

During the last two years, the Wake League has operated under a new governing structure suggested and sanctioned by the LWVUS. In January, 2013, the Wake League Leadership Team agreed that the new model is effective and efficient and will recommend to the membership that we continue this governing model. To do this, the LWVUS requires us to revise our Bylaws which were suspended for these two years. These revisions incorporate all the necessary changes to accommodate a Leadership Team.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WAKE COUNTY BYLAWS

ARTICLE I Name

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Wake County, hereafter referred to in these bylaws as LWV of Wake County, or the Wake League. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina, referred to in these bylaws as LWVNC.

ARTICLE II Purposes and Policy

Section 1. **Purposes.** The purposes of the LWV Wake County are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. **Political Policy.** The Wake League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III Membership

Section 1. **Eligibility.** Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League of Women Voters shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership

- A. **Voting Members.** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWV of Wake County shall be voting members of the Wake League, the LWVNC and the LWVUS. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members, excused from the payment of dues and retaining all privileges as a voting member.
- B. **Associate Members.** All others who join the Wake League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV Leadership

Section 1. **Election, Qualifications and Term.** The leadership of the LWV Wake County shall consist of a Team, including President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Co-Presidents, or a Management Team/Leadership Team, elected at the annual business meeting. All Team members must be voting members of the LWV Wake County. They may serve terms of one or two years and may be re-elected. Vacancies may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Team. The Team may also add voting members to the Team as appropriate.

Section 2. **Duties of the Leadership Team.** The Team shall manage and supervise the business, affairs and activities of the LWV of Wake County subject to the direction of the members at the annual business meeting. The nominating committee and/or the Team shall decide the specific roles and

responsibilities of the leaders. They shall accept responsibility for such other matters as the national or state board may from time to time delegate to it. The Team shall have the power to create such special committees, as it deems necessary, and shall perform such other duties which are specified in these bylaws.

Section 3. **Duties.** As a condition of recognition by the state and national boards, the Team of the LWV of Wake County shall designate one of its members to perform each of the following tasks:

- A. Preside over the Team, membership and public meetings and to serve as spokesperson for the LWV of Wake County.
- B. Handle any and all money matters for the League, including dues collection and renewal, unless otherwise assigned to the state or national league, preparing financial statements, and, with the assistance of the remaining members of the Team, preparing a budget and planning to raise funds for the League.
- C. Create and maintain a website with input from the members of the Team or the chair or any appropriate off-board committee.
- D. Maintain regular contact with members, including new members, to notify members of meetings, recruit members to serve on standing and ad hoc committees and for other activities of the League.
- E. Create with input from the members of the Team, a community-based program, using member volunteers and community partners that may include observing local government, advocating on local issues or studying the local community and local government.

Section 4. **Meetings.** At least 4 regular meeting of the Team shall be held annually. The Team may designate one member or the members may share the responsibility for preparing an agenda for each such meeting with input from the remaining members of the Team or the chair of any appropriate off-board committee and for insuring that the minutes are kept of all meetings of the Team and of the annual business meeting. The presiding member may call special meetings and shall call a special meeting upon written request of two other members of the Team. Three consecutive absences from regular Team meetings, without excuse shall constitute a resignation.

Section 5. **Quorum.** A majority of the members of the Team of LWV of Wake County shall constitute a quorum. Any one or more members of the Team may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

ARTICLE V Meetings

Section 1. **Membership Meetings.** There shall be six (6) meetings of the membership and/or public each year. The Team shall determine the time and place of the meetings. These six (6) meetings shall include an annual business meeting at which time the Leadership Team is elected in alternating years and a budget and bylaws are approved. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the Leadership Team or upon written request of 10 percent of the voting members.

Section 2. **Quorum.** A majority of the voting members in attendance shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings of the LWV of Wake County, provided that written notice of the meeting is sent to the membership at least one week in advance.

ARTICLE VI Nominations and Elections

Section 1. **Nominating Committee.** The Leadership of LWV Wake County is responsible for succession planning. If a nominating committee is used, the Nominating Committee Chair may be selected at the annual business meeting.

Section 2. **Report of the Nominating Committee.** If a Nominating Committee is used, the report of the Nominating Committee, containing its nominations for the Team and for one member for the next nominating committee shall be sent to the members one month before the annual business meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented at the annual business meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 3. **Elections.** If there is only one nominee for each Team position, it shall be by voice vote of the members in attendance at the annual business meeting. If there is more than one candidate, the election shall be by written ballot, with a majority vote constituting election.

ARTICLE VII Principles and Program

Section 1. **Principles.** The Principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League of Women Voters as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of the national, state and local program.

Section 2. **Program.** The Program of LWV of Wake County shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those governmental issues chosen by the annual business meeting for concerted study and action, provided that, as a condition of recognition by the state and national boards, the LWV of Wake County shall act only on existing local, state, or national positions. The Leadership Team shall recommend to the membership, at the annual business meeting, a program of work focused on the local community. Program of work, as used in these bylaws, may be in the form of observing local government, advocating on a local issue, or educating the membership and the community on the structure and services of local government. The annual business meeting may adopt the Team recommended program or any similar program of work provided that any program of work adopted by LWV of Wake County shall focus on the local community.

Section 3. **Program Action.** Members may act in the name of LWV of Wake County only when authorized to do so by the Leadership Team. They act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by LWV of Wake County, LWFVNC, and LWFVUS.

ARTICLE VIII Financial Administration

Section 1. **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of LWV of Wake County shall commence on the first of July of each year.

Section 2. **Dues.** Annual dues shall be payable on the first day of July each year.

Section 3. **Budget.** An annual budget shall be prepared by the Leadership Team and shall be published to the membership no less than one month prior to the annual business meeting. The budget, as presented, may be amended at the Annual Meeting and shall be adopted at the annual business meeting by a majority vote of the members in attendance.

Section 4. **Distribution of Funds on Dissolution.** In the event of the dissolution of LWV of Wake County, all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of LWV of Wake County, shall be paid to LWV of NC after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed that may at the time be owned by or under the control of LWV of Wake County shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational use and purposes as the Leadership Team in its absolute discretion may designate.

ARTICLE IX Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTILCE X Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the voting members in attendance at the annual business meeting, provided that the proposed amendments were submitted to the membership in writing in advance of the meeting.

Adopted: