

Executive Letter from Council for Women

From the Desk of Gale McKoy Wilkins

Welcome to the monthly Executive Letter from the North Carolina Council for Women. This monthly correspondence is intended to be an avenue of communication among our readers, the Council for Women, the Council for Women Advisory Board, and the members of the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission. It is the intent of the Council for Women to use this monthly letter as a platform to keep the conversation going about what great achievements we can make by investing time and resources to serve.

NCCFW's College Outreach Speakers Series

What is success to you? When I posed this question to NCCU college students who attended the NCCFW's College Outreach Speaker Series last month, I heard responses such as:

"Success is being able to be true to myself while following my career and education goals."

"Success is aiming high and never stopping until I reach my goal."

I was encouraged by their responses. As Executive Director of the CFW, I am honored to work with so many talented women leaders who serve on the DV Commission and the CFW Advisory Board.



UNC-Pembroke Students and Professor

These women are participating in the new CFW College Speakers Series, which we launched on February 18, 2016 at NC Central University (NCCU) in Durham in partnership with The Women's Center. Our theme; *When Women Run, Women Win*, was emphasized by both speakers who discussed their passion for getting involved either as campaign volunteers or actual candidates for office. Engaging in politics is an important learning opportunity.

Mark your calendar for March 23, 2016 and join me at the next College Speakers Series at NC Central University. Visit our website to learn more about the location and speakers who will join me.

March is Women's History Month. I encourage you to seek out opportunities to get involved in programming celebrating contributions of women to our great state. Women have achieved so much during the past 20 years in terms of education, careers and political recognition. The Wake County Commission for Women recently released a report, *State of Employment for Women in Wake County*. I encourage you to read this report. Afterwards share your thoughts with us. The report explored issues including impediments women are facing in seeking and obtaining well-paying part-time and full-time work; as well as recommendations to help women overcome employment barriers such as increasing access to transportation.



Council for Women Board Meeting Schedule

- February 29, 2016
- May 11, 2016
- August 11, 2016
- October 13, 2016

North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission Meeting Schedule

- February 19, 2016
- May 11, 2016
- August 26, 2016
- October 28, 2016





Beverly W. Lassiter, Appointed Member of North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission

My Experience Serving on the NCDVC

Since my appointment to the NC Domestic Violence Commission I have been amazed at the amount of volunteer efforts being made by this committee as well as the NC Council for Women.

Being a strong supporter of women and children's issues led me to a young survivor that I had the opportunity to meet during one of the NCDVC board meetings. As I listened to this young woman speak about the violence that she endured for years, the violence that her four children witnessed as she was constantly berated and attacked; I could not help but know that I was serving on a board and in a position that I could reach out and help this young woman and her family.

Being a past General Federation of Woman's Clubs of North Carolina President and a member for well over 30 years, I began to reach out to my GFWC sisters across the State of North Carolina for help. Knowing what a strong and committed group of volunteers we have in GFWC and knowing that our GFWC Signature Project is Domestic Violence Awareness, it did not surprise me that many clubwomen jumped on this bandwagon to support this young survival victim and her children.

I am proud to be a board member of the NCDVC where I can continue to work towards ending this horrific crime against women and children.

Upcoming Council For Women Events

- March 23, College Outreach Speakers Series -NC Central University, Durham, NC
- March 16, Southern Piedmont Region Meeting—Rockingham, NC
- March 31, Eastern Region Meeting—New Bern, NC

Beverly W. Lassiter

Beverly (Bev) Lassiter is a long-serving community volunteer and experienced legal professional. Her service at the national, state and local level with issues and projects on women's and children's issues includes the creation of Pro Child and Family victims assistance program in Charlotte, a national initiative providing college scholarships to survivors of domestic violence and a partnership with Girls on the Run expanding throughout North Carolina and the United States. She is a past president and current Trustee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina (GFWC-NC) and past president and member of the Charlotte Woman's Club. GFWC's members are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Their Signature Project is Domestic Violence Awareness.

Bev also serves as Membership Chairman on the Board of Good Friends Charlotte, a non-profit organization comprised of women representing different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds who are committed to raising monies to financially assist individuals who are disadvantaged in Mecklenburg County.

She and her husband, John, reside in Charlotte and are the parents to two adult sons.

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