

Empowering Voters.
Protecting Democracy.

Newsletter for January 2023

REACHING LWVCM

Voice Mail:
704-556-4600

E-mail:
goleagueo@gmail.com

On the Web:
www.goleagueo.org
[www.facebook.com/League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg](https://www.facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersofCharlotteMecklenburg)

Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/lwvcm>

Twitter:
@lwvcm

Newsletter Editor:
Sara Baysinger
newslettereditor@goleagueo.org

1900 Queens Road, Suite A
Charlotte, NC 28207

100 Year of Struggling for Constitutional Equality... How Long Must We Wait?

In 1923, three years after the ratification of the 19th amendment, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was drafted by suffragist Alice Paul and proposed in Congress by Daniel Anthony, nephew of Susan B. Anthony. Called the “Lucretia Mott Amendment” it stated: “Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.” Although designed to secure full equality for women and supported by the National Women’s Party and notables such as Amelia Earhart, it failed to pass. Labor leaders, fearing passage of the ERA would threaten their hard-won laws protecting women in the workplace, ensured its defeat.

Alice Paul rewrote the Amendment in 1943 using language mirroring legislation that had recently passed. The new version stated: “The equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.” A year later Paul succeeded in persuading the two major parties to include the ERA in their platforms.

“We shall not be safe until the principle of equal rights is written into the framework of our government.” —Alice Paul

The ERA was introduced in each successive congressional session of Congress until its passage by both houses in 1972 with the support of organized labor and women’s rights organizations including the League of Women Voters. Unfortunately, a 7-year deadline was added to the Constitution requiring ratification by two thirds of the states by 1979.

Twenty-two of the thirty-eight required states ratified during the first year. Subsequent years, however, saw furious opposition to the ERA as some states issued rescissions; the Republican Party removed it from its platform and protests were launched by right-wing and fundamentalist religious organizations. When the 1979 deadline arrived, full ratification was found lacking by three states. Bowing to pressure from the public, Congress granted an extension to June 30, 1982.

Advocacy by almost eighty women’s rights organizations persisted and finally, the state of Virginia found her place in the history books in 2020 as she became the 38th state to ratify, thereby enabling the ERA to reach the required minimum dictated by Congress.

Despite this historic achievement, the struggle for women’s equality is still being waged. **It has been 100 years since ERA was first introduced and 50 years since it was passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification.** Why? A memo issued by the Trump Administration has led to the National Archives Department’s refusal to publish the ERA and allow its adoption as law. Representative Carolyn Maloney, D-NY, opines that it is “outrageous that one unelected official is stopping women from getting into the Constitution.”

Current efforts in support of the United States Congress removing the time limit Legal scholars have stated that if Congress has the legal standing

(Continue on page 7.)

In This Issue:

Page 2 Coming Events
Page 3-4 League Action & Happenings
Page 5 President’s Perspective
Page 6 League News
Page 7 Pres’ Perspective/ERA
Page 8 ERA Advocacy Continues!
Find updates for League action and activities at goleagueo.org



ClubExpress is here! Set up your member profile today to enjoy all the benefits of the new platform.

Coming Events

Coming Up in January, February, and March

- **Jan. 3, 6:30pm:** Board Meeting
- **Jan. 9:** *Carrie Chapman Catt Birthday*
- **Jan. 16:** *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- **Jan. 17, 7pm:** [League Talk: Analysis of NC 2022 Midterms by Professor Michael Bitzer](#)
- **Jan. 26, 6:30pm:** Equity Impact: CMS Revised Comprehensive Plan hybrid meeting
- **Jan. 31, 7pm:** [LWVCM Book Club: "The Chaos Machine by Max Fisher"](#)
- **February:** *Black History Month*
- **Feb. 1:** *National Freedom Day*
- **Feb. 1, 6pm:** [Civics 101 Program: Mecklenburg County Board of Elections](#)
- **Feb. 7, 6:30pm:** Board Meeting
- **Feb. 8, 11:30am:** Lunch with the League: US Attorney for the Western District of NC, Dena J. King
- **Feb. 8, 6pm:** [Civics 101 Program: Mecklenburg County Government](#)
- **Feb. 15, 6pm:** [Civics 101 Program: City of Charlotte Government](#)
- **Feb. 20:** *Presidents' Day*
- **Feb. 22, 6pm:** [Civics 101 Program: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools \(CMS\) Board of Education](#)
- **March:** *Women's History Month*
- **Mar. 1, 6pm:** [Civics 101 Program: North Carolina Court System \(District 26\)](#)
- **Mar. 7, 6:30pm:** Board Meeting
- **Mar. 8, 6pm:** [Civics 101 Program: Media Panel](#)
- **Mar. 9:** *International Women's Day*
- **Mar. 15:** *Equal Pay Day*
- **Mar. 25, 10am:** Keep Charlotte Beautiful Street Cleanup
- **Mar. 28, 7pm:** LWVCM Book Club

