

NC



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Volume 26, Issue 4

Winter 2001

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

The NC Voter is published four times a year by the League of Women Voters of North Carolina.

President

Diana Phillips

First Vice President

Marian Dodd

Second Vice President

Maethel Shindelman

Secretary

Jana Albritton

Treasurer

Sally Coughlin

Directors:

Campaign Finance Reform

Peg Chapin

Social Policy

Joyce Clayton

Environment

Jackie Hammond

Voters Service

Diane Getz

Off Board Directors:

Environment

Margaret Holton

Redistricting

Diane Henderson

Voter

Pam Hoffman

Website

Patty Dale

LWVNC

3801 Barrett Drive, Suite 204

Raleigh, NC 27609-7214

Tel: (919) 783-5995

and (800) 851-VOTE

Fax: (919) 789-0689

Email: lwwnc@mindspring.com

Web: www.rtpnet.org/~lwwnc/

ONE MILLION PENNIES!

Peg Chapin

Chair, Campaign Finance Reform, LWV-NC

Join the Million Pennies Campaign.

It makes good "cents"!

The League of Women Voters is spearheading a campaign to send A MILLION PENNIES to the state legislature in support of the Clean Election Act. A penny a day from each eligible voter would fund Clean Elections. That means \$3.65 would pay for your yearly support - that's the cost of a Quarter Pounder with cheese and fries.

There is fear that we are losing our democracy. The high cost of running an election campaign is pricing out the ordinary citizen. People feel powerless because they know that the cash constituent counts more than the voter constituent. As the amount of money spent on campaigns has sky-rocketed, participation has declined.

Over the course of the summer, League members, along with other members of North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections, spoke with legislators throughout the state about the Clean Elections Act. We asked for input on how we could improve the bill and how we should proceed. Senator Wib Gulley will introduce a bill in April that will reflect the input we received. At this time we are working on getting legislative sponsors for the bill and trying to build grassroots support at the same time.

Our Lobby Day is Wednesday, April 18th. It's important to show that we have grassroots support and that the League is in the forefront of the campaign finance reform movement. Members of other groups have also arranged to lobby for Campaign Finance Reform on that day. Let's go to Raleigh and show support for this important legislation.

SPEAK OUT on this issue by collecting pennies and signatures on our petitions. You can also send a "yearly payment" of \$3.65 to LWV-NC or bring it with you on April 18th when we gather to support the Clean Election Act. Jars are in the legislators' offices, and pennies will be distributed to your legislators.

Let's make April 18th a great day! PENNY PINS will be distributed on LOBBY DAY for \$3.65 each, the yearly amount it would cost each voter to publicly finance all elections at the state level.

Peg Chapin has come on the State Board as
our Campaign Finance Reform Chair.
Welcome, Peg!

LWV-NC CONVENTION

June 2 – 3, 2001

When: Saturday and Sunday, June 2 - 3, 2001
Where: Saturday at Unitarian Fellowship, 4907 Garrett Road, (off Hwy 15-501, Durham)
Sunday at Holiday Inn, Hwy 15-501, Chapel Hill (just a few miles down the road)
Directions will be sent to local League presidents.
Cost: \$70 (Make check payable to LWV-NC)

HOST LEAGUE:

The Chapel Hill Area League will be the host League for Convention 2001. We decided to keep costs down by having the Saturday session at the Unitarian Fellowship. This was the location for LWV-NC Council 2000. On Saturday, lunch will be catered and LWV-CHA will provide a pot-luck supper.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Double bedrooms at the Holiday Inn, Chapel Hill cost \$73 + tax. PLEASE BOOK AS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONVENTION TO GET THIS RATE. Tel: (919) 929-2171.

SOME PROPOSED WORKSHOP TOPICS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Election Practices and Procedures | (5) Writing Grant Proposals |
| (2) Campaign Finance Reform | (6) Coalition Building |
| (3) Redistricting | (7) Planned Giving |
| (4) Lobbying in Raleigh or from Home | (8) Civics 101 |

STATE PROGRAM:

Early in the calendar year before state convention, local Leagues get together to discuss which state legislative issues most affect the people in their counties and which issues they want the state League (all the local Leagues in NC) to address. Their decisions are sent to the LWV-NC Board, which puts together a proposed state program for the next biennium. Delegates will vote on the state program at convention. We have currently two issues that many Leagues are interested in working on, campaign finance reform and North Carolina election practices.

SILENT AUCTION - MADE IN NORTH CAROLINA:

As a fundraiser, we're having a silent auction of anything from North Carolina. We have asked each League to provide at least one item for the auction. Ideas include a week or weekend at a beach cottage and/or a mountain cottage, tickets to a theme park, a bottle of wine, fabrics from NC mills, any arts and crafts made in North Carolina. If the provider of the item would like to take a tax deduction for the contribution, the money raised will go to the Citizen Education Foundation (Ed Fund). Please be sure to specify the value of all donations.

ALL LEAGUERS WELCOME:

All Leaguers who want to come to Convention will be most welcome, whether they come as delegates or as nonvoting participants. Each League can send at least 2 delegates. For Leagues with more than 35 voting members, one delegate for each additional 15 members can be sent to Convention (see LWV-NC Bylaws). If a delegate can come for only one day, then another member can take that delegate's place the other day.

.....
: Join Us at the LWV-NC Convention ! :
.....

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Diana Phillips

Fundraising 2000 - 2001

In this issue of the NC Voter, I'm talking quite a bit about money, but that's because fundraising is vital to every organization, and the League is no exception. Fortunately, many of you realize that and give generously when we call upon you. We are grateful to all - individuals, a local League, and corporations - who contributed to the League and the Citizen Education Foundation (CEF, or Ed Fund) during our last fiscal year.

We spent every penny of the money that was earmarked for campaign reform on stationery, postage, faxes, phone calls, and visits to North Carolina legislators. Our work must continue.

Your CEF contributions went to our major state project for 1999 - 2001, producing the video, "Voting: the Root of Democracy," for our state's middle schools. This video has been very well received by students and teachers. Each middle school in North Carolina and each local League received a copy of the video (600 copies in all), and one can access associated lesson plans via the state League web site.

