



VOTER IMPACT

LWV OF THE PIEDMONT TRIAD
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VOLUME XXIX ISSUE 3 NOVEMBER 2016

Lunch with the League

"Dreams Deferred: County, State and National Policies of Exclusion"

**Tuesday, November 15 , 2016 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 Novmber 9. Let her know if you want a vegetarian meal.

Panelists for this program are:

Ann Marie Dooley, LWVPT member, Board Certified Immigrant Law Specialist with McKinney Immigration. Ann Marie's practice focuses on family-based benefits, removal defense, waivers, U-visas and other humanitarian benefits. In 2005 she graduated with honors from UNC Law School where she was awarded a prestigious Skadden fellowship. She works *pro bono* at the Charlotte Immigration Court Pro Bono Clinic in addition to her practice at McKinney Immigration.

Raul Pinto, Staff Attorney in the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, NC Justice Center. Raul's work at the Justice Center involves representation of low-income clients in immigration proceedings, with an emphasis in humanitarian immigration. His work also involves analysis and public education regarding laws and policies that impact immigrants and refugees in North Carolina.

Alexandra Sirota, Public Policy Analyst and Project Director, NC Budget and Tax Center
Alexandra joined the Center as a public policy analyst in April 2010 and became Project Director in November 2010. Before joining the Center she coordinated research on child well-being at Action for Children North Carolina.

Luis Flores, May 2016 Honors Graduate, Middle College of UNCG. Luis is an aspiring medical student who will tell his story.

Time is allocated for audience questions and comments

See p. 3 for photos of speakers.

Please refer to this page when you need to contact a board member.

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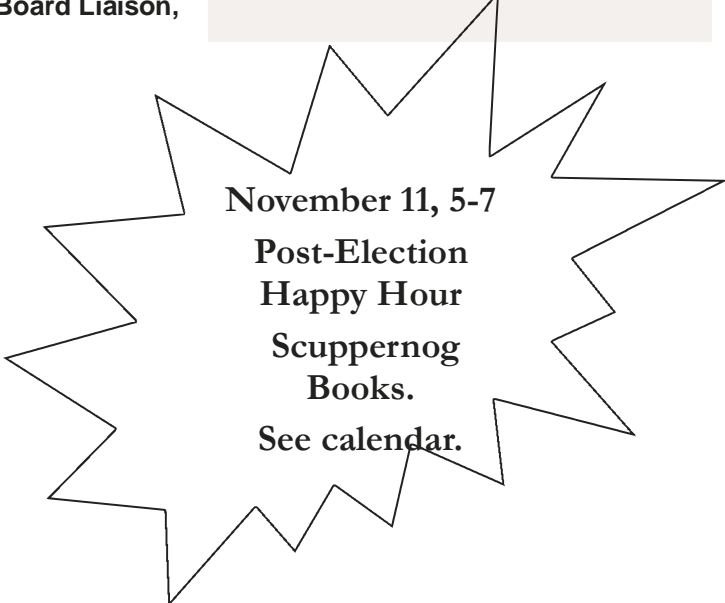
Gloria Harris - Chair, Nominating Committee

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VOTER IMPACT NEWS

Voter Impact (PDF format) is currently emailed to all members and elected officials with email addresses. If you have an email address and you are not receiving the VI via email, please check your spam folder. Be certain to add the

lwvptmail@gmail.com to your list of acceptable email addresses. If you would like to comment on format, please send email to the same address. **Remember to check the web page** once a week or more for new information and for archived copies of Voter Impact. The web page address runs at the bottom of VI even numbered pages. The Voter Survival Kit web page address is at the bottom of VI on the odd numbered pages.



Judith Hoag, Lunch with the League Coordinator (2015-2017)

LunchCoordinator@lwvpt.org

Bonnie Kristoff - LWL Reservations

Reservations@lwvpt.org

Carolyn Allen - Environmental Round Table

ert@lwvpt.org

Sue Stinson, Voter Registration Chair

suestinson1968@yahoo.com

Addy Jeffrey, Social Media Chair

addyjeffrey@gmail.com

A Dream Deferred
Langston Hughes, 1951

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
 like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore--
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over--
 like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
 like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?



