

NC



VOTER

"BUILDING ON THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE"

Volume 26, Issue 2

Summer 2000

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Voter is published four times a year by the League of Women Voters of North Carolina.

President

Diana Phillips

First Vice President

Marian Dodd

Second Vice President

Maethel Shindelman

Secretary

Jana Albritton

Treasurer

Sally Coughlin

Directors:

Social Policy

Joyce Clayton

Environment

Jackie Hammond

Voters Service

Diane Getz

Off Board Directors:

Environment

Margaret Holton

Voter

Pam Hoffman

Website

Patty Dale

LWVNC

3801 Barrett Drive, Suite 204

Raleigh, NC 27609-7214

Tel: (919) 783-5995

and (800) 851-VOTE

Fax: (919) 789-0689

Email:

lwvnc@mindspring.com

Website:

www.rtpnet.org/~lwvnc/

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Diana Phillips

Campaign Finance Reform: Good "Cents" Campaign - Year 1

During the short session of the General Assembly, North Carolina League members focused lobbying efforts on campaign finance reform and worked on the penny campaign (NC Voter, winter and spring, 2000 issues). At the beginning of the session in May, Peg Chapin, Campaign Finance Reform Chair of LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg and six members of her committee, along with President Mary Klenz, brought penny jars to Raleigh. Nancy Mueller and I from LWV Chapel Hill Area, NAACP members from Clayton, staff and interns from Democracy South, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg members took them around to the offices of the legislators. Over the summer, League members, members of Alliance for Democracy, and others sent letters and pennies to legislators so that at the end of the session, there was a grand total of 6,849 pennies - not bad for the first year and the short session of the NC General Assembly (which always takes place in summer)! Peg, Mary and I, along with Democracy South interns, collected the pennies at the end of June, and Peg sent them to the State Board of Elections for the NC Candidates Financing Fund. This year's pennies are safely in a state nonpartisan fund, and we can start planning for Year 2, which will begin in January, when the long session of the General Assembly begins.

Campaign Finance Reform was the focus of our Legislative Day on June 14, 2000. Members of seven local Leagues came to talk with legislators about reform. The Leagues represented included Carteret, Chapel Hill Area, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Madison, Moore, Piedmont Triad, and Wake. In addition, members of AARP, Center for Voting Integrity, Common Cause, Democracy South, and North Carolina Council of Churches came to support us in our lobbying efforts for reform. A member of each group talked briefly about why people in her/his organization want reform. Afterwards, we all attended the House Committee on Campaign Finance Reform meeting, and then we went to see our legislators with our letters and pennies.

We've got a few months to rest up while we work on candidates' forums and elections. Then it's back to the drawing board to formulate new campaign finance reform goals and strategies!



What You Can Do Now for Campaign Finance Reform

- Write or email your state and national legislators once a month to tell them of your concerns about the current campaign financing system. Senator Edwards <senator@edwards.senate.gov> and Senator Helms <jesse_helms@helms.senate.gov>. Call your county Board of Elections for addresses of other legislators.
- Go to your candidates forums and ask questions about what the candidates propose to do about our present campaign finance system.
- Talk with your local board of commissioners and ask them to sign a resolution endorsing campaign finance reform (see article by Sarah Hamilton).
- Organize with other groups like AARP, Common Cause, and Democracy South an event like "Orange County Talks on Campaign Finance Reform". Have people from each group tell why reform is important to their organization. (Democracy South organized an event like this in Charlotte, and they will be happy to help in other locations.)
- Write letters to newspaper editors and heads of broadcasting companies stating your concerns about campaign reform.

Make sure you have ALL the facts before you pass on information. We heard in a meeting that a candidate for governor had handed his political contribution information to the State Board of Elections on a thousand pieces of paper, rather than on disk. Upon checking with the SBOE, I found that the statement was true, but it wasn't the whole truth. Many candidates handed in more than a thousand sheets of paper disclosing contributions because of problems in compatibility of computer software, problems that the SBOE hope they have now solved.



OPENING REMARKS LWV-NC LEGISLATIVE DAY

Diana Phillips

I would like to welcome all of you who have come to Raleigh to participate in Legislative Day. This is also Flag Day, and we have come to the NC General Assembly to tell our legislators that support for campaign finance reform is growing in North Carolina.

Many of us in this room went to Washington, DC to walk in with Doris Haddock, the 90-year old great-grandmother who spent over a year walking across America to build support for campaign finance reform and to show Congress that Americans care about reform. On the morning of February 29th, we began the march at Arlington Cemetery. Let me quote from Granny D's speech on the capitol steps (words paraphrased): "The reason for beginning the march today at Arlington Cemetery is that there are rows upon rows of graves of people who fought for our freedoms. I do not call it 'treason,' this changing our government of, by and for the people to a government by and for the wealthy elite, but those more courageous shadows might, those whose blood flows through our flag and our history."

What exactly is the problem with our elections, with our government? To simplify a complex issue, election campaigns now require too much money. The cost of winning a seat in the NC legislature has tripled in the past 6 years, even after adjusting for inflation. Dozens of legislative candidates each spent over \$100,000 in the 1998 election. More than \$ 6M of unregulated soft money, funneled through the national parties, was sent into North Carolina to influence state elections in 1996.

Most of the money comes from special interests (businesses or people with financial interests). Corporations in North Carolina can't give money to candidates, but employees of corporations can. They organize themselves into political action committees, or PAC's.

Only 1 % of the population gives 90% of the campaign money in NC. Two-thirds of the money raised by state legislators in NC comes from special-interest PAC's or individuals giving \$ 500 or more. The biggest single individual donor to state legislators is a lobbyist for Duke Power, CP&L, RJR-Nabisco, and other corporate interests.

Candidates who can't raise a lot of money have a greater chance of failing. Based on the past three elections (not counting the primary in May of this year), the top spending candidate for each seat in the NC legislature won 84% of the time.

Big-time fundraising distorts campaigns and alienates voters. Too many candidates now spend more time courting donors than voters. NC candidates for governor often raise \$60,000 a week for two years. The two biggest expenses in NC campaigns are for advertising (mostly negative ads) and opinion polls to find hot-button topics for those ads. Less than half of the voting age adults went to the polls in each of the last five presidential elections, ranking NC the 10th lowest state for turnout. In the primary runoff that just took place, the turn-out was so poor that it's said that each ballot cast cost \$62.

