

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA
Educating and Advocating for Democracy



SUMMER, 2004

NC VOTER

LWVNC PARTNERS WITH SBOE AND LOCAL LEAGUES TO EDUCATE VOTERS ON “THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF VOTING”

The LWVNC, State Board of Elections (SBOE) and Leagues from Piedmont Triad, Moore County, Union County and Charlotte-Mecklenburg are working to educate voters on the basics of voting. The program developed from a request by Gary Bartlett, Executive Director of SBOE, and from meetings that the LWVNC Election Reform Team held with Directors of twenty-two local Boards of Elections.

“... LWVNC team members confirmed what many already knew. Voters lack basic information on voting.”

Bartlett suggested the community meeting as a way to educate the public on the basics of voting. Directors of local boards who were interviewed by LWVNC team members confirmed what many already knew. Voters lack basic information on voting. Questions such as “Where do I register to vote? What should I do

when I move? How can I vote if I’m out of town on Election Day?” go unanswered many times.

The League and the SBOE wanted to do something about this and put out a call to local Leagues to join in. Piedmont Triad, Moore, Union and Charlotte-Mecklenburg responded. Piedmont Triad partnered with Greensboro Community Television and the Guilford County BOE to produce four fifteen minute television segments to answer the questions. They set up a panel of young voters to question the local BOE director, set up a ballot for television viewing, and arranged a walk-through on what people can expect when they go to the polls on Election Day. The program can be broadcast as four fifteen minute segments or combined for a full hour program. Video copies will be made available for showing to interested groups.

Moore County LWV worked with local television station WYBE-Sandhills TV Channel 3 to produce ten sixty-second spots with a “person on the

street format”. A diverse group of voters asked the questions and Gary Bartlett and Rosemary Blizzard provided the answers. The questions and written answers will be available on the LWVNC website (lwnc.org) for people to view and download for wider distribution. The sixty-second spots will be reproduced on video and DVD for viewing.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Union County Leagues held community meetings to get the word out. Both Leagues invited representatives of diverse groups to attend a meeting with local League leaders, SBOE and local election officials. Attendees asked the questions, officials provided the answers and all who attended received

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PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTIONS: MAINE AND ARIZONA RESULTS POSITIVE

**Make Your Voice
Heard!**

See pages 4 & 5

**“Judicial Candidate
Forums - Live Over
the Internet”
and
“Questions for
Judicial Candidates”**

a packet of materials that can be reproduced for distribution.

For information, contact:
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For information about partnering with LWVNC and SBOE contact Mary Klenz,
klenzm@nationwide.com

The LWVNC plans to continue working with local Leagues and other organizations to provide voters with information they need when they go to the polls. Funding for the project is provided in part by a grant to the LWVNC from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.
Mary Klenz, Co-President

Professor Kenneth Mayer and his colleagues in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison offer some striking conclusions. Among their findings:

· “There is no question that public funding programs have increased the pool of candidates willing and able to run for state legislative office. This effect is most pronounced for challengers, who were far more likely than incumbents to accept public funding.”
· “Public funding appears to have increased the likelihood that an incumbent will have a competitive race.” In Arizona, it more than doubled from 22% of all races in 1998 to 45% in 2002

· “Fears that clean money would be tantamount to an incumbent protection act are unfounded, as are, as near as we can tell, objections that money would be used by fringe candidates who would do nothing but feed at the public trough.”

“Arizona experienced a significant jump in the number of contested races in 2002, increasing from about 40% in 2000 to over 60% in 2002. Not only was this increase large, it also reversed the previous trend of uniformly fewer contested elections between 1994 and 2000. While we cannot attribute this shift entirely to public funding (which was also in place for 2000), it is likely to have played a key role” .

The early results for the 2004

election cycle are also impressive. In Maine, which held primaries June 8, 71 percent of the candidates were running “Clean”— up from 50 percent in 2002 and 31 percent in 2000. (It’s too soon for numbers from Arizona, as the primary there takes place on September 5.) The Portland Press-Herald reports that the bumper crop of candidates resulted in the most contested party primaries in almost a decade.

