

The Voter of ODC



Inside this issue:

Changes Ahead NPVC Consensus	1
League website Help Wanted	2
Membership News	3
Orange, Durham Units	4
Chatham unit	5
Thanks to our contributors	6
Dues payment form	7
League Calendar	8

Changes Ahead For LWVODC

At our planning meeting in June, League members agreed on a new structure for LWVODC. We will operate without a board of directors. Instead, we will have an administrative team, consisting of Joyce Colaiace, Ruth Ann Gross, Rita Weimer and Carol Rist, who were elected at the annual meeting. Also serving in leadership roles will be our webmistress, Cynthia Wertz, our membership chair and Health Care Reform chair, Evelin Brinich, and our three unit conveners, Margie Maddox (Chatham County), Elizabeth Hein (Durham County) and Rita Weimer (Orange County).

During the coming League year, we will have three or four general meetings which members living in all three counties are expected to attend. In addition, each county will have unit meetings which will concentrate on issues of importance to the individual counties. All members of LWVODC will be welcome at all unit meetings as well as all general meetings.

See pages four and five of this VOTER for reports from the units. All are planning candidate forums for this fall's municipal elections. Volunteers are needed to help make these forums successful. Please contact your county unit convener and let her know that you can help with the forum in your county.

Orange County members contact:
Rita Weimer at 969-9241 or rkweimer@mindspring.com.

Durham County members contact:
Elizabeth Hein at 919-309-2741 or ehein@nc.rr.com.

Chatham County members contact:
Margie Maddox at 362-0433 or maddoxmargie@aol.com

Upcoming Events

**August 26
88th Anniversary of
Passage of 19th Amend-
ment**

**October 5
Candidate Forum for
Chapel Hill Municipal
Elections**

**October 20
Candidate Forum for
Durham Municipal
Election**

**November 3
Municipal Elections**

National Popular Vote Compact Consensus

Members of LWVODC enthusiastically took part in the National Popular Vote Compact consensus last spring. Along with Leagues all across the country, we sent the results of our consensus to the LWVUS. At its most recent meeting, the LWVUS board approved the following statement of position:

“The LWVUS affirms its support of the direct election of the president and abolition of the Electoral College, but the LWVUS has no position on the National Popular Vote Compact as studied in 2008-2009.”

For more information on the results of the National Popular Vote Compact Consensus, go to the LWVODC website: www.lwvodic.org.

www.lwvodc.org

When did you last go to www.lwvodc.org? I just went to our website and found a brand new New Member Handbook, recently revised by Membership Chair Evelin Brinich. This handbook is chock full of information which ALL members, not just new members, will find interesting and useful.

I found information about how to let Senators Burr and Hagan and Congressman Price know that I expect them to vote to make affordable health care available for all. I found how to let my state legislators know that I expect them to vote for a budget which adequately funds education and social services, even if it requires an increase in taxes.

Do you need to know the name of your mayor or the hours your library is open? Go to the website and check out the *2009 Citizen's Guide* (which your VOTER editor cannot live without).

Do you want to find the phone number or address of another League member? *The LWVODC Directory* of all of our members can be found at our website. (You will need to know the password to access the directory. If you do not know the password, send an email to membership@lwvodc.org asking for the password, and Evelin will send it to you.)

Do you want to check on the League calendar and you have misplaced your VOTER? Of course, all League activities are listed on our website.

Do you want information on our county units, when they are meeting, and who their leaders are? Could Cynthia Wertz, our webmistress, have already included that brand new information on the website? But of course! Our webmistress doesn't miss a beat. (By the way, Cynthia checks to see how many hits our site has gotten. If you don't need any information, go to the website anyway, just so that Cynthia will see that people out there are using the resource she has worked so hard to make available.)

HELP WANTED

- No previous experience needed
- Pleasant work environment.
- You choose your hours.
- Top notch associates
- Compensation - just the appreciation of all League members
- Previous membership in the League of Women Voters not a prerequisite. (You can join the day you take the job.)

The LWVODC administrative team is looking for a member to plan our general meetings. One of our general meetings will be the annual meeting in May. Another will be our meeting with legislators in early 2010. Other meetings dates and topics will be determined at the next administrative team meeting. The administrative team will work with you to set the dates and choose a location.

Contact Joyce Colaiace at 542-1052 or jcolaiace@nc.rr.com to apply for this prestigious position.

**League of Women Voters
Orange/Durham/Chatham
P.O. Box 3397
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3397
919-419-1650
[Http://lwvodc.org](http://lwvodc.org)**

Administrative Team

Leader

Joyce Colaiace
colaiaj@aol.com

Secretary

Ruth Ann Groh
Ruthann.groh@yahoo.com

Treasurer

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rkweimer@mindspring.com

Voter Editor

Carol Rist
carol.rist@verizon.net
490-5718

Webmistress

Cynthia Wertz
Cynthia_wertz@embarqmail.com

Membership Health Care Reform

Evelin Brinich
967-5819
Membership@lwvodc.org

Unit Contacts

Chatham County

Margie Maddox
362-0433
maddoxmargie@aol.com

Durham County

Elizabeth Hein
309-2741
ehain@nc.rr.com

Orange County

Rita Weimer
rkweimer@mindspring.com

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Evelin Brinich, Membership Chair

All of you will have received your membership renewal requests by now. This is one of my most favorite times of the year, when members send in their renewal forms, send little notes, address corrections, and, oh yes, their generous contributions! I am happy to report that over one third of our membership has already sent in their renewal forms. If you have not done so, please take a moment to do so before you leave on summer holidays. . We value the participation of our members very much, in whatever way they feel they can contribute. If you have misplaced your membership renewal form, you will find one on page 7 of this *VOTER*.

We hope you will continue to support our work this next year and help us by renewing promptly. The Board invites your ideas and suggestions and would welcome you at any meeting. Please check our website for upcoming dates.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Local Members

Margie Maddox
103 Caniff Lane
Cary, NC 27519

Dawn B. Martin
11 Piedmont Forest Ct.
Durham, NC 27703
434-242-2001

Marilyn Partin
2600 Croasdaile Farm Pkwy
Apt. 265
Durham, NC 27705-1331

National Member

David Work
139 Old Forest Creek Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

In Memoriam

Ruth Shur

Ruth F. Shur, a long time member of the League of Women Voters and president of the New York League of Women Voters, died suddenly on 7/6/2009. She and her husband, Walter, joined the LWVODC in 2007. A celebration of her life will be held at Galloway Ridge in Pittsboro on July 25, 2009 from 2:30-4:30 PM. Our meetings will not be the same without her humor and her sharp mind.

Joan Sickmond

Joan Sickmond, 76, died May 28 in her home at Carolina Meadows, surrounded by her family and husband, Guy. Prior to moving to North Carolina, Joan was a registered nurse and teacher who later worked with a health systems agency. She was a leader of the League's effort on Health Care Reform during the Clinton Administration. She led a small group that planned educational sessions for the community on health care reform. She was a valued member of the LWVODC Health Care Reform Advocacy Committee. Her experience and insights will be sorely missed in our League.

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Chatham County Unit Update

Sunday, Sept. 20 Chatham Unit Meeting

2:30PM to 5:00PM

Multiple purpose room in Building 2

Central Carolina Community College campus in Pittsboro.

Chris Farnan, who as a League member had significant influence in making the new Chatham Community Library a reality, will provide an update of the new library and its construction and an overview of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees joint operations agreement that will govern how shared operations of the new Chatham Community Library will be handled.

After Chris' presentation and a question and answer session, Chatham League Team members will discuss areas of activity that the Chatham Unit plans to engage in for 2009/2010 and how Chatham LWV members can be involved in helping to create an active and successful Chatham League Unit.

Chatham Unit Teams

Chatham League Members Are Invited **to Join Chatham Unit Teams. Many opportunities exist for you to be involved in an LWV TEAM.**

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- will help build working relationships and partnerships with the community, civic groups, local organizations, and the media in addressing community issues that fall under LWVODC local positions.

VOTER INFORMATION AND CANDIDATE FORUMS TEAM

- will work with the Chatham County Board of Elections in getting more young people involved in the voting process, helping to register voters, and assisting at the polls.

- will work with local non partisan organizations and civic groups to sponsor candidate meetings, create candidate questionnaires, develop voter information, and update the Chatham County information in the LWVODC Citizen's Guide.

