

League of Women Voters of Henderson County

From the Co-Presidents

“MAKING DEMOCRACY

WORK FOR ALL” is the LWVUS theme for 2016-2018, as presented at the LWVUS Convention 2016, June 16 – 19, in Washington, DC. Nan Jennings, Linda Weldon, Lee Luebbe, and I traveled to DC in time to participate in Lobby Day, when we visited 6 Congressional and Senate offices to advocate for passage of the Voter Rights Advancement Act. Later, we were thrilled to see our own Lee Luebbe at the podium addressing over 700 delegates as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The committee picked a great slate! The new president, Chris Carson, is an historian who has chaired LWVUS Task Forces on Campaign Finance Reform, Immigration, Redistricting – who better to lead us through the approach to our 100th Anniversary of League, while keeping our eyes on Advocacy for Voters and the historic possibility of the first US female president?!! Also elected to the Board was Brenda Rogers, from LWVODC (Orange/Durham/Chatham) here in NC, whom we have long admired.

At our retreat last week, we welcomed Judith Scruggs and Harold Hellickson to the Board. I am delighted that Judith’s Co-Presidency will give us new ideas yet maintain consistency of leadership, while Harold brings a known penchant for study of education and voting advocacy issues. We thank Renee Kumor and Lee Luebbe for helping us make a visionary approach to the coming year. You will notice that the focus is on – who else? - VOTERS!

I want to thank Iris Vanek and Stan Kumor again for their work as 6-year Board members. We are going to miss their perspective on things, and their ready willingness to help us accomplish anything we tried! I continue to marvel at all who make time and try their hand at LWV leadership. This is a grassroots organization, and they truly make the difference for us all!

Sharon



At the LWVUS Convention 2016, this new wording was substituted in the By-Laws to better explain the nonpartisan work of the League. We will update our local By-Laws to concur with this new definition.

The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through citizen education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes individual candidates or political parties. For more information, please visit the League’s website at www.lwvhcnc.org

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

July 1, 2016

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Board members say good-bye to Iris Vanik and Stan Kumor
at their last board meeting in May.

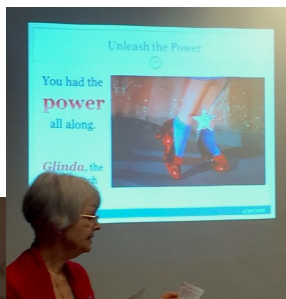
News from LWVUS



Lee Luebke addresses LWVUS Convention as National Nominating Chair.

A feast of learning goes on at Convention. At this year's convention, we heard from speakers: Christine Chen, Ex. Dir. of APIAVote (Asian American voters), Arturo Vargas, Ex. Dir. of NALGO Educ. Fund (Latino voters), Kristen Clarke, Ex. Dir. of Lawyer's Comm. for Civil Rights Under Law, Keesha Gaskins, Dir. for Democratic Practice-US at the Rockefeller Bros. Fund, Joe Goldman, Pres. of the Democracy Fund, Celinda Lake, Pres. of Lake Research Partners (polling), Jennifer Lawless, Dir. of Women & Politics Inst., Peter Overby, NPR's "Power, Money, and Influence Correspondent", Amanda Taub, reporter for NY Times. Caucus and Tactical meetings gave us time to hear from each other, too - learning how things are done in other Leagues is a powerful training exercise! - The banquet speaker was Ari Berman, author of Give Us the Ballot.

.....and LWVNC



Sharon Burlingame, Judith Scruggs, Nan Jennings, and Don and Linda Miller attended inspiring and informative workshops at the LWVNC Council in Wilmington on the last weekend in April. At a workshop entitled: "Unleashing the Power: Using Local Studies to Engage, Educate, and Influence," Linda Miller and Sharon Burlingame presented our HC local study on quality education along with the Moore County League, which did a local study on the effects of fracking in NC. Both studies were well received and our Leagues are working to share the information with other NC Leagues.



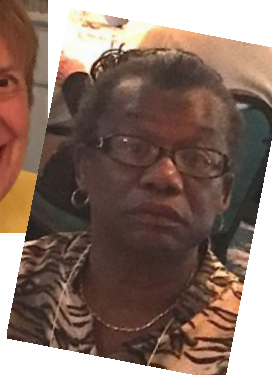
THANKS.....

Participants appreciate the support of the LWVHC in funding attendance at state and national training conferences! Without this support, fewer members would be able to participate in the important links from the grassroots to the "bigger picture," and the many helpful models of League work elsewhere.

League in Action!

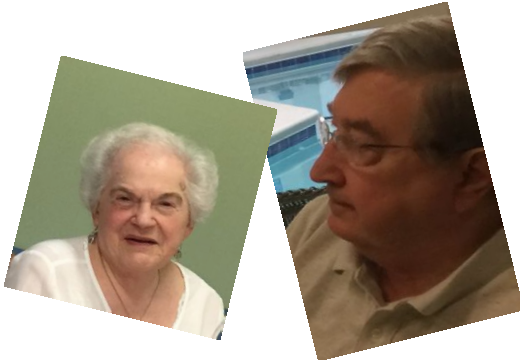


Sharon presents local League Quality Education Study findings to the Board of Education. Board member and League member, Rick Wood listens to the report.



2016 Annual Meeting

Sell out crowd attended our Annual Meeting. Old friends and new visited again.



And through it all, members found time to celebrate Marian Lowry's 90th birthday!!!!!!!

