

January
2012

The DARE Voter

Mark Your Calendar

(See details elsewhere in this newsletter)

CITIZENS GUIDE DISTRIBUTION – The 2012 Citizens Guide is at the printers! The distribution of the booklets is one of LWV's biggest projects of the year. Volunteers are needed to assist with the distribution of the Guides to the contributors, county agencies, libraries, post offices, and other community locations for citizens to acquire a copy. Please contact Lin Logan at loganedd@charter.net or 480-2866 if you can help with this effort. The date for distribution will be scheduled in several weeks. Thanks for your support!

Thursday, February 23— 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Baum Center
“Live Healthy as You Live Longer”
Presented by the Outer Banks Hospital
Refreshments will be served

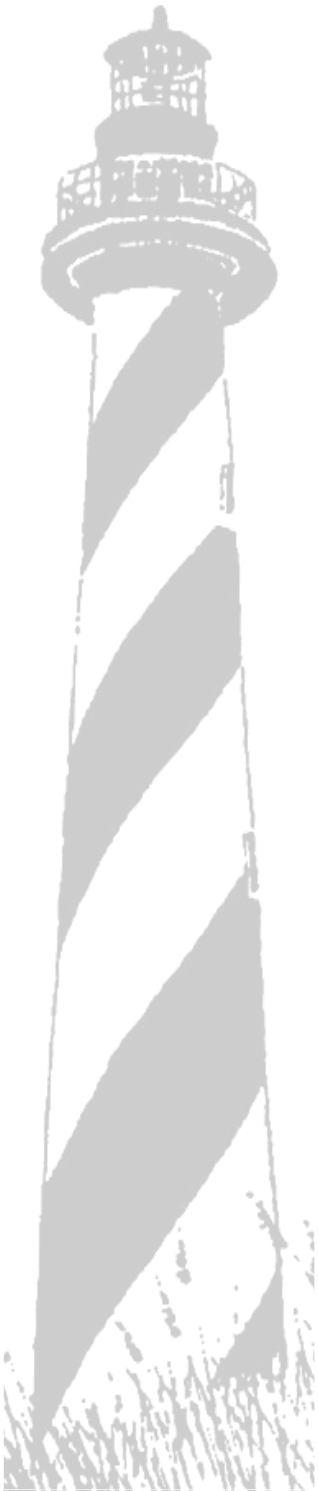
Thursday, March 22 – Pains Bay Fire – see article in this newsletter

Friday, April 20 – Go-See Tour to Pains Bay Fire (rain date, April 27)

Friday, May 11 – Annual Meeting – 25th Anniversary Celebration

Board Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. – followed by Lin Logan's women's film series at 2:30 p.m. -- Spring Arbor

www.LWVDareNC.org



Hi from your Co-Presidents,

I hope you had a safe and fun Holiday Season. As usual, we had a fantastic Holiday Luncheon at Duck Woods Country Club with good food and the opportunity to chat with each other. Additionally, we set another record for our annual Silent Auction – raising \$1,574.50 this year. There were so many great items to bid on this year thanks to our members and local merchants who made donations.

In January we had a very informative, well attended, program on gang activity on the Outer Banks. We heard from many folks that gangs are not here but, unfortunately, they are, and it was very useful to hear about what to look for and what to do if you suspect something in your area.

The 2012 Citizens Guide just went to print, and you will be hearing from us soon about needing your help with its distribution.

We have interesting programs planned for Feb (elder health issues), March (Pains Bay Fire in Alligator River) and April (Go-See Tour to the Pains Bay Fire). Please see the articles in this newsletter for additional information about these interesting programs.

Soon, this year will be ending for us and we will start looking forward to next year. The Nominating Committee will be looking for officers and board members for next year. If you have any interest in becoming an officer/board member, please let Nominating Chair Vivian Gould (vawgould@gmail.com; 261-5659) know.