**Clockwise: Ann Marie Dooley,
Alexandra Sirota,
Raul Pinto,
Luis Flores**

Reservations for: Lunch With the League on November 15, 2016

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

Lynn Grigni Treasurer@lwvpt.org Telephone: 336 285 6717

We would like to welcome new members!

- Lois Bailey**
- Nancy Madden**
- Paula Frances**
- Leigh Seager (rejoined)**
- Robert Luisana**

This has been a hectic year, and some very active members have allowed their membership to expire. I've sent notices because I know how involved you have been in the elections!

We hope no one has not renewed because they dedicated too many funds to other endeavors. Remember that grants are available for \$5.00; go to www.lwvpt.org and you will find the simple application form.

If you have questions, please contact me (see above).

Please consider a gift to the LWVPT Education Fund, Inc. Contributions to this fund are tax deductible. During this election cycle it's refreshing to reflect upon the goals of our Education Fund.

We will use your gift to promote citizen knowledge of representative government by educating the public in matters pertaining to government, human resources, natural resources, international affairs, social policy, voter registration election laws, voting regulations, the election process in general, citizen rights, urban policy, transportation and any other subjects relevant to being an informed citizen; to build participation in the democratic process; to study key community issues at all levels of government in an unbiased manner; and to empower individuals to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.


Contributions to the LWVPT Education Fund, Inc. may be made 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 above information, donations may also be made directly to the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad (LWVPT), but these contributions are **not** deductible, since they are used for our work as political activists.

L

WVPT' extends Get Well Wishes to **Emily Herman** as she recovers from surgery.



We extend our sympathies to the family of Priscilla Zuck, a former member of the LWVPT. She and her husband enjoyed Lunch with the League together.

2016 Guilford County Citizens' Academy

By Marlene Pratto

The 2016 Citizens' Academy graduated October 20th at the County Commissioners meeting. Several LWVPT members participated this year and we want to encourage you to enroll when the academy is offered again next year.

Paula Stober said, "There are many reasons I'm glad to have participated in the Citizen's Academy. Not only to learn more about the workings of our county, but to see the obvious dedication of many of the county employees who spoke to our group. And I learned much from the other participants. It's well worth your time."

Ellen Weiner states: "The Guilford County Citizens Academy was time well spent. Each week we learned the responsibilities of county departments first-hand from their directors and staff, and every one of them took our questions and comments afterwards. I came away from every session impressed with someone and something new to me.

"Group exercises in decision-making mirrored the experience of the County Commissioners, reminding us of the complexity of getting a group consensus on a single plan and a budget."

Our class of 32 consisted of people who have lived in Guilford County for many years as well as those who have recently moved here. Some class members were members of county boards. The questions from this mixed group were interesting, informative, and provided us with different views.

The course was facilitated by Commissioner Kay Cashion, Robin Keller, Clerk to the Board and Ariane Webb, Deputy Clerk and consisted of eight three hour sessions. Attending did require a commitment, but it was well worth the effort.

Among the officials we met were:

Marty Lawing, County Manager

Ben Chavis, Tax Department Director

Jeff Thigpen, Register of Deeds

Charlie Collicutt, Director of the Board of Elections

We listened to those in charge of public services, public safety, human services, and administrative services and then asked many question. The final session provided practice in generating the budget for the county.

The Citizens' Academy is designed to help citizens gain insight on how local government works and to promote open lines of communication. For more information go to:

<http://www.myguilford.com/boc/citizens-academy/>

Upcoming Event

If you have a multi-year calendar, mark Thursday May 10, 2018 as reserved. The Sally Austin Education Committee has scheduled two events with Norman Ornstein. One event will be for League members and another for the general public.

Ornstein is a frequent contributor to NPR programs and now you will get to hear and see him in person. Watch for details as we approach the time.

