



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."

April 2009

IT'S CONSENSUS TIME! COME TOGETHER FOR SOME ACTION!

Natalie Zitnick, Democracy Speaks, Chair

**April 16 - LWVHC
General Meeting
From 7- 9 pm**

The National Vote Compact Study : A Consensus Meeting !

For further info call Natalie Zitnick,
Democracy Speaks Chair 692-9088

**LOCATION: Agudas Israel
Congregation at White Pine Dr.
and Glasgow.**

***PLEASE! Carpool! Let's get as
many members out for this timely,
decision-making session!***

*If you want a contact for a ride, call
someone on your membership roster
or call Nancy at 693-5257 .*

The dictionary definition of Consensus is: agreement in opinion; collective opinion. Our next general meeting will give you the opportunity to do just that. We will form groups to discuss the merits of the NPV, both pros and cons. What are your thoughts? Be present to participate in this lively dialogue! The National Popular Vote bill has passed 25 state legislative chambers in 16 states. The NPV bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states (and the District of Columbia).

Under the current system of electing the President, two thirds of the states are ignored by the presidential campaign; a second-place candidate can win the Presidency; turnout is depressed in the spectator states; and every vote is not equal.

This is our opportunity to have our say as to the way we choose to elect the President and Vice President of the United States.

Coffee and cookies will be served starting at 6:45. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00. See you there!! PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING YOUR ARTICLES PRINTED IN THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH BULLETINS, INCLUDING THE CONSENSUS STATEMENTS. Be on time please!!!

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.LWVUS.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@nclcg.net (readable by all Legislators)
- ncsenatemembers@nclcg.net (readable by all Senators)
- nchousemembers@nclcg.net (readable by all House Members)

PLEASE GO TO OUR OWN WEBSITE TO OBTAIN ALL THE BULB PHOTOS AND ORDER FORM

THIS IS LEAGUE'S BIG ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

FALL BULB SALES TIME!!!

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF \$1,500 IN SALES

IF WE MEET OUR GOAL, WE CAN KEEP OUR MEMBERSHIP DUES LOW

Order forms and information will be available at LWVHC APRIL MEETING or contact Gwen Hill at 696-6677 or email



Orders of \$30.00 or more will receive 5 free Minnow Rock Narcissi if sent by May 15th

If you are running out of space in your yard, these bulbs make an excellent gift for birthdays, Christmas and special occasions. Don't forget to check with your neighbors and friends. All bulbs guaranteed to bloom in first blooming season.

Plant in the fall (many can be planted from early fall to late winter). This year, indoor bulbs available and new special collections. Give a potted bulb as a gift.

Fall Flower Planting Tips:

General Planting:

Tulips: 4-6" deep, 4-6" apart

Hyacinths: 6" deep, 6" apart

Daffodils: 6" deep, 6" apart

Small Bulbs (crocus, muscari, etc.): 4" deep, 4" apart

1. It's a good idea to use a phosphorus fertilizer at the time of planting (examples: bone meal, super phosphate) They are very common and easily found at garden centers and home stores with garden departments. Spreading an all purpose fertilizer on top of the soil in February before any foliage starts to grow will also help for a strong start to blooming.
2. Flowers will have a nice effect if planted in groups or odd numbers.
3. If you want all season color, try planting groups of bulbs with different blooming times (early, mid, and late spring). Height differences will also add striking contrast.
4. Plant in areas of sun to part shade.
5. Bearded Iris: Plant so that the crown (top of the rhizome) is just below the soil surface, or right at surface level. Plant about 12-18 inches apart; they will spread in years to follow. They like sunny locations but will also do well in areas of partial shade. Fertilize once when planting and once more in the spring.
6. Amaryllis: Soak roots in water overnight before planting. (This will help soften the roots making it less likely to break them off when planting.) Plant carefully, trying not to break off the roots. Leave the top few inches of the bulb exposed out of the soil. Keep moderately moist, but do not drown in water. It is always a good idea to have pots with drainage holes in the bottom.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?**Nancy Glowacki, President**

Using the "garden" as a metaphor seems so appropriate as spring bursts upon the scene! And while we're on the subject of "garden" **PLEASE NOTE THE SINGLE PAGE ADVERTISEMENT ON THE PRIOR PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR LEAGUE'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER OF BEAUTIFUL BULBS ...PLACE YOUR ORDER IN 3 WAYS** 1) from a brochure and order form you can pick up at the April 16th meeting, or 2) go online to our own website where all the photos and form are available, or 3) call Gwen Hill at 1711 x 111 if you need to talk about it or 4) call Nancy 693-5257 to receive the complete info by mail if you don't have internet.

