

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

ANNUAL MEETING

**MAY 16, 2013
11:30
The Cedars
\$20 per person**

***Our guest will be
Shanita Jackson,
a sixteen year old Early College student
and award winning poet***

***RSVP by Monday, May 13
Priscilla Burch- 698-0398 or p2burch@bellsouth.net
Our cancellation policy will be in effect.***

From the President

Let me extend my personal invitation to join us at our Annual Meeting on May 16 at 11:30 am at The Cedars. Not only will you see old friends but, you'll meet new members and community leaders who value the League and its accomplishments. You'll also meet Shanita Jackson, a student at BRCC's Early College, who is a poet with extraordinary talent. Moreover, she represents the best of our public schools and the community programs we offer.

There will be "business" at our Annual Meeting. Members will vote on our Budget and approve the slate as reported by the Nominating Committee. Review this information as it was presented in the April League Bulletin. But mostly our meeting will be a celebration of the 47 years of League in Henderson County.

I look forward, as always, to seeing you there,

Judy

Leadership

President Judy Katz
judykatz4625@gmail.com

V. Pres. Helen Wright
hlwright@bellsouth.net

Sec'y Grace Poli
gvpoli1@gmail.com

Treas. Stan Kumor
kumorsm@morrisbb.net

Cancellation Policy

For any reservation not canceled before the deadline for an activity that requires a fee, payment must be made by the person who made the reservation.

In the case of the May 16, 2013 Annual Meeting the cancellation date is May 13.

Members should understand that once a number is given to the caterer, League is responsible for the cost of each meal ordered.

New Immigration Legislation Soon To Be Voted On

Incorporates many features outlined in the League's position:

- * *Pathway to legal residency and eventual citizenship*
- * *Provides more visas for vitally needed skilled and unskilled temporary workers*
- * *Includes a version of the Dream Act*
- * *Enhances border security*
- * *Includes better tracking of people entering and leaving America*
- * *Has strict employment eligibility verification requirements*

PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW by phoning or e-mailing
*Senators Burr and Hagen
Representatives Meadows and McHenry*

TELL THEM we want an all-inclusive, **COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM** package.

EARLY DUES REMINDER

**Dues for 2013-2014 League year:
\$50 per single member
\$75 per household membership
may be paid at the Annual Meeting
or mailed to
LWVHC
PO Box 2238
Hendersonville, NC 28792**

OUR ANNUAL FUND RAISER

BULBS



Our annual Flower Bulb Fundraiser!

If you would like to participate in the sales please contact

Marion Huffman

696-0640

for brochures and order forms.

**Orders will be taken at
Annual Meeting.**



LWVHC Calendar 2012-2013

May

- 7 Immigration Committee presentation
Lunch meeting at Rotary, at the Chariot
- 16 **Annual Meeting**
- 30 State Convention - Charlotte - delegates:
Judy Katz
Sharon Burlingame
Helen Wright

June

- 26 Board Retreat

September

- 12 Observer Corps Meeting

Immigration Committee Annual Report July 1, 2012 – May 18, 2013

Monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday at St. James Episcopal Church. Power Point presentations are kept current with new statistics. One new Power Point was developed – primarily with Glenn Rodgers technical and writing skills. “Myths vs. Facts” summarizes 5 – 7 myths many people believe to be fact. Depending on the length of time available, the presentation accommodates the time constraints established by the host organization and its attendees.

During the course of the year, nine presentations were made, two of which were to high school classes. Total number reached was nearly 400. In addition to programs delivered, the League partnered with El Centro to assist in the visit of the Mexican Consulate in June, supported the University of NC Extension in a workshop for Health and Safety in August, stays current with legislative proposals, contacts legislators for action, and continues to facilitate the meetings of the Immigration Network of Henderson County that meets every other month. The Network sponsored the Fiesta, April 14, at which \$5000.00 was raised to assist in the funding or renewed scholarships for three undocumented students who are attending college because of scholarships awarded to them last summer.

