



# **LWVHC Annual Membership Meeting**

## **June 13, 2024**

### **Talent, Tactics, and Tenacity**

#### Meeting Agenda

WELCOME – Ernest Mowell, President

#### BUSINESS MEETING

- Confirmation of quorum
- “Talent, Tactics, and Tenacity,” presentation with Renee Kumor, Moderator, Lynn McFarland, Rachel Poller, and Brenda Sherrer
- ‘State of the League of Women Voters of Henderson County’ – Ernest Mowell
- Francee Sherman Award Announcement
- Special recognitions

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Vote on 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Vote on the 2024-25 budget as provided to members May 13
- Presentation of the Slate for Election by Nominating Committee
- Open for additional Nominations from the floor
- Vote on 2024-2025 Board
- Vote on Program Priorities as provided to members May 13
- Appoint committee to proofread today’s meeting Minutes

#### CLOSING REMARKS

- Announcements

## **LWVHC BOARD LEADERSHIP 2023-2024**

President: Ernest Mowell  
Vice-President: Cynthia Sthresley  
Secretary: Mary Kay Krokowski  
Treasurer: Nancy Pellegrini  
Elected Directors:  
    Marcella Leshner  
    Lynn McFarland  
    Mary Landry  
Appointed Director:  
    Brenda Sherrer

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### **REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The 2023-2024 Nominating Committee presents the following slate for election:

OFFICERS: 2 years 2024-2026  
    Vice-President – Liz Hill  
    Treasurer – Nancy Pellegrini

ELECTED DIRECTORS: 2 years 2024-2026  
    Marcella Leshner (2 years 2024-2026)  
    Mary Landry (2 years 2024-2026)  
    Cynthia Sthresley (1 year 2024-2025)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 1 year 2024-2025  
    Sandra Mowell  
    Nan Jennings  
    TBD

### **Continuing on the Board 2024-2025**

OFFICERS:  
President – Ernest Mowell  
Secretary – Mary Kay Krokowski

ELECTED DIRECTOR:  
    Lynn McFarland

## **LWVHC ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 15, 2023**

President Brenda Sherrer opened the meeting at 11:40 am, saying “We are here today to thank all of you, share our accomplishments from the past year, take care of the business we need to attend to at our annual meeting, and to reconfirm our values and commitments.”

She introduced our speaker, Dr. Steven D. Crane. Dr. Crane has practiced family medicine in Western North Carolina since 1986. He is the recipient of the 2022 Henderson County Community Foundation’s Dorothy Dellinger Marlow Philanthropic Catalyst Award, whose recipients reflect her spirit to take action to begin new endeavors and commit to a project. In 2001, Dr. Crane became the Free Clinics Volunteer Medical Director.

Dr. Crane’s talk, “Health Equity: How Can We Improve Health Outcomes for Everyone?” talked about the many factors that drive health outcomes and ways that our country could be doing better.

Brenda called the meeting to order, noting that members were emailed all items for action one month (May 11, 2023) prior to this meeting. Nan Jennings was recognized as Parliamentarian and verified that we had a quorum to conduct business. Board Secretary Liz Hill reminded members that the minutes of the 2022 meeting had been reviewed and placed on the website, and sent to members in May. As there were no corrections, those minutes were considered approved.

Brenda then announced the winner of our annual Francee Sherman Student Award as Evie Corn, recent graduate of North Henderson High School. Evie’s winning essay addressed the question: How can we engage young voters to participate in our democracy? Evie received her award on June 6th at a school assembly. She and her mother were recognized at this meeting, along with Becky Banadyga, daughter of Francee Sherman, LWVHC’s first President for whom the award is named.

Brenda then delivered the State of the League of Women Voters of Henderson County. She noted that this was the first in-person annual meeting since the COVID pandemic kept us apart. “It could not have come at a better time. There is so much to be thankful for: our League is growing, our League is a responsible community partner; our League welcomes everyone, without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, or political party. However, we are cognizant of how hyper-partisan these times are, and we are reminded that our democracy is fragile. Democracy is not a spectator sport; it requires a committed response from each

of us. We come together to celebrate the success we share, and the awesome responsibility we have to power and protect our democracy.”

She urged us not to be discouraged by the current environment and divisive nature of our politics. “If we surrender to our fear, we lose sight of our purpose. Your League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to our members and the public.

Decisions that appear to be setbacks are only temporary as long as we stay engaged in the fight and continue our advocacy. We want every eligible voter to have equal access to the ballot box, and we want a robust democracy in which everyone has an equal voice and equal representation. This is the America we want.”

