



BULLETIN

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

JANUARY MEETING

January 19, 2012

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

Program Planning

*Same old song - with a new beat!
Program planning is the essence of our
grassroots organization. This year as we meet
to give direction to our local board as well as
to LWVUS, all members have an opportunity
to weigh in with our Local program Survey.
Link on Page 4.*

From the President

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! I hope this New Year finds you in good health and renewed energy for the work of the League. We'll need everyone to participate on all levels in this busy year ahead - from Primaries to Election Day with programs and projects, we need you!

As you know, the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We work to increase understanding of the major public policy issues and we influence this with advocacy. This is our mission statement as a national organization.

Throughout its 90 plus years, LWV has been a dynamic and changing organization. While there are fundamental similarities with Leagues across the country, each League has its own special characteristics that reflect the size and demographics of its membership and community. Time and money resources and the local community issues effect the structure and operations of a League.

Keeping all this in mind, PLEASE look at the POSITIONS, both National and Local, as referenced in this bulletin. Afterwards, PLEASE take the SURVEY you received by electronic postcard. All of your answers will set us on a course for the coming year. At our meeting on January 19, we will look at the results of our survey, discuss how we can choose areas of involvement for Henderson County and even make recommendations to LWVUS to enhance their program. This is YOUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD.

I'm looking forward, I hope you are.

Judy Katz

Leadership

President Judy Katz
judykatz4625@gmail.com

V. Pres. Iris Vanek
irisvanek10@gmail.com

Sec'y Helen Wright
hlwright@bellsouth.net

Treas. Stan Kumor
kumorsm@morrisbb.net

LWVHC Calendar 2011-2012

January

- 12 New Member Orientation
- 19 General Mtg. - Planning for 2012

February

- 16 General Mtg. - Diversity Forum

March

- 6 Observer Corps
- 16 General Mtg. - Woman's History

Opportunity Knocking!

The Membership Committee is looking for members interested in making reminder phone calls and/or serving as greeters at meetings and events. If interested, please e-mail or call Carol M. Ward at jxcmward@msn.com or 696-3475.



League contact information

PO Box 2238

Hendersonville, NC 28793

www.lwvhcnc.org

Preview - February Meeting

“A Dialogue on Race in Henderson County...Then and Now” (a public community forum) will be the focus at the February 16th LWVHC Meeting. It will be a 6:30-8:30 pm evening meeting to accommodate a wide audience and panelists and will be held in the new large Community Room at the Blue Ridge Community Health Services Building at 2579 Chimney Rock Road. **Please note different meeting location and time.**

OBSERVER CORPS

Needed - knowledgeable LWV members to observe **Planning Boards!** Engineers, people with backgrounds in infrastructure, eco systems and development - we need you! The Observer Corps has no one observing any of the planning boards for the cities or county. Planning boards are where so many of the important decisions that affect all of us are made. Please contact Sharon Burlingame at 692-4012 or burlingames@main.nc.us or Linda Miller at millerdh@bellsouth.net if you have time to observe a planning board for the cities of Hendersonville, Laurel Park, Fletcher, Flat Rock, Mills River or the County Planning board once a month. Observe as partners!

Judy Wilkes has joined the Observer Corps and is interested in observing a board of health. Welcome, Judy! Rebecca Lebowitz has joined the Observer Corps members observing school board meetings. Welcome, Rebecca!

The Observer Corps' next lunch-meeting will be in March, but a “sampler” meeting can be arranged as requested. If you're interested in observing and you want company “sampling” a board, we will arrange for a veteran observer to accompany you.

NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca Lebowitz

Rebecca was an educator for 37 years in New York State. Starting as a NYC public school teacher, she progressed to become Education Director of a NYS Office of Mental Health school, then the Fiscal and Program Manager for the NYC Board of Education responsible for federal and state grants; she then became Assistant Superintendent for Funded Programs, Compliance and School Improvement. Rebecca was also an Adjunct Professor at Brooklyn College. Prior to arriving in Hendersonville in July 2011, she held volunteer positions as a NYS Governor's appointee to the Board of Visitors of Queens Children's Psychiatric Center and a member of Community Board #1 in Manhattan. Rebecca continues to serve on two boards in NYC. She is married and is the aunt to 31 nieces and nephews. Rebecca is a certified scuba diver of 26 years, she

completed one NYC marathon, hiked the Grand Canyon and hopes to enjoy mountain hiking, bridge and golf in NC. Rebecca is happy that League offers opportunities to share expertise and engage in collaborative activities that support our community. Contact Rebecca at: Rlebowitz1@me.com

Sherry K. Harris

Sherry was born in Memphis and grew up in Wisconsin. She married and raised 2 sons in New Orleans. Sherry was a wandering gypsy for three years, traveling stateside and internationally as a full-time RV traveler with her late husband, a retired regional trial attorney for Exxon. She moved to Hendersonville in 2000. Sherry was trained as a legal secretary and served as a professional community volunteer locally and on national boards. She loves to sail. Sherry was a prior League member and rejoined to make new friends, be enriched and make a difference in our community. Contact Sherry at: sailburt@bellsouth.net

KIDS VOTING

Kids Voting had a poor turnout in November, reflecting the adult voter turnout. 30 Kids voted On-Line & 28 in the 12 polling stations that were open. One of the Kids Voting volunteers, at right, helps count ballots.

Thanks to Carol Ward, Sharon Burlingame, Joan McFadden & Helen Wright for helping us.

2012 will be a big year with elections in May & Nov. We'll be at many of the schools for on-line voting & 35 polling stations in Henderson County with Kid Voting booths. Thanks to the 4-H clubs for helping us count the ballots.

Priscilla Burch & Marian Lowry



December Gatherings

December was a great month for fun. We celebrated holidays with a membership gathering. Old and new members. Great friendship! We shared our memories and special foods of celebrations from past holidays.

Our annual Appreciation Breakfast for Local Elected Officials was another success at our new venue - Golden Corral. We were joined by Chuck McGrady, NC House; Melissa Maurer, HC Board of Education; Tommy Thompson, HC Commission Chairman, and Bill O'Connor, HC Commission Vice-chair; Mayor Barbara Volk, Mayor Bill Moore, Mayor Roger Snyder, Mayor Bob Staton and Mayor Carey O'Cain. A crowded and friendly turnout for 7:30 AM!

PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HENDERSON COUNTY

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in their government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Take the Survey NOW!

LAND USE POSITION APRIL 1988

Land is a finite resource, not a commodity, and carries with it the responsibility of stewardship. This respect for environmental, economic and social consequences of land use should be the base for all planning, regulations, implementation and enforcement.

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County supports:

- Identification and limitations in use of fragile environments.
- Acquisition of public lands for recreation and preservation.
- Implementation of land use goals and plans.
- Review environmental, social and economic impacts of major and private developments.

SOLID WASTE POSITION

9/13/89 Revised - 9/11/91, 4/9/98

Handling solid waste in the best way possible, in an ongoing process, using all available options and taking into account the environment, cost, and what seems practical and evaluating new technology as it becomes available. The League of Women Voters of Henderson County supports an integrated solid waste management program.

SEEKING SOLUTIONS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES

NOVEMBER 12, 1998

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County supports:

Facilities should be well planned and expandable for long term use and meet

recognized standards. They should be educationally suitable, providing a climate for learning. Schools should be safe, clean, comfortable, accessible and well maintained.

BUDGET PROCESS

DECEMBER 1989

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County supports:

- Improve access to information, better communication and education of the public throughout the development of the county budget.

JUSTICE POSITIONS

Lobby for additional judges, support staff and technology in Henderson County and the 29th District so that both are in line with staffing of other counties and districts.

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

Since the parties to the agreement are in discussion at this time, the courts may eventually decide the issues.

ELECTIONS

Give counties the option to hold non-partisan elections similar to those run by municipalities and school boards.

**Review complete positions for
the January Program Planning meeting
and Survey -
LWVHC
www.lwvhcnc.org
LWVUS
www.lwv.org**