



VOTER

League of Women Voters League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg

May-June 2017

REACHING LWV-CM

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- Find updates for League action and activities at**
goleaguego.org

Annual Meeting Edition



Ella Scarborough Featured Speaker

Mecklenburg County Commission Chair **Ella Scarborough** will keynote the League's 2017 annual meeting June 1. Elected as one of the At Large Commissioners on the county board in November, 2014, Ms. Scarborough became chair after she was re-elected in 2016.

Commissioner Scarborough serves on the Economic Development Committee and, in 2015, was appointed one of the vice chairs of the Economic Development Committee for the National Board of County Commissioners, comprised of members nationwide.

She continues her long history of service to Mecklenburg County that began when she was elected the first female African American City Council member (District and At-Large, 1987-1997). She has served as the president of the NC League of Municipalities and of the Black Women's Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Ms. Scarborough is a graduate of South Carolina State University in Library Science Education and holds a master's in Organizational Leadership from the University of Charleston, WV. She is a former national chair of the Public Utilities Librarians and president of Metrolina Librarians' Association.

Margaret Howe-Soper has organized Annual Dinner, see p. 2

Changing the League's Tax Status so all contributions are tax-deductible, see p. 4

Three Newcomers nominated for board positions, see p. 9

Mark Your Calendar for June 1 LWVCM Annual Meeting

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

League Talk Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 pm

Handling Storm Water is more than minimizing floods. . . .



Darryl Hammock

Did you know that Charlotte-Mecklenburg has 3,000 miles of streams in addition to numerous acres of ponds and lakes and 100,000 storm drains which the City's Storm Water Services Division monitors and protects?

Did you know that you can volunteer to help monitor that vast network of streams and storm drains?

Are you concerned about the trend of watershed quality with so much building going on?

Darryl Hammock, assistant manager of the City of Charlotte's Storm water Services Division, will lead the discussion about these issues and others at the May 16 League Talk, 6:30 pm, at the League Center, 1817 Central Ave., Rm. 210.

Mr. Hammock's work includes comprehensive utility management ranging from budget and policy, to administrative and staff management, to determining program strategies and Council/constituent interactions.

He is a professional engineer and graduate of UNC Charlotte with a BS in Civil Engineering. Since beginning work at the City in 1997, he has served as a Project Manager for multi-million dollar flood control projects and as a Senior Project Manager to develop sound management processes. He also served as the Water Quality Manager for many years providing oversight of the City's Federal compliance with the Clean Water Act, including the development of surface water protection ordinances.

LWVCM Annual Meeting June 1: Dinner & Business for all members

Watch for the evite for League's important business meeting June 1, when members will be asked to adopt a budget and program for the next year, as well as elect officers.

A big change for League is the board's recommendation that the tax status be changed so that the League of Women Voters Charlotte Mecklenburg is a 501(c)(3) organization which will allow all contributions to the League be tax-deductible. See p. for the recommendation.

Ten percent of the membership constitutes a quorum. Absentee voting is not permitted. Guests are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting, but only dues-paying members are allowed to vote.

When you respond to the evite, be sure to indicate your dinner preference of a meat or vegetarian entre. Cost is \$25 for the meal. Social hour starts at 6; preceding the buffet dinner.

May 29 is the deadline for dinner reservations. There is no charge just to attend the business meeting.

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 min.
 - (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.
4. Discussion and vote under program direction to the board will be limited to 10 minutes, unless members vote to extend discussion.

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

In an email to you entitled **"From the Desk of the President"** I shared that I nominated our League for "Outstanding Local League (over 40 members)" award to be announced at the state convention in Greensboro May 5-7. Below is part of what I submitted:

"Over the past year, LWVCM saw a 50% growth in membership - thanks to Charlotte's energized electorate; a pro-active board; a push to diversify in age, gender and ethnicity; a 100% increase in social media presence; institution of a LEAGUE TALK evening program to appeal to those still in the workforce, and a Redistricting Action Team. Our League continued to produce candidates' debates on PBS WTVI, and for the first time, through our lobbying efforts, included judicial candidates. Our phenomenally successful Civics 101 class celebrated its 22nd year with a waiting list large enough for another class and attracted a considerable number of new League members. Three well-attended Education Committee forums intended to inform the public about pupil reassignment added to our community outreach.

