

The Voter of ODC



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Holiday Dinner Meeting



Hodding Carter, speaker

“Reconnecting: The Election, the Nation and the World”

Governors Club

11000 Governors Drive, Chapel Hill

December 13, 2006

6:00 pm Cocktail Reception (Cash Bar)

6:30 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Speaker

Hodding Carter III, Mississippi native and summa cum laude graduate of Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School, spent 17 years working for the newspaper in Greenville, Mississippi, which had been founded by his father, Hodding Carter Jr. He became actively engaged with racial and political reform efforts in Mississippi and, in 1968, was co-chair of the bi-racial delegation that ousted the state’s white regular Democratic Party delegation at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. He worked in Jimmy Carter’s campaign in 1976, and following Carter’s victory was named Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs and State Department spokesman. From 1980 to 1994 he worked in news and public affairs television. In January, 2006, he left the Knight Foundation, which he had headed since 1998, to become Professor of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

To register, please fill out the coupon on page 3, enclose your check and send it to Joyce Colaiace by December 8.



Upcoming Events

Dec. 13
Holiday Dinner
Governors Club

General Meetings

Jan. 18
Hargraves Center

Feb. 15
Hargraves Center

Directions

To get to the Governors Club, take Highway 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 that you are attending a function at the Clubhouse. The guard will give you directions.

Yes, I plan to attend the League of Women Voters Holiday Dinner on December 13.
Please reserve a place for:

Name(s) _____

Number of persons _____

Preferred menu: Chef choice meat entrée _____
 Vegetarian option _____

Please make check out for \$30.00 per person payable to LWV/ODC.
Mail to Joyce Colaiace,
437 Fearington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Deadline for reservations is Friday, December 8, 2006.

Election Results in Orange and Chatham Counties

(Two counties, two ballot issues, two League actions, two outcomes)

Both Chatham and Orange Counties had redistricting questions on the November ballot.

The LWV/ODC Board considered both proposals and voted to oppose the Chatham redistricting proposal while taking no stand on the Orange County proposal. The League sponsored two forums in Orange County at which proponents and opponents of the proposal debated its merits and faults.

On election day the voters of Chatham County turned down its redistricting proposal, while the voters of Orange County passed its district representation proposal.

President's Message

Continued from p. 2

Joyce Colaiace has done an outstanding job of obtaining speakers and providing programs for general meetings and dinners. Don't miss our holiday dinner with Hodding Carter, President Carter's press secretary. It promises to be a very interesting evening at a lovely setting with good company and food. I hope to see many of you there.

Enjoy the holidays with family and friends and keep working for good government. I think we are making significant gains and contributions in this area.

Observer Corps

By Bessie Carrington

League Observers serve two major functions: to inform members about actions proposed in our various elective bodies and to make ourselves a positive and visible organization in the community. Ordinarily, Observers attend meetings regularly — wearing a LWV badge, of course—and speak out, only when authorized by the League president, on established League positions. Beyond this watchdog effect, observers learn about the issues and alert the local members about impending actions.

In addition to the elective bodies, such as city councils, county commissions and school boards, there are other important public meetings which might be monitored, such as planning commissions and housing authorities. If you have an interest in a particular issue, please consider being a League observer. And even if you attend a meeting or hearing not as an Observer, think of how the LWV can be effective as issues arise.

Some League members are members of city or county advisory boards; vacancies can be found on individual websites. As an appointed member of one of these boards, you are directly involved and can provide valuable feedback to the League.

In Chatham County, the Observer coordinator is Kay Hunt; in Durham County or Orange County, Bessie Carrington. As you can see, the meetings may be in the daytime or the evening, offering opportunities for two members splitting the responsibility for one organization. Often general meetings are broadcast on cable or re-broadcast on websites; the vital work sessions, where some of the most important debates transpire, are not broadcast.

Orange County:

County Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners meets regularly at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The first Tuesday meeting is held in the F. Gordon Battle Courtroom, 106 E. Margaret Lane, in Hillsborough. The second Tuesday meeting is held in the board room of the Southern Human Services Center, 2501 Homestead Rd., Chapel Hill.

