

Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation
Mid-Year Status Report --- June 2021
FCNCL web site: fcncl.org Email: info@fcncl.org



THE FCNCL MISSION: To help NC Quakers and allies advocate for NC legislation that is consistent with Quaker values. We work on a model akin to that of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), although we are all volunteers. Our work is guided by a General Committee, an Executive Committee, and committees on Policy, Communication, Strategic Advocacy and Engagement, and Nominating.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE OUR OCTOBER 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

CORE ACTIONS: Begun in 2019, we are mid-way through our second year. In Year 1, we developed the infrastructure and processes needed to fulfill our mission; in Year 2, we sent **eight ACTION ALERTS** asking participants to lobby for targeted legislation. Education is key to our work. We created many **policy Fact Sheets** and offered workshops on (i) how the NC legislative process works, (ii) what its priorities will likely be, and (iii) how to build relationships with one's representatives. We were a featured program at the 2020 Annual Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting.

OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS: We've addressed several process needs. We created a budget process; completed a set of by-laws, and, at the request of the General Committee, formed a 10-member Antiracism Working Group. The Working Group is tasked with guiding us on a path that ensures our commitment to and actions around antiracism are sustained and continuously improved.

FUTURE AIMS: Going forward, we aim to (i) increase engagement with our General Committee (GC) members; (ii) continue to build our membership; (iii) develop relationships with like-minded organizations and key legislative staff members; and (iv) increase educational opportunities and group lobbying experiences for our participants.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Thirty-two people attended our Second Annual Meeting. Our next meeting is October 2, 2021.
- **Committees:** We have 27 General Committee members and 22 people engaged in our committee work (Committee memberships are posted at fcncl.org).
- **Policy Priorities.** Our priorities continue to be: (i) electoral reform; (ii) access to quality healthcare; (iii) environmental protection measures; and (iv) criminal justice reform. The General Committee approved these through 2022, and we will undertake policy priority discernment for 2023.
- **Communication.** We reach about 175 participants with Mailchimp alerts and messages. Alerts are circulated on some meeting-wide email systems (Charlotte, Chapel Hill, Eno, Durham and Raleigh), which adds approximately 400 more people to our audience. We maintain an active website, a

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Facebook page, and a Facebook Group. The latter reaches about 250 participants, and lets them interact with each other.

- **Education and Advocacy.** Our first SAE-led workshop had 73 registrants. We are aggregating participants by their county of residence to invite them to organize group lobby visits.
- **We are ALL-VOLUNTEER.** We have 27 General Committee members from 14 Meetings. **We welcome others committed to Quaker advocacy in NC.** We invite you to visit a committee meeting; team with us to craft policy Alerts; help our Communications group develop and issue our announcements; send friends to our website to grow our membership; and most importantly -- respond to our Alerts and build relationships with your representatives!