

The Dare Voter

Official Newsletter of the Dare County League of Women Voters

March 2022 Newsletter

New Member Reception

Dare LWV Honors New Members and Celebrates 102nd League Anniversary

Dare LWV is thriving and growing and we just delivered 6,600 Citizen's Guides across Dare County. We've been working hard, and now it's time to play. Join us to honor our new members and celebrate the 102nd anniversary of LWV on Thursday March 24th at 5:30 pm at Duck Woods Country Club, 50 Dogwood Trail in Southern Shores.

League members are eager to swing back into action after these long years of pandemic isolation. After cancelling our centennial celebration in 2020 due to COVID, we are more than ready to see your faces in person.

Many thanks to membership director, Susan Merrill, who has pulled together a team to plan this special party. Let the festivities begin! Please come and raise a glass to the valiant League women and men who have continually empowered voters and defended democracy.

We need to provide a headcount, so RSVP by clicking [HERE](#).

Kindly reply by **DUE DATE OF March 17th**.



Co-President's Message

by Laura Singletary

Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history. I invite you to explore **American Women: A Guide to Women's History Resources** at the Library of Congress.



The library's unique and diverse collections are rich with resources for the study of women's history. This research guide gathers together a collection of topical guides and



essays that tell the stories of women in America.

The online research guide highlights hundreds of sources that tell the stories of women through a wide variety of perspectives and media in the Library of Congress collections. The topical essays highlight such themes as the Equal Rights Amendment, Patriotism, and Suffrage.

Check out the website,

<https://womenshistorymonth.gov/> . Discover, learn and take part in events that inspire you. On March 2nd there will be a roundtable discussion, Women of the 117th Congress, Diverse Voices. Perhaps you would like to be a part of the March 30 virtual event; Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg “Great Americans” Medal Posthumous Presentation. We have much to celebrate this March!

The nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court shatters the 232-year history of the court as the first black woman ever to be nominated. History was made last week in the fight for equal pay for women. U.S. Soccer and women’s players agreed to settle equal pay lawsuit. Under the terms of the agreement, the athletes will receive \$24 million and a pledge from the soccer federation to equalize pay for the men’s and women’s national teams.



[Click HERE for LWV Dare Officers and Directors 2021](#)

[League of Women Voters Sponsors](#)

[Click HERE for LWV Dare Treasurer Report](#)

SAVE THE DATE

You can check out Save the Date events on the League's website! [Click HERE.](#)

League Luncheon Info

by Glenda Keel



Charitocracy

League Luncheon Topic for March: Charitocracy OBX: Grassroots Philanthropy

Dare LWV is pleased to welcome the co-founders of Charitocracy OBX, Jessica Sands and Benji Lipchak, to speak at the March League Luncheon on Thursday, March 17th. The luncheon will be held in-person at 3 Tequilas restaurant, 804 S. Croatan Highway in Kill Devil Hills, at 11:30 a.m. Please reserve your seat by sending your RSVP before March 16, 2022. You will find the RSVP form at: www.lwvdarenc.org under Events / League Luncheons or just [CLICK HERE](#). This event is for League members and their guests.

Benji Lipchak is President and CEO of Charitocracy and Jessica Sands is Vice President and Treasurer. Charitocracy is a nonprofit online “giving circle” where donors pool their monthly donations, learn about local causes, and vote on which Outer Banks charity should receive the money each month. The speakers will talk about the origins of Charitocracy, how it works, which local nonprofits have been nominated and won grants so far, and how new donors can join and spread the philanthropic spirit throughout Dare County—and even across the country.

Jessica, who is also the Executive Director of the Dare County Arts Council, has been an effective

officer and/or board member in several local non-profit organizations. Benji is a former software engineer and author and holds three patents. He researched Charitocracy for a college course in social entrepreneurship, and a few years later, he left his full-time job to pursue his vision of becoming a co-founder of Charitocracy OBX with his wife Jessica. Please join us to hear the engaging story of this talented couple and learn more about the value of this creative local organization.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all genders and students are encouraged to join. For further information, visit our website www.lwvdarenc.org.

Membership

by Susan Merrill



How did it get to be March already? Welcome to spring... now let's get and keep some warm weather!

I'm thrilled to share that our numbers of members are blooming nicely (get that spring reference?). Please join me in welcoming new members Nellie Dixon, Donna Mohler, Pat Smrdel, Gwen Taylor, Betty Selby and Sarah Summerton. We are looking forward to our Newcomer Event Celebration where we can meet our new friends. Details to follow!

