



The Bulletin

League of Women Voters in Henderson County - Since 1966

Volume 3, Edition 11 • December, 2007

"The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

Immigration Consensus Meetings - January 17

Consensus... What It Is! What It Is Not!

by Lee Luebbe, Chair, Immigration Study Committee

If this is your first time to experience the process of consensus, then hopefully, the following description will help you to be prepared to participate in this unique and important process of decision-making.

A Consensus Decision-Making Model is a style of decision-making whereby participants are able to arrive at a decision through discussion in which:

- All participants' viewpoints are considered;
- The final decision is agreeable to all involved;
- No formal vote is taken- the approval is unanimous.

It is **important to keep the following key points in mind** before beginning a consensus decision-making process:

1. Each participant must state her/his opinion honestly and in a complete manner.
2. The focus on each opinion is to make sure it is understood clearly by other participants.
3. This is not a "win-lose" situation; the goal is to come to an agreement which

incorporates all individual viewpoints.

4. Participants must listen carefully and respectfully to the viewpoints of others.
5. Participants should not support an agreement to which they object.
6. The group should not pressure individuals to agree with the decision in order to speed up the process or to avoid conflict..

THE PROCESS

1. All participants state their opinion, usually a round-robin techniques where one person starts and each member to left (or right) takes a turn.
2. Participants ask questions to clarify statements by other members.
3. Discussion of ideas continues until someone thinks consensus has been achieved.
4. A trial decision is stated and all members check to see if this incorporates their opinion.
5. If all members find the decision agreeable, consensus is complete.

Consensus is valuable because it increases creativity and involves all members of the group. Since all members support the final decision, there is a low chance of sabotage or lack of follow-through by group members. Consensus takes more time up front, but in the long run proves to be more efficient because of the support it engenders.

Your Participation is needed. Study and bring your consensus questions/

form to the January 17th meeting, but do not complete them. Read All Eight League Papers and/or the four briefs published in the National Voter, BEFORE YOU ATTEND THE JANUARY 17TH MEETING.

Facilitators for each group of 10-12 members will be guiding the dialogues in each small group on January 17th. In order to be prepared for each of the two sessions, the Committee needs to know which session you plan to attend...the 9:30 AM session OR the 5:30 PM session. Each session will be a minimum of 2-3 hours. Location: First Baptist Church, 5th Ave., Hendersonville, Upstairs Parlor.

To minimize the phoning, each member is asked to either e-mail or call one of the following members before December 15 to give your choice of either of the two sessions:

Barbara Garrison 696-1793
bhgarrison@bellsouth.net

Kathleen Lees 697-7881
Kathleenl@bellsouth.net

(See Immigration Study - Part 3 on page 3)

GENERAL MEETING
Friday, Dec. 14th, 7:30-9 am
Annual Breakfast with our Elected Officials

Dixie Diner, Hwy 65 West
 Call Carolyn Judkins (654-9502)
 or Toni Cole (698-9352)
 to make reservations.

More on Immigration Consensus

See Nancy Glowacki's message from the Leadership Team - pg 2
"Stand Up and Be Counted"

Ours is an important role in an important issue.

**LWVHC BOARD AND LEADERSHIP TEAM
2007 - 2008**
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Martha Sachs • 891-4542
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1-year term**

- Democracy Speaks** Natalie Zitnick • 692-9088
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- Judicial Advocacy** Open Position
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- Public Information** Alice Ann Arrowood
697-9330 • arrowood@mchsi.com
- Voter Service** Carol Cleveland • 697-8828
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FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Nancy Glowacki, President

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

Do we really get how “**BIG**” this Immigration Study is for League? Do you realize that Leagues across the nation are currently engaged in the Immigration Study as we are? All of us are meeting the deadline of having each League’s consensus work go back to the National LWV by Feb. 1.

