



The

League of Women Voters in Henderson County - Since 1966

Bulletin

"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 2010

COMING UP NOVEMBER 18th !

“NORTH CAROLINA TAXES...JUST? FAIR? ”

What do we need to know about North Carolina’s Deficit?

What are the potential impacts of a Four Billion Dollar Deficit?

Submitted by Lee Luebbe

Come to the November 18 General Meeting to hear Rob Thompson, Executive Director of North Carolina Covenant for Children, address the primary sources of taxes collected and the percent of State taxes from each source, the potential impact of the deficit, and some possible alternatives to our tax structure. **Two separate sessions, 8 AM and 1 PM**, are scheduled to accommodate the schedules of our League members and the general public –Both sessions will be held at the Chamber of Commerce Community Room, 204 Kanuga Rd.

The North Carolina Covenant for Children, represents sixty organizations and is one of several groups, service providers, civic and advocacy organizations, that form the coalition, TOGETHER NC. The coalition has reviewed several different approaches to taxes in a two-year period. The overall platform of TOGETHER NC is the advancement of public policy that benefits children and families in NC and to put children and youth first in our public and private lives. It represents more than one-half million members and includes organizations such as the United Way of North Carolina, Mental Health Association of NC, NC Association of County Boards of Social Services, and our own LWV of North Carolina.

League Background: LWVNC has lobbied actively since 1989 to make changes in the taxes of North Carolina – based again on the National position as well as specific positions reached by LWV of North Carolina. Some of the changes which have been advanced include the repeal of the tax on food and simplification of the individual income tax system to better reflect ability to pay. LWVNC has a position to include new revenue sources such as impact fees, land transfer taxes, and a severance tax for the removal of natural products from the ground.

Letters of invitation have been sent to executive directors of non-profits, leaders of our political parties, elected officials. Let’s make them feel welcome. Be prepared to ask questions. As always, League’s goal is to provoke constructive dialogue. **This subject is not simple.** However, if we are to be effective in talking with our legislators and local elected officials, your friends and neighbors, this meeting will give you valuable insights.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR NOVEMBER 18. BRING A FRIEND TO LEAGUE !

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DECEMBER 5TH AND 10TH TWO IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THESE TWO DATES!

DEC. 5 TH will be our Sunday Social Time together when we celebrate a totally diverse CELEBRATION OF HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OUR TRADITIONS! We share decorations, symbols, foods, music, and stories from our diversity and have a wonderful time getting to know each other. From 2:30-4:30 at the Chamber, enjoy heavy hors d'ourves and wine from your contributions! A committee will be in touch re: RSVP's etc., via Nancy and Linnea, so be on the lookout!

DEC. 10TH , FRIDAY , FROM 7 :30 AM TO 9 AM IS OUR ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST WITH ELECTED

OFFICIALS. We meet at the Dixie Diner on 64 West across from Laurel Park Shopping Village for a sumptuous breakfast buffet and a program of asking important questions of the officials and having each take a few minutes at the mic to share their answers with us! It's informative and fun! Watch for details in future "alerts", but mark your calendar NOW for both December 5th and 10th!

ADVOCATE 24/7 BY USING THESE IMPORTANT WEBSITES FOR INFORMATION BROWSE THESE SITES AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK!

League of Women Voters of Henderson County - www.lwvhcnc.org

League of Women Voters (National) www.lwv.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)

FROM THE LEADERSHIP

NANCY GLOWACKI, PRES.

It's hard to believe it's almost winter and holiday time again. The fall election season was interesting to say the least. Special recognition for League election work well done is much deserved by Carol Cleveland, Voter Service Chair, and her many League helpers. Now that it's all over, we will get to meet our newly elected officials at our Legislative breakfast on Dec. 10 !

ATTENTION ! ! ! THERE WILL BE NO DECEMBER BULLETIN ! In honor of that fact, you will find a very thorough calendar on the last pages for November into January. Also, there will be a "mini-bulletin" page published through our "alert" system to update and apprise you of details for our Holiday Social Party and any other important information. Please..... READ the bulletin and alerts! They are for YOU!

DIVERSITY DIALOGUE GROUP DISCUSSES BIG ISSUES

Nancy Glowacki, Pres.

This month's meeting of the Diversity Dialogue Group was jam-packed with information and inspiration. Lee Luebbe presented a handout and information as to how a Local League study (on any subject upon which League has a position) is carried out. First, the proposal comes before the membership planning meeting in January and recommendations go to the Board for approval in February and then on to the full membership approval at the Annual Meeting in May. At that point, the study, if approved, gets into full swing. A study under consideration by the Diversity group is that of forming a coalition of organizations who promote peace (League, Beyond War, Dept. of Peace, Human Relations Council, etc)) to **study the issue of bullying** in schools and to study the extent of the problem, the School Department's needs and desires to find possible solutions, and their willingness to join forces with such a coalition to find those solutions.

Roberta Madden, an A/B League member from Black Mountain, shared the process she has begun in Black Mountain to develop **interracial dialogues and joint projects** there. They are in their second series of dialogues held in the Town Hall and have enjoyed a substantial turnout of interested people. Our group was impressed and expressed an interest in doing something similar in Henderson County. Roberta has kindly agreed to "mentor" us in this process and come to meet with the sub-committee that will be formed for this purpose!

Roberta also spoke to her 3rd passion, that of revitalizing the energy to **pass the ERA in North Carolina!** Eight people signed up on her interest sheet and we'll see where that will take us. She is attempting to build a coalition in the state of various organizations to support the cause.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16 at the Laurel Park Town Hall from 3:30-5:00.

NATURAL RESOURCES LOCAL

Liaison: Susane Brown ECO/League member

Susane Brown wears two hats. She is the Recycling Chair for ECO (Environmental and Conservation Organization) and as a member of League, she serves as a liaison between ECO and League for our Local Natural Resources. We urge members of League to support our positions on conservation and protection of the environment by joining ECO as a volunteer because our positions are so closely aligned.

In their recent Annual Report for 2010, ECO outlined their growth in meeting the challenges in Henderson county and the region and how they continue to be a strong voice for the environment. Over 600 volunteers provided more than 7000 hours of effort. League has about 6 of our members involved in the volunteer effort and we encourage more members to learn about ECO and join their efforts in one of their four priorities.

The four major committees of ECO are described as 1- Advocating for Green Infrastructure 2- Supporting County Recycling 3- Protecting Water Quality and 4- Supporting renewable energy and energy conservation. Green Infrastructure focuses on strong land use policies to protect our natural resources and chose as high priorities this year adopting a stronger local stormwater ordinance and moving toward more realistic steep slope rules, two parts of the Land Use code that League also advocates very strongly. League was a co-sponsor of their Recycling Forum this past year. Henderson county has 6 watersheds to protect. ECO has an "Adopt a Stream" project and they also have stream Watch Action Teams to monitor damage from abandoned developments. ECO celebrated the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and drew a large crowd for the educational and entertainment components. They launched a new program, The Greening of Downtown, in 2009 and began conducting energy audits for businesses and landed 2 grants that allowed them to upgrade businesses. All this and much more describes an organization that is well organized, alert to the community needs, moving forward on many fronts, successful at educating and fundraising, and totally committed to improving and protecting our precious natural heritage up front and local!

To read their full report, please contact Nancy Glowacki or Susane Brown...we encourage members who care deeply about the environment to volunteer with ECO and support League's positions. We don't need to reinvent the wheel...we just need to work with who and what already exists! **VOLUNTEER ! AND LEARN!**

OBSERVER CORPS OBSERVATION : Henderson County Board of Commissioners **By Judy Katz**

The League, as we know, is a non-partisan organization that seeks to protect democracy by promoting citizen participation. To that end., our Observer Corps is viable and visible at many of the advisory boards in our community. I attend the mid-monthly meeting of the County Commissioners that meets at the Historic County Courthouse at 9am on the third Wednesday of each month.

