

Lillian's List Introduces 2002 Candidates

An enthusiastic group of Lillian's List supporters gathered recently in the lovely home of Kay Cashion in Greensboro to meet and hear remarks from the 2002 Lillian's List candidates.

Since its first election in 1998, Lillian's List has scheduled events across the state to showcase the new candidates. These events give members the opportunity to meet and talk with the candidates who have been recommended by Lillian's List.

During the Greensboro event, members first heard remarks from Jan Allen, Chair, and Laura Edwards, Development Chair. Berni Gaither, Candidate Chair, then introduced each candidate, who spoke briefly to the crowd.

Six of the seven candidates selected thus far (see article below) attended, and thanked the members of Lillian's List for their support. They also expressed appreciation for the affirming and positive atmosphere created by Lillian's List.

In addition to Kay Cashion, who had specifically arranged for absolutely spectacular weather to match her home, host committee members included Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Clarice Cato Goodyear, Kay Edwards, Crandall Bowles, Sec. of Cultural Resources Libba Evans, Sally Cone, Rep. Dan Blue, Kay Stern, former Representative B Holt, Priscilla Taylor, Rep. Maggie Jeffus, Karen Savage, Sue Mengert, and Barbara Allen.

2002 Candidates: Preliminary List

Lillian's List will support a record number of new pro-choice Democratic women candidates for the North Carolina General Assembly. With redistricting, there is the potential with this year's elections to elect (and re-elect) a record number of women. And Lillian's List is preparing to help make that happen.

While it is still unknown whether and when filing may have to take place again, Lillian's List has selected a very impressive group of new candidates. When filing is completed, the Candidate Committee will re-assess these candidates and their districts, interview any others who have *(continued on page 5)*



Laura Edwards addresses crowd. In background, Katie Dorsett, Lillian's List Recommended Candidate; Jan Allen, Chair; Rep. Maggie Jeffus; Margaret Dickson, Lillian's List candidate.

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Calendar

June 19, 2002

Lillian's List event,
Home of Sandy Babb,
Raleigh

September 21, 2002

Lillian's List Reception,
Democratic Women of
North Carolina State
Convention, Greenville

Women Running for Statewide Office, 2002

U.S. Senate:

Secretary of State
Elaine Marshall

Cynthia Brown

N.C. Court of Appeals:

Judge Wanda Bryant

Judge Loretta Biggs

Martha Geer (open seat)

Visit our website!

www.lillianslist.org

Lillian's List Mission and Process

Lillian's List is a statewide independent political committee. Because the organization is a state political committee, only candidates running for political office in North Carolina are supported. Federal candidates may be supported only with a federal political committee.

The mission of Lillian's List is to support pro-choice Democratic women running for the General Assembly. While the primary focus is on new candidates, Lillian's List also supports incumbent Democratic legislative women. Lillian's List selects candidates to be recommended to the organization's members. Lillian's List contributes directly to the campaigns of these women and sends a candidate profile letter, asking members to write checks directly to whichever candidates they choose. Checks are sent to Lillian's List, which then distributes them to the candidates.

Visit our website!
www.lillianslist.org

Emily's List Campaign Training Held in March

The EMILY's List Campaign Training, held March 1 and 2 in Greensboro, attracted more than 40 Democratic women, a mix of incumbents along with new candidates and others who plan to help with women's campaigns. The training for women running for the General Assembly was sponsored by Lillian's List, who had contacted incumbent Democratic women legislators, Democratic Party Executive Committee and County Chairs, Democratic Women Executive Committee and County Presidents, and other progressive groups.

Led by top Democratic political operatives, EMILY's List training seminars begin and end with the same focus: giving candidates the skills and confidence needed to win tough elections. The program opened Friday night with a reception and dinner, followed by a panel discussion. Participating in the panel were Barbara Allen, Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party; Rep. Martha Alexander (Mecklenberg); Senator Jeanne Lucas (Durham); and Jan Allen, Chair of Lillian's List.

The intensive training on Saturday included fundamentals of fundraising, press and media, and developing the message. Each participant received a vast briefing book, containing data on a fictional congressional district: polling numbers, media outlets, community calendars—all the

information needed to create a winning campaign plan.

In addition to Rep. Martha Alexander and Senator Jeanne Lucas, incumbent women attending included Rep. Alice Underhill, Senator Kay Hagan, Rep. Marian McLawhorn, Senator Linda Garrou, Rep. Flossie Boyd-McIntyre, Rep. Verla Insko, Rep. Maggie Jeffus, Rep. Mary Jarrell, Senator Ellie Kinnaird, and Rep. Lorene Coates. Several of the Lillian's List recommended new candidates attended: Deborah Ross, Margaret Dickson, Katie Dorsett, Alice Bordsen, Becky Johnson, and Sharon Thompson.

Participants enthusiastically praised the training, saying it provided invaluable tools to help them plan and build their campaigns, and motivated them to focus on fundraising. The new candidates especially appreciated the chance to meet and talk with the incumbent women as well as the other new candidates.