Chapel Hill Town Council

The Mayor and Council have regular business meetings normally at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of most months in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. Holidays and other events may affect the meeting schedule. Also, the Council normally does not have business meetings after the first week in July until the fourth Monday in August. Agenda items are available on the Town's web site, www.townofchapelhill.org, by 12 noon on Friday before a Council meeting.

Carrboro Board of Alderman

Board meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, work sessions on 2nd Tuesdays, and public hearings on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Carrboro Town Hall, 301 W. Main Street.

Hillsborough Town Board

Regular monthly meetings are the second Monday of each month in the Town Barn at 7:30 p.m. Monthly work sessions are the fourth Monday of each month in the Town Barn at 7:30 p.m.. The Town Barn is located in the Town Hall complex at 101 East Orange Street.

Chapel-Hill-Carrboro Board of Education

Meets first and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. at varied locations.

Durham County

Board of County Commissioners

Work sessions are held on the first Monday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m., and regular sessions on the second and fourth Mondays of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are held at the Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 2nd floor, Commissioners' Meeting Room, [200 East Main Street, Durham, NC 27701](http://200EastMainStreetDurhamNC27701).

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Observer Corps *(continued)*

Durham City Council

Work sessions are held at 1 p.m. the two Thursdays which precede its regular business meeting to receive information briefings and presentations in the Council's Committee Room (located on the second floor of City Hall). At its work session the City Council discusses departmental items on the Council's agenda and asks questions of City staff relating to agenda items. Regular business meetings are every first and third Monday at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall (101 City Hall Plaza). The meetings can also be viewed live on cable channel 8.

Durham Board of Education

Meetings are the second and fourth Thursday at 6:30 p.m., Fuller Administration Building, 511 Cleveland Street, Durham.

Chatham County

County Commissioners

Meeting are first Monday at 9 a.m. at the Agricultural Building and third Mondays at 6 p.m. in the District Courthouse.

Pittsboro Town Commissioners

Meetings are second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Pittsboro Town Hall, 635 East St., Pittsboro.

Chatham Board of Education

Meetings are second and fourth Mondays at 7:30 p.m.; locations vary.

Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary by Defending the U.S. Constitution

Judie Burke, LWV/ODC member and president of the LWV of North Carolina, reports that one of the best presentations at the LWVUS Convention was a session on the judiciary, *Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary by Defending the U.S. Constitution.*"

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina has made this session available through a link on the LWVNC home page, (<http://www.lwvnc.org/>). The total video is about 1 1/2 hours, or you can select small segments to view.

Take Action!

Did you ever think about legislation which was being considered by Congress and decide to contact your representative or senators about the issue? Did you fail to get around to it because you didn't have your representative's e-mail address, or didn't have all the facts you needed to make a cogent argument? Join the Grassroots Lobby Corps, and League of Women Voters will keep you informed and make it easy to take action in a timely fashion.

To sign up to receive action alerts by e-mail, go to www.lwv.org and click on "Take Action." It takes just a few minutes a month to make your voice heard.

**Contributions to the LWV Citizens Education Foundation
Are Tax Deductible**

Dear Friend,

As a reader of this newsletter, you are aware of all the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties (LWV-ODC) does to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. Living as we do in a high growth area with a constant influx of new residents and changing demographics, we are being challenged to increase our educational activities more than ever.

This fall, many of our members have given considerable time, often without reimbursement of expenses, to organize and sponsor candidates' and issue-based forums and to provide answers to public inquiries on matters related to voting. We need to do much more in the coming months and years.

High quality voter education requires more funding than membership dues alone can provide. We rely on individuals like you to ensure we have the resources to consider new initiatives to reach new audiences. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the LWV Citizens Education Foundation. If you are a member and gave when you joined or renewed your membership, please consider an additional year-end gift.

Your gift of any size will make a big difference in our success in promoting good citizenship in our three-county community. Make your check payable to LWV Citizens Education Foundation and mail it to LWV-ODC, PO Box 3397, Chapel Hill, NC 27515. All contributors will be recognized in *The Voter* and on our web site.

