

LWV[®] VOTER

League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg

Sept-Oct 2020

REACHING LWVCM

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Find updates for League action and activities at
goleaguego.org

Check calendar [here](#) for Action Team meetings and events.

Get Ready to Vote Nov. 3

Everything you need to know to successfully cast your vote

Registration

Vote 411.org to educate yourself about candidates

Absentee Voting

Early Voting

In person Voting

Your voting ready reference page to print and use, p. 3

Message from your president

Greetings,

I hope this message finds you well and adjusted - despite six months of pandemic sheltering!

August was a busy month for many League leaders. We received numerous requests to speak about the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving American women the right to vote. I, myself, spoke at a number of events, with more to come. But I consider the attention granted the celebration of 100 years of women voting a good thing because so many citizens still do not know the history of that 70-plus year fight for voting rights.

In one speech I argued making August 26, Women's Equality Day, a national holiday to commemorate the struggle.

This month, the LWVCM board is attempting to get back on a "normal" schedule, although virtual.

On September 9th, Lunch with the League will resume, featuring Michael Dickerson, Executive Director of the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections. With much concern about the safety of absentee ballot voting, the downsizing of postal services and the need for poll workers because of COVID-19, I hope he'll reassure us that voting is secure in Mecklenburg County.

Delores Johnson Hurt



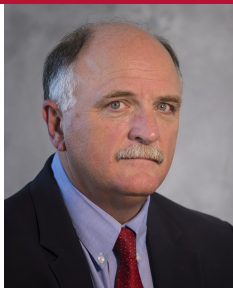
(continued p. 2)

Please respond to your dues notice NOW, with a little extra.

An invoice to print and include with your check is on p. 7.

Coming Events

Virtual Lunch with
the League, Wed.,
Sept. 9, 11:30 am



Executive director of the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections **Michael Dickerson** will be featured at Lunch with the League Sept. 9. An invite to register for this update on county election news and challenges the office faces this year has been sent to your email. It will be a zoom meeting with the link provided when you register. If you did not receive the invite, contact communications@goleaguego.org.

NC Superintendent
Of Schools
Candidate Forum
Thurs., Sept. 10, 7 pm

A **Candidate Forum for NC Superintendent of Public Instruction** will be live streamed by Raleigh radio station WRAL Sept. 10. The two candidates, Dr. Jen Mangrum and Ms. Catherine Truitt have both agreed to participate in the forum sponsored by state education organizations, including the League of Women Voters of North Carolina. You can watch by clicking on the LINK made available on the day of the event on WRAL's website: wral.com

Education Webinar
Thurs., Sept. 24, 7 pm
A Plan to Achieve
Equity in Schools.

Public Education session on Leandro/West Ed Report

Thursday, September 24, 2020 - 7:00pm to 8:30pm

This will be a Zoom event hosted and presented by Public Schools First with an introduction and closing by LWV. The 3 League locals collaborating to create the event are Orange-Durham-Chatham, Cape Fear and Charlotte Mecklenburg. Chatham Education Foundation is also supporting this effort.

Civics 101
Planning for 2021

Save the date: Tues.,
Oct. 19, 6:30 pm for
League Talk TBA

Civics 101 will not have a 2020 fall session. The government center expects to be open no sooner than January or February, 2021. As this gets more concrete, we will firm up **completing the two postponed Civics Spring 2020 meetings** and plan on a full Spring 2021 session. The Civics 101 Team believes that to use Zoom for Civics 101 deprives the attendees of the important interchange among speakers and them. However, participants in the postponed session will be surveyed about completing the class on Zoom.

You can still ask to be put on a waiting list for the next full session. Some 22 have already signed up. —Tom Murdock, Civics 101 chair

President's Message (continued from p.2)

We'll alternate Lunch meetings with League Talk meetings, which will take place in the evening.

In September, also, you'll see around town, on billboards, radio, television and posters a vigorous promotion of Vote411.org. We want voters to be informed, so we hope the candidates' answers included in this online all-you-need-to-know voting site will help.

You can receive a yard sign to promote Vote411 - and voting - if you live in a high density area or can place the sign in one. There's information in this Voter on how to obtain one.

