

NC



VOTER

"BUILDING ON THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE"

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Diana Phillips

Campaign Finance Reform Makes Good "Cents"!

We have just lived through Income Tax Day and Primary Election Day, so fresh in our minds are the workings of government and the unwilling participation of many taxpayers. The amounts of money needed to run for public office continue to escalate. Candidates must spend much of their time fundraising, which means that sitting legislators have to take time away from state (our) business to raise money. Anyone watching television before the primary saw the campaign ads that accused opposing candidates of taking "special interest" money, with implications of back-hall legislative deals. This perception of "government for sale" is bad for our government and bad for our country. Although many federal and state legislators pay lip service to the idea of campaign reform, neither Congress nor the NC General Assembly shows the political will to enact legislation to control the costs of election campaigns.

The only thing heartening to me about this situation is that for Leaguers, institutional opposition to good government is like a red flag to a bull. We know we must take action because we're at a critical juncture in American history, a juncture at which we can either restore our democracy or lose it forever. What we do in the months and years ahead will have far-reaching consequences for the future of our nation, which was established on the principle that people can and should govern themselves.

The state Board and local League Presidents and Campaign Finance Reform Committee Chairs have planned a state-wide strategy to begin when the short session opens on May 8th. The state-local League strategy is called the "Good 'Cents' Project". The cost to implement the Clean Election Act is said to be one penny per voter per day, and members of LWV-Charlotte Mecklenburg have developed a "penny and pint jar" idea. Mary Klensz, LWV-CM President, said that she

thought up the slogan, "Campaign Finance Reform makes good 'cents'", and that Peg Chapin, LWV-CM Campaign Finance Reform Chair came up with the idea of giving each legislator a pint jar to hold the pennies. This is a wonderful, inexpensive way to let your legislators know that you want them to do something about campaign reform now, and not at some time in the cloudy future.

Bring your letters and pennies to Legislative Day on June 14th, but if you can't, the important thing is that Leaguers send a letter and a penny to each of their legislators before the end of the short session. Take the idea to other organizations and ask them to write similar letters. Most people don't have the time to compose a letter on campaign reform, so in April, sample letters were sent to local League presidents. The sample letters can also be downloaded from our website:

www.rtpnet.org/lwvnc.



There may be criticism of our penny project, but consider our mission. We are not working for campaign reform in order to win a popularity contest. We are fighting for the very life of our

democracy. We cannot allow the rights and freedoms of our country to disappear because of this campaign financing system in which elected officials and business leaders find themselves caught.

You must ask your legislators to put their pennies in the NC Candidates Financing Fund. Sending even a small amount of money to lawmakers might raise a question of bribery. If it happens that someone is able to find some long-forgotten law that questions the propriety of our strategy, then we'll find another way. Perhaps we could send legislators individual tea bags with the slogan of the Boston Tea Party printed on the packet: "No taxation without representation!" or a variation, "Taxation commensurate with representation!"

There will never be a good time for legislators to work on Campaign Finance Reform. That's why we must put it at the top of their agenda and keep it there until reform measures are passed. With reform a state League Issue for Emphasis for 1999-2001, we have joined other NC organizations in the movement to have the General Assembly pass the Clean Election Act. The process may take years, but we're in it for the duration. Everyone recognizes that we're at a turning point in America, that the very basis of our government depends on our willingness to bring about reform. Join us, as we begin the League part of this grassroots movement to demand the passage of **meaningful** campaign finance reform law in North Carolina!

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Diana Phillips

Rising election costs have been a concern for decades. Congress has addressed the problem in the past, and the U.S. Supreme Court has replied that any remedy to curb spending must not infringe on the right to free speech. Voters wonder what kind of reform measures would not violate Constitutional rights?

Supreme Court Opinions

The legislation and legal opinions concerning campaign spending and First Amendment rights are complex and lengthy. I am not a lawyer, and the following "soundbites" simplify the texts for the purpose of this NC Voter article only.

When Congress passed the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, one of the things mandated was a cap on campaign spending. A challenge to this spending cap made its way up through the court system, and in 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its opinion, James L. Buckley et al. v. Valeo, Secretary of the United States Senate, said that mandatory limits on campaign spending violated the First

Amendment right to free speech. This means that we have to find another way to curb campaign spending, besides telling all the candidates they can only spend up to a certain limit.

In January, 2000 the Supreme Court, in Nixon v. Shrink Missouri Government PAC, upheld a \$1000 cap on campaign contributions. The Court reaffirmed the rationale it set in the Buckley v. Valeo opinion when it banned limits of spending as denial of free speech and upheld a contribution limit of \$1000 to any given federal candidate as a constitutionally permissible precaution against corruption or appearance of corruption. This means that legislators can mandate a cap on campaign donations; they just can't mandate a cap on campaign spending.

