

# THE VOTER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

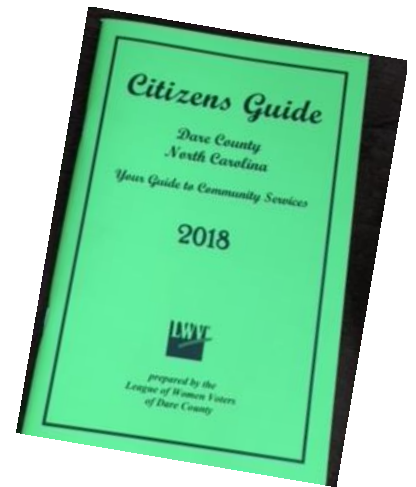
## Mark Your Calendar!

- March 2            **First Friday Hot Topic Luncheon**, Sand Trap Tavern, Kitty Hawk @ Noon; Email Lynda Burek [rmburek@charter.net](mailto:rmburek@charter.net) to make your reservation. *Sandy Scarborough of the Dare County Center in Manteo is the guest speaker.*
- March 8            **International Women’s Day (IWD)**: For over a century, March 8 has marked the achievements of women, socially, culturally, politically, and economically. It is a day to renew calls for gender equality and parity!
- March 8, 22 & April 5, 19    **Women’s History Series**, KDH Meeting Room @ 4 – 5:30 PM; Dr. Lin Logan will present this 4-part lecture / film series to explore women’s contributions to American history from the Jamestown settlement to the 1970’s Women’s Movement. FREE & Open to the General Public. See pg 4
- March 9            “Pop Up” field trip; **Somerset Plantation** in Creswell, NC; March 9 at noon Email Susan Merrill [semerrill@gmail.com](mailto:semerrill@gmail.com) to make your reservation. \$3PP
- March 21           **LWV Board Meeting**, KDH Meeting Room @ 10:15 AM (*Members welcome*)
- March 28           **Mental Health on the Outer Banks**, KDH Meeting Room @ 7 - 8:30 pm; 5 local professionals discuss mental health options & resources available on the Outer Banks. Open to the General Public. See pg 4
- April 8             **Vote 411 LIVE DATE!** Statewide on-line Voter Guide in support of primary and general elections. See pg 6
- April 13            **Voter Registration deadline** for the May 8<sup>th</sup> Primary Election.
- April 18            **LWV Board Meeting**, KDH Meeting Room @ 10:15 AM (*Members welcome*)
- April 19 – May 5    **Early Voting** for Primary Election
- May 8              **Primary Election Day**

## Co-President's Message

Hello LWV Dare Members & Happy Spring (*almost!*) to each of you!

I know that one of our board members – Carol Butscher – has been incredibly busy over the last several weeks and months preparing our **2018 Citizens Guide**. The process is intense with the confirmation/adjustment phase starting in the fall. Each line in the Guide is reconfirmed annually! Then collating, formatting, and proofing occur as we enter the New Year. A great many hours go into this effort and of course, Carol has a team of League members helping her! Thank you Carol! Thank you Citizens Guide Team members!



The 2018 Guide has now been distributed throughout Dare County.

This year, proudly, we have developed a **Spanish version** of the Guide which is currently on a slightly delayed schedule and is still at the printers. The Spanish translation is thanks to Anne Merrill, daughter of one of our Board members. Proofing was completed by Claudia Neal, who is on the Board of Mano al Hermano. Thank you Anne and Claudia!

On January 21, we held the **Community Care Faire** at Nags Head Elementary School, partnering with Mano al Hermano. Highlighting the resources available in Dare County for anyone in need, over 15 organizations participated! Each described their services, each had a representative available to enroll folks or to answer specific questions. We welcomed well over 120 attendees during this 3-hour event and the general take away was that it was a huge success! The effort was



*January 21 Community Care Faire at Nags Head Elementary School*

well organized, there was an incredible feeling of good will in the room; we even had a kid's corner for children to play while their parents received information! Thank you Co-President Fran Kapinos and Ama Frimpong, Director of Mano al Hermano, for organizing this important event!



