

LOCAL STUDY ITEMS

- 1967 First Publication of "Your Local Government".
- 1968 Study of Education in Henderson County.
Primer study of planning and zoning in Henderson County.
Planned study of all departments of city/county.
- 1970 Recreation. First department studied. As a result Alice Porter, League member, was appointed 1st chairperson. County bought 150 acres of property and Jackson Park was developed.
- 1971 A study of consolidation of city/county governments.
- 1973 Local study proposed - to define the scope of child problems, their causes and possible solutions. Study was pursued and out of it grew a sub-committee which concentrated on working on alternatives to training school for children who are status offenders.
- 1976 A home with teaching parents was established for children who had committed status offenses. The home was called New Horizons.
- 1980 A shelter was opened for taking children who needed short term assistance

HUMAN RESOURCES

The League's interest in children expanded to include all ages. In addition, studies began on health care, eldercare, community housing and migrant health. Members contributing to these studies were Fran Schneider (Ch. of Migrant Council and later Blue Ridge Health Center for many years), Marion Lowery, Polly Kremer, Savie Underhill, Grace Poli and many more.

EDUCATION

- 1968 League observed city and county Boards of Education. At first were coldly received, gradually warming up until we, indeed, felt welcome.
- 1971 Studied the Pilot Kindergarten program. (There were - 73 only pilot public kindergarten programs in the state).
- 1979 Vists by League members to Jr. High Schools, East High and Hendersonville High were made. These visits were discussed and reported to League membership.
- 1980 Visited boards of Education of city and county schools. Reported facts on teacher certification and training, funding and accreditation. No study was made of merger

- 1986 The education study group contacted appropriate education officials and completed the state questionnaire for monitoring the Basic Education Plan. The group also sponsored a community meeting featuring as speaker Dr. Maniloff, author of the Basic Education Plan.
- 1987 The League sponsored open discussions and informative - 90 League programs on the matter of school merger.
- 1993 The Hendersonville City and Henderson County school systems were consolidated into the Henderson County School System. League members Michelle Burns and Rebecca Sigmon did outstanding work in the school merger. Linda Hawk has served on the County Board of Education for two terms. Julia Sellers served on the City Board for 21 years, retiring with the merger.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- 1966 A Uniform Court System was studied, consensus was reached, and several programs were presented to civic groups.
- 1973 A panel discussion on Juvenile Justice was presented to the League. This program stimulated interest in the Community and was followed with a luncheon meeting, attended by 85 members and non-members interested in a counseling and residential center for juveniles. The League helped to finance a slide-sound program on "Juveniles in Trouble".
- 1976 Participated in the State Criminal Justice program. -
- 77 Reached consensus. Studied and visited local prison facilities and youth homes.
- 1979 League members visited Swananoa Juvenile Evaluation Center. The League participated in a statewide survey on juvenile crime and facilities across North Carolina.
- 1980 Programs on Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Code.
- 81 Program on Women in Prison.
- 1981 A two year court observer program. Speakers from the
- 83 court system spoke to the forty+ court observers. All sessions of civil and criminal court were observed by one or two League members. Reports were made at committee meetings. In the second year of observing the Chairman spoke before the Court Commission of the State Legislature on the group's recommendations. A public meeting was also held. League members spoke to Civic groups for study and recommendations. They joined with other interested groups to form a steering committee to study the possibility of developing a mediation center.

The Henderson County Dispute Settlement Center was organized. (with League member Fran Schneider as chair) The League contributed \$1,000 to it for seed money. The Dispute Center continues to grow. In 1992 the center had 47 mediators and handled about 800 cases.

- 1993 The League was very interested and involved with the planning of the new Court House. The ground was broken and the construction began in 1993

NATURAL RESOURCES

- 1971 A new State study item "A Study of Land Use Planning"
- 73 in N.C., brought about the formation of a local study unit with focus on TVA dams. The Upper French Broad Council of Governments was organized to replace the original Upper French Broad Economic Development Commission. It is now the Land of Sky Regional Council.
Quoting from our 1972 bulletin "We still have time to frame our future - think well, plan well, do well".
- 1974 Four League members attended a Mountain Area Land Use workshop in Asheville. This was followed by the Henderson County Planning Board presenting a panel discussion on the need for planning in Henderson County.
- 1976 A series of three seminars were held at Blue Ridge
- 77 Community College, sponsored by the Henderson County League of Women voters, Blue Ridge College, Soil Conservation and Agricultural Extension Service. The seminars were entitled "Growth Options for Henderson County" and were well attended by the public as well as League members.
- 1983 The County Planning Board presented the LWV consensus at a public hearing - a consensus from past studies on growth and planning.
- 1984 The League spoke on its position on outdoor advertising at the City council sign ordinance public hearing. Ann Lippincott, League member was chair. A Natural Resources Committee was organized to study local water/sewer facilities. Part of the study included tours of the city reservoir and the water/sewer treatment plants.
- 1989 The league launched a Recycling Education Drive.
- 90 "Recycling Education Days" were held on a Saturday and Monday from 7:00 until 4:00. The LWV, the Hendersonville Dept. of Public Works and the Henderson County Landfill sponsored the event.

1991 The League of Women Voters was an active initiator of a Natural Heritage Inventory of Henderson County. This inventory consists of a systematic search by a qualified biologist for best examples of significant natural areas and locations of rare species in the county. The completed inventory will serve as a planning tool for local planners and government officials, as an educational tool for teachers and students, and as a resource for environmentalists and recreationalists. Recommendations will be made for acquiring and/or protecting the areas found to be the most valuable for preserving the county's natural heritage.

The League's role included a significant challenge grant from a League member and the active participation by three League members on the Executive Committee of the Natural Heritage Inventory project. In addition two former presidents of the League kept themselves informed and lent their support to the committee as the project evolved. The Committee raised the necessary funds (\$25,000), organized a one-day workshop to educate the local community about natural areas inventories and land trusts and in 1992 engaged a biologist for a two year study. After the presentation of the report in 1994, the League is expected to continue to support the committee as it moves forward to form a private, non-profit land conservation trust to carry out the recommendations of the report. League members active in the project were Lela McBride, Ann Ulinski, Polly Kremer

VOTER SERVICE

1964 One of the reasons for the formation of the Henderson County LWV was the need for a new registration. The League worked for a new registration system and Henderson County was one of ten counties in the State to institute the new Loose-leaf Registration System, including a duplicate master file.

The league published its first "ABC's of Voting" and distributed 5,000 copies through industry, banks, Post Office, Library, Welcome Wagon, Court House, City Hall and Chamber of Commerce.

1968 Radio and the local newspaper were used to inform the public about candidates and their qualifications. A candidate's Information Sheet was published for the City Election.

1970 Candidate's information sheet was published and a candidate's meeting was held in October.

- 1971 The Voter Service Unit met weekly to study the voting
- 73 process and to conduct a study co-sponsored by the
National League to determine obstacles in the voting
system that discourage voters. The League supplied
non-partisan observers at precincts.
- 1974 Candidate sheet in Times-News and a candidates meeting
- 75 for the public.
- 1983 Co-sponsored with Asheville League a Congressional
debate.
The League helped in counting absentee ballots at
the request of the local Election Board.
- 1986 Candidates meeting. A new "Our Local Government" was
updated and 1500 copies distributed.
- 1988 League members responded when the Election Board
- 93 requested their help.
Candidates sheets were printed in Times News for every
election, even for the municipal elections and
candidates meetings were held.