

FEBRUARY 2011

WE'RE CELEBRATING <u>AND</u> EDUCATING AT OUR FEBRUARY 17TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING <u>"THE REALITIES OF LEAGUE"</u>

It can be difficult sometimes, to explain (or understand) how League, a strictly non-partisan educational organization, can actually perform effectively in a two-party democracy system. But a membership roll-call will attest to the fact that our members **do** represent all parties in our system today. Our "Impact on Issues" book, published every two years, can attest to 91 years of non-partisan study, achievement, and advocacy on numerous fronts that have made , and will continue to make, a difference in helping our democracy work .

WHAT'S NEXT? FEB. 17 Membership Meeting 3-5 PM at the Chamber on Kanuga and Church "The Realities of League"

Maurean Adams, Marion Huffman, Marion Lowry, Rose Stone, and Nancy Glowacki *********

THANKS TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED LEAGUE'S ANNUAL FINANCE DRIVE with your financial gifts. There's still time to give

Please send to LWVHC Box 2238, Hvl., NC 28793 . LWVHC is grateful for your participation , both personally and financially in this great organization! To honor League's unique mission, we are creating a SPECIAL PROGRAM that will celebrate those 91 years, and which will provide a stimulating format\ for educating our new members as well as our longer term members, and special guests. Invitations will go out to our elected officials, local and state, community leaders, and others with whom we work alongside in the governing process of this county. Our hope is to extend an informed and clarifying view of League's nonpartisanship approach to helping our democracy work.

The highlighted educational piece for this SPECIAL PROGRAM will feature an outstanding 50-min. DVD of nonpartisan Past Presidents of the National League sharing their experiences of working with various Washington administrations and legislative milestones... very enlightening, very entertaining, and very informative about League and the impact of its work at the National, State, and Local levels. This presentation will serve as an educational tool that will answer many questions that people may have about League and undoubtedly will raise new questions for a lively discussion to follow. In addition, we also welcome the opportunity for socializing, networking, and enjoying refreshments together!

Please invite a friend...your local official...and bring yourself for this special program !

*THIS IS A PACKED ISSUE...and please and enjoy all of it!

HELPFUL SITES TO KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED AND ADVOCATING 24/7

League of Women Voters of Henderson County - <u>www.lwvhcnc.org</u>

League of Women Voters (National) <u>www.lwv.org</u>

League of Women Voters (North Carolina) <u>www.lwvnc.org</u>

VOTE411.org (non-partisan election and voter information

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

Contact Legislators:

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

REP. CHUCK MCGRADY'S WEBSITE UPDATE

A message from Rep. Chuck McGrady invites us to visit his website <u>www.ChurckMcgrady.com</u> to access current legislative information. He notes that the website has just gone live, but in the next week, it should be fully operational.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP....Nancy Glowacki, President

Time continues to fly by and League's work continues to move steadily forward in our county, in our state, and on the national scene. I sincerely hope that each of us is attempting to cultivate the habit of exploring the recommended websites weekly as well as searching the web at large to stay in touch with our work and interesting information.

February is **Black History Month** and you are encouraged to travel to the National Women's History Project website <u>www.nwhp.org</u> for their honoring and to pay tribute to Black History Month locally. So many of us Leaguers were inspired by the touching MLK breakfast - program in January! We're celebrating League at the February meeting and you won't want to miss the DVD from National! March is **Women's History Month** and one week is also devoted to **Sunshine Week**. Celebrate it all by participating in some way!

The bulletin articles this month explain in more detail some areas we are exploring currently and I urge you to **read them carefully and consider your personal involvement**...they are: upcoming Local Environmental Education for our members and a League grant opportunity to advocate in the areas of either Redistricting or Voter Protection.

We, as individuals, and as an organization, are always growing and changing. But since League is not a single-issue organization, it does have some 'brand issues' and skills for which it is recognized. When we choose a focus, we need to ask ourselves ,"where is the potential for this endeavor to make a difference in a credible issue?" We need to recognize that "hot issues" are more likely to fade quickly, but the 'brand issues' will not. We have gained public trust over 91 years because League is able to focus, to prioritize, not dilute our impact, to lobby, to stick to facts, to be civil, and to make a difference. The learning curve as a League member is not a 'quick study'...it is a committed long-term study...and we're in for the long , consistent haul ! Thanks to every member for being a part of that 'haul'!

