

# VOTER IMPACT

September, 2019 Vol. XXXII Issue 1

## Lunch with the League

**"Cash Bail Created Debtor's Prisons: Some North Carolina Solutions,"**

**Speakers: The Honorable Regan A. Miller, Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 26, and Professor Jessica Smith, Director of the UNC School of Government's Criminal Justice Innovation Lab.**

**Tuesday, September 17, 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.**

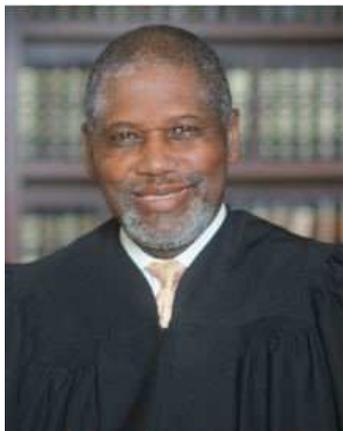
**Make reservations with Bonnie Kristoff by phone (336-547-0824) or send email to**

**[Reservations@lwvpt.org](mailto:Reservations@lwvpt.org) by September 11. 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](mailto:bbklunch@gmail.com)), or via the website ([lwvpt.org](http://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](mailto:WebVi@lwvpt.org).*

## Hon. Regan A. Miller – Biographical Sketch



Judge Regan A. Miller is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Economics in 1975 from Williams College and his law degree from the University Of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1978. He has worked for the federal government as an Attorney Advisor with the Interstate Commerce Commission, and a Trial Attorney, Supervisory Trial Attorney and Administrative Judge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He was an associate with the Charlotte law firm of James, McElroy & Diehl, P.A., and a partner in the Charlotte law firm of Murphy, Chapman & Miller, P.A.

Governor Jim Hunt appointed him to the bench as a District Court Judge in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina in June 1999. Judge Miller has presided over all types of civil, criminal, juvenile and family court matters filed in district court. In 2013 Judge Miller was appointed Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 26, the largest judicial district in our state. Aside from his administrative duties as the chief judge, Judge Miller still presides over various criminal, civil, and juvenile cases.

Judge Miller has served as President of the Board of Directors of the Charlotte Drug Education Center and Olde Providence Racquet Club, as a member of the Board of Directors of Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont, Teen Health Connection, Community Link, Southminster Continuing Care Community and as a Deacon at Myers Park Baptist Church.

## Jessica Smith – Biographical Sketch



Jessica Smith came to the School of Government in 2000, after practicing law at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., and clerking for Judge W. Earl Britt on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina and for Judge J. Dickson Phillips Jr. on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

At the School of Government, Smith works with judges and others involved in the criminal justice system. Her numerous books, chapters, articles, and other publications deal with criminal procedure, substantive criminal law, and evidence.

In 2015, Chief Justice Mark Martin appointed Smith as a Reporter for the N.C. Commission on the Administration of Law & Justice. Smith played a central role in developing the Commission's recommendation to raise North Carolina's juvenile age, which was enacted into law by the state legislature. Smith offers numerous courses for judges and is actively involved in criminal justice reform projects, including pretrial justice and addressing overcriminalization.

In 2006, she received the Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Term Professorship for Teaching Excellence; in 2013, she was named by the Chancellor as a W. R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor, one of the University's highest academic honors. Smith earned a BA, cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she was managing editor of the Law Review.

## Message from the President -- September 2019 VI

Every summer just seems to fly by, but this one especially! I am noticing the changes in temperature, humidity and daylight as I walk my dog every day. We are getting good exercise, fresh air and some time to think!

I hope everyone is enjoying the more comfortable temperatures and is excited about gearing up for a new year with the League! We have some new officers, including Co-President Ann Shaw, and Secretary Cynthia Schaub. We also welcome new Board members Carolyn Bunker, Jane Harris, Ellen Weiner, and Gloria Harris. For the first time in quite some time, we also have new chairs for a couple of our roundtables -- Laurey Solomon for Health, and Colleen Fairbanks for Public Education. Welcome to all, and to other members and adjuncts who are returning to the Board! We have a great team!