Wealthy donors get tax breaks and favors that cost the rest of us taxpayers. The Winston Salem Journal reported that NC banks enjoy an income-tax break worth over \$54M a year, protected by their political contributions. The Associated Press has reported that highway spending designed to please political donors in NC costs taxpayers over \$150M a year. Policies affecting school funding, health care, and environmental protections are all influenced by big donors. A December 1998 article in the Greensboro News and Record said, "Hog feeders, bankers, insurance companies and other special interests don't give to candidates out of the goodness of their hearts. They expect a return on their investment - special access to lawmakers, expensive tax breaks, legislative favors. Public campaign financing comes with no strings attached. Candidates are beholden first and last to the voters and taxpayers. That's the way it ought to be."

At this time successful candidates have two choices: have personal wealth or solicit lots of money from donors. How can we change things?

The Clean Election Act, (HB 1402) offers an alternative, a VOLUNTARY system of public financing of elections. A candidate can choose to (1) pay for a campaign out of personal money and donations or (2) opt for taxpayer funding. In order to keep out people who aren't serious office seekers from using taxpayers' money, there must be voter support for the candidates in their own districts, not from some other district or state funneled through the political party. All candidates must have a certain number of donors from their own voting districts (not from a district somewhere else in the

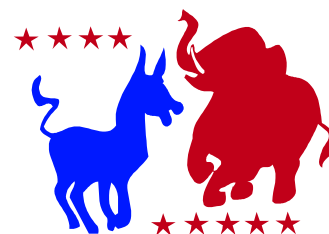
state or from some state on the other side of the country). The number of donors varies with the office, e.g., candidates for governor must have 7000 donors but candidate for state Senate need 500 donors. The required donor amounts are in the range between \$15 and \$75. If candidates raise more qualifying contributions than needed, they get that much less money from the Clean Election Fund. The candidates agree to raise no private funds beyond the qualifying donations, agree to accept a total spending limit, to use the funds only for campaign purposes and to return any unused funds to the Clean Election Fund.

What does the candidate get? The candidate gets the average of what the last two vote-getters spent in races for that office in the last two elections. For a House candidate, that amounts to \$45,000 for a contested primary and a contested general election.

What if a candidate is outspent by an opponent with private donations? The candidate can get additional funding, up to 100% of the original limit.

If every race were paid with taxpayer funding, the fiscal staff of the General Assembly estimate that the annual cost would be under \$14M, that's less than one penny per registered voter per day. The League has embarked on a penny campaign: Campaign Finance Reform makes good "cents"! We have written letters asking legislators to support campaign reform. Take or send these letters to your legislators along with pennies. Take them to work or to your meetings with other organizations, and ask other people to adapt them to their own organizations. What's important is that our legislators be made aware of the need for campaign reform.

We have come here today because we know there is something very wrong with our election system, and we have taken the time to come talk about it with the people who govern us. Americans are good at fixing things. It may take some time, but we will fix our campaign financing system. We must; we cannot let our democracy slip away.



LOCAL COUNCILS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Sarah Hamilton, Co-Chair, Campaign Finance
Reform Committee, LWV Carteret County

Diana asked me to write a few words about how we in Carteret County went about getting the Town Council members to sign a resolution in favor of campaign finance reform.

Upon asking one of the Council members and the mayor, I was immediately put on the agenda. The town clerk cooperated and assisted in every way possible, making suggestions of what to include in the Council agenda packets for the members to familiarize themselves with the subject.



We included the brochure, “Come Clean;” the NC Clean Election Act in Brief;” former NC Attorney General and US Senator Robert B. Morgan’s guest column in the Winston Salem Journal (June 2, 1999), “Money Chase Threatens

Democracy;” and a list of the senators and representatives who are sponsoring the bill in the legislature. I contacted either personally or by telephone the five council members and told them briefly about the bill. For those you don’t know, I suggest you get someone who knows them well and whom they respect to go with you to see them. I tried to be as respectful of time as possible and still get the message across, stating the subject, introducing my co-workers, stating the subject, showing the Bill Moyers / Wib Gulley video, talking briefly (maybe up to 5 minutes) about how it would affect elections and all of us, including any of them who might aspire to run for a state office, emphasizing non-partisanship and noting many organizations at the state level that had endorsed it. I asked them to endorse the concept of campaign finance reform and sign the resolution. I thanked them for their time, attention and consideration of campaign finance reform.

Please call me (252) 726-5203, if you need any more information.

LWV-NC STUDY ON CHARTER SCHOOLS

Vicki Boyer, Co-Chair,
LWV-NC Charter School Study

As we begin to wrap up our three year study on charter schools and their impact on traditional public schools, we see almost as many questions now as we did at the beginning. The true impact of this change in education will not be known for years to come. Not until the children who participated as students reach their adult years will we truly see the outcome of the education they received. In the meantime, much of what we have seen has been unquantifiable and intangible. Our full report, which was presented at Council in June, will be sent to each chapter.

The League has long been a proponent of public education, so it is important for us to understand this new facet of the system. As many of you know, charter schools were established by the state legislature to provide citizens with alternatives in public education. The schools are exempt from some of the regulations that govern traditional public schools, a situation designed to allow for the introduction of new teaching styles and techniques. Charters receive public moneys to operate their facilities. We have been visiting charter schools and have surveyed the administrators of the traditional public schools during the course of our study. A brief overview of our observations follows. Please consult our full report for more details.

- Charters were designed to operate free from some rules and regulations governing traditional public schools, and if they do well we may need to reassess all educational regulations. They may hamper instead of help.
- The existence of charters has resulted in a greater need for administrative personnel at the state Department of Public Instruction. The staff originally appointed to oversee charters has hired additional people, an unexpected expense for the state.
- Charters operate successfully only with considerable volunteer support from parents. Parents are aware of this when they seek to put their child in the school. One principal told us that all applicants were well aware that the school could not function without volunteer support, making parental help almost a requirement in some schools. Traditional public

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

Voting Video Nears Completion

Marian Dodd, 1st Vice President, Program

Through fund raising efforts, \$11,000 has been contributed for the voting video production. Funding partnerships include the following: corporations, foundations, League members, and a few private individuals.

The production company submitted a rough draft copy of the voting video. LWV-NC's Review Committee along with staff members of NC Dept. of Public Instruction completed suggestions for the final draft.

Steps In Implementing Project:

Each League chapter will receive a copy of the voting video along with a classroom presentation in September, 2000. One classroom session should be sufficient unless volunteer prefers to provide additional assistance to classroom teacher. Classroom presentation consist of three-minute introduction and showing eight-minute video. Training made available to volunteers through LWVNC workshops. NC Department of Public Instruction has agreed to mail voting video to each NC public middle school media center. Also, UNC Public Television will assist with publicity. Notification to principals on the availability of voting video and volunteers to assist in the civic education project. Lesson ideas are to be made available to classroom teachers through the LWV-NC website.

