



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."

March 2009

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH ! Martha Sachs, Social Policy Chair/Advocate

This nation's current Health Care Crisis has been overshadowed by what is happening with the state of our economy although they both impact each other. The upcoming meeting of the LWVHC, which is open to the public, will present two vastly different approaches to solving this crisis.

**March 19 - LWVHC
General Meeting
From 3-5:30 pm**

Here's To Your Health !

For further info call Martha Sachs,
Social Policy Chair/Advocate 891-4542

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

***PLEASE! Carpool! Let's get
everyone out for this crucial
educational session!***

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

The first approach will be presented by Hope Marasco (and possibly the Director Adam Searing as well) of the N.C. Justice Center's Health Access Coalition, and is the version most likely to be submitted to our State Legislature and the U.S. Congress. This plan relies on private insurers.

The second approach, which is favored by over 59% of physicians, is also supported by a long-held LWV position, and will be reinforced by a "dynamite" DVD. The DVD, "Health, Money and Fear", was created by Dr. Paul Hochfeld, ER Physician, and will make the argument for a single payer system.

Our health care system is broken. Despite spending twice as much per capita as almost any other industrialized country, our system is rated only 37th by the World Health Organization. With approximately 50 million people uninsured, and even some of those with insurance being forced into bankruptcy by medical debt, it is clear that we need a new system.

Which will it be? Can you play a part in the decision? Come to acquire factual knowledge that in turn will help make an effective choice happen. A question and answer period will follow the presentation !

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

LEAGUE HAS MUCH TO CELEBRATE!**Nancy Glowacki, President**

Our League celebrated the 89th Birthday of LWVUS in style ! See photos on our website! (Three Cheers!!! for Jan Allen's web mastery!) Forty-five of us... members and special guests, all enjoying the entertainment, talking and singing together, remembering old times, thinking in the present ,and contemplating the future... and eating cake! It was a true "community building" 2-hour packed event! To everyone who "pitched in", Thank YOU!

Then a week later, we celebrated "Diversity" with Union Grove Baptist Church hosting, and Alma Rodriguez-Jones, Diversity Chair, presenting a most gracious guest, Lena Adas who spoke about her life here and her spiritual life/faith as a Muslim woman. Again, 45 people attended and kept the questions coming!

And now, we celebrate the amazing women of our world in March... Women's History Month ! (and every month actually!) And simultaneously... we honor the Sunshine Laws during Sunshine Week (March 15-21)...the laws guaranteeing access to governmental records,... meetings... transparency in government...a citizen's right to know ...one of our "bottom line" principles !

TO CELEBRATE MARCH, PLEASE ATTEND ONE OF OUR SHOWINGS OF THE STIRRING MOVIE

"IRON JAWED ANGELS" (what women actually endured to win the right to vote !) starring Hillary Swank, a 2 hour movie that will touch you to the core! Bring your friends, your teens, your college women and men, all women and men! **SEE THE CALENDAR, LAST PAGE.** Handouts on SUNSHINE LAWS will be available as well at all showings in the Historic Courthouse Community Room . **DON'T MISS IT! SPREAD THE WORD!**

We have three full months left in the calendar year...keep your eye on that calendar for it is full and it is meaningful. Individual members continue to work hard on all fronts bringing our year's work to a climax on May 22 at our Annual Meeting! Be proud....you are members of a "super" League!

OBSERVING GOVERNMENT MEETINGS!**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.

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 celebrates Sunshine Week every March.

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!

Repeat After Me: "CHECK YOUR 3! "**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. **Help distribute the handouts !** They are available to pick up at our general meetings. 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**

President's note: The committee members of NRL are working to collaborate and integrate with existing , local environmental organizations, following their particular interests. There are many opportunities for Leaguers to get involved and find a niche in this very important ongoing endeavor. Besides ECO , we need representation on the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and Sierra Committee. Call Jan at 692-6348.

**“SPRING IS IN THE AIR.....BULBS GO IN THE GROUND
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO HAVE FLOWERS ALL YEAR ROUND ?”**

March 10th deadline on the current types of bulbs being sold! This is a fundraising project for League!