As noted elsewhere in this issue, we are offering another great program at our Lunch with the League on Sept. 17. (Lunch with the League is always the 3rd Tuesday. Programs are organized by our roundtables, cover timely issues and allow for thoughtful discussion and questions afterwards.) We are glad to offer these lunch programs -- and all programs -- at no cost to our members and to the public. We welcome donations to cover the costs. Always look for our "red box" at our events! (There is also information elsewhere in this issue about how to donate.)

Our roundtables are where the work of the League takes place, so you may want to consider checking out one or more that sparks your interest. These groups meet regularly and plan actions and programs to help address issues. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and hardworking folks head them up and faithfully attend to help with this work. However, we realize that everyone has their own strengths, time and energy and we welcome everyone at whatever level is comfortable for them. That may mean you follow what the groups are doing via this newsletter or the LWVPT website, that you drop in for meetings as you are able, or that you are one of those people who is at every meeting -- whatever works for you!

Looking forward to another great year with the League!!

*Vicki White-Lawrence*, Co-President

### 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](mailto:Member-roster@lwwpt.org).

**If you need to renew, you can find links to join/renew  
at [www.lwwpt.org/Membership.html](http://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.**

---

---

## 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 October and November. If you can use Word or another word processor you can do this. Please consider it and send email to [lvvptmail@gmail.com](mailto:lvvptmail@gmail.com) and volunteer.

---

---

### In memory of David P. Haxton

*David P. Haxton died August 1, He belonged to the LWVPT . was a member of the Board of Directors, and was one of the first chairs of the LWL lunch programs. He worked for UNICEF and he, his wife, and six children lived all over the world. In his memory we have posted an article, **Doing Good in Bad Times**, he wrote for Voter Impact. The article is posted in News to Use.*

### Submissions to Voter Impact

If you have something to share with other members of the LWVPT, please send your information to [webvi@lvvpt.org](mailto:webvi@lvvpt.org) on or before the first Tuesday of the month.

---

---

### Recycling NOW

As most of us know, Greensboro has modified the city's recycling program. See one of the Wednesday Alerts for where to take your glass. For which items can and cannot be recycled go to this webpage and download the new chart.

<https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/field-operations/recycle>.

### GREENSBORO CLIMATE STRIKE

This event is one of several sponsored by the **Youth Climate Strike**. Read about the group here:

<https://www.youthclimatestrikeus.org/about>. This group was founded by Greta Thunbeeg. We are sharing this information for those who are not youth, but want to support the young among us.

Friday, September 20, 2019 7:00 AM, 110 S. Greene St. Greensboro 27401

Host Contact [dortchmann@yahoo.com](mailto:dortchmann@yahoo.com)

“Attend this event” form online at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/greensboro-climate-strike?>

### Health Roundtable

Health RT will have a booth at GSO Pride Festival 09/15/19 from 11 am to 6 pm. We will engage people in discussion promoting Health Care for All, offer the opportunity to play "Health Care Trivia" and award pens with our logo and Health Care for All on them as prizes.

### How to Give to the LWVPT

Make **tax deductible** donations to the "**LWVPT Education Fund, Inc.**" online at [http://www.lvvpt.org/donate\\_form.html](http://www.lvvpt.org/donate_form.html) or by mail to:

LWVPT Education Fund

P O Box 9721

Greensboro, NC 27429

<http://lvvpt.org>

Using the same information, you may also make **non-deductible** donations to "LWVPT" (operating fund), used for advocacy on issues.

## Our sympathies

**Our thoughts and sympathy are with Judith McAlister, and daughter Caroline McAlister and family. Mac McAlister (husband and father) passed away on Saturday, August 24.**

## Nominating Committee

Members of the LWVPT Nominating Committee invite you to consider becoming a nominee for the 2020-2021 LWVPT board of directors. Each of us will gladly speak with you about the positions open next year and about the responsibilities related to those positions. You are welcome to recommend others who might want to serve on our board. We will be in attendance at Lunch With the League meetings and will be available on email, as well. Members of the committee are: Tyler Daye, Addy Jeffrey, Bonnie Kristoff, Sue Stinson and Lynn Bennett. We look forward to your recommendations.

