

**Pamela Hutson**

**Lillian's List**

**Saturday, January 20, 2018-01-29**

Good morning, everyone! My name is Pam Hutson and I'm privileged to serve as board chair for Lillian's List. What a wonderful sight to see, this sea of women's faces and voices. And we are also grateful for the men who are joining us today. I see you Ken Raynor. I see you Eric Linne. I see you Joey Hewell. We need men to embrace our cause to affect real change. Thank you to the women who organized this march. It takes a lot of time, energy and passion to create an event like this. As our founder, Lillian Exum Clement, the first woman legislator in NC in the 1920s, was known to say "Sometimes you just have to start a thing!" and you all have certainly started something here in Charlotte.

At Lillian's List we have a simple mission: to recruit, train and support progressive women who are champions of reproductive freedom and equity to run for state office in North Carolina. At this time last year, we were reeling from the nationwide election but we were fortunate to be able to celebrate the election of Lillian's List Featured Candidate, Mary Belk, right here in Mecklenburg County.

After marching arm in arm with you last year, we at Lillian's List committed ourselves to working hard in 2017 to prepare ourselves to elect even more women in 2018. We believe in order to change the laws in this state we have to

change the lawmakers. Women are 54% of the electorate, but hold only 25% of the elected positions at the state level. That needs to change! We need to change the face of power in Raleigh.

When political leaders refuse to take sexual assault seriously, we need to change the face of power. When our voting rights are under attack, we need to change the face of power. When a woman's access to full reproductive healthcare is in jeopardy because men are in control of the legislative process, we need to change the face of power.

In 2017 women said enough. They looked for ways to be a part of the change we need in North Carolina and in our country. In the first six months of last year, 195 women came to Lillian's List, raising their hands to run for office. Since the launch of our candidate training programs back in 2012 until the end of 2016, Lillian's List had trained an impressive 376 potential candidates. In 2017 alone, we more than doubled that number, training an additional 400 potential candidates on the basics of campaigning. Several successful candidates in our local election last fall were Lillian's List trainees. In November we trained 60 men and women at our one of a kind Jamie Kirk Hahn Academy for campaign managers. A successful candidate must have a well-trained campaign manager.

And do you know what we have learned in our 20 year history? When women run they win! They win at the same rate as men and they change the debate in North Carolina and in Washington. Women are great fund raisers, strong advocates and we are incredible organizers and multi-taskers.

In addition to responding to training needs, Lillian's List has been managing through the complex and changing landscape of redistricting. We have identified districts that we believe are winnable and have recruited heavily in those locations. There is now a wave of women across the state announcing their candidacies and we at Lillian's List could not be more pleased.

So how can you be a part of changing the face of power? Bring your power to the polls! Lillian's List will be announcing its Featured Candidates within the next month. Find a candidate in your community who needs your support. Volunteer for her campaign. Lillian's List will be hosting a half day volunteer training in February so check that out on our website. Make phone calls. Knock on doors. Amplify your candidate's message via social media. Provide that much needed financial support. Through Lillian's List, be a part of our Collective Giving campaign and support all of our candidates statewide via the Lillian's List website. And most importantly, help get out the vote! As we know only too well, we can have the most qualified candidates in the world but if we don't get people into the voting booth to vote for them we cannot succeed.

Thank you from Lillian's List and come join us to change the face of power!