

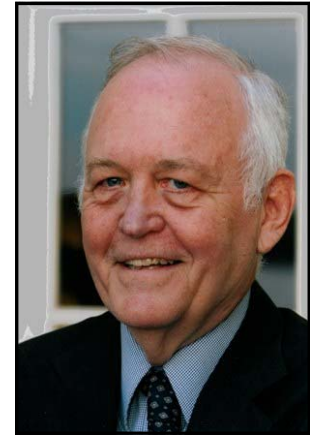


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Reforming the Supreme Court

On **Thursday October 20**, Paul D. Carrington, Professor of Law at Duke University, will discuss a recent proposal for changing the process of selection of Supreme Court justices. For the text of this proposal, see paulcarrington.com.



Paul D. Carrington

The regular monthly meeting will begin promptly at 9:45 a.m. and Prof. Carrington will speak at 10 a.m. Discussions of the issues of checks and balances will follow the presentation.

Plan to be seated promptly at 9:45 a.m. at the **Hargraves Center, 215 N. Roberson Street in Chapel Hill.** If you continue on Rosemary Street from the center of Chapel Hill, turn right at the traffic light past Mama Dips.

The People Speak 2005

On **Saturday, October 15**, the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties, and the West Triangle Chapter of the United Nations Association are sponsoring an event as part of a nationwide series designated *The People Speak 2005*.

The event will be on **Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. in the Redbud Room at the Friday Center, 100 Friday Center Drive in Chapel Hill.** The public is invited at no charge. Refreshments will be available.

When the United Nations was brought to life sixty years ago in San Francisco, the United States was its most prominent founding nation. This autumn will witness nationwide celebrations of its birth.

The People Speak 2005 will engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in a discussion of the hard questions about the role of the United States in the world. From September through November 2005, thousands of high schools, colleges, civic and religious groups, and individual Americans will organize events around the theme: **Building a safer world: Defining the US-UN Relationship in the 21st Century.** The format of the events will take the shape of forums designed to encourage discussion around that theme.

(Continued on page 5)

Upcoming Events

Oct. 15
UNA/LWV
Friday Center
9 a.m.

Oct. 20
Hargraves Center
9:45 a.m.

Nov. 17
Hargraves Center
10 a.m.

Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary by Defending the U.S. Constitution.



**Jan Richmond
President, LWVODC**

A large scale undertaking by the national League is a public education effort to increase the understanding of our nation's system of separation of powers and check and balances. Topics will include the role that judges play in interpreting the law, the rights of citizens that are jeopardized by a weakened judiciary system, and the differences between the roles played by state and federal courts.

With increasing attention on the courts today, there are many opportunities to educate citizens about the importance of safeguarding U.S. democracy by promoting an independent judiciary and by defending the U.S. Constitution. We all remember the Terry Schiavo case. I think that case illustrated the importance of checks and balances. The three branches of government work to check and balance each other: legislative, judiciary, and executive.

Grants are available from LWVUS for both short term and long term projects. If you are interested in this issue, please contact Bessie Carrington or Jan Richmond. We will be submitting a grant application. Even if we don't receive a grant for this project, we hope to develop some education programs regarding the issue of checks and balances.

One possibility is to conduct a community forum in partnership with local law schools and judges. Or we may decide to hold a forum on capital punishment, sentencing, participation in conduct committees, etc. To help start this campaign, our October speaker will address the topic of the U.S. Supreme Court. After his address we will break into small discussion groups to address the issues of checks and balances.

Additionally, the creation of voter guides for the 2006 and 2008 elections is another important subject to address.

League of Women Voters
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(Voter Editor)
489-8668

League Links with Time Warner Cable for Citizen's Choice Program

By Jan Richmond

The LWV-ODC has been invited by Time Warner Cable to help them produce a candidates program, Citizen's Choice. Bessie Carrington, Vicki Boyer and I met with two Time Warner representatives to discuss the details.

We agreed to provide hot issues for possible consideration by the candidates running for various offices. These issues would provide opportunities for candidates to directly address. The LWV-ODC will receive equal billing with Time Warner. Jointly we will write letters inviting the candidates to this free air time programming. The videotaping will take place after the Oct. 11th primary in Durham County. Chatham and Orange Counties have no primaries this fall.

We were successful in getting Time Warner to agree to videotape candidates from Chatham County also. This was not in their original plan. I have contacted Anne Bodner, Chatham Unit chair, regarding this process.

This initiative goes along with Our Democracy, Our Airwaves project currently headed by Lynne Kane. Free air time to inform the public of candidates' positions is always applauded by the League.

November and December meetings

On **November 17 at 10 a.m.** at the **Hargraves Center** in Chapel Hill, Susan Levy, Executive Director of Orange County Habitat for Humanity, will talk to us about the Habitat mission and how it contributes to city and county revitalization efforts, infrastructure improvements, and the influence on public policy.



Joyce Colaiace, Program Chair

On **December 15** at the Holiday Dinner/Meeting at the **Chapel Hill Country Club**, Courtney Crowder, the North Carolina coordinator for Generation Engage will discuss its mission to "energize and engage the youth vote to shape the future they will inherit." Learn more at www.generationengage.com.

See page 7 for the calendar for the entire year.

Lobby *(Continued from page 4)*

Periodically members will receive email alerts, asking you to take action on important measure as soon as possible. We'll try to make them simple, straight-forward and as easy to complete as possible. We will provide source information and links to sites for additional data. We hope everyone will join this effort. If you want to be added to the list of those receiving email alerts, contact Robbie Willmarth.

