

April 2009

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DARE COUNTY

The DARE Voter

SPRING CALENDAR



April 24, 8:00 AM – Spuds to Suds
Go-See Tour to farms in Camden and
Weeksville
and the Weeping Radish in Grandy

May 15, 11:00 AM – Annual Meeting
Penguin Isle Restaurant, Nags Head, NC

Message from the Co-Presidents

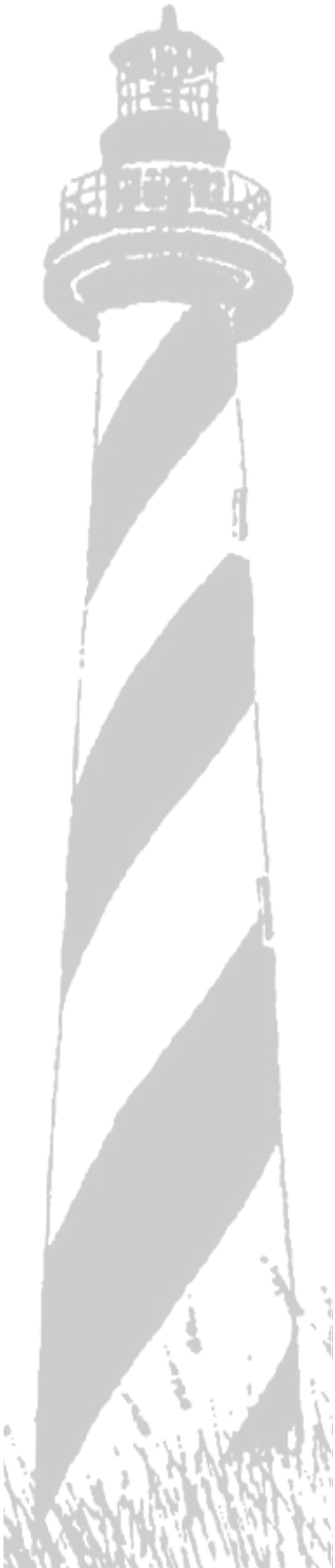
We are nearing the end of a busy and productive fiscal year. Since the beginning of calendar year 2009, we have held major programs on **“Immigration -- The Economic Impact in Dare County”** and **“Navigating Cancer in Dare County.”** During the month of February, we published and distributed our annual **Citizens Guide** throughout the county. The Guide is also available on our website www.lwvdarenc.com. The newsletter also contains summaries of two important meetings that were held during the month of March.

We also provide details about our always popular Go-See Tour in April as well as the Annual Meeting that concludes our year in May. Details of both of these events are included in this newsletter.

Since there is so much information that must be disseminated prior to the Annual Meeting, we decided to distribute a printed newsletter in April as well as the usual electronic version. If you have any questions about League activities, past, present or future, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We want to extend special thanks to all of the Board and Committee members who have worked so hard during the past year to make the programs and projects come together. Please plan to join us in April and May for our last two functions and please bring any guests who might be interested in what we are doing.

Jeannette and Carole





Go-See Tour - Spuds to Suds April 14

This year's Go-See Tour will focus on organic farming. Join us to see what the local agricultural community has to offer and how you can be a part of "farm to fork" eating.

The Albemarle Sound provides all of us with many opportunities. All around us is a rich heritage of fisheries, boating and farming. The Natural Resource Committee has hosted previous tours to highlight fisheries and boating and this year, we are proposing an equally fascinating tour of nearby farms. So put on your jeans, grab a hat and sunscreen and come along to visit three different farms in Camden, Pasquotank and Currituck counties. Learn about what is actually produced in this area and how you can (or can not) find local produce in stores. Learn about modern technologies and about challenges to this important heritage.

The tour will begin at the Ferebee Farm in Camden, travel to a farm in Weeksville, and on the way back we will stop at the Weeping Radish Eco Farm (all organic) in Currituck for lunch and a tour. We will speak not only with farmers, but with agri-businessmen, and Tommy Fleetwood, the Marketing Director for NC Ag Dept. What is the 'slow food' movement? What does that organic label really mean? What is the economic impact of farming in these counties? Can families really afford to pass on the farm to the next generation, after farming for 6 generations? You bring your questions and we'll help provide the answers.

Hope to see you on Friday, April 24. Call and register with Martha McKeon, telephone: 261-1796. *See back page for details.*



2009 Annual Meeting May 15

All League members and their guests are invited to the Annual Meeting scheduled for Friday, May 15 at the Penguin Isle Restaurant in Nags Head. Plan to join us at 11:00 AM for registration and a social gathering. The annual business session will include presentation of the 2009 –2010 budget and election and installation of officers. Included in this newsletter are reports from the Nominating and Finance Committees follow and a registration form for the meeting.

Our keynote speaker for this event will be Lin Logan who is a professor of women's history.

Report of the Nominating Committee



The Nominating Committee, Chaired by Pat Hayward is placing the following slate of officers and directors into nomination to serve from 2009 – 2011:

Co-President -- Audrey Esposito
Secretary – Marianne Landrum
Board Member – Vivian Gould
Board Member – Paula Donaghy



Proposed 2009 - 2011 Local Program

Health Care: Promote citizen education to provide affordable health care, improve access to health care locally, and co-sponsor programs about community health care issues.

Natural Resources: Educate and promote the best management practices for natural resources in areas relevant to Dare County. Concerns include, but are not limited to, state watershed protection, wetland issues, sound and estuary conditions, air and water quality and beach erosion measures.

Education: Promote citizen education on school issues at all levels. Monitor Dare County Board of Education meetings.

Local Government: Monitor Dare County Board of Commissioners meetings. Study, review and comment on the administration of local government of the county and the towns and provide programs and/or studies on issues as they become relevant.



Report of the Finance Committee

The proposed budget for the next fiscal year has been approved by the LWV Board and will be adopted by the membership at the Annual Meeting in May. The budget is basically the same as 2008-2009 with several minor changes. The management of the recently created website is an annual contract with GCP that costs \$600 per year. With the reduction in newsletter expenses due to electronic distribution, that section of the budget is reduced by \$238. On the revenue side, the fund raising at the holiday party's silent auction has increased in the past two years so that a \$1200 line item is being realized. Although business contributions were not as high as budgeted this year, the target for collecting donations will remain at \$5500 to fund the Citizens Guide. Overall, the budget represents a decrease of \$220 from 2008-2009.

The budget (*next page*) is divided into two sections. The operating budget indicates those expenses and revenues that are administered locally through the LWV-Dare checking account. The CEF (Citizens Education Foundation) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit account that is managed by LWV-NC for tax deductible contributions collected by the local Leagues. There are program expenses that can be reimbursed from the Dare sub account fund, if the money has been collected from our fund raising efforts. As of March 17, 2009, there is a balance in the checking account of \$6,175 and \$1,281 in the CEF account for a total of \$7,456. The dues for 2009-2010 will remain at the current level of \$50 for an individual and \$75 for a household.

If you have any questions, please contact Treasurer Nancy Birindelli at 252-261-3915.



Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

	Operating	CEF
OPERATION COSTS		
A1. P.O. Box	50	50
A2. Contingency	100	-0-
Subtotal A	150	50
BOARD AND COMMITTEES		
B1. President	100	-0-
B2. Secretary	10	-0-
B3. Treasurer	25	-0-
B4. Board of Directors	25	-0-
B5. Membership Committee	50	-0-
B6. Publicity & PR	25	-0-
B7. Hospitality	100	-0-
B8. Fund Raising	175	-0-
Subtotal B	510	-0-
DELEGATES, TRAVEL, etc.		
C1. State/National Conventions	600	-0-
Subtotal C	600	-0-
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO LWV - Dues		
D1. National 61@28./9@14.00	917	917
D2. State 61@12//9@6.00	786	-0-
Subtotal D	1,703	917
NEWSLETTER		
E1. Supplies, copying	512	-0-
E2. Postage	200	-0-
Subtotal	712	-0-
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES		
F1. Programs (speakers, publicity)	200	83
F2. Voters Service	-0-	150
F3. Citizens Guide	-0-	5,500
F4. Website – maintenance	600	
Subtotal	800	5,733
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,475	6,700
\$11,175		
INCOME		
Dues 61@50/9@25	3,275	
Fund Raising – Holiday Party	1,200	
Fund Raising – Citizens Guide		5,500
Fund Raising – Businesses		1,200
TOTAL INCOME	4,475	6,700