September 7th is Charlotte Yard Art Day. We'll have a display on the front lawn of the League office on Central Avenue. Take an excursion to see it, as well as other art pieces around Plaza Midwood. Here's the link for more information: charlotteonthecheap.com or <https://www.yardartday.org/>

We are living in a time when the direction our nation takes in November will determine if our democracy survives or declines. I hope we are all doing as much as we can, whenever and however we can, to achieve the former.

Sincerely, **Delores Johnson Hurt**

(Ed. Note: See Delores at the (Charlotte History Museum [here](#))

GET READY TO VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOV. 3

1. Make sure you are properly registered

- Go to Vote411.org to download a registration form and send or take it to the [Mecklenburg County Board of Elections](#) office, 741 Kenilworth Ave., Suite 202, Charlotte, NC 28204 or register online through the NC Department of Motor Vehicles [here](#).
- Check your registration and confirm your polling site online at Vote411.org or mecknc.gov/boe. Update your registration information on a registration form.
If you have an NC Driver's License or NCDMV ID card, you can update your name and address online at mecknc.gov/boe/voter.
- **Deadline** for registration is 5 pm, Friday, Oct. 9, unless you go to an early voting site to register and vote on the same day.

2. Request an absentee ballot

- In case you can't or decide you don't want to vote in person at the poll or early voting site, be prepared by requesting an absentee ballot now. You can request an application for an absentee ballot [here](#) and mail or take it to the Board of Elections. You can also fill out the application, sign and return it by fax to 704-319-9722 or email it to absentee@mecklenburgcountync.gov.
- The elections office will begin sending out ballots Sept. 4. If you don't receive one within a couple of weeks after submitting your application, contact the BOE at 704-336-2133.
- **Deadline** for requests to be in the BOE office is 5 pm, Oct. 27.

3. Preview your ballot

- In addition to the president, there are a lot of other offices to be decided, including senator, congressional representatives, governor, state offices, county offices and judges. Three bond issues for transportation, housing and neighborhood services are also on Charlotte ballot. View your sample ballot [here](#).

4. Go to Vote411.org for candidate & voting information

- This online service is provided by the League of Women Voters. Member **Cheryl Bruins** produces Vote411.org for LWVCM. **Beth Springston**, from Vermont, helps at the state level.
- You can compare candidates' responses to questions posed by the League and learn some personal information about each one.



5. Early Voting (Absentee One-Stop)

- Starts 8 am, Thursday, Oct. 15 and ends at 3 pm Saturday, Oct. 31.
- Usual hours are 8am-7:30pm M-F, 8 am-3pm Saturday and 1-5 pm on Sunday.
- Mecklenburg County will have 33 early voting sites. BOE is waiting on the NC Board of Elections to approve its list of early voting sites. The list will be at mecknc.gov/boe when it is approved.
- If you didn't beat the registration deadline, you can register and vote at the same time at early voting sites and update your name and address if within the same county.
- If you become sick or disabled after the absentee application deadline, contact the BOE office.

6. Absentee Voting by mail

- Mail your absentee ballot to the BOE office or drop it off **in person** at the office or an early voting site.
- **Ballots mailed must be postmarked by Nov. 3.**
- The BOE is required to notify a voter if his/her ballot is not accepted and give the voter an opportunity to correct errors. This was a NC Supreme Court decision resulting from a LWVNC and DemocracyNC lawsuit.

7. Casting your ballot on Nov. 3.

- On Nov. 3, you must vote at your polling site. Hours are 6:30 am-7:30 pm

Still have questions, go to Vote411.org, [LWVNC answers to FAQs](#), and mecknc.gov/boe.

Voter Services

I would like to start out saying "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who have helped with our in person registration events as well as those who have helped assemble some 1,300 "Vote Information" packets for New Citizen ceremonies and for delivering to other groups and events. We are finding new ways help our citizens be engaged in the voting process.

Check out the Voting Guide on p. 3.

The Board of Elections has assured us that early voting sites, as well as the regular polling places, will be adhering to all safety guidelines. All poll workers will have PPE, ballot machines will be cleaned and all workers and voters will be socially distanced. The BoE is working hard to ensure that voters who chose to go vote in person will be safe, along with protecting the health of the poll worker.



