



# VOTER IMPACT

February, 2020 Vol. XXXII Issue 5

## Lunch with the League

**" Healthcare Reform: Wake Up, America, and Get This Done"**

**Presenter: Dr. Teresa Bratton  
With Rob Luisana and Dr. Wayne Hale**

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

**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@lwpvt.org](mailto:Reservations@lwpvt.org) by February 12. 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 (lwpvt.org). If you need the form to send in your reservation, contact Bonnie with that request.

## Speakers for February LWL

Dr Teresa Bratton will provide a brief overview of the healthcare position of LWVUS. Then she will summarize a recent *Commonwealth Fund* article that outlines eight possible paths to healthcare reform. The *Commonwealth Fund* is a private foundation with a nearly \$700 million endowment whose purpose is to promote better access, quality and efficiency in healthcare, particularly for the most vulnerable and elderly Americans. Since it's a complex subject, we will have handouts on the tables people can refer to while she talks and then take home for further study. After Dr. Bratton's part, Rob Luisana and Dr. Wayne Hale will take questions from the perspectives of the groups they represent, the insurance industry and *Physicians for a National Health Plan*.

**Rob Luisana** graduated from East Carolina University, in 1973, where he was Student Body President. He is a former Guilford County teacher and basketball coach, as well as serving as President of NCAE for Guilford County Schools, 1981- 83. He has worked as a health insurance broker and consultant for the past 35 years, working with corporations and individuals on all aspects of healthcare and insurance. Over the past five years, he has been a frequent presenter on healthcare issues, including NPR and Politico. Rob is married to Karen, an antique dealer and showroom director. They have two grown boys and four grandchildren.

Wayne Hale, MD, MS is a retired teacher of Family Medicine and Geriatrics at the *Cone Health System*. He has belonged to *Physicians for a National Health Plan* for many years and has recently served on the board of its local chapter, *Health Care for All North Carolina*. He is President of the *Piedmont Hiking and Outing Club*, a Vice Chair of the *Guilford County Commission on Aging* and a member of the Health Roundtable of the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad.

*Physicians for a National Health Plan* is a non-profit organization which includes physicians and other healthcare professionals and students. Its mission is to promote improved Medicare for All as the system for providing quality healthcare to all U.S. residents. The funding for this single payer system will come from general revenues, progressive taxes and monies currently being expended on middle-men organizations who no longer provide value to healthcare.



Rob Luisana



Dr. Teresa Bratton

## Message from the President – February 2020

I am writing this on the first morning in February. I am listening to my grandchildren playing at keeping the balloon off the floor in the next room. We are preparing to celebrate my granddaughter's fifth birthday tomorrow. I think of all that has transpired in the past five years. The world is in turmoil, there are refugees on the border, there is an impeachment trial going on in our own country, we are having one of the warmest winters on record. And yet, in the midst there is the joy of life and children's laughter. We have experienced young people from Florida and beyond rallying for gun control and Greta Thunberg rallying for climate consciousness.

We in the League have the opportunity to join these young people in their enthusiasm for life. There is such goodness and love all around us. We continue to educate ourselves so that we can take stands for young and old everywhere.

I invite you to join us this February on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Lunch with the League when our Health Roundtable will present the program talking about possibilities for greater health for all. We are called to education and action. Please join us..

*Co-president Ann Proescholdt-Shaw*

### Project 2020 Thanks

A few weeks ago, LWVPT Members received a letter introducing and requesting support for Project 2020, our initiative to commemorate and celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U. S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. Members have donated many hours to make a success of this project. We all thank you! We also thank the many members who donated the funds for this project, which is both educational and visual, with a delightful traveling display of 100 illuminating yellow solar roses to promote the events.