CHATHAM COUNTY BUDGET TEAM

- review the Chatham County budget process to better understand the budget

- speak at public forums to the budgets positive or negative impact on county services

- advocate for long-range budget planning and the establishment of goals and priorities for both operation and capital expenditures

- ensure that a procedure is in place that supports clear communications in and of the budget process

IMMIGRATION TEAM

- use the LWV's new Immigration Position in taking actions to help address immigration issues in Chatham County

MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

- monitor and speak out for sound Mental Health policies

(continued on p. 6)

MANY THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Since our local dues are almost entirely remitted to the League of Women Voters of the US and the League of Women Voters of North Carolina, we are dependent on donations to support the activities of our local League. The following generous individuals have made contributions to the League in the past year:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITIZEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Roberta Dunbar
Carol and Karsten Rist
Joyce Colaiaice
Florence Ziegler
Dawn and James Shamp
Barbara Nettesheim
Eva Eliel
Rhoda Gaba
Janice Stratton
Beverly Hanly
Eliska Chanlett
Else Cunningham
Carl Fox
Kay Hunt
Mary Helen Hayman
Lynne Kane
Diane Henderson
Betty Sanders
Elizabeth Grant
Doris Leonard
Diana Philips
Margia Maddox
Margaret Misch
Edith Haubrichs
Barbara Hardison
Ellen Ironside
Rita Weimer

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LWVODC

Amy and Kiel Miller
Edith Haubrichs
Margot Barnhardt
Jeannette Gay Eddy
Mary ann and Ed Gross
Dawn and James Shamp
Bessie Carrington
Nancy Sitterson
Ellen Ironside
Barbara Rogers
Else Bolotin
Kay Hunt
Diane Henderson
Betty Sanders
Patricia Watts
Elizabeth Grant
Nicholas Morosoff
Priscilla Jackson
Anne Heuer
Tina & Scott Pearson
Alexandra O'Connor
Sara and James Coughlin
Elizabeth Grant
Margie Maddox
Bea & Arthur Hughes
Barbara Hardison
Gerda Hurow
Katherine White

Chatham LWV Unit Update *(continued from p. 5)*

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION TEAM

- provide information about local government, the LWV, and local historical tidbits to new Chatham County residents.

Volunteer Help Needed for Candidate Forums

The Chatham Unit will host two candidate forums in October, one in Pittsboro and the other in Siler City. Please visit the Chatham Unit Webpage (<http://www.lwvdc.org/units.html>) to learn what you can do to help.

Chatham Unit Contact Information

To learn more about the League of Women Voters in Chatham County contact: Margie Maddox: 362-0433 or maddox-margie@aol.com or visit the Chatham County Unit's Webpage (<http://www.lwvdc.org/units.html>)

Membership Interest and Dues Payment Form 2009-20010

Please complete form, make membership dues' check payable to LWV-ODC, and send both to:
LWV-ODC, P.O. Box 3397, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3397

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State zip+4 _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

County of residence _____ Municipality (if within city limits) _____

Dues: Check type of membership below

- \$ _____ Individual (\$55) (with VOTER sent through regular mail = \$65)
- \$ _____ Household (\$82.50) (with VOTER sent through regular mail = \$92.50)
- \$ _____ Full-Time Student (\$30)(with VOTER sent through regular mail = \$40.00)

Note: . Membership Scholarships available upon request to and approval from League President.

Contributions:

The Citizen Education Foundation (CEF) is the 501(c) (3) citizen education and research arm of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina. CEF provides research, publications and forums on public policy issues. It disseminates information and training to help citizens be thoughtfully engaged in the democratic process. CEF funds may be used only for educational activities, not for advocacy or action.

We can use your tax deductible contribution to CEF to pay our PMP (Per Member Payment) to the US League of Women Voters to support their educational work.

Contributions to LWVODC (not tax deductible and may be included on same check with dues payment):

- \$ _____ For general LWVODC **operating expenses**.
- \$ _____ For the **Membership Scholarship Fund** to sponsor current and new members.

Tax Deductible Donation to Citizen Education Fund (make separate check payable to CEF):

\$ _____ **Total CEF Fund**

INTEREST SURVEY

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Education/Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Forums (Educational/Political) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Editing the Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Greeting/Recruitment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Finance Reform |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Citizens Guide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing an evening/afternoon/morning discussion on hot topics. What issue? _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

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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

Wednesday
 August 26 2009

88th Anniversary of the Passage of the
 Nineteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution
 which granted to women the right to vote

Wednesday
 August 26
 1:00 PM

Durham Unit Meeting

Home of Carol Rist
 84 Beverly Drive
 Durham

Monday
 October 5
 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Candidate Forum
 Chapel Hill Municipal Election

Chapel Hill Council Chambers
 405 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
 Chapel Hill

Tuesday
 October 6

City of Durham
 Primary Election

Durham

Tuesday
 October 20
 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Candidate Forum
 Durham Municipal Election

Durham Main Library
 300 N. Roxboro Street
 Durham

Tuesday
 November 3

Municipal Elections

Orange, Durham & Chatham Counties