



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR DEMOCRACY

ELAINE MARSHALL KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT LWVNC CONVENTION MARCH 23-25

Elaine Marshall became the first woman in North Carolina history ever elected to executive statewide office in 1996. She is now serving her third term as North Carolina's Secretary of State. Secretary Marshall is a former schoolteacher, business owner and partner of a private law firm. She has been honored nationally many times for her innovative work to modernize state government practices through the use of advanced technology. She is also a noted champion of protecting the intellectual property rights of brand-name manufacturers, software companies and music recording artists. In fact, the Recording Industry Association of America awarded Secretary Marshall her own Gold



Record in 2005 in special recognition of her efforts to fight music piracy in North Carolina. In addition, Secretary Marshall was awarded the National Notary Association's 2006 Achievement Award for her work to modernize notary public practices in North Carolina.

At the LWV NC banquet, Secretary Marshall will address Lobby Reform, Ethics Committee and Clean Elections.

2007 STATE CONVENTION AND MEETING

Brenda Rogers

Let's go to convention in March! The final touches are being put on an exciting program for the March 23-25 State Convention and annual statewide meeting. What a wonderful opportunity for us to learn from each other and to hear some experts on issues of high priority to Leagues! Bring a team from your League to attend Friday afternoon workshops on issues of interest to all Leagues. See the Highlights for details.

As noted above, our keynote speaker at the banquet on Saturday evening, which is open to anyone, will be Secretary of State Elaine

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CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

- 2:00-3:30PM - Technology Tips for Today's League
- How to Grow Your League
- 4:00-5:30PM - Innovative Voter Services
- Advocating for League Positions

SATURDAY SESSIONS

- 9:00AM - First Plenary Session
- 11:00AM - Presentation: *Effective Advocacy Strategies for the League* with NC Representatives Jennifer Weiss and Deborah Ross
- 12:00-1:30PM - Lunch
- General Session
- Update from LWVUS
- Panel Presentation on *Redistricting in 2010*
- 2:00-3:00PM - Panel Presentation on *Getting N.C. Taxes on Target*
- 3:15-4:15PM - Presentation on *Election and Campaign Reform*
- 7PM - Banquet: Keynote address by Secretary Marshall
- Entertainment by Henderson League

SUNDAY SESSIONS

- 9:00-10:00AM - Roundtables
- 10:15-11:00AM - Second plenary session

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2005-2007

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Karen Olson
Dianne Wilkins

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Marshall. Then, the Henderson League will bring some levity to our otherwise serious meeting with songs and routines to entertain us. Of course, the main reasons for our convention are to adopt our **2007-2009 PROGRAM** and to identify **ISSUES FOR EMPHASIS** that will guide our legislative agenda. Also we will **ADOPT A BUDGET AND ELECT OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**. Each league will have official delegates who can vote during the plenary sessions on Saturday and Sunday.

Thanks to the League of Women Voters in Moore County for hosting this convention and meeting at the newly renovated Little River Golf Resort. It provides an ideal setting for lots of informal interaction so that we can learn from each other what is happening at other Leagues across the State. Go to <http://www.littleriver.com> to learn more about the resort located in Carthage, NC, just north of Pinehurst on 15-501.

Register your team now! Bring four members who can share the two bedroom/two bath suites and cut down on expenses! Please indicate on the registration form (included in this issue) with whom you will share a room and/or suite. The package at Little River is for two nights and all meals on Saturday and a buffet breakfast on Sunday—a bargain at \$160 if rooms are shared. Another option is for two couples who have spouses who golf to share a villa. Golfers can take advantage of the golf package while we meet and then join us for the Saturday evening banquet. Remember, you must stay two nights to get the conference rate. There is a rate for commuters.

Get those registrations in now! We must confirm the number of suites reserved 30 days in advance, so please send in your registration for room reservations to LWV-NC by February 15. See you at Little River in March!

LWV NC RECOMMENDED PROGRAM FOR 2007-09

Bev Kawalec

“Program is the League’s reason for being, the basis for both education and action efforts. League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action. It includes both adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues for study that will lead to a position and action.” (In League)

Every two years, at State Convention, League members adopt a program for study and action and select **ISSUES FOR EMPHASIS**. The process as specified in the By-laws is for local Leagues to make suggestions for State program at least three months prior to Convention and then for the State Board to formulate a proposed recommended program and submit that program to the local Boards at least two months prior to Convention.

On January 13, 2007, the State Board voted to recommend to the members that we do not adopt any new issues for study and action this year, but rather that we take action on our already adopted program. The adopted program can be found on our web site, www.lwvnc.org, under Positions for Action.

