

# The Voter

League of Women Voters of  
the Lower Cape Fear

7/10/2018



## *Letter from the President*

### **Our 2018-2019 League year promises to be busy!**

ERA, environmental issues, pre-K in public schools, protecting the vote, forums, preparing for the League's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, observing local government in action...so many activities and issues are being addressed that there is a place for everyone to become involved, depending on your interests. I urge members to read over this newsletter to help you find your niche. Just contact a team chair or a Board member to get started.

As Lower Cape Fear looks forward to the new year, the LWVUS is engaged in an organization-wide transformation. The goals of this process are to strengthen the organization at every level, position our brand as a current and future-looking organization, as well as increase the League's visibility and mission

impact. You'll be hearing more about this initiative throughout the year.

Where can members find information on LCF League activities? Most importantly, check out our website and Face Book. Those addresses are listed later in this *Voter*. *The Essentials* is a handy reference for monthly activities which is emailed to everyone and is also available at Hot Topics meetings usually held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays. The Hot Topics meetings feature speakers on a wide variety of current subjects and are also a great way to connect with and meet other members.

Our members are our greatest assets, naturally, so please send in your dues to our treasurer soon. The dues for the 2018-2019 year are \$70 for individuals and \$105 for a family of two. The address: LWV-LCF, P.O. Box 4503, Wilmington, NC 28406.

I hope to see you at our July 30<sup>th</sup> Hot Topics meeting. *Please note the change to the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday for this month only.*

Carol Roberts, President

## *Upcoming Calendar*

### **July 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

Leland Public Library, 9:30  
Open to all members

### **July 16<sup>th</sup> Women's Issues**

Linda Kurta's home, 10:00  
See Action Team report below

### **July 18<sup>th</sup> FEAT meeting NH County Main Library**

**July 30<sup>th</sup> Hot Topics 10:45  
NH County Main Library**  
See details below

### **August 1st LWVNC Advocacy Workshop**

to explore action to achieve Redistricting Reform. **1:00 to 5:00**  
We will be hosting, and details may be found on our website.

[Check our website for more dates](#)

## *Action Team Reports– Membership*

We are pleased to be the new Membership Chairs taking over from the very capable Linda Kurta who has done a great job. Thank you, Lin. You will be a hard act to follow.

July is membership renewal time. A renewal form will be sent out to you shortly and we hope you will return your dues promptly.

We look forward to working with you and ask that you encourage friends to become part of our growing organization. Your suggestions and comments on how you think we might reach out to the communities where you live, work or volunteer would be greatly appreciated. Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender Counties cover a very large geographic area and we would like to do our best to foster participation throughout the region.

Priscilla Rebillard and Kathryn Hedgepeth

## *Action Team Reports – Environmental*

Thanks to all who helped register voters and push VOTE411 at Brunswick and New Hanover County Earth Days. **An Educated Voter is Good for the Environment!**

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina is inviting other State Leagues to join an interstate League coalition opposing Off Shore Oil and Gas Drilling off the Atlantic Coast. We are hoping to be able to provide support as needed. Let Clarice Reber know if you are interested.

Did you know that materials accepted for recycling are changing? The New Hanover County Waste Manager Joe Suleyman is aware that the list of recyclables on the county web site is not up to date as of June, 2018. He hopes to have a correct list in the very near future. Hint: Only plastics numbered one and two in the little triangle are recyclable at this time. Please: No plastic bags in the recycling bins. Recycle them at the grocery store or better yet, use reusable bags and paper.

For up to date information on the Cape Fear River water quality, go to the Clean Water Matters web site <http://www.cleanwatermattersnc.org>. Our Cape Fear River Watch Partners are doing a great job keeping us up to date.

## *Join Observer Corps – We Need You!*

Attend governmental meetings, take notes and report back so members will be informed. Learn about community issues and monitor how they are being addressed. Promote open, transparent and accountable government.

We observe at Board of Elections, Board of Education, and County Commissioners meetings in New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender. Please contact Loraine Buker, [lbuker1@earthlink.net](mailto:lbuker1@earthlink.net), for information.

## *Action Team Reports – Voter Services*

The Brunswick County Voter Services team has recently conducted voter registration drives at the Food Pantry in Boiling Spring Lakes, at the Boiling Spring Lakes Spring Fling (cut short by rain), and at the Rockin' Democracy Festival in Sunset Beach.

We are working on possible GOTV partnership with Brunswick Housing Opportunities.

We have three candidate forums planned for the fall elections in Brunswick County: October 10 at the Leland Town Hall; October 16 at the St. James Community Center; and October 17, at the Shallotte Middle School. The October 10 and 17 forums will be with the candidates for state and national legislative office. The October 16<sup>th</sup> forum will be with the candidates for county offices.

On June 19, Gail Bromley and Barbara Burrell spoke representing the League in favor of Sunday voting before the Brunswick County Board of Elections.

## *Action Team – Fair Elections (FEAT)*

These last few weeks have been full of Court and Legislative surprises that affect our elections. Our Action Team has been very involved in sorting out what is happening and how best to address the issues.

On the Redistricting Reform front, the U.S. Supreme Court has basically punted on giving us answers on whether or not extreme partisan gerrymandering is constitutional or not. They looked at the Wisconsin Case (Whitford) and basically said the case needed to be better than what had been presented, so go back and work on it. They decided not to really come to any conclusions on the others either, except for Texas where they upheld many of the maps drawn that were contested as racially gerrymandered. The Maryland case was not resolved and that was against what Democrats had done. Then there's the North Carolina, which is going back to the lower courts before they will hear it.

