



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

LWV of Charlotte-Mecklenburg

April-May 2016

Reaching LWV-M:

Voice Mail:
704.556.4600

Email:
Communications@goleaguego.org

On the Web:
www.goleaguego.org
[www.facebook.com/League Of Women Voters Of Charlotte-Mecklenburg](http://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersOfCharlotte-Mecklenburg)

Twitter:
@lwvcm

Newsletter Editor:
Lucille Howard
newslettereditor@goleaguego.org

ANNUAL MEETING EDITION

President's Letter

As your new interim president, I've found this League doesn't rest on its laurels when it comes to serving our community. This publication is being mailed as League members brainstorm about new ways to participate in voter registration events, including cooperating with other organizations.

This is certainly going to be an election year to remember in the U.S. and as usual, LWV is in the middle of it.

Delores Hurt and her volunteers did a wonderful job producing TV debates for the March 7 primary. And she'll follow that up with more debates in May, always assuming the court does not cancel the June 7 primary for U.S. House districts in North Carolina.

Tom Murdock and his volunteer committee wrapped up another successful Civics 101 class with a group that we hope will go on to be active, engaged voters in our county.

Thanks to all the LWV volunteers who worked at the polls or doing exit surveys on primary day. And special thanks to Marian Silverman and her volunteer crew for all their hard work on Voter Registration prior to primary day. That's a task that never ends. She's putting plans in motion to partner with other groups around the county to ramp up more voter registration throughout the spring, summer and fall. If you were unable to attend the April 13 brainstorming session and have any suggestions for groups to work with or places to be, or would like to be part of the volunteer crew, let us know. Contact Voter Service director [here](#).

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on May 17 for our own election of a new Board and changes in our program

Beth Springston, Interim President



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Find updates for League action and activities at

Mark your calendar for May 17 LWVC-M annual meeting.

Location: Park Road YWCA, 3420 Park Rd. Time and dinner plans TBA.

Watch for e-mailed Evite and be sure to respond. Bring this Annual Meeting information with you.

LWVC-M Annual Meeting May 17

The Annual Meeting is League's important business meeting for members to adopt a budget and program for the next year, as well as elect officers as specified in the by-laws.

This year, the board of directors is recommending a change to the Education position which the board believes reflects this League's actions, even though it has been acting since the 1960's on the basis of state and national positions. The board, agreeing with the recommendation of the Education Committee, believes the statement reinforces its education stance. See p. 9 for the recommended change.

Several new women and men have been nominated for the open positions on the board. A short biography of most is included, starting on p. 10.

Ten percent of the membership constitutes a quorum. Absentee voting is not permitted. Guests are welcome at the Annual Meeting, but only dues-paying members are permitted to vote. Be sure you are in attendance to voice your opinions. As always, in addition to voting on the usual matters, Direction to the Board is requested from members. The board wants your views too.

Annual Meeting Rules

ANNUAL MEETING RULES

1. Only League members may debate and vote on business to come before this meeting.
2. A motion must be seconded. Most motions can be amended. There will be a limit of one amendment to an amendment of a primary motion. If additional changes should be made, a new amendment should be proposed.
- 3.

PROGRAM DEBATE

1. A speaker may speak for or against a program item.
2. A speaker may speak for two minutes and may not speak again until all others who wish to be heard on that item have had a chance to do so.
3. The chair will recognize pros and cons alternately during debate.
4. Program debate will be limited to one hour. If members wish to extend the time for program debate, a motion to this effect will be entertained by the chair.
5. If members wish to consider a non-recommended item, a motion must be made to consider the item. A majority of members present must approve such consideration.
6. After all motions are made, program debate will begin.
7. Debate on current positions will be limited to four minutes per item.
8. Debate on new program items will be limited to 15 minutes on each issue.
9. If a non-recommended item is approved for consideration, debate on that item will be limited to 10 minutes.
10. A majority vote is required to adopt each recommended program item. A two-thirds majority is required to adopt a non-recommended item that members have voted to consider.
11. Discussion and vote under program direction to the board will be limited to 10 minutes, unless members vote to extend discussion.

