



# VOTER IMPACT

LWV OF THE PIEDMONT TRIAD  
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VOLUME XXXI ISSUE 7 APRIL 2019

## Lunch with the League

**“Home Place Habitat: Restoring the Farm with Native Plants”**

**Speaker: Marie Poteat**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at noon**

**Holy Trinity Haywood Duke Room**

**607 N. Greene Street, Greensboro, NC 27401**

**Doors open at 11:30**

**Buffet Lunch is \$11.00. See payment protocol on page 3.**

**Make reservations with Bonnie Kristoff (336-547-0824) or send email to [Reservations@lwvpt.org](mailto:Reservations@lwvpt.org) by April 10. Contact Bonnie for special needs.**

### Marie Poteat

Born and raised in Guilford County, Marie Poteat graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, with undergraduate and graduate degrees in the sciences. Those degrees earned her a career in the chemical and automotive industries, taking her all over the world. While her travels and moves to other places were exciting and life-changing, they also gave her a greater appreciation of the North Carolina she loves and the land she values.

Retiring from the corporate world where she was charged with the scientific quality of products, Marie chose to return to the land of her childhood, her family's land in Jamestown, land that had been worked by her parents to provide a living and to keep the family in food. Always wooded along the Deep River, by the time she returned the farmland above that river had become mostly untended. Large swaths of the once farmed fields stretched up to the homestead. She wondered what she would do with that land, how could she manage it? What would be the fate of that property? With a foundation of hard work, love of the land, appreciation of nature, and her background in the sciences, Marie went to work to create a wildlife preserve, returning the fields to their original grasses (the grasses that the indigenous peoples found in these lands of the Piedmont), restoring the land with native plants.

Marie is currently serving a second term on the Guilford County Parks and Recreation Commission after serving on the Guilford County Open Space Committee for a number of years. She is a spokesperson for Audubon and serves on the board of their local chapter. She is also a member of the North Carolina Native Plant Society and other groups promoting use of native plants. Marie is a member of LWVPT and sits on the Environmental Roundtable.

Please refer to this page when you need to contact a board member. When emails are shared by two people, each will get the message.

### Board of Directors (2018-2019)

**President:**

**Vicki White-Lawrence** (2018-20)  
336-643-7676 c:336-324-7267  
[president@lwwpt.org](mailto:president@lwwpt.org)

**Vice-President:**

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**Secretary:**

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**Sandra Colyer** (2018-20)  
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**President Emeritus:**

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**Adjuncts to the Board (non-voting, to be included in all board communications and may attend board meetings at their discretion):**

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[SallyAustinProject@lwwpt.org](mailto:SallyAustinProject@lwwpt.org)

The board of directors of the LWVPT also serves as the board of directors of the LWVPT Education Fund. The meetings are separate but usually on the same day. Members are welcome to attend either or both meetings.

## Message from the President -- April 2019

It is hard to believe that I am nearing the end of my first year as President of LWVPT!!!! April is the last month for Lunch with the League and Voter Impact until the fall. We will begin again in earnest in September, although we have lots of planning to do during the summer. (We hold our Board Orientation in August, and some roundtables and committees will hold meetings during the summer as well.) We will review information you have shared with us via the evaluation forms after our lunch meetings and we welcome any other suggestions you'd like to share.

We have had a busy year, and you will be able to read all about it when you receive your Invitation to the LWVPT Annual Meeting later this month (around April 21). That invitation (which you will receive via email) will include a workbook with reports from all of our roundtables and committees. It will include the slate of officers for the coming year and our proposed budget. I hope you will take time to read about all of the things that have been accomplished this year. Perhaps it will inspire you to check out some of the roundtables, or get involved in different ways in the coming year.

I also hope you will consider attending this Annual Meeting. Like our Lunch With the League programs, it will be held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Greensboro, but unlike the lunches, it will begin at 5:30 pm with a Wine Social. This will be followed by dinner and a presentation about the U.S. Constitution, and then our business session, culminating with election of new officers and Board members. Festivities will conclude by 8 pm.