In the fall we installed a Vote411.org website so voters could learn about those running for public office in Charlotte Mecklenburg. We partnered with Democracy NC and Common Cause to produce the Mecklenburg County Voter Guide, distributing it at libraries, churches and various other outlets. With the Urban League of the Carolinas we formed a partnership to take voters to the polls. Other productive partnerships during the year included those with Action NC, AARP, Healthcare Justice, the NC Alliance of Black School Educators, the Mecklenburg County Women' Commission, Equality NC and NC Women Matter, for which members sent postcards to educate and encourage women across the state to vote.

Finally, with the aid of a national grant for 2016, LWVCM registered over 1,000 new citizens at the Naturalization Services in Charlotte. A second grant for 2017 is allowing us to continue that outreach with on-the-spot voter registrations which are expected to exceed last year's results. We at LWVCM have been attending naturalization ceremonies for more than 14 years, assisting our newest citizens from the western 50 counties to register to vote as their first official act as Americans. A Spring Youth Voter Registration drive is also underway to educate and encourage youth from traditionally under-represented groups to register to vote. Students at five high schools and five Central Piedmont Community College campuses in Charlotte Mecklenburg are taking part in the project."

As you can see, we accomplished much during the last fiscal year and, with your help, hope to do even more in 2017-2018.

We at the League, however, are certainly not all work and no play! We celebrate by having holiday parties, snacks at our League meetings, zip code socials at restaurants where we socialize with each other and invite recruits. We hope to expand our fun by coordinating with other non-partisan organizations to arrange outings to increase our visibility and raise funds for League work.

Thank you for your support this year! I have been proud to be a part of an organization and board which work tirelessly for all citizens to have a voice in making America better.

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

—Delores



Delores Johnson Hurt

Proposal to Convert Status to 501(c)(3)

At the annual meeting, the Board of Directors will propose that LWVCM convert their non-profit status from a 501(c)(3) to a 501(c)(4). What will this mean and what does it entail?

Current status - Historically, LWV Leagues have been set up as a non-profit under 501(c)(4) as a “social welfare” organization. Over the years, LWVUS, most state Leagues and larger local Leagues have formed a “sister” Education Fund entity which is qualified as tax exempt under 501(c)(3). LWVCM uses the Citizen Education Foundation, maintained by LWVNC, for all 501(c)(3) contributions and expenses. In the last two years, three state Leagues (Wisconsin, Oregon and Minnesota) and over 80 local leagues have eliminated the second entity and converted their status to 501(c)(3).



Beth Springston

Differences between the two types

1. Contributions and member dues are deductible for donors and members of a 501(c)(3) organization.
2. A 501(c)(4) organization can support or oppose candidates for elected office and political parties, while a 501(c)(3) cannot. Since our own internal LWV rules prohibit this, it is irrelevant to LWVCM.
3. There is no limit on the lobbying activities of a 501(c)(4) organization, whereas a 501(c)(3) organization's lobbying activities cannot constitute a “substantial part” of the overall activities. We do not see this as a problem for LWVCM since the definition of “substantial” is 20% of expenses – and we generally do not spend any money on lobbying, only volunteer time.

Benefits to Conversion

1. All dues and contributions will be tax deductible to member and donors, which may increase donations but will certainly assist anyone who itemizes their taxes.
2. It reduces confusion among members and the outside public about the differing roles of the two entities and who to write their checks to. It also reduces confusion when applying for grants since many organizations will only grant to 501(c)(3) organizations.
3. It reduces administration work for the LWVCM and LWVNC treasurers .

Cost of Conversion – Two months ago the IRS increased the one-time fee to \$850 and eliminated the ability of small non-profits to use their short online form. Since we don't need an attorney because we have access to a LWVUS expert, it won't take any money to fill out the longer form, it's just the one-time fee we have to pay.

—Beth Springston, Treasurer

By-Law Changes Required to Implement Change in Tax Status



To meet the IRS requirements for implementing a change in the League's tax status so that all contributions are tax-deductible, members will need to approve changes to the by-laws if that proposal is approved. The proposed changes to the by-laws include a new paragraph added to Article II, Purposes and Policy; a section concerning the office location also added to Article II and a new section on Distribution of Funds on Dissolution added to Article VI Financial Administration.

The proposed changes to be approved are included here on p. 5. A copy of the complete by-laws can be found under the “About Us” tab on goleaguego.org. A limited number of copies also will be available at the annual meeting.

Proposed By-law Changes

ARTICLE II Purposes and Policy

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVCM shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

LWVCM, which is organized under the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, shall operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and in a manner consistent with Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, LWVCM shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of LWVCM shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.

