

VOTER IMPACT

October, 2019 Vol. XXXII Issue 2

Lunch with the League

"Voting Issues: Working Together for the Common Good"

Speakers: Rep. Ashton Clemmons, Rep. Jon Hardister, Rep. Pricey Harrison

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Holy Trinity Haywood Duke Room

607 N. Greene Street, Greensboro, NC 27401

Doors open at 11:30

The program is free and a buffet Lunch is \$12.00.

Make reservations with Bonnie Kristoff by phone (336-547-0824) or send email to

Reservations@lwvpt.org by October 9. Contact Bonnie for special needs.

Lunch is to be prepaid. To make reservations by mail, send your check made out to the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad with the date of the lunch on the memo line. Mail to LWVPT, PO Box 9721, Greensboro, NC 27429. You may also use our website and PayPal or your credit card to make reservations. To attend the program without lunch, please let Bonnie know by phone (336-547-0824), email (bbklunch@gmail.com), or via the website (lwvpt.org). Please note new lunch price. If you need the form to send in your reservation, contact Bonnie with that request.

Biographies are on the next page. *We are experimenting with Voter Impact to make it easier to read on the screen. All articles will go "straight through". We are avoiding continued on and continued from. Please send comments, pro or con to webvi@lwvpt.org.*



Ashton Clemmons

First term

Occupation: Education Consultant
House Democratic Freshman Co-Chair

Democrat - District 57
Ashton.Clemmons@ncleg.net

On committees: Commerce, Education K-12, Education Universities, Finance, House Select Committee on School Safety.



Jon Hardister

4 terms in House

House Majority Whip

Occupation: Marketing

Republican - District 59
Jon.Hardister@ncleg.net

Chair of Appropriations, Capital, Vice chair of select committee on Alcoholic Beverage Control, Appropriations, Banking. Member of Education K-12, Elections and Ethics Law and others.



Pricey Harrison

8 terms in House

Occupation: Retired - Communications Attorney

Democrat - District 61
Pricey.Harrison@ncleg.net

Vice Chairman of Environment Select Committee, member of Appropriations, Elections and Ethics Law, Energy and Public Utilities, Redistricting and others.

Message from the President

The Guilford County Board of Elections voted during its October 1 meeting that Guilford County residents will use hand-marked paper ballots beginning with the primary in March 2020. The League of Women Voters of North Carolina as well as LWVPT had sent members a letter encouraging this action.

As we try to educate ourselves about the best way to approach the upcoming 2020 elections, we'll be participating in meetings and forums, and offering opportunities to educate our community about issues. The challenge is to encourage people to learn about the issues and help them see that their efforts -- and their VOTES!!! -- make a difference.

For this year's elections, our Voter Service volunteers are hard at work on www.Vote411.org to make sure there is great information from and about current candidates in area races. Be sure to check it out if there are elections in your community!

The LWVPT Board of Directors meets monthly to review and discuss issues, and take action as needed. This may be to encourage Boards of Elections to gather as much contact information as possible from candidates so that it is easier to reach out to them to learn more about where they stand on issues. It may be to encourage those Boards to take action about how residents will vote, as noted above about Guilford County. It may be to encourage residents to participate in forums and answer questionnaires about what to look for when hiring key officials, such as the Chief of Police.

We welcome your input as members. We want to hear from you about issues you think are important. We also welcome your questions about anything you don't understand. Contact information is available on our website (www.lwvpt.org).

If you are interested in pursuing an issue not currently being addressed by a roundtable (Environment, Fair Elections, Health, Immigration Policy Reform, Public Education, and Social Justice), let us know. There may be others who are interested in it as well. Recently a member asked if there was interest in forming a roundtable to help promote passage of the ERA. LWFVNC has an action team dedicated to this and has encouraged local Leagues to help. This is just one example of how you as a member might make a difference.

Thank you for all you do to make our League what it is.

Vicki White-Lawrence, Co-President

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Voter Impact will be formatted for at least three months in this simpler format. We need someone to edit and format Voter Impact for November. If you can use Word or another word processor you can do this. Please consider it and send email to lwvptmail@gmail.com and volunteer.

Submissions to Voter Impact

If you have something to share with other members of the LWVPT, please send your information to webvi@lwvpt.org (email addresses are not case sensitive) on or before the first Tuesday of the month.

OUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS JULY 1 - JUNE 30!

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please RENEW now!

If you are not sure whether you have renewed, you can find out by emailing:

Member-roster@lwwpt.org.

If you need to renew, you can find links to join/renew

at www.lwwpt.org/Membership.html.

Your membership fees are what allows us to provide the programs and services we do. Thank you to all those who have renewed and are planning on doing so.

