



Inside this issue:

- September Gen Mtng 1
- Health Care Forum
- Health Care Forum 2
- Immigration 3
- Meet the Board 4
- Help Wanted
- Honorary Members 5
- Membership News 6
- Membership application 7
- League Calendar 8

**SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING
LWVNC LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

**Speaker: Paula Wolf
LWVNC Legislative Lobbyist**

September 20, 2007

10:00 AM

Hargraves Center

215 North Roberson Street

Chapel Hill

Following Paula's talk a member discussion is planned to address those legislative issues on which the League may take action.

HEALTH CARE FORUM:

HEALTH CARE FOR EVERYONE

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Presenters:

**State Representative Verla Insko,
Jonathan Oberlander, PhD
Adam Searing, JD, MPH**

September 29, 2007

9 AM -12 Noon

Auditorium of the UNC School of Social Work
(Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building)
301 Pittsboro Street in Chapel Hill

Free to public.

Pre-registration is required.

See registration form with *VOTER*.

(3 contact hours available).

(See article on p. 2)

Upcoming Events

**October 10
October General Meeting
Kenan Flagler Business
School at UNC**

**October 16
Chatham County
Candidate Forum**

**October 23
Durham County
Candidate Forum**

**December 11
Holiday Dinner**

HEALTH CARE FORUM

On Saturday, September 29, at the Auditorium of the UNC School of Social Work, the League of Women Voters and the UNC-CH School of Social Work Clinical Lecture Series will conduct a public forum, "Health Care for Everyone: How Do We Get There?" Participants will:

1. learn about political obstacles to health reform,
2. learn about options in health care reform and how to evaluate these options,
3. Understand some mistakes in health care reform and better ways to bring about change,
4. Become familiar with legislative activities in the area of health care reform,
5. Learn how to advocate for health care reform.

The presenters will be:

Adam Searing joined the NC Justice Center as Project Director of the North Carolina Health Access Coalition in 1997. The Health Access Coalition is North Carolina's leading voice for progressive health care reforms that address the needs of the uninsured and underinsured. The Coalition advocates both for more comprehensive and effective public health care programs and on behalf of average consumers in the private market.



State Representative **Verla Insko**, a member of LWV/ODC, represents the 56th House District in Orange County. She has served in the North Carolina General Assembly since 1997 and chairs both the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services and the Mental Health Reform Committee. Her previous elected offices include the Chapel Hill Carrboro Board of Education (1977-85) and the Orange County Board of Commissioners (1990-94).



Jonathan Oberlander, associate professor of Social Medicine and Health Policy & Administration at UNC-CH, also holds an adjunct appointment in the Department of Political Science. Professor Oberlander is author of *The Political Life of Medicare* (University of Chicago Press, 2003) and is currently writing a second book on Medicare reform. He is co-editor of a 3-volume series (*The Social Medicine Reader, 2nd edition*) published by Duke University Press in 2005. His research interests include Medicare policy, health politics, health care reform (both nationally and at the state level), Medicaid, aging and medical care rationing.



There is no charge for the forum, but registrations must be received by September 15, 2007. Please fill out the registration form which is attached to the *VOTER* and mail the registration form to: Evelin Brinich, 320 Glendale Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, or e-mail: brinich@email.unc.edu.

**League of Women Voters
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[Http://lwvodic.org](http://lwvodic.org)**

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IMMIGRATION AND THE LEAGUE

When Congress was considering immigration reform recently, the League was not a part of the discussion because the League has no positions on the issue of immigration. Our silence on immigration issues will soon end if members educate themselves and take part in the study which is now being conducted all over the country.

The LWVUS February *VOTER* gave a historical perspective of immigration and the LWVUS June *VOTER* included Immigration Study Brief #1, "Global Interdependence and Migration." Much more information can be found on the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org. The LWVNC Summer *VOTER* included the scope of the immigration study as well as the study timeline.

