

## League of Women Voters of Henderson County

### *From the President*

New Year's Resolutions? Limit Health Care, maintain partisan districts, allow Big Money to stay in politics, forget the ERA, make voting a challenge, never write an advocacy letter.....Is that your list? I sincerely doubt it! On YOUR list, when you think beyond your personal resolutions, I'm sure you'll add some community-spirited items that dovetail nicely with the League's goals. Perhaps this is the year you'll add: more health insurance for low-income folks, non-partisan redistricting in 2020, push back against big money in elections, or do a study of the local schools so that there is an informed basis for advocacy..... The list can be uniquely your own, but there are ways that League can support you, and I suspect that's why you're a member.

Join us on Thursday, January 22, from 3-5, as we have our round-table discussions about priorities for the coming year. You'll be heartened by the commitment and interests of those around you. I love to make lists, plan a calendar, and dig in, yet I have never been to one of the January meetings due to travel. I can't wait to be part of the process this year, and I hope you'll join us! Happy 2015!

**Sharon**

### **Attention historically-minded League members**

On Friday, Jan. 9, at 1:30pm, Dr. John Godehn will join us at Carolina Village to review materials of Sally Godehn, his mother and a founder of our local League. This should help planning for our 50th get underway! Contact Sharon Burlingame, 551-9650,

## ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

**January 22  
3 - 5 pm**

**Join us as we prioritize the issues we'd like to focus on during the coming year.  
Be prepared to speak for your interests, to join focus teams, and to see where our energy leads us.  
Tax reform? Health Care?  
Social Media? Education? Redistricting?  
Voter Rights?  
Advocacy?**

**Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room on Church Street**

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### Leadership

President Sharon Burlingame  
Sburlingame401@gmail.com

Sec'y Linda Weldon  
wnclinda@aol.com

Treas. Bill Wilkes  
[wrwnc@bellsouth.net](mailto:wrwnc@bellsouth.net)



Erwin Bazzle, Chair, Board of Education



Clerk of Superior Court  
Kim Gasperson



Mayor Staton of Flat Rock reports on the new park in the village



Linda Hasma and Mary Ann Engle welcome members and guests early in the morning at the breakfast

Our Annual Breakfast with elected officials was another success. We were joined this year by representatives of four of the five municipalities, by Judge Emily Cowan, newly elected Register of Deeds, Lee King and Clerk of Superior Court, Kim Gasperson as well as school board chairman Erwin Bazzle and board member, Rick Wood. Barbara Volk, Mayor of Hendersonville, Judge Cowan and Rick Wood are also League members.

## League in Action!

Photos: Linda Weldon and Linda Miller



Members met for our annual holiday Gift of Words and wrapped 88 books to be given to Head Start. We also shared some great food!



# OBSERVER CORPS

## There will be no Observer Corps Meeting for January.

December 8, 2014 School Board Report from Henderson County School Board Observers: Brenda Fisher, Linda Miller, Rachel Poller, and Katharine Taylor

The December school board meeting was interesting. It included a brief chorus of frustration and cynicism around the state's 1\$ million "performance pay bonus" to cover the entire state and the school board's need to have a plan how to determine who should get which pennies locally.

During the public comment period, John Dockendorf spoke to plead with the Board to plead with the county commissioners to fund the district to at least the level of other counties in NC. He convincingly articulated how wonderful the schools already are but pointed out areas that would so benefit with the extra money--for example his own daughter's high school honors math class that had 40 students in it! Apparently he owns a summer camp in the county: Pinnacle.

Ervin Bazzle and Mary Louise Corn were elected chair and vice chair.

Sugarloaf Elementary Principal Peggy Marshall and staff presented their Improvement Plan to raise academic achievement particularly in reading. Eighty percent of its students are economically disadvantaged and qualify for free or reduced lunch. Forty-five percent of the student population is Hispanic, and 27% is considered to have limited English proficiency. With such a high poverty population and many students having limited English proficiency, Sugarloaf teachers and administration are wrestling with low-grade level proficiencies and are focusing their improvement plan on helping the students do better on the End-of-Grade (EOG) tests.

Please remember that our League held its 2014 March general meeting at Sugarloaf Elementary and members learned that Sugarloaf students have the highest poverty rate in the county. Members also learned at the meeting that academic achievement is lower for children in poverty and students with limited English proficiency.

HEADS UP! End of Grade test results will be out in February.

## NEW MEMBERS

**Harold Hellickson** tells us that he has had occasion to work with League members in areas of mutual interest, including Melinda Lowrance, Martha Sachs, Judith Scruggs, Linda Miller and Sharon Burlingame. He says, "I attended a couple of League meetings and assisted in the Electronic Observer Corps effort on education. It seemed like it was time to join. I have done a fair amount of writing and am a former corporate ideologue and a current curmudgeon.