League members always seek to 'Make a Difference.' This gives each of us an opportunity to assist in educating students on voting as we build together a better understanding for future generations' civic responsibility.

NOTE: The civic education project was designed for statewide participation in "Making Democracy Work." Please submit your chapter's list of volunteers to LWV-NC as soon as possible so the project can begin by mid-September.

**THERE'S
WORK
TO BE DONE**

schools cannot 'require' volunteer hours from parents.

- Many children who were previously home schooled have joined charters, bringing with them money that the state had not previously been expending on their behalf.
- Both charters and traditional schools would benefit from a means of exchanging success stories. There is currently no established means of communication between the two.
- New charters would benefit from an extended planning period prior to opening, financed by the state.
- The best result of charter schools may be the fact that it shows that parents are interested in taking an active roll in their child's education, to the point of expending considerable time to investigate the best educational opportunities available for their child. This is true across all economic, ethnic and racial groups. A great many parents are willing to go the extra mile for education. The existence of charters that are primarily minority students shows that many parents felt the traditional public schools were not meeting the needs of their children. A child watching a parent attend school meetings even after a long day at work has ample evidence of the importance the parent puts on education and is more likely to work hard at learning.
- Charter schools are generally smaller in population than traditional public schools, and many students as well as parents seem to function better in this smaller environment.



Charter schools have been approved by the legislature and signed into law. They are public schools and are deserving of broad public support. They may not provoke the changes some

anticipated in public education since the numbers they take out of traditional public schools are quickly replaced by our rapidly growing school aged population. But they have clearly provided a relief valve for over-flowing schools as well as dissatisfied parents. As a public entity they should receive more oversight in the form of frequent classroom visits and public attendance at board meetings, coupled with public reporting of financial decisions. They do spend tax dollars and the public has a right to know.

Smart Growth

Summarized from *News and Observer*
by Marian Dodd

Although the governor wanted to establish Smart Growth as a top priority in his final year in office, the state's \$450 million budget shortfall curtailed that ambitious effort. A field trip to Atlanta by government and business leaders acquainted the group with growth problems to be considered as a model. Other areas such as the State's Clean Water Management Trust Fund, mass transit, revitalizing downtowns was curtailed due to lack of funds. The budget by the governor includes only one item for the Growth Agenda--\$1.2M for farmland preservation. modest and the State to protect an additional one million acres of land from development by 2010. The 37-member Smart Growth Commission began to hold meetings in various cities across the state in January, 2000. The commission's responsibility is to make recommendations to the General Assembly.

Getting Ready for the General Election

Marian Dodd, First Vice President

A small group of volunteers in August and October will assist newly naturalized citizens to make application for registering to vote. I like the story shared at an LWV national convention: A Leaguer told how she always carried applications for registering potential voters. In one instance at a sporting event, she handed out applications to the long line of women waiting in the restroom.

Voters Service

Diane Getz, Voters Service Chair

It was a pleasure to meet a lot of new people at state council and have the opportunity to share with you the new Dnet project. It was the general concurrence of those in attendance that it was going to be all right if I took care of contacting the state candidates (Governor, Lt. Governor and Council of State) and request they respond to the Dnet on behalf of all the Leagues in North Carolina. We have just launched DNet in North Carolina. We've had training sessions in Boone, Charlotte, and Chapel Hill. I would like to thank Patty Dale for setting up the perfect training site. We all had access to a computer, the use of a projector and a

great class room setting. She provided a wonderful lunch. Whenever you start something new, it is always appreciated if you receive positive reinforcement initially, because it encourages you to continue. Thanks once again to Patty Dale. I also really appreciate the effort of the 4 League representatives. I have sent letters to all Leagues, called and spoke with many of you. Some Leagues will work on their own as they have had extensive computer experience and feel confident with a few details they can work with the DNet project. I will be preparing a short plan of action for them and with email, we will have some more of North Carolina covered. Also, a training site in the eastern NC is in the works, details will be forthcoming. There are some more interesting developments that are on the horizon so stay tuned this summer for some surprises. If you have any questions regarding the project or questions that you want to ask all the state and federal candidates, please e-mail me at DianeGetz1@cs.com. Mail questions to me at 3100 Quilting Road, Matthews, NC 28105. I would like to coordinate the questions and forward them periodically to LWV-US for the federal candidates. I know there are many good questions, so I expect to hear from all Leagues.

Membership

Diana Phillips

For membership, let's continue the ASK program. Just ask someone to join your local League or to come to one of your meetings. Many people say they don't join the League because no one has ever asked them!

Here's a wonderful idea from LWV Pitt County to introduce students to the League: Student sponsorships were initiated in the 1998/99 year. Members contributed \$15 each to the sponsorship fund, and twelve sponsorships were established. One was awarded during 1998-99 and four were awarded during 1999/2000. Three of the students were referred by a professor who taught a course in Women's Studies at ECU. The student members were asked to go as observers to meetings of boards and commissions, and each of them did so. It has been suggested that money from the original fund be used to renew memberships for the current student members.

Service clubs, such as Rotary, draw members from different professional groups. During the fall, talk with your friends in different fields of work and invite them to League meetings

so they can see all that the League is doing. Then invite them to join and support our efforts.

LEAGUE DUES

League dues are due on July 1st, the beginning of the League fiscal year, which runs July 1 - June 30.

CITIZENS NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Margaret Holton, Off Board Director, Environment

During the last years of the 1990's people became more aware of the need to protect our air and water and all the wonderful plants and trees that Nature had so kindly provided for us. Are we as citizens ready to stand up for the newer regulations, such as the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) enacted in 1997 concerning ozone (0.08 parts per million averaged over eight hours) and particulate matter (2.5 microns). Supporters of the new regulations note that ozone is the most widespread pollutant affecting millions of people. It forms when emissions from power plants, motor vehicles, and smokestacks react with sunlight. Ozone irritates the eyes, nose and lungs and causes chest pains and breathing difficulty. On high ozone days hospital visits and emergency room visits double. Opponents to the new regulations say that the economic impacts of the new regulations were not taken into consideration.

We in North Carolina are fortunate that the General Assembly took up comprehensive air quality legislation, AMBIENT AIR QUALITY (SB 953). This bill focused on the impacts of automobiles on air quality, providing for cleaner gas and expanding emissions inspections programs. It also set goals for the overall reduction of certain kinds of pollution. In the Senate some members attacked the bill for not going far enough to regulate the emissions from power plants. The bill primarily attacked air pollution from automobiles, focusing on reductions in nitrates of oxygen or NOx, or nitrous oxide. The law expands the inspection and maintenance program for automobiles from nine

counties to 48 counties by 2006. The 48 counties are those that are experiencing significant growth.

