



# BULLETIN

January 2013

**League of Women Voters of Henderson County**

## JANUARY MEETING

**January 17, 3 - 5 pm  
Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room**

### **Program Planning**

**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.**

**<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYV5L3L>**

**The results of our survey will direct the lively discussion as members deliberate over the various issues that fit our positions and attract our interest. Join the fun, join the debate, enjoy our League's vitality!**

**To recap:** Last year we offered members a survey that reviewed local and national positions and asked each of you to indicate your areas of interest. As a result we spent this past year in four issue areas: Voter Services, Education, Equal Rights Amendment and Water.

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### *From the President*

My Toast for the New Year: Here's to you dear Leaguers who lovingly labor for Truth, Justice and the American Way with passion and compassion. To remain impartial and non-partisan in an election year filled with rhetoric and vitriol is truly heroic. To stay above the fray when everyone is hitting below the belt is our mission and we held tight this past year.

We registered voters and we educated ourselves and the community in our public forums and we set an example with our Kids Voting project. Our Civic 101 class at BRCC Lifelong Learning showed Henderson County what we could do to encourage citizen participation in our local government. Our meetings were well attended with interested and interesting men and women who want to be part of the LWV team.

So, as one year ends, and another begins, Here's To Us, all of us, as we renew our commitment to the ideals of League.

Looking forward to another great year,

P.S.: Watch for this year's survey, take it and become part of the process!

*Judy*

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#### Leadership

President Judy Katz  
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Sec'y Grace Poli  
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Treas. Stan Kumor  
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Under Voter Service our league held primary and general election forums for local candidates. We did voter registration at the Apple Festival and at the new citizens swearing in held at Carl Sandburg. In addition we presented a three session class on Civics 101, Local government for BRCC Live Long Learning program for over thirty participants.

We recommitted to passage of the ERA. After listening to our members the board has send direction to LWVNC to take the leadership for statewide focus on this important amendment.

Members attended an important meeting on the current status of Henderson County public schools. Administration staff presented to our members the same review that had been presented to the Board of Education. We learned of award winning programs and schools as well as of the services, beyond education that are provided to our children. It was a very encouraging meeting. Our observer Corps continues to monitor all school board meetings to help us stay abreast of education issues.

Because of the activity in the general assembly regarding water, we chose to keep this issue as a priority. Our April meeting will be a report on regional water sustainability. We continue to advocate for a long range approach to local water issues that will benefit Henderson County. We will monitor the 2013-15 session of the general Assembly for further discussions and actions on this issue.

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### **Redistricting by Parties Is the Problem**

The NC League is one member of the N.C. Redistricting Reform Coalition. The League continues to believe that a redistricting plan needs to provide for competitive districts that fully reflect the diversity of the state.

Representatives and senators, of course, want to be in “safe” districts, assured of re-election so they don’t have to campaign for their seats. In many of these safe districts, the representatives and senators have little or no competition. Before the November 2012 elections, North Carolina was one of only 10 two-party (purple) states. North Carolina sent 6 Republicans and 7 Democrats to the house and had competitive districts.

For many census years before 2010, the Democrats had tried to redistrict to their own advantage, but their redistricting efforts wound up in the courts. North Carolina’s 1991 redistricting cycle was tied up in court battles until 2000. Redistricting lawsuits in the 2001 redistricting cycle lasted into 2008. The courts sometimes ended up redrawing the lines.

The Republicans were the majority in the North Carolina Assembly and Senate in 2010, finally getting to redraw the lines. They hired a man with much experience, Tom Hofeller, to redraw the US Congressional District lines to their advantage, and with the help of dedicated software, he did an excellent job. North Carolina went from 6 Republicans and 7 Democrats before the 2012 election to 9 Republicans and 4 Democrats after it.

The LWVNC with other groups took the Republicans to court as it had Democrats for so many years. The court case is still pending, but the judge let the redistricting lines of 2010 stand for the 2012 election until the case can be heard in 2013. The redistricting coalition is asking for a summary judgment, which is “a process where one party can ask the court to rule in their favor without a trial because there are no factual issues in dispute and the court simply must decide what the law says.”

The coalition cites as key evidence for the summary judgment: 1. Excessive split precincts (for instance: where some voters in a precinct vote for one senator but others vote for another). Split precincts cause confusion, leading to disenfranchisement; also many split precincts were based on race. 2. The maps were drawn to meet a racial quota, segregate voters, and disrupt effective cross-racial coalition building 3. Making the redistricting map was a secret process done by an out of state professional Tom Hofeller, who drew the State House, State Senate, and Congressional maps without any public input.

