



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."*

October 2010

## HEALTHCARE REFORM...THE MYTHS AND THE TRUTH LWVHC TO HOLD AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT FOR MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC!

Even before Congress passed the huge bill to reform our broken healthcare system, we were bombarded by massive distortions and outright lies about what it might contain. Instead of reasoned arguments for or against various positions, fear was instilled in the public by citing "facts" that did not exist. These same 'untruths' persist to this day. It is for this reason the LWVHC will offer an opportunity to the public for a non-partisan presentation of reality and an opportunity to ask questions and share concerns

**DON'T MISS THIS !  
BRING A FRIEND!**

**HEALTHCARE REFORM  
GENERAL MEETING  
THURSDAY OCTOBER 21  
FROM 7:00-9:00 PM**

*Held at the Chamber of Commerce  
at Church and Kanuga...Parking at  
the Chamber and in the complex  
behind*

**COME EARLY FOR COFFEE  
AND CHAT !**

To this end, Adam Linker, Policy Analyst from the Health Access Coalition of the North Carolina Justice Center, will be providing information about which changes are already functioning, when the other changes will come into play, and what segment of the population will be affected. It will be made clear that, while there is still much more to be achieved, steps have been made to correct some of the most egregious problems within the existing system.

In addition, a local Family Practice Physician, Dr. Natascha Lautenschlaeger, a member of Pardee's Family Health Center will speak about how the reforms will affect her patients and her practice. Following the speakers, there will a Question & Answer period with the audience.

*Martha Sachs, Social Policy Chair*

## HELPFUL SITES TO KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED AND ADVOCATING 24/7

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.org (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)

**FROM THE LEADERSHIP...”INSPIRATION COMES IN MANY FORMS”****Nancy Glowacki, President**

“The Sea is so Wide and my Boat is so Small...charting a course for the next generation”...this is the title of the current book penned by Marian Wright Edelman. I was privileged to attend her speech at the Lake Junaluska Peace Conference: Advocacy for the World’s Children on Sept. 20! Edelman is a lifelong advocate for disadvantaged Americans and is the founder and President of the Children’s Defense Fund...an amazing woman. In her quiet, but hard-driving declaration of our adult responsibility, she laid the job at our feet. “It has become far too easy to ignore the hardships of millions of children plagued by poverty, poor health, illiteracy, violence, adult hypocrisy, and injustice.” In her book she asks difficult questions about what we truly value and looks hard at what we can, and must, do to build a nation fit for all children. Leaguers understand this already...however, this message lifts even us out of our any existing complacency and inspires beyond belief.

On Friday, Sept. 17, a moving speech was delivered by Dan T. Carter, University of South Carolina Emeritus Professor, to the 32 immigrants being sworn in as citizens at Carl Sandburg’s Home and National Park site Laurels to Carter for his centered, accurate, confrontation of history about immigration in the U.S. and what a great contribution each new citizen makes. He said “the moral principles embedded in the Declaration of Independence declares with absolute certainty that every new American has a right to claim full and equal right.” He added that Lincoln also believed that “new arrivals are equal in all things”. Lincoln understood the extraordinary, revolutionary, dream of the founders to create a self-governing democratic nation by welcoming men and women of different nations, religions, traditions and cultures, with different ethnic and racial backgrounds. Carter made it perfectly clear how people who immigrated here have contributed to ours and the world’s well being in every field of endeavor. “E Pluribus Unum”...one out of many. “That is what we aspire to be. That is what we can be if we put aside our fears and work together in that “sky of tomorrows” that Sandburg celebrated.” Carter’s speech in its entirety, was a gift to all of us that day !

A couple of days ago, I sent out an alert re: that NBC and MSNBC was turning it’s focus to “Education Nation” this week and was celebrating the documentary “Waiting for Superman” that we shall all see soon in our county League’s ear is to the ground on this alert because of our emerging National study on The Federal Role In Education next year. Suddenly, it seemed that this focus was coming together from several corners ; it has a non-partisan flavor to it which, hopefully, will last...and it is exciting. We were just introduced as a League to David Jones, our new superintendent of schools at the September meeting, who answered some important questions about his vision and the substance of the system. This is an important relationship that League looks forward to nurturing.

Every time I pull up a League website, whether National, State, or Local, I am inspired. Days fly by with ‘other chores’ to do and I forget what a rich resource websites are to help me focus , learn ,and become inspired or re-inspired. It’s like ‘refueling’ oneself...so take a few minutes each day to explore websites...and share any inspiration you find there with the rest of us!

**RESULTS OF LEAGUE’S PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

At League’s Voter Education Booth at the Apple Festival, 181 people filled out our Non-partisan poll on Midterm Elections. The poll asked if the person was intending to vote; if not, they could choose from a list of reasons to let us know why not. They indicated their intentions to vote or not, their political party, state of origin, gender, and age bracket. When the results were tallied, there were some interesting observations and some affirmations for the work League does and must strengthen in voter education.

