



VOTER IMPACT

LWV OF THE PIEDMONT TRIAD
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HTTP://LWVPT.ORG
VOLUME XXXI ISSUE 6 MARCH 2019

Lunch with the League

“More than Medical Care: New Focus, Bright Future”
Speakers: Erika Ferguson and Dr. Marian Earls

Tuesday, March 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 March 13. Contact Bonnie for special needs.



Marian Earls



Erika Ferguson

See biographies on page 4 and 5

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)

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Vicki White-Lawrence (2018-20)
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Gary Kenton
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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 -- March 2019

March is **Women's History Month** – commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history.

Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the president to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the *National Women's History Project*, congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the president to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, each president has issued proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

I have mixed feelings about having Women's History Month. On the one hand, I absolutely love reading about all the women who came before us, who blazed the trail to make our lives easier with their inventions or shattered glass ceilings to pave the way for us to have access to places forbidden to us before.

But on the other hand, it seems a shame that we must dedicate a month of the year to celebrate women instead of having them as a natural part of the history we -- and our children -- are taught in school. (I have the same issue with Black History month. We don't need white history month because every month is white history -- mostly male history -- month.) I have nothing against men, but I wish we ALL had equal rights!!!!

On March 5 I traveled to Raleigh in support of the introduction of bills asking the NC General Assembly to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, which was passed by the U.S. Senate on March 22, 1972. It was then sent to the states for ratification. (**First proposed by the National Woman's political party in 1923, the Equal Rights Amendment was to provide for the legal equality of the sexes and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.**) It needs to be ratified by three-fourths (38) of the state legislators. To date, 37 have done so. Wouldn't it be wonderful if North Carolina was the 38th?!?

Continued on page 5

Reservations for: Lunch With the League on March 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 Biographies of LWL speakers

Erika Ferguson is Director of Healthy Opportunities for the NC Department of Health and Human Services and leads the Department's portfolio of work addressing the non-medical drivers of health including housing, food, transportation and interpersonal safety. She began her career managing a homeless shelter in the Mississippi Delta and has since served in a variety of capacities across healthcare and human services including positions at Duke University and the World Health Organization. Ms. Ferguson holds a BS in Public Health from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and Duke University and a Master of Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Marian Earls, a Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician, was the Medical Director of Guilford Child Health 1994-2012 and is now the Lead Pediatric Consultant for Community Care of North Carolina as well as a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics for UNC School of Medicine and Medical Director of the Neonatal Follow-up Clinic (multidisciplinary) for Women's Hospital's Level III NICU. She is also current lead on the state CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant and the clinical director of the now state-wide Assuring Better Child Health and Development Project (funded by the Commonwealth Fund) to integrate developmental services into pediatric practice.

Dr. Earls has served on many boards and committees, co-chaired several state task forces (currently the NC Institute of Medicine Task Force on Early Childhood Mental Health), and served as president (2008-2010) of North Carolina Pediatric Society. Additionally, she is an active contributor to the work of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Earls has been engaged in national initiatives related to pediatric health care and has been faculty on several national learning partnerships (e.g., the AAP Bright Futures Preventive Services Improvement Project Learning Collaborative). Via her Setting the Stage for Success grant from the Commonwealth Fund, she provided technical assistance in 2006-2007 to five states to implement developmental/behavioral screening and surveillance.

Dr. Earls received an A.B. in Biology (College of the Holy Cross), a MTS (Harvard Divinity School), and a M.D. (University of Massachusetts). She completed her Pediatric Residency at Moses Cone Hospital in 1987 and her Fellowship in Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics in 1988.

New members

We would like to welcome the following new members who joined us in February: Kameha Natividad-Robinson, Phyllis Goldman, and Joy Woods. We hope you will enjoy being part of the League of Women Voters and we will see you at one of our upcoming activities.

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.