Environment Roundtable

In September the ERT met with Mr. Steven Drew, Director of the City Water Resources Department and Sustainability Community Administrator. Drew has the lead role for the city in implementation of the national LEED program (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program. The city was selected as one of 15 U.S. cities to receive a \$25,000 grant to participate. Sixteen members and guests attended the briefing.

Mr. Drew stated that Greensboro's goal is to become the greenest city in the southeast and participation in the LEED program will help achieve this important goal endorsed by the City Council. Seventy percent of all greenhouse gases come from cities. The LEED program consists of the following three phases:

Phase 1 - Data Collection and Submission (Submit in Sept; Certification around 12/19)

Phase 2 - Convergence of Stake Holders, Gap Analysis & Goal Setting (now through 12/19)

Phase 3 - Sustainability as a Core Value, Begin Closing Gaps & Working Toward Goals (on going)

Sustainability and the LEED program require a long-term effort and commitment. The LEED program will evaluate the data provided by the city and initially award the city one of four certification levels based upon a 110-point system. Points are awarded in nine categories based upon the current status of the city compliance with LEED criteria. The goal of Greensboro is to achieve the platinum level, but this will take a number of years and require the city to successfully address the gaps that were identified in phase 1. In support of LEED, the city has adopted the motto "Greensboro Live Green".

Mr. Drew also reported that the city received a \$75,000 payment from Duke Energy for electricity generated by solar panels placed on the Depot. Energy from this project is also used as charging stations for the city's recently purchased fleet of electric buses.

Dick Feulner, Judy Hoag, CoChairs

Health Roundtable

Meetings are every first Monday at noon at Deep Roots conference room. We are encouraged to buy our lunch there to help say thank you for the free use of Deep Roots' excellent space, though it is not required. We welcome everyone who shares our interest in promoting a healthy America. In September, we received executive board approval to reproduce and distribute our FAQ's document regarding Health Care for All. Please check it out on the Health RT webpage, accessible on the LWWPT's webpage. It is under the headline "Working Documents". Please share it far and wide! We also had a

booth at the GSO Pride Festival sharing our goals. Our next efforts will be to try to distribute signs with what we hope are surprising facts about health care in the US and the rest of the developed world, initiate collaboration with groups at A&T who share our goals, and begin to consider how we can help the state's efforts to recognize and improve social determinants of health.

Laurey Solomon, Chair

LWVPT WANTS YOU!

Organizations maintain their strength and influence by electing strong leaders and by making a contribution in their communities. The League of Women Voters Piedmont Triad proudly demonstrates both attributes. We will continue to lead by educating ourselves and members of our communities using the power of knowledge as our base.

The Nominating Committee looks among our membership for those who want to lead our organization. We welcome your recommendations of leaders and encourage YOU to consider being part of the leadership team. We are currently in the nominating process for the 2020-2021 slate. Please contact one of us with your personal interest and recommendations of others. Our voices are strong together.

*Lynn Bennett, Chair, nominate@lwwpt.org
Tyler Daye, Addy Jeffrey, Bonnie Kristoff, Sue Stinson*

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

We will be holding a new member orientation on Sunday October 13, 3-5 PM at Benjamin Branch Library, 1513 Benjamin Parkway, Greensboro. This will give you an opportunity to meet other members, Roundtable Representatives and Board members while learning more about the activities, opportunities and policies of the League of the Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad. All members are invited. Please RSVP to Peggy Ferebee at flames1mom@gmail.com by October 7 if you are planning on attending or have any questions.

Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

The Roundtable met September 18 and October 2 at McKinney Immigration law offices, 910 N. Elm St. All regularly scheduled meetings: 11:45am-1:30pm first and third Wednesdays.

A recent development: Roundtable member Adamou Mohamed, Church World Service Community Organizing Coordinator, was a coordinator of the press conference called in rapid response to the Trump administration's announcement that it will slash the American refugee program by half and that a new Executive Order will allow state and local officials to block resettlement in their communities. The press conference October 1 at noon at Governmental Plaza protested these 2 decisions and called on Congress to ensure that there is a full consultation with the Administration.

The Administration's efforts to shut down DACA, which is shielding 700,000 young, undocumented immigrants from deportation and allowing them to work, now has stronger opposition because Theodore B. Olson will argue the Dreamers' cause before the Supreme Court. Olson was solicitor general under President George W. Bush. He is quoted in the *New York Times* (September 27), saying "The government acts in a manner that is almost arbitrary and capricious. It's ready shoot, aim....The government has a lot of freedom to do things, but it has to do them in a way that's consistent with the separation of powers."

The U.S. Education Department has launched an investigation of the Middle East Studies program jointly operated by Duke and the UNC Chapel Hill. Henry Richman, chair of the AAUP Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, describes this federal intervention in college course content as "a chillingly inappropriate political intrusion into curricular decisions best made by faculty." The investigation was initiated at the request of Raleigh Republican George Holding.

