



# THE VOTER NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2017

### Mark Your Calendar!

- September 20      LWV **Board Meeting**, KDH Town Mtg Rm, 10:15AM; *Members welcome!*
- September 22      **Kick-Off Dinner**, Duck Woods Country Club, 5:30PM; for reservations contact Carol Butscher [cab313@yahoo.com](mailto:cab313@yahoo.com)
- September 26      **National Voter Registration Day**; Volunteer by contacting Audrey Esposito [audreyesposito36@gmail.com](mailto:audreyesposito36@gmail.com)
- October 4            **Kill Devil Hills Voter Forum**, KDH Meeting Room, 7PM
- October 5            **Manteo Voter Forum**, Manteo Town Hall Meeting Room, 7PM
- October 10          **Nags Head Voter Forum**, Nags Head Fire Station #16, 7PM
- October 11          **Southern Shores Voter Forum**, Pitts Center, 7PM
- October 13          **Last Day to Register** to Vote in the November Election
- October 17          LWV **Board Meeting**, KDH Library Mtg Room, 2PM; *Members welcome!*
- October 19 -  
November 4        **Early Voting** in Dare County at designated locations (*Details TBD*)
- October 31          Last day for **Absentee Ballots** to be received. To access the form: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/Portals/0/FilesP/AbsenteeBallotRequestForm.pdf>
- November 7        **Election Day**: Nonpartisan elections for the 6 Dare County Towns
- December 1        **Annual Holiday Luncheon**, Duck Woods Country Club, 11:30AM  
Food, drink, & Silent Auction!                      *Details TBD*

## Co-President's Message

Hello LWV Dare Members!

I hope you all have enjoyed our gorgeous summer! July 4<sup>th</sup> was **HOT!**, houseguests kept us jumping, the eclipse mesmerized us, and we just celebrated Women's Equality Week (August 20 - 26<sup>th</sup>)! Speaking of Equality, remember **ONLY 2 MORE STATES** are NEEDED to **Ratify the ERA!** Click on this link to read an article on 'ERA Ratified Within One Year': <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/599d07b1e4b0b87d38cbe629>.

It is now time to look forward to our fall season! First, our **Annual Kick-Off Dinner** will be at Duck Woods Country Club, on Friday, September 22. Doors open at 5:30 (cash bar) and you will have a chance to meet and mingle with other LWV members. Dinner will be served at 6:15. This year we are thrilled to have **guest speaker John Farrelly**, the recently appointed Superintendent of Dare County Schools! He will provide us with an overview of his mission and the future of our public school system. So not only will we have a lot of fun, we will be educated, as well! For reservations, please contact Carol Butscher at [cab313@yahoo.com](mailto:cab313@yahoo.com). See the delicious menu options and other details on the next page.

I can sincerely say, that this time of year is what makes me most proud of LWV! We will again play an active role in **National Voter Registration Day** on September 26. Audrey Esposito, our Voting Rights guru, is planning an active **Voter Registration** season in support of the election. We will be actively registering voters and answering questions at several sites on the 26<sup>th</sup> and on additional dates. If you want to help with Voter Registration see the article later in this newsletter and contact Audrey at [audreyesposito36@gmail.com](mailto:audreyesposito36@gmail.com).

Of course, **Election Day** is on November 7<sup>th</sup> and there will be non-partisan elections in all 6 of the towns. Two towns' elections – Duck and Kitty Hawk – are uncontested. The other 4 towns – Kill Devil Hills, Manteo, Nags Head, and Southern Shores – do have contested elections and our **Voter Services** team will be supporting them by scheduling and coordinating 4 Voter Forums in early October. (See the Voter Services article for dates and details.) Remember: **Early Voting** is from October 19 - November 4.

Looking ahead, the **Citizens Guide** team is looking into the possibility of publishing a Spanish language version of the Guide for 2018. Our **Natural Resources, Health Care, and Education** Directors are planning timely and pertinent educational programs for the year and our **First Friday Hot Topic** luncheons will resume soon. Stay tuned for details!

