

Hazel Ward Weaver Fobes

Hazel Fobes

Aug 16, 1914 - Feb 19, 2008

When I first moved to Asheville from Vermont, I joined the local League of Women Voters. That has been my habit in the several relocations in my life; it plunges me immediately into the analysis of the politics of an area, with the huge bonus of introducing me to about the best women imaginable. This has never failed me.

One of the first women I met in doing that here was Hazel Fobes. (I can't even type her name without hearing that soothing Virginia accent that so distinguished her.) And one of my earliest memories of Hazel was her adamant stance at a board meeting for increasing the prominence of the environment in the League's action plan for the coming year. There, I noted, was a woman who did not back down easily. I was intrigued.

I got to know Hazel in many guises: promoter of environmental issues through the League (where she also championed the Florence Ryan Fund), head of Citizens for Clean Drinking Water & Air, constant contributor to all things "United Nations," associate in the Western Carolina Women's Coalition, and above all — general watchdog. I loved watching her "work."

That laugh. That lovely smile. That librarians-do-their-homework certainty. She could be as disarming as good bourbon, as straightforward as a bulldozer, and as right as rain.

Indeed, in thinking back about my time as her friend and, yes, her disciple, the one memory I love best is being at a meeting with her of City Council, the Board of Commissioners, the Water Authority, you name it ... and watching her, dressed and coifed impeccably, step to the podium for a comment. And if she began that comment by saying, "I'm just a Virginia lady," then you knew all hell was about to break loose.

Hazel became a mainstay in my life, first as mentor, then as gentle friend. As she did with so many people in this town, she always bolstered my morale (unless she was taking me to task!), encouraged me, pushed me to take the next step — but with the gentle shove and constant clucking of a mother hen.

Those of us fortunate enough to attend her memorial service heard the personal testimonies of so many in this community for whom Hazel was the civic coach and conscience — always encouraging each individual to do more, to do what they were capable of doing. The anecdotes contributed to that special service were pure "Hazel," and they were accompanied by pure laughter and pure tears.

All the words I've just written could be replaced at least a hundred fold with Hazel's actual accomplishments in this community and the larger world society. But what lives on, Hazel, is your sense of duty and the love you gave to your environment, your family, your legion of friends. We miss you and your dear partner Jack. We know you will still be whispering in our ears. We will best honor you by always doing more than we thought we could.

— Nelda Holder --Former LWV-ABC President
Former Member and Chair of the Regional Air Quality Board (thanks to Hazel!)
Currently Associate Editor of the *Mountain Xpress*

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Officers and Board - 2007-2008

- President - Ruth Christie
 - President Elect - Barb Panarites, Civic Education
 - Vice President – open
 - Treasurer – Jack Saye
 - Recording Secretary - Linda Brown
 - Jean Parks - Membership
 - Hal Hogstrom - Voter Enfranchisement
 - Anne Higgins - Voter Editor
 - 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

INVITATION TO LWV AB ANNUAL MEETING

Where: **The Monte Vista Hotel**
 When: **May 19 at 5:00 p.m.**
 Cost: **\$20**
 RSVP: **by May 12** to Grace Curry at gracecurry1@charter.net or to the League office phone at 828-258-8223.

*Reservations cancelled after May 15 will be charged.

Featured speaker and Guest of Honor: **Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy**

Silent Auction and Social hour (with a cash bar) will be from 5:00 until 5:45 with live music by The Pleasers. Dinner will be served at 6:00. Please see the proposed budget and by-law amendments in this issue. They will be voted on at this meeting. Also, see a list of items to be auctioned by our talented members contributions.

Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting

From 5:00 until 5:45, join other League members for a silent auction. Gifts include:

Service or product offered: **2 hours of gardening**

Estimated value: \$35

Name of person donating this gift: Ruth Christie

Brief description: Weeding, deadheading, light pruning, and transplanting.

Service or product offered: **Garden Nanny**

Name of person donating this gift: Ruth Christie

Brief description: Tending your garden while you are away. (except July 1-15 or Aug 5-15)

Service or product offered: **Live Music for 2 hours**

Name of person donating this gift: Nina Arcardo of Artex Realty.

Brief description: 2 hours of live music, performed by three band members, two guitars and a bass. Sing along if desired, original and traditional music.

Service or product offered: **Framed photograph "Lady Slipper," by local photographer Art Grand.** Grand Creative Enterprises

Name of person donating this gift: Jean Parks

Brief description of donated gift: 13 x 16 inches

Service or product offered: **1 hour Landscape/Horticultural Consultation**

Name of person donating this gift: Anne Higgins, Higgins Horticultural Services, LLC

Brief description: Consultation to include design ideas, maintenance suggestions, plant diagnosis, and recommendations.

Service or product offered: **Three-book Gift Set - Environmental Series**

Name of person donating this gift: Leah Karpen

Brief description: Gift set

We also have requests for the following gifts. If you'd like to donate your time, contact Anne Higgins, at AnneHiggins@charter.net. Appreciation goes to those members donating your time and talents.

Computer Training - e-mail, Microsoft for: Ruth Christy

Cleaning Services

Meals to Go



Meet and Greet Program

Date: April 14, 2008
Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Place: Jewish Community Center, 236 Charlotte Street

The League is hosting a meet-and-greet for candidates running for Buncombe County Board of Commissioners in the May 6 primary. 14 candidates, eight Democrats and six Republicans, are running for six seats. Each will have a separate table to display literature and offer the candidates an opportunity for a one-on-one with voters. Three additional tables will have League materials, voter registration information, and League T-shirts available. Please attend and show your interest in the political process. Looking forward to your participation in this important event.

Date: April 28, 2008
Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Place: Calvary Episcopal Church, 2840 Hendersonville Road, Fletcher

The Leagues of Asheville/Buncombe County and Henderson County are jointly presenting a program for the primary candidates for the NC Court of Appeals and the US Congressional seat, District 11.

The program will began at 7:00 p.m. with each Judicial Candidate giving a five-minute presentation. Questions from the audience will be submitted in writing if time permits. The District 11 forum will start at 7:45 p.m. Nelda Holder, Assoc. Editor of the Mountain Express, will moderate the forum. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet and visit with the Henderson league and their members.

If you have questions about the April programs, please contact Barbara Panarites at 828-236-5987.

Poll Workers Needed for Early Voting April 17-May 3

Contact Buncombe County Board of Elections by phone-828-250-4200 or visit www.buncombecounty.org and you can apply on-line. It is lots of fun and a great way to serve our community.

Any questions just give me a call.

Barb

Time for Our Power! **“Women Bringing Change to the World” Conference** **June 20-22**

The purpose of this 3-day event is to provide a forum for women of all ages and ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds to gather, learn, grow, and become inspired to personally and collectively bring powerful, positive, and much needed change to their own lives and to the world. “Time for Our Power!” will feature speakers, panelists, and workshop leaders from a wide variety of fields: environmental, political, international affairs, business, medical, spiritual, personal growth, and the arts. All profits from the conference will go to: the Asheville branch of Planned Parenthood; the local domestic-violence agency and shelter Helpmate; help fund the first ever Habitat For Humanity house in Madison County to be built entirely by women; and CARE, a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty with a special focus on working alongside poor women.

Visit <http://www.timeforourpower.com/schedule.php> for more information.

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

Dues for half year membership through 6/30/08 for new members joining after 1/1/08 are:

Individual	\$25
Household	\$37.50
Student	\$10

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.

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

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.

FREF BUDGET

		INCOME		
1	Designated Contribution	500.00	0.00	500.00
2	Interest on Reserves	240.00	266.10	200.00
3	Fundraising - Special	500.00	250.00	500.00
4	Member Contributions	450.00	480.00	500.00
5	Non-Member Contributions	250.00	510.00	500.00
6	Checking Interest		0.09	
7	TOTAL INCOME	1,940.00	1,506.19	2,200.00
		EXPENSES		
		Administration		
8	Postage	50.00		50.00
9	General	200.00		50.00
10	Website	160.00	160.00	160.00
11	Purchase Equipment & Supplies		0.00	175.00
12	Program/Workshops			
13	Candidates' Forums	100.00	37.60	100.00
14	Education Forums	100.00	98.04	100.00
		Publications		
15	Facts for Voters	500.00		500.00
16	Candidates' Packets	50.00	41.00	100.00
17	VOTER	500.00	227.25	500.00
		Per Member Payments		
18	LWVNC	0.00		0.00
19	LWVUS	0.00		0.00
20	Co-sponsorships	100.00	75.00	100.00
21	Scholarships	30.00	38.80	100.00
22	FUND RAISER EXPENSE	0.00	420.75	265.00
23	TOTAL EXPENSES	1,790.00	1,098.44	2,200.00
24	Income Over Expenses			

