

CANDIDATE FORUM SCHEDULE**OCTOBER 4****HENDERSONVILLE MAYOR
AND
CITY COUNCIL****at Carolina Village, 6:30 pm.
in the
Village Hall****OCTOBER 15****LAUREL PARK TOWN
COUNCIL****at First Congregational
Church (Fifth Ave and
White Pine)
6:30 pm.***From the President*

September was a busy month for League. From Sundaes to New Citizens Day to our Healthcare Forum, we were there. And did I mention Civics 102 and the Day of Peace? We were there. I'm pleased to say that all of these events were informative and well attended.

It was standing room only at the Chamber for our Healthcare meeting and with so many unknowns and questions, we have decided to go further to examine the issues locally. We're going to keep the discussion going during the year.

As we go to press, the U.S. Department of Justice is announcing a lawsuit against the state of North Carolina regarding the new Voting Laws recently signed by the Governor. LWVNC has been part of a coalition that believes that these new laws are discriminatory. We'll keep you posted !

I'll look for you at our Candidate Forums this month, as we continue to inform voters in our community.

Looking forward,

Judy

Our Local League in Action



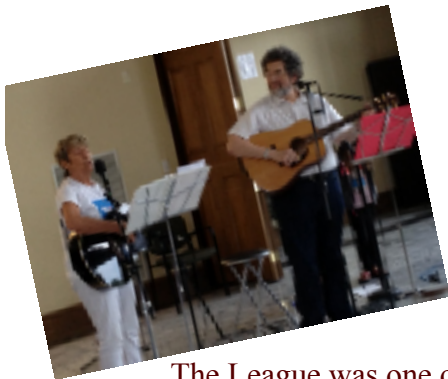
Members and guests at the Sundaes on Sunday

September General meeting on the affordable Care Act.- over 60 members and guests came to listen to Jennifer Henderson of Blue Ridge Community Health Center, Jay Kirby of Pardee Hospital and Sandy Morgan of Department of Social Services.

A BUSY MONTH!



Our members helped new Citizens register to vote after their Naturalization Ceremony



The League was one of a dozen non-profit organizations that met Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Historic Courthouse to observe the International Day of Peace.



Photos from the first session on Civics 102. Board of Commissioners Meeting September 18.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Guri Anderman
Cathy Fisher
Barbara Gittleman
Barbara Johnson
Alex Sabo
Carl Schoendorfer
Linda Weldon



LWVHC Immigration Committee and Immigration Network

The League's Immigration Committee meets every third Monday at St. James Episcopal Church at 3 PM. You are welcome to join us or come to observe and see how this committee functions to carry out the LWVUS position reached in 2008. Each year we set goals.

The goals in 2013-'14 are:

- Present educational programs to a minimum of six high school classes
- Seek to make two Spanish presentations
- Monitor and stay current with legislative matters and contact legislators
- Support efforts in the community that promote integration of undocumented immigrants
- Actively engage other groups to join the Immigration Network of Henderson County

Members of the League Committee are : Michele Burnett, Glenn Rodgers, Judith Scruggs, Barbara Updike, and Lee Luebbe.

What is the Immigration Network of Henderson County? How does it differ from the LWVHC Immigration Committee?

The Network meets every other month and is facilitated by League. Its purpose is to support and learn from the representatives of the churches/organizations represented – all of which are engaged in some way with the undocumented immigrants. In the past two years, specific efforts to raise Scholarship money for undocumented students to attend local colleges has made possible three scholarships last year and three more this year. When the Mexican Consulate visits Henderson County Saturday, October 19, members from the various churches as well as the League will assist El Centro to volunteer their services to assist in the facilitation of accommodating the consular's visit. This outreach gives a broad base to the outreach in the community and engages other citizens who may not be League members. This is modeling collaboration. Together we are stronger in our influence and effectiveness.

The current attendance at our regular meetings includes representatives from the following church congregations: St. James Episcopal, First Congregational, Immaculate Conception, URI, Holy Family Episcopal Church, Public School Migrant At our August meeting, the membership was pleased to welcome representative from La Capilla Iglesias. More recently we have received inquiry from Blue Ridge Literacy Council to attend the October 21 meeting.

If you would like more information, please contact Lee at 694-3710 or lluebbe2@morrisbb.net



"Carrots for Recyclers!! - ECO's Recycling Committee invites League members to join them in encouraging shoppers to bring reusable cloth bags when shopping. The Environmental & Conservation Organization believes that, while it may not be practical to ban plastic shopping bags at this time, folks need to understand the burden plastic bags put on landfills, as well as the high reliance we have on petrochemicals when we use plastic bags. If you know a shop-owner, ask them what "carrots" or incentives they give shoppers who bring their own bags. Dancing Bear Toys will be encouraging use of cloth bags at their Carrot Mob event on October 12, from 11-3. Yes, we all are guilty of forgetting our bags in the trunk of our car! If you do find yourself carrying things home in plastic, reuse those bags for trash liners or pooper-scoopers before sending them to the landfill.

Save this page

LWVHC Calendar 2013-2014

October

- 3 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 4 Candidate Forum, City Council/Mayor
6:30 pm @ Carolina Village
- 8 City Primary Election
- 10 **Civics 102-Postponed**
New meeting date to be determined
- 15 Candidate Forum - Laurel Park Town Council
Election at First Congregational Church
6:30 -8 pm
- 21 Immigration Committee (3 pm - 4 pm)

November

- 5 Municipal Elections
- 7 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 18 Immigration Committee (3 pm - 4 pm)
- 18 Civics 102
Observe School Board Meeting (5 pm)
- 21 General Meeting
Economic Development (3 - 5 pm)

December

- 5 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 6 Breakfast with Elected Officials
Golden Corral (8 am)
- 15 Holiday Party (3 - 5 pm)

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.

