



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."

NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 2009

“GANG AWARENESS” – Is There ‘Gang’ Activity In Henderson County?

**NOVEMBER 19
GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday from 1-3 pm

“GANG AWARENESS”

Speaker: Det. Sergeant Doug Hill
HC Gang Investigations

Program Lead: Joe Glowacki,
LWVHC Judicial Juvenile
Advocacy Chair- 693-5257

Unitarian-Universalist Church
Fellowship Room - Kanuga Rd.

Coffee and cookies served!

BRING A FRIEND TO LEAGUE !

Doug Hill is currently assigned as a Detective Sergeant within the Criminal Investigations Division and assigned to Gang Investigations. He is tasked with intervention, suppression, and enforcement of all gang related activities that affect our community. During his tenure, he has encountered incidents of gang involvement from the adolescent to adult offenders and has discovered the scope of affects to juveniles within the school system, with family members, and the community as a whole. These incidents range from graffiti by juveniles to narcotics trafficking by adult members.

Det. Sergeant Hill has come to realize that there is a path, or cycle, of gang involvement that begins at a young age and is destined to continue if no intervention is applied. His hope is to continue to educate the parents of high-risk youth, the school system, and community as a whole, in order to address this issue and help people avoid the “gang life”. He believes that “at risk” youth need to be made aware of the final outcomes experienced by adult offenders who don’t have effective intervention.

Currently, he is assigned to the Western Carolina Gang Task Force in alliance with investigators from Buncombe County and the Asheville Police department. They are tasked with addressing the gang related issues of our adjacent communities due to the fluid movement of these gang members that have no jurisdictional boundaries.

Det. Sergeant Hill has been in Law Enforcement for about 32 years and has experienced a wide field of training and involvement. His presentation has been noted as “excellent and informative” ; combined with League’s commitment to youth and intervention, this will be a program worth experiencing!

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)

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

**NOV. 13- FRIDAY - 1-3 PM - A WORKSHOP FOR ALL OF US
"HOW TO INFLUENCE A LEGISLATOR!"**

**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS 'HOW TO' FOR LEAGUERS! FRIDAY, NOV. 13, FROM 1-3
AT THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH- FELLOWSHIP ROOM – KANUGA RD.**

How many of us “jump right to it” when we receive an ‘alert’ to write a letter or make a phone call to our legislator? If not, why not? After all, we belong to League and ‘lobbying’ is what League does! Someone said recently, “I just don’t like the word ‘lobby’ “! The word is a bit intimidating. So it would seem we have some hurdles over which to leap...and that’s exactly why we’re are so fortunate to be having a special workshop coming up soon which we will call **“TIPS ON HOW TO TALK TO AN ELECTED OFFICIAL!”** Sounds do-able! It’s for ALL MEMBERS ! Members of the Observer Corps, the Social Policy group, the Natural Resources volunteer group, the Immigration Committee, the Affordable Housing representative, the Judicial Advocacy Chair, ...it would seem just about all of us would benefit from some pointers!

Renee Kumor, Martha Sachs, and Marion Lowry....three of our ‘effective’ influencers...will share a handout of helpful tips that will serve us well over time and over the hurdles of hesitation! They will also share their own “styles” of what works and what doesn’t. It’s timely... and it’s an opportunity not to be passed by!

THE ERA.. AN UPDATE

Nancy Glowacki, Pres.

The audience was enthusiastic and vocal at our educational General Meeting on the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) Oct. 15th. They were surprised at the information! And glad to be aware! And, they were earnestly forthcoming with ideas of how we in HC, and in our State, might proceed to further the cause of passage of the ERA in NC. On the brainstorming list, our League called for building a climate of education: into High schools and colleges, groups including both women and men, and onto websites and into newspapers and media . They recommended bi-partisan education noting this was not a partisan issue but a natural order of what is right to accomplish at this point. The “action column” listed: vote with ERA in mind, send letters, learn how to sponsor legislation, use electronic communication to be in touch with the State Board using list serves for email messages and Facebook; and to find out more about what other states are experiencing who are trying to move forward. One immediate outcome was that several new people joined our ERA team!