And the candidates credit Clean Elections with making the difference: “There’s a number of people who could not afford to have run had it not been for the Clean Elections Act,” Republican Robert Haggett of Biddeford, a House candidate, told the Press-Herald. “I’d like to go into the Legislature not being beholden to anybody,” said Timothy Driscoll, another House candidate who ran “clean.” Echoing other prior participants in Clean Elections, Driscoll said “It’s all about getting out door to door.” Knowing you don’t have to raise private money, he added, “gives you more time to do that.”

www.PublicCampaign.org
Peg Chapin, Co-President

SAVE OCTOBER 14TH

For the Annual

Women’s Agenda Assembly

Cedar Ridge High School

Hillsborough

\$3 FOR PUBLIC FINANCING FUND STILL POSSIBLE

Following is a letter recently sent to the Raleigh News and Observer editor by Barbara Nettesheim of the LWV Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties. You may want to give this information to your own local newspaper.
Letter to the Editor re: "Check-off" for Public Financing.

It is still a good time to contribute to the NC Public Financing Fund! You, like I, may have overlooked the "check-off" box on your NC tax form about the judicial elections program. People can still make a contribution of

\$3.00 or more by sending a check, payable to the NC Public Campaign Financing Fund, to the State Board of Elections, Attn. NCPFF, PO Box 27255, Raleigh, NC 27611.

I overlooked the "check-off" box but have donated that way. Had I marked the "check-off" box, it would not have cost me anything because \$3.00 would have been earmarked from the taxes I was paying. I wish the NC Revenue Department had a form that could be used to amend a return by checking the "check-off" box, but the amendment form that is available does not have this feature.

The NC Public Financing Fund

is extremely important, as it will, for the first time, allow appellate court judges to run for elections using public financing if they first receive small contributions from hundreds of registered voters and adhere to strict rules set forth by the new law. This way they are not dependent on big contributions and can be truly independent judges.

The fund also supports the publication of a voter's guide with vital information about the people wishing to serve as our appellate court judges.

If you like the idea of independent appellate court judges, contribute to the NC Public Financing fund and send your check to the address given.



The North Carolina League of Women Voters is working with LWVUS on DemocracyNET (DNET) for the 2004 general elections in November. For the first time LWVUS is partnering with Capital Advantage, so that DNET will be accessible from many major media portals on the Internet including Yahoo, MSN, AOL, USA Today, Fox News and the New York Times. The link for DNET is dnet.congress.org. The site contains information about state and national elections in all 50 states.

LWVNC will cover the November U.S. Congressional elections (Senate and House) on DNET. LWVNC will also cover the general statewide judicial elections, which will be located on the LWVNC website (www.lwvnc.org) with a link from DNET.

Candidates in US Congressional elections will be asked to provide a biography, an introductory paragraph about themselves, and information on their position on four different subjects (such as health or education). Their web pages will also have contact information and links to their own websites. Candidates will be able to enter their own information, once they obtain a username and password from the state DNET coordinator, or alternately the DNET state coordinator can enter the information for them.

Candidates for state Judicial positions will be asked for similar information for the LWVNC website. They will be asked to provide a biography, introductory paragraph, photo, contact information, and answers to three questions. The DNET coordinator will enter all their information on the LWVNC website.

Local Leagues will be able to use DNET in several ways: first, Leagues will be able to link local voter guides to DNET. This means your voter guides will have a great deal more exposure because of DNET's ties to the major media outlets listed above. Second, local Leagues can obtain a username and password from the state DNET coordinator and enter information on your state legislators. The information on the site would be the same as what is described above for US Congressional candidates. Third, local Leagues can promote DNET to their local media outlets, thereby bringing additional exposure to the League's work.

Your help is needed with DNET!
(See Next Page)

A DNET Regional Coordination team is being formed. (See job description below.)

We would like to begin work in June. Contact Katarina Moyon (Charlotte-Mecklenburg), who is the state coordinator, to volunteer or with any other questions about DNET. Contact information:

Katarina1@earthlink.net or 704-619-3132.

Job Description DNET Regional Coordinators

A DNET Regional Coordination team is being formed. Members will work with the state coordinator to contact U.S. Congressional or state Judicial candidates in their area. Regional Coordinators will serve as a local contact between the candidates and the state coordinator (no technical experience required).

Job responsibilities will include:

- Contacting candidates by email or phone in follow-up to the letter the DNET state coordinator sends to them. A script will be provided.
- Asking them if they have any questions and urging them to send their information as soon as possible.

Acting as liaison between candidates and state coordinator.

