



VOTER IMPACT

LWV OF THE PIEDMONT TRIAD
PO BOX 9721 GREENSBORO, NC 27429
PHONE: 336-274-0202
EMAIL: LWVPTMAIL@GMAIL.COM
HTTP://LWVPT.ORG
VOLUME XXXI ISSUE 5 FEBRUARY 2019

Lunch with the League “A Troubling Curriculum” Bonnie Bechard

Tuesday, February 19, 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 by February 13. Contact Bonnie for special needs.

"A Troubling Curriculum" - a report of findings from a 2018 study of North Carolina schools receiving vouchers will be the Lunch with the League topic on February 19, 2019. Bonnie Bechard, author of the study conducted by the Lower Cape Fear League Public Education Action Team will be presenting. Bonnie stated that beginning in 2017, her Public Education Action Team decided to look at early childhood education and the relatively new "Opportunity Scholarship" program. The group thought they would simply get the facts, perhaps make some best practice suggestions and write a report. The goal, she explained, was simply to familiarize themselves with the subject in order to be able to discuss it intelligently with their legislators. They had no idea of the findings that would be uncovered. In addition to there not being educational standards such as teacher certification, school accreditation, or testing, they found that there were no curriculum standards. Perhaps the biggest shock uncovered by the study, according to Bonnie was that the majority of the vouchers were going to schools whose curriculum was an impediment to students being accepted at the nation's top colleges. The Action Team concluded that our tax dollars are going to schools that do not provide a "sound education" that is required by our state constitution.



Bonnie Bechard

Bonnie Bechard and her husband live in Leland, NC. She holds a BA in

Continued on p. 4

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

Vice-President:

Anna Fesmire (2018-19)
(Chair, Social Justice Roundtable)
336-288-6607
vicepresident2@lwwpt.org

Secretary:

Sara White (2018-19)
336-253-1319
sec@lwwpt.org

Treasurer, Acting Voter Services Committee Chair

Sandra Colyer (2018-20)
336-991-5443
treasurer@lwwpt.org, VoterService@lwwpt.org

President Emeritus:

Tracy Nash (2018-2019)
336-686-4048
presemeritis@lwwpt.org

Elected Board (Directors):

Heidi Fleshman (2018-19), E-mail Manager
336-543-6708
EMailMgr@lwwpt.org

Ann Shaw (2017-2019), Chair, Health Roundtable
765-520-5939
hrt@lwwpt.org

Jean Alsup (2018-20), Co-Chair, Membership
336-723-7249
membership@lwwpt.org

Andy Stern (2018-2020), Co-chair, Fair Elections Roundtable
336-707-4930
fer@lwwpt.org

Rob Luisana (2019-2020)
336-230-2007
Director1@lwwpt.org

Catherine Magid (2017-2019)
336-294-4455
Director2@lwwpt.org

Appointed for one-year terms (2018-19) (Directors):

Tyler Daye, Twitter Master
(336) 457-208
tweeter@lwwpt.org

Addy Jeffrey, Chair, Social Media
336-473-1100
SocialMedia@lwwpt.org

Judith Hoag, Lunch with the League Coordinator,
Co-Chair, Environment Roundtable
336-282-7382
LunchCoordinator@lwwpt.org

Marlene Pratto, Webmaster, VI Editor
336-275-4422
webvi@lwwpt.org

Mary Ellen Shiflett
336-852-0905
Director3@lwwpt.org

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

Janice Siebert, Chair, Nominating Committee
336-282-9702, 443-831-4327
nominate@lwwpt.org

Dick Feulner, Co-Chair, Environment Roundtable
336-643-5680
ert1@lwwpt.org

Dot Kearns, Co-chair, Public Education Roundtable
336-887-6177
per@lwwpt.org

Bonnie Kristoff, Lunch with the League Reservations
336-547-0824
bbklunch@gmail.com