The donors are listed alphabetically: Margaret Arbuckle, Barbara Carter, Frances Doost, Peggy Ferebee, Mario and Lynn Grigni, Lynn and Wayne Hale, Jane Harris, Anne Hummel, Rodna Hurewitz, Judith Hyman, Gary Kenton, Bonnie Kristoff, Mary Miller, Elizabeth Moser, Tracy Nash, Marlene Pratto, Sylvia Samet, Ann Proescholdt-Shaw, Mary Nelle Smith, Laurey Solomon and Willie Taylor.

We also wish to thank the LWV which donated a grant of \$200 towards the Voter Registration Project.



## The Elections are coming, the Elections are coming!!!

The NC primary election is being held on March 3, 2020. There is a Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian Party ballot. If you are registered UNA then you may choose to vote in one of those primaries.

**Early voting period is Thurs Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – Sat Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>.** The **Primary 2020 early voting schedule-and-sites calendar** is posted on your county's Board of Elections page.

For your convenience, the direct link to early voting calendar for each of the LWVPT counties are given below:

**Alamance:** <https://www.alamance-nc.com/elections/wp-content/uploads/sites/70/2019/12/One-Stop-Hours-March.pdf>

**Forsyth:** [https://www.forsyth.cc/elections/assets/documents/2020\\_EV\\_Schedule\\_Primary\\_Election\\_SB683.pdf](https://www.forsyth.cc/elections/assets/documents/2020_EV_Schedule_Primary_Election_SB683.pdf)

**Guilford:** <https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/home/showdocument?id=9491>

**Randolph:** <http://www.randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Elections>

**Rockingham:**

<https://www.co.rockingham.nc.us/files/documents/2020PrimaryElectionOneStopSchedule1007030723123019PM.pdf>

**Stokes:** <http://www.co.stokes.nc.us/v/EarlyVotingScheduleInformation.pdf>

**For all counties:** [https://s3.amazonaws.com/dl.ncsbe.gov/One-Stop\\_Early\\_Voting/One-Stop%20Site%20List.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/dl.ncsbe.gov/One-Stop_Early_Voting/One-Stop%20Site%20List.pdf) \*alpha listing of counties' info on state website.

**Not in town or homebound for the entire early voting period and Election Day???** Request an absentee ballot, vote an absentee ballot, and mail it (or have a near relative deliver it by hand to Board of Elections). Rules and forms at <https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voting-Options/Absentee-Voting#AbsenteeVotinginNorthCarolina> .

Use <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup>:

**to check your registration status, address, and other info about the precinct and districts in which you reside.**

Check this website on election years to make sure that your registration information is current and that your status is listed as “active.” If it is inactive, you must register again. If your address isn't current, you need to correct that and cancel registration at the former address.

**to find a sample of the specific ballot you will receive at early voting or on March 3 (or in the fall for Nov. 3).** It is helpful to know which candidates will appear on your ballot so you will know whose positions on issues to compare and study Click on your name which opens your voting information and lower on the page is the sample ballot.

THE PHOTO ID REQUIREMENT TO VOTE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION 2020.

Also be aware in the primary that we are using different voting machines which involve paper ballots. Allow a little more time to learn the process at the polls. **Be sure that the ballot properly reflects your intentions before submitting it.**

As always we encourage you to be an informed voter. **We highly recommend that you gather information on candidates from a variety of sources and fact check what you read and hear.** Look for non-partisan voter guides such [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) created by LWV. **Vote411 will be active Feb. 5.**

**Questions on voting process or the duties of officials?**

Check [VoterSurvivalKit.org](http://VoterSurvivalKit.org) for answers



## More Information about the 2020 census from the US Census Bureau

### College Students Count in 2020 Census

College towns across the country depend on students' responses to the census. The reason: census results help determine how much federal funding communities will receive over the next 10 years.

Even though many residents of a typical American college town might move away after they graduate, students should be counted in the area where they live at the time of the count. If the student lives on campus, she should be counted there. If the student lives at home, he should be counted there.