LWV/AB BUDGET 2008-09

LWVAB BUDGET

LWV ITEM	2007-2008	2008-2009
INCOME		
Dues/Membership	4,855.00	5,275.00
Donations	1,599.00	1,500.00
Fundraising	490.00	490.00
Meeting Receipts	900.00	1,000.00
Interest	5.00	10.00
Transfer from FREF *		100.00
TOTAL INCOME	7,723.00	8,375.00
EXPENSES		
Operating Costs		
Rent for Mailbox	0	58
Postage	0.00	50.00
Supplies	50.00	100.00
Telephone	600.00	150.00
Insurance	402.00	200.00
Membership		
Materials, Postage	200.00	200.00
Membership Book (Print,Mail)	250.00	200.00
URTV	75.00	200.00
Meeting Costs	1,200.00	1,250.00
LWV Name Buttons		
Board Support		
President's Expenses	100.00	100.00
Retreat	0.00	100.00
Fundraising	210.00	200.00
Public Relations	10.00	100.00
Convention, Council		
National	600.00	600.00
State	400.00	400.00
Per Member Payments		
LWVUS	2,492.00	2,500.00
LWVNC	1,134.00	1,150.00
Contingency Fund		817.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,723.00	8,375.00

* for scholarships

Welcome
to our Newest Members:

Jacque Penick
jpenick@macfc.org
828.299.9270

The League Membership Table for the "Women's Confidence Day" conference on Saturday morning, April 5 at the YWCA will be staffed by Jean Parks from 8:45-11:00 and Linda Brown and Judy Hoy from 11:00 to 1:00 to answer questions about membership and recruit new members.

Additions and Corrections for your directories:

Keith Thomson and Nancy Patterson
1 Bridle Path
Asheville, NC 28804
253-7992 (h), 254-3577 (w),
215-4650 (cell)
keith@sysadmin-inc.com

New address for Polly Cody:
Horizon House, 900
University St.,
234 Support Living, Seattle,
WA 98101

President's Report

VOTER SERVICE

The upcoming NC Primary on May 6 creates the need for many League voter services activities in April. LWV-A/BC is sponsoring the "Meet & Greet" for County commissioner candidates on April 14, 7-9 PM; and co-sponsoring with the Henderson County League the Candidates Forum for Congressional and Court of Appeals candidates on April 28. Some of the Court of Appeals candidates from as far away as Wilmington, NC say they plan to participate, so I hope our members will make a special effort to attend the April 28 forum.

We'll also help register voters at the LWV Candidates' events, at the YWCA on April 5, at the Reid Center on April 7 & April 9, and at the United Way candidates' event at A-B Tech, Enka campus on April 28 in the morning.

ANNUAL MEETING

We're planning a delicious buffet dinner, live music, silent auction and an inspirational speaker for our annual meeting on May 19th at the Monte Vista Inn in Black Mountain. If you need a ride or want to car pool, mention that to Betty Becker when you call 258-8223 to make your reservation(s). Sign in will start at 5:00 p.m. To speed up that process, please send a check for your reservations beforehand to LWV-A/BC, PO Box 8292, Asheville, NC 28814. Consider including your dues renewal in the same check to save the hassles of "follow up." See the reservation form on page 7.

A few notes about the materials for the Annual Meeting included in this "Voter:"

Proposed Local Program: Please note the item in **bold**. The members attending the February 25 planning meeting proposed that this item be included for emphasis only if at least two more members commit to work with the Boards & Commissions Study Committee.

Proposed Budget: Moving out of our office space in the Miles Building has resulted in saving several hundred dollars in rent and insurance expenses. Changing our telephone service saves us another \$450/year. Those savings allow us to keep the dues at the current level while creating a contingency fund to cover a proposed increase in per member payment to National LWV and other unforeseen expenses.

STATE COUNCIL

We have a great opportunity this year to attend the State League Council that will be meeting in Hickory, only 1-½ hours from Asheville. Most of the activities of interest to the average League member will be on Saturday, May 31. Look at the information included in the recent "NC Voter." Let me know if you plan to attend so we can work out car pools.

LWVUS IMMIGRATION POSITION

The LWVUS Board of Directors unanimously adopted the League's position on immigration. You can read it at www.lwv.org, Position on Immigration.

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating committee has done a terrific job presenting a very strong slate of nominees for election at the annual meeting as well as a cadre of members willing to take appointed, off-Board responsibilities next year. However, I am very disturbed no one has accepted nomination to the Vice President position.

Last year, Barb Panarites agreed to serve as President-Elect with the understanding that she would move up to President in '08. Barb has been paying attention to all aspect of League governance to prepare herself to move into the President's position next year. She is ready and able to take on the Presidency. All she asked is for a Vice President willing to assume the President's role in her absence. Without a nominee for Vice President, we will have no nominee for President. The League will be lacking crucial leadership in "08-'09."

