



News and Updates from NC Women United

Spring 2004 Edition

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST-EVER NCWU NEWSLETTER!

This is the first edition of what we hope will become a quarterly newsletter. Through our regular membership meetings and NCWU Board and committee work, we are always working to make our members more involved, to share information more effectively, to strengthen our grassroots organizing and our legislative work, and to continue to move toward

full economic, political, and social equality for women across our state. This newsletter is just one part of our efforts.

Many people have worked on this newsletter, and we want to give them a BIG thanks, especially our Communications Committee: Chair Nancy Shoemaker (AAUW), Lisa Miller (WRC in Hickory) and Jennifer Bumgar-

ner (NC Alliance for Economic Justice). We also thank NCWU members who submitted info. We couldn't do this without you!

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and that it inspires you in your own activist work—we've been inspired just to see everything our members are doing! Send feedback about this newsletter to jenniferb@ncaej.org.

Budget Forums Planned This Spring

This spring, NCWU is partnering with members and local organizations across the state to sponsor information and advocacy forums on the state budget. We are working with our intern Stephanie Kilpatrick and with the Budget and Tax Center of the NC Justice and Community Development Center to plan these workshops.

Call Stephanie Kilpatrick at 1.888.737.CASA or email her at coordinators@ncwu.org for more info.

Women's Advocacy Day '04 Goes Virtual

Women's Advocacy Day 2004 is tentatively planned for May 19, 2004, so mark your calendars. This year, the focus of Advocacy Day will be on the state budget, as more cuts threaten programs and services essential for women and their families.

This year's Advocacy Day will also have a new "virtual Advocacy Day" component to enable more women across NC to make their voices heard on these important issues. We're still working out the details, so expect more information soon!

Revised Dues to Help Small Grassroots Orgs

At the NCWU Board meeting on February 9, 2004, the Board voted to add a new category to the membership dues schedule to recognize the financial needs of small grassroots organizations. Because of this revision, organizations with a budget of \$3500 or less can now join NCWU for \$35 per year.

The goal of this change is to enable more small grassroots organizations to be a part of NCWU.

It's Time to March for Women's Lives!

To demonstrate overwhelming majority support for a woman's right to choose safe, legal abortion and birth control, the largest pro-choice majority in history will march on Washington on Sunday April 25, 2004 for the March for Women's Lives.

NCWU and many other NC organizations are coordinating transportation and other logistics for the march. For more info, go to [www.http://www.ncwu.org/2004/march.htm](http://www.ncwu.org/2004/march.htm) or www.marchforwomen.org. See you at the march!

NCWU Endorses Right to Health Care Bill

During the membership meeting on February 23, NCWU members voted to endorse the NC Right to Health Care Bill (HB 1098) championed by the NC Committee to Defend Health Care.

If passed by the General Assembly and then by voters, this bill would create an amendment to the NC constitution recognizing the right of all North Carolinians to health care.

This bill does not offer a specific plan for providing health care, but it does give policy makers a timeline to come up with a plan that enables every resident in the state to obtain health.

With more than 1.4 million North Carolinians (about 17% of our state's total population) lacking health insurance and with health care costs and insurance rates rising out of reach of many women and their families, health care is a key NCWU issue.

For more info, visit www.ncdefendhealthcare.org.

IN THIS ISSUE...

NCWU News.....1 News from Members....3
Legislative Updates...2 Upcoming Events.....5

NCWU Legislative Updates

Legislative Study Commission on Aging

The Study Commission on Aging has met once and scheduled three more meetings: March 9 and April 13 and 25 (10 am, Room 643, Legislative Office Building). The Commission will gather information for recommendations on subjects such as criminal records checks for long term care facilities, renewal of a long term care insurance tax credit, and the problem of mixing mentally ill residents with frail elderly in long term care facilities.

Pay Equity for State Employees

Despite the efforts of NCWU members, the legislature did not create a pay equity study commission during the 2003 session. The Office of State Personnel, however, is beginning a study of gender inequities within state government. A researcher is now at work, and appointment of an advisory committee to oversee the study is planned.

House Select Committee on Domestic Violence

Co-Speakers of the House Jim Black and Richard Morgan announced the creation of the House Select Committee on Domestic Violence at the end of the 2003 legislative session. The 24-member bipartisan committee is co-chaired by Rep. Wilma Sherrill (Buncombe) and Rep. Marian McLawhorn (Pitt). Four sub-committees have been established: 1) Criminal Law Issues; 2) Civil Law and Judicial Administration; 3) Victims Services; and 4) Treatment, Prevention, Education and Juvenile Issues. A final report and recommendations from the Committee will be issued by April 15, 2004. Meeting notices are available on www.ncleg.net.

NCWU: Who We Are and What We Do

NC Women United (NCWU) is a coalition of progressive individuals and organizations working to achieve the full political, social, and economic equality of all women across North Carolina. NCWU works to build women's power through grassroots activism, community organizing, legislative advocacy, and engagement in the political process.

To achieve full political, social, and economic equality, NCWU advances public policies and laws that:

- Increase the participation of women as voters, leaders, and decision-makers in the political process;
- Ensure freedom from domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Protect and advance reproductive freedom;
- Promote access to training and educational opportunities that lead to meaningful employment;
- Provide full and equal civil rights;
- Recognize and respond to the needs of women and their families for affordable and accessible services, including health care, child care, and elder care;
- Secure pay equity and economic self-sufficiency;
- Eliminate hunger, poverty, and homelessness, and
- End discrimination in all areas of public life.

Say "Yes" on State Income-Tax Form For Fair Elections & Courts

N.C. Public Campaign Financing Fund

This Fund pays for a nonpartisan voter guide and helps fund judicial candidates who accept strict fundraising and spending limits. Do you agree that \$3 should go to this Fund? Filling in a circle below will not increase your tax or reduce your refund.

<u>You</u>	<u>Your Spouse</u>
<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> No

Would you rather have North Carolina judges raising campaign money from the attorneys and business interests who appear in their courts – or from a public fund they can tap if they agree to strict spending limits?

Which way promotes fairness in our courts and gives all qualified candidates a chance, even if they are not personally wealthy?

In late 2002, a coalition of citizens convinced NC lawmakers to pass the nation's first "voter-owned" public financing program for judicial candidates. It's a major breakthrough for campaign reform in N.C. – but it won't work without public participation!

Beginning in 2004, the Fund will pay for a much-needed Voter Guide with information about the courts and candidates. Also, candidates for the N.C. Supreme Court and Court of Appeals can receive substantial aid from a new Public Campaign Financing Fund in exchange for accepting strict spending and fundraising limits.

A distinguished bipartisan panel, headed by Campbell University Law School's Dean Willis Whichard, oversees the program with the State Board of Election.

To work, hundreds of thousands of taxpayers must show support by choosing "Yes" on a new check-off box that is on the N.C. income-tax form. The check-off doesn't change a person's tax bill; it just transfers \$3 to the new Public Campaign Financing Fund for each person who says "Yes."

Look for the check-off on your 2003 tax return and spread the message: **Say "Yes" on the Public Campaign Fund check-off.** For more information, call 1.888.OUR.VOTE or visit www.ncjudges.org.

NCWU MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

Renew organizational memberships and join as an individual supporter now! For more info or to recommend potential members, email Anne Mackie, Membership Committee Chair at anne@mackies.org.



NEWS FROM NCWU MEMBERS

NCCADV Receives Grant for Project Rainbow Net

NCCADV received a challenge grant from the Gill Foundation, a \$200 million-endowed organization committed to securing equal opportunity for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This grant will support Project Rainbow Net, which will improve the provision of services to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) victims of battering and increase public awareness of domestic violence in LGBT communities.

The Project will provide a series of trainings to LGBT community groups and domestic violence service providers across the state in order to improve our state's response to LGBT survivors of domestic violence. Please visit the Project's website at www.projectrainbownet.org.

NCCASA Announces Teen CASA for NC Teens

NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) invites NC teens to join Teen CASA. Here is your chance to speak out against sexual violence and make a difference by participating in group discussions, designing informative brochures, or writing for TRU Youth magazine.

For details, contact Robin Bartholomew or Sharon Mosley at 919.431.0995, email info@nccasa.org, or visit our website at www.nccasa.org/teen/index.htm.

WRC in Hickory Moves to a New Home!

The Women's Resource Center in Hickory will be moving to a larger new home on August 1, 2004. This historical home is named the Parsonage and is owned by the Hickory Landmarks Society. By moving into this larger facility, WRC will be able to offer more programs and expand our crisis pantries and Women 2 Work Clothing closet.

NC Hunger Network Announces SDOP Grants

As NC experiences major employment shifts and economic adjustments, many individuals and communities, especially in smaller towns and rural areas, are adrift. To aid such communities, NC Hunger Network is collaborating with Self Development of People (SDOP) in a program of community self development. Grants are available for groups that:

- Are oppressed by poverty or social systems
- Have a project to address the problems they face
- Will control this project themselves and benefit directly from it
- Know that their project will bring long-term improvements to their lives.

Self Development of People and the NC Hunger Network are sponsoring information workshops in Sharpsburg (March 8), Fuquay Varina (March 9), and Raeford (March 10) to assist groups with developing and funding their projects. Wayne Gnatuk of SDOP will lead these workshops.

All interested individuals and groups may apply. You do not have to have 501(c)(3) status or non-profit status. You can attend any of the workshops regardless of where you live.

For more info, call Shirley Williams-McClain with the Hunger Network at 919.413.8887 or 919.557.6996 or go to www.nchungernet.org.

Free AAUW Packets for Teachers

Two FREE packages for teachers or organizations working with K-12 students are available from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Educational Foundation:

Tech-Savvy Girls: includes video, resource guide and report. (Some of these kits are available in Spanish.)

Harrasment-Free Hallways: includes an action guide for parents, students and teachers and a report (English only)

See www.aauw.org/k-12/ or contact aauwnc@rtpnet.org for info.

Sky Dive to End Sexual Violence!

NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) invites everyone to come out and support NC's second Annual Operation Freefall on April 24. Help NCCASA take EXTREME measures to promote awareness of sexual violence by attending or participating!

NCCASA needs brave women and men to make a tandem sky-dive to raise money and awareness of sexual violence. Are you one of them? For information or to make a donation contact Veronica Butcher at veronica@nccasa.org or call 1.888.737.CASA.

Domestic Violence Stats

NCCADV has collected information on **70** domestic violence homicides that occurred in 2003. Perpetrators used firearms to kill **49 (70%)** of these victims.

For more info, visit NCCADV online at www.nccadv.org.

Our hearts go out to all of the families and friends of the victims who have suffered such tragedy. One life lost to domestic violence is too many.

NEWS FROM NCWU MEMBERS

Adolescent Health Advocacy Day Planned

The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina (APPCNC) invites youth, professionals and volunteers to participate in the third Adolescent Health Advocacy Day on Monday, March 29. Breaking from the tradition of holding the event in Raleigh, this year Adolescent Health Advocacy Day will occur statewide in communities throughout NC.

Programs, organizations, and individuals around the state that serve or work with youth are being encouraged to host their legislators at their program site on March 29 or sometime that week as schedules permit.

The day (March 29) will be kicked off with a statewide conference call at 1:30 pm with sites around the state. The following adolescent health issues will be discussed and highlighted:

- Ensure sufficient funding for adolescent pregnancy prevention
- Reduce use of tobacco products by adolescents
- Improve access to care through funding school nurse programs and school-based and school-linked health centers
- Reduce use of alcoholic beverages by adolescents
- Promote healthy weight among adolescents, and
- Improve adolescent mental health.

Individuals wishing to participate can secure planning packages from the offices of the APPCNC. An intern at APPCNC will assist local programs in setting up appointments with state legislators.

There is no cost to participate in this event. However, if a local organization wants to be listed as a participant in promotional materials for Adolescent Health Advocacy Day, the cost is \$50. Contact Carolyn Rhode at crhode@appcnc.org for more information and to register.

Women's History Month Poster Contest in Western NC

To celebrate Women's History Month in March, the Western Carolina Women's Coalition (WCWC) is sponsoring The Girls to Women Poster Project. The Poster Project is the brainchild of Amy Hanes, the WCWC Secretary, who will also chair the Project.

The Girls to Women Poster Project is a unique opportunity for students to compete in a Poster Story-Board Project reflecting the feminist struggle for equality and sound public policy. The WCWC thanks the Public Policy Institute at Western Carolina University and their sponsors for showcasing this project at the American Youth Congress in Asheville on March 20, 2004, and the WCU Women's Studies Program. All entries will be displayed at the American Youth Congress, where awards will be presented as a part of the keynote address. Participants are invited to attend the American Youth Congress all day.

Any student, group or class in grades 6 - 12 in the 17 westernmost counties of NC is eligible to enter. Female students are encouraged to enter, but entries from male students and groups will be accepted. Teachers are encouraged to make this a classroom project! Grand prizes of \$100 will be awarded in the individual and group categories. An official entry form must be received by March 15, 2004 and poster entries must be presented at the American Youth Congress on March 20, 2004. Entries should depict the status of women in three panels denoting PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE, and must compare and contrast, at a glance, the status of women here and abroad. For info, contact Vera Holland Guise at 828.293.1013 or vguise@wcu.edu.

Summer Institute To Train Women for Public Office

The non-partisan NC Center for Women in Public Service will conduct the first annual Summer Institute 2004 on May 13-16, June 10-13, and July 22-25. Housed on the Peace College Campus in Raleigh, the Institute will train up to 20 women to take the next steps toward securing a local public positions. Participants will develop their leadership skills, prepare for campaigning, and build skills for the tasks that serving will require.

The NC Center for Women in Public Service encourages women of all backgrounds and interests to participate. Peace College facilities are accessible and the program will strive to meet special needs.

For an application and more info call 919.508.2308 or visit the web site at www.nccwps.org

New Face Coming Soon to NARAL Pro-Choice NC

NARAL Pro-Choice NC is in the final stages of hiring a new Executive Director, with interviews for finalists taking place in early March. Keep your eyes and ears open for more news soon!

Orange County Works on Fair Employment Law

The Orange County Department of Human Rights is looking towards advancing legislation for a statewide fair employment law. Currently, adverse opinions from the NC Supreme Court have virtually halted any local agency investigations of discrimination. This results in diminished access to equal employment rights, predominately for women and people of color.

For info, contact Milan Pham at the Orange County Human Rights Dept. at 919.245.2255.

Save the Date: Upcoming and Ongoing Events

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 10, 2004

Workshop: Self Development of People Grants

Raeford Public Library, Raeford, 6 pm

Info on applying for the Self Development of People Grants for oppressed groups. Info at www.nchungernet.org or 919.413.8887

MARCH 11, 2004

Reclaiming Your Life Through Extreme Care

The Women's Center in Chapel Hill, 7 to 9 pm

Learn techniques to move toward your most inspired goals. \$20 mem/\$25 non. Call 919.968.4610 to register. Registration required.

MARCH 15, 2004

Girls to Women Poster Project Entry Deadline

Sponsored by the Western Carolina Women's Coalition, this Women's History month poster contest is for students in grades 6-12 in western NC. Contact Vera Holland Guise at 828.293.1014 or vguise@wcu.edu.

MARCH 16, 2004

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The Women's Center of Chapel Hill, 5 to 7 pm

Call 919.968.4610 for an appointment.

THURSDAYS, MARCH 18-APRIL 15, 2004

Finding Your Own Voice, Art Therapy Group

The Women's Center, Chapel Hill, 6:30 to 8 pm

To register, call 919.968.4610. \$10 materials.

MARCH 20, 2004

Women's History Month Mother/Daughter Lunch

Southern Human Services Ctr., Chapel Hill, 11:30

Sponsored by the Orange County Human Rights and Relations Office. For info, call 919.245.2250 or email jspivey@co.orange.nc.us.

"The World Still Says No to War" March & Rally

Hay Street & Rowan Street Park, Fayetteville, 11 am

Mark the first anniversary of the invasion of Iraq and the Global Day Against War and Occupations. For info, go to www.ncpeacehub.org.

MARCH 24, 2004

Working Women's Wednesday Lunch

Alamance Country Club, Burlington, 11:45 to 1:15

"Be the CEO of Your Life: Self Care" by Jennifer Snyder, President of Time of Your Life, Inc. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center of Alamance County. Tickets \$15 mem/\$18 non. Call 336.227.6900 for info.

MARCH 26, 2004

AAUW Student Leadership Conference

Cameron Applied Research Center, UNC-Charlotte

This year's theme is "Lead to Succeed: Challenging the Stereotypes." Info at www.aauwnc.org.

MARCH 26-28, 2004

AAUW NC Board Meeting and Convention

Mariott Executive Park, Charlotte

Resolutions or similar items for consideration at the Board meeting or convention should be submitted by March 11. Info at www.aauwnc.org.

MARCH 29, 2004

Adolescent Health Advocacy Day

Statewide in communities across NC

Sponsored by the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition NC. Info at crhode@appcnc.org.

Mood-Food Connection

The Women's Center in Chapel Hill, 6:30 to 8 pm

A workshop on how food calms and soothes, but can leave shame and out of control feelings. \$20 mem/\$23 non. 919.968.4610 to register.

MARCH 30, 2004

Guest Lecture by Kate Michelman

UNC-Chapel Hill, 6:30 pm

Kate Michelman, President of NARAL_Pro-Choice American for nearly 20 years, will be stepping down in April 2004. Info at 919.829.9779.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The Women's Center of Chapel Hill, 5 to 7 pm

Call 919.968.4610 for an appointment.

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 1, 2004

April Fools! The Surprise of Slam Poetry

The Women's Center in Chapel Hill, 6:30 to 8 pm

Slam poetry workshop. Free.

TUESDAYS, APRIL 13-MAY 18, 2004

Support Group for Parents of Adolescents

The Women's Center, Chapel Hill, 6:30 to 8 pm

To register, call 919.968.4610. Free.

APRIL 14, 2004

Women Under the Hood

The Women's Center, Chapel Hill, 6 to 8 pm

Workshop on basic car maintenance. \$23 mem/\$28 non. 919.968.4610 to register.

APRIL 15, 2004

Danger Online: Pornography & Violence Against Children

Training by United Family Services, Prevent Child Abuse, and NCCASA. 1.888.737.CASA or nccasa@nccasa.org for info.

APRIL 19, 2004

***NC Budget Road Show
Karpen Hall, UNC-Asheville, 4 pm***

Sponsored by the Western Carolina Women's Coalition. Call Doris at 828.645.7351 or Vera at 828.293.1013 for info.

APRIL 20, 2004

A Day to End Sexual Violence

***NC Budget Road Show
Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, 11 am***

Sponsored by the Western Carolina Women's Coalition. Call Doris at 828.645.7351 or Vera at 828.293.1013 for info.

THURSDAYS, APRIL 22-JUNE 10, 2004

***Separation and Divorce Support Group
The Women's Center, Chapel Hill, 6:30 to 8 pm***

To register, call 919.9684610. Free.

APRIL 23-24, 2004

***Women's Forum of NC Annual Meeting
Doubletree Biltmore Hotel, Asheville***

Featured luncheon speaker is author Barbara Seaman. Info from tshank@greenvillenc.com.

APRIL 24, 2004

Operation Freefall to Fight Sexual Violence

Be a participant or sponsor for this national sky-diving event to fight sexual violence. Call 407.836.9692 or www.operationfreefall.com.

APRIL 25, 2004

March for Women's Lives

Washington, DC, Assembly on the Mall at 10 am
Info: www.marchforwomen.org or www.ncwu.org.

APRIL 28, 2004

Working Women's Wednesday Lunch

Alamance Country Club, Burlington, 11:45 to 1:15
"Business Etiquette" by Cecilia Grimes, owner of Etiquette Matters. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center of Alamance County. Tickets \$15 mem/\$18 non. Call 336.227.6900 for info.

Celebrating Your Creativity Workshop

The Women's Center, Chapel Hill, 7 to 9 pm
Make your own collage and learn how art relieves stress and increases self-worth. \$23 mem/\$28 non. Call 919.968.4610 to register.

MAY 2, 2004

***Working Together for Choice
Durham***

Hosted by NARAL Pro-Choice NC, Ipas, and Planned Parenthood Central NC. For info, call 919.829-9779.

MAY 4, 2004

***Women's Resource Center Spring Dinner
Rock Barn Country Club, Conover, 6 pm***

Fundraising dinner for Hickory's WRC. The theme is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility." For info, call 828.322.6333.

MAY 6, 2004

Linking Practice to Science in Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Sheraton Hotel Four Seasons, Greensboro
Sponsored by the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition and the Division of Public Health. Cost is \$119. Info from crhode@appcnc.org.

MAY 12-14, 2004

Generations: Celebrating the Strength of Women

Joseph S. Koury Convention Center, Greensboro
NCCADV's bi-annual conference. Speakers include Jackson Katz, a leading anti-sexist male activist, and Lynn Rosenthal of the National Network to End Domestic Violence. For info, go to www.nccadv.org.

MAY 13-16, JUNE 10-13, JULY 22-25, 2004

CWPS Summer Institute 2004

Center for Women in Public Service, Peace College, Raleigh

Training for women to hold local public positions. \$300 with scholarships available. www.nccwps.org or 919.508.2308. Apply by March 31.

MAY 19, 2004

NCWU Women's Advocacy Day

Raleigh and locations across NC
Save the date and stay tuned for more info!

ABOUT NCWU...

North Carolina Women United is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of individuals and organizations working to achieve the full political, social and economic equality of all women across North Carolina.

For information about joining NCWU or making a contribution, see www.ncwu.org or email Anne Mackie, Membership Chair (anne@mackies.org).

For more info about our newsletter, contact Jennifer Bumgarner (jenniferb@ncaej.org).

