



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

of
Henderson County

BULLETIN

December 2017

Holiday Gathering

December 17

2-4 pm

Hendersonville Co-op

The Gift of Words



Join us, and bring a friend, for food and thoughtful reflections about holidays past, present, and around the world! Members are asked to bring a children's book (board books, picture books, for ages 3-5) for donation - this year, to the Helping Hand Developmental Center. Also bring a favorite holiday treat to share on our refreshments table. For further information, ct Sharon Burlingame, 692-4012.



"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

Frederick Douglass



Calendar

December

- 7- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 17 General Meeting - Holiday Gathering 2:00 – 4:00**
- 20 - Education Mtg. 9:30, Co-op
- 29- Silent Vigil for Immigration Reform, Historic Courthouse 4 pm

2018

January

- 4- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 8 - Immigration Mtg., 1:30 pm, St. James
- 9- *Carrie Chapman Catt's Birthday*
- 15- *Martin Luther King Breakfast*
- 18- General Meeting 4-5:30 Chamber of Commerce – Addressing the Opioid Crisis**
- 24- Education Mtg. 9:30, Co-op
- 24- Voter Services Mtg. 1:00 FCC

February –

- Black History Month; Youth Voter Month*
- 1- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 14- *98th Anniversary of League*
- 15- General Meeting 4-5:30 Chamber of Commerce - Our Mission**
- 19 – *Presidents' Day*
- 19 – Immigration Mtg. 1:30, St. James
- 28- Education Mtg. 9:30, Co-op

Management Team

Co-Conveners

Nan Jennings
Nanjlvv@gmail.com

Rachel Poller
mwindila@hotmail.com

Secretary/Membership

Linda Hansma
lhansma@gmail.com

Treasurer

Stan Kumor
kumorsm@morrisbb.net

Voter Service

During these months before the primaries, the Voter Services Team will be considering several projects. We will work with other members of the League to update and revise the *Know Your Local Government* booklet. We will also be submitting a grant proposal to engage younger voters between the ages of 18 – 30. We continue to discuss strategies for GOTV (Get Out The Vote) and for supporting the League's interest in nonpartisan redistricting. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 24, at 1:00 at the First Congregational Church.

Education

Since September, the team has been looking at the public Pre-K program, including the possible impact of the legislature's class size mandate on available space for Pre-K classes. In the last conference call with the state action team, there was an extended discussion on school vouchers and this will be our next area of focus, particularly with respect to program accountability.

We meet on the last Wednesday of every month at 9:30 at the co-op. If you are interest in education issues, please join us.

SAVE THE DATE: January 18th Member Meeting "Addressing the Opioid Crisis" with Major Frank Stout from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and Julie Huneycutt from Hope RX. Come and learn more about the opioid/drug/alcohol epidemic and ways that the League members can support community and statewide programs and initiatives in addressing this crisis.

5K Gerrymander Run in Asheville

On December 4, 2017, the Asheville Buncombe League sponsored a 5K. The route was the gerrymandered line through a neighborhood in West Asheville. Sadly, the neighbors on one side of the street were in the 10th District and the other side was in the 11th District. This is Quantum Gerrymandering. Several folks from the Henderson County League attended and volunteered to direct the runners and walkers

through the maze. It took lots of women and men to stand on the many corners! It was a fun way to draw attention to unfair districts that brought lots of different folks together. We spoke with neighbors and drivers and others about the unfair districts that are currently in effect. We all must continue to fight for fair, bipartisan redistricting where we voters pick our representatives, not the other way around.



Open World

Hendersonville was recently host to a delegation of young Russian professionals, a visit organized by LWVHCNC and funded by the Open World Leadership Center (OWLC). The delegates were in Hendersonville from October 27 until November 4.

Upon arrival in the US they spent a day in Washington, DC at OWLC, which is housed in the Library of Congress. There they learned about our government and met with Congressman Mark Meadows. Meeting with government officials is an essential part of the Open World Program.

The topic for this delegation was: Civil Rights, Indigenous Groups of Russia who were interested in preserving their languages and culture. We planned over 30 hours of professional programming about their topic for the delegates.

Our guests were from three cities in Russia: Petrozavodsk, Izhevsk, and Perm. The delegates were: Maria Kundozerova, Junior research fellow Institute of Language, Literature and History of the Karelian Research Center; Tatiana Berdasheva, Research Fellow, National Museum of the Republic of Karelia; Aleksei Shklyaev, Executive Director, IPlay Film School, Museum of Izhevsk; Oksana Krylova, teacher of students with hearing impairment; Anastasiya Mikhaylova, Instructor of Foreign Languages, Perm State Humanitarian and Pedagogical University. Nadezhda Shablikova, an English professor, Petrozavodsk State University was a facilitator (and sometimes interpreter) for the delegates.

While in Hendersonville they met local government officials: Mayor Barbara Volk, County Commissioner Bill Lapsley and NC Representative Chuck McGrady. Additionally, they shared information with students in City Councilman, Jerry Smith's AP Human Geography class at Hendersonville High

School. Other presenters were: Melinda Lowrance, NAACP; Lee Luebbe, League of Women Voters; and Carolina McGrady, El Centro. They visited the Wildlife Education Center and Cradle of Forestry in American, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, and Johnson Farm. They shared information with professors and students in the Cherokee Language class at UNCA. A highlight for the delegation was having student ambassadors show them around Bruce Drysdale Elementary School, along with a presentation by Simone Wertenberger who shared information about the diversity of our English Language Learners and the educational services provided by Henderson County Public Schools.

We visited the Riverside Arts District learning about the renovation of abandoned buildings and warehouses to support the arts and increasing economic viability. Lina Adas and Rabbi Philip Bentley shared their story of teaching each other their languages (Arabic and Hebrew), working for peace and developing their friendship. Information on nontraditional press was presented by Bill Moss of the Hendersonville Lightening, and Frank Taylor, Carolina Public Press, a nonprofit on-line investigative press.

The delegates stayed in the homes of League members and friends. We hosts welcomed these delegates into our homes and hearts. They arrived as strangers, but left as friends/family. To learn more talk to our home hosts at our annual holiday party.

They are: Sharon and Wes Burlingham, Caren Kessler, Jim and Barbara Clarke, Jackie and Larry Branscum, Matt and Rosie Rogers, and Bill and Judy Wilkes.



A hearty and heartfelt **THANK YOU** to **Judy and Bill Wilkes** for their commitment to and leadership in the **Open World Program**. For more than a decade--and for the last 2 years for the LWVHC, Judy and Bill have engaged and led LWV and Hendersonville community members in meeting and greeting, hosting and toasting future leaders from developing nations as we grew in mutual understanding and respect. Judy and Bill and the Open World Team members have often spoken of the great satisfaction they've felt as a result of their efforts, and we're certain the guests from around the world have felt the same. We, the LWVHC Management Team, want Judy and Bill to know how grateful we are to them for their efforts.



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Open World Visit



A busy month - welcoming our Open World delegates; welcoming LWVNC State Council and attending the general meeting to learn more about Affordable housing.



WVHC hosted the LWVNC Regional Council Meeting on November 3rd at the City Operations Center.

Along with state LWV officers/directors, 25 leaders/members from our western Leagues probed effective tactics for advocacy. Stay tuned for spring regional council info----all members are welcome!



Affordable Housing discussion panel at the November General Meeting



Affordable Housing

A crowd of nearly 60 individuals turned out for the League's November General Meeting which focused on the issue of affordable housing. Presenters were Sarah Grymes, executive director of the Housing Assistance Corporation, Hendersonville City Manager John Connet, and Autumn Radcliffe, Henderson County Planning Director. All spoke to the critical need as well as both progress and challenges to this complex issue which impacts both lower and middle-income residents. Numerous governmental entities and nonprofits are collaborating in an effort to address the issue, and some large employers are beginning to get involved as well. Historically, the National League has supported policies to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family, and local and state leagues, including Henderson County, have advocated on a variety of issues that impact affordable housing. Our chapter will continue to explore ways to be impactful on the housing issue. Members who wish to become involved should contact Martha Milcarek, milcarekm@gmail.com or Sharon Burlingame, sburlingame401@gmail.com.

IMMIGRATION

The Immigration Team met November 20, to keep up with new legislation proposed in both federal and state legislatures, as well as Supreme Court decisions. We talked about local concerns as well, with deportations, DACA, and sanctuary on our agenda.

One of our local projects is the **Path to College** program with the Immigration Network. We have had great success in recruiting students for the program this year, both through the public school system and church affiliated youth groups. That means we need more mentors, especially women. Mentors do not need to be Spanish speakers, as most of our students have been in school here for years. Mentors have a few hours of training, and after a background check, are paired with a student or two to meet twice a month setting educational and extracurricular goals. Workbooks for students and mentors are provided. If interested, please contact Lee Luebbe, at 828-606-8756, or leeluebbe60@gmail.com for more info.

Nominating Committee

Your Nominating Committee (NC) is seeking nominations for members who desire to serve on the local League Board of Directors. Members of the NC have been observing the meetings of the current Board and will be interviewing the Officers and the Board members in January to learn what skill sets they see as needed to make for a balanced and effective Board. Cultivating leadership is an important role for all leagues – that's a good reason to have term limits. Based on the term limit policy adopted several years ago, a person may serve three 2-year terms or six years. After a one year hiatus, that person may again serve.

This year a new approach to leadership is that of co-convenors rather than a single person serving as president. LWVUS has encouraged the idea of piloting this leadership model for a period of one year before changing the By-Laws. It will be important for the Nominating Committee to know if the By-Laws will be changed to accommodate this option before interviews are conducted for the 2018-'19 slate of candidates.

If you are interested in serving on the local LWV Board or wish to recommend someone, including yourself, please contact a member of the NC no later than January 30. Our work is confidential.

Elections will take place at the annual meeting in June.

Linda Hansma - 595-9219 lhansma@gmail.com

Judy Wilkes – 891.3578 judy126@bellsouth.net

Lee Luebbe, Chair, 694.3710 leeluebbe60@gmail.com