LWVODC plans to take consensus on the immigration study in January 2008. Our LWVODC webmaster, Cynthia Wertz, has put links to the Consensus Questions and the Scope of the LWVUS Study on our website, www.lwvdc.org. The consensus questions are long and complicated, and every member who wants to take part in the study is encouraged to download the consensus questions and give some thought to them as we move toward consensus.

The October LWVODC general meeting will be an opportunity to become informed on how immigration impacts North Carolina. Our speaker, James H. Johnson, Jr., Director, Urban Investment Strategies Center, Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, will speak on "The Economic Impact of the Hispanic Population on the State of North Carolina." The meeting will take place at the Kenan Flagler Business School at UNC on Wednesday, October 10 from 10:00 AM to 11:00AM.

The Grant That Got Away

Kay Hunt, Special Projects Chair for the 2006-2007 board of LWVODC, chaired a group which prepared and submitted a grant proposal to the Triangle Community Foundation to fund five forums on a variety of topics centered on immigration. With this grant we could have conducted for ourselves and for the general public forums which would have led to much better understanding of the immigration issue. However, our proposal was not funded by the Triangle Community Foundation.

Robyn Fehman, Community Program Officer of the Triangle Community Foundation met with LWVODC President Vicki Boyer and First Vice President Carol Sherrrod and explained the strengths and weaknesses of our proposal. She indicated that the topic of immigration education is a solid fit with the "Civic Engagement Program" scope of interest for the TCF. She added that the League brings value-added aspects of "HONEST BROKER" along with its established reputation and credibility in working to bring groups with different viewpoints together in open forums. These are great strengths and perhaps a unique role which the League can bring to immigration discussions.

Ms. Fehman told Vicki and Carol that the weaknesses in our proposal included the fact that we need to be clear about the target audience of these forums. Do we intend to address issues around both undocumented and legal immigrants? Ms. Fehman also said that we need a way to quantify the results of the forum, and that partnering with others who have daily contact and expertise with immigration would have been viewed very favorably.

Ms. Fehman offered to assist in the future by responding to specific questions and/or reading and critiquing sections prior to the actual submission. Now that we know more about what appeals to the TCF and what doesn't, maybe next time the grant won't get away.



The LWVODC Board demonstrates that working for good government can be fun!

Standing, left to right, Barbara Nettesheim, Joyce Colaiace, Bessie Carrington, Cynthia Wertz, Vicki Boyer, Carol Rist.
Seated, left to right, Evelin Brinich, Brenda Schoonover, Carol Sherrod.

MEET THE BOARD: Carol Sherrod, First Vice President

Carol Sherrod, a native of New Jersey, has a bachelor's degree from Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, a Master's of Science Degree in Library Science from Simmons College in Massachusetts and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard.

During her career she has served as Librarian at the Harvard University Widener Library, Assistant to the Director of the National Agricultural Library, Library Director of the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, Senior Program Analyst in the Department of Agriculture and Vice President for Electronic Publishing and Library Service for the Aspen Systems Corporation.

Carol moved to Chatham County from Bethesda, Maryland, five years ago. Shortly after arriving in North Carolina Carol was invited by a friend to join the League. She has served on the program committee for "The People Speak" forum and most recently served as Secretary of the LWV/ODC.

HELP !!

Volunteer archivist needed - one of our honorary members recently moved to smaller quarters. She has 10 boxes of 50+ years of local League history. She would be very grateful if someone took it off her hands and spent a little time organizing it so it can be taken to the Wilson Library where the League's other historical information rests. This is a great job for someone who loves to work from home and who would enjoy learning about the political activities in our community over the last 50 years. If you can read and sort while watching TV, playing tennis, and doing crossword puzzles, the League wants YOU.