EMILY's List has launched this training program for Democratic women to reverse the recent decline of the number of women serving in state legislatures. This new initiative builds on the work EMILY's List has done to train pro-choice Democratic women running for federal office and governor. Lillian's List will sponsor the EMILY's List training again in 2004.

Seeking Charter Monthly Contributors

Last election Lillian's List was able to contribute the maximum contribution (\$4000) in both the primary and the general election to our recommended candidates. In addition, we also contributed to the incumbent Democratic women, with additional help for those who were targeted. Lillian's List has become a major political force in

North Carolina. To continue to build on this solid foundation—to prepare for the many new women to be elected—will require ongoing support. Please consider a monthly contribution. We are now accepting credit cards. We will automatically deposit the amount you specify and thank you each month.

NC's 'Abstinence Until Marriage' Sex Ed Program: Why it Doesn't Work

By Paige Johnson, Planned Parenthood of Orange and Durham County

Americans strongly support sex education in the schools. Most understand that young people need accurate information in order to make responsible decisions. Many, especially parents, welcome the additional support that schools can provide students in helping them navigate the sometimes dangerous waters of adolescence. Most believe that abstinence for young people is preferable but few believe that it is realistic for all. Yet, since 1994 when Newt Gingrich ushered in his Contract with America, state after state, including North Carolina, has replaced comprehensive sex education with abstinence-only programs.

Following the 1994 election when Republicans took majority control of North Carolina's House, then-State Representative Robin Hayes sponsored a bill that would replace North Carolina's K-12 comprehensive sex education curriculum with an "Abstinence Until Marriage" program. The bill passed the House in less than a month and the Senate three months later.

The purpose of age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education is to help young people make informed decisions based on accurate information.

Once enacted, the law meant that in order for individual school districts to provide more comprehensive information beyond the restrictive "Abstinence Until Marriage" curriculum, each district would have to undertake an arduous process open to public scrutiny at several junctures. This ultimately meant that a small but vocal minority who favored the "Abstinence Until Marriage" curriculum would dictate what was available to most young people throughout North Carolina, since this group was and remains highly politically organized and active around this issue.

Comprehensive sex education provides balanced instruction that includes abstinence as well as accurate information about contraception and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Persuasion over accuracy is stressed in NC's "Abstinence Until Marriage" curriculum, which teaches that abstinence until marriage is a certain means of avoiding sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. This overlooks the possibility of contracting any of these diseases through nonsexual means including receipt of blood, organs or a needle prick from an infected person. It also ignores the possibility of marrying someone who is already infected with any of these sexually transmitted infections.

In addition to disseminating inaccurate information, the "Abstinence Until Marriage" curriculum uses it to advance a bias against lesbians and gays. The law makes clear its bias by insisting that any instruction that relates to the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, "where homo-

sexual acts are a significant means of transmission, shall include the current legal status of those acts." The majority of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, are passed through heterosexual intercourse, not "homosexual acts."

Heterosexual women, especially young women of color, are the fastest growing population infected with HIV, which in this population is primarily transmitted through heterosexual intercourse. Like any form of discrimination, this section of the law serves only to alienate young people who are beginning to recognize their sexual orientation or who have parents or family members who are lesbian or gay.

Any Effect on Teen Pregnancy?

Since the late 1980s, teenage pregnancy rates have been declining throughout the United States. North Carolina's teen pregnancy rate has been declining each year since 1991, five years before the "Abstinence Until Marriage" curriculum replaced comprehensive sex education in the schools. A study conducted by the Alan Guttmacher Institute in 2000 found that 20 percent of the decline in overall teenage pregnancy rates may be attributed to a smaller proportion of teenagers having had sexual intercourse, while 80 percent of the decline is due to improved contraceptive practice.

Keep in mind that the teenage pregnancy rate is not the same as the teen birth rate: between 1999-2000, North Carolina was one of only 12 states in the U.S. that had an actual increase in their teen birth rate. North Carolina also has the dubious distinction of having the highest Hispanic teen birth rate in the nation.

In 1999, three years after the "Abstinence Until Marriage" curriculum took effect, 31 percent of the pregnancies to teenagers 19 and under in North Carolina were repeat pregnancies. While teen pregnancy rates cut across all income levels, 85 percent of the teenagers who give birth are living in or near poverty. Only one-third of these teenagers receive a high school diploma. According to the NC Budget and Tax Center, the cost of teenage pregnancy in 1999 to NC's taxpayers was \$832 million in various forms of public assistance.

North Carolina's schools could go a long way in helping prevent this unnecessary waste of human potential and tax dollars. Comprehensive sex education works, which is why it is supported by most major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Nurses Association.

The purpose of age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education is to help young people make informed decisions based on accurate information, which can be used today or on their wedding night.

Empowering Women 2002



Kay Cashion, host of Greensboro event, and Paula Wolf, Lillian's List Board Member



Senator Linda Garrou, Lillian's List Recommended Candidate (1998); Deborah Ross, Lillian's List Recommended Candidate (2002)



Holly Blanton; Becky Johnson, Lillian's List Recommended Candidate (2002); Connie Mullinix.



