



The League of Women Voters in Henderson County - Since 1966

Bulletin

"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."

MAY AND JUNE 2011

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

***FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON
AT THE HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB!***

SATURDAY MAY 14TH FROM 11:30-1:30

- **SOCIALIZE WITH OLD AND NEW FRIENDS! ELECT OFFICERS!**
 - **BID FOR NATIVE PLANTS!**
- **LEND YOUR IDEAS TO A "ROUND TABLE" DISCUSSION!**

**DO COME! IT'S
YOUR PARTY!**

**CALENDAR DETAILS
ON LAST PAGE**

**BULB SALES ARE AT \$1300.00 !
BROCHURES AND ORDER
FORMS WILL BE AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING TOO!**

The Annual Meeting is always a delightful time! The US League is celebrating its 91st Birthday this year, and LWVHC its 45th! That's enough cause for celebration don't you think? And besides that, we've worked hard this past year, and it's time to come together , enjoy a glass (or two) of wine, a wonderful luncheon, and the camaraderie of Leaguers and guests!

We can share lots of gratitude to departing and incoming officers and directors...and to each and every pair of hands that has given in the name of League this past year! Since 'all gifts are equal', we don't weigh them, we just say "THANK YOU " for the sheer abundance !

This Annual Meeting is the perfect time to invite a friend or acquaintance to come and to learn about League and to meet some of the members! So think...who do you know that might be just the right person to invite? And call them NOW! Let's fill the hall!

PLEASE RSVP with Shirley Younger , 692-4170, Shirley.younger@att.net...no later than 12:00 noon on Wed. May 11 . Select either the delicious Pecan Crusted Trout or the Almond Chicken Breast entree...a wonderful all- inclusive meal for \$20.00!

YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID! SEE YOU THERE!

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.lwv.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

Last year at the Annual Meeting, about 80 people attended! It was our 90th US Birthday! Each year is a special year because it's the time we come together to 'wrap up a year', acknowledge and recognize ourselves for the group we are and how we seek to accomplish our mission. We elect new people to carry on this tradition ...and we 're-elect' ourselves in a way by renewing our sense of purpose in League also.

Although you may not all be there to receive the Annual Meeting Booklet, there has been a copy printed for you and you can claim it during the year. It helps you to know our local programs and positions and monitoring tasks for the year so we all understand the breadth and depth of our work! And....where you might like to volunteer!

We continue to attract new members of all ages and who come with an ever increasing range of experience and skills. Some are in the workforce and still find the time to join this organization which they have come to see is a vital part of community in Henderson County!

As I stated in my "State of The League" address in the booklet, I have been honored to represent you as President for four years...I thank you for the support, the encouragement, the teaching-learning, and the trust you placed in me. As part of a very large team, I think "we got some stuff done"! And had fun!

MINI-STUDY and UPDATE PROPOSAL at ANNUAL MEETING Submitted by Barbara Barnett, Natural Resources State and National , Chair

**LWVHC PUBLIC POLICY : THE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
PROPOSAL FOR A MINI-STUDY AND UPDATE (TIME FRAME: Sept. thru Nov. 2011)
Submitted by Barbara Barnett, LWVHC, Natural Resource Chair for State/National Issues**

**Committee Members: Barbara Barnett, Rudi Simko, Mary Terjesen, Pat Tousignant,
Judith Scruggs, Renee Kumor**

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The major environmental issue for Henderson County and the City of Hendersonville is the water supply and water quality. Spring arrives earlier, fall occurs later, and summer lasts longer. The South East has been experiencing severe drought and states are in conflict over water supplies. All one hundred counties of North Carolina experienced categories of drought and HC was categorized as the most severe. The City Council responded with water conservation methods approving an amendment to the City Code of Ordinances regarding water shortages and conservation methods.

The issue is the League support for the Asheville/Buncombe Henderson County Regional Water Authority which was abolished by the Court and may not be revived in the near future, unless the State mandates it. The League of Women Voters does not know the outcome of the law suit. At this time the Henderson County Commission does not have a water policy. Water resources are a regional problem because rivers, streams and creeks flow through states, counties and cities. The Mills River and the French Broad River, the source of Henderson County's water supply, originates in the Pisgah Forest in Transylvania County. The Mills River flows South and the French Broad River flows North to Ashville. The Hendersonville Henderson County Water Resource Management document states the Mills River , Bradley Creek and Cane Creek do not provide significant growth potential. (p.3). Nat Wilson, Section Chief of the Water Resources Division of DENR stated Brevard 's ground water would be depleted by 2050 and they should begin conservation methods now. The French Broad River depends upon rain water to meet the demand of many water systems as it meanders north and into Tennessee.

An initiative of the French Broad Water Resources Study Committee was proposed due to the drought to conduct a broad study of water resource issues. There is no intent to form a regional water authority, but to serve as a forum on regional water issues. The Land of Sky Regional Council formed a committee to study water resources in the region, the capacity of water systems, future water supplies, water quality conditions and other key water resource issues. A series of meetings are being held with representatives from Region B which includes Henderson County. A final report is due by the end of August 2011.