LWVC-M Annual Meeting May 17

Board Reports

Access to Health care Roundtable

Annual report for 2015-2016

LWVCM participated for the second year in the LWVNC *Close the Gap* initiative to expand Medicaid in NC. Analyses by the Center for Health Policy Research at George Washington University indicate that expanding Medicaid would provide healthcare for 500,000 North Carolinians currently in the coverage gap, bring \$21 billion to North Carolina in federal matching funds, and generate 43,000 new jobs. With the passage of the *Medicaid Transformation and Reorganization* bill (HR 372) last fall, we began to focus advocacy activities on the inclusion of Medicaid expansion in the reform waiver. Our very active committee developed and participated in the activities below:

Advocacy Training (2/5/2016) – ten participants learned details of the Medicaid expansion issue and how to contact and write legislators. After developing a group strategy, participants individually scheduled meetings with their legislators or wrote to them via email and postal mail.

Lunch with the League (3/16/2016) – *Closing the Coverage Gap in NC: Where We Go From Here*, held at Myers Park Baptist Church, featured panelists Susan F. Shumaker, RN, MHA, FACHE (Cone Health Foundation), Rob Luisana (Pilot Benefits), Adam Linker (NC Justice Center), and Fred Hargett (Novant Health). Over 75 people attended and many were actively engaged in the discussion.

Medicaid Reform Public Hearings (3/31/2016) – The NC Department of Health and Human Services held 12 hearings across the state to seek public input on the reform of the Medicaid system. Six LWVCM members gave public comment at two local hearings in Monroe (Regina Stratford and Karen Bean) and Huntersville (Beth Springston, Lucille Howard, June Kimmel, Deb McLean). Other members submitted comments online.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/living/health-family/article69505722.html>

Comment-writing party (4/10/2016) – League members will gather to write/mail comments on the Medicaid reform waiver.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bean, Chair

LWVCM Access to Health care Roundtable, Close the Gap NC, LWVNC

Committee: Karen Griffin, Margaret Howe-Soper, Delores Hurt, Regina Stradford, Ann Wood, Ann Foster, Ann Newman, Tom Murdock, Deb McLean, June Kimmel

Education Committee Annual Report

The LWVC-M Education Committee has had an active year guided by a work statement we developed for ourselves: *The scope of the LWVC-M Education Committee's work is to consider issues related to (i) the teacher pipeline; (ii) the CMS School Assignment Plan (current due for revision); and (iii) school funding. The current committee focus is to provide relevant, factual and understandable information on student assignment principles to the CMS public, so that citizen input to the CMS Board is well founded, reasoned and articulate. Our advocacy will be based on League policies and positions. The Committee will also continue to respond to emerging issues.*

Much of our effort this year focused on the CMS School Board review of its Student Assignment Plan because such reviews are infrequent (a six-year cycle), and the outcomes can be impactful in advancing many League education goals. We concluded that the importance of socio-economic as well as racial diversity should be emphasized as a necessary condition for equitable education for all students and have recommended that the League's position be amended to reflect that.

LWVC-M Annual Meeting May 17

Board Reports, continued

Summaries of the numerous public meetings and forums we attended as well as descriptions of the three panelled community discussions we hosted are in recent League newsletters (see website). When the School Board invited public comments on their proposed goals for a revised Student Assignment Plan, we made a statement, and we've met with many of the school board members individually, as well as with Rep. Craig Horn, chairman of the NC House Education Appropriations Committee.

Additional local issues include: improving the shrinking teacher supply pipeline and supporting capital budgets and a bond referendum.

We have networked with a variety of local organizations similarly advocating for education equity. The committee welcomes new members (contact Helene Hilger, hhilger@uncc.edu) as we anticipate continued work on these issues.