Section 3. Office. *The office and location of LWVCM shall be in such a place in Mecklenburg County, NC as may be designated from time to time by the Board of Directors.*

ARTICLE VI Financial Administration

Section 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. *In the event of the dissolution of LWVCM for any reason, all money and securities which may at the time be owned or under the absolute control of LWVCM shall be distributed at the discretion of the board to the Citizen Education Foundation which is exempt under section 501(c)(3) after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met; or if this organization is not in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the board, to the LWUS Ed Fund which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under such designated tax provisions.*

Proposed Local Program 2017-2017

The League's program consists of those governmental issues that the League has chosen for concerted study and action at the national, state or local level. The program process is specified in the bylaws. At each annual meeting, members are asked to adopt the program consisting of issues that the League has studied and on which members reached a consensus.

Positions must be readopted each year by League members at the annual meeting in order to remain on the program of issues for possible action.

You can see the full list of national positions at LWV.org and state positions at lwnvc.org "about" tab.

PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM 2017-18

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)

Proposed Program 2017-2018 (continued)

- (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)

III. EDUCATION

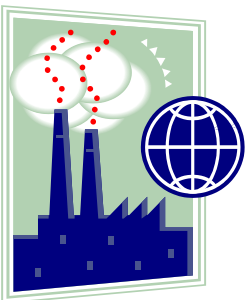
- (1) Support equal access to a quality education for every public school student and endorse the premise that socio-economic and racial integration of schools is a necessary condition for providing an equitable and quality education for all students. (2016)
- (2) Support and endorse concept of teacher-career 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, 2016)



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 2017-18:

1. Voter Registration and Related Issues
2. Education with Focus on Equity, Funding & Innovations
3. Healthcare with Emphasis on Medicaid Expansion/Single Payer
4. Non-partisan Redistricting

Members also will have a chance at the Annual Meeting to give *direction to the board*—your ideas for the board to consider studying or acting upon during the next League year.

Board Reports

Civics 101

Interest in **Civics 101** has been high this year. Sixty-two attendees helped make the five-session program successful. The high interest level was also demonstrated by the 65 people currently on the waiting list.



Tom Murdock

Civics 101 continues to have an impact on the political scene. This year, Colette Forest became the Chair of the Black Political Council in Charlotte. Previous attendees who have held, hold or would like to hold political offices are: Mayor of Charlotte, Jennifer Roberts; State Senator of District 40, Joyce Waddell; City Council member of District 4, Greg Phipps; former City Council member, Warren Cooksey .

Civics 101 promotes diversity and non-partisanship. This is evidenced by our speakers, attendees and those attendees who seek political office. We provide scholarships for those not able to pay the registration fee.

The increased interest brings a need to expand out Civics 101 Action Team. June White, Barbara Ellis, Dave Molinaro and John Powell were essential for making this year's program a success. To expand the program and to respond to the requests from other organizations, League and non-League, that have asked for help in developing their education programs about local government, we would like members interested in helping out." —Tom Murdock

Education Committee

The Education Committee used this year to organize into some focus area teams and set priorities within each group. Nearly a dozen League members regularly attend the meetings.

The **Equity** team developed some equity indicators for CMS schools and is collecting data to conduct an assessment. They also researched the CMS legislative priorities and targeted a subset of them for special advocacy, including changes to the state's school grading system and funding for early childhood education.

The **Innovations** team is championing two initiatives they want to see advance in the legislature: early childhood education funding, and renewal of the successful Teaching Fellows Program. This team is also in conversation with a variety of elected officials about ways to foster more interagency cooperation as the City Council, County Commission and School Board take up issues that impact education. We are particularly interested in seeing less dissention between Commissioners and the School Board.

The **Funding** team has been following an important legislative study of education funding mechanisms, and they are advocating for a new bond package for CMS schools.

To pursue these priorities, we have been meeting with Mayor Jennifer Roberts, City Council members Vi Lyles, and Ed Driggs, County Commissioners Pat Cotham, Dumont Clarke and Trevor Fuller and School Board members Mary McCray, Chair, Elyse Dashew, Thelma



Meeting with Dr. Ellen McEntyre (center) at UNCC are from left, Pat Siegfried, Mary Klenz, Helene Hilger, Linda Levy, Delores Hurt and Trisha Garcia.