LWVHC IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT THAT COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON EITHER REDISTRICTING... OR VOTER PROTECTION ... YOU CHOOSE!

The NC State LWV Board has just notified us that local Leagues in NC are eligible to apply to receive grants for two specific areas: public advocacy for voter protection, and... redistricting of electoral districts. Grants up to \$1000. each will be awarded for well-developed proposals for activities in these areas to be used over the next year. Proposals are **due to the State League by March 1, 2011.** We understand this is a short

time-line, but the issues are important and with your immediate input, we can get it done if we want to apply.

- "Public advocacy for voter protection" might include recruiting and/or training poll workers, conducting research on voter intimidation or discrimination, examining challenges to Voter ID proposals, conducting educational forums, developing methods to handle voter complaints, reviewing of methods to equalize precinct quality (especially size)
- 2) "Redistricting" might include lobbying elected officials on methods of redistricting, educating the public on redistricting activities, or calling for methods to establish transparency in producing redistricting plans- all connected to the concept of insuring "one person, one vote," in accordance with League positions.

This proposal will come before the Board February 3, and **you, the members**, also need to weigh in on this opportunity and <u>let us know of your interest immediately</u>! All it takes is a small, committed group of interested people to come together, engage in some creative brainstorming and organizing of thought and time, fill out the application for the proposal and send it in by March 1. Please call Nancy 693-5257 of your interest.

And to further 'whet our appetite" on one of the subjects above, it was interesting to see in the Times-News of Jan. 27, 2011, a timely article stating the Rep. Shuler is sponsoring a redistricting bill in which he says "redrawing lines should focus on geography, not politics." <u>The entire article proceeds to outline a process</u> <u>that is supported by League.</u> He introduced the "Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act H.R.453, which requires states to establish an independent, bipartisan commission to redraw congressional district line every 10 years following the decennial census."

"SMART TALK" DISCUSSION GROUP LAUNCHED IN JANUARY

The first of a series of informal gatherings to help members (new and existing) grow their League friendships, was held on January 26th at Mrs. G and Me, a downtown Hendersonville restaurant. For this initial effort, the M.R.I. committee recruited both new and seasoned members, as well as a prospect, to test the concept among a small group.

The topic for the get together was "Is the Internet Changing the Way You Think?. Over a casual lunch of soup and salad, we discussed the topic from many different perspectives: how we have adapted to technology, the gadgets we own, what we value and appreciate, and conversely, what is lost by using it. There was lively discussion, lots of laughs, and a good time was had by all.

Our thanks to Marian Lowry, Carol Ward, Jan Allen, Elaine Martin, Natalie Zitnick and Betsy Kirk (prospect) for accepting the invitation and providing positive feedback. As we move forward to plan our next "smart talk" get together, we believe you will find the topics and fellowship stimulating and fun!

If you are interested in attending the next "Smart talk" discussion group, please contact one of us. Otherwise, we will keep you posted on what we plan next!

The M.R.I. Committee

Judy Katz 698-9952, Iris Vanek 697-0787, Rudi Simko 687-2944, Helen Wright 696-3344

CAN WE LIVE UP TO THIS IMAGE?

At a recent meeting in Charlotte, a gentleman approached League members (not knowing they were Leaguers) engaged in a discussion of current issues. As he began to participate in the discussion and learned that the participants were League members, he commented, "Oh!.. you are the enlightened ones!"

COMING IN MARCH....please...PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW! LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES and OUR ROLE IN MEETING THEM This is the thrust of an ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL - ADVOCACY WORKSHOP CO-SPONSORED BY LEAGUE, ECO, AND BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONDAY EVENING ... MARCH 28 ... 6:00-8:30 PM

How much knowledge and awareness do each of us in League actually have about the natural resource issues of Henderson County? Do we know the committed individuals and groups who are working tirelessly for protection of our resources? Do we understand that a key responsibility for Leaguers is to at least have a 'talking-point relationship' with respect to our National, State, and local positions on natural resources? We think it may be time to take some steps to fill in the gaps in our awareness and participation!

