

The Voter of ODC



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Panel at the April 24 Bail Bond Forum in Durham

**Bail Bond Forum Educates
League Members and the Public**

On April 24, the LWV-ODC sponsored a community forum, "Bail, Innocence, and Public Safety," in Durham at Rogers-Herr Middle School. Professor John Stephens of the UNC Institute of Government initiated the discussion by posing as an arrested person and walking through two scenarios representing the bail bond process. After facing the magistrate, who sets the initial bond; the accused may post bond, perhaps with the aid of a bail bondsman. Then after the pre-trial clerk prepares background information, the District Judge may approve or make changes in the bond amount upon hearing arguments from the District Attorney and the lawyers for the accused. The Superior Court judge may have the last word, when the case appears in his court.

After the two scenarios with explanations from the panelists and questions from the audience, Sylvia Kerckhoff moderated the general discussion with more questions from the audience of about 100 people. Questions were addressed to Chief Magistrate Chet Dobies, bondsmen Tony Woods and Omar Beasley, Gudrun Parmer for pre-trial services, District Judge Elaine Bushfan, Superior Court judge Orlando Hudson, District Attorney Mike Nifong, Public Defender Lawrence Campbell and defense attorney John Fitzpatrick. Several other District Judges in attendance offered comments as the questioning proceeded.

The lively questions addressed many issues about the "revolving door," in which it appears that people arrested one week are out on the streets the next, committing the same crime. Panelists stressed the complexity of the guidelines and emphasized that arrest does not equal conviction. Some who are arrested are not found guilty of any crime; others are convicted of lesser crimes. Some members of the audience questioned the process for sequestering DWI arrestees, as well as the need to protect battered spouses in life threatening situations.

Congratulations to LWV/ODC Vice President Bessie Carrington, who organized the forum, enlisted our co-sponsors and arranged to have the forum at Rogers-Herr Middle School. League members Else Bolotin, Gwen Griswold, Barbara Hardison, Kay Hunt, Jan Richmond, Carol Rist and Robbie Willmarth helped with the Forum, along with Kathy Shuart, Trial Court Administrator. Funds were provided by grants from the LWV-NC and from the Durham Bail Bond Alliance.

Upcoming Events

June 18
Durham Bulls Game
With Wake County League
Durham Bulls Athletic Park

June 19
Lobby Day
NC Voters
for Clean Elections
Raleigh



President Vicki Boyer addresses LWV-ODC Annual Meeting

Why I joined the League

By Vicki Boyer

Way back in 1959, my parents moved us from Wilmington NC to Washington, DC, just in time for the Kennedy-Nixon campaign. As you know, the League ran the first televised presidential debates for that election. We watched a lot of TV that year, mostly because Washington had FOUR channels while Wilmington had only ONE! And on every channel were the politicians involved with this debate along with the president of the League of Women Voters. And they were treating that woman with respect! I knew then and there, THAT was what I wanted to be when I grew up!!

Many years later, Bea Hughes-Warned invited me to a Meet the League tea, and suggested I join. And look what happened!

N C Voters For Clean Elections

Lobby Day
Tuesday, June 19

The NC Voters for Clean Elections coalition (of which the LWV is a member) is organizing a lobby day for election and campaign finance reform at the NC General Assembly in Raleigh.

Legislation on important LWV priority issues is making its way through the legislative process, and the presence on June 19th of advocates for reform will help move these issues along.

For more information check the LWV/ODC website or contact:

Mary Klenz
klenzm@bellsouth.net
704-542-9858

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**Officers
2007-2008**

President
Vicki Boyer
968-6324

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Carol Sherrod
542-6650

2nd Vice President
Joyce Colaiace
542-1052

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Barbara Nettesheim
942-2763

Treasurer
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489-8668

Nominating Committee
Jan Richmond
408-0444

Directors 2007-2008

Evelin Brinich
967-5819

Carol Rist
490-5718

Cynthia Wertz
542-6696

Directors 2006-2008

Barbara Hardison
304-0929

Brenda Schoonover
967-0322

Linda Stryker-Luftig
542-1176



Jane Sharp MacRae, who has been a League member for over 50 years, turned 90 on May 22, 2007. We would like to congratulate her and hope she will reach her goal to be 100!

A Leaguer who has been a member for fifty years becomes an honorary member. Honorary members no longer have to pay annual dues. We hope that every current member of LWV/ODC will some day be an honorary member.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

This has been a very busy month for the membership committee. Membership renewal mailings went out to our 192 members and 28 prospective members. Please complete the membership renewals as soon as you can, especially before leaving on summer vacations. This would allow the Treasurer and the membership committee to have an early start processing the information over the summer. Thanks to our efficient webmaster, Cynthia Wertz, you can also go to our website at <http://lwvodc.org> to print out a copy.

Our Spring 2007 Mix & Mingle for new and prospective members was held on May 10, 2007. We had 15 attendees who shared information and insights about what the League has done and what it would like to do this next year. We hope to have another event for new and prospective members in Spring 2008.

If anyone would like to join the Membership Committee to help out with special mailings, phone calls, greeting people at events, recruiting new members, please let me know at Membership@lwvodc.org or give me a call at 967-5819.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ruth Ann Groh
424 Lakeshore Lane
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-1733
929-6126
g1262r-league@yahoo.com

Stanley Henshaw
1082 Fearington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27313
533-3184
shenshaw@concentric.net

Ruth and Walter Shur
20 Speyside
Pittsboro, NC 27312
542-7179
wrshur@gmail.com

WELCOME, ELIZABETH

Elizabeth Wachs has switched her membership from a national to a local membership. Welcome to the LWV of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Wachs
12041 Iredell
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8551
928-7852
lizwachs@cs.com

For up to date information about
LWV-ODC activities, go to our
website,

www.lwvodc.org

Also, a video of the Bail Bond
Forum will soon be available at the
website

ALERT – CALL TO ACTION

If you subscribe to LWVNC lobbyist Paula Wolf's legislative update, *The Voice*, you have received the following Call to Action. If you haven't already responded to Paula's request, please do so now. If are not a subscriber to *The Voice*, we urge you to respond to Paula's request AND sign up for *The Voice* by sending an e-mail to Paula at wolf@deltaforce.net. Give Paula your name, address and phone number and tell her you want to receive League legislative updates.

HB 91-REGISTRATION & VOTING AT ONE-STOP SITES

HB 91-REGISTRATION & VOTING AT ONE-STOP SITES will be competing with the Senate budget this week. The Senate plan is to complete their budget deliberations this week and get the bill to conference. As yet, there are no other committees scheduled.

WE CONTINUE TO ASK COALITION MEMBERS AND THEIR NETWORKS TO DO THE FOLLOWING THREE THINGS, PLEASE:

1. Contact Sen. Tony Rand (Co-Chair of Senate Committee, Senate Rules Chair and Senate Majority Leader). He controls the movement of legislation. (Listed below)
2. Contact all the Members of the Senate Select Committee on Government and Election Reform. (Listed below)
3. Contact YOUR Senator (see Citizen's Guide at LWVODC website, <http://www.lwvdc.org>.)

OUR MESSAGE

- Please support HB 91- REGISTRATION & VOTING AT ONE-STOP SITES
- Please schedule HB 91-REGISTRATION & VOTING AT ONE-STOP SITES in the Senate Select Committee on Government and Election Reform this week.
- Same Day Registration would enfranchise thousands of North Carolina citizens who want to vote but who miss the artificial and unnecessary deadline to register, which is 25 days before the election.
- Same Day Registration is a tool of empowerment for allowing more African Americans, young people, and others to have their voices heard.
- We need our state-level leaders to support voting rights, fully and completely.
- Barriers to voting (whether a poll tax or an outdated registration deadline) block the development of a healthy democracy of, by and for the people.
- Time is of the essence. This bill must be approved by the US Department of Justice pursuant to the Voting Rights Act before it can be implemented.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- North Carolina consistently ranks among the worst 15 states for voter turnout
- About 1 million citizens are not even registered.
- H-91-REGISTRATION & VOTING AT ONE-STOP SITES would allow a person to go to an Early Voting Site during the Early Voting Period, show proper ID, fill out the registration form, and vote -- all on the same day.
- Same-Day Registration is especially helpful for young people, people of color, working people, and others with limited time or transportation.
- Several states use Same-Day Registration, and they have much higher voter participation than NC.
- The NC Board of Elections says counties can increase voter access and still protect against fraud with the procedures in H-91.
- For more background, see: <http://www.democracy-nc.org/improving/samedayreg.html>

Senate Select Committee on Government and Election Reform

Co-Chair Sen. Dan Clodfelter (D-Mecklenburg) – 919-715-8331 – Danielc@ncleg.net

Co-Chair Sen. Tony Rand (D-Cumberland) – 919-733-9892 – Tonyr@ncleg.net

Sen. Stan Bingham (R-Davidson) – 919-733-5665 – stanb@ncleg.net

Sen. Doug Berger (D-Franklin) 919-715-8363 – Dougb@ncleg.net

Sen. Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) – 919-733-5708 – Philbe@ncleg.net

Sen. Julia Boseman (D-New Hanover) – 919-715-2525 – Juliab@ncleg.net

Sen. Janet Cowell (D-Wake) – 919-715-6400 – Janetc@ncleg.net

Sen. Charlie Dannelly (D-Mecklenburg) – 919-733-5995 – Charlied@ncleg.net

Sen. Steve Goss (D-Watauga) – 919-733-5742 – Steveg@ncleg.net

Sen. Edward Jones (D-Halifax) – 919-715-3032 – Edwardj@ncleg.net

Sen. Martin Nesbitt (D-Buncombe) – 919-715-3001 – martinn@ncleg.net

Sen. R. C. Soles (D-Columbus) – 919-733-5963 – Rcsoles@ncleg.net

Sen. Richard Stevens (R-Wake) – 919-733-5653 – Richards@ncleg.net

* PAULA'S PRESCRIPTION

Before you communicate with a Legislator, find out a little something about her/him. For a House Member, go to the General Assembly website – www.ncleg.net and click on House on the left. You can see each Member's individual website with their picture by clicking on House Member List and then clicking on their name. Go back to the House page and scroll down. You'll see House Member Reports, House Principal Clerk Documents. Under that, click on 2007 – 2008 House Documents. There are several documents on this page. Find out their home address and phone, their occupation, how long they have served, and much more.

