

LWV[®] VOTER

League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg

March-April 2019

REACHING LWVCM

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Find updates for League action
and activities at
goleaguego.org

Notice the new logo above? LWV has established the new symbol as its brand standard, and it will be phased in locally. Look for more changes.

ERA: Advocates Breathing Life Into Amendment Push

Supporters are going to Raleigh March 5

March is Women's History Month, and North Carolinians are trying to make history for women this month.

Legislators will file bills in the North Carolina General Assembly (House and Senate) on March 5 to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. While four other states have bills under consideration, several organizations including the League plan to have members in Raleigh to push for NC to become the 38th - and final - state to ratify the amendment.

Join women and men from all over the state at the NC Legislative Building, 16 W. Jones St. in Raleigh at noon, March 5. This event is planned by ERA-NC, a non-partisan alliance of organizations which have ERA as a priority or primary focus and includes LWVNC.

Volunteers are needed that day to advocate for the ERA by distributing materials to legislators, to sit in the gallery during House and Senate sessions, and to serve as 'silent sentinels' in ERA apparel to flank doors of leadership offices and building entrances through the afternoon.

Respond by going to the event on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/623853408085098/>

Find more information about the alliance [here](#). **Cate Stadelman** is coordinating local efforts. See p. 2 for transportation options.



Cate Stadelman

League ERA Action Team Kicks Off March 19



Sherry MacQueen

Sherry MacQueen, director of the LWVNC ERA Action Team, will speak at the March 19 League Talk updating members about the state's ERA efforts, national action and how Charlotte Mecklenburg members can get involved.

Watch your inbox for League Talk details about the 6:30 pm program at the League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., Rm. 210.

Sherry MacQueen is currently a Co-Chair of the LWVNC ERA League Action Team responsible for organizing and supporting ERA League Action Teams in local leagues throughout the state. In addition, she has served two terms on the ERA-NC Alliance board, serves on the Legislative

(continued p. 2)

Coming Events

(Continued from p. 1)

League Talk March 19

Committee and leads the Central Region of the County Contact Campaign.

Sherrie will describe the campaign and tell members how they can fit into the action plan.

The state Action Team is committed to seeing ERA ratified by the NC General Assembly. Two more states are needed to reach the required 38 necessary for the amendment to pass! The plan is to educate, motivate and collect resolutions in support of passage from town and county boards, churches, clubs, businesses—and take them to Raleigh.

For her work on ERA, Sherrie received the Susan B. Anthony Award 2017-2018 in recognition of her dedication to the vision of Equal Rights for Women.

Sherrie is a Civil Engineer with a BSCE from NC State University (1981). She has lived in Raleigh since 1971. At the local level, she has been Secretary on the LWV-Wake Leadership Team, Co-Chair of the ERA Committee, and is a member of the Environmental Committee.

Travel to Raleigh March 5

Plan to be in front of the Legislative Building on Jones St. at noon. The event starts at 12:30 pm and will probably last until 4 or 5 PM.

We are trying to find other groups in our area who are planning a bus trip. Would you go if there was a bus (not sure of the cost)? Would you be willing to drive up to Raleigh on March 5? Would you be more likely to ride the Amtrak train?

Train information: Amtrak train departs at 6:45 AM from the station at 1914 N Tryon St., and arrives in Raleigh at 10:05 AM. Raleigh's Union station is at 510 W Martin St., which is about 10 blocks from the NCGA on Jones St. Fare is \$29.50 each way if ticket is purchased in advance. Return would likely be at 5:33 PM, arriving in CLT at 8:59 PM.

Also, please let me know if you cannot travel to Raleigh but want to be kept on my mailing list for LWV information related to passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Please respond as soon as you can to Cate Stadelman at: cate.stadelman@gmail.com

League Lunch April 10

LWVCM's new Environmental Action Team is sounding the alarm about a late December "technical correction" to the state's stormwater runoff requirements. **Changes weaken stormwater regulations across the state, according to environmentalists.**

LWVCM members will hear more about this at the April 10 League Lunch featuring Mecklenburg County Water Quality program manager **Rusty Rozelle**. Joined by Charlotte Post-construction Stormwater Ordinance Administrator **Jordan Miller**, they will talk about the implications for Mecklenburg County and other environmental concerns regarding clean water.