Remember to order your spring bulbs! These bulbs are of flowers that can be planted early summer and will bloom into the fall. It's the perfect way to help the League raise funds and keep your yard flowering through most of the year. Flowers such as callas, dahlias, daylilies and caladiums are available in reliable bulbs from Doornbosch Brothers, our fall bulb distributor. For information and an order form, call **Gwen Hill at 696-6677** or email gwen@wcca.net. All orders **must be in by March 10th** for a late spring delivery.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Mary Terjesen, Membership Committee

Welcome to our new member, **Michele Skeele**. Michele moved to Hendersonville at the tender age of three; her dad was employed at GE. As a young adult, she tried her wings and moved to Chicago, the windy city, where she had a great career, but she returned in 1984 to be with family. Her daughter and son had the fantastic experience of being among a loving extended family here in North Carolina. Michele has many friends who are members of LWVHC and who have been encouraging her to join our group. She hasn't had time to digest her package of information yet or to choose areas of interest. She feels confident that being a member will be very rewarding since the League offers so many options. You can reach Michele by phone at 692-5392 or cell at 551-6415 or by e-mail at skeele@mchsi.com. Home is 519 3rd Ave. West, H'ville 28739.

We are happy to introduce another new member, **Cynthia Vondrasek**. Hendersonville has been her home for 9 yrs. but Cynthia was originally a Chicago gal. Cynthia also isn't a newcomer to LWV: many years ago she was a member and is looking forward to the comraderie, the knowledgeable discussions where opinions can be expressed freely, and to helping improve the quality of life for all in our town of Hendersonville. She is the mother of 5 children living in Seattle, Indiana, Baltimore, Greenville and a daughter in South Africa in the health field. Cynthia will be out of town for the month of March visiting California. Her interest is school facilities and helping children to learn the importance of voting. She resides at 186 Timber Creek Road, H'ville 28739 may be reached on her cell at 329-6988 or by e-mail at cynvon01@mchsi.com.

NATURAL RESOURCES – STATE/NATIONAL

Barbara Barnett, Chair/Advocate

President's Note: Barbara conducts “**eternal vigilance**” in the Natural Resources arena, State, National, and also Local...it's all connected. As the City of Hendersonville approaches passage of a **20-Comprehensive Plan**, she has monitored meeting content and asked probing questions and promoted League's positions on Resource Management and Water Resource policies. Here is an excerpt of an excellent letter she composed to send to the City Council. Barbara assures League that we shall be able to comment further to the Council as “tweaks” are made in the Plan and before it is finalized. Barbara is a perfect example of a focused portfolio and person in action...knows the subject, observes meetings, knows League positions and brings them to the front for consideration by planning officials, and follows up and thru! We owe her a debt of gratitude for her “eternal vigilance”! We all need to be aware and involved in this upcoming Plan. Thank you Barbara!

...now the excerpt...

“The League supports the plan's primary components:

1. an analysis of existing water supply and treatment, wastewater treatment, and storm-water management utilities and their respective capacities,
2. recommendations to address existing shortcomings in utilities and service,
3. recommendations to ensure an adequate supply of water and water/wastewater treatment capacity,
4. recommendations to maintain and improve the quality of the City's water supply, as well as the quality of wastewater and storm-water,
5. strategies for Low-Impact Development that conserves water, reduces storm-water runoff and improves storm-water quality,
6. development of a wastewater master plan,
7. the plan's goals and strategies of preserving the quantity and quality of the City's water supply.

The Water Master Plan for distribution is based on the assumption that water consumption will be equal to the population growth rate. Since the population will increase and rainfall may not increase (there is a cycle and an average), we recommend a second scenario where, as water becomes scarce, regional water agreements will be made with other government entities. The present arrangement with Asheville is not a workable agreement because each unit of government can opt out in emergencies.

There appears to be a need for innovative thinking and a futuristic perspective. The proposal for more local farmers markets is to be commended. However, land is expensive, farming is not lucrative, and farmland may disappear, therefore, cities will need to fundamentally change their present concepts of urban development. Cities are now farming on the rooftops of buildings! As the present energy supply dissipates, decentralized alternative energy sources will be needed, e.g., solar, wind and geothermal. The traditional system of water resource management may not be feasible because nutrients from the soil are released into rivers, streams to the ocean and creates dead zones (Gulf of Mexico). The League recommends grants for research in twenty-first century alternatives.

The League applauds the efforts of the City Council to make plans for water distribution and water quality with a responsible, long range perspective and League will continue to monitor the plan and the process .”

*PLEASE NOTE on the calendar page the “DEBATE on CLEAN ENERGY “ which Barbara is co-sponsoring with 3 environmental groups; Carol Cleveland from League will moderate.

**Here are MORE Resources for NPV Compact Consensus ... Natalie Zitnick and Lee Luebbe
STUDY THESE PAGES...SAVE... CHECK OUR WEBSITE...COME TO MTG. IN APRIL**

Two additional resources printed here will help you prepare for the consensus meeting, April 16, on the National Popular Vote Compact of States. They are: the **Consensus Questions** and the actual working of the **Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by Nationwide Popular Vote**. **PLEASE READ AND BRING TO THE APRIL MEETING as well as the articles in the February Bulletin.**

The following six separate areas will be discussed at the April 16 meeting.