Most of the nearly 3000 children separated from asylum-seeking parents at the border have been reunited, but the trauma is long-lasting. Mothers have organized to seek compensation from the Trump Administration for the trauma the children experienced during separation. Family separations are still occurring, with more than 900 children separated from their parents in the past year based on parents' minor criminal records or unsubstantiated allegations of gang membership (ACLU). Some of the separated children are babies and toddlers. Reporter Aura Bogado recently found that the government is opening new shelters for young children, including a Phoenix facility that was holding children under age 5 without their mothers (Center for Investigative Reporting).

A September 29 *New York Times* article explains that border tours for lawmakers and members of the news media are often organized in advance with routes planned to avoid messy spaces and special units housing detainees in solitary confinement. Speaking anonymously, a former ICE detention officer said that staff are scripted to give the impression that they are following the rules, and detainees are ordered not to speak to visitors.

Worth Rises is one of the sources recommended at the Roundtable's September 5 program "Who Benefits from the War on Immigrants? Follow the Money." Others are readsludge.com, opensecrets.org, and ACLU.org. We encouraged the audience to discuss immigration profiteers and provide correct information at every opportunity, and to urge members of the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Homeland Security and on Justice to reduce spending for detention, deportation and border militarization for FY2020. Worth Rises recently reported on a successful campaign for divestment/non-investment, "our fight against predatory prison telecommunication corporations": Pennsylvania's State Employment Retirement System (SERS) refused to commit a single penny of its \$27 billion fund to Platinum Equity, depriving that private equity firm of a proposed \$250 million investment after the Worth Rises "Liberate Our Prisons Campaign" exposed their ownership of the predatory prison telecom giant Securis Technologies. Worth Rises asserted that "Investing with Platinum would mean putting hard-earned pensioner funds into prison profiteers."

The September 5 program at College Park Baptist Church drew a larger than anticipated audience, almost 200. A September 1 column in the *News&Record* by Gary Kenton and P.Whitney Vanderwerff may have boosted attendance. They write that "behind each of the stories you have heard about children being housed in cages, detainees being denied soap and other basic necessities, and parents not knowing where their children are, is a system that is making some people suffer and other people rich."

We return to Holy Trinity for the November 19 Lunch with the League program, our 2019 series finale: "Immigration: Policies and Possibilities" featuring Jeremy McKinney, second vice president, American Immigration Lawyers Association, and Dr. Fabrice Lehoucq, Professor of Political Science, UNCG.

Whitney Grove Vanderwerff, Coordinator

LWVPT 2020 Planning Committee

A copy of the logo developed by The Kings English Graphic Design that contains a yellow rose as a focal point, was presented to the committee. An explanation of the colors in the logo (purple, white and yellow) was provided using the flag of the Suffragists and the significance of the yellow rose. Additionally, plans were shared for using the yellow rose in various ways, including yellow solar roses as developed by a committee planning for the commemoration kick-off in March 2020. All organizations expressing an interest in being involved will be invited to join in the sponsorship of the kick-off. The logo as presented was adopted by the committee with some suggested minor changes. We hope to have a final version to share next month.

The LWVPT calendar that includes, in addition to its own possible LWL programs and collaborations with other organizations, three big programs of its own: the March kick-off, the August 18 reception for elected officials, and the dedication of the monument to Gertrude Weil in October was reviewed by the committee.

The AAUW is sponsoring a bus tour to Seneca Falls on May 1-3, 2020 that will include a stop at the home of Maggie Walker in Richmond and the home on Susan B. Anthony in New York. The cost will be between \$400- \$700, including lodging. Meals are not included.

A meeting of representatives from all but three of the 4-year colleges and universities in the Triad occurred on September 20. They are meeting again on October 11 and committed to reaching out personally to the institutions not in attendance to become involved.

Willie Taylor, coordinator, 2020 Planning Committee

Greensboro's One City One Book 2019

The book chosen for this year is *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. The events are varied and there will be several opportunities to discuss the book. The first few events are included here.

A Journey to South Africa

October 9 at 7 – 8:30 pm, Glenn McNairy Branch

UNCG faculty and students in African American and African Diaspora Studies will guide us as we explore the country and its culture through games, conversation, and virtual reality.

Uplifting Voices – The Music of South Africa

Thursday October 10 at 7 pm, Central Library

This presentation offers an overview of the work of some of the most influential musicians and singer/songwriters in South Africa from the apartheid era to the present. It reflects the vibrant diversity of South African music, and how popular music is a fusion of indigenous traditional music, as well as Western music styles and genres. The program will be presented by Kumbirai Khosa, Ed.D. English Adjunct Instructor,

Voter Service: LWVPT and You Can Vote:

LWVPT and You Can Vote (YCV):

LWVPT and YCV shared a table at the September 22nd Criminal Justice event at Temple Emanuel. Attendees were offered voter information and information on the League and YCV. We will continue to look for additional opportunities to co-brand at events.