Voter registration at Dillehay Courts

The Action Team's highly-praised CPCC presentation celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment was the topic for a Levine Museum of the New South virtual program Aug. 18. With the help of members Charles and Mary Love we were able to make this project into a video, complete with music [and narrated by Regan Aduddell-editor's note] which preceded the discussion led by former Museum historian Tom Hanchett. You can view our video [here](#). A recording of the entire program can be seen [here](#) featuring Regan and member **Carolyn Lyons**.

Here are some of the other activities your Voter Services Team will participate in:

--2020 Voter Engagement Webinar 6 pm, Wednesday, Sept. 2 hosted by Amplify Charlotte. You can register for this event at bit.ly/2020VoterEngagement.

--National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 22, in person registration at Compare Foods and virtually for high school students.

--Speaking on a zoom presentation to the CPCC student body on Constitution Day, Sept. 17.

While planned voter registration events at high schools have been put on hold, I have been attending zoom meetings with other organizations regarding ways to register students using social media, etc, as well as underserved demographics.

The League has been a part of numerous other zoom events giving voter information.

A few in person voter registration events (fully masked) have been conducted by the team. We have also sent copies of absentee ballot applications along with voter registration forms to several Housing Authority managers for distribution.

Another outreach is partnering with "Census Parades" in at risk communities, attending in a car decorated with Vote411.org signs.

We also expect to be partnering with Compare Foods in the filming of a 20-minute voter information video with translations into four different dialects to reach various groups of Hispanic Voters. The video will be posted on the Compare Foods Facebook feed that has 11,000 followers as well as being played on their in-store TV.

Voting materials have been translated into Spanish, and a Spanish language tutorial is already in use and can be viewed [here](#). It's in English [here](#).

--**Regan Aduddell**, Voter Services Chair

Live on a Busy Street?

Get a Vote411.org sign for your yard

Help us promote voting

Contact **June White** to arrange pickup at the League office, 1817 Central Ave., or tell her if you know of a good location.

704-622-2546

logie2@carolina.rr.com



Vote 411.org Car Magnets

Buy these and other Vote 411 and League items [here](#) or go to [Shop](https://shop.go-league.org) at go-league.org. Proceeds benefit LWVCM.

League Advocacy

Women Across Charlotte Tackle the Gender Pay Gap

Women gathered virtually on Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26, the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment being added to the US Constitution, for the first in a series of action-oriented events focused on closing the gender pay gap.

It is illegal to pay men more than women, yet women still make 80% or less than men for equal work. Equal pay day for women is April 12 - that's when earnings of women finally caught up with what men were paid the previous year. For Black women, the date was Aug. 22.

At the rate the gap is closing it will be 2060 before women see pay equity.



Cate Stadleman

Our virtual discussion was presented by the LWVCM Women's Action Team and partners comprising the Coalition for Pay Equity, a group of 12 Charlotte area organizations committed to making equity in earnings a reality for women. The team put together this coalition and participated in every aspect of planning and execution for the event.

The **Rev. Yolonda P. Holmes**, chair of the Charlotte Women's Advisory Board, moderated a panel discussion of two experts on advocacy for women's workplace rights, **Kate Nielson**, AAUW Director of Public Policy, and **Mary Williams-Stover**, executive director of NC Council for Women. A personal story of gender wage discrimination was offered by **Yvette Townsend-Ingram**.

A recording of the gender pay gap forum is [here](#). It starts about 3-1/2 minutes into the video.

Specific action items for women to support in the fight:

1. Join efforts to deliver education/awareness/training about the gender pay gap and how to close it
2. Support candidates and legislation to
 - Increase the minimum wage
 - Provide public-funded childcare
 - Provide paid family medical and sick leave
 - Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act
3. Pressure local employers to identify and correct gender pay inequities
 - Letter-writing campaign
 - In-person meetings with executives
 - Shareholder activism
4. Learn how to articulate your skills when negotiating pay increases. Learn for yourself or refer others to free AAUW Work Smart online training at: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary/>

—**Cate Stadleman**, Women's Issues Action Team Chair

Safety Concerns of Women and Girls

YWomenVote: A Non-Partisan Conversation on Safety, featuring YWCA USA's Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy, Catherine Beane, and CMPD's Deputy Chief Estella Patterson, will be offered Thursday, Sept. 10 at 12:30 pm via Webex.

