

**November
2009**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DARE COUNTY

The DARE Voter

Mark your Calendars!!

Mon., Nov. 16 – Health Reform 2009: Why We Should Care, What We Must Do
Kill Devil Hills Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 11 – Annual Holiday Luncheon/Silent Auction
Duck Woods Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
Reservation Form included in this newsletter

Message from the Co-Presidents

October has been a busy month for League members and voters. The Voter Service Committee worked diligently to present voter service forums in Nags Head and Southern Shores which were well received by the public. The forum at Duck was canceled due to lack of voter participation. Candidate comments were later posted on the Duck website after being sent to the LWV. Kudos to the Voter Service team under the direction of Vivian Gould.

As the newsletter goes to press, the League anticipates a timely program: “Health Reform 2009: Why should we care, what we must do.” Come and learn about what reform might deliver, what might still be left to be accomplished, as well as how to influence legislation with informed advocacy. League members from the Piedmont Triad League of Women Voters, Robin Lane and Dr. Teresa Bratton will present the program followed by our own Mary Ellen Hawthorne discussing “How a bill becomes law”. Robin is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator who serves on the LWV-US Health Care Education Task Force; Dr. Bratton is a primary care physician. Both live in Greensboro and have been active in the local League’s health reform roundtable, a group which has met for more than two years to plan and deliver voter education programs on health care issues. Participants will gain an understanding of the specific steps available to them to influence the outcome of the reform initiative in Washington.

The holidays are fast approaching and LWV - Dare is participating in the Belk’s Charity Sale. Get your tickets from Karen DelVacchio, Carole Burchett, or Audrey Esposito, if you haven’t already received them. Each ticket is \$5.00, with cash or check to LWV, multiple tickets can be sold to a contributor. The charity sale is on November 7th from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Each ticket gives \$5.00 off an item of merchandise purchased, and more than one ticket can be purchased and used for other items...net zero to the buyer and money for charity.

Please remember the upcoming Annual Christmas Luncheon and Silent Auction on December 11th at Duck Woods Country Club. The Silent Auction is a major fundraiser, and we look forward to a variety of items and services for the auction. Please continue to solicit donations for this well attended function.

It’s November, Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



Carole and Audrey

Voter Service Report

by Pat Guthmann Haresch



To prepare for Election Day, three voter forums were scheduled in Duck, Nags Head, and Southern Shores where there were contested posts.

Thursday evening, October 1, Mimi Iacone, Joan Liston, and Audrey Esposito were prepared to conduct the Duck forum. All candidates were present, but only two residents attended in addition to candidates' spouses. It was mutually decided to cancel the forum and agreed that the candidates would send their opening remarks to Audrey who would then forward them to the Duck website once all candidates responded.

The Nags Head forum Monday evening, October 5, was moderated by Amy Huggins, assisted by Mary Ellen Hawthorne, Lori Williams, Courtney Gallup, Vivian Gould, Audrey Esposito, and Dru Ferrence. The town hall was filled. Highlights of the forum were well covered by the Coastland Times. In the past Charter Media videotaped the Candidate Forums for broadcast on Government Access Channel 20. Due to lack of funding and staff cut backs, they were not able to do so this year. Several Nags Head citizens donated the funds to pay to have the Nags Head Forum videotaped. The forum was shown twice on Channel 20 during October.

Dru Ferrence and Pat Guthmann Haresch co-moderated the Southern Shores forum on Wednesday evening, October 7. Like the Nags Head forum, the Pitts Center was full, and Coastland Times covered the forum thoroughly. The two mayoral candidates were present. Pay Hayward, Ellen Barbaro, Joan Liston, Vivian Gould, Bob Perry, and Lori Williams assisted. The forum was not televised.

The Voter Service "team" presented well organized, efficient programs and should be commended for their efforts.

Many thanks to Dru Ferrence for all the computer work she did compiling the Voter's Guide which appeared in the newspapers and also distributing the mailings prior to the publication to obtain the information from candidates.



