

The Voter of ODC



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April General Meeting

Thursday, April 17

6:30PM to 9:00 PM

Popcorn and Movie Night

Co-sponsored by Orange County Chapter of AAUW

Featuring the film

"Uncounted"

The New Math Of American Elections

Extraordinary Ventures Facility

200 South Elliott Road

Chapel Hill

We provide the popcorn. Bring your drink.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**2008 Lieutenant Gubernatorial
Candidates Forum**

Produced by

League of Women Voters of North Carolina & UNC-TV

Walter Dalton, Hampton Dellinger, Patrick Smathers and Dan Besse, Democratic candidates for Lieutenant Governor, and Greg Dority, Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor, have agreed to participate in this candidate forum produced by the LWVNC and UNC-TV. Invitations have also been sent to Republican Party candidates Timothy Cook, Robert Pittenger and James Snyder.

The forum will be broadcast live on **Thursday, April 10**, at 8 PM on UNC-NC, UNC-TV's digital channel dedicated to North Carolina programming. The forum will air on UNC-TV at 10 PM.

Shannon Vickery, UNC-TV executive producer for content, will moderate an in-depth discussion of top state issues.

For more information about UNC-TV's 2008 Lieutenant Gubernatorial Candidates Forum, visit www.unctv.org/election.

Upcoming Events

**April 9
Kinnaird-Carey Debate**

**April 10
Lt. Gubernatorial
Candidate Meeting**

**April 17
April General Meeting**

**May 15
Annual Meeting**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Vicki Boyer

I have come to feel that the world wide web is my own, personal, in-home library. Anyone can now access the web and locate information in a matter of seconds. Of course, we all know that just because it is on the web doesn't make it so; even the public library contains trashy novels and old data, as well as fine literature and up to the minute periodicals. When using the web we have to pick and choose our sites.

For instance, after much searching, I found a site that allows the viewer to calculate the rate of inflation over any give time period. Using their calculator, I was able to determine that from January, 1998 to January 2008, the rate of inflation in the US was 30.62%. That was about the last time our League raised it's membership dues.

We all know costs have gone up since then, but we have held our dues steady. Groceries are up; heaven knows, gasoline is up; housing and health costs are up. But LWV-ODC had asked for \$45.00 for a single membership for ten years.

You all know that a portion of our membership fees, called a Per Member Payment, or PMP, goes to LWV-US and another portion of PMP goes to LWV-NC. These PMP payments have gone up regularly over the past 10 years. Just as has the rate of inflation. And at convention this year in Portland, Oregon, LWV-US will ask for another PMP increase of \$1.20.

At this point in time, approximately \$37.00 of our \$45 dues goes to state and national. We are left with very little in the way of funds to take care of our own local interests and program. Less than a dollar a month per member is available to spend locally. It is time for our League to catch up with the rate of inflation. It is time for an increase in our membership fees. We cannot owe more to state and national than we take in.

You will see that our proposed budget for the coming year is based upon an increase in single member dues from \$45 to \$55. (Family membership will increase to 1 1/2 that figure as required by our by-laws.) It is time. We have held the line on increases as long as possible. This is a 22% increase, not the 30% rate of inflation over the past 10 years.

LWV-ODC needs a financial shot in the arm. We have exhausted 'free' meeting places. To keep costs to members as low as possible we have given up most of our lunch and dinner meetings. When there is a charge for a meeting, the fee covers the event; we bank no money from our meetings. That we can continue to find people to speak to us without charging an honorium is a source of amazement to me. And financial issues have been a struggle for the board; a constant source of worry and concern. At every board meeting the question comes up, How can we pay for this???

Bringing our dues in line with the rate of inflation will give us a much needed financial boost. It will allow us more leeway in meeting the demands of the program we will vote on in May. More opportunities to continue the work of the League. It will bring us in line with the membership fees as shown on the LWV-US web site. They ask for \$55 a year for national members. LWV-US tells me that no matter what each League asks for as membership dues we lose 2.6% of our members every year. So increased dues does not drive members away. On the contrary, it is the Leagues that are the most active in their communities that draw the most members, not the Leagues that charge the least.

At the annual meeting in May, one item on the agenda will be an increase in our membership dues. Please be present. Thank you. Vicki

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Kinnaird-Carey Debate Set For April 9

7:00 PM

Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Two members of LWVODC are running in the Democratic primary for the 23rd District in the North Carolina Senate.

