

LWV[®] VOTER

League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg

March-April 2020

REACHING LWVCM

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Find updates for League action and activities at
goleaguego.org

March is Women's History Month

It was the party of the century!

Fellowship reigned as 350 guests at the League's 100th Anniversary Gala and Fundraiser met old friends and made new ones at the opening reception and dinner. League members, long-time friends of the League, elected officials and hopeful candidates mingled for drinks, hors d'oeuvres and bidding on silent auction items amid platinum and purple decorations, then entered the ballroom with a suffrage video playing on the screen.



LWVCM President Delores Johnson Hurt

Two one-hundred-year anniversaries were being celebrated: founding of the League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg and women winning the right to vote. **Lucia Trevino-Lane** decorated 42 tables with silver sprayed magnolia leaves and candles and added plants and balloons on stage to mark the platinum anniversaries.



Suzanne Elsberry

Emcee **Sonja Gantt** set the scene for **Suzanne Elsberry's** portrayal of an anti-suffrage woman arguing against the 19th Amendment.

She even got booed.

Despite competing political events, numerous Mecklenburg women elected to state and local offices in the past 20 years were present to be recognized. Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, **Cont. p. 4**

Watch for video of the program on Facebook soon.

Watch slide show of League pictures at the annual meeting.

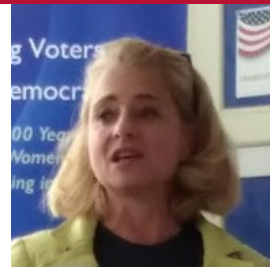
Pick up the printed program at the League office.

Coming Events

League Talk Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 pm

Maitri Meyer will speak about the correct do's and don't's of recycling in Mecklenburg County at the League Talk March 17.

Meyer is a contractor for Mecklenburg County's Waste Management Department. She will also update members about the county's recycling issues and emphasis.



Lunch With the League April 8, 11:30 am



League member **Kevan Woodson** and his wife **DonnaMarie Woodson** will present the film "Left Behind: Health and Hope in North Carolina" and lead a discussion at Lunch with the League, April 8. The film is a documentary by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

The film features stories of North Carolinians across the state as well as doctors and other health professionals. DonnaMarie will be available to answer questions about joining the Action Network.

A trailer of the documentary is on YouTube (Left behind: Health and Hope in North Carolina).

Watch for details on ordering a lunch in an emailed Evite.



2020 Voter Engagement Conversation Series Highlighting Civic Engagement for Women

LWVCM is co-hosting the 2020 Voter Engagement series with the YWCA and Amplify Charlotte which starts with "She Votes, She Counts" on March 26, 8:30-10 am at the League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave in the auditorium.

Wendy Mateo-Pascual of Crossways Consulting will lead the discussion on highlighting the contributions of women of color in the suffrage movement and the importance of engaging in civic duties.

Read about other sessions [here](#).

Loving the League (North Carolina)
March 12, Chapel Hill [Details](#)



Calling for
Donations!!

We need your help to stock our

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE!

Check out those closets, attics, and garages... We need.

DEADLINE: April 27th

Sale Date is May 2nd
10000 Four Mile Creek Road
(in Raintree)

TOOLS

Electric, cordless, hand tools, garden tools, vintage items, lawnmowers, weedeaters

ELECTRONICS

Recent cell phones, flat screen TV's, computers, Kindle readers, gaming and VR systems, Amazon Alexa or Echo, Google Assistant/Home Hub/Nest, Apple Watch, FitBit, digital cameras

APPLIANCES

Washer & dryer, freezer, Keurig coffee maker, microwave, food processor, bread machine, Instant Pot, window fans & a/c units

GIFTWARE & HOUSEHOLD

Pet supplies & equipment, matching sets of dishes, glassware or bedding, pot & pans, artwork, home decor, silk plants

JEWELRY

Authentic and costume pieces
Get out all of those old sterling silver or gold pieces that you never wear (even if damaged or broken). We can turn them into cash!

SPORTS, TOYS & OUTDOOR GEAR

Bicycles, quality toys and games, Charlotte team logo items, exercise equipment, camping gear

DESIGNER LABELS

Handbags, sunglasses, lightly worn shoes, perfume & quality skincare (even if not full!), new clothing of top designers, baby items

GARDEN ORNAMENTS

Sculpture, decorative planting pots, bird houses, matching pavers, healthy plants, outdoor furniture, bird baths

Anything new in its original box or with tags still attached!

