



VOTER IMPACT

LWV OF THE PIEDMONT TRIAD
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Lunch with the League

Dr. Sharon Contreras

Tuesday, March 21 , 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 by March 15. Let her know if you want a vegetarian meal.

Dr. Contreras' career in education began as a teacher of English. She served as area superintendent and assistant superintendent in Rockford, Illinois, as Chief Academic Officer for the Clayton County Public Schools in Georgia and in the Providence Public Schools in Rhode Island.

In 2011, she became the first woman of color in New York State history to serve as superintendent of one of the state's largest school systems when she was appointed Superintendent of the Syracuse City School District. While in this position she increased student access to challenging academic courses, expanded career and technical education options and improved low-performing schools. Under her guidance, Syracuse established 16 new career pathways for high school students, opened a school for gifted elementary students and opened two new high schools to provide students with the opportunity to earn associate degrees in engineering, technology, manufacturing technology and health-related fields. She also oversaw the Say Yes to Education program in the Syracuse City School District.



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Time will be allocated for audience questions and comments.

Continued from p. 1

Dr. Contreras is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards including the YWCA Champion of Opportunity Award, the Network Journals 25 most influential Women in Business award, Alliance Drum Mayor for Social Justice Award, Nosotros Radio Latina of the Year, Upstate University Hospital Community Leader Award and the NAACP Freedom Award.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our friend and Lunch with the League coordinator Judith (Judy) Hoag on the recent loss of her son, Timothy Hoag.



On February 21, we emailed to members a Proposed Public Education Position for LWVPT. Members present at Lunch with the League on March 21 will be asked to adopt this position as the official LWVPT Policy Position on Public Education. This position has been considered and is recommended for adoption by the LWVPT Board of Directors and the members of the Public Education Roundtable. Please review the position on page 5.

Reservations for: Lunch With the League on March 21, 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 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.

Membership, Contributions, and Dues

We would like to welcome the new members who have joined LWVPT since February 1 2017! We have listed the hometown of those from outside Greensboro. We are so grateful for the participation of all of you:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Jean Alsop of Winston-Salem | Catherine Holcombe |
| Hannelore Bushell | Jennifer Jacobs |
| Angel Cole | Alexandria Jones (rejoined) |
| Tyler Daye (Student) | Barbara Petrou |
| Karen Filipski | Shelley Reisdorf |
| Jennifer Mangrum | Celia Snavely |
| Karen Gates | JoAnn Strack |
| Joan Gould | June Talvitie-Siple of Gibsonville |
| Barbara Grills | Jane Teague of Whitsett |
| Betsy & Jack Harrington | Edwin Chandlee White |

Directories:

Every member, including new members, should have received two directories listing members as of February 5, 2017. One directory lists members alphabetically; the other lists members by zip code to help you locate members who live near you. The directories were sent by email except for those members without computers. (They received physical copies). The 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.

Because we have so many new members, new directories will be issued in May by email.

We currently have 261 members.

If you did not receive your directories, or if your listing is not correct, please contact me at lynn@grigni.com or 336-285-6717

Thank you

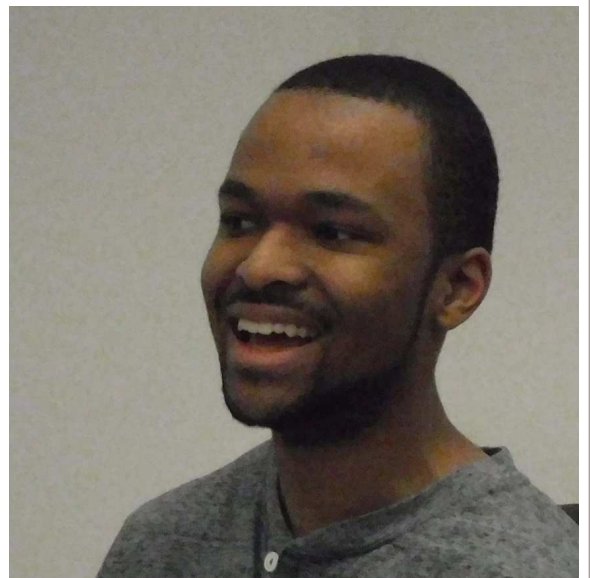
We wish to thank the following who contributed to the LWVPT Education Fund for the Sally Austin Project:

- * Margaret Salinger (in memory of Ellen Olson),
- * Dick and Sue Himes (in memory of Ellen Olson),
- * Cash collected at the door from many who attended the January 26 Redistricting Event
- * Mr. and Mrs. David Dalton

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

Lynn Grigni, Treasurer

Tyler Daye, the LWVPT intern this semester. Tyler is majoring in political science and sociology at UNCG.



