

League gets \$800 grant for voter registration

By [Derek Lacey](#)

Times-News Staff Writer

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The League of Women Voters of Henderson County has received an \$800 grant from the National League of Women Voters, a Voter Services grant that will be used to help get more people registered, particularly younger residents.

Caren Kessler, chair of the LWVHC Voter Services Committee, wrote the grant proposal. She said the League would like to create a more comprehensive approach to reaching county high schools, including Early College and Innovative high schools, as well as Blue Ridge Community College and Wingate University.

"It's going to be more of an effort to try and reach students," she explained, hopefully training them to where they can run the program and start registering their friends.

The money will be used to publicize voter registration drives and get the word out so students can find their way to vote411.org. The website is the League's one-stop shop for voters to find out about everything from eligibility requirements, any needed identification, early voting dates, candidate information, provisional voting, polling places and their hours, and more.

Some of the money will also go toward revising and reprinting the League's "Know your county and local government" pamphlet, printed in hard copy most recently in 2009.

The LWVHC also said in a news release that the final numbers for National Voter Registration Day have been announced. About 25 local League volunteers who worked on voter registrations last fall were among 9,631 volunteers nationwide who tallied a total of 124,290 new or updated voter registrations.

"We think it's so important to have these opportunities to register available before every election," Kessler said.

Open World visitors

The League was notified in December that for the third year, it will host the Open World program. The League was notified in December that a delegation from Ukraine will visit here in October, focusing on the topics of education and innovation.

Funded by Congress, the Open World Leadership Center works to promote world peace and international understanding through a program of exchanges that brings young future leaders, mainly from former Soviet countries, to the U.S. for a week to learn about Democratic government and capitalism and to meet professional peers.

The Henderson County League was awarded the October program through International Focus, a Raleigh-based organization that supports multiculturalism and international exchange.

The delegation from Ukraine will stay in the county for a week, beginning Oct. 12, according to Bill Wilkes with the League. This is the third consecutive assignment for Henderson County.

With the themes of innovation and education, he explained in an email to the Times-News, delegates will meet educators who can introduce them to innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

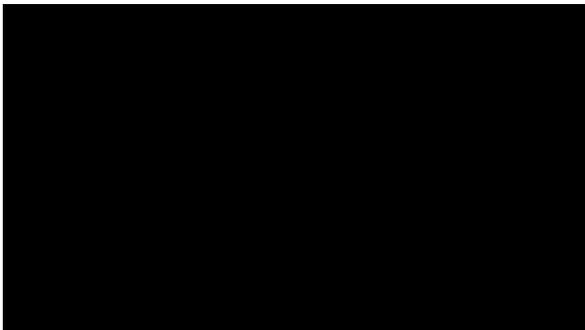
The League will provide housing for the delegates in members' homes, preparing approximately 32 hours of educational programming.



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