League Announcements

- Follow the LWVCM on [Outreach Circle!](#) See what Actions you can take for the League and our Democracy. Current Actions include applying for the [LWV Specialty License Plate](#) and advocating for the publication of the [ERA](#).
- Mark your calendars for the **LWVNC Convention** which will be held in Charlotte at the DoubleTree Southpark from May 19-21.
- Be advised: future event invitations will come in the form of emails with links to our Events page as we transition away from Evite in favor of Club Express.
- **Meetings to be held at the League office** and conference rooms may be booked through LWVCM President Suzanne Elsberry (dessuz@bellsouth.net).



League Action & Happenings

Jan. League Talk to Analyze North Carolina 2022 Midterm Election Results

Dr. Michael Bitzer, Professor of Politics and History at Catawba College will be the speaker for LWVNC League Talk on Tuesday, January 17 which may be accessed at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Those interested in participating may register [here](#) or via the League website goleaguego.org using the Events page. Registrants will receive a Zoom link upon registration.



Dr. Bitzer will bring his expert political knowledge and experience to his discussions of the 2022 Midterms with a specific focus on the judicial races for North Carolina's Supreme Court. In addition, he will examine oral arguments delivered to the SCOTUS justices in the Moore vs. Harper case and offer his opinion of our state's political outlook considering the affect of gerrymandering.

Dr. Bitzer's most recent book, published last year, is entitled: [Redistricting and Gerrymandering in NC: Battlegrounds in the Tar Heel State](#).

Numerous local, state and national news outlets have sought his professional analyses over the years and political devotees follow his Blog: [Old North State Politics](#). Dr. Bitzer can also be found on Twitter [@BowTiePolitics](#).

Feb. Lunch with the League to Welcome U.S. Attorney for the Western District of NC

The LWVNC is thrilled to welcome Dena J. King as our speaker for Lunch with the League on February 8 in room 250 of the Myers Park Baptist Church.

Visit the League website goleaguego.org using the Events page in the coming days to register. Participants may bring their own lunches or order them at the time of registration.



U.S. Attorney King was officially sworn in as United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina on November 29, 2021. She has more than 15 years in public service, and leads an office of approximately 100 federal prosecutors and staff, located in Charlotte and in Asheville, that serves more than three million residents throughout North Carolina's 32 westernmost counties, including residents of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Reservation.

U.S. Attorney King joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of North Carolina in September 2020, as Deputy Criminal Chief overseeing the Violent Crimes and Narcotics Section, and as Lead Task Force Attorney for the Office's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program.

League Action & Happenings

Redistricting Team Update

Oral arguments for Moore v Harper were heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on December 7. This case, filed by the NC legislature seeks a ruling on Independent State Legislative theory. It posits that state legislatures should have unfettered control over federal elections within our state. In short, state courts could no longer weigh in on unconstitutional maps or other federal election details—a direct attack on checks and balances. Spurious yes, but three justices have already indicated support. A win for the legislature will throw North Carolina elections into turmoil, and democracy will be horribly damaged, likely permanently. Expect a ruling by June 30, 2023.

On December 16, the North Carolina Supreme Court struck down state Senate map/voter ID law. In a vote along party lines, the court declared that 2018 S.B. 824 was enacted with racially discriminatory intent, and therefore violated the State Constitution's equal protection clause. Enforcement of the law had been enjoined while the case was pending since February 2020. Good news for now, but the State Supreme Court will flip to a GOP majority after the first of year. Expect to see voter ID and other voter suppression tactics back soon...and with a new court unlikely to object.