Proposed Public Education Position for LWVPT

The LWVPT Public Education Roundtable History

The LWVPT Public Education Roundtable was founded in 2010. One of the first acts was the participation in the LWVUS national study on the “Federal Role in Public Education” in 2011. Concurrent and following this almost year-long study, numerous meetings were held to discuss the status of public education on a local level and coupled with the knowledge gained from participation in the national study, the LWVPT Public Education Roundtable developed “A Round Table of Thoughts about Public Education – A White Paper”, printed and widely distributed in 2012. The document reviewed public education in the United States and North Carolina and examined, in depth 6 critical existing challenges: Poverty, Funding and Equity, the Imperative of High Quality Teaching, Curriculum Issues, Privatization and Re-segregation of Schools. Subsequently in May, 2013, League members from across the state caucused at the LWVNC State Convention and through discussion, validated that these challenges are statewide issues.

The LWVPT Public Education Roundtable Position

After extensive study, the LWVPT Public Education Roundtable believes that for quality education to exist and thrive locally for all children pre-K through grade 12, the following principles must be the foci of the League: funding equity, integration, high quality teachers and principals, support service to include teacher assistants and small class size especially in high poverty schools. Public tax dollars must be used only for public school education with accountability and transparency required in all educational settings.

Therefore, the LWVPT endorses the following principles to form its Public Education Policy.

1. Opposition to vouchers, tax credits, scholarships, or other uses of public tax dollars to fund private or parochial school attendance.
2. Support for fully funding public pre-K for all children and providing support for families of pre-K children suffering physical, emotional, and other traumas that negatively and possibly permanently affect their ability to succeed in school.
3. Provision of highly qualified effective teachers and principals in all schools that includes professional staff development, support staff and adequate classroom equipment and materials and salaries competitive with the national average.
4. Holding charter schools that receive public dollars to the same educational accountability and transparency standards as traditional public schools.

SAVE THE DATE:

The LWVNC 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 or Peggy Bradt (336-617-3721) peggybradt@gmail.com with additional ideas of how you would like to help out.

Committees for LWVNC 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)

PUBLIC EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE REPORT

At its October 14, 2016 Public Education Roundtable meeting, attendees heard a presentation from SAY YES Guilford staff officials, Mary Vigue and Donnie Turlington in order to understand the program's mission and goals. Roundtable attendees were grateful for the information and voiced support and hope for the future of the initiative. However, there was much concern expressed because undocumented, graduating seniors were not included as potential "last dollar scholarship" applicants or recipients.

Given continued dissatisfaction with this element of SAY YES, Roundtable attendees voted at the December meeting to ask the LWVPT Board of Directors to endorse a resolution for inclusion of DACA and undocumented students in the SAY YES Guilford Plan of Action. The group voted to ask the leaders of the LWVPT Immigration Roundtable, Whitney Vanderwerff and Addy Jeffrey, to draw up a resolution based on their Roundtable's research, much of which was shared earlier with the League membership. It was suggested that if endorsed by the Board of Directors (BOD), the resolution then be sent from the BOD leadership, on behalf of LWVPT to the Say Yes Board and staff leadership and then to the Guilford County Board of Education, Guilford County Commissioners, Greensboro and High Point City Councils and Human Relations Commissions, the Guilford County Legislative Delegation, NCCJ and any other groups deemed appropriate.

[NOTE: The LWVPT BOD endorsed the resolution at its March 6, 2017 meeting. The leadership will send to all parties suggested above, as well as the Greensboro and High Point Foundations.]

Co-chairs Dot Kearns and Willie Taylor want to thank members of the LWVPT for their support in multiple ways for the Public Schools First NC (PSFNC) Valentine's "Love Our Schools" event. Many members helped with arrangements, attended, or made gifts to PSFNC, that will be used as matches required by granting foundations and to create additional staff help and upgrade technology. We are happy to report that we have sent PSFNC checks for over \$11,000 and money continues to come in. We had valuable help from public schools advocates. Needless to say, we and PSFNC Board and staff are humbled and grateful.

We look forward to Lunch with the League on March 21st. Dr. Sharon Contreras, Guilford County Schools (GCS) Superintendent will be our speaker. We have suggested that our membership will be eager to hear her assessment of the status of our local public schools based on her recent tour of the schools county-wide, the likely elements of her forthcoming Strategic Plan for the coming five or more years, issues of the GCS Legislative agenda and her thoughts regarding why citizens should advocate and support public schools and effective ways of doing so.