You remember reading about OZONE ALERTS last summer and ORANGE (warning) and RED (unhealthy) ALERT days that produce smog. Groundlevel ozone is the primary constituent of smog and is a colorless gas that can be harmful to humans and vegetation. Groundlevel ozone is of particular concern during hot summer months. Ozone is formed when in the presence of sunlight, volatile organic compounds (VOC'S) and nitrogen oxides react.



How many of you have read your June/July LWVUS VOTER (pp. 6-12), which emphasizes the environment? The article emphasizes also the importance of your vote and whether you will vote for representatives who will vote to protect our AIR, WATER and LAND.

ENVIRONMENT REPORT OF NC LEGISLATURE

Margaret Holton, Off-Board Director, Environment

Environmental groups worked hard during this year's short session of the Legislature to keep the good features of bills in place. Among these was the FLOOD HAZARD ACT of 2000. The bill when introduced, had strong enforcement features in place, such as two feet for base flood plain elevation, which was struck down to one foot, but then floor debate removed that. The adopted bill lacked enforcement teeth. Yet, the final bill does contain steps toward limiting junkyards, hazardous waste management facilities and solid waste facilities in the flood plain.

The biggest win for the environmental community was the increased appropriations for the CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND (CWMFT). Senator Marc Basnight (D-Dare) and other Democrats saw that the \$30 million was put in the budget. The legislature also increased the level of appropriation to \$40 million next year, and \$70 million the following year, and \$100 million

for each year after that. The legislature also gave power to metropolitan and rural planning groups so they could go ahead with smart growth planning. Another high profile bill was the Million Acres initiative backed by Governor Hunt, which sets the ambitious goal of preserving an additional one million acres of land over the next ten years. Another important bill was the extension of a Moratorium on Billboards on a 180-mile section of Interstate 40 from Orange County to Wilmington.

The biggest and hardest fight in the session was stopping the Environmental Excellence / Regulatory Flexibility bill. The Environmental Excellence bill was the opposite of its name and the worst bill against the environment in the last five years. It was passed through committees which met at odd times. Rep. Joe Hackney (D-Orange) stood strong against industry representatives who misrepresented the bill and got the name changed to Regulatory Flexibility, which gave them the privilege of nonconformance on pollution problems. Finally, with support from Speaker Jim Black (D-Mecklenburg), Rep. Hackney's efforts were critical in assigning the bill to the Rules Committee, where the bill ended its existence at the end of the session

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT AT UNC-CH

Ruth Van Lehn, Co-Chair, Judicial Reform
Committee
LWV Moore County

A helpful impartial reference for many things Leaguers are interested in learning more about: The quarterly publication, POPULAR GOVERNMENT, published by the Institute of Government, CB#3330, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330. A subscription is \$20.00/year – try it.

In the LWV Moore Co. Judicial Reform study committee, many of the officials we interviewed referred to the Institute of Government. Also newly elected officials of any of the town councils, County Commissioners, School Board Members – it seemed almost everyone with an official capacity relied upon this Institute of Government for instruction and clarification of many issues. Dot Greenwood's curiosity caused her to set up an appointment and a carload of the JR committee arrived on their doorstep on the edge of the UNC-CH campus. (They are in the midst of an extensive remodeling.)

Once you hear a description of what they do, the name is not really misleading. The Institute is NOT a department of our State government. It is a regular department of the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, and it has 38 faculty members. Their "students," elected officials and government employees, are taught by short courses, seminars, personal consultations, monographs, guidebooks, bulletins and periodicals particular to the needs of the various areas of people trying to operate in some governmental aspect - anywhere in the State. The Institute is devoted to teaching, research and consultation. The faculty has expertise in many different fields and is only a phone call away.

This Institute of Government is truly "Making Democracy Work" according to laws as they stand, but their research also is respected by the Legislature in noticing when changes need to be made.

STUDY CIRCLES

Ann Seng, Project Manager, LWV-Wake County
and Betty Ellerbee, Director, LWV-Wake County

Ann and Betty answer some questions about Study Circles.

Q *If there is no YWCA in our county, who can we find to partner with?*

A Seek out an organization which serves primarily African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans and /or Native-Americans. This may be a Church, a child-care parents group, a local school PTA, a sorority or fraternity. Do one study circle between League members and members of this organization. After one successful circle, contacts with other organizations will open up. Paired religious congregations become a possibility.

Q *How can we get trained facilitators?*

A The best thing is to train your own facilitators with material supplied by the Study Circles Resource Center in Connecticut. There may be trained mediators or facilitators in your community who could help with this training as long as they use the material from SCRC. Study Circle facilitation is different from the usual types of facilitation. It is not mediation nor is it task oriented meeting facilitation. The Wake county project would be happy to help with this.

Q *How much preparation (time and effort) is needed by people organizing a set of study circles?*

A This is hard to quantify because there are so many variables. A community-wide effort requires a lot of telephoning and team building. A smaller effort, as between paired congregations or with a local college or university, is less daunting. In any case, start small and have a core group of racially diverse volunteers go through their own study circle.

Q *Where can we meet? And how often?*

A For your first circles try to find a neutral place. Park facilities, Y's or other social service agencies, local schools, or churches (as long as you do not identify it with a particular religion). Some communities have been successful in using participant homes, but it is generally not recommended when you begin a program. Each circle should meet at least five times and our experience has been that weekly rather than biweekly or monthly is best.

Q *How long is each meeting?*

A About two hours. Sometimes participants like to stay and continue past the two hours.

Q *The Wake League and Y have received some relatively large grants. Can we have study circles on a shoestring if we don't have any money?*

A Yes, the Wake project started on a shoestring. It depends more on how much volunteer time you have and how large a project you wish to do. It is best to start without any money other than what you need for paper, postage and phone. After you have some momentum and volunteers, you are better able to decide on the scope of your effort and whether or not to seek funding.

Q *Can we use CEF funds for study circles?*

A The Wake League used CEF funds to cover initial mailing and copying costs. Study circles cover a range of points of view and are nonpartisan. They are a classic example of making democracy work.

Q *We have often heard that black people don't tell white people what they truly think. What*

makes these study circles safe for them to express their feelings?

A The same thing which makes it safe for all participants. Whites also find it inhibiting to talk honestly about race relations, especially if they are largely outnumbered in a group. Every study circle has ground rules, which are designed to create safety, openness, acceptance and confidentiality. It is very important that each circle has at least 30 to 50% minority participation so that no one individual feels as if he or she is the token.