Incumbent N.C. Senator, Ellie Kinnaird, and Orange County commissioner, Moses Carey Jr., will meet in a debate to be held on Wednesday, April 9. The debate will be at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Chapel Hill Town Hall located at 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Kinnaird was re-elected in November 2006 and is currently serving her sixth term in the N.C. Senate. In 1987 she was elected as mayor of Carrboro and served four terms in that position.

Carey was elected to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners in 1984 and is currently serving in his sixth term. He has served as chairman for eleven non-consecutive years.

Debate questions will be generated by the *Daily Tar Heel*, *Chapel Hill News*, *Chapel Hill Herald* and *Carrboro Citizen*. 1360 WCHL will be broadcasting and moderating the debate.

The League of Women Voters has teamed up with EmPOWERment, Inc. and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce to host the debate.

The 2008 Session of the 2007 General Assembly (commonly known as the "Short Session") Convenes Tuesday, May 13

The Constitution of the State of North Carolina provides that the General Assembly will convene every other year. Therefore, the General Assembly meets only every odd year in a "Regular" Session. The 2007 Session of the General Assembly was a Regular Session. In order to meet in even years, the General Assembly passes a joint resolution upon adjournment of the Regular Session, providing that the General Assembly will reconvene the following year. The joint resolution passed last August provided that, "When the Senate and the House of Representatives adjourn on Thursday, August 2, 2007, they stand adjourned to reconvene on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 12:00 noon." What is commonly known as the "Short Session" is more properly called, "The 2008 Session of the 2007 General Assembly."

The adjournment resolution limited the matters which can be considered during the Short Session. Only the following matters may be considered during the Short Session:

1. Budget bills
2. Bills containing constitutional amendments
3. Bills which passed one house but not the other
4. Study committee bills
5. Local bills
6. Appointment bills
7. Bills authorized by a joint resolution that passed by a two-thirds vote
8. Joint resolutions authorizing introduction of a bill
9. Pension or retirement bills
10. Joint resolutions, House resolutions, and Senate resolutions authorized for introduction under Senate Rule 40(b) or House Rule 31.
11. Adjournment resolutions
12. Bills disapproving rules.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Jim Coughlin
102 Blackford Ct.
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Jan Richmond, Nominating Committee Chair

Members of the nominating committee worked very hard in calling and asking for your participation on the board. We are pleased to submit the following nominees for the LWVODC board:

Officers 2008-2009

First Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Joyce Coliaice
Ruth Ann Groh
Rita Weimer

Directors 2008-2010

Membership
Voter Editor

Evelin Brinnich
Carol Rist

Webmaster (Off Board) Cynthia Wertz

As you can see we have no nominees for President, 2nd. Vice President or Nominating Chair .Nominations from the floor will be welcome at the Annual Meeting . In order to nominate a candidate from the floor you must first obtain his or her consent. We do hope more of you will step forward to help with the organizing of the League so we can continue our successes and our good reputation.

The fall will be a very important time for us to be visible and demonstrating our good government policies. Two members have agreed to direct Voter Service on off board positions, Anne Von Amsberg and Miriam Thompson. . I have agreed to help them become organized and we will be calling on you to help form committees for registering voters and conducting forums. I hope many of you will assist us in this very important work during this time period.

Members of the nominating committee are Carol Rist, Evelin Brinnich, Mary Ann Gross, Elsie Cunningham and Jan Richmond, Chair.

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 15

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Extraordinary Ventures Facility
200 South Elliott Road
Chapel Hill

Beginning at 1:00 PM, LWVODC member Dawn Shamp will read to us from her new book, *On Account of Conspicuous Women: A Novel*.

On Account of Conspicuous Women opens in 1919 in Person County, North Carolina, and is the story of four young Southern women who unite in friendship during the women's suffrage movement. Copies of Dawn's interesting and timely novel of social change will be available for purchase.

Afternoon tea or cool beverages and light snacks will be served after Dawn's presentation, followed by the annual business meeting.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

It is the policy of the League of Women Voters that the first three articles of all local and state League bylaws be consistent with those of the LWVUS. At the 2006 LWVUS Convention, Article II and Article III of the LWVUS Bylaws were amended. Therefore we are required to amend our bylaws to be consistent.

The Board of Directors proposes the following changes to the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

(Delete words in brackets and add words which are underlined.)

Article II. Purposes and Policy

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVODC [shall be] are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation [of citizens] in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Article III. Membership

Section 2. Types of Membership. [The membership of the LWVODC shall be composed of voting members and associate members.]

[a. Voting members shall be citizens of voting age.]

a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.

