

June 2009

The DARE Voter

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM ENCLOSED

LWV - Dare Officers and Board Members for 2009-2010 Elected at Annual Meeting

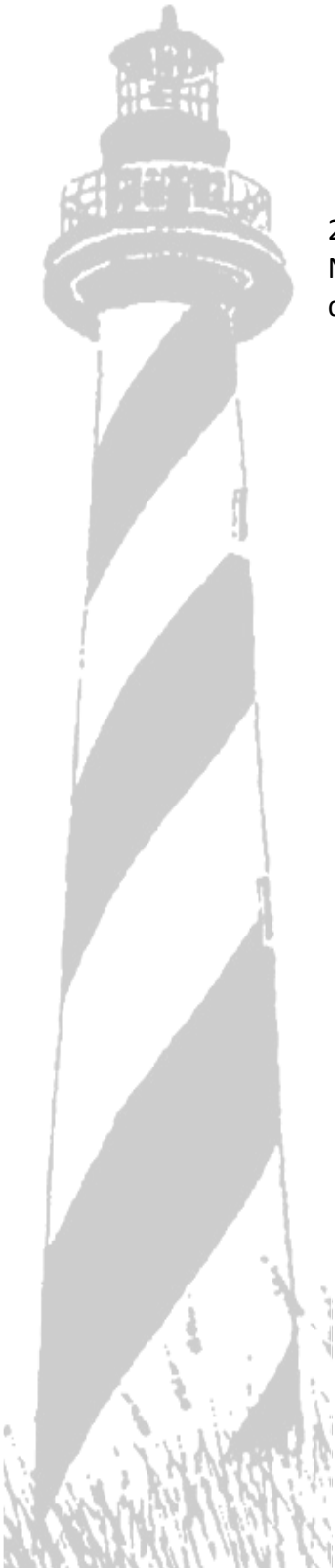
The League of Women Voters Annual Meeting was held on May 15, 2009 at Penguin Isle, soon to be renamed Pamlico Jack's, at milepost 16 in Nags Head. Thirty members and guests enjoyed the bountiful buffet, delicious dessert, and camaraderie for the final event of the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Reflections of Outgoing Co-president Jeannette Anderson

Outgoing Co-president Jeannette Anderson reviewed a year filled with busy times and several major programs which were well attended by League members and residents of the community. Those programs included, but were not limited to, "Immigration - The Economic Impact in Dare County" and "Navigating Cancer in Dare County". On March 5 the League sponsored a community informational meeting concerning Coastal Homeowners Insurance and the impact of rate changes on citizens. Willo Kelly, League member and Government Affairs Director for the Outer Banks Home Builders Association, and North Carolina Representative Tim Spear were speakers providing updates on lobbying and pending legislation to a standing room only audience at the Kill Devil Hills Town Hall.

Also in March the National Popular Vote Compact consensus study was held with sixteen members in attendance. An informative and enjoyable "Spuds to Suds" Go-See Tour commenced in April with members and guests exploring three different farms in Camden, Pasquotank and Currituck counties. With presentations by the local farmers, agri-businessmen, and Tommy Fleetwood the Marketing Director of NC Agriculture Department along with lunch and tour at the Weeping Radish, visitors certainly learned about modern farming technologies and the challenges to this important heritage. A number of members and guests even returned home with cabbage seedlings ready for planting in their own gardens.

Jeannette graciously thanked League members and Board chairpersons who gave of their time and effort to bring about a successful year filled with informative and thought provoking programs.



Key Note Presentation

“The Antis: Women Against the Vote” by Dr. Lin Logan

Dr. Lin Logan, Dare County League member and former faculty member at Virginia Wesleyan College gave a provocative view of the women’s suffrage movement. Having served as Chair of the Education Department and a professor of history, her special interest in women’s history was evident throughout her presentation. This lively and often humorous view of the women who were opposed to women having the right to vote was filled with a great deal of information on the history of the women’s movement.

Dr. Logan spoke of the “cult of domesticity” with mother being the moral leader of the family, represented by purity, submission, and domesticity and how this was reinforced by churches, magazines and women in the early 19th century.

There was a National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage with headquarters in New York and Washington, DC. Their symbol was the red rose. They believed, according to Dr. Logan’s handout, that 90% of the women did not want the vote, or did not care, and felt it was “unwise to risk the good we already have for the evil which may occur.” There were many other reasons given for opposing suffrage and 1840 was the beginning of an 80 year struggle leading finally to the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Logan stated that the League of Women Voters supported the Shepard Towner Act which was the first to protect women. Audience members thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Logan’s presentation and look forward to hearing more about the women’s movement in the near future.

