



# 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."*

November and December 2008

## THE ELECTION WRAPS UP ...AND THE LEAGUE "ROCKS ON"!

Nancy Glowacki, President LWVHC

After 20 months of League being involved in the election process and carrying out League's "labors of love"-- educating the public, conducting forums, getting information out, helping on Election Day, placing letters and columns in the newspapers, to say nothing of the personal inner struggles we may have encountered trying to "hang in there" as this election's intense process has played out... we're "pooped"!

Joe and I have been studying an 8-week course called "Beyond War" for two months. It's been exciting, enlightening, but also very tough to face up to the thinking challenge it presents! One tangible result is rekindling the drive to study and advocate for more understanding among people, and to help them find and stand on common ground more consistently. This campaign gave us a historic set of opportunities. However, consistent with the prevailing long-engrained attitude that "politics" gives us permission to be uncivil with the excuse "it's part of the game", it seems that once again we have allowed it to become an emotional, divisive, polarizing experience that never serves us well in the long run.

People who were "friends" now find it hard to talk to each other. Emotions have flared...violence erupted...meanness has overshadowed attempts at positive messages...people interviewed in the media have reflected unfathomable fear that has seemed to dominate their thinking in making choices. When the election is over, where does that really leave us? What have we learned? How have we progressed personally? For many, our "united-ness" in diversity still seems difficult to recognize and accept...that if "I (or we) don't get our way, or fear that we won't, then we can choose to separate even more, be angry, act out, spread rumors, or worse, threaten to harm, and then...go back to life as usual until the next time.

How's that working for us as a United States? What impetus does this give us as League members to act more on our positions to foster peace among peoples? Einstein said in 1945, "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." And at the same time, we also are experiencing a new level of interconnection between people and cultures. **Our individual well-being depends upon the well-being of the whole system.** Diverse points of view will always exist, but an overriding identification with the whole enables us to **resolve conflicts by discovering solutions that benefit all.** Decision-making always presents challenges. As we speak, Henderson County is working toward a Minimum Housing Code and Leaguers Dixie Blumer, Shelley Brown (Pisgah Legal), the Housing Coalition, and League are supporting what has felt like a bit of an uphill "blind" climb to assure a viable and effective minimum code. But League's job, no matter where decisions are being made in our democratic process, is always to advocate for open, civil dialogue, transparency, a "win-win" attitude, and an overriding identification with the whole system to find solutions that can benefit us all! We believe we can and do effect positive change! Rock on League! We'll never run out of work!

### VALUABLE WEBSITES FOR INFO AND ADVOCACY

League of Women Voters of Henderson County - [www.lwvhcnc.org](http://www.lwvhcnc.org)

League of Women Voters (National) [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org)

League of Women Voters (North Carolina) [www.LWVNC.org](http://www.LWVNC.org)

VOTE411.org (non-partisan election and voter information)

Factcheck.com (non-partisan; check accuracy of political ads and allegations)

Contact Legislators:

- [internete-mail@ncleg.net](mailto:internete-mail@ncleg.net) (readable by all Legislators)
- [ncsenatemembers@ncleg.net](mailto:ncsenatemembers@ncleg.net) (readable by all Senators)
- [nchousemembers@ncleg.net](mailto:nchousemembers@ncleg.net) (readable by all House Members)

**NOV. 20 LWVHC GEN. MEETING From 7-9 pm**

#### **"AN ENVIRONMENTAL BUFFET"**

ECO will share their 4 program focus areas and their film "Protecting Our Rural Spaces". The Four Seasons Sierra Committee and Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy will also outline their programs for the year! Bringing them all together helps League see the "big picture" and to know how we can support these crucial efforts! Meet League's new Natural Resources Local team! Questions? Call Nancy at 693-5257

Unitarian-Universalist Church, Kanuga Rd. Upstairs  
Remember 'carpooling' is a great concept!