*Children's Play Corner at the Care Faire*

Looking forward, we are excited about Dr. Lin Logan's 4-part **Women's History Series** in March and April. This fun and educational event will focus on the courageous women who helped shape American history. Details page 4.

Also in March, we are sponsoring a **Mental Health Forum** with 5 local specialists, focusing on the resources available on the Outer Banks for Mental Health and related health issues. Details pg 4.

**Submitted by Lorelei DiBernardo and Fran Kapinos, Co-presidents**

## Citizens Guide 2018

7100 copies of the 2018 Citizens Guide have been distributed throughout Dare County.

Presenters to the towns included: Marion Midgett, Lorelei DiBernardo, Judy Lotas, Susan Merrill, Glenda Keel, Perry White and Lori Williams. The members who delivered to the towns included: Lorelei DiBernardo, Judy Lotas, Marion Midgett, Laurie Martin, Nancy D'Andrade, Francene Kelly, Mary Jane Slesinski, Fran Kapinos and Susan Merrill. Bundlers included: Lorelei and Tony DiBernardo, Lori Williams, Leigh Raskin, Nancy Birindelli and Andrea Schollaert.

This is the first year we are printing the guide in Spanish. 200 copies of the Spanish Guide will be distributed among various agencies serving the Hispanic community. Many thanks to Craig and Susan Merrill's daughter, Anne, for translating the guide into Spanish. Also thank you to Claudia Neal for proofreading the guide.

**Submitted by: Carol Butscher, Citizens Guide Editor**

**LWV-Dare County would like to acknowledge those donors who contributed to our Citizen Education Foundation (CEF) which allows us to print and publish the Citizens Guide. Kudos to all of you!**

<b>BLUE LEVEL DONORS</b> (\$250 or above)	<b>WHITE LEVEL DONORS</b> (\$150 to \$249)	<b>RED LEVEL DONORS</b> (\$100 to \$149)
Ellen Barbaro Lynda Burek Dare County Dominion North Carolina Energy Jolly Roger Restaurant Outer Banks Association of Realtors Outer Banks Home Builders Association Outer Banks Hospital Sandmark Custom Homes The Crossings at Oakbrooke Town of Duck TowneBank Village Realty	Anonymous Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Horne Mann's Custom Boats Annette & John Ratzenberger Woodson Dentistry	Jeannette Anderson Beach Realty & Construction Nancy & Ben Birindelli Peggy Birkemeier Carolina Designs Realty Lorelei & Tony DiBernardo Glenda Keel Kelly Hospitality Group Lone Cedar Café Nexgen Energy, LLC Sam & Omie's Restaurant Ron & Mary Jane Slesinski Southern Shores Civic Association Southern Shores Realty Inc Town of Kill Devil Hills Town of Kitty Hawk Town of Manteo Town of Nags Head Town of Southern Shores

## Women's History Series: March 8 & 22, April 5 & 19 at 4 - 5:30 pm

Dr. Lin Logan will present this 4-part lecture / film series that examines American women's lives in the 17<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The 4 sessions will be at the Kill Devil Hills Meeting Room on four Thursdays in March and April from 4 – 5:30 pm. The dates for the sessions are Thursday, March 8 & 22, April 5 & 19 and they are free and open to the general public. **You don't want to miss this!**

### *Synopsis of the Sessions:*

- **1st session, March 8**, will examine the methods & challenges of uncovering women's history. Also learn about Native American women, British colonial women, women's role in the American Revolution, and women and the Constitution.
- **2nd session, March 22**, will look at the Age of Reform, prior to the Civil War, when women took lead roles in the Temperance, Abolitionist, & the Women's Rights Movements. The Civil War, Southern Reconstruction, and a renewed drive to vote will also be included.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> session, April 5**, explores the Progressive Era where women sought birth control, safe working conditions, and the vote. Margaret Sanger led the Birth Control Movement; Carrie Chapman Catt and Alice Paul led the Women's Right to Vote Movement.
- **4<sup>th</sup> session, April 19**, begins with women and the Depression Years, followed by a review of the monumental role women played in WWII. Following the war, women began again to demand equal rights. Black women's role in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and the road to the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) will be discussed.