The October meeting was filled with citizens wanting to be heard on two main issues: the rumored sale of Pardee Hospital, and the extra territorial addition of the Upward Rd. corridor to the City of Hendersonville. The Commissioners allowed for 2 -minute presentations for the community speakers. There were 15 speakers who made their cases. The Board passed a resolution that recommended that Pardee not be sold. It was stated, more than once, that the County was in a strong financial position and the rumor was started because of a proposed joint venture between Pardee and Mission Hospital.

After a presentation by the Mayor of Hendersonville and League member, Barbara Volk, the Board deferred ruling on the Upward Rd. corridor until there is a public hearing.

As an added bonus, Lee Luebbe and Marian Lowry advised the Board of our local League study on advisory boards and gave the Commission their own surveys to complete.

I invite you to join the Observer Corps to be part of the democratic process. Contact Sharon Burlingame at 692-4012 or Linda Miller at 697-1045. Eight (8) of us met on Oct. 14 at Family Fare on White St., and plan to meet again on Nov. 11 from 11:00-1:00 at the same location. We welcomed Roberta Swanson as a new Observer and we discussed the various issues facing our observed agencies. Visitors are very welcome to join us.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS ...Growing Our League Rudi Simko, PIO

Welcome new League member **Elaine Martin** who considers herself "always the student". Elaine is currently taking classes in Spanish and in literature. She has had several careers...flight attendant, commercial interior designer, realtor, manufacturer's rep and most recently, occupational therapy assistant. She grew up in New Jersey, lived in Atlanta for 20 years and also in Florida, Virginia, New York and now North Carolina. Elaine is looking forward to the experience of being a League member as a way to have a positive impact on her community and the world. Elaine's postal address is PO Box 1274, Flat Rock 28731 and she can be reached at 828-692-4154 or per_se@mac.com.

Next month, we will have **several more new members** to introduce to the membership. When you come to meetings, please make it a point to meet and welcome them to the fold! They are already busy at work in a committee or two or the Observer Corps. Our League is always growing....thanks to your reaching out and bringing friends to our events!

RECRUIT FOR LEAGUE...WELCOME AND ENGAGE THE PROSPECTIVES

Bringing friends to League is a pleasure...we have so much to offer and to share as do they.. And when it's a "fit" for someone and they join us, we are excited to welcome them !. We members need to take notice...who is new? who have I not met yet? Try to speak to 2 or 3 unfamiliar people at each meeting. The prospective members have a "Welcome" nametag on, so keep your eye out! Your attention to them makes a difference!