Good health is necessary for academic success and nurses make good health happen. Period.

By Robin Lane, RN, PNP, MPH

The shortage of nurses in Guilford County’s school nurse program was correctly described in a letter to the editor of the News and Record by pediatrician Dr. Martha Perry as “substantial”. Guilford County now has one nurse for 2200 or more students, nowhere near the long standing recommendation of one nurse for every 750 students.

This is a crisis of neglect. In 2002, the county had 33 school nurses, the same number employed today, but these 33 nurses now serve 10,000 more students in 25 more schools. giving Guilford County a ratio rank of 111 out of 115 identified school systems in the state .

Those numbers are bad enough, but as Dr. Perry tells us it is about more than numbers. It is about allergic reactions and insulin injections and teachers doing more with less. In the end, it is about not using our tax dollars wisely.

Research shows what we could gain with one nurse in every school at recommended ratios of one to every 750 students. We could:

- :
- Improve students’ achievement.**
- Attain better health for students**
- Give families peace of mind**
- Strengthen essential links between school and health care**

The shortage is a crisis to be sure, but there is good news on the horizon. An ad hoc committee comprised of members of the Guilford County’s current Health and Human Services Advisory Committee is working on the issue and has launched the Guilford County Project ONE initiative. Project ONE has as its goal one nurse in every school. Our motto says it all: “Good health is necessary for academic success and nurses make good health happen. Period.”

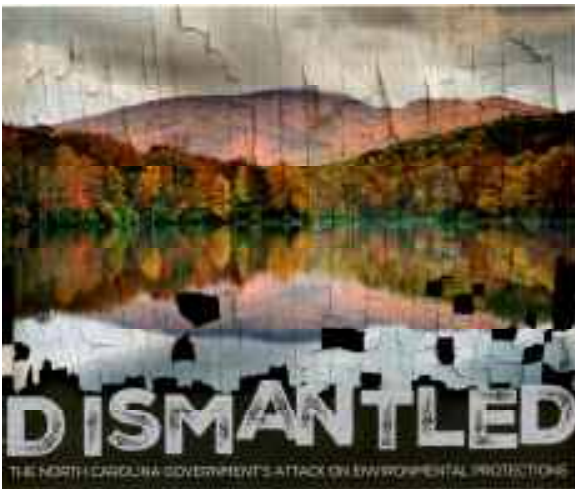
We invite you to join us. Please learn more about the work of the committee at www.GuilfordCountyProjectONE.info as we identify our own Guilford County solutions.

Let’s get this done. One nurse in every school!

Robin is a member of the LWVPT, a former school nurse and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Vice Chair, Guilford Health and Human Services Advisory Committee, and Chair, Project ONE Initiative.

Short Report Environmental Round Table

The ERT met on October 6. We agreed to obtain copies of *Dismantled* from the Southern Environmental Law Center. The large format booklet lists many of the regulations and laws overturned or modified since 2011. The booklet is available online at <https://www.southernenvironment.org/nc-report-chapter1>. Move through the chapters. Chapter 2 is on water.



Paula Stober learned that the signs at storm water drains in the city are not being replaced at this time. Newly developed areas do have the signs. The signs let residents know that the water flows into the Cape Fear River Basin. Basically, don’t pour “bad stuff” down them.

Our trip to the T Z Osborne wastewater treatment facility is December 2 at 10 AM. We will talk to staff and hear about the facility. The plant is replacing its fluidized bed incinerator and there are no actual tours until 2021. If you wish to go send email to lvvptmail@gmail.com with subject line Osborne.

Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

by Whitney Vanderwerff

We look forward to the November 15 Lunch with the League program "Dreams Deferred: County, State and National Policies of Exclusion" announced in this issue of Voter Impact. LWVPT member and esteemed immigrant attorney Anne Marie Dooley will offer introductory remarks and serve as moderator.