This is a demanding, exciting and timely issue we have been asked to study! Lee and the Immigration Study Committee have done an amazing piece of work thus far...and now it’s your turn! **STAND UP AND BE COUNTED** among those in our membership who will **READ, STUDY, AND ATTEND** the January 17th General Meeting (which in fact will be TWO separate sessions in one day so more members can come). What Lee has described as the “consensus process” in her lead article sounds at once enticing (as the best method of decision-making) and also formidable! Don’t let it scare you! Facilitators will guide the process! Yours and my job is to **READ, STUDY, AND ATTEND!** And then the LWVHC can **STAND PROUD AND SAY** “we did our part” and we helped the League on National, State, and Local levels speak with one voice on this most important issue.

We must be knowledgeable on this issue....and in the next year, we might

find ourselves monitoring candidates who would use immigration as a “political football” and speak to emotions rather than considering all the facets and facts!

Let’s be ready for this...and show up! Need a ride? We can help! Questions? Call Lee at 694-3710. It’s not too late to catch up with the reading and prepare to attend! **COUNT YOURSELF AMONG THE PRIVILEGED TO TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY!**



Stand Up And Be Counted!

Editor’s Correction to November Bulletin

by Pamela Warr

In my article- “League Member Mae Alexander Honored for her Many Achievements”- I gave Mae credit for a few too many achievements! My apologies for citing that Mae was a past president and charter member of LWVHC. She promptly let me know that she had not, in fact, been

in those positions! Somehow, I confused things. On the other hand, she brought me to LWVHC and I consider that a great achievement!

(We in the League would concur Pamela!)

The Immigration Study - Part 3

by Brian Evers

***See the Glossary of Immigration Terms on page 5 and attend the Consus Meetings on January 17 (details in Calendar on page 7)**

(Refer to our October and November Bulletins for *The Immigration Study, Parts 1 & 2*, available on-line at www.lwvhcnc.org.)

November 10th

Lee Luebbe handed out a draft of an Op Ed piece she was preparing for the Times-News and requested feedback. Several suggestions were made and discussed and Lee thanked committee members for the input. The final version appeared in the Sunday, December 2 edition of the Times-News.

Next, we heard from Glenn Rogers on his experience while attending meetings of the Henderson County Commission's Blue Ribbon Committee on Immigration. He used the headline from a recent New York Times Op Ed column ("What Part of 'Illegal' Don't You Understand?") to frame his remarks. He pointed out that the vast majority of press coverage repeats inflammatory rhetoric such as "illegal aliens," which in his opinion, possibly could have the effect of fostering hysteria and xenophobia more widely. Instead, the more objective, less pejorative terms "undocumented" or "unauthorized immigrant" could be used by the press and anyone else who participates in the discussion and debate of this emotionally charged issue.

Most of the invective has been focused on the immigrants themselves, while the needs of employers and the time delays of the cumbersome visa approval process have been virtually ignored. During the Blue Ribbon Committee meetings, a representative of the local agricultural community said labor shortages had reached the "desperate" stage. He said this was the result of lag

times of up to two-and-a-half years in the employee verification process. Many employers in the agricultural/horticultural/construction industries feel "strangled" by governmental and community resistance to the use of immigrant labor.

Barbara Garrison gave a report on the "AgJobs" bill before Congress that would amend the H2A (Agricultural Workers) program. This amendment would provide for the issuance of a "blue card" for temporary workers instead of the "green card" issued to permanent residents. A similar system is in effect in Europe, but it covers high-skilled professionals only. The U.S. version would primarily cover low-skill agricultural workers.

She also reported on the North American Investment Fund Act, a U.S. Senate bill introduced in 2006 whose purpose was to fund infrastructure development, primarily "roads to connect the south and center of Mexico to the United States." The U.S., Canada and Mexico were to provide the funding, but that action was never taken.

