



SUFFRAGETTE

Published by the Membership Committee of LWVC-M

July 2015

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWVC-M Celebrates Women's Equality Day 2015 In Grand Style!

Wednesday, August 26th promises to be a very special time for those attending the Elizabeth Hair Memorial Women's Equality Day Event.



Suzanne Reynolds - Dean, Wake Forest University Law School

Each August 26th our League commemorates ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. As such, we will gather in the auditorium at the Midwood International Center, 1817 Central Avenue, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. to celebrate the occasion dedicated, this year, to Elizabeth Hair, long-time member of the LWVC-M, and a woman whom many Charlotteans regard as Charlotte-Mecklenburg's most revered pioneer for women's rights. Working tirelessly for the ratification of the ERA and many other women's issues, Liz virtually embodied the idea of equality for women. Sadly, she died last year at the age of 94, but is remembered as "one of the most powerful women" in Charlotte. The program will feature tributes from her friends, protégés and associates.

We are also proud to announce the keynote speaker for the evening: Dean Suzanne Reynolds of the Wake Forest University School of Law. Dean Reynolds, who served as interim dean for a year, was promoted to dean, effective July 1st. She has the distinction of being the Law School's first woman dean.

Rogan Kersh, University Provost, speaking on behalf of the school's Search Committee, said Dean Reynolds "blends her top-flight legal research, brilliance in the classroom and widely recognized applied legal expertise in a way that make her a terrific choice to lead the School of Law." The President of Wake Forest University, Nathan Hatch, said of her appointment: "She is a wonderful mentor and model for our law students....She has the vision and experience to ensure Wake Forest will continue to set the highest standards in legal education."

Reynolds, a 1977 graduate of Wake Forest Law School, specializes in family law and was the co-founder of a domestic violence program recognized on a national level for its excellence in bringing legal assistance to the under-privileged. Among her many awards are the Gweneth B. Davis Award (1996-Public Service-NC Association Women Attorneys); and Distinguished Woman of the Year Award (presented by Governor Hunt-1998). She was a candidate for the NC Supreme Court (2008) and lost the race only narrowly. Her treatise on NC Family Law is recognized as "the authoritative source for law students, lawyers and judges."

Everyone is invited and encouraged to join LWVC-M for **The Elizabeth Hair Memorial-Women's Equality Day Event!**

Suzanne Elsberry Schweikert

A Spike in Female Deans - However Parity Still Blunt

Professor Suzanne Reynolds' promotion from interim dean to Dean of Wake Forest University School of Law was mentioned in an article in the National Law Journal.

Karen Sloan of the National Law Journal (June 22, 2015) writes that there are 28 deans slated to take over law schools this summer. Eleven, fully 40 percent, are women – a spike that has not gone unnoticed. Jennifer Mnookin, soon to be dean of the UCLA School of Law, said she thought “there was a striking number of new female deans....I don't think that would have been possible a decade ago.”

This prompts the question: To what can we attribute this sudden advancement in the numbers of women deans at U.S. law schools? Some possible factors mentioned by educators in the legal profession are diversity initiatives begun in the 1990's and the subsequent growth in the number of female law graduates and faculty which deepened the pool of eligible dean candidates. Also, seeing women in leadership positions is no longer outside the norm. For example, the U.S. has had two women serve as Attorney General, and women can be seen in roles portraying persons of great power: presidents, CEO's, etc. Wendy Greene, professor at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, says, “Either consciously or unconsciously, we're starting to see a reconceptualization of who constitutes a leader, having a woman leader is no longer exceptional.”

Professor Kathleen Boozang will soon assume her duties as dean of the Seton Hall University School of Law. She will be the third of three women deans of this law school founded by a woman. Boozang made this interesting observation: “Law Schools used to emphasize scholarly research in dean searches. Today, with enrollment down and budget strained, search committees look for a broader skill set....In some instances, you're looking for a combination of soft skills to do hard things in a humane way.”

There are many positive signs in seeing the growing numbers of female deans, according to Dean Annette Clark of the Seattle University School of Law: “It's very encouraging to see the gains in recent years.” Despite this, however, she echoes the theme of the 2015 Women's Equality Day: “WE'RE NOT THERE YET,” as she adds, “but we've got a ways to go.”