Byers-Bailey, Paul Bailey, and Ruby Jones. We also interviewed UNC Charlotte academics Dr. Ellen McEntyre, Dean, College of Education, Jim Watson and Jim Bird, faculty members, real estate expert Joe Padilla, Executive Public Policy Director of REBIC [the Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition] and CMS legislative liaison Charles Jeter to ensure we are educating ourselves as we seek to educate the League and the public.

A final cross-cutting thrust of the committee has been to follow revisions to the CMS student assignment plan, which has been on-going. Committee members have attended Policy Committee and General School Board meetings throughout the year and spoken before the Board to support efforts to increase socioeconomic diversity in the schools.

League members are invited to join the work of the Education Committee, co-chaired by Helene Hilger (Helene.hilger@gmail.com) and Tom Bowers (tombowers75@gmail.com). **(More reports . 10)**

League in Action

New Member Orientation #2

LWVCM has had an influx of new members this year with many immediately joining action teams and voter registration efforts, boosting productivity and exposure of the League. Shown here at the latest new member orientation are:

Top row left to right: **Ashleigh Morgan, Everett Blackmon, McCoy Perry**

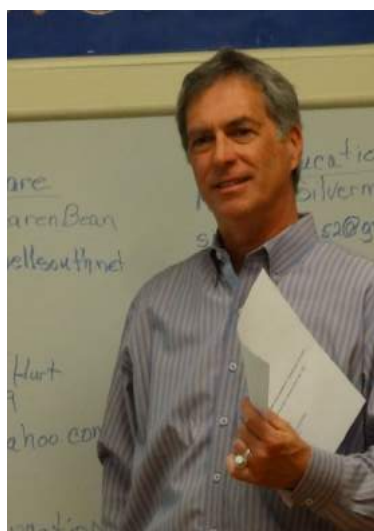
Bottom row left to right: **Sharen Shiffer, Alexis Martesto, Kimberly Perry**



Attending board training in Hendersonville: Peg Chapin, Delores Hurt, Sandy Cross, Barbara Bleiweis, Tom Bowers and Allison Binder



Charles Jeter talks with Education Committee members.



Bill Blacato of Citizens Climate Lobby



Sonja Gant addresses League lunch



Delores Hurt and Peg Chapin attended the Moore County LWV Legends Lunch at Pinehurst.

Proposed Slate for 2017-2018

Nominations for 2017-2019 officers and directors:

President – **Delores Johnson Hurt** 2017-2019
 Second Vice -President – **Sally Thomas** 2017-2019
 Secretary – **Sandra Cross** 2017-2019

Board Members:

Tom Murdock 2017-2019
Ralph Milligan 2017-2019
Barbara Bleiweis 2017-2019

Nominating committee for 2017-2018:

Jennie Fennell, Chair
Linda Levy
Shanda Martin

Continuing on the board will be:

First Vice-President – **Tom Bowers** 2016-2018
 Treasurer - **Beth Springston** – 2016-2018
Margaret Howe-Soper 2016-2018
Marian Silverman – 2016-2018
June White – 2016-2018

Submitted by Nominating committee:

Jeannie Fennell, Helene Hilger, Lucille Howard, Shanda Martin

Newcomers to the Board 2017-18



Barbara Bleiweis has over 35 years of professional business experience in helping public sector customers solve their business problems. With the majority of her career in business development, and sales in the high tech market, Barbara earned a reputation for building trusted long-term relationships. She retired from private industry in 2013 and relocated to Charlotte.

In addition to her professional career, she served as a board member to several community service organizations including McLean Youth Basketball, Cardinal Basketball Officials Association, McLean/ Great Falls Babe Ruth League, and Queen City Tennis League. She also developed training programs for coaches and high school basketball officials and spearheaded major fundraisers to rebuild a baseball field in McLean, VA. Barbara has been a certified high school basketball official since 2005, serving schools in VA and NC.

Presently she serves as president of her HOA the Enclave at Providence Homeowners Association. In 2016, she was appointed by Mecklenburg County to the Charlotte Water Advisory Committee representing neighborhoods to Charlotte Water leadership and assisting them in budget development and policy review.

Ralph Milligan is a Kansas native and a Presbyterian minister and holds degrees from Sterling College and from several theological seminaries. He received a Doctor of Ministry degree (D.Min.) in pastoral counseling from Columbia Theological Seminary. He was a welfare caseworker and then served churches in Kansas, New Jersey, Alabama and even New Zealand.