LWVODC Congressmen Vote For Disclosure of Campaign Contributions Bundled By Lobbyists

Last week the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill requiring lobbyists to disclose "bundling" activities in their quarterly reports on the Internet. Bundling is the secretive practice of lobbyists collecting scores or hundreds of individual donations for aggregation into large campaign contributions to specific lawmakers from whom they may seek favors.

Prior to passage of the bill, the LWVUS sent out Action Alerts asking members to contact their members of the House and urge them to vote for disclosure of campaign contributions bundled by lobbyists.

Representatives Bob Etheridge and David Price voted for disclosure.

If you do not receive League Action Alerts, you can sign up by going to:

<http://takeaction.lvw.org/lvw/mlm/signup/>.

Another Volunteer Opportunity

(Perfect for a League Member)

In July there will be three vacancies on the Orange County Advisory Board on Aging: one member from Hillsborough and the other two at-large. I was appointed last summer for a three-year term (at-large) and find the work very interesting. I am aging and remember participating about 20 years ago in the statewide LWVNC Eldercare study, my first introduction to the tangled web of services.

To apply for a position on the Orange County Advisory Board on Aging, go to the web site for Orange County <http://www.co.orange.nc.us> <<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/>

* On the left side of the home page, select "Volunteer opportunities."

* Fill out a volunteer application, either on-line or using a PDF application form that you can download, fill out at leisure and mail in to the address given on the web page. They want information on work, volunteer and educational experience, how you heard about the volunteer opportunities, and ask your agreement to attend a 3-hour orientation.

The Advisory Board on Aging covers many aspects of services coordinated under the county's Department on Aging, hearing reports from other advisory boards on Adult Care Homes and Nursing Homes, and meeting jointly alternate months with United Way agency reps who offer various services such as Meals on Wheels, and making budget recommendations.

Orientation to this board when I was appointed was conducted during the monthly meetings, which take place alternately at the Central Orange Senior Center in Hillsborough and (soon) at the Seymour Senior Center opening in May in Chapel Hill on the second Wednesday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Since LWVNC is part of the Coalition on Aging and has had a long-term interest in the issues surrounding aging services, it's quite appropriate for a local League member to apply. (You have to live in Orange County for this one.)

If you want more information, call me at 918-3470.

Diane Henderson

Join Leaguers from Wake LWV at Durham Bulls Athletic Park

Monday, June 18

7:00 PM

The Wake County League has invited us to join them on Monday evening, June 18, at 7:00 PM at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park, to watch the Durham Bulls play the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees. We have been asked to join them "for the best fast food in the Triangle, chatting with friends, meeting new folks and maybe watching the game. You can even keep score!"

League members will be sitting in rows T, U, and V of Section 206.

Buy your own tickets in rows T, U, V of Section 206, with a credit card by calling (919-956-2855) or online (DurhamBulls.com), or purchase at the box office in Durham.

Membership Renewal Time

By now, all members of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties should have gotten an invoice for their 2007-2008 League dues. If you have not yet sent in your check, be sure to do so soon.

Of the \$45 dues paid by an individual, a \$26.30 per member payment is paid to the League of Women Voters of the United States, and a \$12.00 per member payment is paid to the League of Women Voters of North Carolina. That's right. **The League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties keeps only six dollars and seventy cents of the dues.**

We cannot keep our dues at \$45 unless members and friends contribute to the League.

You can make a tax deductible contribution to our League by enclosing, in the same envelope as your dues, a separate check payable to Citizen Education Foundation or CEF. This contribution will be used for educational purposes.

SCENES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING



John Dancy, visiting lecturer at Duke and former NBC news correspondent, explains to a rapt audience why TV can't cover politics.



Ralph Wickstrom, husband of outgoing president Jan Richmond, seems to be a happy man while talking to incoming president, Vicki Boyer.



Outgoing president, Jan Richmond, presents a rose to Joyce Colaiace, honoring her outstanding work as program chair. Joyce was elected 2nd vice president for 2007-2008.



Jan presents a rose to Gay Eddy, honoring the excellent job she did as chair of the nominating committee.



Jan presents a rose to Else Bolotin, honoring her for all that she has done for the League as Second Vice President.



Outgoing First Vice President Bessie Carington and Jan enjoy a moment after Bessie has received her rose. Bessie was elected Treasurer for 2007-2008.



Jan presents a rose to Kay Hunt, honoring her for the many contributions she made to the success of the 2006-2007 League year.

The Voter...ODC...The Voter...ODC...The Voter

League of Women Voters of
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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

June 18
7:00 PM

Durham Bulls Baseball Game
(with Wake LWV)

Durham Bulls Athletic Park
409 Blackwell Street
Durham

June 19

Lobby Day
NC Voters for Clean Elections

Legislative Office Building
300 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh