

*Serving Henderson County for 60 years*

## Powering and Protecting Our Democracy



**2023 Annual Meeting  
June 15, 2023**

**LWVHC Annual Membership Meeting  
JUNE 15, 2023  
Powering & Protecting Our Democracy**

**MEETING AGENDA**

WELCOME – Brenda Sherrer, President

SPEAKER

**Dr. Steven D. Crane**

**Health Equity: How Can We improve Health Outcomes for Everyone?**



Dr. Crane has practiced family medicine in Western North Carolina since 1986, serving primarily rural and underserved populations in a variety of settings. He is a Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill. A member of the NC Institute of Medicine, Dr. Crane is recognized as a national thought leader in the areas of patient-centered, primary care practice redesign and new models of care.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Appoint Parliamentarian/Quorum  
Approve Minutes of 2022 Meeting  
State of the League in Henderson County

**NEW BUSINESS**

Adoption of Proposed Budget  
Election of Officers and Directors  
Adoption of Program Priorities For 2023-2024  
Approval of revision to the bylaws to reduce quorum to 15%  
Appointment of Committee to Review Minutes  
Directions to the Board

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Announcements

**ADJOURN**

# **LWVHC BOARD LEADERSHIP**

**2022-2023**

President: Brenda Sherrer  
Vice-President: Cindi Sthreshley  
Secretary: Liz Hill  
Treasurer: Nancy Pellegrini  
Elected Directors:  
Paul Goebel  
Judy Katz  
Gretchen Levine  
Jane Pulling

Appointed Director:  
Lynn McFarland

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## **REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The 2022-2023 Nominating Committee presents the following slate for election.

### **OFFICERS:**

President – Ernest (Ernie) Mowell (2 yrs. 2023-2025)  
Secretary – Mary Kay Krokowski (2 yrs. 2023-2025)

### **ELECTED DIRECTORS: 2 years 2023-2025**

Lynn McFarland  
Jane Pulling

### **ELECTED DIRECTOR: 1 year 2023-2024**

Marcella Leshner (to replace an unexpired elected Board position from 2022-2024)

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 1 year 2023-2024**

Liz Hill  
Gretchen Levine  
Sandra Mowell

### **Continuing on Board 2023-2024**

### **OFFICERS:**

Vice President - Cindi Sthreshley  
Treasurer: Nancy Pellegrini

### **ELECTED DIRECTOR:**

Paul Goebel

## Program Priorities 2023-24

Based on results of a member survey last spring, we will realize the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy by focusing our efforts on the following top priorities:

- Public Education
- Immigration
- Representative Government (election laws & process/fair districts/campaign finance)
- Women's Rights (including reproductive choice)
- Health Equity

The LWVHC will provide educational and advocacy opportunities to members on these priority areas. Individual member are encouraged to continue with state initiatives in other areas including Affordable Housing, Health Care, and Environmental Issues. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will continue to inform everything we do.

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### Proposed Bylaws Revision for Vote at June 15, 2023 Members Meeting

Our quorum requirement for the Annual Meeting is currently 20%. Most League bylaws call for 10-15%. Since our older and student members are often not able to be physically present at the meeting, we want to reduce our quorum to 15%. The Board of Directors has approved this change, and it now must be voted on by members at our Annual Meeting.

#### Existing Bylaws

#### ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

#### Section 2. Annual Meeting.

- A. An annual meeting shall be held during the last quarter of the fiscal year, the date to be determined by the Board of Directors.
- B. The annual meeting shall adopt local program/priorities for the ensuing year; elect officers and members of the nominating committee; adopt a budget; and transact such other business as may properly come before it. All items to be presented to the members for adoption at the annual meeting, including the slate of officers and directors, the proposed budget, and local program/priorities, shall be provided to all members at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting.
- C. The quorum for the annual meeting shall be twenty percent (20%) of the members.

#### Proposed Revision to Article V, Section 2, Item C:

- C. The quorum for the annual meeting shall be ~~twenty (20%)~~ **fifteen (15%)** percent of the members.

## **State of the League: Powering and Protecting Our Democracy**

This in-person annual meeting is the first we have held since the COVID pandemic kept us apart, and it could not come at a better time. There is so much to be thankful for: our League is growing; our League is a responsible community partner; our League welcomes everyone without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, or political party. However, we are cognizant of how hyper-partisan these times are, and we are reminded that our democracy is fragile. Democracy is not a spectator sport; it requires a committed response from each of us. We come together to celebrate the success we share and the awesome responsibility we have to power and protect our democracy.

The hyper-partisan environment and divisive nature of our politics is very discouraging. If we surrender to our fear, we lose sight of our purpose. Your League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to our members and the public. In the last few weeks, we have experienced court decisions that, on the surface, appear to be set-backs. However, they are temporary as long as we stay engaged in the fight. Our shared vision and mission are strengthened when we join together. It is the diversity of the League of Women Voters that helps us continue the advocacy work we are designed to accomplish. We want every eligible voter to have equal access to the ballot box, and we want a robust democracy in which everyone has an equal voice and equal representation. This is the America we want.

Those voices espousing disinformation/misinformation win if we succumb to acts of intimidation. They want us to believe we are powerless. The diversity within Henderson County is our strength, whether your family has been here for generations or whether this is your first year. The richness of our life experiences and the value we add to our community makes our League unique within North Carolina. Our shared values, purpose and vision strengthen us to advocate for just causes. Together we will defeat those who want to revise American history, and challenge our democratic principles, policies, and practices. Our League members represent diverse opinions and positions which can be found across the American political spectrum. What brings us together is our commitment to voter empowerment and defending democracy.

Today I ask you to renew your commitment to the work we have in front of us by registering voters, observing local government, being a voice for our immigrant community and volunteering to lead opportunities for our members to learn through education and awareness programs. Your active involvement provides the foundation upon which we build and maintain the viability of our League. The League of Women Voters of Henderson County, your League, is strong because of your commitment. We will continue to uphold our nonpartisan values for fairness, justice, and equality because they form the foundation of our representative democracy. We will strive to create a stronger, more inclusive, just, and equitable democracy for all American voters, a place where everyone has a voice.

We are poised to fight back against egregious anti-voter laws, gerrymandered maps, climate injustice, and attacks on women and their health care. Each of us must continue to use the skills we have to protect the democracy we enjoy. Make a commitment today to join the fight.

As a League we continue to grow in numbers and in visibility. Current membership is 126, including 3 students and 4 lifetime members.

Throughout the year, the League has published letters to the editor and has supported member letter writing and phone calls to elected officials. Via our updated website, biweekly Updates, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and in radio interviews, we promoted our own events and collaborated with community partners.

Our Voter Services, Education, Immigration, Student Engagement, and H/OT (Home & Observer) teams supported and/or sponsored programs for community and League members and continue to advocate in support of vital positions.

We continue our outreach to students and remain engaged with Henderson County Public Schools. As of May 2023, we have registered a total of 140 voters. The Voter Services team registered 103 young voters in a little over 2 hours at North Henderson High School.

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION, THANKS, AND SHOUT OUTS**

- Our Lifetime Members: Kathy Baluha (who achieved her 50 years this year); Marian Lowry, Marion Huffman and Lee Luebbe.
- The League of Women Voters Wishes to thank Karen Hebb, Director of Elections for Henderson County. Ms. Hebb provided 36 years of Exemplary Service to the Voters of Henderson County."
- Retiring Board Members: Brenda Sherrer (Past President), Liz Hill (Secretary/League Update), Judy Katz, Gretchen Levine and Nominating Committee Members: Annette Dubrouillet and Marcella Leshner
- Jan Allen (webmaster), Rachel Poller (League Update and Home/Observer Team Chair)
- Team Chairs/Co-Chairs, Committee Chairs: Nan Jennings, Sharon Burlingame, Kathy Trice, Patti Rogers, Jane Pulling, Bettie Liebzeit, Pam Pazoles and Paul Goebel

We owe our accomplishments to all of you who have participated and contributed your time, money, hard work, and talent. If you are not already serving on or chairing/co-chairing a team or committee, please join us. We welcome your support.

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

- Joyce Day
- David Hansma
- Kathleen Anderson Lees
- Debi Miller

Brenda J. Sherrer, President

## **Minutes of LWVHC Membership Meeting June 14, 2022**

President Brenda Sherrer began the meeting at 11:02 am, saying “Good morning and a very warm welcome. We’re here today to thank all of you, share our accomplishments from the past year, take care of the business we need to attend to at our annual meeting, and to reconfirm our League of Women Voter values and commitments.”

Brenda then introduced our speaker, Renee Kumor, who has lived in the area for over forty years and has had many roles in our local league, including as our President from 1981-83. She served as secretary for LWV North Carolina; served as a county commissioner; wrote a column for over 15 years for the Times-News newspaper, and is currently writing a romance mystery series called The River Bend Chronicles. Renee’s talk was titled Henderson County Knows We Are Here. It highlighted the history and influence of the Henderson County League, the ongoing necessity of getting nonpartisan information to voters, and the importance of becoming aware and involved in local government.

Brenda then called to order the Business portion of the meeting, noting that members were emailed all items for action one month prior to the meeting. Parliamentarian MaryAnn Engel confirmed the quorum required to conduct business. Board Secretary Liz Hill reminded members that the minutes of the 2021 meeting had been reviewed and placed on the web site. As there were no corrections brought forth, those minutes were considered approved.

Brenda announced the winner of our annual \$500 student award in honor of Francee Sherman, our first president. The Award is given to any senior enrolled in a public high school who is on track to graduate in the current school year and plans to attend a post-secondary education program. The students must submit an essay on a specific topic; this year’s topic was What is the role of public schools in supporting our democracy? The 2022 Award went to Hailey Kasney, a graduate of West Henderson High School. She received her award on June 3 at a school assembly. This year, Hailey also worked on an Advanced Placement research paper exploring this League’s role in second-wave feminism and spoke with some of our long-time members. She will be attending Duke University in the Fall. Her future is bright and we are very pleased to present this award to her.

Brenda then gave her report on the State of the League of Women Voters of Henderson County.

We in LWVHC have worked hard all year long, adjusting our lives around a global pandemic, caring for our families and each other while remaining faithful to the core values, mission and vision of the League. It is important to strengthen the bonds within the League, but it is equally important to value the role we play in shaping our community. It is imperative that we continue to tell our story and show how we contribute to educating voters in Henderson and Polk counties. Even with the constraints imposed by the COVID variants, we were not deterred and remained active and engaged. Following the CDC guidelines, we used a hybrid approach that included in-person and online meetings via Zoom to conduct Voter Services activities and programs, and all board and team meetings. We held voter registration and information events at farmers’ markets, Henderson and Polk County Public Schools, Hendersonville Community Co-op, Henderson County Library, and on Main Street. We continue to take action to engage the local community and provide value-added services that inform and educate our community.

The daily upheaval of global news and the possible upending of norms and laws may make us feel anxious. That is understandable. Even though the year has been filled with ups and downs, there is always a reason for hope. We must not turn back. We must continue to fight to protect accessible voting practices, to fight for democracy, to resist authoritarianism, to fight for voting rights, civil rights, and economic rights for all people. Our National League President, Dr. Deborah Turner, reminds us that a thriving democracy requires the engagement of active, informed people across generations and life experiences – those who vote and those who serve their communities and their country in many ways. Our skills and talent speak to the diversity of our membership and that is reflected in everything we do. Instead of being dismayed, we are poised to fight back against egregious anti-voter laws, gerrymandered maps, climate injustice, and attacks on reproductive rights. Each of us must determine how to use the skills we have to work together to protect the freedom we enjoy.

