



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Dare County



April/May Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday May 6, 2015 - Wine and Cheese Tasting at the Coastal Studies Institute – 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

Responding to Sea Level Rise: The Role of Markets & Public Policy. For reservation and information, call Lorelei DiBernardo 261-4365.

Friday May 29, 2015 – Annual Meeting Flying Fish Café, 11:30 (Flyer Included) Reservations, Nancy Birindelli, 261-3915

Thursday June 4, 2015 – Public Hearing on Voter ID Implementation – Dare County (flyer included)

Co-President's Letter

April 2015

Happy Spring Everyone,

I wish everyone could have gone with us for the April Go-See Tour. The Jarvisburg Colored School is a wonderful historic achievement for those who have worked so hard and for so long to preserve it. Lunch was well attended and lots of fun too. Our table sampled the Weeping Radish's signature dish sweet potato liverwurst (thanks to Nancy D'Andrade) made famous by Guy Ferreti on the Food Network Show, Diners Drive-ins and Dives. Yummy! Great place to eat and purchase great sausages. Thanks to Lorelei DiBernardo and Peggy Birkemeier who did all the arranging.

Speaking of good eats, we are wine and cheese tasting on May 6th at the Coastal Studies Institute. Again Lorelei DiBernardo has made arrangements for this member/guest event. We will also be hearing about the impact of the rising sea level on the Outer Banks. Please make your reservations with Lorelei (ltd32@charter.net or 261-4365). Also, our Annual Meeting is Friday May 29th at the Flying Fish Café. Cream of spinach soup, fresh tuna or chicken Caesar, and chocolate bread pudding with vanilla crème, will be waiting for you. To make the day even better Virginia Tillett is joining us and will talk about growing

up in Dare County. Please make your reservations for the luncheon before May 22 with Nancy Birindelli (261-3915 or Bbirindelli@aol.com).

Our nominating committee, chaired by Geri Sullivan, has been hard at work creating a new slate of officers for the next year. Geri Sullivan and Audrey Esposito are transitioning off the Board this year. Please be at the Annual Meeting to thank them for all their hard work with the Citizens Guide and Public Relations. Unfortunately the Vice President's position will be vacant. We tried and tried but could not find anyone for that position. But come and vote for the new team or bring a nomination from the floor. Please remember that the work we do IS important to Dare County and certainly worth volunteering your time.

Before our April Board meeting we stuffed envelopes for the Annual Meeting. (thanks to Glenda, Carol, Nancy, Lorelei, Mary Jane, and Geri.) Please take a few minutes and look over all the information. At our Board meeting we set the date for our Annual Board Retreat, July 8, 2015. If you have any suggestions, ideas to improve the Dare League, and/or want to participate please send me an email.

This is my last Co-Presidents letter, as my term is over. I have thoroughly enjoyed being vice president and/or co-president for the past four years. I'm usually not a joiner; in fact, the League is the only organization to which I belong. But Mary Ellen Hawthorne invited me to some events a few years back and I was taken with the members' conversations, their dedication to Dare voters, their political awareness, and yes, plain old fashion patriotism. The kind of patriotism

that includes education and action; Voter forums, voter registration, voter information and published voters guides. I was also attracted to the non-partisan aspect of the League. Our members cover the political spectrum. That makes things interesting and educational. Finally, the friendships I have acquired have been an added bonus. As you may or may not know I have had some health challenges the last few years and my League friends have been very good to me. If you are a member, but have not yet become active I would encourage you to do so. The rewards of "Making Democracy Work" are well worth your time and effort.

Fondly,

Lin



Support the effort to get a woman on the twenty dollar bill!

Womenon20s.org

The Equal Rights Amendment

Unfinished Business for the Constitution

Why

Why We Need the Equal Rights Amendment

- Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.
- Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.
- Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.



- Without the ERA, the Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that the rights it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex. The first — and still the only — right specifically affirmed as equal for women and men is the right to vote.
- The equal protection clause of the Constitution's 14th Amendment was first applied to sex discrimination only in 1971, and it has never been interpreted to grant equal rights on the basis of sex in the uniform and inclusive way that the ERA would.
- The ERA would provide a clearer judicial standard for deciding cases of sex discrimination, since federal and state courts (some working with state ERAs, some without) still reflect confusion and inconsistency in dealing with such claims. It would also clarify sex discrimination jurisprudence and 40 years of precedent for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who claimed in an interview reported in the January 2011 California Lawyer that the Constitution, specifically the 14th Amendment, does not protect against sex discrimination.
- The ERA would provide a strong legal defense against a rollback of the significant advances in women's rights made in the past 50 years. Without it, Congress can weaken or replace existing laws on women's rights, and judicial precedents on issues of gender equality can be eroded or ignored by reactionary courts responding to a conservative political agenda.
- Without the ERA, women regularly and men occasionally have to fight long, expensive, and difficult legal battles in an effort to prove that their rights are equal to those of the other sex.
- The ERA would improve the United States' human rights standing in the world community. The governing documents of many other countries affirm legal gender equality, however imperfect the global implementation of that ideal may be.