The NC Clean Election Act (Senate Bill 882 and House Bill 1402)

Legislators and people interested in the integrity of government have been searching for ways to control the ever escalating costs of NC election campaigns. Since the highest court in the land has said "no" to mandatory spending limits, but "yes" to mandatory contribution limits, state legislators have a set of parameters for campaign finance reform law. Under the Clean Election Act, state candidates can either (1) spend any amount of their own money and/or the money they raise or (2) accept a voluntary cap on campaign spending and receive a set amount from the public funds. (Local and federal candidates are not affected by this Act.)

Candidates voluntarily opt for this alternative way to finance an election campaign, and to enroll, they must show they have the public trust and the financial support of people in their own voting area. This area ranges from the whole state for the office of Governor, to the individual districts for State Senate and State House. Different offices require a different number of donors of amounts ranging from \$15 to \$75. For Governor - 7,000 donors are needed; for Lieutenant Governor - 4,000; for other Council

of State offices - 2,750; for State Senate - 500; for State House - 250. If they raise more qualifying contributions than they need, they get less money from the Clean Election Fund. They can't raise more qualifying funds after they apply for public funds or after the first Monday in February.

In addition, publicly funded candidates can raise no private funds after they have the qualifying donations; they can use the funds only for campaign purposes; and they must return any unused funds to the Clean Election Fund. The money received from the Clean Election Fund is equal to the average of what the top two vote-getters spent in races for that office in the last two elections. If a privately funded candidate outspends a publicly funded candidate, the latter can get additional funding, up to 100% of the original limit. NC Elections are now said to cost about \$1 billion per year. If every NC state candidate were publicly funded and one-third more candidates ran, the cost to fund the Clean Election Act would be about \$14 million annually. That's less than one penny per eligible voter per day.

(Source, *The Clean Election Act In Brief*, NCVCE, 1999)

Short Session of Legislature

The purpose of the "short session" of the NC General Assembly is to make adjustments in the state's two-year budget. The short session, therefore, deals with appropriations (spending), and only bills having to do with appropriations can be dealt with or introduced. The Clean Election Act bills fall in this category. Ask your legislators to study SB 882 and HB 1402, make suggestions, and work to pass these bills through the committees so they can be voted on in the 2001 session. Send your letters and pennies to let them know you want reform measures passed. When enough people demand reform, legislators will lose all their excuses to put campaign reform on the back burner.

**BRING YOUR
GOOD “CENTS” LETTERS
TO LEGISLATIVE DAY
JUNE 14, 2000**

Legislative Day this year will be Wednesday, June 14th - Flag Day. The Clean Election Act is our legislative priority. Come with your letters and pennies and those from kindred spirits. Let's start filling up the pint jars of our legislators. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Legislative Building (room to be announced in May) for orientation and questions. If you can't get there that early, don't worry! During the morning we'll go see our legislators and talk with them about the need for campaign finance reform.

For lunch, you can eat in the cafeteria, but it's more fun to get together with your senators and representatives and talk about what's important to them and what's important to you, the constituents. Bring sandwiches and potato chips for yourselves and your legislators and have lunch in one of the rooms. You can make arrangements for a room through the personal assistant of your senator or representative. Bring your children, grandchildren, or the children of friends so they can see government in action. If you know a teenager interested in being a page in the General Assembly, contact one of your legislators or the LWVNC office for information on how to go about applying for this position.

Parking is always a problem in Raleigh, so all those interested in carpooling can meet at 9 a.m. at the LWVNC office building to carpool to the Legislative Building. Call the state office, (800) 851-VOTE, and leave a message on the answering machine if you want to carpool.

What better day than Flag Day to be working for better government! Let's start our campaign finance reform project and adhere to it like Senator McConnell's "static cling", until meaningful reform measures are passed.



**Directions to LWVNC
Office in Raleigh, 3801
Barrett Drive,
Suite 204:**

From all directions of current local Leagues, go north on the I-440 beltline (direction of Wake Forest) to exit 8A (Six Forks Road).

Go south (toward downtown Raleigh) on Six Forks Road to the 2nd stoplight (Barrett Drive).

Turn left on Barrett Drive. Turn left at first street and immediately turn right into parking lot behind red brick building (3801 Barrett Drive).

**TREASURE YOUR
MEMBERS**

Remember to treasure all your members. It is your older members who have League knowledge and who have the time to give to your programs. It is your younger members who will learn from the older members and who will carry on the League's ideals.



**LWVNC
WEBSITE**

Patty Dale, Website
Manager

Have you had a look at the LWVNC web site lately? The current edition of the NC Voter is now featured on our site, as well as letters for the Good "Cents" Project. If you are interested in following the elections, we have several sites that you can link to. There is also a special section with links for students and teachers. Because of the nature of websites, www.rtpnet.org/lwvnc will be a constant work in progress.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

Naturalization Ceremony

Marian Dodd, First Vice President, Program

Granting citizenship took place in U. S. District Court on March 3, 2000. There was a presentation of 49 candidates who affirmed their Oath of Allegiance and received Citizenship Certificates.

As part of one of the aspects of LWVNC program, our involvement over the past two years with naturalization ceremonies has been a rewarding experience. Following the ceremony, LWVNC became the first organization to assist these new citizens as they exercised one of the most important rights—filling out an application for registration to VOTE.

Special thanks to Jane Warsaw, LWVNC Off-Board member, and Pat Shurtleff of LWV-Wake County, who were volunteers for the event. This coming fall, LWVNC is scheduled to participate in the naturalization ceremonies prior to the opening of the International Festival.

Environmental Report

Marian Dodd, First Vice President, Program



Meetings of the Legislative Smart Growth Study Commission are taking place across North Carolina. Commission members are divided up into working groups.

The environment has become a major issue for political leaders as corporations are opting not to extend their business operations in North Carolina due to the sprawl. This has been the environmental message to our leaders over a long period of time that business will not locate in a state that does not have clean water, clean air, good

transportation system, and a good quality of life for their employees. Efforts will continue to follow the work of this commission and encourage an opportunity for Resource Renewal Institute to become involved inasmuch as legislation calls for an ongoing body of technical experts. RRI has the legislative bill and is aware of some of our state's environmental problems.

Voting Video

Marian Dodd, First Vice President, Program

The Voting Video for use in grades 6-9 on civic education is progressing well. An excellent writer completed the first draft of the script and a second draft will be available for review soon. Shooting video footage should be completed in several months.

LWVNC is requesting volunteers to serve on this project in their individual chapters.

We have many leaguers who have experience in working with students in this age group. A presentation would be made in classroom by a league



volunteer with the video as a working tool. If you are interested, please let your education chair know of your interest in the project. LWVNC can supply a copy of the video and presentation script. All materials and video should be available by the fall. A video copy will be supplied to public school media centers as a gift from our sponsors.

Our Civic Education Committee consists of Sally Coughlin, Marian Dodd, Jane Warsaw, and several social teachers.

Voters Service

Diane Getz, Voters Service Chair

There is something new and exciting in the Voter Service area. LWVUS, Grassroots.com and the Center for Government Studies have entered into a partnership to provide nonpartisan, free, interactive online information for voters. Democracy Network (Dnet) is a one-stop shop for all election and campaign information. This Dnet site, at www.dnet.org, will provide candidate information on the federal, state and local level. LWVUS will handle the federal candidates, with input from the state and local Leagues. The Voters Service Chair of LWVNC will do the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Council of State. We are hoping various Leagues in the state will pick up the other races.

The League's responsibility is to set up the basic framework of candidate information, guide candidates on how to access and work in the site, then monitor and encourage participation. Since this is an interactive site, it can be a dynamic source of information for the community. As we develop it for the fall election, more details will be forthcoming.

Judicial Reform

Ruth Van Lehn, Co-Chair, Judicial Reform

With the NC Legislature beginning its "short session" in May, there is not much legislative news. It's possible that we could complete the passage of putting District Court Judges on non-partisan ballots during the session. Hopefully, you noticed on your primary ballots the nonpartisan listing of Superior Court Judge candidates for the first time!

Remember last Spring at State Convention and afterwards, everyone was

urged to ask their legislators to support SB 12 (to put appointment of Appellate Judges on the ballot)? Unfortunately, it failed in the House, but not by much. Several resource people we used last year are very discouraged. In order to change the selection system, considerable pressure must be put on legislators by the voters in their districts. SO when you ask questions for your Voters Guides or Candidates forums, ask each candidate about a better way of selecting judges. Make them aware that the LWVNC does have a position supporting the appointment of judges (and not just appellate judges, either).

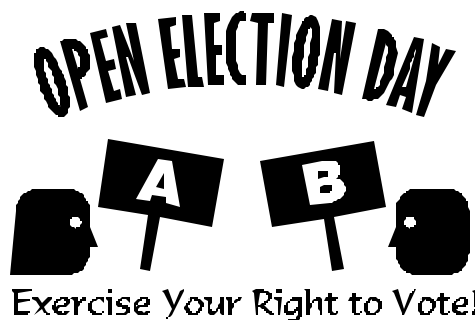
As an informed voter, please pay special attention this year to how much and what kind of information is available to help you decide who will be the best judge among the candidates that appear on your primary or general election ballot.

All of the above does not mean there is NO progress. The talk

about the Family Court experiments is encouraging. The use of mediation may be increasing, but several questions remain, such as will it become mandatory, and if so, in which situations?