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

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ANNUAL FALL KICK-OFF MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017  
5:30 PM  
DUCK WOODS COUNTRY CLUB

**\$25.00 per person** Pay in advance or at the door  
(LWV Dare, POBox 689, Kitty Hawk NC 27949)

## MENU

Tomato Basil Soup

Choice of

- 1) **Chicken Savannah:** Sautéed Chicken with Peppers, Onions, Asparagus, Prosciutto, & Swiss Cheese served with Rice & White Wine Sauce
- 2) **Grilled Mahi-Mahi:** Topped with Mango Salsa served with Rice & Vegetable Medley
- 3) **Veggie Delight:** Sautéed Zucchini, Peppers, Mushrooms, Artichokes, & Tomatoes in a light Balsamic Sauce over Linguini

Rolls & Butter

Mini Snowballs for dessert

Cash Bar

Please contact Carol Butscher at 261-6983 or [cab313@yahoo.com](mailto:cab313@yahoo.com) with your reservation & entrée selection.

LET HER KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS!

RSVP BY SEPT. 15!!!

## Membership Committee

# HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP???

It is time to renew your membership in the LWV of Dare. Please check your records to see whether or not you have renewed. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Birindelli at [bbirindelli@aol.com](mailto:bbirindelli@aol.com). A membership renewal form is on the last page of this Newsletter. Thank you!

## Help Wanted: Membership Chair

With the recent resignation of our membership chair, the Board is seeking to recruit a member who will fulfill these responsibilities. The tasks can easily be divided into two separate parts:

- 1: Coordinate local membership efforts in a Board position. Duties include maintaining a local database; keeping member name tags up to date and bringing them to events; providing materials for new member recruitment; welcoming and orienting new members.
- 2: Maintain the LWVUS database. LWVUS utilizes a database for their accounting and membership for all of the local Leagues in all 50 states. Annual dues for both LWVUS and LWVNC are invoiced from this database on January 31 of each year. This is a computer oriented task, and the individual can be located anywhere and would not need to serve as a board member.

For the interim, until a new chair is appointed, Nancy Birindelli will serve as the local coordinator, and Peggy Birkemeier (one of LWV Dare's founding members) will work with the database. Peggy and her husband Bill recently retired and relocated to Raleigh; however, she renewed her membership and will remain actively involved! Thank you, Peggy and Nancy!!!

If you have the skills and interest or want to learn more about this position, please contact Lorelei DiBernardo ([ltd32@charter.net](mailto:ltd32@charter.net)) or Fran Kapinos ([fkapinos@aol.com](mailto:fkapinos@aol.com)).

## National Voter Registration Day: September 26, 2017

**Calling Dare Leaguers!** Election season is upon us. We will again be participating in National Voter Registration Day and need your assistance. Last year over twenty-two members were present at nine sites registering new voters. We are asking for two or three hours of your time at one of this year's sites: COA 10am -6pm; three Front Porch Cafes 9am to 3pm; three Hot Line Thrift shops 10am to 5pm; Food-a-rama 10am to 6pm.

A request has been sent to the District Manager, Greenville of the United States Postal Service for space in local post offices. We have utilized those sites in the past, yet were denied last year. Currently awaiting response. If anyone is interested in going to Hatteras I will contact the Hatteras Community Building which we have also used in the past.

The necessary paper work, clipboards, pens, stamps for mailing, info on early voting, polling precincts are provided for volunteers. There will be a folder with explicit directions at each site. For over 95 years the League has been protecting the right of citizens to vote and encouraging citizens to vote. Please check your calendar and send your response for September 26<sup>th</sup> to Audrey at [audreyesposito36@gmail.com](mailto:audreyesposito36@gmail.com). 252-261-8052

We Need Your Assistance. Thank you in advance.

### Voter Services Committee

As you know, Voter Forums are one of the major activities of the Dare League of Women Voters. This year there are four municipal Voter Forums. (There are no contested seats in Duck or Kitty Hawk.) The four Forums are:

- ❖ Kill Devil Hills: KDH Meeting Rm, Wednesday Oct 4, 7PM. Chair: Audrey Esposito, 261-8052
- ❖ Manteo: Manteo Town Hall, Thursday, Oct 5, 7PM. Chair: Marion Midgett, 473-3057
- ❖ Nags Head: Fire Station #16, Tuesday, Oct 10, 7PM. Chair: Fran Kapinos, 261-8064
- ❖ Southern Shores: Pitts Center, Wednesday, Oct 11, 7PM. Chair: Lorelei DiBernardo, 261-4365

Several people have volunteered to help, but there are more positions available. If you can help at the Forums, please contact the Chair listed above. We will continue to recruit at the Kick-off Dinner on September 22.