Joe Glowacki reported on the H2A agricultural workers who come into the U.S. through Vas, NC. Employers pay for their transportation from Mexico through the U.S. and deduct that expense as well as housing and meals from the workers' wages. An administrator of the program stated that anyone trying to "fix" the immigration system needs to deal separately with each part (employers, workers, the approval/verification process, and community response). He added that not all immigrant workers want citizenship. A "guest worker"

program of some kind could work if it could provide a dependable, legal source of labor.

November 16th

Two Guest Speakers:

1. Patrick Tapia, Executive Director of the LAC (Latino Advocacy Committee), and
2. Burt Lemkes, General Manager, Van Wingerden Nursery

Mr. Tapia told the committee that the LAC collaborates with local, state and national organizations to provide legal advocacy, leadership development, cultural and information services to the local Latino community. From his observation, he has formed an opinion that there is a pervasive negative image of Latinos in the media. At the same time, he believes that Latino immigrants try to stay "invisible" because they don't trust anything "official."

The LAC tries to help Latino immigrants "regularize" their legal status, expedite the immigration process, seek recourse against discrimination and provide housing. It also emphasizes integration and assimilation into the local community. For instance, LAC holds ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, helps immigrants pay taxes, educates immigrants about their rights and responsibilities as workers, teaches citizenship classes (in English), provides instruction about credit, work ethics, financial aid and environmental stewardship.

(continued on page 4)

Immigration Study - Part 3

(continued from page 3)

As a member of the County Commission's Blue Ribbon Committee, he was "shocked by the level of racism and xenophobia expressed by some members." He heard one person say, "If we let these people (undocumented immigrants) go to college, who will do the jobs?" He has experienced this derogatory kind of treatment personally. While he was shopping at a local retailer, the manager yelled out to an employee to follow Patrick because, "We can't leave these Mexicans alone in the store." Mr. Tapia is Chilean and speaks English fluently.

Burt Lemkes gave a Power Point presentation about undocumented immigrants in Henderson County. It portrayed local employers as an inextricable part of the immigration process and made recommendations for immediate improvements.

Among the most salient points made:

- Employers make immigrants into taxpayers and consumers.
- Both immigrants and employers support law enforcement.
- Immigrant labor keeps U.S. agriculture competitive with imports.
- Pay rates for immigrant workers are far above minimum wage.
- The difference between costs of legal and illegal immigrant laborers is marginal.
- The monetary contribution of undocumented laborers to the U.S. economy far outweighs the cost.
- There are 3.2 upstream or downstream jobs supported by each immigrant laborer, documented or undocumented.

As to recommendations, Mr. Lemkes suggests that locally, there could be

additional support for law enforcement efforts against criminal activity, especially drug-trafficking and gang activity. Programs designed to help integrate and educate the immigrant community could be upgraded and expanded. The emphasis needs to be on economics, not emotions, especially not fear.

On the federal and state level, Mr. Lemkes recommends a Guest Worker program, a "Quick Response" quota system that uses up-to-date demographics to chart needs for immigrant labor in various industries, and a forge-proof national ID card for pre-employment verification.

November 30th

The remainder of the paper on "Enforcement Issues" was discussed briefly. Among the sub-topics were Legislation, Employer Sanctions, Border Enforcement, and Visa monitoring.

Federal legislation has dealt with border enforcement mostly. The 1986 Immigration and Control Act (IRCA) increased Border Patrol funding. The Immigration Act of 1990 prompted the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) to instigate more vigorous border crossing prevention operations. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996 authorized more border patrol officers, additional barriers and an automated fingerprint system. It also allowed local law enforcement agencies to train and use their deputies as immigration agents. The 2001 Patriot Act recast immigration activities as a matter of national security, abolished the INS in 2003 and made its functions a part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Finally, the Secure Fence Act of 2006 called for building 700 miles of new fence along the U.S.- Mexico border.

Employee sanctions designated by IRCA have not been effective because document forgery has become a cottage industry; employers are unable to verify the authenticity of workers documents swiftly and reliably, labor intensive industries still need large labor pools, spending on border enforcement has taken priority over other considerations, and enforcement has been lax.