Ruth Christie, President, 232-2883

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Making Democracy Work

REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee presents the slate of nominees for 2008-2009.

LWV Nominations

Officers

- President (08-09) - Open *
 - Vice President (08-09) - open
 - Treasurer (08-10) - Ruth Christie
 - Recording Secretary (08-10) - Linda Brown
- *Barb Panarites has withdrawn her name due to unfilled VP position.

Board of Directors

1. Voter Editor (08-09) - Anne Higgins
2. Voter Issues (08-09) - Nina Accardo
3. Membership (07-09) - Jean Parks
4. Programming (08-10) - Dorothy Dvorsky-Rohner
5. At Large (08-10) - Karen Van Eman
6. Forums (08-10) - Yvette Wessel

Other Elected Positions

- Nomination Committee
- Chair - Grace Curry
- Member - Pat Wille
- Member - Marsha Stickford

This slate will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May. At that time, nominations will be taken from the floor. Any person making a nomination from the floor must first have potential nominee's consent (Article VIII, Sect. 2 in the By-Laws)

The Appointed Positions that have been filled are:

- Corresponding Secretary - Fran Meyers
- Hospitality/Phone - Grace Curry
- News Clippings - Jack Saye
- Office Phone - Betty Becker
- Web Page - Nancy Patterson, Judy Bissell
- E-Mail contacts - Kathleen Balogh
- Publicity/PR - Sandra Abromitis
- Kids Voting - Sheila Franklin
- Programing - Barbara Segraves
- Forums - Jane Wilson
- Voter Issues - Sally Boerschig

Submitted by Grace Curry,
Chair Nominating Committee

ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATION AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR '08-'09

- Name:
- Address:
- City, State
- Zip
- E-mail
- Fax
- Hm. Phone:
- Cell Phone:

- Dinner reservations: \$20
- Membership Cost::
- Individual (\$50)
- Household (75)
- Student (\$20)

Total: _____

Mail with check to PO Box 8292,
Asheville, NC 28814



LOCAL PROGRAM LWV AB 2008-2009

2008-2009

Citizenship in Action

The local emphasis proposed for 2008-2009 is as follows:

The League will focus on three primary issue categories: Citizenship in Action, Environmental Issues, and local application of the LWVUS Immigration position

Citizenship in Action

Advocate for campaign finance reform

Mount motivational voter registration drive in target area of ages 18-35

Monitor and report on governmental bodies through observer corps

Provide reliable nonpartisan information through public forums, Voter guides, and “*Know Your Local Government*”

Work for implementation of the recommendations of the ‘03-’05 LWV-A/BC study of Boards & Commissions.

Environmental Issues: Work in collaboration with local/regional groups on environmental issues, including but not limited to Planning and Zoning, Steep Slope Development, and Water Supply and Quality.

Immigration Position - LWV-A/BC will apply the National Position on Immigration locally.

In addition to these adopted program items, LWV-Asheville/Buncombe County adheres to and may take action under consensus positions on record through its local, state, and national organizations. We will continue to partner with other organizations in pursuing our agenda locally, regionally, and statewide. We will specifically be exploring common goals with other local civic organizations and common regional agendas with our sister Leagues in Henderson and Madison County.

Article VI

Financial Administration

The following is a proposed by-law change as agreed by the LWV-AB board:

Sec. 5. After the close of every fiscal year, the books shall be audited.

Change to

Sec. 5. After the close of every fiscal year, there shall be a review of internal control systems by a disinterested party.

Observer Report

Metropolitan Sewer District Board Meeting

February 20, 2008

Terry Bellamy was the only Board member absent. Bill Russell replaces Brownie Newman as Asheville representative. He received an iron manhole cover opening tool as a welcome gift. Jack Stevens substituted for William Clarke as counsel. Robert Hobson of Bank of America explained the need for refinancing of bonds. XL Capital, insurer of bonds, was downgraded from AAA to A by Fitch. By two board resolutions the intent is to remove XL Capital as insurer. No insurance now needed. These are variable rate bonds. Approval of Consolidated Motion Agenda included acceptance of several developer constructed sewer systems, among them being Crest Mountain Phase 1-A and Phase 2. Terry Brothers was low bidder of six bidders for Delaware Avenue and Fair Oaks Road projects. MSD has a new system map, GIS map, which is faster and easier to use. The web page is msdbc.org. A board retreat will be at 11:00 a.m. March 19, prior to the regular board meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Leah Karpen, Observer

MINUTES FROM PROGRAM MEETING

LWV-A/BC Planning Meeting

Feb. 25, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

at YWCA

Minutes:

Present: Ruth Christie, Hal Hogstrom, Jean Parks, Anne Higgins, Pat Wille, Grace Curry, Sandra Abromitis, Kathleen Balogh, Sally Boerschig, Janie Wilson, Leah Karpen, Keith Thomson

Ruth introduced newest member, Keith Thomson and asked other members present to introduce themselves.

