



NC VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

**“WHERE HANDS-ON WORK TO SAFEGUARD
DEMOCRACY LEADS TO CIVIC IMPROVEMENT”**

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UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

Kathleen Balogh, LWVNC MRI Co-coordinator

As you have already heard, North Carolina was chosen by LWVUS as one of only five states to participate in Year Two of the Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI). Now Year Two is off and running in North Carolina with five participating LWV's: Congratulations to the LWV of Moore, Wake, Lower Cape Fear, ODC, and Dare Counties!

Carole Ellis, my co-coordinator, and I trained the local League MRI coordinators on October 1st, with help from the LWVUS Senior Director of Membership Cheryl Graeve and Membership Recruitment Coordinator Danielle Duffy. Feedback from the trainees was very positive.

This initiative is reaching out to women ages 50-65 who are approaching retirement or are recently retired and have been politically active in the past. This large and diverse group of women is looking for leadership and civic engagement opportunities – and the League is an ideal place for them to commit their time and energy. By targeting this group of women, the League can expand its membership and build on its 87 years of success.

One of the core challenges the League of Women Voters has faced in the past is consistently communicating the unique benefits of membership to potential members. The MRI focuses on outreach and consistent, concise messages—what we say about ourselves to entice new members to join. The basic idea is to share the value of membership in the League, to you as an individual and to your community. Though there are five designated local NC Leagues participating in the MRI, all local Leagues can learn and benefit from this initiative.



Information will soon be posted on the LWVNC website, sharing ideas and successes with you as we move through this year, so visit www.lwvnc.org often. Carole and I will be continually working on it to make it an interactive and useful tool for our local League members. Tips like the ones below will be part of the helpful information you will see there.

Tip Number One - ASK people to join

Tip Number Two - Take a look at your local membership material. Do you use the term Membership Application on your joining form? This might give the impression that a potential member needs to be approved before membership is accepted. Think about changing this to Membership form, or just “Join Us!” Remember, membership is everyone’s responsibility not just the job of the Membership Chair or committee. Give us a call or drop us an e-mail if you have questions, need suggestions, are experiencing problems. Your State Board is

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Officers and Directors

2007-2008

President	Judie Burke	ODC
Vice President	Brenda Rogers	ODC
Secretary	Sandra Wright	Moore
Treasurer	Betty Ellerbee	Wake

Directors

Audrey Albrecht	Lower Cape Fear
Kathleen Balogh	Asheville/Buncombe
Nancy Birindelli	Dare
Kadra Bradford	Pitt
Carole Ellis	Lower Cape Fear
Beverly Hanly	ODC
Beverly Kawalec	ODC
Lousie Romanow	Wake
Fran Syptak	Hickory

Nominating Committee

Lee Luebbe - Chair	Henderson
Vicki Gehrig	Wake
Nancy Birindelli	Dare

LWVNC

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WELCOME TO THE BOARD, Kadra Bradford, previously the chair of the Nominating Committee, has accepted the position of director on the Board; Lee Luebbe has agreed to serve as chair of the Nominating Committee; Vicki Gehrig and Nancy Birindelli will also serve on the Nominating Committee.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Also please note that the NC Voter Editor now has an email address. Please send your suggestions, comments and news of League activities to me at this address.

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here to assist in anyway we can! You will be hearing more about the details of the MRI and our results in the coming months. Stay tuned for some exciting plans.

The information below is adapted from the LWVUS MRI training for MRI participating Leagues

MESSAGES AND VALUES:

WHAT'S YOUR ELEVATOR SPEECH?

If you are asked by a potential member, "Why should I join the LWV", how would you answer?

Practice using the following messages/value statements:

- We want communities to be strong, safe, fair and healthy.
- We want to have an impact outside of the home after retirement.
- We want to continue to have opportunities to serve as a leaders.

These messages can be woven into every League activity, publication, and statement along with the "ask to join". Leagues can select which message they'll use in a given situation based on the audience.

Message #1 – Value to tap: Want communities to be strong, safe and healthy

- o The community needs everyone to participate in order to be a strong, safe, fair and vibrant place to live.
- o LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.
- o Join LWV and be directly involved in shaping the important issues to keep our community strong.
- o As an LWV member, you are a part of an organization where smart, active leaders work to create change in their communities.

Message #2 – Value to tap: Want to have an impact outside the home after retirement

- o As you well know, retirement doesn't mean the end of productivity. It means getting to choose what to work on and when. Retirement affords you the time you never had before to change your community for the better.
- o LWV is the organization where your hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to tangible civic improvement.
- o Join LWV where citizens like you are actively engaged in effecting change on the local, state and national level.

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IMMIGRATION STUDY STATUS

Judie Burke, President

We have now reached the member agreement phase of the LWVUS Immigration Study, the time when Leagues prepare to take consensus. Grassroots agreement on positions is one of the League's greatest strengths. Preparing for and taking consensus is hard work, but worthwhile. The resulting position will allow the organization to affect national policy for years to come, just as we have been doing in other areas for 87 years – it's part of the organization's history.

PREPARING FOR CONSENSUS

Local Leagues use LWVUS Immigration Study Committee materials to help members and their communities learn about immigration issues. Take advantage of these opportunities to recruit new members and engage longtime members. Materials are available to all members and nonmembers. These files are:

- The Immigration Study Consensus Kit (PDFs; includes a sample questionnaire for discussion use)
- All 8 Background Papers (PDF Versions)
- The National Voter Articles (Includes Historical Overview and all 4 Briefs)

SUBMITTING YOUR LEAGUE'S RESPONSE

Your League's response will be submitted to the national office by February 1, 2008. Check your local board to learn how your League's response will be available.

WHAT IS CONSENSUS?

Remember that consensus is the process the League uses to reach member agreement on study issues. It is neither a simple majority nor unanimity; instead, it is **an overall sense of the group**. In other words, consensus results from answers to questions on which members can find common ground and agreement.

While there are no written numerical standards for determining consensus at the LWVUS level, the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee will primarily look for substantial agreement among Leagues nationwide in order to determine consensus on each consensus question and its subparts.



THE IMMIGRATION STUDY TIMELINE

September 2006 to January 2008 –

Local Leagues help educate members and communities about immigration issues

September 1, 2007 –

The LWVUS distributed a Leader's Guide that includes consensus questions

September 2007 to January 2008 –

Local Leagues take consensus

February 1, 2008 –

Deadline for the LWVUS to receive consensus response forms

February 1, 2008 to March 20, 2008 –

Using consensus responses, the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee formulates the position

Late March/early April 2008 –

The LWVUS Board adopts the position

OTHER LWVNC NEWS

HAYWOOD COUNTY

At its October meeting, the LWVNC Board unanimously voted to make Haywood County an official Member-at Large; it is now well on its way to becoming the twentieth League in North Carolina. Bobbie Hurd and Linda Tout are the co-presidents; Barbara Davis is the acting secretary. Sybil Mann and Cornelia Cree, with the help of several other residents, began the effort to organize in Haywood County. Congratulations to everyone there and welcome to the League.

LWVNC WEB SITE CONTINUES TO EXPAND SERVICES

Thanks to Louise Romanow, Wake County, and Patty Dale, MAL, our web site continues to improve and expand services. The latest addition is a Members Site which will contain information for members only. The user id and password will be provided to League members shortly.

NEXT NC VOTER ISSUE

The Winter issue of the NC Voter will be devoted entirely to advocacy. If you have something to say about advocacy, please contact the NC Voter Editor at lwwncvotereditor@bellsouth.net or call Beverly Hanly at the office, 919 783-5995

SEPT. 22ND - CELEBRATION LUNCHEON FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Lee Mahan Evans



Peggy Birkemier, Judie Burke. Lee Evans at presentation of check to NCCF

Twenty-nine enthusiastic League of Women Voters' members gathered on a beautiful day at Carol Woods in Chapel Hill to celebrate our new association with the North Carolina Community Foundation. President Judie Burke presented a check for \$52,300 to our Foundation representative Peggy Birkemeier,

"Foundation representative Peggy Birkemeier ... spoke of her delight with this new relationship and her eagerness for us to reach our initial goal of \$100,000 in a timely manner."

also a League member. She spoke of her delight with this new relationship and her eagerness for us to reach our initial goal of \$100,000 in a timely manner. Peggy reminded us of the rare, one-time opportunity to gift IRA's without tax penalties between now and Dec. 31. For further information you may reach Peggy at 252-491-8166, pbirk@nccommunityfoundation.org, or speak with your tax advisor.