Contact information for candidates will be provided after the primary elections July 20. Letters will be sent to candidates by early August. Phone calls will need to be made in early August (one week after letters go out). Follow up phone calls to candidates who don't submit anything will be made once more in early September.

Contact Katarina Moyon (Charlotte-Mecklenburg), who is the DNET state coordinator, to volunteer or with any other questions. Contact information: Katarina1@earthlink.net or 704-619-3132.

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE FORUMS “LIVE” OVER THE INTERNET

On October 5, 2004, the North Carolina League and the Carteret County League will conduct judicial candidate forums as interactive Web casts, “live” streaming audio and video broadcast over the Internet.

The League’s goal for the project is to increase voter access to information about judges running for North Carolina supreme and appellate court seats. A state-wide audience including voters in rural areas, absentee voters world wide, and voters in metropolitan areas, will be able to attend either in person or over the Internet.



“Virtual” participants can log on to the www.beforeyovote.us website, “attend” the candidate forums, and email their questions for the candidates. For the 2004 judicial candidates Web cast, the LWV/NC and the LWV/Carteret will join with project co-sponsors Carteret Community College, the North Carolina Institute of Political Leadership and the North Carolina Bar Association Foundation.

An informed, engaged, and voting citizenry is one of the fundamental tenets of American democracy. During the 2002 elections, the state

and local North Carolina Leagues participated in “Campaign Watch,” a study of judicial campaign advertisements. The study concluded that, outside the metropolitan areas, state-wide judicial elections got little to no media coverage, and candidates bought virtually no advertising time from media outlets outside the major urban centers. A 2002 survey conducted by the North Carolina Center for Voter Education revealed that of the likely voters polled 57% expressed concern over the lack of information available on judicial candidates. The same study found that “Voters are not apathetic when it comes to judicial elections. They know they are not receiving enough information about the candidates and will take the time to learn more” if information is made available.

By the 2004 elections, the Internet is expected to be an integral part of political campaigns. According to a North Carolina Rural Internet Access Authority survey, 61.8% of all North Carolinians have access to the Internet at home and 47.8 % report access at public sites including libraries. That number is expected to increase dramatically when a 2003 survey is published. The League has been a leader in conducting candidate forums for judicial candidates in statewide elections. However, in the past,

these forums have taken place in major metropolitan areas with an average audience of 200. Voters from rural areas generally do not attend, and candidates rarely campaign or even advertise outside the big cities. The League's goal for this project is to use the immediacy and interactive capabilities of a "live" Web cast to engage the public's attention and educate North Carolina voters about judicial candidates in the 2004 elections.

In order to demonstrate the Internet's ability to include rural communities in statewide dialogue, the October 5 forums will be broadcast from mostly rural Carteret County.

In separate thirty minute segments, candidates for the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals seats up for election will participate in League forums. The forums will be conducted as standard League candidate forums with a League moderator. An "actual" audience will be present in the Carteret Community College auditorium. A "virtual" audience will participate by logging on to www.beforeyouvote.us and watching the forums exactly as they would a television program except they will have interactive capability.

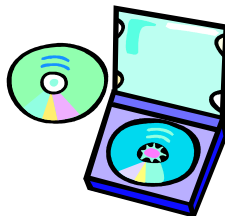
Both the actual participants in the auditorium and virtual participants via email will be able to pose questions for the candidates during the "live" broadcasts. Additionally, to facilitate continued voter research, forum questions and the digitized Web cast will be posted to the www.beforeyouvote.us website. The questions will be linked to the candidate answers on the archived Web cast. Voters will be able to "click" on the

transcribed questions and immediately view candidate responses. The forums will also be videotaped for replay on public access television.

Connie Asero, Carteret City League

QUESTIONS FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

LWVNC will be publishing a voter guide for state-wide judicial races on www.lwvnc.org by late August for the general elections. Do you have suggestions on questions we should ask all the state-wide judicial candidates? If so, please send an email to Katarina Moyon at: katarina1@earthlink.net or call her at 704-619-3132. Questions must be less than 30 words.