ACT NOW! DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MAY 10TH... OUR SUPPORT MEANS OUR DUES STAY AT THE SAME PRICE!

Other signs of "growth in our League garden" have been evident in this year's flourishing variety of programs and activities, collaboration with other groups, and the "sprouting" of new members in our midst! I enjoy the opportunity to get to know these new members over coffee and to help them begin to find their "niche" in League's work.

Our March meeting was well attended by members and the public...an excellent DVD and excellent speakers from the Raleigh area . Martha Sachs reports : "Our March 19th meeting, which presented two different solutions to our country's healthcare crisis, were extremely well received. There were 45 people in the audience, and a number of them were not League members. Questions from the audience elicited some spirited discussion and those in attendance were given hand-outs listing the phone and internet contacts for our Senators and Congressman, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Whitehouse. Since League supports the Single Payer System, members were urged to express their support for a Single Payer System, and to urge friends and family in other states to do the same."

The showing of "Iron Jawed Angels" film in collaboration with Jennie Giles of the HC Historic Museum drew about 140 people total and elicited gasps of profound recognition of the sacrifice that women made to achieve the right to vote! Again, League's exposure to the public in various formats continues to inform and attract interest and some newcomers!

We wind down the fiscal year soon and hold our Annual Meeting May 22nd Celebration ! And then the new Board and Leadership Team join together for a Leader Retreat on Wed. May 27 to prepare for the coming year! Our League definitely "blooms where it is planted" and makes room for new growth, colorful variety, creative cultivation of ideas for ongoing refinement and change! We weed out things that no longer serve us and insert something that might ! This is the sort of "garden" I flourish in! What about you? "Check your personal fertilizer!"...see how and where you want to grow in League. Remember, an hour a month, or week, or day...it's all equal in League's sight and makes a beautiful garden when all together!

THIS BEARS REPEATING..." OBSERVER CORPS IS LEAGUE'S CORNERSTONE TO ADVOCACY LOCALLY! "**Kathleen Lees, Coordinator**

The League's standard of study, education, and community engagement coupled with the organization's stellar record of non-partisanship and fairness provides the LWV with a unique opportunity to improve and strengthen communities.

By hearing regularly through observer reports about what is happening at local government meetings, members will be "in the know" and feel themselves to be an essential part of something larger. The **observer program** brings individuals in contact with community leaders and provides League members with opportunities to be "noticed" and hence contributes to a higher visibility for League also. It helps strengthen communication and relationships between League and local government/agencies. Observers can identify larger community issues, concerns or trends that can help to inform or shape future League programs as well as current advocacy.

Government transparency is vital to the health of our democracy. The Sunshine Act (passed in 1976) with some exceptions, provides that every portion of every meeting of an agency shall be open to public observation. This act and its state-level equivalents are the most relevant to observer programs. League "watches" to see that the act is being enacted!

Serving as an observer is something anyone can do. While there are no qualifications per se, ideally observers are:

- good listeners and able to summarize and "interpret" proceedings in a fair way;
- interested in local government and/or issues discussed by the governmental body that they are observing;
- able to serve as an "ambassador" for the organization (e.g. talking about the organization with other attendees at a meeting)
- discrete and courteous;
- not working a personal or partisan agenda while serving as a League observer.

A Report from Barbara Garrison, League Observer

Being an observer of the County Commissioner meetings for the past year has been an interesting experience for me. It is so enlightening to note the body language and the reaction of the commissioners, as well as those of the presenters, for controversial subjects. Sometimes the meetings may seem "mundane", but you never know what will come up or of what League might need to be alerted. It is also a good way to meet community leaders ,to be active in the community, and to keep League visible. I encourage especially those of you who are new to League to join us in the Observer Corps for an intriguing and "grassroots" experience.

