



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."

January 2009

DO YOU HEAR YOUR VOICE IN 2009 ?

Lee Luebbe and Diane Rhoades

**Jan. 15 - LWVHC
General Meeting
From 2-4 pm**

"PROGRAM PLANNING"

**Facilitators:
Diane Rhoades and Lee Luebbe**

**This meeting will be held at the
Unitarian-Universalist Church on
Kanuga Rd – in the lower level
Fellowship Room!**

***PLEASE! Phone someone with
whom to carpool! Let's get everyone
out for this "meeting of the minds"!
If you want a contact for a ride, call
someone on your membership roster
or call Nancy at 693-5257 for
assistance.***

Program Planning for the LWVHC is coming January 15, 2-4 PM, at the Unitarian-Universalist Church Fellowship Room !

Are you active in the concerns that matter most to you on a Local and State level? Discerning our priorities together through the process of Program Planning is a vital part of our work and the League invites each of us to lend our voice!

Each year, the **Local** Program items on our organizational agenda are reviewed and adjusted by the membership. (Check our current Local Program in the Annual Meeting Booklet from May, 2008 for details or go to www.lwvnchc.org and read them New suggestions for study are raised at this annual Program Planning session and then brought to the Board of Directors who will then present the suggestions as either recommended or non-recommended at the Annual Meeting in May where all the members present make the final choices by vote.

Every **other** year when the **State** holds a Convention, Local Leagues have the opportunity to submit topics for new studies as well as modifying current positions as explained in the previous paragraph. The deadline to submit ideas for consideration at the LWV State Convention is March 1. Delegates to the State Convention, June 5-7, will vote on any new item and/or set priorities for focus in the General Assembly the next two years.

For the **existing State** positions, go to the www.LWVNC.org . The general categories are Government, Human Resources / Social Policy, and Natural Resources/ Environmental Quality. Handouts will be provided at the meeting.

If you are a new member within the last two years, this meeting will provide insights to the many positions League has reached on the State level and upon which Local Leagues may act. While this meeting gives all League members an opportunity to voice their ideas for new topics to research and study, it also inspires us with a greater appreciation of the rich history of LWV in North Carolina and Henderson County .

Let your voice be heard! Come prepared to share some ideas for the local and/or State programs! It is so important that we as a League "push our hot buttons" and get to work on vital issues!

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)

Contact Legislators:

- 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

"I think the women's clubs of America should raise more hell and fewer dahlias" James MacNeil Whistler
(he obviously didn't know about our bulb sales!!! We do both!)

HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 2009! The holiday season has come and gone...and League is back at work after the brief interlude! Here are some of the ongoing study and actions in our full schedule of efforts... Dixie Blumer, Affordable Housing Coalition representative, continues working toward a stronger Minimal Housing Code; League's column "The League View" informs the public every week in the Sunday edition of the Times News; Natalie Zitnick, Democracy Speaks Chair, initiates a new committee to study the National Popular Vote; Lee Luebbe and the Immigration Committee presents the League's position three times in January with more to be scheduled in the near future; Jan Allen, Natural Resources Local Chair, leads the growing NRL committee to revise our position on Solid Waste as well as to serve ECO, CMLC, and Sierra committee; Renee Kumor oversees the revision and printing of our "Know Your Government Booklets" for distribution in the county; Barbara Barnett, Nat.-State Natural Resource Chair contributes her vast knowledge and urgency to us on environmental matters; Joe Glowacki, Judicial Advocacy Chair expands his committee to review our position on Family Court after receiving favorable word that the push for a second court session per month may be instituted soon; Alma Rodriguez-Jones, Renee Kumor, Mary Ann Engel, Kathleen Lees, Priscilla Burch, and Jean McGrady plan special celebrations of Law Day, Women's History Month, and Sunshine Week in the months ahead; and Martha Sachs, Social Policy Chair, keeps us all on our toes with her knowledge and monitoring of legislation pending and passing as well as charging us with "alerts"! There's more! Mary Ann Engel and the Membership committee and other leaders and committees labor so effectively and blend their activities with the whole...every effort feeds the whole! Indeed, we are fortunate to be so abundant in our membership and leaders, to attract new members who want to be involved with League, to have a community such as Henderson County which welcomes and respects a working relationship with League. And we are so fortunate to have the endless energy and creativity of members who choose just the perfect issues on which to focus and act! Let's attend the Program Planning meeting Jan. 15 to put it all together!