LWVCM to Host Public Meeting on the Revised CMS Comprehensive Plan

On January 26, the LWVCM will host a public engagement session "Impact on Equity: How Will the Revised CMS Comprehensive Plan Improve Educational Opportunities for All Students?" at the Government Center. Similar to our November 15 League Talk, this session will feature CMS staff discussing boundaries and student assignment, magnet programs, and facilities ahead of a proposed bond referendum in 2023.

The League's objective with this second meeting is to provide the community the opportunity to hear about and give feedback on the revised plan before the CMS staff presents it to the CMS Board in February. The CMS staff led by Facilities Consultant Dennis LaCaria, Director of Programming Dr. Claire Schuch and Director of Magnet Programs Walter Hall will present their revised plan that incorporates valuable community feedback.

Those interested in attending the meeting may sign up for in-person or virtual options on the events page of the League website goleaguego.org. Questions and feedback may still be shared with the staff by sending an email to: cmsreview23@cms.k12.nc.us.



Voter Services Team Update

I would first like to truly thank all the voter service volunteers! Without your time, effort, and enthusiasm we would never have been able to have such a successful 2022. We were able to host 60+ community voter registration events. Members in North Meck did a fantastic job of increasing our outreach in Huntersville, Cornelius, and Davidson. We hosted events in marginalized communities both registering and empowering voters. We then reached back out to those who wanted a text before the election. We also hosted events in Union County and made great contacts in Gaston for next year. The voter service team has increased our community partners and we look forward to working with them in 2023. We were fortunate to partner with the School of Social Work at UNCC and work with students on voter engagement. We plan on expanding this program next year. We hosted registration events on college campuses in Mecklenburg and Union counties as well as multiple high school settings. We partnered with ERA Alliance and the Delta Sigma Theta Inc Sorority to bring the RVG Bus (Ruthless Vote Getter) to Charlotte and registered and empowered voters in a low voter turn out community and a local brewery! Of course, our New Citizen registration program is extremely successful and we are very fortunate to have the partnership with USCIS. Leta Bosc continues to be volunteer coordinator of the year; we logged 700+ volunteers hours and registered 4500+ new citizens. We sent out 6000+ postcards with Vote411 information to all our new citizens as well as folks in surrounding counties that we covered for Vote411. I attended a lecture by Dr Michael Bitzer after the Nov election and learned some very interesting information about voter trends. I plan on taking this information and working to further develop a voter registration, education program working hard to expand our outreach in Union and Gaston counties.

I look forward to working with all our volunteers in 2023. If anyone has input or ideas for voter outreach or education, or would like to learn about opportunities, please reach out to me, Regan Aduddell, at raduddell61@gmail.com. Thank you again for all that you do.

Civics 101 Registration Is Open (and It's Free!)

LWVCM will run its popular Civics 101 Program on six consecutive Wednesday evenings from February 1 through March 8. Sessions will cover the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections, Mecklenburg County Government, City of Charlotte Government, CMS/Board of Education, the Court System, and a panel on Media Literacy. Register by clicking the [link here](#). Questions? Email us at: civics101@goleaguego.org

LWVCM President's Perspective



"LWVCM Year In Review"

As we said adieu to 2022 and move into 2023, many of us took part in New Year traditions: sipping champagne, rattling noisemakers, counting down to midnight, New Year kisses, singing Auld Lang Syne and reflecting on events of the passing year. LWVCM had a busy, productive year characterized by many exciting events and challenging changes. Here are some of the 2022 highlights:

Transitions-Out with the old, in with the new...

- * Headquarters move to the Education Building at Myers Park Baptist Church
- * Revival of the popular Civics 101 Program on local government
- * Merger with the Union County MAL Unit
- * Launch of new membership engagement platform, Club Express

League Talk and Lunch with the League-An important mission of the league is to educate...