The party totals were: Dem -42 (50% male/female)...Rep – 83 (about a 50/50 split also) ...and Una – 44 (8 more men than women). The age brackets were primarily in the 51-70 range( 98), with the next two ranges split evenly between 31-50 (32) and 71 plus(36). One Green Party and one Libertarian also responded. 116 responders were from NC and 59 from a variety of 5 other states, most from Florida and South Carolina. A few people did not fill out the forms completely, so those forms were counted as doing it, but there were no stats in include. And it was interesting that the ratio of the parties who responded was almost identical to the party ratio in our county as registered! We were pleased that our “non-partisan” principle attracted all three groups.

Eleven out of the 181 stated they would NOT vote and some checked as reasons “don’t know the candidates” and “don’t know the issues and how the candidates think about them”. Even some who said they WERE going to vote, still checked the same two ‘problems’ as affecting their voting. No one checked that midterms were not important, but 6 did say they didn’t think their vote made a difference. Three said they only voted in the Presidential election.

Probably the major benefit of doing this rather “non-scientific” poll, was that it brought people to the booth and it served as a vehicle for opening conversations and the opportunity to educate voters , for example, about the importance of their vote. The poll and the conversations certainly highlighted ,for League, the importance of persisting in educating the public about candidates and issues in a variety of ways .

**CARL SANDBURG HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE :  
CELEBRATES CITIZENSHIP DAY with NATURALIZATION EVENT  
Submitted by Connie Backlund, Superintendent ( League Member)**

Thirty-two North Carolina residents became new citizens during a ceremony at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site on Friday, September 17th. And League was honored to be asked to attend and to register these new citizens to vote! Carol Cleveland, our Voter Service Chair and Beverly Cunningham from the BOE, along with a few League volunteers enjoyed this wonderful task immensely! The ceremony, the speakers, and the weather could not have been more perfect.

This was the first time the USCIS North Carolina Office hosted a naturalization ceremony in western North Carolina, and a first for a national park in North Carolina. The new citizens were from fifteen countries worldwide including: Bulgaria, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Egypt, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Germany, Thailand and Vietnam. The ceremony took place at the amphitheater of Carl Sandburg Home NHS at 10:30 a.m.

Carl Sandburg spent a lifetime capturing the American experience through poetry, writing and song. His experience as a first generation American from Swedish parents shaped his outlook on the country. He used his words to champion for civil rights, equal rights, child labor laws and a democratic America. It was very fitting for Carl Sandburg Home NHS to host a ceremony welcoming the next generation of Americans immigrants

**IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE REPORT ....Jeannette Cannon, Co-Coordinator**

The Immigration Committee has had a plethora of opportunities to study , as well as for action. We participated in the Second Farm Workers Health and Safety Day, at the invitation of the NC Co-operative Extension Agency. They have subsequently invited us to be present at Farm and City Day to be held Saturday October 2 in Hendersonville. The committee continues to study current legislation and initiatives which impact upon the complexities of the "New Americans" in our midst. Please consider your available time to join us. The Immigration Committee has an important issue in need of your energy and commitment. Benefits abound. The next meeting will be held at St. James Church 3:00 pm on October 25.

**DIVERSITY DIALOGUE GROUP****Nancy Glowacki, Pres.**

The Diversity Dialogue group is experiencing a wonderful burst of growth and diversity in our membership ! With 16 potential attendees, we changed our September meeting place to Laurel Park Town Hall where the next meeting will also be held on Oct. 26 from 4:00 – 5:30. After introducing ourselves anew, we talked about how to approach studying what programs are in place in our county schools that teach children “civility” and conflict resolution skills. Bullying, not so subtle form of discrimination, is a problem for growing children...and the ‘bullier’ needs more help sometimes than the one being bullied. We will explore the ‘history’ of attention to this matter by the Human Relations Council, and other sources. We will take careful steps to determine what League can offer in the way of support for the schools working with this problem, or opportunity, another perspective from which to view it .

Another topic focused on Roberta Madden, a League member in Black Mountain who has created opportunities for ongoing inter-racial dialogues and shared projects in that community. She will be invited to share her advocacy with us personally at one of our meetings. In the meantime, she has invited our League to attend any of three dialogues on Race, based on the film “Race, the Power of an Illusion”. The dates are Oct. 12, Nov. 9, and Dec. 14 at the Town Hall in Black Mountain from 5:30-7:30.

Roberta is also reviving the energy in the State to push forward on the ratification of the ERA in North Carolina...an effort that many of us in LWVHC might want to revive our own energy and join in her advocacy. This is a coalition approach which might land some legislation on the desk by 2012 !

**MEETING DATES OF THE OBSERVER CORPS... Sharon Burlingame and Linda Miller**

The Observer Corps has established that they will hold regular meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays for 5 meetings as listed below. Newcomers are always welcome . Observing governmental meetings in our county is one of the most important consistent endeavors of League to monitor Sunshine Laws and support transparency in government. This is an excellent way for new League members to see the ‘big picture’ and learn about workings of the county. The following Lunch meetings will be held from 11:00 – 1:00 . The first one will be held Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> at Family Fare on White Street across from Fresh Market...good salad bar, great iced tea, interesting variety of sandwiches. The following meetings will be Nov. 11, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, and April 14. Call Sharon 692-4012 or Linda 697-1045 for more information.

**NATIONAL: NATURAL RESOURCES ...Barbara Barnett, Chair State & National****INTERNATIONAL : FOOD FOR THOUGHT – BOOK REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Natural Resources Committee met on September 23, 2010 for a discussion of the Book, “The Limits to Growth” by D. Meadows et al. In 1970 Dr. Aurilo Peccei, an Italian industrialist and economist called together 70 people from 25 countries, scientists, economists, educators and humanists to discuss what he said was a subject of “staggering scope”. The topic was the limits to growth and the “Project on the Predicament of Mankind” was established because of poverty, degrading of the environment, no faith in institutions, urban spread, unemployment, alienation of youth and rejection of traditional values.

An MIT Team developed a computer model and examined five factors: population growth, malnutrition, depletion of natural resources, and a deteriorating environment to investigate global trends. Their findings, if present trends continue 1) the limits to growth will be reached in 100 years (2070) and cause a decline in population and industrial capacity. 2) It is possible to reverse the trends so material needs of each person are met, 3) If people decide to achieve the second outcome, they should get busy.

On September 22, 2010 former President Clinton was a guest speaker at the University of California at

Berkley and concluded that the world is unequal, unstable, and unsustainable. Note: One of our book selections is “Plan B”.

**Next Meeting: October 28<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon, Jongo Java, Main St. (near 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.)** . The book selection is THE END OF NATURE by Bill McKibbon who will be speaking at Warren Wilson College on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, The College Chapel. Want to Carpool? Email Pritchard @ morrisbb.net

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS ...Growing Our League**

League has welcomed 5 new members since August 29, 2010 and we are so excited by their enthusiasm, diversity, and eagerness to get to work for League. We will be introducing them to the membership via the Bulletin for the next 2 or 3 months. Be sure to make a point of seeking out new members at our meetings to get acquainted all around! As of September 30, we have a membership of 93, and 13 prospective members in the wings!

**Simine Heise** has a far-reaching background; born in Persia, she came to the States in 1956 where her step-father was the Counsel General in New York. She graduated from Syracuse University majoring in International Relations. Getting a Masters in teaching, Simine taught Social Studies before moving into school administration in Dade County Florida. She was Principal of a magnet middle school recognized nationally and internationally for its excellence. Simine and her husband spent summers in NC before moving to Hendersonville in 2006. Simine is interested in promoting passage of the ERA in NC. She also enjoys organizing Town Hall meetings which she did in Dade County on education, social issues and trends. Simine and her husband live at 105 Bollers Knob Lane, Hendersonville, 28739; You can reach her at 692-0060 and at [heisechampion@gmail.com](mailto:heisechampion@gmail.com)

**THE BULBS ARE COMING IN SOON ! READY THE SPACES IN YOUR GARDEN !**

October is the month that the bulb orders will arrive ! They can be planted through December easily (barring any early snows!!!) Rose Stone, 692-5001 , our Bulb Coordinator, will be in touch with each of you who submitted an order to explain how, when, and where to pick up your order. To all of you who ordered bulbs, thank you for supporting League in this fun – fundraising way. We receive such a gift when they come up in all their glory...and they certainly do!

**LWVHC CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2010**

<p><b>MONDAY OCT. 4 6:15 TO 8:45 PM LEAGUE CANDIDATE FORUM</b></p>	<p>Held at the City Operations Building, Carol Cleveland moderating, League hosts a formal candidate forum for Commissioners, School Board, and Registrar of Deeds from 7- 8:45. From 6:15 to 6:45 , the public can meet and greet candidates for US House and NC Senate, on the floor.</p>
<p><b>THURS. OCT. 7 Board Meeting TIME CHANGE</b></p>	<p>At WCCA Conference Room, from 11-1 . Please note we will meet from 9:30-11:00 , a shorter meeting time. ( for this one occasion only)</p>
<p><b>TUES. OCT 19 7:00 PM LIBRARY ECO FORUM</b></p>	<p>ECO will hold a Forum for Dr. Scott Donaldson (I) and Mike Edney (R) running for Bill Moyer’s seat on the BOC. ECO and League share concerns about environmental and development issues brought up before the Commissioners.</p>

<p><b>GENERAL MEETING Healthcare Reform THURSDAY OCT. 21 7:00-9:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>HEALTHCARE REFORM ...An important educational event ...Two speakers...held at the Chamber of Commerce. <u>See front page</u> . Martha Sachs, Chair is the Lead. Bring friends who want to understand this important legislation.</b></p>
<p><b>TUES. NOV. 2 VOTE !</b></p>	<p><b>Utilize early voting, regular voting, whatever....but VOTE !</b></p>
<p><b>THURS. NOV. 4 Board Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>At WCCA Conference Room 10am - noon.</b></p>

*"Promoting Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation..."*