Information for this article was compiled from the following source: The National Law Journal, Karen Sloan 6/22/15

Suzanne Elsberry Schweiker

95 Years Strong: Happy Birthday to Us!

This year the League of Women Voters celebrates ninety-five years of educating, engaging and encouraging voters to participate in the American political process.

Founded on February 20, 1920 by suffragette Carrie Chapman Catt, the League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters and use their power to participate in shaping public policy. Today, the League has nearly 800 local and state chapters which work on issues of concern to members and the public.

In kicking off the celebration earlier this year, Elisabeth MacNamara, 18th president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S., said: “Ninety-five years after its founding, the League continues to make a difference to American lives and in Making Democracy Work®. The League has involved millions of voters in electing government decision makers at all levels of government and in holding them accountable for their actions. Today's barriers to the ballot might look different than they did when the League was founded in 1920, but they remain threats to our democracy and voter participation all the same....Equal access to the ballot box is about fairness and equality, something that Carrie Chapman Catt understood as she led efforts to secure women the vote and founded the League of Women Voters to continue to fight discrimination and improve our democracy.”

Delores Johnson Hurt



LWVC-M Elects New Board of Directors for 2015-17

The following Officers and Directors were elected by the League Membership at the 2015 Annual Meeting held on May 28th at the Charlotte Park Road YWCA:

President	Gloria Cox
1 st Vice President	Suzanne Elsberry Schweikert
Secretary	Ann Foster
Director	Delores Hurt
Director	Tom Murdock
Director	Shanda Martin

Members elected Pam Liebman to fill the unexpired term of the office of 2nd Vice President (2014-2016). Continuing in office and serving 2014-2016 are:

Treasurer	Barbara Ellis
Director	Peg Chapin
Director	Marian Silverman
Director	June White

The Staff of THE SUFFRAGETTE congratulates all the new Officers and Directors and thanks them for their dedication to the mission of the League and their hard work!

Suzanne Elsberry Schweikert

Speaking Out, Reaching Out: Opportunities and Challenges

That was the theme of the 35th **Convention of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina (LWVNC)**.

Seven members of the League of Women Voters Charlotte-Mecklenburg (LWVC-M) attended the Convention in Durham on June 5-7, 2015. Some of the sessions attended were:

- **Fundraising 101** – Moving from fundraising to fund development: Strategies to explore funding opportunities and build relationships that result in financial support (Fund Development involves ALL members of the League)
- **Advocating for League Positions** – Strategies, plans and case studies of making League positions work for your League
- **Social Media: an Effective Tool for Promoting the League** – Getting started with Twitter: included a live webinar to setup twitter account, getting your message into 144 characters (yes, you can) and tweeting at Convention #LWVNC15
- **Strategies and Tips for Candidates' Forums** – Strategies for successful debates, forums and meet the candidates events

Two members of LWVC-M were elected to the LWVNC Board of Directors. Mary Klenz is a Co-President and Peg Chapin is a Board Member-At-Large. Congratulations Mary and Peg!!!

Gloria Cox



The Power of Conversation: *World Café* and LWVC-M



Imagine the LWV-CM Center transformed into an intimate café. Small tables are covered in crisp white cloths topped with cheery centerpieces. Groups of four, sipping hot coffee and snacking on fruit, muffins, smoked salmon and cream cheese, are actively engaged in conversation.

This was the setting one recent Saturday in April. After spending the last year gathering information on sex trafficking in the Charlotte Mecklenburg region, the League Study Committee hosted an event using the *World Café* model to foster collaborative dialog and constructive possibilities for action on the complex issue of sex trafficking. Although this model had not been used previously by our League, the premise of harnessing the power of informal conversation to find creative solutions is not without precedent.

From the *History of Woman Suffrage* we learn that after frequent discussions on the propriety of holding a woman's convention, Lucretia Mott, Martha C. Wright, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Mary Ann McClintock, "*sitting around the tea-table of Richard Hunt . . . decided to put their long-talked-of resolution into action, and before the twilight deepened into night, the call was written, and sent to the Seneca County Courier.*" The 1848 *Declaration of Sentiments* was adopted at the ensuing convention. Informal conversations had similar impacts in the late 1960's with the advent of women's consciousness-raising sessions. Women sharing experiences and ideas in these sessions propelled another phase of the women's movement into motion.