After more than a generation of significant advances for women, do we still need the Equal Rights Amendment? The answer is an unqualified yes! Legal sex discrimination is not yet a thing of the past, and the progress of the past 50 years is not irreversible. Some remaining inequities result more from individual behavior and social practices than from legal discrimination, but they can all be influenced by a strong message that the Constitution has zero tolerance for any form of sex discrimination. Thus, the reasons why we need the ERA are at one level philosophical and symbolic, and at another level very specific and practical.



The Equal Rights Amendment is needed to affirm constitutionally that the bedrock principles of our democracy — "all men are created equal," "liberty and justice for all," "equal justice under law," "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" — apply equally to women.

In principle:

It is necessary to have specific language in the Constitution affirming the principle of equal rights on the basis of sex because for more than two centuries, women have had to fight long and hard political battles to win rights that men (at first certain white men, eventually all men) possessed automatically because they were male. The first — and still the only — right that the Constitution specifically affirms equally for women and men is the right to vote. Alice Paul introduced the ERA in 1923 to expand that affirmation to all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

It was not until as recently as 1971 that the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause was first applied to sex discrimination. Even today, a major distinction between the sexes is present from the moment of birth — the different legal standing of males and females with respect to how their constitutional rights are obtained. As demonstrated in 1996 by the last major Supreme Court decision on sex discrimination, regarding admission of women to Virginia Military Institute (VMI), we have not moved beyond the traditional assumption that males hold rights and females must prove that they hold them. The Equal Rights Amendment would remove that differential assumption and shift the burden of proof to the alleged discriminator.

In practice:

The practical effect of this amendment would be seen most clearly in court deliberations on cases of sex discrimination. For the first time, "sex" would be a suspect classification requiring the same high level of "strict scrutiny" and having to meet the same high level of justification — a "necessary" relation to a "compelling" state interest — that the classification of race currently requires.

The VMI decision now tells courts to exercise "skeptical scrutiny" requiring "exceedingly persuasive" justification of differential treatment on the basis of sex, but prohibition of sex discrimination is still not as strongly enforceable as prohibition of race discrimination. Ironically, under current court decisions about sex and race discrimination, a white male claiming race discrimination by a program or action is protected by strict scrutiny, but a black female claiming sex discrimination by the same program or action is protected by only skeptical, not strict, scrutiny.

We need the ERA to clarify the law for the lower courts, whose decisions still reflect confusion and inconsistency about how to deal with sex discrimination claims. If the ERA were in the Constitution, it would in many cases influence the tone of legal reasoning and decisions regarding women's equal rights, producing over time a cumulative positive effect.

The Equal Rights Amendment is needed in order to prevent a rollback of women's rights by conservative/reactionary political votes, and to promote laws and court decisions that fairly take into account women's as well as men's experiences.

In principle:

Aren't there already enough legal prohibitions of sex discrimination — the Equal Pay Act, Title VII and Title IX of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, Supreme Court decisions based on the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause, and more? Why are there still people saying, as Alice Paul did in 1923, "We shall not be safe until the principle of equal rights is written into the framework of our government"?

The need for the ERA can be expressed simply as a warning. Unless we put into the Constitution the bedrock principle that equality of rights cannot be denied or abridged on account of sex, the political and judicial victories women have achieved with their blood, sweat, and tears for the past two centuries are vulnerable to erosion or reversal at any time — now or in the future.

Congress has the power to make laws that replace existing laws — and to do so by a simple majority. Therefore, many of the current legal protections against sex discrimination can be removed by the margin of a single vote. While courts in the near term would still apply skeptical scrutiny to laws that differentiate on the basis of sex, that precedent could be undermined or eventually ignored by future conservative or reactionary courts. With a specific constitutional guarantee of equal rights through the Equal Rights Amendment, it would be much harder for legislators and courts to reverse our progress in eliminating sex discrimination.

