



The Bulletin

League of Women Voters in Henderson County - Since 1966

"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."

August 2009

SUMMER SLIDES INTO SEPTEMBER ACTION !

As documented in the "quick update June bulletin flyer", the LWVHC ended an active year, and mapped out yet another equally active year ahead! Hopefully, all of you are enjoying "summer" break, but also starting to feel the renewed energy to spring into action once again!

SEE CALENDAR LAST PAGE

Aug. 23 Sun. Special Social !
Women's Equality Day!

**Sept. 4-5-6 Apple Festival
Volunteer at the LWVHC
Voter Education Booth! Call
Carol Cleveland 697-8828**

**Thurs. Sept. 17 – 1-3 PM
this year's first General
Meeting... "Making a
Difference In a Child's Life is a
'Do-able' Thing"**

**Maureen Adams, Director, and Elisha
Freeman, UAC, of the Children and
Family Resource Center.**

**Time and Location: 1-3 PM at the Flat
Rock Village Hall on 225 south across
from the Flat Rock Theatre**

PLEASE! Try to Carpool!

SEPTEMBER 17th GENERAL PROGRAM

League has long recognized children's needs for special support and seeks to advocate the positions they hold for childcare, financial assistance to low-income families, health and safety standards, early intervention for children at risk...all designed to help children reach their full potential. League supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the well being of children. Here in Henderson County there are many agencies which address the numerous and widely varied issues re: children's welfare at different ages. In the past two years in HC, there have been education/awareness panels which have shared the plight of homeless children, high-risk children, teen pregnancy, hungry children, drug problems, inter-cultural needs, parenting education, and bullying issues in schools. The huge project, "United Agenda for Children", from CFRC, brought forth over 300 people who identified and prioritized action for children's needs in our county!

In the Sept. 17th program, we are going to "start at the beginning" ages 0- 3 to, understand the 'why and how' of planting seeds (in them and maybe their parents) to help them grow to their fullest potential and hopefully, lessen the intense issues of older children! This informative presentation will share CFRC's programs pertinent to 'Early Intervention for Children at Risk', a League position since 1994.

HELPFUL SITES TO KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED AND ADVOCATING 24/7 !!!

League of Women Voters of Henderson County - www.lwvhcnc.org

League of Women Voters (National) www.LWVUS.org

League of Women Voters (North Carolina) www.LWVNC.org

VOTE411.org (non-partisan election and voter information)

Factcheck.org (non-partisan; check accuracy of political ads and allegations)

- internete-mail@ncleg.net (readable by all Legislators)
- ncsenatemembers@ncleg.net (readable by all Senators)
- nchousemembers@ncleg.net (readable by all House Members)

FROM THE LEADERSHIP...Nancy Glowacki, President

“LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.”

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina will have five areas of focus during this Regular Session of the Assembly , which are: 1. Campaign and Election Reform, 2. Access to Government,(Sunshine Laws) 3. Environment, 4. Tax & Budget Fairness, and now an addition, 5. ERA...Equal Rights Amendment passage We in the Henderson County League (one of 16 in the State) will integrate some of the State’s priorities into our own along with our local program plans, (See the section on the ERA below)

There is a saying that **“many hands make light the work”**. In that vein, we invite you all to jump into the agenda! We like to see our seasoned members take on different ‘roles’, try a new focus ; and we welcome new members to match their interest and skills to a task that really inspires them as well. We educate and advocate! That is our prime reason to exist...and we constantly refine and redesign our own approach to our work! It’s fun, it’s rewarding both individually and collectively, and it’s “the place to be in 2009-10”! Together we will set realistic goals and reach measurable results that lets us know “we do make a difference”!

WATCH FOR the full 2009-10 calendar which will be published in the September bulletin along with the full **Board and Leadership list for 2009-10**. Please “clip and save” these pages for easy reference this year...and then you can fill in any updated calendar information that is sent along monthly !

Another long range personal goal is to start planning now to attend the **LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION IN ATLANTA NEXT JUNE to celebrate League’s 90th Birthday!** Being so close finally, it’s ‘do-able’ for us!

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DON’T MISS THE AUG. 23 POTLUCK PICNIC-SUPPER FOR ALL MEMBERS! SEE CALENDAR!

NEWS FROM THE GREENSBORO LWVNC CONVENTION IN JUNE

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Board of LWVNC!

The LWVNC Board of Directors elected in Greensboro represents nine Leagues --some large, some small, and a MAL Unit. The officers are: Kathleen Balogh, President, Asheville/Buncombe; Carole Ellis, Vice-President,, Lower Cape Fear; Nancy Birindelli, Secretary, Dare; and Beth Springston, Treasurer, Charlotte/Mecklenburg.

