

# The Dare Voter

Official Newsletter of the Dare County League of Women Voters

## March 2023 Newsletter

### President's Message

by *Laura Singletary*

Without a doubt, the greatest benefit of being a member of League of Women Voters is being surrounded by men and women who care deeply about our community and the local government. It is inspiring to have friends who are strong, independent people who are serious about civic responsibility and voting.

LWV of Dare gives back to our community with our candidate forums and educational programs. This week marked the distribution of 7000 Citizen's Guides from Duck to Hatteras. We are conducting our first essay contest by asking high school seniors, "Why Should I Vote?" Our League Lunch & Learn highlighted the life and service of Charles and Marcie Ries as career diplomats.

I trust you will find inspiration in friendships with league members. We welcome your ideas and energy to keep our mission alive as we educate voters and defend democracy.



[CLICK HERE for LWV Dare Board of Directors/Leadership](#)

[League of Women Voters Sponsors](#)

### Upcoming Events

Important events can be found on the League's Calendar at the League of Women Voters of Dare website. Click [HERE](#) to view the calendar of events.

#### March School Essay Contest

Open Mar 1 through 31 to all high school seniors  
Contact Marion Midgett for details, (252) 473-3057  
see article below

#### Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 10:00 am-12:00 pm  
Kitty Hawk Fire Station 13 Training Room  
839 W Kitty Hawk Rd.

## Kelly's St Patrick's Parade

Sunday, March 19·11:30am – 3:00pm

Contact Tianna Stathis for details, (240) 476-9516

## Public Program; Dare to be Safe

Wednesday March 29, 2023, 6:30-8:00 pm

Baum Center Multipurpose Room

## President's Chat

Friday March 31, 2023 11:00 am-12:00

Baum Center Conference Room

300 Mustian St., KDH

## Membership

by Susan Merrill



So in order to avoid going out in the cold and cutting down beach grass in my yard before we leave on our next camping trip I decided to THINK instead...So I said to myself, "Self, why are dues so high for the League of Women Voters?" Never in my life have I joined an organization, paid dues, and then WORKED! (not that I don't love what I do with and for LWV). I had grown accustomed to PTAs, rec league sports and civic organizations where there are no dues because one's blood sweat and tears were plenty!

So, why do we pay dues to the tune of \$55 for a single and \$88 to have our dearly beloveds be able to claim membership? First thing that comes to mind is that you will never be expected to buy t-shirts, candy bars or uniforms. In fact, if you are doing a project for the League, with authorization, you can expect to be reimbursed for any expense you incur. The only fund raising that our local League does is to businesses in the area that support our Citizens Guide.

The next thing that comes to mind is that the work of the League on the State and National level is very expensive (of our dues for each person, single or family member we are assessed a total of \$44 by state and National). So what does the League do on the State and National level? Tune in next month and see!

If you plan on rejoining please do so ASAP. You can use the website with a credit card: [Join LWV-Dare](#). or snail mail at PO Box 689, Kitty Hawk, 27949.

If you are unsure if you've already renewed you can drop me a text at (703) 328-1863 or email at [semmerrill@gmail.com](mailto:semmerrill@gmail.com).

If you are interested in what LWV does in the legal world visit the [League of Women Voters Legal Center](#).

## LWV of Dare hears about life in the foreign service from two U.S. Ambassadors

by Rosemary Rawlins

Members and guests of the LWV of Dare County sat spellbound for nearly two hours on February 24th at COA as two local retired foreign service career professionals recounted their married life as U.S. Ambassadors over three decades, covering the administrations from President Carter to President Obama.



The speakers were Marcie Ries, Ambassador (Ret.) and Co-Chair, American Diplomacy Project, and her husband, Charles Ries, Ambassador (Ret.) and Adjunct Senior Fellow, the Rand Corporation. The couple presented PowerPoint photos and news articles as they swapped stories that astounded and amused. The couple drew on their experiences serving in Washington, Europe, and the Middle East. Serving under Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush 41 and 43, and Obama, the Ries's were witness to, and in some cases participants in, the end of the Cold War, the events of 9/11 and the war against terrorism, trade and arms control negotiations, the war in Iraq, relief efforts after a devastating - (to continue reading [CLICK HERE](#))

## ERA News

by Judy Lotas

Our state was next to last to ratify women's right to vote. And we still have not ratified the amendment that guarantees equal treatment under the law regardless of sex.