January

- 9 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 16 Observer Corps Luncheon
- 20 Martin Luther King Breakfast
- 20 Immigration Meeting (3 - 4 pm)
- 23 General Meeting
Program Planning (3 - 5 pm)

February

- Anniversary of League
- Black History Month
- 6 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 13 Observer Corps Luncheon TBA
- 21 General Meeting
Elders: Health and Poverty (3 - 5 pm)

March

- Women's History Month
- Sunshine Month
- 6 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 13 Observer Corps Sunshine Luncheon
- 17 Immigration Meeting (3 - 4 pm)
- 20 General Meeting
Violence in Public Places (3 - 5 pm)

April

- 3 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 10 General Meeting
Children: Health and Poverty (3 - 5 pm)
Observer Corps Luncheon TBA
- 21 Immigration Meeting (3 - pm)
- 22 Earth Day
- Candidate Forums - May Primaries

May

- 1 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 6 May Primary - State and County offices
- 15 Annual Luncheon
- 19 Immigration Meeting (3 - 4 pm)

June

- 5 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 19 Board Retreat (10 am - 3 pm)

**DUES
REMINDER**

**Dues for 2013-2014 League
year:
\$50 per single member
\$75 per household membership**

**mail dues to:
LWVHC
PO Box 2238
Hendersonville, NC 28793**

OBSERVER CORPS

We have not had an observer at the Board of Elections meetings, but with all the new voter rights laws being implemented and other NC Board of Elections being in the news, Sharon Burlingame, Bill Wilkes, and Linda Miller decided to observe the HC BOE on September 17th. Chairman Robert Heltman gave us a hearty welcome. We learned that each board of elections in the state changed the makeup of its 3 board members in June. In odd-numbered years, political parties nominate people for the 3 seats, depending on the party of the governor. Because a Republican is governor, the Republican Party now nominates people for two seats and the Democratic Party nominates the third on each board of elections. This meeting was held to deal with the Hendersonville City ballot for the bond referendum and absentee voter issues for the municipal elections.

After the BOE meeting, held in the storage room for the scores of HC voting machines, we discussed the new voting legislation that mandates that electronic voting machines produce a back-up BALLOT by 2018. The HC voting machines will then become obsolete as they produce only a back-up RECORD. There are money, time, and accuracy issues for NC taxpayers and voters associated with this law, and discussions about this change need to start soon. We are now looking for observers for the Board of Elections.

Interested in observing local government in action, contact either Linda Miller at millerhdh@bellsouth.net (697-1045) or Sharon Burlingame at sburlingame401@gmail.com (692-4012).

Mental Health Reform in NC

Mental Health Services include services for persons with Mental/Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities. Mental Health reform began in 2001, was and is intended to manage Medicaid and state funds for these services. Previously, services were managed and provided by Community Mental Health Centers. The reform separated management from services and essentially privatized care.

As part of the reform process Western Highlands Network was created as an LME (Local Management Entity). As such Western Highlands was charged with managing mental health care for Henderson, Transylvania, Buncombe, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Yancey and Rutherford Counties. Each county was represented on the Western Highlands board by the county manager and another member appointed by the county commissioners.

Effective October 1, 2013. Western Highlands will merge with Smokey Mountain Center, another LME. This new agency will be the MCO (managed care organization) for the 23 most western counties in NC. Smokey Mountain Center intends to localize more services than is the case now, where several services are regionalized under Western Highlands. One benefit, for example, is that there should be quicker access to mobile crisis stabilization with hopes of decreasing ER visits

For further information see the following links:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mental_health_reform_in_North_Carolina

<http://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2013/04/16/nc-medicaid-has-strengths-weaknesses/>

<http://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2013/04/06/dhhs-terminates-western-highlands-contract/>

<http://www.westernhighlands.org/>

<http://www.smokymountaincenter.com/maintenance.asp>



Top 10 Changes Under the New Voting Law... That Aren't Voter ID

1
No Same-Day Registration: Everyone has to be registered 25 days before election to be eligible to vote. (Jan. 2014)

2
Fewer Early Voting Days: Reduced from 17 to 10 Early Voting days but extended hours. (Jan. 2014)

3
No Out-of-Precinct Voting: No provisional ballots if you attempt to vote in wrong precinct on Election Day. (Jan. 2014)

4
Counties Can't Extend Poll Hours: If there are long lines or mechanical problems, only the State Board of Elections can extend hours. (Jan. 2014)

5
Changes to Absentee Voting: Absentee ballots must have signatures of 2 witnesses or 1 notary public (no fee allowed). Request forms for absentee ballots require driver's license or non-operator ID number, or the last 4 digits of Social Security number. (Jan. 2014)

6
Registration Rolls Purged: Remove unqualified or deceased voter names and share data to find NC voters registered in other states. (Jan. 2014)

7
Increased Poll Observers: Increase to 10 at-large countywide observers from political parties in addition to 3 precinct-specific observers. (Jan. 2014)

8
More Voter Challenges: Any voter in the county can challenge any other voter in the county. (Jan. 2014)

9
No Pre-Registration of 16- and 17-year-olds: You must be 18 years old on or before the pending Election Day in order to register. (Sept. 2013)

10
Touch Screen Voting Must Give Paper Ballot: This paper ballot will be the voter's official record. (Jan. 2018)