Submitted by Helene Hilger, Tom Bowers LWVCM Board Liaison . Committee members include Mary Klenz, Gloria Cox, Linda Levy, Nancy Barkemeyer and Lucille Howard.

Social Media, 2015-2016 activities

- Trained Board in Twitter setup, functions, and how to interact to promote league work and events through social media
- Tweeted local, state, and nation updates 7-10 times a week to increase the league's presence on social media
- Make connections across the country with other leagues to create a social network for the LWVC-M
- Live tweet from league events to create a virtual conversation with those in the room and those not in attendance but following events virtually.
- Interact with on social medial with other leagues during major political events
- Hosted Lunch with the League on social media and navigating the new league website

Milestones

- Increased League followers on FaceBook and Twitter by 100%.
- Followed and retweeted thought the year by League Executive Director, Wylecia Wiggs Harris and League of Women's Voters national Social media account.
- Featured in the League of Women Voters State of the Union social media recap.

Submitted by Shanda Martin

Civics 101 2016



Left, Taylor Batten and Rick Thames of the Charlotte Observer are introduced by Tom Murdock



Above, Tom passes out diplomas to Civics 101 graduates.

League of Women Voters Annual Meeting May 17

Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting

Minutes – Annual Meeting, May 28, 2015

LWVC-M President, Gloria Cox, called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. Gloria announced that there 39 members present therefore meeting the 10% requirement for making the quorum. She then advised that the LWVC-M room had 148 hours of usage over the past year. She also announced that there are sign up sheets on each table so that members could determine which committee they would be interested in working on. Gloria also announced that the annual dues are coming due, and if members wished, they could pay them tonight.

Membership chairman, Suzanne Elsberry Schweikert announced that Women's Equality Day will be held on August 25 in the auditorium starting at 6:30 PM. The guest speaker is Suzanne Reynolds who teaches law at Wake Forest Law School. The program will begin at 6:30, and light refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Peg Chapin, chair of the Advocacy Committee, reported that they attended City Council meetings as well as School Board meetings. The Advocacy team along with Karen Bean and Ann Newman established the "closing Gap" Round Table for LWVC-M. Many new members attended a very successful new member orientation meeting on August 9, 2014 at the home of Peg Chapin.

As the chair of the Education Committee, Gloria reported that the committee was working on topics to explore and educate the community. Topics were Pre-K and Charter Schools. Members were particularly interested in the Legislative Agenda items that address "Providing traditional schools with Charter flexibility" and "Fully funding North Carolina Pre-K programs so that all eligible students may participate. Members attended CMS Board of Education meetings, MeckEd presentations. Talked with education leaders in the community and attended the CMS State of Our Schools Event. The committee will be working to establish a plan of action for 2015-2016.

Voter Services chairman, Marian Silverman, reported that she had been busy registering new voters and updating inactive voters in Mecklenburg County for last fall's election. Voter registration volunteers continue to attend every Naturalization Ceremony at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office to assist our newest citizens in completing their voter registration forms. The members of the Voter Services committee continue to work with the Board of Elections and combine their energies with other agencies throughout the year.

Tom Murdock, who chaired the Voter Education committee, reported that the Civics 101 had a late start and therefore had a small group involved in the process. He discussed how to better inform the public that these classes are available and begin promoting them earlier. Several suggestions were recommended on how to notify the public of the classes. Those who did participate thought that it was a very useful program.

Karen Bean reported that the Human Trafficking Committee was formed in March 2014. Their initial efforts were to focus on determining the extent of sex trafficking in this area. After LWV-US adopted a position on human trafficking at the 2014 National Convention, our study group refocused their efforts from studying the issue to how they could take action. They hosted the January LWL on the topic of sex trafficking that featured Anne Tompkins, US Attorney General for the Western District of NC, and CMPD detectives – Ashley Horton and William Clark. On April 25, 2015, the committee organized an event to generate ideas on how LWVC-M can work and advocate further to end sex trafficking locally. The event incorporated the World Café model and was facilitated by Anne Davidson. Ideas from the event are being compiled and will be distributed to the Board.