Citing the diversity of opinions that make our League unique within North Carolina, she concluded: “What brings us together is our commitment to voter empowerment and defending democracy. Today I ask you to renew your commitment to the work we have in front of us by registering voters, observing local government, being a voice for our immigrant community and volunteering to lead opportunities for our members to learn through education and awareness programs. Your active involvement provides the foundation upon which we build and maintain the viability of our League.”

On behalf of LWVHC, Brenda then recognized and thanked Karen Hebb, Director of Elections for Henderson County, who is retiring after 37 years of Exemplary Service to the Voters of Henderson County. Brenda, Lynn McFarland (VS Chair) and Sharon Burlingame presented Karen Hebb with a certificate and gift basket

#### Special Recognition

- Lifetime Members Kathy Baluha (who achieved her 50 years this year); Marian Lowry, Marion Huffman and Lee Luebbe.
- Retiring Board Members: Brenda Sherrer (Past President), Liz Hill (Secretary), Judy Katz, Gretchen Levine and Nominating Committee Members: Annette Dubroillet and Marcella Leshner
- Jan Allen (webmaster), Rachel Poller (League Update and Home/Observer Team Chair)
- Team Chairs/Co-Chairs, Committee Chairs: Nan Jennings, Sharon Burlingame, Kathy Trice, Patti Rogers, Jane Pulling, Bettie Liebrecht, Pam Pozoles
- Continuing Board Members Paul Goebel, Nancy Pellegrini (Treasurer), Jane Pulling (elected for a 2nd term), and Cindi Streshley (VP).

IN MEMORY OF:

- Joyce Day
- David Hansma
- Kathleen Anderson Lees
- Debi Miller

**New Business**

Treasurer Nancy Pellegrini moved to adopt the 2023-2024 budget as provided to members on May 11th. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

Marcella Leshar, Nominating Committee, then presented the Slate for Election, as follows:

OFFICERS: 2 years 2023-2025

- President – Ernest (Ernie) Mowwell (2 years 2023-2025)
- Secretary – Mary Kay Krokowski (2 years 2023-2025)

ELECTED DIRECTORS: 2 years 2023-2025

- Lynn McFarland
- Jane Pulling

ELECTED DIRECTOR: 1 year 2023-2024

- Marcella Leshar (to replace a unexpired elected Board position from 2022-2024)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 1 year 2023-2024

- Liz Hill
- Gretchen Levine
- Sandra Mowell

Brenda then opened nominations from the floor and none were heard. There being no further nominations, Brenda called for the vote and the Slate was elected.

Brenda recognized Judy Katz, who on behalf of the Board moved to approve the 2023-2024 Program Priorities as provided to the membership on May 11th. Chris Berg offered an amendment to add Health Equity to the priorities (seconded by Jane Pulling). There was no discussion, the vote was taken and the amendment carried.

There being no further discussion, the vote was called and the motion to approve the Priorities, with the addition of Health Equity, carried.

Secretary Liz Hill then moved to amend Article V, Section 2, Item C of the LWVHC ByLaws to read: The quorum for the annual meeting shall be 15 percent of the membership. After discussion to clarify that this percentage reduced the quorum from 20% to be more in line with other Leagues' quorum requirements, the motion carried.

In accordance with By-Laws, Brenda appointed a Committee of 3 to review the minutes of this meeting: Nan Jennings, Jane Pulling and Marcella Leshner.

Special thanks were extended to all who worked to organize the meeting and luncheon.

Brenda asked if there were any Directions to the Board and recognized Rachel Poller, H/OT Team Chair. Her statement follows. "The H/OT team requests the New Board to Invite Renewed Participation and Commitment by all League members in at least one of the following ways:

- Observe a Public Meeting,
- Register Voters,
- Volunteer to serve on a community Advisory Board,
- Attend a LWVHC Board Meeting,
- Speak with an Elected Official,
- Subscribe to a local news source/newspaper like The Lightning,
- Give a subscription as a gift,
- Take a new Member under your wing.

We are most effective when we reach out into the community, and act to strengthen our ties and understanding of our local democracy. There is much to do beyond paying dues - membership is a springboard to so much more."

