

Officers and Board - 2006-2007

President - Kathleen Balogh
Vice President - Karen Sanders
Treasurer - Jack Saye
Recording Secretary - Linda Carol
Membership - Sandra Abromitis
Barb Panarites- Board
Hal Hogstrom- Board
Anne Higgins-Board
Ruth Christie-Board
B. J. Snow -Board
Sheila Franklin - Board

Nominating Committee

Chairman - Jean Parks
Member - Marsha Stickford

Off Board Appointments

Betty Becker - Office Phone
Judy Bissell and Nelda Holder - Web Page
Sheila Franklin - Kids Voting
Grace Curry - Hospitality/Phone
Fran Myers - Corresponding Secretary
Jack Saye - Newsclippings

About the League of Women Voters

MISSION OF THE LEAGUE

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.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE

Membership is open to all citizens of voting age, female and male, who subscribe to the League's purpose and policies. Citizens of other countries or those under 18 may be non-voting (associate) members. Membership in the LWV of Asheville-Buncombe County (\$50 individual or \$75 household \$20 student) carries automatic membership in the LWVNC and LWVUS.

The League of Women Voters
of Asheville-Buncombe County
221 Miles Building, 2 Wall St.
Asheville, NC 28801
8 2 8 - 2 5 8 - 8 2 2 3
www.abc.nc.lwvnet.org/

Notes from the President's Desk

We had a marathon board meeting in late January. Our meetings usually run about one and a half to two hours, giving us time to cover both the LWV/ABC activities and the Florence Ryan Educational Fund (FREF) work. This month's meeting was almost 3 hours long! Thank you to our board members for hanging in there, so much important discussion.

For our members unfamiliar with the division of the LWV and the FREF here is a very brief description. The LWV US encourages all local leagues to setup and maintain a Not for Profit 501-c-3 educational fund for member/citizen education activities. The FREF is our local non-profit fund (read more about the namesake for this fund in this edition of the VOTER), and contributions are tax deductible. A few of the items funded through this fund include Facts for Voters, voter forums, and educational workshops. Most chapters in NC use the state LWV bank account to manage their education funds. We are fortunate in the Asheville/Buncombe league to manage locally our education fund and we are grateful for all contributions to this account.

Speaking of contributions, a very big THANK YOU to all who gave generously to our third Annual Appeal letter. Members and friends have given close to \$875.00 to support our annual budget. We gladly accept contributions at any time during the year if you are interested!

Our lengthy board meeting this month took us in many directions. We discussed the Progress Energy power plant issue. Jack Saye, LWV Treasurer, spoke at the public meeting on behalf of the LWV/ABC. We have included the Statement of Principles on global warming from the National LWV. The Board agreed to support the effort of the Mountain Voices Alliance group in Asheville as they move forward on this issue. Please see Jack and BJ's article for suggestions we can do as

Florence Iddings Ryan

Read about her remarkable achievements and service on pg. 3.



individuals. Also, visit the www.lwv.org website for more information on national activity on this issue and clean air.

The LWV encourages members to voice your concerns, ideas, opinions to our decision makers. Much appreciation goes to many of our members who do participate in public comment opportunities both as an individual and on behalf of the LWV.

If you would like to make a statement on behalf of the LWV, get in touch with a board member and we will provide you with supporting information. When the LWV US/State/ Local has studied and taken a position on an issue, there is supporting documentation for that position. The LWV enters into coalitions and/or endorsements with organizations addressing those positions.

We are including the Member Survey once again - we only have four surveys returned out of 125 members! Please complete yours today and send it in either as an e-mail attachment or in the snail mail!

I will stop here and let you read this edition of the VOTER. We hope to have it available on our web site soon!
www.abc.nc.lwvnet.org

Kathleen Balogh, President

January 2007

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Membership

Membership year is
 July 1 to June 30.

- Individual: \$50
- Household: \$75
- Student: \$20

Member names and addresses are not given or sold to other organizations. We do provide mailing labels when we co-sponsor an event with another organization.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year there are a limited number of scholarships given to cover the cost of membership. In exchange for the membership we ask that recipients actively participate in League functions.

If you know someone who is interested in League Membership and has financial need, ask them to contact Sandra Abromitis (686-8281) for an application.

The League of Women Voters welcomes women and men who are interested and supportive of our principles and goals.

