

Here Friday

Celebration Commemorates Women's Right To Vote

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
A celebration will be held Friday, August 26, commemorating women's right to vote.

The nineteenth amendment which grants that right was passed August 26, 1920. Ella Talley, president of Black Women's Caucus and Kathy Gordon a board member of the Charlotte Women's Political Caucus explained the celebration in Charlotte will be held Friday beginning at noon in Discovery Place.

Gordon emphasized that celebrations similar to the one in Charlotte will be held across the country. The noontime program will be free and open to the public. "Participants may bring their lunch or order a \$4.50 lunch," Gordon added. All orders must be placed by August 23.

The guest speaker for the local celebration will be Warlene Gray, manager of Intergovernmental Relations for the National Education Association in Washington, D.C. Entertainment will be provided by singer-guitarist Sandra Bailey and actress Karen Jones Meadows. Meadows will portray the life of Harriet Tubman, an abolitionist during the Civil War.

"We'll have a voter registration drive and

women from the sponsoring organizations will be wearing costumes of early days," Talley mentioned. Other co-sponsors of the event include Mecklenburg County Women's Commission, Charlotte YWCA, League of Women Voters, The Links, Inc., Charlotte NOW, American Association of University Women, and Women's Career Center at Central Piedmont Community College.

This is the third consecutive year Charlotte has recognized such a celebration, informed Gordon. Initially it was created by the Mecklenburg County Women's Commission. For Mrs. Talley's organization this is the first year of participation. While she admits to some improvement in women's right, Talley stressed black women have a much longer way to go because they have a dual role. "Being black and female makes it even harder for women to gain equality," commented Mrs. Talley.

Gordon agreed with Talley and stated before the Women's Political Caucus and Black Women's Political Caucus began working together, she didn't realize the black woman's struggle. "I knew black women, like white women, suffered from sexism but the thought of racism

never stood out," Gordon projected. She believes the coalition of women's groups especially during Equality Days helps to make their objectives more effective.

"It's important to celebrate the woman's right to vote because it's the only right specifically guaranteed to women in the Constitution," Gordon mentioned. Talley believes the celebration is important and necessary to recognize all the black and white women who "came before the women fighting for equal rights today."

Talley encourages people to attend the celebration Friday. "I believe we can open a lot of closed doors for people," she assured. According to Talley, many people, especially women, are afraid to look into various women's groups and discover their purposes. "If you sit behind closed doors without ever opening them, you won't know the needs and wants of society," Talley insisted.

One issue many women groups in Charlotte are carefully watching is the Minority Women Business Enterprise Bill in State Legislature. Positive action on the bill will give local government the power to decide for themselves the percentage of contracts which must be designated to women and minority businesses, according to Talley. With more women appointed to political boards (one of the priorities of women organizations) Talley and Gordon are hoping the passage of MWBE will not be as outdrawn as other bills affecting women have been in the past.

Though the right for women to vote was passed in 1920, North Carolina didn't ratify the amendment until 1971. For more information about the Women's Equality Day celebration, call the Women's Commission Office at 374-3210.

People who wish to reserve a box lunch provided by Palatable Pleasures should make checks payable to Women's Equality Day—Barbara Bernath, Mecklenburg County Women's Commission, 700 N. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202. Ice tea will be furnished at no charge by O'Neills.



The Charlotte Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta recently honored Mrs. Eloise Morton after she retired from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. Dedicated to the county school system for 38 years, Mrs. Morton retired from Merry Oaks Elementary School. The retirement party was held in the auditorium of the AME Zion Publishing House. A native of Winston-Salem and a graduate of Atkins High School, Mrs. Morton received the B.A. degree from Winston-Salem State University and her master's degree from Columbia University. Before moving to Charlotte, Mrs. Morton taught at a school in Enfield, N.C. After relocating she taught at Briarfield before joining the staff at Merry Oaks. A member of Zeta Phi Beta

Sorority, Mrs. Morton is the recording secretary and chairman of the Special Projects Committee for the organization. She is a member of First United Presbyterian Church where she serves as elder and chairman of the Christian Education Department. She is also chairman of the Good Cheer Committee and the Women's Organization. A widow, Mrs. Morton has one daughter, Yvonne.

WOMANREACH Seminar

WomanReach, Inc. will offer a seminar called "Understanding Self and Others and the Nature of Tasks," Tuesday, September 20 - October 4, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at WomanReach, Inc. 1009 East Blvd. This seminar will be for women and men and is designed to help you find and understand how you work with people.

In order to participate in this workshop series, you must register and return a completed inventory questionnaire (available at WomanReach, Inc.; to WomanReach with a check for \$5 payable to Central Piedmont Community College no later than August 31 (a cost of material fee). For more information and to register, call 334-3614 weekdays 10 - 4 p.m.

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Voter Registration Drive

Continued from Page 1

Other registration drives will take place August 19 at 6 p.m. at Park-N-Shop in Tryon Mall at 6:30 at the North Park Mall. From 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Saturday, registrars will be located at Meadow Oaks Picnic area, Christ the King Center, Freedom and Eastland Malls.

While all of these registration drives are expected to increase the number of people registered to vote in Charlotte, Gill believes a special event in Freedom Park, August 21 will be the one to add thousands of names to the list. The organizer of massive voting campaigns in about 25 states, pointed out the WPEG-sponsored Battle of the Bands attracts a multitude of people. Our theme will be "Voting Power by the Hour," she established. Hourly and throughout the entertainment provided by various live bands, people will be encouraged to take the time to find a registration booth and sign up to vote.

Gill has also set up a voter hotline: 372-0811. Forty more registrars have been deputized in Charlotte and we plan to utilize everyone of them," Gill expressed with assurance. She emphasized not only the unregistered people need to register, but also those who have relocated to another precinct or changed addresses.

Organizing a bi-racial coalition in Charlotte to assist her with the project has "been a wonderful thing," according to Gill. She stated she has received nothing but complete cooperation from all organizations from which she has solicited help.

A native of North Carolina, Gill expressed she considers her responsibility to get people to register to vote as "movement work." She's projected she was involved with the movement long before she accepted her present position in Chicago. In the 1960s when Gill was growing up in a small town near Franklin County she was exposed to freedom marches.

"My father was a member of the local NAACP and I was active in civil rights," revealed Gill. As a result she began to organize various activities. Activities so effective, politicians began to seek her out to help them with their campaigns.

Two of Gill's most recent efforts were her campaign work for Wilson Goode of Philadelphia and Mickey Micheau of North Carolina.

Gill realizes that getting people to register is good, but that getting those newly-registered people to vote is essential. "In Philadel-

phia I worked with a voter registration campaign that registered 93,000 people," Gill recalled. She proudly added nearly 80 percent of those came out to mark a ballot.

Gill warned while people may continue to register to vote after August 29, not registering by the end of that Monday will make them ineligible to vote in the Charlotte primaries September 27.

Bridge Club

The Metrolina Duplicate Bridge Club holds duplicate bridge games each Tuesday at the Greenville Community Center on Spring Street at 7:15.

The winning pairs for Tuesday, August 9, were Walter Byers and Louis Hughes, Harry Bost and Emery Rann, and William Haygood and Charles Bost.

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