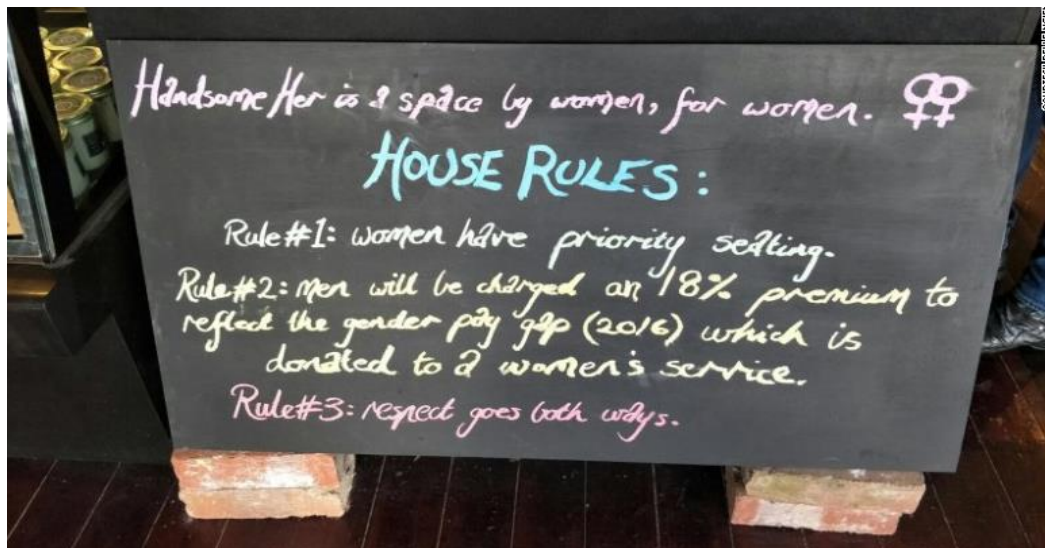
Thanks to all for volunteering to help in this important activity of the Dare League of Women Voters. Please contact Mary Jane with any questions at 261-1591 or [mjslesinski@charter.net](mailto:mjslesinski@charter.net)

**Submitted by Lin Logan and Mary Jane Slesinski, Voter Services Co-Chairs**

## Equal Rights Amendment Committee

### **RATIFICATION OF EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT GAINING SUPPORT**

- We've received three more signed Resolutions: two from local businesses, Mitro Digital and Outer Banks Real Estate Company (OBREC) Thank you! And our state LWV co-chairs signed the third.
- The new online newspaper, The Beacon, just fielded a survey about issues of concern to Dare County citizens. The final question concerned ERA and more than 90% of respondents said they support its passage!
- August 26 was Women's Equality Day, celebrating 97 years of women's right to vote. During the preceding week, the movie "Equal Means Equal" was screened in close to 70 theatres across the country. (Does it strike anyone as odd that we celebrate 'women's equality' when, in fact, our Constitution does not provide women equal protection under the law?) Maybe we should try what this Australian restaurant is doing ...



**Submitted by Judy Lotas, ERA Chair**

## Observer Corp: Board of Commissioners

At our August Board meeting the Board of Directors agreed to send bi-weekly email reports to membership listing highlights of the Board of Commissioners (BOC) meetings. The BOC meets 2 times per month: on the 1st Monday at 9am and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 5pm. The "Observer" at a meeting attends and takes notes with the intent of sharing the announcements, decisions, or other happenings that affect Dare County residents. The team now rotates this responsibility. If you are interested in joining the Observer Corp, just let Lorelei [ltd32@charter.net](mailto:ltd32@charter.net) know!

## Treasurer's Report and Fundraising Committee

As the new year commences, the fundraising committee will begin its efforts to contact the community businesses, organizations, government entities, and individuals to solicit contributions/sponsorships for the League's educational activities. Since the fundraising efforts are for a 301(c)(3), these donations are tax deductible. The largest project is, of course, the printing of the annual **Citizens Guide** which costs about \$5,000. However, other educational efforts that we utilize these funds for include videotaping forums and other community programs, printing materials for distribution in voter registration campaigns, travel expenses for speakers from out of town, among others. Another expense that can be paid for by these funds is one half of the LWV National dues, or PMP (per member payment) by the Dare membership.

The 301(c)(3) donations received are deposited into a special LWV account known as the Citizens Educational Foundation (CEF) fund, which is held by LWVNC. Dare has its own subaccount and can request reimbursement payments for educational activities that are authorized by LWVUS.

