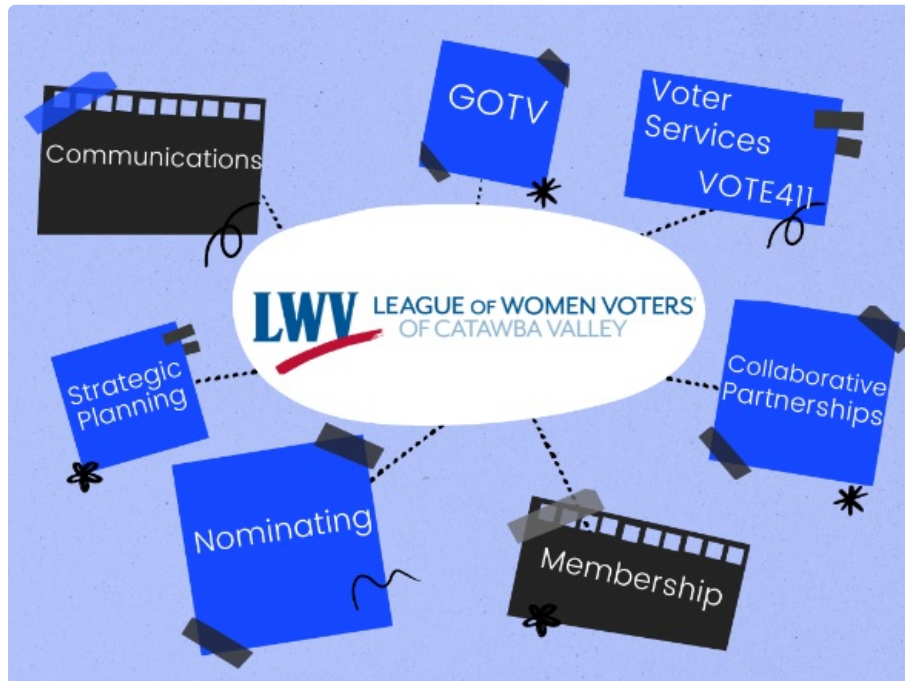


**{{ contact.FIRSTNAME }}'s LWVCV
Newsletter June/July 2023**



The State and Future of Our League at the 2023 Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley's 2023 Annual Meeting happened over Zoom on June 21. While we did not gather in person this year, attendees were still treated to several important pieces of League business and one exciting announcement.

Tiffany Canaday's review of the 2022-2023 League year in "State of the League: 365 Days in Eight Minutes" segued back into the future.

The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. The complete text of the budget is available on the LWVCV website in the [Members Area](#).

Treasurer Priya Palmer announced the League's long-awaited designation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation by the Internal Revenue Service. Thanks to assistance from the Constituent Services staff in Congressman Patrick McHenry's office, the League received confirmation from the IRS that the change in designation was approved in February of this year. This new status will open up more funding options for the League and will make dues and donations to the League tax-deductible, among other benefits. Priya got much-deserved and enthusiastic thanks from the attendees for her leadership in this effort over the past two years.

Nominating Committee Chair Marguerite Cook then presented the slate of nominees for the three open officer and committee chair positions. (President Tiffany Canaday's and

Secretary Linda Greenwell's terms end in 2024.) All were approved by acclamation:

- Vice President (2023-2025): Priya Palmer
- Treasurer (2023-2024): Priya Palmer
- Nominating Committee Chair (2023-2024): Kathy Bradham

The final business item of the meeting was the gift card drawing, won by Greg Cranford.



Outgoing, Outstanding Leaders

The Annual Meeting included recognition of two League leaders whose terms ended in June. **Cindy Lundy** (L) completed her term as Vice President. **Marguerite Cook** (R) stepped down as Chair of the Nominating Committee, a role which she has filled since 2021.

Thank you, Cindy and Marguerite!

**FOR THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED
(PASS IT ON.)**

**IT IS YOUR ★
RIGHT TO VOTE**

**Saturday, August 5 - Program starts at 11AM.
Ridgeview Rec Center 1157th Ave SW, Hickory**

Inspiring Speakers & Presentations
Register to Vote; Get Tips on Re-Entry
Learn How to Expunge Your Record
Apply for ID, DL, Birth Certificate, SS Card
Find out about Certs of Relief

Prizes Lunch Chess Competition ALL are FREE!

Presented by EXODUS HOMES **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CATAWBA VALLEY
Supported by LWV Education Fund

New Volunteer Opportunity: 8/5 LWVCV/Exodus Voting Clinic

In partnership with Exodus Homes, **LWVCV will hold its second program on August 5, 2023, for formerly incarcerated citizens** with accurate and up-to-date information about NC voting rights. This event will be held again at Ridgeview Recreation Center,

Hickory, and will feature presenters for important topics including tips upon re-entry, record expungement & certificates of relief, and how to get IDs, birth certificates and SS cards. There will be informational tables hosted by the League, Exodus Homes, Community Success Initiative, NC Works, CVCC, CCM, Catawba County Public Health, Changed Choices, and VoteRiders.

To make the August 5 program a success, we need volunteers! Volunteers will work from **10:15 AM to 1:30 PM**. *If you can't come for the entire time, that's okay!*

Contact **Priya Palmer** [here](#) to sign up to help.



LWVCV at the 2023 State Convention

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina's biennial convention in Charlotte on May 19-21, 2023, with a mix of official League business and guest speakers. Tiffany Canaday and Linda Greenwell served as the convention delegates for the League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley.

