

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

From the President

Fight off Cabin Fever with the League! Icy weather cancelled our **Health Care** meeting in February, but we have **rescheduled it for Thursday, March 19 at the Chamber, from 3-5pm**. Our speaker, Margaret Salinger, from LWV of Piedmont Triad, will be joined by our own Linda Weldon, RN, and guest local health care providers to explain how our advocacy efforts can help **“Close the Gap”** in health care coverage for NC residents. Your reward will be the joyful **Celebration of the League’s 95th Birthday, birthday cake and all!**

On **March 3, at the Library’s Kaplan Auditorium, from 5:30-7:30 pm**, the Immigration Committee will present **Morgan Spurlock’s “30 Days: Immigration”** This documentary of a border patrol volunteer details him gaining insight by living with an immigrant family in the southwest for 30 days – a big surprise awaits him!

The LWVUS has set this year’s federal legislative priorities in two tiers: *Tier 1:* Voting Rights, Election Administration, and Money in Politics, and *Tier 2:* Climate and Environmental Protections, Immigration, and Health Care, including Reproductive Choice. For interesting reading on these chilly nights, go to the national website, lww.org, and look at the **“Money in Politics Review,”** the **“Constitutional Amendment Study,”** and other pages to whet your advocacy appetite. We’ll begin to talk about the national study about money in politics very soon.

Sharon

GENERAL MEETING CLOSING THE GAP

The Effort to Expand Health Care Accessibility

and

LEAGUE'S 95TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

MARCH 19

3 - 5 pm

Will NC expand Medicaid?

How are NC's citizens insured?

Join LWV Piedmont Triad’s Margaret Salinger, as well as our own Linda Weldon, RN, and local Health Care Providers, to hear the latest advocacy focus on Health Care at the state level.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

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Leadership

President Sharon Burlingame
Sburlingame401@gmail.com

Sec’y Linda Weldon
wnclinda@aol.com

Treas. Bill Wilkes
wrwnc@bellsouth.net

League in Action!

League of Women Voters of North Carolina

Call to 2015 Convention: Speaking Out, Reaching Out: Opportunities and Challenges for LWVNC

When: June 5-7, 2015

Where: Marriott at Research Triangle Park
4700 Guardian Drive, Durham, NC 27703
Tel. [919-941-6200](tel:919-941-6200) Marriott.com/RDUCP

What: Workshops Friday, 1-4 PM
Issue presentations on Saturday
Plenary Sessions Saturday and Sunday AM

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Beth Hayes tells us she decided to join League after reading that our League played an important role in founding the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy. She originally comes from Massachusetts and moved to Hendersonville about five years ago.

Immigration Committee

Reminder - March 3 - Everyone is welcome to the showing of Morgan Spurlock's "30 Days: Immigration" from 5:30 -7:30 at the Main Library.

We hope all members will save **March 30 – April 2** to support **BRCC's Heritage Week**, a series of events at [Blue Ridge Community College](http://BlueRidgeCommunityCollege.edu) to promote an awareness of diversity and a greater understanding of global issues. Heritage Week is sponsored by the BRCC Inclusive Education Committee. LWV was invited to participate, so Immigration Committee member, Pat Argue, will introduce keynote speaker **Carolina Perez, on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 10:00-11:00 a.m. in TEDC 213.** To learn more about the week, see www.brccheritageweek.wordpress.com.

Some LWV and committee members completed the training workshop for Immigration Network's "Path to College" mentors last month. Newcomers still welcome. Contact Michelle Burnette, jmebur11@gmail.com. Another orientation for absentees will be announced.

The Etowah Public Library and our committee are working on a multicultural display for **March 30 - April 2.**

Is Economic Inequality a Legislative Priority of League?

Elizabeth McNamara writes: "[President Obama, in his State of the Union address](#), devoted a lot of time to what he called middle class economics. Practical political considerations dictate that the League, at the national level, can most effectively work for the greatest good by focusing on core democracy issues. Much of the inequality, economic and otherwise, that exists in our society results from uneven and unequal access and participation at the ballot box and beyond. However, the LWVUS Board reminds Leagues that we have a national position on [Meeting Basic Human Needs](#) that includes the following statement: "People who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and access to health care." The Board is aware that in setting their own legislative priorities for this year, there are communities in which League Boards may find both the interest and the opportunity to take action on local or state legislation to which this position may apply. Every League Board has the serious responsibility to do its due diligence on any proposed legislation that addresses Meeting Basic Human Needs and judge whether there is member understanding and agreement that the proposed legislation meets the criteria quoted above. If it does, then the Board should carefully deliberate and make a decision based upon both the position and the needs of its own community. What fits other communities can only be addressed by the relevant League."

OBSERVER CORPS

Sunshine Observer Corps Meeting March 12

All League Members Welcome!

Our Observer Corps will celebrate Sunshine Week (Open-government week) at our lunch/meeting **on Thursday, March 12th, in the Sun Room of Sol Y Luna at 11:00 p.m.** A Henderson County public information officer will join us to answer questions we have about letting the sunshine in on our government boards in Henderson County. All are welcome to join us and learn about some hard-fought-for protections that we have won but may not know about.

The Argues join the Corps

The Observer Corps is delighted to welcome Ed and Pat Argue, new League members, as Observers for the Mills River Town Council. Hallelujah! Ed and Pat have lived in Mills River for 19 years and so will bring much background to their Mills River Town Council observations.

Needed: An Observer(s) for the Pardee Hospital Board

Medicaid not being expanded has had a major impact, particularly on Pardee, our county hospital, and currently we do not have an observer for the Pardee Hospital Board. If anyone can step into observe this important board, please contact Linda Miller at 697-1045 or millerdh@bellsouth.net or Linda Weldon at 551-0853 or wnclinda@aol.com.

Henderson County Board of Health

Observer Linda Weldon

The Henderson County Board of Health met Tuesday, Feb. 12th. William G. Lapsley, County Commissioner, was sworn in as a new member of the Board. He replaced Larry Young who is no longer a County Commissioner. The HC Board of Health was awarded the Outstanding Board of Health of the Year at the NC state health directors' meeting in January. The Board received the communicable disease report for the year 2014. There were nine laboratory confirmed cases of pertussis/whooping cough in Henderson County in 2014. NC and Henderson County have not identified any cases of measles. The health department is encouraging all parents to have their children immunized for measles and all communicable diseases according to CDC recommendations.

HC Public School Board

Observers

Brenda Fisher, Linda Miller, Rachel Poller, Katharine Taylor

At the February HC School Board meeting Auditor Terry Andersen gave his report for the school finances for 2013-14. The audit showed that the school district received \$330,000 less in governmental funds than it had the previous year. And even though the HC School District spent \$2.6 million less than it had the previous year, it still had to use about one million dollars from its "Fund Balance," a.k.a. rainy day fund, to make up costs to cover increased enrollment, higher prices, etc. The school district had banked its Fund Balance with the millions from the *Race to the Top* federal grant that it acquired at the beginning of the Great Recession. Revenues were cut heavily during the Great Recession, but the school district judiciously used the Fund Balance to make up for lost revenues, so teachers wouldn't have to be fired and other cuts made. Auditor Andersen commended the schools for doing a good job with a tightening budget, and said the finance department under the leadership of Mr. Bernie Sochia had done a good job being fiscally responsible.

This year the Fund Balance is almost depleted and government funding is still tight. The HC school district has had to make many cuts in order to maintain a financially sustainable budget.

LWVHC Calendar 2014-2015

March

Women's History Month
Sunshine Month

- 3 - 30 Days: Immigration - 5:30 Main Library
- 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 Health Care
League's 95th birthday celebration
- 26 - Brews and Banter, Two guys Pizza, 5:30 pm
- 30 - April 2
BRCC's Heritage Week
Etowah Library Multicultural display

April

- 2 - Board Meeting 10-12
- 16 - General Meeting 3-5 Education, Advocacy
- 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



OUR ANNUAL FUND RAISER

BULBS

We hope you will consider helping with sales this year. There will be a bonus gift to those who sell \$50.00 and up. Your friends, family and neighbors will be thrilled to purchase some of these beautiful flowering bulbs that make your yard sing in the Spring! We will be putting the order form on our Website or you can call Rose Stone 692-5001 to get a brochure and form.

**Pick up brochures
and order forms at
the Annual Meeting, May 15.**

Contact: Rose Stone
692-5001

Rosestone555@gmail.com

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. These gatherings are a big hit with spouses, perspective members and friends!

Next get together -
5:30 - 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 26
Two Guys Pizza
121 W. Barnwell Street

