

Equality Day marks women's successes

BY JENNIFER ALLEN

CARTERET NEWS-TIMES

August 31, 2007

MOREHEAD CITY —

About 65 members of the League of Women Voters, guests and local politicians gathered Sunday in the Bryant Student Center on the campus of Carteret Community College to celebrate Equality Day, the day women were given the right to vote.

At the event, Alice Copes and the late Doris Stanley were honored in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of Coastal Carolina, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

The League of Women Voters of Carteret County, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization, hosted the event that celebrates the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which was adopted on Aug. 26, 1920, giving women the right to vote in this nation.

Brenda Rogers, vice president of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina, addressed the crowd prior to a speech from Paula Wolf, a contract lobbyist who primarily works with nonprofit organizations, including the League of Women Voters.

Both women acknowledged the need for the League of Women Voters to build membership – regardless of age and sex – as well as the need for more people to register, vote and be informed citizens.

“The League of Women Voters has two major focuses,” said Ms. Rogers. “The first is advocacy and the second is getting our membership recruitment off the ground.”

She said North Carolina is one of five states chosen to be in this membership recruitment initiative being taken by the National League of Women Voters to encourage more eligible voters to join the organization.

Mrs. Wolf explained voters' options, such as one-stop voter locations that allow voting two weeks before an election, same-day voter registration and how to register to vote.

She also addressed the wage disparity between men and women – on average women still earn about 77 cents to the dollar a man earns – the number of women who are not voting and the potential reasons why and stressed the need for all people to exercise their right to vote.

“I think that almost everything I've worked on, I've worked on since I was 19 years old and I am still working on it,” said Mrs. Wolf following the program. “It's essential for young women to get involved in these issues and not take the gains women have made for granted – we still have a lot of work to do.”

To find out more information on the League of Women Voters of Carteret County, call 726-8183 or e-mail Gayle Mitchener at gmitchener@ec.rr.com.

For more information on voting in Carteret County, visit www.carteretcountyboe.org.