

# BULLETIN

October 2016

## League of Women Voters of Henderson County

### From the Co-Presidents

A picture is worth a thousand words, and these pictures show how busy we have been during our **September "Month of Action**." I hope that you are in some of these photos, because it has been a joyous and important time to be an active League member. Best of all, there is still time to be involved in Voter Registration, in



Candidate events, and in study of the forces of "Money" and "Districting" that impact our current electoral process.

**Voter Registration** has yielded great interest: Apple Festival - 124 registrations, BRCC - 33 on the two campuses, Wingate Univ. - 11, New Citizens' Day – 22, Manna/PBJ Church – 2. Coming up at **Farm-City Day**, Saturday, Oct. 1 (4,000 expected), we will be registering on Ball Field #3. We will also register at the "Day of the Dead" Halloween festival. Come join us!

On Thursday, Oct. 13, our final Candidate Forum will be held for the 8 School Board Candidates (City Operations Bldg, 6-8 PM). Come support the candidates, as well as supporting the LWV principle that forums are inclusive – we invite ALL the candidates for any given race!

We'll see you all at our **General Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 20**, from 3-5pm, when we explore the various stands regarding the **American Anti-Corruption Act (ACC)**.

New members, prospective members, and those who were away – please contact me if you'd like to volunteer at one of our remaining events (<u>sburlingame401@gmail.com</u>, 692-4012).

When you volunteer, you have a ringside seat in Democracy at work at the local level.

Sharon

## **General Meeting**

## **Money in Politics**

October 20, 2016

There couldn't be a better time to study the proposed American Anti-Corruption Act (AAC) through <u>Represent.US</u>, the nation's largest grassroots anti-corruption campaign. Through the miracle of Skype, we will hear perspectives from conservatives to progressives, hear how Tallahassee, FL (with help from their LWV) passed anti-corruption legislation, and how other municipalities are tackling this problem of Money in Politics! Study and action go together to help Make Democracy Work for ALL!

3 -5 PM Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

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Leadership

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REMINDER Candidate Forum October 13

October 2016

## Open World, An International Opportunity for our League November 11-19

We recently received our list of delegates for the Open World Program on Social Inclusion from the Republic of Georgia. This is our youngest delegation; ages 18-28!! Our hope is that you will become involved in this program and meet these interesting people. Thanks to: Suzanne and Hunter Hale, Linda and David Hansma. Lee and John Luebbe and Linda and Don Miller for opening their homes to these folks. Thanks to Renee Kumor, Nan Jennings, Bob Miles for helping with the program. Thanks to Sharon Burlingame for hosting a dinner. WE NEED MORE DINNER HOSTS TO RELIEVE THE HOME HOSTS FROM COOKING EACH NIGHT. Also thanks to those who have volunteered to day host. WE NEED YOUR INVOLVEMENT: Our Welcome Party will be November 11th 6-8 pm at First Congregrational Church of Hendersonville. This

is a potluck. Plan to attend and meet our delegates. Tuesday, November 15th Hendersonville Sister Cities is sponsoring a public presentation from the delegation at the Hendersonville Library from 6-8 pm. Come hear the delegates share information about their country.

Host a dinner for 4 to 3 people to include home host and their delegate(s).

We need people to help with either the welcome or the farewell party. For the welcome party, we could use someone to bring soft drinks and water, someone to make coffee, someone to help set up tables or decorate them, or clean up at the end. The farewell party for people who have helped with the program, will be at our house in Hendersonville. We will have the meal catered by 12 Bones, so we could use someone to pick up the food. Please call us to volunteer: Bill and Judy Wilkes - 891-3578

## MEET THE DELEGATES

**Shalala Amirjanova**: female, age 18 from Village of Kichagani near Azerbaijan She is an Azerbaijanlanguage journalist – Marneuli Community Radio Marneuli FM Additionally, she is a leader and volunteer at USAID and UNAF project "Promoting Integration, Tolerance, and Awareness Program" at Marneuli Youth Centre and coordinator of volunteers in Marneuli in the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia project "Georgia's volunteer". She is working on issues of gender equality, including education of girls and preventing early marriages, promoting civil activism among youths, human rights protection, integration of national and religious minorities etc.