LWV ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON
MAY 15TH, 2009



PENGUIN ISLE RESTAURANT
Nags Head, NC

11:00 AM to 11:30 AM -- Registration

11:30 AM to 12:15 PM -- Keynote Speaker LIN LOGAN

12:15 PM -- Luncheon

1:00 PM -- Business meeting

Election and Installation of Officers and Board Members

Please mail your registration and check by May 7 or

Call Carole Burchett at 261-6380

Annual Meeting Registration

Name(s) _____

Phone: home _____ cell _____

Number of reservations: _____ @ \$20.00 Total amount enclosed _____

Make checks payable to LWV – Dare and mail to:
LWV – Dare
P.O. Box 689
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

R.S.V.P. by May 7, 2009



MARCH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Update on Homeowners Insurance Rates – On March 5 the League sponsored a community informational meeting about Coastal Homeowners Insurance and the impact of rate changes that were recently approved. League member Willo Kelly, Government Affairs Director for the Outer Banks Home Builders Association and the Outer Banks Association of Realtors and NC State Representative Tim Spear were the featured speakers. They provided updates on their lobbying and legislative efforts to a standing-room-only audience at the Kill Devil Hills Town Hall.

A new wind deductible and increases to the Beach Plan costs were approved last November and went into effect February 1st. The 2% wind deductible is a huge increase from the previous flat rate deductibles and applies each and every time there is *any* wind damage. The North Carolina Department of Insurance also approved general homeowner's policy rate changes statewide with the Dare and Currituck County areas being affected with increases between 6.5% and 22%. These increases are scheduled to go into effect on May 1st.

Rep. Spear has introduced legislation which would impose a two year moratorium on rate increases. House Bill 426 requests a stay of ALL rate increases statewide approved Dec. 18, 2008 and changes to the Beach/Fair Plans approved November 21, 2008 by the Insurance Commissioner. Significantly, on March 27, Superior Judge William Pittman issued an order last Friday afternoon that imposes a stay all Beach Plan/Fair Plan surcharge increases and 2% deductible until the case can be heard on it's merits! This is an ongoing issue that impacts all citizens of Dare County.

National Popular Vote Compact Consensus Study – On March 17, the League held a Consensus Study meeting on the National Popular Vote Compact.

National LWV has asked local Leagues for their views on whether states should adopt the Compact which would alter the current method of electing the President and Vice-President of the United States.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) favors popular vote of the President of the United States instead of the current Electoral College system mandated by our U. S. Constitution. Some LWV leaders believe that most U. S. citizens also favor direct popular vote of the President, although this hypothesis has not been tested. Election by direct popular vote is not provided for in the U. S. Constitution, so the constitution would need to be amended to provide for it.

An alternative has been formulated – called the National Popular Vote Compact. This Compact would provide a mechanism for implementing or partially implementing popular voting for the President]without amending the constitution. The essence of the Compact is that all States, whose legislatures agree to adopt the Compact in law, would cast all of their State's Electoral College votes for the presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote – no matter how the State's voters have cast their votes. Enough States would have to adopt the Compact to provide for a majority of votes cast in the Electoral College – 255. This would then assure that the person elected President receives both the popular vote and the majority vote of the Electoral College. The Compact would not take effect unless and until enough State legislatures adopt it in States, which cumulatively cast votes for at least 255 Electors.

With approximately 16 members in attendance, Professor Rex Etheridge from the College of the Albemarle gave an historical overview of the Electoral College system. League members, Jeannette Anderson, Cheryl Byrd, Mary Ellen Hawthorne presented details of the National Popular Vote Concept and the pros and cons of implementation. Members then considered the Consensus questions presented by the national LWV. The group was able to reach consensus on all questions. They felt that "action to alter a basic element of the Constitutional framework, which is achievable by amendment to the Constitution, should be accomplished by amendment to the Constitution... and that it is better that the League continue to work for an amendment to the Constitution to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College."

Surveying the School Scene -- The regularly scheduled meeting of the Dare County Board of Education was held at First Flight Middle School on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 with all members present. The League's 2009 Citizens Guide was presented to board members during the public comment segment of the meeting. Chairman Oaksmith thanked the League for its work in the community.