Another opportunity for you to get more involved, meet more LWVPT members as well as League members from across the state presents itself with the League of Women Voters of North Carolina Convention to be held May 17 - 19 in Chapel Hill. Based on our membership, (currently we have the largest membership of any of the NC Leagues) LWVPT can have as many as 19 delegates to the convention. However, more than that number may attend, and I hope you will consider it. I plan to be there, and I know there will be others from our League as well. Some sessions will be held at the Sheraton Chapel Hill and some at the UNC School of Government. Room reservations are due by April 17 and convention registration by May 1. If you want more information, you will find it at the LWVNC website ([www.lwvnc.org](http://www.lwvnc.org)). If you want to talk with me about it in terms of sharing rides, lodging, etc, please email me ( [President@lwvpt.org](mailto:President@lwvpt.org)). If I don't know the answer, I will help you find it.

Hoping to see everyone soon! Our April Lunch with the League will be a good one, and then we can gather again for entertainment, good food and business at our Annual Meeting in May!!!

*Vicki White-Lawrence, President*

### Reservations for: Lunch With the League on April 16, 2019

To pay by check, please print out and complete this form and mail to:

The League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad

PO Box 9721

Greensboro, NC 27429

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations @ \$11.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian option \_\_\_\_\_

LWVPT members and guests are asked to prepay for lunch at our Lunch with the League meetings by mailing a check to LWVPT for \$11.00 or paying online with a credit card or via Pay Pal. Those not having lunch simply preregister as usual by calling or emailing Bonnie Kristoff, 336-547-0824 or [bbklunch@gmail.com](mailto:bbklunch@gmail.com) or following the instructions sent with the email message. These procedures expedite the check-in process and make certain payment is made for a reserved lunch.

## Events for April and May

*Sunday, April 14th 3-5 pm*

**New Member Orientation.** Here is a chance for you to learn about the League’s history, scope, and activities. This event is for new members, but anyone may attend. Just let Jean know so we are prepared for the number of people who show up!

*Benjamin Branch Library, 1530 Benjamin Parkway, Greensboro*

*Contact Jean Alsup [jalsup1@triad.rr.com](mailto:jalsup1@triad.rr.com).*

*May 17-19*

**LWVNC Convention 2019** will be held in Chapel Hill, NC. This is the biennial gathering during which we will review our priorities and vote on the details to guide our activities from 2019 to 2021. Meet League members from around NC. Discuss, complain, socialize, lead. Read about the convention on line <https://lwnvc.org/convention/> Scroll down the page for details. Contact Vicki White –Lawrence ([president@lwnvpt.org](mailto:president@lwnvpt.org)) with questions or for help in coordinating travel, accommodations etc..

*May 21*

**LWVPT Annual Meeting!** 5:30 pm at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church . Workbook with reports will arrive later this month.

### New members

We would like to welcome the following new members for March:  
Lucia Colton-Brooks and Sallie Hayes-Williams. We are so pleased you chose to join us and hope to see you at one of our activities soon!

### **So the League is nonpartisan. Does that mean we're not political?**

No. We're nonpartisan in that we do not support or oppose any party or candidate. Via our Voter Guides and forums we bring the issues to ALL candidates with neutral questions that do not suggest a right or wrong answer. Voters, after hearing or reading their responses, decide who gets their vote. We are political in that, after study and consensus, we take positions on issues, we educate people and we advocate on behalf of those issues.

## “The Bail Trap: American Ransom”

April 30, 6 - 7:15 pm

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

2105 West Market Street, Greensboro

Snacks provided

Please join the Social Justice Roundtable for a free screening of “The Bail Trap: American Ransom,” a multimedia series highlighting the need to reform the bail system in America. Don’t miss this compelling and informative film and discussion.