The new State Judicial Council had its first meeting on March 23rd and 24th. It was an organizational gathering, but they did agree on funding priorities depending on the budget approved by the legislature. The lowest level is survival. The next level allows the addition of technology in order to obtain some accountability, such as the reasons for so many court postponements, or "continuances"? The third level would allow some organizational reform, more staff, and more technology, e.g., inter-connecting the law enforcement reports. Remember that a sizable chunk of their money was 'recalled' for use in Flood Disaster Relief.

Chief Justice Frye, to whom their recommendations are to be made, chairs the Council. The members are to monitor/study the



administration of justice and effectiveness of the judicial branch in serving the public. Those appointed include the following: Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals Sidney S. Eagles, Jr.; District Attorney Joel H. Brewer of Roxboro; Public Defender Angus B. Thompson II of Lumberton; Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Robert H. Hobgood of Louisburg; District Court Judge Shelly S. Holt of Wilmington; Clerk of Superior Court Timothy L. Spear of Washington Co.; Magistrate Jean B. Massengill of Johnston Co.; General Counsel to the Speaker of the House,



Jane P. Gray;
Attorney in
private practice
Gary W.
Thomas in
Statesville;
Attorney in

private practice Randy S. Gregory in Fayetteville; Former Court of Appeals Judge, Clifton E. Johnson of Charlotte; Former Asst. Supt. of Guilford Co. Schools and recently retired member of Justice Standards Commission, Melvin C. Swann, Jr.; Retired CEO of Wachovia Bank & former chair of the Futures Commission, John G. Medlin; Former chair of the Gov. Crime Commission and member of Futures Commission, Harriet A. "Sis" Kaplan of Charlotte; Former member of General Assembly and now practicing attorney Annie Brown Kennedy of Winston-Salem; Citizen and wife of Superior Court Judge Bill Griffin, Jane K. Griffin of Williamston

We hope the Council members will fulfill the high expectations we have for their service.

Court Watch

Dick Dixon, Co-Chair, Judicial Reform

The 26th Judicial District Court Watch Project is starting to make its presence known. We have a starting date of April 10th to observe six "family courts" over a three-month period. After that, we'll observe the remaining eight

courtrooms in the Mecklenburg County District Court system over a six-month period.

The time line is still being worked out, but I have gotten the court's approval of a public opinion survey that a number of people have helped me develop. The current plan is to get at least 1200 respondents, with all significant portions of the local population represented. Several people have indicated their willingness to help me distribute, administer, collect, and analyze the results.

We're considering including a civic education component with this project: court and jail tours, public speakers, and the development of some efforts to help the local citizenry learn how to more effectively access their court system. Lots of details still need to be worked out.

The Trial Court Administrator has suggested that this sort of project should be repeated after suitable intervals, and says that he will both try to promote this idea, as well as try to arrange funding!!!!

**JUST ASK SOMEONE TO
COME
TO ONE OF YOUR
LEAGUE MEETINGS TODAY!**

LOCAL LEAGUES WORKING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

- **Catawba:** Kids Vote Project
- **Chapel Hill Area:** Public Forum on Campaign Finance Reform
- **Charlotte-Mecklenburg:** Public Forum on Pros and Cons of a Moratorium on the Death Penalty.
- **Gaston County:** Campaign Finance Reform display in library during month of March; Reception for local government officials to celebrate Women's History Month
- **Henderson County:** Filed complaint with SBOE because of campaign advertisements of a candidate; Whose Future Is It? A Community Forum on Growth and Development; Public Forum on Campaign Finance Reform
- **New Hanover County:** Campaign Finance Reform display at Azalea Festival.
- **Onslow and Coastal Pender Counties:** Campaign Finance Reform display in local libraries and at Spring Fling Festival.
- **Watauga:** Began Civics 101



STATE LEAGUE WORKING ON STATE ISSUES

- Press release on Granny D's walk into Washington to raise awareness of need for campaign finance reform.
- Letter to Larry Leake, Chairman of State Board of Elections, in February to ask why in 2000 the SBOE was in violation of North Carolina General Statutes regarding compilation of 1998 election expenses. (SBOE completed the compilation and verification of 1998 election expenses in March, 2000.)
- Press release on the offering of free air time to gubernatorial candidates by Capitol Broadcasting.
- Press release on Greensboro attorney Marshall Hurley's complaint filed with SBOE, alleging that, inter alia, free broadcasting time given to election candidates amounted to corporate campaign contributions.
- Kick-off of "Campaign Finance Reform makes good cents" joint project between state and local Leagues:
 - (1) Letters sent to legislators,
 - (2) Goals for the "short session" sent to local League presidents, along with names of key legislators in counties of local Leagues.
 - (3) "Tape penny here" letters sent to organizations all over the state.
- Press release on Good Cents Campaign
- Attended meeting, along with leaders of other organizations, of policy analysts and legal counsel of the governor to discuss ways the governor could support Campaign Finance Reform before leaving office at the end of this year.

**THANK YOU TO OUR
CONTRIBUTORS!!!**

Sally Coughlin, Treasurer

Thank you to the following people, who sent contributions in response to the 1999-2000 fundraising letter.

LWVNC Citizen Education Foundation:

- Patricia C. Aaron
- Rachel T. Charles
- Anita W. Dupree
- Mary-Lynn Grigni
- Eunice S. Helig
- Jean P. Hinson
- Mazie J. Levenson
- A. Helen Martikainen
- Mary A. McLaughlin
- Elizabeth A. Trought
- Rebeca Werner
- Dawn M. Wilson & Philip C. Fryberger

LWVNC:

- Cynthia Strain
- Elizabeth A. Trought
- Patricia Shurtleff
- Mae S. Tucker

In Memory of Kayce Colwell

Last spring, Leaguers were saddened by the sudden death of Kayce Colwell, First Vice President of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina. Contributions to the state League in Kayce's memory have been earmarked for the Civic Education project, the video on voting, which will be distributed to schools throughout North Carolina. The following people made contributions in Kayce's memory:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Roberta Black | Marlene Pratto |
| Marian Dodd | Karen Savage |
| Betty Ellerbee | Joan Scott |
| James N. Farr | Jane Warsaw |
| Diana Phillips | Carolyn West |

If your name has been left off any list of contributors, please let the office know so we can correct our records.

In Memory of Alyson Pauls

Alyson Pauls died on January 21st, 2000 in Gaithersburg, MA. She is remembered as a dedicated League member, who served many years as a board member of the Forsyth County League and also of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina. The following people made contributions in Alyson Paul's memory:

- Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hutchinson
- Pamela P. Kahl
- Mrs. I. B. Southerland
- Marianne O. Steintrager



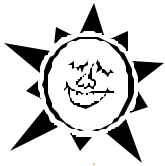
ENVIRO NOTES - AIR POLLUTION

Margaret Holton, Off Board Director,
Environment

1999 was the first year that the NC General Assembly took up comprehensive air quality legislation, AMBIENT AIR QUALITY (SB 953). This legislation focused on the impacts of automobiles on air quality, providing for cleaner gas, expanding emissions inspections programs, and setting goals for the overall reduction of certain kinds of pollution. In the Senate the bill faced a different kind of opposition as some members attacked the legislation for not going far enough to regulate the emissions from power plants. The bill primarily addresses air pollution from

automobiles, focusing on reductions in nitrates of oxygen or NOx, or Nitrous oxides.

The law expands the inspection and maintenance program for automobiles from nine counties to 48 counties by 2006. The 48 counties are those that are experiencing significant growth. This act also requires the sale of low sulfur gasoline in NC by January 1, 2004, a measure that will likely be required nationwide. Sulfur in gas affects the ability of catalytic converters to clean exhaust. The standard in the legislation is 30 ppm, a 90% reduction. At present, there is no sulfur standard for gasoline.



This coming summer, we will have no escape from health threatening ozone smog if we repeat the smog problems of last summer, when we had a high record of

Orange and Red Alert Days. According to records of the EPA (US Environmental Protection Agency) and the DENR (NC Department of the Environment and Natural Resources), Carolina Power and Light and Duke Power both had power plants that ranked in the high NOx levels for the country. Emissions from power plants and vehicle tailpipes form the ozone at ground level. Vehicles emit about half the NOx in NC; stationery sources (power plants and factories) emit the other half.

Because of the wind currents and the increasing spread of the air pollution problem, many of the nation's most popular destinations provide no refuge. It is difficult to accept, but the Great Smoky Mountain National Park has four times as many "dirty days" as Nashville, with pollution levels that in the South have only been surpassed by Atlanta.

ENVIRO NOTES - APRIL 2000 WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CONFERENCE: THE YEAR OF THE HURRICANES

Margaret Holton, Off Board Director,
Environment

According to Billy Ray Hall of the NC Rural Economic Development Center, no matter how we term the floods after hurricane Floyd - a 100 year flood or a 500 year flood - a hurricane of equal intensity could reoccur next year. (It was just two years ago, in 1997, that Hurricane Fran came through.) Hall stated that Floyd took out 100 roads, flooded 53,000 houses, and actually displaced residents from 7200 homes. It is hard to give an exact definition of disaster, but the potential for disaster occurs when people and floods meet. Eastern NC residents need time to clean up their water, as well as their land, and he estimates a minimum time of 8 to 10 years for recovery. Since the NC state budget is already stretched, the biggest problem is money, but Eastern North Carolina needs help.

