



VOTER

League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg

May-June 2018

REACHING LWVCM

Voice Mail:
704-556-4600

E-mail:
Communications@goleaguego.org

On the Web:
www.goleaguego.org
www.facebook.com/League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg

Twitter:
@lwvcm

Newsletter Editor:
Lucille Howard
newslettereditor@goleaguego.org

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Find updates for League action and activities at goleaguego.org

Annual Meeting Edition

Judge Norelli Featured at LWVCM Annual Meeting

Former District Court Judge Nancy Black Norelli headlines the Annual Meeting of the LWVCM, discussing issues facing the judiciary, such as judicial redistricting and how state budget cuts have affected the system.

Judge Norelli was one of the memorable speakers at the January Silent March in which the League participated protesting the proposed judiciary gerrymandering.

Judge Norelli, first appointed in 2000 and then elected for two terms, presided over 60 civil jury trials; 1,000 Family Court matters, including equitable distribution, divorce, alimony, child custody and support, 300 juvenile cases and 7,000 DWI cases during her time on the bench.

An often honored judge, she is a past president of the Mecklenburg County Bar and has served as a director since 2010 and vice chair since 2016 of Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont.

See p. 2 for Meeting details.



The Day After the Primary Election, League Gets a Recap from BOE Director Dickerson

You won't want to miss hearing Michael Dickerson, Director of Mecklenburg's Board of Elections, when he joins us for Lunch with the League 11:30 May 9, the day after the primaries.



Michael Dickerson

Some of the topics he will address include a timely and unique recap of the election, cybersecurity, and updates on recent court cases and legislation. Mr. Dickerson, a former assistant with the Federal Elections Commission, has served in his current position since 1998. He will be happy to take questions, so come prepared.

Make your lunch reservation (\$10.00) by Monday, May 7, by replying to the invite [here](#) or the one you received by email. You can also bring your own. The meeting is in the League Education Center, Rm. 210 of the Midwood International and Cultural Center, 1817 Central Ave.

Go to www.Vote411.org for candidate information and vote Tuesday May 8

Message from Your President

Hello everybody,

As we come to the end of each fiscal year, it is customary for League leaders to report on the past year's activities. You will therefore find reports from each of our action team leaders - as well as Civics 101 - in this Annual Meeting issue of the *Voter*.



Delores Johnson Hurt

As president, I'd like to tell you that during 2017-2018, **our League moved closer to the goal of being more visible in Charlotte Mecklenburg.** One indicator of this visibility is reflected in our increased membership; we have 175 dues paying members.

During the year, we rode and walked in three parades in uptown Charlotte: the Labor Day Parade, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Those events allowed our name to be seen by people who may not have known we existed. And, we had fun! In August, the League plans to participate in the Gay Pride Parade.

We honored requests to appear on radio stations WFAE, WBT and the Beasley Group (WSOC-FM, WKQC-FM, WPEG-FM, WBCN-AM and Disney Kiss 951-HD2). Voter Service Director Marian Silverman told about the success of our high school voter registration drive on Spectrum News, and Charlotte Magazine

ran the feature: Q&A: Delores Johnson Hurt of League of Women Voters. The Charlotte Observer again reported on our Civics 101 class and WTVI PBS aired the Charlotte mayor's debate in conjunction with the League. Our Facebook page began featuring pictures and videos from Lunch with the League, League Talk, high school student voter registrations and community events we attended.

We also made progress towards our goal of partnering with and co-sponsoring events with other non-profit, nonpartisan organizations in Charlotte Mecklenburg. In August 2017, some 15 organizations were present and recognized at our Women's Equality Day Event. In October 2017, we moderated the Mint Hill, NC candidates' forum. In January 2018, we participated with Progress North Carolina in a silent march and press conference to protest judicial gerrymandering. Also in January, we were part of the anniversary celebration of Charlotte Women's March and introduced thousands of marchers to the role the League's founders and predecessors played in the struggle for the right of women to vote in the U.S. Our League Talk seminar entitled Unified, prepared and presented by East Mecklenburg high school students, exemplified League efforts to make headway with a younger generation and potential future members.

On another front, the Education Committee appeared several times before the Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education to promote equity in CMS schools and joined with organizations such as the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce to promote the successful passage of a near billion-dollar school bond.

The above activities are just the tip of the iceberg of the work League leaders and members do every day to encourage informed, active participation in government and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Thank you for the role you play in helping to achieve those goals.