RESOURCE DISK

At the national convention in June, delegates were given a CD which lists a number of resources available to LWV members:

- **Debates and Voters Guides**, which contains suggested candidates questions and DNET information and "how to" guides including debate watching activities;

- **Fundraising & Development**, which contains resources about appeals, planned giving, "Fundraising 101", and more;
- **Issues & Advocacy**, which has information pertaining to League positions and on LWV's current priority item, the implementation of the Help America Vote Act;
- **Leadership Training & Tools**, which contains sample leadership job descriptions, assessing leadership styles and information about strategic planning;
- **League Operations**, which contains information about internal League matters such as how to start a new League and information on procedures for running a League.
- **Membership & Outreach**, which has tips on recruiting members, working with local Leagues, and using the new online membership database;
- **Reforming the System**, which contains information about three League program areas – judicial independence; Our Democracy, Our Airwaves; and civil liberties;
- **Treasurer's Tools**, which contains resources about setting up and using an Education Fund account;
- **Visibility & the Media**, which has tips on working with the media and information to help you promote your League, use of the LWV Logo; and **Voter Engagement**, which contains information about various Get-Out-the-Vote efforts such as Smackdown Your Vote! opportunities and LWVUS on-line tools.

If you are interested in one or more of these subjects, check with a delegate you know for a copy or email bhanly@aol.com

Judicial Campaign Reform

Leagues throughout the state of North Carolina have been heavily involved in education and implementation of the Judicial Campaign Reform Act. We were able to put a message on NPR in all counties throughout the state. The leagues throughout the state of North Carolina distributed material to educate citizens about the \$3 check off on the State income tax form. Educational materials were placed in libraries, tax offices, post offices, places of business and newsletters. Information was distributed to organizations and letters were sent to newspapers by League members. The League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley organized a fundraising dinner to get the word out on the Check-Off. A donation was made to the Public Campaign Financing Fund. The Macon County league held an auction and we began a "Change for Change" program.

A short time after citizens began to file their taxes, we learned that the hard copy of the tax forms was correct but forms on computer software were incorrect. While this situation was being remedied, League members were asked to call tax offices and additional information was sent to tax offices across the state. We then held press conferences in several cities to bring more attention to the problem and bring attention to the \$3 check off. Local league members, coalition partners, legislators and a former Governor took part in these press conferences

The problem of the software was partially resolved and a more intense educational program took place. It was called "Find the Mystery Box Tour." League and coalition members from Murphy to Manteo spoke to newspaper editors about the check-off difficulty, and editorial writers responded with positive editorials about the check-off.

The program is in place now and 9 out of the 10 candidates running for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals have elected to run under the program. Legislation has been proposed to strengthen the program and we are anxiously awaiting the vote.

*Peg Chapin
Co-President LWVNC*

Local Public Funding Bill— Chapel Hill Only

A last minute effort to pass a bill for local public funding of elections was unsuccessful on Wednesday, July 14th. The Local Public Funding Bill passed in the House and did not have the votes to pass in the Senate. The bill was rewritten to include only Chapel Hill and Sen. Ellie Kinnaird chaired the State and Local Government Committee where it was heard today (July 14). The Committee had a lively discussion and passed it out of Committee to the full Senate. Not all is lost; we'll try again next session.

Rep. Culpepper is sponsoring a bill to strengthen the Public Campaign Fund. This is the proposal:

*** The original program asked lawyers to voluntarily contribute \$50 to the Public Campaign Fund, but less than 12% of lawyers are doing that. Rep. Bill Culpepper is proposing in S-760 to simply add \$50 to the State Bar dues, with the money going to the Fund. The Academy of Trial Lawyers and a majority of the last dozen presidents of the State Bar approve this move. The Bar Association opposes it.*

*** The original program asked taxpayers to mark a check-off box on the state income tax form to direct \$3 of their taxes to the Public Campaign Fund. (It doesn't add to your tax bill; it just earmarks money you're paying anyway.) Under S-760, if a taxpayer makes no choice on the check-off, neither marking Yes nor No, then 50 cents will go to the Fund to support the Judicial Voter Guide.*

*** The vast majority (60% to 70%) of money in the Fund will come from the public through the check-off. The whole public benefits, but attorneys have a special duty to protect the integrity of the Court system.*

*** The bill has a number of other features to address situations that had not been anticipated when the law was first passed and to help the program run more smoothly.*

**THANK YOU ALL FOR
CALLING YOUR
LEGISLATORS REGARDING
THIS
LEGISLATION**

*Peg Chapin
Co-President*

LWV CONVENTION

SUMMER, 2004

WASHINGTON, D.C.