The League of Women Voters has always operated on a *study* then *act* model. Although studying an issue can be challenging, especially when information is obscure and difficult to obtain, the real hurdle often comes when we're ready to take action. How does knowledge transition into concrete actions? The *World Café* model has the potential to become a vital tool in our League's advocacy toolbox and we are grateful for the LWV-CM Board's support to host a *World Café* on the human trafficking issue.

The *World Café* model suggests six principles for putting conversations to work. Guided by Anne Davidson, an experienced facilitator and organizational consultant, we prepared for and implemented the event by: 1) clarifying the purpose; 2) creating a hospitable space; 3) exploring questions that matter; 4) encouraging everyone's contribution; 5) connecting diverse perspectives; and 6) listening for insights and sharing discoveries.

Developing questions that matter is critical and the Study Committee framed three questions that grew out of our study of the issue: 1) What can the LWV-CM do to reduce the demand for sex trafficking in our region? 2) How can the LWV-CM influence expansion of essential services for victims? 3) How can we best educate children and their parents on the risks and prevention measures? These questions, addressed one-question-per-round, were the basis of three rounds of discussion in our *World Café* event. Groups spent 20 to 25 minutes discussing a question and documenting all ideas on post-it notes. Individuals then regrouped and rotated to different tables for the next round. Regrouping after each round allowed us to interact with different people and foster diverse perspectives. A stationary host at each table shared a summary of what had transpired in the previous round. Upon completion of the rounds, all ideas were posted on the wall and participants "walked the wall" looking for insights generated in the rounds. In a final session, participants shared the specific ideas that resonated with them.

Human trafficking is a complex issue and determining how the League fits into efforts for its eradication is not easy. Top ideas included developing a League Speakers' Bureau on the topic, technology applications to assist victims and survivors, and public service announcements or events to create awareness of the issue.

Participants were enthusiastic and engaged in our *World Café* event and offered many great ideas. Our committee's hope is that these ideas provide a solid foundation for advocacy and action on human trafficking and the model itself will be reused in the future with other issues.

Thanks to all of you who contributed to its success!

Themes resulting from idea generation on anti-human trafficking actions

- Collaboration with other groups
- Culture change to reduce demand
- Curricula development (either locate existing or create new)
- Policy (legislative or change within an agency)
- Public Service Announcements or Events
- Support for parents (support or education)
- Support for victims
- Target vulnerable audience (identify/educate potential vulnerable population, e.g., runaways, low self-esteem)
- Technology development

Karen Bean

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG

Invites you to join us for

The Elizabeth Hair Memorial - Women's Equality Day Event

Celebrating Women's Right to Vote

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

Midwood International and Cultural Center Auditorium

1817 Central Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28205

Guest Speaker - Dr. Suzanne Reynolds, Dean
Wake Forest School of Law

Liz Hair Tribute - Friends and Protégés

Live Music - Wine and Dessert Social

Suggested Donation - \$20.00



(The League deeply appreciates the generosity of the North Carolina Citizen Education Foundation for its funding of this event.)

Anna Julia Cooper - Black Feminist

August 10, 1858-February 27, 1964

"The cause of freedom is not the cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class - it is the cause of humankind, the very birthright of humanity." - Anna Julia Cooper

Open your U.S. passport to page 26. The quotation there is the only one in the document written by a woman...and she was black. Anna Julia Cooper was a late 19th to mid-20th century intellectual whose scholarship and activism laid the foundation for black American feminism. She believed that black women's subjection to the intersecting oppressions of race and gender gave them a unique and invaluable outlook on society, arguing that rather than being suppressed, it was the voices of these women that needed to be front and center as society moved forward.

Though not widely known, Anna Julia Cooper's life's work is heralded now through the efforts of Melissa Harris-Perry, Professor at Wake Forest University, Winston Salem, NC, and host of "Melissa Harris-Perry" on cable television's MSNBC. Harris-Perry founded the Anna Julia Cooper Center at Tulane University in Louisiana and took it with her when she accepted her present position at Wake Forest in the fall of 2014. The Center investigates how gender and race intersect to shape women's politics in the South.