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There will be time for questions from the audience and cards on the table for writing questions to be handed to the moderator and addressed by Superintendent Contreras. We look forward to an interesting time together at this most critical time for our students, families, schools and education, in general.

Dot Kearns and Willie Taylor, co-chairs

Citizen's Lobby Day

On Wednesday, March 1, at least a dozen members of LWVPT joined hundreds of North Carolinians from across the state at the "Citizens Lobby Day to End Gerrymandering in NC", organized by the nonpartisan NC Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform. The Lobby Day was held at the Legislative Building in Raleigh.

Lobby Day participants were encouraged to meet with their district's state senators and representatives, as well as the offices of the Senate and House leadership, and to speak with them directly on why they support changing the way congressional and legislative voting maps are drawn in the state. The citizens lobby day came just a day after [a bipartisan group of state lawmakers unveiled House Bill 200](#) on nonpartisan redistricting reform.

Individually or in small groups, LWVPT members met with their senators/representatives, including Senator Gladys Robinson, and Representatives Amos Quick, John Blust, and Jon Hardister. Representative Hardister, a primary sponsor of [House Bill 200](#), advised one group that we should continue to write letters to the editor, write articles for local newspapers, as well as encourage members and voters throughout the state to contact their house and senate representatives, in support of redistricting reform. He said that informing/educating the public about redistricting reform is a nonpartisan issue, as reform is the right thing to do.

The day of lobbying concluded with a rally on Centennial Plaza outside the Legislative Building. Speakers from many organizations, including Common Cause, the John Locke Foundation, LWVNC, and the town of Morrisville, spoke about the importance of ending gerrymandering and passing a redistricting reform bill in NC.



Submitted by Andy Stern

Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

Our most recent meeting was Wednesday, March 1, at the Hampshire meeting room. We were joined by Wake Forest University Associate Professor of Sociology and Political Science Hana Brown, an immigration reform specialist. At this meeting the group discussed follow-up to our mid-February meeting with Sheriff B.J. Barnes in his office and the early February meeting at the Hampshire with Greensboro Police Department Deputy Chief Mike Richey. The meetings focused on city and county positions with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Greensboro police do not ask immigration questions. Our county is not a part of 287g or "Secure Communities" and our county has no desire to go back to that.

However, 287g may become mandatory. Those present at the March 1 meeting discussed the proliferation of groups working with people who are living in fear and their allies who are ready to act. One example: March 12, 3-5 PM, UNCG School of Education Building # 226 to learn about resisting mass deportations. Dr. Hana Brown will offer a brief presentation on 287g that allows ICE to enter into agreements with local law enforcement agencies so that local law enforcement can act as immigration agents. That program spreads fear among immigrant communities and decreases their willingness to cooperate with law enforcement, and it deprives immigrants of due process during deportation proceedings. The March 12 program will also highlight what other communities are doing.

State anti-immigrant bills: SB 145 (Sen. Sanderson); HB 35 (expand E-Verify); HB 63 (penalizing sanctuary cities among other things).

Irrefutable research from the Migration Policy Institute and the Pew Research Center provides facts:

- The federal government spends more each year through Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol -- than on all other federal agencies combined, now \$19 billion a year, more than the sum of all spending for the FBI, the DEA, the Secret Service, the Marshals Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

- Homeland Secretary John Kelly is requesting adding 10,000 ICE officers and 5,000 Border Patrol agents.

- About the "great, great wall": MIT Technology Review places the real figure at \$27 billion to \$47 billion for 1,000 miles.

- Illegal migration from Mexico is down. The Pew Hispanic Center reports that the net flow from Mexico is now less than zero.

- As you may remember from the LWVPT Immigration Roundtable's Lunch with the League presentations, Congress is now requiring Homeland Security to maintain 34,000 immigration detention beds at a cost of \$2 billion annually (\$5.5 million a day). The new executive orders will add thousands more beds, many in for-profit prisons.

- A 2016 National Academies of Science, Technology and Medicine Report, distorted recently by Mr. Trump, actually explained that immigrants and their descendents pay taxes and contribute to the system without taking out.