*Lynn Bennett*, Chair Nominating Committee

## Membership Committee Report

We have had 13 members join since our May meeting: **Al Chilcott, Steve Friedland, Janis Hammett, Patricia Marshall, Regina Murphy, Nancy Ferguson, Carolina Pemberton, Kathleen Pounds, Jennifer Sadock, Kimberly Wheat, Judith Haughee-Bartlett, Annie Rouse, and Deborah Bingham.**

The Membership Committee meets every other month. At the meeting the date is set for the next meeting depending on members schedules - there is no fixed date like the first Thursday of the month. We currently have 5 active members and would welcome more.

We reviewed the New Member handbook and determined no revisions were needed at this time. Bob Kollar is continuing to send welcome notes to new members as they join. Peggy Ferebee follows with another letter giving them information on the upcoming LWL, Handbook and Roundtable contacts. A link to the new member survey is included. Janice Siebert continues to receive those and contacts Roundtable chairs with the contact information of those new members who express interest in a particular Roundtable or committee. Unfortunately we have had a low response.

We have put a renewal reminder in the weekly alerts. We also sent out an email reminder. We will send another email reminder in September and will send out postcards in October. We will call those who have not responded. Those who do not respond by the end of the year will be removed from the membership roster before we send in the yearly roster to LWVUS.

Jean Alsop talked to Charlotte Steele concerning intern programs. Charlotte outlined the formats and structure she has used in programs she has worked with. This information will be presented at the September board meeting.

We also discussed how to diversity the membership. We can get involved in activities at the local collages to encourage more young people to join. We can also look at doing programs in other areas of the city and try to make sure membership information is available at things like voter registrations.

We would like to hold a New Member Orientation on October 13, 3-5, at Benjamin Branch Library. I would like Roundtables to send a representative if possible and invite other Board members to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

*Peggy Ferebee*, Membership Co-chair.

## Voter Registration

Voter education and voter registration are the League of Women Voters historical reasons for being. As the year of celebration preceding the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment begins this month, let's make sure we are still working to insure not only women but also ALL eligible voters are registered as well as to encourage voters to learn about the voting process, the issues, and the candidates' platforms and urge them to let their voices be heard by voting.

LWVPT needs members who are interested in voter registration to contact our VR coordinator to say you want to be a part of the effort to register voters at numerous and varied venues. You don't have to be ready to participate in every VR event we have but just be willing to participate when you are available. The larger our pool of volunteers, the less often you will need to participate.

We have several venues on the books for September and some but not all are already partially staffed. We especially will need help on ***National Voter Registration Day (Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>)*** when we will have several venues for voter registration.

At VR events we also provide verbal and printed material information on the voting process and, if appropriate, the early voting information and the offices for which elections are being held and information about nonpartisan resources on voting such as the League's [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) (candidates and issues) and LWVPT's [VoterSurvivalKit.org](http://VoterSurvivalKit.org) (FAQs about voting process and duties of elected officials). An added point of education at VR this year will be the new photo id requirement. If you are interested, please contact coordinator via email [VoterRegistration@lwwpt.org](mailto:VoterRegistration@lwwpt.org) or phone 336-210-7763.

**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!**

*Barbara Carter, Chair Voter Registration*

## REDISTRICTING

**The Alert message for the week of September 2 had information about the redistricting case in North Carolina. If you missed it please check your email. In addition to the Common Cause announcement, the League of Women Voters of North Carolina has an extensive press release on line at <https://lwwnc.org/2019/09/04/3365/>**

"The Superior Court ruling confirms that carrying partisan considerations to extremes threatens our democracy," said LWVNC President Jo Nicholas. "We're especially pleased that the court has ordered the legislature to draw the maps in public, rather than behind closed doors. By specifying clear and reasonable criteria and barring use of previous election results that can predict voter behavior, the court has mandated the type of open, fair, and transparent process that the League has long advocated."

## Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

This roundtable presented a public program "Who Benefits from the War on Immigrants? Follow the Money," on Thursday, September 5, at College Park Baptist Church. Panelists were Dr. Felicia Arriaga, Appalachian State University; Alissa Ellis, American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina; and LWVPT member P. Whitney Vanderwerff, Independent Researcher and Moderator.