## From the Leadership...GRATITUDE FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US ...Nancy Glowacki, Pres.

**Here's a Recipe** with ingredients for living well as Leaguers... Combine energetic spirits, spicy intentions, hearty laughter, touches of tenderness, generous smiles, large measure of trust, flavoring of friendship, undiluted cupfuls of thanks...all mixed together and baked in a sturdy pan of purpose and principle! And every time you taste this delectable dish, say "Thank You!" for each and every one of us, for your commitment and results for League! Just for being present in League, you are appreciated and loved!

A special thanks to League's "**Little Bit of Sunshine**" Troupe was received from the GM Alumni club of WNC re: our Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> performance : "Dear Ladies, We truly enjoyed your comic relief of this political season. However, among your humor sparkled many crystalline truths and encouragement. Indeed we all left our meeting with wide smiles, deeper fellowship, and lifted spirits." Thanks **Lee, Marion, Renee, Carol, Martha, Priscilla, Mary Ann, Nancy, Joanne and Charlyne!**

To **Carol Cleveland** Voter Service Chair , who has served League with great success this election season...A GREAT BIG THANKS! Additional thanks to **Holly Demuth, Sara Leatham, Natalie Zitnick, Joan McFadden, Martha Sachs, Brenda Fisher, Kristi Flinchum, Kathy Baluha, Jan Allen, Nancy Glowacki, Carol Cleveland and Marion Huffman (and subs Diane Rhoades, Sharon Burlingame and Charlie Rogers )**...all for "peopling" the phones at the BOE on Election Day! Bravo to **Joe Glowacki** for doing the 11-7 job as a poll judge from 10/16 to 11/1 !

**Judy Westrate** designed a great sign to add to the Kids Voting Booth showing the League logo and a photo of a child in front of the American flag...she made 35 of them...Priscilla and Nancy 'glued' them in place! Thanks to Judy and to Kids Voting leaders **Marian Lowry** and **Pricilla Burch** for this ever expanding program and service to our young people!

## LOBBYING AND ETHICS REFORM...A GOOD START, BUT MORE NEEDED Natalie Zitnick , Democracy Speaks Chair-Advocate

**Adam Sotak**, Organizing Director of Democracy North Carolina, a nonpartisan, nonprofit voting rights organization based in Durham gave an especially interesting and timely presentation at our **Oct. 16 meeting**. Mr. Sotak spoke about the importance of transparency in the political process, the effort to stop the bundling of donations, along with the need to keep special interest money from corrupting campaigns.

Some interesting facts brought forth in the presentation were: More than half the adults in N.C. do not participate in elections and N.C. ranked 38<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states in voter turnout, One of the reasons for these problems is that voters are turned off by the constant money chase and outdated voting methods.

Since 2006, N.C. lobbying and ethics laws have been overhauled and improved. More young people are registering to vote and getting involved in campaigns. Campaign watchdogs and local media expose corruption. Mr. Sotak said N.C. has the nation's first "Clean Elections" public financing program for statewide judicial candidates. It is a major breakthrough for "voter-owned elections." Choosing "yes" on the check-off box that is on the NC income-tax form will make a huge difference in public financing and give the voters a greater voice in electing their officials.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS - Mary Ann Engel, Chair

November is the time for thanksgiving and for being thankful about League's continued growth. We are so pleased to welcome **five** new members ! (League says a big "Thank You" to you **Mary Ann** and the great organized team who do an amazing job for membership!)

**Jan Allen** was originally from Florida but most recently was in the Pittsburgh, Pa. area where she was the webmaster for the National Aviary. She came to our area looking for a place to eventually retire. Alice Ann Arrowood brought Jan to our Sept. general meeting, **Children on the Edge**, and introduced her. Jan has been a member in her Pittsburgh league and is now transferring to ours. She is interested in possibly being involved with our new Natural Resources, local, committee which is being formed and helping with the elections. You can reach Jan at home at 176 Mill Pond Way, Hendersonville 28791 or by phone at 692-6248, or email at [janallen@mac.com](mailto:janallen@mac.com).

