

**NC Women United  
Membership Meeting  
June 28 2004**

**Present:** Barbara Ann Hughes, Nancy Shoemaker, Christina Abbott, Arlene Mckay, Beth Messersmith, Ian Palmquist, Elaine Mejia, Polly Williams, Elizabeth Jordan, Jennifer Bumgarner, Sharon Worthington, Veronica Butcher, Paige Johnson, David McLennan, Melissa Reed, Anne Mackie, Sylvia Ray, Becky Mock, and Betty Ann Knudsen

**Business:**

- I. Overview of Newly Created NC Women United Leadership Positions
  - a. Governance Committee members were recognized for their efforts on drafting the newly adopted by-laws.
  - b. New structure of the organization, which can be found at [www.ncwu.org/members](http://www.ncwu.org/members), has provided opportunities for participation and leadership open to all members who would like to help shape policy positions.
  - c. An overview of who NCWU is was provided by Nancy Shoemaker who illustrated how the organization is broader than just the people at the table. It also includes the staff, supporters and volunteers of individual agencies.
  - d. New Executive Committee on the Board is: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Responsible for:
    - i. Being in contact with all committees
    - ii. Making decisions between board meetings and offloads administrative details form member meetings.
  - e. Policy Council contains four members elected plus the President. This council protects the value of our endorsement and determines what it means when NCWU is behind an agenda or issue.
  - f. Standing Committees include:
    - i. Program – responsible for all NCWU program activities
    - ii. Membership – recruiting and retaining members
    - iii. Communications – maintaining listsev and website
    - iv. Governance – nominating committee responsible for the health of the board
  - g. Board Members Chair each committee and the executive committee acts a liaison to committees.
  - h. Membership was asked to consider taking on a new role within the organization.
- II. Membership Committee Update
  - a. Committee members were all recognized and thanked.
  - b. Eager for new ideas and open to anyone who is interested in participating.
  - c. Now have 38 members, the largest number ever.
  - d. This year the year begins on July1 and dues will be collected in April.
  - e. Committee is currently focusing on ways to add more “friends” and individual supporters.
- III. Update on Grassroots and Advocacy Initiatives
  - a. NCWU Legislative Report Card- addressed nine policy areas and was distributed to all members of NC General Assembly and NC Executive Branch
  - b. NCWU Budget Report Card- First ever covering 11 policy areas
  - c. NCWU Budget Forums- Creation of the coordinators listserv

- d. Short Session Women's Advocacy Day- First time for virtual component-Over 500 emails; Coverage on all major TV stations & NPR; and Contacts from legislators interested in NCWU backing their legislation
- e. Women's Agenda Assemblies [www.ncwu.org/2004/AgendaAssembly](http://www.ncwu.org/2004/AgendaAssembly)
  - i. Finishing the revising of the Agenda Building Book
  - ii. Reduces voting to once and increases discussion time
  - iii. Currently being organizes: Alamance (9/18); Orange; Salisbury; Mecklenburg; Cleveland; and Caldwell. Committee is currently recruiting local coordinators, those interested can email [info@ncwu.org](mailto:info@ncwu.org) to be placed on the coordinators listserv
  - iv. Recruiting workgroup participants. Workgroups are responsible for collecting submissions to the NCWU Draft Women's Agenda and ensuring they are in line with NCWU's stated mission, vision and goals:
    - 1. Civic Participation & Equality
      - a. Increase participation of women as voters, leaders and decision-makers in the political process
      - b. Provide full and equal civil rights
    - 2. Access to Health Care
      - a. Protect and advance reproductive freedom
      - b. Recognize and respond to the needs of women and their families for affordable and accessible services, including health care, and elder care
    - 3. Violence Against Women
      - a. Ensure freedom from domestic violence and sexual assault
    - 4. Economic Self-Sufficiency
      - a. Promote access to training and educational opportunities that lead to meaningful employment
      - b. Secure pay equity and economic self-sufficiency
      - c. Eliminate hunger, poverty, and homelessness
      - d. Recognize and respond to the needs of women and their families for affordable and accessible services including child care
- f. Currently planning for Women's Advocacy Day in long session
- g. Committee has streamlined process (flow-chart handout) so that there is ample opportunity for grassroots involvement throughout the NCGA two-year cycle.

#### IV. Communications Update

- a. Distributed new business cards
- b. Important email addresses:
  - i. [alerts@ncwu.org](mailto:alerts@ncwu.org) action alerts to the grassroots
  - ii. [members@ncwu.org](mailto:members@ncwu.org) good for containing messages and general announcements, only to NCWU members
  - iii. [coordinators@ncwu.org](mailto:coordinators@ncwu.org) for local women organizing Agenda Assemblies or Budget Forums
- c. Websites:
  - i. [www.ncwu.org](http://www.ncwu.org)
  - ii. [www.ncwu.org/members](http://www.ncwu.org/members) login: women, password: united-access membership directory, budget, bylaws and minutes.
  - iii. <http://ncwu.ontero.net> common calendar where events and deadlines appear and can be posted.
- d. Now have a quarterly newsletter, accepting submissions for events over the next 2-3 months.

- e. Committee is currently looking at teleconferencing
- V. NCWU Elections
- a. Governance Committee distributed slate for:
    - i. President- Paige Johnson
    - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President- Jennifer Bumgarner
    - iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Veronica Butcher
    - iv. Secretary- Nancy Shoemaker
    - v. Treasurer- Becky Mock
  - b. Betty Ann Knudsen moved to close nominations; Polly Williams seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
  - c. Sharon Worthington moved to accept the slate by acclamation; Ian Palmquist seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
  - d. The slate for the Governance Committee was presented as follows:
    - i. Board Member- Arlene McKay
    - ii. Board Member- Nancy Shoemaker
    - iii. Organization Member- Ian Palmquist
    - iv. Board Member- open
    - v. Organization Member- open
  - e. Sharon Worthington moved to vote on the three nominations and give permission to the Board to elect members to fill the two open positions; Barbara Ann Hughes seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- VI. Update on Advocacy from Members:
- a. S760 local public financing option, Democracy NC is asking for support. Currently facing opposition from Home Builders who are single largest funding through PACs. There is no budgetary impact of this item.
  - b. S1057 proposes constitutional amendment to same-sex marriage; Equality NC opposes because they feel the State Constitution is not about denying rights to citizens but protecting and extending rights. Has the potential to impact domestic violence in limiting access to protective orders.
  - c. State Abortion Fund - In 1995, anti-choice legislators placed restrictions on the State Abortion Fund that made it virtually impossible for any woman to qualify for its use. In fact, since that time, no woman has used the fund. Because of these restrictions, the \$50,000 allocated for the Fund reverts to general funds each year.

**Next Meeting:**

Membership Meeting July 26, 2004 at Planned Parenthood of Central Carolina in Chapel Hill 12-1:30

*Approved: July 26, 2004*