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LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF DARE COUNTY

March 2019 Newsletter

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Co-President's Message

by Fran Kapinos and Judy Lotas



Happy Spring! Enjoy the fresh air and the beauty of God's creation as you walk the neighborhood, work in your yard, and do whatever activities that bring you joy at this beautiful time of year.

Your board members have been busy in March and planning for April, May and June.

- 1) On March 5 several members went up to Raleigh to contact state legislators for their support on the Introduction of the ERA Bill.
- 2) We joined Virginia Dare Business and Professional Women to celebrate International Women's Day on March 12 at Mako's. Dr. Kulwinder Kaur-Walker, Professor of Psychology and Program Coordinator of Education, Psychology and Health at Elizabeth City State University gave a great presentation on the changing status of women in various cultures around the world and discussed the accomplishments and challenges of the 21st century women.
- 3) April 5, Members and guests are encouraged to attend our Hot Topic Lunch at Roosters Southern Kitchen at Noon, to learn about the 2020 Census and the critical challenges that lay ahead. Board Member James Cofield is a member of Governor Cooper's Complete Count Commission, and will address the group.

[It's high time to end gerrymandering](#)

Local Politics

[Homeowner Insurance Rate Increase Forum](#)

[Dare County Board of Commissioners Minutes and Videos](#)

[Dare County Public Meetings Calendar](#)

LoWV Social Media

[YouTube](#)

[Facebook](#)

4) May 1, KDH Town Hall at 7 PM, Health Panel Presentation on Telemedicine - What is it and can I trust it? Tony Buzzacco and Denise de Pedro from the Outer Banks Hospital will inform us on how technology is impacting the patients they serve in our community.

5) LWV State Convention May 17 - 19 at Sheraton Chapel Hill - Five board members are attending. If you are interested in attending register at www.lwvnc.org

6) June 6, Annual Meeting at Pamlico Jack's at 11:30 Election and Installation of Officers

7) Early Voting for District 3 US House Seat Special Primary Election April 10-26

***Nominating Chair, Andrea Schollaert is in the process of filling some board positions for next fiscal year. If you are willing to help on the board or as part of a committee, please contact her at andrea.schollaert65@gmail.com

Upcoming Events - April

First Friday Lunch Hot Topic - The 2020 Census: Counting Everyone is a Priority

When: April 5th 2019, 12:00 p.m.

Where: Rooster's Southern Kitchen
804 S Croatan Hwy,
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

What: James Cofield, Jr. will address the work of the NCCCC (North Carolina Complete Count Commission) the importance of the census, and the critical challenges that lay ahead. It is anticipated that this conversation will lay the ground work for developing ways that the League can assist in making the 2020 census as accurate and complete as possible.

Board Meeting

When: March 16th, 2019, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Where: Kill Devil Hills Town Hall
102 Veterans Drive, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

What: The League's regular board meeting.

Belk Charity Day Pre-Sale

When: April 22nd-May 3rd, 2019

Where: Belk
1732 N Croatan Hwy,
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

What: Belk Charity Day Pre-Sale

Use your shopping dollars to help the League through purchases at Belk.

See the Treasurer's News for More details about how to purchase tickets and the sale dates.

Telemedicine: The New Frontier in Delivering Healthcare

When: Wednesday, May 1, 7:00pm

Where: Kill Devil Hills Town Hall
102 Town Hall Drive
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

What: Find out how the Outer Banks Hospital is using remote care to better serve Outer Banks residents and vacationers using internet, wireless, satellite and telephone service. Join us for a presentation followed by Q&A with Tony Buzzacco and Denise de Pedro from the Outer Banks Hospital.

Please be sure to put these informative, important events on your calendars and plan on attending.

See our full calendar of events for April 2019 [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: **LWW 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.



News from the Treasurer - Belk Charity Day Sale

by Nancy Birindelli



Coming to your mail box in a few days will be the spring Belk Charity Day tickets and instructions on their use. Please read the letter carefully since the sale has been greatly revised - much longer hours for shopping and several other changes.

For new members, your League participates in this event to augment our operating budget. The purchase of the tickets is voluntary.

