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Florence Area League of Women Voters honors founding member

By Elizabeth Lamb



FLORENCE—Election season is still around the corner, but women across the Pee Dee have a reason to celebrate—this weekend marked 90 years since the 19th Amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote.

The Florence Area League of Women Voters gathered Sunday afternoon at The Carolinian retirement community to celebrate the anniversary of the amendment and 40 years since the Florence chapter of the League was founded.

Hattie Perry Lowery, one of the founders of the Florence league, received a pin marking her service both to the league and to the community.

She's now 92 and can't remember voting for the first time but still votes to this day.

"I know I've been voting since I've been able to vote, and it's a pleasure to still have the opportunity to vote," Lowery said.

Sara Stewart, president of the Florence League, said Lowery is nothing short of a Renaissance woman.

"Hattie embodies the League woman of our time and the League woman of the past," Stewart said.

Stewart, who has served as president for two years, said Lowery has served her family, church and civic groups over the years.

Lowery taught home economics in Latta before moving to work at Abbeville High School.

Lowery gardened throughout her life, and she served as president of the Azalea Home and Garden Club in Florence, among other local committees.

Stewart said the Florence League is honored to recognize Lowery for all of her accomplishments throughout the years.

"We are just on the ceiling today. We are just thrilled to honor this wonderful, dynamic woman," Stewart said.

Stewart also said the league, which welcomes men and women as members, still has one goal in mind—to educate the public about issues in the community, such as transportation and downtown development.

"I like to think of us as a league of educated voters," Stewart said.

Lowery said being recognized by the League is wonderful.

"It's the most joyous thing I've had in a long time," Lowery said.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization, which encourages citizens to play an active role in government and to stay informed about issues.

South Carolina did not ratify the 19th Amendment until 1969.

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