

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

From the President



May is the time to **Rejoice** in all that we have done this past year, and to **Renew** our memberships for the upcoming year. We belong to a **96-year old organization** that allows us to boost our knowledge, follow a unique mix of interests, enhance our leadership voice, create a better community, state, and national democracy – AND have **fun**. Where else can we get such a **bargain for only \$50 a year?!** Let's renew our commitment to League at the **Annual Meeting on May 19th** and start the season strong.

What better way to kick off our Voter Services than with our speaker, **Bob Hall, Exec. Director of Democracy NC**, who will talk about the coalition work of the League (LWVNC) and Democracy NC. Bob has worked with grassroots groups across the South since 1970, collaborating on a variety of economic and social justice projects. He has served on numerous non-profit boards and governmental commissions, provided expert testimony in court cases, and consulted with officials in a dozen states on voting rights and campaign finance reform. He was the founding editor of Southern Exposure, the magazine of the Institute for Southern Studies, where he worked for 25 years. Honors include the MacArthur Fellow award, NC Press Association's First Amendment Award, NC AARP's Advocacy Friend of the Year Award, and NC NAACP's Political Trailblazer Award. He has an MA from Columbia University.

Our **Shur Fellow state coaches, Peg Chapin and Robin Lane**, will be our guests as well. They can answer many questions about the focus of LWVNC work.

My thanks to the Nominating Committee (Jan Allen, Iris Vanek, Judith Scruggs), that worked tirelessly this year to discuss leadership needs with members and build the Proposed Slate. Many thanks also to the Budget Committee (Bill Wilkes, Linda Hansma, and Nan Jennings), that has prepared a Budget which will use your dollars wisely. **We need your vote of support for both the Slate and the Budget; we need you to join us to Rejoice and Renew!**

Sharon

GENERAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

LWV Annual Meeting

Supporting Voters for 51 Years!

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Speaker : Bob Hall, Democracy NC

The Cedars 11:30 am \$25.00

RSVP by Friday May 13

To Mary Ann Engel

693-3575

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Leadership

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Linda Weldon
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Treasurer
Bill Wilkes
wrwnc@bellsouth.net

Education Consensus Report



The Quality Public Education Team brainstormed ways to reach out to other Leagues and the community to raise awareness of the results of LWVHC education study at its first post-consensus meeting. The first opportunity will be at the 2016 LWVNC Council Meeting in Wilmington, NC the last weekend in April. Linda Miller and Sharon Burlington, representing the LWVHC will be partnering with the Wilmington League, presenting a workshop entitled: “*Unleash the Power: Using Local Studies to Engage, Educate, and Influence.*” The Wilmington

League is just finishing their local study on the effects of fracking in NC.

In May, the Quality Public Education Team will further investigate reaching out to the Henderson County community. If anyone has any good ideas how our Team might share our results with the community, please let a

League and the Environment

ACTION ON GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

THE CLEAN POWER PLAN

The EPA Clean Power Plan includes a set of rules to regulate Green House Gas Emissions from fossil fuelled-fired power plants. The CPP is expected to cut carbon pollution from the power sector 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The new rules will accelerate the country’s transition to a clean energy future and will bring significant health benefits by reducing soot and smog. EPA projects will avoid thousands of premature deaths and asthma attacks in 2030 and every year beyond. The strong emission standards established the United States as an International Leader on Climate Change and provided momentum for the United Nations climate negotiations in Paris in December.

GOALS

1. Improve efficiency of existing CFPP. 2. Substitute electricity generation from existing natural gas plants for reduced generation from coal-fired power plants. 3. Substitute increased electricity generation from new zero emitting renewable energy sources for reduced generation from existing CFPP.

PARIS TREATY

175 Countries signed the UN Paris Agreement on Climate Change that set a record for international diplomacy. Ban Ki-Moon said “The era of consumption without consequences is over.” The U.S. goal is to reduce green house gas emissions 26 percent - 28 percent from 2005 levels by the year 2025. The US will be forced to depend on several laws already enacted and the EPA Clean Power Plan.

Submitted by Barbara A. Barnett

LWV Bulletin

Medicaid Expansion Report

The NC DHHS plan for Medicaid Reform is available for review on the NC DHHS website. Regional meetings for public comment were held across the state with one in Asheville on April 6, 2016. Linda Hansma and Sharon Burlingame attended. Although the meetings were held to give citizens an opportunity to comment on Medicaid Reform, more comments addressed Medicaid Expansion and the need to expand Medicaid in NC.

The Regional Medicaid Expansion group met in Asheville on April 13th. Linda Weldon attended that meeting as a LWV Henderson county representative. Comments from the nonprofit representatives who participate in this group were compiled and sent to NC DHHS.