Education Team



The LWVHC Quality Public Education Study Team has come full circle. At the May HC school board business meeting, League President Sharon Burlingame addressed the school board, citing 4 technology education positions that our League supported 100% at its consensus meeting in March. Then 4 Team members: Sharon Burlingame, Harold Hellickson, Linda Miller, and Rachel Poller advocated for the same 4 positions supporting technology education improvements before the board

of commissioners at its May 18th meeting in support of the school board's budget request for digital learning. Team members cited the importance of strong technology education in preparing students for the world of work and enhancing learning in the classrooms. The commissioners later voted to increase the school board's budget by over \$600,000 to fund technology improvements in our HC schools.

The Quality Education Team plans to advocate for other positions based on our League's 2016 Quality Public Education Study when Henderson County public schools reopen.

The Team's next meeting will be on **August 11, 2016 at 1:30 pm at Flat Rock Village Hall.**

Voter Services

The *Students Voting for Democracy (SVD)* coalition of LWVHC, Kids Voting Henderson County, and HC Public Schools has been working to organize the *SVD* civics program so most public school students can cast informed votes on-line at school in a November mock election. Three teachers have been hired as SVD facilitators by the coalition to coordinate the Kids Voting Liaisons, one in each school, who coordinate the *SVD* program for their schools. HC Kids Voting, directed by Marian Lowry, is funding the program. Besides Marian Lowry, Sharon Burlingame and Linda Miller are the LWVHC representatives in the coalition.

The 3 civic positions that our League members gave their 100% approval at the March consensus meeting have been emphasized as an important part of the program to the coalition.

Report on LWVNC State Council

In April, five LWVHC members traveled to Wilmington for a state update (Judith Scruggs, Nan Jennings, Linda & Don Miller, and Sharon Burlingame). Several environmental speakers were frank about the environment-unfriendly legislature this term, and the downhill path of the Dept. of Environmental Quality, leading to challenges to the environment re: coal ash, fracking, stream buffers, and drinking water, among others. A successful Youth Voter Project was outlined. A very helpful new edition of "Candidates, Forums, & Events - Guidelines for Local Leagues, 2016" was presented by LWVNC to clarify and unify the upcoming candidate event procedures. We were so proud to hear Nancy Birandelli praise Bill Wilkes' work as state LWVNC Treasurer. Co-Presidents Mary Klens and Willie Taylor described the efforts to make the state budget more supportive of local League's work. VOTE411 was promoted, though more volunteer help is needed. House Bill 2 was roundly protested by formal vote and letter. A panel addressed the Overreach of State Government into Local Governing (Allison Riggs, Sr. Staff Atty. S. Coalition for Social Justice, Marikay Abuzaita, Greensboro City Council, Dr. Tim Markley, Sup. of Schools, New Hanover Co., Anna Fessmire, Co-Pres. LWVPT, and moderator Willie Taylor, Co-Pres LWVNC). "What's Happening with Education in NC" (Mark Jewell, 29 yr. teacher, NCAE Guilford Co Sch., Brian Profitt, Durham Co, NCAE, Jo Nicholas, LWV Moore Co. - moderator) addressed the attacks on public schools, from the 1970s to present, leading to stark changes today, and asking how to let voters understand this complex issue. Our own Linda Miller, Ed Study chair, "Defining the Components of a Quality Public Education," joined Kathy Berquist, from Moore Co., "Fracking", to present the importance of local studies.

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 iudv126@bellsouth.net

LWV Bulletin

It is **TIME** to **Renew** your
Membership!!

ANNUAL DUES

\$50 per Single member
\$75 per family

Mail to:

LWVHC
PO Box 2238
Hendersonville, NC 28793

Summer 2016

LWVHC Calendar 2016-2017

Save this Page

July -

- 4 - *Freedom of Information Act Anniv., Anniv. of Seneca Falls Convention*
- 6 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA (Changed to Wed. due to state LWVNC retreat 7-9th)
- 27 - Voter Services mtg 11:00, FCC

August -

- 4- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 11 - Ed Study Team, 1:30, FRVH
- 18,19- Possible dates for Voter Regist. Training event/ Democracy NC
- 24- Voter Services mtg 11:00, FCC
- 26 - *Women's Equality Day*

September -

- 1 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 2,3,4 - Apple Festival - LWV Booth, Voter Registration
- 5 - *Labor Day*
- 15 - General Meeting - "Kick Off!"
- 17 - *Citizenship Day* - Voter Registration at Carl Sandburg Park (Date TBA)
- 17 - *Constitution Day* - Voter Registration at (TBD)
- 19 - Immigration mtg.
- 22 - Save for Candidate Event
- 26 - Save for Candidate Event
- 27 - *National Voter Registration Day* (possible partnership event)
- 28 - Voter Services mtg 11:00, FCC
- 29 - Save for Candidate Event

October -

- 2 - *Rosh Hashanah begins*
- 1-9 - LWVHC Hosts Open World Group
- 6 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 11 - *Yom Kippur begins*
- 20 - General Meeting - "Making Democracy Work for All"
- 26 - Voter Services mtg 10-12, FCC

November -

- 3 - Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 8 - *Election Day*
- 17 - General Meeting - "Money in Politics"
- 21 - Immigration
- 24- *Thanksgiving*

December -

- 1- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 2- Breakfast with Elected Officials @ Golden Corral
- 7 - *Remembrance Day*
- 11- Holiday Gathering - time TBA
- 24 - *Hanukkah begins*
- 25 - *Christmas*

January - 2017

- 5- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 9- *Carrie Chapman Catt's Birthday*
- 16- *Martin Luther King Breakfast*
- 19- General Meeting for Program Planning
- 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 - Fundraising/Goals/Coalitions
- 20 - *Presidents' Day*

March -

- Women's History Month; Sunshine (Open Government) Month*
- 2- Board meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 16- General Meeting - "Leadership Training"
- 21 - Immigration mtg.
- 22- Voter Services mtg.

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
- 14 - *Mother's Day*
- 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*

League of Women Voters
Fighting for Voting Rights
Since 1920