

**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 Bissel 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 the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League seeks to expand citizen participation in the election process and in federal, state, and local government decision-making. Based on member participation and agreement, the League also seeks to secure public policies that promote League positions.

**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**

A Happy New Year to all!  
 I hope this edition of the Voter finds you well and looking forward to the new year.

I am pleased to present the League of Women Voters of Asheville/Buncombe County with a check for \$500 given in my honor as the 2006 recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award from the Leadership Asheville Forum. Adding this gift to the donations collected from our November/December fund-raising letter, we have raised approximately \$1,700 to continue the work of the league in our county. If you missed the end of the year donation cycle and still would like to contribute to our total, we will gladly accept your donations in support of our work at any time. Does anyone want to do the bulb sale again?

As you read the Voter, you will find a survey we would like for you to complete and return to us ASAP. It is asking you to tell us what you are interested in doing with/for the League. We have many on-going and one-time projects and we want you to tell us what you would like to do! So take a moment and complete this form, fill it out and return it electronically to Sandra Abromitis, our membership chair!

We have several workshops in the works that you will find explained in following articles, and we will be an-

nouncing the particulars via e-mail as soon as they are finalized. So be looking for updates in your mailbox!

Our Membership Program Planning Meeting is on February 28 at the YWCA, 5 - 8 pm. Put this date on your calendar and join us for a delightful potluck dinner and discussion of LWV of Asheville Buncombe County priorities for 2007-08.

The Nominating Committee is at work looking for interested members to fill a variety of slots. President, Membership Chair, and next year's Nominating Committee are a few of the slots identified. Board commitment (other than President, a one-year term) is for two years - not long to ask of you and oh so important!

We are filling the delegate slots for our NC State Convention, March 23-25! If you would like to attend, we would like you to join us! Please call me with any questions at 251-1669 (day) or 626-2695 (evening) and COME WITH US! In addition to all the League fun and education, we will be right in pottery territory in Little River, NC. The suites hold four comfortably and it would be great to fill two suites!

We will be in touch with you, so you be in touch with us!

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.

**Local Air Agency Recognizes Organizations for Outstanding Efforts to Improve Air Quality**

The WNC Regional Air Quality Agency is responsible for air quality permitting and enforcement in Asheville and Buncombe County. Five local firms are being recognized by the Agency for their outstanding efforts to improve air quality in the region. All have gone above and beyond what is required by air quality rules and regulations to make a real difference in reducing pollution in their communities.

Those being recognized are: Buncombe County General Services Department, Mission Hospitals, Shorewood Packaging Corporation, Charles D. Owen Manufacturing Company, Inc., and Tyco Valves and Controls.

The Buncombe County General Services Department is being recognized for its efforts to reduce air emissions and improve air quality. In 2006, the department began voluntarily operating a landfill gas collection and control system that substantially reduces methane emissions from the landfill. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, estimated to be 21 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. In 2006, the landfill's capture and control equipment destroyed 1,945 tons of methane also resulting in emissions reductions of several hazardous air pollutants. The global warming benefits of the methane reductions are equivalent to removing 7,167 cars from area roads. Additionally, the gas capture and control system actively removes pollutants from the landfill, which reduces the potential for groundwater contamination.

Mission Hospitals has undertaken numerous efforts to reduce air pollution. As an ENERGY STAR partner, Mission Hospitals is committed to improving energy efficiency through a variety of measures, including energy efficient lighting, automated peak electrical power consumption control systems, and the use of a boiler stack heat recovery system to reclaim heat. Mission Hospitals has also reduced mobile source emissions from their fleet. They purchased two Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles in 2006, and plan to replace six more fleet vehicles with CNG powered vehicles over the next couple of years. They partnered with the City of Asheville and Buncombe County to secure funding for the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station that the City of Asheville opened in December of 2005. They have replaced Facility Services trucks with smaller more efficient alternate fuel vehicles (ATVs), and provided an Express Shuttle on campus to reduce the use of staff vehicles. Mission Hospitals sought to reduce air pollution associated with employee commuting by actively promoting the Share the Ride NC program, a rideshare matching service, and by promoting the city bus program. Mission Hospitals has eliminated tobacco smoke and mercury from their campus and they recently received the Making Medicine Mercury Free Award from the Hospitals for a Healthy Environment in Washington, DC. *(continued on page 3)*

### Lobby Locally for Voter-Owned Elections

For years now, the League of Women Voters has been a member of the NC Voters for Clean Elections coalition and has advocated for real campaign finance reform in our state. The Asheville-Buncombe Chapter of the LWV has been asked to join representatives from other organizations (Common Cause, Democracy North Carolina, AARP, etc.) in an effort to meet locally with legislators to discuss campaign finance reform. The idea is to have a few small meetings (4-8 people) with local legislators, likely in February, to measure their support for expansion of public financing of campaigns to Council of State races and legislative races in North Carolina. We want to show support for voter-owned elections and encourage leadership on this issue! If you would like to be involved, please contact Kathleen Balogh at (828) 251-6169, kbalogh@buncombe.main.nc.us.