And in our NC Legislature, there's movement to change how vacancies on the courts are filled and how the State Board of Elections members are appointed. It's head spinning.

On the Voter Protection front, there is very likely to be a North Carolina Constitutional amendment on our ballot supporting Photo Voter ID. We are leading the fight against that, as clearly there is no proven voter fraud.... anywhere. There are changes to hours proposed for early voting which were just enacted by the legislature. All sites where early voting is offered must stay open from 7 am to 7 pm each day. This would place a real burden on county boards to offer as many sites for early voting.

There are a lot of issues for us to address. We would love your input. We are trying to meet the third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Usually we meet at the New Hanover County Main Library.

Lastly, the LWNVC will be sponsoring a special workshop here in Wilmington on Redistricting Reform. The date will be Wednesday, August 1. Look for more information on our website.

## Action Team Reports – Women's Issues

The women's issues action team(WIAT) met for the second time on June 18. On our agenda is the ERA, which only needs one more state to ratify, and we hope it's NC. Upon receiving board approval, the team will present a resolution encouraging ratification to city councils in Southport, Leland, and Wilmington.

Plans for the centennial celebration are developing. In addition to participating in the 2020 Azalea Festival Parade, the team is creating story board displays to post in libraries and other public spaces. They will outline the history of the suffrage movement, the founding of LWV, and what the future holds for women's rights.

Last but not least the team is focused on health care issues for women and children. Planned Parenthood is sending a representative to the July 16 meeting to help us determine where to focus our advocacy.

If you are interested in joining our team, call Linda Kurta, 910-622-2260. The team meets on the third Monday of each month at Linda's house, 10am.

## Action Team Reports – Education

Bonnie Bechard, a member of our Education Action Team, has been in the spotlight this past month following the release of her white paper "NC Private Schools Receiving Vouchers: A Study of the Curriculum." Bonnie's paper has been the subject of numerous articles and editorials in the press and she has also been interviewed on radio and TV. If you have not already done so, read her report on our website.

As part of our focus on early childhood education, our action team recently visited several PreK classrooms to increase our knowledge about the NC PreK program, and to look at how the program is implemented at both public and private (for profit) sites. So far we have learned that this is a very beneficial program financed in a very complex manner (with private sites receiving \$200 more per student per month than public sites) and we still have many questions!

## Hot Topics, July 30, 2018

### From "Nuts & Bolts" to "Fake News": New Challenges for Modern-Day Newspapers

Scott Nunn, will talk about journalism's many challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, especially in the newspaper business. Scott will describe the daily decisions that must go into printing a newspaper, tell us about the Star News journalists, and how the Star News is dealing with its biggest challenges. Scott will also include a look at the "fake news" problem and what can be done about it at the local level.

Scott is the Opinion Pages Editor as well as "Back Then" Columnist at the Star News.

*Note the change of date to the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday, due to the room at the library not being available the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. Location is the same: New Hanover County Library downtown, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.*

***Join us for coffee and snacks at 10:45 am, to be followed by the speaker at 11:30.***

## ***Report on the Annual meeting for our Lower Cape Fear League***

The annual meeting, held June 4, 2018, at Hops Supply Company, was well attended with 48 members and several guests. We accomplished three very key 2019 goals for the meeting by the approval of: the program plan; change in dues, and changes to the by-laws. In addition, the 2019 Board of Directors was elected and then introduced. A picture of the new Board can be found below and on the website.

We also had an excellent guest speaker, Charisse Hart, CEO of YWCA Wilmington who spoke on *Working together: Our Common Goals*. Our collaboration with Ms. Hart for this event has created an excellent opportunity for our organizations to work together moving forward.

**Charrise Hart, CEO of YWCA Wilmington**



**Board Members for the 2018-2019 League Year**

## How to stay connected with our local League....

Be on the lookout for a newly designed website!! Thanks to Kim Hill-Gramlisch we are being updated with a new look online this summer. The internet "address" will remain the same. Please check any information you or your Action Team may have on the website for accuracy and timeliness.

Do you have an upcoming event or issue that should be presented on Facebook or other social media? Kim is also managing our Social Media. Email those items to [lwvlcfsocial@gmail.com](mailto:lwvlcfsocial@gmail.com). Event photos/videos of our meetings and other events work well on Social Media.

Website updates, calendar entries & announcements to email are still being sent to our League email and to Mary Ellen Cole ([maryellencole2010@gmail.com](mailto:maryellencole2010@gmail.com)). Be sure to include all the vital information of who, when, what & where. As our membership grows, we are implementing a different email program, but our league email address remains [lwvlcf@gmail.com](mailto:lwvlcf@gmail.com)

## In memoriam

Audrey Aubrecht, a two-time past president of LWV Lower Cape Fear, died June 30 of breast cancer. Audrey was very involved in many aspects of League work, including leading a LCF study on Immigration in the 1990's and serving on the LWFVNC state Board. In addition, she was a former principal at Carolina Beach Elementary School and was very active with Cape Fear River Watch.

*League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear  
SERVING BRUNSWICK, NEW HANOVER, PENDER COUNTIES*

League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear

P.O. Box 4503 Wilmington, NC 28406

For a calendar of monthly activities, including public Hot Topic luncheons, Action Team meetings, open Board meeting, go to our website at [www.lcflwv.org](http://www.lcflwv.org)

Read more about us online at...

[www.facebook.com/LWVLCF](http://www.facebook.com/LWVLCF)

[www.twitter.com/LWVoftheLCF](http://www.twitter.com/LWVoftheLCF)