With all this gratitude in mind, LWVHC is planning a **Special Celebration of the National League's 89th Birthday on February 12 from 2-4 pm at Carolina Village!** We shall bring together as many members as we can...complete with chauffeuring those who no longer drive! We will share a DVD story about League, enjoy a wee bit of song and entertainment, a Birthday Cake, and a rare chance to come together as only Leaguers can do! We will be in touch with each of the members by phone! Mark your calendar NOW!

A SPECIAL NOTE OF GRATITUDE...

When Ruth Birge, Publisher of the Times-News of HC, left her post at the newspaper just before New Years, we in the League lost a tremendous advocate and friend! We owe her a debt of gratitude for her encouragement and support over the years...we honor her energy and courage...and her humor! Thank you Ruth!

KIDS VOTING HENDERSON COUNTY REPORT

Marian Lowry and Priscilla Burch

Voters Service of LWVHC initiated Kids Voting Henderson County in 2004. Since then Kids Voting has depended on the support and credibility of the League to educate the public.

Early Voting sites were established at the Board of Elections, Etowah Library, Fletcher Library, and the Flat Rock Village Hall. On November 4th, there were 33 polling sites with Kids Voting ballots, booths, and "I Have Voted" Stickers. Ten (10) of these sites were covered by League of Women Voters members and five (5) were covered by 4-H clubs.

In all, 309,564 North Carolina students cast ballots, about 41% of the state's student population. In Henderson County, 1,312 students voted at the polls and 6,515 students voted online. There are about 15,000 students in Henderson County.

Thank you League and League members for all your help and support!

THE POPULAR VOTE...A NEW STUDY ON THE HORIZON

Natalie Zitnick, Chair... Democracy Speaks

At the 2008 League convention, the delegates voted to adopt a new study, "The Advisability Of Using The National Popular Vote Compact Among The States As A Method For Electing The President".

The League believes strongly that the Electoral College should be abolished and not merely reformed. To that end, we in the LWVHC are forming a committee to take part in the National Popular Vote Study. If anyone would like to join the study group that is forming, please call me: Natalie Zitnick (828)692-9088. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009 from 1:45-3:00 pm, in the Assembly Room, Village Hall, Flat Rock.

NATURAL RESOURCES...State and National...Barbara Barnett, Chair

Duke University Study Highlights

A Chapel Hill & Duke University study by the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Studies recommends steps the State should take to avoid water shortages in the future. The State is one of three States that doesn't require industries, large scale agriculture and big water users to get a permit to make withdrawals. Without a permit system, State water officials don't have a clear idea of how much of the States total flow is currently tapped and how much water there is to accommodate growth. The studies recommendations include:

1. Set up a permit system for industries, utilities and municipalities that use 100,000 gallons of water per day or more!
2. Develop planning models for each of the States 17 river basins to set water budgets,
3. Establish statewide goals for water conservation,
4. Encourage water systems to charge rates sufficient to cover the costs,
5. The recent drought offered a glimpse into the future. Conflict over water resources is evident by the South Carolina Law Suit challenging North Carolina policies.

Senator Dan Clodfelter (Charlotte) co-chairs the Environmental Review Commission, a panel of legislators that makes recommendations to the Legislature on environmental issues and will examine the studies findings. This is one to watch. "Eternal Vigilance" T. Jefferson

NATURAL RESOURCES LOCAL (NRL) Jan Allen, Chair

This growing team serves to represent League as volunteers in three major environmental organizations here in Henderson County – ECO, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, and the 4-Seasons Sierra Committee. And also as members of the ECO recycling committee, our members are updating our position on Solid Waste. We have representatives on ECO's recycling and Water Quality committees, but would like to add our voice and efforts to their Project Green Light/energy and their Green Infrastructure aspect as well. In addition, we are looking for someone to represent League on the CMLC and Sierra Committee! So the door is open to environmentally concerned members! Join us by calling Jan Allen at 692-6248

THREE IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY

Lee Luebbe

Two presentations are scheduled at Immaculate Conception church and are open to the public. The first is TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, from 7-9 PM. The second is WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, from 2-4 PM. Both programs will be held on the lower level of the Church, located on the corner of Church and 6th Streets.

Another presentation will be WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, at 11:00 AM for the local chapter of AARP. The meeting will be held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Fellowship Hall, 2301 Asheville Highway (Rt. 25)

If Leaguers know of other organizations which might like to have the League program presented, please contact Lee Luebbe 694-3710

VIP INFO!

