



VOTER

League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg

March-April 2018

REACHING LWVCM

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Find updates for League action and activities at
goleaguego.org

Watch your email for more announcements

Don't Miss March 14 Lunch

The Education Team is pleased to present Janet Singerman speaking on Early Childhood Education (ECE) at the March 14 League Lunch. She is a dynamic speaker who, as head of Childcare Resources Inc., has been integrally involved with crafting sections of the Opportunity Charlotte report; assessing universal pre-K for Mecklenburg County and studying the financing for pre-K programming.

Please join us as we do our part to educate this community about the potential for ECE to contribute to advancing education equity in our schools.

See [p. 2](#) for more details.

You need a League t-shirt

To be more visible at community events and to promote Vote 411.org election information, wear our new attractive, affordable t-shirt.

The official League shirt is available at Big Frog Custom T-Shirts in Charlotte.

You can order [here](http://lowvbigfrogshirt.bigcartel.com/) at <http://lowvbigfrogshirt.bigcartel.com/> for \$13.35 plus tax. (\$15 for 2x size). Click on the shirt to start the process.

Big Frog will arrange shipping for a fee (call 704-919-0038) or pick it up at their store in Ballantyne, 3429 Toringdon Way.

If you act fast. . .you can get it to wear at:

March 6 Board of Elections Meeting, see p. 3

March 17 St. Patrick's Day Parade see p. 3



Debbie Snowdon models the new t-shirt as she accepts donations at the Evita performance.

**Attend Board of Elections Meeting March 6, 1:30 pm;
Monitor early voting opportunities. See p. 3.**

Coming Events

Nurturing Opportunity Right from the Start: The Critical Importance of Early Care & Education

Early childhood education (ECE) is something everyone seems to agree is a good thing. But dive in just a little and you will quickly find out it is a myriad of program names and funding schemes. The League invites you to join us at our March 14 League Lunch to hear Janet Singerman of Child Care Resources Inc. explain how the many facets of ECE work together and how such programs can impact all of us.



Where: International House Auditorium, 1817 Central Avenue

When: Wednesday, March 14 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Admission is free, but registration is requested. See below to RSVP and order lunch (optional) for \$10

Ms. Janet Singerman is President of Child Care Resources Inc. (CCRI). She is an engaging presenter, an expert on early learning systems development, and we welcome this opportunity to hear from her about the critical need for early childhood education.

CCRI is a private, non-profit child care resource and referral organization that is active at local, regional, state and national levels supporting young children, their families, early educators, school-age child care practitioners, and communities that rely on high quality early learning and school-age child care. CCRI's database on services, demand and trends is a vital aid to planners, business leaders and public and private sector decision-makers. Ms. Singerman has been a key resource and contributor as our community has wrestled with how to address the early child care and education needs in the county. <http://www.childcareresourcesinc.org/>

Registration is requested to **Tom Bowers** email [here](#), at goleaguego.org. Box lunches are \$10 payable at the door. To order a lunch, indicate in your reply to Tom your sandwich choice of ham, roasted turkey breast or chicken salad with almonds and pineapple. Bread choices are croissant, wheat wrap or telera bun. Vegetarian choice: spinach veggie wrap. Lunch order must be made by noon, Monday, 3/12.

League Talk Tuesday, April 17

Watch your email for details about the April 17 League Talk tentatively featuring two City Council members in a conversation about their time in office.

All League members are welcome to attend the **board meetings**, usually on the first Tuesday of each month. However, the March meeting will be on **Monday, March 5** to avoid conflicting with Civics 101.

Save these dates:

League Lunch May 9 with Board of Elections executive director Michael Dickerson.

Annual Meeting June 7, 6 pm

Calls to Action

Watch Board of Elections March 6 to Ensure Fair Practices

League members are urged to attend the Tuesday, March 6, meeting of the Mecklenburg Board of Elections to make the point that citizens are paying attention to the activities of the board as it considers **early election voting times and sites** for the 2018 elections. The meeting is at 1:30 pm, 741 Kenilworth Ave.

Wear your new light blue League t-shirt if you have one to emphasize the League's presence. There's still time to get one at the local provider (details p. 1).

The Fair Elections Action Team (FEAT), now led by **Ashleigh Morgan** and **Debbie Snowden**, have reorganized to focus on ensuring fair election practices and procedures in the 2018 elections since gerrymandering efforts are on hold across the state while waiting on court decisions. During a recent meeting with BOE staff, Director **Michael Dickerson** expressed "high regard" for the League and the role the group's presence has played in monitoring elections processes.

Members are urged to attend the March 6 meeting whether you have a t-shirt or not. Neither is it necessary to be a FEAT member to help increase visibility.

