

## IN THIS MONTH'S VOTER

**December 2007**

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### Officers and Board - 2007-2008

President - Ruth Christie  
 President Elect - Barb Panarites,  
 Civic Education  
 Vice President - Karen Sanders  
 Treasurer - Jack Saye  
 Recording Secretary - Linda Brown  
 Jean Parks - Membership  
 Hal Hogstrom - Voter Enfranchisement  
 Anne Higgins - Voter Editor  
 Marsha Stickford - Programs  
 Linda Brown - Observer Corp

### Nominating Committee

Chairman - Grace Curry  
 Member - Judy Bissell  
 Member - Pat Wille

### Off Board Appointments

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

## President's Report



As I write, this last day of November seems like a glorious October day. It's hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us.

By the time you receive this "Voter," you should have received, via e-mail or post card, your invitation to our holiday party on December 14. The invitation didn't mention it, but members are welcome to bring a guest. (My husband always enjoys this League event.) Sandra Abromitis has offered to arrange car-pooling for members & guests coming from Black Mountain or Swannanoa. I'll do the same for members in the Asheville area. Do call Betty Becker at 258-8223 to let us know you're coming.

Updates of the membership book will be available for members to pick up at the holiday party. If you aren't able to come to the party, we'll mail the update to you. A big thank you to Jean Parks for her work in pulling this together.

News from National: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) has a couple of new items that might be of interest to you: i.e. a *New York Times* blog profiling "An Era of Polarized Politics- and Does It Matter?", a special event co-sponsored by LWVUS and Elderhostel; and a video of the opening forum of the LWVUS educational series, "The Changing Faces of Power: Women as Candidates."

Congratulations to Marsha Stickford and her hard-working study committee (Hal Hogstrom, Leah Karpen, Yvette Wessel, Jennifer Kantonen, Barb Panarites, Sally Boerschig, and Ruth Christie) for the information packed forum on the economic impact of immigration. Nelda Holder did an excellent job in calmly facilitating the question-and-answer period that handled, without rancor, diverse points of view on this complex and emotion-laden topic. It is unfortunate that a scurrilous attack in an immediate InstaLetter by a non-attendeo has hijacked the reasoned public discussion we had intended to foster.

Ruth Christie, President



### 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.

### Membership

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 Jean Parks (e-mail or phone

[jparks@grandcreative.com](mailto:jparks@grandcreative.com) or 687-0109) for an application.

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

### November 2007 Membership Report

#### Renewal report:

78 renewed (including several who had lapsed a few years)  
 2 not up for renewal yet (national members)  
 7 lifetime members  
 16 new members  
 103 total

#### New Member Tea

Thank you for your assistance with the New Member Tea. Three of our newest members were there, and one more joined.

#### New Membership Books

The new Membership Books are ready and will be distributed at the holiday party. Thanks to Ruth Christie and Andy Reed for their work on this project.

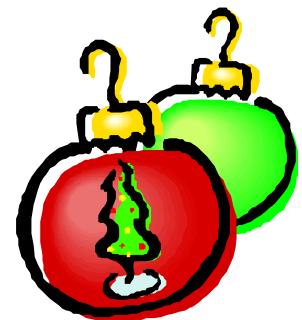
#### New members (since October report):

Martha L. Geitner  
 (828) 252-9555  
[martha.geitner@asheville.k12.nc.us](mailto:martha.geitner@asheville.k12.nc.us)

Bonnie Habel  
 (828) 251-9540  
[xteachable@aol.com](mailto:xteachable@aol.com)

Leigh Coakley Pettus  
 (828) 298-5437  
[leighcoakley@hotmail.com](mailto:leighcoakley@hotmail.com)

Elaine Potter  
 505-2817  
[elainepotter@earthlink.net](mailto:elainepotter@earthlink.net)



*Submitted by Jean Parks*  
[jparks@grandcreative.com](mailto:jparks@grandcreative.com)  
 828-687-0109

IMMIGRATION STUDY REPORT

By Marsha Stickford



The Immigration Study Committee has now successfully conducted two community forums on Immigration. The first was an overview of the history and legal status of Immigration in the US. The second was held on November 15 and was a panel discussion on the Economics of Immigration. Both events were well attended and very thought provoking. These events were part of the Committee’s strategy to provide information to our local League Members in preparation for their participation in the Consensus process that will culminate in the development of a National League position on Immigration and Immigration reform.

