

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

January 20, 8:30 a.m.
at BRCC TEDC Building
Breakfast buffet - \$10

Speaker

Derrick Smith
Political Science professor
North Carolina A&T University

Ticket Information 828/693-3217

JANUARY MEETING

January 23, 2014

3-5 pm

Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

PROGRAM PLANNING

Program Planning for local, state and national recommendations is one of the ways we remain a grassroots organization.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update, and/or concurrence. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity to talk about where we've been and where we're going

From the President

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It feels great to wish for happiness and health. With each new year, we hope for the best. We know we can't rely on just "hope." In order to advance our goals to "Make Democracy Work," we have to redouble our efforts with community outreach to make sure every citizen is able to vote and every voter is informed.

As we plan for the future, League is suggesting steps to build our Program for the coming year. As a grassroots organization we do what we can locally and make recommendations to our LWVUS to take bigger steps on the National stage. Join us as we look to the future in Henderson County, North Carolina and the Nation. Look through some of the articles in this Bulletin, see where you fit in and help us to define our goals for the future,

Looking forward,

Judy

Leadership

President Judy Katz
judykatz4625@gmail.com

Pres. Elect Sharon Burlingame
sburlingame401@gmail.com

V. Pres. Helen Wright
hlwright@bellsouth.net

Sec'y Grace Poli
gvpoli1@gmail.com

Treas. Stan Kumor
kumorstm@morrisbb.net

LWVUS Proposes Agricultural Update - Consensus

The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

Dates: January thru April 2014, State and Local League form study committees and prepare to hold a consensus meeting. More information at lwv.org/content/about-agricultural-update-and-committee.

Find position information at
www.lwv.org

Health Care

In 1993, the League of Women Voters adopted [a position calling for a basic level of quality health care](#) at an affordable cost being available to all U.S. residents. Over the past 20 years, we have lobbied hard for passage of comprehensive health care reform and celebrated success when the [Affordable Care Act \(ACA\) passed Congress](#), was signed into law by President Obama and [upheld by the Supreme Court](#).

The Affordable Care Act has already made a difference in [the lives of many Americans](#). Children are no longer denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions, young adults can stay on their parents' health plans as dependents until age 26 and Medicare participants will have annual check-ups and mammograms. As of October 1, many uninsured Americans began to [sign up for Health Care Exchanges](#) and we are one step closer to health care for all.

VOTING RIGHTS

LWVUS defines our work in voting rights as protecting and engaging voters. Where does this commitment fit in the planning for our local league activities for 2014.

While the League will be busy protecting the right to vote, we're also committed to reforming our elections in order to better serve voters. [The League has identified five proactive elections administration reform priorities](#) that the League will work to implement:

1. Permanent and Portable Statewide Voter Registration
2. Improved Polling Place Management
3. Expanded Early Voting
4. Secure Online Voter Registration
5. Electronic Streamlining of Election Practices

A lot to consider. Check out the LWV.org website for more reading and discussion on this issue. Bring your opinions and ideas to the Program Planning meeting - January 26.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

- The League was founded upon the belief that our democracy is enhanced by a diversity of voices. In June, we commended the Senate for [passing a comprehensive package](#). Our work includes explaining how comprehensive immigration reform -- including family reunification and a pathway to citizenship -- [will strengthen our nation and society](#). We're encouraged by [positive remarks from President Obama and House Leaders](#) on renewing the push for immigration reform, and we continue to [urge the House to support the legislation](#).

League in Action



A memorable Annual Breakfast with our elected officials. Our Congressman, Mark Meadows joined us, along with Chuck McGrady from the state legislature, Chairman Charlie Messer of the Board of Commissioners, Cary O’Cain, Mayor of Laurel Park, Bill Moore, Mayor of Fletcher, Barbara Volk, Mayor of Hendersonville, Roger Snyder, Mayor of Mills River and Nick Weedman, Vice Mayor of Flat Rock. In addition, Erwin Bazzle, Chairman of the Board of Education joined us. Great discussion.

A note from our November speaker, Mark Williams

I appreciate the opportunity to share some with the League about what we are doing. Since I gave the presentation, I have had additional follow-up with Congressman Meadows and he continues to confirm his support of immigration reform and clearly sees the need from both a social and economic viewpoint.

Thanks again and Merry Christmas to you as well!

Mark

League in Holiday Action!



Our holiday gathering had more food than we could eat; more friends to see; and more books to wrap - with a surprise visit from Linnea Angermuller. What a treat! Check out the books Sharon delivered to Children and Family Resource Center as gifts from the League.

League members donated **61 wrapped children's books and \$60** to the Adolescent Parenting Program! This program, housed with other programs at the Children and Family Resource Center (CFRC), helps pregnant teens have healthy children while completing their own high school educations, building parenting skills, and planning successful strategies for life beyond high school. The donated books were most welcome, and were given to the 34 participating teens, in gift baskets, at their annual Holiday Party. The importance of reading to children from birth is one of the parenting skills promoted. **Thank you all for your generous "Gift of Words" to these young families!**

OBSERVER CORPS

Civics 102 Reviewed

Trying something different this fall, the Observer Corps organized Civics 102, a program in which League members visited the Henderson County Board in September, the Mills River Town Council in October, and the HC School Board in November. At the meetings, an Observer Corps member explained to the board and audience what the Observer Corps does, and the evidence of open government that we are looking for at board meetings. We had an average of 9 members attend the meetings.

Some members reviewed our Civics 102 program in December. They said they would like to see more of Civics 102 and Observer Corps out in the field because it engages more people, gives opportunities for members, particularly new members, to learn about the community, provides orientation opportunities, educates the community about League and validates our reputation. And as more than one of the local board members said, "You keep us on our toes."

The Observer Corps wants to improve our service to the community. How to be the most effective Observer Corps we can be for our community will be the topic for our next meeting on Thursday, **February 13th from 11:00 to 1:00 P.M.** Please mark your calendars. Everyone is welcome to help us brainstorm.

Save this page

LWVHC Calendar 2013-2014

January

- 9 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 20 Martin Luther King Breakfast
- 20 Immigration Meeting (3:30 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
- 17 Immigration Committee (3:30 pm)
- 21 General Meeting - Elders: Health and
Poverty (3 - 5 pm)

League's Address

LWVHC
PO Box 2238
Hendersonville, NC 28793
www.lwvhcnc.org

March

- Women's History Month
- Sunshine Month
- 6 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 13 Observer Corps Sunshine Luncheon
- 17 Immigration Meeting (3:30 pm)
- 20 General Meeting - TBA

April

- 3 Board Meeting (10 am - Noon)
- 11-13 LWVNC State Council in
Hendersonville *
- 21 Immigration Meeting (3:30 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 (3:30 pm)

June

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

OBSERVER CORPS

"Job Vacancy: An Observer is needed to follow the Monday evening Board of Commissioners' meetings (5:30pm at the Historic Courthouse, on the first Monday of each month). Please contact Linda Miller (697-1045 millerdh@bellsouth.net), Bill Wilkes (891-3578 wrwnc@bellsouth.net), or Sharon Burlingame (sburlingame401@gmail.com) for more information."

*LWVNC State Council

Henderson County LWV will host LWVNC State Council April 11-13. take an opportunity to work with our Board to plan and welcome LWV members of our state leadership and members of local Leagues across the State. Interested in helping out, contact Judy Katz.