Most of his career has been as a pastoral psychotherapist in Alabama, Michigan, Louisiana and North Carolina. He also worked as a musician directing band and choir and teaching trombone and piano, was a university instructor and served as a hospital and hospice chaplain.

Ralph first joined the League in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and has worked in the areas of race relations, women's rights, and LGBTQ rights. He and Rosanne have five children.

(continued p. 10)



Board Reports

Health Care Action Team

LWVCM is participating for the third year with the LWVNC Healthcare Action Team. Until the 2016 presidential election, our focus was on closing the Medicaid gap in North Carolina. Post-election, the focus evolved to preserving and maintaining the gains made with the Affordable Care Act and continuing to extend those benefits to all NC citizens. These are some of the specific activities the team participated in:

Provided written comments for the Medicaid reform waiver in June 2016 to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

- Made individual contacts with Legislators in Charlotte and Raleigh.
- Collaborated with Healthcare Justice NC, the NC Medicaid Expansion Outreach Coalition, and Care 4 Carolina – Charlotte.
- Attended the Advocacy Training workshop hosted by LWVNC in Greensboro in October 2016. (Delores Hurt, Margaret Howe-Soper, Tom Murdock, Karen Bean)
- Contacted Senators Tillis and Burr, Congresswoman Adams, and Congressman Pittenger regarding plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Attended Health Care Advocacy Day in Raleigh on April 4, 2017. (Tom Murdock)

The LWVNC Health Care Action Team is hosting webinars to update League members on healthcare legislation. Charlotte Mecklenburg members are encouraged to participate in the webinars and take appropriate action when requested through emailed action alerts.

LWVCM Health Care Action Team led by Karen Bean include Margaret Howe-Soper, Delores Hurt, Ann Newman and Tom Murdock.



Karen Bean

Redistricting Action Team

The LWVCM Redistricting Action Team was officially formed in February of 2017 just days before the filing of NCGA House Bill 200, a bipartisan bill to establish an independent redistricting commission. Since then, the team has focused on the development of a training plan for members as well as an advocacy model.

In addition the team members have emailed legislators supporting HB200. We continue to schedule meetings with individual lawmakers in the Charlotte area to understand their position on independent redistricting. A millennial outreach plan is under development to include social events at breweries or other venues.

Team Leader **Barbara Bleiweis** joined the LWVCM in 2016 and serves as the chair for the redistricting action committee. She is also the Fair Election Action Team Lead for the League of Women Voters of North Carolina, responsible for developing statewide education and advocacy programs for redistricting reform. She has been nominated to serve on the board of directors 2017-19. (See p. 9)

Nomination for Second Vice President

Sally Thomas, nominated for second vice president, was president of LWVCM 1975-77. During those years, the League studied and reached consensus on district representation for Charlotte City Council members. Joining forces with other groups, the issue was successfully led through a public referendum adopting district representation.



In the years in between then and now, Sally became a CPA, served as vice president of the Women's Political Caucus, chaired the City's Budget Advisory Committee and the County's Youth Services Board. She later moved into diversity training, followed by five years as a full-time volunteer along with her husband Zach with Common Hope near Antigua, Guatemala. The agency serves about 8,000 people by helping with schools (including training and support for local schools and teachers), housing, medical care, job training and various other projects. She said she had the most fun working with a group of women in a nearby village. Back in Charlotte, she has been heading a group of volunteers at Merry Oaks Elementary and wants to be involved in League.

Board Reports

Voter Services Report for 2016-17

Marian Silverman reports: It goes without saying that 2016 was an exciting and busy year for Voter Services. 87 naturalization ceremonies, Food Truck Friday in Plaza Midwood in late spring, assisted living communities of Waltonwood and Shed's Landing, Eid al-Fitr (feast after Ramadan ends) with new Turkish and Bosnian friends, Charlotte Historical Museum of Charlotte for July 4th extra naturalization ceremony, Latino Community Credit Union, Levine Museum of the New South with the Girl Scouts of America, CPCC campuses, National Voter Registration Day at Johnson and Wales University and the ReStore (Habitat for Humanity), Human Resources Management Society luncheon in Cornelius. I'm certain there were many others that popped up as unplanned requests from the community.



Marian Silverman

We were the grateful recipients of a generous grant from the Education Fund of the LWVUS that provided funds for postage for voter registration forms, LWVCM signage, postcards reminders to vote and copies of information materials (like Vote411 and contacting the League and Boards of Elections for voting questions). We registered over 1500 new citizens and mailed 800 reminder postcards to the newest citizens of Mecklenburg County for the General Election of 2016.

