

# The Voter of ODC



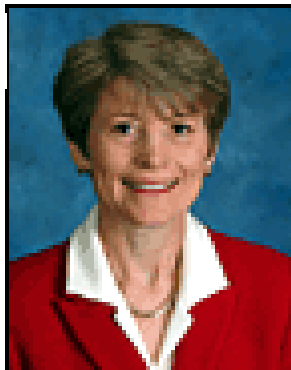
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## General Meeting January 19

Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill, 10 a.m.

### Regional and State Transportation Issues in NC



Ellen Reckhow, Chair of the Durham County Board of Commissioners and a representative at State Commission on Transportation, will bring us up-to-date on transportation issues, such as

- What is the status of regional transportation projects such as Triangle Transit Authority's Regional Rail project, the American Tobacco Trail, and the Triangle Parkway?
- Why don't we have enough funding to meet future transportation needs in the Triangle?
- How could/should we obtain more funding?

The Hargraves Center is located at 215 N. Roberson Street in Chapel Hill. If you continue west on Rosemary Street from the center of Chapel Hill, turn right at the traffic light past Mama Dips.

## General Meeting, Thursday February 16

Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill, 10 a.m.

Come review, discuss and vote on updates to LWV-ODC positions.

Although these positions have been with us for a long time, it is time to review them critically. See [page 6](#) for a complete list of our current positions. We need input about the process from longtime League members. Ideas and issues to be addressed are needed from all members. This important meeting will follow a small group format.

## Dinner Meeting, Monday March 6

Panzanella, Carrboro, 6 p.m.

We will invite our current elected officials for a mix and meet in preparation for our forums preceding the May primary elections.

**Tentative primary 2006 election dates**

Candidate filing dates	Feb. 13-28
Registration deadline	April 7
Primary election	May 2

### Upcoming Events

#### General Meetings

January 19  
Hargraves Center

February 16  
Hargraves Center

Dinner meeting  
March 6  
Panzanella

**A Letter from Jan Richmond  
President, LWVODC**

**Education and Advocacy Continues with Focus  
Groups and Voter Service**

The **Supreme Court** focus group has had several meetings and is preparing to submit a grant to the National LWV. The enthusiastic participating League members are planning a meaningful forum, "How the Supreme Court Impacts You," which I think will catch much attention in the spring.

The **Money and Politics** focus group from last year is planning a presentation at the general meeting in April.

In addition, the **Voter Service** Chair has obtained dates for the spring and fall forums for Orange County. Both forums will be held in the Town of Chapel Hill Council Chambers: April 25th. 7-9; Oct. 24th. 7-9. Orange County residents should put these dates on your calendar. Progress is underway in Chatham County for a spring forum. We also have interest from Durham County but no specifics at this time.

Without the help of members participating, organizing and facilitating these groups the voice of LWV-ODC would be minimal. By letting your voice be heard you make a difference. Many thanks for all your hard work. Remember, anyone wanting to start a new focus group or participate in any existing group, please call Jan Richmond at 408-0444.

At our February meeting, we will reconsider our local League positions. Now is the time to bring them up-to-date, eliminate some or add some new issues. Please come prepared to discuss our basic positions. For instance, do we want to form a new task force to consider our local position on the death penalty, as has the League in Illinois? See [http://www.lwvil.org/death\\_penalty/](http://www.lwvil.org/death_penalty/). The list of our [local positions](#) can be found on page 6.

Finally, as our local Boards of Elections are choosing new voting machines, participate in the evaluation and selection of the machines. Two companies, Diebold and Elections Systems and Software, have been fully certified by the State, but Diebold is being challenged in a lawsuit for not certifying their third party operating system. Do you know what is happening in your county? The machines must be ordered by January 20 to qualify for HAVA funds.

Call your local Board of Election to get more information about the selection process in your County. The numbers are Durham, 560-0700; Orange, 245-2350; Chatham, 542-8206.

**FAILURE TO STORE SOURCE CODES NEEDS OUR ATTENTION. ALL VOTES NEED TO BE SECURE AND TRACEABLE. LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR VOTING PROCESS PUTS DEMOCRACY AT RISK.**

The NC Voter website has an in-depth review of the voting machine issue; see <http://www.ncvoter.net/>

League of Women Voters  
Orange/Durham/Chatham  
P.O. Box 3397  
Chapel Hill NC 27517-3397  
<http://odc.nc.lwvnet.org>

**Board of Directors**  
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542-1867

Joyce Colaiace  
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490-0470

Anne Bodner  
(Chatham Chair)  
545-2358

Bessie Carrington  
(Voter Editor)  
489-8668

Eve Barkley  
(Voter Service)  
401-1843

## December Meeting Engages Generations



Courtney Crowder and Joyce Colaiace

At the December meeting at the Chapel Hill Country Club, Courtney Crowder enthusiastically described a new organization, [Generation Engage](#). Focusing on community colleges in New York, Virginia, and North Carolina, the group intends to involve young people in a dialog, much like Civics 101, to instill civic responsibility in issues apart from party slogans and sound bites. Using modern techniques such as blogs, iChat, and instant messaging, young people will be challenged to become involved in issues such as same day voter registration. New technology will enable live discussions with leaders and groups in disparate locations, such as a recent event at Wake Community college, which featured Tom Fetzer and John Edwards answering questions from students at Wake Tech, Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, and Western Piedmont CC in Morganton.

LWV has been doing these things for a long time. Is it time to incorporate these new tools into our plan of work? - *Editor*

### Calendar 2005-2006

The Board of Directors has established the schedule of meetings for this year. It provides for a mix of day and evening meetings.

January 19, 2006	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon
February 8	Lobby Corps, Raleigh	10 a.m.-noon
February 16	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon
March 6	Dinner meeting, Panzanella, Carrboro	6 p.m.
March 16	General meeting, Hargraves Center	10 a.m.-noon
April 20	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon
April 30	Supreme Court forum	TBA
May 24	Annual dinner meeting, Governor's Club	6 p.m.
1st Tuesday of each month	Board of Directors meeting	Varies



Building Community: Amy Lowell, Chatham; Susan Levy, Orange; Miguel Rubiera, Durham

## November meeting features Habitat for Humanity

At the November general meeting, three local leaders of Habitat for Humanity described how Habitat has met the need for affordable housing in more than 100 countries. The international organization has built more than 100,000 houses worldwide in its first 24 years since founding in 1976. They expect to build the same number in the next five years. Habitat makes home ownership possible for families whose income is 25% to 60% of the local average by lending the owner a mortgage with 0% interest. Each home owner contributes through sweat equity, such as working on their own and other's houses. The additional costs are supported by private and governmental grants; donations; and the volunteer efforts of individuals, congregations and corporations.

Miguel Rubiera discussed the problems of providing affordable housing in Durham, which has the most needy in an area with the highest rental housing costs and a low home ownership rate. Over 4000 houses have been identified as sub-standard. Habitat is improving the infill rate in the central city, particularly in the Southwest Central area, through cooperation with the Durham Department of Housing, Self Help, the Community Land Trust, and Duke University. Learn more at <http://www.durhamhabitat.org/>.

Susan Levy emphasized the need in Orange County for suitable and affordable housing sites which are accessible to transportation and other amenities. Chapel Hill has very little vacant land for infill development. Over 120 homes have been built in Orange County, including ones in Carrboro, Mebane and Efland. More at <http://www.orangehabitat.org>.

Although development in Chatham County has been slowed by water and sewer issues, Amy Powell emphasized that 135 homes have been built, adding \$130,000 in property tax revenue annually. Through renovation and addition of infill housing, the East Cornwallis neighborhood has become a model of how planning and participation can raise expectations and self image through home ownership. More at <http://www.chathamhabitat.org/>

Habitat for Humanity operates two Hand Me Up stores. The store in Durham at 3710 Shannon Road, next to the Post Office, benefits both Durham and Orange County; in Pittsboro, the Home Store is behind the Habitat office on West Street.

For more on the LWV positions on affordable housing, consult the Housing section of the document "[Meeting Basic Human Needs](#)" on the National LWV website There are other organizations active in providing affordable housing in our area; such the Durham Coalition for Affordable Housing, and of course, the U.S. Department of Urban Development. If you are interested in learning more about these critical issues, please contact Jan Richmond or Joyce Colaiace.

## HAVE A SECRET WISH TO BE ON TV?

Now might be your chance! Our League has volunteered to “answer the lines” on March 19 from 2:30 to 7 p.m. during the upcoming WUNC-TV Spring Festival fund raiser. We need 20 volunteers to staff our shift.

This is a great opportunity to publicize the League to a wide audience and, besides having our banner displayed, we will have two 30 second on-air interviews.

Volunteers don't all have to be League members, so invite a friend or family member to come with you. You will receive orientation, training on how to use the telephones, and a meal and refreshments during the shift.

Join us for this fun event and help not only WUNC-TV but our League as well. Call me, Beverly Hanly, 542-1867, or email [bhanly@aol.com](mailto:bhanly@aol.com) to sign up. I will provide additional information, directions and coordinate carpools if we need them.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEBRUARY 8

The LWV Lobby Corps is planning a 2006 kick-off meeting for Wednesday, February 8, at 10 a.m., at the State Legislature. An introduction to this initiative will be followed by lunch at the Legislative Cafeteria, a purveyor of outstanding meals at reasonable prices. Then those who wish to put what they have learned to practice can attend a meeting of the Revenue Laws Study Committee, co-chaired by Rep. Paul Luebke and Sen. John Kerr. Details will be available in the next edition of *The Voter*.

## CHATHAM UNIT

### Chris Farnan

I would like to bring you up-to-date on the Pittsboro Library issue in Chatham County. At the November 7 meeting of the County Commissioners, the Capital Expenditure Program was presented and passed. This financial plan should meet the capital needs of the county for the next five years. The county will borrow \$133 million to fund several projects. There will be a 0.04 tax rate increase in 2006, followed by a 0.01 tax rate increase in 2010 and 2012. The County is also depending on revenues of \$4 million in school impact fees dedicated to the Capital Program.