(Also, don't forget to Say YES to the \$3 check-off for the NC Public Campaign Fund on your NC tax form! Remember: Saying YES won't reduce the amount of your refund.)

(**Air Quality** ...continued from page 2)

Shorewood Packaging's Weaverville facility has a very strong Environmental, Health, and Safety program that has demonstrated a commitment to researching and utilizing less-polluting products in its printing process. In 2005 and 2006, the facility reformulated its process chemicals to significantly reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. In addition to switching to products with a lower VOC content, Shorewood has reduced the amount of those products that are necessary for use. VOC reductions resulting from the additional product reformulations and usage reductions in 2006 were 1.7 tons.

Also being recognized are two companies that joined the ongoing local ENERGY STAR Million Monitor Drive this year. Charles D. Owen Manufacturing Company, Inc. has pledged to implement power management settings on 88 computer monitors and Tyco Valves and Controls has pledged to power down 75 computer monitors when not in use. With the addition of these companies, the local Million Monitor Drive now includes 3,296 monitors in Buncombe and Madison Counties. The organizations that are participating in this program are saving money and helping to improve air quality. The amount of energy that is being saved each year is enough to light over 1,000 homes and results in annual pollution offsets of approximately 900 tons of carbon dioxide and over 9 tons of criteria air pollutants that contribute to regional haze and ozone in our area.

For more information, call 250-6778 or click on [www.wncairquality.org](http://www.wncairquality.org) <http://www.wncair.org/>.

### TRIBUTE TO ROSE ROSE

Rose Rose was a person who knew what she wanted and had the determination to get there. I was surprised when she became active in the League of Women Voters, because I knew her in other activities. Her main contribution was chairing the committee to end the sales tax on food, a regressive tax. She worked hard on this project, using every available means. While I was not active in the League during this period, Rose did not hesitate to tell me or others about her project and her commitment. She was never dominating, but had her eyes on the objective. Meanwhile she continued to be active in her Synagogue and community. Rose died in December after a losing battle with cancer; her family was with her. She was a great role model for those who come after her.

*Submitted by Leah Karpen*

### Building Bridges

**Going Beyond Racism  
Through Understanding and  
Respect**

Nine Sessions  
1/29/07 - 3/26/07  
7:00 - 9:00

For more information call  
828-777-4585

## Metropolitan Sewage District Board Meeting

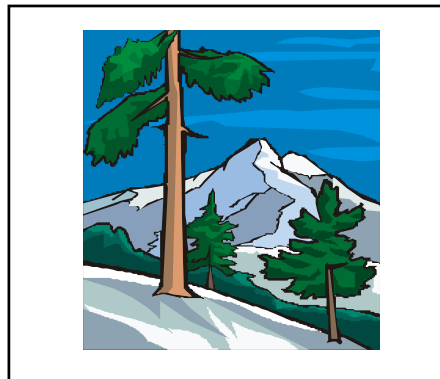
December 20, 2006

Absent from the meeting were David Gantt, Brownie Newman, and Glenn Kelly. Ben Pace retired from Board after this meeting. About fifteen observers attended, mostly staff. The Planning Committee had researched special assessment authority and recommended that MSD approach the General Assembly for this power. The purpose would be to promote orderly growth and infrastructure within MSD boundaries. Although the motion was approved, the legislation probably would not be enacted until April.

Staff gave an excellent Power Point presentation of the eight steps involved in the Private Development Process. Much paperwork is involved, from allocation of a project number for tracking, to plan review if sewer extension, plan submittal, owner agreement for responsibility for installation, revised plans if needed, non-discharge permit, pre-construction meeting, construction inspection, and finally a certificate of completion. All these steps are required by state law. After as-built drawings are received and approved, the project is added to the G.I.S. mapping system. Thus, the

Consolidated Motion Agenda, including consideration of developer-constructed sewer systems, represents staff attention to all details before submittal to the Board. The Board approved the agenda for the month as submitted. The consultant who prepared the audit submitted and explained the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report; it was indeed comprehensive.

*Submitted by: Leah Karpen,  
Observer*



## Planning and Zoning Commission

December 6, 2006

More parking for downtown Asheville may be on the way. A Level III site plan review for the Buncombe County Parking Garage was approved on a 6-0 vote.