- As a League we continue to grow in numbers and in visibility. Current membership is 136, including 8 students and 3 lifetime members. We welcome our newest members, Mary Ellen Kustin and Debbie DeWall.
- Throughout the year, we've had League letters to the editor published and have supported member letter writing and phone calls to elected officials. Via our updated website, biweekly Updates, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and in radio interviews, we promoted our own events and collaborated with community partners.
- Our Voter Services, Education, Immigration, Student Engagement, and Home & Observer teams supported and/or sponsored programs for community and League members and continue to advocate in support of vital positions.
- Our VOTE411 website was updated for the primary election and the statistics for the site are great: we had a 236% increase in voter usage over the 2018 primary, and 64% of candidates who participated won their respective races.
- We continued our outreach to students and remained engaged with Henderson County Public Schools. We held our first ever video contest for middle schoolers, held our first voter registration event at Polk County Schools, and sponsored a program for the public that featured our superintendent of schools.

Finally, an update on our merger plans. A committee has been at work since last year to ensure that the merger of LWVHC and our Education Fund is done legally and with proper approvals. Just to recap:

- In May, 2021, the Board of the Education Fund (HCLWVEF) approved merging the Education Fund and the League of Women Voters of Henderson County.
- In June, 2021 the LWVHC Board approved moving toward merger, and a Merger Committee was appointed (Renee Kumor, Nan Jennings, Ruth Baldwin, Judith Katz, Brenda Sherrer, and Kelly Johnson.)
- Attorney Anderson Ellis of Van Winkle Law Firm has guided the committee throughout the year to prepare merger documents for approval by membership today, and for filing with the NC Secretary of State, and Henderson County. The LWVHC Board voted to approve the Merger Document in May 2022.

We owe our accomplishments to all of you who have participated and contributed your time, money, hard work, and talent. If you are not already serving on or chairing/co-chairing a team or committee, please join us. We welcome your support.



## ***SPECIAL RECOGNITION, THANKS, AND SHOUT OUTS***

Retiring Board Members: Rachel Poller (Past President), Caren Kessler (Voter Services Chair), Ruth Baldwin (Treasurer); and Nominating Committee Members: Bertie Woods, Charlie Wilkinson

### **Special Thanks to:**

Jan Allen (webmaster), Linda Hansma (League Update)

Team Chairs/Co-Chairs, Committee Chairs: Nan Jennings, Sharon Burlingame, Liz Hill, Kathy Trice, Gretchen Levine, Patti Rogers, Jane Pulling, Linda Miller, Bettie Liebzeit, Marcella Leshner, Paul Goebel

### ***IN MEMORY OF:***

Wilma Pomerantz

Martha Sachs, longtime member

Carol Weaver, Co-chair of Nominating and Fair Maps Team Leader

### **New Business**

After reviewing how voting and discussion would work via Zoom, Brenda then moved on to new business by recognizing Treasurer Ruth Baldwin.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ruth moved for the adoption of the 2022-2023 budget as provided to members on May 14th. Brenda said no second is necessary, and asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion, the vote was called and the motion carried.

Brenda recognized Bertie Woods of the Nominating Committee, who presented the proposed Slate for Election, as follows:

OFFICERS: 2 years 2022-2024

- Cindi Sthreshley, Vice President
- Nancy Pellegrini, Treasurer

ELECTED DIRECTORS: 2 years 2022-2024

- Paul Goebel
- Susan Laborde

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 1 year 2022-2023

- Marcella Leshner
- Kim Cathers
- Annette Dubrouillet

Brenda then opened nominations from the floor and none were heard. There being no further nominations, Brenda called for the vote and the Slate was elected.

Brenda recognized Gretchen Levine, who on behalf of the Board moved to approve the 2022-2023 Program Focus as provided to the membership on May 14th. Brenda said no second was necessary, and asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion, the vote was called and the motion carried.

Brenda recognized Judy Katz representing the Education Fund and our Board of Directors. Judy made the following motion: On behalf of the LWVHC Board of Directors, I move to approve the merger of the League of Women Voters of Henderson County and the Henderson County League of Women Voters Education Fund.

The motion was seconded by Liz Hill. After brief discussion the vote was called and the motion carried, with one nay vote.

A committee to proofread the meeting minutes was then appointed, consisting of Renee Kumor MaryAnn Engel, and Jan Allen. This completed the business portion of the meeting.

Brenda made the following announcements:

- Documents reflecting the merger transaction would be sent by our attorney to the NC Secretary of State for approval and once the filings are completed members would be updated through our newsletter.
- Special thanks to all who produced today's event and the written copy to be sent after the meeting.

Brenda then asked if there were any additional directions to the Board.

- Sandra Mowell raised the issue of a proposed by-laws change to be voted upon at LWVUS National Convention, in order to raise Board awareness of the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am with these words: Thank you for joining us on this journey as we continue to empower voters and defend democracy.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Hill, Secretary

Reviewed by:  
Jan Allen  
MaryAnn Engel  
Renee Kumor

## **LWVHC BUDGET 2023-24**

<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Member Dues	5500	all member categories
Donations	1500	
Fundraising		
Interest income	<u>20</u>	First Citizens & Community Foundation
	7020	
<b>Grants</b>		
LWVUS	500	based on past grants
LWVNC	<u>500</u>	based on past grants
	1000	
<b>Operating Income</b>		
Meals - Annual Meeting	1250	income from annual mtg reg fees
Reserve	<u>4775</u>	to cover shortage from expenses over income
	6025	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>14045</b>	

**EXPENSES**

<b>Administration</b>		
Advertising	200	local newspapers/magazines to promote LWV
Board Expenses	500	retreat, room rentals, holiday party, miscellaneous
Supplies	50	board, banking
PO Box	160	annual fee
Postage	10	stamps
Membership	300	ice cream social, meet & greet socials, admin expenses
Technology	700	Website, Quickbooks, Canva, MailChimp, Zoom subscriptions
Insurance	275	liability
Annual Mtg Room Rental	250	meeting room
Annual Mtg Member Meals	1250	estimate 50 attendees
Annual Mtg additional items	500	printing, table decorations, drinks, speaker gift
Professional fees	<u>150</u>	CFHC management fees
	4345	
<b>LVW Assessments</b>		
National PMP	3300	
State PMP	<u>1200</u>	
	4500	
<b>LVW Convention</b>		
State	0	
National	<u>1000</u>	registration fees
	1000	
<b>Program Support</b>		
<b>Voter Services Operating Expenses</b>		
Candidate Events	200	facility rentals - City Ops, Patton Park
Booth Rentals	200	Apple Festival, Mills River Day, Farmers Markets
Printing	700	
Supplies/Equipment	<u>200</u>	canopy replacement
	1300	subtotal
<b>VOTE411</b>		
WTZQ	150	combination banner/slider website ads - 1 month
Hendersonville Lightning	275	web banner/voter guide ad
Transylvania Times	100	web banner ad
Tryon Daily Bulletin	225	web banner ad
	<u>750</u>	subtotal
<b>Voter Services Total</b>	2050	
<b>Immigration Advocacy</b>	500	speaker, mtg room expenses
<b>Home/Observer Team (H/OT)</b>	150	mtg room, snacks/speaker expenses, gas/travel to Raleigh
<b>Education</b>		
. Francee Sherman Award	1000	two payments, June and January
Student Engagement	500	
Students for Democracy	<u>0</u>	
	1500	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>14045</b>	

## **2023 Committee Reports LWVHC - League in Action**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The newly-constituted Finance Committee held its inaugural meeting in August 2022. Its first business was to establish the committee's function, roles, and responsibilities which include treasurer duties, finance policy review, budget oversight, grants and fundraising, among others.

The League is now using QuickBooks Online for record keeping, making reporting easier.