Check us out at www.lwvdarenc.org

September Program Highlights: County Government 101

by Audrey Esposito

Were you aware that there are fifty-eight departments and over seven hundred employees providing services to citizens of Dare County? These services grow annually; many are mandated by state statutes, and many are “unfunded mandates” required by the state without appropriations. This information, and much, much more was presented by our county executive employees at “County Government 101” on September 23, 2009. This program was quite informative and well received by an audience of forty citizens who spent more than the allotted two hours listening to the speakers.

Dorothy Toolan organized speakers who were well versed in the operation of Dare County, each telling the audience about his or her area of expertise. Bobby Outten, County Manager/Attorney spoke of having seventeen department heads in fifty-eight departments with a land area stretching for over one hundred fifty miles from Duck to Hatteras. There are facilities in satellite offices to assist in supplying services with the county center located in Manteo.

Edward Lee Mann, the Director of Public Works, stated his motto to be “Keep on Truckin’”. Mann directs thirteen departments with a total of one hundred-twelve employees and, in addition, twenty-five Department of Correction employees. The inmate labor cost is \$1.00 per day, per inmate. This labor assists in maintaining one hundred sixty-seven properties, and ground crews who maintain thirty-six sites, including schools.

In addition to maintaining grounds around the county, and keeping them beautiful, fleets of equipment must be maintained. There are sixteen ambulances, and over four hundred forty-three vehicles, plus over one hundred pieces of equipment, i.e. chippers to be kept up and running. Ninety-five per cent of recyclables goes into large pickups. Trash is shipped to Bertie County, the regional landfill.

Carl Walker, Recycling Coordinator, also utilizes inmate labor on a daily basis for collection of residential yard debris as well as working with all the recyclable materials, separating, assisting with the baling of items such as cardboard which saves trips to a recycling center in Virginia. Prices for recyclable materials had been low with the slumping economy, but prices seem to be rising and cardboard is now selling for \$77.00 a ton, and metal rising to \$100.00 a ton. Walker stated that Dare County has been stock piling bales of recyclables waiting for rising prices. Last year over \$167,000 was received from recyclables. As of October 1st, many new items will be banned from landfills making for more “creative recycling.” For town recycling and disposal information, contact the individual town office.

David Clausen, Finance Director, presented a detailed power point presentation, “Your Tax Dollars at Work” with hand outs for the audience on the financial operation of Dare County including: expenditures by function and character, how funds are budgeted, the general fund and fund balance, property tax collection rate, debt and debt ratings, and accountability. Clausen oversees a staff of eleven.

Planning Director Ray Sturza and Senior Planner Donna Creef also have a staff of eleven in three offices. They are responsible for the unincorporated areas of the county. Planning boards are made up of volunteer citizens, while ultimate decisions on planning are made by the Board of Commissioners. Sturza stated that 80% of the land in Dare County is publicly owned, leaving 20% where we live, creating a “compression factor” leading to land use disputes, what he called, “mutual dissatisfaction.” The land use plan from the early 1970’s and the 1976 Coastal Area Management Act are non-binding and guide decisions on land use. There is to be an update of the land use plan and the important question is “does the land use plan reflect what is representative of the 20% of land that is under discussion”? There will be public hearings when the Land Use Plan is completed, and Sturza stated that the LWV has been involved in disseminating information to the public. Six municipalities each have their own land use plan and deal with transportation. There was a question regarding a plan for transportation in the long term in the county, and Sturza responded, “Not at this time.” In addition, energy issues are facing the Outer Banks and the Outer Continental Shelf. Citizens can gather information from www.darenc.com.

This is only a summary of the comprehensive information provided at our LWV program “County Government 101”. We greatly appreciate the time and effort of the speakers for this comprehensive program.

Welcome, New Member

Carl Curnutte

Carl Curnutte first came to the Outer Banks in 1988 to work at *The Lost Colony*. Today, he is the Executive Director/Producer of that outdoor drama. His mission is “to ensure that the original story continues to inspire and entertain tens of thousands of people each year”. A native of Ashland, Kentucky, Carl now resides in Manteo. He is active in the Outer Banks community as a Rotarian, a board member of the Dare County March of Dimes and a member of the Outer Banks Hospital Board of Development. In 2008, he was named Dare County Arts Council’s Individual Supporter of the Year.

