



THE VOTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

Mark Your Calendar!

- January 5 **First Friday Hot Topic Luncheon**, Blue Point Restaurant, Duck @ Noon; Email Lorelei DiBernardo lt32@charter.net to make your reservations by 1/3/18. Lorelei Costa of the Outer Banks Community Foundation is the guest speaker.
- January 17 **LWV Board Meeting**, KDH Meeting Room, 10:15 AM (*Members welcome*)
- January 21 **Community Care Faire**, Nags Head Elementary School @ 1 – 4 PM. LWV Dare & Mano al Hermano are co-sponsoring this forum to highlight services available to Dare County residents in need. Open to the General Public.
- February 2 **First Friday Hot Topic Luncheon**, Barefoot Bernie's Restaurant, Kitty Hawk @ Noon; Samantha Krist of the Outer Banks History Center is the guest speaker. Add'l details TBD.
- February 21 **LWV Board Meeting**, KDH Meeting Room, 10:15 AM (*Members welcome*)
- March 8,21, April 5,&19 **Women's History Series**, KDH Meeting Room @ 4 – 6 PM; Dr. Lin Logan will present this 4-part lecture / film series which will allow you to explore women's contributions to American history from the Jamestown settlement to the 1970's Women's Movement. Open to the General Public.
- March 2018 Our Health Director is planning a **Mental Health on the Outer Banks Forum** in March open to the General Public. This will be a panel discussion about local resources. Details TBD.



At our Dec 1st Holiday Luncheon we enjoyed entertainment by Angelo Sonnesso

Co-President's Message

Hello LWV Dare Members and Happy New Year to each of you!

Our **Annual Holiday Luncheon** on December 1 was a delight! Almost 50 of us enjoyed good food, great company, and the



opportunity to hear from **Mike Kelly** about his years and business ventures on the Outer Banks. His anecdotes were priceless and his generosity to the community has always been appreciated! If that weren't enough,



we were also serenaded by our own **Angelo**

Sonnesso, who shared some of his favorite Christmas and Holiday songs with us. It was heavenly! We also enjoyed bidding on

items donated from our community and members for our Silent Auction. The Auction is always fun and we also raised funds for our efforts in 2018!

Although this time of year is full of activity and busy-ness, our Board of Directors have been hard at work planning informative and exciting Winter / Spring events! I am excited to tell you about some of them!

We have **First Friday Hot Topic Luncheons** planned for January and February. Please see the Calendar of Events on Page 1 for the details. Thank you, Lynda Burek!

Our **2018 Citizens Guide** is being updated as you read this! A great deal of inquiry, review and proofing goes into completing this periodical but we are looking forward to publishing later this month. We are also piloting a Spanish version this year! Thank you, Carol Butscher!

We are partnering with Mano al Hermano for the **Community Care Faire** on January 21 at Nags Head Elementary School. This program is open to the General Public and designed to highlight resources available in Dare County that can be accessed by folks in need. This is valuable information for everyone, and with 13 community organizations participating, it promises to be an amazing (bi-lingual!) event. Thanks to Fran Kapinos, for spearheading this for us!

Next we have Lin Logan, Voter Services Director, presenting a 4-part **Women's History Series** in March and April on the courageous women who helped shape American history. We are looking forward to this lecture / film series to frame where we were, how far we've come, and what women still need to accomplish. This will be open to the General Public. See Page 1 for details.

Our Health Director, Tess Judge, is putting together a **Mental Health Forum**, focusing on the resources available on the Outer Banks. March is the target month for this important event and details will follow.

We have other plans in the works, as well, so please stay tuned!

Submitted by Lorelei DiBernardo and Fran Kapinos, Co-presidents

Citizens Guide 2018: *Volunteers Needed!*

Volunteers are needed for distribution of the 2018 Citizens Guide. The timeframe date will be the last 2 weeks of January, 2018. Please contact Carol Butscher cab313@yahoo.com or 252-261-6983 if you are able to help. (If you signed up to help at the Kick-off Dinner in September, please respond again.) The following “jobs” are available:

- ➔ Proofreaders – 2 needed. The Guide goes through an extensive proofing process. If you are detail oriented, this is the job for you!
- ➔ Bundling the Guides for distribution – 5 needed. Prior to distribution, we bundle the guides and label the boxes for the volunteers to distribute. This usually takes about 2-3 hours and we bundle at my house in Southern Shores.
- ➔ Distribution of the Guides to the towns etc. 12-15 needed. The guides will be boxed and labeled at the “Bundling Party” and ready to be delivered to the various towns, donors etc. One delivery will be to Hatteras Island – so if any of you make trips down there let me know!
- ➔ Presentation to the Town Councils – 6 needed. We present 20 copies of the Citizens Guide at the Town Council meetings. We have a prepared text to read.