In practice:

Would anyone really want to turn back the clock on women's advancement? Ask the members of Congress who have tried to cripple Title IX, which requires equal opportunity in education — who have opposed the Violence Against Women Act, the Fair Pensions Act, and the Paycheck Fairness Act — who voted to pay for Viagra for servicemen but oppose funding for family planning and contraception — who for decades have blocked U.S. ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Most laws that discriminated explicitly against women have been removed from the books — in many cases, as a result of the political power and expertise developed by women in the course of the ERA ratification campaign. The current legal and judicial systems, however, still often have an impact on women that works to their disadvantage, because those systems have traditionally used the male experience as the norm.

Therefore, lawmakers and judges must be encouraged to include equitable consideration of female experiences as they deal with issues of Social Security, taxes, wages, pensions, domestic relations, insurance, violence, and more. Without an Equal Rights Amendment providing motivation, the status quo will change much more slowly.

"The movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end."

Alice Paul (1885-1977)

**REGISTER FOR
LEAGUE LOBBY DAY**

Wednesday, May 13, 2015



JOIN US IN RALEIGH FOR
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LOBBY
DAY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015

10:00am - 2:30pm

WHERE TO MEET:

NC Legislative Building
3rd Floor Auditorium
16 W. Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Link here for [MAP](#) or [PARKING HELP](#)

DAY'S AGENDA INCLUDES

ISSUES BRIEFINGS with Adam Linker, Health Access Coalition, Yvonne Brannon, Public Schools First NC, Tazra Mitchell, Budget and Tax Center

VISITS with your legislators

LUNCH, debriefing and networking

VISIT to the Senate and House while in session

Be sure and let your legislators know you will be there and plan to stop by to say "Hello". Or, make an appointment to see them.

FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

You can find out your representative's name and contact information simply by entering your street address on this map: [Who Represents Me?](#)

Register for Lobby Day

Submit this form to let us know you plan to attend. Mark the "carpool" box if you want to share a ride.

[RSVP NOW](#)

Join The League

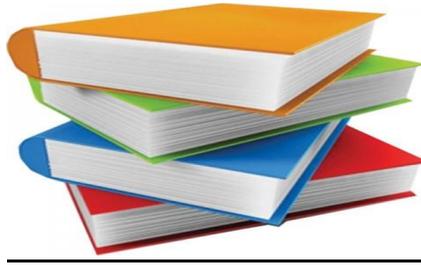
Invite your friends to join the League. Together we can make a difference in North Carolina.

[JOIN NOW](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact Mary Klenz, Advocacy Chair
lwvklenzm@gmail.com; [704-968-0664](tel:704-968-0664)

UPCOMING LEAGUE COMMUNICATIONS: expect bimonthly communications

- **HOW AND WHY** - write your legislator about closing the coverage gap.
 - **LEAGUE LOBBY DAY DETAILS** - find out who's attending on May 13th!
 - **LEAGUE SPOTLIGHT** - learn about the great work our local Leagues are doing. @LWVNCarolina, Vote411.org
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Surveying the School Scene

Marion W. Midgett, Education Chair

The Dare County Board of Education met on March 10 and April 21, 2015 for regular sessions. They also met in joint special session with the Dare County Commission on March 11, 2015. The following covers reports, discussion, business, and an award presentation during those meetings.

Reports

In March Superintendent Burgess presented a Summary Accountability Report of Dare Schools performance in the 2013—2014 North Carolina’s Standardized Testing Program.

- Program now known as READY (formerly called ABCs)
- Tests measured 2 ways: Achievement (formerly “proficiency”)

--percentage of students on or above grade level; and Growth—percentage of students who made at least one year’s worth of expected academic progress

- The results follow a new curriculum (all subjects, all grades) instituted two years ago featuring more rigorous material and advanced concepts pushed down to lower grades, creating learning gaps; and new higher cut scores.
- Lower test results were registered statewide beginning in 2013, the first year of the new curriculum.
- From the beginning, Dare’s scores dropped, but beat the low state average across the board:

	2012	2013
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Sample: Grade 4 Math	Dare/93, NC/87	Dare/54, NC/49
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Grade 5 Math	Dare/90, NC/83	Dare/54, NC/50
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Grade 6 Math	Dare/87, NC/81	Dare/53, NC/41
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- 2014 Elementary—Math & reading EOGs (end of grade) results: Large gains in all 7 areas; above state average in all 7 areas; in 4 of the 7 tests, Dare ranked in Top Twenty of 115 school districts
- 2014 Middle—Math, reading, & science EOGs results: Large gains in 5 of 7 areas; above state average in all 7 areas; 4 of the 7 scores were in the Top Ten of 115 districts
- 2014 Middle/High School—EOC (end of course) results for English II, Math I, & Biology: Very large gains in achievement levels on all 3 tests; significantly above the state average on all 3 tests; Dare in the Top Ten of the state on all 3 tests
- Other High School Accountability Factors are used: ACT scores, Math III pass rate, on time graduation rate, and WorkKeys (Career & Tech) scores

