

LWV CHARLOTTE SUFFRAGISTS

(Formerly YE OLDE BROADSIDE)

Presented for your edification by The Membership Committee of
The League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg

If you missed the results of a poll that measures how popular are different components of society, you can say you read it here. Congress, it seems, ranks in popularity below that of cockroaches and root canals.



What can be done? Look to an early League supporter for the answer:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead, American anthropologist (1901-1978)

Question: Which amendment to the constitution was attacked by its opponents claiming that it "Promoted socialism, free love, and the breakup of the American family?" You guessed it, the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote, and which said: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation". More than 40 years passed from the time the amendment was introduced in Congress until it was finally voted out and sent to the states for ratification in 1919.

Meanwhile, back home in Charlotte the first suffragists in North Carolina put together a suffrage float called "Votes for Women" and seven of Charlotte's bravest donned white, flowing dresses, positioned themselves on the float and in May of 1914 rode in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Independence Day Parade. Total expenditure, including several large banners, was \$10.00. They won third prize

Here we are, in February, 2013 with a room of our own at 1817 Central Avenue. Part of a group of non profits whose members come from all over the world. We are exploring new uses for our office that will engage more of our League members in our core mission. The maiden usage of our new space was by the Education Committee at its January meeting, chaired by Education Chair Gloria Cox. The committee was honored to have as their guest speaker for the evening Dr. Ann Clark, Assistant Superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. A few days later, the League held a brunch at which 24 folks heard Dr. Martha Kropf and Nancy Wiggins speak about the similarities, differences and problems with the Electoral College, and with the Popular Vote as methods for electing an United States President. June White and Barbara Ellis worked tirelessly on both Thursday and Friday to set up tables, help move needed furniture and supplies from cars into the office, and stayed to help with clean up and to move furniture back to cars! Several long time members who had not been active participants in the League came, as well as prospects for membership. \$280.00, proceeds from the brunch, was donated to the League fund for lease payments to International House.

Hot Topics moved from their former noisy and crowded meeting space to our office and enjoyed a lively discussion about guns in our society. Since there is no cafeteria in the building, we had to be content with crackers and cookies. Linda Levy conducted the discussion and had put together a comprehensive agenda to keep us on track. Lucille Howard, who chairs Hot Topics, will devise ways for managing food, since these meetings coincide with dinner/supper times. The 13 folk who came enjoyed the distraction free, private and open discussion provided by the office.

International House had their Gala Opening on Jan. 27th. All the organizations with space at IH were invited to hold open houses prior to the scheduled entertainment, and to contribute to the food provided for visitors. The League added homemade date-banana-nut bread, hummus, pita chips, and white pimento cheese to the many other donations. Judging by three empty platters, the League's contribution was a success. Our President, Janet Brinkley, Vice President Gloria

Cox, and Communications Director, Marta Carvajal talked with visitors to the LWV space and made them feel welcome, as did other League members.

Our Charlotte Chapter of The League of Women Voters is in the running for title of the chapter with the greatest number of new members for the period of Jan. 1, 2012 - Jan. 31, 2013. Since submitting our list of 31 new members, three more have joined.

GO LEAGUE GO!

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