LEAGUE, ECO, AND BRCC are partnering to bring a special educational and participation opportunity to our members, to ECO members and the public...Monday evening, 6-8:30 pm at BRCC Patton 1st floor classroom #150. It's all about awareness, education and advocacy choices. When we belong to an educational organization, it's our responsibility to educate ourselves on what we are about!

Our beautiful natural resources in Henderson County are very inviting to developers and other influences of change that might be tempted to disregard the need for protection and wise management in the public interest. The commissioners and planning and zoning boards are very responsible for outcomes of requests and proposals. ECO (Environmental Conservation Organization), is a very visible, thorough, advocate of protection of the 'big picture'. In the past 46 years of service in HC, League has been involved in developing the Mountain Land Conservancy, in giving input to the Land Development Code and the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance , and in ongoing promotion of Recycling. In the last 5 years, we have also fostered a partnership with ECO through volunteering with them. We will learn about the four main thrusts of ECO and other organizational resources we have in HC as well as what specifically can 'one person do'. It's not the size of the action, it's the collective action that gets things done. Of course, League will always continue speak to our positions as needed re: proper regulations for steep slope , storm water runoff , recycling, and the Regional Water Authority issue, to name a few. What other needs are there? Where is our energy needed?

<u>YOU</u> ARE INVITED...<u>ECO</u> MEMBERS ARE INVITED...THE <u>PUBLIC</u> IS INVITED TO OPEN UP TO THE POSSIBILITIES AND REALITIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS MON. MARCH 28, 6-8:30 PM...AT BRCC PATTON BUILDING 1ST FLOOR- ROOM 150 Questions? Call Nancy at 693-5257....Leaguers, please make a special effort to come! This is for you!

NEW MEETING PLACE FOR OBSERVER CORPS Linda Miller, Co-coordinator O.C.

The LWV Observer Corps will hold its Feb. 10th <u>Lunch-Meeting at a new place</u>. Carol Ward alerted us that Family Fare had suddenly closed. Therefore, the meeting will be at : **Patty Cakes Restaurant at 1908 Haywood Road on Thursday, February 10th, from 11:00 – 1:00.** If you take Blythe Street from 64, it T-ends at Haywood Road. Turn left and Patty Cakes Restaurant is a short way down on the right.

Co-leader of the Observer Corps, Sharon Burlingame, is away enjoying interesting, warm, sunny Thailand. (she will be home for the March meeting) At the February meeting, those of us present will select a new location for our meetings. We will also work out the details for our 2011 Sunshine Luncheon, to which one or more Freedom of Information officers from the different governmental boards in Henderson County will be invited. Arrangements to write invitations to the FOI officers will be determined and some additional issues will be covered. Hope to see you there.

Looking for New Observers to Join Veteran Observers

The LWV Observer Corps is always looking for new observers. With the *Times-News* staff being cut back, sometimes the League's Observers are the only bit of transparency shining on the governmental board meeting. Unfortunately, there are some governmental boards that have neither a reporter nor a LWV Observer covering their meetings. Besides the boards that have no one observing them, there are also Observers who would be happy to have another observer partner with them or serve as a substitute for them. Come February 10^{th} and meet our dedicated, interesting, and knowledgeable Corps members.

School Board Observations

Brenda Fisher and I have been observing the School Board. Several months ago, School Board Member Shannon Baldwin said he would be happy if an observer could attend the <u>"School Lunch" meetings held on</u> the Wednesdays <u>prior</u> to the regular School Board Business Meeting on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 P. M. It is a wonderful opportunity for the observers as well as the school board members to get to know the schools. Each lunch meeting is held at a different school in the county, and the school board members and staff take a tour of the school, before or after eating in the school cafeteria. Cafeteria food has so much more variety now, and cafeteria staffs are, indeed, trying to give youngsters some healthy choices.