Officers and Board Members Honored

Co-president Carole Burchett presented recognition awards to retiring officers and directors. Co-president Jeannette Anderson was presented with a gavel mounted on an engraved plaque to commemorate her two years of dedicated service to the LWV. Her term as co-president will be remembered as one of vitality with varied and exciting programs, and wonderfully informative newsletters.

Retiring Membership Co-chair Ellen Barbaro, Health Chair Rose Deacon, Voter Service Co-chairs Dru Ferrence and Mary Ellen Hawthorne were honored with photos for their dedicated service. Also honored was Cheryl Byrd, not in attendance, for her tireless work on programs. Cheryl had also donated a Susan B. Anthony coin which was awarded to a lucky ticket holder.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting was presided over by Carole Burchett. The minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were approved.

The Budget for 2009-2010 was adopted as presented by Treasurer Nancy Birindelli. The balance in the checking account is \$5,864.35 and the CEF balance is \$1,481.22 for a total of \$7,345.57 in revenue. Dues will remain \$50.00 for an individual and \$75.00 for a household. Renewals are due beginning in July.

Past Co-president Nancy Birindelli conducted the installation of officers and Board members: Co-president Audrey Esposito and Secretary Marianne Landrum for two-year terms, 2009-2011. Board member Vivian Gould will serve as Chair for Voter Service and Paula Donaghy for the Health Chair also for two-year terms. The Nominating Committee Chair will continue to be filled by Pat Haywood for 2009-2010 and past Co-president Dru Ferrence was elected to the Nominating Committee for one year.

Board Retreat Scheduled

Outgoing and incoming Board Members will meet on August 18, 2009 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Manteo Tourist and Information Center. The retreat will be held in order to plan programs and activities for the coming year. Lunch will be provided. Please contact a Board member with any suggestions for 2009-2010 programs, activities, or tours.

by Audrey Esposito

Convention 2009 Held in Greensboro

The LWV-NC Convention was held in Greensboro on June 5 – 7, 2009. The Dare League was represented by Carole Burchett, Mary Ellen Hawthorne and Nancy Birindelli. The event began with a tour of the Woolworth store in the city where the first civil rights sit-in was staged in 1960 by four African-American students from NC A & T College. The sit-in lasted for months with many other students joining the protest until the management of the store relented on July 25 and allowed service at the lunch counter to all people. The store is being renovated to become an international civil rights center and museum and is scheduled to open on February 1, 2010, the 50th anniversary of the event. The museum's executive director, Amelia Parker, made an eloquent presentation about the museum and its meaning to the entire civil rights movement.

The convention business included the adoption of the budget, election of six new officers and directors, and the approval of changes to the by-laws. There were legislative updates by legislators and members of several coalitions with which LWV-NC is affiliated for voting rights, election reform, health care, the environment, and, of course, the BUDGET. Rep. Mickey Michaux, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, portrayed an extremely grim picture of the state of the NC budget which is currently being considered by the House. Other topics of discussion included coalition partnerships, membership recruitment efforts, new ways to structure local League management, technology, League success stories (Dare presented the Citizens Guide), and motivating volunteers. The three day session was quite intense with much information on many topics disseminated to the 60+ attendees. Much of the organization for the convention was conducted by LWV-NC's new Project Coordinator, Erin Connelly.

The Henderson County League held an evening caucus on the Equal Rights Amendment and is taking the lead on a statewide initiative to bring the passage of the amendment to the legislature next year for possible passage so that the three states that are needed for final ratification can become reality after decades of neglect. Representative Alma Adams, District 58, was a presenter on "We Need More Women in Public Service" and stated that she would assist with the ERA cause in the House.

by Nancy Birindelli





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM - 2009-2010

The membership renewals for 2009-2010 are due by July 1, 2009. New members who joined after February 1, 2009 are automatically renewed for 2009-2010.

Individual Membership -- \$50.00
Household Membership -- \$75.00

NAME(S) _____

AD-
DRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES **made payable to LWV – Dare** _____

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION **made payable to LWV - CEF** _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Are you willing to receive the monthly newsletter via email? YES NO

May we send you program reminders and political notices via e-mail? YES NO

Please mail this form and your check(s) to:

LWV of Dare County
P.O. Box 689
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

Thank you for your continued support!