Marion Huffman shared information about our league with two of her neighbors and they have decided to join. **Kathrine Tims** follows the unique spelling of her name from her grandmother and has fond memories of League during her college years in Michigan where her mother was a member. Kathrine and her husband, both in hi-tech careers, were in San Francisco for about 20 years before getting tired of the commute to Silicon Valley. Four years ago they decided to make the change to our mountains and now call 144 Pinnacle Peak Lane, Flat Rock 29731 their home. Kathrine says decided to join LWFHC because 1) she's familiar with California politics but "ignorant of NC" and wants to learn about our politics locally; and 2) it's "the first time in my adult life that I'm not working 80 hrs. a week." You can reach her at 697-8200 or by e-mail at [pktims@aol.com](mailto:pktims@aol.com).

**Sarah Leatham** is a first timer to League. She's looking over our committee's information and deciding where she might like to be involved. She says she's open to learning about immigration, education, or maybe judicial advocacy. Meantime she's working on her Spanish. Sarah has been in our area for about 18 years but remembers it well from her days at camp here. She came from the Chicago area, originally from Missouri, to help open a restaurant with her brother. That's now the Hubba Hubba barbeque place next door to the Wrinkled Egg which her sister, Starr Teel, owns. Sarah does the catering end of the restaurant. She lives at 1905 Little River Road, Flat Rock 28731. Her email is [sbteel@hotmail.com](mailto:sbteel@hotmail.com) and phone is 697-2302.

**Suzanne Green** is also a first timer to League and a neighbor of member Judy Westrate who told her about LWVHC. Originally from Toledo, Ohio, Suzanne and her husband lived in New Jersey for 20 years and then retired first to Beaufort, SC and then to here. Suzanne and her husband spend their summers on an island on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Winters are here at 135 Crossvine Trail, Hendersonville 28739. She has a background of 15 years as an entrepreneur developing new restaurants as well as working with the media. She's looking over our committees to see where her interests might lie. Her telephone number is 692-0362 and her e-mail is [nwgreen@bellsouth.net](mailto:nwgreen@bellsouth.net).

**When you join League locally, you get 3 for the price of 1;** you automatically become part of LWVUS and LWVNC also. Conversely, when someone joins LWVUS, we are notified that the members are in our area and we welcome them into our group. We have a new LWVUS member and we'd like to welcome her, too. **Dr. Helen Hayes** lives at 150 Lake Club Circle, Hendersonville 28792. She has been in our area for 30 years from the DC and New York area and is retired. She says she doesn't get out much but joined to support the League.

And, as promised in the last bulletin, we have some further information from new member, **Rabbi Philip Bentley**. The Rabbi's interests lie in environmental ethics to which he has devoted much research and time. In addition to his previous contact information, you can reach him by e-mail at [pbentley@agudasisrael.com](mailto:pbentley@agudasisrael.com).

## **YOUR FALL BULBS HAVE ARRIVED! AND THAT'S NOT ALL! LEAGUE IS NOW SELLING A BEAUTIFUL SPRING COLLECTION !**

Gwen Hill will be contacting everyone to make arrangements for pick up. The bulbs are at the WCCA Program Building on King Creek Boulevard. If you ordered bulbs and you haven't picked them up or heard from Gwen, please call her at 696-6677.

Now that you have your Fall bulbs, **it is a great time to think about those Spring bulbs.** We are launching the **Spring Bulb Sales NOW !** This selection offers a *completely different variety* of bulbs to complete your garden. Don't forget these bulbs *make great presents* for special occasions or just to say "Thank You" to your friends. The Spring Collection includes **Stargazer Lilies, White Callas, Mixed Lilies, Bleeding Hearts, Mixed Caladiums, Giant Dinnerplate Dahlias, Flowering Fern, Hardy Liatris Giant Cannas, and Begonias.** So order your bulbs today. For more information, contact Gwen Hill at (828)696-6677 or by email [gwen@wcca.net](mailto:gwen@wcca.net).

