

IN THIS MONTH'S VOTER January 2009

Theater Party	1
LWV Compact Study Update	1
Holiday Party Invite	1
Officers and Board	2
Energy Advisory Council Update	2
Upcoming Nuclear Issues Mtg	2
Sustainable Advisory Mtg Update.	3
Membership	3
Minutes of LWVAB meeting	4
Minutes (Continued)	5
Position Opening	5
Calendar	6

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



THEATER PARTY AND FLORENCE RYAN FUNDRAISER

On Wednesday, March 4, the League will host a theater party to see Tom Stoppard's existential comedy, "Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead," at the North Carolina Stage Company. The NC Stage promotion says, "Stoppard uses his dazzling word play ...to turn Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' on its ear."

Tickets are now on sale for \$22 and the price includes a \$6 contribution to the Florence Ryan Education Fund. To order your ticket, please contact Ruth Christie at 232-2883 or rachristie@charter.net . Tickets will be available at the Jan. 23rd reception for our elected officials.



LWVUS National Popular Vote Compact Study Update

The National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact "Pro and Con" articles will be posted on the LWVUS Web site next week. Go to www.lwv.org to read the background article posted earlier on the NPV page. The consensus questions and a Leader's Guide will be posted mid-month, along with three short camera-ready articles abridging the three longer articles.

Join Us !

LWV- Holiday Party to honor our Elected Officials.

The League welcomes both incoming and outgoing officials for the New Year.

When: Friday, January 23, 2009, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Where: Reuter Center (UNCA Campus) Chestnut Room, First Floor. The NC Center for Creative Retirement is hosting this event for the LWV.

For directions, please call 251-6140.

Volunteers needed to help with set up, clean up, and serving punch and wine. (Contact Grace Curry to volunteer at gracecurry1@charter.net or phone 254-3924)

Don't forget to bring your favorite finger food.

All members and spouses are invited. Please RSVP on or before January 16, 2009 by contacting Jean Parks at 687-0109 or by email- jparks@grandcreative.com.

Officers and Board 2008-2009

President / Vice President - By
Executive Committee consisting of
members with (*)
Ruth Christie - Treasurer
*Linda Brown - Recording Secretary
*Jean Parks - Membership
Nina Accardo - Voter Enfranchisement
*Anne Higgins - Voter Editor
Open - Programming
Yvette Wessel - Civic Education
(Forums)
Karen VanEman - At Large
*Sandra Abromitis - Press Release and
Publicity
Nancy Patterson - Web Page

Nominating Committee

Grace Curry - Chairman
Marsha Stickford - Member
Pat Wille - Member
*Sandra Abromitis - Member
Linda Brown - Member

Off Board Appointments

Betty Becker - Office Phone
Barb Panarites - State & Natl Liason
Kathleen Balogh - E-mail contacts
Grace Curry - Hospitality/Phone
Fran Myers - Corresponding Secretary
Jack Saye - Newsclippings
Barbara Segraves - Programming
Jane Wilson - Forums
Sally Boerschig - Voter Issues

On April 6, 2009, the World Affairs Council, in cooperation with Physicians for Social Responsibility, will sponsor a meeting on nuclear issues. The League will co-sponsor this event. Look for details to come.

Community Energy Advisory Council

November 14, 2008

At least 25 people sat at the table and in chairs along the walls of the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Board Room for the Community Energy Advisory Council (CEAC) meeting on November 14. This council was formed by Progress Energy in response to public concern about their proposal to build a power plant in Woodfin.

Robert Sipes, Progress Energy Vice President for the Western Region, announced that Progress intends to upgrade an existing high voltage transmission line in South Buncombe County and install a new one nearby on a route to be determined. Existing contracts for peak power expire at the end of 2009 and then peak power will come from the south requiring new transmission lines. Progress will host a public meeting on the proposed route.

Energy use in the Western Region continues to grow at 15-20 megawatts (MW) per year. Harold James predicts that growth can be decreased in half by 2015 through Demand Side Management (DSM) and energy efficiency (EE) programs. The remaining growth can be met by "spinning reserves," turbines that are constantly running, in case of a breakdown. Progress is also looking into storing energy in personal electric vehicles to meet demand.

James, who directs renewable and wholesale projects for Progress, reported on the first of the DSM/EE measures approved by the Utilities Commission. Energy Wise is a voluntary heating and air conditioning control program that shuts off heat or air for short periods during high demand. New and retrofit programs for commercial, industrial and government customers were also approved. Up for approval are energy efficiency programs that include low-income populations and a solar water heater pilot project.

Kent Fonvielle of Progress Energy and Dale Freudenberger of FLS Energy described a new solar farm to be built in Haywood County on a landfill from Blue Ridge Paver. The one MW photovoltaic array will consist of 3200 solar panels on seven acres, with completion expected in June. The panels will employ a single axis tracking system that will allow them to follow the sun from east to west, making them 30% more efficient.

Recently formed community "sector" groups gave reports of their monthly meetings. Rick Lutovsky, business sector, reported that the Energy Task Force continues to meet with local governments to address fuel oil and space heater issues. Vernon Daugherty, education sector, said his group is examining the Eco Team program for third graders that Warren Wilson College is conducting in Buncombe County with hopes to implement it in Madison County. They are also looking at Project Insulate to offer to high school students. The education sector would like Progress to hire an educator to assist with these ideas.

Maggie Ullman, government sector, said her group is looking into public access TV and PSAs for outreach. She expressed concerns about who would be the best face for outreach efforts – Progress, the City, or CEAC. Ullman's office is establishing a baseline carbon footprint for Asheville and all of Buncombe County. Richard Fireman and Isaac Coleman, home and community sector, emphasized the importance of print media coverage, dollar savings, and job programs for young men and women.

The meeting closed at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting is December 12, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Chamber.

Submitted by Jane Laping

Asheville Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment

November 13, 2008

With the lights out, the blinds up and the cloudy sunlight seeping in, fifteen people including members and guests attended the Asheville Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment (SACEE) on Thursday afternoon, November 13. The tasks before this nine-member council-appointed committee are two short-term goals for the City: LEED¹ certification standards for municipal buildings and a 2% reduction in energy use per year. The long term goal is to showcase the City of Asheville as a community model for energy reduction and clean air actions.

Scott Shuford, former Planning and Development Director for the City and presently with Shuford Planning Services, gave a guest presentation on adapting to climate change. Shuford has almost completed a Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Handbook to prepare cities for the effects of climate change. After reviewing the consequences of more numerous and more severe weather events, Shuford warned the committee of people migrating to the mountains from areas affected by increases in sea level along the coast of North Carolina. He predicts negative impacts on property, infrastructure and the environment and advises local governments to make organizational change to address climate change.

Maggie Ullman, City Energy Coordinator, reported that she has spent the bulk of her time in the last month setting up an organized structure for interns to make the best use of their time. Her goal is to have at least two interns, one to focus on outreach and education and the other on energy management and systems. So far, interns have developed a community baseline for energy use that can be used to quantify reductions. Ullman also reported that the Sustainability Master Plan will be in draft chapters before the holidays with completion anticipated by March.

Margo Flood, Environmental Leadership Center Director for Warren Wilson College, announced a conference on climate change that the College will host March 27, 28, and 29 that will address economic, environmental, and cultural impacts. Flood encouraged the committee to not only promote the conference, but for the City to use it as a launching point for a public dialogue about climate change that would take place about two weeks after the conference.

Following the reports, the committee broke into two subcommittee work sessions, City Operations (internal) and Community Relations (external), and then heard reports from the subcommittees. The task of the internal committee is to develop a sustainable vision for the City and the task of the external committee is to present that vision to homeowners and businesses and develop a pledge to encourage commitment. The lights were turned on at 4:45 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

¹ Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a certification program for buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy for occupants.