LWVCV's own Tiffany Canaday was elected to the state Board of Directors (*right photo*). Her term on the Board will run until July 2025.

LWVCV member Joanie Gardner donated a painting to LWVNC for their office in Raleigh. This donation was acknowledged by Jo Nicholas, President, and was displayed beside the stage during the Sunday morning business meeting (*center photo*). On Friday evening and Saturday, the painting was displayed at the LWVCV table in the room where local Leagues shared their activities during the last two years (*left photo*).

Convention delegates also approved the Issues for Emphasis for 2023-2025, under which LWVNC will continue:

- the work of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work: voting rights, improving elections, campaign financing/money in politics, redistricting, and direct election of the President by popular vote;
- the push for the Equal Rights Amendment;
- protecting and supporting reproductive freedom; and
- supporting public education.

Delegates also voted to add support for nonpartisan election of school boards to the state League's Public Policy Positions. Several Convention delegates who review all proposed legislation pointed out that more bills are being introduced at the General Assembly for counties across the State to make the school board elections partisan, as our representatives in Catawba County did this year.

(Thanks to **Linda Greenwell** for this detailed account of the



Notes from the President by Tiffany Canaday

Hi, everyone! Happy summer! I hope you are well.

The League has completed another year with major accomplishments, most notably the three-year strategic plan. Please consider ways

in which you can help make the plan a reality.

A new year means new leadership. Thank you to Priya Palmer for volunteering to serve as Vice President for the 2023-25 term and continuing to serve as Treasurer for 2023-24. Thank you to Kathy Bradham for agreeing to serve as Nominations Chair for 2023-24. Thanks also to Cindy Lundy for her outstanding service to the League as Vice President from 2021-23 and to Marguerite Cook for chairing the Nominations Committee since 2021. The position of Nominations Committee member remains open. Please contact Kathy Bradham for more information or to volunteer.

Please pay attention to NC SB 747, Elections Law Changes, which would:

- Eliminate the three-day mail-in grace period for absentee ballots.
- Expand challenges to allow any voter in the county, not just in the precinct to file a challenge.
- Requires CBOEs to purchase and use Signature Verification Software for absentee ballots.
- Allow public inspection of absentee ballots and absentee ballot container envelopes in addition to absentee ballot request applications.
- Place additional burdens on CBOEs in expanding retention of records related to voting and elections.
- Mandate voter assistance logs.
- Make same-day voter registration ballots provisional until verified.
- Require CBOEs to assign early voting workers to voting sites by political party affiliation.
- Challenge appeals of SBE decisions that are heard in county where challenge originated.
- Require two-factor authentication process/mail in absentee ballots.

(Please use [this link](#) to get the text and further elements of this Bill, and to follow its progress through the General Assembly.)

Thank you, as always, for your commitment and dedication to preserve democracy and inform citizens.

In League,
Tiffany

League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley (LWVCV) is a nonpartisan grassroots organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy. It works to inform and engage the community and to encourage participation by citizens in government.

**Seize the Day --
Renew Your League
Membership!**

The renewal period started on July 1st! Please consider continuing your support by renewing your membership today. The League cannot do its important work without your tax-deductible dues!

You may renew [here](#). Any questions? Please contact the Treasurer [here](#).

NC Board of Elections Seeks Comment on Proposed Change to Voting Systems Rules

The North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) is currently collecting public comments on a [proposed rule](#) about procedures for granting access to voting system information. Voting system vendors place information into escrow, and specific authorized individuals later review that information in order to certify each voting system.

The proposed rule specifies who can request access to the escrowed information; how to make a request for access to the voting system vendors; and the means, location, and time frame for conducting reviews of the information. The full text of the proposed rule under consideration is available [here](#) in PDF format.

The online portal for submitting a comment on the proposed rule is [here](#) on the NCSBE website. The public comment period ends at 11:59 PM on Friday, September 1, 2023.



We All Scream for Ice Cream Social!

Riverbend Creamery Ice Cream will be at Riverbend Park on August 27, just for our League!

The event will be a member-guest gathering where members are encouraged to bring friends/League-interested folks/family for ice cream and a social time together. There will also be an opportunity for members to toss in a gift for the League to help power this year's activities.

[Riverbend Park](#) is part of the Catawba Valley Park System. We will be at the tree covered arbor that sits next to the Catawba River. Great for dipping your toes in!

[Riverbend Creamery](#) is located in Lincoln County in the bend of the South Fork River, just over the Catawba County line. It is a working dairy farm with an all-Jersey herd—which the owners believe makes the very best milk and ice cream!

Be sure the date is on your calendar now. Details about the event will be sent out to members at the end of July when invitations are emailed.

Thanks for reading our newsletter. Please forward this edition to any friends who might like to know more about the League. They or anyone may **join the LWVCV** by tapping [this link](#).

Calendar

More details on these events are available on the [League Calendar](#). The new version of the calendar also allows you to add events to your personal calendar.

LWVCV August Business Meeting

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Meeting link [here](#). Additional materials will be made available prior to the meeting.

Member-Guest Ice Cream Social

Riverbend Park, 6700 N NC Hwy 16, Conover, NC

Sunday, August 27, 2023

5:30 PM-7:30 PM

More information will be sent by e-mail prior to the event.

Photo credits: Linda Greenwell, Cindy Lundy, and Tom Lundy.

Any errors in this edition of the newsletter are the editor's.

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