister's Deli from 11:30 -1:00. This will be a very informative meeting so if you know someone who is interested in becoming a member, please invite her/him to the luncheon.

## **SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 15**

The meeting will be held on June 15, at 6 p.m. at Temptations. We are very pleased to have Elizabeth Redenbaugh as the guest speaker. Elizabeth is one of two recipients of this year's John F Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. The other is Wael Ghonim and the people of Egypt, whose courageous demand for democratic reform inspired similar movements across the Middle East. Elizabeth, as a New Hanover County, North Carolina School Board member stood up against what she perceived as racial segregation in school redistricting plan. The prestigious award for political courage was announced in March by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and will be presented by Caroline Kennedy at a ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston on Monday, May 23.

## **PROGRAM GOALS FOR 2011-12**

Our planning for next year has begun. At our April Board meeting, program goals for our local League were discussed and adopted for approval by the membership at our Annual Meeting on June 15. If they are approved, the board would appreciate your suggestions for speakers, events and activities that will assist LWVLCF in fulfilling each of the goals. You can email your suggestions to any board member or attend the planning meeting on July 16, details to follow.

The following are the proposed goals:

1. Organize and implement programs to foster civic awareness of state and local government issues including a forum where local citizens are able to speak directly to their legislators.
2. Continue to study the level of openness of local governments and develop recommendations.
3. Pursue actions that will support local efforts to protect and improve our environment.
4. Stay abreast of issues involving immigrants.
5. Implement a restructuring of our league's leadership position and continue to implement Membership Recruitment Initiative objectives – the organizational growth program to build membership and develop leadership.

## A RECENT CHANGE IN LWVUS BYLAWS

The Board has received the following notice about a bylaw change which will need to be approved at the annual meeting

A bylaws amendment was approved at the 2010 LWVUS Convention and we suggest, therefore, that it be included as a "housekeeping item" as part of your League's bylaws discussion this spring at your annual meeting and/or state convention. As you may recall, the first three articles of the League bylaws set forth the League name, purpose and policy and define membership in the LWVUS. Per LWVUS policy, the first three articles of all local and state League bylaws must be consistent with those of the LWVUS in order to define and maintain the unity of the organization and the powers and privileges of members. One of the amendments approved at Convention 2010 affects these first three articles.

We changed the name of the third membership category from "honorary life members" to "life members." Specifically, the amendment strikes the word "honorary" from Article III, Section 2 (A), which should now read:

### *Article III Membership*

#### *Sec. 2. Types of Membership.*

**A. Voting Members.** *Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.*