



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WAKE COUNTY
Working to safeguard democracy through civic involvement

VOTER

November 2009

LEAGUE ERA PROJECT IN NORTH CAROLINA

The following is a summary of information sent to NC Leagues
by Nancy Glowacki, President LWVHC.

Members of the League in Henderson County were charged at the State Convention in June to initiate the process of elevating the topic of ERA for emphasis in the next two years. Delegates in June voted unanimously to support this effort.

The LWVHC Committee investigated the history, legislative efforts, general and specific opposition and reasons thereof, the states attempting to rescind their vote and the legalities of this move, the possibilities of electronic communication, other States mobilizing to pass the amendment, and the creation of legislation for the 2011 session of the NC General Assembly.

In order to include everyone in the opportunity to contribute and to be involved, the following outline of potential topics is sent for your review and response.

1. The President of each participating League will select a Point Person.
2. The Point Persons as a group will mobilize to research and write “Educational Working Papers” that will be available electronically. Possible topics are:

- a) Why is the ERA needed?
- b) A succinct history from 1923-1972 and 1972- present.
- c) Present status of the amendment within the States.
- d) Legal status of time limits, extensions, 27th amendment precedent, attempted changes, and constitutionality of rescinding attempts.
- e) Review of XIV and XIX amendments and arguments against ERA including Supreme Court Action of 1971 and 1996.
- f) Opposing rationales: what has changed since initial fears were expressed.
- g) NC Legislators in both parties to be prime authors in the General Assembly.
- h) States currently mobilizing and the lessons to be learned from them.

3. Point Persons and key State Board liaisons will participate in a strategy meeting mid-state in November or December.

The LWVHC Committee believes the proposed emphasis on the ERA will energize member Leagues across the State and bring visibility and strength to our organization by building partnerships with other organizations that choose to participate. The State AAUW Board is supportive of the League’s efforts.

I trust you are ready to engage your members, the citizens of our State, and our legislators to understand the value of the ERA and to support its passage in North Carolina in 2011.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

November brings beautiful leaf displays, some local elections and a Lunch with the League on Friday the 20th (early because of Thanksgiving) with housing as the topic. Please join us at the Hargett Street YWCA. If you need a ride give a Board member a call and one can be arranged.

Jeri Grey presented a very interesting program for Lunch with the League about the Falls of the Neuse and whether there is enough will or push to improve its health. She is very knowledgeable about what has happened and what is happening in the Neuse River waterways. Thanks Jeri.

Lisa Mowat, President

VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

This may not be a BIG election year but the Voter Services group continues to provide service to the community. We have been involved in a number of activities in October.

- Litchford Falls Healthcare requested our assistance in obtaining absentee ballots for their residents for the November 3rd election.
- The State Board of the League of Women Voters requested that each local league meet with their Executive Director of the Board of Elections in order to conduct a survey concerning the recruitment and training of poll workers.
- We assisted Kids Voting with their "Government Matters! Education Forum for Middle and High Schoolers"

Thanks to Marian Lewin, Vicki Gerig and Betty Ellerbee for their help with these activities. Please contact Maryanne Olsen at (919) 465-1509 or mgocary@yahoo.com if you have questions about Voter Services.

EDUCATION ISSUES

The Education Committee will be addressing many issues at local, state, and national levels. The issues pertain to the recession's impact on public schools, the need for societal commitment to improve the schools, the consequences of re-segregation, and the redesign of high schools to lower the dropout rate.

At the national level, the committee will monitor the re-authorization of No Child Left Behind. At the state level, we will study the newly legislated JOBS bill (Joining Our Business and Schools) which was sponsored by the late Senator Vernon Malone and now is a Commission chaired by Lt. Governor Walter Dalton. In Wake County, the focus will be on the new composition of the school board as it relates to preserving diversity in the schools.

On November 5, the Education Committee heard a report from WakeEd Partnership which outlines school choices for parents - that of magnet, charter or assigned schools followed by a discussion of financial implications for these choices and how the school board and county commissioners can resolve these financial issues. All members and guests are encouraged to attend the meetings at the League office at 3 pm. There will be no December meeting.

Joann Robertson, Chair

LWV-W Calendar 2009-2010

Nov 20 Fri	12 noon- 1:15 pm	Lunch with the League	Hargett Street YWCA 554 E. Hargett Street
Jan 22 Fri	12 noon- 1:15 pm	Lunch with the League	Hargett Street YWCA 554 E. Hargett Street
Feb 14 Sun		90th birthday of The League of Women Voters	
May 11 Tues		Annual Meeting	

Board of Director meetings – 2nd Thursday, 7 pm, League Office (no meeting in December)

Committee Meetings (open to all members and guests)

Education	1 st Thursday, 3-4:30 pm at League Office
Environment	4 th Wednesday, 7:30 pm at League Office
Lunch with the League	4 th Friday, noon-1:15 pm, Hargett Street YWCA (during Jan.-Apr.)

2009-2010 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFF BOARD MEMBERS

President	Lisa Mowat	Action Chair	Betty Ellerbee
1st Vice-President	Marie Moylan	Environment Chair	Jeri Gray
2nd Vice-President	Beth McAllister	Lobby Corps	Louise Romanow
Secretary	Ann Berry	Lunch with the League	Marie Moylan
Co-Treasurers	Karen-Marie Allen Betty Ellerbee	Reservations	Pat Butler
		Website	Trudi Kappel
Pat Butler	Mary Martorella		
Elizabeth Fensin	Maryanne Olsen		
Victoria Gerig	Joan Robertson		
Claudia Kadis	Joan Sullivan		
Janie Kirkeby			

BOARD BRIEFS

Louise Romanow is the LWVNC board liaison to the LWV Wake. She will be attending Wake Board meetings in order to improve communications between the League at the state and local levels. Kathleen Balogh, LWVNC President, will send out monthly notices reminding us to check for regular news and reports on the State website.

We will be 90 years old on February 14, 2010, and we plan to celebrate.

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LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

WHEN: Friday, November 20th, 12:00 noon – 1:15p.m.
(NOTE: This is the 3rd Friday, not the 4th as we usually do.)

WHERE: Hargett Street YWCA, 554 E. Hargett Steet

SPEAKERS: Angel Wright-Feldman, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, Raleigh
Joe Rappl, Community Development Program Coordinator, Raleigh

TOPIC: Use of Stimulus Funds for Housing Programs in the City of Raleigh.

We know that the City of Raleigh has received stimulus funds from the federal government. What programs are benefiting from this “extra” money and/or what new programs are being developed? Will additional funds be forthcoming and, if not, what are the plans for continuing programs after the stimulus money stops?. What are the areas of greatest needs? How “affordable” is affordable housing?

Beverages and cookies will be provided. Bring your lunch and questions and join us on November 20th !

PUBLICIST SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

You can volunteer to be a LWV Wake publicist from your own home using your own computer. The duties are to send email announcements to various media about League events. The list of email media contacts has been compiled and is ready for use. Call the League office or a Board member to volunteer or find out more information.