## Mental Health Forum: March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 – 8:30 pm

We are sponsoring a health care program on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Kill Devil Hills Meeting Room. The topic is: **Mental Health Resources on the OBX** which I am sure you will agree is very important. A panel of local specialists will lead the discussion exploring the options and resources available here on the Outer Banks. This awareness program is FREE and open to the General Public. Tess Judge will moderate.

Panelists include:

- **Sheila Davies**, Director of Public Health Services for Dare Co Department of Health & Human Services
- **Dr Christine Petzing**, Hospitalist at The Outer Banks Hospital & member of the Savings Lives Task Force
- **Amber Bodner**, Coalition Director for Dare CASA
- **Michelle Hawbaker**, Program Supervisor of PORT Health Service's Dare County Office
- **Nancy Griffin**, Executive Director Children & Youth Partnership Dare County

## Board of Education Election (BOE) Information for 2018

BOE elections will be partisan beginning in 2018. This means that candidates will be competing in 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 & candidates in 2018 are:

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

Incumbent— Charlotte White (not running for reelection)

Candidates— Frank Hester, Republican  
Rick Casey, Republican

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

Incumbent— Joe Tauber

Candidates— Joe Tauber, Republican  
Jen Alexander, Democrat

District 3—Duck, Southern Shores, and Kitty Hawk

Incumbent— Margaret Lawler

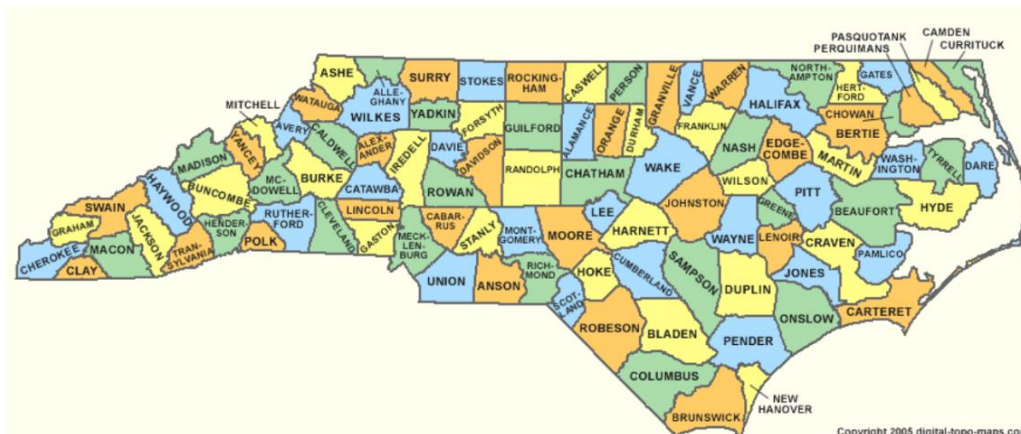
Candidate--- Margaret Lawler, Democrat

**Submitted by Marion Midgett, Education Director**

## Equal Rights Amendment

### ERA-LAT Launches “WIN 100”

Grassroots strategy for ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment in North Carolina



The ERA will be introduced in the NCGA early 2019. We have this year to prime the pump.

Our goal is to gather signed resolutions from all 100 counties in support of ratification of ERA.

Local governments, churches, businesses, garden clubs, civic associations *all count as wins!*

If you have connections in any of these counties, please let me know so we can equip them with simple tools to help inform and persuade and get this important legislation passed. Thanks!

**Submitted by: Judy Lotas, ERA Committee Chair**

## Vote411

This on-line Voter Guide is coming to Dare County citizens this spring. We are partnering



with local Leagues throughout N.C. to consolidate Voting information into one spot, to help make voting, your ballot, and the candidates more accessible. **Vote411** will have all the information you need to make informed choices at the polling booth!