In consideration of the League's new 501(c)(3) status, the committee investigated investing a portion of the League's funds with the Community Foundation of Henderson County. After several meetings, including conversations with and references from other local nonprofits, and approval of the Board, the League made a long-term, low-risk investment with the Community Foundation in the amount of \$15,000.

With its new tax status, the League's website was revised to reflect opportunities for tax-free donations including IRA distributions, donor-advised funds and bequests.

*Submitted by Nancy Pellegrini, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair*

### **LWVHC MEMBERSHIP**

Membership Committee has again had a busy year, welcoming 18 new and returning members. Membership is currently 124, including 102 primary, 15 household, 3 students, and 4 Lifetime Members: Kathy Baluha, who achieved her 50 years this year, along with Marian Lowry, Marion Huffman, and Lee Luebbe. We held informal coffee hours in the new year to give more in-person time for starting members to meet veteran members for orientation, information, and recruitment to current Committee and Advocacy projects. We are pleased to see so much interest in our League and anticipate continued growth. We would welcome any member who would like to work with the committee.

*Submitted by Sharon Burlingame and Nan Jennings, Membership Co-Chairs*

### **LWVHC COMMUNICATIONS**

Our communications team includes Jan Allen, Liz Hill, Nan Jennings, Rachel Poller, and Kathy Trice. This year we continued to work on expanding our outreach about major public policy issues related to voting, local candidates, redistricting efforts, women's rights, education, immigration, the environment, health care, and citizen participation in local government.

We are active on social media platforms including the Web, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Zoom. We use Canva for our graphics; our subscription allows us to create and schedule posts in advance for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Our Press Releases are featured regularly in local newspapers, and we have used special email advocacy alerts as needed. Our advertisement of events, on Zoom and/or in person, have generated good participation from the community. Additionally our Vote 411 video and other programs and training are now available on YouTube for public use.

Through social media we also repost from other non-partisan partners including Common Cause, Democracy NC, MountainTrue and the NAACP. This helps us to stay media present while supporting common themes and messages.

*Submitted by Gretchen Levine, Communications Chair*

## **VOTER SERVICES**

The transition from Caren Kessler to Lynn McFarland as Chair of Voter Services went smoothly during summer 2022. In the past year Voter Services:

- Held 13 Voter Engagement Events (4 more are planned for May-June 2023) at Blue Ridge Community College and various places such as the YMCA Mobile Market, the Hendersonville Community Co-op, Fletcher and Hendersonville branches of the library, the Hendersonville Farmers Market, Mills River Farmers Market and the NC Apple Festival.
- Registered 100 plus voters.
- Put together 1000 packets of information and distributed 125 to the main library for distribution at all branches and delivered 100 packets to Crystal Cauley in the Green River Community for distribution at a church dinner. Twenty packets were given to a local teacher at the YMCA Voter Engagement Event.
- Held two candidate events in October 2022; a Meet and Greet for various candidates at Patton Park and a Candidate Forum for School Board candidates at the City Ops building.
- Held a training session for Voter Engagement volunteers on correctly filling out the voter registration form.
- Monitored all Henderson County Board of Elections meetings and sent reports to NC State League of Women Voters.

*Submitted by Lynn McFarland, Voter Services Chair*

## **VOTE 411**

LWVUS, LWVNC, and LWV Henderson County provide a comprehensive, nonpartisan online voter guide so that voters can find all the information they need, from where to vote to what individual candidates stand for in our user-friendly, online guide. Our dedicated VOTE411 Team sent invitations to every candidate running for offices that Henderson, Transylvania and Polk County voters could vote for. Team members assisted in writing the candidate questions and provided support to candidates and voters alike as they accessed the website. This year we updated advertising options as well as partnered with the Asheville-Buncombe League to expand our advertising reach. Our homegrown PSA video was sent out to engage younger voters thanks to Charlie Wilkinson acting as writer, producer, and creative director. Special thanks to team members, Rachel Poller, Kathy Gevers, Barb Jackson, Charlie Wilkinson, Lynn McFarland, Nancy Pellegrini, John Ariatti, and Chris Berg.