The 46th LWVUS biennial convention, held in Washington, DC June 11-15, 2004, was an exciting event! With 896 registered delegates, plus guests, there were often more than 900 in attendance. Plenary sessions, early morning and late night caucuses, and seminars on all sorts of topics—I wanted to attend them all!

The question whether voter verified paper trails (VVPTs) should be required for touch screen electronic voting machines was prominent in most of the discussions and caucuses. Those who disagreed with the national board's statement that VVPTs were not needed took several actions that affected the rules of convention, the proposed program, and the proposed slate of national board nominees.

CONVENTION RULES

As the first plenary session began on Saturday, June 12, one of three motions to amend convention rules passed. The LWV of Minnesota proposed that "delegates may also move consideration of resolutions pertaining to program." While this is not the first time such an amendment to allow resolutions has been proposed, it may be the first time such a motion passed! It made it possible for several resolutions to be introduced and debated during the process of adopting the program.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

On Saturday, after the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers and directors, there were three nominations from the floor: These nominees disagreed with the national board's interpretation of our "Citizen's Right to Vote" position. During the next two days, all candidates campaigned and spoke at candidate forums. Delegates



Peg Chapin and Mary Klenz, LWVNC co-presidents preparing for plenary session

voted (by paper ballots!) on Monday, and the results were known that night before the banquet. All those on the slate were elected. Those nominated from the floor were not.

2004-2006 NATIONAL PROGRAM

Choosing LWV program is a three-day process. On Saturday the national board presented the recommended program for 2004-2006 — continuing all existing positions for education and advocacy. On Sunday, a board member moved the adoption of the recommended program. Then

motions to consider not-recommended items and proposals for concurrence were moved. There were eight such motions. Six were approved for discussion the next day. And of the six that were debated, two were adopted.

* A resolution presented by the LWV of Minnesota offered new wording to our "citizen's right to vote" position. While controversial, this resolution was approved the following day by a majority. See the accompanying story on "Electronic Voting Machines and Voter Verified Paper Trails."

* A resolution on making protection of civil liberties a top priority was approved. In subsequent budget discussions members tried to find ways to fund education and advocacy on this. Board members said gifts to the Education Fund could be earmarked for educating members and the public. A number of donations were made on the spot and a number of Leagues pledged donations.

The motions that failed after debate were as follows.

* A motion proposed a concurrence (by the convention) with the position of the

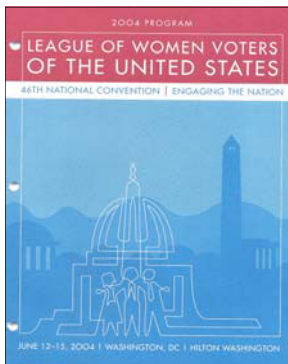


Illinois LWV on abolition of the death penalty.

* A proposal for an abbreviated study to concur with the LWV of California Election Systems.

* A proposal asking the "LWVUS...to assume a greater role in monitoring the No Child Left Behind law by utilizing data and resources from state and local leagues to provide analysis, testimony and membership alerts..."

* Finally, a resolution supporting LWVUS action to get the Equal Rights Amendment approved by states still working for ratification .



On Monday, the program for 2004-06 was adopted.

BYLAWS REVISIONS

Two minor changes were made to the bylaws. One concerned attendance at meetings of national board members. The other concerned when the number of delegates each League can send to convention is determined. The count will now be based on membership in January of the year in which the convention is held

BUDGET

The proposed budget was

adopted with the 80¢ increase in the per member payment (PMP)

DIRECTION TO THE BOARD

Time was set aside to give direction to the LWVUS board. I took that opportunity to thank the board (in the one minute allowed) for helping to pass and implement the good provisions of HAVA. However, because I feel some provisions of HAVA are not good, I urged the board to avoid saying things like, "Just grab your ID and go to the polls." *Impact on Issues* states that the LWVUS has historically strongly opposed "ballot security" and "anti-vote-fraud" proposals that "require proof of citizenship to register to vote, require photo IDs at the polls, [and] mandate Social Security numbers on voter registration applications..." Provisions like these do appear in HAVA and, in my personal opinion, should be repealed or amended, although I think there is little chance of that!

SPECIAL SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

The banquet speaker was Helen Thomas, who served for 57 years as correspondent for UPI and White House Bureau chief. Now in her 80s, she is a very witty, astute speaker and a sharp observer of people and events. She spoke of the current administration and against the war in Iraq. (She noted that the LWV was nonpartisan, but she was not!) And she reflected on each of the presidents she has known. Her remarks drew a standing ovation.