All this work was accomplished with lots of help from the 50-plus members of the Voter Registration Committee. I want to shout a very loud THANK YOU to all the members who answered my emails for assistance. All y'all are the best!

I really expected that 2017 would be a quiet restful year for voter registration after the hectic schedule we had in 2016. Well, January and February were restful and quiet with only the naturalization ceremonies to attend every Tuesday and Thursday. **And then..... and then....**

We received two grants from the Education Fund of LWVUS. In March we received \$1,000 to undertake youth voter registration activities in five CMS high schools and all the CPCC campuses. Our high school and CPCC teams are actively registering young citizens through the end of May, especially those in underrepresented communities. In the fall we will be texting reminders to vote in the primary and local elections.

In April, we received \$3,000 to restart our New Citizens Voter Registration Project. This project extends into November and funds our efforts at naturalization ceremonies. The naturalization ceremonies occur twice a week throughout the year at the Charlotte office of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) which covers the western 50 counties of North Carolina. At each ceremony between 50 and 100 immigrants are naturalized and registering to vote is their first official act as new citizens. We want our newest Americans to register to vote on site. We are there to help them complete the voter registration form and then mail the form to the new citizen's county Board of Elections.

If you are interested in joining us at the naturalization ceremonies, please contact **Marian Silverman** through Voter Services on the goleaguego.com website. We would love to have you!

Membership Committee



Ann Foster, Membership chair writes: I am pleased to report that

LWVCM has a membership of 155 (and new ones added almost daily), including 55 new members since June 1, 2016. Like many Leagues throughout the country, membership surged as folks looked for an outlet to get involved in the civic arena with a non-partisan group.

Two new member orientation events were offered, one in the fall and one in the spring. Several of the new members have joined action groups and immediately became important contributing members.

Among the initiatives Ann undertook this year were preparing a master roster, providing welcome packets to each new member containing a letter, handbook, by-laws, and even a refrigerator magnet, compiling a new member interest roster and updating the "Join" Brochure for the website as well as a print version.

At least three zip code social groups have been meeting in the south, east and northeast, getting together irregularly for drinks and appetizers at a local establishment. Although not all regions of the county have been organized, anyone is welcome to do so.

LWVCM Annual Meeting June 1

MINUTES - LWVCM ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, May 17, 2016

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Interim President **Beth Springston** at 7:44 p.m. at the Park Road YWCA. Interim Secretary Delores Hurt verified the presence of a quorum; 35 League members. Meeting rules were adopted, moved by Ann Foster and seconded by Tom Bowers. The May 28, 2015, Annual Meeting Minutes were approved, moved by Peg Chapin, seconded by Carol Kobel.

In her President's Report, Beth reported that she 1) had a Letter to the Editor printed in the Charlotte Observer on behalf of the Education Committee regarding school bonds; 2) spoke at a news conference called by State Senators Jeff Jackson and Joyce Waddell on the effects of HB2 on education spending; 3) spoke at the Board of Education Meeting regarding the proposed Guiding Principles; 4) spoke at a community hearing on the draft Medicaid waiver regarding the need for Medicaid expansion; 5) discussed possibilities with LWVNC for expanding Vote 411 websites to local leagues; 6) attended the State League Council in Wilmington, NC. She also urged coalition building with other organizations.

In other officers' and directors' reports:

1. Treasurer Beth Springston noted expenses for the upcoming National Convention and reported that the projected dues are not as much as expected.

2. Karen Bean reported that our League, along with other Leagues in North Carolina, has continued to advocate for the expansion of Medicaid in the state. She said our League would participate in a Day of Advocacy at the General Assembly on May 25 and asked Leaguers to pay attention to and consider where the candidates stand on Medicaid expansion.



Beth Springston, Delores Hurt, Sandy Cross 2016

3. Tom Bowers reported that the Education Committee met with almost all CMS board individually as well as attended Policy and Board meetings. Three public forums on Student Assignment Goals and Guidelines were held, attended by over 200 parents. The Committee supports the fine line CMS has drawn between wider control choice of magnets and partial magnets and home schools as a way to maintain high standards and reduce pockets of poverty.

The Education Committee has networked with other community organizations such as MeckEd, One Meck and Families United, strongly supports the CMS Referendum request, and are pursuing CMS Board member Paul Bailey's suggestion that concentrations of poverty is a multi-governmental issue requiring coordination with city of Charlotte and county of Mecklenburg.

4. Delores reported that the June 7 primary debates would be aired May 22 on WTVI & June 5 on TWC News 14.

5. Marian Silverman reported that our League has received a grant from the National League to follow up voter registration at the Naturalization Services.

6. June Kimmel spoke on such League advocacy issues as the environment, HB2, the minimum wage, prison reform and the public health issue of opioid addiction.

7. Lucille Howard acknowledged former officers and directors and presented a gift to Beth.

Malyn Pratt presented the budget for 2016-2017 of \$23,900, which was approved, moved by Becka Tait and seconded by June White.

Beth discussed the issue of changing the payment dates of dues and recommended no change. The body voted agreement.

Tom Bowers presented the Board's recommended programs for the year; Beth moved for adoption, which required no second. The body approved.

Ann Wood presented the slate of League new officers and directors for approval. Lucille Howard nominated Ann Foster from the floor for a directorship. The slate was unanimously approved.

Beth turned the gavel over to new President Delores Hurt, who asked for directions to the Board and received the following:

1. Linda Levy recommended the LWV-CM support the CMS Bond recommendation.
2. Becka Tate asked the Board to consider scheduling meetings in the evening rather than during the day.
3. Lucille Howard recommended the Board initiate an environmental program.
4. Shanda Martin recommended initiating new member efforts toward young professionals.
5. Jean Reed suggested getting a Publicity person who would prepare press releases.

Thereasea Elder extended congratulations to new board members and offered assistance if needed.

Delores announced the date and time of the next Board meeting, 6:15 p.m., June 7, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, **Delores Johnson Hurt**, Interim Secretary with **Sandra Cross**, Secretary

League Action

LWVCM Members Headed to LWVNC Convention

President **Delores Hurt**, **Karen Bean**, **Barbara Bleiweis**, **Sandra Cross**, **Lucille Howard**, **Vashti Hurt**, **Marian Silverman**, **Debbie Snowden** and **Beth Springston** will represent LWVCM at the state convention in Greensboro May 5-7.

Marian Silverman will be one of the leaders of a workshop on “Moving from Voter Registration to GOTV” and **Tom Murdock** will lead a workshop on “Civics 101.”

State convention speakers will include Anita Earls, Founder/Executive Director, Southern Coalition for Social Justice, updating members about voting rights challenges in NC and across the country, and **Derb Carter, Jr.**, Executive Director, Chapel Hill Office, Southern Environmental Law Center, reporting on problems and solutions of streams. Delegates also will hear from **Mark Johnson**, NC Superintendent for Public Instruction.

Delegates will vote on the League’s program for 2017-19 and the following Issues for Emphasis: **Environment, Fair Elections, public education, ERA ratification, health care, budget and taxes and gun violence prevention.**

Budget and Tax Action Team



The LWVNC Budget and Tax Action team, led by **Mary Klenz**, state co-president, has made numerous trips to Raleigh this spring to meet with legislators and staff about various bills that are not compatible with League positions regarding tax policy and adequate funding of needed services. Also on the team from Charlotte are **Peg Chapin** and **Lucille Howard**.

All League members are urged to contact their representatives to urge defeat of a proposed Constitutional Amendment which would cap the income tax rate at 5.5%. **Senate Bill 75** would have severe consequences for North Carolina’s future prosperity and the democratic process. The bill has passed the Senate and was sent to the House for consideration.

SB325, a proposed “billion dollar tax cut”, which the General Assembly’s Fiscal Research Division reports will cost the state over \$839 million over the first five years., benefits the highest income earners. Added to earlier tax cuts, state revenue is not expected to keep up with basic needs of the state. Again, League members are urged to contact their representatives to oppose this bill.

The League also is working to get the state **Earned Income Tax Credit** re-enacted for low income workers.

More Board Members to Know



Margaret Howe-Soper
Planning Chair for the
Annual Meeting



Tom Bowers, first vice
president and co-chair of
Education Committee



June White, board
member



Sandra Cross, secretary

Financial Statement 2016-2017

Accrual Basis

LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg Financial Statement

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2016 through April 20, 2017			Balance Sheet as of April 20, 2017	
	Actual	Budget		
Income			Assets	
Direct Public Support			Cash in Bank	\$ 6,280
Contributions	\$ 1,283	\$ 3,900	Deposits - rent	\$ 1,350
Dues	\$ 8,589	\$ 8,000		
Other Types of Income			TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,610
Interest	\$ 0			
Room Rental	\$ 295		Liabilities	
Transfers from CEF	\$ 1,125	\$ 4,000	Prepaid Dues	\$ 100
Program Income			Equity	
Annual Meeting	\$ 75	\$ 1,000	Restricted Funds	
Civics 101	\$ 3,720	\$ 2,500	Angel Fund	\$ 60
Program meetings	\$ 527	\$ 500	Merch. Sales	\$ 170
Fundraisers	\$ -	\$ 4,000	New Citizen Grant	\$ 1,785
Total Income	\$ 15,614	\$ 23,900	Youth Grant	\$ 674
			Total Restricted	\$ 2,689
Expense			Retained Earnings	\$ 6,289
Admin Operations			Net Income for Year	\$ (1,428)
Affiliations	\$ -	\$ 100		
Conferences & Workshops	\$ 1,040	\$ 2,000	TOTAL LIAB + EQUITY	\$ 7,610
Digital costs	\$ 354	\$ 350		
Fundraising expenses	\$ 27	\$ 150		
Holiday Party	\$ 214	\$ 250		
Mailings	\$ 289	\$ 100		
Membership committee	\$ 589	\$ 200		
President's Discret. Fund	\$ 61	\$ 50		
Facilities and Equipment				
Operating costs	\$ 690	\$ 850		
Rent, LWV Center	\$ 7,323	\$ 8,808		
Per Member Payments (PMP)				
National PMP	\$ 3,248	\$ 3,571		
State PMP	\$ 1,117	\$ 1,221		
Program Expenses				
Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ 1,000		
Civics 101	\$ 1,308	\$ 1,500		
Community Education	\$ -	\$ 500		
Position devel. & support	\$ -	\$ 150		
Program meetings	\$ 401	\$ 500		
Voter Service	\$ 404	\$ 600		
Fundraisers	\$ -	\$ 2,000		
Total Expense	\$ 17,043	\$ 23,900		
			CITIZEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION	
Net Income	\$ (1,428)	\$ -	Balance	\$ 4,869

Proposed Budget 2017-2018

LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg Proposed Budget 2017/18

	<u>2016/17 approved</u>	<u>2017/18 proposed</u>
Income		
Direct Public Support		
Contributions	\$3,900	\$4,224
Dues	\$8,000	\$7,385
Other Types of Income		
Interest	\$0	\$1
Room Rental	\$0	\$600
Transfers from CEF	\$4,000	\$4,444
Program Income		
Annual Meeting	\$1,000	\$1,000
Civics 101	\$2,500	\$3,600
Program meetings	\$500	\$500
Fundraisers	\$4,000	\$4,000
Total Income	<u>\$23,900</u>	<u>\$25,753</u>
Expense		
Admin Operations		
Affiliations	\$100	\$100
Conferences & Workshops	\$2,000	\$2,000
Digital costs	\$350	\$100
IRS fees		\$900
Website maintenance		\$250
Fundraising expenses	\$150	\$150
Holiday Party	\$250	\$250
Mailings	\$100	\$450
Membership committee	\$200	\$630
President's Discretionary Fund	\$50	\$500
Facilities and Equipment		
Operating costs	\$850	\$737
Rent, LWV Center	\$8,808	\$9,027
Per Member Payments (PMP)		
National PMP	\$3,571	\$3,616
State PMP	\$1,221	\$1,243
Program Expenses		
Annual Meeting	\$1,000	\$1,000
Civics 101	\$1,500	\$1,500
Community Education	\$500	\$750
Position development & support	\$150	\$100
Program meetings	\$500	\$450
Voter Service	\$600	\$0
Fundraisers	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Expense	<u>\$23,900</u>	<u>\$25,753</u>
Net Income	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Budget Chair: Richard Millam; Committee members: Tom Murdock, Beth Springston
Submitted: April 19, 2017

Check out the new section Community Events on League's website goleaguego.org for information about events that may be of interest to League members and the public..

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG

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Charlotte, NC 28205



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www.goleaguego.org

Dated Material

Forwarding Service Requested

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

May 2 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
May 16 (Tues)	League Talk, 6:30 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., page 2
June 1 (Thur)	LWVCM Annual Meeting, League Education Center Auditorium, 1817 Central Ave. , page 2
June 6(Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.

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