The next presentation was FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT, with emphasis on having accurate flood plain maps. The maps need to be brought up to date all over the state, since new maps show that the some 100-year flood maps are 9 - 12 inches below what they should be. One example of this is the Charlotte study area, where upstream development has caused an increase of 4 inches in flood height, with water backing up 400 to 600 feet upstream. Researcher David Canaan says Smart Growth is the battle cry, but first, one must get good data. Then residents and government need to agree on good stream buffers (grass and trees) and stream management.

We need a budget at the state level to immediately redraw flood plain maps over the entire state.

LWVUS AWARD GIVEN TO MARLENE PRATTO

from LWV-Piedmont Triad *Voter Impact*, May, 2000

Marlene Pratto has been recognized by the national League and the Center for Governmental Studies for her contribution to the Democracy Network, or DNET, a League website that provides voter information across the nation via the internet. Marlene, with

computer skills “extraordinaire”, helped prepare the web site with links to state and local campaigns. Her Certificate of Achievement reads, “With sincere appreciation and admiration for your hard work in bringing the Democracy Network online political information system to the voters of your area and to the rest of the nation. Your hard work lays the foundation for an information system which will help strengthen our democracy now and for generations to come.” Our thanks and congratulations to Marlene!

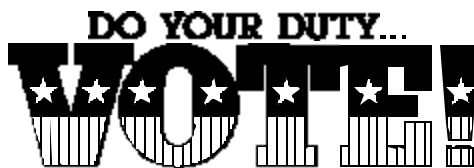
GET OUT THE VOTE!

Vicki Boyer, President, LWV-Chapel Hill Area

The regional training conference held in Atlanta in February was a unique opportunity, providing inspiration, as well as information. I met wonderfully interesting league members from all over the south who shared their experiences and ideas with me on a great many topics of concern to LWV. I focused on attending the sessions on how the league can Get Out The Vote.

What follows are recommendations from LWVUS on specific activities we can undertake to get people to vote.

1. Target an Area--Focus on a specific geographic area, like a precinct, or a specific segment of population, such as Hispanic women or African American males.
2. Build broad coalition partnerships-- There are many groups working with LWV-US who have local chapters; make connections and get their help. Student groups in particular may be of help to the league, since they sometimes have more time to give and this also acts as encouragement for them to vote as well. Discover who the real leaders are within a population segment-- sometimes it's the people behind the scenes who are the real movers and shakers in a community, not the most obvious choices.



3. Set realistic goals-- Don't aim for 100% voter turnout; try for improvement by a certain percentage.
4. Establish your own credibility by LISTENING-- The importance of listening came up again and again in Atlanta. If dealing with a population segment different from your own demographic, the most important thing to do first is listen to their concerns. This allows you to establish some empathy with them and makes them more amenable to your presence in their community, and to your offers of help in the course of getting out the vote. When you know their problems and concerns you can let them know what the LWV offers them in information, experience, training opportunities, and organizational skills.
5. Design election related materials-- What have you learned from your discussions with the selected group? Show how the issues they are concerned about connect directly to their vote. Find an issue that resonates with large segments of the targeted group. Develop a slogan: Take a Friend to Vote: Ready! Set! Vote! Your Vote For Your Kids!
6. Target your message accordingly-- Does it need to be written in Spanish? Require mention of educational needs of their children? Do you need to get it on the radio, or deliver to each household?
7. Make contact with new voters-- Set up phone banks to contact those already registered (numbers available from your local registrar's office). Phone banks can be doled out to volunteers who can call from their own homes, when they have time. Visit door to door. Contact areas where this group congregates (churches, community centers, etc.).
8. Get them to the polls-- Make sure they know the mechanics of where to go and how the vote is conducted.

9. Evaluate your efforts-- Use follow up phone calls to the newly registered, particularly if you registered them yourself, and ask if they voted and what kind of experience it was.
10. Celebrate!

National suggested this as a process we could start 90 days prior to an election, although we can start earlier. As each of us lives in a community with a character all its own, we may find variations on the suggestions above that will work better for our area. As we approach our end of the year annual meetings the subject of how to get out the vote in our communities is one we may all want to discuss with members of our local chapters. I will be happy to talk to anyone or any league that wants to pursue *Get Out the Vote* activities. Email me at boyerthomas@mindspring.com or call at 919-942-3004

Remember the League in Your Will

The gift doesn't have to be large to help. When you're updating your will, please consider leaving a bequest to your local League and the state League. Contact the LWWNC office for information.

