

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

GENERAL MEETING

March 16, 2017

3-5 pm

Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

**March is “Sunshine Month”
a time to shine a light on transparency in government**

Speaker:
Dawn Kucera

A Times News columnist, Dawn will speak on Advocacy. Dawn says: "It will be a 'why you do it' and a 'how to' in advocating a position you want to put forward -- I don't get into content. With what I will teach you, you will have tools to support any position on the spectrum of any issue."

Bring a Guest for this informative presentation

From the V-P



Activist groups are gaining numbers all over the country, including hundreds right here in North Carolina. LWVHC is glad to have added quite a few new members already this year, and encourage new - and not-so-new - members to jump right in: Advocate! Study! Volunteer! Observe

government in action! Even get out and march if that's your thing! **Making Democracy Work** takes lots of hands and hearts, and together with Leagues across the country we can make a difference.

Nan

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IMMIGRATION

A sub-group of the ever-larger Committee is updating the "myths & facts" presentation with more of an economic development emphasis. When complete, it will be shown at a "Hot Topics" LWV lunch and/or happy hour, then offered to civic groups, faith groups, high schools and other audiences. The **Silent Vigil** is again scheduled for the **last Friday of each month at 5** in front of the Historic Courthouse. It will begin again on **March 31** at 5 pm.

Diversity Week

March 13-16

<http://www.blueridge.edu/discover-diversity> Blue Ridge Community College Discover Diversity Week is a series of events at to promote an awareness of diversity and a greater understanding of global issues.

All events are open to the public.

Healthcare Updates

by Linda Weldon

LWV NC Closing the Gap project update

The LWV NC state group that has been working on Medicaid Expansion continues to have frequent conference calls for League members interested in this project. At the call on Sunday, February 19th, participants discussed state actions on Medicaid, ACA repeal, and the status of Gov. Cooper's suit against NCGA about cabinet appointments. No definitive actions have occurred at either the state or federal level.

Restructuring the group was considered with volunteers solicited to assist in the group's future activities for leadership, communications, education, advocacy, membership, and outreach to local chapters. The group is considering a name change since Closing the Gap is not the focus of current activities. Members participating in the call were asked to send suggestions for a name change to the current leadership. A decision will be made after responses are sent to the group leaders.

New members of the League are indicating an interest in health care issues on their membership applications. State leaders will be sending information on this group's history and activities to new League members to generate interest in participation in the group. As part of that outreach to new members, the current web site information will be reviewed and updated as indicated. One of the newer members of the group suggested that information currently on the health care section of the web site might be useful to keep as with updated documents added.

The next conference call for this group is scheduled for Sunday, March 5th, at 5 PM.

NC Health Access Committee Meeting Notes

The regional group formerly called WNC Regional Medicaid Expansion Coalition met on Wednesday, 2/22, in Asheville. Membership and attendance at the meetings has been fluid with persons joining the group as individuals and as representatives of newly forming organizations.

Activity at the national level to repeal the Affordable Care Act has been the impetus for new political activity. New political action groups in the Asheville area have held town meetings in Asheville recently to highlight widespread support for the ACA, one on 2/14, and one on 2/20. Those events were discussed at the Health Access Committee meeting on February 22nd.

Jackie Kiger, one of the Managing Attorneys with Pisgah Legal Services, spoke to the group about a national conference on health care that she attended recently. At this point, no one knows exactly how the ACA will be affected by Congressional action.

The message from all forums and meetings continues to be for individuals to contact their elected officials, state and national, to voice support for the ACA. Phone calls, emails, letters and postcards to each of these individuals are all helpful in informing the elected officials of the need to revise but not repeal the ACA.





League in Action!

Judges Athena Brooks and Emily Cowan gave members an in-depth look at Juvenile Justice at our February general meeting. Near the end of their presentation, they were asked what can League members do to help? 1. Support pending legislation changing the juvenile proceedings age from 16 to 18 (except in cases of serious or violent felonies); 2. Support local, ongoing mental health for offenders; 3. Support/volunteer for the Guardian ad Litem program; 4. Support other non-profits which directly serve this population: JCPC (Juvenile Crime Prevention Council), Safelight, Blue Ridge Community Health.



Judge Emily Cowan



Judge Athena Brooks

Voter Service

Making Democracy Work is a constant challenge for League. Voter Service is meeting March 22 to organize activity for 2017.

In 2016 members organized candidate forums and helped register new voters. New members are welcome at this meeting to plan voter advocacy efforts in 2017.

New members welcome, March 22 at 11 am at the First Congregational Church.

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

New Members

Roberta "Bertie" Woods

Bertie is pleased to be a new member of the League. She is quite concerned about events taking place in our country and looking for opportunities to learn about important issues in this time of division and uncertainty, and to help affect change that is good for everyone.

Bertie is a retired lawyer, having practiced in Atlanta and Sarasota and was a League member years ago in Atlanta, but just got too busy to stay with it. She is interested in getting involved again in housing and healthcare. She really enjoyed attending the January meeting and was excited to see the level of energy demonstrated.

The Greenways Team

Hendersonville's 3.5 mile Oklawaha Greenway winds through wetlands, meadows and forests to connect four parks. With support from the Henderson County League of Women Voters, the Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway have developed a brand new website.

The new website at <http://FriendsOfOklawaha.org> includes:

- Maps of the Greenway
- A list of upcoming Greenway events
- Letters of support from nearly 30 community organizations, including LWVHC, that hope to see the Greenway extended
- A Gallery of Nature Photos that identifies birds, trees and flowers along the Greenway
- Information on how to support the Greenway through donations and volunteer activities

If you haven't been on the Greenway lately, invite a friend and take an hour or two to explore the newest section that runs from Patton Park to Berkeley Mills Park.





**The League of Women Voters
of North Carolina**

Call to Convention 2017

When: Friday, May 5—Sunday, May 7, 2017

Where: Greensboro Marriott Downtown
304 North Greene Street, Greensboro, NC 27401
Phone: (336) 379-8000
Marriott.com

Please submit your suggestions for LWVNC Program Action Areas for 2017-19 to lwvklenzm@gmail.com by Monday, March 6, 2017.

As a reminder, the Statewide Program Action Areas adopted for 2015-17 are:

- Fair Elections
- Voter Protection
- Health Care
- Budget and Tax Policy
- Education
- Immigration
- Environment
- ERA Ratification by NC

In mid-March your League will be receiving the following information:

1. The LWVNC 2015-16 Budget that will be voted on at Convention
2. The LWVNC Proposed Bylaws Revisions to be voted on at Convention

In early April your League will receive:

1. Information on Convention registration
2. A report from the LWVNC Nominating Committee
3. Detailed information on the Convention Agenda

Open World,

An International Opportunity for our League

October 27 - November 4, 2017

It may seem a bit early, but our League is already planning for an Open World delegation which will be arriving October 27 for a week in Hendersonville. Open World is a program administered by the Open World Leadership Center in Washington, DC., conducts exchanges that establish lasting professional relationships between the up-and-coming leaders of Open World countries and Americans dedicated to showcasing U.S. values and democratic institutions. They do this with the help of local organizations, such as our League, which prepare an educational program for the delegates and provide for the delegates to stay in the home of League members. Last year, our League hosted a delegation from the Republic of Georgia, and delegates stayed with the Luebbes, the Hansmas, the Hales, and the Wilkeses.

We had a lot of fun with our delegates and made friends for life. Their hunger to make democracy work in the Republic of Georgia was an inspiration to all of us. Besides that, our League received a substantial stipend for our effort.

This fall the delegation of five young professionals will come from Karelia, a region of Russia north of St. Petersburg. In addition to the delegates, there will be a facilitator from Russia and an interpreter from Bradenton, FL. The delegates are coming to learn about cultural preservation in the US. For example, the delegates will visit Cherokee. The Cherokee people have the only written language among Native Americans.

So how can you as a League member become involved? Look at your calendar for the week of October 27 – November 4. Think about being a part of the welcoming dinner the first night, learn what is expected of a host family, serve a dinner one evening to a host family and guest, and help plan the program for the week.

If you are interested in serving as a host family or taking an active role in the details of this wonderful Open World, please contact Lee Luebbe, leeluebbe60@gmail.com. You will be invited to learn more about the rewards and opportunities to participate in OPEN WORLD at a coffee Lee will host in the spring.

Judy and Bill Wilkes
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March –

Women's History Month; Sunshine (Open Government) Month

2- Board meeting 10-12, WCCA

16- General Meeting – Advocacy

20 – Immigration Meeting. 12:30 @ St. James

22 - Voter Services mtg. 11 a.m. First Congregational Church

31 - Immigration Vigil, 5 p.m., Historic Courthouse

April –

National Volunteer Week;

6- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA

9 – Palm Sunday; 10 - Passover

14 - Good Friday;

15- Tax Day

16 - Easter

17 – Immigration Meeting. 12:30 @ St. James

20 - General Meeting – Environmental Issues with Mountain True

22 – Earth Day

24 – Holocaust Remembrance Day

28 - Immigration Vigil, 5 p.m., Historic Courthouse

LWVHC Calendar 2016-2017

Save this Page

May –

4- Board meeting 10-12, WCCA

5-7 LWVNC State Convention in Greensboro

14 – Mother's Day

15 - Immigration Meeting. 12:30 @ St. James

18- Annual Meeting (our League's 52nd)

24- Voters Services mtg.

26 - Immigration Vigil, 5 p.m., Historic Courthouse

29- Memorial Day

June –

1 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA

14 - Flag Day

15 - Board Retreat

18 - Father's Day