Many of our local members make contributions to the CEF which are greatly appreciated and contribute to the many activities of our local League. Any member donation greater than \$100 is acknowledged on the back cover of the Citizens Guide. If any member would like to make a contribution to this TAX-DEDUCTIBLE fund, she/he can do so by making a check payable to:

LWV – CEF  
P.O. Box 689  
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

To continue to identify new potential donors, the fundraising committee would be pleased to receive the names, addresses, and phone numbers of any businesses, professional groups, or other organizations that you may recommend as a potential donor. Personal relationships with a donor, such as a dentist or attorney, are particularly successful in receiving positive responses. The businesses in Manteo are particularly under represented, so any suggestions for new contributors there would be greatly appreciated. Please send any suggestions to Nancy Birindelli, [bbirindelli@aol.com](mailto:bbirindelli@aol.com).

**Submitted by Nancy Birindelli, Treasurer**

## Education Committee

The Dare County Board of Education met on May 9 and June 13, 2017 for regular monthly sessions at Cape Hatteras Elementary and First Flight Middle Schools respectively. In addition, the Board met many times in closed special sessions while conducting the superintendent search/selection through the winter and spring.

- Chair Bea Basnight praised retiring Superintendent Sue Burgess at her final meeting in June - ending her 17 years of service with Dare Schools noting that under her leadership the number of high school students taking AP (advanced placement) courses increased from 5% to 50% and 13 career certification opportunities were added to the career and technical education curriculum.
- The Board also said good-bye to Seth Rose who started and ran the very successful College Advising Corps over the past two years. He will be replaced by two advisors in 2017—2018.
- At the June meeting, Arty Tillett, Chief Academic Officer, presented the eleventh annual report on random drug testing of students in grades 6 thru 12 who participate in extra-curricular activities. Parents may also request drug testing. This year was the first that Dare fell below the NC positive rate with a 4.3% positive rate, an improvement. Almost all positives were for marijuana; there was one for amphetamines and one for cocaine. The program comes with lots of counseling rather than punishments.
- Over the summer *The Saving Lives Task Force* has established an initiative - *Addressing Substance Abuse in Dare County*. The first of a series of Town Halls was held on Aug. 31. It was noted that “nearly 1 in 5 NC students has a mental health and/or substance use disorder; of those, 75% will NOT receive treatment in the current system.”
- In late June, the Board announced that John D. Farrelly was selected as Superintendent of the Dare County Schools. The new chief comes from Edgecombe County (Rocky Mount, NC) where he’s been superintendent since 2012. Superintendent Farrelly will speak at the LWV-Dare Kickoff Dinner/Meeting on September 22, 2017.
- The North Carolina General Assembly has passed a law that changes the BOE elections in Dare County from non-partisan to partisan. There will be a March primary for the seats up in 2018, with final choices to follow in the general election.
- HB13 (amended) has been passed by the Senate easing the state mandate to slash class sizes this year. The “flexibility fix” in HB13 will save thousands of specialty teachers’ positions. Dare would have needed \$1.2 million to meet the new class size rules that were to take effect without new state funding. (There was info about this in the May 1 *Voter Newsletter*.)

**Submitted by Marion W. Midgett, Education Chair**





# League of Women Voters of Dare County Membership Renewal Form 2017 - 2018

➤ **ANNUAL DUES**

Individual membership: \$50  
 Household membership: \$75  
 Student membership: \$25  
 Amount enclosed (checks payable to **LWV of Dare**) \$\_\_\_\_\_

➤ **CITIZEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Please consider enclosing a tax deductible contribution to the Citizen Education Foundation (CEF). Contributions provide direct support for citizen education programs and the publication of the annual Dare County Citizens Guide which provides information about government and services to county residents.

Amount enclosed (checks payable to **LWV-CEF**): \$\_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S)\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_

STATE, ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL\_\_\_\_\_

***PLEASE NOTE: OUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS FROM JULY 1 - JUNE 30***

I/we are interested in assisting with: Voter Services\_\_\_\_; Education\_\_\_\_; ERA\_\_\_\_;  
 Natural Resources\_\_\_\_; Health Care\_\_\_\_; Public Relations\_\_\_\_; Citizens Guide\_\_\_\_\_

Please remit to: League of Women Voters of Dare  
 PO Box 689  
 Kitty Hawk, NC 27949