Money from the CEF was able to come to the League for a portion of our office operating expenses, because the voters service work in the state office is educational and nonpartisan. From August to November 7th, we got phone calls every day from people all over the state who wanted to know how to register to vote and where their precincts were. We even got several calls from out of state and two calls from Canada from people spending the summer and early fall in cooler climes! In addition, people call the state office to ask about the status of bills in the legislature or issues, such as redistricting. We are well known to the public, and they look for our phone number, even when they call from other states or countries.



This fiscal year we are asking for CEF (Ed Fund) contributions for projects, such as evaluation of election practices. We were all stunned by the large number of election problems brought to light by the presidential election last November. We have begun making an assessment of election practices in our counties to find out what our own particular problems are, and Leaguers seem to be especially interested in producing a list of voters' rights. Since much of the work in the state office has to do with voter service and education on policy issues, we'll be able to transfer some money from the CEF to the League account to help with operating expenses.

Also this year, the LWV-NC Board is in the process of establishing an endowment fund to ensure the financial viability of the League in the future.

As you make your charitable contributions, we ask you to consider giving to the League or the CEF.



We will appreciate each gift, no matter the size! And remember, contributions to the CEF are tax deductible.

Starting an Endowment Fund for the League

Diana Phillips

We live in an age of what one writer has called “episodic volunteers.” Many of us have worked 40 to 60 hours a week for the League when we were in positions of leadership. We no longer have people coming up through the ranks who are able and willing to do that. In order to survive, we will need to pay staff or contract workers to do what volunteers used to do.

In or about 1988, the state League Board raised the amount of \$90,000 and in 1995 the amount of \$75,000. That money was well spent on staff and program. In hindsight, however (always known for its clarity), investing some of that money through the 1990’s would have given us a very different financial situation today.

The LWV-NC Board has been debating the pros and cons of establishing an endowment fund since last August. In June, 2000, Joyce Clayton, a state board member and past president of LWV Catawba County, suggested that we start an endowment fund and wrote a check in the amount of \$100 to start it off. At LWV-US Convention in Washington later that month, several of us were having dinner together, and I mentioned that Joyce was the first to give a donation to start a state League endowment fund. Mary Klenz (Charlotte-Mecklenburg) said that she would be the 2nd and wrote a check for \$100 on the spot. Billie Hayward (Chapel Hill Area) said she would be the 3rd to give \$100, and my sister (who isn’t even a League member, but who knows how hard League leaders work) said that she would be the 4th. Marlene Pratto (Piedmont Triad) heard about the fund and gave \$100 to be the 5th. I gave \$100 to be the 6th, and the contributions and pledges have continued.

The Board has sought advice from other state Leagues, and we’ve discussed several points regarding an endowment fund. What would be the financial goals and purposes of the fund? Who would invest the money? Should we retain control over the principal? How much money could we withdraw each year? Who would have oversight to make sure the money was well spent? Could we raise enough money to make an endowment fund worthwhile, since only about 6% of our membership supported our 1999 - 2000 fund drive?

Based on what we have learned, the following seems to be the best plan for the League:

- The reason for having a fund would be to have the money to pay staff or contract workers and fund educational and voters service programs in the future.
- Donations to the fund should be tax deductible.
- We would choose a reputable professional foundation to do the investing in a mix of equities and bonds.
- We would retain control over the principal, rather than tying it up in perpetuity.
- With the help of an attorney we would set up fund restrictions to suit our requirements and to ensure that the money would not be spent frivolously.

In order to begin a fund with a foundation, we need to have a minimum amount of \$10,000. As we go to press, we have contributions in hand totaling \$4,775, so we are 47% of the way toward our goal. If you would like to join with other committed Leaguers and become a charter contributor to the League endowment fund, we would welcome your contribution.

Write check to LWV-NC CEF and mark ENDOWMENT FUND in the “For” space on the lower left hand side of the check. Please send check by May 1, 2001 to LWV-NC, 3801 Barrett Drive, Suite 204, Raleigh, NC 27609.

We would also welcome gifts of appreciated stock, legacies, and trusts with annuities to you or other family members as beneficiaries.

The future of the League in North Carolina is in your hands.

THE FUTURE OF THE LEAGUE

LWV-Asheville/Buncombe Board Retreat

Nelda Holder

President, LWV-A/B

(Note: Recently the Asheville/Buncombe League held a board retreat focused on the RELEVANCY OF THE LEAGUE in a contemporary social and political setting. Why are MOST Leagues, including Asheville, having difficulty finding people to take leadership roles? Why are so many Leagues losing membership? Has the idea of the League of Women Voters (locally, statewide, nationally) served up its useful life? What do we think we are actually doing? We were seeking to test the viability of both community need and traditional League structure. It led us to some remarkable decisions, and we are now working hard to bring our discoveries and our League structure and mission onto the same playing field.)

In an attempt to measure just how relevant our organization is to our community and our lives today, League board members met on Saturday, January 20, [2001] for a retreat to tackle the challenge of inventing an organization to address civic needs. This exercise was premised on ignoring the illustrious history of the League of Women Voters, and trying to look with fresh eyes at what needs to happen in our own civic backyard.

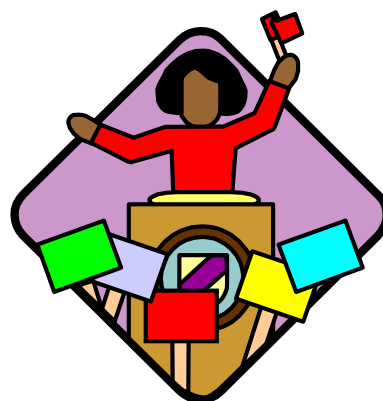
Because of this premise, certain phrases were banned from the conversation. It was explained that utterances of "has always," "used to," "traditionally," "why change," "that's the way it's done," "our members expect," and "if it ain't broke . . ." would incur a 25-cent penalty per usage. Interestingly, these sharp women and men found all manner of verbal detours around this rule, and we collected no money!

The first order of the day had been homework. Each member was asked to create and bring three news headlines from the year 2005, reflecting the essence of the League. The results engendered much discussion and laughter, for some took the "be outrageous" direction quite seriously. But the following examples were gleaned as perhaps the most popular in tone and direction:

- LWV SEALS DEAL TO CONSOLIDATE CITY-COUNTY GOVERNMENT
- LEAGUE SPEARHEADS SUCCESSFUL COALITION--CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM A REALITY!
- SCHOOL IS OUT FOR ELECTORAL COLLEGE--28TH AMENDMENT RATIFIED / LEAGUE SPEARHEADED CAMPAIGN
- LWV GIVES WIVES THEIR CHANCE: HUSBANDS NO LONGER ALLOWED IN VOTING BOOTH
- LEAGUE REPLACES SENATE AND HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEES AS ARBITERS OF WRONGDOING

As you can see, we dream big!

Following this exercise, we imagined ourselves as a group of concerned citizens gathering to discuss whether we should form a civic organization. So first we surveyed community needs, and found a great deal of consensus around the term inclusivity--talking about the need to reach out and incorporate, listen to, work with residents across "gender, race, age, class, dialect, and education level" differences. We recognized the need for developing a "comfort level" where individuals feel wanted and heard, in order to develop trusting relationships to work together on civic issues.



Then, from a significant list (full transcript available), we highlighted these perceived needs as ones we felt compelled to address as an organization. We believe our community needs the following:

- TRUSTED FORUM FOR ISSUES
- UNBIASED, IN-DEPTH INFORMATION
- EDUCATION FOR AND ABOUT COMMUNITY
- AWARENESS OF INTERRELATIONSHIPS TO CIVIC LIFE / ACTION - AND WHY IT MATTERS
- COALITION BUILDING
- GOVERNMENTAL MONITORING

Our next step was to discuss just how we would structure our “new” organization, and a number of excellent organizational ideas were put forth, but we kept coming back to the need for an identifiable purpose. So great was the call for being able to succinctly say who/what we are, that we agreed to adjourn with the assignment of having each person decide on a statement of purpose. These statements will be collected and presented at the next LWV board meeting, where we hope to develop one recommendation for the future planning meeting of the membership.

With the input of the full membership, we would like to design next year’s program and any potential structural changes for the organization in order to align ourselves more closely with the nuggets of truth and inspiration which surfaced at the retreat. As usual, in a gathering of League folk, the earnest goodwill was a heartening thing to behold, and the consensus of need was a confirmation of our existence. (Part 2, based on succeeding meetings, will be printed in the Spring NC Voter)

Welcome to our new local League in Union County!

VOTERS SERVICE

Diane Getz, Voters Service Chair

Although the elections on the state level were not as contention as on the national level, they were definitely interesting. Many of our candidates seemed more guarded, less accessible and spent a lot of time raising money (that’s a whole other issue).

But we were there!!! Here’s a breakdown of how our Leagues functioned:

- With the exception of Craven County, no League financed, published and distributed a Voters Guide. Several Leagues are working with their local newspapers to prepare and distribute a Voters Guide, and some are using their own web site or DNet to disseminate candidate information.
- Most Leagues had candidates' forums, some being televised. As the League had no predetermined agenda, communities and candidates were receptive to participating because we offered a broad spectrum of issues.
- Leagues worked with Kids Vote, PTA’s, churches and schools to provide voting information.
- Most Leagues had their own web site.
- Eleven Leagues trained on DNet, and six Leagues actively participated.

As you can see, WE HAD IT GOING ON. Each League filled a niche and need in its community. We worked hard - very hard - with little money and few people.

We must continue our interactive roles in our communities, but expand on what we do best (presenting nonpartisan information regarding candidates and issues) to another level. We must participate in DNet or a "DNet like" project to fulfill this goal. It is economical and efficient. We have to learn to use it wisely and discern ways to bridge the digital divide. As our resources and personnel are limited, we have to be more open to different possibilities. If we don't learn and grow, we will cease to exist.

There will be a massive overhaul of voting procedures in this country as a result of events following the November, 2000 election. It wasn't pretty, but we probably had more people actively interested in politics and intricacies of the election process than any time in the last 50 years. I never realized how many ballots were discarded because people did not vote correctly.

In the future, we must continue live events, provide candidate and issue information through some type of web site. We also have to teach people how to vote. Citizens have to Vote Smart!

The following is an assessment of DNet in North Carolina:

- Was not a resounding success in NC, but a beginning.
- We had 11 Leagues that participated in training, and 6 Leagues that actually had candidates to participate.
- Biggest obstacle seemed to be getting candidates to actually do something. They said they would participate, but when it actually came down to putting in information, they failed badly. This was a nation-wide problem.
- I believe candidates don't have time after a day of work, campaigning, and fundraising, to sit down at their computers every night to debate their opponents.
- The paid political ads on DNet presented philosophical problems as we felt we would betray the long-standing position of the League to be nonpartisan. After several weeks the ads were removed. We lost valuable time because we did not feel we could support something that was against our principles.
- Contact individuals shifted, so it was difficult to maintain continuity.
- If I had it to do over, I would send all candidates questions to answer, put the answers on the site along with the candidates' web site addresses, and provide them the option to be interactive if they chose. That way, we could guarantee some information.

I suggested to LWV-US that they should have an 800 number help desk, because sometimes getting a definitive answer was difficult.

Taking part in DNet was a real learning experience, and we should definitely build on it. However, we need to have someone who can devote full time to the project. For DNet to be really functional, we must be in constant contact with the candidates or their representatives.

REDISTRICTING

Diane Henderson, Off-Board Director, Redistricting

Census data will be available for use on personal computers no later than April 1, 2001. The LWV-NC expects to draw a plan to propose to the legislature, taking into consideration the concerns we raised repeatedly in hearings held by the Redistricting Committees in 1991. We have continually supported, since adoption of the state position in 1994, the establishment of a nonpartisan redistricting commission independent of the legislature.

We believe that the principles to follow include, in addition to paying attention to the requirements of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), having compact, contiguous districts based on whole

counties to the extent feasible and using Census data only. Census data do not include political affiliations of voters or indications of how a community voted in past elections. The legislature adds in these data to the Census data.

We probably will not try to prepare a plan for redistricting the State legislative districts, but if a local League wants to protest a proposed district offered by the legislature, we will try (within the limits of time and number of such requests) to provide limited alternative ideas that can be backed up with appropriate data. For example, if a local League notices that a legislative proposal is dividing a minority community in half, we would try to offer an alternative that does not so dilute minority voters' concentration.

We're also trying to arrange to work this spring with a group of high school students in Chapel Hill to draw a Congressional plan that they could submit to the legislature. The intent is partly to get students interested in the problems of drawing district lines and partly to get some recognition for the principles the League supports in redistricting. The idea was proposed to us by Rob Ritchie, from the Center for Voting and Democracy, who works often with William Raspberry at Duke. Raspberry was interested in writing about what some kids might come up with.

Principles (as defined in 1991) derive from the LWV-US positions: “**Apportionment:** Support Apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population” and “**Voting Rights:** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.”

Our state League position on redistricting incorporates these ideas and states...

“Congressional districts, both houses of the state legislature, and county and municipal government districts including boards of education should be apportioned primarily on population. Districts should be single-member*, compact, convenient, contiguous and reflect a community of interest. Specific standards for fair representation as required by the Voting Rights Act should be assured. (Note: Single member is starred because it is currently a federal requirement for congressional districts. If it were not, LWV-NC could support a multi-member district with multiple votes, e.g., a plurality election, if it were desirable to avoid a gerrymandered district.)

“ The responsibility for redistricting and reapportioning should rest with an independent agency commissioned by the legislature once every ten years; the agency plan (for redistricting) should be submitted for legislative approval without amendment. The independent agency should not be a court. The agency should reflect the geographic, racial, and gender make-up of the state population, but no elected official should be a member. As a creature of the legislature, the agency would be subject to the Open Meetings law. Definite provisions should be made for compensation and staff services of the independent agency.

“A process should be provided to effect automatic, compulsory, periodic redistricting and reapportioning. Measures to enact this process should include authority, enforcement powers, time schedule and funding. The specific measure may take the form of a constitutional amendment or legislation.

“Specific provisions should be made for court review of redistricting and reapportioning measures and for courts to require the independent agency to act on a specific schedule. The state and its political subdivisions should be redistricted and reapportioned every ten years within a year of certification of the census. Definite time limits should be set for an agency to act after the decennial census figures are available in order to comply with federal Voting Rights legislation. Time limits should be set for initiating court action for review of constitutionality of measures.”

(For information on redistricting, go to our website, www.rtpnet.org/~lwwnc, click on **NC General Assembly**, click on **Representation**, click on **Redistricting 2000**. If you have trouble finding what you need, call the state League office, 1-800- 851-VOTE.)

LOBBY DAY
Wednesday, April 18, 2001
Legislative Building, 9:30 a. m.

We will meet in a legislative meeting room, hopefully the same one that the House Campaign Finance Reform Committee will meet in at 11 a.m. that same day. Again this year we have invited other groups (AARP, Common Cause, Democracy South, NAACP, NC Center for Voter Education, NC Council of Churches, NCVCE, Sierra Club) to lobby with us for campaign finance reform.

Call your legislators before Lobby Day to set up a place and time to meet for lunch. You can take an extra sandwich, drink, and packet of potato chips for each legislator who can meet with you. This is an excellent opportunity for dialoguing about your legislative concerns.

Come to Raleigh with your pennies and petitions to tell your legislators that you want Campaign Finance Reform. We will have penny lapel pins for everyone who brings or sends in \$3.65, the amount it would cost us to publicly finance election campaigns for every candidate for state office in North Carolina.

More information on Lobby Day will be sent out to the local League presidents in early April.

**Tips on Lobbying from Representative
Martha Alexander**

The following is a summary of a conversation between Rep. Martha Alexander of Mecklenburg County and Diana Phillips in January 2001.



Look at **lobbying as an equilateral triangle**, and remember that you need to pay equal attention to all three sides.

The first side consists of your issue and the corresponding bill. Know your issue in depth and know every aspect of the bill. If you're lacking in knowledge, it will be apparent when you're talking with legislators or addressing a committee.

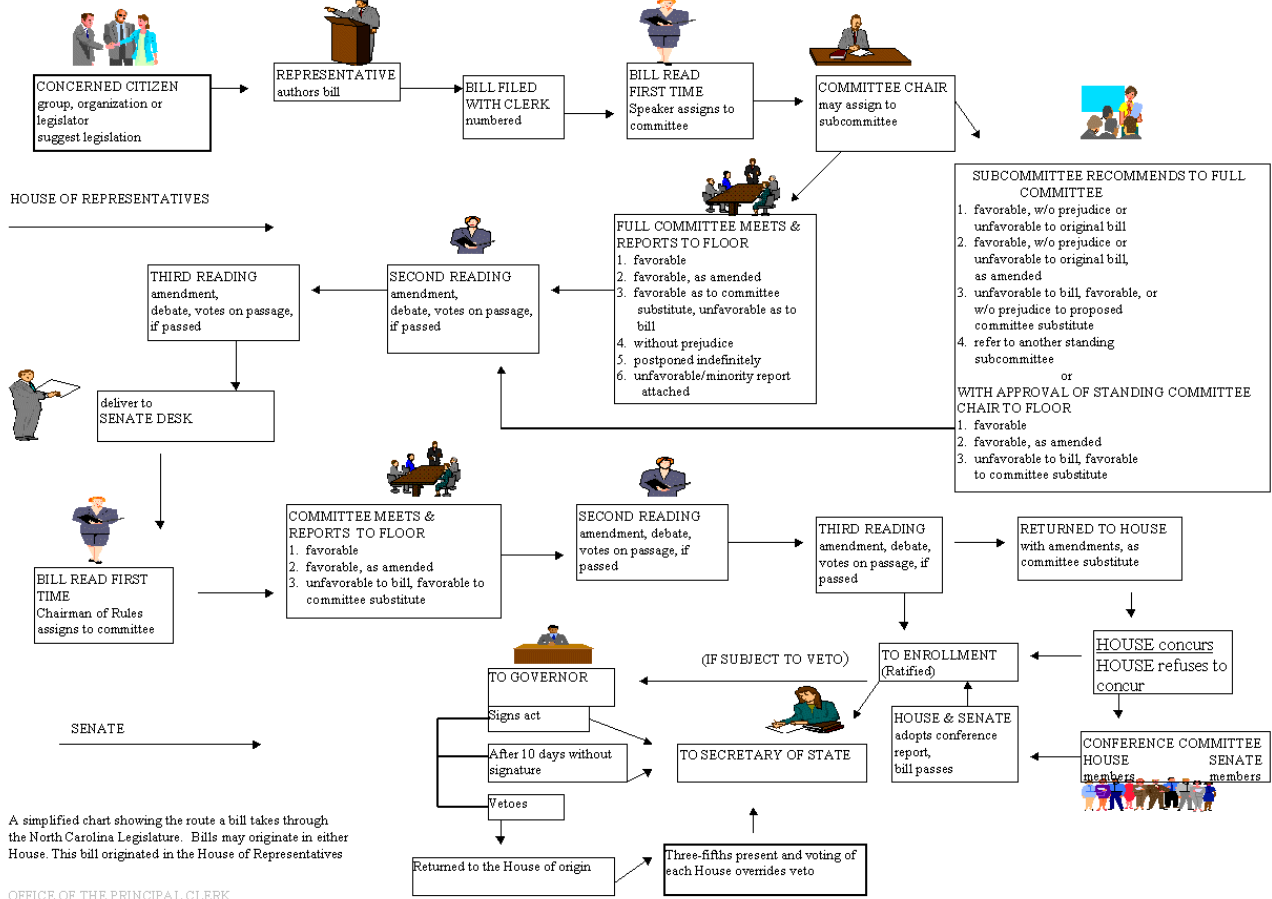
The second side of the triangle is the process by which a bill becomes law. Know how the process works (see diagram on the next page), where your bill is in the process, and the path the bill must take before it can be signed into law.

The third side of the triangle consists of the people on the House or Senate committee. Find out from your legislators how the people on the committee vote on issues. When you're talking with a committee member, keep in mind the perspective of that legislator. And remember that whereas legislators may work on opposite sides of one issue today, the same legislators may form a coalition on another issue tomorrow. It does no one any good to create bad feelings that can have long-lasting effects.

Make sure you are well prepared when you come to Raleigh to lobby, and particularly if you come to speak before a committee. Any lack of preparation is sure to be noticed, and it will be embarrassing to you and to the legislators you are trying to support.

(Please see the next page for the chart on how a bill becomes law. To look up a bill, go to our website, www.rtpnet.org/~lwnvc, click on **NC General Assembly**, click on **Bill Info**. If you have trouble finding the bill, call the state League office, 1-800- 851-VOTE.)

HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW



A simplified chart showing the route a bill takes through the North Carolina Legislature. Bills may originate in either House. This bill originated in the House of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CLERK
NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 1998



Quick Links	
<p>NCGA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC Statutes NC Constitution Legislative Library Legislative Publications Committees Online NCGA Job Vacancies Educational Resources 	<p>State Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of the Governor Office of the Lt. Governor NC @ Your Service NC Government Agencies State Gov't Job Vacancies

News / Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor Easley's Budget Recommendations 3/12/2001 2001 House of Representatives Information 2001 Senator Information Open Public Events Network Programs

Legislative Building
 <p>NC General Assembly Legislative Building 16 West Jones Street Raleigh, NC 27602</p>

Convening Times
House: Tue, 03/20/2001, 03:00 PM
Senate: Tue, 03/20/2001, 03:00 PM

Audio Broadcasts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House Chamber Senate Chamber Finance Committee Room (Rm 544) Appropriations Committee Room (Rm 643)

Calendar	
House <small>(Last Calendar)</small>	Senate <small>(Last Calendar)</small>
Other Legislative Meetings	
No Meetings	



Bill Information

TIPS FOR FINDING BILLS: Use [Bill Look-Up](#) when you already know the bill number. Use [Full Text Search](#) when you do not know the bill number but know content. Use [Bill Inquiry](#) to search using multiple criteria. Use [Simple Bill Inquiry](#) to search using one criterion. Also, use the [Last Action](#) and [Chaptered Bills](#) Reports on this page to view a listing of all bills or all chaptered bills with their last action.

Bill Tracking

- [Bill Inquiry](#)
 - [Simple Bill Inquiry](#)
- Bill Search
 - [Bill Look-Up](#) (97-98 & Current Session)
 - [Full Text Search](#)
 - [Chaptered Bill Look-Up](#)
- [Information regarding format of Bills](#)
- [Glossary of Bill Status Abbreviations](#)
- [Bill Status Report Codes](#)

Reports

- [Fiscal Notes](#)
- [History of Votes](#)
- [1999 - 2000 Session Appointed Bill Conferees](#)
- Last Action on Bills
 - [Bills with actions in 2001](#) (real-time)
 - [All Bills](#) (text file generated once daily)
- Chaptered Bills
 - [Chaptered Bills for 2001 by Bill Number](#)
 - [Chaptered Bills for 2001 by Date](#)
 - [All Chaptered Bills \(2001 - 2002\)](#) (text file generated once daily)

Miscellaneous

- [General Statutes and Session Laws Affected by 2000 Ratified Bills](#) (PDF)
- [General Statutes and Session Laws Affected by 1999 Ratified Bills](#) (PDF)
- [General Statutes and Session Laws Affected by 1998 Ratified Bills](#) (PDF)
- [Non-Revenue and Non-Appropriations Bills Cosponsor List-April 20, 1999](#) (PDF)
- [Bills Eligible for Consideration by the NCGA during the 2000 Session](#) (PDF)

[Disclaimer](#)
[Policies](#)

ENVIRONMENT

North Carolina's Problems and Promises - January, 2001

Margaret U. Holton, Off-Board Director, Environment

As a new century begins, citizens of our beautiful state need to take stock of North Carolina's natural resources. "The very things that make North Carolina desirable become threatened when too many people act on their desires and move there." (from a report compiled for the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

In parts of North Carolina's mountains and its two largest metropolitan areas, the air is so bad that hundreds of thousands of people are at risk, according to the American Lung Association. A study for the Pew Charitable Trusts says that 1800 North Carolinians die each year because of fine particle pollution from power plants, part of a huge national problem. How bad was it? It was so bad that park rangers in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park were warning potential visitors with breathing problems to stay away from higher elevations because of unhealthy ozone levels. It was so bad that medical doctors were warning public policymakers that breathing western North Carolina air on some days was dangerous enough to send those with respiratory difficulties to the hospital.

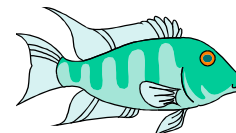
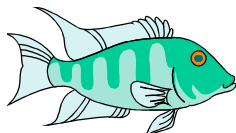
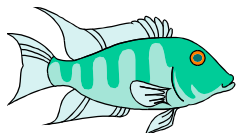
The American Lung Association took note of excessively high ozone levels in North Carolina - an "ozone hot spot," it said and cited Charlotte's worsening air quality in its summary of findings in its State of the Air report. It said the number of days the federal ozone standard was violated matched those of Atlanta, and said that both Mecklenburg and Wake counties were among the nation's "25 worst counties" in terms of air pollution.

The announcement on January 31st concerning ozone level in North Carolina stated that NC exceeded the ozone level 102 days last year in Raleigh.

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY IN NORTH CAROLINA

Margaret U. Holton, Off Board Director, Environment

Across North Carolina, "the very things that make North Carolina desirable become threatened when too many people act on their desires and move there," from a report compiled for the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. "The one most significant problem facing all of North Carolina and most certainly the coastal region, is water quality," said Gene Tomlinson, the long time mayor of Southport and for years the chairman of the NC Coastal Resources Commission. "We cannot exist without it [water]. It's a statewide problem, not a coastal problem.



"North Carolina's estuaries are settling basins that receive the riverine sediments, organic matter and human waste and chemicals produced by agriculture, urbanization and industrialization throughout the associated drainage basins," Orrin Pilkey and seven other scientists say in "The North Carolina Shore," a textbook analysis of the coastal region. There were twelve coastal water-swimming advisories in 1999 because of bacteria. Nine million gallons of sewage were dumped into the Catawba River basin. An alarming report from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General pointed out that North Carolina's comparatively poor enforcement of water quality laws threatens more than water quality. It also threatens public health and the quality of life.

ASSESSMENT OF NC ELECTION PRACTICES

Diana Phillips

The right of citizens to have their votes count is an issue at the heart of League. After the November, 2000 election, committees formed in many NC local Leagues to look at election practices in their counties. Since election law is a state legislative issue, we wanted to have questions coordinated at the state level, and the following questions were suggested at a workshop on League Day and via e-mail to form a basis for evaluating NC election practices. These questions were sent out in early February to all League presidents so Leagues wanting to take part in an evaluation of their boards of elections would all be asking the same questions. Lisa Grant, a Wake County League member who has a Ph.D. in industrial psychology, has agreed to tabulate our answers. We're also working with the State Board of Elections, which will begin spring training of election officials in March. At Convention in June, delegates will vote on how local Leagues want to proceed with this assessment of election practices

To find out about the State Board of Elections (SBOE) activities, go to our website, www.rtpnet.org/~lwvnc, click on **NC State Board of Elections**, click on **About Us**, and scroll down to topics, such as 1999-2000 investigations, 1999-2000 audits/wellness checks, summaries of SBOE hearings, one-stop no excuse voting, voter registration, campaign reporting, data from the 1999-2000 election cycle.

A. VOTER REGISTRATION

- (1) How accurate are the voter lists in your county?
- (2) What technologies are used to maintain the accuracy of the lists?
- (3) What are the problems purging voter lists?
- (4) What would be needed to improve the accuracy of your lists?



B. MOTOR VOTER

- (1) How often are the motor voter applications sent or taken to your county BOE?
- (2) Are the motor voter registrations immediately incorporated into the BOE lists?
- (3) What technologies need to be in place to incorporate motor voter registrations efficiently into BOE lists?
- (4) What problems have been noted with motor voter registration in your county?
- (5) What are possible solutions?

C. VOTING EQUIPMENT

- (1) What kind of voting equipment does your county use?
- (2) How old is the equipment?
- (3) What problems have been noted with the equipment?
- (4) How accurate are the different types of machines used in your county?
- (5) If your county uses lever or touch screen voting machines, is there a paper trail?
- (6) How do available funds affect the type of machines you can buy?
- (7) What are possible solutions to voting machine problems?

D. BALLOT DESIGN

- (1) What problems have been noted with ballot design in your county?
- (2) What are possible solutions?

E. COUNTY BOE TRAINING

- (1) How often do your county BOE employees get training in election practices from the SBOE?
- (2) How in depth is the training?
- (3) Have the poll workers noted any problems with lack of BOE employees' training?
- (4) What suggestions do you have for better training?

F. POLL WORKER TRAINING

- (1) Who can work at the polls (only people from the two major parties)?
- (2) How in depth is the training of poll workers?
- (3) How often (every election?) are they trained?
- (4) Who is trained - are people who have previously worked at polls trained, as well as new workers? Do they receive the same training as new workers?
- (5) What are possible solutions to problems?

G. POLLS

- (1) Where are the polls located? Are the permanent “residents” of the location cooperative on voting day?
- (2) How many poll workers staff the precincts in your county?
- (3) How long are the voting lines?
- (4) Are the hours adequate that the polls are open?
- (5) What particular problems have been noted at your polls?
- (6) What are possible solutions?

H. ONE-STOP NO EXCUSE VOTING

- (1) What problems were noted with this new one-stop voting procedure in your county?
- (2) What are possible solutions?
- (3) Do you think the One Stop No Excuse Voting is worthwhile? If so, for every election or only during presidential election years?

I. VOTING FOR THE DISABLED?

- (1) How successful was curbside voting in your county?
- (2) What problems for the disabled being able to vote were noted in your county?
- (3) What are possible solutions?



J. ABSENTEE BALLOTS

- (1) Who handles the absentee ballots in your county?
- (2) Who trains extra workers needed for large election turnouts?
- (3) What means of submitting absentee ballots are there?
- (4) Are there any means you would add?
- (5) What problems have been noted with absentee ballots in your county?
- (6) What are possible solutions?

K. COUNTY BOE FINANCES

- (1) What are the financial problems of the BOE in your county?
- (2) How would training and new equipment be funded?
- (3) What are possible solutions to any problems?

L. VOTERS RIGHTS

- (1) What problems have been noted with voters not knowing their rights in your county?
- (2) What measures are taken by the BOE and poll workers to ensure that voters are aware of their rights (ex. explanations from poll workers, handouts, posters)?
- (3) What kind of advertising does your county BOE do to let voters know an election is coming up?
- (4) What information is provided to voters? Are copies available?
- (5) What are possible solutions to any problems?

M. OTHER PROBLEMS

- (1) What other problems have been encountered in your county?
- (2) What are the plans, if any, to address those problems?

N. Strengths / Weaknesses

- (1) What are the particular strengths of voting in your county?
- (2) What are the particular weaknesses?

O. LEGISLATION

(1) Is legislation by the General Assembly needed to address any problem in your county?

P. LWV / State BOE / COUNTY BOE'S / VOTERS

- (1) How can the LWV best work with the SBOE
- (2) How can LWV best work with your county BOE?
- (3) How can LWV best help voters in your county?

Q. OTHER

- (1) What improvements have been made in the elections process in your county in the past few years?
- (2) What improvements are being planned in the near future?

NC VOTER is available on the web!

www.rtpnet.org/~lwwnc

If you have access to the web and would like to cut down on the amount of paper you're receiving in the mail and also help cut state League costs, please send us an e-mail at <lwwnc@mindspring.com> to tell us to stop sending you the NC Voter. We let the local League presidents know by e-mail when the Voter is on our website, which can be one to four weeks before it makes its way through the system to your mailbox.

MEMBERSHIP

The following ideas came from LWV list-servs.

From Leslie Stewart, LWV Diablo Valley, CA:

This is the information I got from our League member who has taken this on as her personal project the past couple of years: Young mothers who are employed are too busy and tired for one more thing, but you can try reaching stay-at-home moms. There are two aspects: what activities will appeal, and how to reach them. We're pretty stumped about what will get someone interested enough to come to one of our meetings. One thought is to have an LWV speaker attend a regularly scheduled moms meeting.

Here are some ideas we've tried for contacting young moms, as well as some we haven't.

- (1) There probably is at least one mothers club in your area. We have advertised our meetings in local mothers clubs newsletters. I don't think anyone has joined as a result.
- (2) We have thought of having flyers at realtors' offices to get the people who have just moved to town. There also may be a newcomer's club. (Several I contacted didn't want to advertise us but they would have us as a guest speaker.)
- (3) Many moms go to parks with playgrounds. Post a membership brochure and a meeting notice on a bulletin board or in a bathroom.
- (4) Advertise in the Parks and Rec. office and/or schedule.
- (5) Have a table at a preschool fair or the 4th of July celebration (with Future Voter stickers for the kids--if you design one, let us know).
- (6) Advertise meetings at preschools that have only part-day programs (versus full-time daycare designed for two-career couples). Have the meeting at a time the child is in preschool.
- (7) List your organization at the Volunteer Center.
- (8) Ask for links to your organization's website from local Chambers of Commerce and town/city/registrar of voters' websites.
- (9) Contact the Parent Education program offered through your Adult Education Center.

(10) Brochures/meeting announcements at maternity/children's consignment shops, or OB/GYN, or Pediatrics offices.

(Sorry, by mistake dropped the name of the Leaguer who posted this message!)

In my experience ads and posting information doesn't work...it takes a personal invitation, that human contact. And we have to give them something they want or need. Going to a group of young mothers and talking about Campaign Finance Reform won't get them excited, but universal preschool will. That is a very real cost they are facing. Also work with your local PTAs. A young woman in my neighborhood has one first grader and a little one. She is working on their Women's History program, so I gave her some League information on Seneca Falls and such. She may not join this year, but she will join.

From D. Nollner, LWV Memphis/Shelby County, TN

The Memphis/Shelby County (TN) LWV has an active daytime unit. They meet monthly in the home of a member; refreshments are served along with a discussion of current topics or political book. I believe there are approximately 10-15 members. Monthly attendance is approximately 5-10 members. This unit seems to be the primary LWV contact for the unit members (occasionally they come to the annual meeting), they do not usually attend evening meetings. Their discussions are lively, thoughtful and interesting. Attendees are older members who do not like to drive at night.

From Edie Smolinski, LWV Falls Church, VA

Since I took on the membership position last year, we have had some success with sending a welcome-to-Falls Church, would-you-like-to-join-the-LWV-letter to people who are new to the city. Their names and addresses are published as homebuyers in the Washington Post. The next step is putting flyers at the apartment buildings, and yet we still miss renters.

I loved the idea of posting a membership appeal at local ob/gyn. offices to reach the "younger" group but I worry about membership dues being prohibitive to stay-at-home moms. Perhaps a lower membership rate could be explored, for the under-35 crowd.

WE HAVE A DUTY TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT LAWMAKERS ARE DOING

Interview with Diana Phillips, President, League of Women Voters of North Carolina

By Carol Hall; Staff Writer, News and Observer, January 21, 2001, page A19

THE N&O: - Do citizens feel that they are connected to their government?

DIANA PHILLIPS:

No, there is a huge disconnect between people and government. I think one reason that people are cynical about government is that we hear about what's going wrong but we don't hear about what's going well. That doesn't get the coverage. It would be helpful if we were to have a balanced coverage of the good and the bad. And there is the feeling that the voters count less than the contributors to the campaign. The contributors now are acting legally so it's the law that we need to change. There was in the last legislative session a clean elections bill, which was a voluntary public financing program. If we could have a voluntary program like that, it would erase this conflict of interest and the perception of government for sale that we have today. It would mean that the voters within an area are responsible for electing a candidate, not the people in California or Florida or New York who send money into the state.

THE N&O: - Has this disconnect been increasing over time?

PHILLIPS:

I think so. When you're a small community, you know each other more. You see each other at church and in the grocery store. But as the community grows, people don't know each other as well. That's a natural thing.

THE N&O: - What can people do to get connected?

PHILLIPS:

Citizens have a responsibility, we all have, to try to keep up with what is going on in government. We can do that through the media, through TV, through the Internet. We have all these opportunities to learn about government, and we need to take advantage of them because to keep a democracy going citizens need to stay knowledgeable about government and interact with legislators at whatever level.

At the city and county level, we have the opportunity to go to their meetings and know about the process. At the state level, people feel a little more distant because the government doings take place down in Raleigh, but the farther you get away from the capital, the less convenient it is for people to go to the session. And print media and also TV coverage of government decreases the farther away you get from Raleigh.

But, you know, legislators can meet with us at any time of the year. If people have an issue, what they can do is call up their senator or representative and make an appointment and talk about it. They're very amenable to this. What would help is if they would get several people at once and not do it one at a time.

THE N&O: - Have changes in technology made these kinds of contact easier?

PHILLIPS:

Yes, sending e-mail to your legislator is now very easy. It's also much easier to find out what's going on. You can get on a listserv - for example, N.C. Equity - and they will send you out a newsletter about what is going on with the legislature. The North Carolina Conservation Network has a daily news digest about environmental news all over the state. There are a lot of groups that have these daily or weekly updates, and we can join those listservs and stay up to date. And there is www.ncleg.net - they have links, a calendar for the week, news and information, bill information from this session or last. If people don't have a computer at home, they can go to the public library. Many of the libraries have computers, and the librarians are trained to help patrons use them.

THE N&O: - What about our state legislature might surprise people who are from out of state?

PHILLIPS:

People who have lived in other states often have had the experience of counties and towns being able to enact their own ordinances and raise money for their schools or their parks, and not having to have to go to the state in order to have the power to do this. But in North Carolina, in order to enact ordinances, we need to have some kind of enabling legislation from the state.

In Orange County, for example, impact fees to build schools have been an issue, but we must have legislation from the state to be able to do this. To someone from another state where their local board has the power, the towns and counties are kind of hamstrung.

THE N&O: - Have you seen an increase in interest in government since the presidential election drama in Florida?

PHILLIPS:

There has been a lot of talk about needing to change how the electoral system works. Yes, every vote does count, and certainly we saw that in Florida. But there is concern in North Carolina that we need to change the law so that write-in votes get counted for certain people (and not just lumped together). The young people who voted for Ralph Nader got counted the same as if someone had voted for John Smith, so there was some disillusionment for that. Another thing that people have been wondering about is perhaps dividing the electoral vote according to the [proportion of votes an individual

candidate received] in the state. Right now, they all go to the winner in North Carolina, so many votes in our state did not count for president. But the Electoral College system is very complex, and it would take a lot of study before any decisions could be made. If we did divide it up according to the votes, then so many presidential races would be thrown into the House of Representatives. So sometimes when you make changes, you make problems and there are unintended consequences.

THE N&O: - Do people understand the extent to which the legislature can impact their lives?

PHILLIPS:

No, if they did, they would be a lot more involved in government. People don't think about government as long as everything is going well in their lives. They want the government to stay out of their lives. But when things are going bad, they need the government to come in and help. That's when people start paying attention. We have had a wonderful era of prosperity and we're all thankful for it, but it's made us not pay as much attention as we should to government at all levels.

Section: Question; *Index Terms:* General Assembly, NC, law, women, Diana Philips, Interview

LWV-NC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To find the local League closest to you, call the state office (800) 851-VOTE or (919) 783-5995. If there is no local League in your area, we will welcome you as a state member at large (MAL).

YES, I want to support the work of the League of Women Voters from the North Carolina Capitol to Capitol Hill. Please add my name to the membership rolls of the League of Women Voters at the state and national levels.

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____



I enclose my check payable to the League of Women Voters of North Carolina as indicated:

____ \$30 Annual Individual Membership

____ \$45 Annual Household Membership Name of 2nd household member

____ I'm unable to join the state League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$_____.

Contributions to the League are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

CALL TO CONVENTION

June 2 - 3, 2001

See page 2 for details.

FROM LEAGUES AROUND THE COUNTRY:

A biography of **Carrie Chapman Catt** is available from Nate Levin, 5 Overdale Road, Rye, New York 10580 (telephone 914-835-3630). This is an excellent book, written on the junior high school reading level and also a nice read for adults. The wholesale price is \$5 per book plus shipping charges. You can sell them for \$10 as a fundraiser. All League members should be knowledgeable about our League founders, and it would be a great gift for children, grandchildren, nieces, neighbors. Nate is a second generation Leaguer. His mother has been active on local and the New York state boards.

LWV Iowa has **New Member Handbooks** for sale. The pamphlets are easy to read and understand. Anyone interested, they are \$1.25 each, including mailing. Please send check to Gail Quinn, President, League of Women Voters of Iowa, 2347 Timberlane Heights, Ottumwa, IA 52501.

This from Eydie Kargas, LWV-MN: The Minnesota LWV has a curriculum that addresses empowerment of children (grades 7-12) called **We've Got the Power**. It addresses the problems that kids face in everyday life. The kids have to discuss the issues they face and do role playing. They love it. And guess what? We are not selling them. We have part of the answer to kids feeling alienated and powerless but no one is listening. If you want to know more about our curricula go to our web site, www.lvwmn.org

League of Women Voters of North Carolina
3801 Barrett Drive, Suite 204
Raleigh, NC 27609-7214

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage PAID
Raleigh, NC
Permit # 2388

Winter, 2001 issue:

One million pennies!
LWV-NC Convention
Fundraising
LWV-Asheville/Buncombe
Voters Service - Dnet
Redistricting
Lobbying & Lobby Day
NC Government web sites
Environment
Election Practices
Membership

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization for men and women, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Printed on recycled paper