LWV-US CONVENTION

A total of 19 delegates from North Carolina Leagues went to national convention! They included:

Diana Phillips

(LWV-NC President)

Nina Accardo

and Janet Bowman

(Asheville-Buncombe)

Mary Lou Langdon

(Carteret County)

Vicki Boyer and Billie Hayward

(Chapel Hill Area)

Mary Klensz, Maxine Eaves and Peg Chapin

(Charlotte / Mecklenburg)

Laura and John Gilson and Mary Ellen Hawthorne

(Dare County)

Carolyn Mealing, Dot Greenwood

and Florence Vryn

(Moore County)

Doris Naumann and Mary Lou Hoffman

(Onslow / Coastal Pender Counties)

Eva Rogers

(Pitt County)

Betty Ellerbee

(Wake County)

Report from Convention, 2000

Vicki Boyer, President, LWV Chapel Hill Area

Our state sent 19 delegates to the National Convention held June 16-20, in Washington DC. My first general impression was that the League may be castigating itself unnecessarily. We are still an army of women (male delegates were present!), but less than half the delegates seemed to have 'gray hair!' Maybe only the younger members traveled to convention, but everyone present was full of energy and bursting with the passion for politics that keeps the League vibrant and busy. It was exciting to have the opportunity to meet people from all over the country and find out what they were doing and how they went about it

I went to convention expecting heavy discussion, even dissension, on the issues of our day, but this year's meeting proved a bit more intriguing. For the second time in recent memory the slate of officers offered by the national nominating committee was challenged. For reasons still unknown to the general membership, the nominating committee chose not to offer a second term to President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, who was then nominated from the floor.

All candidates signed a positive campaign pledge, promising to avoid negativity. The result of this was hints and innuendo, statements that 'our side' will proceed in a certain manner, leaving the vague impression that the 'other side' proceeded in a less than acceptable way. No details were ever forthcoming, leaving many delegates frustrated and unhappy with the proceedings. As a group, both within our own organization and in regard to public elections, we may need to reexamine our definition of 'negative campaigning' to make sure that facts are admissible to the debate.

When the votes were counted, Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins was reelected to a second term of office; and the 1st and 2nd vice presidential candidates who were also nominated from the floor, were voted into office instead of the candidates proposed by the nominating committee. Carolyn has already proven her ability to project a strong new image for the League, and the delegates made it clear they think she can do so again.

There were several guest speakers of note: Susan Molinari told us that for the first time, the number of women going on-line has surpassed the number of men. The largest growth of internet use is now outside the US and in languages other than English. Our definition of community has changed

from physical proximity to shared interests. Many people are now forsaking traditional sources of news like newspapers and television, and turning instead to the internet, where they are able to go directly to reports of items of interest to them without first by-passing or skimming over less pleasant accounts of other topics. She pointed out that we are often moved to action by outrage over an event we stumble across in the paper. The internet allows us to circumvent the news we don't want and go directly to that we do want, and in doing so, separates us from reports that goad us into contacting our congressmen or demanding action from our government. From her account I gathered that in the future the League should never presume that people will even be aware of events in the political arena, and this fact may impact our outreach to the public.

Labor Secretary Alexis Herman pointed out that we do not have a worker shortage in our country today but we do have a skills shortage. We need training programs and constant education. Two-thirds of the people earning minimum wage are women. And the pay gap continues: Women make only 75 cents for each dollar earned by a man, and she said, "Store clerks don't say, oh, you are a woman so I will only charge you 75 cents for that dollar loaf of bread." There is still work to be done to ensure equal pay for equal work.

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams, the current mayor of Washington DC, who has done so much to improve the city's finances, spoke in favor of our national program issue for emphasis asking Congress to give voting rights and full representation to residents of the District. The District is getting ready to issue license plates with the slogan, "Taxation without Representation," part of a quote from Revolutionary War leader James Otis, that ends with the words, "is tyranny!" He made a compelling argument on behalf of DC voting rights.

Also speaking was Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone. He spoke about campaign finance reform, saying how regrettable it was that those currently in the House and Senate are spending 3-4 hours a day on the phone making solicitations for money! We should all tell our NC representatives what he said about Maine's clean election act. Citizens of Maine are stopping their representatives on the street to say, thank you for giving us this law! Perhaps we could drum up more support for our own Clean Election Act if our legislators felt they would receive more praise than criticism.

The Honorable Ann Richards, former Texas governor, appeared as a spokesperson for Eli Lilly, touting the benefits of one of their drug products. She was, as always, very entertaining, saying that when she realized she was going to live long enough to collect social security she started taking better care of herself! She pointed out that women control two-thirds of every dollar spent on health care, so we should carefully examine every candidate's views on this subject, insisting that health care be accessible to all.

Random ideas, concepts, thoughts and suggestions from LWV-US convention:

- A college age woman reminded us that while many of us had John Kennedy and Martin Luther King as our first political awareness, her generation's initiation into politics came on news about Ollie North and Bob Packwood. Younger people do not feel that politics is anything but scummy. Later I realized that there were many people in that room whose first political awareness came in the McCarthy era, and that perhaps we need to send the message to younger people that 'bad' politics is the reason you need to get into the game, rather than an excuse to stay out of it.
- College age people are willing to work for the League but due to transportation difficulties (many campuses don't allow cars) or conflicts with class schedules, few will probably attend meetings. Ask them to do concrete things, like update your web site, get out the vote, notify you of events on campus where your presence would be beneficial to the League. In Chapel Hill, I hope to get involved in "Take Back the Night" events and show young women how their vote contributes to their personal safety. Personally, I would say don't be discouraged if your attempts to get this age group tuned in to League activities don't initially bear fruit. Think of it as planting a seed for the future. They may not join now, but they have learned who we are and will turn to us in the future either for information or to work with us. We need to think long-term on membership goals.
- At all levels we need to grow our membership. We can do that by pointing out how our work parallels the interests of non-members. It is



necessary to broaden our base of support, and draw in more members to help finance League projects. Set goals for membership. Ask every member to bring a friend to a league event this year.