The little bit of good news on redistricting is that on June 9, 2011, the [North Carolina House](#) approved [House Bill 824](#), which fundamentally restructures the state’s redistricting process. Modeled after [Iowa](#), the proposed law shifts responsibility for redistricting from the state legislature to staff in the Legislative Services Office. The bill passed the House by a 88-27 margin but is now languishing in committee in the [State Senate](#). If it ever gets out of committee and is approved by the State Senate, the law would not take effect until after the 2020 census.

Henderson County Leaguers need to closely monitor redistricting reform efforts that the NC LWV is involved in and work to get House Bill 824 out of the Senate committee and put up for a vote. Democracy depends on competition to thrive, but by putting redistricting into the parties’ powers, competition is being strangled and with it our precious Democracy.

submitted by Linda Miller

## LWVHC Calendar 2012-2013

### January

- 10 **Survey Deadline**  
17 General Meeting - Program Planning/Positions  
21 **MLK Breakfast** (See below)

### February

- 21 General Meeting - Non-partisanship

### March

- 14 Observer Corps  
21 General Meeting - Women's History Month

### April

- 11 Observer Corps  
18 General Meeting - Water Forum

### May

- 16 Annual Meeting

**Martin Luther King  
Breakfast  
January 21, 8:30 a.m.  
BRCC  
Tickets \$10 per person  
Contact Madeline Royes -  
693-0936  
for Reservations**

### Meeting Information

All regular meetings of our League are held at the Hendersonville Chamber of Commerce meeting room at the corner of Kanuga and Church Streets.

All General Meetings are from 3-5 PM. Please respect the parking slots designated for other offices. Additional parking is available across Church Street.

## November Meeting

Roberta Madden and Nancy Glowacki (both LWV members), co-directors of the ERA-NC Citizens Task Force, presented an ERA update.

Our board has voted to direct State league to take an aggressive posture in lobbying our state legislature for ERA passage. In addition, Roberta and Nancy reported that we urge every member of Congress to remove the deadline for ERA's ratification.

Check with Nancy Glowacki, jonaglowacki@morrisbb.net for more information.

## Elected Officials' Breakfast

All local Mayors and the newly elected county commission chair, Charlie Messer joined League members for our annual breakfast in early December. All attending enjoyed the breakfast buffet at Golden Corral. Other elected officials attending where Erwin Bazzle, chairman of the Henderson County Board of Education. From Mr. Bazzle members learned about the board's goals for technology and concerns for adequate funding. The mayors and Mr. Messer spoke to citizen interest in parks and recreation. League members were interested to hear lively and positive discussion in areas of League interest - natural resources, land management and other quality of life issues that support community and family interests.

### Dues Information

**\$50 per member; \$75 per household**  
Send dues to  
LWVHC  
P.O. Box 2238  
Hendersonville, NC 28793

## IN THE NEWS



League board member **BILL WILKES** is featured in the CMLC newsletter. Bill and his family have permanently protected 21 acres of Twin Lakes park land in southeast Henderson County near Saluda. The property, donated to the Saluda Community Land Trust, will be available as a park in Saluda forever. What a gift, Bill!!

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## OBSERVER CORPS

The Observer Corps met on Nov. 8 for business at Daddy D's. We discussed: information pertinent to Observers from the Civics 101 class, the decrease of news coverage in open meetings, further ways to observe the judicial process, and the community safeguards against conflict of interest already in place among advisory boards. Lee Luebbe visited our meeting and had helpful insights for our discussions. Judy Wilkes will no longer observe mental health meetings in our area since she has been selected to serve on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC). This is a good way to lose "observation" but gain insight, and we congratulate her! Sharon and Arlene Duane Hemingway observed the Nov. 15 JCPC meeting where the county's annual Risk and Needs Assessment was conducted. Plans are underway, for this spring, to guide Observers through Misdemeanor and Domestic Violence court activities to increase awareness of judicial services. Please join us for our next regular meeting, which will be held on Thursday, March 14, from 11-1, at Sol y Luna during National Sunshine Week.

What is Sunshine Week? That is just what high school and middle school students will be asked to tackle artistically for the LWVHC's first ever Sunshine Week Art Contest. Judy Wilkes, Arlene Duane Hemingway, Rebecca Lebowitz, and Sharon Burlingame met on Nov. 14, as a sub-committee, to iron out the details. Stay tuned as we develop this contest, and if you know any teachers, students, or Boys and Girls Club members, encourage them to participate!

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## Food and Good Cheer Members shared holiday memories and food

## Holiday Gathering

