



**LWV  
Henderson County  
2025  
Annual Report**

**Annual Membership Meeting  
June 24, 2025**



# **LWVHC Annual Membership Meeting**

## **June 24, 2025**

### **Meeting Agenda**

#### **PROGRAM**

- Welcome – Ernest Mowell, President
- Panel:  
“Making Our Voice Heard: Communicating with Elected Officials”  
Renee Kumor, Moderator  
Jay Egolf, Henderson County Commissioner  
Lyndsey Simpson, Hendersonville City Council
- Francee Sherman Award Presentation - Mary Landry, Education Team Chair
- State of the League: LWVHC” – Ernest Mowell
- Special recognition

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

- Confirmation of quorum
- Vote on 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Vote on 2025-26 budget as provided to members 5/23/25
- Presentation of the Slate for Election by Nominating Committee  
Open for additional Nominations from the floor
- Vote on 2025-2026 slate
- Vote on Program Priorities as provided to members 6/23/25
- Appoint committee to proofread today’s meeting minutes

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

- Directions to the Board
- Announcements

**LWVHC BOARD LEADERSHIP  
2024-2025**

President: Ernest Mowell  
Vice-President: Liz Hill  
Secretary: Mary Kay Krokowski  
Treasurer: Nancy Pellegrini  
Elected Directors:  
Marcella Leshner  
Lynn McFarland  
Mary Landry

**IN MEMORY OF:**

- Charlyne Grimes Coleman
- Agnes (Acee) Hughes
- Jim Liebzeit
- Stan Kumor
- Cynthia Sthresley

## LWVHC Annual Meeting Minutes: June 13, 2024

The LWVHC Annual Membership Meeting was held on June 13, 2024, at First Congregational Church of Hendersonville at 6:00 p.m. with President Ernest Mowell in the Chair and Secretary Mary Kay Krokowski present. The Secretary moved “to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting which were reviewed by a committee appointed at that meeting and emailed to the membership on May 13, 2024.” The motion was adopted.

Ernest then recognized past and co-presidents in the room. A list of these presidents is included in the Annual Report. Lee Luebbe was recognized as a Life member since 1965. Jan Allen was recognized for her dedication, putting together our League website.

A panel discussion was presented with the theme of “Talent, Tactics, and Tenacity.” Lynn McFarland, Rachel Poller, Brenda Sherrer, with Renee Kumor as Moderator, presented their passage into leadership with the League. They expressed what continues to be their most rewarding involvements during their time as members.

Nan Jennings served as our Parliamentarian. 38 members were in attendance; the current membership is 122. A quorum over 15% was present as required by our bylaws.

Treasurer Nancy Pellegrini moved “On behalf of the Budget Committee, I move to approve the LWVHC budget as emailed to members on May 13, 2024.” The motion was adopted.

Nominating committee member Sandra Mowell moved “On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I submit the following slate of nominees for 2024-2025:”

### **OFFICERS: 2 years 2024-2026**

Vice President - Liz Hill

Treasurer - Nancy Pellegrini

### **ELECTED DIRECTORS:**

Mary Landry – 2 years 2024-2026

Marcella Leshner – 2 years 2024-2026

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 1 year 2024-2025**

Nan Jennings

Sandra Mowell

Pam Johnson

The Nominating member announced that Cynthia Sthresley has withdrawn her nomination for Director for a one-year term and there is one remaining slot for the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating member stated, “The Nominating Committee has submitted the slate. Nominations are now open from the floor.” No additional nominations for Vice-president or Treasurer came from the floor.

The Chair recognized Marcella Leshner who moved “I nominate Brenda Sherrer to fill the vacant one-year term slot for Director.” Brenda consented to the nomination.

No additional nominations for Director came from the floor.

The Nominating member moved “I nominate Pam Johnson for the third and vacant position on the Nominating Committee.” Pam consented to the nomination.

With no additional nominations for the Nominating Committee, the slate was adopted.