The State Board voted to recommend to the members that we select as issues for emphasis for the next two years tax reform, redistricting, moratorium of the death penalty, campaign and election reform, and other issues on which the League has a stated position as directed by the Board. Through this action the State Board means to be narrowing the number of issues that we follow and address in the State Legislature. The League has the flexibility to respond to issues that arise after the issues for emphasis have been adopted if the issue falls within the League Principles or the adopted Program.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

**Registration Form for Twenty-Seventh Convention
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 23-25, 2007
Little River Golf Resort, 500 Little River Farm Road
Carthage, NC 28327**

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Name for nametag _____

League _____ Responsibility _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone _____ email _____

Voting Delegate Yes No

REGISTRATION FEE for all convention attendees: \$20

CHECK ONE TO INDICATE TYPE OF ROOM REGISTRATION:

Two-day package at Little River Golf Resort includes Friday and Saturday nights, all meals on Saturday and buffet breakfast on Sunday. Villas include two bedrooms, each with two queen beds and private bath, kitchen, and living room. See www.littleriver.com for information about facilities.

- Two nights, sharing room and villa (2 queen beds per room): \$160
- Two nights, single room, sharing villa: \$225
- Two nights, two-bedroom villa for one person \$305
- Commuter package (all meals and meeting facilities) \$125

OTHER OPTIONS for Non-Convention Attendees:

- Saturday dinner banquet only \$ 35
- Saturday luncheon \$ 15
- Nightly room rate for sharing room with convention attendee \$ 55

TOTAL (Add registration fee and room/meal charges) _____

For those sharing rooms and villas, indicate your preferences. If no preferences, LWVNC will assign rooms.

No preference _____

Roommate preference: _____

Share villa with the following: _____

*Return Form with check payable to LWV-NC by February 15, 2007 to:
Betty Ellerbee, Treasurer, Convention Registration
3509 Haworth Drive, Suite 404
Raleigh, NC 27609*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF N.C.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

**Registration Form for Twenty-Seventh Convention
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 23-25, 2007
Little River Golf Resort, 500 Little River Farm Road
Carthage, NC 28327**

Bring your spouse or friend for a golfing outing!

Golf fee: \$65 per person per round, including green fee, range balls, bag handling, storage and cart. Call for tee time: 888-766-6538 or 910-949-4600.

DINE AROUND FRIDAY EVENING

Would you like to join a small group led by a Moore County League member to a local restaurant? If so, check the restaurant you would prefer. See next page for descriptions of restaurants.

_____ Elliotts on Linden. A local favorite. Gourmet dining in an elegant garden setting. Entrees range from \$12 - \$34. Located in Pinehurst just outside the village on Linden Road. www.elliottsonlinden.com

_____ Carolina Dining Room at Pinehurst. Elegant formal dining in the Carolina Hotel in the village of Pinehurst. Four course fixed price menu \$65. Jacket required.

Members Club: Casual dining. Specialty events many Friday nights. Entrees including salad and dessert range \$ 20 - 30

_____ Theo's Taverna.. Authentic Greek/Mediterranean Cuisine in a garden setting located in heart of the Village of Pinehurst. Casual attire Entrees range from \$ 12 - 28.

_____ Ashten's. Located in Southern Pines. Upstairs menu offers beef seafood and duck - "global cuisine with a southern perspective". Entrees \$15 - 30.
Burger menu available in the cellar.

_____ Table on the Green. Located on Midland Road in Southern Pines, Table on the Green serves traditional American cuisine . Entrees range from \$ 16 - 22. Casual attire. www.tableonthegreen.com

Questions? Call Brenda Rogers at 919-968-0833 or email at Brenda.rogers@earthlink.net or contact Sandra Wright in Moore County at 910-255-3088 or email at Sandra.wright@yahoo.com.
Go to www.littleriver.com for information about Little River Golf Resort.

