



# THE VOTER NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018

## *Mark Your Calendar!*

- May 8                    **Primary Election Day;** Visit **VOTE411.org** for help with all your voting needs! It includes an on-line Voters Guide, polling places & times, and Much More!
- May 24                    **Drawing the Line: How We Can End Gerrymandering & Protect our Democracy.** 7 PM Kill Devil Hills Town Hall Meeting Room; Guest Speaker: Dr Jennifer Bremer. This Informational Event will outline the practice of gerrymandering and its impacts on state legislatures and on the democratic process. FREE and open to the public.
- June 1                    **LWV Annual Meeting Luncheon.** 11:30 AM Pamlico Jack's Restaurant; Guest Speaker: Carl Curnutte. Installation of the new LWV-Dare Board of Directors. Details page 4. Make reservations by contacting Nancy Birindelli at [bbirindelli@aol.com](mailto:bbirindelli@aol.com). Cost: \$20 PP
- June 5                    **LWV Annual Board Planning Retreat.** 10am – 4pm Manteo Visitor Center. This day long workshop is designed to review the past year and establish goals and initiatives for the coming year. Open to Board Members and to general membership.



*Attendees at the Womens' History Series #2 on March 22*



*Somerset Plantation: Site of our March 9 "Pop Up" Tour*

## Co-President's Message

Hello LWV Dare Members!

We have enjoyed an incredible couple of months! We've been busy!!! In addition to our usual compilation and distribution of our **2018 Citizens Guide**, this year we distributed a Spanish version of the Guide as well. We are so appreciative of Anne Merrill, daughter of Board member Craig Merrill, and to Claudia Neal, from Mano al Hermano's board, for their work on the translation. Thank you **Anne and Claudia!**



March 8<sup>th</sup> was International Women's Day, and we celebrated by kicking off a 4-part **Women's History Series** that continued into April! Presented by our own Dr. Lin Logan, we were enthralled by the stories of women throughout our history who had incredible courage and strength, and who inspire us today. Thank you **Lin Logan!**

On March 9<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed our first "**Pop-Up**" Field trip to Somerset Farm in Creswell, N.C. Our tour guide walked us through the grounds and buildings of this former plantation, with a focus on the women who lived and worked there! Great visit!



Also in March, we sponsored a **Mental Health Forum** with 5 local specialists, focused on the resources available locally for Mental Health issues. Organized by member Tess Judge, this program was insightful and full of heart! Thank you, **Tess!**



On April 8<sup>th</sup> our Voter Services team hosted a **Primary Candidate Reception** at Jennette's Pier. This Reception was very well attended and we thank **Lin Logan and Mary Jane Slesinski** for organizing it!

Also on April 8<sup>th</sup> the On-Line Voter Guide – **VOTE411.org** – was launched throughout N.C.! It is very exciting to be a part of this one-stop shop source of voting information! We encourage all candidates to participate because candidates need to communicate their vision to the voters, and voters need to hear from their candidates!

On April 25<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed a personal tour of the Army Corp of Engineers Research Pier in Duck. Attendees enjoyed an overview of the research being done there as well as great weather! Thank you **Fran Kapinos**, for organizing this annual **GO SEE Tour**.



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

## Drawing the Line: How We Can End Gerrymandering & Protect Our Democracy; May 24 at 7 – 8:30 pm, KDH Town Hall Meeting Rm

Every 10 years, after the national census, we redraw our political districts. What should be a straightforward task has become highly politicized. Often called “Gerrymandering”, the current process allows politicians to draw their own safe districts that help insure their reelection. The effect on voters’ rights and to our democracy is immense!

We have planned an Informational event on the topic of Redistricting entitled ‘Drawing the Line: How We Can End Gerrymandering & Protect Our Democracy’. This presentation will explain how gerrymandering works, how is it undermining our democracy, and most important, what we can do to end gerrymandering once and for all. Court cases that deal with this issue will be examined. Options for ending the practice will be explored.

Dr Jennifer Bremer is our presenter. She is a policy analyst, researcher, and economist with more than 35 years of experience in governance reform and private enterprise development. She currently focuses on public governance reform in North Carolina and she serves as the state lead for the LWWNC’s Fair Elections Action Team (FEAT).

### Vote411

This on-line Voter Guide has come to Dare County citizens this spring. We are partnering with LWWNC and 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 has all the information you need to make informed choices at the polling booth! Check it out!



### Membership Report

Please welcome our newest members:

Allison Breaux  
Kelli Harmon

Marilyn Canning  
Linda Kinne

Kathryn Fagan  
Cyndi Sarfan

Hopefully you will be able to meet and greet them at the annual meeting on June 1st! Our membership is now at 89 – an all-time high!!!