SALE DAY - MAY 4 - 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
PRESALE DAYS - APRIL 22 - MAY 3

Thank you for participating and happy shopping.

Special Election Primary - April 30th

by Lorelei DiBernardo, LWV Dare VOTE411 Coordinator

The LWV of Dare County would like to remind and inform you about a Special Voting Opportunity that is coming up! Due to the recent death of Rep. Walter Jones, the 3rd District U.S. House seat is vacant and the State Board of Elections announced a Special Election fill it. There are 26 potential candidates who have filed for the primary election! That is an incredible number (!) but I feel that it speaks to the importance of this seat.



In all there are 17 Republican, 6 Democrat, 2 Libertarian, and 1 Constitutional party candidates. The Primary Election for this seat is scheduled for April 30 and the General Election is scheduled for July 9. HOWEVER, if the leading candidate in the Primary fails to receive 30% of the cast ballots - which could very likely occur - then a Runoff Election will occur on July 9, followed by a General Election on September 10.

Confused? You are not alone. Please see the Special Election flyer that lists all the key dates for this election, including the Voter Registration deadline, Early Voting and Mail-in Ballot information. Also see THE BENEFITS OF VOTING IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS in this issue, as well.

To help you decide which candidate to vote for, we have sent invitations to all 26 candidates to participate in VOTE411, the League's on-line Voter Guide. We asked them about their position on Seismic Testing and Off-Shore Drilling, as well as on several other topics. At this time, all have not responded, but we are hoping for good candidate response by Early Voting time.



To remind you, just go to www.vote411.org and enter your address. Information about the Special Primary candidates will appear.

Please click on this [LINK](#) to view the important dates for the District 3 US House Race.

[District 3 US House Seat Dates](#)

REMEMBER: No county may act to require photo identification to vote in 2019.

The Benefits of Voting in Primary Elections

by Ali Breaux

Primary elections typically have very low turnout. Many citizens, even if they identify as "voters" just don't bother to engage at the primary level.

These elections, however, are the elections that determine the ultimate choices on the ballot and are an important part of the US political process.

So why should you take the time to VOTE in the upcoming primary election?

- When voter turnout is low, every vote matters even more.
- Primaries separate strong candidates from weak ones and can lead to runoff elections to determine the final candidate.
- Primary voters are, generally speaking, less diverse and not representative of the voting population as a whole.
- Primary voters are also usually more partisan and passionate in their beliefs than general election voters. This is how fringe candidates, usually called "far right" or "far left" candidates end up on the ballot for the general election, leaving voters to feel they don't have a "real" choice as candidates are perceived as "extreme."
- Voter turnout at primaries help determine where campaigns and parties will focus their efforts. Precincts with higher turnout can mean more attention and resources to those voters.
- No matter what the election, your vote makes a difference. That's been proven. Whether it's a landslide or a narrow margin, results are perceived as representing public will and the path for the future.
- Voting is part of our democracy. It's your right to be represented. Exercise it.

Ready to vote? Add the Early Voting and Election Day dates to your schedule!

A Woman Suffrage Leader in the Family

By Nancy Birindelli

With all of the attention that the ERA is getting these days, it is interesting to note that there is some family history in the Birindelli clan that included activity involved in women's issues many years ago. Recently my husband Ben (LWV member) was searching through some old family files and came across two articles about his grand aunt who was a pioneer in the women's suffrage movement. Eugenia Benson (Ben's name sake) Jobson lived in Richmond in the early 1900's. She was the chairman of the Equal Suffrage League's committee which petitioned Congress to advocate for women's voting rights. She worked with other Leagues in Virginia as well as assisting the effort in New York and North Carolina.

Following the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote, she became the first southern woman appointed to an electoral board and served as its chairman. In local politics she was the first head of the City Social Service Bureau but was removed from that office by Mayor J. Fulmer Bright who stated that the action was taken to preserve harmony within the Welfare Department and to better serve the public. Mrs. Jobson replied that the action was "solely for political reasons".

Other activities in the political arena included working on the campaigns of Mayor Bright, as well as E. Lee Trinkle's and Harry F. Byrd's campaigns for governor. She was Byrd's assistant chairman in the Richmond area. Jobson was a charter member of the League of Women Voters in Virginia, the Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Areme Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. She died in 1962.

Call for Poll Workers

Michele Barns has made a last minute call for seasoned poll workers noting they are in desperate need of a seasoned poll worker in the Fessenden Annex. A few names have been suggested but this is a case where we really need an experienced worker to fill in critical gaps. This is a paying job.



If you have any suggestions, please call James Cofield, Jr. at (252) 261-5623 or contact him by email at jecofield@earthlink.net

Why

poem by Noelani Santana, submitted by Jessica Loose

Editor's Note: League member Jessica Loose's granddaughter, Noelani Santana, wrote this poem for a contest sponsored by the Outer Banks Women's Club. It offers a unique insight into what weighs on the minds of some of our children.

Why

You wonder why he has problems with authority.
Meanwhile the "authorities" are scolding the minorities.
A sentence so dire,
your skin color can make guns fire.
How can news reports be watered down or sugar coated,
when a sick man's huge life-threatening gun was legally loaded?

Families are separating.
These are the choices our government is making.
Since when does a line define,
if you are worthy of living a safe life?
Sent back to war driven cultures,
yes, let's leave these people to vultures.
Feet are aching and souls are breaking.
Migrants blinded with tear gas,
I thought we left acts of hatred like this in the past.

We are all fighting in World War Three.
Monsters and thieves.
Manipulation and greed.
The mind set is you vs. me.

We are in denial.
The guns overstocked.

The justice system letting rapist walk.
Death toll by guns is rising.
This is magnifying.
Magnifying the hate and evil of you and I.
Why must we live by
"An eye for an eye"?
We won't help our brothers and sisters that are struggling to barely get
by.
Ask yourself one question.
Why?

International Women's Day Event

by Marty Hamed, Media Coordinator

The League of Women Voters Dare County, and the Virginia Dare Business and Professional Women's Club held a joint program for International Women's Day at Mako's on March 12. Pictured are the speaker Dr. Kulwinder Kaur-Walker (left) and her mother, Amrajit Kaur, at the dinner just prior to Dr. Kaur-Walker's presentation. Dr. Kaur-Walker is from the School of Psychology at Elizabeth City State University, and she spoke on the changing status of women in various cultures around the world, and discussed the accomplishments and challenges of 21st century women.



ERA News
by Judy Lotas

Make Mama happy.

Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

It's good for families.





Letter from the Editor - OJ and Casey and Mueller, Oh My!

by John Towler



As yet, the details of the Mueller Report have not been released. Most people agree that the memo Attorney General William Barr delivered will hardly do for answering lingering questions about Trump's relations with the Russians and actions to impede the investigation. And while the Mueller Report will probably not be the "Full Exoneration" that President Trump has touted, we can say with some certainty that Mr. Mueller did not find sufficient evidence to show collusion between the Trump Campaign and the Russians to recommend criminal charges. Or at least that is AG Barr's interpretation of the report. On the charges of obstruction Mueller made the unusual decision to punt and seems to have left to AG Barr and Deputy AG Rob Rosenstein to make the call. Their interpretation of the investigation has led them to conclude there is insufficient evidence to take action.

To say this all comes as a surprise to many people would be an understatement.

If you've taken a spin around the internet lately you've seen comparisons between the Trump case and OJ Simpson, Casey Anthony as well as other notorious individuals who also seemed to have skated free in the face of overwhelming public opinion as to their guilt. These comparisons are not entirely accurate and the mechanics of Mr. Mueller's reasoning require a bit of explaining. In this editorial, I want to take you through a very basic tutorial of how the criminal justice system is supposed to work and how it may have worked in this case. I'm going to be skipping over many important parts like magistrates, judges and warrants in the interest of time. This is the Cliff's Notes version.

A caveat before diving in: the federal justice system is a very different creature than the state court system. For example, when charged with a DWI by the Highway Patrol, you have the right to refuse the Intoxilyzer test; if charged by a Park Ranger on federal property, you do not. Once you go to court, at the State level you generally have a right to a jury trial for any misdemeanor or felony level crime. At the Federal level you do not. You can lie to your local police officer all day about your involvement in a crime and not get in any extra trouble. Ask Michael Flynn what happens when you lie to the FBI.

