

Empowering Voters.  
Protecting Democracy.

Newsletter for July/August 2024

**REACHING LWVCM**

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## LWVCM Members Convene for Annual Meeting



LWVNC President Jennifer Rubin and LWVCM Board Director and VOTE411 Chair Carolyn Lyons

A lively happy hour featuring delicious food and drink preceded the annual meeting at Veterans Park Pavilion where members socialized and vied to win raffle items—CLTFC tickets, Nakao salon service and Patagonia Charlotte apparel—generously donated to support League programs.

LWVCM President Suzanne Elsberry welcomed attendees and introduced keynote speaker LWVNC President Jennifer Rubin who gave an inspirational address emphasizing the importance of adhering to the League’s nonpartisan stance. President Rubin encouraged all members to speak up both as individuals and collectively in support of policy positions. She spoke about the many ways the state League supports the local chapters and the grassroots efforts they choose to pursue and asked members to share their ideas on areas where additional state support would be helpful.



Membership Engagement Chair Mary Condon greets new members.

President Rubin congratulated LWVCM on 2023-24 accomplishments, namely registering a record number of voters, registering new citizens, informing voters about candidates for each election through VOTE411, partnering with a Girl Scouts local chapter in Charlotte for the first Voter Girl educational project, and working with Generation Nation to increase civic awareness and engagement among High School students.

Jeanne Smith, who chairs both the local and statewide Education Action teams, was recognized for her excellent leadership. President Rubin also praised LWVCM members who hold positions on the State Board of Directors, Sara Baysinger, our Communications Chair and Voter Editor and Regan Aduddell, who served for several years as LWVCM Voter Services Chair, Co-President and Board Member.



Member Annette Gorelick supervises the Hometown Summer Raffle.

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Find updates for League action and activities at [goleaguego.org](http://goleaguego.org)

**POLL WORKERS POWER OUR DEMOCRACY**



**P SIGN UP NOW TO HELP AT POWERTHEPOLLS.ORG/LWV**

# Coming Events

## Coming Up in July, August, September

- JULY:**                *Disability Pride Month*
- 7/1**                    Anniversary of the *26th Amendment* which lowered the voting age to 18
- 7/4:**                    *Independence Day*
- 7/12:**                  500,000 North Carolinians Enrolled in Medicaid!
- 7/18, 5:30pm:**    Communications Strategy Team Meeting (Virtual)
- 7/19-20:**            Anniversary of *Seneca Falls Convention* (1848).
- 7/24, 7pm:**        “[Pints & Policy](#)” with Catawba Riverkeepers (Patagonia Charlotte, 101 W Worthington Ave.)
- AUGUST:**            Encourage candidates to fill out VOTE411 voter guides
- 8/1:**                    [National Poll Worker Recruitment Day!](#)
- 8/6:**                    Anniversary of *Voting Rights Act of 1965*
- 8/7, 10am:**        Education Action Team Meeting (LWVCM Office)
- 8/13, 6:30pm:**    Board Meeting (Virtual)
- 8/15, 5pm:**        [Co-Webmaster Interest Meeting](#) (Virtual)
- 8/15, 5:30pm:**    Communications Strategy Team Meeting (Virtual)
- 8/18:**                  Anniversary of *19th Amendment* ratification
- 8/22, 1pm:**        “[Environmental Justice and Charlotte](#)” with Jennifer Roberts (Hybrid)
- 8/26:**                  *Women’s Equality Day*
- SEPTEMBER:**    Voter Registration Push
- 9/2:**                    *Labor Day*
- 9/15:**                *National Hispanic Heritage Month* begins/*International Democracy Day*
- 9/17:**                [National Voter Registration Day](#)/*Constitution Day*
- 9/18, 5:30pm:**    Communications Strategy Team Meeting (Virtual)

(Continued from front page.)

LWVCM First Vice President, Linda Traum called the business portion of the meeting to order and introduced President Suzanne Elsberry who gave the President’s Address.

Approvals were obtained for the meeting rules, 2023-24 Annual Meeting Minutes, 2024-25 budget, program, and bylaws changes. The slate for the Board of Directors, presented by Nominations Chair, Linda Levy, was unanimously elected. The LWVCM’s Key Priorities for 2024-25 are: Voter Registration and Education; VOTE411; Public Education; Civics 101; and Membership Engagement. More volunteers are needed to achieve this important work. In their directions to the new board, members’ voiced support for focusing resources on the key priorities, with an immediate emphasis on voter registration and education as we approach the election in November.

President Elsberry presented Star statuettes to outgoing Board members Mary Condon, Margaret Fritze, Jane Hoffmann, John Lee, and Lauren Voorhees in recognition of their contributions to LWVCM. She also recognized outgoing Voter Services Chair Regan Aduddell for her years of dedication and service to the local League.

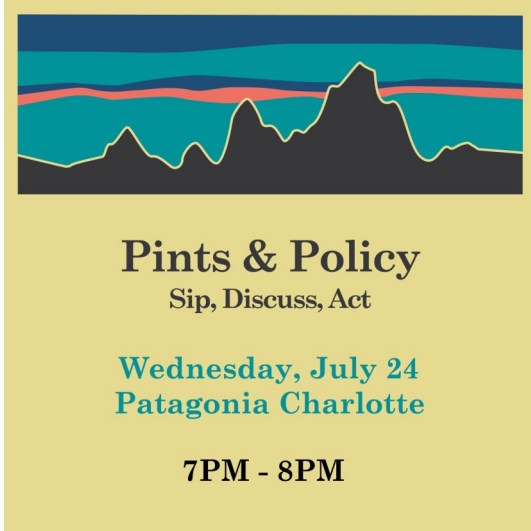
### Key Priorities for 2024-25:

- Voter Registration and Education
- VOTE411
- Public Education
- Civics 101
- Membership Engagement.

League Action & Happenings

**Pints & Policy with Catawba Riverkeeper**

The League and other area nonprofit organizations will take part in “Pints & Policy”, an event taking place on July 24 at 7pm at Patagonia Charlotte (101 W Worthington Ave). Patagonia’s Activism Team Lead Scott McLean sees “Pints & Policy as a chance to have “down-to-earth, nonpartisan discussions about local politics as a tonic to the intensity of national political discourse.” All are invited to join the conversation. There will be beer provided by Birdsong Brewing.



**National Poll Worker Recruitment Day Is Here!**

The League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg is so proud of every single person who has signed up to work the polls and make sure voters can cast ballots during every election. Democracy is powered by heroes like you!

For those of you who aren’t signed up, but would like to, it’s never too early to help democracy! By signing up to be a poll worker, you can ensure that all voters—including voters with disabilities, voters who need language assistance, and voters who want to cast their ballot in person—have a positive experience at the polls. Make a difference in our community and sign up @powerthepolls to be a poll worker this #PollWorkerRecruitmentDay. [www.powerthepolls.org/LWV](http://www.powerthepolls.org/LWV)

**IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO HELP DEMOCRACY**



SIGN UP NOW TO HELP AT [POWERTHEPOLLSS.ORG/LWV](http://POWERTHEPOLLSS.ORG/LWV)

**Election Information You Need**

Election season is upon us! In order that we all keep informed, and are able to inform others, here are some crucial dates and resources.

- General Election: November 5, 2024** (6:30am-7:30pm)
- Absentee Ballots:** Ballots will begin being mailed on **September 6, 2024**
- Early Voting: Thursday, October 17, 2024 thru Saturday, November 2, 2024**

When you consider early voting begins in Mecklenburg County on October 17, there are fewer than 90 days until the start of the General Election!

The Absentee Ballot Portal is now open! [Click here to request your ballot.](#)

For more information about requesting an absentee by mail ballot online, you may access this [helpful video](#). **Absentee by Mail Ballots** must be completed and returned no later than 7:30 pm on Election Day. They may be returned via USPS (please allow ample time) or directly to your County Board of Elections.

Please keep [VOTE411](#) front and center of all your Voter Engagement activities. Make sure you familiarize yourself with all of its features so that you may advise community members how to use this powerful tool as well. Here is a helpful video to help us all promote VOTE411 in our community:

[#WhatYouVOTE411](#) and [¿Por qué votarás?: VOTE411](#)

English

Spanish

We will continue to provide information as it becomes available. Members looking to volunteer for our Voter Service Team are invited to contact Voter Service Chair Linda Traum [ltraum1189@gmail.com](mailto:ltraum1189@gmail.com).





## League Action & Happenings

### Environment Team Upcoming Meetings

While the Environment + Sustainability Team did not have a regular meeting in July, their upcoming schedule is now available.

On August 22 at 1pm, former Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts will speak on “Environmental Justice and Charlotte” at the LWVCM Office. An option to attend via Zoom will also be provided. Kindly [register here](#).

In September, the League will need all hands on deck to take part in voter registration. Contact Voter Service Chair [Linda Traum](#) if you are available to help.

October 24 at 10am, the E+S Team and the BKDs will hold a combined meeting to hear Daniel Jakobovits speak about plants native to North Carolina. Please register for that [meeting here](#).

—E + S Team Lead, Margaret Howe-Soper

### SCOTUS Turns Its Back on Gerrymandering

In 2019, the United States Supreme Court decided in North Carolina’s [Rucho v. Common Cause](#) that the Court would not consider whether Congressional electoral maps are *partisan* gerrymanders. They claimed the question was beyond their reach, and that federal courts can only weigh in **IF** such maps are illegal *racial* gerrymanders. Essentially, they walked away.

Last week, in [Alexander v. South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP](#), the court took a walk again, this time leaving *racial* gerrymandering at the altar. Writing the majority decision, Justice Alito accused the plaintiffs of *inferring bad faith* in presuming the defendants used racial data when rigging maps, in lieu of political data. Evidently, he thought that an unfair slight. Never mind that foolish *one person, one vote* drivel. If you want to pick your voters to rig elections through the use of racial data, merely claim the data was partisan.

From the *New York Times*, “The conservative majority, by a 6-to-3 vote, returned the case to the lower court, handing a victory to Republicans by allowing them to maintain boundaries that helped make the district in question a party stronghold.”

One must wonder if, on this court, there really is such an animal as an illegal gerrymander.

—Harry Taylor, Redistricting Chair



From Left: GerryMander, Harry Taylor, Representative Laura Budd (District 103), and Congressman Wiley Nickel (NC-13)

### LWVCM Marchers Join Fourth of July Parade

A group of our members had a fun time celebrating the League and our country's birthday at the annual Fourth of July Parade sponsored by the Myers Park Homeowners Association. Marchers gathered at the Queens University Bell Tower to participate in the parade, followed by food trucks, live music, face painting, balloon art and picnics.

Mike Cooke conveyed some of the group in his convertible, which members decorated with LWV signs and patriotic pompoms, flags, and beads. Others braved the scorching July 4 heat on foot.

Leaguers greeted community members, handed out “future voter” stickers and treats to kids, and made a loop around the Queens University campus in the parade.



The Fourth of July Parade kicks off at the Queens University Bell Tower.



**Above:** LWVCM Co-President Linda Traum, member Mike Cooke, Co-President Suzanne Elsberry, member Michael Filkoff, Secretary Cate Stadelman and Tom Stadelman prepare to set off on the parade route.

**Right:** Linda, Michael and Tom start to march.

**Below right:** A line of cars led by Grand Marshall Marshall Ferman Wardell and a Charlotte Fire truck from Station 6 circle the Queens University campus on July 4.



## LWVCM President's Perspective



My message for this edition of *THE VOTER* begins with a very warm and hearty welcome and thank you to our newly elected Officers and Board Members who will serve for the 2024-2025-2026 terms:

**Co-President-Linda Traum**

**Vice President-Debora Arnold**

**Treasurer-Richard King**

**Directors: Carol Gray-Adler, Stacey Jenkins and Susan Harden**

Appreciation is also extended to Secretary Cate Stadelman, and Board Members Sara Baysinger, Carolyn Lyons and Kevan Woodson for their continued service. In addition, we thank our past year's Nominating Committee Linda Levy (Chair), Mary Condon, Shamaiye Haynes and Stacey Jenkins as well as our newly elected 2024-25 Nominating Committee members: Connor Choka, Margaret Fritze and Jane Hoffmann. I am assured the talent and wisdom of these leaders will enable us to realize great successes!

On a personal note, I would like to recognize and thank my newly elected Co-President, Linda Traum, who has not only accepted the position as Co-President, but courageously taken on the very challenging role of Voter Service Chair. I look forward to sharing my duties and responsibilities with this amazingly creative, energetic and committed woman who exemplifies the principles of the League. Welcome, Linda!

Due to the outstanding efforts of so many dedicated volunteers, our Annual Meeting in June was a resounding success! Special thanks go to the organizers: Mary Condon, Margaret Fritze and Kayla Peoples. We also recognize and thank the members who helped with the very successful raffle, guest registration, decorations and refreshments. Our sincere thanks go to our steadfast members who attended this very important and informative meeting.

The Transformation Plan for the new **2025 National Due's Structure** introduced at the Annual Meeting will grow league membership in numbers and diversity and strengthen our grassroots power by offering a "Pay What You Can Opportunity." Along with its many benefits, this initiative will challenge our chapter to discern ways of supplementing our dues income. Our December fundraising campaign launched internally with our leadership raised almost \$9,000! And now, as our **Fundraising Campaign** with its goal of raising \$20,000 transitions to our members and supporters, I am confident the response will be equally responsive and generous.

My remarks at the Annual meeting concluded with a **powerful call to action!** As I told our members, we are approaching what is perhaps the most important election since the creation of our Republic, and the League, **now more than ever**, needs your active participation. There is unity and collaboration in the shared goals we defined and adopted at the meeting. So, together, we have the needed momentum to create the change we seek to build a more democratic and inclusive future for our community. I hope each of you will step forward, and offer your time, skills, ideas and passion to help us achieve our collective objectives. It is certain the challenges we face are formidable, however, our steadfast determination, like that of the Suffragists who formed our organization, is even **mightier!**

The sky is the limit when we join our hands and voices together to support the vital and impactful work of the League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg!

Thank you,

**President, League of Women Voters  
of Charlotte Mecklenburg**



# League News

## Welcome to New League Members

### New Members in June

Debra Bailey	Sara Dorgan
Michelle Wall	Sandra Shore
Jeanne Jerome	Judy Rae

### Next Member Spotlight: Kay Zimmerman

Our next member spotlight will feature Kay Zimmermann who is an active member of the LWVCM Education Action Team. In the meantime, get inspired by Kay’s email postscript:

*When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive—to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love. Marcus Aurelius, Meditations*

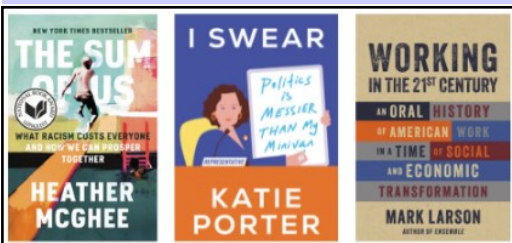
### LWVCM Book Club on Hiatus

For the past three years, the [LWVCM Book Club](#) has been a great way for our members to connect and discuss topics of concern in our constantly changing world. Unfortunately, funding has not been allocated for the program this fiscal year and therefore meetings will be suspended until funding can be secured. We appreciate your past participation and hope to someday be able to get back to reading and learning in community.

Our last meeting, on May 28, was a wonderful experience for both attendees and the author who graciously joined our virtual event. We discussed *Working in the 21st Century: An Oral History of American Work in a Time of Social and Economic Transformation* by Mark Larson. There were so many enthusiastic questions and ideas shared that we ended up extending our time with Mr. Larson. Afterward, he told the club moderator: *“What a great pleasure that was, and what interesting, thoughtful people. I will be thinking about this and some of the issues and questions raised for a long time. I am deeply grateful, truly.”*

Mr. Larson also informed us that he will be speaking at Queens College in Charlotte on October 4. You can find information on his website: <https://www.marklarsonauthor.com/>

### 2024 LWVCM Book Club Titles



### Join Our New Facebook Page!

Stay Informed, Get Involved: League of Women Voters Charlotte Mecklenburg Launches Facebook Page! The LWVCM is excited to announce our new Facebook page! This page will be your one-stop shop for staying informed and engaged with civic issues in our community. Here’s what you can expect to find:

- **Voter Education Resources:** Get clear, nonpartisan information about upcoming elections, voter registration, and important deadlines.
- **League Events & Activities:** Learn about upcoming League events like candidate forums, educational workshops, and volunteer opportunities.
- **Local Issues & Advocacy:** Stay informed about key issues impacting Charlotte Mecklenburg and how the League is advocating for positive change.
- **Connect with Us:** Engage in discussions with fellow League members, ask questions, and share your thoughts on important matters.



Head over to our Facebook page at [“LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg”](#) and give us a like!

We look forward to connecting with you online and empowering you to make a difference for the League and the community we serve.



### LWVCM Communications Team Seeks Co-Webmaster

Do you love keeping websites engaging and informative? Are you a team player who thrives in a collaborative environment? The Communications Team is seeking a passionate Co-Webmaster to join our team!

In this role, you’ll be responsible for the **public-facing aspects** of our website. You’ll work alongside a co-webmaster who handles the back-end, ensuring our online presence is up-to-date, informative, and engaging for our members and the public. Join the [Co-Webmaster Interest Meeting](#) on Zoom, August 15 at 5pm.

### The LWVCM Seeks Women’s Issues Team Head

Fun fact: 59% of our newest members expressed an interest in Reproductive Rights Advocacy. An only slightly smaller number are interested in advocating for Equal Status Under the Law. To that end, the League is seeking one or more individuals who would be interested in shepherding the Women’s Issues Team that is currently without a leader. Interested? Contact Suzanne Elsberry, LWVCM Co-President at: [dessuz@bellsouth.net](mailto:dessuz@bellsouth.net)

League Action & Happenings

**SCOTUS Again Turns Its Back on Gerrymandering**

In 2019, the United States Supreme Court decided in North Carolina’s [Rucho v. Common Cause](#) that the Court would not consider whether Congressional electoral maps are **partisan** gerrymanders. They claimed the question was beyond their reach, and that federal courts can only weigh in **IF** such maps are illegal **racial** gerrymanders. Essentially, they walked away.

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From Left: GerryMander, Harry Taylor, Representative Laura Budd (District 103), and Congressman Wiley Nickel (NC-13)

**Half a Million North Carolinians Enroll in Medicaid**

More than 500,000 North Carolina residents have now enrolled in the new Medicaid coverage program since it was launched on December 1. This number far outpaced the state’s projections.

The state and many nonprofits, have worked diligently to get those who are eligible enrolled and to inform those were not aware about the changes in eligibility.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) continues to enhance its resources to keep NC residents informed.

For more information and eligibility requirements for NC Medicaid, visit the [NCDHHS website](#).

For monthly updates on the numbers of North Carolina residents currently enrolled in the program, visit the [NC Medicaid Expansion Dashboard](#).

**LWVUS Statement on President Biden’s Decision to Suspend His Bid for Reelection**

The League of Women Voters released a statement this week on the “Democratic Party Replacing Its Presumptive Presidential Nominee.” The statement was as follows:

“While a major party’s presumptive nominee withdrawing his presidential candidacy is an extraordinary occurrence, rules and procedures are in place to respond to this development.

“Americans can be confident that this situation falls well within existing rules and that their election system continues to allow for a free and fair election.

“A political party has control over how to choose its nominee in accordance with the party’s own governing rules. When a presumptive nominee withdraws before their party makes its nomination official, the party will follow its own rules and procedures to choose an official nominee (typically, but not necessarily, in person at the party’s nominating convention). In this instance, the Democratic Party will determine its path forward, and its delegates will vote to approve a nominee at or before the Democratic National Convention this August. Additionally, state ballot access laws are no obstacle to the party choosing a nominee other than President Biden. States have not yet printed ballots for the general election, and state laws across the country provide for the candidate chosen by the Democratic Party at or before the convention to appear on ballots this November irrespective of whether that nominee is the same individual as the party’s presumptive nominee based on the results of the party’s presidential preference primaries.”

**The LWVUS Statement Condemns the Attack at Former President Trump’s Rally**

“The National Task Force on Election Crises unequivocally condemns the attack that injured former President Trump, which took place as a crowd of his supporters were exercising their freedom of peaceful political assembly. Our thoughts are with the former President, as well as with the other innocent victims of this horrific act of violence. There is no place for violence in American politics.”





Co-Presidents Linda Traum and Suzanne Elsberry address members at the LWVCM 2024 Annual Meeting.

Top: Attendees of the Annual Meeting had the opportunity to look at the “Job Fair” board filled with League jobs—big and small, long term and discrete—for members to engage in.



1900 Queens Road, Suite A  
Charlotte, NC 28207

**Dated Material**

**Forwarding Service Requested**