Border enforcement, although getting the lion share of federal dollars, is spotty and ineffective. When fencing went up in the San Diego area, the immigrants simply crossed the border near Tucson. The "catch and release" program has not stopped the flow of undocumented immigrants because so few show up in court. In addition, new border restrictions may be keeping more unauthorized immigrants inside the U.S. who would otherwise return to Mexico and have multiplied the number of "coyotes" who smuggle immigrants over the border dead or alive in "coffins on wheels."

Visa-checking appears to have been ineffective. As of 2004, incoming visitors are fingerprinted, but there is no way to know who has left the country. Nearly a third of documented immigrants stay in country after their visas have lapsed.

REMINDER:

Please bring your Bulletin articles to the consensus meeting on January 17!

Thank you for supporting the important work of League on Immigration Consensus.

Immigration Glossary

by Brian Evers

The committee thought we needed to provide a list of defined terms, acronyms, et al., for League members who, like ourselves, needed help in understanding the welter of bureaucratic organizations and jargon associated with this very complicated matter. We hope the list below is helpful.

287 g – section of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) funding the training of local law enforcement personnel as ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents, purchase of equipment, transport and housing of suspects.

AgJOBS Act – The 2007 Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act directs the Secretary of Agriculture to confer “blue card status” (temporary work visa) on an immigrant who has worked in agriculture at least 150 days during 2006, has no felony or misdemeanor convictions and confer permanent resident status on said immigrant (and spouse or minor children) after meeting other work requirements. It also exempts blue card immigrants from prosecution for false statements regarding Social Security status, and modifies agricultural worker visa and labor certification requirements.

America – natives of the U.S.A. think this name is synonymous with the U.S., but Europeans define “America” as the single continent that extends from the northernmost reaches of Canada to Cape Horn, encompassing North, Central and South America.

Coyote – one who smuggles undocumented immigrants across U.S. borders

DHS – Department of Homeland Security

DOJ - Department of Justice

DOL – Department of Labor

DREAM Act – The 2005 Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act would have made immigrants under 16 years of age who entered the U.S. in 2000 or later eligible for 6 years of residency provided they maintained good moral character, received an associate degree or served 2 years in the military. If they met all three conditions, they could apply for citizenship.

Globalization – term used to describe the opening up of markets all over the world to trade and investment with the U.S.; results include off-shoring of both jobs and production facilities and a reduced market share for some U.S. industries, e.g. steel and textile production, computer manufacture and technical assistance for customers, and inferior and unsafe products being imported and sold in the U.S. due to lax quality, safety and environmental regulations in the exporting country.

Green card – document permitting immigrant to reside in foreign country permanently, but must be reviewed and renewed annually.

Guest Worker Program – federal legislative proposal to allow greater numbers of foreign workers to enter the U.S. legally

H2A – federal program permitting the importation of foreign laborers to work in the agricultural industry

Hispanic – those who were born in Spain or other country where Spanish is the principal language

ICE – Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (part of DHS)

INS – Immigration and Naturalization Service (see USCIS)

Latino – those born in South and Central American countries, excluding Haiti (French) and Brazil (Portuguese)

Legal Resident – one who holds a green card and all other rights of a citizen except voting.

NAFTA – The 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement designed to lower tariffs between the U.S., Mexico and Canada, which increased trade and foreign investment between Mexico and the U.S, but had the counterproductive effect of lowering wages and making Mexico an export-dependent economy

Remittances – the transfer of money by foreign workers to their families and communities in their home countries.

Unauthorized – synonymous with “undocumented”

Undocumented – refers to any immigrant without a valid U.S. visa; the committee members urge everyone to adopt this term or “unauthorized” rather than any of the more derogatory descriptions applied to foreign workers

USCIS –United States Customs and Immigration Service; replaced the INS in 2003; part of the DHS

Visa – document issued to immigrant allowing entry into foreign country

Xenophobia – literally, “fear of foreigners”

REMINDER: Please bring your Bulletin articles to the consensus meeting on January 17!

