

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

From the President

During the January blizzard, I was fortunate enough to have Nicholas Nickleby (Dickens) for my fireside reading. One wants to read a 177 year old book and say, “Thank goodness children aren’t beaten like that anymore,” or “I’m so glad that government is transparent now,” or even “Bankers are certainly working for their clients’ best interests these days.” But part of the bittersweet of such literature is that they are a window on human nature, not just their own historical time.

We can find contemporary parallels of injustice at home and abroad. You are all watching the campaign process shedding light on many social injustices at home. And when I am traveling near situations where the Rohingya have no recourse to legal protection, children are still laboring away and denied free and adequate public schooling, and women are married off or trafficked much as they were in 19th century England, it’s déjà vu all over again, isn’t it?

Democracy and equal opportunity for all is what we are working for in the League. Your work counts towards rectifying many injustices in our world today. Human nature being what it is, there will always be dodgy characters, and there will always be work for folks of high principle, like you. Let’s write a novel that will end happily, and NOT take 177 years to get to the happy ending.

Yours in League,

Sharon

GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 17, 2016,

St. Patrick’s Day

Starts at **2:00 P.M**

Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room



CONSENSUS MEETING for the LOCAL 15 MONTH QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION STUDY

Please wear **GREEN** and make every effort to join us in finding consensus (or not) for 26 components. Do the 26 components belong in the definition of a quality public education? Your input is a valuable part of the consensus process; How many components will we have in our pot of gold at the end of the meeting? The more members we have participating, the more valid the consensus. The Study Team Leprechauns are practicing to keep this consensus meeting short, sweet and **green**.

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Snacks will be served!!!



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Education Consensus Meeting

Heads up, Leaguers, from Now until March 17th you can go to our website

www.lwvhcnc.org

And in the middle of the center column find:

Latest News

● **Quality Public Education Component Evidence for Local Study**

and

[Click for PDF](#)

to study any of the 25 education components for which you have questions that our League will be putting through the consensus process on March 17th. There were some challenges to get some of the links to work at first, but our powerful Webmaster Jan Allen has met each challenge, and the links work easily now and quickly.

And, Leaguers, consensus time is almost here! Starting an hour earlier than usual at 2:00 P.M on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2016, at our general meeting at the Chamber, our final consensus process for our 15 month study: *Defining Components of a Quality Public Education* will be open for all members to take part in. 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. Our Quality Public Education Team has been working to make this consensus meeting concise and interesting.

Breaking News: Lee Luebbe asked a faculty member at BRCC if our education survey of 500 members of the HC community would be a statistically significant sample size for the Henderson County adult population. She replied that with 500 citizens completing the surveys, "...your results are valid with a 95% confidence level." Yes!

We will greet you wearing green and a smile for our meeting on St. Pat's Day!



The Quality Education Committee

LWVHC have turned in 172 Voter registrations, mostly students but some faculty and others filled out forms to change name, or address or affiliation.

Additionally, several staff and students took forms home to mail in.

Thanks for all your hard work in making this happen. The enthusiasm that we saw at the High Schools was impressive and seeing this is the best reward for our efforts.

Six of eight candidates joined us at Meet and Greet.

Great Job! Judy Wilkes and her Voter Service volunteers!!!!

Registering New Voters

ABE WANTS YOU TO REGISTER TO VOTE TODAY & TO VOTE MARCH 15TH IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION.

IF YOU WILL BE 18 BY THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION ON Nov. 8, 2016,



Voter Services

Vice president of the senior class Kayce Lancaster, student Megan Edwards, JUDY WILKES, Principal John Shepard, Vice Principal John McDaris, Coach Heang Uy, North Henderson High School Student Body President Kye Laughter, and BILL WILKES.



Candidate Meet and Greet



Coty Ferguson
House District 113
Rep



Chuck Edwards
State Senate
District 48 Rep



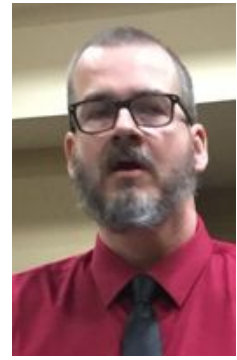
Maureen Copelof
House District 113
Dem



Lisa Baldwin
State Senate
District 48 Rep



Norman Bossert
State Senate
District 48 Dem



Dennis Justice
State Senate
District 48 Rep





President Sharon Burlingame – Education Foundation Hall of Fame Honoree

Our President, Sharon Burlingame, will be inducted into the Education Foundation Hall of Fame this spring. Sharon was a preschool and exceptional child teacher in the Henderson County Public Schools for nearly 30 years. Throughout her tenure she divided her time between morning classes at Balfour and traveling to instruct hearing-impaired students at all 14 county schools as an itinerant teacher in the afternoons.

Sharon opened the first preschool Exceptional Children classroom at Balfour. In the uncharted area of preschool in the public schools, she worked closely with exceptional education directors and principals at Balfour, Upward, Clear Creek and Glenn C. Marlow Elementary schools over 11 years.

One of her supervisors described Sharon as a “shining star.” We couldn’t agree more!

Voter Services

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County completed High School Voter Registration at all 6 Henderson County High Schools. I turned in 172 registration forms to the Board of Elections over the past 1 1/2 weeks. Thanks to all my volunteers, the school principals, students and staff. Also, thanks to the great staff at the Board of Elections. The most rewarding part of this experience was seeing how engaged, informed and enthusiastic the students were. Also, rewarding was the welcome from the school staff.

Tuesday February 16th we had our Meet and Greet for Candidates in our local primary state elections.(48 Senate District; 113 & 117 House Districts) Due to the weather attendance was low: however we were pleased with the response.

This primary election has been crazy to follow with the law suits against North Carolina and starting out with 27 Presidential Candidates (is that a record)!!

For background information on current voting rights issues: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelby_County_v._Holder

Not the first time we have had redistricting issues

prior to an election: <http://www.politicsnc.com/a-history-of-electoral-chaos/> This is worth reading.

On February 22nd Blueridgenow had two articles regarding primary candidates see below:

<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20160222/ARTICLES/160229972/1151?Title=NC-Senate-District-48-candidates-detail>

<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20160222/ARTICLES/160229970/1151?Title=Democrats-ying-for-congressional-seat-debate-is>

February 24th from 10-12 am is our voter services meeting. We will meet at the First Congregational Church on White pine and 5th. Laurel Park. Please come give us your input for plans for the June and November elections. After the March 15th primary I will be resigning from Voter Services. Bill and I will be gone for one month and will then need to devote our time in planning for the Open World Delegation from the Republic of Georgia. They will be here Oct 1-9, 2016.

We need someone to coordinate our voter services activities.

Judy Wilkes

Open World,

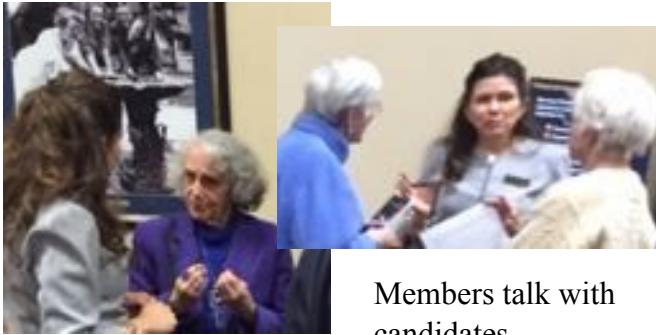
An International Opportunity for our League

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 wrwnc@bellsouth.net or judy126@bellsouth.net



Some of our members at the Meet and Greet

League in Action!

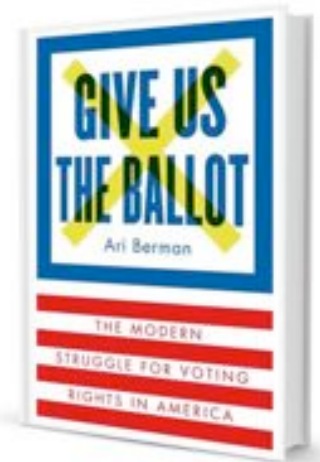


Members talk with candidates



Explaining redistricting

February General Meeting



At the February meeting members watched a video featuring Ari Berman talking about his new book, *Give Us the Ballot*. A very interesting presentation on the history of the legislative assaults on voting rights. This can be found on YouTube if you want to share it with friends.



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



Keep up with WNC political news

IMMIGRATION

Lee Luebbe, Nan Jenkins and Rachel Poller (observer) gave the Immigration presentation to three classes (65 kids) at the BRCC Early College. We are working out a schedule with East High for presentations to their classes in the next month or so.

We lobbied the state legislature this year for Tuition Equity and couldn't even get a hearing in the Senate. Undocumented public college students in NC must pay close to 4 times the cost of a resident student to attend community college or a state university, even if they arrived in NC as a young child, attended public NC schools K-12, and graduated with a 4.0. The NC Justice Center estimates that giving Tuition Equity to NC High School graduates would affect only 677 students and amount to 0.2% of the university and community college budgets.

News from the Mediation Center:

Members of our local League have been involved with the Mediation Center (formally the Dispute Settlement Center) since its inception. Learning mediation skills is a good pathway to developing a non-partisan outlook. The Mediation Center has an upcoming **Basic Mediation Skills training March 3, 4, 10, & 11, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. each day**. Additional details and registration info is on the website at: <http://mediatewnc.org/training/>. This training is open to all members of the community. Help us spread the word! Any questions, contact Amanda Watkins [\(828\) 251-6089 Ext. 213](tel:8282516089).