We pick up! Simply call or email Peg Chapin at pegchapin@hotmail.com.

CPCC Sensoria

Voter Services director **Regan Aduddell** will be one of the panelists at a CPCC Sensoria program on "Voting and Beyond: Civic Engagement on the Local Level" taking place in Tate Hall on the Central CPCC campus March 30, 9:30 am.

The public is invited to join the conversation about civic engagement where it matters most: Locally! This panel discussion features local leaders, including Mecklenburg County Manager Dena Deorio. Bring your questions!

See the many other events [here](#) that run March 27-April 5.



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Cate Stadelman has compiled a list of additional Women's History Month exhibits and activities.

Check sponsor websites for more details on each one.

- 3/7 N.C. Museum of History, Raleigh. *History Corner: Women at Work!*
- 3/8 **International Woman's Day** – global day celebrating women's achievements – Celebrate at Resident Culture Brewing in Charlotte - 12 PM-5:30 PM
International House auditorium, 1817 Central Ave., 4 PM-6:30 PM
 HERstory - 100 years of Women's Suffrage - Levine Museum of the New South 1 pm – 4pm
- 3/9 Women's History 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Greensboro History Museum
- 3/12 Women Changing Charlotte – North County Regional Library, Huntersville 6:30 PM – 8 PM
Loving the League 2020 6:00-8:00 pm, Chapel Hill (contact LWVNC.org to register)
- 3/14 Reproductive Justice Roundtable – Planned Parenthood, Charlotte – 12:30 PM – 3 PM
Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, Sedalia. She Changed the World: African American Women and the Struggle for the Vote – Women's History Lunch. 11:00am-2:00pm. \$18/person.
James K Polk Historic Site, Charlotte [Local Learning Lecture Series: The Life of Ella Mae Wiggins](#), presented by the Gaston County Museum of Art and History. 10:30am-12:00pm.
- 3/26 Women Breaking Barriers - The International Civil Rights Center And Museum in Greensboro, 6 pm
- All month [Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote](#) at National Archives in Washington DC
[Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote](#) at the Library of Congress in Washington DC
[Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words](#) at the Library of Congress in Washington DC

Various dates: Charlotte Mecklenburg Library presents **Dr. Tom Hanchett** speaking about "Women Changing Charlotte." Women moved into leadership roles from TV news to non-profit management to politics during our lifetime, especially in the 1970s - 1980s. See list [here](#).

Women's Suffrage Movement Reinactments

Suzanne Elsberry, who played the anti-suffrage woman at the League's 100th gala has been cast as a woman on the right side of the 19th Amendment struggle for presentations sponsored by the Girl Scouts and by AAUW.



On Sunday, March 8, Suzanne will portray Elizabeth Cady Stanton at the HERstory event, telling about 100 years of effort to gain women's suffrage, at the Levine Museum of the New South 1-4 pm.

Monday, March 9, Suzanne will be the voice of Ms. Stanton again in a production at the Morrison Regional Library, 6-8 pm, hosted by the American Association of University Women. Others who worked to gain women's suffrage also will be portrayed.

Voter Services Group Presents Years of Suffrage Struggle at CPCC

CPCC instructors asked LWVCM Voter Services Committee to present the history of the 19th Amendment to a class on March 3, which was both primary day and the 107th anniversary of the Suffrage March in Washington.D.C.

Presenters were **Regan Aduddell**, committee chair, **Carolyn Lyons**, **Cate Stadelman**, **Carolyn Kelly** and **Sandy Cross**, who spent many hours doing research and gathering photos at the library .



100th Anniversary Gala and Fundraiser

(continued from p. 1)

Cheri Beasley, although not from this county, led the line across the stage with each receiving a "Votes for Women" pin for their service. The list included NC Senators and House members, mayors, judges, County Commissioners, City Council representatives and town Commissioners, including **Leah Trowbridge** of Cornelius.

Also recognized were life members **Ann Wood, Anna Hood, Betty Chafin Rash and Thereasea Elder**. Former League presidents in attendance were **Mary Klenz, Maxine Eaves, Karen Bean, Malyn Pratt and Lucille Howard**.

President Delores Johnson Hurt brought greetings from the League, and former LWVUS **President Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins'** address was "More than a Footnote: The Role of Black Women in the Suffrage Movement." Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins' book, *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*, was released Feb. 29. Look in this Voter, p. 8, for a coupon for 20% off the price.