**LWVHC CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 2010
...AND A PEEK INTO JANUARY 2011**

<p>NOV. 4 THURSDAY 10 AM TO 12 NOON</p>	<p>BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE WCCA COMMUNITY ROOM IN THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES BUILDING ON THE LEFT ; turn left and park in the first parking lot on the right. Enter double doors at end of sidewalk. Note change of time.</p>
<p>NOV. 9 TUESDAY 6:30-8:00 PM "Transition Hendersonville" MAIN LIBRARY</p>	<p>"INTRODUCTION TO TRANSITION"..."Engage community to re-localize in the face of the end of cheap and abundant oil, climate change, and a descending global economy. Harness a positive vision of a thriving, resilient local economy.' This invitation comes thru Diane Rhoades, League member, who is very involved in this inspired course of action. COME LEARN ...SEE A SHOWING OF "THE END OF SUBURBIA" with discussion to follow. For more information – transitionhendersonville@gmail.com</p>
<p>NOV. 11 carpool at 6:30 from Fresh Market HVL for AVL event IMMIGRATION MOVIE "PUEBLOS HERMANOS"</p>	<p>Immigration Movie, "Pueblos Hermanos" (Brother Towns) will be shown in Asheville , First Congregational Church. We will carpool from fresh Mkt. Meet at 6:30 PM. Call Lee at 694-3710 .</p> <p><i>Brother Towns: "Pueblos Hermanos" was filmed in Guatemala and the U.S. It chronicles how and why people migrate across borders, how people make and remake their communities when they travel so far from home, and how people maintain families despite their travel. This is a story of local and international controversy. News of undocumented immigrants is familiar in nearly every community across the U.S. and citizens must choose how they respond to this issue. Voices of those opposed to undocumented immigrants as well as advocates helping migrants who seek work and hope, are included. All of us understand family, both its challenges and its promise.</i></p>
<p>NOV. 13 9 AM - NOON "Women's Agenda Assembly" at Asheville YWCA</p>	<p>This flyer was also sent out by Linnea. YWCA 185 S. French Broad Ave. – free. Register by Nov. 10 at http://ncwuwaabuncombe.eventbrite.com. Draft of agenda download at www.ncwu.org. Many women's issues to be discussed and prioritized by this Women's Agenda Assembly. Their collective priorities influence the push for legislation that would improve the lives of women across the state.</p>
<p>NOV. 18 LWVHC GENERAL MEETING "TAXES-FAIR AND JUST? 2 sessions-8 am & 1 pm</p>	<p>Please read the Lead story on page 1 for details. There'll be coffee on ! Bring a friend to League! This is an important presentation for our community and we hope the special invitations that have gone out will bring people together to think on this current dilemma in our State. Held at the Chamber of Commerce, Church and Kanuga.</p>
<p>HEY EVERYBODY!</p>	<p>HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Abundance is our natural state...see the joy in it and celebrate ! Be blessed with an "attitude of gratitude"!</p>
<p>DEC. 2 BOARD MEETING</p>	<p>BOARD MEETS AT WCCA CONFERENCE ROOM 10 AM TILL NOON. (new time) Brown bag lunch if you're staying for computer tech class.</p>
<p>DEC. 5 SUNDAY FROM 2:30-4:30 LEAGUE'S HOLIDAY SOCIAL</p>	<p>Please see details on page 2...and watch for further details in a "mini-bulletin page" that will be sent out later in November. Just plan to come, invite someone to come with you and enjoy this fabulous sharing of diverse traditions! RSVP PERSON TO BE ANNOUNCED. At the Chamber of Commerce, Church and Kanuga.</p>
<p>DEC. 10 FRIDAY GENERAL MEETING LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS 7:30 AM TILL 9:00 AM</p>	<p>Held at the Dixie Diner annually...seating is limited to 40-45, so it is important to make reservations with SHIRLEY YOUNGER, PHONE AT 692-4170 OR EMAIL her at Shirley.younger@att.net . The fee is \$9.00 payable at the door. Please cancel your reservation if unable to come...otherwise, you will be responsible for payment.</p>

<p>“DON’T NEED A HOLIDAY SEASON....</p>	<p>....OR FIND A SPECIAL REASON, EVERY MOMENT IS THE TIME FOR BEING THE GIFT OF LOVE THAT YOU ARE”! (from a Nancy song) Enjoy the holidays however you spend them, let them be a source of peace for each of you!</p>
<p>JAN. 6 BOARD MEETING</p>	<p>LWVHC BOARD MEETING AT WCCA CONFERENCE ROOM ...10AM-NOON</p>
<p>JAN. 20 , 2011 3:00-5:00 PM THURS. ALL MEMBER PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING</p>	<p>A very important meeting where the membership comes together en force to propose, to choose, to create the program for the next year! Their recommendations go to the Board and then to the May Annual Meeting for membership approval. Think about what you would like to see addressed in the 2011-12 year of our active League! PLAN ON BEING PART OF THIS DECISION-MAKING! At the Chamber of Commerce</p>
<p align="center">HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! HOPE, LOVE, JOY, AND PEACE ARE YOUR GIFTS!</p>	