[b. Associate members shall be all others who are not eligible for membership according to the provisions of Section 2.a.]

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2008-2009

	2006-2007	2007-2008	Estimated 2007-2008	Proposed 2008-2009
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Estimated Actuals</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<u>INCOME</u>				
Citizens Guide Contributions	1,240	1,200	1,560	1,000
CEF			905	800
LWV	1,763	1,200	830	800
Voter	305	305	380	400
Dues (a)	5,955	6,000	6,528	8,800
Fund Raising	1,805	1,367	0	0
Transfer from CEF	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	11,068	10,072	10,503	11,800
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Audio-visual		200	220	300
Copying	1,855	1,800		
Voter			500	300
Citizens guide			900	1,000
Other			450	500
Meetings	1,206	1,300	1,300	1,600
Miscellaneous	213	250	150	400
PMP's (b)				
LWV-NC			1,872	1,854
LWV-US			3,953	3,859
Postage	517	400		
Mailing Voter			350	215
P.O. Box	72	72	68	72
Other postage			80	100
Subscriptions/Pubs	53	0	0	50
Supplies	361	100	100	100
Telephone	742	450	420	450
Travel-Meetings	<u>885</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	9,751	10,072	10,256	11,800

INCOME:

(a) Proposed 2008-2009 dues income is based on proposed dues increase from \$45 to \$55.

EXPENSES:

(b) The Per-Member Payment (PMP) is the way Leagues satisfy the requirement to support the state and national levels of our three-level organization. The LWVODC PMP obligation for fiscal year (FY 2008-2009) is based on the January 2008 membership count of paid-up members. The LWVUS PMP for the 2007-2008 fiscal year was \$26.80. A proposal for an increase in the LWVUS PMP to \$28.00 will be made at the LWVUS convention.

Submitted by Carol Rist, chair
Bessie Carrington

HELP REGISTER VOTERS AT DUKE HOSPITAL APRIL 8

LWVODC member Bercedis Peterson is organizing volunteers to register voters at the Duke North Hospital at the intersection of Erwin Road and Fulton Road, outside the first floor cafeteria from 8 AM until 5:00 PM on April 8. If you can give Bercedis an hour of your time to register voters, please contact her at peter006@mc.duke.edu.

Proposed Program 2008-2009

The program proposed by the Board is printed in the Voter one month before the Annual Meeting, when it is approved by a majority of those attending. The adopted program then guides the new Board of Directors as they plan meetings, forums and other activities during the next League year. This process is not intended to exclude other League interests, but rather, given our limited volunteer resources, to identify priorities, focusing on (but not limited to) specific government-related issues in Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties.

The LWVODC Board of Directors proposes the adoption of the following program priorities for the League year beginning July 1, 2008.

1. Fair and adequate taxation at all levels of government

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Plan a forum in any of our three counties to consider local tax proposals to raise revenue for infrastructure needs resulting from population growth.

2. Campaign finance reform

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Plan a joint program on campaign finance reform with Democracy NC; support Chapel Hill public financing pilot project.

3. Affordable healthcare for all

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Plan a forum in any one of our three counties to educate the community about issues affecting health care reform.

4. Affordable housing for all

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Support ongoing state and local efforts to end homelessness and to provide affordable housing.

5. Public Education

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Continue to inform ourselves and the public about No Child Left Behind and other test-based accountability programs.

6. Immigration

Objective: Advocate and Educate

Example: Promote informed involvement in immigration policy at all levels of government.

League of Women Voters of
 Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties
 P.O. Box 3397
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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

April 9 7:00 PM	23rd NC Senate District Debate Ellie Kinnaird & Moses Carey	Chapel Hill Town Hall 405 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Chapel Hill
April 10 8:00 PM (Live)	2008 NC Lieutenant Gubernatorial Candidates Forum	UNC-NC, UNC-TV's Digital Channel dedicated to North Carolina programming
April 10 10:00 PM	2008 NC Lieutenant Gubernatorial Candidates Forum	UNC-TV
April 17 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Popcorn and Movie Night <i>Uncounted: The New Math of American Elections</i>	Extraordinary Ventures Conference Center 200 South Elliott Street Chapel Hill
May 6	Primary Elections for the Democratic and Republican party Non-Partisan Judicial Primary, and School Board Elections	
May 15 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Annual Meeting Dawn Shamp reading from her new novel, followed by annual business meeting	Extraordinary Ventures Conference Center 200 South Elliott Street Chapel Hill