A press conference scheduled for International Women's Day, March 8, is being held at the North Carolina General Assembly building, 16 West Jones Street in Raleigh. On that day, bills in support of ERA will be dropped by Senator Natalie Murdock and Representative Julie von Haefen.

Four posters arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each poster features a portrait of a woman and a call to action for the ERA-NC Bill Drop. The top-left poster features Alice Paul with the text: "GOOD GRIEF! THE ERA IS 100 YEARS OLD. RATIFY! LOVE, ALICE PAUL". The top-right poster features Ida B. Wells with the text: "OH PLEASE! WAIT ANOTHER CENTURY? RATIFY ERA! LOVE, IDA B. WELLS". The bottom-left poster features an older woman with the text: "RATIFY ERA! IT'S BEEN A CENTURY AND WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER. LOVE FROM SENECA FALLS". The bottom-right poster features Angelina Grimké with the text: "SO WHAT'S THE HOLDUP? RATIFY! THE ERA IS 100 AND MY FEET HURT. LOVE, ANGELINA GRIMKÉ". Each poster also includes the text: "PRESS CONFERENCE ERA-NC BILL DROP MARCH 8 10AM NCGA 16 W JONES ST" and the ERA-NC ALLIANCE logo with social media icons.

ERA-NC Alliance, of which LWVNC is a lead organization, will be on hand with large posters informing legislators of this long, ridiculous history of leaving more than half the population without equal protection.

## ERA News Part II

*recommended reading from Heather Cox Richardson*

**Editor's Note: There is a permanent link for Heather Cox Richardson's column in the League Worthy Links at the bottom on the newsletter, but this article deserves a particular emphasis because it updates readers on some ERA - related news. The following is a excerpt with a link to the full article. Dr. Richardson's ERA news starts about 9 paragraphs down in the original article:**



In 2017, Nevada became the first state to ratify the ERA since 1977. Then Illinois stepped up, and finally, in 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the amendment, putting it over the required three quarters of states needed for the amendment to become part of the Constitution. But now there are legal challenges to that ratification over both the original deadline and whether the states' rescinding of previous ratifications has merit.

The Senate hearing was designed to examine whether the deadline could be separated from the amendment to allow the amendment to be added to the Constitution, but it was far more revealing than that.

Faced with the possibility that the ERA might become part of the Constitution ([CLICK HERE](#) to continue reading)

## Nominating Committee

*by Fran Kapinos*



### **Nominating Committee Looking for a "Few Good Women (or men)!!!"**

All members are being asked to consider serving on our LWV Dare Board of Directors for the new year, beginning July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 or 2025 (Officers and Directors are elected for 2 year terms).

We have a few openings. If you are willing to serve as a Chair, Co-Chair, or on a committee, please reply to Nominating Chair, Fran Kapinos at [fkapinos@aol.com](mailto:fkapinos@aol.com) This is a great way to get involved with others in our Outer Banks communities.

The following are positions that need volunteers:

Recording Secretary, Publicity, Voter Services, Citizens Guide, Fund Raising, Nominating Committee

Other committees you may be interested in participating:

Health, Environment, Education, Programs, Voter Registration, Vote 411, Board of Elections Rep, Board of Commissioners Rep, NCLWV Rep from Dare.

Our Board Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, generally at the Kitty Hawk Fire Station, from 10-12. A retreat/planning session with former and new board members is in June between 9 and 3. Annual Meeting with Installation of Officers, program planning, etc. planned for June 1 or 2.

Looking forward to your replies.

Nominating Committee for 2023: Fran Kapinos, Margaret Lawler, Susan Merrill

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## “Dare To Be Safe” A Dare LWV Program on Gun Safety

by Rosemary Rawlins

LWV of Dare County invites the public to gather for an informative evening regarding community and gun safety on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm in the multipurpose room at the Baum Center, 300 Mustian St., Kill Devil Hills.

A panel of local experts will be on hand to educate the public about steps they can take to ensure the safe storage and usage of firearms.

The speaker panel will include: Captain John Towler, Detective KDH Police Department; Sam Ballard, Chief Range Safety Officer of Outer Banks Gun Club; and Sean Kenny, Dept of Social Services Engagement Head at Trillium Health Resources who will explain their new program on gunlocks. A question-and-answer session will follow their presentation. All Dare citizens are invited to this nonpartisan, educational event.

