

**The Voter of ODC**



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**Annual meeting Wednesday, May 24**

**Governor's Club Ballroom, 6 p.m.**

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24 at 6 p.m. at the Clubhouse of the Governors Club. The cocktail reception and dinner will be followed by the Annual Meeting. Our dinner speaker will be Professor Ann Dunbar, Associate Professor in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies at UNC Chapel Hill. Her talk will be "Muslim Women and Political Change: Some Case Studies from Africa South of the Sahara." Prof. Dunbar specializes in African social history with a focus on women, law and women's civic organizations primarily within Muslim communities. This promises to be an exciting talk and of interest to League members and their guests.

After dinner the Annual Meeting will consider LWVODC positions, program and budget for 2006-2007.

**Directions**

To get to the Governors Club, take Hwy. 15-501 south from Chapel Hill to Mt. Carmel Road and turn left. The Governors Club entrance is 3.5 miles on the right. When you arrive at the security gate, tell the guard you are attending a function at the Clubhouse. The guard will give you directions.

**To make your reservations now.**

Send your checks for \$25 per person, made out to LWVODC, to

Joyce Colaiace  
437 Fearington Post  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

**The deadline for reservations is Friday May 19.**

**Upcoming Events**

General Meetings  
April 20  
Hargraves Center

May 24  
Governors Club

**General Meeting April 20**

**Hargraves Center, Carrboro, 10 a.m.**

The Money in Politics Task Force meeting will be chaired by Patricia Watts Hill, group leader, and will feature a talk on campaign finance reforms by Bob Hall of Democracy North Carolina. A question and answer period, moderated by Molly Beacham from Democracy NC and also a LWVODC member, will follow the talk. Refreshments will be served.

**May 2 is primary Election Day**

## President's Message

### Jan Richmond, President

This is a month of review of proposals for all the members in preparing for the Annual Meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Included in this edition you will find positions, program and the proposed budget. All these are waiting for your discussion, changes and approval. The board has worked earnestly in attempting to write a proposed program that will cover areas of interest that have been expressed in general meetings and that follow our proposed positions.

I will be asking for direction at the annual meeting and I hope you will be thinking about your issues that you feel our board should address. Last year, Chris Farnum offered a very good direction for printing a new pamphlet. We have done that, and thanks to June Talvitie-Siple, we have printed 300 in the last year for distribution. This has helped to get our mission out to the public and in soliciting new members. We do listen and act.

The February general meeting was a working session on updating and suggesting new positions for consideration. It was well attended and the task was addressed with vigor. Please take time to read the updated local positions and priorities recommended by this work group.

A budget committee led by Kay Hunt met and agreed on a proposed budget for 2006-2007. Carolyn Epstein, Barbara Hardison, Judie Burke and I were also on the committee.

## LOCAL POSITIONS

The following positions are those that have been adopted by consensus of the local League and affirmed by review at previous Annual Meetings. The date of initial adoption is indicated in parentheses.

## COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

- Support for a long-range Orange County budget plan that includes establishment of goals and priorities, both for operating expenses and for capital improvements (1988).
- Support for clear communication in the Orange County budget process (1988).

### *Proposed changes:*

#### **Local Government Process**

- *Support for a long-range local government budget process that includes establishment of goals and priorities, both for operating expenses and for capital improvements.*
- *Support for clear communication in the budget process.*

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Support for action to increase citizen safety by decreasing the number of drunken drivers (1983).

*No change.*

League of Women Voters  
Orange/Durham/Chatham  
P.O. Box 3397  
Chapel Hill NC 27517-3397  
919-419-1650

<http://lwvodic.org>

### Board of Directors 2005-2006

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Betty Mutran  
(Membership)  
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Anne Bodner  
(Chatham Chair)  
545-2358

Bessie Carrington  
(Voter Editor)  
489-8668

**EDUCATION**

- Support of the Chapel Hill School Board in its assignment of pupils on a non-discriminatory basis (1960).
- Support redistricting policy that maintains racial balance and continuity of individual educational experience. Support improvement of quality of integration within the schools and individual classrooms (1978).
- Support of action to improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro school bus transportation system (1979).
- Support for adequate funding of the capital needs of Chapel Hill/Carrboro and Orange County school systems (1984).

***Proposed Changes***

- ( possible change, or eliminate) *Support within our districts for assignment of pupils on a non-discriminatory basis—this position is included in the second statement below.)*
- *Support redistricting policy that maintains racial balance, continuity of individual educational experience and supports the quality of integration within the schools and individuals classrooms.*
- *Support actions to improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of school bus transportation systems.*
- *Support for adequate funding of the capital needs of local schools.*

**GREENWAYS**

Support for the greenways system and open space (1984).

**GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**

- Support of a sound planning program through which public improvements, policies, and regulations are coordinated for the orderly and attractive development of the community (1964).
- Support of joint planning as the best process for managing growth cooperatively in the areas of Orange County surrounding Chapel Hill and Carrboro (1986).
- Public facilities should be adequate before new development is permitted (1987).