This issue is not going away soon – the new proposed legislation supports most of the League’s position. By the time the House and Senate modifications are made, it remains to be seen how much progress had been made toward comprehensive immigration reform – the first since 1986 – and for quotas since 1965. Stay tuned. Your support to contact your legislators is very important and sincerely appreciated.

Committee Members: Glenn Rodgers, Barbara Updike, Judith Scruggs, Michele Burnett, and Lee Luebbe. Past members include: Grace Poli, Kathleen Lees, Barbara Garrison.

Joe Glowacki was an ardent and passionate committee member until his death.

Tax Meeting

On April 16 members of our state League met with interested local Leaguers to report on tax reform in North Carolina. Today our state’s revenue system is based on collections from personal income tax, sales tax, corporate and franchise tax, as well as other taxes. Unlike the “three-legged revenue stool” in most states that includes property tax, in North Carolina property taxes are collected at the local government level and do not contribute to state revenue. Our state’s three-legged stool is comprised of personal, sales and business taxes.

As the General Assembly looks at overhauling our tax system, LWVNC and others in the state urge leadership to improve how each tax performs and ensure that the state has a greater mix of revenue sources to meet the fiscal needs of the state. The coalition argues that we are all served when the principles of sound revenue system are achieved and that maintaining diverse revenue sources is critical for North Carolina and should be the goal to create greater opportunities for all.

OBSERVER CORPS

League members often ask what's happening in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meetings. The Times-News and Lightning do a good job covering actions taken, but Observing adds an extra dimension to understanding the work being done. In elections last fall, Grady Hawkins was elected to replace Bill O'Connor. Charlie Messer was elected by his colleagues as Chair. Chairs seem to rotate annually; this is the first time since I've observed that Mr. Messer has chaired. Mr. Messer lives in the northern part of the county, and is in a key vantage point to represent his constituents' views on the hot topics of water use and rapid development in that area. Michael Edney, Tommy Thompson, and Larry Young are the remaining three Commissioners.

In a recent public hearing about a rezoning request on 64W, the Commissioners showed courtesy to all the neighbors who came to speak, for and against, the possibility of a new store in their area. Traffic safety, public safety (alcohol sales, theft), and straying from the strategic development plan were given attention. Two men arrived late, from work, and were invited to speak even though they hadn't been able to sign up ahead of time. Later the issue of funding an ABC study was discussed. Each member spoke their arguments and thoughts clearly about both of these issues. Only one small "editorial comment" was made, as opposed to many lengthy statements of opinion made in former meetings. This is a healthy trend. The meeting was efficient, civil, well attended, and audible. Televising the sessions on Channel 11

may contribute to awareness about conduct and stating thoughts clearly. A closed session was held at the end of the meeting, which is consistent with policy for dealing with property and personnel issues.

Wednesday, April 17 BOC meeting was about regional water use amongst Henderson-Buncombe-Transylvania counties, but our observer was hosting a group of Russian visitors to our area and was unable to attend. This is the segue to say this would have been an excellent meeting for a "Substitute Observer" to cover. At present, we have roughly 15 members observing about 11 boards. Some of the boards, as does the Board of Commissioners, have two meetings a month, so we assign at least two observers to cover those.

If you have curiosity about local government, but are unable to commit to Observing on a regular basis, consider becoming a **Substitute Observer**. Come to our first Observers' meeting for Orientation on Thursday, September 12. Watch upcoming Bulletins for time and place.

Our thanks to faithful Observers and subs: Madeline Royes, Kay Keith, Kathy Smith, Bill Wilkes, Judy Wilkes, Cathy Blair, Rebecca Lebowitz, Rudi Simko, Jeannette Cannon, Carol Cleveland, Brenda Fisher, Arlene Duane Hemingway, Carol Ward, Tricia Minnick, Rudi Simko and the many of you who Observe "ex-officio." It's a great work that you do for League.

Linda Miller, Co-Chair, Sharon Burlingame, Co-Chair, Observer Corps



And the winner is . . .
Leobardo Aguilar,
3rd grader at Immaculata School
and member of the Boys and Girls
Club