A complete and accurate count in 2020 is so important that the U.S. Census Bureau is hiring an estimated 500,000 temporary employees to ensure everyone is counted. An example: the recruiting staff At the Dallas Regional Census Center go to the student unions at least once a week and sets up a recruiting table (if the schools allow them to).

### Census Bureau Releases New Content on 2020Census.gov in 59 Languages

**JAN. 13, 2020** – The U.S. Census Bureau recently launched an update to 2020census.gov that includes content in 59 languages, including language assistance guides and videos that explain how to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail when it becomes available in mid-March. People can respond to the census online and by phone in 13 languages. The expansive site includes in-depth information in both English and Spanish.

The 2020 Census is more than a population count. It's an opportunity to shape the future of your community.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT VOTER IMPACT

Voter Impact will be formatted in this simpler format for the foreseeable future. We need someone to edit and format Voter Impact. If you can use Word or another word processor you can do this. Please consider it and send email to [lwvptmail@gmail.com](mailto:lwvptmail@gmail.com) and volunteer If two or more persons volunteer, no one will need to do all issues.

### Voter Service – North Carolina Primaries are Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020!

If you are interested in joining the team contacting candidates to urge them to participate please email [voterservice@lwvpt.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvpt.org).

### Environment Roundtable

In December the ERT went to Elon University to observe the solar panel installation

On January 9, 2020 the ERT met at St. Andrew's church with 13 persons in attendance. Co-Chair of the Roundtable, Dick Feulner shared the results of his research on the topic of "Plastic and Plastic Waste in the Environment. " The resulting information should be a catalyst for thought and action.

Did you know that 450 million tons of plastic were produced in 2015 and, at the current rate, will double by 2050? Plastic production accelerated after WWII and has revolutionized medicine, space travel, auto and airplane manufacturing as well as the building and construction industries. Half of all plastics have been made in the last 15 years. Annually the

construction and building industry uses 72 million pounds of plastic. The Coca-Cola Company used 128 billion plastic bottles in 2015, 320 for every individual in the U.S.

What happens to all this plastic? In Asia, where waste management systems are undeveloped, as much as 72,000 tons of plastic waste flows annually from Manila Bay into the Pacific Ocean. Globally, only 18% of plastics are recycled annually. 79% of the plastics produced in the last 70 years have been thrown into landfills or the general environment. Scientists have estimated that it takes 400 years for plastic to breakdown at which point it becomes micro- and, eventually, nano- plastic contaminating our drinking water, oceans and air. If there is no change, by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans and 99% of all seabirds will have consumed some plastic.

What can we do? We can reduce our use of single-use plastics. Purchase and use a refillable water bottle rather than buying bottled water. We can recycle our trash properly. On-line, the Waste Wizard can help with what can and cannot be recycled in Greensboro. Be aware and support local bans on single-use bags and food containers. Avoid products containing micro beads such as toothpastes, and face scrubs because the micro beads cannot be picked up by waste treatment facilities. Spread the word to make others aware of plastic pollution. And, we can support organizations that are addressing plastic pollution.

Future programs will include a report on electric cars and a ride on one of Greensboro's electric buses and a tour of the bus depot.

*Judy Hoag and Dick Feulner, co-chairs*

## Welcome

We would like to welcome **Gabriela Warwick** who joined in January:

## How to Give to the LWVPT

Donations to all LWVPT funds can be made via the website, [http://www.lwvpt.org/donate\\_form.html](http://www.lwvpt.org/donate_form.html) or by mail to: LWVPT , P O Box 9721. Greensboro, NC 27429

## Sympathies

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Sally Cone. a former League member who died in mid-January. Sally Cone was a great supporter of Women's Studies at UNCG.