Submitted by Jane Laping

November 2008 LWV-A/BC Membership Report

We were pleased to host six prospective members at our New Member Tea on November 9, several of them invited by Linda Brown. One of them, Teddy Jordan, joined the League that day. We hope the rest will join soon. Many thanks to Shirley Birdie for providing the location and to all the members who brought tea pots and hors d'oeuvres to share. We have had eighty-two local member renewals and we have three new members for this fall.

We welcome new members John Fisher, Sandra Houts, Jane Laping, Teddy Jordan and Ed Paul.

Submitted by Jean Parks

OBSERVING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Tuesday, January 13,
12:00-1:30

Pot Luck Lunch
The Timbers

Condominium Clubhouse
Off Beaverdam Road,
about a mile from Merrimon
Avenue. Use the second
entrance. The clubhouse is
on the left.

Come learn about
observing meetings of
Asheville City and
Buncombe County boards
and commissions, an
ongoing project of our
League chapter. Members
who belonged to the chapter
before July 2008, please
bring a dish to share.
Everyone, please RSVP to
by Jan. 10 to Jean Parks at
687-0109 or
jparks@grandcreataive.com.

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.

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.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Making Democracy Work.

LWV-A/BC Board meeting – Nov. 18, 2008 6:00 pm at YWCA – Minutes

Submitted by Linda Brown.

Chaired by Yvette Wessel.

Board members present: Ruth Christie – Treasurer; Linda Brown - Recording Secretary; Anne Higgins - Editor of *The Voter*; Nancy Patterson – Webmaster; Jean Parks – Membership; Yvette Wessel – Civic Education; Barb Panarites – Liaison with state and national; Karen VanEman - Member at large

Unable to attend: Sandra Abromitis – Public Relations; Nina Accardo – Voter Services

Welcome to new Board member, Nancy Patterson

Minutes of the Oct. 28th Board meeting – Linda Brown

Approved (Ruth, Barb)

Treasurer's report – Ruth Christie

Approved (Anne, Sandra) The League has \$4,542 in checking, \$1,240 in a MM account, and \$5,155 in a CD. The Florence Ryan Fund has \$2,220 in checking and a CD worth \$10,311.62. Voter Services expenses incurred by Nina Accardo and Linda Brown during the 2008 election will come out of the League's contingency fund. (Ruth, Jean) New policy: Thanks to rising gasoline prices, the League will reimburse Board members at the IRS rate for charitable organizations, which is 14 cents a mile. (Ruth, Barb).

Policies: Since we have no file of policies, it would be wise for the Recording Secretary to keep such a file. (Tabled). Fund-raising letter: It will be delayed until after the first of the year.

Committee Reports

Membership – Jean Parks; We were pleased to host six prospective members at our New Member Tea on November 9th. One of them, Teddy Jordan, joined the League that day. We hope the rest will join soon. Many thanks to Shirley Berdie for providing the location and to all the members who brought teapots and hors d'oeuvres to share. We have had 82 local member renewals, plus three new members for this fall.

It was suggested that the League hold a monthly meeting, starting January 2009, to bring together *new* members, *potential* members, and *veteran* members. New members can learn about possible assignments based upon our needs and their interests. Ruth will contact Kathleen Balogh, Marsha Stickford and Leah Karpen to see if they would be available for such a meeting on a Sunday afternoon in January at the home of Barb Panarites. This meeting would be aimed at members, new and old, interested in becoming League observers.

Candidate forums – Yvette Wessel; The two forums were a great success – from the introductions by Ruth Christie and Kathleen Balogh to the moderator Nelda Holder to the middle schoolers who collected questions from the audience. The Board would like to send a thank-you note to all the candidates, plus Ann Raybon who organized the middle school students. Next time, we would like to hold the forums before early voting, as well as include a forum for judicial candidates. The local bar association did not respond to our inquiry because there were no local races.

