



The Bulletin

League of Women Voters in Henderson County - Since 1966

"The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

February 2009

DIVERSITY ...THE VERY SUBSTANCE OF OUR WORLD

Alma Rodriguez-Jones, Diversity Chair of the LWVHC

**Feb. 19 – LWVHC
General Meeting
From 4-6 pm**

SPEAKER: Lina Adas

**"One Woman's Experience
and Perspective: Living as a
Muslim woman in
Henderson County...and the
role of women in Islam."**

Union Grove Baptist Church, 901
Robinson Terrace (turn north from
7th Ave. on either Cherry or Ash,
then onto Robinson Terrace. Coffee
and cookies served !

Open to the Public

Note: if schools close we do too!

Leader: Alms Rodriguez-Jones

694-3937

As part of LWVHC's diversity initiative – to learn more about the world and its wide range of ideas and cultures – our February 19th speaker will be Lina Adas. Lina was born in Lebanon and worked there as a journalist for many years. She now lives in Henderson County with her husband, and together they run Blue Ridge Community College's cafeteria, *Lina's Café*. She is a fascinating woman who has continued her education by taking distance learning courses through the internet. Lina is also a practicing Muslim living in our Judeo-Christian society. She will be discussing living as a Muslim in Henderson County and the role of women in Islam.

As the Diversity Chair, I hope to see you at League's February 19th, 2009 General Meeting...bring a friend!

**OFFER A RIDE TO SOMEONE ! ASK FOR A RIDE
IF YOU NEED ONE ! Call Mary Ann 693-3575 or a
Leaguer living close to you..."if you tell someone what
you need, you'll probably get it!" JUST ASK!
Leaguers are "activists"...so ACT!**

HELPFUL SITES TO KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED AND TO DO ADVOCACY 24/7 !

League of Women Voters of Henderson County - www.lwvhcnc.org

League of Women Voters (National) www.LWVUS.org

League of Women Voters (North Carolina) www.LWVNC.org

VOTE411.org (non-partisan election and voter information)

Factcheck.org (non-partisan; check accuracy of political ads and allegations)

Contact Legislators:

- internete-mail@ncleg.net (readable by all Legislators)
- ncsenatemembers@ncleg.net (readable by all Senators)
- nchousemembers@ncleg.net (readable by all House Members)

HAPPY 89TH BIRTHDAY LWVUS!**Nancy Glowacki, Pres.**

“The year was 1920 when the nation felt a jolt! The women of our country finally won the right to vote! And in that year another special ‘happenin’ was done, when the League of Women Voters saw its life begun!”.

Our League performing troupe has sung these words in front of varied audiences with satirical humor and great pride ! In 89 years, League , powered by volunteers who do a professional job, has been driven by its mission to educate and advocate and to promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive! Here in Henderson County, for 44 years, that mission has been mirrored ; the LWVHC has much of which to be proud! Many programs and institutions exist here because League put their shoulder to the task and need.

All of the above is a perfect reason to bring us all together on Feb. 12 to celebrate the past, renew our vigor for the present, and build community with former, elder, and current members ! We will remember, share and just talk...we will sing and be sung to...we will “break cake” together...and have a great time, all of us volunteers! **IT’S A UNIQUE EVENT! BE THERE!**

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT STUDY GROUP**Natalie Zitnick, Democracy Speaks, Chair**

Two meetings of the first National Popular Vote Compact Committee have been held: Jan. 13 and January 29. Members of the Study Group are : Kathy Baluha, Helen Wright, Marion Huffman, Natalie Zitnick, Lee Luebbe, Iris Vanek, Ruth Haines, and Rudi Simko. - The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 16, 1 – 3 PM at the Flat Rock Village Hall at which time the pros and cons of NPV will be the content of the meeting as well as the actual wording of the Compact.

Information for the NPV Compact Study can be found on www.lwv.org. March and April editions of the Bulletin will convey pros and cons as well as consensus questions. Consensus on this fast track study will be conducted at the April 16, Agudas Israel Synagogue, 7 PM.

. Be sure to participate! What organization is better equipped than the LWVUS to tackle this topic!

BACKGROUND FOR THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

The NPV Compact proposal uses the mechanism of the EC. States that legislatively enact the NPV Compact would agree that their state electors would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Thus, the popular vote count from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together. State elections officials in all states participating would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes.

This alternative method of assigning a state’s EC votes would take effect only when enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. This 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States.

The plan includes procedural provisions to help assure smooth functioning of the agreement – conditions that deal with states deciding to withdraw from the Compact at the last moment, enforcement issues and recounts.

Currently four states have passed legislation to enact the NPV Compact.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT POSITION OF LWVUS RELATED TO THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT?

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the Direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for the presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

WHAT DOES THE CONSTITUTION STATE ABOUT STATES' POWERS AS RELATED TO THEIR ELECTORAL VOTES ?