Ellen Weiner, Chair, Publicity
336-317-3423
publicity@lwwpt.org

Willie Taylor, Co-Chair, Public Education Roundtable
336-855-9399
per@lwwpt.org

Gloria Harris, Chair, Voter Registration for Naturalization Ceremonies
336-358-1401
VoterRegistration@lwwpt.org

Barbara Carter, Chair, Voter Registration
336-299-5680
VoterRegistration@lwwpt.org

Bob Kollar (2017-2019), LWVPT Correspondent
336-299-6432
bobkollar@peoplepc.com

Whitney Vanderwerff, Chair, Immigration Reform Roundtable
336-482-7974
irt@lwwpt.org

Peggy Ferebee, Co-Chair, Membership Committee
336-643-6138, 336-254-1417
membership@lwwpt.org

Lynn Grigni, Education Fund Treasurer
336-285-6717
edfundtreasurer@lwwpt.org

Gary Kenton
336-897-0283
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

I have really been enjoying articles I have seen this month acknowledging all of the African American scientists and inventors for many items we use on a daily basis. It is wonderful to realize how many there are, especially since we just take so many for granted, without even thinking about who developed them.

As the League of Women Voters prepares to celebrate some significant milestones, we are having to face some hard truths about our journey. In another part of this issue of VI you will see a copy of an ad that the LWVPT Board of Directors placed in the program for the International Civil Rights Center and Museum Annual Gala (to be held Feb. 9). Individual Board members paid for the ad, and we used copy from a blog post by LWVUS President Chris Carson and LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase. As you will see, the prevailing theme is “We Will Do Better” (see p. 5).

LWVPT has as a goal to become more diverse as we go forward in building a stronger, more inclusive democracy, and will welcome help from all of our members in achieving this goal.

We are blessed in our area to have all kinds of programs available to us. When possible, we make them happen. Other times, we partner with other groups to help make them available. We strive to make our members aware of opportunities as we know about them. Feel free to share community events so we can spread the word! We can include them in our weekly Alerts if information isn't available when we publish our monthly VI.

One upcoming event we are helping sponsor. “Origins of the Radical Right and the Crisis of Our Democracy” promises to be thought-provoking and will take place on Feb. 25 at UNC-G. This program is presented in conjunction with the UNC-G chapter of the American Association of University Professors and the UNC-G Association of Retired Faculty (see p 8 for more information).

Another upcoming event, “Community Conversation: The Police and African Americans,” will feature Anna Fesmire as a panelist. Anna is our LWVPT Vice President and Chair of our Social Justice Roundtable (see p.4 for more information).

Vicki White-Lawrence, President

Reservations for: Lunch With the League on February 19, 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 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.

Continued from page 1

history and Masters of Education from the University of NC, Chapel Hill. After teaching for a year in Winston-Salem, Bonnie took an administrative position for the General Administration of the University of North Carolina and then as Director of Student Loans at UNC-Chapel Hill. She was on the faculty of the National Association of Colleges and Universities Business Officers and gave presentations across the country on various aspects of student loans, including credit reporting, updates on legislation, and student loan collections. She was also national chair of the users group for student loan collections systems.

After retirement from UNC-Chapel Hill, Bonnie and her husband moved back to Leland to be close to their youngest grandchildren. She is involved with their education and volunteers in their schools. She joined the League immediately upon returning to Leland. Bonnie founded the Chatham County Literacy Council and assisted in setting up the Naturalization Curriculum. She stated that "civics is my real love and helping these wonderful immigrants get their citizenship was the most rewarding work of my life."

You are invited to attend a Community Conversation.

"The Justice and Peacemaking Committee of Guilford Park Presbyterian Church (GPPC) is sponsoring a public "Community Conversation: The Police and African Americans" in honor of Black History Month and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It will be held at the church, 2100 Fernwood Drive, on Wednesday, February 27, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!

