



League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley

The Purpose of the League of Voters of Catawba County shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and; to act on selected government issues.

March 2010

Greetings from the League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley:

We are gearing up for educational and informative programs this year. We are always looking for ladies and men who have a passion for making a difference in their communities.



League Officers

1st Row L-R

Linda Osbon, President, Shelby Teague, 1st VP and Membership Chair, Carolyn Jones Connor, 2nd VP, Program Chair, LWV –NC Board Member

2nd Row L-R

Sara Huffman, Nomination Chair, Fran Syptak, Correspondent Secretary

3rd Row L-R

Daisy Bell, Board Member, Jean Hinson, Board Member, Diane Abernathy, Recording Secretary

Upcoming Events:

March 11, 2010 - Teen Leadership Newton – Newton-Conover HS @ 7:00pm 338 West 15th St and our own Carolyn Jones Connor will facilitate the event.

March 8, 2010 – International Women’s Day – Place and Time TBA

April 20, 2010 – Earth Day – Place and Time TBA



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LWV-NC News

March 16, 12 noon– **Sunshine Day** sponsored by the Open Government Coalition, at the Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro www.ncopengov.org.

LWVNC Call to Council April 16-18, 2010

On behalf of LWVNC's President Kathleen Balogh, an invitation to attend the LWVNC Council is extended to all North Carolina League members.

WHEN: April 16-18, 2010

WHERE: Little River Golf and Country Club, www.littleriver.com, Pinehurst, NC

The LWVNC Board of Directors is excited about this event and would like to get a "tentative" count of people attending by February 15, 2010.

The powers of the Council shall give guidance to Board of program, methods of operation and budget as submitted by the Board. Presidents and one delegate from each League may vote.

This exciting event gives us an opportunity to connect with each other as well as share our successes and needs for our strong organization. Little River Golf and Country Club is a beautiful setting nestled in the Sand hills outside of Pinehurst, NC.

Print the [registration form](#) and send it in with your check.

Print the [Council agenda](#)

print the [flyer](#) about the event.

Registration Costs for all Council attendees:

Two-Day Package:

- \$250 each for 4 people sharing a two-bedroom villa (each bedroom with 2 queen beds and bath) with center sitting room with kitchen.
- \$350 for 2 people sharing a two-bedroom villa
- \$550 for one person sharing a two-bedroom villa

Package includes: two nights stay, all taxes and gratuities, hot Southern-style breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings, banquet lunch on Saturday afternoon, banquet dinner on Saturday night, meeting spaces for the weekend, all day complete beverage break with afternoon snack break for meeting on Saturday, 1/2 beverage break for Sunday morning meeting and AV equipment.



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One-day package:

- \$182.00 per person. (Fri or Sat) one-night accommodations with meals

Day registration (Saturday)

- \$50.00 per person includes lunch buffet and Saturday banquet.

Golf rates: \$99.00 per person includes cart and range balls.

We look forward to League members coming from across the state.

SEND [REGISTRATION FORMS](#) AND CHECKS BY MARCH 24, 2010 to address on form.

LWV of North Carolina

Global Climate Change: North Carolina here and now was the title of a very well attended forum at the Greensboro Public Library on January 16. In addition to a video of *Sisters on the Planet* and an update on North Carolina legislative activity by Pricey Harrison, Mary Wilson, president of LWVUS, chaired the panel of three NC experts on sea level change, health, and air quality. They delivered sobering assessments of the effects of climate change on all of our lives. Many of those who attended wrote down their concerns, which have been sent to Senators Hagan and Burr. LWVNC and LWV Piedmont Triad worked together on this project, which was jointly funded by LWVUS and Oxfam. We will be having additional meetings across the state about the *Sisters on the Planet* project, www.oxfamamerica.org/sisters.

[LWVNC Councils and Conventions](#)

A Reminder from the Treasurer:

Add additional info please.....the League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley voted at their October meeting to offer members the opportunity for members to pay an additional amount above the annual membership dues. This amount will be from 10.00 to 25.00 annually to offset expenses of the league.

This amount can be paid to the treasurer anytime during the year.

Member News:

Lynn Lail is running for re-election to Catawba County Commissioners

Kitty Barnes is running for re-election to Catawba County Commissioners

Carolyn Jones Connor is a candidate to the Catawba County Commissioners. Connor is currently a member of the Catawba County Schools Board



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Welcome to our new members!

Please welcome our new members: Ms Margaret Tallent and Ms. Ruth Brown. Both have outstanding track records relative to community involvement and have much to offer the League. Program Chair Carolyn Jones Connor will contact you both soon. Again, welcome ladies.

Additional NC League News:

Greetings LWVs of North Carolina!

Your state board is hard at work, even though I have not been very adept at communicating this with you. Members of the board (as of June '09) are even more spread out across the state, including myself in Asheville, than in previous years. In the past, many of the board members have lived in the RDU area. This geographical spread presents us with some challenges as we determine the most efficient and cost-effective way to communicate and accomplish our work, without putting too much of a load on those board members who do reside close to Raleigh.