If anyone is reading this newsletter and would like to join or rejoin we would love to have you! At the brand new wonderful website you can renew by credit card; www.lwvdarc.org. Or if snail mail suits you please send your dues to PO Box 689, Kitty Hawk, 27949.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Education Report

by Marion Midgett

Education news is all around us every day coming locally, state-wide, and nationally. Dare County Schools



and the Board of Education that sets its policies make news about positive student outcomes and achievements, innovative programs, response to learning loss, and controversial decisions around COVID-19. More comes from a small, very vocal parent community that has been objecting to school policies around remote learning and masking, plus, other school issues. State education news comes to us weekly from the NC General Assembly, the Governor, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Nationally, there is a continuous stream of news about protests over

instructional policies and curriculum, book challenges, and of course, masking. In addition, legislatures across the nation are becoming very active in the areas of trying to regulate or restrict public school instruction.

Here are a few of those local and state items of interest in the world of education:

Local

Middle and high school band students and their teachers from around the county were honored to be included in a North Carolina Bandmasters District band clinic and concert on the campus of NCUW recently.

Three Cape Hatteras DECA (Marketing Education Club) students presented to BOE members on February 8th their very elaborate creative project “Lose the Phone, Get Your Head in the Zone” which encouraged the student participants to spend less time with their phones and become more interested in their peers. Area businesses donated prizes that provided incentives.

The CHSS Electronic Gaming Team was showcased at the same meeting. E-gaming (also called e-sports) can lead to college scholarships and career opportunities. The media coordinator and a school graduate coach the team.

In January, the Career and Technical Education internship program was showcased at First Flight High. Forty students had internships at that time. There are 25 CTE courses with 850 students enrolled. Ninety-one percent of grads go on to COA or other colleges.

In December 2021, the BOE elected new leadership. Joe Tauber is the chairperson; David Twiddy is vice-chairperson.

Dare Schools has been addressing “learning loss” since last spring when ESSER funding (federal money designated for dealing with the impact that COVID-19 has had on students) was released and planning began. The plan focus is on positions (74%), programs (13%), and professional development (13%). Dare Schools will receive approximately 7.5 million dollars over the next three years. So far implementation has included a summer learning program, increased staffing, professional development, interventionists/counselors meeting with small groups for academic/behavior support, instructional coaches meeting with teachers to model and train on instructional practices to meet the needs of students (differentiation), and benchmark assessments administered to measure progress and identify students’ learning needs.

Dare Schools mental health support personnel currently includes five psychologists, three social workers, and an additional guidance counselor.

The masking policy for staff and students has been the major policy issue throughout this school year. Through the end of June 2021, masking in school was mandated by order of NC Governor Cooper. Then he turned the policy over to local units. Dare chose to begin this school year in mid-August with masks being optional (parental choice). By September 1, the cases and quarantines were so great that the BOE voted to require masks for all. The Board voted (required by session law) each month since to continue the mandate, until February 8, when it voted to remove the mandate immediately. Margaret Lawler, the only dissenter, said that teachers had asked that the Board wait one more month. The six who voted to remove the mask requirement did so without comment. The local group, Dare County Citizens for Constitutional Rights, has protested about masking at meetings and spoken regularly and often disrespectfully during the public comment opportunity. They have many more concerns and resentments against the school administrators. There have been repeated mentions of CRT, objectionable books, and objections to “social and emotional learning/(SEL).”

State

Governor Cooper vetoed legislation last week that would allow K-12 students to opt out of mask-wearing mandates--with parents' permission--where they still exist, questioning its efficacy for public health. His veto message reminded that a 2021 law that left mask policy to local school boards received bipartisan support.

State School Superintendent Truitt has presented a vision for schools, Operation Polaris, which features greater focus on workforce development.

The Superintendent, also, just last week, announced a new parent advisory committee. Applications are being taken now for the 48 slots. Dare Schools sent a notice right away to parents about the opportunity. A problem: only one-third of the seats are guaranteed to go to representatives of traditional public schools.

Support our schools at the next Board of Education meeting Tuesday, March 8 at 5 00 PM, First Flight High School, 100 Veterans Dr. KDH. Please note certain rules for public comment have been amended. The new guidelines can be found [HERE](#).