FEAT's next meeting is **Monday, March 12, 11:30am** at the League office. Bring a lunch and help this action team plan for the road ahead. Debbie notes that the group needs your ideas about

election-related activities and forums that we can join or sponsor. Contact Ashleigh or Debbie at masleigh37@gmail.com, debbie.snowdon@yahoo.com for more information.

Special note: Mr. Dickerson will be speaking at the May 9 League Lunch so watch for the invitation. He is an entertaining speaker with lots of insights and anecdotes about Mecklenburg's elections!



Ashleigh Morgan



Debbie Snowden

This year, Be In the St. Patrick's Day Parade

Boost League visibility with your participation in the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, Mar. 17, 11 am. **WEAR YOUR LEAGUE T-SHIRT.**

Join the fun of this annual event and bring others to march, then stay for the festival afterward.

Let **Debbie Snowden** know you are interested in participating so she can contact you with the last minute details about when and where to meet. Debbie.snowdon@yahoo.com



Photos from the January Martin Luther King Day Parade. Nearly a dozen League members and friends walked with signs. It was really cold!!



Elections 2018

USE VOTE411.COM FOR ELECTION INFORMATION

Coming April 8 across the state

This year, more than ever, voters need to be able to trust the information they are getting. Our state League has made the 2018 election a priority in their voter education efforts this year. LWVCM has used Vote411 to produce an online voter guide in the last three elections, as have several other NC leagues.

This year, LWVNC has an ambitious plan to cover all races in the state. That is 100 counties, and there are only 16 leagues to do it. But if we have covered all the bases, from local county races up to the US House, then we can do statewide PR to get the word out to voters that VOTE411.org is the go to site for non-partisan candidate information. April 8 is the expected date for the Candidate Guide to go live on the site.

I am part of the state steering committee committed to making this happen.

Here is how to get involved. League members can support the steering committee now:

1. Volunteers are needed to help contact candidates to make sure they answer their questionnaires. This can be done from your home when it's convenient for you, via phone, text or internet, during the month of March. Contact me if you have some time to help. WE NEED YOU.
2. Send us contacts at organizations we can ask to put our Vote411 button on their website, and,
3. Donations, of course. We're going to leverage as much free PR as we can, but money for actual advertising always helps. Any donation is tax deductible and can be made via check or our website on the Donate page. **Contact Beth to volunteer for these jobs.** —Beth Springston bethspr@gmail.com

2018 PRIMARY ELECTION SCHEDULE

Primaries for: US House of Representatives, State Senators, State Representatives, County Commissioner at Large, County Commission Districts, District Attorney, Clerk of Superior Court, Sheriff, Soil & Water Conservation District, Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges

April 13 Before 5 pm Last day to register for primary

April 19 First day for early voting

May 5 Before 1 pm Last day of early voting

May 8 PRIMARY ELECTION

Go to the county [Elections Board](#) website for more information

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE RECEIVES MORE GRANTS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION; LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are gearing up for the 2018 election by enlisting high school students to help their classmates register to vote. After being awarded another Youth Voter Grant from LWV Education Fund for \$700, our team has set a stretch goal of reaching 10 CMS high schools this spring. Drives are already planned for Garinger, West Charlotte, East Meck and Hawthorne.

In addition, we hope to have some roving volunteers with clipboards at the March For Our Lives (March 24, Trade & Tryon) to register even more young voters. **Please let me know if you are interested in registering our youth at the march.**

Of course, we continue to attend every naturalization ceremony in Charlotte (2-4 each week). Our plucky volunteers are there to assist our newest citizens to complete their first official act as US citizens. The ceremony is just an amazing event where E Pluribus Unum comes alive. **Please join us!**

We have applied for the LWV Education Fund grant for New Citizens Voter Registration for 2018. The requirements include conducting at least five voter registration events at naturalization ceremonies. As we currently attend 8-10 ceremonies a month, meeting

this requirement is not a problem.

The funding will be used to pay for postage to mail the completed voter registration forms to the other western NC County Boards of Elections, reminder-to-vote postcards and information on Vote411. —**Marian Silverman**, Contact Marian [here](#).

Debbie Snowden spoke at the NC Commission on Voting Rights which was taking public comments about voting access and voting rights, including voter fraud. Although not speaking for the League, she discussed the fear in many African-American communities about losing voting rights. You can hear her remarks [here](#) (very short) at 35:45. LWVNC President **Janet Hoy** also spoke later in the hearing. CCR Voting Rights Briefing Raleigh NC 2-2-18 Public Comment Section

In League

Civics 101 Filled for Winter Class

The 2018 winter class of Civics 101 was filled with 60 women and men, responding to notices from the *Charlotte Observer*, Next Door postings, website announcements and word of mouth.