If you are interested in participating in future LWVPT/YCV events please plan to attend a 90-minute training session which is required to participate in LWVPT-YCV events. You can view the training schedule and sign up for training and voter education events at YouCanVote.org.

Vote411.org

The Vote411.org team is continuing its work in preparation for the upcoming election. Candidate questions were developed and candidate invitations to participate were sent September 10th. A reminder email was sent September 25th. Calls urging candidates to respond will be scheduled in the near future.

If you would like to volunteer to call candidates who have not responded to the questionnaire to encourage them to respond, please contact Sandra Colyer at 336.991.1173 or voterservice@lwvpt.org. Candidate calls will be made in early October.

Once candidate responses are in, we will test the ability to download candidate information and responses directly from Vote411 for use as a printed (hard copy) Voter Guide.

Two of our members received well-deserved accolades recently:

Addy Jeffrey received the YWCA Greensboro "Sheroes" award for her social justice work at the second annual "Sheroes" event on September 7 at the Proximity Hotel.

Viola Fuller received recognition for her longtime service to the Greensboro Branch of the NAACP at their 54th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet, held on September 22 at the Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel.

Congratulations to both of these outstanding women!

Voter Registration

Volunteering to register people to vote and urging them to be informed voters is one of the most important things you can do to make democracy work! Please volunteer by contacting the coordinator via email VoterRegistration@lwpvt.org or phone 336-210-7763.

Treasurer's Report

The LWVPT General Fund closed September with at a net income of -\$3,516.23 due largely to the payment in full of both the LWVUS and LWVNC Per Member Payment (PMP) invoices. The LWVPT Education Fund closed September with a positive net income of \$471.61.

Copies of the financial statements are available upon request. Please send your request to: Treasurer@lwpvt.org or you can call me at 336.991.1173.

How to Give to the LWVPT

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.

2020 Census will Impact Your Community

A new school to ease overcrowded classrooms. A new road to ease overcrowded commutes. There are many ways the 2020 Census can shape your community. The results, collected once a decade, help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year.

Helping Communities

Did you know that U.S. Census Bureau data helps communities respond to natural disasters and secure funding for hospitals and fire departments?

[Importance of the Data](#)

[Read More](#)

[The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—our population, where we live, and so much more.](#)

In next month's issue, we will tell you about ways to respond and ways to get involved.

SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES:

LWVPT Is co-sponsoring the following programs. We encourage all members to participate, and help us spread the word about them! Please email President@lwvpt.org if you want more information and/or want to help. These programs are all offered to the public at no charge.

Free Speech Conference: Finding Expression in Contested Public Spaces, October 24 (7-9 pm) -25 (8 a.m. - 3 pm), Alumni House -- Virginia Dare Room. For conference details: <https://tinyurl.com/FreeSpeechUNCG2019>

Reproductive Justice Forum, November 5, 6 pm at Parkway United Church, 1645 Irving Street, Winston-Salem.

Speakers include Irena Como, Acting Director of ACLU of NC; Susanna Birdsong, Senior Legislative Counsel of ACLU of NC; Tara Romano, Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice NC; a representative from A Woman's Choice Clinic in Greensboro; and (pending the NC legislature schedule, Rep. Pricey Harrison. Topics will include recent reproductive rights court cases in NC: issues and outcomes; pending or possible future legislation that could be coming in NC; review of national abortion bans, examples of proposed legislation and court challenges; action steps.

On November 6 at 7 pm, Scuppernon Books, 304 S. Elm Street, Greensboro, has scheduled a showing of the Robert Greenwald film **Suppressed: The Fight to Vote**, which chronicles the disenfranchisement tactics used in the 2016 Georgia senatorial race with an eye toward their use nationally in the 2020 election. LWVPT members are being asked to talk about voter registration and disenfranchisement in North Carolina at this event. We'd also like to plan how we can combat these practices. The film can be viewed in its entirety on Youtube here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=03DGjnlkTdl

Officers or the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad

Co-President: Vicki White-Lawrence (2018-2020), 336-643-7676/336-324-7267, President@lwvpt.org

Co-President: Ann Shaw (2019-2021), 765-520-5939, President@lwvpt.org

Vice-President: Anna Fesmire (2019-2020), (Chair, Social Justice RT), 336-457-7165, vicepresident@lwvpt.org

Secretary: Cynthia Schaub (2019-2021), 336-908-7697, sec@lwvpt.org

Treasurer: Sandra Colyer (2018-2020), 336-991-1173, treasurer@lwvpt.org

The co-presidents have the same email address. A message sent to President@lwvpt.org will go to both Vicki and Ann.

#####