

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF BEAUFORT, SC AREA

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2020

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings All,

This newsletter comes at a very surreal time. I have been practicing social distancing -- as I am sure you all have been -- and it's been quite an adjustment. In the words of

Bob Dylan 'The Times They Are A-Changin'. As the virus started spreading the League decided to postpone meetings and events ahead of the mandate.

So far we have postponed the following:

1. March meeting 'She Is Me'
2. April's Earth Day Movie Event
3. May's Annual Meeting Chat and Chew



Notice I said postponed. Once it has been deemed safe to congregate again, the LWW Beaufort board will decide how best to proceed. With that in mind the League has been working on how to create a new way to stay connected and have interactive conversations. However, per our League By-Laws, our **Annual Business Meeting** will still need to take place. Therefore, we will hold a **virtual meeting** on our regularly scheduled monthly meeting timeslot, **6pm on Thursday, June 11th**. Details will be emailed and posted on our website, as soon as they are available.

The Objective of the Annual meeting is to Vote in a New 2020-2021

- Board
- Budget
- Program

As we prepare for the upcoming elections our top priority must continue be the health and safety of our communities. As it stands now the SC primaries are still scheduled to be held June 9th with the General Election to follow on November 3rd. Of course, that could all change!

The path ahead maybe unknown but either way the LWV Beaufort will continue to focus on registering and educating Voters via the following:

- Our NEW Website <https://my.lwv.org/south-carolina/beaufort-sc-area> or Google "MYLO Beaufort"
- **Vote411.org**
- **Facebook** and Facebook Live (Look for Announcements)
- Zoom Meetings
- Conference Calls
- Newsletter
- Email

Moving forward there is some critical information you should know; the CARES Act, a relief bill most Americans will need and benefit from, fell short of the 2 billion dollars requested to safeguard the 'Right To Vote' in the upcoming November election. As LWVUS call on Congress to prioritize elections in the next stimulus round, the State and Local Leagues are being asked to urge their State Legislatures to expand absentee voting, making voting accessible for All voters, and extend deadlines and dates as needed.

Social distancing doesn't mean we can't still make a difference from our home. Here's a few things you can do:

1. You can...Write your Legislatures, both State Senate and House Reps, urging SC to adopt No-excuse Absentee Voting Laws. This allows all eligible voters to vote with ease especially during times like this.
2. You can...Complete the 2020 Census online @ 2020Census.gov. You can also urge family, friends, neighbors, co-workers to do the same. Post on your social media pages and use #2020Census so we can create a viral message!
3. You can...Check your Voter Registration on Vote411.org and there are frequent Covid-19 voting updates. Again you can pass this information on to others.
4. You can...Stay Safe & Healthy!

Lastly, Thank you ahead of time for all of your work during these uncertain times. Please continue to follow the Covid-19 guidelines set out by local, state and federal governments to help you navigate this period.

In League,

Catherine



100th Anniversary Proclamation for LWVB – Pictured: Paola Cassaro, Jean Stokes, Mayor Billy Keyserling, Catherine Forester, Lisa Wandrick, Theresa White

League of Women Voters Beaufort celebrates 100-year birthday with Centennial Soiree - Dr. Jacquelyn Markham

“You have a voice—a big voice, so you want to vote in every single election,” Catherine Forester, Founding President of the League of Women Voters of Beaufort, told those who gathered at the Centennial Soiree hosted by the League to celebrate the February 14 birthday of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “That is our privilege; yes, it’s a right, but it’s a privilege,” Forester continued, as she urged the audience to take their right to vote seriously.

Many of the LWVB members and guests at the soiree wore extravagant white hats and white dresses draped with “Votes for Women” sashes or embellished in gold. The women’s costumes called to mind the spirits of their foremothers who fought diligently for the vote in a “century of struggle,” as historian Eleanor Flexner coined it in her 1959 groundbreaking study of the women’s rights movement in the United States.

Held at the Beaufort Yacht and Sailing Club on Lady’s Island, the Centennial Soiree also celebrated the third anniversary of our **local League of Women Voters, recognized for its contributions in a proclamation presented to LWVB** by the county and city of Beaufort. Alice Howard, Beaufort County Councilwoman, read the proclamation at the soiree. Among other resolutions, it honored the founding members, Catherine Forester, Susanna Glattly, and Julie Laney and proclaimed February 15, 2020 as a day in honor of the League of Women Voters of Beaufort Area. Howard ended her reading by challenging women to run for office, especially the young women who represented the Harriet Keyserling Emerging Leaders Program. This program, also honored in the proclamation, was established in Keyserling’s name to develop and support emerging leaders in our community.

This significant birthday soiree in Beaufort was in sync with the national celebration of the LWV. In a letter published by the *Washington Post*, the LWV was commended for its 100 years of “**empowering voters and defending democracy.**” The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified.