Following the reports from the various committee chair people, Gloria commented that the new Board will look at having quarterly membership meetings.

The chairman of the budget committee, Mary Klenz spoke to the fact that one of the purposes of the Annual Meeting is to approve the business of the League one of which is to approve the budget for the coming year and the other is to elect the new Board for 2015-2016. Members serving on the budget committee included herself, Barbara Ellis, Becca Tate and Gloria Cox. She went on to explain various areas within the budget. Mary also emphasized the need to consider additional fund raising for 2015 – 2016 year. A motion was made by Louise Woods and seconded by Peg Chapin to approve the budget as presented. Motion passed.

The next order of business was to recognize a member with the Lifetime of Service award which went to Anna Hood. Anna received a standing ovation. She then shared some of her history with the attendees.

The slate of the 2015 – 2016 Executive officers and the Board of Directors was presented by Linda Levy. A motion was made by Linda Levy and seconded by Mary Klenz to accept the new Board as presented. Motion passed.

League of Women Voters Annual Meeting May 17

Minutes, continued

Gloria advised that there would be a complete overhaul of the LWVC-M web site, and that Mary Slade has agreed to take on that task.

Karen Bean commented that she felt that the Board consider being pro-active regarding school segregation and would like the Board to have evening meetings for members who are working.

Louise Woods commented that she would like the League to look at the diversity in Mecklenburg schools as well as the equitable use of resources.

Gloria requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Pam Liebman and seconded by Suzanne Elsberry Schweikert. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:37PM.

Following an outstanding buffet dinner, Gloria introduced the Keynote speaker Deputy Superintendent Ann Blakeney Clark. Superintendent Clark gave a brief history of the status of the Mecklenburg schools and the involvement of the LWVC-M with education. Rather than a formal presentation she suggested that attendees present their questions and their concerns. Following an interesting exchange, Superintendent Clark thanked the League for their continued support.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Foster, Secretary

Proposed Local Program for 2016-17

I. TRANSPORTATION

- (1) Support regional transportation planning. (1994)
- (2) Support policies which encourage the use of bicycles and other alternatives to the automobile to be included in any comprehensive transit/transportation system. (1994)
- (3) Support a regional transportation plan should consider (a) all modes of transportation including air, rail, truck bus, automobile, bicycle and pedestrian, (b) the cost, pollution, consumption of natural resources, (c) effectiveness in moving people, and (d) integration of transport systems. (1994)
- (4) Support a distribution of public funds that puts a greater emphasis on alternatives to the automobile. (1994)
- (5) Support incentives to encourage the use of alternatives to automobile and disincentives to discourage its use. (1994)

II. GOVERNMENT

- (1) Support consolidated city/county government (1971, 1991)
- (2) Support of district representation on the Charlotte City Council, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board and appointed boards and commissions (1977, 2006)
- (3) Support non-residents sharing in financial responsibility of city revenue and the use of alternate sources of revenue in addition to property tax (1980)
- (4) Support stated goals of 2005 Plan that are compatible with LWV(US) position on land use (1986, 1990)
- (5) Support establishment of planning districts and city/county zoning policy (1986, 1990)
- (6) Urge adoption of criteria for planning commission members and mechanism for citizen participation (1986, 1990)
- (7) Support non-partisan city council elections with a primary (1998)

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League of Women Voters Annual Meeting May 17

LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2015 through March 2016

	Jul '15 - Mar 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Direct Public Support			
Contributions	1,910.00	2,205.00	-295.00
Dues	5,978.00	9,125.00	-3,147.00
Total Direct Public Support	7,888.00	11,330.00	-3,442.00
Other Types of Income			
Interest	0.24		
Transfer from special fund	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Transfers from CEF	2,487.11	7,660.00	-5,172.89
Total Other Types of Income	2,487.35	8,660.00	-6,172.65
Program Income			
Annual Meeting	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Civics 101	3,360.00	2,000.00	1,360.00
Community Education donations	23.00		
Lunch with the League	9.00	100.00	-91.00
Medicaid lunch program	560.00		
Woman's Equality Day	2,906.00	1,000.00	1,906.00
Total Program Income	6,858.00	4,100.00	2,758.00
Total Income	17,233.35	24,090.00	-6,856.65
Gross Profit	17,233.35	24,090.00	-6,856.65
Expense			
Admin Operations			
Affiliations	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Board Tools	249.03	300.00	-50.97
Conferences & Workshops	195.00	2,000.00	-1,805.00
Digital costs	347.60	350.00	-2.40
Fundraising expenses	134.98	200.00	-65.02
Holiday Party	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Mailings	87.77	50.00	37.77
Membership committee	479.40	1,000.00	-520.60
President's Discretionary Fund	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Total Admin Operations	1,493.78	4,500.00	-3,006.22
Facilities and Equipment			
Depreciation	545.13	660.00	-114.87
Operating costs	833.60	850.00	-16.40
Rent, LWV Center	6,399.90	9,000.00	-2,600.10
Total Facilities and Equipment	7,778.63	10,510.00	-2,731.37
Per Member Payments (PMP)			
National PMP	3,376.00	3,270.00	106.00
State PMP	1,160.50	1,160.00	0.50
Total Per Member Payments (PMP)	4,536.50	4,430.00	106.50
Program Expenses			
Annual Meeting	84.37	1,000.00	-915.63
Brunch/coffee with League	27.73	0.00	27.73
Civics 101	1,260.69	1,500.00	-239.31
Community Education	661.72	500.00	161.72
Medicaid lunch expense	396.18		
New Citizen Voter Registration	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Position development & support	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Program meetings	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Voter Service	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Voter Service Brochures	308.37	0.00	308.37
Woman's Equality Day	1,139.60	1,000.00	139.60
Total Program Expenses	3,878.66	4,650.00	-771.34
Total Expense	17,687.57	24,090.00	-6,402.43
Net Income	-454.22	0.00	-454.22

League of Women Voters Annual Meeting May 17

LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg Proposed Budget 2016/17

Budget Committee: Malyn Pratt, Tom Murdock, Beth Springston

<u>Income</u>	2015/16 <u>Budget</u>	Actual <u>thru 3/31</u>	2016/17 <u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Contributions	\$2,205	\$1,910	\$3,900	
Dues	\$9,125	\$5,978	\$8,000	Current 84 ind, 18 hsls
Transfers from special fund	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	
Transfers from CEF	\$7,660	\$2,487	\$4,000	
Program income				
Annual meeting	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	
Civics 101	\$2,000	\$3,360	\$2,500	
Other programs	\$1,100	\$3,498	\$500	misc. lunches
Fundraisers			\$4,000	WED and Feb fundraisers
TOTAL Income	\$24,090	\$17,233	\$23,900	
<u>Expenses</u>				
Admin Ops				
Affiliations	\$200	\$0	\$100	
Board tools	\$300	\$249	\$0	
Conf & Workshops	\$2,000	\$195	\$2,000	
Digital costs	\$350	\$348	\$350	website, email
Fundraising	\$200	\$135	\$150	mailing letters
Holiday Party	\$250	\$0	\$250	
Mailings	\$50	\$88	\$100	
Membership	\$1,000	\$479	\$200	
Pres Discretionary	\$150	\$0	\$50	
Depreciation	\$660	\$545	\$0	
Bldg operating costs	\$850	\$834	\$850	Insurance, voice mail, Paypal
Rent	\$9,000	\$6,400	\$8,808	\$725 for 6 mos, \$743 for 6 mos
Per Member (PMP)				
National	\$3,270	\$3,376	\$3,571	\$32/102 single; \$16/18 hsls
State	\$1,160	\$1,161	\$1,221	\$11/102 single; \$5.50/18 hsls
Programs				
Annual Meeting	1000	84.37	1000	see income above
Civics 101	1500	1260.69	1500	see income above
Community Education	500	661.72	500	
New Cit Voter Registr.	300	0	0	see Voter Service below
Position dev & support	150	0	150	
Program meetings	100	423.91	500	
Voter Service	100	308.37	600	
Fundraisers	1000	1139.6	2000	see income above
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$24,090	\$17,688	\$23,900	
PROFIT	\$0	-\$455	\$0	