All the best, Delores

Welcome to New Members

Joining since March 1 are:

Mary Belk	Ralph Belk, Jr.
Erin Brighton	Brien Brighton
Becky Carney	Eugene Carney
Mary Lee	John Lee
Susan McDowell	Heloise Merrell
Irving Schwebel	Cheryl Stewart
Tiffanie Turner-Henderson	



New Life Members

Two women who have been members of the League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg for 50 years will be recognized at the 2018 Annual Meeting June 7. Be sure to be present to help honor these committed members.

Congratulations to:

Thereasea Elder

Betty Chafin Rash

Annual Meeting

Put June 7 on your calendar now for the LWVCM Annual Meeting

Join your League friends for food and socializing, a remarkable speaker—Judge Norelli, a bit of business and decisions about League officers and plans for next year.

You'll receive a Ping on your email with final arrangements and a link to make your reservation. A light supper will be offered for \$12.00 in the League auditorium.

Bring this Annual Meeting Voter for reference when voting at the business meeting.

Proposed slate of officers for 2018-2019

Officers:

First vice president - Tom Murdock 2018-2020

Secretary - *Pam Liebman 2018-2019

Treasurer - Beth Springston 2018-2020

Directors:

Lucille Howard 2018-2020

Marian Silverman 2018-2020

June White 2018-2020

*Erlene Lyde 2018-2019

*Cate Stadelman 2018-2019

*Margaret Howe-Soper 2018-2019

*filling an unexpired term

Nominating Committee 2018-2019

Chair - Tom Bowers

Reita Pendry

Erin Giardi

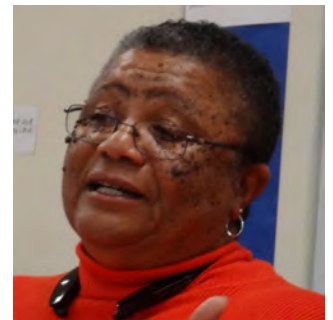
Respectfully submitted, 2017-18 Nominating Committee: Linda Levy, Chair; Tom Bowers, Margaret Howe-Soper, Shanda Martin, Reita Pendry

Continuing in office in terms ending 2019: President - Delores Johnson Hurt, Second VP - Debbie Snowdon

New Faces Leading the League next year

Erlene Lyde, a 36-year career educator, is the President of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Association (CMAE) which is the local affiliate of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) and the National Education Association (NEA). Originally from Brunswick, GA where she taught chemistry for 19 years, Erlene moved to Charlotte in 2001, becoming a member of the original staff which opened E. E. Waddell High School. She also has taught at Harding University High School and is in her fifth year at West Charlotte High School.

Ms. Lyde earned a B.A in Chemistry from Duke University and Masters and Education Specialist degrees from Georgia Southern University. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the NAACP. Taught at her mother's knee to speak truth to power, Erlene believes, as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated so eloquently: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."



Reita Pendry joined the League last year and has been very active with voter registration efforts, including the March for our Lives in Charlotte last month. Reita Pendry was born in the mountains of North Carolina and raised in Charlotte. She graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Law and practiced in North Carolina and Washington, D.C. For most of her career, she practiced criminal defense. Reita now lives and works in Charlotte, dividing her time between writing and working for homeless animals.

Annual Meeting

New Faces Leading the League (continued from p. 3)

Cate Stadelman has more than 25 years of experience as a Project Manager, leading efforts to solve specific business problems. With a grasp of both strategic and tactical, Cate has managed projects in policy development and management, risk management, process and workflow, governance and control, and systems.



She retired in 2013 and, after a period of travel alternating with her genealogy and gardening hobbies, began registering voters with LWVCM. Cate is also a member of the League's Fair Elections Action Team and the Charlotte Women's March Communications team. Past volunteer work includes Guardian ad Litem, rape crisis line counselor and anti-racism educator. She has lived in Charlotte for 36 years and has two children and three grandchildren. She has been nominated as a director.

Pam Liebman is a lifetime educator. She taught English, history and government in Arizona, Kansas and Texas for a total of 42 years. She also was a National Education Association union leader all of her teaching career.



Pam and her husband Warren moved to Charlotte in 2011 to be near grandchildren.

Immediately joining the League after she moved here, Pam has held board positions twice and has been hospitality chair.

Her passion is in all things voter education and registration.

Pam has been nominated secretary to fill an unexpired term.

Erin Giarda is a native Virginian, whose career in the wine industry and passion for travel have taken her around the United States and the world, before landing here in Charlotte in 2015.