Carl holds a degree in theater arts and history from Morehead State University. Professionally, he has worked on several feature films as well as numerous TV and Broadway productions. For the 2003-4 season, he received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination in the category of Outstanding Costumes for a Miniseries, Movie or Special for his work on *Iron Jawed Angels*. Carl is a member of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and the Institute of Outdoor Drama. He is a former recipient of *The Lost Colony*’s Evelyn Russell Layton Award.



Ways to Help Prevent Swine Flu

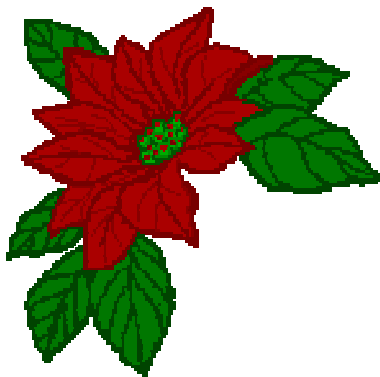
submitted by Paula Donaghy, Health Chair

While you are still healthy and not showing any symptoms of H1N1 infection, in order to prevent proliferation, aggravation of symptoms, and development of secondary infections, some very simple steps – not fully highlighted in most official communications – can be practiced (instead of focusing on how to stock N95 or Tamiflu):

- Frequent hand-washing.
- “Hands-off-the-face” approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of the face unless eating or bathing.
- Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine if you don’t trust salt). H1N1 takes 2-3 days after initial infection in the throat/nasal cavity to proliferate and show characteristic symptoms. Simple gargling prevents proliferation. In a way, gargling with salt water has the same effect on a healthy individual that Tamiflu has on an infected one. Don’t underestimate this simple, inexpensive and powerful preventative method.
- Similar to the above, clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water. Not everybody may be good at Jala Neti or Sutra Meti (very good Yoga asanas to clean nasal cavities), but blowing the nose hard once a day and swabbing both nostrils with cotton buds dipped in warm salt water is very effective in bringing down viral population.
- Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (Amla and other citrus fruits). If you have to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that is also has Zinc to boost absorption.
- Drink as much of warm liquids as you can. Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reserve direction. They wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive, proliferate or do any harm.

All these are simple ways to prevent, within means of most households, and certainly much less painful than to wait in long queues outside public hospitals.

Happy breathing! Dr. Ashutosh Mundkur



you are cordially invited to join
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

on Friday, December, 11th at 11:30 AM
for a

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Duck Woods Country Club, Southern Shores, NC

Our Holiday Luncheon traditionally includes a Silent Auction with items donated by members. We would very much appreciate your donation of gift items, art works, craft items, antiques, services (perhaps gardening or catering) or gift certificates solicited from local merchants. Please call Carole Burchett (261-6380) or Audrey Esposito (261-8052) and let her know what you will donate. Donations should be dropped off at the homes of Carole or Audrey before December 11th or brought to the club no later than 10:45 AM on December 11th.

Entertainment will be provided by The Rising Waves. Cash bar will be available.

Reservation Form

Please return by Wednesday, December 2 or call Carole Burchett at 261-6380 or Audrey Esposito at 261-8052 for reservation. Guests are welcome, bring a friend!

Name _____ Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Number of reservations _____ @ \$25.00 Total amount _____

Vegetarian meal available upon request _____

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

SURVEYING THE SCHOOL SCENE

by Audrey Esposito, former Education Chair

According to the Coastland Times of October 11, 2009, Nags Head Elementary School is one of three schools selected by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences to participate in its UTOTES (Using the Outdoors to Teach Experimental Sciences) program. Underwritten by the NHES PTA, the one year project is planned to parallel a school- community outdoor classroom endeavor, funded by a grant from Dare Education Foundation, that encompasses the outer campus to include a variety of learning areas. The plans for the outdoor classroom, nature areas, and gardens are currently coming together and should be completed by the end of school year 2011. The first reading of authorization of staff to install an outdoor classroom at Nags Head was an agenda item at the October 13, 2009 Board of Education meeting which was held at Kitty Hawk Elementary School.