The L WVNC State Board met in late October, read our update report, and decided that because the step to build local League commitment is yet to be completed, that it would be wise to slow down the process. Once this commitment is determined, two other steps to create a state-wide plan and develop an alliance must follow. Their direction is to concentrate first on building commitment of local Leagues. Then the Point Persons of the various Leagues will come together to address the other steps in early March and/or on the April 16th weekend when State Council meets in Moore County . An additional creative idea was proposed to give thought to developing an ERA educational “tool kit” or curriculum that would include everything needed with which to educate any group about the ERA and garner support. Food for thought indeed! Anyone interested in joining our local committee, please contact Nancy at 693-5257 .

AFFORDABLE HOUSING COALITION

Iris Vanek, League Representative

As a new representative from League, I attended my first meeting of the Affordable Housing Coalition on Oct. 22, 2009 . The agenda was devoted to a presentation and discussion of the Consolidated Strategic Housing and Community Development Plan for 2010-2015, of the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium. Henderson County is one of 4 counties which comprise the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium. A strategic plan is required by HUD every 5 years and dovetails with the prior identification for a “needs assessment” for the Affordable Housing Coalition.

The framework for addressing the highest priority community development needs is based on the following: three times as many requests for funds as there is money available annually, the affect of current economic conditions, the leveraging of other financing, housing that is sustainable and affordable, and county-specific priorities. As you can imagine, the facts are sobering!

The discussion, specific to Henderson County, identified our greatest needs. Not surprisingly, the number one need is MONEY to pay rent, mortgages, and bill relief. There is a lack of land availability in the county for affordable housing. Mobile homes make up a large percentage of affordable housing and there are very limited standards placed on these homes. Our county needs are further influenced by a high number of elderly citizens, the growing need for affordable assisted housing, creating a support system for those in affordable housing with mental disabilities, finding a way for helping our "undocumented" population , and increasing public awareness.

Of all the affordable housing issues that Henderson County faces, **public awareness** was identified by the group as the largest issue. Perhaps, this is an area for League involvement.

ONE SOLUTION TO HELP HOMELESS STUDENTS IN HENDERSON COUNTY

Mary Page Sims writes, " There are hundreds of homeless students in Henderson and Buncombe counties and the numbers are growing. These young people sleep in laundromats, cars, or anywhere they can find a couch. They typically come from homes where there is abuse, drug or alcohol problems or parents who simply don't want them. MyPlace is a relatively new agency in Hendersonville that provides shelter, food, jobs, and love for these young people." Mary Page, of United Religions Initiative (URI) as well as League, invites us to the new youth center at Barnwell and Church , called Generation Y, on Sunday , Nov. 22 at 3:00 pm to learn more about their program and their needs. Refreshments will be served and Panavatti, creator of MyPlace, will share the vision of MyPlace and Generation Y . League members are invited to become aware of this many-faceted solution in our midst, a collaboration at it's best.

THE OBSERVER CORPS IS ALIVE AND VERY WELL ! Sharon Burlingame, Co-Coord.

The Observer Corps is off to a good start! There are currently 17 members serving, with 12 community councils/agencies covered. Mills River is the only Municipality for which we do not yet have an observer of their council meeting. Come to the next Corps meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at St. James Episcopal, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM, to explore their role further and determine the most effective means of exchanging information with other League members. For example, "Water use" seems to be a familiar theme " flowing " through the various councils and agencies this fall. How does the League's policy position on Local Natural Resources relate to these discussions? What advocacy might we need to consider? We welcome suggestions of themes to "listen for" from members of League's key committees. And , we'd like to invite each League member to accompany one of us to a meeting some time this year. You'll be most welcome! Call Sharon at 692-0412 or Co-coord. Jeannette Cannon at 696-2684.

THE CENSUS ACTION PLAN FOR A COMPLETE COUNT IN HENDERSON COUNTY ...AND LEAGUE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY !

In March of 2009, we committed to partner in the 2010 census of Henderson County. We committed to supporting the goals and ideals for the 2010 Census and to disseminating information to encourage our citizens to participate. We shall encourage members of League to place an emphasis on the Census and participate in events and initiatives that will raise overall awareness to help ensure a full and accurate census. We shall support census takers. And we shall create or seek opportunities to collaborate with other like-minded groups in our community that will utilize high-profile, trusted voices to advocate on behalf of the 2010 Census. The Board is examining the various ways we can assist through education and encouragement on our website, at our meetings, in our newsletter, and in the media. Our action steps will be shared in the Jan.-Feb. Bulletin.

**CONNIE BACKLUND, SUPERINTENDENT OF CONNEMARA
...A LEAGUE MEMBER PROFILE Nancy Glowacki, Pres.**

If you asked every League member to list all the activities in their lives, you would most likely be astonished at the breadth of involvement and the accomplishments! It's always a delight to discover the depth and the values of the personality behind the activities; I had one such experience recently.

I was drawn to attend a presentation by the Superintendent of Connemara (my personal favorite park here in HC) at the Library depicting "one woman's path of being committed to honoring the environment" in her work and in her total life. That person turned out to be Connie Backlund, a League member whom I did not know at all in a personal sense! I walked into her treasured space as she showed the first 10 minutes of an upcoming Ken Burns' series about National Parks, and remained entranced by her story as she told how she always knew she wanted to be a Park Ranger, and how her whole life has been, and still is, woven around that dream come true. For over 30 years, she has lived and shared her passion for teaching in the great outdoors in a myriad of experiences teaching in many National Parks. Once, in the summer of 2007 at Cape Lookout National Seashore on Harkers Island, NC, a Nor'easter hit and styrofoam started to wash up on shore from a freight vessel that had lost a giant container. This inspired her to work to ensure the shipping company assumed responsibility to clean up the mess! A Leaguer at work! Connie's story is filled with her delight in her job. Her story was published recently in the Times-News on September 6, 2009 and I missed it (now have a copy)...but I am so glad I didn't miss her personal rendition at the Library.

Since then, I have met Connie's husband, also a Park Ranger, and expanded this new acquaintance as fellow Leaguers! Inspiration is only a "Leaguer away"!

WE WELCOME A NEW MEMBER ... Rudi Simko, Public Info. Officer ...for Membership

Welcome to **Lisa Babcock**! Lisa moved to WNC in 2002 from Bethesda, MD where she was a computer programmer for the National Institute of Health. Lisa's area of expertise was working on grant processing and developing information retrieval systems to track program budgets. In addition to the League programs, Lisa is interested in environmental issues. Lisa can be reached at 458-7726 and at trucklady_99@yahoo.com

More new member interviews in January!

SHARING AND CARING

Charlyne Coleman continues to heal from double bypass surgery. However, she is still not up to visitors as yet, so the next best thing are cards, preferably funny, sent to her home or to Carolina Village Medical Center.

Phyllis Bentley notified our League that **Dr. Helen Landau Hayes**, member, had passed away in Oak Ridge, Tenn., on Thursday, April 9, 2009. She graduated from Hunter College, New York, and received her master's and doctorate degrees from George Washington University of Washington, D.C. In her long professional career in marine biology, she worked at Woods Hole in Massachusetts, the Office of Naval Research, and Smithsonian Institution. She traveled extensively in her career, and after retirement went on many trips with her husband. The Tobias Landau scholarship fund in honor of her father was established by her to support researchers working on marine biology projects in the Red Sea at the Interuniversity Institute for marine Sciences in Eilat. She and her husband retired to Hendersonville, where she was an active member of the Agudas Israel Congregation for more than 20 years as well as a US member of League. After her husband's death, she moved to Oak Ridge and lived at Greenfield Senior Living facility.

REMINDERS!

Whenever a **member needs to inform League of a change** in their data, such as email, address, phone, etc., please inform Linnea Angermuler, our electronic wizard, at 692-3519 or ronlin2@bellsouth.net and she will keep our League records in order! Thanks!