- * Nicole Dozier (NC Justice Center)-Medicaid Expansion
- * Lisa Sorg (NC Policy Watch)-Environmental Concerns in NC
- * Robert Wilson (Former NC Assistant Secretary of State)-Voting Rights, Diversity in Government
- * Kevan Woodson (Project Commissioner)-Reimagining America Project
- * Retrina Campbell (Common Cause NC)/Mitchell Brown (Southern Coalition for Social Justice)-Moore v. Harper
- * Shamaie Haynes/Greg and Helms Jarell (QC Family Tree)-Systematic Racism in Meck Co. Government
- * Mayor Jennifer Roberts/Retired NC Supreme Court Justice Robert Orr-Carter Center Trusted Elections Tour
- * Dennis LaCaria, Dr. Claire Schuch and Walter Hall (CMS Staff)-Impact on Equity: Comprehensive Review Plan

Special Events-Action Teams and Board sponsored programs with Community Partners

- * Professor Cheryl Spainhour (UNCC)-Annual Meeting: Combatting Misinformation in Political News
- * Pre-Midterm Election Voting Rights Workshops (Universal Unitarian Church)-All Aspects of Voting
- * Political Forums for the Midterms and General Election-participated as sponsors, planners, and moderators
- * Adopt-a-Stream & Keep Charlotte Beautiful projects-volunteering in our community
- * Women's Equality Day-LWVCM/AAUW Panel: Women's Firsts and Representation and Real Political Power
- * Earth Day Celebration at First Ward Park (Environment & Sustainability Team)-Focus on Children/Families and honoring local women leaders with environmental vision and voter registration
- * New Member Orientation Meeting-New members learn about LWVCM Action Teams and League operation and a lesson on Advocacy-Gary Kenton, LWVNC Advocacy Chair
- * Charlotte Pride Parade-Support for LGBTQ+ community and civil liberties-Voter Registration and Vote411
- * International Delegation-U.S. State Department-visited LWVCM to learn about community groups

(continues on page 7)

League News

Welcome New League Members

New Members in December 2022

Katherine "Katie" Grant Anna Czerniak
Mary Hicks Lakshmi Menon

Member Reminders

1. You can now go to our updated website at www.goleaguego.org to pay dues and to sign up for Interest groups.
2. For the February meeting of Lunch with the League, you will be able to order lunch or bring your own. Payment will be by cash or check at the door. Watch for the menu offerings and how to order with the forthcoming invitation.
3. We are phasing out the use of Evite for our event invitations in favor of our new platform ClubExpress. Announcements of events will appear in the Voter and via emails with links for registration. Event details can always be found on the Events tab of our website: www.goleaguego.org

LWVCM Nominating Committee Calls for Candidates for 2023-2024 Slate

The League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg Nominating Committee, chaired by Donna Armbrister, will soon begin the process of identifying Candidates for the next slate of Officers and Directors for the chapter's 2023 Election. Elections are held during the Annual Meeting in June, therefore the committee wants to get an early start on the selection process.

The committee is seeking potential candidates for both Officers and Board of Directors positions. Those interested in serving, whether a seasoned member or new to the League, should contact Donna Armbrister via email: darmbrister44@gmail.com.

ClubExpress Corner: Member Profiles, Calendar, Support

LWVCM has transitioned to our new member engagement platform, [ClubExpress](http://www.goleaguego.org). What does that mean for you? The website that you use to stay connected to the League of Women Voters has a new look and feel. The web address remains that same, but if you had the old site saved to your favorites, I recommend that you unfavorite it, clear your cache/cookies, and type www.goleaguego.org anew from the web address bar.

Once you login, take some time to explore the website. Become familiar with how it is designed. Everyone that has an email address on file should have received a Welcome Letter to our new club platform with your username and password. If you have not received the Welcome Letter, please check your spam folder. In the coming weeks, we will send out letters again to members who have not activated their account.



In Phase 1 of our rollout, we are focused on members setting up their Member Profile and using the Calendar. Take a moment to watch this extremely user friendly [Tutorial Video](#) on how to set up your profile. We encourage all members to set up your profile and log in when you RSVP for future events. This will help to automate reminder emails about events for which you are registered.