Chatham Unit Plans**Anne Bodner**

The Chatham Unit is organizing an Observer Corp for the Chatham County Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners. Chris Farnan did a wonderful job of this and we need to keep up the good work. This is a crucial time for Chatham County, since the county is facing an era of rampant growth. Volunteers for this important activity should call Anne Bodner (545-2358) for details so that we can keep LWVODC informed on what is happening in Chatham County government.

There are two other major activities planned for the year. First, the LWVODC has received a grant from LWVNC to run a Civics 101 course focusing on the court system in Chatham County. This will take place in February/March of 2006, depending on speaker schedules. Second, the Chatham Unit will sponsor a Candidates Forum before the Spring primary. Two Board of Commissioner seats will be contested in the primary, and it is important that the League inform the voters of Chatham County about the candidates and their platforms. We need volunteers to help run both of these programs.

The People Speak *(Continued from page 1)*

War is not the greatest killer in the world. Poverty is by far the greater offender. Moreover, young children and their mothers are its most numerous victims. The UN's mission to maintain international peace and security is widely appreciated. We often forget that its many agencies provide the world's most effective broker for preventing and easing the suffering of the victims of both manmade and natural disaster. Accordingly, *Poverty, Hunger and Health* as they relate to the US-UN relationship will be the topic for the forum.

The panelists are:

- Barbara Matula, retired director of North Carolina Medicare
- William E. Lucas, Director, Office of Social and Human Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- Ray Buchanan, President and CEO of *Stop Hunger Now*.

The speakers will set the tone with brief introductory remarks. The greater part of the forum will be a dialogue among the members of the audience. There will be ample access to microphones. Additional information is available at thepeoplespeak.org.

Come share your thoughts with us as your contribution to this remarkable event. Please contact Beverly Hanly at bhanly@aol.com or 919-542.1867, if you have questions.

Membership—Renewals Continue!

Betty Mutran

As membership director, I am looking for volunteers who would help to contact members when the need arises. One such need is to contact our national members to see if they wish to continue receiving *The Voter*. If you're willing to help, please call 919-490-0470 or email me at Membership@odc.nc.lwvnet.org. For most of the national members we do not have email addresses, and we may need to search for their phone numbers. National members, you can help us out by sending your email addresses to [member-ship@odc.nc.lwvnet.org](mailto:membership@odc.nc.lwvnet.org) with your phone numbers. At the end of the month, we will try to contact those we have not responded. You are important to the League and we do not want to lose contact with you. Any national members who wish to receive a mailed copy of *The Voter* need to send \$10 to LWV-ODC, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3397, Chapel Hill, NC 27515.

Thanks to Cynthia Wertz, the website now has a new look. You can find it at <http://odc.nc.lwvnet.org>. And the Membership's official email address has changed to Membership@odc.nc.lwvnet.org.

We have begun to think of the annual dinner when we honor our fifty year members. We need your help to identify those members. If you know someone who has been a League member for fifty years, please contact Betty Mutran at Membership@odc.nc.lwvnet.org. This is a commitment that deserves recognition. The material rewards for such are few, exemption from dues and from the \$10 postage fee for *The Voter*. But we hope by celebrating with you, that you'll know that your time and energy, your commitment, has been appreciated.



Cynthia Wertz

New Members

Please welcome:

Eve Barkley
305 Englewood Drive
Chapel Hill NC 27514
401-1843
embrexemb@yahoo.com

Sara S. Hill, in addition to being a national member, has recently joined the local league.

Sara S. Hill
750 Weaver Dairy Rd., #229
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-918-3427
Shh01@msn.com

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Mary Strauss (O)
123 Woodbridge Lane
Chapel Hill NC 27514
msmstrauss@aol.com

Re-joining the League:

Constance H. Smith (C)
281 Fearington Post
Pittsboro NC 27312-8548

Changes

New email addresses:

Carolyn A. Horn carolynahorn@bellsouth.net

Joanna Campbell Swanson joannaswanson@earthlink.net

**NOTE: If your address label has an asterisk, you have not paid your dues.
This is the last issue you will receive. A membership form is enclosed.**

Future Meeting Schedule 2005-2006

October	Candidate forums in each County	TBA
October 15	LWV-UNA, Friday Center	9 –11:30 a.m.
October 20	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	9:45 a.m.-12
November 17	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon,
December 15	Christmas dinner, Chapel Hill Country Club	TBA
January 19, 2006	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	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
May 18	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon
May ??	Annual dinner meeting	TBA
1st Tuesday of each month	Board of Directors meeting	Varies

The Voter...ODC...The Voter...ODC...The Voter

League of Women Voter of Orange, Durham and
 Chatham Counties
 P.O. Box 3397
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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.

The Voter is printed on recycled paper.

Fall Elections 2005

Municipal elections will be held in Pittsboro, Siler City, Goldston, Durham, Carrboro, Hillsborough and Chapel Hill, as well as Chapel Hill/Carrboro school board. Only Durham will hold a primary election. **Election Day is November 8.** More information can be found at [Orange County](#), [Chatham County](#), or [Durham County](#)

Activity	County	Date
Voter registration deadline	Durham (primary)	September 16
One Stop voting begins	Durham	September 22
Municipal primary	Durham	October 11
Voter registration deadline	Durham (municipal)	October 14
One Stop voting begins	Durham	October 20
Absentee ballot begins	Chatham	October 7
Voter registration deadline	Chatham	October 14
One-stop voting begins	Chatham	October 20
Voter registration deadline	Orange	October 14
Absentee balloting begins	Orange	October 7
One Stop voting begins	Orange	October 14