Throughout her life, Anna Julia Cooper fought to uplift the voice of black women. She saw the status and agency of black women as central to the equality and progress of America.

"The colored woman feels that woman's cause is one and universal; and that not till the image of God, whether in parian or ebony, is sacred and inviolable; not till race, color, sex, and condition are seen as the accidents, and not the substance of life; not till the universal title of humanity to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is conceded to be inalienable to all; not till then is woman's lesson taught and woman's cause won—not the white woman's, nor the black woman's, nor the red woman's, but the cause of every man and of every woman who has writhed silently under a mighty wrong. Woman's wrongs are thus indissolubly linked with all undefended woe, and the acquirement of her "rights" will mean the final triumph of all right over might, the supremacy of the moral forces of reason, and justice, and love in the government of the nations of earth."

Cooper was born in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1858 to an enslaved mother who worked in the home of Wake County landowner George Washington Haywood. In addition to Anna, Haywood fathered her five sisters and two brothers.

Cooper's political action began at age nine at St. Augustine's Normal School and Collegiate Institute in Raleigh, where she protested the preferential treatment given to men and petitioned to take classes traditionally granted only to boys. She continued that trend at Oberlin College, where she refused the inferior "ladies course" in favor of the "gentleman's course." Cooper received her B.A. from Oberlin in 1884 and earned an M.A. in mathematics in 1887. After attaining her degree, she moved to Washington, DC where she worked at Washington Colored High School (M Street School), the only all-black school in the District of Columbia.

Describing her vocation as "the education of neglected people," Cooper saw education, and specifically higher education, as the means of black women's advancement. She believed "that intellectual development, with the self-reliance and capacity for earning a livelihood which it gives," would supersede any need for dependence on men, allowing women to extend their horizons and have their "sympathies... broadened and deepened and multiplied."

She began at M Street School as a math and science teacher, and was promoted to principal in 1902. Resolving that education was tantamount to the progress of people of color, Cooper rejected her white supervisor's mandate to teach her students trades, and instead trained and prepared them for college. She sent her students to prestigious universities and attained accreditation for M Street School from Harvard, but her success was received with hostility.



During her time at M Street School, Cooper created avenues for black women outside education. She founded the Colored Women's League of Washington in 1892, and seven years later helped open the first YWCA chapter for black women, in response to its unwillingness to allow women of color into the organization.

Also, In 1892, Cooper published her landmark book, "A Voice From the South." In that book she famously wrote, "only the BLACK WOMAN can say when and where I enter, in the quiet, undisputed dignity of my womanhood, without violence and without suing or special patronage, then and there the whole Negro race enters with me." Cooper dissects the way black women are affected by living at the intersection of oppressions and explains their status and progress as a definitive marker of the status and progress of the nation. She emphasized the need to privilege black women's voices, criticizing white scholars who wrote about and acted as authorities on the lives of black men and women despite their ignorance on the subject.

Cooper's achievements both in and outside of the classroom garnered contempt from white colleagues and supervisors, and she was dismissed from M Street School in 1906. She was re-hired in 1910 as a teacher by a new superintendent. In 1924, at age 82, Cooper became only the fourth black woman in the United States to receive a Ph.D., from the University of Paris, France. While teaching and working on her doctorate, Cooper also raised five children whom she had adopted in 1915 after her brother passed away.

Cooper's retired from M Street School in 1930. The same year she retired, she accepted the position of president at Frelinghuysen University, a school founded to provide classes for DC residents who lacked access to higher education. Cooper worked for Frelinghuysen for twenty years, first as president and then as registrar, and left the school only a decade before she passed away in 1964 at the age of 105.

During her long life span, Cooper made no concessions in her fight for a just, equal society. Believing "a cause is not worthier than its weakest elements," she decried movements advocating for women's rights and racial justice for ignoring black women who were victims of both oppressions. Cooper was critical of black men for hailing opportunities that were not open to black women as markers of racial progress, and openly confronted leaders of the women's movement for allowing the racism within it to remain unchecked. She recognized that neither movement could achieve its cause while still being divided by race or gender.

