

The Voter of ODC



Inside this issue:

Nov. General Meeting	1
Annual Holiday Din-	
President's Message	2
Immigration	3
SCHIP action	4
Immigration	
Membership News	5
Honorary Member	
Honorary Member	6
Health Care Forum	
Holiday Dinner	7
League Calendar	8

November General Meeting

Topic: Affordable Housing

Speakers:

**Rich Lee, Director,
Durham Affordable Housing Coalition**

**Chris Estes, Executive Director,
North Carolina Housing Coalition**

**Wednesday, November 14
10:00 AM to 12:00 noon**

**Conference Room
Durham County Southwest Branch Public Library
3605 Shannon Road
Durham**

Directions: Coming from south (Chapel Hill) or north on U.S. 15/501 (Durham-Chapel Hill Boulevard)...turn at Shannon Road intersection (by what used to be South Square—now Sam's and Target) and follow until you reach # 3605.

Annual Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, December 11

Governors Club

**6:00 PM: Cash Bar
6:45 PM: Dinner
7:45 PM: Speaker & Discussion**

**Speaker: Dan Coleman, Carrboro Alderman
and activist in sustainable economic development**

Two short documentary films will be shown, and Alderman Coleman will lead a discussion on the need for communities to engage in sustainable projects such as demonstrated in the two documentaries.

Reservations must be made by December 6. For more information on the holiday dinner, directions to the Governors Club and a reservation form to be filled out and sent to Program Chair Joyce Colaiace, see page 7.

Upcoming Events

**November 14
General Meeting
Affordable Housing**

**November 8 thru 17
Immigration Study Groups**

**December 11
Holiday Dinner**

**January 26, 2008
Consensus Meeting
Immigration Study**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Vicki Boyer

During a recent political forum a candidate remarked that the federal government had abandoned its responsibility on the issue of immigration. We all know that is true. State and local governments have been left to cope as best they can with a rising tide of immigrants and the absence of federal leadership. There is little agreement on the proper course of action.

But our own, courageous League of Women Voters, is not intimidated! We are working to come to grips with an issue that has deadlocked Congress! In order to lobby government--at all levels--the League of Women Voters needs to come to consensus and develop position statements on immigration.

In doing so, we represent a microcosm of the US as a whole. Our members have many political outlooks. We are all economic groups. We have lived all over the country, and the world. We have immigrants in our communities and as part of our daily lives. Some of us represent earlier waves of immigrants who have gone on to become citizens. Our experiences are broad and our backgrounds varied. As we work to become informed and garner consensus on this issue it is important to remind ourselves of some of the basics governing this process.

Consensus is not a vote, nor is it a win-lose proposition. It is a conversation that respects all participants and values all contributions. It is a process that builds connections between members and asks that we follow our own mission statement and become as informed as we can on this issue. We value the feelings of all but seek to make decisions based on real information.

So get our your calendars NOW and make note of the morning of Saturday, January 26. Block out that morning NOW for our meeting to come to consensus on the immigration statements from LWVUS. This meeting has been planned far enough in advance that few of you should have previous commitments!! We will meet at the Chapel Hill Library downstairs meeting room beginning at 9:30 am for a work session. In the meantime, we have some important work to do!

There are several important things we need to bring to this meeting in January. I will give you a short list, in no particular order. Bring your desire to act in the best interest of the League of Women Voters. We all value this organization and the role it has played in our lives. Be prepared to honor the best interest of the group. Bring your respect for the experiences of others. Bring your best listening skills. Bring your sense of humility. And your sense of humor! Encourage others to express themselves. Refrain from soto voce, side bar discussions. We all need a safe place to talk where we can express ourselves without being met with sarcasm, derision or scorn. Be aware of your own life experiences, your state of mind and use them to help synthesize the collected wisdom of our group. And bring a plate of your best cookies. Or breakfast biscuits. And coffee. (I will provide iced tea) We will have restrooms and a small kitchen facility at our disposal so we can be comfortable during this discussion. Bring chocolate! (its a health food now, you know....) And be prepared.

To help you be prepared, we are holding some preliminary meetings. Small group discussions are planned; different days, different times and different places. Details on each follow my message. The purpose is to help each of us understand our feelings on this issue, discuss the values we associate with it and discover where our feelings end and our factual knowledge begins. This will give us an

Continued on p. 3

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Presidents message, Continued from p. 2

idea of where we need to fill in the blanks we have in our own range of knowledge prior to coming to consensus. The January meeting will progress more smoothly if we are all on the same page when we arrive there. If you cannot attend one of the planned meetings and would like to gather a league group from your neighborhood, let us know and we will supply a moderator for you.

For this process to be successful we need an 80% turnout of membership! No, I am not joking. We need you. We need your background. Your work life. The many neighborhoods you have lived in. Your league experiences. Coming together in this manner will make our organization stronger and more cohesive. It will create new relationships amongst us and make us a more vibrant group. You may bring a non-League member with you to our small discussion groups. Before you know it, everyone in three counties will want to join us!

