



# 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 XXIX ISSUE 7 APRIL 2017

## Lunch with the League

### “Follow the Microbe”

### Dr. Parke Rublee

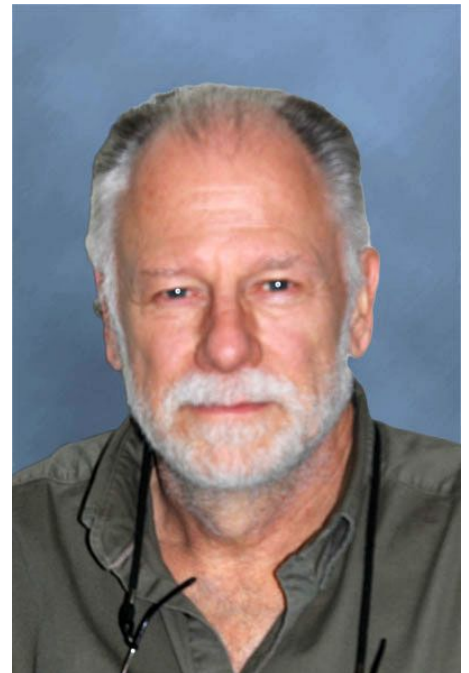
Tuesday, April 18 , 2017 at 11:45  
Holy Trinity Church, Haywood Duke Room  
607 N. Greene St.  
Greensboro

Lunch (optional) is \$11.00. See payment protocol on page 3.

Make reservations with Bonnie Kristoff (336-547-0824) or send email to [bbklunch@gmail.com](mailto:bbklunch@gmail.com) by April 12. Let her know if you want a vegetarian meal.

Dr. Parke Rublee received his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University. At UNCG he studies the microbial community in water. (Many times microbes are referred to as “bugs”, but that term is a misnomer.) The UNCG Biology Department newsletter states that microbial ecology is a “methods limited discipline”. Microbes are very, very small and thus are hard to see and hard to isolate. So how are you supposed to study them? Rublee has seen two “revolutions” in methods used to study microbes in natural environments (*i.e.* not in a controlled area such as a lab). In the 1970s fluorescent staining techniques allowed microbial ecologists to discover that there were more microbes in the environment than previously thought. Using this technique, Rublee was able to enumerate the bacterial community in water and sediments of marine and freshwater ecosystems.

The second revolution was the adaptation (how appropriate for biology!) of molecular biology methods for use in natural systems. This is a really big deal! Microbial ecologists are able to discover the DNA sequence of previously unknown organisms. They can begin to understand the com-



*Continued on p. 3*

**Time will be allotted for audience questions and comments.**



*Continued from p. 1*

munity of microbes (microbiomes) in a particular environment, be it plants, humans, or other animals, and to provide insight into the metabolic functioning of microbes in their natural settings.

What does any of this mean to you? Learning about microbes in aquatic systems can help improve agricultural, health, and environmental management. Rublee is currently assessing microbial responses to environmental contamination. Come to Lunch with the League and learn about this new and fascinating research and how it is giving us new insights into addressing *water quality* issues.

Rublee teaches courses in ecology and microbiology at UNCG.

### I found my tribe

Members who joined the LWVPT in recent months attended the new member orientation sessions in late March and early April. A good time was had by all and Barbara Leyton stated “I’m glad to say I’ve found my tribe.” (see the membership report on p. 4)

**“Notice: Please be aware that there may be literature available or distributed at our events that has not been authorized. Know that simply because you obtained something at an LWVPT event, doesn’t necessarily mean it is a cause or issue supported by LWVPT. When in doubt, please contact [lwvptmail@gmail.com](mailto:lwvptmail@gmail.com)”**

**Reservations for: Lunch With the League on April 18, 2017**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.

### Contributions and Dues

There are so many new members that the membership directory will be updated in April! Every member, including new members, should receive updated directories listing members in April. One directory lists members alphabetically, the other lists members by zip code to help you locate members who live near you. They will be sent by email except for those members who have no computer. (Those members receive physical copies). Directories are sent in Excel format, which makes it easier for you to rearrange or add data. If you have problems opening Excel, let me know, and I will send you a PDF file.

As of March 31 we have **270** members.

.....  
Don't forget the little Red Box! It will always be there near the door at Lunch with the League for contributions.

Contributions are a vital necessity for our League. We have to pay \$43 of your dues of \$58 to our umbrella organizations, the Leagues of the USA and North Carolina. That means that we only receive \$15 from each member to run the League and its many activities, so contributions are much appreciated.

Contributions to the "League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad" can be used for lobbying on specific issues and are not tax deductible. Contributions to "LWVPT Education Fund" are for education of the public on the many issues we face: an example would be the presentation on Redistricting held at UNCG in January. Contributions to this fund are tax deductible.

We hope you will each contribute, even if only a small amount, to show your support for this work.

We wish to thank the following for their contributions to the LWVPT Education Fund this month:

*Whitney Vanderwerff      Anna Fesmire*  
*Gary Kenton                Tracy Nash*  
*Ellen Weiner                Kay Brandon*



And, as always, many thanks to those members who contribute so generously their time, energy and thoughts.