Directors elected to serve two years are: Judie Burke, ODC; Louise Romanow, Wake; Audrey Albrecht, LCF; Diane Davis, Piedmont Triad; Jo Nickolas, Moore; Newman Gray, Charlotte/Mecklenburg; Carolyn Jones Connor, Catawba Valley; Barbara Coulson, Madison County MAL League.

Three members elected to the LWVNC Nominating Committee are: Ellen Olson, Chair, Piedmont Triad; Vickie Gerig, Wake County, and Yvette Wessel, Asheville/Buncombe. Additional members may be appointed by the Board equal to the number of elected directors.

Education Of LWVUS Immigration Position at the Convention...and Beyond

The advocacy work of the LWVHC in the field of immigration was carried to the State Convention by Joe Glowacki and Lee Luebbe. An estimated 30 – 35 persons filled the room Friday afternoon to learn more about the education program LWVHC has developed on the national position. Jan Allen provided her computer skills generously so that the CD copies of the Power Point and accompanying script could be purchased for five dollars each. The National Council of Churches offers excellent handouts available at no cost; these were also distributed. Individual Leagues who would like to order and distribute these to other organizations and churches may request up to 50 copies online at no cost at www.nccouncilofchurches.org.

And here in Henderson County League....

A new group in Waynesville, NC, Friends of the Library, has expressed interest in having the program presented.

Monitoring the proposed legislation introduced by Congressman Heath Schuler in light of the LWVUS position will be the topic of the next Immigration Committee meeting.

Every LAST Friday night of the month, there will be a silent vigil at the Historic Court House on Main Street from 5:30 PM – 6.00 PM. Any citizen who participates in the silent vigil is asked to wear black and meet in front of the Historic Court House. Signs are welcomed, and should be positive. Several leaders bring extra signs as well for anyone to use. Some examples are: “Justice for Immigrants”; “Keep Families Together”, etc. These silent vigils are the initiative of the Justice Initiative and El Centro. Be sure to wear your League button if you can attend --- talk to the other citizens who attend about the LWV study and position.

LWVHC Held an ERA Caucus Friday Night of Convention

With ERA informational handouts and the showing of a 17-minute DVD about the need to pass the ERA, a roomful of delegates and attendees of the Convention listened attentively and asked questions about the current status of the ERA ratification. The LWVHC made a proposal that if a resolution was passed to move the ERA to an area of focus that we in Henderson County would initialize action to involve all Leagues in NC in the effort to have North Carolina become one the three states needed to ratify the amendment. On Sunday morning, the Convention voted to make it so!

The networking has begun, contacts and information are coming our way, and in August and September we shall create a process of steps and stages to bring all Leagues together in the effort. We already have support from a woman Representative of the State House to bring the bill before the House! Others have contacts with Leagues and/or groups in other states who are also trying to move their state toward ratification. Coming together is the only way to make it happen!

If you have a passion for this movement to take place in North Carolina, and specifically to assist in the process with our own League, please call Nancy Glowacki, 693-5257 to express your interest! This promises to be an exciting project of research, organization, communication, and advocacy...it's been 85 years since Alice Paul initiated the idea that the language of an Equal Rights Amendment was a statement of freedom that must be made in our Constitution...it's about time we made it happen, once and for all!

**SOCIAL POLICY PARTNERS COME TOGETHER UNDER NEW UMBRELLA!
Martha Sachs, Social Policy Chair**

On July 28, Martha Sachs held a brief meeting to explore the possibility of enhancing the interaction among the various aspects of Social Policy currently operating as separate League chair/advocates on League positions, i.e.: children's issues, juvenile justice, immigration, health care, elder care, mental health, housing, etc. Those attending were Renee Kumor, Joe Glowacki, Lee Luebbe, Carol Ward, and Nancy Glowacki, ex officio. (Iris Vanek was unable to attend) Lee also acted in her new role as Committee-Building Mentor. While members will continue to work in their separate areas as usual, it became apparent that there are profoundly meaningful interconnections and that we could benefit greatly from one another's input on a regular basis. The group will meet again on Tues. Sept. 8 for a longer session and continue the pursuit of inter-coordination. Watch for further reports of progress in the Bulletin.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Barbara Barnett, Chair NR for State & National Issues

THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2009 (Senate Version)

The House of Representative passed the American Clean Energy & Security Act of 2009 on June 26th. This historic legislation will meet the challenge of cutting the carbon emissions that cause global warming 80 percent by 2050, which is necessary to preserve the planet for sustainable living. Now the bill is sent to the Senate.

There are many strong aspects of the bill and there are *four key areas that need improvement*.

1. Cleaner & cheaper energy sources, such as, wind and solar power,
2. Focus on reducing energy waste – investing in energy efficiency,
3. Keep EPA authority intact – clean up dirty coal plants by implementing the Clean Air Act,
4. Hold polluters accountable – polluters must pay for carbon pollution.

The Senate version is titled American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009 and remains in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee. You can read a summary on line.

Your Representatives and Senators will be in your home district in August. This is an opportunity if you have questions about the bill. Tell them we need a strong bill.

STATE: APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS PRESERVATION ACT

Rep. Pricey Harrison (Guilford County) will introduce a bill to be titled: “ **An Act to preserve the Appalachian Mountains by prohibiting electric public utilities that operate coal-fired generating units located in North Carolina from purchasing or using coal that is extracted using Mountain Top Removal coal mining.**” This bill would amend Chapter 62 of the General Statutes by adding a new article called “ **Article 5B, Appalachian Mountains Preservation Act**”. *The LWVNC supports this bill. Call your State Representatives and ask how they voted and why?*

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS - Rudi Simko(Public Information Officer) for Membership

Trish Minnick is a North Carolinian who has lived in various parts of the state. Most recently Trish and her husband, Steve, enjoyed a one-year adventure living in Mexico. They returned to Western North Carolina in January 2009 and now live at 43 Meadow Walk Ct, Fletcher 28732. Trish’s experience includes working at Tysons Furniture in Black Mountain for 33 years. Trish is an ardent animal lover and gardener. Her other interests include the environment and healthcare reform. In mid June her husband, Steve, will meet with lawmakers in Washington DC to advocate for changes to the US health care system. You can reach Trish at 696-2684 and steve.trish@gmail.com.

An exuberant life has been **Jeannette Cannon’s** hallmark. Her expansive experience includes being a Peace Corps worker in Columbia SA. Jeannette has her Masters in Public Health and today she uses her Spanish as an interpreter at the Free Clinic in Henderson Co. She also serves on the board of The Healing Place that helps abused children. Jeannette met her husband Bob at a Quaker College in Ohio after returning from the Peace Corps in the late 1960’s. They eventually settled in Columbia SC for 35 years where Bob taught Computer Science at South Carolina State University. During these years they enjoyed weekends and summers in Western North Carolina. Upon retiring they made Hendersonville their home and now live at 48 Old Laurel Drive, Laurel Park 28739. Jeannette is very interested in League activities on the issues of Immigration, Health and Children’s Services. She is also **our new Co-Coordinator of the Observer Corps** along side member Sharon Burlingame . You can reach Jeannette at 696-2684 and cannonj@neqn.net.

Optimism and drive mark **Ruth Birge’s** path in life. Ruth’s business experience spans specialized automotive marketing for manufacturers as well as positions with three newspapers and owning three businesses. Her life has taken her from Chicago to New Jersey, California, Florida and to North Carolina “heaven” in 2002 when the New York Times Regional Newspaper Group asked her to move to Hendersonville. Ruth most recently was publisher of the Hendersonville Times News. Ruth has served in leadership positions of local non profits boards, including United Way, Pardee Hospital Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Carolina Mt. Land Conservancy and the Community Foundation. Ruth is a Rotarian. She graduated from Indiana University with a BS in Marketing and Advertising. You can reach Ruth at 698-3411 and at 13lucky@mchsi.com.

Bring a guest to League! They, and we, will be glad you did!
Bring a guest to the Aug. 23rd “green” picnic for “Women’s Equality Day”!

BULB FUN-DRAISING GOES OVER THE TOP! Gwen Hill, Bulb Fundraiser Coordinator

Thank you, League Members!!! We exceeded our goal on Fall Bulb Sales, totaling \$1844.29 in sales and \$25 in donations. That means the club made \$957.15 in this venture, totaling \$1080.15 in sales and donations for the year in the Bulb Fundraisers. I would like to say a special thanks to Lee Luebbe, D. J. Hedinreich, and Marion Huffman for their extra sales efforts in their community. These women did an outstanding job!

We will offer Spring Planting Bulbs again for 2010! (In addition to the Fall bulbs later)

NEW Sales will begin in October for these bulbs which are planted in the late Spring and bloom in mid Summer. If you purchase bulbs from both fundraisers, you will have a beautiful flowering garden from Spring to late Summer. Remember the League gets 50% of the sales. Proceeds from the fundraisers help pay for scholarships and League supported projects. Order forms and flyers will be attached to the Fall bulb orders when they are distributed in early October. If you did not order bulbs and you would like to receive information about the Spring Bulb fundraiser, contact Gwen Hill at 693-1712 ext. 111 office or 891-8083 home.

SHARING AND CARING

With grateful acknowledgement of her time spent with us (albeit too brief) and her long-time committed energy to the League over the years, we are feeling the sadness and loss of **Ann McGrath** who had joined our League less than a year ago in September 2008.

Ann Dowell McGrath, 74, passed away on Saturday July 25, 2009, surrounded by family and friends at the Hospice of the Carolina Foothills. (an excerpt from the Times-News online July 29, 2009.) “While raising three active boys, she also devoted her energy to a variety of benevolent causes, most notably the League of Woman Voters, Another Mother for Peace ,and Pentland Hall of Dade County, where she worked one-on-one with troubled girls.....” , then “In 1981, she married Thomas McGrath. After discovering the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains, she and Tom moved from Miami to Tryon in 1999.”

Phyllis Bentley, our new Membership coordinator, suffered a bad fall recently and is recuperating slowly; at the same time **Rabbi Phillip Bentley**, also a League member, had a pacemaker implant ! Family is assisting as are friends, but cards from Leaguers would bring some sunshine too!

Note: Members...whenever you become aware of any ‘caring and sharing’ that needs to be communicated among us in League, please let me know...we are connected to make a difference in our lives. Nancy, Editor

SOME NOTES OF INSPIRATION FROM MARION WRIGHT EDELMAN 1939-

Edelman is a favorite among Leaguers since she speaks to our hearts and what we hold dear in our mission. She was the founder and President of the Children’s Defense Fund, the first African American woman admitted to the Mississippi state bar, and author of several successful books. From her words....

“ If you don’t like the way the world is, you change it. You have an obligation to change it. You just do it one step at a time.

“ Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time.”

“If we don’t stand up for children, then we don’t stand for much.”

“I’m doing what I think I was put on this earth to do. And I’m really grateful to have something that I’m passionate about and that I think is profoundly important.”

LWVHC CALENDAR FOR AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2009

THUR. AUG. 3	BOARD MEETING – WCCA Conference Room 11-1
SUNDAY AUG. 23 4-6 :30 pm INDOOR, “GREEN” POTLUCK SUPPER- PICNIC TO CELEBRATE “WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY “ AN ALL-MEMBER MIXER! And we want all the men there too!	Calling all female and male members, new members, and potential members (i.e. bring guests)!!! August 23rd is Women’s Equality Day and it deserves to be celebrated! And when the ERA is finally ratified by NC ,plus two more states, that too will be cause for more celebration! In the meantime, let’s have a SOCIAL TIME TOGETHER with a casual (very casual!) POTLUCK INDOOR SUPPER-PICNIC at Agudas Israel Synagogue on Glasgow and White Pine Drive . Call <u>Cynthia Vondrasek 329-6988</u> or email her at <u>cynvon01@mchsi.com</u> to RSVP and tell her what you are bringing! Let’s make this very “GREEN”, i.e. bring a potluck dish to share which <u>you</u> will take home and wash later, a washable plate and plastic tumbler, your own plastic cutlery, and washable napkin <u>all in a tote!</u> We’ll provide the iced tea! No waste, no work, no fuss, no muss...! Carpool and save gas !
THU. 11 AM SEPT. 3	BOARD MEETING, WCCA CONFERENCE ROOM 11-1 * Set up Festival Booth 6:30 pm. Call Carol to help...697-8828
SEPT. 4-5-6 FRI.- SAT.-SUN Our booth is <u>not</u> open on Monday, Sept. 7	APPLE FESTIVAL TIME! Volunteer for a ‘slot’ at our League Voter Education Booth...or be sure to visit us! Fun activities/important info/practice on the IRV voting techniques. To volunteer, please call CAROL CLEVELAND 697-8828 !!!
SEPT. 17 THURS. GENERAL MEETING Held at the Flat Rock Village Hall on South 225 from 1 – 3 pm. <u>“Making a Difference</u> <u>in a Child’s Life is a</u> <u>‘Do-able’ Thing”</u>	Maurean Adams, Director and Elisha Freeman, Implementation Manager, United Agenda For Children, both from the Children and Family Resource Center will share their perspectives and programs that work for Early Intervention, the beginning of children’s issues. From issues to specifics of prevention to the advocacy role for League, this promises to be informative, inspiring, and compelling! Don’t miss it! Maurean is a League member and can be reached at 697-1736. Bring a guest!

WATCH FOR OCTOBER DATE OF MAYORAL AND CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM!

"Promoting Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation..."