I know this message has been longer than the usual president's message and I thank you for bearing with me! I will be sharing more with you regarding consensus as we get closer to January! Remember. January 26th--a special day and a special event. And in the meantime, attend one of the small discussion group meetings—give a hostess a call to let her know you are coming, even at the last minute; otherwise, we will be calling you.

Schedule for Immigration Study Group Meetings

November 8, 1:30-3:30pm
*Great Decisions Meeting (75)**
No reservation required
Gathering Place, Fearington Village
Pittsboro, NC 27312

November 13, 7-9 pm
Bessie Carrington (12-15)*
1616 Pinecrest Road
Durham, NC 27705
bessiec@mindspring.com
489-8668

November 15, 10-noon
Jan Richmond (12-15)*
6600 Glen Forest Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27512
jwikrich@earthlink.net
408-0444

November 15, 2-4 pm
Carol Rist (10-12)*
84 Beverly Drive
Durham, NC 27707
Carol.rist@verison.net
490-4718

November 17, 10:00-noon
Vicki Boyer (6-8)*
105 Aberdeen Court
Carrboro, NC 27510
Viva.lvw@gmail.com
612-7079

November 10, 2-4 pm
Barbara Hardison (6-8)*
711 Twelve Post Trail
Mebane, NC 27302
forcats4@mebtel.net
304-0929

November 13, 7-9 pm
Cynthia Wertz (8-10)*
425 Old Oak Road
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Cynthia_wertz@embarqmail.com
542-6696

November 15, 7-9 pm
Joyce Colaiace (6-8)*
437 Crossvine Close
Fearington Village
Pittsboro, NC 27312
colaiaj@aol.com
542-1052

November 16, 10:00-noon
Gay Eddy (6-8)*
120 Channing Lane
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
jgeddy@earthlink.net
933-5486

**The number in parentheses connotes the number of people that will be accommodated at each session.*



Recognizing our Honorary Members

by Evelin Brinich

This month we honor two honorary members. **Margaret Champion** has been a member of the League since 1951.

When Margaret and her husband moved to Oshkosh, Wisconsin in 1951 they had two small children. She looked for ways to become involved in the new community and took her children to story-hour at the local library. The librarian was a League member and told Margaret that the League was an important organization in the community. Margaret attended a league meeting and became a member in 1951. Early on she worked on the membership committee and later she became president of the Oshkosh League. Margaret recalls that the most important accomplishment during her years with the Oshkosh League was changing the city government from a 16 ward city council of 32 people to a city management type of government with five officials elected by the town. When the children left home, Margaret obtained a MA in Ibero-American Studies. She traveled extensively in Peru and wrote articles for various journals.

After her husband's death, Margaret moved to Chapel Hill to be near family. She recalled that the first thing she did after settling into her new home in 2003 was to look up the local League in her phone book and become a member.

Since then Margaret has been busy. She reworked all her articles on Peru and they are now collected in a book, *Peru and the Peruvians in the 20th Century: Politics and Prospects*, published in 2006. While she does not come to as many League functions as she used to, Margaret continues to promote the important work of the League whenever she can. Asked how we could improve what we do, Margaret suggested to reach out to college women because they are not tied down by family and jobs and are often interested in politics. She thought the League should have a chapter on the UNC campus.

Membership News

By Evelin Brinich

We are very pleased to welcome our newest members:

Jean Ellis Atwater
2089 Farrington Point
Chapel Hill NC 27517-7308
933-3937
jeanellis@bellsouth.net

Edith Haubrichs
750 Weaver Dairy Rd. #1317
Chapel Hill NC 27514-1442
918-3650
ehaubrichs@nc.rr.com

Laurie Paolicelli
101 Adams Way
Chapel Hill NC 27516-8059
968-2064
lpaolicelli@chocvb.org

An Easy Way To Raise Money For the League

The next time you search the web, try the new search engine, GoodSearch.com.

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue to the charities its users designate.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com <<http://lists.lwv.org/t/466426/766838/27/0/>>, designate the League of Women Voters Education Fund, and start searching!

League of Women Voters of
 Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties
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<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

November 8 10:00 AM	LWV/ODC board meeting	
November 14 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon	November General Meeting Affordable Housing Speakers: Rich Lee, Durham Affordable Housing Coalition Chris Estes, NC Housing Coalition	Durham County Southwest Branch Public Library 3605 Shannon Road Durham
December 11 6:00 PM	Annual Holiday Dinner Sustainability	Governors Club
November 8 thru 17	Immigration Small Group Meetings See page 3 for times and places	
January 26, 2008 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM	Consensus Meeting Immigration Study	Chapel Hill Library 100 Library Rd. (off Estes Dr.) Chapel Hill