Included in this Capital Program is \$5,100,000 for the construction and furnishing of a building to be located on the campus of CCCC in Pittsboro to be used as a joint-use library for the students of CCCC and patrons of the Pittsboro Memorial Library.

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

The expenditure schedule shows disbursements for the library to begin in April 2006 and completed in March 2008.

I feel cautiously optimistic about this project, although it could always be cancelled or postponed to a later date. At this time it does not appear that the League needs to become involved in lobbying for the project; however, this is an issue to keep in mind when you elect our new BOC this spring.

A joint-use library presents many unique challenges. The Friends of the Pittsboro Library are closely monitoring the planning process. Should you have any ideas about what you would like to see in the Library, call me. (If you are not already a member of the Friends of the Pittsboro Library, please consider joining.)

## **LOCAL POSITIONS of LWV-ODC**

The following positions are those that have been adopted by consensus of the local League and affirmed by review at previous Annual Meetings. The date of initial adoption is indicated in parentheses.

### **COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS**

- Support for a long-range Orange County budget plan that includes establishment of goals and priorities, both for operating expenses and for capital improvements (1988).
- Support for clear communication in the Orange County budget process (1988).

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

- Support for action to increase citizen safety by decreasing the number of drunken drivers (1983).

### **EDUCATION**

- Support of the Chapel Hill School Board in its assignment of pupils on a non-discriminatory basis (1960).
- Support redistricting policy that maintains racial balance and continuity of individual educational experience. Support improvement of quality of integration within the schools and individual classrooms (1978).
- Support of action to improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro school bus transportation system (1979).
- Support for adequate funding of the capital needs of Chapel Hill/Carrboro and Orange County school systems (1984).

### **GREENWAYS**

- Support for the greenways system and open space (1984).

### **GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**

- Support of a sound planning program through which public improvements, policies, and regulations are coordinated for the orderly and attractive development of the community (1964).
- Support of joint planning as the best process for managing growth cooperatively in the areas of Orange County surrounding Chapel Hill and Carrboro (1986).
- Public facilities should be adequate before new development is permitted (1987).

### **PUBLIC RECREATION**

- Support for public recreation for the Chapel Hill area (1961, 1974)

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- Local governing boards should adopt written ethics codes and local municipalities should adopt the state statute for candidates reporting all campaign contributors who give more than \$100 (1989).

## Membership

### Betty Mutran

### Transfer to the LWVODC

Brenda Rogers has moved from Wake County and is now a member of LWV-ODC.

Brenda Rogers  
19204 Stone Brook  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
Tel. 968-0833

## Changes in Addresses, Phone Numbers and/or Email Addresses

In this holiday period we know the importance of having current contact information. To that end, please make these changes in your directory.

Roberta Black's new email address is [blackburr@bellsouth.net](mailto:blackburr@bellsouth.net).

Eve Barkley's new email address is [ebarkley@nc.rr.com](mailto:ebarkley@nc.rr.com)

Dorrie Prouty has a new apartment number and lives at  
750 Weaver Dairy Rd #2213,  
Chapel Hill NC 27514-1482.

## Helen Deitz Pratt 1922 –2005



Helen Pratt passed away on November 13, 2005, at the Forest at Duke in Durham. Helen had been a member of the League in Durham since 1966. Prior to that she had been a League member for many years in Columbus, Ohio. Helen was intensely interested in government and worked tirelessly for citizen education and voting rights. She served on the Board of the Durham League, she opened her home for League meetings, and she researched many areas for League studies. She served on the State Board while both Ruth Mary Meyer and Diane Brown were State presidents. She was an original contributor to the State League Endowment Fund. Helen will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Helen is survived by her sister, Mrs. Louise Crawford, 120 East 90th Street, Apt.14-E, New York, New York 10128. —  
*Bev Kawalec*

League of Women Voter of Orange, Durham and  
Chatham Counties  
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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization for men and women that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen over 18, male or female, may become a voting member of the League. With that membership comes the opportunity to work on local, state, regional, and national program issues.

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## **Stay Tuned**

These words were echoed by Mike Ashe, Director of Elections, Durham County, and Sen. Ellie Kinnaird regarding developments in voting machines and election law.

As we go to press, a hearing is being held regarding the legality of the State Board of Elections certifying Diebold voting machines. Regardless of the decision, it is likely to be appealed. A special session of the Legislature may need to be called to deal with issues regarding the new state law and certification of voting machines. Will our primaries be delayed until fall?

Many deadlines may be difficult to fulfill, including issuing of absentee ballots fifty days prior to the primary, public forums being held in all counties, and machines being ordered and delivered.

**STAY TUNED AND PARTICIPATE IN THESE IMPORTANT DECISIONS—Jan Richmond**