The LWV NC Close the Gap project participants continue biweekly conference calls to strategize efforts to get NC legislators to address Medicaid Expansion in the short legislative session now underway. League members participating in this grant’s activities are compiling news reports and current published research report to send to legislators to encourage them to consider addressing expansion in this session.

League members Renee Kumor, Stan Kumor, Linda Hansma, and Linda Weldon met with Chuck McGrady, NC Representative for the 117th House District, on March 14th, to discuss Medicaid Expansion efforts by the League. Although Representative McGrady was willing to listen to our position in support of Medicaid Expansion, he was not optimistic that this would be accomplished in this session of the General Assembly.

Submitted by Linda Weldon

News from LWVUS

Washington, DC — “The Federal District Court of Winston Salem decision upholding HB 589, North Carolina’s omnibus election law, is a profound disappointment for the state’s voters and for the League of Women Voters,” said Mary Klenz, co-president of the North Carolina League, a plaintiff in one of the suits.

“This North Carolina decision sends a dangerous signal to voters across the country, one the League is prepared to fight at every opportunity,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the national League.

“We’ve been fighting HB 589 for several years on behalf of the real voters who have been harmed by this restrictive set of election requirements,” Klenz said. “This decision is not the end, however. We will decide on next steps shortly.”



Mary Klenz



At the MLD luncheon



Lee as an MLD coach/mentor



Marian Lowry speaks out at the MLD luncheon

. . . . and LWVNC

The Member Leadership Development (MLD) luncheon for 2016 was held at the Rezaz Restaurant in Asheville. It was a fundraiser for the successful MLD program, which provides leadership training and mentors/coaches for local LWV boards across the nation. Lee Luebbe is a coach for the Asheville Buncombe League, one of the youngest League Boards in the US. She also coaches the

Madison County MAL (Members at Large). LWVHC President Sharon Burlingame has LWVNC Peg Chapin for a mentor/coach that she talks to regularly. Sharon says Peg Chapin “has made my job as a new President much easier.” Last year, MLD provided training and mentoring for our new board members.

LWVNC Co-President Mary Klenz introduced the round of testimonials from attendees by explaining how much MLD has helped League leaders succeed in their positions of leadership as they work to advance the causes of League and make their communities better places to live. League member and NC State Senator Terry Van Duyn from Asheville began the testimonials and other Leaguers from WNC followed. Nancy Glowacki, Marian Lowry, Lee Luebbe, and Linda Miller attended. If you want to make a tax deductible contribution to this worthy cause, please contact Lee Luebbe at 828.694.3710 for more information.

League in Action!

Our LWVHC President Sharon Burlingame was inducted into the HC Education Hall of Fame at BRCC on April 21st for her untiring efforts in helping to implement pre-school for exceptional children in the public schools and working with exceptional children and their families in the pre-school program to help the children with disabilities be all they could be. Because of Sharon's ties to early childhood community programs, she was able to get much input for our Quality Public Education Study from several organizations, many of which she helped get off the ground. Congrats, Sharon!



Sharon and Wes Burlingame

Rally Against HB2



HC Leaguers joined over 100 young, old, white, black, gay, straight, and trans citizens on the Historic Courthouse steps April 15th to protest HB 2, which makes it lawful to discriminate against the LGBT members of our community. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) organized the rally.

Voter Services



Voter Services Chair Rose Stone and President Sharon Burlingame worked with committee members to pin down dates and events to register voters and hold forums for the November election. Interested in working with Voter Services committee contact Sharon or Rose Stone



LWVHC Calendar 2015-2016

Save this Page

May

- 5 - Board Meeting 10-12
- 19 - **Annual Meeting**
- 25 - Voter Service, 11 AM, First Congregational Church
- 27 - Immigration Silent Vigil, 4 pm Historic Courthouse
- 30 - Memorial Day

June

- 2 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 5 - Marian Lowry's birthday, 4-6 pm, Carolina Village
- 14 - Flag Day
- 16-19 LWVUS National Convention
- 21 - Immigration Committee Mtg. 3:30 -4:30
- 22 - Voters Services Mtg. 11 AM, FCC
- 23 - Board Retreat New and transitioning Board Members
- 24 - Immigration Silent Vigil, 4 pm Historic Courthouse
- 15-19 - LWVUS National Convention

ANNUAL DUES

\$50 per Single member
\$75 per family

Mail to:

LWVHC
PO Box 2238
Hendersonville, NC 28793

**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

IMMIGRATION

Committee members will be making presentations at East and North High Schools this month. Script revisions and translation will be made of the programs intended for Spanish churches. The DREAM Scholarship Application deadline is May 13th. Its "South of the Border Breakfast" fundraiser is now scheduled for Saturday, August 27 from 8:30-11:00 at St.James.