All League members are invited to participate in the Consensus process which will consist of facilitated discussions structured with a set of 6 questions which are listed following this report. We will be conducting 2 sets of sessions – one set from 10 to noon on Monday, January 14 and Thursday, January 24, and other set from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on the same two days. The meetings will be held in the homes of League members and will be open only to League members. To allow everyone to take part in the discussion, each discussion group will be limited to 12 or fewer members. If need be, we will schedule additional sets of sessions to keep to that size limit.

Brief background information for each of the discussion questions will be given during the meetings. However, we encourage all members to go to the website of the National League and access the articles available to read online or print. We have also reprinted summaries of some of those articles in this edition of the Voter, as well as in the previous edition in November.

Each set of session will have a facilitator and recorder. The facilitator will help keep the group focused on the question and assist the group in reaching general agreement on one of four possible group responses: “High Priority,” “Lower Priority,” “Disagree,” or “No Consensus.” The recorder will keep a record of the group’ responses. The Immigration Committee will compile the results into a report to the Board at the end of January. Our results will be submitted to National to be included in their process for creating a National position on Immigration.

**These meetings are very important so please plan to attend.** Pre-registration is essential for the committee to plan for facilitators and recorders. Please let me know if you plan to attend either the 10-noon sessions or the evening (6 to 8) sessions by sending me an email at [mestickford@charter.net](mailto:mestickford@charter.net) with the words “Consensus Meeting” in the subject line. If you do not have email, call and leave a message for me at 258-0210 to reserve your time slot. Only those members who reserve a place will be able to participate. We will confirm your attendance by return email or by phone if you respond by phone.

(See questions on page 5)



**RIDE SHARING!**

*If you ever need a ride to an event we are sponsoring please let us know so that we can arrange transportation for you! We don't want anyone to be unable to attend for any reason but we won't know you can't come if you don't call us. The LWV office number is 258-8223.*

# OBSERVER REPORTS

## **Metropolitan Sewer Report**

October 24, 2007

Absent were Brownie Newman (city) and Jon Creighton (County). The Master Plan for Reems Creek Valley, as prepared by McGill and Associates, was endorsed as presented. Further, the staff was authorized for design and right-of-way acquisition for Phase I of Reems Creek Valley interceptor. Low bidder for the sewer rehabilitation project on Reems Creek at Balcrank, for replacement of an old 8-inch clay interceptor, was Mendon Pipeline, in the amount of \$635,075. The Board approved recommendations of the Right of Way Committee, even though not on the agenda, as the committee had met just prior to the full Board meeting. The extensive report of the planning committee dealt mainly with the Reems Creek Valley, with also a suggestion that the public attend meetings to understand the role of the MSD. There was also a suggestion to limit developer incentives (For full details see minutes on MSD web site.) Mr. Sobol reported on progress toward a national Clean Water Trust Fund. Under New Business, the Board approved participation in a proposed project off Reems Creek Road in the amount of \$280,000 plus up to 15% of cost overruns. This item was based on estimates.

## **Asheville City Council Meeting**

November 13, 2007

The Asheville City Council meeting on November 13 was, as usual, over two hours long. Members approved a contract with Pisgah Legal Services to develop a comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan. A Gun-Buy-Back Program was approved, with funding. Also approved was authorization to issue \$40,000,000 Water System Revenue Bonds for needed improvements. The Council discussed renovation of the many existing Parks and Recreation facilities, with special reference to the Reid Center. Maintenance of most centers has been largely deferred. The subject will be further considered at a later meeting.