Marcella Leshner moved “The program priorities were emailed to members on May 13, 2024. We have provided copies for review today. On behalf of the board, I move to approve the 2024-2025 program priorities as provided to the membership on May 13, 2024.”

Program Priorities for 2024-2025 are Voter Services, Immigration, Women’s Health Care, Representative Government, and Community Health. After debate about adding Public Education and Civics as additional priorities, Jane Pulling explained that LWVNC was a more effective agent to address LWV legislative action for education priorities, instead of at the local level. The motion was adopted.

The Chair presented his “State of the League” address, acknowledging the work of the Teams this past year. Voter Services and Vote411 showcased our core missions through not one, but two primary elections. Ernest spoke about empowering voters and defending democracy with these members training people to register voters and teaching voters about the new voter ID rules. With Vote411, candidates from all parties responded with their platforms. We continue to work with the County Board of Elections. Candidate events are coming up this Fall.

The Home and Observer Team attends multiple government meetings every month across the county, keeping the League’s presence known to these officials.

Besides awarding the Francee Sherman Student Award annually, the Education Team also oversees “Students Working for Democracy” within the county school system.

The Immigration Team meets and interfaces monthly with area partners who make us more aware of the migrant and immigrant challenges in our region. Educating our members about this complicated issue is a large part of their work.

Public programs focusing on immigration, healthcare in WNC, open government, and a presentation by Braver Angels on civil discourse were all part of our year.

Beyond the elections, we are partnering with the public library to bring a Smithsonian traveling exhibit about “Voting in America,” and working with our parent Leagues, LWVNC and LWVUS, and our sister Leagues in WNC.

Through all of this, our Budget and Finance Team, Membership Team, and Communications Team, work behind the scenes. Working with the local press and creating our bi-weekly Updates, along with our dedicated Board, we work to keep the League in the public eye. Our League is relevant to our community because of our Teams. Involvement in additional areas of interest like affordable housing, health equity, and environmental issues are all possible. Ernest stressed that the League continues its commitment to DEI. The Chair invited “all members, new and veteran members, to learn more about our Teams, to get involved and keep LWVHC a vital part of our community.”

The Education Team awarded the Francee Sherman Student Award scholarship to graduating senior Chloe Parmalee.

Three volunteers were chosen to review the Minutes – Nan Jennings, Caren Kessler, and Judy Katz.

The Chair asked for any requests for directions to the Board. Sheila Clendenning commended the League for its communications and asked if non-members can receive the Updates; Updates can be shared with non-members. Sharon Burlingame encouraged members to observe a board or team meeting to get a better sense of the work of the League. Rachel Poller reiterated that the website and Update are excellent ways to find answers about the local, state and national Leagues. Ernest concluded by stressing that the League is a grassroots organization and that all are welcome at all meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

## 2025/2026 Proposed Budget

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Member Dues	1300	new Stripe/Chapter Spot dues collection method
Donations	3000	estimate
Fundraising	0	none projected at this time
Interest Income	15	First Citizens/Community Foundation
Dividends	350	Community Foundation
Unrealized gain/loss	0	Community Foundation
Realized gain/loss	0	Community Foundation
	<b>4665</b>	
<b>Grants</b>		
LWVUS	0	based on past grants
LWVNC	1000	based on past grants
	1000	
<b>Operating Income</b>		
Reserve	10520	to cover possible shortage from expenses over income
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>16185</b>	
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Advertising	1600	banner ads in HVL Lightning for programs
Board Expenses	1000	retreat, room rentals, holiday party, printing, meet & greets, admin expenses
PO Box	175	annual fee
Postage	10	stamps
Technology	1500	website, QuickBooks, Canva, MailChimp, Zoom, A/V (lapel mikes)
Insurance	1000	general liability and D&O/professional liability
Annual Meeting Expenses	1000	refreshments, drinks, room rental, speaker gift, table decorations, printing
Professional Fees	150	Community Foundation management fees
Nametag Purchases	0	sold at cost