Announcements: upcoming LWV-A/BC meeting on March 9, 3:00 p.m.; Annual mtg. May 19, 5:00 pm; LWVNC Council in Hickory May 30-June 1; LWV-A/BC registering voters at the YWCA Women's Confidence Day April 5, 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.; Women's Agenda, Sept. 20 at YWCA – Buncombe County Women's Commission asks LWV-A/BC to co-sponsor.

Report from LWVNC: Kathleen reported that LWVNC has not renewed the contract with the part time lobbyist; is considering hiring a part time Executive Director to staff the office & coordinate lobbying by local Leagues & members. LWVNC has asked that local Leagues meet with their NC representatives prior to the short session commencing in May to discuss LWVNC legislative priority issues. Sally Boerschig, Kathleen Balogh, Leah Karpen & Sandra Abromitis expressed interest in participating in such meetings. Some discussion of planning a breakfast with legislators in non-election years.

Local Program Planning: Review of current local league program: members present recommend retaining the current focus on Citizenship in Action with the slight change of broadening the target area for voter registration to ages 18-35; change the LWVUS Immigration Study focus to "Apply the National Position on Immigration locally"; add to paragraph on Environmental Issues: "water supply and quality."

Kathleen presented a brief review of the 2003-05 study of appointed Boards & Commissions. The study committee had presented recommendations to Asheville City Council and Buncombe County Commissioners in 2005. Neither entity has made any response to those recommendations. A couple of members pointed out that neither entity had requested the study and both are busy with many other issues. Although the study committee had thought that our recommendations would not be costly for the City and County to implement, Pat Wille, speaking from her experience as a government worker, could see that the recommendations would require additional staff time to coordinate the changes proposed.

Other points raised: create a strategy to push for implementation; need to get County administrator "on board"; convince the newspapers to run a series about Boards & commissions; contact the Coalition of Neighborhoods; can we get more members participating? After much discussion, the members agreed to recommend adding to local program for 2008-09 "emphasis on implementing the recommendations of the 2005 study of Boards & Commissions" if sufficient interest is expressed at the Annual meeting to assure at least two additional members join the study committee.

Other:

Water Forum: Sandra Abromitis proposed that our League co-sponsor with River Link a forum on water supply similar to the public forum "Will the Water Run Out?" sponsored by LWV of Wake County. Members present showed much interest in the topic. Sandra was aiming for late spring; other members thought the fall would be better timing for such a forum. Decision made to add "water supply & water quality" to Environmental issues on which to work in collaboration with local/regional groups.

National Convention in Portland June 13-17. It would be good for local delegates to National convention to have a conversation beforehand re proposals expected to be presented at the Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



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LEAGUE CALENDAR 2008

APRIL

Meet and Greet the candidates for Asheville Buncombe Commissioner - 7:00-9:00 at the Jewish Community Center April 14 Board Meeting 5:30, YWCA .. April 22 Pre-Primary Candidates Forum for Candidates for Court of Appeals seats and the primary for the 11th Congressional District; 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, Hendersonville Rd. Fletcher. Public invited April 28

MAY

Annual Meeting Monte Vista Restaurant, Black Mountain 5:00 May 19 LWV NC Council Park Inn, Hickory, NC 9:00-8:00pm; May 31 8:30-11:30a.m. June 1

This edition of the Voter is dedicated to Hazel Fobes. Many of her friends have expressed a desire to honor Hazel by placing a bench to overlook the French Broad. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Sandra Abromitis at abromitis@msn.com. See the proposed text at right.

In memory of Hazel Fobes With great appreciation for decades of tireless service to our community. Unquestionably, Asheville is a better place to live because of her outspoken advocacy for our environment, her championship of local and global issues, and her persistence in supporting causes she believed in for the betterment of our community. No words can adequately express the debt of gratitude we owe to the memory of this courageous and dedicated woman.

Your friends at the League of Women Voters of Asheville-Buncombe County. We have placed a Riverlink bench in your honor !

The League of Women Voters of Asheville-Buncombe County P . O . B o x 8 2 9 2 Asheville, NC 28814 8 2 8 - 2 5 8 - 8 2 2 3 www.abc.nc.lwvnet.org/