JOIN THE LEAGUE CLICKERATI! Diana Phillips

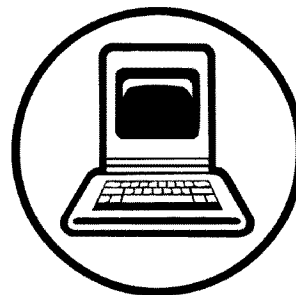
For the first time in LWWNC history, this issue of the NC Voter will be featured on our website. From the time the Voter is finished, it takes 3 - 4 weeks to get to the mailboxes of members throughout the state. That's too long for a Voter to be somewhere in the system, since technology is in place to

make it immediately available to our membership.

According to a woman interviewed by Leslie Stahl on *Sixty Minutes* (3/19/2000), a reason why women don't find the Internet particularly inviting is that the Internet was invented by men for men. Typically, men go on the Internet to spend time, whereas women go on the Internet to save time. To make things worse, because of girl-boy dynamics, girls in their teenage years have been giving way to boys in computer classes, so the people who are designing the new computer programs are young, white males or males recruited from abroad. That means, we need to get involved in this new frontier if we want our needs addressed!

If you are already among the League "clickerati", why not take under your wing Leaguers who are on the other side of the digital divide and show them how to work a computer at your house or at your local library. If, on the other hand, you are reticent about becoming involved with technology, just arm yourself with determination and a notebook in which you write down every key you press and every click you make with the mouse. You will be able to refer to your notes until working on the computer becomes second nature.

In response to the argument that the NC Voter should just be a benefit of League membership, I think it would be safe to say that people join the League because they want to be part of an organization that works for positive change in government, and they want to learn how to influence legislation, without wasting a



lot of time. The Internet makes it possible for any individual anywhere in the world to go to the NC government websites and learn the content

and status of bills and regulations. These things can change so quickly, and by the time the state

League gets out a written communication of what to do, it can be too late.

We want eventually to have a League communication system in which there is email contact between a member of every committee at the local League level and a state board member or committee chair, who disseminates information and coordinates action among local Leagues. This will take some time, because at this point, very few of us know what your 9-year-old child or grandchild knows about computers. Even so, with more and more of us on email, having this contact has already produced a positive change in communication between state and local Leagues. And for those of us who are forever losing bits of paper, it's a tremendous boon to be able to call up electronic messages with the click of a mouse!

FREE SPEECH FOR SALE

LWVNC has 2 copies of "Free Speech For Sale," the Bill Moyers PBS program on campaign finance reform. We want to send them out to local Leagues for you to hold programs for your members. They're very easy to send in the Priority Mail video box. Call or email the office if you would like to borrow one for your League.

Diana Phillips asked Bill Moyers, when he was in North Carolina, to write "To the League of Women Voters" on the cover of his video, and he wrote "To the League of Kindred Spirits."

THE MARCH INTO WASHINGTON WITH DORIS HADDOCK

Diana Phillips

On February 29, 2000 four Orange County members of the League of Women Voters (Vicki Boyer, Linda Esner, Billie Hayward and Diana Phillips - and Vicki's daughter, Katie) walked into Washington, D.C. with Doris Haddock, as the 90-year old great-grandmother completed her cross-country walk

to raise awareness of the need for campaign finance reform and to show members of Congress that people do care about reform.

Haddock, better known to Americans as Granny D (the name given to her by her grandchildren) began her walk in Pasadena, California on New Year's Day in 1999, at the grand old age of 88 years and 11 months. Her walk took her through California, Arizona,



New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia. She walked

10 miles a day, taking Sunday as a day of rest and taking other days off to speak to local governments, civic groups, and students. This tiny, but tough woman from Dublin, New Hampshire was only hospitalized once during her 14-month walk, and that was when she came down with pneumonia. Haddock skis every winter, so when heavy snow fell in Maryland in the latter part of January, she donned her cross-country skis and completed her ten miles a day as usual on her route along the tow path of the C & O canal, which leads into the Potomac River.

On the morning of February 29th, some 2100 people, with Granny D at the front, began the march at Arlington Cemetery. We crossed Arlington Bridge to the Lincoln Memorial, where Haddock gave a welcome speech in which she briefly told us the reason for her cross-country walk (Haddock's words paraphrased): *If our experiment in self-government is to survive in reality, as well as in name, we must defend the position of the individual. The voices of individuals have been drowned out in the past decades by the financial contributions of wealthy people, corporations, and foreign governments who need laws for their own business interests. We must change our laws to make it illegal for wealthy special interests, by way of contributions of soft money and issue ads, to buy legislation and regulations for their benefit alone.*

From the Lincoln Memorial, we walked along the reflecting pool to 17th Street, then up to K Street, known for its offices of corporation lobbyists (called “the boys of Gucci Gulch”). A few signs of encouragement, saying “Go Granny Go” were pressed against some of the windows of the tall buildings on K Street. We then walked down 14th Street to Freedom Plaza, then along Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol. When we approached the Capitol, we could see that the steps were full of people waiting to welcome Granny D.