The LWVUS position on water resource management supports programs and policies regarding water quality, quantity, ground water and surface water and the potential depletion or pollution of water supplies.

The LWVHC needs to be knowledgeable about population projections, the need for housing, farmland preservation and new industries, all of which create pressure on the water supply. Therefore, this committee recommends a three-month update of our present position in support of a regional water authority.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES (NEEDS ASSESSMENT)

Why did the Regional Water Authority Fail? What was the outcome of the law suit?

Determine the water resource needs of Henderson County. The Mills River may be unable to supply enough water for Henderson County during future severe droughts. The measurement requirements are gallons of water to supply the population, the agriculture industry and other industries. What kind of entity will be responsible for carrying out mandates? What reorganization is being devised?

METHODOLOGY- Analytical Administrative Case Study (NOTE - At present six members of the LWVHC wish to join the evaluation committee which will meet beginning in September. This entire committee will be responsible for conducting the mini-study and formulating the final conclusions and report)

The methodology which is most appropriate to this investigation is the case study.

The Case Study would have a topic focus on the water resource needs of Henderson County and the government program to implement it. A Case Study would include a case description including the facts of the case, that is, describe how the problem evolved, an analysis of the causes of the problem within the Agency. Facts include internal and external agency environments within which events developed:

- a) political and economic factors – parties, interest groups, ideologies, and economic interests,
- b) political and economic factors of Agencies internal environment, e.g. power & influence, budget constraints, agency structures, rules, role and mission,
- c) factors of agencies internal administration environment, such as, Administrative style, tone, preference and procedures,
- d) Is there a HC plan being developed to adequately preserve and protect the quantity and quality of the water supply?
- e) Has the meetings with Region B representatives produced a plan for future water conservation?
- f) What are the Land of Sky and DENR's statistical projections for growth of the population,

agriculture, economic development, and the limits of water resources?

The gathering of data will be conducted utilizing interviews with government officials and government documents and newspaper articles., e.g. Former County Commissioner Bill Moyers, Attorney Russell Burrell and Asheville Commissioner Brownie Newman and others.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions will include the explanation of what happened, identifying causes and effects, evaluating the actions of the Administrators, and learning from the successes and mistakes. What should be done differently? What conservation methods should be proposed based on future projections of statistical data from a number of scientific studies?

ALTERNATIVES

One alternative could be the recommendations of the present study being conducted by the Land of Sky Regional Council for Region B.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

\$100.00 is the estimated budget in the event some documents may have to be purchased; copying documents will also be required.

LEAGUERS can find opportunities to SERVE for the CAROLINA MOUNTAIN LAND CONSERVANCY...

an organization that League initiated 'way back when' in Henderson County!

When the League partnered with ECO and BRCC on March 28 to bring an Environmental Education/Advocacy Program about LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES ISSUES to our members and the public, we decided to print a presenting area each month in our Bulletin. Last month was ECO's 4 areas of emphasis. This month highlights the CMLC! Take a look!

Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy's Volunteer Needs

Volunteer Coordinator: Julianne Johnson : 697-5777 ext. 207 or volunteer@carolinamountain.org

Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC) partners with landowners and organizations to protect land and water resources vital to our natural heritage and quality of life. As an effective nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the places you love, CMLC works to permanently conserve and actively care for an ever-growing regional network of locally and nationally significant farm, forest, park and natural lands.

CMLC has a wide variety of volunteer needs. We are happy to talk with you individually about how your skills and interests can be matched up with our volunteer needs.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

1. **In the office:** Hours and activities vary. Sign up to help us get mailings sent out (2 hours every 4 months). We are also looking for help processing membership and donation acknowledgements (1 hour each week) and tracking our volunteer hours (2 hours each month).

- ☐ 2. **Florence Preserve Management Team:** Time commitment varies from 1-2 days/year to 1-2 days/month. We have a variety of roles for volunteers to monitor, manage and maintain our Florence Nature Preserve in Gerton.
- ☐ 3. **Stewardship Days:** 1-4 days/month, typically in Spring and Fall. Volunteers help restore native habitat at a variety of conserved lands.
- ☐ 4. **Event Volunteers:** Time commitment varies. Volunteers help with events throughout the year: CMLC's Run for the Hills in Spring (May 1st 2011), the Conservation Celebration in the Fall, Holiday Party in December and other events as they come up through out the year.

TAKE A LOOK AT 'THE LEAGUE VIEW' COLUMN by Renee Kumor

Although the League's weekly column appears in the Times-News, we like the idea of presenting some of the content in the Bulletin to alert members to the education to be found in these columns! This month educates the public about the process of issue study, specifically the recently completed study on Advisory Committees in Henderson County. Issue study is **the cornerstone** of League's positions and advocacy...every member must be aware of this responsibility! Read these two columns and find the other two in the third and fourth week of May in the Times-News!

May 1, 2011

The League of Women Voters has a long tradition of issue study. The process for study of an issue is designed to be thorough and unbiased. Once the study is completed the membership is brought together to develop consensus, defined as a collective opinion. The League has used this method of arriving at a position for many years. Consensus is not a simple majority, nor unanimity but a general agreement of the members present at the meeting. Minority opinion is noted but does not dictate the consensus responses. To begin the study process, the membership adopts a study issue at the annual meeting. The Henderson County LWV began a local study adopted at the 2010 Annual meeting. The study: Do Appointed Bodies in Henderson County Encourage Citizen Participation/Democracy.

May 8, 2011

The Henderson County LWV began a local study adopted at the 2010 Annual meeting. The study: Do Appointed Bodies in Henderson County Encourage Citizen Participation/Democracy. Based on LWV process of study and consensus, our local League appointed a study committee who designed the depth of the study and a timeline to meet the study objectives. The study committee presented a timeline and path to research the topic. One of the objectives of a local study is to recruit and involve old and new members in process. The study committee recruited many members who were interested in the topic, pulling especially from our Observer Corps, those members who attend local government public meetings regularly. The participants helped the committee work out the details and volunteered to help conduct surveys.

NC BOARD SLATE OF OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED IN MAY

FROM OUR STATE BOARD LIAISON BARBARA COULSON comes the news that Kathleen Balogh has resigned as President, and the State Board revised the slate as follows:

President	Jo Nicholas
Vice President	Carole Ellis
Secretary	Kathleen Balogh
Treasurer	Beth Springston

FROM THE OBSERVER CORPS

Sharon Burlingame, Co-Coord.

The sun shone into Daddy D’s on Thursday, April 14, when the Observer Corps and other League members met to honor several Public Information Officers and Clerks who work diligently to ensure transparency for the public in their agencies’ operations. Barbara Blaine, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Henderson Co. Public Schools, Tammy Drake, Hendersonville City Clerk, and Christina DeStefano, Henderson County Public Information Officer, explained their passion for openness in government, the details of their tasks, and how they came to be so well-trained and committed to their work. We were glad to thank them for all they do.

We also honored the many hours of observation completed this year by our dedicated team of Observers, many of whom are willing to continue next year! They would greatly welcome Co-Observers who could train with them next fall, and either stay on as tandem Observers, or take on their own agency. So come on along! The Town of Mills River, the County Planning Board, and the County Commissioners are a few of the groups that come to mind as under-observed. Please call Linda Miller, 697-1045, or Sharon Burlingame, 692-4012, if you are interested.

We want to thank Lee Luebbe and Renee Kumor for utilizing the Observers’ expertise throughout the Consensus Study this year. It gave us better insight as to how our role as Observers does create a positive bridge to the community.

UPDATE ON ERA NC-MAY MEETING TO BE HELD IN BLACK MTN.

On Saturday May 21, some of us from Henderson County will meet again in Black Mountain to update ourselves on the the ERA developments and further our planning to bring an ERA NC ratification resolution to our legislature in 2013. This is a slow and plodding process for all the states involved but the proponents are moving forward in many different ways. News from Washington regarding the bills in progress, and news from states’ efforts continue to pour in. If you are interested in joining the effort, please call Nancy at 693-5257 and we’ll arrange the carpool for the 21st!

LWVHC CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE 2011

<p>ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, May 14 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED! <i>DON’T MISS IT!</i></p> <p><i>11:30-1:30</i></p>	<p>Please see the front page article! Invite a FRIEND!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSVP TO SHIRLEY YOUNGER...692-4170 ...Shirley.younger@att.net • Select either delicious Chicken or Trout! Meal for \$20.00 includes beverage, salad, entrée, vegetable , starch, and Key Lime Pie! Cash bar.
<p>ERA MEETING in Black Mountain Saturday 1:00 to 3:00</p>	<p>We’ll carpool from the Belk Parking lot in HVL at 12 noon for the 1-3 meeting and arrive back here around 4:30. Please call Nancy at 693-5257 if interested! We meet at the home of Robbie Madden...and ERA ‘mover and shaker’!</p>
<p>MAY 25 WED. 3-5 PM DIVERSITY IN ACTION</p>	<p>This group is preparing to bring key people together from the community to a meeting in June to determine their interest and ideas in partnering for Interracial Forums in HC next fall. Newcomers welcome! If interested, please call Nancy 693-5257 We meet at the Laurel Park Village Hall, corner of 5th and White Pine Drive.</p>
<p>JUNE 2 10-12 NOON BOARD MEETING</p>	<p>WCCA CONFERENCE ROOM</p>

**WISHING YOU ALL A
HAPPY, PEACEFUL, DELIGHTFUL, CREATIVE, PLAYFUL SUMMER!**