## **WHAT'S THE FUTURE FOR WATER? LISTEN AND LEARN NOV. 8 Natural Resources...State and National ... Barbara Barnett, Chair / Advocate**

The cyclical pattern of weather conditions has been a concern of the State and Local Governments in North Carolina for the past few years. 100 Counties were experiencing some form of drought and some continue to do so. The mandatory restrictions on water use have been lifted, but voluntary restrictions have been ineffective.

What will the future hold? Three scientists will be speaking on water resources on Saturday, **November 8th at 1:30 pm** at the Henderson County Library, Kaplan Auditorium hosted by the Four Seasons Sierra Committee. Michael J. Brewer, NOAA of the National Climate Data Center, Ashville, Brett Laverty of the NC Department of the Environment and Natural Resources and Bill Hazell of the United States Geological Survey will share their expertise on issues, such as, Climate Change, water shed restoration, ground and water quality and quantity. Please join us for a very informative discussion of issues of concern to our community. Q & A will follow.

**ADDITIONAL NOTE FROM BARBARA:** The City of Hendersonville's **Green Challenge Task Force** chaired by Councilwoman Barbara Volk (a League member) has adopted the goals and objectives of the NC League of Municipalities. The League of Municipalities is asking cities to initiate practical actions that can save energy, money and natural resources. The purpose of the Task Force is to draft a Sustainability Plan, Climate Protection Plan, or similar resolutions for adoption by the City Council. They will:

- 1) create an inventory of the Cities current energy and natural resources projects,
- 2) survey the Cities measures to conserve energy and other natural resources,
- 3) develop cost effective strategies, and
- 4) suggest methods of follow up and evaluation.

The GCTF has had two productive meetings and will focus on energy efficiency, energy conservation and citizen and private sector education. As a member of the Task Force and a representative of the LWVHC, I have proposed a plan highlighting an Energy Bank supported by applications for grants.

## LEAGUE'S INVITATION TO DIALOGUE GETS GOOD RESPONSE

### Lee Luebbe, Chair- Immigration Committee

Response to League's invitation to present a program on the Study and National Position on Immigration has kept the committee members busy. Four presentations given in October include: the Agudas Israel Sisters, Trinity Presbyterian Church Issues Study Group, Immaculate Conception Response Team, and one public meeting at the Hendersonville Library. Several more requests are pending confirmation. One goal of the committee this year was to make 12 -15 presentations with at least one public program related to the LWVUS Study and Position of Immigration. At this time, it appears that the goal will be reached easily!

Here is a **special alert** to new members who are interested in joining the committee -- there are needs to be met other than making presentations. Distributing evaluations, collecting questions, greeters at the meetings, summarizing and compiling the evaluations are great avenues thru which to meet other league members and to become connected with the content of the research that was completed before you joined. If you check "Immigration" as an area of interest when you fill out your MIP (Member Interest Profile), you will be contacted you to learn where you might find your niche.

## LEAGUE IS AN ORGANIZATION OF MANY VOLUNTEERS DOING MANY JOBS ! SIGN UP !

**Our League OBSERVER CORPS with Kathleen Lees as Coordinator** (who is recuperating from knee surgery and is looking for new volunteers to train for the Observer Corps) represents one of League's most important tasks in the community. We support Sunshine Laws and transparency, citizen's right to know and access to public records thru observing government in action. This is a great "get feet wet" introduction for **league newcomers**. Call Kathleen at 697-7881 or email her of your interest at [kathleenl@bellsouth.net](mailto:kathleenl@bellsouth.net) .

**The NEW NATURAL RESOURCES LOCAL CONNECTION TEAM (NRLCT) is gathering itself together and we'll introduce them at the Nov. 20 General Meeting (see front page). Jan Allen, Geri Conley, Dot Highter, Marion Lowry and Dixie Blumer, and hopefully other members will come on board to volunteer with** ECO, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, or Four Seasons Sierra Committee, the groups already engaged in projects with protecting rural spaces, recycling, solid waste, water cleanliness and conservation and the like! By choosing a "spot" to volunteer and maintaining the communication connection with League, our members are advocating League's positions and collaborating! Join us on the 20<sup>th</sup> for a "look and learn" evening with all three County groups!