League of Women Voters Annual Meeting May 17

Proposed Program, continued

III. EDUCATION

Recommended item from the board: (1) new and (5) addition

- (1) Support equal access to a quality education for every public school student and endorse the premise that socio-economic and racial integration of schools is a necessary condition for providing an equitable and quality education for all students. (2016)
- (2) Support and endorse concept of teacher-career development and improved teacher working conditions (1984, 1988, 1989)
- (3) Support administrative career development (1988)
- (4) Support early and continuing intervention for at-risk children and promote comprehensive community and parental involvement in early childhood education for at-risk students (1991)
- (5) Support parental opportunity for controlled choice from among a wide variety of learning environments, options within schools, and learning styles within programs, in accordance with criteria designed to ensure both the quality and equality of educational opportunities, as well as socio-economic and racial integration (1992)

During the 2015 Annual Meeting direction was given to the Board of Directors to be pro-active regarding school segregation and the revision of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) student assignment plan. It was also mentioned to look at the diversity in CMS as well as the equitable use of resources.

IV. HOUSING – Support use of public/private funding for assisted housing in scattered sites. (1989)

V. SOCIAL POLICY – Support consensus study based on the findings of the domestic violence Court Observation Project (2005).

VI. ENVIRONMENT/GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE – Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

VII. HEALTHCARE REFORM – Support the LWVUS health care policy goals of having quality, affordable health care available to all US residents.

VIII. HUMAN TRAFFICKING – Support the work of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Human Trafficking task force and provide educational information about the issue and work to support the passage of a bill to create a Human Trafficking Task Force in North Carolina (2012)

Areas of focus recommended by the board for 2016-17:

1. Voter Registration and Related Issues
2. Education with Focus on Pupil Re-assignment
3. Healthcare with Emphasis on Medicaid Expansion
4. State Budget and Tax Policy



Speakers at Forum for Medicaid Expansion

League of Women Voters Annual Meeting May 17

Proposed Slate of Officers

President: **Delores Hurt** 2016-17

To fill the second year of an unexpired term

First Vice President: **Tom Bowers** 2016-2018

Second Vice President: **Betty Ann Perry** 2016-17

To fill the second year of an unexpired term

Secretary: **Sandra Cross** 2016-17

To fill the second year of an unexpired term

Treasurer: **Beth Springston** 2016-18

Director: position open 2016-17

To fill the second year of an unexpired term

Director: **Margaret Howe-Soper** 2016-18

Director: **Marian Silverman** 2016-18

Director: **June White** 2016-18

Nominating Committee: 2016-17

Karen Griffin, chair

Jeannie Fennell

Helene Hilger

For your information:

Continuing on the board for the second year of their two-year terms are

Directors: **Shanda Martin**

Tom Murdock

Slate submitted by Karen Griffin, chair, Ann Wood, Ann Newman, Shanda Martin, Lucille Howard

Meet Nominated Candidates

DELORES JOHNSON HURT—President



Delores Johnson Hurt is a civil rights, journalistic and entrepreneurial trailblazer with professional experience as a news reporter/anchor, educator, small business owner and non-profit administrator. She is a graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC, where she was the first African-American undergraduate. She also attended the University of Nice, France on a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship.