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm

Submitted by Liz Hill, Board Secretary

Reviewed by:

Nan Jennings

Marcella Leshner

Jane Pulling

**LWWHC Budget 2024-25**

<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Member Dues	<b>5000</b>	dues collection method - no change in 2024 but possible in 2025
Donations	<b>2000</b>	estimate
Fundraising	<b>0</b>	none projected at this time
Interest Income	<b>20</b>	First Citizens/Community Foundation
Dividends	<b>500</b>	Community Foundation
Unrealized gain/loss	<b>0</b>	Community Foundation
Realized gain/loss	<b>0</b>	Community Foundation
	<b>7520</b>	
<b>Grants</b>		
LWW-USA	<b>750</b>	based on past grants
LWWNC	<b>750</b>	based on past grants
	<b>1500</b>	
<b>Operating Income</b>		
Meals - Annual Meeting	<b>0</b>	no plans to collect money this year
Reserve	<b>8541</b>	to cover possible shortage from expenses over income
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>17561</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Advertising	<b>1200</b>	monthly banner ads in Lightning
Board Expenses	<b>600</b>	retreat, room rentals, holiday party, printing, ice cream social, meet & greets, admin expenses
PO Box	<b>175</b>	annual fee
Postage	<b>10</b>	stamps
Technology	<b>1050</b>	website, QuickBooks, Canva, MailChimp, Zoom
Insurance	<b>350</b>	liability
Annual Meeting Expenses	<b>1000</b>	refreshments, drinks, room rental, speaker gift, table decorations, printing
Annual Meeting Member Meals	<b>0</b>	none this year
Professional Fees	<b>150</b>	Community Foundation management fees
Nametag Purchases	<b>0</b>	sold at cost
	<b>4535</b>	
<b>LWW Assessments</b>		
National PMP	<b>3300</b>	
State PMP	<b>1200</b>	
	<b>4500</b>	
<b>LWW Convention/Council</b>		
State (alternate years)	<b>1500</b>	registration fees/expenses
LWWNC meetings	<b>250</b>	expenses
	<b>1750</b>	
<b>Program Support</b>		
<b>Voter Services</b>		
Operating Expenses	<b>1800</b>	candidate events, facility rentals, booth rentals, printing, supplies/equipment
VOTE411	<b>2200</b>	Tribune ad (split with Buncombe), Lightning, WTZO, Banner, Tryon Daily Bulletin, Transylvania Times
	<b>4000</b>	
<b>Immigration Advocacy</b>		
	<b>300</b>	room rentals, printing, refreshments, Building Bridges sponsorship
<b>Home/Observer Team</b>		
	<b>300</b>	promotional activities, advertising, printing, refreshments
<b>Education</b>		
Francee Sherman Award	<b>1000</b>	two payments, June and January
Student Engagement - SVFD	<b>750</b>	voting participation trophies, I voted stickers, gift cards, poster printing
Teacher/Staff appreciation	<b>426</b>	thank you card printing, heart stickers, candy, envelopes
	<b>2176</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>17561</b>	



## **Program Priorities 2024-25**

Based on the results of a Priorities Meeting presented by our member, Sandra Mowell, in January of 2024, we will realize the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy by focusing our efforts on the following top priorities:

- Voter Services
- Immigration
- Women's Health Care
- Representative Government
- Community Health

The LWWHC will provide educational and advocacy opportunities to members in these priority areas. Individual members are encouraged to continue with state initiatives in other areas including Affordable Housing and Environmental Issues. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will continue to inform everything we do.

## **2023-2024 Committee Reports L WVHC – League in Action**

### **L WVHC Membership**

Membership Committee has again had a busy year, welcoming 23 new members. Membership is currently 120, including 102 primary, 12 spouse/household, 3 students, and 3 Lifetime Members: Kathy Baluha, Marion Huffman, and Lee Luebbe. We held several informal events to give more in-person time for starting members to meet veteran members for orientation, information, and recruitment to current Committee and Advocacy projects. We are pleased to see so much interest in our League and anticipate continued growth. We would welcome any member who would like to work with this committee.

*Submitted by Sharon Burlingame and Nan Jennings, Membership Co-Chairs*

### **L WVHC Communications**

Our Communications Team includes Jan Allen, Tamara Einspanjer, Nan Jennings, Gretchen Levine, Liz Hill, Danielle Malecek, Rachel Poller, Kathy Trice, and Melissa Veasey. This year we continued to work on expanding our outreach about major public policy issues as well as promoting League programs and positions.

We are active on social media platforms including the Web, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter (X), and Instagram, though we would like to increase our following. We send the twice monthly Update with L WVHC and NC news and links to other relevant events or advocacy opportunities. We regularly send Press Releases to local media and send special email advocacy alerts as needed.

This spring we began inviting local elected and appointed officials to attend our programs. Through social media we also re-post from other non-partisan partners including Common Cause, Democracy NC, Mountain True, and the NAACP. This helps us to stay media present while supporting common themes and messages.

*Submitted by Gretchen Levine, Communications Chair*

## **EDUCATION TEAM**

The Education team programs include Students Voting for Democracy, Student Engagement, and Teacher Appreciation Day. In addition, the Team monitors local and state public school policies, issues and legislation. We send action alerts to the membership as necessary.

### **STUDENTS VOTING FOR DEMOCRACY (SVFD)**

Students Voting for Democracy collaborates with the Henderson County Public Schools to conduct a mock election during presidential and off-presidential year elections. Since 2014, thousands of Henderson County public school students have practiced their future responsibility of living in a democracy by casting informed votes. SVFD co-chairs provide the school district with age-appropriate non-partisan mini-civics education power points for optional teachers use. The power points are also made available on the LWVHC website. "I VOTED" stickers are supplied to each school. The SVFD district facilitators and high school advisors are paid a stipend out of the Students Voting Henderson County (Community Foundation) fund.

### **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**

The Student Engagement Team gives the Francee Sherman Student Award of \$1,000 to a Henderson County Public School graduating student who plans to go on to post-secondary education. We currently have three student members. We use social media to promote League activities and have created a digital "flyer" that can be texted to students who might be interested in joining the League. We will continue to seek ways to engage students in League activities in order to bring more students into the League. Any League members interested in interacting with students are welcome to join us.

*Submitted by Mary Landry, Education Team Chair*

## **VOTER SERVICES**

Voter Services had an off year with no elections in Henderson County in 2023. We did support the elections in Transylvania County with Vote411 efforts and put packets of information in the Transylvania Library in Brevard.

We had 25 Voter Engagements and registered 235 voters. The biggest events, other than the Apple Festival, were at North Henderson High School where we registered 103 students and East High School where we registered 40 students. We received an invitation to participate in the Apple Festival, instead of having to enter the lottery with other nonprofits, and we registered 79 voters there. We participated in the Hendersonville Pride Picnic for the first time and registered 11 voters there.

Caren Kessler trained League volunteers to register voters as needed.

*Submitted by Lynn McFarland, Voter Services Chair*

## **VOTE411**

LWVUS, LWVNC, and LWV Henderson County provide a comprehensive, nonpartisan online voter guide so that voters can find all the information they need – from where to vote to what individual candidates stand for – in our user-friendly, online guide. Our dedicated VOTE411 Team sent invitations to every candidate running for offices in Henderson, Transylvania, and Polk County. For the first time, ALL Henderson County Primary candidates participated in VOTE411 by responding to our questions. Team members assisted in writing the candidate questions and provided support to candidates and voters alike as they accessed the website.

Again, this year we partnered with the Asheville-Buncombe League to expand our advertising reach. Special tanks to Team members Pam Johnson, Caren Kessler, Rachel Poller, Barb Jackson, Charlie Wilkinson, Lynn McFarland, John Ariatti, Chris Berg, Tamara Einspanjer, as well as Voter Service ballot checkers and road sign teams.

*Submitted by Patti Rogers, VOTE411 Team Leader*

## **Immigration Team**

The Immigration Team continues to initiate partnerships and network with local organizations working directly with the immigrant and migrant communities. Organizations such as True Ridge, El Centro, the Literacy Connection, Blue Ridge Community Health Services, and groups which provide welcome bags to seasonal migrant workers are invited to share information at our monthly meetings. We also participated in a Farm Workers Fair hosted by the NC Cooperative Extension of Henderson County. On February 22, the Team sponsored a program entitled “Navigating Immigration Pathways to Legal Status” with speakers from Pisgah Legal Services.

Over the past few years, we have created and maintained a bilingual list of services for the Hispanic community entitled *Resource List for LatinX and other Migrant Families in Henderson County*. Throughout this past year we have been reviewing the recommendations of the American Immigration Council’s special report *Beyond a Border Solution: How to Build a Humanitarian Protection System That Won’t Break*. Our resource list as well as the Council’s special report is available on our section of the Henderson County LWV website at <https://lwvhcnc.org/adlmm.php>

One of our primary goals is to build and share our knowledge about immigration policy at the state and federal levels as we move forward to educate ourselves and advocate for immigration reform. We also seek to understand how immigration policy and the immigrant experience impacts the lives of our own community members. Examples of our discussion topics are tuition equity for undocumented college students in North Carolina, the status of DACA (Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals) and who is counted in the Census. We continue to follow the guidance of *LWV National advocacy statement on immigration* as it helps to set our own priorities.

