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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF DARE COUNTY

September 2018 Newsletter

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Co-President's Message



I'm Teuta Shabani Towler, the new co-president of the League of Women Voters of Dare County along with Fran Kapinos who is serving as co-president for the second year.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you to Make Democracy Work. Our goal is to inform voters about voting rights, election schedules as well as host candidates forums for the mid-term election.

Our local chapter has partnered with the National and State Leagues to provide information on a new tool called, [VOTE 411](#). It shows your ballot based on your location and you'll be able to see candidate answers, if they answered, side by side the opponents.

We'll also be speaking up and taking actions on issue that the League is well know to stand up for such as Equal Rights Amendment, Voting Rights, Gerrymandering, Public Education, Environment, Healthcare Related Topics and Immigration.

Thank you for trusting in me with this role and I'll do my best to serve you.

Sincerely,
Teuta

Upcoming Events - September

Candidate Forum

When: Thursday, Sept. 6th, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Baum Center Craft Room

What: Dr. Lin Logan and Mary Jane Slesinski, chairs of the Voting Services Committee, are asking for volunteers willing to help with planning for the Candidate Forums, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 14 at Jeanette's Pier.

Opening Reception for the North Carolina Women in Politics Exhibit

[YouTube](#)
[Facebook](#)

When: Monday, Sept. 10, 2018, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Where: Outer Banks History Center

What: Opening Reception for the North Carolina Women in Politics Exhibit, which traces the history of Dare County from 1894-2010, including the League of Women Voters local chapter from 1980 - 2000s. Some board members are attending, all are welcome.

Note: This exhibit will be open through the end of November.

Welcome Dinner

When: Sept 21st, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

Where: Duck Woods Country Club

What: Welcome Dinner. Guest speaker Michelle Barnes, Director of the Board of Elections. Sign up with Nancy Birindelli at bbirindelli@aol.com. Cost is \$25 members and \$30 guests. Menu includes choice of chicken, fish, or mushroom ravioli. See full menu below.

First Friday Hot Topic and Lunch

When: October 5, 2018

Where: Avenue Grill, Manteo

What: An opportunity to meet with members at Outer Banks History Center and Director Samantha Crisp. Also a chance to view the exhibit "Daring to Lead: NC Women in Politics, 1894 - 2010"

See our full calendar of events for September through November 2018 [HERE](#).

Reminder - Membership Renewal

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, now is the time to do so! We need you!

\$55 individual, \$80 family

Checks payable to: **LWV Dare, PO Box 689, Kitty Hawk, 27949**

You can pay online through PayPal [HERE](#). Follow the link to the page then scroll to the bottom.



LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Judy Lotas, Vice President and ERA Chair



The League's 53rd National Convention took place from June 28 through July 1, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel in Chicago.

I'm so glad I went.

More than 1000 women and men attended including 794 voting delegates. The North Carolina contingent was made up of 22 delegates from chapters in Wake, ODC, PT, Moore, Dare, Henderson and Charlotte/Mecklenburg Counties.

There were caucuses held each day from 7:30AM to 8:45PM-40 caucuses in all, on topics ranging from VOTE411 training to Immigration, Redistricting, Fostering Civility and Respect in our Divided Democracy, The Critical Role of Healthcare in a Democracy, Diversity & Equity.

My particular focus was the ERA and why the National League seemed so lukewarm on it after having been a real mover in the 70's. I'd sent a resolution suggested by Lin Logan beforehand but the Resolutions Committee said we had missed the deadline. Their advice: write a motion and present it to the entire group in Plenary session. I did. It called for a total commitment by National to see the ERA through judicial challenges once the 38th state has ratified. A delegate from Illinois moved to accept by acclamation and that's exactly what happened. You could feel the energy for ERA spring back to life after what has been a long hiatus.



We had some terrific speakers. Rosie Rios, 43rd Treasurer of the U. S. has a program called "Teachers Righting History" to recognize historic American women in classrooms across the country. A simple theme: we become what we see. She spoke about the need for statues honoring women in numbers equal to those of men; putting women's pictures on currency; portraits of women in classrooms.
www.teacherswritinghistory.org.



Most memorable to me: the Saturday night banquet speaker, Elaine Weiss, author of THE WOMAN'S HOUR. It is a totally fantastic book about women's fight to win the vote. Reads like a riveting mini-series.

The LWV in Florida are sponsoring "Civil Rights Immersion"- a journey to Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma, November 8-13. You can get information and sign up at www.LWVFL.org/We-Should-Overcome.

Soon after I got back, President Chris Carson sent this email to convention attendees. I'm sharing it because I think it is incredibly important.