As the suffragists knew, women’s right to vote would not end the fight for equality, so in 1923, Alice Paul introduced the Equal Rights Amendment, a priority for today’s LWV nationwide. While the soiree celebrated the victories, it also included a program on the status of the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA panel made up of Senators Margie Bright Matthews and Tom Davis, and moderator Maureen Woodlock, informed the audience on ERA both nationally and in the state. Speaker Shirley Perry recited Sojourner Truth’s speech, “Ain’t I a Woman?” and Professor Dr. Robert Landrum provided a historical perspective of the League of Women Voters for the program. The young women of Battery Creek High School representing the LWVB Harriet Keyserling Emerging Leaders Program were special guests.

A birthday celebration would not be complete without food and drink and Debbi Covington catered the party in style. Special thanks to our sponsors: Bathe, Beaufort Lands End Paddling, Blackstone's Café, Deals, The Emporium Kitchen & Wine Market, Hearth Wood Fired Pizza, Mezes Mediterranean Grill, Photography by Kevin Prentice, Reiki by Catherine, ta-ca-rón trading company and Zen Den.

LWVB would also like to identify the committee Anne Bander, Jane Caffrey, Barbara Childs, Catherine Forester, Irene Goodnight, Tedi Light, Maryellen McManus, Jean Stokes, Lisa Wandrick, Maureen Woodlock and officers Catherine Forester-President, Anne Bander-Secretary and Lynn Quigley-Treasurer.

Sunset over the Beaufort River provided photo opportunities galore, many available on the LWV of Beaufort's Facebook page, and some included here.

The League of Women Voters of Beaufort is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in the voting process. For more information, contact: lwvbeaufort@gmail.com.



*Article by Dr. Jacquelyn Markham
Writer, Women's Advocate,
and Professor of Women's Studies*

Photo courtesy of Kevin Prentice. Check out additional photos of the Soiree on Pages 13-15.



News from the Board

Our Board of Directors meet at least once a month and works to prepare programs and keep the League running. All members are welcome to attend these meetings.

Nominations Are Now Open!



Calling all interested League members, including new members! Our new LWVB Board begins June 2020, as we enter our 4th year! Nominations are now open! Deadline for nominations is May 1st.

Our nominating committee is seeking qualified individuals for future positions as officers and members of our Board of Directors.

Our officers and directors are fundamental to our League's success. As an officer and/or director, you will be able to:

- Work and form relationships with members of other Leagues
- Build your leadership skills
- Learn to use your skills to make things happen for our League and our community
- Help set the focus and direction of our League
- Expand your commitment to our League and our community
- Raise your visibility within our League and our community.

The responsibility of our officers and directors is our League's governance, which includes functions such as policy development, program, development, regular meeting participation, fund raising and financial management, membership, advocacy, PR, etc.

Current Board 2019-2020:

Officers

- President (2018-2020): Catherine Forester **open**
- VP or a co-President (2019-2021): **currently vacant open**
- Secretary (2019-2021): Anne Bander
- Treasurer (2018-2020): Lynne Quigley (interim) **open**

Directors

- Voter Services (2019-2021): Tedi Light **open**
- Voter Services co chair (2020-2022): Willie Moultrie **open**
- Education (2019-2021): Bernadette Hampton
- Media & Communications & Nominations (2018-2020): Jane Caffrey **open**
- Membership (2019-2021): Theresa White (interim) **open**
- Observer Corp (2019-2021): Jean Stokes
- Speakers Bureau (2019-2021): Alison Davidow

Nominees Being Accepted for 2020-2021 and 2022:

In summary, we are seeking to fill the following open positions:

Officers

- President – 2 year term **open**
- Co-President -- 1 year term **open**
- Treasurer -- 2 year term Lynne Quigley nominee

Directors

- Voter Services -- 1 year term Catherine Forester nominee
 - Voter Services Co-Director – 2 year term **open**
- Membership -- 1 year term Theresa White nominee
 - Media & Communications – 2 year term **open**
 - Website & Social Media -- 2 year term **open**
 - Event Planner -- 1 year term **open**

Let's continue to grow! Our members are our best resource to encourage new memberships. Please tell a Friend and share our newsletter with your community and friends.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership News

Welcome new members, Lisa Wandrick, Rebecca Davenport, Pamela Frese, Emilie Wilson, Jennie Green and Margie Bright-Matthews.

Look out for renewal notices in your email via Square. Now, you may also renew your membership, or join as a new member, from our website via Paypal.



We are excited to welcome, Theresa White, to our Board, as our interim Membership chair and nominee for the upcoming 2 years!