- On Monday, March 6 the Trump administration released its "revision" of the anti-immigrant executive orders, but the deportation dragnet is well underway (see "Agents Discover a New Freedom on Deportations; Quick Shift as Officers Expand Targets and Start Roundups," New York Times front page February 26.) You have probably read about 22 year-old DACA recipient Daniela Vargas who spoke at a news conference last week at City Hall in Jackson, Mississippi about her fears of being deported. Shortly afterwards she was taken into custody and transferred to a detention center in Louisiana where she's held without bond. Recently there have been videos of similar arrests with ICE officials bearing "Police" identification. A 13-year-old in East Los Angeles is heard sobbing as she taps on her cell phone that her father is being picked up two blocks from her school. His "crimes": an old DUI and false registration of a vehicle. A rally to protest the arrest and to support the family is planned for Monday, March 6 in downtown Los Angeles. The past few months have seen many similar arrests and detentions.

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-The March 6 "revision" removes Iraq from the travel ban and removes the language preferring Christians. It doesn't revoke visas valid as of January 27. It is similar in nature to the first hastily drawn effort. The "revision" doesn't make Americans safer; the greatest risk is from people who are radicalized here, usually after many years.

About Homeland Security secretary John Kelly's effort to add 10,000 ICE officers and 5,000 Border Patrol agents, from the New York Times lead editorial February 26: "While we wait for Mr. Kelly to achieve his boss's bleak vision, we will have created a population of increasingly vulnerable, exploited noncitizens and Dreamer youths whose educations hit a dead end after high school."

The League's resolution to include DACA/undocumented youth in the SayYes scholarship program, approved by the Board on March 6, is a clarion call for democracy and casts a light into the darkness of the administration's bleak vision.

Whitney Vanderwerff

Environmental Round Table

The ERT met on March 2 at St. Andrews library. The ERT was brought to order by Dick Feulner. We briefly discussed changes in the EPA and environmental rules. Dick shared an article from the NYTimes and also explained that it not a simple nor quick process to get rid of rules.

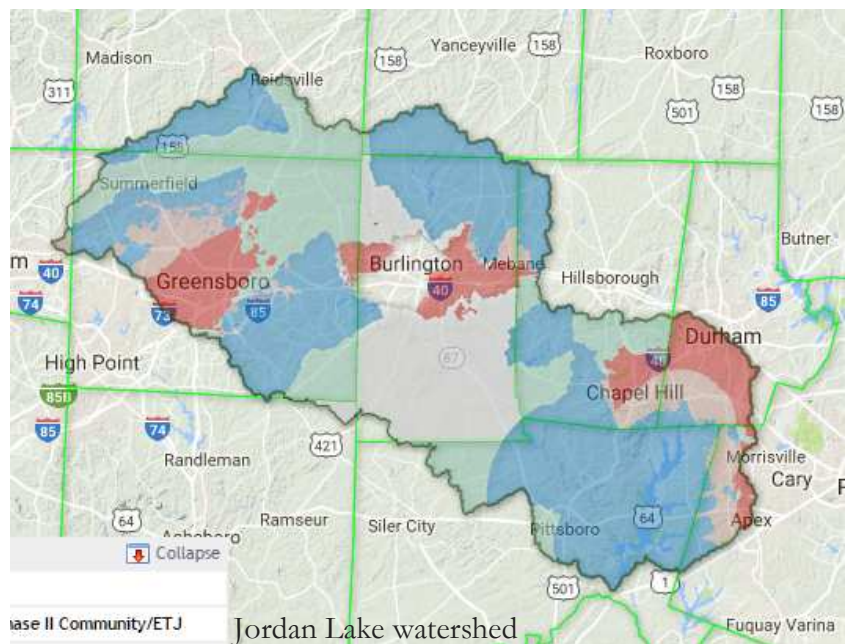
Dick mentioned several questions to do with the Jordan Lake. The estimate to clean Jordan Lake is a half billion dollars. The major problem is nutrient overload leading to algae overgrowth and subsequent problems associated with it.

We will make some inquiries by phone of the state agricultural secretary, the state park head, and others.

We decided that those who could would attend earth day at the Kathleen Clay Edwards branch library on April 1. We are awaiting more details about a teach-in at NC A&T by several environmental groups on April 29 in lieu of marching.

Marie Poteat reported that she is on the reorganized Parks and Recreation Commission of Guilford County. Three preserves should open this year. So far all of the trails are walking trails. She will keep us informed as to changes.

Marlene Pratto



Calendar

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

March 21, 2017 noon, Lunch with the League, see page 1

April 18, 2017 noon, Lunch with the League

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

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Email: lwwptmail@gmail.com
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Time-Sensitive material

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March 21, 2017
Please make a reservation
by
March 15

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

LWVNC 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.”