*Submitted by Patti Rogers, VOTE411 Team Leader*

## **EDUCATION TEAM**

The Education Team sponsors several different programs, including Students Voting for Democracy and Student Engagement. The Education Team monitors local and state public education policies, issues, and legislation. We liaise with the League Of Women Voters of North Carolina's Education Task force through monthly zoom meetings, sending action alerts to the general membership as necessary. This winter, the Team led opposition to a push by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners to make local school board elections partisan. The Education Team presents an annual program for the membership and public where the Henderson County School Superintendent discusses issues currently facing our local public schools.

*Submitted by Jane Pulling, Education Team Chair*

## **STUDENTS VOTING FOR DEMOCRACY**

Students Voting For Democracy (SVFD) collaborated with the Henderson County Public Schools to conduct the 2022 mock election. Four teacher/facilitators (2 elementary, 1 middle and 1 digital) led the program in the elementary and middle schools. Five SVFD high school advisors worked with their individual school student government leaders in order to create more student engagement with the mock election.

A total of 5,811 students K-12 participated in the mock election, casting age-appropriate ballots for selected candidates and issues. There was an increase in the number of students participating at the middle and high schools from previous years due to this new structure. A goal for the 2024 election cycle is to increase the numbers of elementary students voting by more direct engagement with individual school liaisons and administrators.

SVFD co-chairs provided the school district with an age-appropriate non-partisan mini-civics education presentation for optional teacher use. The presentations were also made available on the LWVHC website. "I Voted" stickers were supplied to each school.

Since 2014, thousands of HC public school students have practiced their future responsibility of living in a democracy by casting informed votes.

The SVFD district facilitators and high school advisors are paid a stipend out of the Students Voting Henderson County Fund, chaired by Sharon Burlingame.

*Submitted by Pam Pazoles and Bettie Liebzeit, SVFD Team co-chairs*

## **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT TEAM**

The Student Engagement Team is pursuing a long-term goal of increasing League membership for high school and college students. We offer free memberships to any full-time student over the age of 16. For the last several years we have awarded a \$500 scholarship, the Francee Sherman Student Award, to a Henderson County graduating high school senior student who plans to go on to post-secondary education. This year we have increased the award to \$1000. Student Engagement also sponsors a high school video contest where students submit short videos based on a topic of public service.

We currently have three student members. We use social media to promote League activities and have created a digital "flyer" that can be texted to students who might be interested in joining the League. We will continue to seek ways to engage students in League activities. We welcome ideas and input from League members on ways to increase student participation in the League.

*Submitted by Kathy Trice, Student Engagement Chair*

## **H/OT (HOME & OBSERVER) Team**

The H/OT Team has had another sizzling year. Our Team membership has increased, and we've recently and happily transitioned from monthly Zoom meetings to in-person. Monthly reports from members on numerous county/municipal observations include: County Commission, School Board, City Council, Planning Department, Board of Elections, Health Department, City Police Committee, and others. Members attend these meetings both in-person and via Zoom. We also organized the successful March program at the library, "We're Growing....Now What?" where planners and administrators from the County, Laurel Park, City of Hendersonville, Mills River, and Flat Rock provided attendees with overviews of their respective communities, where they see themselves heading, and ways in which they could better collaborate. The H/OT Team also coordinates and participates in meetings between League representatives and elected officials.

*Submitted by Rachel Poller, Home & Observer Team Chair*

## **IMMIGRATION TEAM**

The Immigration Team continues to initiate partnerships and to network with local organizations working directly with the immigrant and migrant communities. Organizations such as True Ridge, El Centro, the Literacy Connection, Blue Ridge Community Health Services, and groups which provide welcome bags to seasonal migrant workers are invited to share information at our monthly meetings. On February 16, the team sponsored a well-attended program, “Exploring the Landscape of Immigrant Employment in Henderson County: Opportunities and Dilemmas.”