Rusty Rozelle

Watch for your email invite to RSVP for the 11:30 am lunch at the League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., Rm. 210.

Rozelle and Miller are slated to meet with the Environment Action Team March 1.

Contact Margaret How-Soper for more information about this Action Team margaret-soper@hotmail.com

If you are reading this before 6:30 pm, Feb. 28, you are invited to a workshop presented by the ERA-NC Alliance at the League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., Rm. 210 More info [here](#).

Join the **St. Patrick's Day Parade March 16** to help League promote Redistricting Reform. Send your contact information to Debbie Snowdon at Debbie.snowdon@yahoo.com to receive start time and place.



Save these Dates:

- May 21 League member **Kathryn Schuille** will discuss her novel What Luck, This Life
- May 17-19 LWVNC Convention in Chapel Hill. Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy
- June 6 LWVCM Annual Meeting
- Feb. 29, '20 LWVCM 100th Anniversary party

President's Message

March begins a month-long celebration of women's accomplishments. This recognition lasted just a week when President Jimmy Carter proclaimed it in 1980. The month-long event began in 1987. Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating March as "Women's History Month."

The 2019 theme is "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence." The theme honors "women who have led efforts to end war, violence, and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society."

The founders of the League of Women Voters were without a doubt visionary as they fought for 70 years to make women suffrage a reality in the United States. As we prepare to acknowledge the wondrous centennial of both the League's founding and women's right to vote - a year from now in 2020 - we have formed a **100th Anniversary Steering Committee** to raise money to honor both in a manner befitting the achievements. However, we need your help.

While most of our League work is done through your volunteerism, dues or grants from our national office, the 100th Anniversary Celebration is an extraordinary occasion.

We are asking League members to contribute \$100 each as seed money to allow us to secure a venue, a meal and a program. We hope you will pitch in. Your contribution assures you a ticket and trappings as can be provided. Ask your family and friends to secure a \$100 ticket to celebrate with you. A special 100th Anniversary account will be set up to receive your contributions. You may send a check to our Treasurer at the League address, 1817 Central Avenue, Room 210, Charlotte, NC 28205.

We also ask you to recommend businesses and corporations we can solicit for funding. Your personal connections and asking of them would be even better! Each of you will receive a letter from me giving you the monetary levels we seek.

We hope for a joyous event. You can make it so!

Thank you so much. **Delores**



Delores Johnson Hurt

Fair Elections Action Team Report

The NC State Board of Elections voted unanimously to hold **new elections in the ninth Congressional district**, after the apparent winner, Republican Mark Harris, agreed that the results were tainted enough to erode public confidence. Sometime this year there will be a new primary followed by another general election.

On Feb.22, a Wake County Superior judge **ruled that two NC constitutional amendments, voter ID and the income tax cap, were unconstitutional** because the NCGA does not truly represent the people due to illegal racially gerrymandered districts. Expect an appeal. Legislators are drafting bills to address NC's partisan map-drawing fiasco.

The LWVNC FEAT is encouraging legislators to include a **bipartisan commission and a non-political transparent process** that allows for public participation. To add your voice, please support our Reasonable Redistricting Reform's (RRR) 5 principles, found at <https://lwvnc.org/we-need-fair-maps/>. Just click on "Support the 5 principles" and submit the short endorsement form. We need legislators to hear from everyone **asap!**

At the national level: On March 26, SCOTUS will hear two cases involving partisan gerrymandering – one from NC (Republicans drew the maps) and one from Maryland (Democrats drew them). This is the first time that partisan gerrymandering has ever been examined by SCOTUS, so keep your fingers crossed!

For more info or to join the LWVCM FEAT and help out with our RRR project, contact Debbie Snowdon at deb.b.snowdon@yahoo.com. —Debbie



Cate Stadelman, left, and Linda Levy collect signatures on petitions for redistricting reform while at the January Women's March.

Member News

Congratulations to Carolyn



Durand and husband **Matthew** on the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Ann, born Feb. 20. She has a brother, Edward, who is 4.

Carolyn is an active member of the Environment Action Team for LWVCM.

Featured on the cover of the February

American Airlines magazine *American Way* was **Stacee Michelle**, daughter of League member **Sandra Cross**. The accompanying article reported on her business as a fashion stylist.

You can read more about her at stacee-michelle.com.



Stacee Michelle

Lifelong Dream Fulfilled



Beth Springston visited archeological wonders of the world on her trip to Petra in Jordan and Egypt.

SPOTLIGHT ON EVERETT BLACKMON

League members may know **Everett Blackmon** as a prolific photographer chronicling many of our events as well as numerous other community affairs.

But you may not know Everett the public service manager at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library who leads the CM Library "Library as Public Commons Initiative" that is aimed at improving lives and building a stronger community with its outreach to connect community services/resources to those who need the assistance most.

Everett initiated a technology inclusion program in the University DigiLit Community, empowering seniors to better function in the modern era, and serves as leader of the regional library's strategic outreach his staff designed the program to teach internet and modern technology

and volunteers for instruction at various locations convenient to their target population.

Everett is a native Charlottean and graduate of West Charlotte High School and Johnson C. Smith University. He received his initial management training at the Institute of Government at the UNC Chapel Hill and has earned hundreds more continuing and professional education units in his field. He has successfully led service-enhancement work teams, completed major projects and facilitated training workshops (managerial/customer service/automation systems, etc.) for the CMLibrary.

The photos which Everett generously shares for use in the Voter, are available on his **Winning Images Photography** website <https://winningimages.photography/>. He is a self-taught freelance photography and along the way, founded Winning Ways, a leadership development enterprise which he describes as devoted "to excellence in the field of professional and personal development. (Left, with Thereasea Elder.)



City area called technological soci-team. Everett and skills using trainers



League in Action

Civics 101 Class Opens with Former Mayor Vinroot

A group of 60 women and men heard former Mayor Richard Vinroot at its first session getting introduced to city government. The mayor told stories both strategic and personal about his time in office, including the disclosure that his administrative assistant didn't send some of the replies he made to citizens' letters which probably enabled him to win a second term.



From left, June White, Margaret Howe-Soper and Tricia Garcia

LWVNC Health Care Action Team

The LWVNC HCLAT is working to achieve universal health care by helping create a system of affordable coverage for all. With the state's recent legislative elections and the prominence of voter interest in health care, 2019 offers a unique opportunity to expand Medicaid to those in the coverage gap and, thereby, take a giant step towards the universal goal.

Two Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap bills have been filed in the NC House and Senate. HB 5 was introduced by lead sponsors Reps. Gale Adcock, Carla Cunningham, Verla Insko, and Jean Farmer-Butterfield, and SB 3 was introduced by Sens. Ben Clark, Dan Blue, and Gladys Robinson.

Volunteers are needed to work on communicating with legislators, gather stories of impacted citizens; and identify allies and partners. Click [here](#) to let us know how you will engage.

—**Kim Moore** HCLAT Chair

Education Team Focuses on Equity

School board members and community activists who share the committee's goals to promote equity continue to meet with the group. The next meeting is March 6. Contact Tom Bowers at tombowers75@gmail.com



Justin Perry



Waiting for MLK Parade to begin: Cate Stadelman, Tom Ponsby, Delores Hurt, Debbie Snowdon and Mary Monahan.

Welcome New Members

New members joining since Jan. 1:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Bob Algozzine | Kate Algozzine |
| Donna Armbrister | Leslie Blum |
| Leslie Kelly | Sharon McCarthy |
| Pamela Shores | Kimberly Sanders |
| Kevan Woodson | |



Above, FEAT members meet to address postcards being sent to voters in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties urging them to support the Reasonable Redistricting Reform movement.



League in Action: Committees at Work

Education Committee →



← Fair Elections Action Team



Environmental Action Team →



CALENDAR

Note: All events are at the LWV-CM Center, 1817 Central Ave., Room 210, Charlotte 28205 unless otherwise noted. Click [here](#) for driving and parking directions.

- Mar. 5 (Tues) ERA Rally in Raleigh at the General Assembly
- Mar. 5 (Tues) League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
- Mar. 6 (Wed) Education Committee, 12 noon
- Mar. 16 (Sat) St. Patrick's Day Parade, 11 am
- Mar. 19 (Tues) League Talk, 6:30 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., page 2
- April 2 (Tues) League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
- Apr. 10 (Wed) League Lunch, 11:30 am, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
- May 7 (Tues) League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
- May 21 (Tues) League Talk, 6:30 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., page 2
- June 6 (Thurs) League Annual Meeting

Check our [online calendar](#) for up-to-date LWVC-M events and meetings at goleaguego.org.