***Return Form with check payable to LWV-NC by February 15, 2007
Betty Ellerbee, Treasurer, Convention Registration
3509 Haworth Drive, Suite 404
Raleigh, NC 27609***

**PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING:
AT TAX TIME, CHECK IT OFF - AGAIN THIS
YEAR**

This box will appear on your 2006 Income Tax Form; if you file electronically, similar information will appear on your screen:

N.C. Public Campaign Financing Fund	
This Fund pays for a nonpartisan voter guide and helps fund judicial candidates who accept strict fund-raising and spending limits. Do you agree that \$3 should go to this Fund? <i>Filling in a circle will not increase or decrease your tax or reduce your refund.</i>	
<u>You</u>	<u>Your Spouse</u>
Yes 0	Yes 0
No 0	No 0

By saying "Yes", you will:

- * Be able to designate \$3 of the money you have already paid to:
 - * support a fair and equal justice system.
 - * get a nonpartisan voter guide that helps you cast an informed vote.
 - * give all candidates, regardless of their personal wealth, a chance to run a fair and effective campaign

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUDICIAL PUBLIC FINANCING PROGRAM, 2004-2006

- Overall, 20 of the 28 candidates (71%) for NC Supreme Court and Court of Appeals enrolled and qualified in program in 2004 and 2006 general elections
- Qualified candidates included incumbents and challengers; black and white; men and women; Democrats and Republicans; winners and losers
- In 2005-2006, \$1.5million awarded to 8 qualified candidates in general election; \$650,000 spent for printing and mailing 4 million Voter Guides
- In 2002, 73% of non-family campaign money for judicial candidates in the general election came from attorneys, PACs and other political committees; In 2004 the figure dropped to 14% for candidates in the general election.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The Citizen Education Foundation and the League of Women Voters of North Carolina **have received \$2000, and checks continue to come in regularly.** Thanks to our donors for sustaining the League and its good works

As of January 18th, contributions to the Annual Fund have been made by the following generous individuals.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Audrey Albrecht | Elizabeth Hair |
| Mae Alexander | Beverly Hanly |
| Jane Aycock | Hilda Highfill |
| Kathleen Balogh | Claudia Kadis |
| Betty Becker | Cyrus King |
| Bert Bowe | Mary Klenz |
| Vicki Boyer | Betty Ann Knudsen |
| Diane D. Brown | Roberta Lane |
| Ran Coble | Lee Luebbe |
| Elsie Cunningham | Dorothy Neter |
| Patricia Dale | Julia Richards |
| Donna Earner | Brenda Rogers |
| Carole Ellis | Richard Salwitz |
| Shirley Evans | Mary Sedivec |
| Roberta Fugate | Frances Sherman |
| Alice Greenlaw | Beth Springston |
| | Rita Weimer |
| | Marilyn White |

LWVUS ISSUES NEW MISSION STATEMENT

The board of the national League has revised our mission statement as shown below:

"The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

Please use this new statement on your literature and newsletter.

LWVNC BOARD NOTES, 1-13-07

- **Convention** - Program finalized; there will be a LWVNC Board meeting on 3/23 at 1:00 p.m. Proposed budget, program and issues for action, and nominating committee report accepted and will be sent to local leagues. Workbook reports requested by February 15. All State Board members and nominees are expected to attend.
- **Fundraising** - December mailing yielded almost \$2000, most for CEF. 100% Board participation urged. Endowment letter to be sent in spring and spring luncheon, perhaps at Carol Woods, discussed. Contact: Lee Evans, jevans20@nc.rr.com
- **Civics 103** – Eastern regional judicial conference deferred from February to November due to inability to obtain crucial speakers in February. Contact: Carole Ellis, cellis3@bellsouth.net
- **VOTER** – Winter issue to follow Board meeting. Continued discussion about electronic version and/or only posting on Website. Contact: Beverly Hanly, bhanly@aol.com
- **Advocacy** - The League Board is continuing the Liaison Program to keep members around the state informed about legislation of interest to the League. We will continue the process of hiring a Legislative Liaison who will set up an email list of all interested members to receive weekly legislative updates and action alerts. An Advocacy Committee is being formed of League members willing to come to Raleigh to follow specific issues by attending committee meetings and hearings, Several local leagues have already set up visits to the Legislature or are planning to do so. Contact: Mary Klenz, klenzm@bellsouth.net
- **LWVNC Website** – Louise Romanow, Judie Burke and Patty Dale (webmaster) reviewed present website and LWVUS template. Board agreed to go with latter.
- **Coalitions** – Review of present coalition membership for relevance of priorities with league priorities. Board agreed to ask local leagues to participate with newspapers in agency audit, in preparation for Sunshine Week.
- **Local League visits** – Mary Klenz and Judie Burke visited Union County, Kathleen Balogh visited Macon County, Judie Burke to visit Currituck County (new MAL with 50+ members)

STATE LEAGUE CONNECTIONS

Kathleen Balogh

Even if your league is located close to the legislative center of the state, activity at the state level on LWV priorities and positions can become “lost in translation”. It is important that local leagues connect to statewide activity and have access to current information, resources, and experienced counsel when needed.

To facilitate this important connection to local leagues, there is a LWVNC **Liaison** program. Each NC league has a State Board member designated as their liaison. On the state to local level, your liaison contacts your league president periodically throughout the year to share state updates and resources, and provide counsel if needed. On the local to state level, we encourage you to invite your liaison to your activities, call with questions or concerns, and share your leagues’ good news. Please let us know how this approach works for your league.

The 2007 LWVNC Chapter Liaisons are:

Asheville/Buncombe: June Kimmel

Macon: Fran Syptak

Carteret: Carole Ellis

Madison: Kathleen Balogh

Catawba: Marian Lowry

Moore: Brenda Rogers

Charlotte-Mecklenburg: Kathleen Balogh

Orange, Durham & Chatham: Mary Klenz

Craven: Carole Ellis

Piedmont Triad: Lee Mahan Evans

Cumberland: Audrey Albrecht

Pitt: Beverly Kawalec

Dare: Dianne Wilkins

Union: Mary Klenz

Henderson: Beverly Hanly

Wake: Sandra Wright

Lower Cape Fear: Betty Ellerbee

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE FORMED

Bev Kawalec

LWVNC has formed an **Advocacy Committee** to increase our effectiveness in the State Legislature. Members of the Advocacy Committee will follow the issues of interest to the League in the Legislature and speak to elected officials when appropriate. In addition, we have hired Paula Wolf to set up a list serve to keep League members better informed of the status of our bills in the Legislature.

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Paula Wolf is the head of *Paulatics, LLC* which is a government affairs, political relations and political consulting firm specializing in legislative, executive, grassroots and cyberlobbying for nonprofit organizations in the North Carolina General Assembly. The firm provides expertise in political consulting, public relations, education and training.

To receive timely updates of the League issues in the Legislature, contact Beverly Kawalec at bevkawalec@bellsouth.net.

4ERA

News Alert

January 20, 2006

Arkansas ERA Resolution Has 55 Co-sponsors in the House

A joint resolution to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment already has enough co-sponsors for it to pass in the Arkansas House. This week fifty-five House members signed on as co-sponsors of State Representative Lindsley Smith's resolution calling for ratification of the ERA. In a phone interview with 4ERA, Smith said, "I'm excited about the response. We need 51 votes for passage and we have 55 co-sponsors, so we are very hopeful." State Senator Sue Madison is the resolution's sponsor in the Senate. The Arkansas senate voted on a similar resolution by Madison in 2005. That resolution was defeated but by a margin of just two votes. Smith thinks the time has come for Arkansas to pass the ERA. "We've talked about this for far too long, it's time to do it," she said.

Karen Garcia, AR BPW Legislative Chair told us she is encouraged to see this level of support in the House, but noted that advocates will still be working hard to increase the number of co-sponsors in both chambers. "We have a great opportunity to be the first state to ratify the ERA under the new three state strategy," Garcia said. The resolution will need to gain 18 votes in the Senate and 51 in the House to achieve ratification.

Editor's Note:

Additional information is available at the 4ERA web site, www.4ERA.org. The League of Women Voters is a supporter of this effort. The ERA needs just three states to ratify it to become law.

IMMIGRATION STUDY INFORMATION AVAILABLE

The national League has launched a public page for the LWVUS Immigration Study and created a resource page for citizens interested in learning about our work. Feel free to share this with your community!
www.lvv.org/ImmigrationStudy

ENSURING MILLIONS OF VOTERS HAD THE INFORMATION THEY NEEDED

The League's new Web site, www.VOTE411.org, was a huge success! In just 10 days, nearly 4,000 Web sites were linked to VOTE411.org and the site received almost a million visitors, who reviewed over 4 million pages of information. VOTE411.org also hosted over 200 Voters' Guides, providing voters with information on state and local candidates and ballot measures. In addition, League members nationwide distributed nearly 1.5 million *5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day* cards. These gave voters simple steps to take before and on Election Day to make sure their votes were counted.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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HAMPSTEAD, NC 28443
PERMIT NO. 76



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Check the membership information at www.lwvnc.org ; call 919 783-5995; email lwvnc@mindspring.net

Activities are funded through membership fees and donations. If you would like to help fund this important work, please send a donation to: LWVNC, 3509 Haworth Drive, Suite 404, Raleigh, NC 27609-7224. Checks should be made out to LWVNC. Donations to our Education Fund are tax exempt and checks for the Fund should be made out to LWVNC CEF.