The school board visits classrooms and asks questions of students, teachers, and administrators. Afterwards, the school board members and staff meet in the library of the school to discuss school issues, though no business is conducted or votes taken. Executive Administrative Assistant Barbara Blaine, who is also the Freedom of Information Officer for HCBPE, takes minutes and makes them available to the public. Ms. Blaine has been more than helpful to League Observers in keeping us informed of school board activities.

If you are interested in partnering with Brenda Fisher and me to observe the very interesting schooltour-lunch-discussion meetings, or business meetings, please come to the February 10th meeting. We welcome your participation in this very important work of the League. Linda ...697-1045

REPORT ON LOCAL STUDY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Three members, Carolyn Schmalz, Renee Kumor, and Lee Luebbe, have completed the draft of the research completed related to the topic adopted in May, 2010, "Do Advisory Committees in Henderson County Promote Democracy/Transparency?"

The wheels of League often turn slower than new members can appreciate. Be assured the study is on target. The draft is now with our editor and outside reader, Kathy Baluha. Discussion questions will be published in the March Bulletin together with an Executive Summary. Members connected electronically will receive a complete copy in March. For those members who do not have e-mails, copies will be mailed – thanks to in-kind donations from members.

April is designated for discussion and exploration of consensus. Do set aside time to read the report and schedule your time April 21, 3-5 PM to attend the League General meeting. New members, especially, will find the consensus process to be a unique experience. Long-time members know that consensus is one of the pillars of League.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ! Rudi Simko, P.I.O.

Jim Lowrance: Jim joins his wife, Melinda, as a League member. He works with Melinda in their janitorial service business and also with Wilson Funeral Directors. Jim is a member of the Eastside Men's Club, where he holds the office of vice president and event coordinator. Jim joined the League after

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viewing the film, "Iron Jawed Angels" about the Women's Suffrage Movement. He felt he had to be a part of this cause. Jim and Melinda Lowrance live at 710 First Ave. West in Hendersonville, 28739, and they can be reached at 828-698-9041 or <u>mopheadcleaning@bellsouth.net</u> .

Sharon Kay Keith: Kay and her husband retired to Hendersonville 6 1/2 years ago from London where they had lived for 3 years. Originally from the Chicago area, they have also lived in Texas and Virginia. Kay has a degree in Elementary Education ,though she moved so often she never taught in a school system. Kay continues to be interested in anything to do with education. She looks forward to getting more involved in League and our community. Kay also enjoys hiking, walking, reading and gardening. Kay lives at 101 Bobby Jones Dr., Hendersonville 28739, and she can be reached at 828-693-1410 or <u>kaykeith@hotmail.com</u>.

Sandra Kremer: Sandra is glad to be a returning Henderson County LWV member. She works fulltime, splitting her hours as a Clinical Social Worker in private practice with her work on the Bereavement Team at Hospice. Sandra also volunteers as a therapist at the Free Clinic. When she was a League member in Ohio, she chaired a Health study committee that provided data to the county commissioners to hire a physician part time as County Health Director. Her Ohio League chapter also sponsored a community forum on the United Nations that she organized and chaired. Sandra moved from Texas to Hendersonville in 1990. To bring balance to her life Sandra competes in swimming, tennis, running and is raising her 10 year-old grandson. Sandra can be contacted at PO Box 1608, Hendersonville 28793 and at 828-692-8097 (office) or <u>slk7@earthlink.net</u>.

Rebecca Reid and Joseph Robustelli: Before coming to Hendersonville, Becky and Joe worked for the SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology in Cobleskill NY, Joe as an administrator and Becky as a childhood education instructor. Joe held positions in human resources/affirmative action, placement services, international and multicultural affairs, as well as a program for students with financial and academic needs. He is a certified prejudice reduction trainer and wants to use these skills in his volunteer work. Becky has additional background as a Head Start teacher. Together they learned about League through a "Beyond War" course they took with Nancy Glowacki. They are concerned about the growing partisanship in politics and the lack of knowledge about issues and candidates. Joe and Becky can be contacted at PO Box 6632, Hendersonville 28793 and at 828-808-7051 or <u>reidrobustelli@aol.com</u>.