Thank you,

Jan Richmond
President

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING:

Ms. Louisa Warren, Director of the NC Coalition for Lobby Reform, addressed about 20 LWV/ODC members at the October General Meeting at the Hargraves Center. Her remarks began with the background and mission of the Coalition. Detailed discussion followed on progress in lobbying, ethics and redistricting reform, along with Coalition proposed improvements to the current legislation.

The Coalition was founded in 2005 and has grown to more than 50 broad and diverse organizations and distinguished civic leaders. The League of Women Voters is a member of the Coalition.

Ms. Warren delivered a handout to the members (lobby and ethics reform omnibus bill—HB 1843), and then discussed the changes that this 60 page bill makes to Lobby Reform bill (SB 612) that was passed in 2005. HB 1843 eliminates some provisions of SB 612 and also weakens other components of this bill. However, the new bill does set forth other good frameworks for reforming campaign contributions, lobbyist fund-raising, lobbyist registration, and monthly lobbyist expense reports. The Coalition is working to improve bill language regarding ban on campaign contributions, the “cooling off” period for legislators who leave office and then become lobbyists, and for compliance and tracking measures in the reporting phases.

Ethics reform has improved with passage of HB 1843 which calls for an independent ethics commission for ethics review and to provide legislators with ethics training. Improvements proposed by the Coalition are a checks and balance system and to have the commission sessions be open to the public.

The Coalition is also aggressively working on educating voters about redistricting issues, calling for the formation of an independent redistricting commission.

Report by Joyce Colaiace

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A hearty and warm welcome to our new members! We hope you will join in the League's many worthwhile activities. It is energizing to have new viewpoints and participation.

We now have listservs for Orange, Durham, and Chatham counties. These provide an easy way to send the Voter as an email attachment. The listservs "hide" the email addresses so that no one can see other recipients' email addresses. This was done in response to concerns about the privacy of email addresses. We hope this will encourage additional members to opt for receiving the Voter electronically thus saving themselves \$10. Please contact me at membership@odc.nc.lwvnet.org, if you decide to change from receiving a snail-mailed copy of the *Voter* to an electronic copy.

A new member orientation will be held in Chapel Hill on Friday, December 8, 2006 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. New members are especially encouraged to attend this orientation, but any member or prospective member who wants to know more about the League of Women Voters is welcome. The orientation will take place at my home at 320 Glendale Drive, Chapel Hill. If you can attend, please RSVP:

E-mail: brinich@email.unc.edu

Office phone: 919 933-6918

Cell phone/voice mail: 919 619-5181

FAX: 919 967-5819

NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Anne Cook (Betty)
1048 Fearington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312
AAAnneCook@att.net

Ray A. Dickie
6429 Mt. Mitchell Rd.
Efland, NC 27243-7999
rdickie@mebtel.net

Virginia A. Dickie
6429 Mt. Mitchell Rd.
Efland, NC 27243-7999
vdickie@med.unc.edu

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

ROSTER CHANGES

Alice Gordon has a new preferred email address: gordon.alice@gmail.com

Margaret Hays has moved to:
700 A Carolina Meadows #134,
no current phone

Nancy H. Sitterson has the same address but a new Condo #3111. All other information remains the same.

For up to date information about LWV-ODC activities, go to our website, **www.lwvodic.org**. You will also find previous VOTERS and the latest copy of the Citizens Guide.

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

November 16 10:00 AM	November General Meeting Why People Vote Like They Do Professor Jonathan Weiler, UNC	Hargraves Center 215 North Roberson Street Chapel Hill
December 8 10:00 AM	New Member Orientation	
December 13 6:00 PM	Holiday Dinner Reconnecting: The Election, the Nation and the World Hodding Carter, Professor of Leadership and Public Policy UNC	Governors Club 11000 Governors Drive Chapel Hill
January 18, 2007 10:00 AM	January General Meeting	Hargraves Center
February 15	February General Meeting	Hargraves Center