This has been a year of rebuilding. We have returned to in-person meetings with Zoom as an option. We are focusing on programs which we think will be of interest and benefit to the Henderson County community and hope to partner with experts in the area who serve that community in significant ways. One of our primary goals is to build and share our knowledge about immigration policy at the state and federal levels as we move forward to educate ourselves and advocate for immigration reform. We also seek to understand how immigration policy and the immigrant experience impacts the lives of our own community members. In particular, tuition equity for undocumented college students in North Carolina has been a focus for us. We continue to follow the guidance of LWV US advocacy statement on immigration as it helps to set our own priorities.

*Submitted by Marcella Leshner, Immigration Team Chair*

## **LWVNC State Convention 2023**

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County was well represented at the state convention of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina which met May 19-21 in Charlotte. Attending were: Brenda Sherrer, LWVHC President, Sandra Mowell, LWVNC Secretary, Ernie Mowell, LWVNC Nominating Committee, Sharon Burlingame, Nan Jennings, Jay Calloway, Jane Pulling, and Hendersonville’s Mayor, Barbara Volk, who served as parliamentarian for the convention.

Over the weekend, we accomplished the important business of convention plus we enjoyed a full program of speakers on a variety of timely topics: NC K-12 public education legislative update, the ERA-NC Alliance-update on ERA, how to spot and address misinformation, NC polarized politics, upcoming general legislative initiatives, and the keynote address by our national president, Dr. Deborah Turner. Dr. Turner also sat in on most of our Saturday sessions and was a warm and friendly presence, encouraging and inspiring. Special guests at the banquet were attorneys who have represented LWVNC: Judge Allison Riggs, NC Court of Appeals, and Justice Anita Earls, NC Supreme Court.

Most exciting of all was the Awards Ceremony where LWVHC won the Outstanding Local League Award for mid-sized Leagues. Brenda Sherrer accepted the Award on behalf of our League. Specifically mentioned in the Award was the work of the Education Team and Voter Services.

*Submitted by Nan Jennings*

**Past Leadership  
of  
League of Women Voters of Henderson County**

1963-1965	Francee Sherman
1965-1968	Eleanor Cosgrove
1968-1971	Rita Hopkins
1971-1973	Margaret Milroy
1973-1975	Sally Godehn
1975-1977	Kathy Baluha
1977-1978	Crystal Smith
1978-1981	Kathy Baluha
1981-1983	Renee Kumor
1983-1985	Barbara Volk
1985-1987	Mercedes Town
1987-1989	Linda Hawk
1989-1991	Marian Lowry
1991-1993	Grace Poli
1993-1995	Marion Huffman and Joyce Day
1995-1997	Rebecca Sigmon and Marcia Grady
1997-1999	Rebecca Sigmon
1999-2001	Marian Lowry and Ann Feldstein
2001-2003	Marian Lowry and Acee Hughes
2003-2005	Marian Lowry and Lee Luebbe
2005-2007	Lee Luebbe
2007-2011	Nancy Glowacki
2011-2014	Judy Katz
2014-2016	Sharon Burlingame
2016-2017	Sharon Burlingame and Judith Scruggs
2017-2019	Nan Jennings and Rachel Poller
2019-2021	Rachel Poller



# LWVHC NON-PARTISAN POLICY

The purpose of the League of the Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government at all levels. The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. It is political in that it takes positions on selected public policy issues after study and consensus. The League recognizes the role of political parties in government and believes that participation in the activities of parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility.

While the League urges its members to be politically active and participate fully in party activities on an individual basis, certain constraints are necessary to maintain the nonpartisanship of the League as an organization. Therefore:

- At any League-sponsored activity, members shall not engage in

LWVHC  
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partisan discussions or activities;

Henderson County League of Women Voters Education Fund  
/ DBA League of Women Voters Henderson County is  
recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt

