

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

CONTACT: Anne Mackie, Planning Committee Chair, 919-462-9713 (anne@mackies.org)

WHAT: Wake County Women's Agenda Assembly

WHERE: NCAE Building, 700 South St., 8:30 a.m. -1:30p.m.

WHEN: November 20, 2004

Big Day in November for Wake County Women

Now that the elections are over, it is time for Wake County women to discuss how to put those new state lawmakers to work.

Women throughout the county will have the chance to voice their policy concerns at the Wake County Women's Agenda Assembly taking place Saturday, November 20 at the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) building in downtown Raleigh.

"This is a well-organized opportunity to participate in bringing about big change for women," says Anne S. Franklin, former Raleigh City Councilmember and one of the organizers of this year's assembly. "The purpose is having a sharply defined agenda that can be pursued statewide."

Domestic violence, healthcare, workplace discrimination, and affordable housing are some of the issues on this year's assembly agenda. During the assembly, women will discuss and prioritize the agenda issues, as well as suggest additional areas of concern. They will then have the chance to work with policy advocacy trainers who can give them advice on how to present their views to local and state elected officials.

Assembly organizers are urging women of all backgrounds and political persuasions to participate. "We definitely need women from many different backgrounds and many different types of experience to talk to one another about what the priorities should be," stresses Franklin.

The Wake County assembly is one of many being held across the state as part of the North Carolina Women United (NCWU) Women's Agenda Program. NCWU works to empower women through grassroots activism, community organizing, legislative advocacy, and engagement in the political process.

Agenda assembly discussions form the basis of the Women's Legislative Agenda pursued during the North Carolina General Assembly's long session. "So much attention has been placed on national leadership [this year]," says Franklin. "However, the changes that make the most difference in our everyday lives are made at the local and state level. Now's the time to translate how you think things should change into a practical plan of action."

The registration deadline for the Wake County Women's Agenda Assembly is November 12. For more information about the assembly, including registration cost and forms, contact Anne Mackie at 919-462-9713 or visit the event website at www.wakewaa2004.org.

Those interested in attending the assembly should read the 2004 Draft Women's Agenda available online at the NCWU website, www.ncwu.org. The Draft Agenda contains information on issues facing North Carolina women and policy recommendations for assembly participants to consider.

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