The major focus of the meeting was the budget proposal presented by Superintendent Dr. Sue Burgess who stated that, "This (financial) climate has made the budget process a challenge." The total state and local budget moneys would put the budget total from all sources at \$52.2 million with \$19,942,619 local funding. The proposed budget represents only a 0.8% increase over last year's budget, with Superintendent Burgess stating that there is "nothing left to cut".

Burgess stated there was conflicting information from the state with regard to funding. The state will log an overall increase due to a projected increase in students, but is cutting more than \$400,000 in other areas. The schools project an increase of 1.5% county money, due to the higher enrollment number which is projected at 4,901.

The federal stimulus package may provide more funding for Title I exceptional children, however Burgess stated she was unsure if the state would make cuts to match the federal increases. Since Dare County ranks 108 out of 115 in federal funding, this accounts for only 3% of the operating budget. Continuing the bad financial news on the state front, some lottery proceeds which have been going to the schools are expected to be used to help balance the state budget.

The projected budget predicts an \$800,000 in fund balance, which is similar to last year's balance, after paying approximately \$200,000 in bonuses to high performing teachers when the state reneged on the payments.

Budget presentations will be made separately to principals, the employee advisory committee, and parent advisory committee. A Workshops open to the public was held at the central office in Nags Head on Wednesday, March 25 at 6 PM providing the detailed description of the proposed budget

In other board business, Chairman Oaksmith reported that the teacher housing has twenty-two units filled in Kill Devil Hills. There is federal funding potential for housing on Hatteras and plans are being discussed.

In a final item, the board approved a donation for a 12 foot by 12 foot ticket booth at First Flight High School. The carpentry class will build the booth with the booster club assisting with financing.

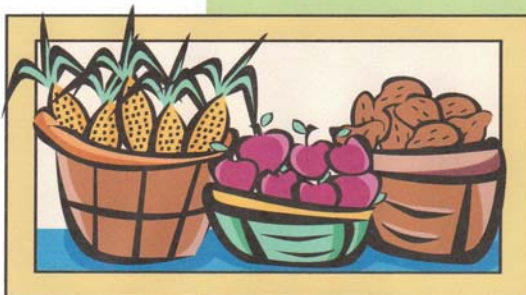
Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey Esposito, Education Chair

The League of Women Voters of Dare County invite you to their annual

GO-SEE TOUR

SPUDS to SUDS

getting down to earth



**FRIDAY
APRIL 24, 2009**

We will be touring the following:

**John Ferebee Farm - potato
in Camden at 9:30am**

**John Bullman Farm - cabbage & soybeans
in Weeksville at 11:00am**

**Weeping Radish - brewery & farm area
in Grandy at 1:30pm**

for ride sharing meet 8:00am at the Marketplace in Southern Shores

**We will provide a mid-morning snack and water.
Lunch is on your own. We can provide a list of area
restaurants for you to chose from.**

**The public is encouraged to come. For reservations and
more information please call Martha McKeon at 261-1756.**



www.lwvdarenc.org



P.O. Box 689
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

Address Service Requested

Officers:

Co-Presidents

Jeannette Anderson ('07-'09)
255-0035

Carole Burchett ('08-'10)
261-6380

Vice President Karen DelVacchio ('08-'10)

Secretary Marianne Landrum ('07-'09)

Treasurer Nancy Birindelli ('08-'10)

Elected Directors
Paula Donaghy ('07-'09)
Mary Ellen Hawthorne ('08-'09)
Martha McKeon ('08-'10)
Lori Williams ('08-'10)

Appointed Directors
Ellen Barbaro
Cheryl Byrd
Connie Cogger
Rose Deacon
Audrey Esposito
Dru Ferrence

Committee Chairs

Citizens Guide: Lori Williams

Education: Audrey Esposito

Fund Raising: Karen Delvacchio

Health Services: Rose Deacon

Hospitality: Connie Cogger

Membership: Paula Donaghy

480-1844

Ellen Barbaro

255-5738

Natural Resources: Martha McKeon

Newsletter: Sharon Perry Sullivan

Nominating: Pat Hayward

Program Coordinator: Cheryl Byrd

Publicity: Press Releases - Roberta Carol

Flyers - Amy Huggins

Voter Service: Dru Ferrence

Mary Ellen Hawthorne

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to both men and women. Annual dues, payable July 1, are \$50 for individuals and \$75 for households. To join, send a check made payable to: Dare County League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 689, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949