This public discussion will be initiated by a panel consisting of Sgt. Korey Johnson, a member of both GPPC and the Greensboro Police Department; the Reverend Frank Dew, a retired pastor, and *Anna Fesmire, Vice President of the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad and Chair of the League's Social Justice Roundtable.*"

New members

We would like to welcome the new members who joined us in January: Cammie Berrier, Charlotte Steele, Lisa Elkins, and Allison Hassell. We hope to see you at an event 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.

This is a copy of the ad that the LWVPT Board of Directors placed in the program for the February 9 International Civil Rights Center and Museum Annual Gala, whose theme is "Beyond the Barrier." Individual Board members paid for this ad, and we used copy from a blog post by LWVUS President Chris Carson and LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase. LWVPT is proud to support the ICRCM.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE PIEDMONT TRIAD**

Even during the Civil Rights movement, the League was not as present as we should have been. While activists risked life and limb to register black voters in the South, the League's work and our leaders were late in joining to help protect all voters at the polls. It wasn't until 1966 that we reached our first position to combat discrimination. Still, our focus on social policy was from afar -- not on the front lines.

Today, we acknowledge this shortcoming and that we have more work to do.

The League of Women Voters serves millions of voters in underrepresented communities across America every year, but as an organization, our membership does not always reflect the communities we serve. As we approach our 100th anniversary, we are not only striving for better, we will do better.

**WE ARE NOT ONLY
STRIVING FOR
BETTER.**

WE WILL DO BETTER.

We have embraced a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy. We know policy alone does not solve a problem. The League is committed to living our values and prioritizing inclusion.

Today, we invite all people, regardless of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, or race, to join us as we commit to righting the wrongs of our past and building a stronger, more inclusive democracy.

2020-- THE YEAR OF THE WOMAN! BE A PART OF PLANNING THE CELEBRATION!

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina and the LWVPT have a lot to celebrate in 2020. Not only was the 19th Amendment to the Constitution ratified August 18, 1920, but the North Carolina League was founded on the steps of the Guilford County Courthouse on October 7, 1920, by a young progressive Jewish woman from Goldsboro, NC, who had family and friends in Greensboro.

You are invited to be part of a committee to plan for the celebration of a woman's right to vote and the founding of LWVNC. The first meeting will be held Tuesday, February 26, place to be determined (contact Willie or Mary for location). Let's make this an unforgettable celebration!

It took 72 years of constant work by suffragists to achieve the right for women to vote and it wasn't easy! After the 19th Amendment passed Congress in 1919, it had to be ratified by 36 states. The National American Women Suffrage Association created the League of Women Voters of the US at their annual meeting in February, 1920, believing that the Amendment would be ratified by summer's end and the LWV would be ready to register women to vote in the 1920 election. It wasn't that simple! By summer 1920, another vote was needed and only North Carolina and Tennessee were left. North Carolina voted not to ratify, leaving only Tennessee. With the arrival of the suffragists and antisuffragists to Nashville in mid-July, 1920, the drama (or fight) commenced. On a hot, steamy August day when the battle appeared almost lost, a young legislator from East Tennessee received a letter from his mother instructing him to do what was right and, because of this mother, the young legislator, knowing he would not be re-elected, changed his vote to a "yea" and thus ratified the 19th Amendment.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to plan a 2020 Celebration in our area to commemorate these two great accomplishments.

Willie Taylor, LWVNC, Steering Committee member (wtaylor001@triad.rr.com)

Mary Eubanks, LWVPT Committee Chair (mcceubanks@gmail.com)

Naturalization Ceremonies from now to November

February 22, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

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).

Carolyn Allen and the League honored

The first exhibition dedicated to the accomplishments and contributions of women to society in NC was opened on Jan. 25 at the event center in Barber Park, Greensboro. Individuals and organizations were recognized. Carolyn Allen was the first female mayor of Greensboro and was recognized as “she leads”. The League was recognized as “she organizes”.

Tracy Nash was contacted by the planning committee and provided a lot of information about the League. The facts were used for an interactive display in the exhibit space. Thanks to Tracy and congratulations to Carolyn Allen and to all members of the LWVPT.