## **Metropolitan Sewer District Board**

November 14, 2007

With about 15 observers, the meeting was short and efficient. Absent were Mayor Terry Bellamy and Brownie Newman. Jim Hemphill was introduced as new Personnel Director. Roy Davis from the N.C. Department of Natural Resources, while complimenting MSD for its record, explained the state program to reduce the number of sanitary sewer overflows. The focus will be on publicly owned collection systems. Regional supervisors will assess penalties for sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's). Approved on the Consolidated Motion Agenda were: Contracts for a 4-wheel drive backhoe in the amount of \$74,541 and three new Dodge Ram 1500 trucks at \$67,938 (from the Fleet Replacement Fund) and an Aqua-Aerobics Aqua Disk system as replacement for secondary micro-screen filtration process—this equipment, available from only one source underwent pilot testing. As well, several developer constructed sewer systems were approved. Donald Venable announced that the next meeting would be the last for his three terms on the Board.

*Observer Reports submitted by Leah Karpen*

# IMMIGRATION STUDY

## QUESTIONS FOR THE IMMIGRATION CONSENSUS MEETINGS:

**Question 1:** Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following:

- a. Ethnic and Cultural Diversity*
- b. Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs*
- c. Environmental Impact/Sustainability*
- d. Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor children*
- e. History of Criminal Activity*
- f. Humanitarian Crises/ Political Persecution in Home Countries*
- g. Immigrant Characteristics (health and age)*
- h. Rights of All Workers to Safe Working Conditions and Livable Wage*
- i. Rights of Families to Remain Together*
- j. Rights of all Individuals in U.S. to Fair Treatment under the Law (Fair Hearing, Right to Counsel, Right of Appeal, and Humane Treatment)*
- k. Education and Training*

**Question 2:** Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows:

- a. Deport Unauthorized Immigrants*
- b. Some Deported/Some Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in U.S.*
- c. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of US Employers*
- d. All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.*
- e. If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry*
- f. Assess Fines Before Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment Of Status*

**Question 3:** Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:

- a. Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the U.S*
- b. Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs*
- c. Entering the U.S. as Students*
- d. Entering the U.S. because of Persecution in Home Country*

**Question 4a:** In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include *Social Security Card or other National Identification Card with Secure Identifiers for all persons residing in the U.S.*

**Question 4b:** Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including:

- i. Physical Barriers (such as Fences) and Surveillance at Borders*
- ii. Increased Personnel at Land, Air, and Sea Entry Points*
- iii. More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas Until They Leave the Country*
- iv. Verification Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure Identifiers.*
- v. Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status*
- vi. Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies*
- vii. A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to Go in and Out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs*
- viii. Significant Fines Proportionate to Revenue for Employers Who Fail to Take Adequate Steps to Verify Work Authorization of Employees*

**Question 5:** Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

**Question 6:** Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to pro-actively help improve economy, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

# THE VOTER



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## LEAGUE CALENDAR 2007-2008

### DECEMBER

**Holiday Party** at Crowfield's ..... Dec 14  
No Board Meeting in December

### JANUARY 2008

**Consensus meeting** for League members  
on Immigration Study at 10 am or 6 pm .  
..... Jan 14 and Jan 24  
**Board Meeting** 5:30 at YWCA .....  
..... Jan 22

### FEBRUARY 2008

**Program Planning Meeting** - Potluck supper and local program planning meeting at the YWCA at 5:30 pm ..... Feb 25

(Board Meeting 5:00 at YWCA prior to Program Meeting.)

### MAY

**Annual Meeting at Monte Vista Restaurant, Black Mountain** - 5:30 .....  
..... May 19

### A NIGHT AT THE THEATER

L.W.V.'s Theatre Party  
A fund-raising night at the theatre has been arranged with the North Carolina Stage Company for their upcoming production of "Moonlight and Magnolias". This show, by turns a hilarious comedy and side-splitting farce, will star Charles McIver and Scott Treadway, both seasoned professional actors with a deservedly enthusiastic following. The date is February 27th and the ticket price will be \$20



The League of Women Voters  
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