- Fundraising is a problem for all Leagues. One fundraising idea was to hire ourselves out to count votes for elections held by labor unions or other organizations. In turning to corporate 'sponsors' as LWVUS did in providing us LWV totebags emblazoned with the Firestone Tire logo, and Ann Richards speech, brought to us by ads for Eli Lilly medications, we need to be just as careful as the candidates we watch. Do we have what it takes to bite the hand that feeds us? Can we really claim to be non-partisan if we take large donations from groups that have known political affiliations or follow policies contrary to League endorsed ideals? No one joined the League to raise money, but money is the gas in the tank that makes the car go, and takes us to our goal. Fundraising can detract our energies from the projects we prefer to work on, but it must be done somehow.
- Movie theaters now run ads. One League worked with the theater to run an ad reminding movie-goers to register to vote prior to the registration deadline. In one area the League teamed with Meals on Wheels to make absentee ballots available to shut-ins. Maybe we could get college students to help with this!
- Take advantage of the Dnet and Grassroots.com. This new Internet site can be a big boon to every chapter. It will ultimately give us the opportunity to post our voters guides questions on the web, and have the candidates put their own answers on the web. For a printed voters guide, all we will have to do is cut-and-paste. No more long hours spent entering candidates' responses into our computers!! Yes, it will take some set-up time, but, boy, will it be worth it! If you have not already done so, get in touch with our NC state Dnet coordinator, Diane Getz at once!! Some areas have arranged a link between Dnet and their local TV station's web site, so those accessing the TV site see the League logo come

up on their screen. This is a great way to increase visibility in your area.

- Peg Chapin from Charlotte made all of us lapel pins that show our support for the Good Cents Campaign. She took a penny, glued a lapel-pin back to it (available at any craft store), and voila! Instant 'jewelry' that shows our support of campaign finance reform. And by provoking questions from those we see everyday ("Why are you wearing a penny?") gives us an opening to discuss this issue with others. Why don't we make a 'penny pin' for each of our legislators and ask them to wear it to show their support for the Clean Election Act?!
- It was mentioned that younger women joining the league have come from the business and corporate world where decisions are made quickly and sometimes authoritatively. Time is money, after all. The "traditional" League way of study, study, study, may not be appealing to this group. As more business women join, we need to be aware of their needs for managing time commitments and find a way that lets them operate within our framework.
- Convention was exciting and stimulating. It is always a great idea to get together with members from other areas and find out what they are doing. This is as true of state conventions as it is of national conventions, and I hope everyone who has this opportunity in the future will take advantage of it.

Democracy Was Alive and Well at Convention

Doris Naumann, Past President
LWV Onslow / Coastal Pender Counties

There is probably no one from League who is not aware that the incumbent President, Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, was not renominated for that position by the Nominating Committee. The reasons were not officially made known, but rumors were rampant, and the consensus of opinion among the delegates we (Mary Lou Hoffman and I) talked with seemed to be that she was not considered a "team player," that she "demanded" too much from the Board and the Staff. We decided to keep an open mind and observe and listen well.

This was quite obviously a very difficult situation for both Carolyn and the official nominee, Beverly McKinnell of Minnesota. Both of them handled it well and were quite gracious to each

other in public. We did find, however, that the people wearing the red "BELIEVE" badges did not attack Beverly when attempting to persuade other delegates to vote for Carolyn. Beverly's backers, on the other hand, were quite willing to talk about the "team player" issue, citing her insistence on running independently and not accepting the Nominating Committee's report.

Voting was done by "secret ballot" and was held in the registration area. Delegates signed in on a roster organized alphabetically by state, and were given printed ballots which they marked with pencil, folded them and placed them in one of three ballot boxes. This took place between 1 and 5 p.m. Monday, so there was no crowding of the area because of the flexibility of the time. It was all very "League-like."

The results were announced Tuesday morning at the Plenary Session. Ninety-seven percent or 841 delegates voted. Carolyn was elected with 512 votes to Beverly's 329. Margaret Brown was elected 1st Vice President, Faye Sinnott was elected 2nd Vice President, and Nancy Mahr, Nancy Granda and Jan Wilbur were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. Directors elected included Janis R. Hirohama, Marie Brown, Mary Ann Burt, Eleanor Revelle, Joan Paik, Carol Woodward Scott, and Sheila Martin.

Again, it was all very "League-like," with everyone being very gracious and generous in their praise of the other... pretty much all that we hoped it would be at the end.

Advocacy Workshop

Eva Rogers, President, LWV Pitt County

The Advocacy Workshop at the National Convention gave us an opportunity to meet and interact with the LWVUS lobbying staff. Lloyd Leonard is the Director of this team which includes two Senior Lobbyists, Mary Brooks and Betsy Lawson, along with Grassroots Lobbyist, Deanna Sessums. The Director of the volunteer lobby corps in Washington, DC, Dr. Albert Schmidt, shared information about their activities and methods. We learned that some states have very active volunteer lobby corps as well. The work of all these men and women, both paid staff and volunteers is a two way street. They help to communicate LWV positions to members of Congress, but they also help to keep the League membership up to date and aware by assessing the positions of key members of Congress

and relaying information to other LWVUS staff and appropriate state presidents in the form of action alerts. Taken together these speakers brought a total of about 65 years of experience in advocacy on issues to the discussion.

We were told that the basics of a lobbying campaign are assessment of the politics, devising a strategy, identifying the issues and developing the message, direct and grassroots lobbying, media relations, and working with coalitions. These experts emphasized that the League is successful in its lobbying for two main reasons. One is the widespread perception among legislators and news media that we have expertise born of careful research and study of the issues. This lends authority to their advocacy efforts. The other important source of influence is acknowledgement among elected officials that we do “get out the vote”... that we not only encourage people to vote but send them to the polls informed of the issues and the candidates’ positions. The lesson for all of us is that the success of our national lobby team is based on our continuing fulfillment of our mission with characteristic thoroughness and vitality.

Questions on lobbying efforts and social policy should be directed to Deanna Sessums at (202) 429-1965 or DeannaS@lwv.org.

Campaign Finance Reform

Peg Chapin, Campaign Finance Reform Chair
LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg

This caucus was extremely well attended. We divided into 3 groups --referendum, legislature and those that were just beginning the process. The strategies used depended on the method needed to get the legislation approved. Leagues across the country are working diligently on this issue. Presently the state of Maine has several candidates running under Clean Election guidelines. We introduced the It Makes Good Cents Campaign and information about making a link to issues that we all care about. Delegates said the material was concise, explained the issue clearly and presented an action plan. All agreed that getting legislation approved is an uphill battle and it will take all of us working together in a unified front to accomplish this worthy goal.