At that meeting Judi Hornbeck introduced the instructional highlights, a presentation of second graders involved with the Envisions Math program currently being utilized by teachers and students. Children were enthusiastic about their math skills and demonstrated how manipulatives were involved in problem solving and how the integration of reading and writing facilitated their learning.

Gloria Cox, AVID state coordinator, made comments during the public comment segment. She and her team will be spending Thursday and Friday of current week visiting classrooms, meeting with teachers in AVID classrooms, and providing support. Cox stated that the first graduating class of AVID will be 2011. There are currently thirty-eight school districts in North Carolina that provide AVID instruction. There are over 13,000 students in North Carolina who do not receive other educational support, but are AVID students. Web sessions are available for teachers for gathering information and providing a network to work with. Later, in her report, Dr. Burgess hoped that the AVID program would continue to be funded and expanded. There are currently 184 students in the AVID program. Recognition was given to the funding partner, the Dare Education Foundation.

Superintendent Burgess presented a complete annual report entitled Highlights of District Accomplishments of the Board of Education Goals for 2008-2009.

- A primary goal is to hire, retrain, and retain teachers. The prior school year saw the fewest number of new hires ever, six! Fifteen percent of Dare County teachers have National Board Certification, 99% are highly qualified teachers, and with regard to teacher turnover, Dare ranks in the top 10 in the state with least turnover. The Run Hill Ridge housing units are fully occupied.
- She discussed various programs utilized in preparing students for their roles in the 21st century beginning with pre-schoolers and the More at Four Program, stressing the importance of early intervention and the proven success for later school growth.
- Read 180 is a research based program to assist struggling readers, resulting in reduced re-tentions over the past six years.
- The Empower Hour Pilot provides enrichment and/or intervention during the school day.
- The number of AP exams taken have increased greatly, from 71 to 441, and according to the Newsweek AP Challenge, Dare County is in the top 6% of the nation.

Dare County Schools have the best on time graduation rate in the state, voted #1. An award was presented to Dr. Burgess and David Oaksmith in Raleigh on October 9, 2009.

The Board continues to follow sound financial procedures, which have helped in these difficult economic times. There were unanticipated reductions of funds, resulting in a decrease in per pupil funding of \$212 from the previous year. The current cost per pupil is \$3,696.

Facilities are maintained; air quality in buildings has been improved. Safety programs have been implemented to bring about a reduction in workers' comp claims.

Another district goal is to develop good public relations and to develop community support. \$236,076 in donations was received in 2008-2009. The Dare Education Foundation and Food for Thought are two of the groups providing significant support to the schools.

Burgess concluded her report with a view to the future, and the types of programs she envisioned. Those included: an English Language Academy for three and four year olds of non-English speaking mothers in preparation for kindergarten, as well as school issued lap tops for each student to keep up with school work while ill or traveling. She hopes for more college classes available to high school students.



Membership Renewal

Thank you to all who have sent in their membership renewals. If you have not yet renewed, now would be a good time to do so. Send your \$50 membership check along with your reservations for the Holiday Celebration. Mail to: **LWV Dare, PO Box 689, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949**. Please indicate any committees that would be of special interest to you or if you would be interested in serving on the Board of Directors. The nominating committee will soon begin to search for members to serve.



HEALTH REFORM 2009: WHY WE SHOULD CARE, WHAT WE MUST DO

With League members from the
Piedmont Triad League of Women Voters chapter,
Robin Lane and Dr. Teresa Bratton.

Robin Lane is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator. Dr. Bratton is a primary care physician. Both live in Greensboro and have been active in the local league's health reform roundtable, a group which has met for over more than 2 years to plan and deliver voter education programs on health care issues. The program will also include a discussion led by Dare County Member Mary Ellen Hawthorne on how a bill becomes law. Participants will gain an understanding of the specific steps available to them to influence the outcome of the reform initiative in Washington.

Monday, November 16, 2009
7:00 pm
Kill Devil Hills Town Hall
Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina

Huggins Design



Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Dare County

Meet for dinner at 5:00 pm at Mako Mike's in Kill Devil Hills.
Reservations must be made by November 11, 2009.

Call Carole Burchett at 252-261-6380.

www.lwvdarenc.org



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: 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 DelVacchio

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