There was a panel discussion on "Balancing Civil Liberties and Homeland Security in a Post- 9/11 Age." The

panelists were people you have seen on PBS: David Cole, Jamie Gorelick, and Ruth Wedgwood.

Senator Lugar spoke on foreign relations and the war in Iraq.

Finally, tickets were on sale for a performance by the "The Capitol Steps." Their show was a huge success.

Being a delegate to national convention is great fun. I am glad I was able to take part again. (The first time I attended, I was one of two delegates from the newly recognized LWV of the Virgin Islands. This time, it was my great pleasure to get to know the current president and one past president of the VI League.) I wish each member could be a delegate. It's a stimulating experience!

*B.J. Weatherby
LWV of the Piedmont Triad
Greensboro*

Editor's Note: B.J.'s report was edited for this edition. A copy of the full report with many interesting details is available by e-mailing bhanly@aol.com or calling 919 542-1867.





ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES AND VOTER VERIFIED PAPER TRAILS

The issue of voter verified paper trails of votes cast on electronic voting machines was a very lively issue at the LWVUS convention, and a resolution was proposed that changed the national board's stance on our "Citizen's Right to Vote" position. I lobbied hard against this resolution, on and off the convention floor, but it was adopted by a solid majority. It is quoted below.

"Whereas there is strong disagreement among league members on the interpretation of the position on "Citizen's Right to Vote" that the LWVUS has taken on whether a voter verified paper audit trail should be a requirement with direct recording electronic voting,

"Be it resolved that LWVUS remove the following wording from its interpretation: *The LWVUS supports an individual audit capacity for the purposes of recounts and authentication of elections for all voting systems. The LWVUS does not believe that an individual paper confirmation for each ballot is required to achieve these goals. An individual paper confirmation for each ballot would undermine disability access requirements, raise costs and*

slow down the purchase or lease of machines that might be used to replace machines that don't work. The experts that we have consulted say that there are many safeguards other than an individual paper ballot confirmation that can protect the sanctity of the ballot and that other issues are far more important in safeguarding our election systems.

The LWVUS interpretation of the position on "citizen's right to vote" will now read; In order to ensure integrity and voter confidence in elections, the LWVUS supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible."

"...the League supports the implementation of voting systems that are secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible.

During program debate, supporters of this resolution were asked whether they wanted to support voter verified paper trails in their states, and they responded that they did and that's why they didn't want the national board to speak against paper trails. But, if the national board cannot speak about specific technologies, then neither can other state and local leagues. This has been confirmed by a memorandum from President Kay Maxwell (issued 6/22/04), which gives guidance on what the new wording means and how the League can and cannot act.

In her memo, Kay Maxwell wrote: "...The League has a

long tradition of reaching agreement through deliberative, democratic processes. There was disagreement with the LWVUS stance opposing a Voter Verified Paper Trail (VVPT). At convention, by following League process, we arrived at a revised interpretation of our 'Citizen's Right to Vote' position," She continued :

"The convention resolution substituted principles and criteria — 'secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible' — for the language that previously took a stand on a type of technology, i.e., an individual paper confirmation for each ballot, or voter-verified paper trail (VVPT). Thus the League has moved from taking a stand on types of technology to taking a stand on the goals or principles any particular technology must fulfill. The criteria — 'secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible' — are not code words for VVPT or for any other type of technology.

"This revised stance, based on the 'Citizen's Right to Vote' position, means that:

- "The League neither supports nor opposes any type of technology per se, such as direct recording electronic voting machines (DREs), VVPT, or optical scan.

- "Leagues may advocate for the four criteria, but it would not be appropriate to advocate for or against a type of technology, as indicated above, since that would be inflexible and would undermine technological innovation.

- "Because election laws and current equipment are different in each state, Leagues in each state may support particular voting systems appropriate to them, including the management, operational and polling

place procedures associated with the equipment. But before lobbying for or against a particular voting system, the system as a whole should be evaluated against the criteria, and only those that meet all four criteria may be supported.

"We ask that Leagues consult with the LWVUS before taking action in order to ensure that the League speaks with one voice in the application of this revised interpretation of the 'Citizen's Right to Vote' position

"...The LWVUS board is working through the application of this revised stance and will send additional guidance. In the interim this message should provide an initial basis for a shared understanding among Leagues of the action taken at convention."