Strong Communications, Media Relations, and LWV Identity

John Gilson, Voter Editor, LWV Dare County

This panel featured a local newspaper editor, a director of branding, and a TV representative. The editor gave advice on working with your local paper. The key is getting to know the reporters and the editor and also finding out what they need from you. The panelist suggested visiting them to tell them about the focus of your local League. The papers are interested in what you do as that is what they print: local news and activities. Reporters want brief, well-organized facts and they love photographs. Find out how they prefer to get material. Use the format and the media they like, since material that is easy to use is more likely to end up in the paper. Pay strict attention to



their deadlines, particularly for community calendar items. You can use op-ed or guest commentator slots when you have a longer

tale to tell. These are normally over 250 words. Use letters to the editor for shorter items.

The branding manager commented (somewhat unfavorably) on the use and misuse of the LWV logo. That is the box with LWV and the red swoops. Newsletter editors and others should be careful to use only the official version without local modifications. Her comments were to keep it always the same and use it with care. She also advised us to keep the initials "LWV" separate from modifiers such as "US" or "NC". LWVUS or LWVNC complicate the LWV identity. A space, hyphen, or slash can be used to make LWV-US or LWV-NC.

The TV representative concentrated on interviews with press, radio, or TV. Her advice was to prepare and give the interviewer a one page “poop sheet” with background on the local League. Gather brief “bullet” points on the subject and use them. Know your position and be able to state it clearly in 15 seconds. (Practice, practice, practice!) Stay on message and resist the interviewer’s attempts to get you off the subject or to make outrageous statements. Your outrageous statements will make the air, your message won’t.

New Members for a New Century

John Gilson, Voter Editor, LWV Dare County

This workshop covered tactics that have worked for other Leagues. There is much support material on the LWV website under the listserve "Outreach". They advised reworking your membership brochure to make it an effective marketing tool. Keep a prospective members list with only three ways to get off: join, move, or die. You can get prospects by working with real estate agents to find new residents. Give the agents the brochure to give to new residents.

Some Leagues have used a "Now You Are 18" program in the high school, working with the Bar Association to register voters and tell them of the privileges and obligations of citizenship. They recommend evening meetings to attract younger working members. They suggest using a \$20 trial membership. Most important, put new members to work at once. Get them involved and keep them involved.

1st Health Workshop

Laura Gilson, Co-president, LWV Dare County

The first workshop was a panel of three: David Canton, Harold Liebolitz, and Ed Howard. They gave us a presentation on health care statistics, uninsured statistics and Social Security/Medicare information.



If Medicare, Social Security and health issues were combined, they would lead the list of concerns for American citizens. The high cost of prescription drugs is of vital concern, and many would like to see Medicare help in this area. The drug companies are thought to be causing the high

prices. It is a fact that the same drugs cost less in Canada and Mexico. Elder care is another big issue. Actually, more money and programs are available for child care than for the care of the ever increasing number of older adults. Women provide most of the elder care and are experiencing many problems such as sibling, health and money. The Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) was mentioned, but it is underutilized, perhaps due to ignorance. Those released from the welfare rolls are not informed that they can stay eligible for Medicaid for a set period of time. Health care for everyone didn't fail; it was killed!

A study in 1997 concerned the uninsured in several categories - income, family type, age, race, family status, work status, health status, and state variation. It was hardly any surprise to discover that a person of low income, single without children, a male between 18 and 34, Hispanic, part time worker, in poor health, and from the south is the profile for the majority of the uninsured. In all, 17.6 million people, including 7 million children, are uninsured in this country. Both Gore and Busch have health plans to aid the uninsured, but neither helps more than 16% of the uninsured.

For the insured, health insurance costs are increasing and HMO's are becoming more intrusive. Medicare is having trouble paying the hospital costs which they are blaming on the balanced budget. Both Medicare and Social Security need more sound financial footing. They are now considered viable through 2025 but no one is even concerned about 2026! Health care quality, especially medical errors, are hot issues.

2nd Health Workshop

Laura Gilson, Co-president, LWV Dare County

The second workshop consisted of three young European American males (Brent McGoldvick, Ivan Freshberg, and John Isaacs) and two young African American females (Robin Joynes, and Bernce Guthrie). They talked about how to get young and minority people to vote and to join the LWV with health as the issue of choice. Both groups of people are very concerned about the health issues - what will happen to them when they are older, what is happening to their grandparents and parents. The minority people are very family oriented. We need to be visible in our efforts to get health legislation passed to help everyone. There is

concern about the low income family who is forced to use the emergency room for its health care provider, since only the symptoms are treated here and not the underlying causes of health problems.

At present, the youth are turned off by politicians and campaign commercials, and they are not voting. This makes the politicians ignore them which tends to be a circle. Youth need to be appealed to by youth so to reach them, work with a college group near you and they will spread the message. To appeal to youth you need a fun activity - such as flooding the legislatures with pennies and not an appeal to write your congressman. The youth are interested in social justice and will volunteer in these kinds of projects. Plan a youth political forum with only youth questioners and moderators.

For both groups, have your meetings at a time that students and working people can attend. It was mentioned that only the LWV and NRA were especially influential grassroots societies in politics. What bed fellows!



DNet

Carolyn Mealing, Co-President,
LWV Moore County

Now, you may ask, what is Democracy Network? It is an interactive internet data base that provides candidate information, such as the candidate's background, issue positions, questions and answers, the candidate's calendar of events, and more. It is accessible free of charge to anyone with internet access. The LWVUS joined forces with Grassroots.com on this project, which has as its purpose to educate voters. The League provides the information and Grassroots.com provides the software and expertise. It is a very exciting voter education tool and our Leagues will be contacting candidates and inviting them to participate in the coming election. The program is very user-friendly

and is zip code based. You enter your zip code, and Grassroots.com will bring up the candidates that are appropriate for that zip code at the local, state and national levels. Then it is up to you to decide what information you wish to read.

Networking -- Golden Opportunities

Carolyn Mealing, Co-President,
LWV Moore County

One of my favorite recollections about the convention was having the opportunity to talk with other League representatives from all over the country. On one such occasion, I spoke at length with the State League President from Alaska. She was very enthusiastic about a voter education project that they had done in their high schools this past year. Briefly, a local League had initiated a project in three senior Civics classes to sponsor a Board of Education Candidates Forum. The League provided the background information and guidance, but the students themselves did all the work, including contacting the candidates, setting up the time and place, developing the format and questions and conducting the meeting. A definite plus was that all candidates agreed to attend the forum. One of the candidates who at first hadn't taken the project too seriously, commented at the end of the forum -- "They were really tough!" She said that the program was a tremendous success and a wonderful learning opportunity for the students.