Voter Registration is Where it's At

Tedi Light – Voter Services Chair and Beaufort's Light USCB's 1st Fulbright semifinalist



Hey Everybody! I hope y'all are doing well and practicing your social distancing, staying at home, and doing your part to keep yourself, your family, and your community safe! School has been keeping me busy and I am hoping to stay on track to graduate this May - albeit without the Commencement ceremony.

The League of Women Voters is still busy planning for some upcoming events although we are playing it by ear. The one we feel confident will be able to happen is the **“Rock The Vote” Jam, scheduled for Saturday September 26th from 11am-5pm to be held at the Beaufort Town Center.** We are combining National Voter Registration Day with Get Out The Vote. **Our Goal is to attract and engage the young people who are likely non-voters.** We have a great plan and now we are asking for volunteers to help put it together with the possibly extra time some of us may have on our hands! Remember, many hands make less work, so join in and let's get this done! **Here's what we need:**

- **Rock The Vote Coordinator(s):** (Catherine and I will be working with you) This person(s) will be the one all others will check in with and Logistics/Day of Coordination. The hub of the Event.
 - **Musical Entertainment Coordinator(s):** Find Musical talent of all types from Gospel to Hip Hop. We already have 1 volunteer (Zoe Perpall) and some musical guests signed up to participate!
 - **Food Vendor Coordinator(s):** Find and schedule a variety of food vendors. Businesses in Town Center get first right to refusal.
 - **Media Coordinator(s):** Create Flyer, Media releases, Interviews?, Peachjar, Posting on Social Media
 - **Beaufort County Democrat and Republican Candidates Coordinator(s):** To invite candidates to meet their constituents however, there will be no campaigning or campaign materials allowed. We talked about “selfie pics with your candidates”.
 - **Kids Events Coordinator(s):** Invite Fire Dept? Rock and Face Painting, Dino for Democracy, Practice Voting, Name 3 Presidents...easy ideas for kids to be engaged.
 - **Fundraiser Coordinator(s)**
 - **Other Tents/Tables Coordinator(s):** Invite Board of Elections, Determine how to set up tables such as LWV Voter Registration tables, and coordinate volunteers to help set up.

This a great time to spend an hour or so a week working with the League to put on another memorable event. Please contact the League, lwvbeaufort@gmail.com, to volunteer.

March To The Polls

Do you want to help put together a Potentially Powerful MARCH TO THE POLLS June 9th? We want to create a spectacle! We want voters to want to engage!

Gathering may not be allowed by that time...Can we create a March Online or Voting Check-in Online? Any computer whizzes that can help us come up with something fun to do for March To The Polls? If you want to help Catherine plan this and share your ideas join in on the **Zoom Meeting Monday April 13th 10am-11:30am** and invitation will go out to all.

Vote411.Org Update

After working closely with the Hilton Head/Bluffton League and the Charleston League the questions for the Candidates have been finalized. As of March 31, the candidate filing has also closed, so the next step will be to send the letters to the candidates with the questions and the instructions to answer and submit. **I do need help getting the letters with the questions sent out.** This is such a vital League contribution to the community and an invaluable resource for voters to get more information about candidates and issues.

Additionally, we hope you'll find VOTE411.org/coronavirus useful — and that you'll share it with the English and Spanish speakers in your life. Our voices, and our votes, have never been more important.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Visit our new website for the latest Calendar Updates Please note the new Date for our Annual Meeting:

- June 11th – Annual Meeting – Voting for a new Board, Budget and Program, 6- 7:30pm, Online Meeting. Details will be emailed and posted on the website as soon as they are available.

League of Women Voters Beaufort SC Area Website is Here!

Thanks to donations made in 2019, we have launched our very own website. Check it out at <https://my.lwv.org/south-carolina/beaufort-sc-area> or Google "MYLO Beaufort". Those interested in assisting in working on the website or Media/Communications committee, contact Jane Caffrey via lwvbeaufort@gmail.com.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

If you're on **Facebook**, be sure to "like" our page **League of Women Voters Beaufort SC, Area** and join our **League of Women Voters Beaufort Area** group, follow our announcements and events. Feel free to post information relevant to the League and share our events. On **Instagram**, follow us **@beaufortvotes** and **#beaufortvotes**.

EDUCATION

Bernadette R Hampton
Education Committee Chair



Education Committee Update

Everyone can help to ensure an accurate count for the 2020 census. Fear and confusion can lead to under counts of our Latino and immigrant students and their families in particular.

The stakes are high for our schools with high percentages of these populations because census data is used to allocate federal education funding, including \$16 billion under Title I, \$13 billion under IDEA, and \$30 billion in Pell Grants. The impact goes beyond federal education programs to include Medicaid spending in schools, school nutrition programs, and Head Start, among many others that support our students and their families

both inside and outside the classroom. More than 300 federal programs rely on census data when allocating funds.