- MARCH 15 IS THE DEADLINE FOR BUYING BULBS FOR SPRING! Call Gwen Hill right away at 891-8083 or email her at gwen@wcca.net. Forms available at our meetings too! This selection offers a completely different variety of bulbs to complete your garden. Don't forget these bulbs make great presents for special occasions or just to say "Thank You" to your friends. The Spring Collection includes Stargazer Lilies, White Callas, Mixed Lilies, Bleeding Hearts, Mixed Caladiums, Giant Dinnerplate Dahlias, Flowering Fern, Hardy Liatris Giant Cannas, and Begonias. So order your bulbs today.
- Karen Joyner's new address is 412 N. English Hill Lane, Hillsborough, NC 27278. (near Chapel Hill) She would appreciate us staying in touch.

JOB OPENING AT STATE LEAGUE...TAKE A LOOK!

LWVNC CONTRACT EMPLOYEE

Position Available

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a national non-partisan organization founded in 1922 and dedicated to the education of voters and advocacy on issues important to NC citizens. LWV North Carolina (LWVNC) concentrates on issues at the state level and its 18 chapters serve communities statewide. We are looking for an individual who understands and accepts the principles and non-partisan status of the League and has a strong interest in the policies, issues and politics of North Carolina.

Projects include:

- Developing a Legislative agenda in consultation with the Advocacy committee and reporting on a regular basis to the membership.
- Coordinating the activities of the LWVNC Convention in June, 2009

- Developing and implementing a fundraising database

Additional details of the position are available upon request to LWVNCPresident@bellsouth.net. The League of Women Voters of North Carolina is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS ...Mary Ann Engel, Chair

Happy New Year to all our 104 members! We wish you all a happy and healthy beginning to this upcoming year. Please welcome our newest members...

Geri Conley was originally from New York City and upstate New York before coming to our mountains in 1992. Shortly after settling here, she and a partner opened up *Sweetbriar*, a unique florist catering mostly to weddings and parties. Formerly on Main Street, it is now located on Grove Street, telephone number 693-0401. Geri first came to one of our Natural Resources meetings, joined LWVHC in November and got right to work with our Natural Resources team focusing on recycling. You can reach Geri at 1329 B 4th Ave. W, Hendersonville 28739 and by phone at 697-4213 or e-mail at geri5@att.net.

Sherry Harris had come to some of our meetings before, both through Becky Banadyga and Natalie Zitnick, and decided to join us in November. Sherry was born in Memphis, traveled from Milwaukee to New Orleans and checked out our area when she and her husband were looking to retire. After his passing in 1999, Sherry chose Hendersonville as her place to put down roots. She is very involved in Agudas Israel Synagogue, and, in fact, was honored there as a Woman of Valor. Sherry is interested in government but with surgery coming up, she will take her time looking over our committees to see where her areas of interest lie. Sherry lives at 2511 Carriage Falls Ct., Hendersonville 28791. You can reach her by phone at 697-1417 or by e-mail at sailburt@bellsouth.net.

LEAGUE CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

Jan. 8 Thurs. Board Meeting	11-1 Board Meeting at WCCA Conference Room
Jan. 15 Thursday General Meeting “Program Planning” 2-4 pm	See page 1 and lead article about this event. To be held at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Kanuga Rd. in the lower level Fellowship Room. Please call someone on your membership roster list if you need a ride or call Nancy at 693-5257. Coffee and goodies served!
Jan. 25	Deadline for Bulletin Articles * Please send to all 3 editors: Nancy (jonaglowacki@mchsi.com) Renee (rkumor@mchsi.com) and Rudi (Rudi.Simko@att.net)
Feb. 5 Thurs. Board Meeting	11-1 Board Meeting at WCCA Conference Room

OF NOTE: A special event which Leaguers might enjoy based on our International Peace interests:

Ronnie Pepper (of WCCA and URI) and Sandy Westin (of United Religions Initiative) were delegates and representatives of the URI of Henderson county to the Second URI Global Assemble held in India last month. 250 representatives from more than 40 countries were present. They will share pictures and stories at the Kaplan Auditorium Jan. 15th from 7-8:45 pm.

“ You may be on the right track, but you’ll still get run over if you just sit there!” Will Rogers

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

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LWV
League of Women Voters
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