## Observer Corp Report

### Board of Education

*The Dare County Board of Education met on January 16 and February 13, 2018 for regular monthly sessions at Nags Head and FF Elementary 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. Also, the NC General Assembly has worked on education legislation during special sessions this winter.*

→ Here is some interesting information from the reports portions of the two meetings:

- The Exceptional Children's Program in Dare Schools and systems across the state will implement the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework of prevention and intervention which promotes school improvement through research-based academic and behavioral practices. The multi-tiered system includes a district team, school teams, all level teams, and building teams to provide guidance, coaching, and technical assistance. The practices will lead to effective problem-solving and strategies for intervention that will improve student performance.
- The BOE received a 2016-2017 "unmodified" (highest rating) audit report in February. The auditor cited the improved (increased) fund balance (rainy day fund) as she did last year; and, she pointed out that the nutrition/food account is looking good.
- The central office staff and superintendent presented an overview of a planned (possible) Dual Language Immersion program. Also known as bilingual education, this is a program where children would learn in English and Spanish beginning in kindergarten or first grade and carry on through fifth grade. The program will be presented to parents registering children for kindergarten in March 2018 and to rising first graders at all five elementary schools. Whether the program goes forward depends on demand. Twenty to twenty-three children would be necessary to make a class.

Supt. Dr. Farrelly and Mr. Parker, the new Digital Director, both have experience with such a program. They presented background information that shows children who learn in two languages benefit from high academic achievement, language proficiency, increased critical thinking skills, increased cognitive development, and greater cultural sensitivity. More info to come.

→ In February, from the General Assembly, came a welcome legislative bill to bring a four year extension to the unfunded mandate that the class size law, HB-13, had imposed on schools across North Carolina. In addition, funds will be added for the arts and PE. Schools will now have a chance to plan for lower K-3 class sizes and hopefully save language, PE, and cultural arts classes/teachers. It is widely believed that the advocacy of many grassroots parent groups, PTA'S, Public Schools First, and the LWVNC, among others, who campaigned against the "class size chaos" forced the GA to grant the extension.

The following is a short list of GOOD THINGS from Dare Schools and NEEDED CHANGES coming to Dare Schools:

- FFES Kindergarten students walk to Spring Arbor monthly to visit their resident "friends" where they read and re-tell stories together. Their teacher, Ms. Smalley, said, "This project impacts lives at Spring Arbor and connects generations, one visit at a time." Several SA residents were present at the February BOE meeting to act out the interactions with their student "friends."
- The FFES media coordinator, Jennifer Smith, teaches students to watch out for what *is* credible and what *is not* in the media world.
- Dare Schools new web site will debut on May 15, 2018
- Most monthly meetings include recognitions of teachers who have attained the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification. Dare County has 90 nationally certified educators. North Carolina has more (21,500) Nat'l Board Certified teachers than any other state.
- Dr. Farrelly reported to the Board that the Visioning meetings, where feedback is encouraged, are "somewhat of a report card."
- The two new (only) social workers are based at the central office and are ready to work in the schools.
- A FFES third grader, Ike Vandermyde, has donated \$200 he raised to his school.
- A FFES group called KSCRIP was recognized in February. The acronym stands for *kindness, safety, cooperation, respect, and peace* all of which they practice daily.
- Since the Florida school massacre, new lockdown drills for each school are being initiated right away. Three per year are planned. Also, Dr. Farrelly outlined in an e-mail to families nine existing safety protocols from SRO's (school resource officers) to the new "Social Sentinel" social media monitoring system. He told the *Outer Banks Sentinel* that if extra resources were available, "we would pump it into mental health [to increase] the availability of specialists in the school system to work with kids and families."
- A GOOD THING in the media world is an *education* segment every Tuesday on the News Hour, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., UNC-TV (PBS). This program is rerun at 7:00 p.m. on NC-N (185—cable) and 12:00 a.m. on UNC-TV.

**Submitted by Marion Midgett. Education Director & Board of Education Observer**