



**League of Women Voters® of
Orange-Durham-Chatham**
Serving the people of Orange, Durham, and
Chatham Counties, North Carolina

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK®

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER AND ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring, League Member!

I hope you are enjoying the sunshine and warmer temperatures!

We are very pleased with all that we've accomplished so far in 2019 and are excited about the upcoming events! Contact me for we'd love to get you involved!

Our second Annual Quizzical Fundraiser was a grand success and loads of fun! Many thanks to our members who attended, brought along friends, contributed and volunteered to make the event so memorable.

A thank you also goes to those members who participated in the ODC membership survey conducted in January. The results of the survey have helped us structure our upcoming programs. One fourth of our members responded to survey questions ranging from focus area for ODC to best times to host unit meetings. The respondents overwhelmingly selected Voter Education followed by a narrow margin by Gerrymandering/Reasonable Redistricting as the issues ODC should focus on over the coming year. You can find the ODC Survey Summary and Recommendations [here](#).

Currently busy preparations are underway for two upcoming events: our own Annual Meeting and the LWVNC Convention.

Wednesday, May 8, 2019: SAVE THE DATE!! We are hosting the ODC Annual Meeting on May 8th from 6:30-8:30pm at the NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. Volunteers interested in helping with refreshments for the event should please contact Kathy Wright at kaw22lwv@gmail.com or 919-943-9167.

At the Annual Meeting, members will have a chance to vote on various issues including a slate of officers, the 2019-2020 ODC Program and changes in the bylaws. The details have been provided in this Newsletter.

ODC is hosting the LWFVNC Convention on May 17-19 at UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Government and the Sheraton on One Europa Drive, Chapel Hill 27517. For more information please visit <https://lwfvinc.org>.

In addition to a mock-legislative session, hosted by the School of Government, Friday, May 17th's program includes a tour of the Ackland Art Museum and a "Taste of ODC", informal dinners at tri-county restaurants guided by ODC hosts/hostesses that'll provide an opportunity for stimulating conversation, peer learning and networking!

We absolutely need your help with assisting as local host/hostesses, guiding registration and general support! Look for the "Call for Volunteer" notice, which will be mailed to you on April 10th. Make sure to sign up!

Finally, don't forget to come to our monthly Happy Hour, where, on the last Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7:30pm members gather to discuss topics of concern over wine and munchies at the Tobacco Road Sports Café on 1118 Environ Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27517.

**As always, thank you so much for your support and hard work.
I hope to see you at our next event!**

**Krishna Mondal
lwvmondk@gmail.com**

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

**Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 6:30-8:30pm at the NC Botanical Garden, 100
Old Mason Farm Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27517**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**2019 Nominating Committee Report,
March 11, 2019**

**The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers and
board members to serve in 2019-2020.**

President: Krishna Mondal

Vice President: Pat McDaniels

Secretary: Arianne Hartsell-Gundy

Treasurer: Judith Dillon

Directors for 2019-2021: Amy Jeroloman and Jennifer Rubin

Nominating Committee Chair: De Lois Cue

**At the annual meeting on May 8, members may nominate from the floor
and after nominations are closed, the president will call for a vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Rogers, Chair;

Members: Nita Dukes, Tara Fikes, Lisa Kaylie, and

Yvonne Schmidt

LWVODC, INC. BYLAWS

The proposed Bylaws of League of Women Voters Orange Durham and Chatham Counties, Inc. (LWVODC, Inc.) have been approved by the

LWVODC Board, and are available for review by the membership [here](#).

A comparison of the proposed LWVODC, Inc. Bylaws with those of LWVODC can be found [here](#).

As mentioned in the January 2019 newsletter, the changes suggested in the proposed LWVODC, Inc. Bylaws have been made to make them fit our organization's actual practices. Specifically, the proposed Bylaws: (1) delete LWVUS boilerplate language that does not apply to LWVODC, Inc.; (2) conform the timeframe for taking members off the membership roster to our current practice; and (3) include language reflecting some of the LWVUS best practices described at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/recruitment-engagement/best-practices>.