Sincerely,
Lori Williams and Lin Logan





Knowledge is Power
Knowledge is Power

Presentation of Gang Activity

The presentation on “What Everyone Needs to Know about Gangs in Dare County” was held on January 16 and was unbelievable! The council chamber was filled with standing room only and included the Mayor and council members of Kill Devil Hills and Sheriff Doug Doughty. The Sheriff was very complimentary of the work of the KDH Police Department especially as related to gangs. The presentation by Sgt. Brandon Henderson was very informative, and he used humor to keep the audience involved in his presentation and the seriousness of what is going on in Dare County with the gang population. Concentration seems to be in the Manteo area but various named gangs are found in all the towns on the Outer Banks. Gang members seem to be entering the area from Elizabeth City as well as areas as far away as New York. The gang activity includes theft, braking and entering of cars and homes, and the sale of illegal drugs. The gangs are a big business, and the Outer Banks is a prime target for easy access to expensive items to steal and resell at a big profit and a ready market for drugs. Sgt. Henderson was ready to answer any question asked and was extremely knowledgeable in all areas. To add to his presentation, there were several other officers in the room who spoke about various perspectives of police work including undercover operations.

Sgt. Henderson did an outstanding job of informing the audience about how gangs operate. He spoke to the teenagers who are most vulnerable to the pull of gangs as well as an excellent check list of the reasons why they join. A very important part of the presentation included the actions that schools, parents, and law enforcement can do to deter young men and women from joining gangs. He listed the many reasons including low self esteem, lack of parental oversight, not doing well in school, desire to have power of some kind that causes the gang way of life to be appealing. He also outlined the various ways the public can recognize gang member activity based on the clothing and colors they wear as well as tattoos, hand signals, and gang symbol graffiti staking out a territory. **Knowledge is power**, and we are at the very beginning of understanding about this threat in Dare County.

Sheriff Doughty announced that his department has a website that includes updates on gangs and other pertinent information. It is www.nixle.com.

Fundraising Update

By Lori DiBarnardo
and Carol Butscher,
Fundraising Co-chairs

The committee summarized the fundraising efforts thus far for 2011 – 2012.

Direct Mail Campaign	\$4,350.00
Holiday Silent Auction	\$1,574.50 (the BEST ever!!)
November Belk Sale	\$543.00
Chico Bag Sales	\$150.00

There will be another Belk Charity Sale in May. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this money saving sale which provides funds for the operating budget. Tickets are only \$5.00 and the discounts on sale items are extraordinary!!



LWV to Offer Public Program on Impacts of the Pains Bay Fire

By Robert Perry, Natural Resources Chair

The Dare County League of Women Voters will be offering a presentation on the causes, ecology, and impact of last summer's Pains Bay Fire. It will occur on Thursday, March 22. The time and place will be announced soon. A special element of this presentation is that it will offer research findings done by a group of UNC – Chapel Hill undergraduates who spent last fall studying in Manteo and researching the Pains Bay Fire for their collective research undertaking known as the Capstone Project. Their work included a survey of year-round residents living in many Dare County communities that examined the feelings of those residents about the impact of both wildfires and prescribed burns in the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge. A follow-up "Go-See" tour of the area that was burned will occur on April 20. Specifics of the Go-See tour will be announced in a future newsletter.

Surveying the School Scene

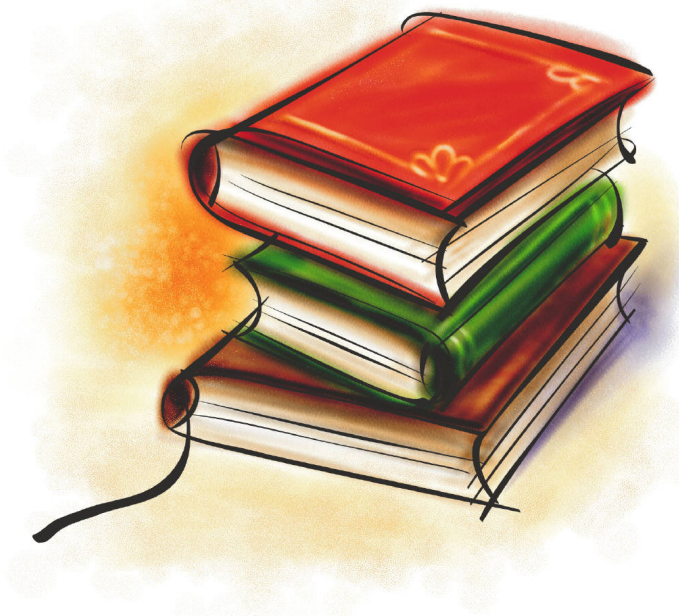
By Joan Liston, Education Chair

During the January 10 Board of Education meeting held at Manteo Elementary School at 5:00, the following items were approved:

