

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

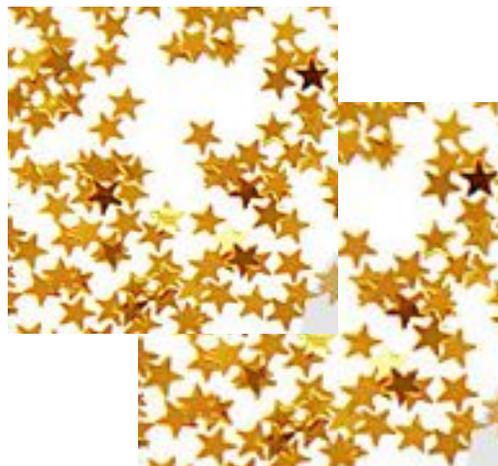
From the President

We will shortly come together at the Cedars for our Annual Meeting on May 21, and I can think of no more fitting message here than one of gratitude for everyone's hard work this year! Our Voter Registration, Education, and Candidate Forum events last fall were well-staffed by members. Attendance for general meetings was consistently high, and the advocacy and understanding from those programs strengthens our positions and ripples out into the community year-round.

Some people who have made a difference will be making changes this year. Judy Katz has served as President for 3 years, Forum Moderator, Board Member Ex-Officio, and 50th Celebration Organizer, among other things. Judy's love of League has shone in all she's done, and we cannot thank her enough for the commitment she's made these past years. Reading and painting are among her relaxation goals. Linda Miller has Co-Chaired Observer Corps for the last 5 years, and will now step down to focus on the Education Study and observing the School Board. Madeline Royes has served on the Board for the past 5 years, and steps down to continue observing City Council and serving on WCCA's Board. Glenn Rodgers has been one of our electronic communicators, sending the Bulletin and e-Post Cards that Renee Kumor creates; he joined League for our Immigration work, and became a valued speaker for the Immigration Committee for 7 years. Barbara Updike, a former member of the Board, moved to Japan in April.

Think of the cumulative contributions these folks have made to League and to the community! Please make a special point to thank them at our Annual Meeting this month. And please, step up to help us fill the gaps that their changes bring to our structure. We are grateful for everyone who chooses to work for League – we know you make a difference.

Sharon



LWV Annual Meeting

May 21, 2015 come celebrate our 50th birthday! It wouldn't be the same without you!

The Cedars 11:30 am \$25.00 RSVP by Friday May 15 to Mary Ann Engel 693-3575 tengel18@morrisbb.net or Judy Katz 698-9952 judykatz4265@gmail.com

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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!



Members met to discuss issues for advocacy at the April meeting. Dr. Ken Shelton visited to answer questions about the proposed Ecusta Trail and ask members to speak out in support of this project. Others spoke to League issues of Healthcare, Immigration and Education. Members were encouraged to email, call or write to elected officials regarding LWV supported issues.

Annual Meeting May 21
at the Cedars
Review information in April Bulletin

League's Clearinghouse

Learn more about [the Clearinghouse](#)--the great resource that features League studies in more than 50 subject areas. The Clearinghouse provides scope and focus of a topic, research methodology, sources consulted, information about positions, and consensus questions. Note: the [Clearinghouse](#) accepts positions without studies, even as multi-position documents, if they are accompanied by a single submission form. The description section could have "Resulting Position:" and the position statement or a link to the position. Complete studies are preferred, and Leagues may add study documents at a later date. Share your studies! Share our strength! - The League Update

REMINDER

According to the LWVHC Bylaws, members must receive the recommended budget and the report from the Nominating Committee one month prior to the Annual Meeting. Please review your April 2015 Bulletin. Below members will find the proposed annual budget for 2015-2016 and the Nominating Committee report.

Nominating Committee chair Judy Wilkes and committee members: Judy Katz and Renee Kumor present:

Officers; 2015-2016

President: Sharon Burlingame
Vice President: Linda Hansma

Elected Directors, 2015-2016

Karen Jones
Rose Stone

Nominating Committee 2015-2016

Jan Allen, Chair
Judith Scruggs
The third member of the committee will be appointed by the 2015-2016 Board



Follow us on Facebook

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County has established a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LWVHendersonCountyNC) with posts on League events and issues important to the League. Facebook is an important tool for increasing our visibility in the community and growing our membership. We need your help to extend our social media reach. Please become a Facebook user and help us reach more people.

- "Like" our Facebook page, this will ensure that our posts appear in your Facebook news feed. You don't want to miss the latest updates on League activities and information on important issues.
- Regularly "like" our posts. "Liking" one of our posts usually allows your friends to see it and expands the audience for each post

We hope you'll join us on Facebook and help strengthen our influence in the social media world. If you have ideas for posts or need help getting started on Facebook, please contact Linda Hansma at asklww@lwhcnc.org.

OBSERVER CORPS

Thank You Letter from Linda Miller



Dear Observers,

It has been an honor to serve as your co-chair these last five years, and a pleasure to serve with Sharon Burlingame and Linda Weldon. All of us Observers working together have kept the Observer Corps working for our community as our predecessors have done before us. We have expanded the number of boards we cover, managed to get our records and contact sheets digitized, and met for lunch-meetings for orientation, to share concerns about issues that our respective boards were dealing with, to celebrate Sunshine Week, and just to get to know each other better and enjoy each other's company.

When I began observing the school board six or seven years ago, the school board members and staff were welcoming and told me how much they appreciated HC League and its work for the community. It is the much the same story at all the local government boards. We are watchdogs for open-government practices of the boards, but we are also the eyes and ears for the community. The League has continued to earn the respect of the community these many years. The Observer Corps is important to our community in that we report back from the boards we cover to the at-large League any issues of concern on which the League has taken a position. Once alerted, the League can then take action.

I have become a more informed citizen by far because of what I have learned from attending our local government board meetings, and I know this is the reward all Observers receive for their efforts. I will continue observing and am only stepping down as co-chair because I have assumed other duties that require much time and my decreasing amount of energy. We are hoping someone will step up to co-chair with a-wonderful-partner-to-have Linda Weldon. Partnering is SO much easier than going it alone because of the understanding and support for each other.

Thank you, Observers for all your investment in our Henderson County government. You have justly earned the respect of our community.

Linda Miller

OBSERVER CORPS

Job Market

Co-chair of the *OBSERVER CORPS* needed. See above.

Henderson County Planning Board *OBSERVER CORPS* Opportunity

Becky Armstrong has had to resign from the HC Planning Board, and her partner Rose Griffith would welcome a new partner. Janet Edwards, who observes the HC Board of Commissioners, is also having to leave the Observer Corps for other duties. Are there any Leaguers who will step up to any of these important League positions as a team, partners, or alone?

LWVHC Calendar 2014-2015

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

Our flower bulb fund raiser is looking for a few of us to help make sales. Orders are taken until the end of May. Encourage friends and those in other organizations to purchase our bulbs. The bulbs will be delivered in the fall for planting so that you can enjoy a beautiful Spring - after this winter we really need to see those tulips, daffodils and many other spring beauties popping up. This is a fun fund raiser to help our League. If you are interested please contact:

Contact: Rose Stone

692-5001

rose_stone@juno.com

**Pick up brochures
and order forms at
the Annual Meeting, May 21.**



Want to be "in the know" about state League activities but too tired to read about it?

A 2-day LWVNC Convention is what you need! Hear about Redistricting and Campaign Finance Reform (NC Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform, NC Voters for Clean Elections); Public K-12 Education (Dr. June Atkinson, Sup. of Public Educ.); Immigration (our own Lee Luebbe, and Piedmont Triad LWV); Elections 2015 & 2016 (Kim Strach, Exec. Dir. NC State Bd. of Elections, and a panel of election officials); Voter Protection; Medicaid Expansion; and ERA - Why We Still Need It.

The Keynote Address on Saturday will be "Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act," given by Anita Earls, Southern Coalition for Social Justice. Ms. Earls represents the LWVNC in the challenge to the voter ID law and will speak to the current lawsuit.

The Convention will be held June 5-7 in Durham at the Marriott RTP. You can register at www.lwvnc.org or by speaking to Sharon Burlingame. Four local members are already signed up, and 3 more are presenters, so you will feel at home if you join us!

League's Address
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