Delores Johnson Hurt

Badass Nelly Bly

Born on May 5, 1864, in Cochran's Mill, Pennsylvania "Nellie Bly", christened Elizabeth Jane Cochran at birth, became the poster child for why women deserve the same opportunities as men. She was born in an era when, in the words of one newspaper writer, women's place was "defined and located by a single word ----home." Soon afterward, an editorial was published in The Pittsburg Dispatch entitled "What Girls are Good For" and it admonished women for attempting to have either an education or a career, in response to which Elizabeth sent a scathing letter. It was so well written that the editor of the paper contacted her and offered her an opportunity to write a rebuttal to the editorial. Editor George Madden was so impressed by the rebuttal Nellie had titled "The Girl Puzzle" that he offered her a full-time job. She chose to write under the name Nellie Bly (borrowed from a popular song by Stephen Foster) and began her career by discussing topics that had not been tackled by women, such as the poor who lived in overcrowded slums, the ways in which women were disadvantaged in divorce proceedings and the sad details of the lives of poor women who worked in Pittsburgh's bottle factories. Nellie's articles drew criticism from the business community and when companies threatened to pull advertising from the Dispatch, she was assigned to write a gardening story. When she finished the piece, she turned it in along with her resignation.

Nellie believed that Mexico offered ample material and opportunity for an author who wanted to write without restraint, so she went there for a six months' adventure. She had intended to write a travelogue, but the articles she submitted to her old employer, Madden, turned into a review of the Mexican government's corruption and its harsh treatment of journalists. She soon was threatened with arrest and was forced to leave the country.

When she returned to the United States, she applied to The New York World for a job as a reporter. The editor, John Cockerill, hired her when she told him she would like to go undercover, posing as an insane woman in the notorious insane asylum on Blackwell's Island. She convinced both a jury and a judge that she was deranged and she was committed to

Blackwell. She endured filthy conditions, rotten food and physical abuse from doctors and nurses for 10 days before being rescued by an agent from the World. Nellie's articles "Behind Asylum Bars" and "Inside the Mad-House" created an uproar in New York that led to changes to the system; more funding for inmates care and passage of new laws to govern the behavior of staff.

Nellie spent several years writing for The World and pioneered in the field of investigative journalism. She exposed crooked lobbyists, told the plight of unwanted babies, and reported on the horrific working conditions in box-making factories.

Probably the most famous exploit of Ms. Bly was her challenge to the fictional character, Phileas Fogg, in Jules Vern's "Around the World in Eighty Days." In 1889 women did not travel without an escort, for one thing. They carried with them so much luggage that it was thought necessary to have a man along to see that it all got on board and arrived with its owner at her destination. But on November 14, when Nellie stepped onto the ocean liner Augusta Victoria, she had only two small satchels. She traveled the world alone, starting east from New York. Her remarkable journey took her from England to Egypt, and to Ceylon, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan then back toward the United States by way of Europe.

In France Nellie got to meet author Jules Vern, and he encouraged her to break his fictional record of circumventing the globe in 80 days. Nellie stepped back on American soil in San Francisco, boarded a train to New York, and reached her starting point 72 days, six hours, eleven minutes and fourteen seconds after her departure.

There is much more to know about this remarkable woman, but in the interest of space – and the continued good relationship with our Editor- a few sentences about her work going forward will suffice.

Nellie became America's first female war correspondent during WWI, and when she came home after her five year tour of duty, she went to work helping poor women find jobs, raising money to aid widows, establishing entities who were concerned with the welfare of children, and assisting numerous other groups who needed an advocate. She continued to write her column for The Evening Journal until her death on January 27, 1922 from pneumonia. The next day, the Journal published a tribute to this pioneering woman under the heading "The Best Reporter in America." *Ann Wood*

This issue of the Suffragette is a publication of the Membership Committee, Suzanne Elsberry Schweikert, Chair, and Delores Hurt, Editor.

League of Women Voters
of Charlotte-Mecklenburg
P.O. Box 3068
Matthews, NC 28106