Members are encouraged to review the proposed LWVODC, Inc. Bylaws prior to the Annual Meeting on May 8, at which a vote for approval will be sought. Prior to the Annual Meeting, members may contact Pat McDaniels at mca4034@bellsouth.net with questions or comments.

TRANSFER OF LWVODC ASSETS to LWVODC, INC.

At the Annual Meeting, members will also be asked to approve the transfer of LWVODC assets to LWVODC, Inc. This transfer will allow LWVODC, Inc. to use the organizational assets in accordance with the LWVODC, Inc. Bylaws, to implement the LWVODC, Inc. Program and other activities approved by the Board. The LWVODC assets include the monies described in the LWVODC Financial Statement and various signs and equipment owned by LWVODC. After approval of the transfer of LWVODC assets, a taxpayer ID will be obtained for LWVODC, Inc. and the LWVODC monies will be transferred to a new bank account. The Board is in the process of identifying a bank with more online banking opportunities than those available from the current bank.

LWVODC INC. PROPOSED PROGRAM 2019-2020

The LWVUS Program Planning 2018-2020 Leaders' Guide was sent to local Leagues across the US in preparation for the 2018 LWVUS

Convention. The Leaders' Guide states that "the program planning process is one of the important ways we focus our grassroots work to align the organization on our issue priorities and our mission." Further, "at the local, state and federal level, League leadership on voter protection and mobilization, election reform, campaign finance/money in politics and redistricting is at the heart of the League's mission and our future." And finally, "program planning is an essential League tool for focusing and prioritizing our work and insuring that League resources, human and financial, from our grassroots volunteers to our professional staff, are engaged where they have the most impact."

The LWVUS Convention approved a League-wide Campaign for Making Democracy Work® as the LWVUS Program for the 2018-2020 biennium. The focus areas of the Making Democracy Work® Campaign are Voting Rights; Improving Elections; Campaign Finance/Money in Politics; and Redistricting. Advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment was added to the LWVUS Program by delegate vote from the floor at the Convention.

LWVNC is also focusing on the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® in its 2019-2021 Proposed Program, focusing on Redistricting Reform, Voter Protection, ERA Ratification, and Voter Services. The LWVNC Board intends to narrow the number of issues that it follows and addresses in the state legislature and prioritize citizen outreach and education. LWVNC intends to retain flexibility to respond to issues that arise after the issues for emphasis have been selected if the issue falls within the League Principles or the adopted Program.

The Bylaws of LWVODC and LWVODC Inc. state in Article IX, Section 2 that: "the Program of LWVODC shall consist of action to implement the principles and those local governmental issues chosen by the Annual Meeting for concerted study and action." In alignment with the Programs of LWVUS and LWVNC, the LWVODC, Inc. Board recommends that the 2019-2020 LWVODC Program include the following issues for concerted study and action:

- Voting Rights**
- Improving Elections**
- Redistricting**

The Proposed Program aligns with the highest priority issues identified by members who responded to the January Member Survey: Voter Services and Redistricting.

2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Proposed Budget for 2019-2020 can be viewed on the website [here](#).

ACTION TEAMS

PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTION TEAM

School Vouchers and Accountability Does a Lack of Standards Fail Our Students?

The Public Education Action Team of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties is sponsoring an informational public talk on accountability and curriculum. This event will be held Tuesday April 9th at 12 PM at the Chapel Hill Public Library, 100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill.

Millions of tax dollars each year are paid in school vouchers to non-public North Carolina schools. A lack of strict oversight allows these schools to use curriculum and teaching materials which do not align with or meet the North Carolina Course of Study standards. The speaker will be Bonnie Bechard, author of LWV 2018 Study, NC Private Schools Receiving Vouchers: A Study of the Curriculum.

This event is free and open to the public, free parking is available.