The U.S. Constitution (Article 11, Section 1, Clause 2) gives the states “exclusive” and “plenary” power to control the manner of awarding of their electoral votes.

“Each State shall appoint in such Manner **as the Legislature thereof may direct**, a Number of Electors....” (emphasis added).

UPDATE ON NATURAL RESOURCES LOCAL

Submitted by Jan Allen , Chair/Advocate

Since several League members have become aligned with ECO and are working to support League positions as well as become more familiar with the work of environmental groups in HC, viable outcomes are emerging.

Katie Breckheimer and Marian Lowry are working on revising our local position on Solid Waste, which was last revised in 1998. The revision will be complete before our annual meeting in May.

Geri Conley (for the League) and Katie Breckheimer (for ECO) have been instrumental in the upcoming forum on recycling jointly sponsored by LWVHC and ECO. The forum will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. at the library. An article about this event follows this update.

Jan Allen is helping ECO repair and refurbish nets used in water quality assessment and will take training this spring to help collect water samples from area streams, an important function of ECO.

LEAGUE AND ECO COLLABORATE ON RECYCLING EVENT

Submitted by Katie Breckheimer, LWVHC and ECO

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County and ECO (the Environmental Conservation Organization) will co-sponsor a forum on recycling on Tuesday, February 17, from 7:00 to 8:45pm in the Kaplan auditorium of the downtown library. Panelists will present on topics related to the forum's title:

“Local Recycling - Where Are We Now, and Where Are We Going?” Questions from the audience will be addressed after the panel speaks.

In May, 2008, the Henderson County Commissioners gave unanimous consent to a 20-yr Solid Waste Vision plan. Within the Vision was a call for stepped-up county recycling programs. The first 3 forum panelists will represent the County: **Commissioner Chuck McGrady, Solid Waste Manager Will Sagar, and Sustainability Coordinator Adrienne Outcalt.** They will discuss various elements of the 20-yr vision plan.

Also presenting will be **Tom Wooten, Director of Public Works** for the City of Hendersonville. Wooten will explain how the City manages its current collection, in which residents have their waste picked by a Public Works crew, and their recyclables picked up by Curbside Management Incorporated, a material recovery company based in Woodfin.

The final panelist will be **Tom Rhodes from the NC Department of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance**. Rhodes will speak to the state's recent legislation, S1492, and explain what new oversight and assistance we can expect from the state. He will also mention some of the more effective and efficient waste reduction programs in North Carolina and how Henderson County compares.

"ECO and the League are collaborating on this forum because both organizations believe that waste reduction and recycling are very important elements of a good integrated Solid Waste program," stated organizer Geri Conley. Conley, an avid recycler, is a member of both League's Natural Resources Committee and ECO's Recycling Committee.

EMERGING WATER SHORTAGES?

Barbara Barnett, Chair-Advocate.... Natural Resources State/National

The LWVUS has developed Principles and Public Policy Positions after study of the issues. The Natural Resources Principle is "to promote conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest." The League Resource Management position states "Resource Management decisions must be based on a thorough assessment of population growth and of current and future needs. The carrying capacity of each area's natural resources must be considered in the process,..." (Impact on Issues).

The North Carolina State Assembly commissioned a study by the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Duke University on Water Management. The Study recommended : 1) the establishment of a permit system for industries, utilities and municipalities & others; 2) the development of planning models for 17 river basins, 3) the establishment of statewide goals for water conservation; 4) the encouragement of water systems to charge sufficient rates to cover operating maintenance costs.

The ongoing drought offers a glimpse of the future. Conflicts over water resources are evident: South Carolina has filed suit over water rights with North Carolina. The Co-Chair of the State Environmental Review Commission will be introducing legislation for a Comprehensive Plan for Water Policies. This is the kind of Legislation the LWV State Board should be considering and assessing for support in the 2009 State Assembly.

The Henderson County Commission has formed the HC Water Supply and Distribution Task Force to determine what the water demand is within Henderson County and whether the area has enough water to meet it. Henderson County has 44 public water systems and Hendersonville is the largest supplier of water in the County (Times News 1-16-09).

The economic development policy goals of the HC Comprehensive Plan may be in conflict with the changing contemporary weather patterns. The priority issues are growth management, the County's economy, and fiscal concerns. The Strategic Plan and Land Development Code carries out the aforementioned stated priorities. The present controversy over the extension of water lines to subdivisions contrary to the Comprehensive Plan is tenuous. The wording of prohibitions of development is modified, e.g. "most" industrial or regional land uses should be prohibited in the RAA zoning area.