Environment Roundtable

The Environment Roundtable met on January 4, 2019 with 15 individuals in attendance including Dennis and Lynn Burnette. The Burnettes presented an excellent program on the monarch butterfly that included an excellent selection of pictures taken by Dennis. Populations of the monarch have been declining for several years. The decline is the result of a number of factors with the loss of suitable habitats being one of the major concerns.

In recent years, many members of the public have become involved in various efforts to help stabilize the monarch population. Dennis encouraged individuals to plant native nectar sources and the milkweed plants needed by the monarch larva. While significant populations of monarch butterflies migrate to Mexico, migration does occur to other areas such as the southern United States. It appears that some individuals in Mexico are recognizing that ecotourism just to visit monarch refuge areas is an economically attractive industry.

Meetings of the environment roundtable are open to all members. The meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 4PM at St. Andrews Episcopal Fellowship Hall, 2105 W. Market St. .

Judy Hoag and Dick Feulner, Co-Chairs, Environment Roundtable

ASK THE LWVPT

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@lwpvt.org. These Alerts go not only to LWVPT members, but to community groups and individuals.

Make **tax deductible** donations to the "LWVPT Education Fund, Inc." online at http://www.lwpvt.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.



@LWVPT is now on Twitter!

Please follow us and tell your friends to do so, too.
Questions? Contact our Twitter Master, Tyler Daye: TylerCDaye@gmail.com

ORIGINS OF THE RADICAL RIGHT AND THE CRISIS OF OUR DEMOCRACY



Dr. Nancy MacLean

is the William H. Chafe professor of History and Public Policy at Duke University and author of

Democracy In Chains: The Deep History Of The Radical Right's Stealth Plan For America

a finalist for the National Book Award and the winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award in Current Affairs.

WHY KOCH CAMPUS FUNDING IS A TROJAN HORSE



Ralph Wilson

is co-founder and research director of *UnKoch My Campus*, a cooperative campaign to expose and expel undue donor influence in universities.

Ralph is a mathematician turned resistance researcher with interests that include the corporate weaponization of academic networks.

WHEN

February 25, 7:00 pm

WHERE

EUC Auditorium, UNCG

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SPONSORS:

**UNC Greensboro
AAUP**

**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE
PIEDMONT
TRIAD**

**UNC Greensboro
ASSOCIATION
OF RETIRED
FACULTY**

PARKING:

**USE THE WALKER
AVENUE PARKING DECK**

MORE INFO:

uncgreensboroaaup

Why health care reform matters

The U.S. health care system should provide a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost to all U.S. residents. Basic care includes disease prevention, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute long-term care, mental health care, as well as health promotion and education. Health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services and delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level. (from the LWV website)

What we (LWVPT Health RT) are doing

By February 2018 a LWVPT healthcare working group was attempting to aid a push for Medicaid expansion in NC; a few months later the Health RT was resurrected to study health and health care issues in general. In the last nine months the LWVPT Health Roundtable worked on several presentation ideas to engage and educate the public. A presentation prepared by Rob Luisana was designed to generate thought and discussion about what American health care should entail. From the Health RT booth at Greensboro Pride Health RT chair Ann Shaw and others distributed bookmarks on Healthcare issues along with discussing healthcare and encouraging voters to look at candidates' health care policy positions. **The Health RT will host the March LWL featuring Dr. Marian Earls and Erika Ferguson** (Director of Healthy Opportunities for the NC DHHS). **They will discuss health care and social determinants of health.**

The political journey for US healthcare reform is now more than 100 years old. Milestones include enactment of Medicaid and Medicare in 1965 and the Affordable Care Act in 2010. The ACA continues to be the focus of public debate. The Health RT, with help from sponsors, is hosting Dr. Jonathan Oberlander, an internationally known speaker for both his expertise and speaking style, to address lessons learned from our journey to reform.

