



Meet Your League Action Teams

By Rebecca Tatman Klase, LWVNC LAT Facilitator, klase@lwwnc.org

One of the ways that members of the LWV demonstrate “strength in numbers” in North Carolina is by participating in a statewide League Action Team (LAT). This article provides an overview of the LWVNC LAT initiative and information on how you can participate in any teams that interest you.

WHAT IS A LEAGUE ACTION TEAM (LAT)?

LATs are groups of individuals from local leagues around the state that work together to advance LWVNC work on a particular policy area or initiative. Some of these groups have been around for a few years, and others are just getting organized. Examples include the very active Redistricting LAT and our newly forming Environmental Issues LAT.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF LOCAL LEAGUES AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF AN LAT?

LATs are grassroots initiatives. Working within the LWV framework of consensus decision-making, individuals form a group based on their individual interests, backgrounds, and experiences. Often the impetus for the formation of an LAT is a workgroup or committee from one or more local Leagues who want to broaden their work statewide by connecting with members in other local Leagues. Once individuals or small groups recognize their common interests, they form an LAT.

LATs meet electronically on a regular basis, choosing one or two leaders to serve as their organizer and convener. By developing goals and an ongoing strategic plan, group members decide on activities. These might include an LWV study or an educational campaign for members and the public. Members might coordinate an advocacy program or communicate important issues to their communities or statewide. The skills and experience of a group’s members might lead to a grant or fundraising initiative that provides resources for the LAT or LWVNC. An LAT can propose a new or revised policy position for consideration at LWVNC Convention. These are examples of some of the possible ways that an LAT can advance their policy focus or initiative throughout LWVNC.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF LWVNC AND THE STATE BOARD?

LWVNC and the State Board provide communication support and oversight to ensure the work of LATs is consistent with state and national policies. This also allows for coordination among LATs when appropriate. This work is coordinated by an LAT facilitator, Rebecca Klase, who serves on the LWVNC state board. The facilitator provides relevant information from LWVUS to each LAT and works with LATs to promote their activities using established communication tools such as the member newsletter, local presidents calls, and social media. The facilitator also ensures that LATs observe all policies and procedures of LWVNC and LWVUS, especially with regard to public policy positions and public statements.

INTERESTED?

If you or a group within your local League is interested in working with any of these LATs, contact the convener listed below. If individuals or a group in a local League is interested in starting other LATs, contact Rebecca Klase (klase@lwnvc.org).

CURRENT LATs

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Ouida Watson, blue.celica@gmail.com; Shannon Halbur, SWHalburMDA@hotmail.com)
- Redistricting (Phyllis Demko, demko@lwnvc.org)
- Voter Services (Marian Lewin, lewin@lwnvc.org)
- Healthcare (to be announced)
- Education (Rebecca Poling, Rebecca.poling@gmail.com; Mary Kolek, mmkchnc14@gmail.com)
- Environmental Issues (to be announced)
- Equal Rights Amendment (Judy Lotas, lotas@lwnvc.org)