We encourage you to use our state website at www.lwvnc.org. We want to make this website as interactive and informative as you ask it to be. The home page contains information for anyone to access. There is a members only area (*user id = lwvnc, pw = lwvnc 1919*) where we post league member news, updates, alerts, board minutes, etc. Please give us feedback and submit interesting articles that we can post.

Also each state board member is a liaison to their local league and is available for assistance in a variety of areas. Also each board member listed as a 'topic' contact in case you need some expert advice. We are working on developing 'tool box' kits that can be checked out of the Raleigh office to assist you in providing programs for your local leagues, a work in progress at this point. If you have developed any program materials that can be used across the state by other leagues please let us know.

You should be receiving information on the upcoming National Convention in Atlanta. Since it is in our backyard this time, it would be wonderful to see a good representation of NC leagues! You can access this information at www.lwv.org. Well, that's it for now so that we can put this first e-news on-line. Give us your feedback please!

Kathleen Balogh, LWVNC President



Convention 2010 ATLANTA

Carolyn Jones Connor

The first call to Convention 2010 has gone out, and now you can register for Convention 2010 at the LWVUS Convention Page. Remember that the 2010 National Convention will be held in Atlanta on June 11-15. You can start discussing Convention and Program Planning with other League leaders by joining the Convention list. (Subscription information can be found after you log in at <https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp>.)

Why is a comprehensive change to North Carolina's health insurance system needed?

Louise Romanow

Un-insured: In 2007 19.3% of North Carolinians under the age of 65 lacked health insurance for at least one year. An average of 1,500,000 residents had no health insurance. Reference 'Premiums vs. Paychecks: A Growing Burden for NC Workers by Families USA, Sept. 2008'.

A March 2009 report by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine suggests that due to the recent increases in unemployment since 2007, the number of uninsured in North Carolina is estimated to be at approximately 1.8 million. Read more at [www.http://odc.nc.lwvnet.org/Health_Care.html](http://odc.nc.lwvnet.org/Health_Care.html).

Campaign Reform

Louise Romanow

This year we made headway in two policy areas. A bill to expand the successful Council of State program to additional offices was passed by the state Senate, and a bill that empowers local communities to invest in cleaner municipal elections was approved by the House. Both bills are eligible to be considered again next year during the short session, when we hope to get them signed into law.

The State of Climate Change Phase III Contract between LWVUS/EF and LWVNC

Kathleen Balogh

The LWVUS and LWVEF and the LWVNC have entered into a contract in order to undertake a program of state-based advocacy that aims to build support for federal public policies that can begin to reverse the dangerous trajectory of global climate change affecting our nation and the planet. The LWV aims to advance policies that ultimately will reduce our nation's dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. In addition, the League advocates for the provision of resources for mediation and adaptation so that the poor people of the world will have the capacity to deal with the inevitable negative consequences of climate change.



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Public Advocacy for Voter Protection

Carole Ellis

There are still a number of local Leagues that have not responded to the Election Worker Training Survey that was sent out in September. Thus far what has been revealed is that training is not the same throughout the state of North Carolina. The State Elections Board has a training mechanism, but not all election districts use it. Some districts give more training than others. Whether or not there should be complete unification of training is a good question, because different election districts have different ways of voting. However, the basics are the same and the North Carolina Law clearly states what should happen at precincts. I send out a plea again -- if your local league has not sent me the answers to the survey, please get them in ASAP.

NEW!! LWV Online: Web, Blogs and Social Networking Guidance Now Available

The LWVUS communications team has produced a new tool, LWV Online: Web, Blogs and Social Networking Guidance, for state and local Leagues. While not official policy, this guide is intended to provide support for state and local Leagues as they establish a presence online. The intent is to help Leagues avoid common pitfalls and arm leaders with information that will provide them confidence and freedom to begin experimenting with a website, blogs and other social media. Each League's needs and capabilities might be different. But, with a basic understanding of some of the benefits, trends and pitfalls of online organizing, Leagues will be able to confidently manage an online presence and maximize visibility, engage members, connect with other Leagues online, and attract new members and supporters. The guide is here in the Members Only section of the website. Look for updated versions of these guidelines-and other social networking tips-in future Leaders' Updates. For more information, contact Martha Patzer at mpatzer@lww.org.

ERA Project Update

The Henderson County League really stepped up to the plate this summer and fall, asking each local NC League to identify a member to serve as a representative to the ERA committee, doing a major amount of research, and educating themselves on the current status of the ERA. Based on a sporadic response from local leagues, new plans now include the possibility of creating a 'tool box' of resource materials. Local Leagues could use the 'toolbox' to educate their members on this oft misunderstood movement to bring equal rights for women to the US Constitution. Stay tuned for more information as the year progresses.

News!

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