## Immigration Policy Reform Roundtable

On January 21, Greensboro City Council discussed the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for \$138,000 proposed for the Greensboro Police Department, with the majority voting against accepting the grant. To accept it, the city would have to agree to cooperate with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). At the January 7 City Council Meeting, Yvonne Johnson, Michelle Kennedy and Sharon Hightower had said that turning down the grant is preferable to having our local police cooperate with ICE, which would allow the federal government to interfere with the existing policies and practices of the City and the Police Department. Recently, ICE has exerted alarming power to detain undocumented residents, most with only minor infractions.

Sharon Hightower, Yvonne Johnson, Michelle Kennedy, Tammi Thurm and Mayor Nancy Vaughan comprised the majority voting not to accept the grant on January 21, stating that we declare ourselves a welcoming city for immigrants and refugees.

Mary Susan Gratcofsky Jesserer-Poore of Caswell County is organizing an educational series "offering presentations embedded with the truth, steadied by data." The sponsoring organization is the Caswell County Peace Initiative. The Roundtable will present a program in the new Caswell County Public Library this spring.

### ***Michelle Alexander on Mass Incarceration, Mass Deportation***

"Injustice on Repeat," an essay in the January 19 *New York Times*, features substantial excerpts from the 10th anniversary edition of "The New Jim Crow." Many of us read the first edition and remember the historian Michelle Alexander's riveting address and visit here. Even more compelling, her new essay speaks to civil rights/human rights in the past decade: "From mass incarceration to mass deportation, our nation remains in deep denial....The politics of white supremacy, which defined our original constitution, have continued unabated -- repeatedly and predictably engendering new systems of racial and social control. Just a few decades ago, politicians vowed to build more prison walls. Today, they promise border walls.

"The modest criminal justice reforms that were achieved during the Obama administration coincided with the expansion of the system of mass deportation....The administration made enormous investments in private detention centers for immigrants, including the granting of a \$1 billion contract to Corrections Corporation of America, the nation's largest prison company, to build a detention facility for women and children asylum seekers from Central America.

Alexander names historian Kelly Lytle Hernandez as one of "a growing number of scholars and activists who have begun to connect the dots between mass incarceration and mass deportation....In recent decades, the system of mass incarceration has stripped away from millions of U.S. citizens basic civil and human rights....Immigration violations that were once treated as minor civil infractions are now crimes. Minor legal infractions, ranging from shoplifting to marijuana possession to traffic violations, now routinely prompt one of the nation's most devastating sanctions -- deportation.

Near its conclusion, Alexander's essay considers efforts now underway: "Millions of people have been inspired to demonstrate solidarity on a large scale across the lines of gender, race, religion and class in defense of those who have been demonized and targeted for elimination. [The administration's] blatant racial demagoguery has awakened many from their 'colorblind' slumber and spurred collective action to oppose the Muslim ban and the border wall, and to create sanctuaries for immigrants in their places of worship and local communities.

"A politics of solidarity is beginning to emerge -- the only form of politics that holds any hope for our collective liberation. The centuries-long struggle to birth a truly inclusive, egalitarian democracy -- a nation in which every voice and every life truly matters -- did not begin with us, and it will not end with us. The struggle is as old as the nation itself and the birth process has been painful, to say the least. My hope and prayer is that we will serve as faithful midwives in our lifetimes and do what we can to make America, finally, what it must become."

### ***Upcoming Immigration Program***

The enormous spending bill passed last month in Congress contains provisions for the border barrier, enabling money to be taken from other accounts to build it while stipulating restrictions on the materials that can be used. It does not cap the numbers of detention beds or require improved immigrant detention conditions. The bill does provide assistance for immigrants negotiating the legal system. This includes immigration courts, which will be the topic of the first program for the public we're planning this year. A National Press Club video will be followed by two co-presenters, immigration attorneys Helen Parsonage and Jessica Yanez. The program is March 31 from 6PM-7:30PM at Congregational United Church of Christ.

*Whitney Grove Vanderwerff*

## 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: Ellen Weiner** (2019-2021), 336-317-3423, [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.

### Submissions to Voter Impact

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

**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.