

**The Voter of ODC**



**Inside this issue:**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| January meeting<br>Mix & Mingle     | 1 |
| Presidents message                  | 2 |
| Durham Neighbor-<br>hood College    | 3 |
| Report from Nov.<br>General Meeting | 4 |
| Supreme Court<br>Forum              | 5 |
| NC General<br>Assembly              | 6 |
| Membership<br>State Convention      | 7 |
| League calendar                     | 8 |

**January General Meeting**

**Hargraves Center  
215 North Roberson Street, Chapel Hill  
January 18, 2007  
10:00AM**

**Gerry Cohen**

**Director of Legislative Drafting  
North Carolina General Assembly**

**Speaking on  
Alternative Redistricting**

Gerry Cohen is a former member of the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen (now the Chapel Hill Town Council). He was elected in 1973 when he was a law student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is currently the Director of Legislative Drafting for the North Carolina General Assembly. He will speak to us on Congressional and legislative redistricting, and may challenge the LWVNC position of support for an independent commission for drawing new plans for redistricting.

**Mix & Mingle**

**With Orange, Durham and Chatham's  
Mayors and Chairs of County Commissions**

**February 26  
Panzanella**

Those who attended the "Mix and Mingle" last March with our local members of the North Carolina General Assembly remember what a successful evening it was.

This year we will mix and mingle with invited mayors and county commission chairs.

See the January *Voter* for information on reservations.

**Upcoming Events**

**General Meetings**

Jan. 18  
Hargraves Center

Feb. 15  
Hargraves Center

Feb. 26  
Mix & Mingle With  
Local Officials

## **President's Message by Jan Richmond**

The board has continued working through the holiday season. It was good to see so many of you at the Holiday dinner with our featured speaker, Hodding Carter, Assistant Secretary of State and State Department spokesperson under President Carter.

Plans are in process for a March Day Trip to the Legislature to speak with state representatives and senators from all three counties. We hope to provide you with an opportunity to sit in on a committee hearing. Mary Klenz, our state liaison, is helping to arrange this special day. We will have car pooling from all three counties and hope you will plan to attend this very special and informative day.

In March we also plan to have an evening Mix and Mingle. The format for this March evening meeting will be similar to last year but with local politicians attending. Keep checking our website for updates on this information.

Many of you are aware of the success of the forum on the Supreme Court. I would like to thank Dorothy Mahon, Carol Rist, Else Bolotin and Laurie Ferris for their efforts in writing and receiving the grant. In addition they did all the planning and it was a great informational evening with approximately 100 attendees. Congratulations to your focus group.

Please consider joining our Observer Corps group headed by Bessie Carrington. You will be reading reports in The Voter completed by observers attending various governmental group meetings in the three counties. This is a very good way for new members to become involved and for seasoned members to show support.

We will be exploring membership recruitment in January. I hope members will reach out to bring a neighbor or friend to one of our many activities as a means of introducing them to LWVODC.

I urge each and every one of you to become involved in some manner to continue our mission of educating and advocacy on issues of public policy...

**League of Women Voters  
Orange/Durham/Chatham  
P.O. Box 3397  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-3397  
919-419-1650  
[Http://lwvodc.org](http://lwvodc.org)**

### **Officers 2006-2007**

**President**  
Jan Richmond  
408-0444

**1st Vice President**  
Bessie Carrington  
489-8668

**2nd Vice President**  
Else Bolotin  
259-7095

**Secretary**  
Carol Sherrod  
542-6650

**Treasurer**  
Barbara Hardison  
919-304-0929

**Nominating Committee**  
Gay Eddy  
933-5486

### **Directors 2005-2007**

Joyce Colaiace  
(Program)  
542-1052

Kay Hunt  
(Special Projects)  
542-1750

Evelin Brinich  
(Membership)  
967-5819

### **Directors 2006-2008**

Cynthia Wertz  
(Webmaster/IT Consultant)  
542-6696

Carol Rist  
(Voter Editor)  
490-5718

**Applicants Sought  
for  
Spring 2007 Durham Neighborhood College**

**Deadline to Apply for Spring Term Is January 31, 2007**

Residents looking to play a more active role in their neighborhoods and the Durham community will get their chance to learn how at this spring's Durham Neighborhood College, a class designed specifically for residents to learn about the organization, operations and services of their local City and County governments.