[From LWVPT Health Roundtable:](#)

Unfinished Journey: The Future of Health Care Reform—a presentation by **Dr. Jonathan Oberlander** at 7:30 pm March 26th in the **Union Square Campus Auditorium** (124 E. Gate City Blvd., Greensboro, NC) and is offered free to the public through the generosity of our **sponsors: Cone Health Foundation, Health Care for all NC, and Sally Austin Citizen Education Fund of LWVPT.** (See February issue of *Voter Impact* for speaker bio and details on event at <http://www.lwvpt.org/Newsletter.html>.)

PUBLIC EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM

The Public Education Roundtable's final planned program for this year will be a discussion of the book "Something Must be Done About Prince Edward County", to be held March 28th from 2-4 pm in the Brotherhood Room at New Garden Friends Meeting, 801 New Garden Road, Greensboro. The book is a riveting account of the 1959 closing of the public schools in this rural county in Virginia to avoid integration. The result of this action reverberated around the state and nation. The discussion will include an exploration of what is occurring today and the similarities to those actions over 50 years ago.

The Public Education Roundtable has a limited number of books for loan. If you would like to borrow a copy, please contact Carolyn Bunker at cbunker260@aol.com or you can order your own book from Amazon for a small price. We invite you to attend the discussion even if you have not read the book.

Dot Kearns and Willie Taylor, co-chairs

Continued from page 3 Message

How appropriate for Women's History Month that we have that opportunity!

Please consider contacting your representatives (contact information is at lwvpt.org) and ask them to support the bills. HB 271 and SB 184. You can find more information about the bills at <https://www.era-nc.org>

Thank you!

Vicki White-Lawrence, President

Vicki White-Lawrence and Barbara Carter in Raleigh, March 5, 2019



Report from our Treasurer

The Budget Committee met in February to draft the 2019-2020 budgets for the LWVPT General (Advocacy) Fund and Education Fund. Both budgets were sent to the Board of Directors for their review and will be included in the annual meeting workbook.

The newly formed Development Committee met and drafted a letter to accompany the Save the Date announcement card for Dr. Oberlander’s March 26th presentation. Donations to the LWVPT Education Fund are starting to arrive. The funds will help defray the expenses for this informative and timely event. If you have not donated, please consider a donation to the LWVPT Education Fund.

The LWVPT Education Fund applied for and received an \$800 LWVUS Grant to register new citizens as voters in 2019. Our thanks to Gloria Harris and Vicki White-Lawrence for their work on the grant submission!

Contributors to the LWVPT Education Funds in January and February include:

- Barbara Carter
- Peggy Ferebee
- Anna Fesmire
- Heidi Fleshman
- Lynn Grigni
- Tracy Nash
- Molly Mullin
- Martha Shafer
- Laurey Solomon

Make **tax deductible** donations to the
 "LWVPT Education Fund, Inc." online
 at 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.

Donations to all LWVPT funds can be made via the LWVPT.org website or by check following the mailing instructions in the box.

Respectfully,
Sandra Colyer, Treasurer

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.

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.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS. THE PROGRAM IS FREE. UNION SQUARE CAMPUS IS ON THE CORNER OF S. ELM and GATE CITY BLVD.

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

The "emergency" declared to justify the southern border wall is not real. (The disapproval resolution that would block President Trump's declaration of a national emergency to build his U.S.-Mexico border wall passed the House and will probably pass the Senate. But there are not enough votes in both chambers to override the presidential veto.)

But there is a real emergency in our community. In the recent sweep, ICE raids across North Carolina are targeting immigrant communities. These raids are creating an atmosphere of terror throughout our state and have created fear in children who are afraid to go to school thinking ICE may be coming to get them or their parents. Teachers, guidance counselors, administrators, faith communities, physical and mental health care providers as well as immigration attorneys are affected as they work with immigrants directly impacted by the vicious and inhumane ICE campaign.

Most of the time, ICE officers do not have criminal warrants signed by a judge. Local sheriffs do not have to honor detainer requests for violations of civil immigration law. New sheriffs in Mecklenburg and Durham have implemented a *written* policy requiring ICE to present a criminal judicial warrant. Will Guilford be next?