Unfinished Journey: The Future of Health Care Reform

begins at **7:30 pm March 26th in the Union Square Campus Auditorium (124 E. Gate City Blvd.)** and is offered free to the public through the generosity of our **sponsors: Cone Health Foundation, Health Care for all NC, and the Sally Austin Citizen Education Fund of LWVPT.**



Dr. Oberlander is Professor and Chair of Social Medicine in the School of Medicine and Professor of Health Policy and Management in the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research focuses on health care policy, health reform, and Medicare. He is the author of *The Political Life of Medicare* and has commented on healthcare reform for a number of media outlets, including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, NPR, BBC, Australian Broadcasting Company, CBS News, Politico, and PBS.

Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

In "The Dems Take Charge," *New York Review of Books* February 21, Michael Tomasky analyzes the changes in Congressional committee structure and purview as the Trump administration's anti-immigrant initiatives persist. [Note especially his conclusion as to House Democrats' strategy vs. Mitch McConnell.] Tomasky writes that the new chairman of the Judiciary Committee, New York's Jerry Nadler, "will likely hold hearings on the border crisis and the family separation policy, hoping to learn how the policy was arrived at and implemented." Tomasky describes the investigative mandate of Elijah Cummings of Maryland who heads the House Oversight and Reform Committee as "quite broad" noting that last year after the election Cummings sent fifty-one letters to the White House requesting information on everything from the Trump administration's handling of immigration to security clearances to the travel of Cabinet secretaries. California's Adam Schiff heads the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Tomasky says that he will be the "go-to articulator of the importance of core American values like the rule of law, election integrity, respect for human rights, and anti-corruption as well as broader foreign policy challenges like the rise of authoritarianism around the world."

These are core values of the League roundtables. In today's news, the Pentagon sends an additional 3,750 troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to install another 150 miles of concertina wire and "provide a large new system of mobile surveillance and monitoring" according to Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan. The total number of active-duty troops on the border will be 4,350. U.S. Representative Will Hurd, Republican from Texas, represents two-thirds of the border with Mexico. He states that Trump's wall is the most expensive and least effective way to do border security. The lone black Republican in the House chamber, he collaborated with Representative Pete Aguilar, Democrat of California, on legislation that would have secured a path to citizenship for Dreamers.

The Washington Post describes the recent sweep across eastern North Carolina by a Trump-appointed prosecutor who chose not to focus on the ballot-tampering allegations in Bladen County. The *Post* article profiles several of the immigrants picked up in the sweep, many still in pajamas. One was Roberto Hernandez-Cuarenta, charged with illegal voting after he filled out a registration application at the DMV and was told when he went to the polls that he was registered to vote. He has lived in the United States legally since 1992. He is now held in an ICE detention center in Georgia. His defense lawyer, Andrew McCoppin, states, "It's unfortunate that the government is expending resources on prosecuting long-term legal residents who didn't realize they couldn't vote and were voting because they felt pride in the U.S. Deporting them would be such a disproportionate penalty for a minor offense."

This roundtable, Immigration Policy Reform, plans three 2019 programs for the public. (1) The first is Wednesday, April 3, 6-7:30 pm at First Friends Meeting, 2100 West Friendly Ave. Greensboro with the working title "War on Immigrants: What's Going On?" and includes, but isn't limited to, what's happening in immigration courts. Panelists are Emily Estrada, High Point University; Diya Abdo, Guilford College; and David Long, legal representative. (2) In August, focus on *why* this is happening: In whose interest is this War on Immigrants? We will follow the money into the immigration incarceration complex and see where it leads. (3) 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 could League members help?

Our *Voter Impact* deadline falls just before the State of the Union address. We anticipate working together with strengthened resolve.

Whitney Grove Vanderwerff

League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad
PO Box 9721 Greensboro, NC 27429
Phone: 336-274-0202
Email: lwwptmail@gmail.com
<http://lwwpt.org>

Time-Sensitive material

Lunch with the League
February 19, 2019
Please make a reservation
by
February 13

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.”