Bring your brown bag lunch; beverage and dessert will be provided.

FAIR ELECTIONS ACTION TEAM (FEAT)

The ODC FEAT group's efforts have been continuing for a few months now and we want to thank everyone for their great support! We met twice this month and had a great time sending postcards to unaffiliated voters and making signs for the demonstration outside the Supreme Court and in other events down here. We had a great group up in DC for the Supreme Court and will do a webinar as soon as the audio is available. Please check out our upcoming meetings on the ODC calendar and join us to tackle one of the biggest challenges facing our democracy.

Jennifer Bremer

NEW CIVIL DISCOURSE RESOURCES

On March 4, 2019, Cheryl Graeve of LWVUS and the National Institute for Civil Discourse hosted a conference call that featured Pierce Godwin, a moderate conservative and director of the National Conversation Project. Pierce is the author of the paper *Playbook for Engaging Conservatives*. Cheryl's summary of the discussion is copied below.

In the call we:

- Learned ideas and language that helps engage conservatives from Pierce and are included in his paper *Playbook for Engaging Conservatives*
- Discussed what are the key actions and behaviors that will build trust between people with very different political views
- Touched on a question of if it would be more helpful to talk about a wider range of categories than just "liberals" and "conservatives"? For example, see the seven categories reflected in the Hidden Tribes report published by the group More in Common? For those not familiar with the report, their categories are: Progressive Activists (8%), Traditional Liberals (11%), Passive Liberals (15%), Politically Disengaged (26%), Moderates (15%), Traditional Conservatives (19%), and Devoted Conservatives (6%). We may consider additional discussion of this on a future call.
- Mentioned tools for National Week of Conversation - April 5-13th encouraging each one on the call to strengthen personal capacity to listen and discuss across differences by finding someone of a different life experience to have a one on one conversation with.

- Petti's League is using that week to interview and engage different groups to hear what voters want as we go into upcoming elections.

Next regular monthly call - scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th - at 12:00 (Noon) Pacific. We will continue the conversation with a cross partisan pair of state legislators who have worked across the aisle and trained other state legislators to create a more civil environment among policy makers. Please [register here](#) for that video conference call.

VOTER SERVICES

PHOTO ID PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

North Carolina's 2018 Voter ID law requires the State Board of Election to coordinate with local Boards of Election to conduct at least two seminars in each county about the new voter ID requirements before September 1, 2019. The Chatham County Board of Elections has scheduled two seminars on May 20, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center, 1192 US 64 W Bus, Pittsboro, NC 27312. The Orange County Board of Elections has tentatively scheduled its sessions for July 15, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Robert & Pearl Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 and August 8, 2019 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Jerry M. Passmore Senior Center, 103

Meadowland Drive, Hillsborough, NC 27278. The Durham County Board of Elections is in the process of scheduling its seminars, and we will update LWVODC members on the times and places when the information is available.

LET'S GET QUIZZICAL

Thanks to all who attended, supported and volunteered to make our second annual trivia fundraiser (emphasis on FUN!) so successful. Check out the full details and download your own copy of the trivia [here](#).



C'MON GET HAPPY

Mark your calendars for the last Tuesday of every month for the ODC happy hour at the Tobacco Road Sports Café on Environ Way in Chapel Hill. All members are welcome and on their own for drinks; we'll supply a different conversation topic each month. No rsvp's necessary. Join us to enjoy some camaraderie on April 30.

March Lunch with the League



Gerry Cohen, Former Special Counsel to the NC General Assembly provided an update on current legislative activities regarding Voter ID.

Stay Connected

- Join Facebook and become a friend to other LWVODC members: https://twitter.com/LWV_ODC
- Email us: info@lwvdc.org
- Visit our website: www.lwvdc.org
- Write to us: LWVODC, P O Box 3397, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3397
- Krishna Mondal, LWVODC President lwvmondk@gmail.com

Newsletter Staff

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