



League of Women Voters of North Carolina

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Date : August 23, 1993

To: All Local Leagues

From: 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee
Sherry Hollingsworth, Bernie Parker, Sandy Weaver, Chairs

75th Anniversary Historical Questionnaire

The LWVNC 75th Anniversary Committee is working to plan a celebration for the 75th Anniversary of women's right to vote and the birth of the League of Women Voters.

As part of this effort, we are trying to put together a history of the League in North Carolina. Please help us by completing the following questionnaire and returning it to the office by November 1.

The information we are asking for is detailed and it will probably take you some time to research and compile this information. We know you are busy, but knowing where we have been is important in determining where we are going. It is important that we have a permanent record of our history.

We are working on a major event with the North Carolina Museum of History and we really need your help. We will be meeting with them in early October and need to know what information we have available to us before that meeting.

If your League has a history already compiled, please send us a copy with this questionnaire. But, please still take the time to complete the questionnaire because your narrative might not cover all the areas in which we have questions.

Thanks for your help.

Name of League Henderson County League of Women Voters

Name of compiler Sally Godehn

Phone Number and Address of Compiler.

Tel. 704-693-6276

1106 Forest Hill Drive Hendersonville, NC 28739

When Did Your League Start?

November 12, 1963

What were the issues your League formed around?

Need for classrooms in city & county schools. Election problems, especially with absentee ballots. Problems in the County Court House (an unusual number of continuances and a large number of serious court cases thrown out of court not proessed because of statute of limitations.)

List the names of the women who were instrumental in getting League started in your area.

Francee Sherman, Fran Schneider, Eleanor Cosgrove, Frances Goeser, Josephine Kentopp, Marie Smyth, Mildred Davenport, Dot Torres, Jody Drake, Margaret Whitmire, Gail Snyder, Jean Pearce Jane Brown, Shirley Macemon, Dottie Olsen, Martha Foster, Sally Godehn.

List the names and projects of other women who have been instrumental in League in your area by decade.

1964- Voter service - ABC's of Voting. (Dot Torres). Henderson County was one of 10 in state to institute a loose leaf registration and master file (1963). 1973- Land Use. (Phyllis Budd, Betty Payne) Recreation (Alice Porter, who was instrumental in County government acquiring land for a public park - Jackson Park.) Criminal Justice (Madge Gleaton, Ch., Fran Schneider, Co-Ch.) Campaign Finance Committee (Kathy Baluha, Toby Linder, Betty Payne, Gladys Moyer, Monti Gannett) 1976- Series of three seminars on Growth Options, sponsored by Henderson County LWV, Blue Ridge Tech, Soil Conservation and Agricultural Extension. 1980-Study of Day Care Centers. 1981-83- Criminal Justice. A two year court observer program. League members observed all sessions of Criminal and Civil Court sessions. (Sally Godehn, Ch.) Following this program a Dispute Settlement Center was organized with Fran Schneider, Ch., Polly Kremer and Savie Underhill. 1987-93- Land Use (Polly Kremer, Ch.) A land use plan handbook was prepared, programs presented by Henderson County LWV. Other league members serving on the Comprehensive Land Use Committee were Charlotte Buller, Bill Read and Dick Shuffstall.

HOW HAS YOUR LEAGUE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN
INFLUENCING POLITICS IN YOUR AREA?

Through League opinion influencing public opinion - it has made a positive contribution and has greatly influenced the politics in our county. It has effected the election process, our District Courts, the 1993 merger of City and County schools. Our plan on Land Use influenced and encouraged the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, with League members serving on this county committee.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OLD ARTIFACTS, ARTICLES, ETC. FROM THE EARLY YEARS OF THE LEAGUE THAT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO HAVE IN AN EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY? IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO LOAN THEM TO LWVNC TO USE AT THE MUSEUM, PLEASE DESCRIBE THEM BELOW.

We are sending several pictures, Land Use plans, Criminal Justice Community Guide Handbook, a copy of League Membership Directory published every two years, and a copy of YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE INTERESTING ABOUT YOUR LEAGUE WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN A HISTORY OF THE STATE?

The Henderson County LWV has served as a catalyst to bring about needed changes. Some endeavors have brought about quick results. For example, the Study on Recreation. Some studies are still at work. For example, land planning. The League, and now the County, are working on a comprehensive land use plan. The study has been completed and hopefully will be adopted in December, 1993. The League's Criminal Justice studies led to the formation of the Dispute Settlement Center. The Education study over the past twenty-five years helped bring about the needed merger of the City/County school systems. Child care was a study item in 1980. In 1989 Grace Poli and Marcia Grady worked with a child care group called Kids Count. Grace Poli is now serving with the Child Care Coalition, Smart Start.

MAJOR PROJECTS FOR THE HENDERSON COUNTY LEAGUE BY DECADE

1960's

A Provisional League was organized in 1963. In 1964 it published "The ABC's of Voting". In 1966 the Uniform Court System was studied, consensus was reached and several programs were presented to civic groups. In 1967 the League published its first LOCAL GOVERNMENT and became a full-fledged League. In 1968 observers attended City and County monthly board meetings.

1970's

Studied new State item "Land Use". Met with County Commissioners to discuss needs - what we have and what we need. A local study on TVA dams was conducted. The Upper French Broad Council of Governments was organized. It is now the Land of Sky Regional Council. In 1976-77 a series of Growth Option discussions were held at Blue Ridge Tech.

1980's

A Public Forum was held with the County Planning Board. The League spoke on its position on outdoor advertising at the City Council's public hearing on a proposed sign ordinance. A two year court observation program took place, resulting in the formation of our Dispute Settlement Center, which was initially funded by the League. The Education Committee was active under the leadership of Linda Hawk, Michelle Burns, Rebecca Sigmon and Rebecca Banadyga. They have helped bring about the merger of the City and County schools.

1990's

The League worked intensively for a solid waste ordinance. It was successful in opposing the Board of Transportation's Billboard plan. It sponsored candidate forums, filmed for TV, for the State's Senate and House elections and published voting regulations and profiles of all candidates, along with their responses to probing questions. The League conducted voter registrations for High School students. It held a forum for public input on a proposed County Courthouse. It formed several coalitions for impact on appropriate issues, such as child care, and the Natural Heritage Foundation.