Natalie Zitnick, Democracy Speaks Chair, is organizing a new committee to do the **LWVUC National Popular Vote Compact Study** starting after the new year. This will study the feasibility of using the National Popular Vote Compact among the states as a method for electing the president. Background materials will be provided by National in the next few months and later will provide consensus materials. This study will be done on a condensed schedule with a consensus deadline of May 1, 2009. It'll be stimulating, short, and a new study challenge for us!

## HONORING LEAGUE LEADERS ...Our Own History in Our Museum...Marian Lowry and Lee Luebbe

Here is your opportunity to say thanks to those great women who preceded us and established and served this League throughout the past 44 years. Many new members may not know of our efforts to have a room dedicated to the LWV of Henderson County in the recently restored courthouse and the Historic Heritage Museum. If you visit the Historic Heritage Museum, you will see our League room serving as the Gift Shop and the League name proudly displayed. The current sign in the League room, constructed for the grand opening in April , will be corrected in March '09 and contain all the names of the contributing League members and the names of those League members who have received recognition by others contributing in their honor.

This major fundraising effort is one way League members give honor and visibility to those great women. Individuals have given amounts varying from \$25.00 to the thousands. While one of our generous contributors has agreed to complete the amount needed in March. '09, the end of our two-year period...

...we ask that you consider making a contribution to the Henderson County Historic Court House Corporation as you close out your year of charitable giving – if you have not already done so.

The amount of \$50,000 was needed to refurbish and complete the room. We are thrilled to announce that members to date have contributed slightly more than \$40,000.00!

**The tax number is 54-2151555. In order for League to receive credit, please record clearly "For LWVHC Room" in the memo space on your check. Make the check payable to "Henderson County Historic Court House Corporation. Send checks to our treasurer, Marion Huffman, PO Box 2238, Hendersonville**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL !** Continuing on with League's calendar 08-09 for the second half of the year , we have some great programs planned...we'll plan for Snow Dates...watch for updates in the Bulletin and plug them into this calendar immediately! We have only two events this year where a meal and money are involved...1) the **Dec. Gen. Mtg. Breakfast** with the Officials and 2) the **May 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting Luncheon**. About half of our meetings in the evening and the other half in the daytime. **Think "carpool"** when wanting to attend meetings, especially if you have difficulty driving at night or at all...use the membership list, find someone fairly close to you, and just "ask"! If you ask for what you want, someone will usually help you get it! **Need a League Button? We have new ones!**