**Ambartsum Baboyan:** male, 28, from Akhaltsikhe, Western part of Georgia He is Chairman of the Akhaltsikhe City Council, Committee on Healthcare and Social Issues – Municipality of Akhaltsikhe. He is involved in meetings with people and solving citizens' problems.

**Kamran Mamedovi**: male, 26, from Mtskheta (near Tbilisi) He is Project Coordinator in Kvemo Kartli – Civic Integration Foundation, where he works within a project where their mission is to spread and strengthen tolerance among youth.

**Akaki Saginadze**: male, 19, from Kutaisi: western part of Georgia He is Head of Fundraising Group, Program Manager - Research-Intellectual Club "Dialogue of Generations". He finds funding for youth programs of the organization and does project management, monitoring, evaluation, and preparation of reports, introduction the new training modules, pilotage and implementation, developing short-term and long-term action plans for the organization.

**Giorgi Tevzadze;** male, 24, from Tbilisi He is Project Manager/IT Manager – Child, Family, Society NGO His working time is mainly dedicated to issues of involvement in education of the national minorities in Marneuli and Akhaltsikhe, especially girls.

Our facilitator is **Aleksandra Kalatozishvili**: female, 35, Tbilisi She is Executive Director, Public Movement Multinational Georgia She is responsible for coordination of organizations' activity on local, national and international levels, also for human resources management as well as for the monitoring and evaluation of staff performance. etc.

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## REGISTERING NEW CITIZENS TO BE NEW **VOTERS!**

I'M A NEW CITIZEN AND VOTER!





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I'M A NEW CITIZEN

## VOTER REGISTRATION@ THE APPLE FESTIVAL



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SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING Members learn about League Opportunities







## **Voter Services** Fall Candidate Events Calendar.

<u>October 13</u> – A Forum for Board of Education Candidates Absher, Bazzle, Bellmund, Corn, Craven, Harris, Houston, and Wood. Event will be from 6-8 pm at the Hendersonville City Operations Building on Williams St.



VOTE411 is designed to provide detailed candidate information, including candidates' direct response to issue-related questions.
Users will be able to visit <u>www.VOTE411.org</u> and enter their address to find information from the candidates they will see on their ballot and compare candidates side by side.





Above: Candidate Forum at City Ops.

Judith Scruggs with our "Meet and Greet" Co-Sponsor Jim Barrett of Pisgah Legal Services at Carolina Village



Marian Lowry and Acee Hughes attending "Meet and Greet" at Carolina Village

## **IMMIGRATION**

Committee members continue to show presentation to civic groups, most recently Civitan, and high schools. One of the year's goals is to send letters to principals, lead teachers, and civics and government teachers and follow-up by phone stressing the interactive nature of the revamped presentation. In response to one of the student feedback questions, "What did you learn today that surprised you?," answers frequently include, "Existence of the Diversity Lottery," "That half Nobel recipients are foreign," and "How much immigrants pay in to our government that they never get back." Adult responses might be the same! If any of you members have personal relationships with principals &/or teachers, please let Nan Jennings know so she can contact them.

## New Members

Cathy Lewis is an attorney who worked for many years for the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights helping to ensure equal access to educational opportunities. She was the Director of Enforcement for the western half of the country. She also worked for the Department's Office of the Inspector General as an Assistant IG. After leaving the Department, she moved to Mexico staying for two years before locating to Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has published two books of poetry about Mexico and is currently working on a third that should be published this fall.

Cathy is looking forward to working with the League on issues that she cares about including; education, immigration, voting rights and redistricting.

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## Medicaid Expansion Report

The Western Regional Medicaid Expansion Coalition continues to meet monthly in Asheville. With the submission of North Carolina's Medicaid Reform plan to the federal government, activities of the group at this time are focusing on election issues and education of the public to the views on Medicaid expansion of each of the gubernatorial and state legislative race candidates. Members of the coalition are nonprofit groups with 501(c) 3 and 501 (c) 4 IRS classifications, so lobbying and participation in individual candidates' campaign efforts is limited. Individual members of the coalition are committed to keeping media attention on the issue of Medicaid Expansion in North Carolina.