ELECTION FOR THREE BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS---ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER 2022

Filing ends March 4
Primary Election---May 17
General Election---November 8
District 1---East Lake, Stumpy Point, Manns Harbor, Manteo,
Incumbent---Frank Hester---Republican
District 2---Kill Devil Hills, Colington, Nags Head
Incumbent---Joe Tauber---Republican
District 3---Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk
Incumbent---Margaret Lawler---Democrat

LWV Dare and LWVNC Sponsor Statewide Screening of "The 9 O'Clock Whistle"

by *Judy Lotas*

In the sixties, Enfield, North Carolina was home to major civil rights action. Peacefully and gracefully, Black citizens won old battles against labor exploitation, segregation practices and racial indignities. The story is told by people who lived it in Willa Cofield's unforgettable documentary.

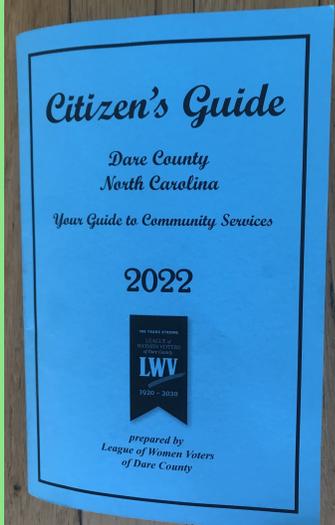


LWVNC joined the Dare League in a zoom presentation of the film on February 23. Willa Cofield and her co-producer Karen Riley were on hand to answer questions. More than 100 people tuned in. If you missed it, catch it when it goes public later this year. It is excellent.

Citizen's Guide 2022

by *Carol Butscher*

League members are now distributing 6600 copies of the 2022 Citizen's Guide, Your Guide to Community Services from Duck to Hatteras Village, Roanoke Island and Mainland Dare. You'll find them in local post offices, libraries, The Baum and Fessenden Centers, as well as town



and county offices.

Our Guide is published under the auspices of the State League of Women Voters Citizen Education Foundation. On the back cover you'll find acknowledgement of the municipalities and local businesses that donated generously toward publication expense.

This project could not have been completed without the help of our members who have bundled and distributed the Guides throughout Dare County. I would like to acknowledge the following for their time devoted to getting this project out to the public.

Proofreaders: Charlotte Pedigo and Mary Jane Slesinski
Bundlers: Andrea Schollaert, Yvonne Duiker, Ginger Walters, Betsy Giannuzzi, Glenda Keel, and Dave Butscher

Distribute: Earl Keel, James Cofield, Marion Midgett, Amanda Hooper, Linda and Ron Campbell, Alicia Wingate, Laura Allendorf, Sandy Feyrer, Rosemary Rawlins, Ginger Webster, Judy Lotas, Lorelei DiBernardo, Susan Merrill, Deb Helber and Laura Singletary.

<https://lwvdarenc.org/citizens-guide-2022/>

Dare LWV Program Spotlights National Popular Vote

by Lorelei DiBernardo



Please join LWV of Dare County to learn about the National Popular Vote Compact on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm on ZOOM. Suzanne Fisher, President of the LWV Asheville – Buncombe and Chair of the National Popular Vote action team will lead the discussion and take questions from attendees. You can register for your Zoom link [HERE](#). This program is free and open to the public.

The National Popular Vote Compact is state legislation that will: guarantee the Presidency to the candidate receiving the most votes nationwide; make every vote equal in presidential elections; make it necessary for presidential candidates to campaign in all 50 states; and ensure that every voter in every state will be politically relevant in every presidential election.

For all but one of the over 500,000 elected offices in the United States the winner is the candidate with the most votes. The exception is the President of the United States. The League of Women Voters has supported direct election of the President since 1970 and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact since 2010. Suzanne Fisher, President of the League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County, will discuss the issues created by the "Winner Take All" method of voting, the effects of battleground states campaigning, and how the National Popular Vote both retains the Electoral College and ensures that every vote in every state will be relevant in every presidential election.