As toxic anti-immigrant rhetoric continues to contaminate -- and threatens to disrupt -- a civil society, a reality check seems in order as crowds roar for deportation of the 11.3 million immigrants living in this country without documentation. A free-market think tank, American Action Forum led by economist Doug Holtz-Eakin, released a report explaining that if that 20% of those here without documentation left voluntarily, nine million would require rounding up and deporting.

They would have to be located and apprehended; detained; moved through the courts; and then transported to their home countries.

The *Wall Street Journal* notes that increasing the present goal of removing 400,000 undocumented immigrants a year, "most of whom are turned over to the feds by local police for, say, a traffic stop" would require 90,000 federal agents. Currently there are 4,000. A two-year detention plan trumpeted by a presidential candidate would require 348,831 beds (currently the feds operate 250 detention facilities with 34,000 beds), and more than 1,300 courts and 30,000 more federal attorneys.

To send migrants home, because only half are from Mexico, millions would have to be flown to Central America, Asia and elsewhere, requiring 84 buses and 47 chartered flights every day.

The *Wall Street Journal* editorial conclusion underscores the cost to the economy that would result. Eight million immigrants without papers are employed in some way. The U.S. labor force would shrink by 5.7% if all were deported. "Defenders of deportation say state and local governments would save tens of millions on social services for illegals, but that would pale next to the economic and human costs." *Wall Street Journal*, March 19-20, 2016

The November 15 Lunch with the League program will put a human face on the costs of current immigration policy. Here's one of the millions now stigmatized, marginalized and living in fear:

Olga Armas, from Peru, was waiting for the Supreme Court decision on the president's executive order DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents) which would let her and her husband apply for work permits and free them from the threat of deportation. The *New York Times* published her story, "When I Get My Papers" on April 22 of this year. Olga came here in 2002, thinking it would be for a little while, but her husband's wages shrank to \$100 per month. She stayed here, working at a factory and a supermarket. Her husband and daughter joined her soon after. Now they live in New Jersey, with two younger girls born here and so they are American citizens. The oldest daughter, undocumented, applied for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) after President Obama's executive action. She's 15. She got a Social Security number but the parents can't drive her anywhere because they can't get licenses. She takes the bus to school at 6:30. Olga walks her younger daughters to school. If the Supreme Court upholds DAPA, Olga could apply for a driver's license "and take my children to school like the parents of their classmates do."

Olga's 63 year old husband unloads trucks at a warehouse for little more than minimum wage. He leaves for work at three in the morning because he can get a ride from a friend. He is in pain most days. Doctors have recommend that he try for another job, but he doesn't have a Social Security number and has few options. Olga writes, "We fear deportation all the time." Both of his parents in Peru died this year; he hadn't seen them in 14 years and all he could do was speak to his mother on the phone. Olga hopes to be able to travel to see her parents if DAPA goes through. "Not being able to say goodbye to your loved ones is what hurts most about being in this country without papers."

Olga concludes her essay by imagining DAPA going through: "Dad will be able to look for another type of work that isn't so hard on his body. I will be able to get a driver's license and a car and drive them to visit colleges and go to robotics club competitions." She has hope, she writes, "that the justices will decide in our favor. If that happens. I think that the next day I won't sleep at all, thinking of everything I will do, thinking of how everything will change." But the justices let the lower court ruling stand. Olga Armas will not be getting her papers.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Continued on p. 8

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Phone: 336-274-0202
Email: lwwptmail@gmail.com
http://lwwpt.org

Time-Sensitive material

**Lunch with the League
November 15, 2016
Please make a reservation
by
November 9**

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

- Calendar of events of the LWVPT or others of interest to League members
- November 10, 7 PM Tom Earnhart speaks to Audubon Society at Kathleen Clay Edwards branch library. .
- November 11, 5-7 PM, Post-election Happy Hour, Scuppernog Books, 304 S. Elm St., Greensboro. Please respond to Peggy Ferebee <flames1mom@gmail.com> by Nov. 4.
- November 15, noon Lunch with the League, Immigrant Youth and the Struggle for Inclusion. See pages 1

“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.”