AMENDING THE CONSITUTION

1. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. Action to alter a basic element of the Constitutional framework, which is achievable by amendment to the Constitution, should be accomplished by amendment to the Constitution.
- b. Action by states through a compact process is an acceptable way to alter the method of electing the President and Vice-President.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

2. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. Because a compact has never before been used to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the chance that it might set a precedent for the future leads to the conclusion that it is better that the League continue to work for an amendment to the Constitution to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of Electoral College.
- b. Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental Constitutional issue such as voting, the League should support the NVP Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT

3. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.
- b. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is sufficient to conclude that the plan should not be implemented without obtaining such consent.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

ENFORCEMENT

4. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. The NPV Compact contains sufficient enforcement provisions to assure smooth operation of the plan.
- b. Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan should be passed anyway.

nominated in a member state in association with the national popular vote winner is less than or greater than that state's number of electoral votes, the presidential candidate on the presidential slate that has been designated as the national popular vote winner shall have the power to nominate the presidential electors for that state and that state's presidential elector certifying official shall certify the appointment of such nominees. The election official of each member state shall immediately release to the public all voted counts or statements of votes as they are determined or obtained.

This article shall govern the appointment of presidential electors in each member state in any year in which this agreement is, on July 20, in effect in states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes.

Article IV – Other Provisions

This agreement shall take effect when states cumulatively possession a majority of the electoral votes have enacted this agreement in substantially the same form and the enactments by such states have taken in each state.

A member state may withdraw from this agreement, except that a withdrawal occurring six months or less before the end of a President's term shall not become effective until a President or Vice President shall have been qualified to serve the next term.

The chief executive of each member state shall promptly notify the chief executive of all other states of when this agreement has been enacted and has taken effect in that official's state, when the state has withdrawn from this agreement, and when this agreement takes effect generally.

The agreement shall terminate if the electoral college is abolished.

If any provision of this agreement is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

Article V – Definitions

For purposes of this agreement,

“chief executive” shall mean the Governor of a State of the United States or the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

“elector slate” shall mean a slate of candidates who have been nominated in a state for the position of presidential elector in association with a presidential slate;

“chief election officer” shall mean the state official or body that is authorized to certify the total number of popular votes for each presidential slate;

“presidential elector” shall mean an elector for President and Vice-President of the United States

“presidential elector certifying official” shall mean the state official or body that is authorized to certify the appointment of the state's presidential electors;

“presidential slate” shall mean a slate of two persons, the first of whom has been nominated as a candidate for President of the United States and the second of whom has been nominated as a candidate for Vice-President of the United States, or any legal successors to such persons, regardless of whether both names appear on the ballot presented to the voter in a particular state;

“state” shall mean a State of the United States and the District of Columbia; and

“statewide popular election” shall mean a general election in which votes are cast for presidential slates by individual voters and counted on a statewide basis.

AND HERE'S SOME MORE...Additional Resources for National Popular Vote Compact Study

Use the local website, www.lwvhcnc.org. It's easy – saves pages in League Bulletin and you will be better informed to participate in the consensus process April 16, 7-9 PM.

Go to your Internet Explorer, type in the above website, in the upper right hand, click on “Information for Study Issues, National Popular Vote Compact” and there you will find the listing of all the resources the committee has used in its study. Print them off on your scrap paper and enjoy.

NOTE: Reading the material ahead of the April meeting is essential because only one meeting will be held on this topic. Resource people will be present in each small group, but one of the ground rules for consensus is “Everyone participates.”

This is an exciting time to look at this approach to the election of the president and vice-president. **IT IS IMPORTANT to know that IF the consensus affirms the NPVC, it does not take away from the League's long standing position to abolish the Electoral College.**

The following proposed budget is required to be published two months before our voting at Annual Meeting May 22. The Board will review at March 5 Board meeting; any alterations will be sent to you for perusal before the Annual Meeting.

THE PROPOSED LWVHC BUDGET FOR 2009-10

INCOME		
DUES		
Single Members	3948.00	
Family Members	455.00	
		4403.00
DONATIONS		
Member Cash Contributions	101.80	
Member In-Kind Contributions	100.00	
Non-Member Cash Contributions	50.00	
Non-Member In-Kind Contributions*	5777.00	
		6028.80
OPERATING INCOME		
Member Meals	1200.00	
Bulletin Subscriptions	90.00	
Calendars	30.00	
		1320.00
INTEREST		
		40.00
FUNDRAISERS		
Bulb Sales	1500.00	
Note Cards	100.00	
Finance Drive	3000.00	
Silent Auction	200.00	
Kids Voting	50.00	
		4850.00
GRANTS		
		0.00
FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED**		
		141.00
TOTAL INCOME		16782.80
EXPENSES		
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Post Office Box	100.00	
Postage	20.00	
General Supplies	200.00	
Bank Charges	50.00	
Website	70.00	
		440.00
INSURANCE		
		625.00
BOARD EXPENSES		
		75.00
LWV CONVENTION		
		1000.00
LVWNC COUNCIL		
		500.00
LOCAL MEETINGS		
Annual Meeting	250.00	
Workshops	250.00	
		500.00
FINANCIAL SUPPORT		
PMP State	1086.00	
PMP National	2744.80	
Affordable Housing	50.00	
		3880.80
BULLETINS		
Copying	175.00	

Postage	100.00	
		275.00
COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES		
Membership	300.00	
Public Relations*	5702.00	
		6002.00
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT		
Voter Service	250.00	
Natural Resources	50.00	
Observer Corps	20.00	
Democracy Speaks	20.00	
Immigration	100.00	
Social Policy	20.00	
Judicial Advocacy	20.00	
New Programs/Studies	50.00	
		530.00
MEETINGS/MEALS		
Member Meals	1200.00	
Speaker Meals	100.00	
		1300.00
FUND RAISING		
Bulbs	800.00	
Note Cards	55.00	
Finance Drive	800.00	
		1655.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		16782.80

*Includes \$5577 in-kind contribution from Times-News for publication of "League View"
 **Scholarship for three members from Scholarship Fund

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS MEMBER TO SERVE ON LEAGUE’S BOARD

The Nominating Committee of Priscilla Burch, Chair, Charlyne Coleman, and Sharon Burlingame are eager to know of anyone’s interest in serving on the Board. There is one Director position 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! Our final Nominations will be published in the April Bulletin and voted on at the Annual Meeting May 22.

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 MARCH 2009

Thurs. March 5 LWVHC BOARD MTG. WCCA Conference Room

Two Tuesdays In honor of Women’s History Month, Our League, in collaboration with the Historic Courthouse Museum is hosting 6 FREE showings of an acclaimed full feature HBO film for the PUBLIC – 3 showings each on Mar.10 and Mar. 24

March 10 and 24 “IRON JAWED ANGELS”

NOT TO BE Held in the Community Room 2nd floor , of Historic Courthouse.

MISSED! SHOW TIMES: 9:30 am...1:30 pm...7:00 p

NOTE : Arrive early for a guided tour of the Museum with Jenny Giles, Museum Director

Saturday, March 14 from 10 am - noon All welcome to a Regional workshop and luncheon meeting: “Creative League Management “ is the topic. All welcome. Then, from 12-2 pm, a luncheon meeting on “Good Mental Health is Ageless: the status of Mental Health Policy in NC. Tickets to luncheon are \$12.00 payable there. Pre- Registering-RSVP required at 919-783-5995 or at LWVNC@bellsouth.net by March 9. Held at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement, 1617 HVL Rd., AVL, NC

Sunday, March 15 Unity Center hosting a “ League Immigration” Presentation- OPEN TO PUBLIC 2- 4 pm Presenters: Joe Glowacki and Lee Luebbe (Old Fanning Bridge Road, Fletcher)

THURS. MAR. 19 GEN .MTG. “TO YOUR HEALTH” FROM 3-5:30 SEE FRONT PAGE FOR ALL DETAILS

March 25 DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ARTICLES: Please email to Nancy jonaglowacki@mchsi.com Please mail in the following format: Times New Roman font; size 11 (12 is ok if you don’t have 11); no bold print please .

March 28 Saturday at 9:00 am League” Immigration Presentation” OPEN TO PUBLIC...St. James Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall.

March 28 Saturday 1:00 pm DEBATE ! The Four Seasons Sierra Committee and three co-sponsoring environmental organizations invites you to a debate “CAN CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY SOLVE THE ENERGY CRISIS?” to be held at the HVL Library Kaplan Auditorium . Thomas Williams of Duke Power will debate Avram Friedman of the Canary Coalition. Q and A will follow. (Should be a “hot” debate!!!)

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

TWO MORE DATES OF NOTE TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE!

May 22 , Friday, 11:30- 1:30 Annual Meeting Luncheon and Silent Auction...SAVE THE DATE!

June 5-7 League State Convention at Greensboro. These events are fun and informative ! We can send 5 voting delegates, but we’d love to have more members go also. Consult your NC Voter or 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 !

“Promoting Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation...”