Companies across the country, including in North Carolina, are making millions of dollars from contracts with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). In an *Atlantic* cover story in 2018, Franklin Foer wrote that "detention is a boom industry, backed by such megafunds as Vanguard and BlackRock." The roundtable program revealed the scope of private-prison-industry profits. Time was allocated for lively audience participation and consideration of options for meaningful action. These include:

(a) At every opportunity, discuss immigration profiteers and provide accurate information. Use current information from [ACLU.org](http://ACLU.org), [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org), [readsludge.com](http://readsludge.com), or [worthrises.org](http://worthrises.org) and The Southern Poverty Law Center's class action lawsuit reporting inadequate health care in 160 detention centers across the country, wherein ICE contractors fail to meet constitutional and regulatory requirements.

(b) Consider personal divestment from and personal boycott of detention profiteers. Urge US representatives to support vigorous Congressional oversight of both US Citizenship and Immigration Services and US Department of Homeland Security and to oppose the latest outrages such as: Attempting to notify seriously ill undocumented immigrants and their families, who had been granted permission to stay in the US for medical treatment, that they have 33 days to leave. The separation and detention of children and families. Packing the Board of Immigration Appeals, created last year, with judges from courts with high rates of denying immigrants' asylum cases.

(c) Use the NC Justice Center's research and advocacy to oppose the public charge rule.

Locate contact information for your local, state and federal representatives by going to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), hovering over "Elections" at top of screen, clicking on "Find Your Elected Officials" and entering your street address and 5 digit zipcode.

-Many in our group and other League members attended the Vigil for Detained Immigrants the evening of July 12 at Governmental Plaza as well as the Rise for Refuge press conference August 1 mid-day at Center City Park. The 8/17 Unity Walk and Festival, organized by several groups this year, was more diversified and drew larger crowds. Adamou Mohamed distributed Sept. 5 posters at the Festival.

-M.J. Mayorga coordinated the High Point YWCA's "Know Your Rights" program on August 31.

We are planning the November 19 Lunch with the League program at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church with this focus: What would a fair, humane, transparent immigration policy look like? As part of this: How has the U.S. contributed to the numbers of immigrants from Central America through U.S. policies? What kinds of policies could help people in their own countries? What are the obstacles to getting such policies passed as well as policies to overcome them? How can League members help? Jeremy McKinney of McKinney Immigration will be one of the two speakers.

Beginning September 18, we resume our regular meeting schedule, first and third Wednesdays with the exception of January 1, 11:30-1:00 at McKinney Immigration law offices, 910 N. Elm Street.

*Whitney Grove Vanderwerff*, Coordinator

## **Commemorating the 100th Year Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment in 2020**

Since organizing in February, the 20-member committee has met monthly except July when sub-committees of the full planning committee met to develop plans and recommendations in the areas of League programming, publicity, calendaring, and finance.

The Committee has reached out to a large number of clubs and organizations including libraries, museums, professional and social groups and the Girl Scout Council. Did you know that Girl Scouts babysat young children for mothers while voting in the 1920 election?

In addition, all colleges and universities within in the Triad are being invited to participate. One of the universities and possibly one or more of the colleges are making the suffrage movement a campus-wide theme in 2020-21. A report on these extraordinary programs being planned will be included in the Voter Impact throughout the year.

The theme for the commemoration is "*1920 - 2020: Women Voting - America Changing*". A logo is in the process of being designed and will be included in the October VI.

## September 17 is Constitution Day.

**The full text of the US Constitution is online and indexed.**

**<https://constitutionus.com/> or at**

**<https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/index.html>**

### (Preamble)

***We the People*** of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

### Annual Meeting

On May 15, LWVPT held its Annual Meeting. Following a wine social to get things started, we kicked off the meeting with a wonderfully interactive presentation by Steven Friedland, whose topic was voting rights and the Constitution. We even arranged for all attendees to have their own pocket-sized edition of the Constitution to take home with them.

In addition to our regular business session, where we elected new officers and Board members and updated our bylaws, we recognized some LWVPT members. These members were Janice Siebert, Robin Lane, Sue Jezorek, Trudy Whitacre, and Sue Stinson. Also recognized for various partnerships with LWVPT events was Cone Health Foundation.

The Annual Meeting (held in May of each year) is a great way to recap LWVPT accomplishments for the previous year as we plan for the next, but it is also a way to celebrate our history as we hear about the accomplishments of those being honored. We hope everyone will plan to attend in May 2020 as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote!

