

**May
2010**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DARE COUNTY

The DARE Voter

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

May 14, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

Pamlico Jack's Restaurant

A message from your co-presidents

Make sure to send in your reservation and join us for our Annual Meeting on May 14, 2010 at Pamlico Jack's. We will be celebrating 90 years of service of the League of Women Voters, an important milestone. The League was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving the women the right to vote after a 72 year struggle.

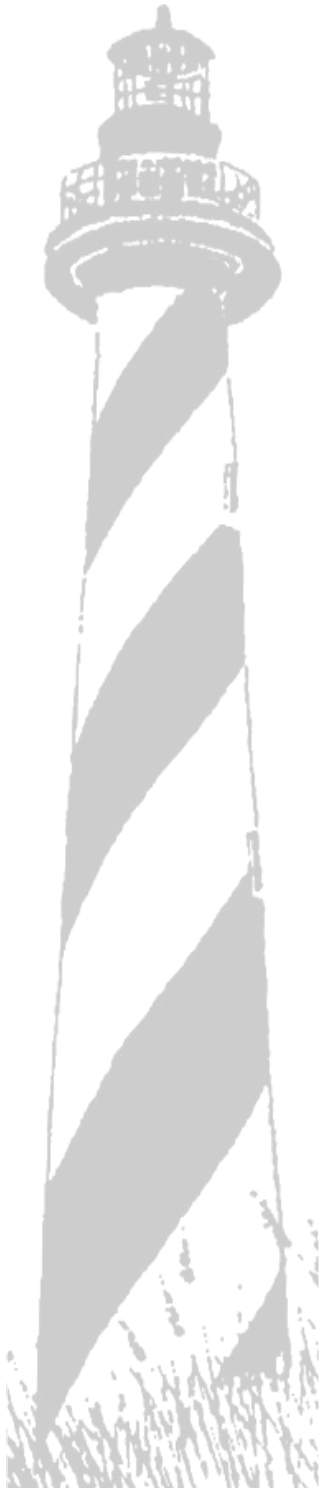
From the beginning, the League was an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. It was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization. However, League members were encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation. This year the League actively supported health reform, as it had been doing since adopted as a position by the League in 1993, to "promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs."

The League is proud of its long, rich history but realizes that the work is not yet completed, and there is much to look forward to. We at the LWV of Dare will continue to work toward meaningful participation in the government processes at the national, state and local levels.

We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting. Come and have an enjoyable afternoon with current board members, newly elected officers and board members, and fellow League members.

Sincerely,

Audrey and Carole



Delegates Attend the LWV-Council

By Nancy Birindelli, LWV-Dare Board treasurer and LWV-NC Board secretary

Your LWV-Dare convention dollars were allocated this year to send three delegates to the 29th LWV-NC Council held at the Little River Golf and County Club in Pinehurst. The Council convenes every other year to adopt an annual budget and conduct such business as is topical. The LWV-NC Convention is held on the odd numbered years and includes the election of officers as an item of its business. This year the attendance at Council was extremely small with only 29 delegates which included 11 LWV-NC Board members and representatives from ten local Leagues. Dare delegates were Co-president Audrey Esposito, Citizens Guide Editor Lori Williams and Nancy Birindelli. It was thought that the low attendance rate was due to the fact that the National Convention will be held in Atlanta in June and a large contingent of NC Leaguers will be attending.

The program for those assembled included presentations by Rob Thompson of Together NC on Tax Modernization. LWV-NC is a coalition member of that group which is attempting to convince the General Assembly that the tax code in NC is greatly outdated, not having been changed since the 1930's. The presentation gave convincing evidence that the business taxes need to be increased significantly since they only account for 4% of revenues, and taxes should be levied on services that now make up more than 50% of the state's economy with the flight of manufacturing. The GA is concentrating on cutting expenses in lieu of modernizing the tax code to reflect what is actually happening in the economy to balance the budget which is several billions of dollars in the red. The group also viewed a powerful Ox-Fam video about our global warming is affecting the women of the world. It was followed by an address by Dr. Kathy Shea, UNC-CH, about the health effects of global warming. A third presentation was made by Adam Sotak, Democracy NC, another LWV-NC coalition partner, reporting on the new legislation that allows young voters, ages 16 and 17, to pre-register to vote although they cannot actually cast ballots until they are 18 years of age. The premise is to alert the teens to the responsibility to vote while they are in the process of obtaining their drivers' licenses.