	6435	
<b>LWV Assessments</b>		
National PMP	3200	final year
State PMP	1200	final year
	4400	
<b>LWV Convention/Council</b>		
National (alternate years)	1500	registration fees/expenses
LWVNC meetings	100	expenses
	1600	
<b>Program Support</b>		
Voter Services		
Operating Expenses	1000	facility rentals, booth rentals, printing, supplies/equipment
VOTE411	550	Transylvania Times fall 2025, spring 2026 primary
	1550	
Immigration Advocacy	300	room rentals, printing, refreshments
Home/Observer Team	300	refreshments, speaker honorariums, room rentals/donations to venues with no charge
<b>Education</b>		
Francee Sherman Award	1000	two payments, June and January
Student Engagement - SVFD	0	gift cards, poster printing
Teacher/Staff appreciation	600	thank you card printing, heart stickers, candy, envelopes
	1600	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>16185</b>	

## **Report of 2024-25 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Sandra Mowell, chair

Nan Jennings

Pam Johnson

### **PROPOSED SLATE for the 2025-2026 YEAR**

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS** (2-year term expires 2027)

President – Liz Hill

Secretary – Lynn McFarland

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS** (1-year unexpired term expires 2026)

Vice-President - Marcella Leshner

#### **DIRECTOR** (2-year term expires 2027)

Myra Woods

Unfilled – no nominees for this position at this time

#### **DIRECTOR** (1-year unexpired term expires 2026)

Pam Pazoles

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (1 year term)

Nan Jennings

Caren Kessler

Patti Rogers

#### **Continuing on board:**

Treasurer - Nancy Pelligrini (term expires 2026)

Director - Mary Landry (term expires 2026)

Ex-Officio - Ernest Mowell (serves one year per bylaws until 2026)

#### **Note:**

This slate has one unfilled Director position. An unfilled position may be filled by nominations from the floor and election at the Annual Meeting. Voting members may make nominations from the floor provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Additional Directors, up to 4, may be appointed by the Board of Directors for a term expiring the following July 1.

## **PROGRAM PRIORITIES for 2025-26**

LWVHC met on January 16 to plan our way forward in the coming years. By discussing and determining our priorities, we can direct our efforts, advocacy and actions both here and throughout the state. We held a lively talk and shared the results of a league-wide survey. We plan to focus on the following priorities for 2025-2026.

- Public Education, to include state and local funding, vouchers, civics education, school board elections and more.
- Representative Government, focusing on communicating with elected officials, redistricting and the recent actions aimed at consolidating power in only one branch of government.
- Immigration and the impacts on agriculture, healthcare, construction, law enforcement- in short, on our entire community.

We discussed the importance of partnering with other organizations and how LWVNC support can help.

## **2024-2025 Committee Reports LWVHC – League in Action**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership Committee has again had a busy year with 31 new members. Membership Roster is currently 136, including 3 lifetime members (50 years or more): Kathy Baluha, Marion Huffman, and Lee Luebbe. We are pleased to see so much support of our League and anticipate continued growth. In February LWVUS launched a new way to join and renew membership through an online portal. Instead of joining locally, you receive a link in your email to renew or go to the website to join. We welcome any member who would like to join this Committee by welcoming and mentoring those new to League.

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Our communications team includes Jan Allen, Sheila Clendenning, Tamara Einspanjer, Liz Hill, Nan Jennings, Rachel Poller, Kathy Trice, Melissa Veasey, and Myra Woods. Highlights of our work:

- Send the twice monthly Update with LWVHC news as well as links to other relevant events or advocacy opportunities. These include the notes of meetings provided by our Observer Team.
- Email local elected / appointed officials to invite them to attend our Programs.
- Send Press Releases to local media for our events or news items, as well as special email advocacy alerts as requested by our Leadership or Team Leaders.
- Help to prepare paid advertising (digital and print) as directed by the Board.
- Post news and events on Facebook and Instagram.
- Share news from LWVUS and NC as well as local government agencies, Board of Elections, and non-partisan partners such as Common Cause, Public Schools First, Democracy NC, MountainTrue, and the NAACP.
- Create flyers and graphics to promote our events so they can be easily shared by other organizations.
- Monitor the Chapter Spot transition and communicate key changes to membership.