*Lynn Grigni, Treasurer*

### Membership

March membership continues to show the increased interest in the League since the fall. The new members for March are Pat Cross (Roos), Jeff Thigpen of Summerfield, Nancy Sharpless of Climax, Catherine Wineburg, Carol Combs of Oak Ridge, Cynthia Schaub, Danny Rogers of Jamestown, Theresa Spenser, Jennifer Filipowski of Winston-Salem, and Renuka Shivaji. (If not, specified new members are from Greensboro.)

We held a new member orientation at the McNairy Library on March 28 from 5:30-7:30. We had 20 new members attend. Janice and other Board members went over League history, policies, round tables and committee activities. New members introduced themselves and their interests. Peggy Bradt lead a discussion on those interests and what they would like to get out of the league. New members were encouraged to become involved in those roundtables, committees and other activities in which they were interested. Everyone was very pleased with the program. We will be having another orientation on Sunday, April 2, 3-5 at the Benjamin Branch Library. We had such an overwhelming response (23) we had to cut off attendance and find back up parking!

A survey is being prepared for the general membership to find out what they want from the League. We also hope that we can discover the skills that our members have and be able to apply these to the tasks that we need done. The goal is to get more members engaged.

The membership brochure is going through a final proof and hopefully will be available soon. I have new League buttons. These are bigger than the old buttons and I will have them at LWL and other activities if anyone would like one.

*Peggy Ferebee, Membership Chair*



Trudy Whitacre took this nice photo of Lunch with the League lady, Bonnie Kristoff, at the March Lunch with the League.

Thanks to Bonnie for getting us tagged, moved, fed, and out!

Thanks to Trudy for being quick with the camera.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

The L WVNC state convention will be held May 5-7, 2017, at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Greensboro. As the host league, LWVPT encourages all members to mark these dates in your calendar, and join the effort to show our colleagues all the best that Greensboro has to offer. How would you like to contribute? Your help is needed on a variety of committees. Select from the committees below, or contact Host Co-Chairs Catherine Magid (336-294-4455) [itscatherinemagid@gmail.com](mailto:itscatherinemagid@gmail.com) or Peggy Bradt (336-617-3721) [peggybradt@gmail.com](mailto:peggybradt@gmail.com) with additional ideas of how you would like to help out.

Committees for L WVNC State Convention

- Welcome Hostess
- Sign In (2 hour shifts Friday 12-6 pm & Saturday 8-10 am)
- Dine A Round (restaurant sign up table, walk or transport groups to locations or assist with directions)
- Runners within plenaries (in the room, pick up votes, distribute green & red cards, or microphones)
- Phone (call membership to sign up and attend Saturday event)
- Grab Bag (call for items and make bags)

**League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad**  
**Annual Meeting and Dinner**  
**May 16, 2017**  
**Members will receive an invitation and annual report before the end of April.**  
**Watch your email for it.**

## Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

We supported the Greensboro City Council's inclusion of tuition equity on the legislative agenda on March 7.

Wake Forest University Associate Professor Hana Brown met with our group. We supported and attended her March 12 presentation about resisting mass deportations and the new administration's intent to restore 287g.

We provided, via the McKinney law firm and other community partners, "know your constitutional rights" workshops. (Topics included not being subjected to unreasonable searches and seizures and not answering questions or signing documents without speaking with an attorney).

We are distributing informational materials explaining how schools, faith communities and community groups can support immigrant families with no history of criminal activity, before and after detention. This includes the excellent American Friends Service Committee document "Steps Schools Can Take To Support Immigrant Families". These materials were placed on tables at the March 21 Lunch with the League meeting. We and other allies are working to oppose new federal immigration enforcement rules, including recent executive orders, as well as North Carolina legislative initiatives such as HB 63.

From the News&Record lead editorial Sunday, March 26: "[HB 63] is a solution in search of a problem....Trump portrays illegal immigrants as violent criminals, and some are. But they aren't more likely to be violent criminals than are U.S. citizens or documented immigrants. Most are just trying to build better lives for themselves and their families and hoping their children will have a chance to pursue the American dream without fear of arrest and deportation. If police have to devote resources to arresting law-abiding, although illegal, immigrants, they won't have enough time or manpower to deal with real crimes." There are now eight anti-immigrant bills proposed in North Carolina. The event planned for Monday April 3 at Faith Action International will highlight the devastation immigrant families are enduring as the new national administration's immigration crackdown proceeds.

We publicized and participated in the International Advisory Committee elections March 26. We are working with others on the likelihood that tuition equity legislation is introduced this spring. A draft bill in Tennessee passed in the Senate, and the governor states support for it. We are grateful for the new leadership of *Let's Learn Triad*, supporting tuition equity in order for North Carolina to join the 20 states now granting forms of tuition equity so that students meeting all academic and residency requirements pay in-state tuition and can afford higher education, and so that the state does not lose their positive economic contribution.