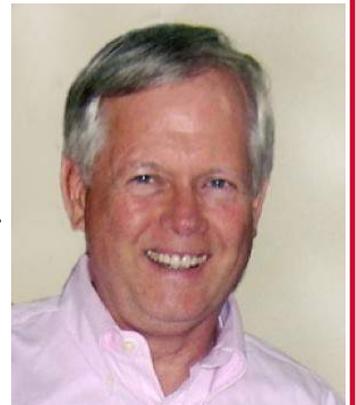
She is a lover of the arts, French conversation and traveling.

Delores was first elected to the board of directors in 2015.

TOM E. BOWERS—First Vice President

Tom E Bowers (the E is to distinguish me from 2 other Tom Bowers who also submit to Charlotte Observer Forums) had undergrad education at LaSalle in Philly and graduate education at Cornell in human resource management. Tom's career was mostly with Grainger, a Chicago Fortune 500 company, as HR Development director.

Tom's community involvement has included hospice, HealthCare Justice, ACLU and LWV-CM. He was elected as a director on the board in 2015 and co-chairs the education committee.



League of Women Voters Annual Meeting May 17

BETTIE ANNE PERRY—Second Vice President



Bettie Anne Perry (formerly known as Bettie Anne Hayes) is a long time member of the Charlotte League. Previously she served on the board as president, vice president and director. Bettie Anne has been a member of the Membership, Immigration, and Healthcare Committees in Charlotte. She also served two terms on the

LWVNC Board of Directors and also as vice president. Bettie Anne is a Risk Manager for Carolinas HealthCare System. She and her husband, Buddy have four adult children and three grandchildren with one more due this summer. She is excited to return to serve on the Board.

SANDRA CROSS—Secretary

Sandra Cross has been a Charlotte resident since July 2014 after retiring as a Human Resources professional with over 38 years of federal/state service in Washington, DC, Washington State and Virginia. She has been active in community service programs, voter education, senior citizen and civil rights initiatives. She serves as Team Lead 50+ Workforce Program with Charlotte AARP Volunteer Network.

As a new member of the League of Women Voters she has represented the League at Naturalization Ceremonies and voter registration at CPCC Main Campus.



BETH SPRINGSTON—Treasurer

Beth Springston has lots of money experience.

Beth just retired from running her own drilling company in Charlotte. Before she started her company, she was the controller for several engineering and environmental companies.

She been a member of the League of Women Voters for 20+ years, first in Berkeley CA before moving to Charlotte. Beth was treasurer for Berkeley for four years and later for the LWVNC.

In 2003, she was elected as co-president and served for four years. Currently Beth is serving as interim president of LWVC-M.

MARIAN SILVERMAN—Director

Marian Silverman hasn't lived in Charlotte long, but she is already entrenched in numerous community activities. She has served as chair of Voter Services and plans to continue in that spot. The committee's goal is to register eligible voters in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties.

As a retired industrial-organizational psychologist and registered nurse, Marian is very interested in increasing healthcare access and decreasing healthcare disparity in our community. She also serves as the community member on the Medical Ethics Committee of Carolinas Healthcare System and volunteers at the Planned Parenthood office in Charlotte.



League of Women Voters Annual Meeting May 17

JUNE WHITE—Director

June White has lived in Charlotte 35 years and is a long-time member of the League. She was a speech pathologist and audiologist with various school systems and 15 years with Charlotte-Mecklenburg before retiring. June is nominated for a second term on the board, although she had been a board member many years ago too. Her interest has always been in educating the public on voting issues and promoting voting.



MARGARET HOWE-SOPER—Director

A native New Englander who has lived all over the country, Margaret Howe-Soper moved to Charlotte almost three years ago to be near family. She holds graduate degrees and worked professionally as a town administrator in Groton, MA, elected to the county board in DeKalb, IL, and has served as an administrative assistant to a town manager and as a librarian.