*A few things to think about before you see the film:*

- Bail is a contract agreement between the court and the accused to come back for their trial. This agreement can include a phone call reminder from the court or people being released on their own accord, but most cities, counties, states and the federal government currently require money bail.
- The United States and the Philippines are the only countries with a for-profit bail industry.
- Seventy percent of Americans in local jails are being held pre-trial - meaning they have never been convicted of a crime and are legally presumed innocent - and we spend more than \$9 billion annually to keep them there.
- As many as 9 in 10 of those people are stuck in jail because they can’t afford to post bail.
- Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans are twice as likely to be stuck in jail because they cannot afford money bail.
- The Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits excessive bail. Yet, many bail amounts are excessive for someone without the financial means.
- In Washington, DC, nearly 88% of defendants are released without money bail. In that system, 88% of released defendants have made all scheduled court appearances and remained arrest-free while in the community pending trial. This is similar or better than average rates in money bail systems.
- The bail industry is backed by large insurance companies that underwrite roughly \$14 billion in bonds a year. The industry as a whole makes over \$1 billion annually.
- Felony and misdemeanor defendants unable to make bail were 13 percent more likely to be convicted and received sentences five months longer than equivalent defendants who were not detained pre-trial.

(the above courtesy of Brave New Films)



### Recycling Tip

To dispose of small plastic medication bottles and other small pieces of plastic do this:

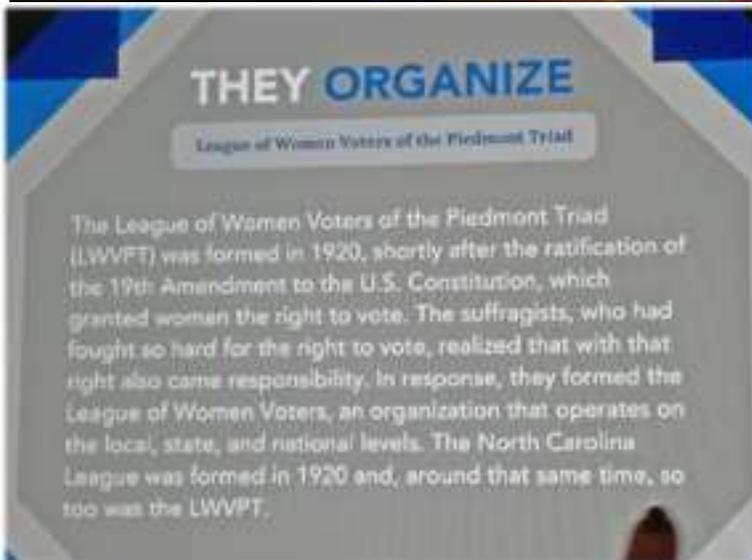
Save a moderate sized plastic container with a screw on lid (such as a hard plastic container from nuts, cookies, laundry detergent (rinsed and allowed to dry first). Place all of your plastic medicine bottles, the small plastic closures from bread or other products, plastic pull tabs etc into the larger container. When ready place this container with its lid securely on into the brown recycle can. This larger piece of plastic will make it through the recycling system and you will have kept those small bits of plastic out of the landfill.



At the left are photos of two panels at Barber Park, Greensboro. The panels are in a special room in the event center.

The exhibition was opened on January 25, 2019. You may want to stop at Barber Park to see the complete exhibition.

The League was recognized as They Organize. There are other panels about the LWVPT as well.



Make **tax deductible** donations to the "LWVPT Education Fund, Inc." online at [http://www.lwvpt.org/donate\\_form.html](http://www.lwvpt.org/donate_form.html)

or by mail to:  
 LWVPT Education Fund  
 P O Box 9721  
 Greensboro, NC 27429

Using the same information, you may also make **non-deductible** donations to "LWVPT" (operating fund), used for advocacy on issues.

**Naturalization Ceremonies from now to November**

- May 24, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.
- August 23, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.
- November 22, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

If you wish to help with voter registration of new citizens, please contact Gloria Harris (see p. 2 for contact information).



**@LWVPT is our Twitter handle. Please follow us, ask your friends to follow us and retweet.**

**If you have questions, ask our Twitter master, Tyler Daye: TylerCDaye@gmail.com.**

How does my friend get on the Alerts list?