For more information, please contact Evelin Brinich at 967-5819

For background readings on health care, links to information on the LWV immigration study, an updated membership roster, up to date information about LWV-ODC activities, and much more, go to our website,

www.lwvodic.org

Recognizing our Honorary Members

By Evelin B. Brinich

When our editor, Carol Rist, suggested we pay tribute to our nine honorary members with a feature article in *The Voter*, the idea immediately caught my interest. After all, how often does a new member have the opportunity to meet League sages? Initially my thought was to include nine narratives in one article, giving a paragraph to each member. However, as I met these women and became acquainted with the richness of their lives, their many important contributions, and their 50-plus years of devoted service to the League, I realized that one paragraph would be insufficient. My husband, also a League member and always ready to help, suggested the format we will now use – separate stories over several *Voter* issues, allowing more space for each narrative. My hope is that these narratives will provide us with a framework for appreciating what it means to be a League member, where we have been, where we are going, and, most of all, some inspiration for good citizenship. As I worked over the interviews I realized that the most interesting features in these stories for me are the echoes from one life to another, the recurrent common themes: interest in good government, dedication to the citizens in their communities, belief in volunteerism, and loyalty to the League. In closing, I want to convey the warmest thanks to all of our honorary members, listed here according to their years of service: Jane Sharp MacRae, Eliska Chanlett, Mary Helen Hayman, Margaret Champion, Eva Eliel, Elizabeth Wade Grant, Anne Heuer, Diane Brown, and Ellen Ironside - for being extremely generous with their time, information, ideas, resources, and most of all, thank you for your 50-plus years of service to our community!



Jane Sharp MacRae
LWV member 1946 - present

When 22-year-old Jane Sharp brought home her first-born child, their sleep was disrupted by night-time explosions emanating from a fireworks stand next to her house. She was furious and called the police, her politicians, and finally a state senator to complain. When this brought about no action, Jane began a petition listing the dangers of fireworks to children and took it to 20 PTA's. She managed to collaborate with local physicians who approached the state legislature. Within a year all firework stands in Durham and Chapel Hill were disbanded. Jane's activism became known to her community and eventually someone asked her if she was a member of the League of Women Voters. Jane replied "What's that?" She joined the Durham League shortly after its inception in 1946. Jane recalled feeling empowered by the League because she learned how things can be accomplished.

Initially she worked with the League's efforts to empower women in Latin American countries. However, with her undergraduate degree in Chemistry and Bacteriology from Cornell University, Jane soon focused on environmental issues. She became the Durham League's Environmental Quality Chairwoman. She was also active on the League's State board for many years. Jane was the first environmental lobbyist for the League of Women Voters. She was founder of the Conservation Council of North Carolina and its office was in her basement for years. She was the primary advocate of "Pollution Prevention Pays" and of efficient light bulbs. When Jane spoke on conservation, people listened.

Aside from her political activities, Jane also raised four children, hosted students from the Outward Bound program, taught piano, and was active in her church. She continues to be an active supporter of good environment. She now heads up the recycling program at Carolina Meadows, and is working to expand it into other retirement centers. Jane, a keen surfer of the internet, researches her interests including ways in which other countries create sustainable energy. Jane hopes the League will consider taking on an aspect of the environment, studying it, and then developing an action plan.

Jane recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Looking back upon her life, she muses "My whole philosophy is life should be an adventure." Reflecting on her husband's recent frail health, she adds "My husband's illness is another adventure and we will make the best of what we have. "When I set my mind on something I want, I don't give up."

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Evelin Brinich – Email: membership@lwvodc.org)

Thanks to all of you 60 people who renewed your memberships during the first two weeks! Please keep them coming! We are especially happy to have gained 11 new members during this time. We are also pleased that many of you checked off the interest survey on the renewal form and let us know your interests and passions – for, the more passionate you are about an issue, the more it energizes all of us.

