

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET

March Primary and Fall Candidates for
**NC State Senate Seat 48, NC House of
Representatives Districts 113 & 117**

Presented by the League of Women Voters
Of Henderson County

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Hendersonville City Operations Building
305 Williams St., 28792**

Voters are encouraged to meet their local
Candidates, and learn about the upcoming bond.

(In case of bad weather, follow Blue Ridge
Community College closings - night classes)

Volunteers needed:

1. For Voter Registration at high schools
 2. Candidate Forum for Primary Election: coordinator,
moderator, etc
- Contact Judy Wilkes judy126@bellsouth.net or 891-3578.

GENERAL MEETING

February 18, 2016

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

THE RIGHT TO VOTE

View the YouTube video

“The Fight (and Right) to Vote”

featuring

Ari Berman, political correspondent for The Nation
and author of “Give Us the Ballot:
The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in
America.”

Michael J. Gerhardt, professor of constitutional law
at the University of the North Carolina School of
Law and the National Constitution Center’s
scholar-in-residence, moderates.

There will be discussion after the video.

**POPCORN WILL BE SERVED!!
NO SNOW DATE**

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February 2016

From the President

Blustery weather this time of year always brings to mind the young heroine in Cold Mountain who digs through the freezing mud in search of one more overlooked potato or root to sustain her family. In contrast, I had only to shovel out my car, and there were fresh groceries awaiting me this morning. We are so fortunate to be freed up from privation, but with that freedom comes much obligation to work to bring equal opportunity to all.

Twenty-four members attended our meeting on Jan. 21 to plan the focus of our work for 2016-17. The needs seem endless and your interests are keen! LWVUS urges us to make ACTION a priority. We approached four proposed areas: Voting, Social Justice, Health & Welfare, and Leadership. The Board will review your input, work on budget, and bring a finished program for your vote in May. If you weren't able to attend last week, there is still time for suggestions and input to delegates to the LWVNC Council in April, to the LWVUS Convention in June, and to the Board

Thank you for signing up to help with our Candidate Meet & Greet on Tuesday, February 16, and our high school Voter Registration events in February. February is "Black History Month," – what better time to promote voter rights education?! February is "Youth Voter Month" – what better time to get the ACTION started?!

Sharon

Education

Please! Leaguers, from February 17th to March 17th go to our website at

www.lwvhcnc.org

and click on *Quality Public Education Component Evidence* to study any of the 25 education components that our League will be putting through the consensus process on March 17th. Each component has background evidence or links to background evidence as to the reasons the study team believes members might consider including the component in the definition of a quality public education.

And, Leaguers, come one, come all to our St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2016 general meeting at the Chamber starting an hour earlier than usual at 2:00 P.M to participate in the final consensus process of our 15 month study: *Defining Components of a Quality Public Education*. Please mark your calendar! We need as many HC League members as possible to support our study as we seek consensus on 25 components that may lead us to take specific positions for which our League can advocate.



In these photos the quality public education Team is tallying the results of the community survey at their January meeting. Members reached their goal and got over 500 surveys completed by community citizens.

Open World,

An International Opportunity for our League

We (Judy and Bill Wilkes) have been assigned by the Open World Leadership Center in Washington, DC and International Focus in Raleigh to conduct an Open World program this Autumn. We have participated in over 15 Open World programs - for Friendship Force, Hendersonville Sister Cities, and the International Peace Foundation. The executive committee has agreed that LWVHC will be our partners in conducting this year's program. Here is some information about Open World - perhaps you would like to help us prepare this program. Open World is a Congressionally sponsored program which seeks to promote peace and international understanding by bringing rising leaders from former Soviet countries to the US for a week to learn about democratic government and to meet and share ideas with professional peers in the US. Past program themes have been: Accountable Governance, Women as Leaders, Health Care, Social Issues, Environment, and Youth Leaders. More Open World information can be found at OpenWorld.gov.

This year, the program theme will be Social Inclusion with the delegation coming from the Republic of Georgia. They will arrive September 30, and stay until October 8. The delegation will consist of 5 professional people working in the area of interest and a "facilitator," - generally someone who has lived in the US at some time, is fluent in English, whose job it is to help the delegates negotiate life in the US for a week. In addition, although most of the delegates speak some English, there will be a professional interpreter from within the US. The delegates range in age from 25 or so up to 50 years of age. They will

have been chosen to participate by a review committee in their home country.