Linda Weldon

## OBSERVER CORPS

The League of Women Voters has been an active champion of openness in government throughout its history. The organization's principles include the requisite that "government bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible". These statements are from page 1 of the League's publication <u>OBSERVING YOUR</u> <u>GOVERNMENT IN ACTION, Protecting Your Right To Know,</u> first published in 2006. This guide is available online at the LWV USA website, <u>www.lwv.org</u>

Again quoting from the publication referenced above, "observer programs...connect the League with the larger community. Taking advantage of these connections to increase the League's membership, resources and visibility is just as critical to the organization's mission as the observer program's primary goal of protecting the public's right to know."

Does it sound like I am recruiting LWV HC members to join our group of Observers? Well, actually, I am! If you have an interest in any of our county or municipal government activities, please contact me via email. <u>wnclinda@aol.com</u>. I will be happy to send you a list of the city and county government boards, commissions, agencies, and groups that meet with their scheduled meeting schedules.

Linda Weldon Co-Chair, Observer Corps



The Quality Public Education Team got wonderful news at the September meeting. An anonymous donor will take out a full-page ad in the Times-News in support of the Team's effort to bring the education study to community attention and to highlight League's involvement in doing good things for the community. The ad will probably run during American Education Week, November  $14^{th} - 18^{th}$ . Godsends do happen!

The Ed Team has presented the results of its community survey and given talks at the September meetings of the HC Board of Public Education, the HC Retired School Personnel, and Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Lambda Chapter. Leaguer and Ed Team member Jody Davidson is also the second vice president of DKG and set up the talks for a very interesting morning.

## The October meeting of the Quality Ed Team has been changed from Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Flat Rock Village Hall <u>to</u> Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the Hendersonville Community Coop in the Community Room to the right of the store.

The November meeting will be held at the Flat Rock Village Hall on Thursday, November  $10^{th}$  at 1:30 p.m. This will be the last official meeting of the Quality Public Education Team. Team members will celebrate its two years of effort "Defining the Components of a Public Education" with all Leaguers at the League Holiday Party on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 3 - 5 at the Chamber Meeting Room.

## LWVHC Calendar 2016-2017

## Save this Page

### October -

- 1 Voter Registration at Farm City Day
- 2 Rosh Hashanah begins
- 6 Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
- 6 Quality Education Team 1:30-3:30 pm, @ Co-op
- 11-Yom Kippur begins
- 13 Candidate Forum School Board @ City Ops 6-8 pm
- 20 General Meeting "Money in Politics"
- 26 Voter Services mtg 10-12, FCC

### November –

3 – Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
8 - Election Day
10 - Quality Education Team 1:30-3:30 pm, Village Hall
11-19 - LWVHC Hosts Open World Group
17 – General Meeting – Redistricting, Walter Sallinger, LWVNC. 3-5 pm
21 - Immigration
24- Thanksgiving

### December –

Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
 Breakfast with Elected Officials @ Golden Corral
 *7 – Remembrance Day* Holiday Gathering – 3-5 pm
 *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.

League of Women Voters Fighting for Voting Rights Since 1920

### February –

Black History Month; Youth Voter Month 2- Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA 14- 97<sup>th</sup> 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 52<sup>nd</sup>)
24- Voters Services mtg.
29- Memorial Day

### June –

Board Meeting 10-12, WCCA
 *I4 - Flag Day* I5 - Board Retreat
 *I8 - Father's Day*

**To those of you who have renewed your membership, we thank you**. To those who have not, our October meeting is the perfect chance to pay your dues! October 31 is membership deadline; it helps us get a new, updated membership list compiled to send to you in November, and it lets us notify the national LWV of our enrollment. Our goal this year is 100 members, so remember that meetings are open to the public, and that you are welcome to bring a friend. In fact, isn't that how many of us were first encouraged to join League?!

### ANNUAL DUES

\$50 per Single member \$75 per family Mail to: LWVHC PO Box 2238 Hendersonville, NC 28793