Recently the HC Planning Board decided against making changes to the Land Development Code that would require developers to provide proof of sufficient water supply in rural areas to get final approval, i.e., 60 percent of proposed lots. The Constitution of the United States gives the States the power to regulate intrastate commerce. The Supreme Court has defined this provision as "all business". Counties are the creation of the State and carry out the "Police Powers": the health, safety and welfare of the people. States have required counties and cities to develop Comprehensive Plans . In 1926, the Euclid Case found that each community had the right to determine its own character as long as it did not disturb orderly growth. The States "Enabling Acts" for planning allows for modification and exceptions to an ordinance. **This is why the League of Women Voters should support a Comprehensive Statewide Water Plan with goals for Water Conservation.**

STATE LEAGUE BOARD TO HOST REGIONAL MEETING IN ASHEVILLE MARCH 14 AND WE'RE ALL INVITED! Lee Luebbe

The LWVNC Board is moving around the State of NC to give local Leagues an opportunity to put faces with names and to conduct a workshop for the local Leagues in western North Carolina. League of Macon County, Madison County, Henderson County and Asheville/Buncombe Leagues will be coming together **Saturday, March 14, 10 AM , at the Deerfield Retirement Center, 1617 Hendersonville Road, Asheville.**

The title of the **workshop is “Don’t Beat a Dead Horse”** -- is one way to say that not every League needs to have the same model of leadership in order to carry out the mission and vision of LWVNC. Flexibility is needed to meet today’s schedules and demands. It will be great to share ideas and learn from each other.

Save the date now if you’d like to meet other League members, share what we are each doing successfully and what we might learn from each other. More details will be forthcoming in LWVHC March Bulletin and in NC Voter.

The **State Board meeting will be held Friday evening, March 13, 7 – 9 PM** at the Deerfield Retirement Living Center – same address as above. State Board meetings are **open to any and all League members.** In conducting State Board meetings and regional workshops in various parts of the State, the LWVNC is anticipating local League members will attend and thereby get more connected to the members of the State Board and also gain support from other local Leagues.

GOOD NEWS FROM STATE LWV !

Beverly Kawalec, Advocacy Chair, is happy to announce that the LWVNC has hired Ms. Erin Connelly to be our Project Coordinator. Erin started work last Monday and has jumped right in to the position.

Erin is a native North Carolinian who now lives in Knightdale. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree (2004) from Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia with a major in Political Science/Public Policy and Community Service. She lived and worked in Washington, DC, from 2005 to 2008. She returned to North Carolina for a more balanced and less stressful life. She is excited about working for the League and is already working enthusiastically.

Erin will work part time, up to 20 hours per week. As Project Coordinator her main duties will be reporting to the League membership about the League issues in the General Assembly; coordinating the activities of the State Convention; and developing and implementing a fund raising database. Erin will work from home with occasional trips to the shared office. Erin will report to Judie Burke.

NEW MEMBER NEWS Mary Ann Engel, Membership Chair

Please welcome our newest member, **Shirley Younger.** Shirley moved to Hendersonville from Rochester, New York just two months ago to be closer to her son and his family. Although she’s never been a member of League before, she says that whenever she wanted to know more about propositions which were to be on the ballots, she checked our League’s website for the details. Last year Shirley visited Susan B. Anthony’s home and is very interested in the wonderful heritage of our strong, pioneering women in the fight for women’s rights. While she hopes to become involved in one or more of our committees, right now she’d like to “start small” and check out where she’d like to fit in. You can reach Shirley at 692-4170 or Shirley.younger@att.net. Her new home is in Plantation Walk at 137 Exeter Court, Hendersonville, 28791.

HERE'S A "HEADS UP" ON HEALTH PROGRAM AT MARCH GENERAL MEETING Martha Sachs, Social Policy Chair/Advocate

Our March 19th General Meeting, " To Your Health", will present two sides of a very thorny and timely subject, universal health care.

On the one hand, **The N.C. Justice Center, Health Access Coalition will be coming from Raleigh** to give a presentation on the plan they believe is the only one that has a chance of passage in the State Legislature. **This is a plan, similar to that proposed by President Obama**, which would continue to utilize private insurers to provide coverage, but with a variety of government subsidies available to those unable to afford the different premiums.

The U.S. League of Women Voters has long held a position favoring a " Single Payer System ". We will be showing an extremely informative and comprehensive DVD, entitled "Health, Money and Fear" from a physician in Oregon, which has numerous presenters explaining what is wrong within our present system. It covers the pharmaceutical industry, the liability and tort system, the insurers, the rationing of care, the primary care crisis and other problems. Then, "what can we do about it?"

It is our hope that, after viewing this, you will be as excited as we are about the possibility of spreading it to friends and family throughout the U.S. and urging them to pass it on to their Senators and Congressional Representatives. If enough people write, phone and e-mail - we can make it happen. A majority of physicians in this country are already supporting it. The time is now!