This will be an interesting issue to follow, and I, like you, look forward to receiving more information on how we can apply our position on voting rights as we work for statewide voting systems that are as reliable and secure as ours in Guilford County. *B.J. Weatherby*
LWV of the Piedmont Triad
- Greensboro

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever does."
 Margaret Mead



NOTES & NICHES

As many of you are aware, earlier in the spring the LWV-NC board voted to oppose the Navy's proposal to build an outlying landing field (OLF) in Washington and Beaufort Counties. Involving more than 30,000 rural acres, much of it prime farmland, this particular proposal posed a serious threat to the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (encompassing a National Heritage Area under North Carolina's Nature Preserves Act), and to the greater Atlantic Flyway--the main migration route of the eastern United States for thousands of migratory birds.

The local and regional citizens working hard on this issue of such immediate impact to them were happy to have our support. And our organization was added to a significant list of local, state, and national individuals, organizations and governmental entities who opposed this site.

As a long-time environmental advocate, I find the diversity of that list amazing, heartening, and inspiring. It includes the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S./Canadian Wildlife Directors in Atlantic Flyway Council, the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Re-

sources, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, around 30 county governments (including Durham, Orange and Mecklenburg, far from the site), a list of municipal governments and boards of education, and such conservation and civic groups as the National Wildlife Refuge Association, National Audubon Society, National Rifle Association, N.C. Coastal Federation, N.C.N.A.A.C.P., Appalachian Voices, Eno River Association, Foundation for Renewal of Eastern North Carolina, Farm Aid, the N.C. Farm Bureau, the North Carolina Grange . . . the list goes on and on. Oh! And the N.C. League of Women Voters!

U.S. District Court Judge Terrence Boyle issued an

"The current plan would bring some 31,650 low-level military flights of Super Hornet aircraft per year to the immediate vicinity of the wildlife refuge, involving not just risks to wildlife but ... to the jets and their pilots"

injunction on April 19 in a suit brought by Washington and Beaufort Counties and environmental groups, stopping action on the proposal for the time being. Governor Easley, who reportedly has grave concern about the impact of this situation on the state's relations with the Armed Services, appointed a study committee of over two dozen citizens and two Navy representatives to produce pertinent facts concerning the matter.

You may study those facts for yourself in the Draft Report dated May 21, 2004 (posted at:

www.albemarlecommunity.net/GovOLFStudy.html

but I offer this particular quote: "Approximately 100,000 waterfowl spend the winter from October through February at the Pungo Unit, including 70,000 snow geese and thousands of tundra swans. The refuge is particularly important for tundra swans, providing habitat for 25 percent of the entire eastern population during the winter. An international panel of scientists ranks this refuge as one of the 50 most significant bird areas in the world. This is no accident. The Pungo Unit was established in 1963 with the primary purpose of attracting and protecting wintering, migratory birds; substantial public investment has gone into realizing this goal over the past 40 years."



The committee is continuing to study unresolved issues, including the potential for a less environmentally harmful location for the landing field. (The current plan would bring some 31,650 low-level military flights of Super Hornet aircraft per year to the immediate vicinity of the wildlife refuge, involving not just risks to wildlife, but a high risk level to the jets and their pilots from potential collisions with large waterfowl.

Many issues are involved in this situation beyond the environmental considerations the League has cited (based upon

our long-standing environmental positions).

One issue of particular note : in 1907, the N.C. Legislature gave the United States the right to purchase and condemn land in the state required for the sites for "customhouses, courthouses, post offices, arsenals, and other public buildings whatever." This has meant a double burden in trying to control the fate of this sensitive area of the state, for the state itself has tied its own hands. (This legislation, of course, could potentially be repealed or amended--something perhaps we'd like to discuss at another time.)

Action by Members: Please urge the governor, your Congressional delegation, and your N.C. representatives to oppose the current site, and to request that the Navy thoroughly investigate alternative sites. We are not opposed to the OLF--just the location.

And in the West: On the western side of the state, a new report ranks the Great Smoky Mountains National Park the number one park in air pollution in America--a dubious honor indeed. The North Carolina-based organization Appalachian Voices produced the report, in partnership with the National Parks Conservation Association and Our Children's Earth. To view a copy, go to: <http://www.appvoices.org/air/research/CodeRed2004.pdf>.