If you enjoy being first to learn what is happening or helping to find ways to let others know about it, contact us; we would love to have more members helping to get the word out.

*Submitted by Liz Hill, Communications Chair and Board VP*

## 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 teacher use. The SVFD district facilitators and high school advisors are paid a stipend out of the Students Voting Henderson County (Community Foundation) fund.

This year the mock election was not held due to a component of the recently passed Parents Bill of Rights which requires parents to grant consent for surveys. The school administration was advised by legal counsel that participating in a mock election would constitute participating in a survey and so advised against holding the mock election.

Instead of a mock election the SVFD team sponsored an "I Voted" sticker contest at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The entries were judged by an independent panel of local artists. The results were published in the local papers and displayed in the schools. Each winning sticker was published on a VOTE 411 poster.

### 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.

### TEACHER APPRECIATION

The Education Team celebrated Teacher Appreciation Day on February 18th to share thanks and appreciation for all HCPS teachers and staff. We wrote thank you notes to every teacher, administrator, bus driver, maintenance and cafeteria personnel. (2000 in all). We delivered the notes with a bowl of candy to each school as well as to the district office.

*Submitted by Mary Landry, Education Team Chair*

## **VOTER SERVICES**

From July 2024 to mid May 2025 Voter Services held 17 Voter Engagements and registered 118 voters. Six voter engagement events and two candidate events were cancelled due to Tropical Storm Helene. We held 3 candidate events. The two which were held indoors were well attended.

We delivered a cake and thank you posters to the Board of Elections on Election Heroes Day.

We had 4 observers at Board of Elections meetings and reports were sent to LWVNC.

We held Voter Engagements at several new locations including Brevard High School, Dandelion Cafe, Riverfest in Rosman, and EarthFest on Main Street, Hendersonville.

*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. During a difficult election season on the heels of Tropical Storm Helene, Team members accomplished each of the elements needed to complete our VOTE411 goals: assisted in creating candidate questions, contacted candidates, 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. We also successfully ventured into *targeted digital ads* to reach more voters in Henderson, Polk, and Transylvania Counties.

Special thanks 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 Chair*

## **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, Pisgah Legal Services, and groups which provide welcome bags to seasonal migrant workers are invited to share information at our monthly meetings.

We sponsored a meeting of the Building Bridges group in August of 2024. Building Bridges is a group of social service agencies that serve the Hispanic community. LWWHC President Ernest Mowell and Voter Services Chair Lynn McFarland were the featured speakers.

In February we co-sponsored, with the Education Team, a program entitled, "Welcoming All Our Learners - Language Learning Strategies That Work." Simone Wertenberger, from Henderson County Public Schools Migrant Education Program, was our speaker.

We continue to maintain a bilingual list of services for the Hispanic Community entitled *Resources List for Latino and Other Migrant Families in Henderson County*.

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. 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 Chair*

## **HOME and OBSERVER (H/OT Team)**

The H/OT Team had another glowing year meeting our mission of promoting informed citizen participation. Our members 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 of Trustees, and Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. We added the Agricultural Preservation Taskforce, Southern Mountain Homeless Coalition, and the Department of Social Services to the list of boards we observe. In August of 2024, we began including summary notes of these observations in the LWWHC biweekly Update.

Team members also met with officials, including newly elected county commissioners and board of election members. We shared League information, asked questions, made suggestions, and discussed civic engagement. We hosted 3 informative public programs: a look at the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, an Earth Day program on

local environmental advocacy, and a co-hosted education program with Pathfinders Mentoring Program Director Maggie Gilliam.

The Team spearheaded the League's collaboration with the County Library during its *Smithsonian Museum on Main Street* installation "Voices and Votes" where 20 volunteer docents provided 160+ hours.

At monthly meetings we discuss local issues and how the League can support and promote citizen participation. We welcome all members and look forward to an engaging year of observing, questioning and learning together, sharing insights and understanding among League and community 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>2023-2025</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