Applications are available for the Durham Neighborhood College 2007 Spring Term. This series of classes, co-sponsored by the City and County of Durham, consists of interactive sessions facilitated by various local government officials, allowing residents to learn about key government operations directly from the elected officials and staff responsible for overseeing these key City and County services.

The final day to apply for the spring session is Wednesday, January 31, 2007. All applicants must be current in their vehicle and property taxes at the time of application.

The classes will be held on nine Thursday nights beginning February 22, 2007, from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and on one Saturday morning. Space in the Durham Neighborhood College is limited to 25 people, and applications will be accepted to create a diverse participant population from as many Durham neighborhoods as possible as well as residents that live outside the city limits. Students must attend eight of the 10 sessions to successfully complete the program.

A light meal is served prior to the start of each nightly class and sessions are held at City and County facilities. There is a \$25 fee for citizens who are accepted to attend the program and five scholarships are also available if needed. Area high school students ages 15 and up as well as Latino residents are particularly encouraged to apply.

Interested residents should fill out and submit an application to the Durham County Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, located at 200 East Main Street, Second Floor, Durham, N.C. 27701.

To learn more about Durham Neighborhood College, or to download an application, visit the City's website or the County's website. Applications are also available at the Durham County Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and the City Clerk's Office.

Interested applicants may also contact the City's Office of Public Affairs (919) 560-4123 or the County's Public Information Office at (919) 560-0008 for more information.

For up to date information about LWV-ODC activities, go to our website, **[www.lwvdc.org](http://www.lwvdc.org)**. You will also find previous VOTERS and the latest copy of the Citizens Guide.

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



## NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING:

by Else Bolotin

Jonathan Weiler, Adjunct Associate Professor Curriculum in International studies was our speaker on Thursday, November 16, 2006 at the Hargrave's Center in Chapel Hill. His very timely topic was "Why People Vote the Way They Do".

A lively discussion followed his succinct and extremely interesting discussion of his latest research project. The project is looking at Voting Personalities, especially the Authoritarian Personality. This particular personality is central to the national trend. Authoritarianism is seen as personal aggression -- submissive to authority.

The old Authoritarian Personality findings after WWII have been discredited due to flawed research. Now however, with the findings of the National Election Study, powerful indicators of political interest have been found. Purely authoritarian issues are terrorism, homosexuality, gay marriage, feminism, abortion, and culture wars. Non-authoritarian issues are taxes and social security. Literal belief in the Bible correlates with authoritarianism, albeit only 50%. Generally speaking, authoritarianism is trumping ideology.

The National Election Study found that child-rearing values are an indicator with of authoritarianism. They began their battery with: "Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have".

The pairs of attributes were:

- Independence versus Respect for others
- Being considerate versus Being well behaved
- Obedience versus Self-reliance
- Curiosity versus Good Manners.

In short, the issue is not the issue. What is important is what kind of image can you project through the media.

There was great interest in the issues Dr. Weiler raised. We are hoping to have him back when his study is completed.



## Supreme Court Forum Is Big Success

By Else Bolotin



Kevin McGuire

On November 14, 2006, the League of Women Voters conducted a very successful public Forum at Binkley Baptist Church. Democracy North Carolina assisted in the project by en-

Paul Carrington

endorsing the forum and promoting attendance. The speakers were Paul Carrington, Professor of Law at Duke University Law school and Kevin McGuire, associate Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The forum was funded with a grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund and the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute.

The topic of the forum was, "The Supreme Court: Does It Need Reform?" Paul Carrington presented the case for discontinuing the appointment of Supreme Court justices for life. Kevin McGuire presented the case for continuing lifetime appointments of justices.