If you have a group or a person you'd like to add to the list to receive our weekly Alert, you may send their email address to Lucia at [alerts@lwvpt.org](mailto:alerts@lwvpt.org). These Alerts go not only to LWVPT members, but to community groups and individuals.

### Gerrymandering and the Supreme Court

Links to videos or articles about gerrymandering and the court case from NC of which the LWVNC is a part. These links are online under News to Use, so you may click and go from there. ([http://www.lwvpt.org/news\\_to\\_use.html](http://www.lwvpt.org/news_to_use.html)). The tiny url link was made at the request of Marlene Pratto.

This Esquire magazine article includes an interview with Allison Riggs, the SCSJ attorney who represented the LWVNC in the Supreme Court case on gerrymandering: <http://tinyurl.com/yy7jcojv>

Read or listen to oral arguments from the March Supreme Court hearing on *Rucho v Common Cause* .

<https://www.commoncause.org/democracy-wire/scotus-transcript-rucho-v-common-cause-march-26-2019/>

Jennifer Bremer has shared the following link to a speech that President Reagan gave to the Republican Governor's Club in October, 1987 in which he lays out the argument against gerrymandering in no uncertain terms. Just more food for thought. The relevant portion of the video from President Reagan begins at 4:48 and goes for two minutes .

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkBrKQiwjI&t=475s>



## Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

Since our last VI report, the current administration's anti-immigrant measures have become even more harsh, including cutting off aid to El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, the source countries, with the highest violence rates in the world and the highest poverty rates in this hemisphere. Roberta Jacobs, former Ambassador to Mexico, resigned last year. On "The World" (carried on WFDD) she said that it is difficult to defend the administration's policies.

"Fact-free policy-making" describes two bills proposed in North Carolina. There is a third bill we hope you'll join us in supporting.

NC House Bill 135 "Government Immigration Compliance" would, in part:

- prohibit law enforcement officers from using a community identification card to check a person's address or identity;
- prevent UNC System colleges and universities from having policies to protect student information from law enforcement, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE);
- require the NC Department of Public Safety to have a 287(g) agreement with ICE to require Highway Patrol and other state police to enforce federal immigration law; and
- require local schools to make sure every company they contract with has checked the work authorization status of all of that company's employees with E-Verify, and take funding away from school districts that don't comply.

NC House Bill 370 "Require Sheriff Cooperation with ICE" would deny local law enforcement the authority to set policy in their own office, in part by:

- ordering all NC sheriffs to "comply with, honor and fulfill any request made" by ICE to hold individuals who have had their criminal charges disposed of, or who have made bond, up to 48 hours beyond the normal timetable for release;
- allowing anyone who thinks a local law enforcement agency is not honoring these ICE requests to take the agency to court, with the associated attorney's fees and court costs paid by the locality and a mandatory civil penalty, also paid by the locality, of \$1,000-\$1,500 for the first offense of not honoring these ICE requests (and an additional \$1,000-\$1,500 every day until the agency honors that specific ICE request) and \$25,000-\$25,500 for each subsequent offense of not honoring an ICE request (and an additional \$25,000-\$25,500 every day until the agency honors that specific ICE request.)
- prohibiting local law enforcement from barring federal immigration officers from local jails or other detention facilities, whether or not the federal immigration officers have any judicial orders or arrest warrant or probable cause related to any person currently housed there; and
- requiring local law enforcement to determine the immigration status of any person who is arrested for ANY criminal charge (not just felonies and impaired driving offenses), and to notify ICE if the person is not a legal resident or citizen.