***Submitted by Nancy Birindelli, Interim Membership Chair***

## LWV Dare Annual Meeting, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 am, Pamlico Jack's

We have scheduled our **Annual Meeting** for Friday, June 1, 2018 at 11:30 at Pamlico Jack's Restaurant in Nags Head. Our guest speaker is Carl Curnutte, who will talk about his work in the 2004 television production of "Iron Jawed Angels", for which he received an Emmy nomination for costume design. He will also discuss the Women's Suffrage Movement of the early 1900's, depicted in the film.

There will be a cash bar and a plated luncheon. The cost is \$20 per person (*subsidized by your League*). Please make your reservation by Friday May 25<sup>th</sup> with Nancy Birindelli [bbirindelli@aol.com](mailto:bbirindelli@aol.com). Indicate your meal preference:

Luncheon selections:

\_\_\_\_\_ Garden Salad, Sautee of Flounder & Shrimp, Seasonal Veggie \*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Garden Salad, Boneless Chicken Breast lightly jerk seasoned, Fruit Salsa \*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Garden Salad, Eggplant Parmesan, Seasonal Veggie \*\*\*

\*\*\* Includes: Coffee, Tea, Sodas, Bread with Meal, & Dessert

You may pay at the door or in advance: Send your check payable to LWV-Dare, P.O. Box 689, Kitty Hawk NC 27949

## LWV Dare Planning Retreat, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am – 4pm

We have also scheduled our Annual Planning Retreat for Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> for all new and existing Board Members. We will meet at the Manteo Visitor's Center to both review the past year and to vision and goal for the coming year! If you are interested in participating, please let Fran Kapinos know [fkapinos@aol.com](mailto:fkapinos@aol.com).

## Equal Rights Amendment

We believe that the Equal Rights Amendment is as relevant today as it was in 1920 when it was first written, or in 1972 when it was passed by Congress. Legal Equality for All isn't a passing idea that goes in and out of favor, it is something all Americans must fight for every day!

Please see the letter on the next page from the LWVNC executive team to the LWVUS urging prioritization for efforts to ratify the ERA in the states that haven't ratified it and to enhance public support for adding women rights to our Constitution.

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



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF NORTH CAROLINA

2

2

Dear LWV National Board members,

2

North Carolina has not yet ratified the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate. However, they have been sent to the Rules Committee without being heard. As you know, the Nevada Legislature ratified the ERA in 2017 becoming the 36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify. Ratification by Nevada, as well as the #Time'sUp and #MeToo movements, have spurred renewed interest in ERA and women's issues in general. We believe the time is ripe for states that have not yet ratified the ERA to work together to promote passage of this critically important amendment.

2

We need only two more states to ratify in order for equal rights to finally be included in our Constitution. If Illinois ratifies it, we need only one more state. We would like to join League members in the remaining non-ratifying states AL, AR, AZ, FL, GA, IL, LA, MS, MO, NC, UT, SC, OK, NM, and VA in requesting that the Board prioritize passage of the Equal Rights Amendment by elevating it to the top of the public-policy agenda. We believe that robust focus on passage of the ERA in states that have not yet ratified it may provide the impetus needed to finally accomplish our goal of equality for all.

2

The League of Women Voters has historically been concerned with educating voters. Recent polls show that many people, especially young women, are surprised to learn the Equal Rights Amendment is not already part of the U.S. Constitution. Some question whether there is still a need for a federal Equal Rights Amendment. As Co-Presidents of the North Carolina League of Women Voters, we answer that question with a resounding "Yes." North Carolina veteran ERA supporters view women's rights as human rights. We are marching in cities and towns all over North Carolina to support women's quest for equality. We want the National LWV to prioritize and amplify that effort.

2

We would also like to recommend the addition of an ERA Caucus at the upcoming National Convention in Chicago this June. It would highlight the importance of the ERA and provide a great learning experience for those of us in states that have not yet ratified the ERA.

2

Many are asking, where is the League in these renewed efforts? We say, "We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy." In 2020, we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and our 100 years as an organization. This is our opportunity to ensure equal rights under the law. There is little more that we can do to ensure a more perfect democracy for women than to finally include them in the Constitution. We strongly urge the League to enhance its public support for the ERA and to encourage leagues in the above-mentioned non-ratifying states to join with other groups in their states and advocate for ratification.

2

Sincerely,

Janet Hoy and Margaret Salinger

Co-Presidents

LWVNC