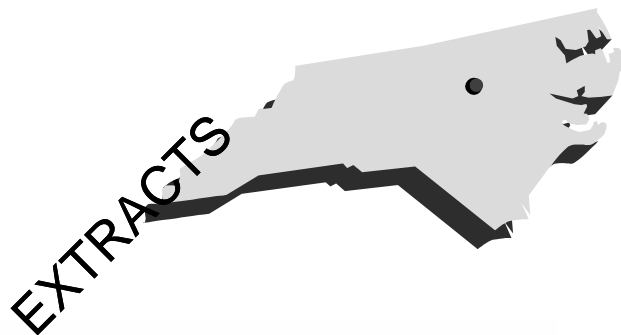
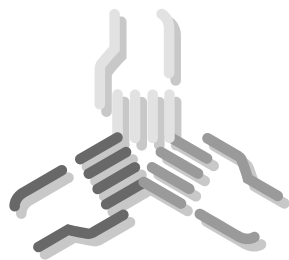


EXTRACTS

2006 Women's Agenda Building Book

*How to plan and organize a Local
Assembly in your community!*



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www.ncwu.org
866-518-7657

EXTRACTS

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NC WOMEN UNITED PLANNING SCHEDULE

June (Of even years)	<p><u>NC Women United:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies local Agenda Coordinators • Contacts experts in various policy areas to write articles on issues derived from past Agenda documents and develops the Draft Women’s Agenda • Revises and updates Agenda Building Book
July	<p><u>NC Women United:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributes Agenda Building Book • Completes Draft Women’s Agenda <p><u>Local Agenda Coordinators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does preliminary planning of local assemblies • As participants register provides a copy or electronic link to the Draft Women’s Agenda
August - December	<p><u>NC Women United:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributes Draft Women’s Agenda to local Agenda Coordinators • Posts local Assembly contacts to NCWU website as they are submitted • Begins planning for Women’s Advocacy Day <p><u>Local Agenda Coordinators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct local Assemblies and begin planning follow-up meetings with elected officials • Submit local Women’s Agenda to NCWU and follow-up letters to elected officials
January-February	<p><u>NC Women United:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the Women’s Agenda, considering the priorities named by local assemblies and input from member organizations <p><u>Local Agenda Coordinators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold initial follow-up meeting with elected officials, reviewing local agenda results
January – February (Of odd year)	<p>General Assembly reconvenes</p> <p><u>NC Women United:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Women’s Advocacy Day at the General Assembly; and ongoing advocacy and email alerts <p><u>Local Agenda Coordinators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan follow-up session with legislators
March	<p><u>NC Women United:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advocacy Day [Exact schedule may depend on factors specific to the session.] • Ongoing advocacy and email alerts <p><u>Local Agenda Coordinators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan final follow-up session with elected officials
April-May	<p><u>NC Women United:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing advocacy and email alerts <p><u>Local Agenda Coordinators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final follow-up session with elected officials
June	<p>General Assembly adjourns</p>
July -November	<p><u>NC Women United:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct analysis on action taken in NC General Assembly and its impact on issues in NCWU Agenda; produces and distributes NCWU Legislative Report Cards <p><u>Local Forum Coordinators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan local meetings as appropriate: focused on Report Card, state budget or local issues
January-March (Of even year)	<p><u>NC Women United:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins planning Women’s Advocacy Day <p><u>Local Forum Coordinators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct local meetings and begin planning follow-up meeting with elected officials
April	<p><u>Local Forum Coordinators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct follow-up meeting with elected official
May	<p>General Assembly convenes to review the state budget and partially completed items.</p> <p><u>NC Women United:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advocacy Day • Ongoing advocacy and email alerts

AGENDA ASSEMBLY SAMPLE PROGRAM

- 1. Welcome**
 - Introduction of purpose and history
 - Establish ground rules
 - Overview of schedule
- 2. Speakers**
 - Individual communities may choose to have only four speakers (one on each broad category or one on each individual policy initiative)
 - Provide background information on speakers
- 3. Break/Networking Opportunity**
- 4. Small group discussion [See page 5]**
 - Groups should consist of 6-12 participants
 - Discuss and rank issues
 - Report ranking to assembly coordinator
- 5. Break and/or meal, tally of rankings, activism tactics, NCWU alerts system and Women's Advocacy Day information**
- 6. Announcement of Community's Women's Agenda**



Sample Tally Form

Issue	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Raw Score	Assembly Ranking
Access to Health Care	4	2	3	2	4	15	2 nd
Civic Participation & Equality	1	3	1	1	2	8	4 th
Economic Self-Sufficiency	2	1	2	3	1	10	3 rd
Violence Against Women	3	4	4	4	3	18	1 st

GLOSSARY

Access to Health Care – issues relating to: 1) recognizing and responding to the needs of women and their families for affordable and accessible services including health care and elder care, and 2) protecting and advancing reproductive freedom for women.

Alliance Building – developing a close association of people or groups to work together in advancing a common interest.

Budget Report Card – document assessing key issue areas identified by NC Women United with summaries of major budget action in those areas to raise awareness about the impact of our state budget on women and their families. May be included as part of the ***Legislative Report Card***.

Civic Participation and Equality – issues relating to: 1) increasing the participation of women as voters, leaders and decision-makers in the political process, and 2) providing full and equal civil rights to women.

County Report Card – table of statistics and services by county as they relate to: civic participation and equality, access to health care, economic self-sufficiency and violence against women.

Draft Women’s Agenda – the document discussing all of NC Women United’s policy issues in detail. Typically made available to attendees before the assembly.

Economic Self-Sufficiency – issues relating to: 1) promoting access to training and educational opportunities that lead to meaningful employment, 2) securing pay equity and economic self-sufficiency, 3) eliminating hunger, poverty and homelessness, and 4) recognizing and responding to the needs of women and their families for affordable and accessible services including child care.

Follow-up Meeting – held throughout the year to bring local women and elected officials together to talk about the Women’s Agenda of each community.

Legislative Report Card - reflects the legislative priorities identified by our NC Women United member organizations and tracks the North Carolina legislature with respect to its legislative and fiscal decisions, or lack of decisions, on these issues. that evaluates the progress the General Assembly on our priority issues.

Local Agenda Coordinator – every other fall, oversees planning of Women’s Agenda Assembly in their community.

Local Forum Coordinator – in the year when there is no Agenda Assembly, local communities may have forums focused on the NCWU Legislative Report Card, the state budget or local priorities. These “off year” events can help to maintain the coalition that supports the Agenda Assembly. In some years, NCWU may provide additional program support for these events.

NC Women United – a consensus-based coalition of organizations committed to achieving full equality and empowerment for women.

NC Women United Program Committee – coordinates all NCWU program activities including: Women's Agenda Assemblies, Women's Advocacy Day, and Legislative Report Cards.

North Carolina General Assembly –“Laws of North Carolina, known as statutes, are made by the General Assembly. The North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) is made of two bodies or houses; the Senate, which has 50 members; and the House of Representatives, which consists of 120 members. Each legislator represents either a Senatorial District or a House District. The General Assembly meets in regular session beginning in January of each odd-numbered year, and adjourns to reconvene the following even-numbered year for a shorter session.”

[Taken from <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/NCGAInfo/educational/structure.html>]

Violence Against Women – issues relating to: 1) ensuring women freedom from domestic and sexual violence.

Women's Advocacy Day - meeting of women from across the state at the NC General Assembly to advocate for the Women's Agenda. where women from across the state gather at the Legislative Building to advocate for the agenda. In recent years, the event has included a "virtual" component for women who can't get to Raleigh.

Women's Agenda Assembly – held in the fall of even numbered years, to bring together women to express their views, prioritize issues and to advocate their issue with elected officials. where diverse women around the state attend local sessions to discuss the Draft Agenda and make recommendations on the group's priorities for the next session of the legislature.

Women's Agenda - issues disproportionately affecting women and recommendations for change.