If you encounter any technical issues logging in, please contact ClubExpress Support directly.

-Shanda Martin, LWVCM Webmaster and Board Member



Phone: 1-866-457-2582

Email: support@clubexpress.com

Support hours : 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM Central
(7:30 AM to 10:00 PM Eastern)

Monday-Friday

LWVCM President's Perspective (cont'd from page 5)

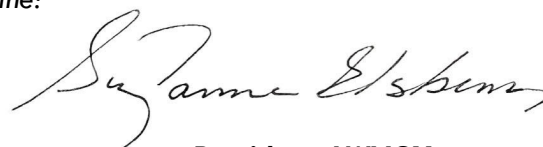
- * Liaised for LWVNC and the Carter Center Trusted Elections Tour in 14 NC Congressional Districts
- * Holiday Party-Members and guests enjoyed comradery, networking and festive refreshments in a lovely home
- * Professor Susan Roberts (Davidson College)-"2022 Midterms: Women Candidates and Gender Stereotypes"
- Advocacy-Influencing Public Policy**
- * Women's Issues Action Team-Published first Gender Pay Equity Scorecard and took on Reproductive Rights issue
- * Redistricting Action Team-State Hearings/City Council and Mecklenburg County Commission-Member Testimony
- * Common Cause Media Event- LWVCM members spoke during oral arguments to SCOTUS: Moore v. Harper
- * Gerrymandering/Redistricting/Voter suppression and Erosion of democracy-Extensive lobbying and advocacy
- * Vote411 Launch-Covered Cabarrus, Lincoln, Union, Gaston, Iredell & Mecklenburg counties
- Local, State, National & International Meetings-attended by LWVCM Delegations**
- * LWVNC State Council (Morehead City) "Making Democracy Work: We Did It Awards"
- * LWVUS Convention (Denver, CO) Protested overturning of Roe v. Wade at State Capitol
- * Cities Fortifying Democracy (Berlin, Germany)-Representatives from American and European cities confront challenges to engaging citizens and strengthening democracies
- * 75th Anniversary Celebration LWVODC (Chapel Hill)-Keynote speaker Dr. Deborah Turner, LWVUS President
- * LWVNC DEI Workshop and Gertrude Weil Dedication (Greensboro)-Networking, learning about DEI and non-partisanship in LWV

It's been said that grassroots organizations such as ours are the safety nets of our communities. Considering that, I extend a special thank you to members who made generous monetary donations to LWVCM and to those who gave so selflessly of their time, resources and passion to League programs and initiatives. The League has empowered the vote and defended democracy for nearly 103 years because of the dedication and loyalty of our greatest asset-our members!

Tradition demands a toast to the New Year and so here is mine:

May the best day of your past be the worst day of your future!

Happy New Year!



President, LWVCM

(Continued from page 1.)

to instate a deadline for a constitutional amendment, they also have the legal standing to remove a deadline. Legislation has been proposed to officially remove the deadline for the ERA. If passed by both houses, legal scholars state that the ERA could potentially be ratified now that the necessary 38 states have voted to ratify the amendment.

The refusal to publish and adopt the ERA is costly to our economy, especially to women who constitute 57.7% of the U.S. adult population. The gender pay gap represents a yearly loss of \$956 billion to women and their families. If the ERA fails to become law, the guarantees, protections and all the gains women have won can be undone by future legislation or court decisions. When the ERA becomes law women in the United States will finally have fundamental equality and equal protection.

Women have waited a hundred years for the fundamental equality granted by the Constitution. Our governmental leadership regularly changes from Progressive to Conservative. It is vital therefore that we work to prevent women from losing their rights (voting, privacy, reproductive, speech) or even constitutional rights because of changes in prevailing political opinion. The time has come to add the ERA to our Constitution now!

—Co-authored by Suzanne Elsberry & Cate Stadelman, LWVCM Women's Action Team

100 years after of the introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment, the would-be 28th Amendment to the Constitution remains unpublished. Below, ERA advocates take part in the Alice Paul Memorial March in Washington, D.C. in 1977.



1900 Queens Road, Suite A
Charlotte, NC 28207

Dated Material

Forwarding Service Requested