## 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.

### **Spirit! Dance of Africa**

Thursday, September 26 at 7- 8 pm, Central Library

The Suah African Dance Theatre is a professional touring African drum and dance company based in Greensboro, NC. Will give a lively dance performance and explain some of the African roots of dance in the US.

### **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, GTCC.

## **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@lwwpt.org](mailto:President@lwwpt.org)

**Co-President: Ann Shaw** (2019-2021), 765-520-5939, [President@lwwpt.org](mailto:President@lwwpt.org)

**Vice-President: Anna Fesmire** (2019-2020), (Chair, Social Justice RT), 336-457-7165, [vicepresident@lwwpt.org](mailto:vicepresident@lwwpt.org)

**Secretary: Cynthia Schaub** (2019-2021), 336-908-7697, [sec@lwwpt.org](mailto:sec@lwwpt.org)

**Treasurer: Sandra Colyer** (2018-2020), 336-991-1173, [treasurer@lwwpt.org](mailto:treasurer@lwwpt.org)

The co-presidents have the same email address. A message sent to [President@lwwpt.org](mailto:President@lwwpt.org) will go to both Vicki and Ann.

## **Voter Service: LWVPT and You Can Vote:**

LWVPT and You Can Vote have formed a partnership to intensify our voter education, registration, and empowerment efforts. The LWVPT-YCV partnership offers our members, who are passionate about getting out the vote, additional outreach opportunities in underserved communities. You Can Vote is a strictly non-partisan 501(c)3 organization focused solely on voter education and registration in North Carolina.

A 90-minute training session is required to participate in LWVPT-YCV events. Leila Lewis, You Can Vote's Guilford County Organizing Director, provided a special training for LWVPT members on Wednesday, August 14th. There are additional training sessions scheduled in both Guilford and Forsyth Counties. You can view the training schedule and sign up for training and voter education events at [YouCanVote.org](http://YouCanVote.org).

## **Vote411.org**

The Vote411.org team was re-engaged in early August to prepare for the 2019 election cycle. The team is focusing on the elections in 5 counties: Alamance, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, and Rockingham. Sara White put together an excellent timeline and list of resources to help identify local issues. Candidate questions were researched and completed by the team September 2nd and invitations to candidates to participate will be sent September 9th. The Voter Guide is scheduled to be published online September 25<sup>th</sup>.

We are very excited about using the newly redesigned Vote411.org website to its fullest extent. Once candidate responses are in, we will be testing the ability to download candidate information and responses directly from Vote411 for use as a printed (hard copy) Voter Guide.

Team members currently working on the Vote411 project include: Geoffrey Butler, Barbara Carter, Sandra Colyer, Anna Fesmire, Sue Jezorek, Tracy Nash, Donna Peterson, Marlene Pratto, and Charlotte Steele. 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@lwwpt.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwpt.org). Candidate calls will be made September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The LWVPT General Fund closed the 2018-2019 fiscal year with a net income of \$1,310.61 with total assets of \$24,836.80. The LWVPT Education Fund closed the 2018-2019 fiscal year with a net income of \$8,877.06 with total assets of \$36,692.99. Copies of the 2018-2019 financial statements are available upon request. Please send your request to: [Treasurer@lwwpt.org](mailto:Treasurer@lwwpt.org).

Attendees at the LWVPT Annual Meeting in May were introduced to the proposed merger of the General Fund (a 501(c)4) and Education Fund (a 501(c)3) into a single 501(c)3 organization. Benefits of the merger include the need for only one Board of Directors, one Budget, one set of books, and fewer bank accounts. In addition, membership dues and donations would qualify for individual tax deductions. Actual monetary expenditures for lobbying cannot exceed 20% of the League's income however, the Board was confident that this limit would not be exceeded. The majority of our lobbying efforts are self-funded by our membership (mileage and time). The 2019-2020 Board of Directors reconfirmed the decision to move forward at the September Board meeting.

The merger is a process that will take several months to work through. The League membership must also vote on revised Bylaws for the new organization. More information will be forthcoming as the process continues. If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Colyer at 336.991.1173 or [treasurer@lwwpt.org](mailto:treasurer@lwwpt.org).

**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@lwwpt.org](mailto:VoterRegistration@lwwpt.org) or phone 336-210-7763.