Panelists have expertise in both current law as well as legislative efforts to improve safety of women and girls who have concerns about ending violence by law enforcement; deportation/detainment; keeping safe from mass shootings and gun violence; ending sexual harassment at work or sexual assault and domestic violence at home. and fearing consequences of white nationalism and hate crimes.

Through the discussion, the YWCA hopes to share legislative options on ways to take action through advocacy.

Register online [here](#).

League News

WELCOME To New and Returning Members

Margaret Davis
William Porter
Bre Griffin
Christopher Griffin
Lisa Landrum-May
Kate Shepard
Kristie Tighe
Pamela Nemecek

Wendy Bilas
James Michaels
Claudia Michaels
Suzanne Fetscher
Laura Gillette
Robert Payment
Barbara Freeman
Karina Mevs Korff

Brittany Wright
Amber Wright
Jacqueline Berg
Lucinda Lucas
Carolina Valder
Mary McAfee
Shanda Martin

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Sarah Belk Gambrell, who died July 30, 2020, at the age of 102. Mrs. Gambrell, a life member of the League (72 years), has generously supported our organization through the years.



Wanted: LWVCM Treasurer

With the sudden resignation of our new treasurer, LWVCM is looking for a person who will take the position immediately and serve on the Board of Directors.

Requirements include using a computer with Windows operating system and ability to use QuickBooks to work in an established system. Among the usual treasurer responsibilities, the treasurer administers the Paypal account and works with the membership committee collecting dues.

Contact President Delores Johnson Hurt at president@goleaguego.org or call her at 980-355-0054.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES NOW

The League year started July 1, and members approved a budget of \$27,739.00 which needs your support. The effectiveness of the League is dependent upon your membership.

You can pay online at goleaguego.org through Paypal or use the invoice on p. 7 to send your check to LWVCM. Please be sure to answer the survey questions for each member of your household.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2020-2021 AND DID NOT FILL OUT THE DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY, PLEASE USE THE INVOICE ON P. 7 TO DO SO.

You may mail it to us or scan and send it back to membership@goleaguego.org.



Voter Services Action Team's rendition of the iconic Love sign, shown under construction in John Mahoney's workshop, will be displayed on Yard Art Day, Mon-

day, Sept. 6, outside the League office at 1817 Central Ave. Yard art is expected to be on display only on Labor Day. Find out more about it [here](#).



ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

July started a new League year, and now is the time to pay your annual dues. LWV's fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

Status: Single Membership \$ 75.00 annual renewal
 Household membership: \$ 100.00

List name(s) _____

Make an additional contribution to LWV: _____

TOTAL PAID: _____

LWVCM is a 501(c)(3) organization. All payments are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law

DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY (Please complete survey for each individual member)

Ethnicity:

____ African-American ____ Asian-American ____ Caucasian

____ Hispanic or Latino ____ Indigenous American ____ Multi-Ethnic

____ Other ____ I prefer not to answer

Age:

____ Under 18 ____ 18 – 29 ____ 30 – 49

____ 50 – 65 ____ Over 65 ____ I prefer not to answer

Sex:

____ Female ____ Male ____ Other ____ I prefer not to answer

When paying by check, please complete and print this notice and enclose with your check made payable to LWV and mail to LWV Treasurer, 1817 Central Ave., Room 210 Charlotte NC 28205.

Alternatively you can pay dues online via our website and PayPal. Just scroll to the bottom of the Join/Renew page. To make an additional donation, click on the red Donate button. (Paying online includes a \$3 PayPal fee).

Thank you for renewing your membership. As always, we appreciate your support.

Beth Springston, Acting Treasurer
 704-661-4425 (cell phone)



1817 Central Ave., Rm 210
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dated Material
Forwarding Service Requested

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