*These bills usurp local decision-making power and the authority of local law enforcement, force local and state entities to do the work and incur the cost of federal immigration enforcement, and erode the trust between immigrants and local law enforcement, resulting in our immigrant neighbors being too fearful to seek help or report crimes, ultimately rendering our entire community less safe and secure.*

House Bill 319 "In-State Tuition Equity" would allow undocumented immigrant students in K-12 schools to pay in-state tuition at state colleges and universities to which they are admitted and enrolled if they graduated from NC high schools and meet academic and residency requirements and

pursue legal status. *Out-of- state tuition is nearly 300% higher than in-state tuition. The bill would allow North Carolina to capitalize on our investment of educating K-12 students, further the state's goal of increasing the education of its residents and have economic benefits by ensuring that the workforce is prepared for the jobs of the future.*

Urge your NC representatives to SUPPORT the Tuition Equity Bill (HB 319) and to OPPOSE the anti-immigrant bills (HB 370 and HB 135). Locate contact information on YOUR representatives by going to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), hovering over "Elections" at the top of the screen, clicking on "Find Your Elected Officials" and entering your street address and 5 digit zipcode.

This roundtable presented for the public "War on Immigrants: What's Going On?" April 3 at First Friends Meeting for a larger-than-anticipated audience. The three panelists and moderator provided context for understanding current immigration policy and implementation.

Panelists were Emily Estrada, assistant professor of sociology at High Point University; David Long, past chair of the NC State Bar Immigration Law Specialization Committee, who has been practicing immigration law since 1998; and Diya Abdo, associate professor of English in the Department of English and Creative Writing at Guilford College. Moderator Jeremy McKinney, founder of McKinney Immigration Law, is currently national Treasurer of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).

Jeremy set the tone in his opening explanation: "There is not a 'War' on illegal immigrants but there are roadblocks getting in the way of a legal immigration process." The presentations dealt with some of the roadblocks and addressed, in Diya Abdo's words, the fear and dehumanization caused by "the bombardment of xenophobic, refugee-phobic discourse."

The precisely-timed program included questions from a thoughtful, engaged audience. Join us in August for a focus on *why* this is happening: In whose interest is this War on Immigrants, as we follow the money into the immigration incarceration complex and see where it leads; and for Lunch with the League in November: What would a fair, humane, transparent immigration policy look like? As part of this: How has the U.S. contributed to the numbers of immigrants from Central America through U.S. policies? What kinds of policies could help people remain in their own countries? What are the obstacles to getting such policies passed as well as possibilities to overcome them? How can League members help?

*Whitney Grove Vanderwerff*

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### **Environment Round Table March meeting with Energy Representative**

#### **By Judy Hoag and Marlene Pratto**

The Environment Round Table met at St. Andrews Episcopal Church at 4:00 PM on March 7, 2019 to hear Davis Montgomery of Duke Energy. The meeting was conducted as a question and answer session as the participants had a lot of questions about the issues of coal ash, Duke Energy's position on clean energy and other concerns. Mr. Montgomery provided information about Duke's efforts to close coal ash waste sites, how coal ash basins now have seven layers of lining and that Duke has closed 30 coal fired stations across six states. Fourteen of those closures have been in North Carolina. Montgomery confirmed that acid rain has been declining as a result of the closing or conversion of coal fired plants.

In 2018 storm damage was at a record high and will likely lead to a rate increase to recover the response costs which greatly exceeded the budgeted amount. Currently, Duke Energy has 12 nuclear plants across their service area providing 52% of our energy. 3% of our energy comes from solar plants. Mr. Montgomery stated that more solar plants will be constructed as solar power becomes more cost effective. North Carolina has a mandate against the use of wind power. One of Duke's major concerns is their current distribution system. Duke is focusing on "hardening" their system to rebound from storms. 2025 is the date Duke has set for a 12.5% conversion to renewable energy.

It was a very informative meeting and all were impressed with the speaker's openness to discuss controversial issues and regulations.

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Email: [lwvptmail@gmail.com](mailto:lwvptmail@gmail.com)  
<http://lwvpt.org>

Time-Sensitive material

**Lunch with the League**  
**April 16, 2019**  
**Please make a reservation**  
**by**  
**April 10**

President *Vicki White-Lawrence*  
Vice-president Anna Fesmire  
Secretary *Sara White*  
Treasurer Sandra Colyer

*“The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose political parties or candidates.”*