Highlighting the gala was the "first woman in banking" **Cathy Bessant**, Chief Operating and Technology Officer for Bank of America Corporation. She captivated her audience emphasizing with personal stories that "Every Vote Counts" and charged the League with protecting the right of everyone to vote. Bank of America Corporation was the presenting sponsor of the League's event to celebrate anniversaries and raise funds for League projects.

A total of \$2,790.00 was raised from the silent and live auctions. Profit from ticket sales and other contributions is still being tallied.

See President's remarks p. 6.

League member **Everett Blackmon** took gala pictures which will be available for viewing on his website soon.

<https://winningimages.photography/Community/LWV-CM> under 100th Anniversary Gala Fundraiser. Thanks to Everett for all pictures used here.



Mayor Vi Lyles, left, who introduced keynote speaker Cathy Bessant.



Right, Thereasea Elder and Jennifer Bremmer



Left, Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Sonya Gantt and Delores Hurt



NC Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, in blue.





Pres. Delores Johnson Hurt's Gala Remarks

On behalf of our 200 plus Charlotte League members, our board of directors and our 10-member steering committee, thank you for coming to celebrate one of our country's most victorious moments: the right of women to vote.

You know the story of the 70-year fight for that right. You saw it in Lady Gaga's video and heard it in the parody of Mrs. Adorem Twitterton.

However, in the midst of this celebration we must acknowledge that the ratification of the 19th amendment was only the **beginning** of a long, **arduous** fight to remove **barriers** to voting for **all** citizens.

So what has the League achieved in 100 years? And what do we stand for now? At 100, the League is alive and well. While our local League was one of the first in the nation and the very first in North Carolina, there are now over 700 state and local Leagues, over a **half** million members and supporters, and hundreds of voting rights successes.

Over the years, the **Charlotte League** worked **successfully** to get voting machines throughout the county, to end the food tax, and to end school segregation. We created and presented Civics 101, a popular series of classes to educate the public about government. We **produced** televised candidate debates and registered new voters at high schools and in the community.

Each year in Charlotte **alone**, we register to vote between 6,000 and 7,000 **new citizens** who come from 50 western NC counties to become **naturalized** citizens. We are in demand by the community to discuss the importance of voting and to help with registration as well.

Our **Education Committee**, a fixture since the 1950's, has worked on and advocated for school equity, better **teacher** working conditions and completed **studies** on charter schools and city-county cooperation.

Since 1974, men have been active members of the League, and our ranks are now open to any person in the country **16 years and older** who share our values and goals.

Yes, the League is nonprofit and nonpartisan; we don't support candidates or political parties. But believe you me, we are political in wanting to assure **every-one** the right to vote. And we have taken heat for **that**.

The League, however, could **not exist** without **you**, our patrons. Your presence here tonight, I argue, speaks to your belief in our motto, **EMPOWERING VOTERS AND DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**.

We thank all of you, our sponsors tonight, for supporting us. Special thanks to our presenting sponsor, the **Bank of America**, and our other corporate sponsors, The Charlotte Observer, Atrium Health, the Foundation for the Carolinas, Duke Energy and Novant Health.

—Delores Johnson Hurt

League News



Cate Stadelman, left, Delores Johnson Hurt



League members gathered for a press conference to mark the League's Day of Action on its official birthday, Feb. 14.

WELCOME To New Members

Jean Allen	Deborah Bosley
Michelle Carr	Susan Caldwell
Susan Edgerley	Jean McCorkle
Sharlina and Todd Irwin	Samuel Sgroi
George and Susanne Sawyer	
Carolyn Swartz	Tonia Trigg
Cynthia Wallace	Alista Watkins
Sonja White	Holly Wood
Suzanne Edlein with Marc, Rachael, Kate, Maggie	

Members: If your contact information changes, please let us know by going to www.goleaguego.org, and clicking on "Contact Us". Fill in your message and send it to "Membership".

Voter Services Report

I would like to thank all of our volunteers who have helped register our citizens to vote. We mailed out 5,600 "Remember to Vote" postcards to our new citizens that we registered since February of 2019. Counting new citizens along with our community outreach and high schools registrations, we have registered approximately 6,400 folks!

