

2005 STATE CONVENTION REPORT

The twenty-ninth Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina met on May 21-22 in Raleigh, NC.

Mary Klenz, Co-President, convened the meeting and introduced Barbara Volk as the Parliamentarian.

Delegates came from 14 local Leagues, including Asheville-Buncombe, Catawba, Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Craven, Cumberland, Dare, Henderson, Lower Cape Fear, Moore, Orange/Durham/Chatham, Piedmont Triad, Pitt, Union, and Wake.

Peg Chapin, Co-President, provided a short history of the national League of Women Voters citing major issues supported by the League through the decades (prompted by the Dare County Newsletter):

- 1920's: Maternal and Infant Health Care
- 1930's: Social Security and Child Labor laws
- 1940's: United Nations
- 1950's: Freedom Agenda and Civic Education
- 1960's: Civil Rights, Housing, Education, DC Suffrage
- 1970's: Presidential Debates, Equal Rights Amendment, Clean Water
- 1980's: Environmental Quality, Voting Rights Act, Reproductive Choice
- 1990's: Voting Reform
- 2000's: DNET and Online Candidates' Debate, Motor Voter Law, Campaign Finance Reform

The delegation accepted the **2005-07 Program** with the addition of an item recommended by the Henderson County LWV: *"To support the option for counties to elect commissioners on a partisan or non-partisan basis."*

There was much discussion about the wording of the **2005-07 Issues for Emphasis**. Several delegates wanted greater specificity while others wished to leave it more open for the state League to act on issues that arise in the next two years. The convention eventually adopted the Issues for Emphasis with the new wording:

*"Campaign Finance Reform, judicial independence, tax fairness, and other election-related issues including but not limited to:
Same Day Voter Registration,
Lobbying Disclosure,
Changes in the Electoral College,
Implementing HAVA,*

Public Financing of Council of State races."

Gray Newman of the Charlotte LWV proposed an additional **Position for Action** item to support HB 88 which would reduce the number of signatures needed to get a third party or independent candidate onto the ballot. This additional item was approved. The convention also adopted the 2005-07 Budget, the Budget for the Citizen Education Foundation and approved the Board of Trustees for the CEF.

Bev Kawalec, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers and Board delegates, and the slate was unanimously elected. (See the listing of officers and directors on page 2.) Mary Klenz and Peg Chapin recognized outgoing Board members Nelda Holder, Maxine Eaves, Diane Wilkins and Doris Naumann and thanked them for their contributions to the state League.

Chief Justice I. Beverly Lake, Jr. was the luncheon speaker on Saturday afternoon. His topic was the need for additional funding for the courts system. Anita Earl of the UNC Center for Civil Rights spoke at dinner on Friday evening, and on Saturday evening at "What News Do We Need" Rick Gall, the News Director of WRAL-TV, and Laura Leslie, the State Capital Reporter for WUNC Public Radio, participated in a panel discussion followed by a lively dialogue. Carole Ellis facilitated this event.

After Saturday morning's Plenary Session, well-attended workshops were held. They covered a range of topics: "Controversy, Visibility and the League" facilitated by Nelda Holder; "Lights, Camera, Action" facilitated by Peg Chapin, Judie Burke and June Kimmel, and "Voter Services, Anything New?" facilitated by Audrey Albrecht.

Some ad-hoc sessions were also initiated by Bev Kawalec for members on topics of interest such as information for new board presidents, and the CEF.

The convention ended with an address by the newly elected President, Judie Burke.

LWV 2005 COUNCIL

The national LWV Council is being held on the weekend of June 11 and 12. Judie Burke, Audrey Albrecht and Mary Klenz are attending from LWVNC.

Watch for information about the Council in the next issue of NC Voter.