Dare County Board of Education Report -- May

The Dare County Board of Education met at Nags Head Elementary School on May 12, 2009. Superintendent Sue Burgess informed the Board of Education that cuts totaling about \$1.2 million may have to be made, since the state budget is up in the air, the governor's proposals in, and the Senate and House proposals not confirmed.

In 2008-2009, the school system had to remit money to both the state and county as the economy soured. Federal stimulus money is expected to help with the projected budget cuts this year, however, with the combined state and local cut projected, the difference will be just under \$1.2 million.

Although the county had stated that schools would be the last to be cut, Burgess has been told that schools will not get their full per-pupil funding this year. In addition, if the Senate proposal passes, More At Four will disappear and there will be two more students per class, resulting in the loss of 18 teaching positions locally and six assistants. Burgess informed the Board that any open positions will be filled through the system.

Employees will take part in the state-mandated salary reduction of 0.5 percent for 10 hours. There will be no reductions in longevity pay, service credits, benefits or annual leave.

In other business the Board accepted an \$8,800 grant from the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program, NCDENR, for a school yard demonstration project at Kitty Hawk Elementary School entitled Renewable Energy Discovery Zone. This project consists of two solar panels, a small wind turbine, an AC/DC converter and computer software that will allow fourth and fifth grade science students to monitor energy being produced by alternative means. It will also demonstrate how using alternative energy can help reduce the building's carbon footprint.

by Audrey Esposito, Education Chair



Dare County Board of Education Report -- June

The Dare County Board of Education met on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 informing the public that 12 classroom teacher contracts have been non-renewed as a result of the state proposal to increase class size by two students at every grade level. According to finance officer Anna McGinnis the cutting of class size equates to paying for fewer teachers by the state, and it could mean 21 fewer teachers in Dare County.

Outcomes have not been finalized and a special Board meeting is set for June 23 to further discuss and adopt an interim budget for 2009-2010, since the budget cannot be finalized until the state funding is determined. The special meeting will be held at the school administrative offices adjacent to Nags Head Elementary at 6 p.m.

Superintendent Sue Burgess has advocated keeping the More At Four Program in a presentation at a state budget meeting where North Carolina senators and superintendents were in attendance. Burgess told the Board that the More At Four Program has "long lasting residual effects and is very important" and that eliminating it is "short changing our students and will seriously undermine our future."

Board Chairman David Oaksmith stated, "I am confident our staff took aggressive measures to cut spending in all areas in order to retain as many teachers as possible. They were simply fighting an uphill battle as the state and local revenue continued to decline."

by Audrey Esposito, Education Chair

Health Tip

Swine Flu: The CDC recommends the following precautions: Wash hands with warm water and soap, rubbing both sides of hands and wrists, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue if you sneeze or cough and dispose of it immediately, avoid touching your face, nose, eyes or mouth when out in public. If you think you have the symptoms of the flu, contact your doctor, especially if you have a severe chronic illness. If you are told that you have swine flu, stay home for at least 7 days after the infection.

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to seasonal flu such as: fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, body aches and feeling tired, lack of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

by Paula Donaghy, Health Chair



P.O. Box 689
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

Address Service Requested

Officers:

Co-presidents:

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

Audrey Esposito ('09-'11)
261-8052

Vice President: Karen DelVacchio ('08-'10)

Secretary: Marianne Landrum ('09-'11)

Treasurer: Nancy Birindelli ('08-'10)

Elected Paula Donaghy ('09-'11)

Directors: Dru Ferrence ('09-'10)
Vivian Gould ('09-'11)
Pat Hayward ('09-'10)
Martha McKeon ('08-'10)
Lori Williams ('08-'10)

Appointed Connie Cogger

Directors: Roberta Carol
('09-'10) Pat Hayward
Mimi Iacone

Committee Chairs:

Citizens Guide: Lori Williams

Education: vacant

Fundraising: Karen DelVacchio

Health Services: Paula Donaghy

Hospitality: Connie Cogger

Membership: Mimi Iacone

Natural Resources: Martha McKeon

Newsletter: Sharon Perry Sullivan

Nominating: Pat Hayward, chair

Dru Ferrence

Program Coordinator: vacant

Publicity: Press Releases: Roberta Carol

Flyers: Amy Huggins

Voter Service: Vivian Gould

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