Most schools receiving Title I funds operate school wide programs, so a census under count that leads to less funding harms all students at those schools.

The impact of an under count is compounded over 10 years. The decennial census serves as the base. If the base is inaccurate, so is the data for the next ten years.



The 2010 census didn't account for 1 million children under the age of 5. Many were not counted because they have complex living arrangements. For example, they're living with non-relatives, or their families are experiencing homelessness, or they might live in high-poverty areas where rental and multi-unit housing is predominant and mobility is high.

States have much to lose from an inaccurate count with fair representation in Congress. House seats are apportioned based on population. Likewise, an under count could deny certain communities fair representation in state legislatures.

Suggested action steps:

- Go to the Census Bureau's Statistics in Schools program (<https://www.census.gov/schools/>) and become a "partner"
- Join a local Complete Count Committee
- Create or participate in projects or events with local partners via Census Counts or other coalitions
- Consider using your school as a "pop-up" center to help people fill out forms during the enumeration process
- Encourage high school students to serve as part-time enumerators in the spring and summer of 2020
- Spread the word!

Census Key Dates

April 1 – Census Day

Late April – Non-response Follow-up Begins

For the 2020 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau will only visit homes that do not respond to the census online, by phone, or by mail. Census takers, also known as enumerators, will visit households that did not respond starting in late-April and ending on July 31.

August 14 – Last Day to be Counted in the Census



ERA Update

***Barb Hammes, ERA Coordinator,
LWV HH/Bluffton***

The SC Senate held special public hearings on Columbus for testimony to support passage of S 901 and 918 (Ratification of the ERA in SC)

The SC House has had NO activity on H 3391 (Ratification of the ERA in SC). The House must move this bill forward to the the Senate before the crossover date of April 10. If no vote, all ratification bills are gone and the work begins again next year.

PLEASE write and or call the following members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Jeff Bradley jeffbradley@schouse.gov

Pater McCoy, Chair of House Judiciary Com.
petermccoy@schouse.gov

Weston Newton, Chair of Constitutional Law subcommittee
westonnewton@schouse.gov

Mandy Powers Norrell mandtnorrell@schouse.gov



Get as many men and women involved in this as you can. Phone calls are great each of their office phones are on the scgov.org website. April is coming quickly. Thank you all.

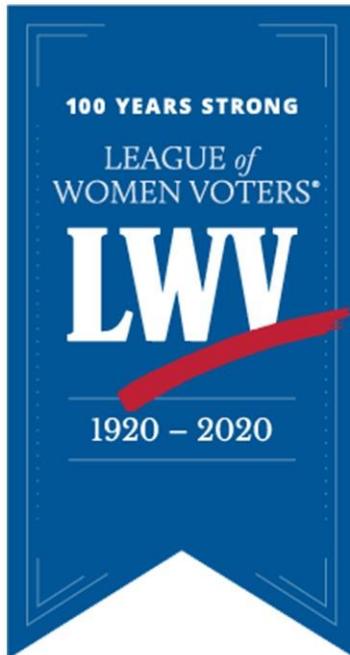
Maybe International Women's Day 2021, we will be celebrating EQUALITY!!!

Barb Hammes, ERA Coordinator

LWV - HH/Bluffton

Donations for \$100 for 100 Years

Thank you to all who have donated so far to our \$100 for 100 Years Campaign. If you have not, please consider making your tax deductible contribution to our Centennial Fundraiser.



\$100 FOR 100 YEARS



**YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
GIVE TO THE LEAGUE!
CONTRIBUTION FORM
Name & Address**

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Email Address _____

I wish my contribution to remain anonymous.

I wish my contribution to be tax deductible. My check is made out to the "League of Women Voters Beaufort Area" which is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Contribution can be mailed to LWVB, P.O. Box 13, St. Helena Island, SC 29920 or via Google Pay by emailing lwwbeaufort@gmail.com.

Every little bit helps support advocacy efforts to make voting easy and elections fair, providing non-partisan information on candidates, and protecting the rights of voters.
Thank you for your support!

Thank you for your Support

League of Women Voters Beaufort SC Area
PO Box 13
Saint Helena Island, SC 29920

LWVB is a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state and national level, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

Published by: LWVB Media and Communications Committee

Questions, comments, submissions – contact Jane Caffrey, Director - LWVB Media and Communications Committee, lwwbeaufort@gmail.com

More Photos from our Centennial Soiree – Courtesy of Bernadette Hampton and Kevin Prentice



League Members and Friends



Harriet Keyserling Emerging Leaders and Senator Margie Bright Matthews



Shirley Perry recites Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman"



Professor Robert Landrum discusses the League's History



Senators Margie Bright Matthews and Tom Davis, ERA panel moderator Maureen Woodlock



Harriet Keyserling Emerging Leaders and Council Woman, Alice Howard