Several roundtable discussions provided networking opportunities for the delegates. The Henderson League has been taking a leadership role in promoting passage of the ERA in NC since it is one of the states that has yet to ratify the legislation. The aim was to have a bill introduced in the General Assembly in 2011. However, the initiative has not been extremely successful across the state and local Leagues as well as senators and representatives are very occupied with the current economic conditions and are not motivated to pursue this effort at this time. Henderson is advocating that members provide a statement about the importance of the ERA legislation on the LWV-NC website for future initiatives. There were also sessions about Tooting Your Own Horn – writing press releases and getting the best coverage for League events – by Tom Burton, and Obtaining and Maintaining Members by Carole Ellis. The final session conducted by the LVV – Moore County provided an insightful summary of the public policy positions that LWV-US has adopted and continues to advocate for. The areas of concern are representative government, international relations, natural resources, and social policy. In the later category is the position on health care which was adopted as a League position in 1993. Although LWV has been criticized for being partisan in the most recent legislative battle regarding health care, its position has not waived regardless of the political ramifications with the passage of the bill. It is interesting to note that most of the positions outlined in the presentation were adopted decades ago and are on-going advocacy topics throughout the years. The most recent position was on immigration in 2008 which is still a hot button today.

We thank our members for the opportunity to attend the State Council. It is always important to be reminded that the local Leagues across our diverse state have many commonalities and advocate for the same causes. The time spent in networking and camaraderie is also extremely worthwhile.

Surveying the School Scene

By Audrey Esposito

Dare County Superintendent Sue Burgess presented the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year on Tuesday, April 20 at Cape Hatteras Elementary School. As reported by the Coastland Times Board member Anthony Fletcher encouraged the audience to lobby Dare commissioners for increased funding after his opening remarks. Former Board member Joe Farrow addressed the Board during the public comment time calling for restoration of the per pupil funding formula for county support of public education.

The Coastland Times also reported that in order to stay at the current local funding level and deal with mandated rate increases in health insurance and retirement contributions, the proposed budget reduces education spending by \$1.5 million by finding efficiencies, imposing a hiring moratorium and adding no new programs. The More at Four program and the AVID programs have been retained. AVID will have a one grade expansion upward, but not to grades four, five, and six. The budget reduces Rebound for suspended students and intervention program addressing potential drop-outs.

The budget does not fund expansion of the Spanish language program to the fifth grade, does not implement the early college program in place in 77 other local districts, and does not fund a laptop initiative for seniors or a pre-engineering program.

Overall, the proposed budget reduces instruction and support by 3.1 percent and administration by 13.3 percent, and increases transportation by 6.6 percent, or \$100,000. Tentative workshop dates are Tuesday, May 4, and Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 5 p.m. at the administrative offices in Nags Head, before voting on the budget at the regular meeting held on May 11, 2010. Workshops are open to the public.

In other business, the Board had first reading on policies regarding probationary teacher non-renewal and election to career status, another establishing a common definition of homeless children making it easier to identify the Board's obligations with respect to homeless children, and finally revising the age for initial entry into the public school system from age 5 on or before October 16 to age 5 on or before August 31. The revision also adds a provision that the enrollment of a homeless child will not be delayed by inability to provide documentation. Action on these policies is recommended for the May meeting.

90th LWVUS Anniversary Celebration And Annual Meeting Friday, May 14th, 2010 **Pamlico Jack's**

call
Carole Burchett at 261-6380



“Gone With the Wind” LWV Go-See Tour, A Success

By Robert Perry, LWV Board Member and Natural Resources Chair

Nearly twenty hale and hearty souls embarked on a journey on April 15 to see and learn about three operating wind turbines on and near the Outer Banks. North Carolina has abundant wind resources that are unique to the Southeast and has an excellent opportunity to harvest this local source of power. It can provide electricity for home, farm, school or business applications on small or large (utility) scales.

We were accompanied by Brian Miles, a wind-power expert from the Solar Center at NC State University in Raleigh. He explained an enormous amount, and helped us understand the complexities, advantages and pitfalls of purchasing, owning and operating a medium-sized wind turbine here on NC’s coast.