There was a happy buzz as friends met and I, as retiring Fund Chair, chatted with guests whose checks I have happily acknowledged. As part of the event, historian Anne Scott graced us with tales of her first job at the national office, just after an entirely new slate of officers had been elected at Convention! My deep appreciation was expressed for members' support of the Endowment Fund,

initiated by past president Diane Phillips, and I reminded all of our growing Legacy Circle, composed of those notifying us that a gift to NCLWV is in their will. These gifts support our continuing emphasis: Educating and Advocating for Democracy. Special thanks to Maryann Gross and her friends Diane Brown and Betty Grant who provided gracious hospitality in their lovely retirement setting.

Thanks to NC Voter Editor Beverly Hanly who recorded our fun with pictures available on our website. Appreciation to those unable to attend but who made additional contributions to the Endowment. **To Treasurer Betty Ellerbee, your careful stewardship of our funds and investments was a labor of love. Enjoy some new freedom!** Thank You All, local Leagues, newly emerging ones, and the State Board. All are needed to strengthen our democracy. Carry On in fine style! **LEE**

YOUR GIFTS TO SUPPORT LWVNC

Judie Burke

With the placement of the LWVNC Endowment Fund with the North Carolina Community Foundation, there are now three ways that you can make gifts to support the work and viability of the State League. Your checks may be made to:

LWVNC (non tax-deductibles) – contributions support both advocacy and education work of LWVNC. Mail to 3507 Haworth Dr., Suite 404, Raleigh, NC 27609

CEF (tax deductible) – contributions support the education work of LWVNC. Mail to 3507 Haworth Dr., Suite 404, Raleigh, NC 27609

NCCF - LWVNC Endowment Fund – contributions will support the CEF work in perpetuity. Mail to NCCF, 4601 Six Forks Rd. Suite 524, Raleigh, NC 27609

Sincere thanks to all the members listed on page 5 who have contributed so generously to the work of the League of Women Voters in North Carolina.

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Contributors to LWVNC

Audrey Albrecht	Roberta Lane
Kathleen Balogh	Marion Lowry
Betty Becker	Jean McCoy
Bert Bowe	Dorothy Neter
Carole Ellis	Julia Richards
Elizabeth Grant	Brenda Rogers
Shirley Evans	Richard Salwitz
Alice Greenlaw	Mary Sedivec
Elizabeth Hair	Fran Syptak
Ann Heuer	Marilyn White
Betty Ann Knudsen	

Contributors to CEF

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Elsie Cunningham	Daniel Millspaugh
Patricia Dale	Elizabeth Plaisted
Donna Earner	Louise Romanow
Jeanette Eddy	Frances Sherman
Roberta Fugate	Beth Springston
Beverly Hanly	Rita Weimer
Hilda Highfill	Sandra Wright

Contributors to Endowment Fund

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Florence Gilkeson	Pearl Seymour
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Diana Haskell	Nancy Sitterson
Diane Henderson	Ruth Van Lehn
Marion Highriter	Eric Vander Elst
Katherine Hodge	Marilyn R. White
Gerda Hurow	Louise Williams
Claudia Kadis	Sandra Wright
	Florence Ziegler

Messages and Values

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- o As an LWV member, you are a part of an organization where smart, active leaders create lasting change in their communities.

Message #3 – Value to tap: Want to continue to have opportunities to serve as a leader

- o Retirement opens a whole new world of opportunities to apply the skills and smarts you've accumulated during a successful career.
- o LWV is the organization where your hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.
- o Join LWV where new members just like you are taking advantage of leadership opportunities and making an impact.
- o As an LWV member, you have the opportunity to contribute in a leadership role through the organization that has a great impact on local, state and even national issues.



At the MRI training: Carolyn Mealing and Linda Tableman, both from Moore County, and Nancy Birindelli, Dare County

JOIN THE "STORY BANK"



"I am forever grateful to the women who asked me to join."

Carole Ellis, Lower Cape Fear League, state Board member, and co-coordinator of the Membership Recruitment Initiative, also found time to respond to National's call for our stories about why we joined the League and what it has meant to us. You can see Carole's story at lwwnc.org and you can see Carole's story and others at lwwus.org.

Why not share your story?

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

Check the membership information at www.lwvnc.org ; call 919 783-5995; email lwvnc@bellsouth.net

Activities are funded through membership fees and donations. If you would like to help fund this important work, please send a donation to: LWVNC, 3509 Haworth Drive, Suite 404, Raleigh, NC 27609-7224. Checks should be made out to LWVNC. Donations to our Education Fund are tax exempt and checks for the Fund should be made out to LWVNC CEF.