

League of Women Voters of Henderson County



Looking for a
Year-End Tax Deductible Gift to Give?
Why not consider our own

Henderson County League of Women Voters Education Fund!

The Fund, a tax exempt corporation, was established through the generous bequest of Francee Sherman, a founding member of our League.

It's sole purpose is to fund grants to our local league for educational purposes.

Make your checks payable to **HCLWVEF**.



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12th Annual Elected Officials BREAKFAST

December 4
8:00 am (Buffet opens at 7:30)
Golden Corral Breakfast
buffet - \$10

RSVP: Marian Lowry
mpl@ioa.com



Holiday Gathering “The Gift of Words”

Sunday, December 13

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Chamber of Commerce

King St.

Bring:

-a holiday treat or beverage you wish to share on the refreshment table;

-a picture book for a child 0-5 years of age

**we will furnish wrapping paper;
tape and scissors**

Leadership

President
Sharon Burlingame
Sburlingame401@gmail.com

V.Pres.
Linda Hansma
lhansma@gmail.com

Secretary
Linda Weldon
wncilinda@aol.com

Treasurer
Bill Wilkes
wrvnc@bellsouth.net

From the President

Let the Holidays begin by giving! We will give a big THANK YOU to those willing to serve in public office when we host our Elected Officials' Breakfast next Friday, Dec. 4, at the Golden Corral. Join us and share those rare informal moments when you can make comments to mayors, judges, and school board leaders. They will return the favor by giving us some pithy answers to our far-ranging questions.

Let us give YOU a festive THANK YOU and WELL DONE! at our Holiday Gathering on Sunday, Dec. 13. Last December, we delivered more than 70 books for preschoolers to the WCCA Head Start program. This year, we look forward to wrapping your gifts of children's books, and donating them to foster children, ages 0-5, through the Department of Social Services. While wrapping, we will sample traditions and treats that many members bring to share - yummy! We call this celebration, and your generosity, "The Gift of Words."

We hope that you will be able to attend BOTH of these spirited events so that you can enjoy "making merry" with your friends, as well as giving. Your many generous acts for the community throughout this year have made it a successful one for League. I can't thank you enough for all you do.

Wishing you a bright and peaceful holiday season,

Sharon

Education

Please, members, ask your friends and family to take our Quality Public Education Survey by going to our local League website at: lvvhcnc.org. Find in the middle column under

Latest News:

Quality Public Education Survey

[Take the survey online](#)

Click on the blue underlined words and, voila! The survey comes up instantly. Our Quality Ed Team is trying to gather input from 500 citizens with our survey, and we have collected about half of that number with our paper surveys. Please help us gather more! The League wants all parts of the community to have a voice.

From LWVNC

Happy Thanksgiving! At this special season of Thanksgiving, we extend appreciation to you for all the hard and meaningful work you and members of your League are doing to make democracy work in North Carolina.

Your state board is excited to share with you plans for an equal partnership between the League of Women Voters of North Carolina and Time Warner Cable in sponsoring the primary election debates and general election debates for the US Senate race and the NC Gubernatorial race. At this time it appears there will only be a Democratic Party primary debate for both of these offices. The US Senate Democratic primary will be on Monday, February 29th at 7:00 p.m. and the NC Gubernatorial debate will be Tuesday, March 1 at 7:00. Both debates will be held at High Point University. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

We want you and members of your League to be thinking of questions to submit for consideration to ask the candidates. A call for questions with complete information on how to submit them, will come early in the new year. There will be other ways for you and members of your League to be involved as well.

In addition to debates, TWC is providing the LWVNC with a 30-minute uninterrupted program on voter education that will be shown multiple times and a series of vignettes that will be aired frequently. We will be able to provide more specifics as to times and dates early in the new year.

After March 1, 2016, there should be few people in North Carolina and beyond who will not know of the good work of the Leagues in North Carolina. Again, we thank you!

Stay tuned!

Mary Klensz and Willie Taylor, co-presidents, LWVNC

WCCA Service

Many thanks to **Madeline Royes**, who has served as the local League of Women Voters' representative on the Western Carolina Community Action (WCCA) board for more than 5 years. David White, WCCA Dir., said they "have been extremely glad to have Madeline's input, and this link to the League."

Linda Weldon, our LWVHC board Secretary, currently sits on the WCCA board, but as an appointee of the County Commissioners.

League in Action!



Quality Education Study committee. See page 2 and take the Survey.