We express gratitude to Willie Taylor and Dot Kearns for their work on the March 21 Lunch with the League program including the presentation of Dr. Sharon Contreras, and to Dot for stating that although time allowed for only one question about *Say Yes Guilford*, the many questions written on index cards would be compiled and forwarded to Dr. Contreras. Also, thank you, Dot, for stating to the audience that LWVPT supports a resolution for inclusion of DACA/undocumented students in the *Say Yes Guilford* scholarship program, but that now is not the right time [given recent revelations, *ed. note*].

As volunteers and also as some of the *pro bono* attorneys assisting, members of our group took part in the April 1 event preparing legal documents such as power of attorney for 50 immigrant families without documentation in the Triad. These immigrants may be detained or deported by ICE agents, separating them from their families. The documents were prepared without charge. Sponsored by our partner organization American Friends Service Committee and the N.C. Justice Center, volunteers helped interpret and looked after children.

We and many others, including the N.C. Justice Center, participated in the NC Alliance for Immigrant Rights "Immigrant Rights Day" at the General Assembly April 4. There were two rounds of meetings with legislators at the General Assembly as well as a press conference.

If you remember our Lunch with the League program subtitled "Follow the Money" in November

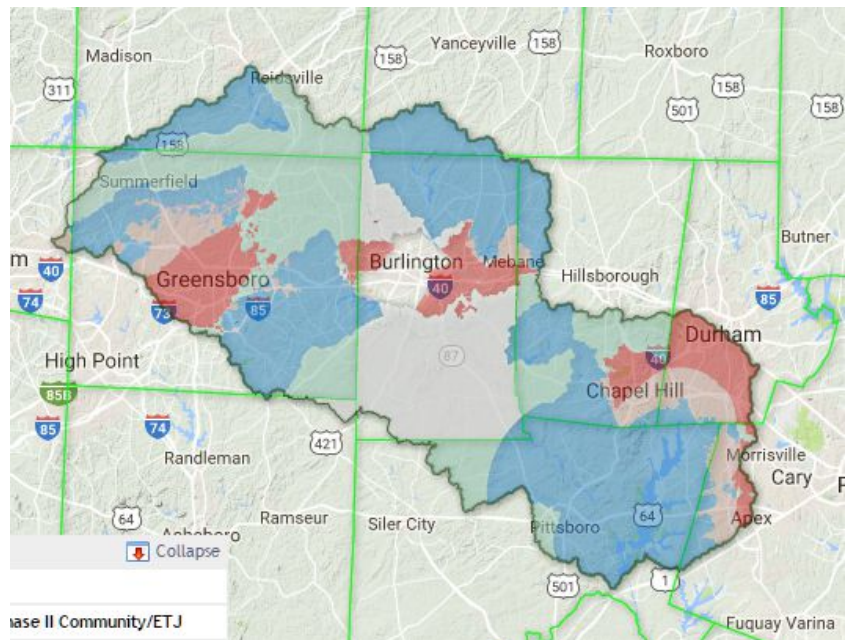
2013, one focus was on lucrative private prison contracts and the power players benefitting behind the scenes. Now, the prison industrial complex is even more powerful and corrupt. The Associated Press (April 2) reports that a decline in crime and an increase in alternative sentencing has reduced the prisoner population and created a glut of jail space in Texas. The announcement in January by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that it was shopping for more jail space "as part of its efforts to secure the border" has this result, as articulated by Lisa Menand of the Vermont Department of Corrections: "Anyone with vacant beds is hoping the federal government will lease them at a much higher rate. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are looking to lease beds everywhere." ICE refused to say how many beds the agency might need and cited the confidentiality of the federal contracting process. In Texas, correctional centers are being purchased by the private prison company GEO Group Inc., which you may remember from our "follow the money" program.

We meet and work as part of a network of immigrant rights advocates, the Immigrant Rights Working Group of Guilford County (IRWG), on first and third Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., ground floor meeting room, Hampshire condominiums, 1101 N. Elm St., Greensboro.

*Whitney Vanderwerff*

## Environmental Roundtable

The Environmental Roundtable has been studying our water treatment facilities and storm water system to better understand the rules for Jordan Lake. At the side is a repeat of the map we included last month so that we will all understand the watershed. The darker blue area around "64" is the lake. Most of us have passed close to Jordan Lake on the way to one of the beaches. Jordan Lake is an important source of water although, when built, it was for flood control and recreation. That helps to put some situations in perspective. You are welcome to join our meetings at any time. We meet the first Thursday afternoon at 4 PM in the St. Andrews library on W. Market.



Jordan Lake watershed

## Calendar

**Roundtables meet according to their schedules. Contact chair persons on p. 2 for information or to get on the mailing list.**

**April 18, 2017 noon, Lunch with the League, see p. 1**

**May 5-7, 2017 LWVNC convention in Greensboro (see p. 6)**

**May 16, LWVPT Annual meeting with dinner**

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**  
**April 18, 2017**  
**Please make a reservation**  
**by**  
**April 12**

Co-Presidents  
*Janice Siebert*  
*Tracy Nash*  
Vice-president *Gary Kenton*  
Secretary *Ellen Weiner*  
Treasurer *Lynn Grigni*

**LWV/NC state convention**  
**May 5, 6, 7**  
**Greensboro**

*“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.”*