URTV

Local Public Access Television

The LWV/ABC is a member of our new URTV station. As a non-profit organization, we have seven paid memberships. To date we have four members of the board that have expressed an interest in being 'trained' under the LWV membership. Our trained members will be asked to assist with taping of special meetings, voter forums, and other educational opportunities as they arise. If you are interested, please contact Kathleen Balogh kbalogh@buncombe.main.nc.us or 251-6169.

FAIR COURTS AND FAIR ELECTIONS

This year, you have a chance to support fair courts and fair elections — without it costing you anything! Just say "Yes" to the Public Campaign Fund when you fill out your North Carolina income tax form.

A new law in North Carolina helps voters learn about the candidates who want to be judges on the N.C. Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. It also helps those candidates finance their campaigns from a Public Campaign Fund, so they do not rely on the lawyers or litigants who appear in their courts! Fair elections and fair courts go together.

But this program will only work if you mark the "check off" box on your state income tax form "Yes" and show your support for the Public Campaign Fund.

By saying "Yes," you will:

- support distribution of a nonpartisan voter guide that helps you cast an informed vote in state judicial elections;
- give all candidates in those elections, regardless of their per-

sonal wealth, a chance to run an effective campaign.*

- help keep special-interest money out of our judicial elections and courts.

Join Others Who Say "Yes" For Voter-Owned Elections and Fair Courts:

League of Women Voters; NC Voters for Clean Elections ; NCAE N.C. Bankers Association; AARP; NC Council of Churches; NAACP Business & Professional Women; Covenant With NC's Children ; Common Cause Democracy North Carolina; NC Center for Voter Education; Conservation Council of NC

*To be eligible for public financing, candidates must first get several hundred small donations from registered voters across N.C. to show broad support and also accept spending and fundraising limits.

FIND THIS QUESTION on your N.C. income tax form:

N.C. Public Campaign Fund

Mark "Yes" if you want to designate \$3 of taxes to this special Fund for voter education materials and for candidates who accept strict spending limits. Marking "Yes" does not change your tax or refund.

For more information, call 1-888-OUR-VOTE or go to www.ncjudges.org



Florence Iddings Ryan



Florence Iddings Ryan, sister of Nanine Iddings remembers her days at Bryn Mawr, 1913-1917 as an exciting time. President M. Cary Thomas, PhD, was the first woman in the states to hold this graduate degree, which she acquired in Germany. Aware of the lack of possibilities for women in the educational field, Bryn Mawr, started by the Quakers, was the first school to offer graduate degrees for women. President Thomas was a leader in the Women's Suffrage movement and founded the College Suffrage League.

Florence remembers the time when the faculty of Bryn Mawr went to Philadelphia to march in a Women's Suffrage Parade. Unhappily, she could not participate because in those days the young lady students were not allowed out at night without a chaperon, and all possible chaperons were taking part in the demonstration. However, while at home in Nebraska during the summer of 1914, she did acquire a large banner that read "Votes for Women" and hung it across the back of her mother's touring car, where it could be seen while traveling through the countryside. That year women won the right to vote for President and judges in Nebraska as well as in California and New York. Washington, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and Utah had already given women the full right to vote.

In 1918 Florence married a Colorado man who was in the Balloon Corps. After the war they took up residence in Miami Beach and starting in 1920 she and her children spent summers in Western North Carolina. Things fell apart in southern Florida in 1926 after a bad hurricane and the real estate bust. Then came the depression and things were bad all over, so Asheville became her home.

In the twenties, the Central Bank was the up and coming bank of Asheville. It took an active part in the real estate market. But as we all know, there was a decided change in the economy and the Central Bank failed. When this happened a number of women formed the Women's League and took it upon themselves to dig into exactly what happened by holding open meetings at the court house on Saturdays. Florence was among those who helped on the project. As information unfolded regarding some unsavory dealings between the bank and those governing the city, reports were mailed to the newspaper for publication since reporters rarely attended the meetings. However it became evident that the information which was mailed somehow never reached the printing press. Florence decided to take the information, in person to the Editor, which he printed and made public.

(Biography of Florence Ryan to be continued in next two editions of "The Voter".)