*Submitted by Marcella Leshner, Immigration Team Leader*

## **H/OT (Home & Observer Team)**

The H/OT Team had a radiant year. Our team members regularly observed, reported, and/or served on County and Municipal Boards and Councils including the County Commissioners, Hendersonville City Council, Board of Education, Board of Elections, County Planning Board, Board of Health, Parks and Recreation, Tree Board, Sustainability Board, Library Board, and Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Team members also met with elected officials, including Commissioners McCall and Edney, School Board Chair Craven, and Sheriff Griffin. We told them about the LWWHC, our mission and work, asked them specific questions about local governance and issues, and invited them to share with us ideas how the LWWHC could further promote open, nonpartisan citizen participation.

We hosted 3 informative public programs - summer, fall, and spring – including “Democracy Challenges and Priorities” with guest speaker Bill Sederberg, Common Cause NC Advisory Board member; “Detecting Deception: Tools to Fight Fake News” with guest speaker/writer Dr. Amanda Sturgill of Elon College; and “The First Amendment and Access to Public Records” with guest speakers Bill Moss, Editor in Chief of “The Lightning,” John Bussian, attorney with the NC Press Association, and Russell Burrell, Henderson County Attorney.

We are excited about our work to support the County Library as it prepares for its December 2024 Smithsonian Museum on Main Street installation “Voices and Votes.” Our monthly meetings include robust conversation of what’s going on at the local level and how LWWHC can promote and support informed citizen participation. We welcome all members!

*Submitted by Rachel Poller, H/OT Chair*

## **Past Leadership of League of Women Voters of Henderson County**

<b>1963-1965</b>	<b>Francee Sherman</b>
<b>1965-1968</b>	<b>Eleanor Cosgrove</b>
<b>1968-1971</b>	<b>Rita Hopkins</b>
<b>1971-1973</b>	<b>Margaret Milroy</b>
<b>1973-1975</b>	<b>Sally Godehn</b>
<b>1975-1977</b>	<b>Kathy Baluha</b>
<b>1977-1978</b>	<b>Crystal Smith</b>
<b>1978-1981</b>	<b>Kathy Baluha</b>
<b>1981-1983</b>	<b>Renee Kumor</b>
<b>1983-1985</b>	<b>Barbara Volk</b>
<b>1985-1987</b>	<b>Mercedes Town</b>
<b>1987-1989</b>	<b>Linda Hawk</b>
<b>1989-1991</b>	<b>Marian Lowry</b>
<b>1991-1993</b>	<b>Grace Poli</b>
<b>1993-1995</b>	<b>Marion Huffman and Joyce Daly</b>
<b>1995-1997</b>	<b>Rebecca Sigmon and Marcia Grady</b>
<b>1997-1999</b>	<b>Rebecca Sigmon</b>
<b>1999-2001</b>	<b>Marion Lowry and Ann Feldstein</b>
<b>2001-2003</b>	<b>Marion Lowry and Acee Hughes</b>
<b>2003-2005</b>	<b>Marion Lowry and Lee Luebbe</b>
<b>2005-2007</b>	<b>Lee Luebbe</b>
<b>2007-2011</b>	<b>Nancy Glowacki</b>
<b>2011-2014</b>	<b>Judy Katz</b>
<b>2014-2016</b>	<b>Sharon Burlingame</b>
<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>Sharon Burlingame and Judith Scruggs</b>
<b>2017-2019</b>	<b>Nan Jennings and Rachel Poller</b>
<b>2019-2021</b>	<b>Rachel Poller</b>
<b>2021-2023</b>	<b>Brenda Sherrer</b>
<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>Ernest Mowell</b>

## LWVHC NON-PARTISAN POLICY

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government at all levels. The League of Women Voters is non-partisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. It is political in that it takes positions on selected public policy issues after study and consensus. The League recognizes the role of political parties in government and believes that participation in the activities of parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility.

While the League urges its members to be politically active and participate fully in party activities on an individual basis, certain constraints are necessary to maintain the nonpartisanship of the League as an organization. Therefore:

***At any League-sponsored activity, members shall not engage in partisan discussions or activities.***

LWVHC

PO Box 1163

Flat Rock, NC 28731

Henderson County League of Women Voters Education Fund

/DBA League of Women Voters Henderson County is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3)  
tax exempt