This roundtable presents for the public **"War on Immigrants: What's Going On?" April 3, 6-7:15 p.m. at First Friends Meeting, 2100 West Friendly Ave.** Three panelists deeply involved with immigrants will provide context for understanding current immigration policy and implementation. They will share experiences of some of our immigrant and refugee neighbors here in Greensboro.

Panelists are (1) Emily P. Estrada, assistant professor of sociology at High Point University whose overview of the recent history of immigration shows how Latinx immigrants fit into American's racial hierarchy as the current administration changes enforcement of immigration policies and laws; (2) David Long, who handles immigration cases out of his law practice in Jamestown. He has been in practice for over two decades and relates first-hand experience with immigrant crises; and (3) Diya Abdo, associate professor of English in the Department of English and Creative Writing at Guilford College. She is founder of Every Campus a Refuge which advocates for housing refugee families on college and university campus grounds and assisting them in resettlement.

Time is allocated for audience participation and for consideration of meaningful action steps.

A delegation from our roundtable met with Guilford County Sheriff Danny Rogers and assistant Catherine Netter on February 11. Gary Kenton has maintained a relationship with the Sheriff for some time; Gary opened the meeting explaining that we were there in support of the Sheriff. Addy Jeffrey gave him a document she had prepared, a 2010 study by Hannah Gill of UNC demonstrating the unreimbursed cost to municipalities of 287g; local taxpayers have been footing the bill. Gary referred to the Sheriff's statements during the 2018 campaign.

The Sheriff said that he does not detain people beyond the normal processing unless ordered by a judge. We informed him about our upcoming program for the public on April 3, "War on Immigrants? What's Going On?" He asked that we consider participating in a volunteer community outreach program.

In a follow-up thank you to Sheriff Rogers which included our names, Gary wrote, "We are grateful for your position stating that your focus is on upholding the law, not being an arm of federal immigration authorities. Our understanding is that your department holds people who are suspected of breaking the law but does not detain them beyond the normal processing unless ordered by a judge....We are interested in participating in the volunteer community outreach efforts that you outlined."

The most outrageous anti-immigrant measure proposed in North Carolina is House Bill 135, "Government Immigration Compliance," primary sponsors Representatives Cleveland, Presnell, Speciale, and Brody, filed February 20.

We are investigating reports that the National Guard, with troops in uniform assisting ICE agents, was directly involved in a February 5 raid in Sanford. If true, the National Guard troops were acting as de facto agents of ICE. We are trying to learn who authorized this deployment and its justification, if reports are accurate.

At the Guilford County delegation meeting with the public in Greensboro City Council chambers the evening of March 7, members of our group plan to speak in support of tuition equity for all students meeting academic and residency requirements.

Whitney Grove Vanderwerff

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING: WHAT IS IT? WHO CAN BE INVOLVED?

EVERYONE IN THE CITY OF GREENSBORO CAN BE INVOLVED!

Participatory Budgeting (PB) Greensboro is a democratic process that allows residents to decide how to spend \$500,000 worth of City funds - \$100,000 per City Council district. Residents submit ideas during the Idea Collection at **any of the Idea Collection sites** and people 14 and older vote for their favorite project. Projects with the most votes are funded.

What projects can be funded? **Capital projects or programs** can be funded through PB. Capital projects are one-time expenses and often involve infrastructure improvements. PB funds are not for on-going expenses, such as those that fund staff salaries and services, and cannot contradict existing City plans. Project costs are limited to \$100,000.

Idea Collection began on February 1st and will continue through March 31st. Idea Collection opportunities remaining:

City Sponsored

3/12/19 synerG (Action Greensboro, 12:00 noon)

3/20/19 Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Library, 6:30 – 8:00

3/23/19 IAC Election at the Greensboro Coliseum, 10:00 – 4:00

3/27/19 Smith Senior Center, 10:00 – 12:00

Partner Sponsored

3/5/19, DGI (Downtown Greensboro Incorporated) (HQ, 5:30 -7:00)

3/7/19, YWCA (YWCA, 3:00 – 4:00)

3/19/19, UNCG, (Maple Room of the Elliott University Center, 9:30 – 11:00)

3/24/19, Greensboro College, (Cowan Building Lobby), 3:00 – 4:00)

Environment Roundtable

The Environment Roundtable met on February 7, 2019 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Dr. Teresa Bratton, a Pediatric Allergist and Immunologist, and a LWVPT member, was the guest speaker.

Dr. Bratton's presentation was framed around four questions: "How has the prevalence of allergic diseases changed?", "What are the allergens in our environment?", "Do pollutants (man-made products) change the allergens?", and "Will Global Warming change our allergic environment?"

The presentation was fact-filled and fascinating. Join us on first Thursdays at 4 pm at St. Andrews Church. Our meetings are posted in the LWVPT online calendar at lwwpt.org.



President Vicki White-Lawrence in Raleigh

The letter below was sent on LWVPT letterhead to the Greensboro City Council by the LWVPT and signed by Vicki White-Lawrence, President.

Dear Mayor Vaughan and members of the Greensboro City Council:

The League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad is among the many organizations and individuals that have expressed concerns about the death of Marcus Deon Smith while in police custody. Given the complexity of the issues surrounding the event and the variety of opinions that have been expressed, we would like to make clear the exact nature of our concerns.

We commend you for supporting the release of the body-camera footage, as it has afforded you an excellent opportunity to provide meaningful and much needed assistance to our police department. We believe that only your full-scale investigation into the Smith case will yield positive results for the department and our city.

To insure the best outcome, we urge you to ask these important questions about the case: Exactly how much training on the Ripp Hobble had each officer received? Which of the officers had ever used the device on the job? What was the rank of the most senior officer on the scene? How much training had they received in dealing with mental health cases of any sort? Our own questions to the Chief about the extent and exact nature of de-escalation and crisis intervention training officers receive have not been adequately answered. The GPD leaders appear to us to believe that citizens are entitled to know only what they wish us to know about their training and procedures.

We believe the GPD has made the right decision to prohibit all future use of the Ripp Hobble, but we also believe the Chief's statement that the officers were not violating their directive because they were not actually in the act of "transporting" Marcus Smith when he died is absurd on the face of it.

Unlike others who have spoken out, we do not advocate that the officers on the ground on September 8 be fired since we believe they were acting according to their training rather than out of neglect, callousness, or racist motives. We do believe they were woefully unprepared to deal with a person in Marcus Smith's delirious condition. Although the officers appeared not to comply with the Ripp Hobble manufacturer's instructions or even the department's own directive, we believe their superiors bear greater blame than they do for the missteps that led to Marcus Smith's death.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), "In a mental health crisis, people are more likely to encounter police than get medical help. As a result, 2 million people with mental illness are booked into jails each year. Nearly 15% of men and 30% of women booked into jails have a serious mental health condition." We hope you concur that NAMI's assessment makes our police training, support and oversight an issue of considerable urgency.

We commend those of you who have suggested that the GPD have the support of trained mental health professionals. At the same time, we believe that Councilman Outling's question regarding where the City will find the funds is absolutely essential. That is just one of a number of questions you were all elected to ask. It would be foolhardy for you to propose an ambitious project and fail to fund it adequately.

We also urge you to go back to the drawing board to reformulate the Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission (GCJAC) and the Police Community Review Board (PCRB) to give the participants greater autonomy and authority to look into the complaints they receive. The new body appears as hamstrung as the old one. It is a disservice to the community to ask citizens to devote their time and effort and then give them no way to function effectively.

Respectfully,

Vicki White-Lawrence

President, League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad

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PO Box 9721 Greensboro, NC 27429
Phone: 336-274-0202
Email: lwwptmail@gmail.com
<http://lwwpt.org>

Time-Sensitive material

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

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



Barbara Carter



“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.”