What the LWVHC is being asked to do is provide people who help with one of the various aspects of the program. We need one or two people to assist in the planning of the program - finding and scheduling local presenters. We need 4 or 5 people who will provide a room in their home for one or two delegates for the week (often the best part of the program). We need a few people who are willing to simply be "day hosts" who will spend a day with 2 or 3 delegates and drive them as necessary to the locations of their meetings. We need a publicity person, and a treasurer would be helpful. We need a couple of people who will host a dinner for 2 or 3 delegates and their home hosts. We also need someone to prepare the few documents we need (schedule, list of hosts, etc.) Finally, we need someone to plan a welcome party (almost always a potluck) and a farewell party (usually involving a catered meal and preferably in someone's home).

The payoffs for all this work are several. First, the Open World program will pay LWVHC a fee which is expected to be \$3,400. This would augment our expected income for next year by over 30%. Secondly, there are the numerous opportunities to meet new people, learn more about hidden resources in our region, and to make new friends by spending time with the delegates.

We hope that several members will want to help us with this exciting program. For more information, or to volunteer, call us at 891-3578, or e-mail us at

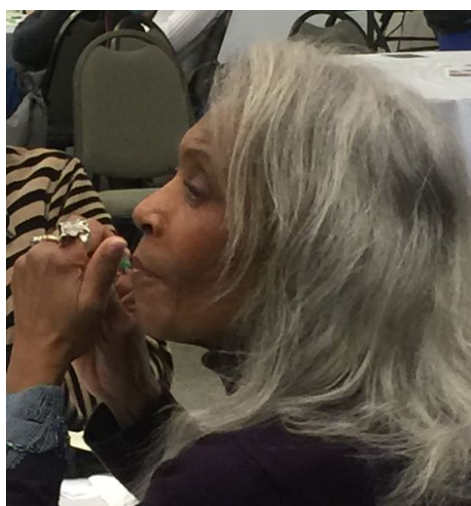
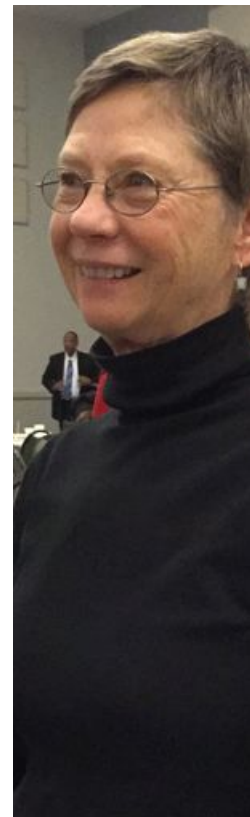
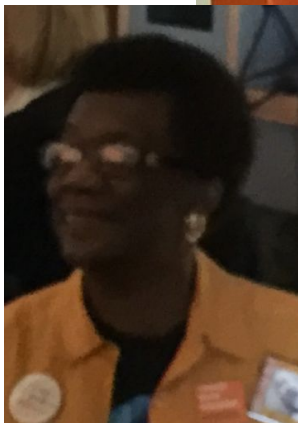
IMMIGRATION

Committee members will be giving three presentations to Early College students at Blue Ridge Community College in late February. Shoshana Fried is working on a Spanish translation of the presentation's script so that we can present to local Hispanic churches. The next committee meeting is February 15 at 3:30 pm at St. James Church. As ever, all are welcome.

Members of our League attend MLK Breakfast. Our League is a sponsor of this event.

League in Action!

League member Mayor Barbara Volk speaks at MLK Breakfast



January Planning Meeting



And Brews and Banter after the meeting at Thai Spice

Voter Service

Voter Services will be busy in February as we have arranged for voter registrations in 5 of the 6 High Schools. We have at least 2 volunteers signed up for each school.

Also, our candidate meet and greet is scheduled for February 16th. See more information elsewhere in the newsletter. IF you are interested in participating in any of these events we need you. Please contact Judy Wilkes @ judy126@bellsouth.net.

Monday the federal court in Winston Salem began hearing the second challenge to North Carolina's 2013 Voter Law. This one challenges the voter-ID section of the law.

Staying informed has been a challenge. So if you are interested see the links below:

Link to good article in the Washington Post "Trial to start in lawsuit over North Carolina's voter-ID law"
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trial-to-start-over-north-carolinas-voter-id-law/2016/01/24/fac97d20-c1d1-11e5-9443-7074c3645405_story.html?postshare=1453728450681&tid=ss_mail

Two other good articles: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/north-carolina-voter-id_us_56a671bfe4b076aadcc77201

<http://www.thenation.com/article/the-92-year-old-civil-rights-pioneer-who-is-now-challenging-north-carolinas-voter-id->

LWVNC VOTER NEWS

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina Board of Directors is very excited to share with each of you the GOOD NEWS that the LWVNC will be co-sponsoring the **US Senate and NC Governor's primary election debates** with Time Warner Cable News. The US Senate debate will be held from 7-8 p.m. on Monday, February 29th and the Governor's debate will be held Tuesday, March 1, 2016 from 7-8 p.m. Both debates will be held in the Haworth Fine Arts Building on the campus of High Point University and shown live on Time Warner Cable.

HERE IS HOW EACH LEAGUE MEMBER CAN BE INVOLVED:

1. Ask questions of the candidates. To submit your questions, go to the LWVNC website for the appropriate form. Finding and completing it is a very easy process. Questions can be asked through the 8th of February.
2. Attend one or both of the debates. It is really important that we have as many people present as possible. The venue seats about 600 people.
3. Share this information with other people in your community, with members of other organizations, and through social media. Questions and attendance are open to the public.

At this time it appears only Democratic candidates for the US Senate and NC Governor's races will be debating.

We would also like to share with you that Time Warner Cable News is filming a 30 minute voter education piece for the LWVNC that will be shown multiple times closer to the dates of the debates. As soon as we know the exact times for viewing, we will let you know.

We are all the League of Women Voters of North Carolina and together we are MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

LWVUS is promoting 5 Ways to Improve Voting:

- online registration
- expand early voting (including evenings and weekends)
- improve voting place management (resources like machines, ballots, voting lists, and polling workers are all needed)
- permanent & portable voter registration (Americans move at least 5x in their lives)
- electronic streamlining

There is a link in this month's LWVUS Update to "How Our Elections Can Work Better" for a short video clip: [five ways to improve our elections system to make it work better for voters](#)

LWVHC Calendar 2015-2016

Save this Page

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
- 16 - Candidate Meet and Greet, City Ops
- 18 - General Meeting - **The Right to Vote** 3-5
- 24 - Voter Services Mtg. 10-12, FCC
- 26 - Immigration Silent Vigil, 4 pm Historic Courthouse

March

Women's History Month
Sunshine Month

- 3 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 17 - General Meeting **Education: Consensus for Local Study**, 2-5
- 17 - Brews and Banter, 5:30 - 7 pm Thai Spice
- 23 - Voter Services Mtg. 10-12, FCC
- 25 - Immigration Silent Vigil, 4 pm Historic Courthouse
- 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 - Immigration Silent Vigil, 4 pm Historic Courthouse
- 22 - Earth Day
- 27 - Voter Services Mtg. 10-12, FCC
- TBD - LWVNC State Conference

May

- 5 - Board Meeting 10-12
- 19 - **Annual Meeting**
- 27 - Immigration Silent Vigil, 4 pm Historic Courthouse
- 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
- 24 - Immigration Silent Vigil, 4 pm Historic Courthouse
- TBD - LWVUS National Convention

"Green Drinks"

A fun way to stay current on environmental issues and socialize with a medley of groups that care about our natural world. They meet at 5:30 PM on the 2nd Thursday of every month. At 6:00 PM, there is a short presentation, followed by Q&A and discussion. The topic may be water quality, solid waste, greenway plans, invasive plants, forest keepers - the professionals I've heard so far have been very well informed and inspiring. The Green Drinks winter location is Black Bear Coffee and the next event is February 11th, but keep an eye out for all of the upcoming topics, dates, and locations in the Times-News, the Lightning, or on the MountainTrue website, mountaintrue.org "Green Drinks" - add this to your vocabulary and your calendar, and spice up your awareness of our mountain environmental issues."



Carolina Public Press is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit online news organization committed to unbiased, in-depth and investigative reporting as well as educational opportunities for journalists, students and others in the 18 westernmost counties of North Carolina. **Our vision** is to promote an informed, engaged electorate to ensure government accountability by building the region's most reliable public interest news source.

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