At our recent Board retreat many of your ideas were presented and discussed by the Board. We welcome - no, **need** - your ideas. We want to promote increased membership involvement and **ownership** of the League. The Board's efficacy depends on **your** input and involvement. Some of you mentioned an interest in having reading lists on the topics listed in the survey. In response, Cynthia Wertz, our webmaster, will include on our website (www.lwvodc.org) a page listing reading materials for the various topics. This year we will also ask our speakers to provide reading materials which we will then post on our website.

Our membership information is updated almost daily on our website. Just click the membership button on the left, click directory, you will then be asked for the password (if you don't remember it, contact me at email above), and then you can view the updated membership directory. We want to welcome the following new members:

Susan Fellner
211 Glade St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(Susan was a national member
and decided to renew at the local level)

Sheila Kendrick
2929 Friendship Rd.
Durham, NC 27705
489-8089
sheilakendrick@ppeoplepc.com

David Kiel
2020 S. Lakeshore Dr
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
967-5549
(David has joined as an additional
household member)

Suzon O. Kister
5816 Shannas Way
Durham, NC 27713
ksuzon@hotmail.com

Jane Levy
319 Glendale Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
967-5736
levyjane@hotmail.com

Richard Schoonover
108 Ironwoods Dr
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
967-7898

Ethel and Vincent Simonetti
716 Dean Street
Durham, NC 27707
489-7715
ethel@tubaexchange.com

Page H. Vernon
531 Marvin Edwards Lane
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
929-6478
pvernon@bellsouth.net

Willis Whichard
84402 Winslow
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8539
918-7713
which001@earthlink.net

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ellen Ironside
70 Davisson Drive
Durham, NC 27705
384-2123

2007-2008 Membership Form

Dues Payment and Membership Interest Form

Please Complete form, make dues check payable to LWV-ODC, and send to:

LWV-ODC, P.O. Box 3397, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3397

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip +4 _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Member category

\$ _____ Individual (\$45) (with VOTER sent through regular mail = \$55)

\$ _____ Household (\$65) (with VOTER sent through regular mail = \$75)

\$ _____ Full-Time Student (\$30).

(Note: Talvitie Membership Scholarships available upon request and approval from League President)

Contributions: Contributions to the Citizens Education Foundation (CEF) are especially needed.

\$ _____ **payable to LWVODC** (in addition to dues, for general LWVODC operating expenses. May be included on same check with dues payment. This contribution is not tax deductible.)

\$ _____ **payable to Citizen Education Foundation or CEF.** (For educational purposes only. This contribution is tax deductible and must be submitted with a separate check from membership dues.)

\$ _____ **payable to LWVODC** for the "Talvitie Membership Scholarship Fund" (to sponsor current and new members. This contribution is not tax deductible and may be included on same check with dues.)

\$ _____ **Total Enclosed**

Interest Survey

I would like to help with the following activities (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forums (Educational/Political) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Laws |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Editing the Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing discussion on hot topics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campaign finance reform | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Greeting/Recruitment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

League of Women Voters of
Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties
P.O. Box 3397
Chapel Hill NC 27515-3397
Tel: 919-419-1650
<http://www.lwvdc.org>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization for men and women that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen over 18, male or female, may become a voting member of the League. With that membership comes the opportunity to work on local, state, regional, and national program issues.

The Voter is printed on recycled paper.

League Calendar

September 20 10:00 AM	September General Meeting Paula Wolf, LWVNC Lobbyist League Legislative Action	Hargraves Center 215 N. Roberson St. Chapel Hill
September 29 9:00 AM to Noon	Health Care Forum	UNC School of Social Work 301 Pittsboro Street Chapel Hill
October 10 10:00 AM	October General Meeting Economic Impact of the Hispanic Population on the State of North Carolina James H. Johnson, Jr.	Kenan Flagler Business School UNC Chapel Hill
October 16 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Candidate Forum Chatham County	Chatham County Courthouse Pittsboro
October 23 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Candidate Forum Durham County	
December 11	Annual Holiday Dinner	Governors Club