At all opportunities, encourage your N.C. representatives to maintain a strong position with respect to air quality, but be especially alert to federal legislation and encourage no weak-

ening of clean air standards.

LWV-US has an excellent letter on its web site (<http://www.lwv.org/where/protecting/air.html>) concerning the Proposed Rule for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Non-attainment New Source Review (NSR). **Check it out, and add your voice!**

Nelda Holder, Environmental Chair

A Request for Recommendations for State Board Members

The State Nominating Committee is soliciting recommendations for dedicated Leaguers to serve on the State Board for a two year term starting in June 2005. We are looking for women and men who will work hard to promote League programs and principles. A good Board member will attend the annual conference and all Board meetings. She/he will carry out accepted responsibilities between meetings. She/he will make a personally significant financial contribution to the League and will help with fundraising. In return, the experience will be rewarding and enjoyable.

Please give suggestions for Board members to Bev Kawalec, Nominating Committee Chair, 111 Laurel Hill Circle, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Phone: 919-942-6396 or email bev.kawalec@attglobal.net.

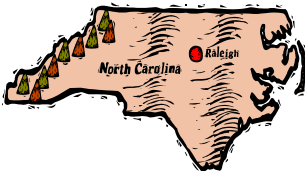
Recommendations must be received by October 15, 2004 for the election which will be held at State Convention in June 2005.

STATE COUNCIL 2004

Pictured across: Billie Hayward, LWVNC Membership and Development, and Mary Klenz. Billie received recognition for her work at LWVNC as she prepares for her move to Florida. Membership awards from Billie Hayward to: Kadra Bradford and Joan Liston, co-presidents, Dare County; Amina Shahid'El, Membership Chair; Dede Carney, president, Pitt County; Carol Martin, co-president, and Barbara Coulson, Madison County; Jonah Person, LWVNC Board member, during "Creating a Welcoming Environment", a workshop; delegates taking notes; Mary Klenz, LWVNC co-president, chairing the Council; Patricia Lee, new member of the LWV Catawba Valley League, with its President, Fran Syptak; Guest speaker, John Kennedy, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts; Ja Net Hintzon-Holland and Bob Smith leading "Creating A Welcoming Environment"; delegates voting on the budget; Bev Kawalec, LWVNC Nominating Committee, urging delegates to nominate state board Candidates; council meeting with Pitt County delegates.

THANK YOU TO THE ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE LWV FOR HOSTING THE JUNE, 2004 COUNCIL.

THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT, THE ARTS WALK WAS STUNNING, AND THE NETWORKING WAS INVIGORATING.



26th LWV NC COUNCIL

The League of Women Voters of NC's 26th Council was held on June 4 and 5 in Asheville, NC. On Friday attendees heard from Meredith McGee, Executive Director, Alliance for Better Campaigns about Free Air Time. Saturday's day began with opening remarks by Co-President Mary Klenz,

the credentials report by Lee Evans and the Treasurer's report by Mary Klenz,. The 2004-05 budget report was given followed by the CEF reports. The rest of Saturday morning's activities included recognition of Billie Hayward's membership efforts, talks by Diane Phillips, Endowment Chair, Bev Kawalec, Nominating Committee Chair and Lee Luebbe on the Henderson LWV Study on County Commission District Representation. Ja Net Hintzon-Holland, Center for Diversity Education, and Bob Smith, Asheville/Buncombe Community Relations Council led a session "Creating a Welcoming Environment". The topic evoked vigorous discussion. It was pointed out that in order for organizations to flourish, members must make outreach an ongoing part of their program. Members must be encouraged to work with others on common issues, be open to new ways of doing things and engage new members in meaningful activities. John P. Kennedy, the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts spoke to the council during lunch on "What we need to know that we don't know about the courts." Breakout sessions on engag-

ing new members and current legislative issues were led by Billie Hayward, Peg Chapin, Lee Evans and June Kimmel.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2004—2005

OFFICERS

Co-President	Peg Chapin
Co-President	Mary Klenz
Secretary	Lee Mahan Evans
Treasurer	Betty Ellerbee

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Fran Syptak	Judicial Issues
Dianne Wilkins	Special Projects

Nominating Committee Chair:
Bev Kawalec

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in their government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership is open to all women and men who are age 18 years or older and are U.S citizens.

Check out the membership information at www.lwvnc.org