



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WAKE COUNTY
Working to safeguard democracy through civic involvement

VOTER

May 2009

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN TOUGH TIMES: A FREE PUBLIC FORUM

Educational excellence for our children is a major concern for elected officials, the community and parents. How can Wake County schools continue to advance educational excellence? How can we achieve this goal given decreasing local school funding and continuing population growth? An impressive lineup of state and community leaders will present their ideas and answer questions on Tuesday, May 12 from 7 to 9:30 pm at NCSU's McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman St. in Raleigh. This free public forum is entitled "**Achieving Educational Excellence in Times of Challenge and Change: How Should Wake County Schools Plan for Growth and the Economic Crisis?**"

Karen Rindge, Executive Director of WakeUPWake County, commented, "We are holding this forum because it is critical that we keep our eyes on the prize of providing the best education we can for all our kids. It's very important that we ensure our schools are strong and classrooms effective, while keeping up with growth, even though growth has slowed."

Speakers and panelists include former School Board member Tom Oxholm, who with former superintendent Bill McNeal, co-authored the recent book, "A School District's Journey to Excellence." Ann Delinger, Chair of the Wake Education Partnership, will present results of their latest study "What is a World Class Education?" Deputy County Manager Johnna Rogers will discuss county growth and budget issues. Other participants include John Dornan of the NC Public School Forum, Professor Dudley Flood, Beverley Clark of Wake School Board, NC Representative Nelson Dollar, Jim Blackburn of the NC Association of County Commissioners, Stan Norwalk, County Commissioner, and Charlotte Turpin of the Harriet Webster Center. Questions from the audience will be addressed at the end of the forum.

WakeUP Wake County, a citizen's group advocating managed growth, is hosting the event in conjunction with the Wake Chapter of the NC Association of Educators, the Wake League of Women Voters, Concerned Citizens for African American Children, and Bigger Picture 4 Wake, a parents' group. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required, at www.wakeupwakecounty.com.

Annual Meeting May 14

See: Last page for meeting information

April Voter for the proposed budget and slate of nominees

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A special thanks to all who made this a great League year! The officers, directors, committees, attendees at luncheons, contributors to the Voter, and advocates for the mission and positions on issues of the League at local, state and national level. Diana Haskell and Lisa Mowat deserve special recognition for chairing a very successful Running & Winning Workshop with accompanying publicity in the N&O. It takes a team to accomplish the purpose of the League - all working together - and this was, and will continue to be, an outstanding team! Best wishes to the incoming president and her "team" for the coming two years. Please plan to attend the annual meeting on May 14 to give her your support and also to congratulate those who will receive awards.

Joann Robertson

RUNNING & WINNING: A SECOND SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP

Thanks to Diana Haskell and Lisa Mowat, the second Running & Winning Workshop was an enjoyable educational success. Running & Winning is a League program to inform young women about creating public policy, to give them hands on experience with campaigning on their positions, and to encourage them to think about running for public office. The public officials informed the young women about their experiences of running for and holding public office.

There were about 33 young women, 13 public officials and 20 volunteers who attended and supported this endeavor. LWVNC, individual Leaguers, and other supportive women provided important financial support. Diana and Lisa are so pleased with the program reception and outcome that they are planning a third workshop for spring 2010. They will need our continued support to bring about another success.

VOTER SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have started preparations for the Board of Education Fall Forum. The Fall Forum is an annual event that gives Wake County residents an opportunity to get to know some of the candidates that are running for office. It's not too late to volunteer to be part of the planning process for this event. For more information contact Maryanne Olsen, Chair of Voter Services, at mgocary@yahoo.com or 919-465-1509.

The Directory of Officials for 2009 has been sent to the printer and will be available for distribution soon. You'll find it a handy reference for all the elected officials from the president to local town officials and much, much more. Copies will be available at your local library, the League office and at League meetings.

LWV-W Calendar 2009

May 12 Tuesday	7-9:30 pm	Achieving Educational Excellence in Times of Challenge and Change Public Forum	NCSU McKimmon Center 1101 Gorman St
May 14 Thursday	6:00 pm	Annual Meeting	Pullen Baptist Church
June 4-7		LWV State Convention	Greensboro
August 26	5:30- 7:30 pm	Women's Equality Day	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 3313 Wade Avenue
September 16	7-9 pm	Candidates for Board of Education Forum	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Clark & Brooks)

Committee Meetings (open to all members and guests)

Environment Thursday, May 22nd, 7 pm, League Office

2008-2009 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFF BOARD MEMBERS

President	Joann Robertson	Action Chair	Betty Ellerbee
President-Elect	Lisa Mowat	Environment Chair	Jeri Gray
1st Vice-President	Marie Moylan	Reservations	Pat Butler
2nd Vice-President	Lucinda Chew	Website	Trudi Kappel
Secretary	Ann Berry		
Treasurer	Karen-Marie Allen		
Elizabeth Fensin	Mary Rose Raufer		
Victoria Gerig	Joan Sullivan		
Maryanne Olsen	Tom Vitaglione		
Beth McAllister			

LWV STATE CONVENTION JUNE 5-7

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina 2009 Convention will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 415 S. Swing Road, Greensboro at the I-40 Swing Road intersection. Voting delegates from Leagues throughout NC will adopt program priorities for the next two years, elect LWVNC officers and board members, and approve any changes to the by-laws.

Representative Alma Adams will deliver the keynote address on Saturday, June 6.

There will be concurrent workshops and panels on legislative issues with an emphasis on health care and immigration. Round tables for local Leagues occur on Sunday morning.

To receive the discounted rate of \$69 per room (plus 13% tax), make reservations by May 21 and be sure you tell the Hotel that you are attending the LWVNC conventions www.clariangreensboro.com. The registration fee of \$80 paid to the LWVNC covers lunch and dinner on Saturday June 6, and breakfast on Sunday June 7. A special one day registration of \$20 will cover the Saturday lunch. Separate tickets to the Saturday evening banquet with speaker Representative Alma Adams are \$30. The banquet is open to the public. More information and online registration at www.lwvnc.org.

All Leaguers are encouraged to attend. If you would like to be a delegate, please call the Wake League office.

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LWV-WAKE COUNTY'S 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

- WHEN:** Thursday, May 14th at 6 pm
- WHERE:** New Finlator Hall, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, 1801 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh 27605
- TOPIC:** LWV- Wake's annual meeting
- DINNER:** Buffet catered by Neomonde Mediterranean Deli followed by the business meeting. \$10 per person for a buffet: Mjadarah (lentils & rice), tabouli, stuffed grape leaves, hummus, stir-fried chicken with vegetables, house salad, pasta salad, fruit platter and dessert platter
- CONTACT:** RSVP by 5/12 by calling 783-5995 (Mailbox #2) or e-mailing lwchew@mindspring.com
You may send your payment to the League office or pay at the door.
- PARKING:** New Finlator Hall is located at the rear of the church in the brick building that's under the new "shiny" chapel. Parking is available in a small lot behind Pullen as well as a larger one at Lutheran Family Services, located directly south of the church. There is access to the larger lot through Pullen's parking lot. No parking at the Holiday Inn or along Cox Avenue.