IMMIGRATION

November Meeting



November Meeting on **Immigration** got great coverage in the Times-News. League always has something worth saying!!



Members of the Immigration Committee gave their program to 100 students at West Henderson High School in November, and presented the program for the LWV General Meeting. We will meet December 14 at 3:30 at St. James' Church, and are happy to welcome any new members to our group. If you need any further information, contact Nan Jennings - nanj329@gmail.com.



LWVHC display at the main branch of the Henderson County Public Library

RATIFY ERA REPORT

On Saturday, October 24, the **RATIFY ERA NC** team hosted a diverse group of supporters at their program, "The Equal Rights Amendment – Give a Damn!" at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Greensboro, NC. Featured speakers were Sen. Floyd McKissick, who presented the current bill; he was introduced by Marena Groll, NC4ERA. Rep. Carla Cunningham, a nurse and single mother from Mecklenburg Co., also speaking, was introduced by Pat Sledge, Business & Professional Women NC. Our own Melinda Lowrance, Pres. NAACP-Henderson Co. and LWVHC, was introduced by Lee Luebbe, LWVHC and US, and spoke about "Why Women of Color Need the ERA." Organizing the event were Roberta Madden, of Black Mountain, and Nancy Glowacki, LWVHC. Representing Henderson County were: Nancy Glowacki, Lee Luebbe, Melinda Lowrance, Judith Scruggs, Sharon Burlingame, and, as a sponsor, Linda Miller. There are legal precedents for hoping that ratification of the ERA in three more states is still viable, but personal dialogue



Nancy Glowack, Ratify ERA NC, and LWVHC, Sharon Burlingame, Pres., LWVHC, and a member of the AAUW speak with Sen. Floyd McKissick, Sr. Deputy Dem. in the NC Senate (Raleigh), and current legislative sponsor of the ERA SJ Res. 15.



Melinda Lowrance speaks to Ratify ERA NC

Medicaid Expansion Report



Linda Hansma and Linda Weldon attended the WNC Medicaid Expansion Advocacy Group meeting in Asheville on September 20th. The regional group is a coalition of non-profit agencies in the Buncombe County/Asheville area with the goal of educating our local elected officials on the need to expand Medicaid to cover the over 500,000 NC citizens in need of health insurance. This group has been in existence for over a year and has had an active letter writing and public awareness campaign on this issue.

Linda Hansma and Linda Weldon attended the year-end LWVNC Close the Gap Project meeting in Greensboro on October 6th. The LWVNC partnered with the NC Justice Center to educate state elected officials, including Governor McCrory, on the advantages to NC to expand Medicaid. NC is losing over \$3 millions dollars per day by not expanding Medicaid. This figure includes taxes and jobs lost by our state legislature's decision to not participate in Medicaid expansion. Our state's share of Medicaid reimbursement for expansion is being lost to other states that have expanded their Medicaid availability to low income residents. The current grant will expire at the end of 2015, however, the LWVNC members responsible for activities of the grant are hopeful that it will be extended to 2016. Although the legislative session that just ended passed Medicaid Reform and did not include expansion, there is hope that expansion could be addressed in the short legislative session in 2016, before the state's Medicaid Reform plan is submitted to **the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services**, also known as CMS, in June 2016. CMS must approve NC's plan before it can be implemented.

Linda Weldon attended the WNC Medicaid Expansion Advocacy Group's event, THE ECONOMIC & EMPLOYMENT COSTS OF NOT EXPANDING MEDICAID IN NC: A COUNTY LEVEL ANALYSIS, held at the Asheville/Buncombe County's Chamber of Commerce on October 16th. Susan Shumaker, President of Cone Health Foundation, the sponsor of the report that identified economic issues impacting Medicaid expansion in NC, spoke at this event. Target audience was business leaders and Chamber of Commerce members in western North Carolina. Graham Fields, a member of Henderson County's Chamber of Commerce attended. One of the conditions that Ms. Shumaker identified for states that have successfully implemented Medicaid expansion is a strong governor with a plan for their state's participation. LWVNC's efforts to convince our state legislature to consider Medicaid expansion have included reminding Gov. McCrory that he promised to present a plan to expand Medicaid. He has not done so.

Approximately 35 business leaders from across western NC attended this event. Response from the audience was generally positive. Those attending seemed to be aware of the issues and were communicating with their local elected officials that they wanted NC to participate in expansion.

Both Linda Hansma and Linda Weldon attended the November 4th monthly meeting of the WNC Medicaid Expansion Advocacy Group in Asheville. Peggy Weil, the group's facilitator, reported that due to the positive response to this event, it may be replicated in other parts of the state by other local and regional advocacy groups. One issue that is pertinent to any discussion of Medicaid Expansion is the increase in insurance premiums for 2016 that is directly related to North Carolina's failure to participate in Medicaid Expansion.

For further information on this group and its activities, please contact Linda Weldon.



Money in Politics

Sixteen members met on Nov. 10 to consider the role of Money in Politics. Harold Hellickson introduced the LWVUS powerpoint, which reviews a brief history of campaign finance reform, and current Supreme Court decisions leading to the recent infusion of vast amounts of money in political campaigns.

The national study, Money in Politics, has been underway since last spring, and the consensus vote will be taken in February. While our local League did not choose to dig into this study initially, the Hot Topic lunch group decided to divvy up some of the readings, look at the consensus questions, and meet again in January to discuss the topic in more depth. If you wish to join us, we will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 5, from noon-1:00 PM at the Hendersonville Community Co-Op. You may bring your own lunch if you wish.

Consensus Questions will be available at our general meetings. Study information is available at [Money in Politics page](#) on the LWVUS website.

LWVHC Calendar 2015-2016

Save this Page

December

- 3 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 4 - Legislative Breakfast - Golden Corral 8 am
- 7-14 - Hanukkah
- 13 - Holiday Gathering - **The Gift of Words**
- 14 - Immigration Committee Mtg. 3:30 -4:30
- 16 - Voters Service, 10-12 Wilkes house
- 25 - Christmas

January

- 5 - Hot Topic Lunch: Money In Politics, 12-1 Hend. Co-op
- 7- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 9 - Carrie Chapman Catt Birthday
- 14 - Brews and Banter, 5:30 pm Sol y Luna, Laurel Park
- 18 - MLK Breakfast
- 20 - Digital Learning, Kaplan Auditorium
- 21 - General Meeting - **Planning for Focus** 3-5
- 27 - Voter Services Mtg. 10-12, FCC
- TBD - Education Study

February

- Black History Month
- Youth Voter Month
- 4- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 14 - 96th Anniversary of League
- 15 - Immigration Committee Mtg 3:30-4:30
- 18 - General Meeting - **The Right to Vote** 3-5
- 24 - Voter Services Mtg. 10-12, FCC

March

- Women's History Month
- Sunshine Month
- 3 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 10 - Brews and Banter, 5:30 pm Sol y Luna, Laurel Park
- 17 - General Meeting **Education: Consensus for Local Study**, 2-5
- 23 - Voter Services Mtg. 10-12, FCC
- 25 - Good Friday
- 27 - Easter
- TBD - Observer Corps

April

- National Volunteer Week
- 7 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 15 - Tax Day
- 16 - Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 18 - Immigration Committee Mtg. 3:30-4:30
- 21 - General Meeting - **Voters' Services**, 3-5 pm
- 22 - Earth Day
- 27 - Voter Services Mtg. 10-12, FCC
- TBD - LWVNC State Conference

May

- 5 - Board Meeting 10-12
- 19 - **Annual Meeting**
- 30 - Memorial Day

June

- 2 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 14 - Flag Day
- 16-19 LWVUS National Convention
- 21 - Immigration Committee Mtg. 3:30 -4:30
- 22 - Voters Services Mtg. 10-12, FCC
- 23 - Board Retreat New and transitioning Board Members

Swamp Rabbit Trail

Ten of us were able to visit the Swamp Rabbit Trail on October 22. We saw an impressive, community-building asset. We asked lots of questions. We listed the pros and cons of having a greenway which links cyclists, strollers, and runners along miles of landscaped, paved walkway. We learned about rail-banking the existing railroad line. As a result, we reconvened on Nov. 12 to review the process that making a League endorsement would entail, define the "next step," and wordsmith our plan, which will be presented to the Board in December.

League Digital Learners

Next step for League digital learners at the library will be a lesson in shared editing using Google Docs. This process allows several folks to all work on proofreading/editing a draft text from their individual home computers. The class is set for Wed., Jan. 20. It will be held in the Kaplan Auditorium. Anyone with a laptop or tablet device that can connect to a wireless signal should bring it; a Google gmail account is necessary. For more information, or individual assistance, contact Librarian Michele von Boeck, 282-697-4725.