Approval of the Capital Improvement Plan effective through 2017. Highlights include Manteo High School's track refurbishment, First Flight High School's dust collection system for the carpentry class, Manteo Elementary School's eight classroom expansion at 3.6 million due to increased enrollment, Cape Hatteras Secondary School of Coastal Studies roof replacement, and other grounds equipment for maintenance and transportation.

Acceptance of a Bright Ideas grant of \$14,532 from Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative to fund the installation of an outdoor classroom adjacent to the north-west side of Cape Hatteras Elementary School.

Approval of Revisions to Policy 6401 concerning "Vendor Relations." It now states that ,
"No officer, agent, manager, teacher, or employee of the board of education who will derive a direct or indirect benefit from the use of any manufactured article, goods, may deliberate or vote on the matter or attempt to influence any other person who is involved in making such a decision."



Approval of Revisions to Policy 7730 on, "Staff Conflict of Interest." This policy stresses that "all employees of the board of education will avoid any conflict of interest." This includes such things as endorsement of books, materials, equipment, engaging in an activity that raises a reasonable question of conflict, or accepting gifts, favors or specials from salesmen and/or business firms. Lastly no employee will have direct supervision of an immediate family member.

Approval of Revisions to Policy 7738 on "Gifts." This states that, "No staff member will compromise his or her position by accepting any gift of significant monetary value from individuals or special interest groups within the school community or elsewhere, except as such gifts are expressions of good will from the community for a job done over and beyond the call of duty."

The League of Women Voters: Making Democracy Work

By Audrey Esposito, LWV – NC Board Member

Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters, national has indicated that we might put together a list of Election Year Resolutions/Hopes for the upcoming year, in anticipation of an intense one:

Ensure all eligible voters are registered to vote and can exercise their right to vote without having to overcome unnecessary and restrictive hurdles.

Educate the electorate on the candidates and issues on their ballots and help them find their polling place.

Encourage informative and productive debates between candidates so voters can learn about their elected representatives through more than just sound bites.

Fight to make sure election outcomes are decided by voters, not by special interest money.

Promise clean air for children and their families, and change the discussion to the important issues facing Americans in 2012.

As expressed by MacNamara, we have many challenges ahead of us, but working together with our state and local leagues and all of our supporters, we know that we can succeed.





LWV – Dare
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Address Service Requested

Officers:

Co-presidents:

Lori Williams ('10-'12)
252-261-5275

Lin Logan ('11-'13)
252-480-2866

Vice President: Mary Jane Slesinski ('11-'13)

Secretary: Marianne Landrum ('10-'12)

Treasurer: Nancy Birindelli ('10-'12)

Elected Joan Phifer ('11-'13)

Directors: Audrey Esposito ('11-'13)
Vivian Gould ('11-'12)
Robert Perry ('10-'12)
Pat Haresch ('10-'12)

Appointed

Directors: Carole Burchett, Carol Butscher, Lori DiBernado, Mary Ellen Hawthorne, Joan Liston, Marion Midgett, and Geri Sullivan

Committee Chairs:

Citizens Guide: Geri Sullivan

Education: Joan Liston

Fundraising: Carol Butscher and
Lori DiBernardo

Health Services: Carole Burchett

Hospitality: Joan Phifer

Membership: Marion Midgett
Pat Haresch

Natural Resources: Robert Perry

Newsletter: Nancy Birindelli

Lauren Logan

Nominating: Vivian Gould, chair
Nancy Proctor, member

Programs: Joan Phifer

Publicity: Audrey Esposito

Voter Service: 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: League of Women Voters of Dare County, P.O. Box 689, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949