This is a huge undertaking each year but we always seem to pull it off and have fun in the process. If you are a new member to our organization, this is a good way to get to know some of us.

Thanks in advance!!

Submitted by: Carol Butscher, Citizens Guide Editor

Board of Education Election Information for 2018

As you probably know, Board of Education (BOE) elections will be partisan beginning in 2018. This means that candidates will be competing in the May political party primaries and the party winners will compete in the November general election. Previously, BOE candidates competed in one non-partisan election at spring primary time.

BOE seats up for election in 2018 are:

District 1-- East Lake, Stumpy Point, Manns Harbor, Manteo, and Wanchese
Incumbent—Charlotte White

District 2—Kill Devil Hills, Colington, and Nags Head
Incumbent—Joe Tauber

District 3—Duck, Southern Shores, and Kitty Hawk
Incumbent—Margaret Lawler

Submitted by Marion Midgett, Education Director

Equal Rights Amendment

The Storm Before the Calm

It's going to be a wild mid-term election year. Voters are set to demand answers and actions on everything from the opioid epidemic to sexual abuse in the workplace.

It's the perfect year for candidates to declare themselves champions of fairness and supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment, which will be re-introduced early 2019.

We have a busy year ahead of us. New marketing materials are in the works and a campaign called **WIN 100** calls for collecting resolutions in favor of ERA from all 100 NC counties. Stay tuned.

ERA SILENT SENTINEL AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Day after day, volunteers have donned the ERA banner and talked up the need for ERA ratification to all passers-by. Most believe it's a done deal. Surprised when told otherwise. Foreign visitors shocked by our institutionalized discrimination. It is mind-opening, mind-bending, to have these conversations.

I spent part of December 19 doing my shift. The action goes on until January 21, so if you can, sign up at <https://equalmeansequal.org/silentsentinelcalendar/>

Submitted by: Judy Lotas, ERA Committee Chair



Judy Lotas at the Silent Sentinel Challenge

National Voter Registration Day Update

The numbers are in and...
National Voter Registration Day 2017
was a huge success!

A big thanks to everyone who supported National Voter Registration Day in 2017! Thanks as well to all who completed the partner survey to let us know how your events fared.

We tallied all the figures, and the final numbers just blew us away! Thanks to the involvement of **9,631 volunteers** from **2,851 partners** across the country, we collectively gathered **124,290 new or updated voter registrations**. Both of these numbers far exceeded our original goals of 2,000 partners and 75,000 registrations.

We thank you and everyone who engaged in the work of National Voter Registration Day.

Mark your calendars! National Voter Registration Day will fall on **Tuesday, September 25 in 2018**.

Submitted by Audrey Esposito, Voter Registration

Treasurer's Report and Fundraising Committee

A hardy thank you to all members who participated in the various activities that raised funds this fall. Our budget has a hefty balance in both the operating and the CEF (Citizens Education Fund – tax-deductible donations). These fundraising efforts have allowed our League to retain the same annual dues (\$50 per member) for many years, offer discounts for luncheons and dinner meetings, and provide other amenities to members.

The first effort was the fall **Belk Charity Day Sale**. Tickets were purchased by many Leaguers, and the total of proceeds that we received was \$561. Hope you had a great shopping experience. Many thanks to Sandy Feyrer who represented us at the early morning sale (6:00 a.m. – yuck!) which enabled the League to get a portion of the store tickets sold on the day of the sale.

The solicitation for donations for the **Citizens Guide** had its MOST SUCCESSFUL year ever!!!! The proceeds totaled \$7,105!! Thanks to the many businesses and members who made contributions. With that tally, we will be able to print and distribute the 2018 Citizens Guide (Carol Butscher is putting the final touches of this edition) and purchase items or hold activities that are allowed by National to utilize the tax-deductible funds without tapping our operating budget. Such activities in the past have included videotaping of forums and community meetings and the purchase of a new LWV standing banner and tablecloths with our logo for use at meetings and forums. The monies can also be utilized to pay for one half of our annual dues to National which are currently \$32 per member.

The **Annual Holiday Luncheon** was another successful highlight. The attendance was one the best with 47 members and guests. Our keynote speaker was Mike Kelly who has recently sold his iconic Kelly's Restaurant and Tavern. Mike has been a community advocate for Dare County for years. He has been instrumental in the successful operation of the Outer Banks Community Foundation serving as president and Board member several times. There is a Kelly Family Fund in the Foundation which distributes monies representing the proceeds from its annual golf tournament to non-profits. Last year Mike's Fund gave more than \$15,000 to 20 organizations. Another community effort dear to his heart is the Outer Banks Sporting Events organization which holds four long distance races annually to include the Marathon in Nov. He was on the original committee to establish the Board and was very instrumental in its success. This year there were over 800 Marathoners representing every state in the Union. The monies that are raised for businesses during these weekends in the shoulder season have added greatly to the OBX economy. Proceeds from the races are distributed to the Dare Education Foundation and the Outer Banks Relief Foundation – totally about \$100,000 each per year. Mike is also no stranger to the League – he is currently a member, a sponsor for the Citizens Guide, a great host for meetings at his restaurant, an entertainer and organizer for the St. Patrick's Day Parade (the biggest in NC) in which LWV participated for our 25th anniversary and were greatly honored to be selected as the Grand Marshalls for the parade in the year with the "Get Out the Vote" theme. Thanks, Mike, for all that you have done. We know that you are not going away and will continue to be involved in your beloved community – however, your restaurant will continue to be a landmark – never to be replaced by a grocery store! LWV presented Mike with a certificate of appreciation for his Outstanding Community Service – justly deserved.