The meeting will be held from 3 – 5:30 pm (a little extra time in case discussion requires it), at Agudas Israel Temple, located at the intersection of White Pine Drive and Glasgow. It is open to the public - as are all LWVHC meetings. **Y'all come!**

LEGISLATION...HEDGE-I-SLATION...HOW DO WE KEEP UP WITH IT? FROM THE LEADERSHIP Nancy Glowacki, Pres.

As members of League, we are committed to the responsibility of "being in the know" about legislation creation in committees, whether or not the contents are in sync with League positions, and when they are about to be voted on, if League has something to say, it needs to "say it" loud and clear to our elected officials. That's a lot to expect of each one of us and the volume of legislation under consideration is a challenge. Fortunately we have members with specific portfolios and knowledge of what's happening who give our League members **ALERTS! CALL TO ACTION!** on occasion. We know that letters work...phone calls work and as Leaguers, this work is our work. **AND SO WE ACT! PROMPTLY AND IN NUMBERS! No "hedge-i-slation" (or hesitation) on legislation!**

From the NC Voter, **"it is both a right and a responsibility of citizenship to advocate and lobby. Embracing a cause, attempting to shape public opinion, and working to improve your community is active civic engagement."** Have you been noticing and reading our League's Sunday column **"The League View"** in the Times-News ? focuses on this very concept of educating citizens as to how they can get involved in the community...the why's, the how's, and wherefore's! Renee Kumor has been doing a spectacular job of turning columns out like "hotcakes" , encouraging, educating, and enlightening people to this process of "right and responsibility".

Beverly Kawalec, State League Board, responsible for Legislative Updates from the State said in her January 2009 report that the **NC 2009-10 General Assembly** session requires a majority of all members to be present in the Senate and House; they meet in their respective chambers Monday thru Thursday and meeting in committees re: specific bills. They then return home to be available to their constituents (that's us) on weekends. **The LWVNC has set 4 focii during this Regular Session 1) campaign and election reform, 2) access to government, 3) environment and 4) tax and budget fairness. The League will continue to send us updates. Martha Sachs, our Social Policy Chair, expressed grave concern that Healthcare is not included . *More next Bulletin! Keep a watchful eye!**

SHARE AND CARE...

Several of us attended visiting hours and/or the Life Celebration for **Lillie Ricketts**, a beloved League member. Lillie was the best friend of Madeline Royes, another League member; and Lillie’s smile and loving spirit will be missed by all the people she has touched over her years of community service, very notably with WCCA and related projects...always ready to help.

Our empathy and support was also extended to **John Bahnak** a League member who experienced the loss of his wife Val.

Sherry Harris is starting her recovery from rotator cuff surgery two weeks ago (we’re hoping to drive her to the Birthday Party in two more) and **Joe Glowacki** is driving and doing extremely well after shoulder replacement Dec. 3. Bionic Leaguers!...sounds dangerous indeed!

How about sending some cheery “hello” cards to a Leaguer, **Jean Weaver**, one of our elders and long time members, who is now confined to a wheelchair in her apartment at Heritage Hills. She says she “misses League” so much and we will do our best to transport her to the Birthday Celebration! Her address is 2500 Heritage Circle, HVL, NC 28791. She would love visits too!

LWVHC CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2009

Thurs. Feb. 5 11-1 Board Meeting	WCCA Conference Room
Thurs. FEBRUARY 12TH HAPPY BIRTHDAY PARTY !! 2-4 PM FOR ALL WHO LOVE LEAGUE!	The invites have been sent, phone calls made, rides arranged and we’re looking to CELEBRATE 89 YEARS OF LWVUS at the Trinity Presbyterian Church on Blythe from 2-4...talk, sing, eat cake and “raise a hulla-ba-loo”! Former and current members, all ages, are most welcome. Need a ride? Call Mary Ann 693-3575 or Nancy 693-5257 PLEASE! We’ll come get-cha! Note: if schools are closed because of snow, we are too!
Tues. FEB. 17TH LWVHC AND ECO CO- SPONSOR RECYCLING FORUM	A MOST IMPORTANT UPDATE ON LOCAL RECYCLING...“Where are we now and where are we going”. Please see the article for details about speakers and content.
FEB. 19th 4-6 pm League’s General Meeting Speaker: Lena Adas “A Muslim Woman’s Perspective”	Celebrating Diversity ! Listening to others...really hearing their experience, their perspective...engaging in dialogue...all this goes a long way toward understanding ! See the front page for more details, and plan on coming and bringing a friend to League. When we build community, we build League.
FEB. 25	DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ARTICLES ; publishing date March 1.
March 5 11-1 BOARD MEETING	WCCA Conference Room
March will also be an exciting month for League!	Coming up! March brings SPRING!, Women’s History Month, a General Meeting on HEALTH (and a healthy debate!), and Sunshine Week !

"Promoting Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation..."