A Recent Reason for League Advocacy

This may appear trivial, but it's not! It is representative of how citizens can be "left out" in a public meeting by not being able to hear well. When a governmental board does not use microphones so as to be "inclusive", much of what is being said is either lost entirely or heard only in the first few rows; "side bar" remarks are entirely lost. This was observed at the March City Planning Board , a meeting of high citizen interest and a packed room. A letter was sent from League to the entire board encouraging them to include the audience by using microphones, by doing a sound check with the audience, and thus having a fully inclusive meeting. We shall follow thru and observe the April meeting. It has been noted that the School Board could benefit from a similar observation letter and suggestion! This is a good example of Observer Corps ongoing service!

Come Along For The "Ride"! No Strings Attached !

Members may receive a call in the near future from members of the Observer Corps with an invitation to "hang out" with them at a meeting....say "yes" and enjoy the opportunity to meet a member and see how government works! Also...any member, and a special invitation to new members, is invited to **call Kathleen Lees at 697-7881** to find out what League member observes any particular meeting in which you are interested and she will partner you up!

Remember to CHECK "YES "

Natalie Zitnick, Democracy Speaks

April 15th is closing in -- the deadline for getting at least 350,000 North Carolinians to **check "Yes"** for the Public Campaign Fund on their state income tax forms. Help **spread the word to taxpayers and accountants** between now and April 15. Checking YES to the Public Campaign Fund does not change your tax bill or refund. It just sends \$3 to the Fund from taxes you're paying anyway. A "little task"...a beneficial result!

NATURAL RESOURCES LOCAL

Jan Allen , Chair/Advocate

Over 110 people attended the Recycling Forum sponsored by ECO and League on Feb. 17 at the Henderson County Library. The five speakers dispensed a lot of good information about recycling in Hendersonville, Henderson County and surrounding towns. Moderator (and League member) Katie Breckheimer kept the evening moving and presented questions from those in attendance. League member Geri Conley was instrumental in the forum's organization and several other League members helped as well.

League members Marian Lowry and Katie Breckheimer have updated our Solid Waste position statement which includes suggestions for further current advocacy. This will be presented for adoption at the annual meeting in May.

With spring fast approaching, ECO's bio-monitoring teams are preparing to don "waders" and take to the streams armed with new, finer-gauge nets. Training took place in March on the new SMIE protocols that ECO bio-monitors will be following. Jan Allen is League's liaison to bio-monitoring. Call Jan at 692-6348.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Mary Ann Engel, Membership Chair

Please welcome our newest member Gerri Critikos. Gerri moved here with her family about 4 years ago from Gastonia. This is her first time in League. She says she joined us "to become more engaged in the political realm in Henderson County" and "to see what's going on and understand more" about what League does. Right now she's a busy mother of two and so will be looking over all that LWVHC does before deciding where her main interests lie. You can reach Gerri at home at 36 Roberts Lane, Flat Rock 28731, or by phone at 693-9918 or email at gkc43@yahoo.com.

We also have a new US member, Frank Guest. He and his wife live at 185 Beech Lane, Brevard 28712 and can be reached at 883-8984. Frank does not expect to be attending our functions, but supports League's work.

NATURAL RESOURCES – STATE/NATIONAL**Barbara Barnett, Chair/Advocate****ACTION ALERT !!!**

On December 22, 2008 an earthen dam gave way and spilled one billion gallons of toxic coal ash sludge (decades of the plants waste) contaminating hundreds of acres, local rivers, poisoning the areas drinking water and destroying the homes of a retirement community.

The Toxic waste was 100 times the size of the Exxon Valdez spill and could happen again. Every day dangerous contaminants seep from the more than 600 coal ash waste sites across the Country threatening people and wildlife. The coal ash dumps pose a serious problem because they are not regulated by the federal government. Coal ash, produced when coal is burned to produce electricity, is full of toxic metals, e.g. arsenic, 100 times higher than the maximum level allowed. A federal law suit has been filed asking the federal court oversee the clean up.

