

## League of Women Voters of Henderson County

### *From the President*

“Black History Month: Regarding a Teacher, Two SNCC Girls, and a Roommate”

Memorials for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights march on Selma make me proud to be a member of an organization that has not turned its back on underserved voters. The League of Women Voters works at the national, state, and local levels to preserve voters’ rights and remove barriers to the polls. At our Program Planning meeting last week, we tallied strong support for continuing to offer citizenship education and voter services/protection in our programming.

What does this have to do with the title above? Fifty years ago, in 1965, these were the 4 African Americans who personalized my view of race relations and voting rights in turbulent times. The teacher, a southerner who’d been hired to work at Eastman Kodak, also became my 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school teacher. He was open, honest, educated, and patient; in short, he earned my respect. I met the two SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Comm.) students when they came north to a high school leadership conference in Massachusetts. Amazing – just my age and the very folks I’d seen on TV patiently resisting (scary) hecklers and police at “all-white” lunch counters in NC. Their courage, hope and skill inspired me so much that I volunteered to have a black roommate my freshman year in college. To my surprise, my roommate was upset by my offer. She didn’t seek a white friend. She didn’t do “protests.” She wasn’t at all patient. But she had courage....and brains. She tackled Russian, Trigonometry,.. nothing easy. She wanted freedom to be herself – not an affirmative action symbol, a fighter, or a novelty.

I am ever indebted to these fine role models, and to my friends in League, for making the work of integration and voting accessibility so meaningful.

**Sharon**

## GENERAL MEETING

# CLOSING THE GAP

## An Update on Health Care

**February 19  
3 - 5 pm**

How much federal money is NC "leaving on the table?"

Will NC expand Medicaid?

Are NC's citizens insured - through the Affordable Care Act? - through other means?

Join us and speakers from LWVNC to hear the latest advocacy focus on Health Care at the state level.

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

.....

### Contents

February Meeting	pg. 1
From the President	pg. 1
Observer Corps	pg. 2
Immigration	pg. 2
League in Action	pg. 3
Education	pg. 3
Calendar	pg. 4
New Members	pg. 4
Brews and Banter	pg. 4

### Leadership

President Sharon Burlingame  
Sburlingame401@gmail.com

Sec’y Linda Weldon  
wnclinda@aol.com

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

# Education Study Committee

## LWV Study to Define Components of a Quality Education in Henderson County Public Schools

The LWV Study Team to Define Components of a Quality Education in Henderson County Public Schools has held two thought-provoking meetings to date, and our study is now officially "underway." Members are focusing on 6 areas of education one at a time: Academic Education, Civic Education, Cultural Education, Health Education, Technical and Career Education, and School Resources.

We have just met to edit the components we believe essential to a quality **civics** education in grades K-12. The team will be meeting the fourth Thursdays of the month, and in February we will be focusing on **cultural** education. After components for all areas have been drafted, we will present them for feedback to all groups of education stakeholders in the county. Once revised by the Team in light of feedback, the document will be presented for consensus consideration to the League local membership. For more information or to join us, please contact Linda Miller at [millerdh@bellsouth.net](mailto:millerdh@bellsouth.net) or 697-1045.

## Comments by Linda Miller on Measuring School Performance

Be highly skeptical of the new A – F school grades. Only 20% of the grade will be based on how far schools have brought their students (growth), but 80% on what students know (performance).

Studies show student performance is based mostly on factors over which the schools have no control. Low-performing schools have many students in poverty, speaking English as a second language, and/or with little support at home, etc. High-performing schools have students who speak Standard English, belong to the middle class, and/or have support at home, etc. Comparing schools with such different populations of students and giving them grades mostly on how much the students know, much of which is learned at home, gives an entirely inaccurate picture of how much the schools have taught the students.

Look at the neighborhood if you want to know if the students perform well. Look at the growth scores if you want to know how much the school has taught its students.

NC has spent billions testing students and grading schools. Has it helped students or their schools? Shouldn't we be spending those billions on more important educational needs for our students? We need to reform the way schools are graded.

## Immigration Committee

Members attended the first orientation for Immigration Network's "Path to College" mentors last month. Newcomers still welcome. Contact Michelle Burnette, [jmebur11@gmail.com](mailto:jmebur11@gmail.com). Another orientation for those unable to attend in Jan., will be held on Feb.3 from 3-5 at Johnson Farm. Training for all mentors will be Feb. 10 from 9-2 at the Farm.

Flyers will be ready for showing on **March 3** at Main Library of Morgan Spurlock's "30 Days" from 5:30-7:30.

Flyers will be ready for BRCC's "Heritage Week" from **March 30-April 2**, sponsored by the Inclusive Education Committee. LWV will participate by showing "30 Days" and in other ways yet to be determined.

East H.S. teachers want to see "Myths vs. Facts" in May. The committee will arrange the presentation.



The League of Women Voters of Henderson County will present an

### Insight into Immigration



**TUESDAY \* March 3, 2015 \* 5:30pm-7:30pm**  
Henderson County Public Library  
3301 North Washington Street  
Hendersonville, NC  
February 2015

# OBSERVER CORPS

The first Observer Corps Lunch/Meeting of 2015 will be Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at Sol y Luna in the Laurel Park Shopping Center at 11:00. Please come prepared to update us on what is happening at your board and to share information. So much has happened since last we met in November, and we're looking forward to some interesting discussions!

## Board of Public Health Report Linda Weldon Observer

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Budget planning for 2015-2016 is underway with information provided to the Board members on projected needs for the year to come. The Community Health Assessment process will begin in the spring. The NC Department of Health and Human Services requires local health departments to conduct a community health assessment every three years. If anyone from the League is interested in participating in this endeavor, contact Linda Weldon at 551-0853, and she will provide further information.

**Mills River** is experiencing tremendous change and growth because of the new Sierra Nevada Brewery and several other industries planting roots there. The Mills River Town Council has much on its plate, and the LWVHC needs to have an Observer(s) at its meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month at 7:00 at the Town Hall at 124 Town Center Drive. Martha Sachs is willing to serve as a substitute but the Observer Corps needs to have regular representation. The nice thing about the Mills River Town Center is that it is just down the road from the Mills River Restaurant if two partner Observers want to meet for dinner before going to the meeting. Please email Linda Miller at [millerdh@bellsouth.net](mailto:millerdh@bellsouth.net) or Linda Weldon at [wncclinda@aol.com](mailto:wncclinda@aol.com) if you would be willing to observe the Mills River Town Council. We'd love to have you join us!

## League in Action!

### News from the LWVNC:

**Nancy Birindelli** has become Interim Treasurer, with our own Treasurer, **Bill Wilkes**, assisting.

**Judith Scruggs**, a member of our local League, continues to be convener of LWVNC.

**Lee Luebbe** has assisted in planning for the MLD training on March 20-21. (See Calendar)

"Closing the Gap," a training for promoting expansion of Medicaid, was held in Durham, and attended by **Jim Volk** and **Linda Weldon** from Hendersonville.

"Winning with Twitter" was held on Jan. 17 in Greensboro, and attended by **Renee Kumor**, **Guri Andermann**, **Linda Hansma**, and **Sharon Burlingame**.

We are proud to see our members extend their participation across the state, and thank all these members for their time and interest.



Learning about Twitter at the LWVNC training



The Annual Planning meeting in January had a great turn out!

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

# LWVHC Calendar 2014-2015

## February

Black History Month  
Youth Voter Month

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

## March

Women's History Month  
Sunshine Month

- 3 - Immigration Movie, Main Library 5:30 pm
- 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
- 18 - Board Retreat 10-3

### Upcoming LWVNC Events:

**March 20-21** - A regional training for Membership/Leadership Development (sitting/aspiring Board members) will be held at Black Mountain. Join us!

**June 5-7** - The *League of Women Voters NC Convention* will be held in Durham. Janet Hoy writes, "We want to make Convention available for any interested Leaguers," so do inquire about scholarships and arrangements. Watch your email for "Call to Convention."

If you are interested in going to upcoming events, contact Sharon Burlingame at [sburlingame401@gmail.com](mailto:sburlingame401@gmail.com) or Linda Hansma at [lhansma@gmail.com](mailto:lhansma@gmail.com).

## NEW MEMBERS

**Sandra Schorr** has joined League to become more knowledgeable about candidates and issues, especially locally. She is a pediatrician specializing in newborns. She is interested in wellness and the environment. She is married to Chuck Breckheimer. Sandra says "I belong to and am a fan of the Hendersonville YMCA, CMLC, Mountain True and the Hendersonville Food Co-op."

**Charles Breckheimer** joined League to learn more about the political process and how League helps the community. A former high school chemistry teacher who has taught in Ithaca, Vail, and Denver, he currently tutors high school students at West Henderson as a volunteer. Chuck says, "I also belong and volunteer and the YMCA and play a lot of tennis. Like Sandy I also belong to CMLC, Mountain True and the Hendersonville Co-op."

**Spencer Morgan** has become a member as he points out "because of being very gently coerced by Charlyne Coleman."

## 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  
Two Guys Pizza  
5:30 - 7:30