Observer Corps Follows The "Sunshine"

*By Kathleen Lees , Coordinator,
Observer Corps*

On November 14, Nancy Glowacki hosted and conducted a training for six League member who volunteered to work in the League Observer Corps program. (Ruth Haines, Brenda Fisher, Madeline Royes, Barbara Garrison, Kathy Baluha, Kathleen Lees...and later Doreen Furman and Miriam Plexico)

Nancy demonstrated her skills as a trainer and led us through the history of the federal government's definition of the public's "right to know" culminating with the Sunshine Act of 1976. Transparency of government and the "right to know" are basic principles and priorities of League to protect for all citizens. We learned, as well, what an observer program is and what it is not, and more about the laws that govern public access to information.

The Corps will be observing City Council, the County Board of Commissioners, City Planning Board, and the School Board. Several other smaller observing tasks were suggested as well when we recruit more observers. Members helped create a reporting form which they will use when they commence work in January, 2008.

A follow-up session is scheduled for Tues. Dec. 4 from 3-5 to finalize our plans. It's never too late to join the group; Nancy will train any time! We are hoping to double our number of League members participating to at least 12 whom we might affectionately call the "Watchdog Dozen"!

Interested? Call Kathleen Lees at 697-7881

Kids Voting Needs You On May 6th

By Marian Lowry

On Election Day November 6th, 111 students voted at the 11 polling sites holding municipal elections. While 59 had voted a Kids Voting ballot before, it was a new experience for 28 of the voting students. Answers to a short poll showed that 82 students do believe that one vote can make a difference! Forty-seven (47) would consider themselves patriotic even if they didn't vote, while forty-two (42) would consider themselves unpatriotic if they didn't vote.

May 6th is Primary Election Day in North Carolina. There will be 33 Kids Voting sites which need to be staffed; Priscilla Burch reports that 22 of those sites are already staffed! Several training/information meeting are set up and YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! It's easy, it's inspiring...and...it's FUN! This is a perfect opportunity for League members who want to contribute their service at "one-time" events! **Call Priscilla Burch 698-0398 or email p2burch@bellsouth.net**

Recycling----- Good News!

By Dixie Blumer

League members may recall that some years ago we were pleased with the recycling efforts under the direction of Nippy Page, Recycling Coordinator. However, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners eliminated that position. Recycling became a low priority.

GOOD NEWS! Henderson County is going to have a recycling coordinator once again thanks to the efforts of Marcus Jones, the new Director of Solid Waste!

Marian Lowry and Dixie Blumer, and last month Carola Cohn, have been observing the monthly meetings of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. It is rewarding to see the enthusiasm of the committee chaired by League member Katie

Breckheimer along with solid support (*no pun intended!*) from committee member Stan Kumor, also a League member. They have worked diligently for months and we are very pleased to see results.

The Henderson County LWV has a long standing position supporting increased recycling with a recycling coordinator. We are looking forward to the new future for recycling in Henderson County! Other good news is that another Hazardous Waste Recycling Day will be held next year!

November Meeting Raises Awareness

*By Martha Sachs , Social Policy Chair/
Advocate*

At our November 15th General Meeting, 21 members and 11 guests came to learn what is happening with mental health services in Henderson County and in N.C. since the mandatory "Mental Health Reform" was instituted in 2001 by the N.C. Dept of Health and Human Services in an attempt to save money. Closed hospitals and fewer services appear to have created a worsening scenario.

Our presenter, Liston Smith, Director of Henderson County Department of Social Services, was very informative and helped us to understand the obstacles to receiving care which these "reforms" have created. Several of our guests were professionals working within the system, and many of our members had worked in the field also. The question and answer period was lively! If you weren't there, sorry you missed it! This meeting raised some important issues for League to consider at our All Member Planning Meeting in February!

League Calendar December & January 2008



- Dec. 14- Fri.
7:30 – 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST BUFFET GENERAL MEETING WITH OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS! Location: Dixie Diner, Hwy. 64 West across from Laurel Park Shopping Village. Fun, informative! Call Carolyn Judkins 654-9502 or Toni Cole 698-9352 to make Reservations.
Cost of Breakfast: \$8.50
- Jan. 3- Thurs.
11-1

Board Meeting WCCA Conference Room
- Jan, 11 – Fri.
9:30 AM

The League Performing Troupe” is on stage for AAUW Program!
Come to share with our sister organization. Enjoy a 40 min. performance of political satire in song and humor! Trinity Presbyterian, 900 Blythe St.
- Jan. 11 - Fri.
9am-12noon

Human Relations Council Program “ Immigration Realities” limited to 30 people.
Fee \$20.00 (includes lunch) Facilitated by the Center for Participatory Change. LOCATION: St. James Church . Details, call Kathleen Lees , Chair HRC (League member) at 697-7881. The presenters are the Center for Participatory Change and the Coalicion de Organizaciones Latino-Americanas I(COLA). Can receive Continuing Education Credits (CEUs).
- January 12 -Sat.
1:30 PM

NUCLEAR POWER DEBATE? at, Kaplan Auditorium, Henderson County Main Library,
Moderator: Carol Cleveland, Voter Service Chair. The future is up to us! For Info contact Barbara Barnett 694-3738
- Jan. 17
9:30 AM
or
5:30 PM

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING FOR ALL MEMBERS who have done their “homework”!
Together we shall seek **CONSENSUS ON THE IMMIGRATION STUDY!**
Reservation needed -
Call or email to sign up for either the 9:30 AM session OR THE 5:30 pm session.
Call Barbara Garrison 696-1793 or Kathleen Lees 697-7881 (*see lead article)
Location: First Baptist Church, 5th Ave., HVL, Upstairs Parlor/breakout rooms.
- Jan. 25

DDD FOR THE BULLETIN...send all articles to Nancy at: jonaglowacki@mchsi.com
- Feb. 7- Thurs.
11 AM -1 PM

Board Meeting WCCA Conference Room



Happy Holidays to All!

*Embrace the love, hope, joy
and peace that in truth, is
in every day of every season!*



More Kudos! Bravas! Thanks! Superlatives!

by Nancy Glowacki, President

- To Carol Cleveland and all those who helped with election exit polls and Kids Voting and any other service connected with our privilege of voting! Good prep for next year!!!
- To Martha Sachs for the provocative program Nov. 18!
- To Lee Luebbe and her amazing Immigration Study Group!
- To Mary Ann Engle who does such great follow-up to potential member interest! And to Charlyne, Linnea, and all who help build our membership!
- To the Kids Voting Team out there and all their hard work!
- To all the dedicated coordination that goes on behind the scenes to keep this "quilt" together!

GET WELL WISHES TO Caroline Schmaltz, Doreen Furman, and any of you who need our support!

CONGRATULATIONS TO Pamela Warr for landing a very exciting position with Harris Architects in Brevard!

Membership News

by Mary Ann Engel, Membership Chair

Please welcome our newest member, Glenn F. Rodgers. Glenn, an architect, hails from Darien, Connecticut. When he and his wife were seeking places to retire 3 ½ years ago, they looked at Asheville, Brevard and our lovely mountains. They chose Hendersonville and now call 904 Dunroy Drive, Hendersonville 28739 their home. Although Glenn joined as a National member, he has been immersed in the Immigration Study which will keep him very busy through the beginning of next year. After that, he will check out our other committees and see where he might wish to be involved. You can reach Glenn at glennrodgers@bellsouth.net or by phone at 692-5882.