So, generally speaking, when a crime occurs, law enforcement is summoned to investigate the matter. The advantage of involving law enforcement, besides training and experience, is that they are neutral finders of fact. When the police are notified of an incident they are not really supposed to be on anybody's "side": their mission is to discover what happened and, if appropriate, charge the person who committed a crime. This is the very basic nature of investigative law enforcement whether you are a local cop-on-the-beat or a mighty Federal Agent of one of the alphabet soup agencies like the FBI, DEA or NCIS.

Once the investigating officer determines that *probable cause* exists that a crime has been committed, she can make an arrest. Probable cause is one of those slippery legal theories that has never been exactly pinned down. Probable cause, defined, is "*sufficient reason based upon known facts to believe a crime has been committed*". Entire forests have been felled to generate the papers that have been written, cases that have been argued, and opinions decided on what, exactly, this "sufficient reason" amounts to. In some cases it is clear cut: The officer sees a man with a mask exiting from a broken store window carrying a bag of jumbled goods. That's pretty solid PC to make an arrest. Other times maybe the officer only has a shoe print or a blurry video to work from. That may or may not rise to the level of probable cause.

Once the officer has made the arrest the case is forwarded to a *prosecuting attorney*, whether it be a federal or state prosecutor. The prosecutor then reviews the officer's evidence to make sure she has dotted all her "i's" and crossed all her "t's" in the investigation. That includes making sure that the crime charged is actually something on the books and the suspect's actions meet the statutory definition of a particular crime. If you've watched *Law and Order*, this is typically what happens in the 2nd half hour of the show.

The prosecuting attorney then prepares their case for court which would involve at least four solid paragraphs of detail to do justice, but which I will gloss over for the purposes of this editorial. The case goes to court, the Government puts on their evidence, the Defense presents counter arguments. They try to poke holes in the case, closely examine the investigation and scrutinize the actions of the investigating officers. In the end, a judge or jury renders a verdict.

Robert Mueller, despite the title Special Counsel, was really playing the role of the investigating officer in the Trump matter. Well, him and his team of however many attorneys and FBI agents. They have spent the last two years interviewing witnesses, suspects, examining documents, e-mails and who knows what else. He was not, despite the idealization of many, a crusader trying to pin crimes on Donald J. Trump. He was supposed to be a neutral fact-finder, just like a street cop, trying to get to the bottom of what did or did not happen.

In his final analysis (again, this according to AG Barr...things may sound different in the long form version of the Mueller Report), he did not have probable cause to recommend charges to the Attorney General. Unlike the cases involving OJ Simpson and Casey Anthony, the investigation into President Trump's collusion never got past the first half hour of the *Law and Order* process. On the obstruction

charge, he apparently wasn't sure if he had enough to go forward and essentially left it to the opinion of the Attorney General, who quickly decided there wasn't enough there.

With Simpson and Casey, both individuals were investigated by the police and charged by a prosecuting attorney who decided they had enough to take it to trial. Pro insight into the mind of a prosecuting attorney: they *rarely* go to bat with cases they do not feel have sufficient *proof beyond a reasonable doubt* to win. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is the bar they must clear in court and it is higher than the legal requirements needed to make an arrest. If the prosecutor doesn't have a shot of presenting a case with proof beyond a reasonable doubt then they rarely go to trial. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is a higher threshold than probable cause and it is one of the sources of greatest confusion, vexation and angst in these public trials that end in decisions that seem counter to what everyone seems to know about the case.

What did facts did Mr. Mueller gather? How strong was his evidence? Who would be considered a reliable witness? Why didn't he recommend criminal charges? These are all questions that will only be answered by making the investigation available for public review.

Ending on a public service note: the best way to really get a feel for how evidence is presented and decided upon in court is to serve on a jury. So next time your number comes up, if you're interested in seeing the system up close and personal, don't request a deferral.

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

Text | [Optional Link](#)

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