**Charlynn Waller** tells us "Becky Armstrong invited me to a meeting, and I was thrilled to hear and see all the information (about water) that was presented. Most recently, I attended the meeting on "It's All About Foods, and again felt the information presented was very worthwhile. I am impressed with the bi-partisan approach that the league takes, and the variety of issues explored in meetings. I moved to North Carolina in 1995, and am a retired teacher/counselor. I volunteer with the Healing Place, sing in the choir at Mills River United Methodist Church, during the political (silly) season, I volunteer to get the vote out and raise awareness of pertinent issues. I graduated from the University of Dayton, Dayton, OH (BS), and University of Maine, Orono, ME, (Masters in Education, Counseling). My hobbies are gardening, cooking, reading, and going to the most recent movies."

**Mary Ickes:** Mary and her husband Roy moved from Saugerties, New York, to Hendersonville in 2004. She thrives on animals, books, movies, and music, her favorite being whichever occupies her at the moment. She has volunteered at the Sandburg farm with the goats for nine years and, as always, looks forward to the new kids next spring. She has reviewed books for *Western North Carolina Woman* magazine since 2010 and, in 2014, initiated a series of articles about service groups in the Hendersonville region. Increasingly disgusted with federal and state officials, especially when she realized the full impact of North Carolina's voting restrictions, she was amazed to discover such a dynamic and positive non-partisan group thriving amidst the political muck.

# LWVHC Calendar 2014-2015

## January

- 8 - Board Meeting 10-12
- 8 - LWVNC Social Media Webinar (see below)
- 9 - Carrie Chapman Catt Birthday
- 9 - Review of Godehn records, Carolina Village 1:30 pm
- 9 - Closing the Gap (see below)
- 12 - Paths to College training, 3-5 pm Johnson Farm
- 19 - Immigration Committee Mtg 3:30-4:30
- 19 - MLK Breakfast
- 22 - General Meeting - Program Planning 3-5 pm
- 28 - Brews and Banter - 5:30 - 7:30 pm

## February

Black History Month  
Youth Voter Month

- 5 - Board Meeting 10-12
- 12 - Observer Corps, 11 at Sol y Luna
- 14 - Anniversary of League
- 16 - Immigration Committee Mtg 3:30-4:30
- 16 - President's Day
- 19 - General Meeting - Health Care Update 3-5

**League's Address**  
LWVHC  
PO Box 2238  
Hendersonville, NC 28793  
[www.lwvhcnc.org](http://www.lwvhcnc.org)

## March

Women's History Month  
Sunshine Month

- 5 - Board Meeting 10-12
- 12 - Observer Corps - 11 at Sol y Luna
- 16 - Immigration Committee Mtg 3:30-4:30
- 16 - Open Government Week
- 19 - General Meeting 3-5 Advocacy Day  
League's 95th birthday celebration

## April

- 2 - Board Meeting 10-12
- 16 - General Meeting 3-5 Education Study
- 16 - Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 20 - Immigration Committee Mtg 3:30-4:30
- 22 - Earth Day

## May

- 7 - Board Meeting 10-12
- 18 - Immigration Committee Mtg 3:30-4:30
- 21 - Annual Meeting
- 50th Anniversary Celebration of Henderson County League

## June

- 4 - Board Meeting 10-12
- 15 - Immigration Committee 3:30-4:30

## Immigration Committee Paths to College

### Mentor Training

January 12, 3-5 pm  
Historic Johnson Farm

Please call Michelle Burnette, 243-1338 or email her at [jmeburil@gmail.com](mailto:jmeburil@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance. Training materials will be distributed at that time.

## Brews and Banter

**Working? Traveling?**

**Missing Meetings?**

**Feeling out of the Loop?**

League members, let's get together for an informal gathering. No agenda, just a good chance to catch up on what everyone's been doing.

Next get together - January 28, 2015  
Sol y Luna in Laurel Park

### More Trainings

**Social Media training Webinar:** Learn to promote League's issues by Twitter. Webinar for all members to be held Thursday, Jan. 8, at 7pm. For details, contact Linda Hansma, [lhansma@gmail.com](mailto:lhansma@gmail.com) or Guri Andermann, [guridirect@yahoo.com](mailto:guridirect@yahoo.com). Four members of our League will travel to Greensboro on Jan. 16-17 for follow-up skill-building.

**"Closing the Gap"** training to campaign for Medicaid in NC will be held Friday, Jan. 9, in Raleigh, sponsored by LWVNC, the Justice Center, and the NC Community Health Care Association (the trade group of the federally qualified community clinics). They have been awarded \$100K to help 'change hearts and minds' in NC about the fiscal benefits of expanding Medicaid. Dr. Jim Volk will represent our League.