At the Capitol there were several speeches by leaders of civic groups: Alliance for Democracy, Common Cause, League of Women Voters, National Civic League, Public Campaign, and Public Citizen. Several states across the nation have enacted some measures of campaign reform. Allison Smith, LWV-US Board member from Maine, said in her speech that the new Maine campaign finance reform law had survived court challenges.

Before her cross-country walk, Haddock had no experience in public speaking, but during her fourteen months on the road, she became an accomplished speaker. On the Capitol steps she addressed her words to the United States Senators. She said (words paraphrased): *How dare you think we do not care that laws are being sold to the highest bidders. The reason for beginning the march today at Arlington Cemetery is that there are rows upon rows of graves of people who fought for our freedoms. I do not call it “treason,” this changing our government of, by and for the people to a government by and for the wealthy elite, but those more courageous shadows might, those whose blood flows through our flag and our history. The problem is of our own making. We are becoming a people with no time or energy for self governance, people hypnotized by television and caught on a*



corporate-consumer treadmill. We need to regain our lives as people who have time for each other and for our communities. If I have offended the senators, that is as it should be, because they have offended America and dishonored the best things it stands for. They should take their wounded pride and go clean up the corruption in the halls of Washington, and if they don't, they should go home to some other corruption less harmful to a great nation.

At the supper reception for Haddock at St. Mark's Church, there were more speeches by people who had walked with her along the way. In spite of her age, her arthritis and her emphysema, Haddock was determined to do something extraordinary to change the way government does business, so that her great-grandchildren and children throughout America would be able to grow up in a country where laws are not for sale. Haddock's determination has renewed the energy of people across the nation to continue the struggle for campaign finance reform.

The whole day was a fitting end to a 3,200 mile, 14-month long walk by a 90-year old woman who has walked into history because of her dedication to bringing about campaign finance reform and restoring our nation to a government of, by and for the people.

You can read Haddock's speeches on her website, www.grannyd.com

Update on Granny D

Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky is said to have stated that Americans care as much about campaign finance reform as about static cling, and he would send Granny D a foot massager for her trouble. Doris Haddock said, “That’s not where Senator McConnell gives us a pain.”

CALL TO L WVNC COUNCIL 2000

Saturday, June 3, 2000 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Commons Room, Eno River Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship
4907 Garrett Road, Durham, NC (Easy to get to from I-40!)

9:30 Registration

10:00 Business Meeting

10:30 Presidents' Round Table - Discussion of League leadership, expectations of League presidents, goals and strategies, triumphs and failures

(Other officers and portfolio chairs will meet with their counterparts from the L WVNC Board and other Leagues.)

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Study Circles workshop

2:00 Campaign Finance Reform workshop

Council is held in the interim year between Conventions and according to the L WVNC Bylaws, is composed of...

(a) The president of each local League and MLA Unit, or an alternate if the president is unable to attend. In the case of shared leadership, only one individual can fill this spot, but other leaders may attend as observers.

(b) One delegate chosen by each local League.

(c) L WVNC Board

Other League members who want to come as observers are always welcome! Observer status means only that you can't vote in the business meeting. You can take part in everything else!

Directions to Eno River Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship:

I-40 to Exit 270, which is Why 15-501 (Durham/Chapel Hill Exit).

Go north on Hwy 15-501 about 1.4 miles to Garrett Road (2nd traffic light) (1st light is Mt. Moriah Church Road)

Right turn on Garrett Road (Landmark: Darryl's Restaurant on right corner).

Go 0.7 mile

Left turn into driveway of Church.

Go to end of drive and turn right into parking lot.

The Commons Room is in the building adjacent to the parking lot.

COST: \$ 20 until May 25, 2000.

\$ 25 after May 25, 2000

The cost includes lunch.

Send check to

L WVNC

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina

3801 Barrett Drive, Suite 204

Raleigh, NC 27609

LWVNC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To find the local League closest to you, call the state office (919) 783-5995. If there is no local League in your area, we will welcome you as a state member at large (MAL).

LWVNC
The League of Women Voters of North Carolina
3801 Barrett Drive, Suite 204
Raleigh, NC 27609

YES, I want to support the work of the League of Women Voters from the North Carolina Capitol to Capitol Hill. Please add my name to the membership rolls of the League of Women Voters at the state and national levels.

Name _____ Street _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

I enclose my check payable to the League of Women Voters of North Carolina as indicated:

___ \$30 Annual Individual Membership

___ \$45 Annual Household Membership Name of 2nd household member _____

___ I'm unable to join the League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ _____.
Contributions to the League are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

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