Last August, the National League of Women Voters called for a moratorium on new construction of coal-fired power plants. The League asked that we take immediate and aggressive action to halt climate change. Coal is the single largest source of global warming pollution in the United States. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Write your Representative and Senators and call for a moratorium on the Cliffside power plant.

Representative Heath Shuler shuler.house.gov
Senator Kay Hagen hagen.senate.gov
Senator Richard Burr burr.senate.gov

NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS SLATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING MAY 22

The Nominating Committee of Priscilla Burch, Chair, Charlyne Coleman, and Sharon Burlingame presents the following names for election to the Board of Directors at the May 2009 Annual Meeting:

- Helen Wright – Secretary – Director, 2-year term
- Rudi Simko – Public Information Officer - Director, 2-year term
- One Board Director position open

Nominating Committee: Charlyne Coleman, Chair and Liaison to the Board
Priscilla Burch, member
Sharon Burlingame, member

The Nominating Committee is **eager to know of anyone's interest in serving on the Board**. There is one Director position still open at this writing. The Board is the “steering committee” that is charged with overseeing that the mission of League is being served through our program and activities , that the programs are supported by creative fundraising and that the membership continues to grow and expand our impact on our County! As importantly, we are always in a team-building process...**learning, growing, and caring. AND!...WE HAVE FUN DOING IT!** Please , do not hesitate to express your interest in becoming involved in any way...and especially at this time, to serve on the Board. Call Priscilla at 698-0398!

Additional areas that are seeking Coordinators or Co-Coordinators (not elected positions) are Natural Resources Local, the Observer Corps, and Membership...all very different, but all seeking some same important skills, i.e. interest and enthusiasm, a liking for people, and organization.

LWVHC CALENDAR FOR APRIL – MAY – JUNE 2009

Thurs. April 2 11-1 LWVHC BOARD MTG. WCCA Conference Room

Thurs. April 16 6:45 to 9:00 pm GEN. MTG. FOR MEMBERS – CONSENSUS ON THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT STUDY. Please see front page for details.

Sat. April 25 10-3 Let's support ECO'S EARTH DAY ENERGY EXPO- featuring lectures, workshops, green cars including the electric plug-in Prius, green vendors and organizations,student energy projects and much more. Technology Building, Blue Ridge Community College

Thurs. May 7 11-1 LWVHC BOARD MTG. WCCA Conference Room

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 11:30- 1:30 L WVHC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**BRING A FRIEND, A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER, A GUEST, YOURSELF!**

We'll have a delicious Luncheon and a fun Silent Auction of native plants/trees donated by Sharon and Don Burlingame...Don't miss this wonderful "end of year" event at the Hendersonville Country Club ! We'll vote in new officers in a brief business meeting and then have "ROUND TABLE" TALKS on the theme "ONE VOICE: NON-PARTISANSHIP AT IT'S BEST".

Luncheon choices are 1) Encrusted Chicken Breast with Honey Mustard Sauce 2) Almond Crusted Filet of Native Trout with Sweet Red Pepper Sauce (both dinners complete with starch, veg., beverage and a Key Lime Pie dessert) for \$16.00 all inclusive with tax and tip. To make your reservations , please call or email Jean McGrady between May 8 and May 19 at 696-0672 fccmom1@hotmail.com. Payment will be made at the Club on May 22.

WED, MAY 27 ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT FOR ALL BOARD MEMBERS AND LEADERSHIP ...to be held at The UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH ON KANUGA from 10 am – 3 pm. We'll get acquainted, develop program/calendar, learn about developing committees, job descriptions, and build "team".

Thurs. June 4 11-1 L WVHC BOARD MTG. WCCA Conference Room

June 5-6-7 League State Convention at Greensboro.

These events are fun and informative ! We are sending 6 voting delegates, but we'd love to have more members go also. Consult our own Website for details and Registration form. We're carpooling and sharing the gas cost as well as cost of double rooms. Please join us! Call Nancy 693-5257 !

NOTE: MAY BULLETIN WILL BE PUBLISHED MID-MAY

"Promoting Political Responsibility through informed and Active Participation..."