Caucus Meetings Added Perspective to the Convention

Dorothy Greenwood, LWV Moore County

One of the caucus meetings I attended, which attracted 55 people, was sponsored by a Texas group, led by Carole Wilmoth (clwilmoth@aol.com). The purpose of the caucus meeting was to promote a national study of U.S. Population Policy, Sustainability, or Global Warming. Apparently California had done a state study on Sustainable Communities. The President's Council on Sustainable Development in 1996 stated, "Managing population growth, resources, and wastes is essential to ensuring that the total impact of these factors is within the bounds of sustainability. Stabilizing the population without changing consumption and waste production patterns would not be enough, but it would make an immensely challenging task more manageable. In

the US, each is necessary; neither alone is sufficient."

The problem is focus for the LWV in making it manageable. What about immigration? The "US Commission on Immigration Reform disbanded in December, 1998 with many needed reforms not yet addressed or implemented. There is much to be learned about this issue that, according to the last census report, is causing the majority of our growth."

Information may be obtained from the following:

- Nancy Thorne, Director of the DC Office of Population Resource Center (nthorne@prcdc.org)
- "Establishing a National Population Policy:" (Irousseau@audubon.org)
- "Population and the US"; "Population and Global Warming"; "Population & Consumption" (krchnak@nwf.org)
- U.S. Population Policy Project (USS3P) - for national dialogue (www.kzpg.com/uss3p/).

Relearning League Lessons

Florence Vryn, LWV Moore County

The contest for the League Presidency, hotly contested at the convention, reminded us of what we frequently say to each other about "League values". Make no mistake, the opponents believed fiercely in the "right" of their opinions. We have always advocated the need to be informed, to debate, and to then to vote. However, there is another set of values, so integral to who we are, we sometimes take them for granted -- civility and respect for differences.

Locally, we have shades of opinion from Republican Conservative to Liberal Democrat. We have discussed issues from the method of electing county commissioners, to support of the Board of Education budget with strongly held views on all sides. It is unacceptable in all League discussions to demonize the opponent. Wrong they may be: motivated by evil intent they are not.. CPR in League means "Civility and Personal Respect."

Nationally, those precepts triumphed. Our re-elected president is a superbly qualified model for League values. We returned with a commitment to "LEAGUE CPR" and wanted to share our renewed resolve.

In passing let it be noted , should an offender be spotted during a discussion, it will not

be permitted to hurl that person to the floor under the guise of administering CPR in the usual sense; it smears the lipstick. Maybe a raised eyebrow, or at most, a loudly inhaled breath should do. It should never be necessary, because in League we agree that all opinions and all persons are deserving of respect.

ROLE OF THE STATE BOARD

Diana Phillips

The League's organizational structure parallels that of government: local, state, and national. Each tier of the League is responsible for leadership in working on legislation at that particular level: local Leagues - local ordinances and regulations, state League - state legislation and regulations, national League - federal legislation and regulations. Ideally, state board members should be people who are willing to provide leadership in addressing legislation in the General Assembly and getting lobbying needs out to the people.

Over the past 8 decades, League guidelines have evolved that ensure a relatively smooth working together of strong-minded women. State board members need to have had leadership experience at the local League level, and it's helpful if they have read IN LEAGUE and other League publications in order to have a clear idea of how League works. State board members also need to be people who are willing to look beyond the boundaries of their own county or district, since portfolio work at the state level should involve keeping in contact with portfolio chairs in the local Leagues.

Willingness to obey rules is important. Board members of the League are also currently board members of the Citizen Education Foundation, our 501(c)(3) affiliate. IRS regulations must be scrupulously followed in order not to jeopardize the tax-advantaged status of the Foundation. Board members should have read LWV-US publications, such as "So, You Want To Start an Ed Fund" so they will be able to administer the fund correctly.

General Job Description for LWV-NC Board Members:

- Attend state board meetings. Although our bylaws do not require attendance at the meetings, a quorum of a simple majority is necessary to conduct business. At the present time, there are 5 meetings a year, usually in Raleigh.
- Keep state president, board members, and local League portfolio chairs aware of developments in your portfolio area (program, membership, environment, judicial reform, health care, campaign finance reform, etc.).
- Write portfolio reports before each board meeting to be attached to minutes. Reports will be included in NC Voter.
- Send email to LWV-NC president 2 or 3 times a month to let her know what you're doing.
- Send at least once a month something by email to every local League in NC. If you don't have a portfolio chair to send it to, send it to the LL president. You can make a LWV-NC Presidents list in your address book so you don't have to put in all the email addresses every time you write. This keeps portfolio chairs up to date with what other Leagues are doing.
- Send state president a copy of all correspondence that you send to portfolio chairs/local presidents. to keep state president in the picture of what's going on.



NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR 2001-2003 STATE BOARD

The Nominating Committee - Nancy Salmon, Chair (LWV Chapel Hill Area), Joyce Clayton (LWV-NC Board member), Usha Gulati (LWV Pitt County), and Mary Klenz (LWV Charlotte-Mecklenburg) - is seeking nominations from local Leagues and individuals for Officers and Directors for the 2001-2003 LWV-NC Board. LWV-NC is committed to working for a board that represents different areas of the state, as well as racial and ethnic diversity. If you have something to contribute, we need you!

Please think seriously about taking part at the state level of the League. Complete the form on the next page and send recommendations to

Nancy Salmon,

1706 Claymore Rd.

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

NOMINATION FOR 2001-2003 STATE BOARD

League member recommended for position on the board (yourself or someone else - please get permission of anyone you recommend):

Nominee's past League experience:

Special skills and strengths of nominee:

Nominee's Mailing address:

Signature of person making recommendation

Nominee:

Recommender:

Phone:

Phone:

Fax:

Fax:

Email:

Email:

LWVNC

LWV-NC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To find the local League closest to you, call the state office (919) 783-5995. If there is no local League in your area, we will welcome you as a state member at large (MAL).

YES, I want to support the work of the League of Women Voters from the North Carolina Capitol to Capitol Hill. Please add my name to the membership rolls of the League of Women Voters at the state and national levels.

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

I enclose my check payable to the League of Women Voters of North Carolina as indicated:

____ \$30 Annual Individual Membership

____ \$45 Annual Household Membership Name of 2nd household member

____ I'm unable to join the League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$_____.

Contributions to the League are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

Just Ask!

In this issue:

Campaign Finance Reform

Legislative Day

Portfolio Reports

LWV-US Convention

Environmental news

Study Circles

Nominating Committee

League of Women Voters of North Carolina
3801 Barrett Drive, Suite 204
Raleigh, NC 27609
Tel: (919) 783-5995 Fax: (919) 789-0689
E-mail: <lwwnc@minspring.com>
Website: www.rtpnet.org/lwwnc

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage PAID
Raleigh, NC
Permit # 2388

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.