REMEMBER...this Bulletin issue is for November and December! It is likely that the January and February bulletins will be combined into one issue also. If needed, any extra alerts or notifications will be emailed by Linnea to the membership.

BULBS ARE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFTS ! Gwen Hill, Fun-draising Coordinator

Doornbousch Bros. bulbs are of the highest quality and guaranteed to bloom in the first season when planted as recommended. These are by far the best bulbs money can buy and are very affordable! **THEY MAKE WONDERFUL GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING!** So let's get ready for the holidaysand **help League at the same time!** For information, call or email Gwen Hill, gwen@wcca.net or 696-6677. Order forms will be available at all general meetings ; sale ends March 5, 2010. Bulbs will arrive in the early Spring for planting and bloom in the summer months.

LWVHC CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 2009

THU. NOV.3 11-1	BOARD MEETING – WCCA Conference Room 11-1
NOV. 13 - 1-3 PM FRIDAY	SPECIAL WORKSHOP “TIPS FOR TALKING TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL”: Renee Kumor, Martha Sachs, Marian Lowry. See page 2 article. Unitarian Universalist Church – Fellowship Hall – Kanuga Rd.
NOV. 14 2-4 A Special Program about the Women AFS	The Women Air Force Service Pilots presentation at the Henderson Co. Library. There is an exhibit at the Henderson Co. Heritage Museum now. One of the original members, now in her 90’s, lives in Henderson Co. and may be present on the 14 th .
NOV. 18 WED. 3-4:00 pm	Immigration Committee Meeting, St. James Episcopal Church. Interested in attending as an observer? Please come!
NOV. 19 - 1-3 PM THURSDAY GENERAL MTG.	General Meeting: SEE PAGE 1 “AD BOX” AND ARTICLE FOR DETAILS. “GANG AWARENESS”. Bring a guest! Public welcome !
NOV. 19 3-6 PM OPEN HOUSE	After our Gen. Mtg., WCCA is having an Open House of their new Etowah Children’s Center at 233 Brickyard Rd. Etowah.(the former Etowah Library)
NOV. 22 3:00 SUNDAY OPEN HOUSE	A special invitation from member Mary Page Sims (also of URI Academy for Peace) collaborating with Panavatti of MyPlace in providing specific events and courses for homeless youth 16-20. A new youth center called Generation Y at the corner of Barnwell and church and is hosting an Open House. See article p. 3
<u>THURS. NOV. 26</u> <u>ALL DAY!!!</u>	HAPPY THANKSGIVING! GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THE GIFTS YOU HAVE! LEAGUE THANKS YOU FOR SHARING YOUR GIFTS WITH US!
NOV. 27 5:15 – 6:00 FRIDAY SILENT VIGIL	Come to the Historic Court House to participate in a <u>Silent Vigil to support Immigration Reform</u> and raise awareness to citizens of Henderson County. Coordinated by Justice Initiative Coalition. Signs are available. All are positive.
DEC. 3 11-1 THURS. BOARD MTG.	BOARD MTG. WCCA Conference Room - 11-1
DEC. 6 SUNDAY <u>OUR OWN PARTY!</u> 2:30-4:30	The Holidays are a perfect excuse to get together and share our Oneness and our diversity and so we shall! On Sunday from 2:30-4:30, at the Flat Rock Village Hall , please bring a plate of appetizers you’d love to share and all else will be provided! It’s casual, but “colorful” ! Please RSVP to Shirley Younger, 692-4170 or shirley.younger@att.net
DEC. 11 FRIDAY 7:30 - 9AM “LEGISLATIVE- APPRECIATION” BREAKFAST	One of our favorite events of the year! We share a sumptuous Breakfast Buffet at the Dixie Diner (64 West across from the Laurel Park Shopping Center) with 10 of our elected officials and enjoy a Q & A program session with them RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ... Please RSVP to Shirley Younger 692-4170 or Shirley.younger@att.net . Cost of \$9.00 is all inclusive ; pay Marion Huffman at diner.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS!!!

Articles for the Jan-Feb bulletin and Board Agenda Items will be welcomed 12/26 !

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



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