

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

From the Co-Presidents

As I write, I have no idea if January will enter with a blizzard or a balmy day - such is the uncertainty of our weather these days! The political climate is uncertain, too. A new President will lead us, new legislatures will take up on-going challenges, and foreign affairs will twist and turn. That's why Leagues across the US will meet, as they have for 96 years, to prepare for the contemporary climate.



Last year, we focused on Voter Services, Social Justice (Education, Immigration, International Relations), Health & Welfare (access to Medicaid), and Leadership Training. We budgeted for several of these, but didn't foresee the need for funding a follow-up to our Quality Public Ed Study. We also underestimated the costs of Voter Services for a long Primary season and changes in the Voting laws! The learning process is great in League, and each year, as we plan our work, we have a new chance to marshal our resources and carve our path.

On Jan. 19, from 3-5pm, we invite you to propose the work you wish us to target in the 2017-2018 year (the LWV runs July 1-June 30). We will be skillfully led in the process this year by Marion Huffman, Lee Luebbe, Nan Jennings, and Linda Hansma. Please read their preparation information elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Get ready for 2017, and be a part of the Focus Planning process!

Sharon

GENERAL MEETING

January 19, 2017

3-5 pm

Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

Whither League - Local and National - in 2017?

In January, we will discuss proposals for League program for the upcoming year. That will be the program adopted at our Annual Meeting on May 18, 2017. We will also review proposals for study/action on the national level.

So come to this planning meeting with great ideas:

What in Henderson County needs to be examined, changed, followed up on, and/or publicized?

What do you feel passionate about?

What about the national scene?

Bring your concerns and proposals to the meeting - be prepared with a description of the study, a proposal as to how to accomplish it, estimated costs, and convince other Leaguers to work with you.

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Leadership

Co-President
Sharon Burlingame
Sburlingame401@gmail.com

Secretary
Linda Hansma
llhansma@gmail.com

Co-President
Judith Scruggs
judithscruggs@gmail.com

Treasurer
Bill Wilkes
wrwnc@bellsouth.net

V.Pres.
Nan Jennings
nanj329@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION

Nan Jennings, our Immigration Chair, will do a presentation at the January "Focus" meeting in hopes that Immigration becomes one of LWV's four focus areas for 2017 in light of the fear that the election has caused in that population.

Our next meeting will move from January 16th (MLK Day) to **January 23 at 3:30 at St. James**. All are welcome, especially new members, to take part in our meetings.

Please attend the **Martin Luther King Unity Breakfast** the morning of the 16th at BRCC.

The **Immigration Network of Henderson County** is meeting, **Thursday, January 19th, 7 PM - 8:30 PM - St. James Episcopal Church, Main Hall**. All mentors, students and parents in Path To College Program will gather with Nancy Bulow, Instructional Coordinator for Adult Education, Literacy and Occupational Spanish, BRCC, will present options for consideration after graduation, i.e., certificate programs, diplomas, or degrees.

Anyone interested in becoming a mentor is invited as well as current mentors.

Medicaid Expansion Report

After the result of the November presidential election, groups working on Medicaid Expansion in North Carolina are reorganizing and reevaluating their goals and strategies. Uncertainty on the future of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) makes advocating for expansion in North Carolina challenging. The western NC group that has been meeting in Asheville over the last few years is planning to meet one more time on January 25th. Next steps for the group will be discussed at that meeting. I plan to attend that meeting and invite anyone interested in this topic to join me. Contact Linda Weldon at wncilinda@aol.com if you would like further information.

Open World,



League participated in our first Open World experience. All members involved were delighted with the opportunity to meet with and get acquainted with our Open World guests.

Voter Service

Students Voting for Democracy

10,000 students voted for democracy! Students voted at school online, made posters and decorations, and held mock elections as part of the Students Voting for Democracy project. Thank you, Henderson County teachers for your outstanding efforts to make this happen! SVD is a coalition of HC Public Schools, HCLWV and HC Kids Voting, working together since the 2014 elections to give HC kids the opportunity to practice active, informed citizenship.



The Student Voting for Democracy committee meet to evaluate SVD for 2016 Elections - very positive outcomes - members looking forward to Election 2018

**League of Women Voters
Fighting for Voting Rights
Since 1920**

League in Action!

Attendees at the Annual Elected Official Breakfast



Elected officials joined early morning Leaguers for breakfast and friendly discussion.

Holiday Party



League of Women Voters of Henderson County presented 70 children's books to Linda Carter, Director of Programs for the Children and Family Resource Center, Dec 11, 2016. This is the fourth year that the LWVHC has celebrated the holidays by presenting books to a nonprofit organization serving children, believing that literacy is an important step towards developing well-informed citizens.



Members in the News

A JOYOUS OCCASION -- Carola and Stuart Cohn express their appreciation for the applause they generated during a ceremony held in their honor recently at the Mediation Center. Laura Jeffords, executive director of the center, and several Henderson County mediators recalled the Cohn's decades-long efforts to promote peace throughout the county and beyond. Most recently, they were instrumental in the center's successful bid to obtain the "Mediation Bear" (in the background) at the recent auction of bears held on Main Street. The Mediation Bear soon will be on permanent display in front of the center's offices on South Grove Street. An inscribed metal plate honoring the Cohns has been placed at the bear's feet.



Carola and Stuart Cohn

New Members

Martha Milcarek

Martha is relatively new to Hendersonville, having moved from Fairfield, Connecticut after retiring from Fairfield University where she served as Assistant Vice President for Brand Management and Public Relations. Martha was previously affiliated with the Dubuque Iowa League of Women Voters in the early 80s, serving as Vice President for several years. In addition Martha has worked in government, advertising and academia, and had the opportunity to interact with other Leagues in various projects. Martha joined the Henderson County League to find fellow citizens who would be intellectually stimulating and passionate about government for the greater good. She attends church at St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church in Flat Rock and is a volunteer at Pisgah Legal Services.

Sheila deBettencourt

Sheila joined LWVHC because she felt it was a good time to support good government efforts locally and nationally. Sheila believes that one of the major strengths of the League is being non-partisan and wants to support that at this time. Sheila was a member of the League in Massachusetts for several years. She made some wonderful friends working on local issues. Sheila moved to Hendersonville from Maine last year with her husband, and unfortunately he died unexpectedly 5 months later. Sheila needed to make a new life for herself here and thought joining the League could be a good part of that mission. She is looking forward to getting to know other League members.

Gayle Kemp

Gayle has always respected the League, believing in the good work the League does. After attending the program on Gerrymandering, which she believes is one of the most important in our democratic system of elections, she made the decision to join. Gayle looks forward to working with other members to make sure that the facts are presented to the public so that our electoral system can be improved.

In Memoriam

MIRIAM PLEXICO (November 22, 1921 - December 29, 2016) was a long time League member best known in our League and in our community as a dedicated child advocate.

LWVHC Calendar 2016-2017

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January – 2017

5- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
9- *Carrie Chapman Catt's Birthday*
16- *Martin Luther King Breakfast @ BRCC*
19- General Meeting for Program Planning
19- Immigration Network, 7:30 pm, St. James
23- Immigration Meeting. 3:30 @ St. James
25- Voter Services mtg.

February –

Black History Month; Youth Voter Month
2- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
14- *97th Anniversary of League*
16- General Meeting – Judicial
20 – *Presidents' Day*

March –

*Women's History Month; Sunshine (Open Government)
Month*
2- Board meeting 10-12, WCCA
16- General Meeting – “TBD”
20 – Immigration Meeting. 3:30 @ St. James

April –

National Volunteer Week;
6- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
9 – *Palm Sunday; 10 - Passover*
14 - *Good Friday;*
15- *Tax Day*
16 - *Easter*
TBD – LWVNC State Convention
20 - General Meeting – “Earth Day” (specifics TBA)
22 – *Earth Day*
24 – *Holocaust Remembrance Day*

May –

4- Board meeting 10-12, WCCA
5-7 LWVNC State Convention in Greensboro
14 – *Mother's Day*
15 - Immigration Meeting. 3:30 @ St. James
18- Annual Meeting (our League's 52nd)
24- Voters Services mtg.
29- *Memorial Day*

June –

1 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
14 - *Flag Day*
15 - Board Retreat
18 - *Father's Day*

Women's March on Washington

After much confusion about permits, route, sponsors, and other logistical concerns, the scheduled Women's March on Washington scheduled for January 21, 2017, is a go. Per email from Chris Carson, President of the LWV of the US, the **League is not officially participating in the Women's March and has advised state and local Leagues not to officially participate.** That does not mean, however, that individuals should not participate. An email from Mary Klenz, Co-President of the LWV NC, stated that individuals are encouraged to attend if they choose, and many members from across North Carolina are planning to attend. League members planning to attend should not wear buttons or any items that might indicate League sponsorship of the event.

Various groups are arranging buses from across points in NC to Washington for the day. Most of the ones I have seen are transportation only with schedules that leave the site late the night before, deliver riders to a designated site in Washington, then provide transportation back to the point of origin. There are no hotel accommodations needed for these trips.

I will be attending along with some non-League friends of mine. If you are interested in further information on the March or travel options, check out the website for Women's March on Washington 2017.

Linda Weldon
LWV HC *LWV Bulletin*

Education



Leaguers Sharon Burlingame, Linda Miller, and Jody Davidson at the Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Lambda chapter meeting of educators on Saturday, Sept. 24th at Johnson Farm. Sharon and Linda,

invited by Jody, spoke at the meeting giving the results of the LWVHC education survey that many of the chapter members had participated in. Chapter members were encouraged to join League members in asking government leaders to include in the A-F school report cards more than the one grade based almost solely on student test scores. Other grades on the school report card could be based on components of the quality public education study such as the quality of the school arts or civics program.