NATURAL RESOURCES ... Barbara Barnett, Chair - State & National

The local and state water issues are frequently a point of discussion at the County Commission Meetings with re: to long term policy and decision-making, development regulations, etc. The League and ECO speak out in favor of protection of our water resources and land use code; below is a statement that Barbara Barnett, Nat. Res. State-National Chair, will deliver in February. This is an example of how our positions are advocated when public comment or a public hearing is in order.

STATEMENT TO THE HC COMMISSION FEBRUARY 2011 RE: THE NC WATER SUPPLY AND WATER PROTECTION ACT

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County supports the position that land is a finite resource and not a commodity and carries with it the responsibility of stewardship. All around the world there are limits to growth due to overpopulation. The definition of overpopulation is not based on density; it is based on the lack of natural resources to support life. Human survival depends upon clean water, clean air and arable land. The base for all planning should be respect for the environmental, economic and social consequences of land use.

The League of Women Voters supports the NC Water Supply Watershed Protection Act mandating a WSIII category of regulations for the Green River Watershed because:

- 1. Restricting development in the flood plains (as the State recommends) retains the rural nature of Henderson County which is a priority of Henderson County citizens,
- 2. The WSIII designation would preserve the land for agriculture and silverculture,
- 3. Single-family homes would be built on minimum lots of less than one-half acre, allowing for cluster zoning leaving open space for future farmland needed for the next generation,
- 4. Large homes on large plots of one-acre or more (WSIV) creates demand for more infrastructure, such as, roads, schools. Keeping huge developments out of flood plains reduces the need for emergency rescues, economic losses and use of taxpayer funds in recovery efforts,
- 5. Population grows exponentially and our demand for natural resources does also, unfortunately, air, water, land and forests will be more threatened from technology and over consumption,
- 6. Protection for steep slopes and floodplains to prevent erosion and mud slides, and cutting forests no faster than they can grow back is good planning,
- 7. The Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Act does not apply to agriculture (Sec.200-104) and it is funded by permit fees only,
- 8. Using groundwater no faster than it is recharged by precipitation would protect wetlands and preserve farmland so we do not exceed the carrying capacity of the land. The water supply would remain sustainable in a fragile eco-system.
- 9. Bonding by developers in all new subdivisions should be mandatory.
- 10. Affordable Housing, e.g., manufactured homes by today's standards are not easily distinguishable from stick-built homes and are much more affordable.

UPDATE ON THE ERA NC...January Meeting held in Black Mountain

Five of us from LWVHC drove to Black Mountain Jan. 22nd for an initial ERA planning meeting with 9 other people and spent 2 ½ hours laying the groundwork to introduce into Legislature an ERA resolution to ratify North Carolina as one of the three states needed to finish the job. We are in favor of the three-state strategy rather than the bill being introduced into Congress to 'start over'. We also support another bill that will try to dissolve the threat of terminating ratification because the time extension is theoretically up. This group will do research on what is current, who in the NC House would help move the legislation , write the resolution, and get it into process as quickly and quietly as possible. Once we are on the move, we will seek support from other groups as well and lobby representatives and senators all over the state. A second meeting will take place February 19, Saturday at 1:00 pm in Black Mountain...call Nancy 693-5257.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT...SPRING IS COMING...AND SO ARE THE BULBS!

ROSE STONE, a new member who has stepped up to take on the responsibility of Coordinator of our Spring Bulb Sale (Fundraiser), will be presenting brochures and order forms at our next 3 meetings. The deadline for orders will be April 30. Members who belong to various Garden Clubs and other groups find a very receptive audience who like to purchase these high quality bulbs for the spring and summer garden! Rose is available for more information by phone...692-5001 or via email her at: rose_stone@juno.com.

So many of our members and friends have built up beautiful gardens year after year and have found that bulbs also make a thoughtful gift to others. Start charting the 'spots' in your gardens (or those of your friends) to receive new bulbs ! Be in touch with Rose!

