



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."

OCTOBER 2009

THE ERA! DONE? NO... DEAD? NO... LET'S DO IT!

**OCTOBER 15
GENERAL MEETING
Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm**

THE ERA!

You may find some surprises in the 'history' and current status of this long-time endeavor!

A DVD 'UNFINISHED BUSINESS' will be shown.

Updated information, provocative questions, opportunity for lively dialogue, and a chance to consider advocacy will all be a part of this presentation!

The presenters are our own ERA TEAM with Nancy Glowacki, Lee Luebbe, Martha Sachs, Joe Glowacki, Rudi Simko, and Jeannette Cannon.

**Flat Rock Village Town Hall
(across from Flat Rock Theatre)
Coffee and cookies served!**

BRING A FRIEND ! CARPOOL!

There is no shortage of material written about the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) since 1923 when Alice Paul , the leading activist in achieving women's right to vote, introduced the idea. Within our lifetime, some of us can remember the strong response to ratify between 1972 and 1982 when 35 of the required 38 voted to ratify. The history from then till now presents an interesting background of repeated attempts by some of the fifteen states that did not ratify, always in the face of a provocative opposition . In the present political climate, there seems to be a strong State resurgence of will to get it passed, including North Carolina.

The Amendment text remains the same since 1943..."Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex". Or as stated on the "ratifyeraflorida.org" website..."Simple Justice"!

We're inviting all League members to come together to renew acquaintance with the history and the " now" and to take part in a lively discussion. LWVHC is taking part in the renewed effort to achieve **full rights for all people (not just women)** by adding our persistence and advocacy for the ratification of the ERA in NC and the addition of the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** to the Constitution. . A number of local Leagues in NC are organizing to move forward in this advocacy in order to present legislation in January 2011.

***In preparation for our ERA October General Meeting , we encourage members to start exploring on the internet...**
Equalrightsamendment.org-www.4ERA.org-lww.org(Click on equal rights) eraratifyflorida.org – ERAopposed/Arguments
[AgainstERA.doc](#) - [ERAopposed/ERAreduxSchlafly.doc](#)

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.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)

- 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, President

“LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.”

League involvement is ‘serious’ fun, it’s rewarding both individually and collectively, and it’s “the place to be in 2009-10”! Together we will set realistic goals and reach measurable results that lets us know “we do make a difference”!

The above sentence was in the September bulletin and I think it bears repeating here! I am so enriched by the initial interviews with new members coming into League. They seem eager to grasp onto the concept of ‘serious fun’ and ‘making a difference’ and express a willingness to become involved in some way that is a match for their skills and interests! How fortunate for us! And heartfelt thanks to our ongoing members who continue steadfastly, some adjusting their focus as they feel the need and trying something new in League.

Thanks to Carol Cleveland and a full roster of volunteers who “peopled” League’s **Apple Festival Weekend Voter Information Booth** and “hawked” citizens in the street to take our civics quiz, or try the voting machine! Our visibility was there, some new prospective members came along, a large number learned how to do “Instant Runoff Voting on the machine that the BOE brought to demonstrate, and several organizations signed up as interested in having Immigration Presentations! See Carol’s article on the forums.

The **Observer Corps Team’s** new Co-Coordinator, Shirley Burlingame and Jeannette Cannon (ever grateful to Kathleen Lees for her unflagging leadership these past years) held a training session to build the team to an eventual 12 people strong. In addition to the BOC mtgs., the City Council, both City and County Planning Boards, they will be observing municipal Council Meetings as well!

The “**Learn To Lobby**” workshop Nov. 13 will help members understand some basics about this most important aspect of League’s work and also learn that members have different styles and approaches for having dialogue and discussions with elected officials in the pursuit of League principles/positions. Action is often a “tentative” step for us to take the first few times...as someone once said, “step up and speak to your fears, and they’ll probably go away”! We hope members will take advantage of this opportunity to “learn the ropes”!

And there are always **issues to discuss**...for example ,lately, the seemingly more pervasive reduction of civility in our society and the eruption of violence in minds and actions. What does League say about the prevention of ‘violence’ in the political arena for one? What can League do to educate and help reduce ‘violence’ as a means of discourse when disagreeing or afraid?

Voter Service, Observing government meetings, lobbying for League influence, responding to erupting issues....but four of our ongoing ways to serve! As Mae West once said as she surveyed an audience of possibilities....”so many men....and so little time”! Well, there’s a similarity in there somewhere!!!!

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION-EDUCATION IN HENDERSON COUNTY

At League’s General Meeting on September 17th, we enjoyed the presentation of Maureen Adams and Elisha Freeman from Children and Family Resource Center (CFRC). Their focus grounded us in the fact that brain development between 0-3 is a crucial time period for intervention/education for children and parents in order to avoid/lessen/prevent problems in later years of child development and school success. Their program, “Parents as Teachers” and adjunct support programs were described.

As a follow up to the program, here is some further information about additional programs in our county that address early intervention and education for children and parents. Additionally at CFRC, they also provide an Adolescent Parenting Program, Child Care Resource and Referral (Quality improvement in child care, Parent Education and referrals to child care options, Recruitment of Infant care, Technical Assistance and Training for Child Care providers, Professional development support for teachers of infants and older preschool children), and Community Education and Advocacy.

Thru WCCA (Western Carolina Community Action) , the ‘Smart Start’ program is deeply concerned about the early years as is the ‘More At Four’ program. The Early Head Start Centers (federally funded for low income families) are particularly good examples of how excellent child care for very young children can be.

The public schools provide preschool for children with developmental issues that starts at 3. BRCC offers the credentials courses and an early childhood degree program for teachers of preschool children and this includes information and instruction on these early years. Child Developmental Services Agency (CDSA) identifies and tracks children with developmental delays. Park Ridge's Preschoolers Reaching Education Potential (PREP) provides screenings free of charge to children in child care. The health department's program, Maternal Child Health, focuses on supporting at-risk mothers to receive good prenatal and postnatal care for optimal child development. (an eligibility program). Other agencies would be those that provide child care and actually put into practice the new and emerging information and lessen the gap between what we know and what we do.

Several local churches such as East Flat Rock Baptist Church and Saint John School For Little Folks for example, do have a focus on early childhood development and work with parents. (great resource for medium income families). There are some 5-star private childcare facilities which are required to have an educational component.

As we become aware of this wide variety of agencies and endeavors that address the crucial issue of early intervention for different income levels, League can strengthen its commitment to support this work and the funding it requires for sustainability. And with the knowledge of the breadth of services available, we can also advocate these resources and help educate young parents about available resources.

Editors's note: Thanks to Maureen Adams (CFRC) and Gwen Hill (WCCA) for their input on county services.

League Position on Immigration/Education is Supported by NCCC Board of Trustees Lee Luebbe, Coordinator

To support changes in the policies of Community Colleges to permit enrollment of undocumented immigrants was one of three goals the Immigration Committee set this year and were approved by the Board. When the committee members learned that the NC State Board of Community Colleges Trustees was meeting September 17-18, and that the agenda included consideration of this item, e-mail communication to the Board's Executive Director, was fast and effective. Acknowledgement of the support communications came within 24 hours. The Board voted 15 – 1 to approve admitting undocumented immigrants who have graduated from high school. Their tuition rate will be nearly 5 ½ times that of resident students. While the cost is still discouraging to many who struggle economically, this is a step to improve the possibilities of these young people to reach their aspirations and improve their lives and the lives of all of us. Thank you to committee members who rallied to communicate with the Board before the meeting. It is equally important to send a note of appreciation and support for their vote of support.

And remember the Silent Vigils Continue– for 30 minutes on the last Friday night of each month continue to grow in numbers. Positive signs which convey the need for sensible reform in comprehensive immigration laws are the primary theme. Several league members are present. Wear black, smile, and come Friday, October 30, 5:30 PM, to the Historic Courthouse. If the Court House space is occupied, the vigil is moved south on Main Street, across from the Visitors Center.

Observance of International Peace Day was held on Sunday, September 27, in several churches in Hendersonville. The emphasis on immigration – educating congregations in a variety of ways – continues to increase the ripple effect of League's efforts to educate citizens of Henderson County on the need to have reform. It is worthy to note that the churches participating were those which had requested League programs on Immigration. The Justice Initiative coordinated this effort.

**Next Committee Meeting is Thursday, October 15, 3 PM at St. James Episcopal Church.
New members are welcome. Contact me at 694-3710 or lluebbe@morrisbb.net**

NATURAL RESOURCES: Barbara Barnett, Chair NR for State & National Issues**STATE: SUSTAINABLE LEGISLATION ENACTED INTO LAW**

1. Counties and municipalities are authorized to provide developers with incentives in exchange for reductions in energy consumption.
2. The State will consider the fuel economy when buying vehicles.
3. Voluntary conservation and water use efficiency measures will be taken by commercial car washers.
4. Expands the cap on projects that use guaranteed energy & water savings to pay for efficiency retrofits.
5. Credit for investing in renewable energy property has been extended to January 2016 & extends credit to geothermal heat pumps.
6. Cities and Counties loan programs to finance renewable energy or energy efficiency improvements in real property.
7. Lifts restrictions on City & County ordinances regulating solar panels & prohibits deed restrictions on the right to hang clotheslines.
8. Dam Safety Act (for the first time) includes Coal Ash Dams and allows State inspections. NC has 12 of the 44 highest hazard dams in the US. The law facilitates the conversion of dirty coal plants to natural gas.
9. The State Energy Office and the Residential Energy Conservation Assistance Program has been transferred to the Department of Commerce.
10. \$5 Million of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds has been appropriated to the State Energy Office Green Business Fund.

LEGISLATION NOT PASSED!

HB349 Prohibits NC Power Plants from using Mountain Top Removal Coal. NC is the largest consumer which has resulted in the destruction of 500 mountain tops.

HB1353 The right of an individual to use a clothesline.

HB1354 Regulates coal ash ponds to have safer storage. NC has more ponds, 17, than any other State which contains a toxic soup of lead, arsenic, selenium, cadmium, mercury and there is a high incidence of cancer in nearby residences. This toxic residue is used in structural fill at constructions sites and in construction materials.

HB810/SB1068 Establishes a permitting system for wind turbines , but not in the mountains.

HB1443 A "Greener" Building Code was defeated by the powerful Home Builders Lobby.

HB282 Would have established a "Green" School Construction Fund.

NATIONAL : GLOBAL WARMING / CLEAN AIR ACT

An Amendment to the FY2010 Interior Appropriation Bill would ignore the worldwide scientific consensus that carbon dioxide is a pollutant. The Bill would block Clean Air Act protections, clean American-made Energy and threaten public health.

The Murkowski amendment seeks to exempt the biggest polluters Big Oil and dirty Coal Power Plants which emit twice as much CO2 as cars. Exempting the biggest sources of CO2 from the Clean Air Act delays the nations transition to clean energy. **Call your Representative – Defeat the Amendment.**

FORUMS OCT. 7 AND OCT. 20 ELECTIONS NOV. 3

Carol Cleveland, Voter Service Chair, has been at work steadily to organize the forums for the City and for Laurel Park this October. To volunteer to help with the forum, call Carol at 697-8828. It's fun and eye-opening!

The first forum will be held on **Oct. 7 at 6:30** at the City Operations Building. It will consist of two back-to-back forums featuring candidates running for City of Hendersonville positions. At 6:30, we will hear from the candidates running for **City Council** followed by the Candidates for **Mayor**. The Times-News will be

taping the forum for streaming on their news-site as they did last year! Carol will moderate.

On **Wed. Oct. 20**, League will be conducting a forum for the **Laurel Park Town Council** candidates. This will be held at the Congregational Church on Fifth Avenue at 6:30 pm. Carol will moderate.

Nov. 3 is Election day. Beverly Cunningham, Director of the Board of Elections, has asked that **League Members do the exit polls on Nov. 3. VOLUNTEER TO DO THIS...THIS IS FUN!** Call Carol.

Carol is working currently on getting all the candidate information into the computer which will be compiled as a **Voter Guide on our local League website.**

WANT TO STRETCH YOUR LEAGUE WORLD?

Submitted by Lee Luebbe

Why not try to connect with one or more of the many listservs on the National League website??? My personal experiences prior to attending the National Convention in 2006, and also during the Immigration Study, proved to be extremely valuable for me. Whether one is a delegate to the National Convention or not, the participation in this kind of listserv permits League members to raise suggestions for program and priorities for the delegates to consider.

The LWVHC Board agreed at the regular Board meeting Thursday, October 1, to seek to raise the Immigration Issue to a priority status for the National Convention. Follow these steps outlined below to become engaged in that discussion.

Go to lww.org

Click on "for Members" located in the banner across the top of the page.

Click on "League sponsored E-mails" on the right if you are already a member registered.

Click on "How to Register on the LWVUS site if you are not previously registered."

Register for new users, by typing in your information and then click 'register'.

'League-sponsored e-mail lists' appears.

Follow the instructions to subscribe to a list. ('Convention' is one to check. You may also want to check 'Leaders' list, or more.)

Once you are logged in, you will receive a welcome from the forum moderator and a guide to assist you in making the best use of the listserv.

I trust you will find the electronic connections valuable as you engage in the discussion with league members throughout the United States.

Remember...LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 11-15, 2010 ATLANTA!!! LET'S GO!

LET'S CLEAR UP SOME of the CONFUSION on HEALTHCARE REFORM

Martha Sachs, Social Policy Chair/Advocate

It has been clear from the outset that people who voted for the present administration in 2008, including Independents, Republicans and many who had never voted before in their lives, wanted profound change. Any Healthcare reform legislation that comes out of Congress without a "Public Option" will just be tinkering with the old system and continuing control of our health by the insurance industry. There appear to be two major misrepresentations fueling objections to inclusion of a public option:

- We would have a system like that of England, which is unsatisfactory
- The cost would be so great that it would drive up our debt even further

Though widely accepted, **neither of these is accurate**, for the following reasons:

- In England, the government *owns* the hospitals and employs the physicians. In the system suggested here, we would have government *funding*, but *private providers*.

- It is widely misunderstood that Medicare Advantage programs and Medicare Rx (also known as Medicare Part C and Medicare Part D) are actually *run* by the government. In fact, they are both *private* insurance programs. Medicare Advantage was designed by the last administration and the insurance industry to entice people to drop traditional Medicare so they could privatize *all* healthcare for seniors once enough people signed up.
- The temptation offered of low premiums and co-pays for Medicare Advantage seduced millions into signing up for something they didn't understand until they were refused care by doctors or hospitals that were not part of their network, or turned down for needed procedures. Many still are unaware that these programs are private insurance *subsidized by the taxpayers*.
- With the administrative overhead of private insurers running 14% higher than for Medicare, and the insurance industry having to earn profits for its shareholders, it has been estimated that by eliminating these subsidies, (up to \$600 per month per person enrolled in Medicare Advantage) the savings derived could offset most of the increased cost projected.

At a time when approximately 77% of the public favors a public option, as do 66% of physicians and the American Nurses Association, it is time to tell our Senators and Congressman that any reform bill without it will be betraying the trust of the American people, and we need it *now, and without a "trigger"*.

- Medicare Rx was designed by the pharmaceutical industry when they refused to negotiate prescription drug prices for Medicare recipients

SHARING AND CARING

Our healing wishes are with our Charlyne Coleman as she continues to heal from her broken wrist and then from a double bypass surgery which will take place Oct. 5! She will be in hospital about a week, in rehab for perhaps two. Cards, especially with "humor" sent to her home would be a welcome gift to her !

Jean Weaver, 90, a proud League member and who delighted in our 89th birthday party last year, has made a move to Atlanta recently to be near her family and we didn't get to say goodbye. She was at 2500 Heritage Circle, HVL, NC 28791 and mail would be forwarded if you sent a card to her there.

THE DUES ARE COMING IN....THANK YOU!!!

Sustaining dues and new members continue to support and build our strong League ! Be confident in the fact that we never want a member's temporary lack of funds to deprive us your valued presence... if you have a confidential need for a half or whole scholarship boost, let Marion Huffman know...call her at 696-0640. Our Scholarship Fund is very healthy and helpful! Send dues payment to Marion Huffman, Treas. 207 Maple Hill Dr., Flat Rock, NC 28731, and call her with any questions...696-0640. Thanks!

BULBS ARE GREAT GIFTS ! Gwen Hill, Fun-draising Coordinator

Fellow gardeners, and even non-gardeners , who love the beauty of flowers, our Spring Bulb Fundraiser is in full swing! If you haven't had much success in gardening with bulbs, please try these. And if you bought bulbs from us in the past, you know that the Doornbousch Bros. bulbs are of the highest quality and guaranteed to bloom in the first season when planted as recommended. These are by far the best bulbs money can buy and are very affordable! **THEY MAKE WONDERFUL GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING!** So let's brighten up the planet....and help League at the same time! For information, call or email Gwen Hill, gwen@wcca.net or 696-6677. Order forms will be available at the October and all general meetings ; sale ends March 5, 2010. Bulbs will arrive in the early Spring for planting and bloom in the summer months. **Thanks to all of you who participated in the Fall Bulb Sales Fundraiser. These bulbs should arrive the first week on October and you will be contacted to arrange delivery.**

LWVHC CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2009

THU. OCT. 1	BOARD MEETING – WCCA Conference Room 11-1
OCT. 7 - 6:30 PM FORUM	CANDIDATE FORUM FOR HVL MAYORAL AND COUNCIL RACE at City Operations Bldg. 305 Williams St., (4th Ave. West from Grove, over tracks, right on Williams to the City Operations Bldg. straight ahead)
OCT.15 11 am -1 pm SEE FRONT PAGE	General Meeting: THE ERA (EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT)... held at the Flat Rock Village Hall. A DVD on the ERA...lots of information and good discussion! Bring a guest! Public welcome !
OCT. 15 THURS. 3:00 pm	Immigration Committee Meeting, St. James Episcopal Church.
TUES. OCT. 20 FORUM	6:30 LAUREL PARK TOWN COUNCIL Candidates . Congregational Church on 5th and White Pine Dr.
NOV. 3	ELECTION DAY ! VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT THE EXIT POLLS ! Call Carol Cleveland to volunteer....697-8828
NOV. 5 THUR.	BOARD MEETING – WCCA Conference Room - 11-1
FRIDAY NOV. 13 1-3 PM Unitarian- Universalist Church Fellowship Hall Kanuga Rd., HVL	A ‘LEARN TO LOBBY’ WORKSHOP . Participants will examine the “do’s and don’t’s” of meeting with and writing legislators re: League’s positions. Panel of “seasoned” Leaguers will share ! <u>All</u> members would benefit from this since regular contact with legislators is League’s day- to- day business! RSVP to Shirley Younger 692-4170 so we’ll have an idea of numbers!
THURS. NOV. 19 Unit-Univ. Church 1-3 pm	GEN. MTG. TOPIC: “Are there ‘gangs’ in Henderson County?” Doug Hill, Gang Law Enforcement, HC, will present. <u>More in Nov. bulletin!</u> Joe Glowacki, Judicial Juvenile Advocacy, Chair.

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