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## Impact on Issues

submitted article by Laura Singletary



Throughout our 103 years, the League has served dual purposes of education and advocacy, engaging in studies on representative government, international relations, natural resources, and social policy. Although our history of advocacy goes back to our beginnings, this version of Impact on Issues covers our advocacy efforts beginning in the 1960s.

Impact on Issues provides a clear understanding of LWVUS positions, how they interrelate, and how they can complement and reinforce state, local, and regional Inter-League Organization (ILO) positions, strengthening the League’s impact at all levels of government. Our LWV of Dare website has the updated digital version. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

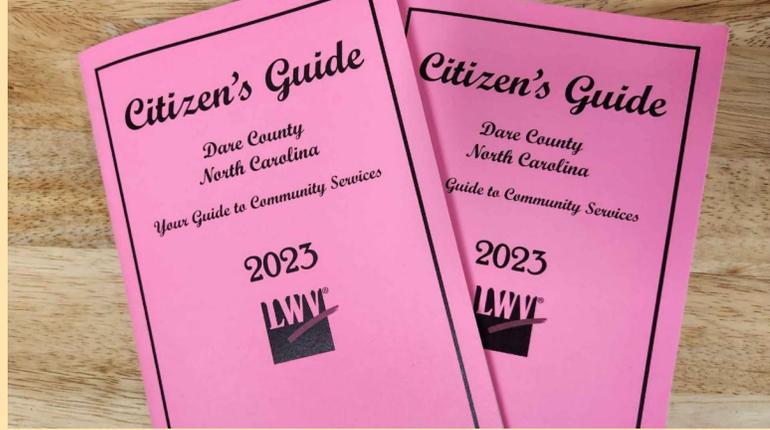
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## Citizen's Guide 2023

by Carol Butscher

Each year the League of Women Voters of Dare County publishes the Citizen’s Guide – Your Guide to Community Services. The Guide

includes information on Voting and Elected Officials, Dare County and Town Governments, Taxes and Licenses, Education and Libraries, Medical/Health, Social Services, and Safety. Over 6800 copies of the 2023 Guide have been delivered throughout Dare County.



All the libraries, Baum Center, Virginia Tillett Community Center, Fresseden Center, town post offices, etc have copies. I would like to recognize the following members who have volunteered their time to help proofread, bundled to get the guides ready for distribution and to deliver the guides to various locations. Proofreaders: Claudia Kozinetz & Linda McGee, Bundlers: Dave Butscher, Deb Helber, Jo Voigt, Judy Lotas, Sally Muglia & Tianna Stathis. Distribution: Jamie Wegener, Monica Thibodeau, Marion Midget, Laura Singletary, Carole Kimmel, Linda & Ron Campbell, Nellie Dixon, Linda McGee, Claudin Kozinetz, and Ginger Webster. If you would like additional copies, please email Carol Butscher at "cab313@yahoo.com".

For a link to the Citizen's Guide flipbook [CLICK HERE](#).

## Women's History Month Essay Contest

by *Rosemary Rawlins*



### Women's History Month Essay Contest



League of Women Voters of Dare County is holding an essay contest for all high school seniors in Dare County during the month of March in honor of Women's History Month. The contest will open on March 1<sup>st</sup> and close March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023. Contestants will answer the question, "Why Should I vote?" in a three-page essay. Program Chair, Courtney Gallop, will judge all entries with three other LWV members, all of whom have backgrounds in writing or education. Awards for all around best essays will be \$300 for first-place and \$200 for second-place.

To read submission guidelines and rules, [CLICK HERE](#). For questions, please email [lwvdare@gmail.com](mailto:lwvdare@gmail.com).

# League Worthy Links

Heather Cox Richardson

Women's History Month

**Gender Trolling**

**Outer Banks Voice: LWV of Dare hears about life in the foreign service from two U.S. Ambassadors**

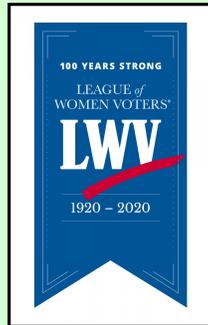
**Proclamation on Women's History Month**

**LWVNC April Newsletter Reminder**

**LWV North Carolina**

**LWV National Press Releases**

**LWV National Blog**



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