Article taken from "The Heritage of Old Buncombe County North Carolina Volume II 1987" published by The Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society in cooperation with the The History Division of Hunter Publishing Company, Winston-Salem, North Carolina;

SUNSHINE WEEK: MARCH 11-17, 2007

Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include print, broadcast, and online news media, civic groups, libraries, non-profits, schools and others interested in the public's right to know. Though spearheaded by journalists, Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing, and why. Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger. Sunshine Week is a non-partisan initiative whose supporters are conservative, liberal and everything in between. For more information go to www.sunshineweek.org

TRIBUTE TO ROSE ROSE

Rose Rose, a long time LWV member, was a person who knew what she wanted and had the determination to get there. Her main contribution was chairing the committee to end the sales tax on food, a regressive tax. She was totally committed to this project and worked hard to see it to its fruition, using all means available to her. Rose, while never dogmatic, always kept her eyes on the objective. She was justifiably proud to be nominated for Asheville-Buncombe Woman of the Year for her part in the passage of the law to repeal the North Carolina food tax. (Buncombe County did not concur.) And of course we remember picking up our flower bulb orders from her garage, another favorite project. Rose continued to be active in her Synagogue and community. She died in December after losing a battle with cancer; her family was with her. She is, indeed, a great role model for those who will come after her.

... Leah Karpen & Shirley Berdie

Metropolitan Sewerage District Board

Meeting January 17, 2007

The meeting started on time at 2:00 with all members present. Max Haner had been appointed to take the place of County representative Ben Pace. He was welcomed with a presentation of a large metal tool for removing manhole covers.

There were no committee reports. Martha Zeigler, finance director, made a Power Point presentation on variable debt interest expense, explaining that short term rates are generally lower than long term rates, resulting in a positive financial result for the District. This report engendered much discussion.

Several Board members and the manager Mr. Hartje, met with State legislators on the preceding Monday to discuss the possibility of the District getting special assessment authority. While not completely rejecting the request, several legislators asked for more information on the financial implications.

The Board approved the request of the Volunteer Water Information Network for continued funding. In December 2006 WIN sampling at Beaver Lake alerted MSD of a sewer leak which helped mitigate the resulting stream and lake contamination.

The Board approved the Meeting Dates and Budget Calendar as presented, as well as a proposal for a one-day Board retreat within 60 days. The next regular meeting is February 21, 2007; open to the public.

Submitted by Leah Karpen, Observer



Planning and Zoning Commission

ZONING FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Following the Land Use Plan of 1998, updated in 2006, Buncombe County is preparing a Zoning Ordinance to guide future development.

In a presentation to Leadership Asheville Forum on January 17, Commissioner David Gantt stated that zoning cannot prevent growth. Consider, however, that the population prediction for the County is an increase of 42,000 in the next 10 years, which will create a demand for schools, roads, and infrastructure.

The proposed zoning categories will closely follow those of the Limestone Community. The zoning map shows a large area of so-called "Open Zoning," which has certain restrictions. After a series of community meetings and a public hearing, the Zoning Ordinance and map, with any revisions, will go back to the County Planning Board for approval. This will be followed by a public hearing (possibly April 3rd) and final adoption by the Commission. It was stated that any ordinance that never changes is not working.

By the time this issue of the VOTER appears, a series of community meetings at various middle schools will have taken place. Additional meetings will be on Mondays, February 1 at North Buncombe Middle School, and February 5 at Erwin Middle School.

Submitted by Leah Karpen

Planning and Zoning Commission

January 3, 2007

The first three hours of the meeting were consumed by The Thoms Estate Conditional Use Permit review. The proposed development includes 162 single and multi-family dwellings on 82.7 acres and borders both Beaverdam Road and Elk Mountain Scenic Highway. The developer's representative argued that the request should be approved because plans call for lower density than would be permitted by the zoning, 44.3% of the area would be preserved as open space, and the storm water runoff provisions are designed to meet pre-development standards.

Numerous members of the public spoke in opposition to the development, expressing concerns about the proposed density, the adequacy of infrastructure such as water mains and roads to serve the additional residents, the location of planned entrances and exits, the assumptions on which the traffic study was based, the plans for gates at the entrances, and the impact of development on storm water runoff. One motion for approval with specified conditions was defeated. Another motion for approval did pass, provided the conditions recommended by planning staff members and the Technical Review Committee be met, except the recommendation which would prohibit gates, and provided that runoff management be improved and the Edgedale exit be made an emergency only exit. The City Council could alter the conditions and will make the final decision on the proposed

d e v e l o p m e n t .
The observer left before additional agenda items were addressed.

Submitted by Jean Parks, Observer

UPCOMING EVENTS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

State Convention and Meeting

March 23-25, 2007

MEMBERS, please read the following and let us know if you are interested in attending. Our league may send seven voting delegates, and as many attendees as interested.