Erin is dedicated to serving and has volunteered for a number of organizations including Loaves & Fishes, Queen City Kitties, and the Jazz Arts Initiative. As part of Novant Health's Latino/Hispanic Business Resource Group here in Charlotte, she has begun to develop her advocacy for Hispanic enfranchisement and leadership. She currently participates in the Proyecto Latino de Participacion Civica at the Camino Community Center and is a member of the Hispanic American Democrats of Mecklenburg County.



As a first-time homeowner, Erin is invested in developing a rich local community with diverse roots and viewpoints, and is delighted to partner with the League of Women Voters Charlotte Mecklenburg to realize these goals. She joined the League last year and has been nominated to serve on the nominating committee.

Continuing in Leadership:



Debra Hines, Tom Hines, Debra Hines, Debra Hines, Maria Gil, Maria Gil, Debra Hines, Tom Hines

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

Proposed Program to submit to the membership

The League's program consists of those governmental issues that the League has chosen (over the years) for concerted study and action at the local level. The program process is specified in the bylaws. At each annual meeting, members are asked to adopt the program consisting of issues on which League members reached a consensus. State and national League studies and consensus are considered at their respective conventions.

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 2018-19

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)

Annual Meeting - Proposed Program

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- (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 2018-19:

1. Voter Registration and Related Issues
2. Education with Focus on Equity, Funding & Innovations
3. Healthcare with Emphasis on access and quality
4. Fair elections procedures

LWVNC releases study on use of public voucher funds in private schools

The League of Women Voters released an analysis today that calls into question how some of North Carolina's Opportunity Scholarships are being spent. The author's research indicates that approximately 77% of private schools receiving vouchers are using curricula that do not comply with state standards, leaving many students unprepared for college level coursework or careers in certain fields. **The League is asking state officials to review how voucher money is being spent and enforce standards to ensure students receive quality education.**

“These schools are receiving public money, and all we ask is that the state hold them accountable to ensure that their students are receiving the constitutionally guaranteed education to which they are entitled,” said League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear (LWV-LCF) board member and report author **Bonnie Bechard.**

League of Women Voters leaders say their goal is to promote proper oversight and standards for the use of public funds.

Board Reports 2017-2018

Education Action Team Equity in the public schools dominated the study and action of the team throughout the year

Promoting reinstatement of an Equity Committee on the school board as well as correcting inequities among the schools, the action team met with almost all board members and Superintendent Dr. Clayton Wilcox and his administrative team. The group's report comparing Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools in relation to socio-economic status categories was formally presented to the Board of Education two weeks before the staff published its equity report. Cheryl Milam delivered the League's response to the board report,



Action team members meeting with Superintendent Wilcox (left) and staff.



The team, co-chaired by **Helene Hilger** and **Tom Bowers**, also met with representatives of several organizations that promote the same values, exchanging information and ideas about promoting equity in the schools. Former CMS Board chair Arthur Griffin shared what he called "the long history of words without actions" as he displayed numerous equity reports produced by the schools over the years. The

inequities have only gotten worse, he contended, a finding of the League's study as well. Implementing the Leandro decision requiring a "sound, basic education for all students" remains the goal, affirming the NC constitutional requirement. **Margaret Howe-Soper** chaired the

Equity Subcommittee.

Equity was a focus of the Funding Subcommittee whose members are monitoring both the Joint Legislative Committee on Education Finance Reform and the Governor's Commission on Access to a Sound Basic Education. The Legislative Committee is studying ways to reform the formulas the state uses to fund local school districts. The Governor's Commission is reviewing ways to implement the decades-old Leandro court decision calling for adequate spending to educate students.

Two public forums in east and west Charlotte were hosted by the League to educate the public about funding sources for schools and the need for the \$980 million capital bond package that was approved in November. Members joined with the Chamber of Commerce to promote the bonds.



Janet Singerman with Helene Hilger

A packed house heard ChildCare Resources President Janet Singerman make the case for public funding of universal pre-K education, a concern of the Innovations Subcommittee. Other issues that the subcommittee advocated for included restoring extra compensation for teachers with advanced degrees, restoring the Teaching Fellows Program, changing the state school ratings to a 50-50 balance for achievement and improvement and opposing a reduction of school ratings to a 10-point scale.

Cheryl Milam headed the Innovations Subcommittee and will take Helene's place as co-chair of the action team for next year.

The group continued its push for improving local inter-governmental coordination beyond property concerns. It also joined the LWNCA Education Advocacy team to work on state-wide issues.



Arthur Griffin



Elyse C. Dashew



Cheryl Milam

Board Reports 2017-2018

Fair Elections Action Team (formerly Redistricting)

With the redistricting issues stalled in court and election season upon us, our Fair Elections Action Team (FEAT), in coordination with Democracy NC, has been monitoring Mecklenburg's Board of Elections Meetings. The team met with local leaders from Democracy NC to examine the incident reports from the 2016 polling locations.

We will be meeting with BOE officials soon after the primary to discuss how these incidents were resolved and to identify problems that could arise in the future. Members are strongly encouraged to attend the BOE meetings when possible as they can be very illuminating, and the League's presence has long been welcomed by elections officials.

For more information on this or to join our FEAT Team, contact either co-chair: **Ashleigh Morgan** at mashleigh37@gmail.com or **Debbie Snowdon** at debbie.snowdon@yahoo.com

FYI: Lawmakers appear poised to propose an amendment to the NC Constitution to include a voter ID requirement. Although many citizens may see this as a reasonable requirement, evidence consistently disproves any claims of widespread voter fraud. On the contrary, voter ID laws create an unnecessary burden for the elderly and the disadvantaged, and depress voter turnout for these populations. Our FEAT will coordinate with the State LWV to bring awareness to this issue, if it becomes necessary. FEAT members will be kept updated.

———Debbie Snowdon, co-chair



Debbie Snowdon



Ashleigh Morgan

Civics 101

The political challenges facing Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are intensified by the state and federal political issues. This created an unprecedented interest in Civics 101 that resulted in our having two sessions during this League's year – one in fall 2017 and another in spring 2018 with a total number of 108 attendees.

An interesting addition to the city government session of Civics 101 was the introduction of the “**City of Charlotte Budget Allocation Exercise**” that challenged each participant to allocate funding to departments such as fire, police and solid waste services. Then the anguish of making significant funding cuts was thrown in. This helped to make it real.

One important result of Civics 101 has been the number of participants who have whetted their interest in public service. One speaker at a recent League Talk, City Council member **Larken Egleston** of District 1, told how important attending Civics 101 has been to him.

Team members **Leta Bosc**, **Trisha Garcia** and **June White** were key to the success of the Civics 101 fall and spring classes. We always need and are welcoming to new members, particularly those who have participated in earlier Civics 101 classes to support future Civics 101 classes. Any takers?

—Tom Murdock, chair Contact Tom [here](#).

Voter Services

It goes without saying that 2017 was another exciting and busy year for Voter Services. With

105 naturalization ceremonies covered by our energetic voter service team, we registered over 2000 of our newest citizens and mailed over 1700 reminder-to-vote postcards for the primary and general elections of 2017. In addition, members of our team “adopted” four CMS high schools (Garinger, East Meck, West Charlotte, and Cato) and coached the students who registered (and pre-registered) their peers.

We were the grateful recipients of two generous grants from the Education Fund of the LWVUS last fall that provided funds for postage for voter registration forms, LWVCM signage, postcard reminders to vote

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Voter registration at Independence High School

Board Reports 2017-18

Voter Services (continued from p. 8)

and copies of information materials (like Vote411 and contacting the League and Boards of Elections for voting questions).

The two grants covered expenses related to the New Citizens Voter Registration Project and the Youth Voter Project. All this work was accomplished with lots of help from the 70+ 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!

Last month we received another two grants from the LWV Education Fund to continue our voter registration events at the naturalization ceremonies and at the high schools in Mecklenburg



Registering voters at March for our Lives: left, Reita Pendry with students; middle, Tom Murdock with student; right, Leta Bosc & husband, Larry, register a student.



County.

If you are interested in joining us at the naturalization ceremonies or adopting a high school, please contact Marian Silverman through Voter Services on the goleaguego.com website. We would love to have you! We have plenty to keep us busy this year.

—Marian Silverman, chair

Vote 411.org

VOTE411.org is LWV's one-stop website for all election information, including an online voter guide.

I have spearheaded the use of this software for the last three elections in Mecklenburg and feel it is an excellent tool to help voters easily compare candidate positions. After users make their comparisons, they can make a hard copy of their choices to take to the polls and will "Vote Smart". In the last two years, five local leagues in NC used this tool to cover their counties' elections.

For 2018, LWVNC is devoting a majority of their resources to providing a statewide voter guide for 1,136 candidates in all races in all 100 counties. I was appointed to the LWVNC Board earlier this year, and I am co-director of this VOTE411 effort. We have mobilized a volunteer crew of over 50 to contact candidates and publicize the program. By having all counties covered in VOTE411, this gives us the opportunity to have statewide PR work done.

Leagues are printing and distributing flyers, postcards, bookmarks, signs – and leveraging as much free PR as possible. We are using Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor, partner organization websites, PSA spots on radio and TV stations, and press releases. As this article is written, it is too early to see what results we'll get, but I'll give a more detailed report at the Annual Meeting. 84% of Mecklenburg candidates submitted the information into the system. and we'll be trying to make that 100% for the fall election.



Beth Springston



Promoters of Vote411.org in the St. Patrick's Day Parade

information into the system. and we'll be trying to make that 100% for the fall election.

Board Reports

Membership



Margaret Howe-Soper

I am pleased to report that as of this writing, there are 175 members of the LWVCM. Although initially 35 members did not immediately renew their membership as of November, 2017 several of those did eventually renew their memberships. In addition, between June and December 2017, 15 new members joined, and between January and April 2018, 23 new members joined for a total of 38 new members.

Among new members, the overwhelming reasons given for what attracted them to the League were “I have to do something more than vote”, “I want to register voters,” and “I don’t like the current political climate and like what I hear about the League”. When former members were asked why they did not renew, they responded they were “too busy”, “moved”, and “expensive”.

I started meeting new members individually for “coffee and conversation” to orient them about the League and to get acquainted. This has been overwhelmingly successful.

In addition to meeting a wide variety of interesting people, I ‘m learning where many of the good coffee shop are located in the county.

During the past year, some of the zip code groups met just to socialize from time to time.

New member packets are sent out to each new member, as well as letters and our updated “Join” brochures to prospective members. In April 2018 60 invitations to join (written by Delores Johnson Hurt) were mailed to all local elected city, county and legislative officials.

Finally, I want to thank my predecessor, Ann Foster for orienting me to the duties of Membership Chair. Without her help I would have been lost.

—Margaret Howe-Soper, Membership Chair

Spotlight on LWVCM Webmaster at goleaguego.org Lucia Trevino-Lane

Hours of volunteer time are given by the League’s webmaster updating the goleaguego.org website, where members can find massive amounts of information about the League as well as about voting rights, elections, League advocacy and community events. **Lucia Trevino-Lane** has been doing this work behind the scenes for several years and is owed our thanks and appreciation for being the expert and doing the job.

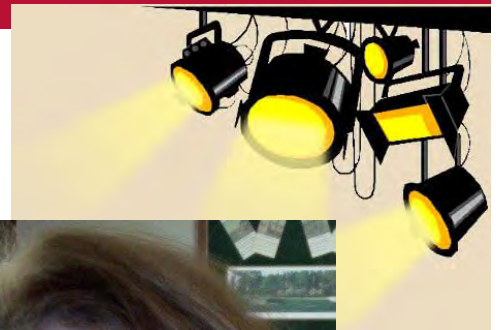
The League's webmaster, Lucia Trevino-Lane, immigrated with her family from Venezuela to Pennsylvania but grew up in Gastonia, NC.

She graduated from the NC School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC, her high school.

Lucia graduated from Boston College of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Communications and graduated from UNC School of Law (in Chapel Hill) with honors. She is licensed to practice law in South Carolina and Georgia.

She focuses on business immigration in her Immigration and Nationality Law practice, which she does on a part time basis.

Mother of three adult children, Lucia has one graduating from NCSU in this month, one a freshman at UNC Chapel Hill and one will begin Duke in the fall.



Lucia Trevino-Lane

Check out the website weekly at www.goleaguego.org

In League

LWVUS Convention June 28-July 1

LWVCM President **Delores Hurt** and treasurer **Beth Springston** are headed to Chicago next month to represent our League at the biennial national convention. Hundreds of men and women will meet to make decisions about League action and policies.

LWVCM gets two votes, but everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the activities.



City Council Members Share Ideas on Issues With the League



Ed Driggs (left, District 7 representative, and **Larken Eggleston**, District 1 representative on the Charlotte City Council discussed the meshing of new council members after the last election at the April League Talk. They were peppered with questions about affordable housing and recent legislation.

Tom Bowers Appointed To Citizen Review Board



Tom Bowers, who has served as the League's first vice president, will fill an unexpired term and then be considered for a full term on the board which reviews appeals by citizens who file complaints on

dispositions imposed by the Chief of Police or his designee relating to allegations of misconduct against a sworn police officer.

Below, Board of Education member Sean Strain met with the Education Committee recently.



Above, Cheryl Milan delivers her long-delayed remarks to the school board about an equity committee.

Do you have your League t-shirt yet?

To be more visible at community events and to promote Vote 411.org election information, wear our new attractive, affordable t-shirt.

The official League shirt is available at Big Frog Custom TShirts in Charlotte. You can order at <http://lowvbigfrogshirt.bigcartel.com/> for \$13.35 plus tax. (\$15 for 2x size). Click on the shirt to start the process. Big Frog will arrange shipping for a fee (call 704-919-0038) or you can pick it up at their store in Ballantyne, 3429 Toringdon Way.



NOT YET A MEMBER?

You can join online at www.goleaguego.org

Click on the left side "Join" tab

Annual Meeting

MINUTES - LWV-CM ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

June 1, 2017

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Delores Hurt at 7:19 p.m. at the auditorium of the International House. Acting Secretary Tom Murdock verified the presence of a quorum; 44 League members were in attendance. Meeting rules were adopted. The May 17, 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved.

In her President's Report, Delores Hurt reported about many of her activities including 1) attended the National LWV convention in Washington and heard heated discussions about attracting young members; 2) provided direction for League Talks and Lunch with the League; 3) provided League visibility by participating in several radio and TV programs including Charlotte Talks; 4) encouraged registration at area high schools; and 5) lobbied for election debate money.

She concluded by noting that the last year has been the best of times and the worst of times. She attributed the growth of members to the political situation. Delores stated several League issue positions: 1) direct election of the President; 2) dedication to the underserved voter – first time, low income, of color; 3) health care for all – not AHCA; promote environmental issues – against pollution of nuclear and coal ash – and we need an action team for that.

She concluded that we are weary of the battle, but never give up. She closed by saying that it has been an honor to be president.

In other Officers' and Directors' reports:

1. Membership Report: Margaret Howell-Soper (Speaking for Ann Foster, Membership Chair) stated that membership has grown by 57 members this year, attributed to Ann's efforts and the national elections. She highlighted Ann's contributions: Social get-togethers, assigning Board Members to call members, sending out packets to new members. Margaret concluded by saying "Ann has done a bang-up job."
2. Education Report: Helene Hilger (Co-chair with Tom Bowers) reported that the student assignment effort of two years was now complete. The Education Action Team is structured into three focused teams: 1) EQUITY – school grading system, supporting CMS legislative priorities, and Equity data – for example, the number of teachers with experience. 2) INNOVATION – Promoting interagency cooperation, affordable housing, teaching fellows program (for example, bringing back the rewarding of teachers with advanced degrees) and early education. 3) FUNDING – Understanding how money comes from the state and bond package support. Helene also asked those in attendance to think about joining the Education Action Team
3. Voter Service Report: Marian Silverman noted that she had 50 members on her e-mail list. Marian described the Naturalization Ceremony with its weekly Tuesday and Thursday sessions having from 50 to 80 new citizens at each ceremony. With the support of a national grant there has been an emphasis on tracking voter registrations completed immediately after the ceremony. The result so far has been about 50%. She noted that another grant had supported the effort to register high school and college students and that this effort was completed. Marian invited those interested to join the Voter Services Action Team.
4. Civics 101 Report: Tom Murdock reported that the Civics 101 program was very successful with over sixty participants in the spring session. A waiting list was created and now stands at 70. The program was a source of new members and generated interest in the League. The Civics 101 workshop at the LWVNC state convention in Greensboro facilitated by Tom was well received with 14 attendees asking for the PowerPoint to help support their interest in developing their own Civics 101 classes. Other non-league organizations have expressed interest as well.
5. Health Care Action Team Report: Karen Bean spoke about health care explaining that the Affordable Care Act was not perfect and that the current bill was not good. She stated that the Single Payer System is gaining support with the number of sponsors in congress having doubled from last year. The possibility of it being inevitable is gaining traction. She provided a handout with links to key health care advocacy sites.
6. Redistricting Action Team Report: Trisha Garcia (Speaking for Barbara Bleiweis, Team Chair) spoke about the formation of the team and some early accomplishments: a logo produced by Barbara, a baseline PowerPoint about redistricting was developed, and a gerrymandering primer for education was created. The team is working with Senator Jackson and former Mayor Vinroot as part of their efforts to develop relationships for a redistricting base. This effort includes developing partnerships with coalition groups. Their strategy includes a focus on millennials. They are hosting a gerrymandering event celebrating Elbridge Gerry's birthday to be held on July 22nd. Attendees were invited to join the Redistricting Action Team.
7. Budget and Tax (NC) Lucille Howard (Speaking for Mary Klenz) spoke about the work that Mary had done and that Mary had finished four years of state league leadership. The goal has been to make a weekly presence at the legislature to advocate against the constitutional amendment and for the income tax credit for working families.
8. Treasurer's Report: Beth Springston noted the new packet as of April 20th with no changes in expenses. She mentioned that revenue was affected negatively by having no fund raiser and positively by Civics 101. She expressed no concern with the negative net income at the bottom. There is money from restricted funds - (continued p. 13)

Annual Meeting

(continued)

grants for education \$3,500 left over from prior years.

Beth spoke about the work done to move to a 501(C)(3) organization. The detail required by the IRS is more of a burden now. However, protecting us from IRS rules around lobbying is not difficult. The IRS tracks money spent, and because e-mail is cheap for communication, little money is spent on lobbying, which is the tightly controlled restriction for a 501(C)(3) organization. Beth's 17 years with the LWV has shown her that failing to meet this restriction is not difficult. The filing expense is \$850. This cost is offset by the current situation that is confusing such as when going for grants. Another plus is that dues would be tax deductible. Although there was discussion about leaving the 501(C)(4) in a dormant form, Beth indicated that was not needed and that she had got this assurance from national. Beth made a motion to move to a 501(C)(3) organization, and the motion was adopted.

9. Change in By-laws: Beth noted the change in by-laws as described in the Voter. Beth moved that the changes be accepted, and the motion was adopted.

10. 2017-2018 Proposed Budget: Richard Milam, Chair of the Budget Committee, presented the budget. He noted that the primary categories for revenue were dues, contributions, and Civics 101. The expenses were primarily office rental, shared membership dues to state and national, and some Civics 101. There was discussion about eliminating the Voter Services line item. There was a motion that the line item be retained and a footnote explain that there were grant moneys supporting Voter Services. The motion was adopted. There was a motion that the overall budget be approved. The motion was adopted.

11. Recommended Program for 2017-18: Tom Bowers presented the Board's recommended programs for the year. Tom Bowers moved for adoption of the recommended programs. The motion was adopted.

12. Presentation of Slate of New Officers and Directors: Pam Liebman, Chair Nominating Committee asked her team to stand and then noted that they had had two meetings and many calls. Pam noted that the 2nd VP nominee had declined due to family obligations. She then asked for any nominations. Shanda Martin nominated Debbie Snowdon, and Lucille Howard seconded. Pam presented the slate of League new officers and directors for approval. A voice vote was taken, and the slate was approved.

13. Direction to the Board: Mary Klenz encouraged the board to continue all the wonderful work.

14. Acknowledgements: President Delores Hurt extended appreciation to departed Board Members Ann Foster, Bettie Anne Perry and Shanda Martin. She also awarded Certificate of Appreciation to Board Members.

15. Announcements: President Delores Hurt announced a social event as an opportunity to build the League by sponsoring various activities. A block of seats has been reserved for the League for the July 14th Charlotte Knights baseball game. There will be a memorable fireworks show after the game.

Annual meeting attendees were asked to take the flowers home. The meeting adjourned at 8:33p.m.

Respectfully submitted, **Tom Murdock**, Interim Secretary

LEAGUE JOINS OTHERS TO SAVE THE MIDWOOD INTERNATIONAL CENTER (AND OUR OFFICE)

A dozen League members raised signs at the Board of Education meeting which heard pleas to keep the building as a location for non-profit organizations. In the end, the lease was extended for five years.

The rent is still due! Send your tax-deductible contribution to LWVCM, 1817 Central Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205 or donate online at goleaguego.org.



Annual Meeting

Accrual Basis

LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg Financial Statement

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2017 through April 26, 2018		
	Actual	Budget
Income		
Direct Public Support		
Contributions	\$ 3,652	\$ 4,224
Dues	\$ 9,025	\$ 7,385
Other Types of Income		
Interest	\$ 0	
Room Rental	\$ 350	\$ 600
Transfers from CEF	\$ 4,644	\$ 4,444
Program Income		
Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Civics 101	\$ 6,570	\$ 3,600
Program meetings	\$ 459	\$ 500
Fundraisers	\$ 648	\$ 4,000
Total Income	\$ 25,349	\$ 25,753
Expense		
Admin Operations		
Affiliations	\$ 108	\$ 100
Conferences & Workshops	\$ 900	\$ 2,000
Digital costs	\$ 144	\$ 100
Fundraising expenses	\$ 524	\$ 150
Holiday Party	\$ 179	\$ 250
Mailings	\$ 242	\$ 450
Membership committee	\$ 548	\$ 630
President's Discret. Fund	\$ 431	\$ 500
IRS fees	\$ 875	\$ 900
Website maintenance	\$ 280	\$ 250
Facilities and Equipment		
Operating costs	\$ 700	\$ 737
Rent, LWV Center	\$ 7,506	\$ 9,027
Per Member Payments (PMP)		
National PMP	\$ 3,616	\$ 3,616
State PMP	\$ 1,243	\$ 1,243
Program Expenses		
Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Civics 101	\$ 2,729	\$ 1,500
Community Education	\$ 103	\$ 750
Position devel. & support	\$ -	\$ 100
Program meetings	\$ 485	\$ 450
Fundraisers	\$ 796	\$ 2,000
Total Expense	\$ 21,408	\$ 25,753
Net Income	\$ 3,941	\$ -

Balance Sheet as of April 26, 2018	
Assets	
Cash in Bank	\$ 9,956
Deposits - rent	\$ 1,350
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 11,306
Liabilities	
Prepaid Dues	\$ -
Equity	
Restricted Funds	
Angel Fund	\$ 500
Merch. Sales	\$ 180
New Citizen Grant	\$ 2,373
Voter Service Fund	\$ 806
Youth Grant	\$ 192
Total Restricted	\$ 4,052
Retained Earnings	\$ 3,314
Net Income for Year	\$ 3,941
TOTAL LIAB + EQUITY	\$ 11,306

Details on Grant Balances

Grants from LWVUS Ed Fund for Youth & New Citizen Reg.	
Bdg Balance	\$ 2,370
Addl funds rec'd	\$ 4,150
Expenses YTD	\$ 2,759
Grants from BluePrint-2017 for VOTE411/School Bond Forums	
Funds received	\$ 3,575
Total expenses	\$ 2,745
Voter Services Fund (VOTE411)	
Left over grant balances	\$ 2,026
Expenses YTD	\$ 1,220
Remaining Balances	\$ 3,372

Annual Meeting

LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg Budget Proposal

Accrual Basis

	Approved	Proposed
	2017/18 Budget	2018/19 Budget
Income		
Direct Public Support		
Contributions	\$ 4,224.00	\$ 7,592.00
Dues	\$ 7,385.00	\$ 11,650.00
Other Types of Income		
Interest	\$ -	\$ -
Room Usage	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00
Final transfer from CEF	\$ 4,444.00	\$ -
Program Income		
Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Civics 101	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
Lunch with League	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Fundraisers (WED, play)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 500.00
Total Income	\$ 25,753.00	\$ 25,142.00
Expense		
Admin Operations		
Affiliations	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Conferences & Workshops	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,200.00
Digital costs	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
Website Maintenance	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Fundraising expenses	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Holiday Party	\$ 250.00	\$ 200.00
IRS fees	\$ 900.00	\$ -
Mailings	\$ 450.00	\$ 475.00
Membership committee	\$ 630.00	\$ 630.00
President's Discretionary Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00
Facilities and Equipment		
Operating costs	\$ 737.00	\$ 737.00
Rent, LWV Center	\$ 9,027.00	\$ 9,360.00
Per Member Payments (PMP)		
National PMP	\$ 3,616.00	\$ 5,120.00
State PMP	\$ 1,243.00	\$ 1,920.00
Program Expenses		
Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Civics 101	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,600.00
Community Education *	\$ 750.00	\$ 500.00
Position dev. & support	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Lunch with League	\$ 450.00	\$ 500.00
Voter Service *	\$ -	\$ -
Fundraisers	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500.00
Total Expense	\$ 25,753.00	\$ 25,142.00
Net Income	\$ -	\$ -

Prepared by Budget Committee: Leta Bosc, Chair; Marian Silverman, Beth Springston
Submitted 4/23/2018

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG

1817 Central Ave., Rm. 210
Charlotte, NC 28205



Advocate—Educate—Empower

Visit LWV-C-M's Website:
www.goleaguego.org

Dated Material

Forwarding Service Requested

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

May 8 (Tues)	ELECTION DAY 6:30 am-7:30 pm
May 9 (Wed)	Lunch with the League, 11:30 am, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., p.1
June 7 (Thurs)	League Annual Meeting , 6:00 pm, League Education Center Auditorium, 1817 Central Ave., p. 3

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

LEAGUE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Volunteer to help plan and produce:

Women's Equality Day Celebration

Fall Candidates Forums

100th Anniversary Celebration

Fundraising

Action Teams: Fair Elections, Education, Voter Services, Membership

Go to goleaguego.org and click on the Volunteer tab on the left.