### LWVHC "CLIP 'N SAVE" CALENDAR FOR JAN. THRU JUNE 2009

- JAN. 8 Thur.**      **LWVHC BOARD MTG.** – WCCA Conference Room 11-1  
**Change !**  
 \*Note **WEEK CHANGE** (Jan. 1<sup>ST</sup> would be New Years Day, so we move forward 1 week)
- JAN. 15 Thur.**    **GENERAL MTG. - ALL-MEMBER PROGRAM PLANNING- THE TIME FOR MEMBERS TO CREATE PROGRAM IDEAS FOR 2 LEVELS OF LEAGUE.** Ya'll come ! Important Meeting ! Coffee and goodies !  
 2-4 PM  
 Co-Coord.: Diane Rhoades and Lee Luebbe. Location: Unitarian-Universalist on Kanuga (light at Price and Kanuga) Fellowship Room- lower level. **Snow date: TBA**
- JAN. 25**            **DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ARTICLES**
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- FEB. 5 Thur.**      **LWVHC BOARD MTG.** – WCCA Conference Room 11-1
- FEB. 12 Thur.**    **CELEBRATE LEAGUE'S 88<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!** (actual date is Feb. 14) **Activity TBA** Idea! How about taking "Iron- Jawed Angels " to Lake Pointe Landing or Carolina Village and celebrate with our members there? Another idea, dressed as Suffragettes, several Leaguers would like to visit Elementary Schools for a "lesson in History"!  
 Coord.: Alma Rodriguez Jones
- FEB. 19 Thur.**    **GENERAL MTG. - DIVERSITY SPEAKS : SPEAKER : Lena Adas, Journalist-** Alma Rodriguez-Jones  
 4-6 PM  
 Location : Union Grove Baptist Church , 901 Robinson Terrace (turn north from 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. on either Cherry or Ash, then onto Robinson Terrace to the church) Coffee and cookies served. **Snow date: TBA**
- FEB. 25**            **DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ARTICLES**
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- MARCH**            **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH – A Collaboration ...Activity and dates TBA**  
 Alma Rodriguez-Jones, Renee Kumor, Mary Ann Engel
- MAR. 5 Thur.**    **LWVHC BOARD MTG.**- WCCA Conference Room 11-1
- MAR. 7**            **A day to note... World Health Day**
- MAR. 19 Thur.**    **GENERAL MTG. - HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH! - SPEAKERS TBA** Coord. Martha Sachs, Policy  
 3-5 PM  
 Chair –Advocate Location: Agudas Israel Congregation at Glasgow and White Pine Dr.
- MAR. 15-21**      **SUNSHINE WEEK !** Celebrating the Sunshine Laws – Observer Corps Chair.: Kathleen Lees **Activities TBA**
- MAR. 25**            **DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ARTICLES**
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- APR. 2 Thur.**      **LWVHC BOARD MTG.-** WCCA Conference Room 11 – 1
- APR. 16Thur.**    **GENERAL MTG. CONSENSUS ON STUDY: NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE:** Coord. Natalie Zitnick,  
 7-9 PM  
 Democracy Speaks Chair - Location: Agudas Israel Congregation – Glasgow and White Pine Dr. – Coffee and cookies
- APR. 22**            **EARTH DAY! CELEBRATE!!!**
- APR. 25**            **DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ARTICLES**
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- MAY 1 Fri.**        **LAW DAY**...Alma Rogriguez-Jones, Natalie Zitnick, Priscilla Burch, Jean McGrady **Activity TBA**
- MAY 7 Thur.**      **BOARD MTG.** – WCCA Conference room 11-1
- MAY 22 Fri.**      **LWVHC ANNUAL MEETING – LUNCHEON AND SILENT AUCTION** Hendersonville Country Club 11:30-1:00
- MAY 25**            **DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ARTICLES**
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- JUNE 4 Thur.**      **BOARD MTG.** – WCCA Conference Room 11-1
- JUNE 5-6**          **LEAGUE STATE CONVENTION IN GREENSBORO NC**

**LWVHC CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 2008 HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

<p><b>Nov. 6 Thurs. 11-1</b></p>	<p><b>BOARD MEETING – WCCA Conference Room</b></p>
<p><b>Nov. 20 General Meeting 7-9 PM</b></p>	<p><b>‘AN ENVIRONMENTAL BUFFET’:</b> Speakers from ECO, 4-Seasons Sierra Committee , and Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy....see front page box</p>
<p><b>NOTE: NO DECEMBER BULLETIN... HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!</b></p>	<p><b>PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE THE CALENDAR PAGE IN THIS BULLETIN: ADD IT TO THE ONE YOU RECEIVED FOR SEPT. THRU DEC.</b></p>
<p><b>DEC. 4 Thurs. 11-1</b></p>	<p><b>BOARD MEETING – WCCA Conference Room</b></p>
<p><b>DEC. 12 FRIDAY GEN.MTG. 7:30-9:00 at the Dixie Diner, Hwy 64 (across from Laurel Park Shopping Center</b></p>	<p><b><u>MEET OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AT BREAKFAST!</u></b> One of our favorite “eat and meet” events as our officials respond to questions we pose! Call Toni Cole at 698-9352 or email her at <a href="mailto:RL162@bellsouth.net">RL162@bellsouth.net</a> to make your reservation <b>BY MON. DEC. 8.</b> The \$9.00 fee includes full buffet meal and tax. This is a fun meeting! Don’t miss it!</p>
<p><b>DEC. 26</b></p>	<p><b>DEADLINE FOR JANUARY BULLETIN</b></p>

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