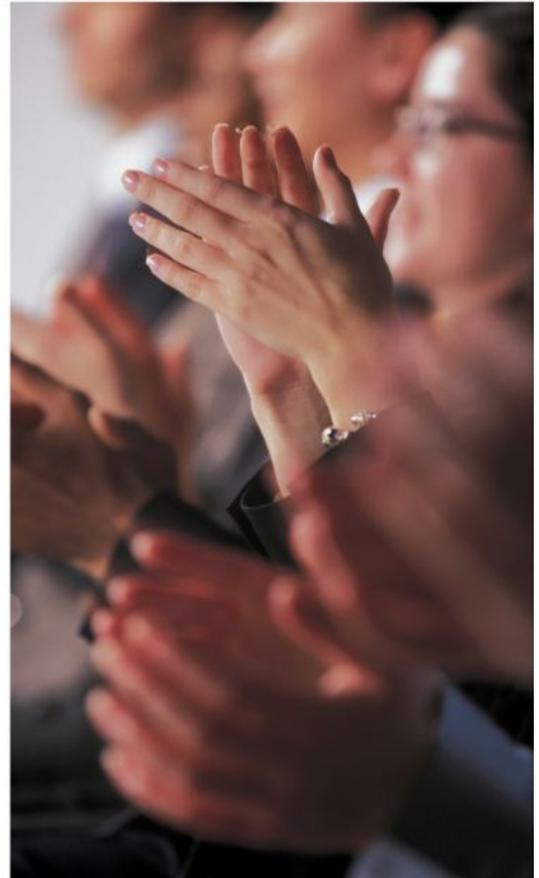
Suzanne Fisher grew up in the Midwest, earning a B.S. in Zoology and a Ph.D. in Cell Biology. She worked at the National Institute of Health (NIH) before retiring to the Black Mountain, NC area in 2013. Please join us in welcoming this impressive speaker and important topic.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all genders and students are encouraged to join. For further information, visit our website www.lwvdarenc.org.

Congratulations!

*Dr. Sheila Davies
Outer Banks Community
Foundation's
CHAMPION OF THE YEAR
for 2021 for her work with the
pandemic.*

We applaud you!





National Do Not Call Registry

[En Español](#)



Report Unwanted Calls



Verify Your Registration



Register Your Phone

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls

- You can [register](#) your home or mobile phone for **free**.
- After you register, **other types of organizations may still call you**, such as charities, political groups, debt collectors and surveys. To learn more, read our [FAQs](#).
- If you received an unwanted call after your number was on the National Registry for 31 days, [report it to the FTC](#).



NORTH CAROLINA
DARE COUNTY
Land of Beginnings



In celebration of National Poll Worker Recruitment Day on January 25, 2022, Dare County is encouraging anyone interested in serving as a poll worker to apply to assist with the administration of in-person voting on and before Election Day 2022.

Established by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, National Poll Worker Recruitment Day is a national day of action that helps to address the critical

Recruitment Day is a national day of action that helps to address the critical shortage of poll workers and to ensure that elections run safely, smoothly and securely.

Despite the availability of vote-by-mail and absentee voting options in most states, millions of Americans continue to rely on in-person voting to cast their ballots, many of whom may require assistance with completing the process.

The specific duties assigned to poll workers vary depending on location; however, the most common tasks for election workers include setting up and preparing the polling location, welcoming voters as they arrive, verifying voter registrations and issuing ballots. Poll workers also help to ensure that voters understand the voting process by demonstrating how to use voting equipment and explaining specific voting procedures.

Compensation for Dare County poll workers ranges from \$225 to \$300 for a shift that begins at 6 a.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. or later. Poll workers must work the full day and remain until all votes have been counted and all documents have been signed after the polls close in order to receive compensation.

Poll workers must be registered to vote in Dare County and must also attend a mandatory training session. High school students that are at least 17 years old—and who are both U.S. citizens and Dare County residents—are eligible to serve as student election assistants with approval from their parent/legal guardian and their school principal.

To apply to become a poll worker in Dare County, click the button below.

For more information, visit www.DareNC.com/Elections or contact Dare County Elections Director Jackie Tillett at 252-475-5631 or JackieT@DareNC.com.

[Click here to apply to become a poll worker in Dare County!](#)



[Heather Cox Richardson](#)

[What Does the Duty to Intervene Mean?](#)

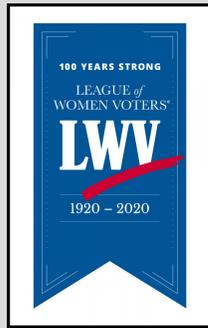
[Apply to be a Poll Worker in Dare County](#)

[She Helped Ratify the ERA in Virginia: Now the Campaign goes Nationwide](#)

[She was Told She could Vote after Felony Convictions: Now she's in Prison for Trying](#)

Video Links to League Luncheons

Chris Sawin - President and CEO of the Outer Banks Community Foundation



George Bonner - Director of the NC Renewable Ocean Energy Program at CSI