The Silent Auction provided enjoyment for members to snatch up some great items and gift certificates. The proceeds netted \$1,135. Thanks to all who participated.



LWV Co-President Lorelei DiBernardo presenting Community Service Recognition to Mike Kelly

Submitted by Nancy Birindelli, Treasurer & Fundraising Chair

Observer Corp Report

Board of Education

The Dare County Board of Education met on November 7, and December 12, 2017 for regular monthly sessions at Manteo Elementary and Manteo Middle Schools, respectively. In addition, the Board met in two special sessions on those days to deal with personnel and confidential matters with their attorney in attendance.

In December, Chairperson Basnight announced that Superintendent Farrelly had just successfully completed the work and requirements for his doctoral degree at East Carolina University.

To shine a light on Dr. Farrelly's digital and electronic efficiency mission and goals, this article will focus on the following related initiatives/ announcements that were introduced to the Board this fall:

- As Sharon Sullivan, Community Relations Coordinator, retires after 21 years, her successor, Keith Parker, started his job on December 1 as **Director of Digital Communications**. At a November community forum at First Flight High, Dr. Farrelly described the digital director position as “a very significantly different-looking job” with a different scope of responsibilities than the traditional public information officer. The term “digital director” indicates a larger emphasis on social media and on-line technology for disseminating the system's story and connecting parents and other stakeholders.
- In December, Dare Schools launched itself on **social media platforms**, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. A completely new website will be ready in a few months. Dr. Farrelly and the staff are in the midst of “rebranding” the image of Dare Schools.
- In November, Dare Schools started using **Social Sentinel** to assist with campus safety efforts. *Social Sentinel* is a social media threat monitoring service that flags potential threats to schools and/or the district.
- Also in November, the system began using **Peachjar**, an electronic flyer delivery system. Through this new system, approved flyers from the community will be delivered to parents via e-mail and posted on school websites. This will save the schools and community partners (e.g., county recreation dept.) time and money by eliminating the need to print and distribute hard copies of flyers at school; and, it will ensure that parents receive the information in a timely manner. This service comes at no cost to the system.

- **Dare Schools Digital Learning Plan** - A bit of history and the future: The system is now in the fourth year of the 1-1 laptop initiative for all 6th through 12th graders; and, class sets have been provided to 4th and 5th grades this year. The next phase of this plan is being developed by central office staff with crucial input from computer resource teachers, Landra Cartwright and Kathy Evanoff. The plan will involve development of digital instructional practices used in exemplary classrooms by innovative teachers. A \$50,000 grant from SDPI will allow the system to implement this digital learning initiative providing professional opportunities for teachers.
- Preparing **Future Workforce in Coding & Mobile App Development** Grant: Central office staff reported in December that Dare County Schools is one of two Northeast North Carolina districts to be awarded a \$25,000 grant from funds recently appropriated by the General Assembly and NC State Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish computer science, coding, and mobile app development programs for middle and high school students. The grant supports partnerships with local businesses to assist schools develop such programs, the first being a pilot “Innovision Lab” for Manteo Middle School in the spring of 2018. Subsequently, the course will be offered at the remaining middle schools. The primary focus is to grow a sustainable middle school computer science program while increasing knowledge and the importance of computer science.

One last item of interest approved in the December consent agenda was the hiring of **two school social workers**, each to begin work on January 2, 2018. Dr. Farrelly noted at the November community forum that he was very surprised that Dare Schools had no social workers on staff and that he hoped to find a way to bring some to the system soon.

Submitted by Marion Midgett, Education Director & Board of Education Observer

Membership

Our annual membership drive is complete. This year we, unfortunately, lost several long standing members who have relocated or are deceased; however, our final tally is a STRONG 83!!! Several new members have joined as well as spouses to establish household memberships.

Members who have moved out of the area include Peggy Birkemeier, Pat Hayward, Robert Perry, and Jane Welch. Their contributions will be sorely missed but we wish them well. Also, condolences are extended to the family and friends of Jennifer Frost.

Submitted by Nancy Birindelli, Membership