We began by visiting the wind turbine on the property of Willy Phillip’s retail seafood store (Full Circle Crab Company) located on Highway 64 in Columbia, NC. It helps reduce his substantial electricity bill. We next went to Nags Head to see and learn about the wind turbine that powers the National Park Service’s beach access facilities at Coquina Beach. For our last stop, we visited the wind turbine that the owners of the Brew Station erected a few years ago behind their retail restaurant and brewery to reduce their substantial electric bill. We also enjoyed a terrific lunch at the Brew Station!

The tour group learned a great many details about mid-sized turbines. Many of us went on the tour because there is some possibility of substantially expanded use of the excellent wind resources here on the NC coast, particularly by major energy providers, such as Duke Energy. The University of North Carolina and Duke Energy recently agreed – as part of a significant research effort – to construct and study three large wind turbines in Pamlico Sound. Should all regulatory hurdles be surmounted, we might see those built inside of a few years. Additional smaller wind turbines might also be constructed on the Outer Banks within the next year or two.

the devices we saw made very little noise while spinning; in addition, their design and For more information, visit the Solar Center’s website: www.ncsc.ncsu.edu.



Among the things we learned about electricity-generating wind turbines were the following:

- they are deeply anchored in the ground by massive concrete structures;
- if they happen to topple (-an *unlikely* event), none would harm any nearby structures;
- in the event of very high winds, such as might occur during a powerful hurricane, the turbines have built-in mechanisms to slow them down or shut them off. In addition, some can be lowered to the ground or dismantled;
- medium-sized turbines of the type we saw seem to have no negative impacts on wildlife, especially birds; no avian friends have been harmed by the three turbines we observed. Much larger utility-sized turbines, however, might have a different level of impact;
- medium-sized turbines are expensive; it will take many years to make back in saved electricity costs what was spent to buy and install the devices; however, all retailers noted that their business income increased notably by virtue of people stopping by to look at and talk about the turbines;
- the devices we saw made very little noise while spinning; in addition, their design and efficiency are being improved all the time as research in this area of alternative energy generation is robust;
- wind energy is one of the fastest growing sources of electricity, and one of the fastest growing markets in the world.
- in addition to becoming increasingly affordable, wind power is a locally-produced source of electricity that enables communities to keep energy dollars in their local economy; job creation (via manufacturing, service, construction and operation) and tax base increases are other economic development benefits for communities using wind energy.

In sum, this year’s League of Women Voters “Go-See” tour offered a rare opportunity to directly observe and learn a great deal more about electricity-generating wind power as it is emerging on the Outer Banks. We are most grateful to Brian Miles of the Solar Center, to Willy Phillips of Columbia, to the National Park Service, and to Aubrey and Karen Davis, owners of the Brew Station in Kill Devil Hills for their hospitality and in-depth knowledge of medium-sized wind turbines.

For more information, visit the Solar Center’s website: www.ncsc.ncsu.edu.

U.S. Women's History Session IV, April 26, 2010

By Audrey Esposito

With twenty-seven League members and guests in attendance, Dr. Lin Logan presented the final session of U.S. Women's History at the First Flight Media Center. The session began with women and the Depression Years, the depression having a "male face" causing many women to remove wedding rings in order to get jobs. Married women were fired. Traditional roles for women still revolved around the "cult of domesticity". World War II was instrumental in changing the opportunity for work in the male world.

Women played a monumental role in the war effort, as shown in the Rosy the Riveter film, "The Hidden Army." Over 18 million women workers in shipyards, foundries, factories assisted in supporting the war effort. These workers supplied equipment, food, supplies, and armaments for a military fighting on two fronts. The men were gone and women stepped in. Even with this national effort of supplying the troops, discrimination prevailed in the workplace. Of the workers in a foundry, three-fourths were black while one-fourth was white. Blacks were not wanted as ship fitters, even if qualified. During the war it was reported that there were over 37,600 industry related deaths. Propaganda newsreels encouraged women of all walks of life to support the war effort, and they did, regardless of the prospect of job related injury or death.

Near the end of the war the numbers of women in the work force declined, and there was a falling off of production. Again newsreels encouraged women to remain on the job. It is not surprising, however, that after the war with thousands of servicemen returning home, with promises of jobs awaiting them, women were the first to be laid off their jobs. Women were now encouraged to go back to being the homemaker so that the unemployment rate after the war would not be as it was during the Depression. The GI Bill was created and also helped in slowing down the need for jobs as men returned to the workplace. Women benefitted very little from the GI Bill.