Planning for the March 23-25 State Convention is well underway, thanks to the work of the Moore County League that is inviting us to meet at the Little River Golf Resort. The package at Little River is for two nights and all meals on Saturday and a buffet breakfast on Sunday. Our accommodations are two bedroom/two bath suites with a full kitchen and living area. Sharing rooms and suites will cut down on costs and give our members opportunities for sharing ideas and for getting to know others from across the state. The deadline for reservation is February 15. We have three signed up to go so far.

We encourage League members who are not delegates to attend! The program will begin Friday afternoon with workshops designed to address needs identified by local leagues. Friday evening members of the Moore County League will accompany groups to several area restaurants, and we ask that you sign up on the registration form for a restaurant.

The schedule on Saturday and Sunday will include all the business essentials for the convention—review, discussion, and adoption of a biennial program, legislative agenda, and budget; and election of officers. Issue sessions related to the proposed program will be offered. Presentations and/or panels on major topics, such as lobby reform and effective advocacy strategies, are also planned. Round tables for members to share successful programs and activities have been popular in the past and will be a part of the Sunday morning schedule.

It is Time to Stop Global Warming Citizens' Climate Policy: A Statement of Principles

Global warming is one of the most serious threats to our environment, our health and our economy. The most recent scientific studies prove that global warming is here now and is already causing environmental changes that will have significant economic and social impacts.

The good news is that if we act now, and act decisively, we can stop the worst effects of global warming. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies, such as hybrids, cleanly-produced bio-fuels, and wind and solar power. Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many of these solutions, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist.

To reinforce and expand on those efforts, we need federal action that triggers solutions on a national scale. U.S. businesses can and should lead the world in developing new energy technologies, but most aren't going to without the guidance of mandatory limits.

A federal limit on global warming pollution that meets the following principles is the responsible way to ensure that we protect our environment for ourselves, our children, and future generations.

1. Guarantee global warming pollution reductions, with enforceable deadlines. Scientists say that we must begin to significantly reduce our emissions from today's levels in the next 10 years and cut them by 60-80% by 2050 if we are to avert the worst consequences of global warming. Coal-fired power plants are the largest single source of global warming pollution. Cars, trucks and SUVs

run a close second. Pollution from these sources is rising.

2. Promote clean and efficient sources of energy. We can start using a number of low- and zero-pollution options immediately. The cleanest, fastest, and safest way to move away from dangerous sources of energy is to use energy more efficiently in our homes and vehicles. Energy efficiency reduces pollution and saves consumers money. Renewable energies like wind, solar and cleanly-produced bio-fuels reduce pollution, reduce reliance on oil and create new economic opportunities for farmers and small businesses.

3. Immediate action is required. If we wait, it will be too late. We must begin to significantly reduce our emissions within 10 years if we are to limit global warming to 3.6° Fahrenheit and avoid the most dangerous impacts of global warming. The window of opportunity is closing, and the time for action is now.

In 2005 the U.S. Senate recognized that global warming is real and that the time had come for strong federal policy. As the impacts of global warming become more pervasive, it is clear that we cannot afford more delay. Our health and environment demand it.

NATIONAL ENDORSEMENT LIST:

Alaska Coalition, Alaska Wilderness League, CERES, Clean Air Task Force, Clean Air Watch, Clean Water Action, Clear The Air Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, Defenders of Wildlife, Green House Network, Greenpeace, League of Women Voters of the United States, National Environmental Trust, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resource Defense Council Oceana, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Public Citizen, The Regeneration Project

The Sierra Club, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Union of Concerned Scientists

THE VOTER



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Asheville, NC 28801
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LEAGUE CALENDAR 2007

FEBRUARY

Program Planning and
Membership Meeting (Pot Luck) 5-8 pm
at YWCA February 28

MARCH

State Convention March 23-25
Board Meeting March 28

APRIL

Civics 101 Class 1-Overview of Court
System Courthouse 5th floor April 19

Board Meeting April 25

Civics 101 Class 2 - Criminal Court
Procedure April 26

MAY

Civics 101 Class 3-Civil Court
Procedure May 3

Members Meeting Pot Luck!

All members are encouraged to
attend our

Annual Program Planning Meeting

28th of February
at the YWCA 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Bring your favorite dish
(to serve 10)
and your favorite program ideas
and let's have some fun!
We want to see you and hear
your thoughts!

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Black History Month February

Sunshine Week March 11-17

Clean Energy Forum, 7-9 p.m. at Jubilee
on Wall Street March 13

AIDS Project: Dining Out for support in
fight against AIDS April 26

International Women's Peace Conference,
Dallas, TX July 10-15