"On Sunday, The New York Times ran an op-ed titled, How the Suffrage Movement Betrayed Black Women. The League is not mentioned by name in this piece, but we should have been. Our founders and early

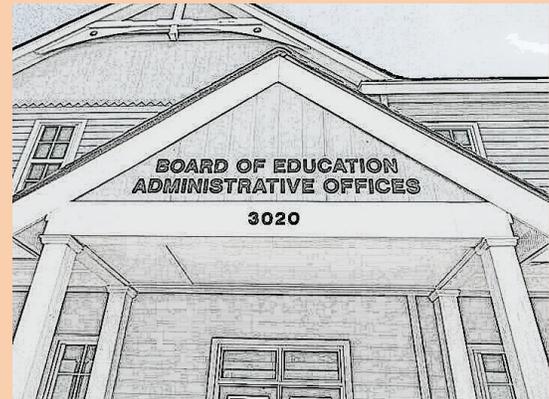
leaders were not inclusive of all women. African Americans were excluded through much of our history. We have submitted a letter to the editor to the Times addressing our place in this history. These are hard truths to face but an important part of our story that we will continue to address as we approach our 100th Anniversary."

Lunches were on our own and a group of us wandered into Buddy Guy's for soul food and blues. Fantastic.

Education Report

By Marion W. Midgett, Education Chair

Since the last education report in the May 1, 2018 newsletter, the Dare County Board of Education met on May 8, and June 12, 2018 for regular monthly sessions at Cape Hatteras Secondary and Kitty Hawk Schools, respectively. In addition, the Board met in a special session and several work sessions before the end of June to deal with confidential personnel and student matters and matters dealing with performance standards and evaluation of teachers, principals, and the superintendent.



At the regular meetings, the Board received staff reports, and handled business on budget items, policy revisions, and personnel matters. In addition, as at each monthly meeting, many students and staff were recognized for special achievements.

The reports and business portions were mainly routine; but, here is some interesting information from the "reports" portion of the June meeting. Each year the Board is given a report on the "Random Drug Testing Program" for students in grades 7 through 12 who participate in privileged activities (athletics, band, driving and parking at school, etc.). This was the 12th annual report. Eighty-six percent of all students were involved during the 2017-2018 year. "Positives" including, "refusals" were recorded at 4.8 %, the lowest ever for Dare, below the state percentage, and just above the national rate.

Marijuana accounted for most positives and there were none for alcohol. There were no positives in middle school. The program is administered by an outside organization and there are comprehensive notification, counseling, and consequences components.

The following are some miscellaneous bits and pieces of information pertaining to education, both state and national:

* Teacher pay is always a subject of debate in NC. The 2018-2019 monthly pay schedule is as follows for "A" teachers at sample experience levels. The pay increases each year for up to 15 years of experience and then remains the same through year 24. After that year, there is an increase and a cap for the remainder of their career. Teachers are paid for 10 months each year. Various supplements are available for NBPTS certification, "M" certification, and the 6-year degree level.

0/ \$3,500 4/ \$3,900 8/ \$4,300 12/ \$4,700 15 to 24/ \$5,000 25+/ \$5,200

* The U.S. average public school teacher salary for 2016-2017 was \$59,660. Do the math.

* The constitutional amendment-- one of six on the November 6 ballot-- that puts a ceiling on state income tax of 7% could drastically derail future attempts to fund our public schools. Cuts to many services would likely result. NC could be forced to rely even more on lottery funds and the tax burden could be shifted to lower and middle-income taxpayers through higher sales and property taxes. The current tax cap is 10%. (Info from Public Schools First NC, a statewide nonpartisan, nonprofit organization focused solely on Pre-K-12 public education issues.)

* Perhaps you've heard that the U.S. Dept. of Education headed by Secretary Betsy DeVos is looking into making it possible for states to use federal funds to purchase guns for schools. An administration official said that the department is reviewing legislation governing federal academic enrichment grants to see if the money can be used to procure firearms. (Info from The Virginian Pilot.)

The following are some miscellaneous bits and pieces of information pertaining to education, both state and national:

1. Raising per pupil funding for public schools to at least the national average.
2. Raising pay for public school teachers to at least the national average.
3. Increasing the numbers of school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and school nurses for all public schools to at least the recommended national ratios per pupil.
4. Providing full public funding for pre-K for all eligible children in NC.
5. Providing full funding for K-5 enhancement teachers for art, music, physical education, and world languages.
6. Increasing per pupil funding for textbooks and other instructional resources (digital and hard copies), supplies, etc. to at least pre-recession levels.
7. Adoption of programs that have been demonstrated to reduce the achievement gaps for economically disadvantaged students, including programs to improve public school equity, integration, and inclusion.
8. Fair and equitable evaluation of teachers and schools using a variety of metrics for student and teacher performance, not just standardized test scores.
9. Phasing out school vouchers for private schools, and ensuring that existing private schools receiving public voucher funds meet the same accountability and performance standards as public schools.
10. Establishing a moratorium on new charter schools until stronger accountability standards and better authorization mechanisms are implemented, including empowering local school

boards with the ability to create charters and keep them under their governance.

A GOOD THING in the media world is an education segment every Tuesday on the PBS News Hour, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., UNC-TV (PBS). This program is rerun at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. on NC-N (185-Spectrum Cable) and 12:00 a.m. on UNC-TV.

ELECTION UPDATE NOTE:

Board of Education Election Information for 2018

BOE elections have become partisan beginning in 2018 placing them on the November General Election ballot. Remember, the members represent the districts but are elected by all county voters. Previously, BOE candidates competed in one non-partisan election at spring Primary time.

BOE seats up for election and candidates -November 6, 2018
(See [Vote 411.org](http://Vote411.org) for info about/from the candidates and attend Dare LWV forum on October 14)

District 1-- East Lake, Stumpy Point, Manns Harbor, Manteo, and Wanchese

Incumbent-Charlotte White (not running for reelection)

Candidate -

Frank Hester, Republican

No Democrat filed

District 2-Kill Devil Hills, Colington, and Nags Head

Incumbent-Joe Tauber

Candidates -

Joe Tauber, Republican

Jen Alexander, Democrat

Neither had a Primary Election challenger

District 3-Duck, Southern Shores, and Kitty Hawk

Incumbent-Margaret Lawler

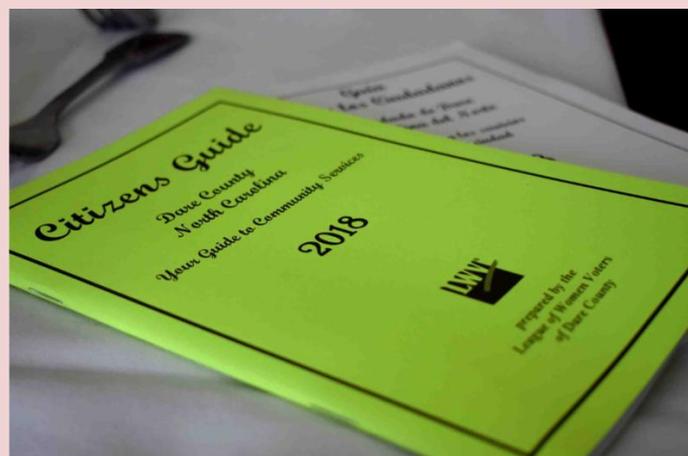
Candidate -

Margaret Lawler, Democrat

No Primary Election or General Election challenger from either party.

Fundraising for Citizens Guide

By Nancy Birindelli, Treasure and Fundraising Chair



The annual fundraising campaign is underway to publish the 32nd edition of the Citizens Guide (thanks to the efforts of Carol Butscher!) Many members have already made contributions to this effort. Donations of \$100 or more are acknowledged on the back cover of the Guide. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please send a check to:

LWV - CEF (Citizens Education Foundation)
P.O. Box 689
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

CEF is a 501 (c)(3) tax deductible organization.

We are always seeking new donors. If you would like to recommend a business to receive an invitation to contribute, please let me know.

Nancy Birindelli
252-261-3915
Bbirindelli@aol.com

ERA Efforts

Teuta and Judy were guest speakers at the Equality Day Tea in Elizabeth City hosted by the League of Women Voters of North Eastern North Carolina and the National Council of Negro Women. [Details on the article on the Daily Advance.](#)



Kickoff Dinner Menu

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - DARE
ANNUAL FALL KICK-OFF DINNER

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

5:30 PM

DUCK WOODS COUNTRY CLUB

\$25.00 member price; \$30 guests. Please pay in advance if possible! see below

MENU

House Salad

Caprese Chicken

Sautéed Chicken Breast Topped with a Caprese Salad
Tomatoes, Mozzarella & Basil finished with a Balsamic Reduction
White Rice & Asparagus

Grilled Rockfish

Topped with Corn, Bacon & Spinach Sauté
Rice & Asparagus

Mediterranean Ravioli

Mushroom Stuffed Ravioli with Sautéed Sun Dried Tomatoes, Artichokes, Onion, Sliced Black
Olives & Red Peppers in Garlic & Olive Oil Wine Sauce

Chefs Dessert

Mini Snowballs

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 17th

Please contact Nancy Birindelli at 261-3915 or bbirindelli@aol.com with your reservation &
dinner selection. Mail check to
LWV Dare PO Box 689, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

Any change to your plans or dinner selection needs to be made by Sept 17

League of Women Voters of Dare County | | lwvdare@gmail.com | <http://lwvdarenc.org/>

Text | [Optional Link](#)