After World War II with the birth rate rising 50%, the baby boom, the movement to the suburbs, a fast growing consumer economy, the majority of women accepted their roles in this "age of conformity", the June Cleaver image was one to be imitated. Get married, have children and stay home, be "The Good Wife." The average age for marriage in the early 1960's was 19. In 1963 Bette Friedan published the Feminine Mystique, which became a sensation when published in 1963. According to Gail Collins in her book, When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to Present, "The Feminine Mystique was like an earthquake compared to the tremors about unhappy housewives that had registered before. Friedan described the problem in scorching prose that made it seem much worse than anyone had previously suggested." Friedan felt that women were being forced to waste their lives on meaningless household chores in order to create profits for the manufacture of household goods.

When the Civil Rights Act came up for a vote in the House in 1964, Howard Smith of Virginia offered an amendment that would add women to the groups who would be protected from job discrimination. The fight for women's rights and the struggle for racial justice had almost always been linked in America and in 1964 black Americans were "still in a far more perilous position than the white person. But women, especially poor and working-class women, desperately need better protection." The Civil Rights Act passed with the amendment intact and was signed into law. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was set up to arbitrate

complaints under the new law. According to Collins, “when it became clear that the EEOC had no intention of protecting women workers as the law required, it created instant militancy.”

The 1960’s were a time of violence, protest movements, liberal, radical women, a radical student movement. Bette Friedan and a group of women met in 1966 and began NOW, the National Organization for Women, an organization against the U.S government for not enforcing the Civil Rights Act when it came to sex discrimination. There was no overall organization fighting for the rights of women. Again, according to Collins: “The postwar economy created a demand for women workers, and the postindustrial economy created jobs that they were particularly suited to fill. The soaring expectations of the postwar boom, followed by the decline of men’s paychecks in the 1970’s, made wives’ participation in the workforce almost a requisite for middle class life. The birth control pill gave young women confidence that they could pursue a career without interruption by pregnancy. The civil rights movement made women conscious of the ways they had been treated like second class citizens and made them determined that their own status was one of the things they were going to change. It was, all in all, a benevolent version of the perfect storm.”

In 1972 Congress passed the law that is universally known as Title IX, banned discrimination on the basis of sex in schools that receive federal funds. Thanks to Title IX, by 1984 there were ten thousand athletic scholarships for women and thirty different national women’s collegiate championships, compared to none in 1970. The number of girls playing sports in high schools and college quintupled. Congress passed a ban on sex discrimination in lending in 1974, under the title of the Depository Institutions Amendments Act. By 1980 single women were buying one-third of all condominiums and one-tenth of all homes, according to the National Association of Realtors. Title IX had far reaching effects.

The Equal Rights Amendment to this day has not been ratified by all states. What Alice Paul had wanted in the succinct text of the ERA, dubbed the Alice Paul amendment, written from her original version in 1943 was: *Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.*” According to Collins, “the final nail in the ERA’s coffin was the suspicion that it was a vehicle for abortion and gay rights.” Today in 2010 women in the workplace make 80% of male wages, and the Lily Ledbetter law was passed in President Obama’s administration.

My personal thoughts: to coin a phrase, “we’ve come a long way baby”---but there’s still a long way to go. This four part series on Women’s History was thoroughly enlightening, and motivated this author to read more on the topic. Many thanks to Dr. Lin Logan for providing this series to our League of Women Voters. At state Council LWV from various parts of North Carolina were quite impressed by reports of our series.





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Address Service Requested

Officers:

Co-presidents:

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

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

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

Secretary: Marianne Landrum ('09-'11)

Treasurer: Nancy Birindelli ('08-'10)

Elected Paula Donaghy ('09-'11)

Directors: Vivian Gould ('09-'11)
Bob Perry ('09-'10)
Lori Williams ('08-'10)

Appointed Connie Cogger

Directors: Mimi Iacone

Committee Chairs:

Citizens Guide: Lori Williams

Education: vacant

Fundraising: Karen DeVacchio

Health Services: Paula Donaghy

Hospitality: Connie Cogger

Membership: Mimi Iacone

Natural Resources: Bob Perry

Newsletter: Dru Ferrence and Nancy Birindelli

Nominating: Pat Hayward, chair
Dru Ferrence

Publicity: vacant

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