The garage is planned for the space between the Buncombe County Health Department building and College Street, with access from both Woodfin and College Streets. The majority of the 650 spaces will be designated

for County employees during business hours, with some spaces available for visitors to nearby County buildings.

The Wal-Mart store at 1636 Hendersonville Road Level III site plan review was also approved. Plans call for expansion with additional square footage at the front of the store and a new storefront. The large parking lot will be divided into higher and lower lots with additional landscaping. Commission members, staff members and project representatives discussed the difficulties regarding access between Hendersonville Road and the stores for pedestrians and people with mobility impairments. The steep approach and current provisions for handling rain runoff make improvements extremely difficult.

Residents of Enka Village requested a zoning change from Residential Multi-Family High Density (RM-16) to Residential Single-Family High Density (RS 8) in order to protect their historic neighborhood from development incompatible with the current homes. The request was approved.

*Submitted by:  
Jean Parks, Observer*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Civics 101

### Understanding the NC Judicial System

If you have ever found yourself in a courtroom, whether for a minor traffic ticket or for a civil dispute, you surely know the difficulty in understanding our court system and its many twists and turns. If you have never found yourself in courtroom, but would like to have more understanding should you ever do so, the League of Women Voters Asheville/Buncombe can help. This topic will be the focus of an upcoming three part series of classes that will focus on the judicial system and its many intricacies. This free series will be presented April 19, 26, and May 3 and will include an impressive line up of speakers giving information on both the criminal and the civil court processes. These speakers will come from a wide range of backgrounds, including judges, law enforcement, and lawyers. The first class will be a broad overview of the system, while the second and third classes will cover the criminal and civil courts in a little more detail.

As you know, getting the word out to all is key to having a successful turn-out. If you know of key people to include in our list of special invitations or e-mails, please send their telephone, address, or e-mail information to Anne Higgins (AnneHiggins@charter.net). There will be more information to follow as venues and speakers are confirmed.

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### Join Member Talent Inventory League of Women Voters Asheville/Buncombe County

League members have a variety of talents and interests and a range of time and energy available to invest in league work. We ask you to indicate your interests so we can discover the best way for you to participate. There will be an attachment to your e-mail that includes this information. Please let us know what your interests are.

Your **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Where and when did you first join the LWV? \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to..... (you may check as many as you like!):**

- Assemble the Voter for mailing, at least three times a year to approx. twenty-two (22) members without e-mail. Voters are mailed about nine times a year. Responsibilities include pick-up copies from printer-if you can, fold-label-stamp each (provided) and drop in the mail.
- Clip articles from local newspapers and submit to our archivist.
- Participate in the LWV Virtual Lobby Corps, Chaired by Barb Panarites. Activities include contacting your legislator(s) when a bill of interest to the LWV/NC is up for consideration.
- Assist in the design and up-keep of our website.
- Assist with Candidate Forums, need timers, greeters, set-up/take down, moderators, question runners, question reviewers. Work with the Chair each election cycle.
- Register Voters
- Assist with Hospitality for special events
- Be an observer for a city or county meeting – see the Voter for articles from our current small Observer Corps.
- Participate with Kids Voting, especially on election day
- Serve on the LWV/ABC Board
- Assist with the newly forming URTV Committee to produce educational pieces.
- Serve on a LWV/ABC Committee      Civics Education      Boards & Commissions Study      Voter Enfranchisement
- Membership      Special Events
- Participate in a Speakers Bureau. Do you have knowledge/good understanding of issues that the LWV supports (such as air quality, conservation, election reform, to name just a few) Please tell us what subjects you are versed in:
- Assist with Fundraising (appeal letter and development of one other small activity)

Any other ideas you have for being involved, list here!

# THE VOTER



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## LEAGUE CALENDAR 2007

### JANUARY

Board Meeting ..... January 24

### FEBRUARY

Program Planning/Membership  
Meeting ..... February 28

### MARCH

State Convention ..... March 23-25  
Board Meeting ..... March 28

### APRIL

Civics 101 Class 1-Overview of Court Sys-  
tem ..... April 19  
Board Meeting ..... April 25  
Civics 101 Class2 - Criminal Court Proce-  
dure ..... April 26

### MAY

Civics 101 Class 3-Civil Court  
Procedure ..... May 3

### OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Martin Luther King Prayer  
Breakfast ..... January 13  
Building  
Bridges ..... January 29 - March 26



### LWVABC Board Meetings

The board meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 5:30p.m. at the YWCA Board Room. There will not be a board meeting in December.

All members are welcome to attend. The deadline for submissions to *THE VOTER* is each month's board meeting.

**Next board meeting is  
January 24, 2007**