



BULLETIN

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

OCTOBER MEETING

THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Consensus Preparation

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OCTOBER 20, 2011

3:00 - 5:00 PM

**Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Room**

Dr. Lou Fabrizio

Director – Data, Research and Federal Policy
Division - N.C. Department of Public Education

Dr. Kathy Revis

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and
Instruction - Henderson
County Public Schools

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Francee Sherman

June 13, 1923 - September 17, 2011

One of our founding members of the Henderson County League, and provisional president during our work to establish our organization as a full fledged League of Women Voters.

She is a Tree of Life to those who embrace her, those who lay hold of her are blessed.

Proverbs 31:10 "A Woman of Valor"

We are grateful for the memorial contributions in Francee's name to our Citizen Education Fund. To date we have received over \$900.00. Thank you to Francee's family for designating our fund in her memory.



OBSERVER CORPS

LWVHC Calendar 2011-2012

October

- 13 Observer Corp.
- 13 City Council Candidate Forum
- 20 General Meeting - Education

November

- 10 Observer Corp.
- 17 General Mtg. - Education Consensus Cont.

December

- 4 Holiday Party
- 9 Breakfast with Elected Officials at Golden Coral

The Observer Corps will meet on October 13, from 11:00-1:00, at Daddy D's on 7th Avenue (opposite the train depot and the Underground Bakery). At our last meeting, we discussed the possibility of "sampler" visits to community meetings we cannot get members to every month. For more information contact Sharon Burlingame, 828-692-4012, or sburlingame401@gmail.com.

CANDIDATE FORUM

Hendersonville City Council Candidate Forum
 October 13, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
 at the City Operations Building

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The Role of the federal Government in Public Education

The White House announced in September its intention to revamp the federal “No Child Left Behind” education law which took effect in 2002 under President Bush. Lawmakers from both parties say it relies too much on test results and arbitrary measurements, and doesn’t meet the overall objective of raising student achievement. Education Secretary Arne Duncan is quoted as saying the law needs to be more flexible and in some cases must reduce Washington’s role in setting education standards.

What should the role of the federal government be in public education which has historically been the purview of the states?

“No Child Left Behind” has created a 50-state and 50-test environment in public education. **Do we need national standards and assessments?**

In the past, most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act funding has been non competitive based on need, but the more recent “Race to the Top” grants are competitive and reward reform. **Which is appropriate or should it be a mix of both?**

There is a growing awareness that some students are more expensive to educate than others—a prime example being children with special needs or those from impoverished communities. These students should have an equal opportunity to learn, but is that a local responsibility or something the federal government should tackle?

The federal government adds less than 10% to local education budgets, yet it contributes significantly to the rules for how the funding is used. States voluntarily choose to adopt the federal mandates. With that adoption, the flow of federal dollars also comes. Do federal mandates need to be adopted before federally federal funds can be sought? funded?

Learn more about these issues at the **public** forum and get an early start on the consensus questions we will consider for the national study - “The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education” at our general meeting on November 17th. For further information on the study go to LWV.org. Click on Members Only, then Projects and Programs, and you will see the Educational Study listed on the right hand of the page.



From the President . . .

If you missed last month's meetings, you missed a lot. The Voting Rights and Redistricting program was well attended. Speakers included, Dr. Martha Kropf, Beverly Cunningham and a surprise panelist, Chuck McGrady, our Representative to the NC state legislature. Our panelists discussed the recent changes in NC voting patterns and policies. The discussion was lively and informative. Thanks to Carol Cleveland and her Voter Services committee for coordinating a great forum.

This month, we are building on our history of non-partisan community participation with two forums-- a Candidate Forum for Hendersonville City Council on Thursday, Oct. 13, 6:30-8:30 pm at the City Operations Center; and a public forum on The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, Thursday, Oct. 20, 3:00-5:00 pm at the Chamber of Commerce. Come and join the energy of League. I hope to see you there.

Congratulations Marian Lowry

Several League members were present for the Community Foundation Annual luncheon where our own **Marian Lowry** received the Richard C. and Vina L. Sauer Charitable Leadership Award.



NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Updike - was born in Philadelphia. She is a graduate of West Chester University, PA, and completed graduate studies at UC Irvine and Michigan State University. Barbara has had a diverse and exciting teaching experience both in North America (PA, FL and Mexico), and overseas in Japan and the Philippines. After living in Japan Barbara moved to CA, where she began a second career teaching English as a Second Language (ESOL). Then her heart took her back to Japan to teach at a Montessori School and several private English schools. In January 2011 Barbara found her way to Asheville from Japan and is now happily teaching ESOL for Blue Ridge Community College. Her students are Hispanic moms, and it was the immigration issue that spurred her to join our League and the Immigration Committee. Barbara's other interests include anything Japanese, as well as photography, art, music, drama and reading. Barbara Updike's contact info is: 138 Spring-side Rd., #328, Asheville NC 28803; 828-808-6929; nekochanmx@hotmail.com

Julianne Johnson - As Administrative Director at Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC), Julianne works to connect people with land and conservation in western North Carolina through volunteer opportunities and opportunities to participate in the organization's events. Julianne moved to western North Carolina from the north Oregon coast in 2009, and is originally from Littleton, Colorado. She enjoys hiking, yoga, and attempting to grow her own veggies. Julianne was

inspired by the League's founding of CMLC to learn more and become engaged with the Hendersonville chapter. Julianne Johnson's contact info is: 847 Case Street, Hendersonville NC 28792-6503; 828-697-5777, ext. 207; Julianne@carolinamountain.org

Sandra Miller - was born in Hendersonville, grew up in Greenville SC from the age of 10, and then moved back to Hendersonville at the age of 25. Sandra is an OR nurse at Mission Hospitals. Her curiosity about what's going on in local government led Sandra to the League as a way to become more involved in the community. Two of her favorite pastimes include reading and traveling. Sandra Miller's contact info is: 46 Blackberry Lane, Mills River, NC 28759-4926; 828-890-5584; sandramillerNC@gmail.com

Josh Bledsoe - moved to Henderson County in 2010 from Greensboro, NC where he completed his Master's Degree in Communications Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Josh is a speech and communications instructor at Blue Ridge Community College. He is especially passionate about work that leads to increased understanding and respect between community members from different cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds. Josh is active on the Diversity Committee. His other interests include hiking and exploring the mountains of WNC. Josh Bledsoe's contact info is: 39-A Westbury Drive, Hendersonville NC 28792; 828-702-6516; jw_bledsoe@blueridge.edu