- Growth Scores:

4 schools exceeded expected growth==85—100% of students made a year’s growth

5 schools met expected growth==70—84% of students made at least a year’s growth

1 school did not meet expected growth (64%)=69% or below of students made at least a year’s growth

- New State Accountability System:

A—F Letter Grades for Schools (replaces former recognition system—excellence, distinction, progress, etc.)

15 Point Scale used:

85 – 100	A	70 – 84	B	55 – 69	C
		40 – 54	D	0 – 39	F

School performance grades were established by the general assembly; 14 states use letter grades for schools; all 14 states calculate differently.

- NC School Performance letter Grades are based on:

80%--Achievement (as measured by EOGs/EOCs)

20%--Academic Growth (see above)

Weighting achievement scores more heavily than academic growth adversely affects schools with higher numbers of:

--Economically disadvantaged students (Dare=49.39%)

--At risk students

--Disabled students

--English as a Second Language students (Dare=6.5%)

- Overall School Performance Grades:

Bs – 70% of Dare schools

Cs – 30% of Dare Schools

FFHS 84

CHSS 68

MHS 79

MMS 61

KHES 76

MES 58

NHES 74

FFES 72

FFMS 71

CHES 70

- Dare Schools Performance Grades compared to the rest of NC:

Grade	Dare	NC
A		5%
B	70%	24%
C	30%	41%
D		23%
F		6%

- Data will be used to improve performance.

- Individual school report cards are posted on district/school websites.

Board Member Bea Basnight presented the accountability summary to the Commissioners at the joint special session in March. To answer a question about what the schools are doing to raise low performance, she told about intervention programs using tutors who come in daily. In addition, there is other strategy planning and identification of indicators of success as well as monitoring of progress.

Business

New Funding Tool

A new School Funding Formula which replaces the Per Pupil Formula established in 1999 for local funding was developed by a BOE/Co. Comm./Staff committee during meetings since August 2014 and endorsed by both boards for use in 2015. At the joint special session, County Manager Bobby Outten presented the new planning tool for budgeting that will assist school system and county personnel in building a budget for the

ensuing fiscal year. Based on the premise that some expenses are not significantly impacted by increasing or decreasing student enrollment, the School Funding Formula has three major components:

Section 1 is comprised of salary increases and changes to the retirement system contribution and costs of health insurance, all of which are determined by action of the General Assembly.

Section 2 includes items impacted by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the number of students enrolled, such as library books, textbooks, instructional supplies, and postage.

Section 3 includes items which are affected by the CPI, square footage, and rate increases, such as insurances, utilities, and custodial needs.

Budget Process Underway

At the April meeting, the BOE adopted a Capital Improvements Plan which includes large projects costing \$50,000 or more and shows planned expenditures for the next five years. This is the first part of their budget process. They will approve the full budget in May. Details will come in the next report.

Award

During the Public Comment period at the March meeting, Jim Perry and Fred Smith of the Dare Education Foundation presented it's Annual Excellence in Education Award for leadership and support of DEF to David Oaksmith, At-large Board member. See the March newsletter for more on Mr. Oaksmith.

In March, Mr. Oaksmith withdrew his board resignation for health reasons. He will participate in meetings via amplified telephone when not able to attend.



Charity Day this Saturday

6:30 – 10:0M



NC Voter ID Laws

Public Hearing on Voter ID Law
Implementation

Dare County

Thursday June 4, 2015

5:00 – 7:00PM

Administration Building

Room 168

Marshal C. Collins Drive

Manteo, NC

We will have League buttons for everyone to wear.



Annual Meeting

Friday May 29, 2015

Flying Fish Café

2003 South Croatan Highway

Kill Devil Hills, NC

11:30 No Host Wine Bar

12:00 Virginia Tillett

12:45 Lunch

1:45 Business Meeting

2:30 Closing Remarks

Menu

Cream of Spinach Soup

Caesar Salad with Grilled *Tuna* or *Chicken*

Chocolate Bread Pudding with Vanilla Crème

Cost ~~\$25.00~~ \$20.00 (League treat for dessert)

Reservations Required - Nancy Birindelli

261-3915 or Bbirindelli@aol.com

By May 22, 2015