Now that the primary is over we will soon be getting out there again. I am looking forward to working with our regular as well as our new volunteers this year. Although we stopped outreach in February, voter services is still busy. See Coming Events, p. 2.

We are looking forward to continuing to emphasize to citizens the importance of being engaged and voting.

—Regan Aduddell, Chair

Civics 101

Civics 101 is underway with a full class. Eight people are already on the wait list for the next session. The sessions run through March 24.

In this spring class, 70% are women; 80% are white. The average age is 59 with 20% 40 years old or younger with a couple of attendees in the lower twenties. Six or seven have indicated an interest in becoming a political candidate.

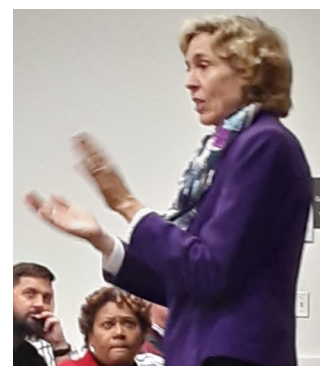
The second session on the courts featured Hon. Lisa Bell, Superior Court Judge, Hon. Regan A. Miller, Chief District Court Judge, Elisa Chinn-Gary, Clerk of Superior Court, Charleston Carter, Trial Court Administrator, Kevin Tully, Chief Public Defender, Spencer Merriweather, District Attorney and Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry McFadden.

Former Mayor **Jennifer Roberts** spoke to us at the City Government session encouraging those who want to change things to be politically active. She even provided some advocacy tips.

Attendees heard about the program in the following proportions: Charlotte Observer – 32%, LWV Website – 43%, friend – 7%, Facebook – 5%, Prior Civics 101 attendee – 5%, LWV e-mail – 3%, and LWV member – 2. These results should encourage all LWV members to point those interested to our League's website and link to <https://my.lwv.org/north-carolina/charlotte-mecklenburg/civics-101-program>.

We have formalized the waiting list by asking those interested in Civics 101 to follow the link on the Civics 101 web page and request that they be put on the waiting list for the next session.

—Tom Murdock



Jennifer Roberts

League News

Environment Committee Tackles Climate Change

Sarah Haley, representing the Charlotte Climate Reality Project, brought some frightening information to the LWVCM Environment and Sustainability Committee about climate change and its economic impacts.

Ms. Haley's presentation to the group covered some of the science behind climate change and a discussion of potential



Sarah Haley

City Planner Taiwo Jaiyeoba

League members received an overview of what the 2040 Plan for the City of Charlotte should accomplish, especially within the context of best practices on environmental issues at the February Lunch with the League. Jaiyeoba is Charlotte's Director of Planning.



Order Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins book, *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters* at abc-clio.com. Use promo code Q12020 to get 20% off the cover price.

League Resurrects Advocacy for Gerrymandering

When **Harry Taylor** gave the League an update on the status of gerrymandering and fair redistricting, he told the group that "gerrymandering is alive and healthy," and that "Democracy is taking a violent beating."

Although US Supreme Court and NC courts have forced the General Assembly to redraw 2020 maps, they are still gerrymandered, although not as severely as before, he said. He predicted that if redistricting efforts fail by the time 2021 reapportionment begins, the gerrymandering and litigation will start all over again.

Taylor, chair of the Redistricting Action Team, said you can help LWV Fair Maps NC in the following ways:

—**Endorse the Fair Maps NC 5 Principals for Reasonable Redistricting Reform** here: <https://www.fairdistrictsnc.org/endorse-the-5-principles>

—**Solicit and secure speaking opportunities**, especially in surrounding counties.

—**Become a speaker.** (We will train you.)

—**Contact legislative leaders.** Demand passage of Senate Bill 673, a constitutional amendment (NC) that would create a citizen-led committee to draw all maps.

—**Ask every candidate their opinion on gerrymandering and fair redistricting.**



CALENDAR

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

Mar. 17 (Tues) League Talk, 6:30 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., page 2

See p. 3 for a full listing of Women's History Month Events during March

Mar. 26 (Thurs)	2020 Voter Engagement Series focusing on women, 8:30 am, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Apr. 7 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Apr. 8 (Wed)	Lunch with the League, 11:30 am, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., p. 2
May 5 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
May 17 (Tues)	League Talk, 6:30 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave. TBA
June 4 (Thurs)	SAVE THE DATE FOR LWVCM ANNUAL MEETING

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