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LWVHC CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2011	
CELEBRATE!	FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTHexplore web sites for events and history.
FEB. 2 WED. AT 6 PM	Immigration Committee of LWVHC presents Immigration Program at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Brevard.
IMMIGRATION PRORAM	
FEB. 3 Thurs. 10-12 Board Meeting- and Computer Tech class from 12-1	10-12 noon WCCA Conference Room
	For tech class, bring lunch if you want, your laptop if you want, or just your questions.
FEB. 9 WED. 9 AM – 4 PM BRCC	League Immigration Committee will staff a booth and conduct a continuous showing of the Immigration Power Point to the Apple Growers Winter Conference of BRAGG.
FEB. 10 THURS. 11:00- 1:00	NOTE - Observer Corps Meeting will have a change in location. Will be held at Patty Cakes Restaurant on Old Haywood Rd. or Route 191. Details in Observer Corps article on page 4.
OBSERVER CORPS LUNCHEON-MTG.	All welcome !
CELEBRATE !	FEBRUARY 14 MARKS THE 91 ST BIRTHDAY OF LWVUSBE PROUD! Visit various websites and read up on our history and on the history of womenamazing! <u>Don't miss the Feb. 17th meeting and the DVD on League.</u>
FEB. 17 THUR. 3 – 5 PM CHAMBER of COMMERCE	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING- <u>"The REALITIES of LEAGUE"</u> ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS ! experience this multi-faceted look at League including an outstanding, entertaining DVD from National Conventionplease see page 1 lead story. Bring someone to League! Celebrate our 91 st Birthday !
FEB. 23 WED. 3-5 PM DIVERSITY IN ACTION	NOTE DATE CHANGE to Wed. 23 rd . Roberta Madden from Black Mountain, member of LWV, will facilitate the creation of Interracial Forums in Henderson County by our group. Held at Laurel Park Town Hall, corner of White Pine Drive and 5 th Avenue. For further info, call Nancy 593-5257
FEB. 28 MON. AT 3 PM Immigration Meeting	The regular meeting of the Immigration committee is held at St. James Church. Newcomers always welcome
CELEBRATE !	MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTHvisit the following website to see what the Women's History Project is doingwww.nwhp.org
	THE THIRD WEEK IN MARCH IS 'SUNSHINE WEEK'read up on those laws!
MARCH 1 RALEIGH, NC	Legislative Day at Raleigh - Women's Council Agendacheck League State website for further information www.lwvnc.org
MARCH 3 THURS. BOARD MEETING	10-12 noon WCCA CONFERENCE ROOM

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MARCH 17 THURS. GENERAL MEETING 2:30-5:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Church and Kanuga	Sponsored jointly by League and the Affordable Housing Coalition. Join us for a forum on housing needs in Henderson county- bringing key leaders and concerned citizens together to address the critical issuethree main speakers and an opportunity for proactive solution seeking . See lead article and more details in the March Bulletin. Iris Vanek, League contact : 697-0787
MARCH 28, MON. 6:00 - 8:30 PM BRCC PATTON BLDG. Room 150	LEAGUE, ECO, AND BRCC CO-SPONSOR A <u>SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL</u> <u>EDUCATION EXPERIENCE FOR ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS</u> , ECO members and the public, It will focus on our LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCE issues and the choices available to us for advocacy and action. Room #150 is on first floor of Patton Bldg. Included in the participative program will be David Weintraub's new film, informative panel on all facets of ECO, local resources and organizations with information including an overview of Transition, small group discussion, action planning, and more. For more info. Please call Nancy 693-5257
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR SATURDAY MAY 14 11:30-1:30 <u>ANNUAL MEETING</u>	Make plans to attend our wonderful ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING which will be held at the HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB on MAY 14, SATURDAY. This is always a beautiful closure to the year's activitiesa fun ,friendly 'competitive' native plant auction, mixing and mingling with friends, election of officers, round table discussion, entertainment and a delectable luncheon. Plan on bringing a friend to introduce to League