Most participants were surprised to learn that the United States is the only country that selects its Supreme Court Justices for a life term. Carrington argued that the Founding Fathers, who provided the following in the Constitution: "The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour," could not have imagined that people in the 21st Century would reach such a ripe old age. He suggested that one way to regenerate the Supreme Court on a regular basis would be for the President to appoint Justices for 18 years, and then stagger the appointments so that an appointment would take place every two years. This would also help diminish the intense scrutiny that contemporary candidates have to endure.

McGuire countered that, seen in historical perspective, the tenure of the justices of the Supreme Court is not dramatically at odds with the patterns of Courts past. He stated that the evidence does not support the argument that, measured either by age or length of service, lifetime tenure on the Supreme Courts needs to be modified or abolished. Such a change might create other problems.



Forum Committee Chair Dorothy Mahon greets some of the participants.

The discussion was lively among the 94 people that attended, and many people lined up for questions.

The forum committee that applied for and received the grant also conducted a lively publicity campaign. The good turnout was partly due to their efforts. The community has responded positively to politically oriented forums.



Participants lined up at the microphones to ask probing questions.

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



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

If you are on the LWV/ODC listserv, you have received the notice that the 2007 LWV/ODC Membership Directory has been published. The directory is available on the LWV/ODC website, [www.lwvodic.org](http://www.lwvodic.org). You can access it by clicking on “Membership” and then “LWVODC Directory.” For privacy protection you will need to enter a password. The e-mail you received announcing the availability of the directory included the password.

Members who receive a hard copy of the *Voter* will get their directory via the U.S. Mail.

### NEW MEMBERS

Linda Stryker-Luifig and Mark Luifig,  
709 Fearrington Post  
Pittsboro, NC, 27312  
919-542-1176,  
[lindastryker@gmail.com](mailto:lindastryker@gmail.com)

### ROSTER CHANGE

Betsey Bancroft Wu has a new email address: [bancroftwu@yahoo.com](mailto:bancroftwu@yahoo.com)

## State Convention League of Women Voters of North Carolina March 23-25, 2007

**Little River Golf Resort  
Carthage, NC**

The LWVNC convention will begin Friday afternoon, March 23, with workshops designed to address needs identified by local leagues. Friday evening members of the Moore County League will accompany groups to several area restaurants. The schedule on Saturday and Sunday will include all the business essential for the convention—review, discussion, and adoption of a biennial program, legislative agenda, and budget; and election of officers. Issue sessions related to the proposed program will be offered. Many workshops are being planned on various topics such as redistricting, membership recruitment, curriculums for involving young women in the political process, national popular vote, environment, state taxes, etc. Round tables for members to share successful programs and activities have been popular in the past and will be a part of the Sunday morning schedule.

The convention is open to all members and is within daily driving range for many of our local members. The main day of the program is on Saturday. You may attend for the weekend or one day. Registration is \$20.00 and the cost of staying overnight or for meals is very reasonable. You will also be able to play golf before or after the conference at reasonable rates. If you are interested in attending any day of the convention please contact President Jan Richmond at 408-0444.

League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and  
Chatham Counties  
P.O. Box 3397  
Chapel Hill NC 27515-3397  
Tel: 919-419-1650  
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

|                              |   |  |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| January 18, 2007<br>10:00 AM | January General Meeting<br>Gerry Cohen, Director of Legislative Drafting<br>North Carolina General Assembly<br>Subject: Alternative Districting | Hargraves Center<br>215 North Roberson Street<br>Chapel Hill |
| February 15<br>10:00 AM      | February General Meeting<br>Topic and speaker to be announced   | Hargraves Center<br>215 North Roberson Street<br>Chapel Hill |
| February 26<br>6:00 PM       | Mix and Mingle with Mayors and<br>Commission Chairs from the three counties   | Panzanella<br>Carr Mill, Carrboro                            |
| March                        | Visit to North Carolina Legislature<br>(see January <i>Voter</i> for details)   |  |
| March 23-25                  | LWV of North Carolina State Convention  | Little River Golf Resort<br>Carthage, NC                     |