***Proposed change :***

*1 and 2 remain the same*

*Change third to: Support of joint planning as the best process for managing growth cooperatively in our districts.*

**PUBLIC RECREATION**

Support for public recreation for the Chapel Hill area (1961, 1974).

***Proposed change:*** *Support for public recreation.*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Local governing boards should adopt written ethics codes and local municipalities should adopt the state statute for candidates reporting all campaign contributors who give more than \$100. (1989).

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

## **New Proposed Positions-2006- LWV-ODC**

Each level of the League develops positions on issues of importance. A position is a stand or commitment made by the League at the local, state or national level. Acting under positions from another League level is sometimes referred to as vertical action. If the LWV-ODC board judges that its members are knowledgeable and support the action to be taken, it can undertake action at the local, regional and/or state level under a national position or positions without clearance from LWV-US board.

At the February 16, 2006, general meeting of LWV-ODC the following recommendations were made by the attendees for positions to be taken by the local League:

### **From the LWV-US Position: Campaign Finance**

- The LWV-US believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office, presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to State and local campaigns.
- *The LWV-ODC supports Lobby Reform on the State and Local level. We support an independent ethics commission to review the reporting process of the legislative and executive branches of government. (2006)*

### **From the LWV-US Position: Individual Liberties**

- The LWV-US believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the US. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged.
- Under Citizen's Rights Position the LWV-US supports an Independent Judiciary.
- *The LWV-ODC recommends education of the public on the particulars of the Patriot Act and the impact on their civil liberties. We advocate for changes in the law to protect our civil liberties through emails, visits and calls to our federal representatives and senators.(2006)*

### **From the LWV-US Position: Redistricting Reform**

### **From the LWV-NC Position: Redistricting Reform**

- The LWV-US believes that Congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population ("one person, one vote"). Redistricting should not dilute the effective representation of minority citizens. Efforts that attempt or result in partisan gerrymandering should be opposed.
- The LWV-NC supports an independent commission for drawing new plans for redistricting. Congressional districts, both houses of the state legislature, county, as well as municipal government districts including boards of education, should be apportioned primarily according to population.
- *The LWV-ODC believes that redistricting locally should be representative of and apportioned on population and effectively represent minority citizens. We strongly believe that the public should be educated regarding partisan gerrymandering. (2006)*

### **From the LWV-NC Position: Election Laws**

- The LWV-NC promotes measures which safeguard the rights of the voter and encourage clear and democratic election procedures. The LWV-NC promotes and supports election laws in North Carolina which emphasize full participation of all citizens in the democratic process.
- *The LWV-ODC supports Same-Day Registration at One-Stop Sites. This legislation will allow a person who misses the cut-off for registration (25 days before the election) to go to a one-stop voting site when they are open, show proper ID, register and vote.(2006)*

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

## From the LWV-NC Position: Taxes

- The LWV-NC promotes an equitable and efficient system of taxation. The LWV-NC supports House Bill 433, Earned Income Tax Credit. LWV-NC supports an equitable and efficient system of taxation which will adequately fund needed services.
- *The LWV-ODC supports an Earned Income Tax Credit and supports an equitable and efficient system of taxation. (2006)*

## PROPOSED PROGRAM 2006-2007

In keeping with the Principles of LWV-US, each year LWV-ODC adopts the program proposed by the Board at the Annual Meeting. The adopted program then becomes the guideline for the issues of emphasis for the Board and membership, but not to the exclusion of all other League interests and positions. Rather it is a statement of what we think we can realistically accomplish, given our finite resources.

### Educate and Advocate

- Civil Liberties
- Separation of powers
- National, state and local issues
- Non-partisan candidate forums

### Advocate Good Government

- Sunshine Laws
- Observation of state & local board & government agencies
- Campaign finance reform
- Lobby Reform

### Promote Voter Empowerment

- Support Same Day Voter Registration
- Promote Fair Elections
- Promote entitlement, one person, one vote through impartial districting
- Support voter registration

### Increase Membership

- Increase LWVODC membership and membership diversity

## From the Editor

Due to the necessity of publishing the Positions, Budget and Program for the Annual meeting, I have had to omit news of meetings, forums and issues which have been sent to me. Look for updates in the May-June Voter, which will be sent after the Annual Meeting. Thank you for helping keep us up to date.

Bessie Carrington, Editor

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF  
ORANGE DURHAM AND CHATHAM COUNTIES**

**Budget Report, May 2006, Kay Hunt, Budget Committee**

INCOME:

Dues for FY 2006-2007 are estimated based on the Per Member Payment (PMP) membership numbers as of January 1, 2006. Payments are made to both LWV-US (\$23.80/Individual; \$35.70/Family) and LWVNC (\$12/Individual; \$18/Family).

	Individual	Family	Student	Total	%Inc/Dec
1/1/06	133	15	1	162	-16%
2/1/05	150	20	2	192	-3%
1/1/2004	157	21	0	199	8%
1/1/2003	153	15	1	184	12%

After 1/1/06, 3 additional individual members joined.

<u>Total Membership To Date (3/31/06):</u>	Individuals	Family	Student	Honorary	National	Total
	136	15	1	9	30	191

EXPENSES:

Expenses for the upcoming fiscal year are budgeted based on projected actual expenses of the current FY, which will end 6/30/2006. Some changes were made to reflect State Convention in Pinehurst and National Council in Washington DC. The decline in copying and postage expense reflects the impact of emailing the Voter to the majority of our members.

	2003-04 <u>Budget</u>	2003-04 <u>Actual</u>	2004-05 <u>Budget</u>	2004-05 <u>Actual</u>	2005-06 <u>Budget</u>	2005-2006 <u>Actual</u>	2006-2007 <u>Budget</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>							
Transfer: CEF	1,012	1,903	1,084	2,625	2,153	200	0
Citizens Guide	2,000	2,245	2,500	2,315	2,750	2,300	2,300
Contributions: CEF	1,200						
Contributions: LWV	850	1,105	950	2,007	1,250	1,227	1,200
Contributions: Other	1,320	600	90	25	500	380	380
Dues	8,700	8,733	8,965	8,242	8,520	6,880	6,960
Fund Raising			1,110	551			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>15,082</b>	<b>14,586</b>	<b>14,699</b>	<b>15,765</b>	<b>15,173</b>	<b>10,987</b>	<b>10,840</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>							
Copying	3,800	4,136	4,100	3,782	2,925	2,751	2,644
Miscellaneous	250	291	225	216	200	230	250
P.O. Box	72	68	76	68	68	68	68
PMP's	6,160	6,040	6,598	6,638	6,480	4,228	3,728
Postage	900	755	800	733	700	250	350
Rooms-Speakers	500	149	500	76	700	420	700
Subscriptions/Pubs	50	47	50	0	50	30	50
Supplies	500	500	500	145	500	57	500
Telephone	750	780	650	652	800	976	750
Travel-Meetings	1,800	1,673	900	648	2,500	1,000	1,300
TV-Video (Forums)	300	200	300	0	200	0	500
Fund Raising				455			
Voter Registration				130			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>15,082</b>	<b>14,639</b>	<b>14,699</b>	<b>13,543</b>	<b>15,173</b>	<b>10,010</b>	<b>10,840</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>-53</b>		<b>2,222</b>		<b>977</b>	

## Membership

### Betty Mutran

Your LWV-ODC annual membership expires in June 2006. You can renew now online at [www.lwvodic.org](http://www.lwvodic.org).

### Elizabeth Baron, 1942-2006

Elizabeth (Liz) Baron died Saturday, April 8, after a nine month illness with cancer. Liz was an active League member, serving on the board as treasurer for three years. With three degrees in finance, her bookkeeping was meticulous. As chairman of the Free Air project, and participant in many other League functions, she undertook each activity with excitement and commitment. Aside from the League her interests were equally enthusiastic, including bridge, literary, news discussion groups, and outdoor activities. Her death at age 64 leaves a gap in our community. What we remember most about her is her vibrancy and that "She was so much fun!" The League extends our deepest sympathies to her husband, Jules, her mother, brother, three children, and five grandchildren.—From Dorothy Mahan.

### Gertrude Mitchell Willis, 1905-2006

Gertrude Mitchell Willis, born in 1905, passed away on March 10, 2006, at Carol Woods in Chapel Hill. Gertrude was a League member for fifty years, having joined in 1955. Gertrude led the way to feminism for many younger women. In 1930 she graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School and became a physician. She practiced medicine in the Detroit area and then in Chapel Hill until 1985. In addition to her professional work, she was a leader in numerous community organizations including the American Association of University Women and the Joint Orange-Chatham Community Services Board. She was a founding member of the Community Church in Chapel Hill and of Planned Parenthood of Orange County. She was an expert gardener and a member of the Rose Society of Chapel Hill. She and her husband, Stuart, opened their home frequently for League meetings. Gertrude had a positive outlook on life and an infectious laugh. She enriched the lives of all who knew her. Memorial contributions may be made to the organization of your choice.—from Bev Kawalec

### LWVODC DEBUTS ON WUNC-TV

On March 19th, LWV-ODC volunteers along with family and friends gathered at the studio of WUNC-TV to helping its spring fund raising festival. They were terrific! Our volunteers took pledges worth more than \$12,000 and LWV-ODC got some wide exposure to the community. See the pictures at [lwvodic.org](http://lwvodic.org).

Thanks to our volunteers:

Eve and Matt Barkley  
Andrea Miller  
Anne von Amsberg  
Rita Weimer  
Ann Recesso  
Betty Mutran  
Renee Lord  
Barbara Thompson  
Carol Sherrod

Dorothy Voyta  
Gayle Ruedi  
Karen Marshall  
Merv Shumate  
Nancy Johnson  
Patricia and Wally Hill  
Elsie Cunningham  
Laura Wertz Stone

and, especially, to Cynthia Wertz who wanted to be there but fractured her ankle instead and enlisted her daughter, Laura, to help. My thanks to all who helped with this event.—from Bev Hanly

League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and  
Chatham Counties  
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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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.*



See what fun members had at the UNC-TV fundraiser?