Cheryl Wilson; State Senator Bill Martin, Candidate for Congressional District 13; Patricia Yancey, Lillian's List Board Member



Katie Dorsett, Lillian's List Recommended Candidate (2002); Marty Geer, Candidate for NC Court of Appeals



Rep. Maggie Jeffus, and Jan Allen, Lillian's List Chair

"I want to blaze a trail for other women. I know that years from now there will be many other women in politics, but you have to start a thing."

Lillian Exum Clement, first woman elected to the General Assembly of North Carolina, 1920

From the Chair

While this election year has been filled with unknowns and many anxious moments, it is clear that these elections present major opportunities for a dramatic increase in the number of women in the General Assembly. Lillian's List has selected an outstanding group of new candidates who are, literally, all over the map of North Carolina. But they are consistent in one very important aspect: they are all pro-choice Democratic women, who, when elected, will have a long-lasting impact on the politics of North Carolina.

Fewer than 19 percent of members of the North Carolina General Assembly are women. North Carolina ranks 32nd among states in the number of women in state legislatures. But, in 2000, a record number of women were elected to statewide offices in North Carolina. And the

number of women in the General Assembly actually increased in a year when almost all other states experienced a decrease in numbers of women in state legislatures.

You, our members, helped make this happen. Through your generosity and your commitment, Lillian's List has, in two elections, helped elect six new pro-choice Democratic women to the North Carolina General Assembly.

These 2002 elections offer unprecedented opportunities for women to win. And, because of you, Lillian's List is preparing to help these women accept these challenges. This is just the beginning. Thanks to you, our members, we will continue to elect pro-choice Democratic women. We will continue blazing the trail begun by Lillian Exum Clement.

Jan Allen, Chair

2002 Candidates *(continued from page 1)*

filed, finalize the recommendations, and send the candidate profile letter to our members. The accompanying sidebar describes the candidate selection process.

Details will be provided about these women and their campaigns when the candidate profile letter is sent after filing is complete.

Candidates selected thus far are:

Katie Dorsett (Senate 31, Guilford)

Kathy Taft (Senate 9, Pitt)

Alice Bordsen (House 54, Alamance)

Margaret Dickson (House 41, Cumberland)

Becky Johnson (House 73, Forsyth)

Deborah Ross (House 38, Wake)

Sharon Thompson (House 30, Durham/Wake)



Lillian's List Recommended Candidates (2002): Sharon Thompson, Katie Dorsett, and Deborah Ross

In addition to these women, there are at least three other districts in which pro-choice Democratic women are opposing each other in the primary. While Lillian's List does participate in primaries, the organization has chosen to stay out of these races until the general election, because all the candidates espouse strong pro-choice views.

Lillian's List Candidate Selection Process

The Candidate Committee, led by Berni Gaither, sends questionnaires to women considering running or who have already filed. Each candidate who has returned the questionnaire is then interviewed by members of the Candidate Committee, with discussions including their district, their campaign plans, and their views on pro-choice issues. Candidates selected must be serious candidates who are running in a viable district — a district where a Democrat has a chance of winning.

The Candidate Committee selects candidates and recommends them to the full board of Lillian's List, who make the final decision. The board members decide final recommendations and amount of contributions to be made to these new candidates and to the incumbent Democratic women. Contributions are made as early as possible, both before the primary and before the general election.

Membership Enrollment / Time to Renew for 2002

Yes, I want to join **Lillian's List**, the powerful political network that elects pro-choice Democratic women in North Carolina by raising campaign contributions and building winning campaigns. Let's defend our Democratic women legislators and thwart right-wing extremists by electing many more Democratic women to the North Carolina General Assembly.

- I am joining **Lillian's List** for the year 2002 with my membership contribution of:
- \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50
- I'm already a **Lillian's List** member! I am enclosing/renewing with a special contribution of:
- \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50
- I want to be a monthly contributor of \$ _____ /month (credit cards only, minimum \$25/month).
- Please charge to my credit card VISA/Mastercard, American Express, Discover (circle one).

Card number	Expiration Date	Signature	Name on Card (please print)
Name			
Address			
City		State	Zip
Phone		E-Mail	
Occupation		Employer	

I am also prepared to consider making contributions of at least \$50 to two or more Democratic women legislative candidates recommended by Lillian's List during election years. Contributions of \$50 or more to Lillian's List include membership in Lillian's List.

Contributions to Lillian's List are not tax deductible for federal tax purposes. Corporate checks cannot be accepted. NC law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, job title or profession and name of employer or employer's specific field for each individual whose contributions aggregate is in excess of \$100.00 in an election cycle. While the General Assembly is in session, no individual registered as a lobbyist under Article 9A of Charter 120 of the General Statutes may make a contribution to Lillian's List.

Please return this form and your personal check payable to Lillian's List, PO Box 2473, Chapel Hill, NC 27515. For information call 919/967-3438.

Jan Allen, Chair
 TONOLA BROWN
 SATANA DEBERRY
 JILL MILLER DENNING
 LAURA EDWARDS
 BERNI GAITHER
 CLAIRE GIFFIN
 CAROLE LAWLER
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