Tom Murdock, Civics 101 director, reported that this class has the following approximate make-up: female-male, 63%-37%; Black-White, 19%-81%; senior-non-senior, 46%-54%.

Several students had very positive comments about the "Budget Analysis Exercise," presented by Alicia Dasch, Strategy and Budget Analyst for the city of Charlotte. Former Mayor Vinroot received high praise for his non-partisan remarks about his experience and thoughts about the future. Tom said he was especially effective when he spoke about his partnership with former Gov. Jim Martin working on fair election districts.

Civics 101 will wrap up with a graduation dinner at the *Charlotte Observer* office March 6.



Welcome New Members

Maria Donoto
Jill Blumenthal
Monique Aduddell
Regan Aduddell-Mahoney
Elizabeth Welshonda Crowder
Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
Sylvia Ross
Patti Hejney-Kahle
Kelly Hofstutter
Stephen Hofstutter
Carolyn M. Lyons

LWVNC Invites All Members to Regional Council Meetings

A chance to focus on 2018 election work that is going on all over the state is open to all League members at two satellite council meetings of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina.



Above, Janet Hoy, and right, Margaret Salinger, LWVNC co-presidents.

Choose the Saturday, March 10 Council in Durham or Saturday, March 24 in Hendersonville to get updates on the action teams of the state League, network with members of other Leagues and get inspired hearing their plans. The free program starts at 9 am,



ends at 2 pm and lunch is provided.

Registration is can be accomplished [here](#). More information is on the website at www.lwvnc.org or contact Beth Springston, a LWVNC board member.

Notable Members

President Delores Johnson

Hurt last month received one of four Alumni Distinguished Service Awards from Winthrop University. She was the first African-American undergraduate at the SC school. Read more about her other awards & achievements [here](#).



First Vice President Tom E.

Bowers has completed a seven-day training by the Augustine Literacy Project based on dyslexia principles of phonemics and phonics. Its motto is "one tutor changing two lives." He will be tutoring a first grader at Billingsville Elementary.



LWVNC is involved in four redistricting lawsuits, challenging legislative and congressional maps drawn by the General Assembly as unconstitutional racial gerrymanders and a subsequent congressional map—drawn to replace a court-rejected map—as unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering. Get the latest updates [here](#).

LWVUS is taking action to fight voter suppression and expand voter access by supporting automatic and on-line voter registration legislation. LWVUS is fighting voter suppression by challenging intentional barriers to the right to vote all over the US. Check out judicial and legislative efforts [here](#).

Women's Rights

Remarks by Delores Johnson Hurt—2018 Women's March in Charlotte

Women's rights are human rights!

Gender justice is racial justice is economic justice!

Civil rights are our birthright!

Your liberation is my liberation!

Those words are from last year's Women's March on Washington. And I believe the strength of those words is on display today as we celebrate the one year anniversary of the Charlotte Women's March, the diversity of women on this stage, and the thousands of you who are here to say: We're still here and we're not going away.

For those of you who don't know about the League of Women Voters, we are a **non-partisan, grassroots, political** organization that been around for almost 100 years.

The founders of the League of Women Voters and their predecessors led a 70-year fight for the **right of women to vote** in this country. After protesting, marching in blizzard conditions in front of the White House, going on hunger strikes and lobbying legislators, women in the United States were finally able to vote in 1920.

I wanted you to know about the League of Women Voters because our organization is not new to the struggle of fighting for **voting rights and equal rights and civil rights and women's rights and a representative government for all.**

We were and are the original warriors for women's rights in this country and I'm glad to represent here today.

In my opinion, there have been three great movements led by women in the last 100 years in the United States :

- The fight for women to vote
- The feminist movement of the 60's
- Now, though still in its infancy, the Women's March to reclaim our country.

Today, we march to reclaim a democratic nation being destroyed at its core.

Tactics of divide and conquer - by race, religion, gender and socio-economic status are now how the United States is known around the world.



Delores speaking at women's march.

In the past several years we've lost voting rights through gerrymandering and voter suppression. There have been attacks on freedom of speech and freedom of the press. We've lost transparency and accountability. There's been a rise in the visibility of white supremacy.

But **we** must remain true to the **values and vision and principles** put forth in our Constitution and what had made America great.

So what do we do? We must vote! We must promote and support candidates who share our belief system. We must convince the populace - that if they don't vote in the best interest of all Americans, the American dream we wish this country to be will be destroyed.

We women are leading the latest, greatest progressive movement for justice in this country. And we must continue to fight to keep anyone from turning us around.

Our power is at the polls. Thank you!



League members Beth Springston, Peg Chapin & Mary Klenz



Shanda Martin, center, teaches Beth Springston and Delores Hurt tips on tweeting

Celebrate **International Women's Day March 8** in Charlotte at an event to bring change to move women forward toward gender parity, using this year's theme **#PressforProgress**. The program will be at the International Center, 1817 Central, March 8, 6:30 pm

For questions, call 732-586-6075 or charlotteintl-womenday@gmail.com



Education Action Team

With a large contingent of League members and others from allied organizations, the LWVCM Education Committee made an impressive presentation to the CMS Board of Education about their findings **showing how inequitable schools in the district are**. Committee members spoke about their statistical findings regarding principal and staff stability along with teacher ex-



Helene Hilger addresses the board

perience and credentialing.

"If parents, educators, and School Board members were asked to describe the factors they believe are important or desirable for student success, high on everyone's list would likely be

principal and staff stability along with significant teacher experience and credentialing. Sadly, this analysis shows that schools with high concentrations of our less educationally advantaged families, are much less likely to have these attributes than schools with high percentages of more advantaged families. In these critical areas, our schools are not equitable," committee chairman **Helene Hilger** told the board.

She pointed out the "significant correlation" between high needs schools and lower achievement levels, as well as lower student growth.

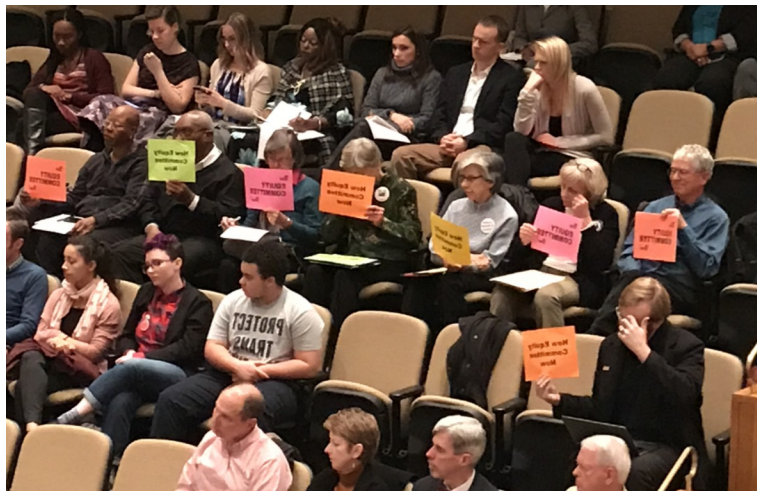
Along with other recommendations from the committee, **Tom Bowers** called on the board to re-establish its Equity Committee "to focus on and assess progress on equity issues impacting student achievement."

Read the full report [here](#).

Since the presentation, the committee has been meeting individually with school board members and Supt. Clayton Wilcox to discuss the report and recommendations as well as with numerous other interested organizations.

Committee meetings set for first Wednesday of each month.

Next meeting: March 7, 1:30 pm



School board member Thelma Byers-Bailey

Unified: A Political Harmony Seminar Featured East Meck Students



From left, Miracle Okoro, Layna Hong, Emily Robinson, Stephanie Suster, Simon Gordon and Kaylee Schwanke.

Charlotte's Violence Problem is Primarily Domestic Violence

Robert Dawkins of the Safe Coalition, told League members that domestic violence is the biggest issue in Charlotte and has been kept quiet to protect the city's image.

While the city needs some short term fixes, it also needs to take a long look at the root causes of violence here.

He also described the Univ. of Chicago's Interruption Program which has worked to cure violence in neighborhoods.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG**

1817 Central Ave., Rm. 210
Charlotte, NC 28205



Advocate—Educate—Empower

Visit LWVCM's Website:
www.goleaguego.org

Dated Material

Forwarding Service Requested

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. 5 (Mon)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Mar. 6 (Tues)	Board of Elections meeting, 1:30 pm, 741 Kenilworth Ave., p. 3
Mar. 6 (Tues)	Civics 101 Graduation, Charlotte Observer 6:15 pm, p. 5
Mar. 7 (Wed)	Education Committee, 1:30 pm, League Education Center, p. 7
Mar. 10 (Sat)	LWVNC Regional Council, Durham, p. 5
Mar. 14 (Wed)	League Lunch, 11:45 am, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., page 2
Mar. 17 (Sat)	St. Patrick's Day Parade, p. 3
Mar. 24 (Sat)	LWVNC Regional Council, Hendersonville, p. 5
Apr. 3 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Apr. 4 (Wed)	Education Committee, 1:30 pm, League Education Center, p. 7.
Apr. 17 (Tues)	League Talk, 6:30 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
May 1 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
May 9 (Wed)	League Lunch, 11:45 am, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., page 2

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