

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS HENDERSON COUNTY
COMMITTEES and ACTIVITIES

*"Everyone counts in applying democracy...each has his or her own inalienable and non-purchasable voice in government."
Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the LWV, 1920*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Contact: Iris Vanek

The LWVHC's role is to be a member of the Affordable Housing Coalition, which meets on a regular basis throughout the year. This allows us to be supportive and participatory in the goal for affordable housing in Henderson County. To this end we jointly sponsored a Forum in March of 2011 that was very well attended.

DEMOCRACY AGENDA

Democracy Agenda focuses on legislative monitoring and promoting League "action alerts". Topics of interest include ethics, lobbying reform, campaign financing, taxes, redistricting, election laws, and various tax issues. N.C's passage of public financing of elections of judges was due in large part to the hard work of many Leagues across this state.

DIVERSITY IN ACTION

Contact: Madeline Royes

The LWVHC supports representative decision-making at all levels of government by encouraging diversity with regard to age, sex, ethnicity, race, socio-economics, education, and sexual orientation. Our Diversity Dialogue group shares perspectives, fosters understanding, and suggests steps to improve community relationships. The LWVHC works to achieve diversity in its membership which reflects our entire community.

FINANCE and FUNDRAISING

Contact: Marion Huffman

Members of this group assist the Board in developing creative ways to raise funds necessary to carry out LWVHC's programs for the year and keep dues as low as possible. Last year our single largest source of income resulted from a direct mail fundraising campaign. Ongoing fundraising activities include the successful annual flower bulb sale along with sales of "LWV - NOT for Women Only" buttons and note cards.

HEALTHCARE ROUNDTABLE

Contact - Bill Wilkes

The focus of this statewide group is to educate and inform the community on the Affordable Care Act of 2010. Several members have been trained as Community Application Counselors in an effort to facilitate the enrollment of individuals in the online marketplace exchange. Collaboration with various community stakeholders broadens the effort.

IMMIGRATION

Chair: Lee Luebbe Meeting Time: 4th Mondays 3:00 Location: St. James Episcopal Church

This local committee was generated in response to the League's National Study on Immigration in 2007-2008 and has developed a program used to educate new League members and the general public. The committee also monitors legislative proposals related to immigration, communicates with legislators, and encourages advocacy to support the national League's position.

JUDICIAL ADVOCACY

The LWVHC helped influence the successful addition of a second day a month for Juvenile Court in Henderson County through its collaboration with the District Attorney. In addition to advocating for a Family Court, members of the Judicial Advocacy Committee participate in related group/commission meetings and collaborate with strategic people in the courts to improve the juvenile justice system.

KIDS VOTING

Contact: Judy Wilkes

This program was initiated by the LWVHC in 2004 in conjunction with Kids Voting North Carolina. It seeks to help students learn about voting and to involve their parents or guardians in the voting process. Students may vote at school, online, or at a precinct polling location. A civics education program is available for use in the classroom, at the Boys and Girls Club, and Home Schoolers' Association.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BOARD

President: Sharon Burlingame Meeting Time: 1st Thursdays, 10:00-12:00 Location: WCCA, 220 King Creek Blvd.

All League members are welcome to come and observe the Board in action.

MEDIA and BULLETIN MANAGEMENT

Chair: Renee Kumor

This group focuses on keeping the community informed about the LWVHC. Members arrange for photography, distribute "Know Your Government" booklets, coordinate media publicity, maintain a file of newspaper articles on the LWVHC, and manage the website. This group also receives and generates articles and photos, develops layout, edits, and distributes via email the LWVHC monthly BULLETIN, the primary means of keeping active and prospective members informed.

MEMBERSHIP

Contact: Barbara Updike & Linda Hansma

The Membership Committee responds to expressions of interest from potential members, helps new members comfortably integrate into LWVHC activities, maintains a Membership Directory, and strives for retention of our membership. It also organizes several Smart Talk sessions throughout the year where members can meet in small groups for stimulating discussions of current topics of interest.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The focus of this committee is to educate LWVHC members and the public about the League's positions on environmental issues such as land use planning, water and air quality, solid waste/recycling, transportation, climate change, etc. It also works in conjunction with Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO) and the Solid Waste Advisory Council in advocating for protection of the local environment, recycling, and energy conservation.

OBSERVER CORPS

CoChairs: Linda Miller/Linda Weldon Meeting Time: 2nd Tues., 11:00-1:00 at Daddy' D's, 7th Ave.

The LWVHC seeks to promote and preserve openness in government by monitoring the actions of elected and appointed officials. Members of the Observer Corps do not speak for the LWV, but keep members informed through what they learn by attending meetings of city and town councils, County Commissioners, City and County Planning Boards, Board of Education, and other public entities.

SOCIAL POLICY

Contact: Martha Sachs

This committee coordinates the "Action Alerts" under the State and National positions to keep the LWVHC members informed about equal rights legislation, economic justice, health and safety legislation, education, pay equity, and affordable housing. Information obtained by committee members on local agencies can become a basis for public forums, issues to study, collaborative opportunities, and support for change and improvement.

VOTER SERVICE

Contact: Judy Wilkes & Linda Hansma

Voter Service promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. This group arranges and hosts nonpartisan public candidate forums, provides a Voter Guide on our LWVHC website, assists in registering voters, and publishes the "Know Your Government" booklet.