During the 70's, Margaret was a LWV member in MA and IL and is glad to reconnect with the League. Since moving to Charlotte, Margaret was elected to her Homeowners' Association Board, volunteers as a Reading Buddy at Chantilly Montessori, and sings in a church choir and with the Charlotte Community Singers. She stays fit by walking and chasing her two- and four-year-old granddaughters. (no photo)



KAREN GRIFFIN—Nominating Committee Chair

Karen Griffin had a 44-year career as a pharmacist, primarily in Charlotte, before retiring. She has also studied nutrition and herbal medicine. Now she is mostly a homebody who enjoys gardening, cooking and crafts

Karen says she has always respected the League of Women Voters and joined right after she retired. She is passionate about Medicaid expansion and single-payer health coverage and works with League efforts on health issues.

HELENE HILGER—Nominating Committee Member

Helene Hilger is retired from the Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty of UNC Charlotte. In 2007, Helene received the prestigious UNCC Bank of America Teaching Award.

In addition to her teaching duties, Helene founded and directed a sustainability-themed research center (IDEAS, Infrastructure, Design, Environment and Sustainability). Sustainability science aims to co-optimize economic, environmental and social impacts of projects and policies.

While much of her career was focused on environmental impacts, she is more engaged with social systems and impacts in her retirement. She co-chairs the LWVC-M with Tom Bowers. She is an avid walker, enjoys cooking, and loves rock and roll.



League of Women Voters Annual Meeting May 17



JEANNIE FENNELL—Nominating Committee Member

Jeannie Fennell is a psychologist who works with people to “Create a Life & work that works”. She works with people in transition and entrepreneurs through her company LIFEWORKS. Jeannie has lived in Charlotte for 15 years and has had a lifelong interest in woman’s issues and politics.

SHANDA MARTIN—Director continuing two-year term

Shanda Martin is employed as a Project Manager, Leadership Development for AVID Center, a non-profit with a mission to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness. She started her career in 2002 with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, working as a teacher, facilitator, and Specialist in the Talent Development, Advanced Studies, AVID Department until May of 2014. Shanda graduated in history from the UNC Greensboro, received a Masters in School Administration from Gardner Webb University and holds an additional licensure for educating Gifted Students from Queens University of Charlotte. Shanda says she has a passion for education which connects strongly with the League's mission to education about voting.



TOM MURDOCK—Director continuing two-year term

Tom Murdock was elected to the board for the first time last year. He has led the Civics 101 management team for two years.



Another primary has been scheduled on June 7 for voters in the 12th Congressional District. LWVC-M and WTVI may be offering televised debates beforehand, but court rulings are delaying scheduling.

Watch your email for notice about more televised Primary Debates and check the website: www.goleagego.org.

Particle Falls, the light projection on UNC Charlotte’s Center City building, reveals the invisible dangers in the air you are breathing. It is a dramatic public artwork designed by artist and scientist Andrea Polli that raises awareness of the presence and impact of particle pollution.

League members are invited to meet at 7th District restaurant, corner of 7th and Caldwell, Thursday, April 21 for dinner at 6:15 pm before walking to the building to view the light show and hear a brief presentation. Terry Lansdell of Clean Air Carolina answers questions nightly at the display. See www.particlefallsclt.org

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KEY DATES & NOTICES

All events are at the LWVC-M Center, 1817 Central Ave., Room 210, Charlotte 28205 unless otherwise noted. Click [here](#) for driving and parking directions.

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|-----------------|---|
| Apr. 13 (Wed) | Brown Bag Lunch with the League, 11:30-1 pm |
| Apr. 21 (Thurs) | Dinner & Particle Falls Display, 6:15 pm, page 13 |
| May 3 (Tues) | League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm |
| May 17 (Tues) | LWVC-M Annual Meeting, 5:30 pm, page 2 |
| June 7 (Tues) | League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm |

Check our [online calendar](#) for up-to-date LWVC-M events and meetings at goleaguego.org.