Old Business

The Website – Nancy Patterson; The Board thanked Ms. Patterson, our new webmaster, and invites all members to visit our new website at www.ablwg.org. Policy: All requests and recommendations for the website should be sent to Jean Parks, who will forward them to Nancy Patterson. For League events, the Board could send e-

mails to the membership through the website. For non-League events, our members could decide whether to receive notices. (Tabled.) It is technologically possible to present the video of forums on the website.

New Business

Theater party – Ruth Christie; On Wednesday, March 4, the League will host a theater party to see Tom Stoppard’s Shakespearean comedy, “Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead,” at the North Carolina Stage Company. Ruth Christie will purchase 40 tickets @ \$13.50 each. (Ticket price is \$16 less 15% discount to LWV by NC Stage Co.) The Board voted to sell the tickets for \$22, including a \$6 contribution to FREF. This fundraiser will raise about \$350 for the Florence Ryan Fund. (Ruth, Jean)

Event to honor elected officials – Yvette Wessel; On Friday, Jan. 23rd from 5:30 to 8 pm in the Chesnut Ridge Room of the Reuters Center at UNCA, the League will host a get-together for recently-elected officials. Grace Curry will send invitations to the elected officials and make the hospitality arrangements. RSVPs will be taken by Jean Parks. Since the Reuters Center will co-sponsor the event, there is no charge, a savings to the League of \$250.

Impact 2008: A Legislative Briefing – Yvette Wessel; The NC Justice Center and the United Way asked the League to co-sponsor this event. The Board voted yes. (Ruth, Karen)

World Affairs Council: Nuclear issues – Yvette Wessel; On April 6, 2009, the World Affairs Council, in cooperation with Physicians for Social Responsibility, will sponsor a meeting on nuclear issues. Leah Karpen asked the League to co-sponsor this event. The Board voted yes. (Ruth, Barb)

NEXTBOARDMEETING

Tuesday, January 27th. Jean Parks will chair.
Nina Accardo will ask the YWCA if this and future 2009 dates are acceptable.
Adjourned at 7:15 pm



LWVNC CONTRACT EMPLOYEE Position Available



The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a national non-partisan organization founded in 1922 and dedicated to the education of voters and advocacy on issues important to NC citizens. LWV North Carolina (LWVNC) concentrates on issues at the state level and its 18 chapters serve communities statewide. We are looking for an individual who understands and accepts the principles and non-partisan status of the League and has a strong interest in the policies, issues and politics of North Carolina.

Projects include:

- Developing a Legislative agenda in consultation with the Advocacy committee and reporting on a regular basis to the membership.
- Coordinating the activities of the LWVNC Convention in June, 2009
- Developing and implementing a fundraising database

Additional details of the position are available upon request to LWVNCPresident@bellsouth.net.

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.



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LEAGUE CALENDAR 2009

JANUARY

Observing Boards and Commissions:
Tuesday, January 13, 12:00-1:30 at the Timbers Condo Clubhouse. (see pg. 3 for details) Jan 13

Elected Officials Reception - Friday,
Jan. 23 from 6 to 8 pm in the Chesnut Ridge Room of the Reuters Center at UNCA. Please bring something to share.
..... Jan 23

Board Meeting
YWCA, 6:00 p.m.; Executive Committee meeting 5:30. Jan 27

FEBRUARY

Board Meeting
YWCA, 6:00 p.m.; Executive Committee meeting 5:30.. Feb 24

MARCH

Theater party and Fundraiser- NC Stage Co. - Tom Stoppard's Shakespearean comedy *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead* March 4

LWVNC State Meeting in Asheville
Details to come. March 13, 14

Board Meeting
YWCA, 6:00 p.m.; Executive Committee meeting 5:30. March 23



APRIL

Nuclear Issues Forum - sponsored by World Affairs Council, in cooperation with Physicians for Social Responsibility. Co-sponsored by LWV/ABC
..... April 6

The League of Women Voters
of Asheville-Buncombe County
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Asheville, NC 28814
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