

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
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Asheville, NC 28801
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Notes from the President:

It is with mixed emotions that I write my final Voter address from the President.

It has been an honor to represent the League of Women Voters of Asheville/Buncombe County as your President for the last three years. Many things have been accomplished, and a few things have been left undone, but such is the way with any leadership opportunity. It is time for new energy and ideas and I am sure you will be more than pleased with the slate of officers and board members the nominating committee has enlisted for the coming year. I will enjoy sitting back a bit, watching the League continue its' great work locally and looking forward to my service to the LWV as a continuing member of the State Board.

Members will receive an e-mail around April 19 with information from the nominating committee, the proposed budget, and a couple of minor By-law changes that will be voted on during our Annual meeting on May 19, 2007. With the Annual meeting information, you will also receive your invitation to the meeting, a request for your reservation, and your ANNUAL DUES NOTICE. Many of us take the opportunity to write one check to cover both the luncheon costs and dues, and this helps the membership committee get a jump on membership renewals. PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

The NC State Convention held March 23-25 in Carthage, NC, was an incredible wealth of information. I hope that more of our members will take the opportunity to attend the next council meeting in 2008 and/or the state convention in 2009. During the meeting we learned that our league is the fourth largest league in the state, eclipsed only by the LWV of Orange, Durham, Chatham (3 counties!), the LWV of Wake County (Tri-angle area), and the LWV of Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Congratulations to our League! Workshops provided during the Convention included; Tech Tips, growing membership, innovative Voter Service activities, advocacy, redistricting, tax reform, and election & campaign reform. I led a discussion on the ERA, and a video was shown on a project for high school girls entitled 'Running and winning'. NC Secretary of State Elaine Marshall was the keynote speaker for our Sat. evening meal, followed by a wonderful entertaining review by members of the Henderson County LWV. We were exhausted at weekends close, but very energized. Betty Becker and Barb Panarites attended, along with me. Let's plan to take even more members next time! See more details in their reports in this Voter.

Thank you once again for electing me into this position, I have learned so much and have enjoyed representing you all! Hope everyone has a wonderful April!

Peace, Kathleen Balogh

April 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.

National League of Women Voters' position on global warming:

"Global warming is one of the most serious threats to our environment, our health and our economy. The League of Women Voters joins other organizations in calling for immediate action to curb the worst effects of global warming by enforcing reductions in global warming pollution and promoting clean and efficient sources of energy."

It's a growing challenge to find anyone who contests that global warming is one of the most serious threats to human health and Mother Earth. Scientists agree that unless we start right now to dramatically reduce greenhouse gases emissions from burning oil, the damage to our own and our planet's health will be catastrophic. The Asheville/Buncombe County chapter of the League of Women Voters joins those who are standing up to be counted on this issue, and saying we must start right now trying to reverse the harm we've already done. Quite simply, we have run out of time.

Not too long ago, none of us knew that smoking was all that harmful, and no one had heard of "second-hand smoke." Many of us sat in our dens and around the kitchen table after dinner, smoking cigarettes with never a thought to the harm it was doing to the babies we held or the children playing at our feet. We even smoked in our cars with the windows rolled up while our kids sat in the back seat complaining that they couldn't breathe.

However, the research is finished and the facts are established. What responsible parents continue to subject their children to the extremely harmful effects of cigarette smoke? Yes, many of us were addicted to nicotine, but once we realized how it ruined our health and our children's health, most of us just said "No."

Now we are addicted to oil, and the harmful effects from that addiction are already evident. The experts tell us if we don't start lowering our demand for oil right now and using renewable sources, our personal health from breathing polluted air and our planet's health from global warming are doomed. Just as we took personal and local government responsibility (smoking bans) for kicking our nicotine habit, most of us would agree that we have to do the same with our addiction to oil.

On January 16, County Commissioners voted unanimously to lease 18 acres of County land in Woodfin to Progress Energy so they can build a new, 135 megawatt oil-burning power plant there. The League agrees with Mountain Voices Alliance, which is the local chapter of Western North Carolina Alliance; Clean Water for NC; the Canary Coalition and many other groups/individuals, plus the forty or so citizens who spoke at the Commissioners' meeting for two hours, that a new power plant would not be necessary if our leaders support making a paradigm shift in the way our community thinks about energy.

Elected officials in cities and counties all over America are leading the way toward improved public health, a sustainable environment and strengthened economies by passing laws and ordinances for innovative energy solutions that reduce citizens' dependence on oil. Part of Buncombe County's mission statement is the following: "We promote a healthy, safe, well-educated, and thriving community with a sustainable quality of life." The local chapter of the League of Women Voters calls on our Commissioners to follow that mission and play a leadership role in the growing local movement to find sustainable, healthy solutions to our energy needs. We believe that together, citizens of Buncombe County can rid ourselves of this addiction to oil before it kills our children, the planet and us.

submitted by B.J. Snow

Florence Iddings Ryan

Part 3 of 3

...Continued from Feb, March issues of Voter

When she retired in 1964 she took a six month trip around the world. Then returned home and became active in many community groups. She was able to give more time to church work and served as Chairman of the Christian Community Action Committee of the Women of First Presbyterian Church. As a member of the Women of the Church in Asheville Presbytery and Appalachian Synod, she was Chairman of the Black Scholarship Committee for Stillman College, which involved not only raising the necessary money, but selecting the recipients.

As one of several volunteers from churches in Asheville, she helped in resolving the dispute between the Asheville Housing Authority and tenants when they went on a rent strike in the late sixties. As a result of this group's recommendations, the official Community Relations council was set up, on which Florence has served. She has been an observer for the League of Women voters at Board Meetings of the Asheville Housing Authority for many years.

During the fifties and sixties, Florence was active on the YWCA Public Affairs Committee which worked for integration of lunch rooms, theaters, and jobs, as well as cleaning up voting irregularities.

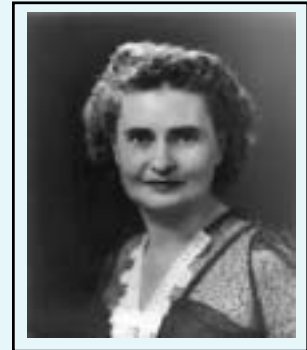
She has been a member of the Board of WNC Chapter of United Nations Association – USA (UNA – USA) since its organization in 1957, following Mrs. Roosevelt's visit to this area. She served as Treasurer for nearly 20 years. For several years, in the seventies, she was UNICEF Chairman for Buncombe County.

She has been an active member of the Democratic Party, serving on the Precinct Committee and twice chosen to be an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Conventions. In 1981 the Young Democrats of Buncombe County set up an annual award in her name, which was to go to persons who performed outstanding party work.

During the seventies, when women were organizing for ratification for the Equal Rights Amendment, she worked untiringly in many women's organizations. She was present at the 1977 Legislative Session when ERA lost by one vote in the State Senate, a day never to be forgotten.

1984 the Asheville/Buncombe County League of Women Voters set up an Education Fund in her name, honoring her 90th birthday. In 1985, she was chosen by the N.C. Council on the Status of Women as one of five to receive the Distinguished Woman of the Year Award.

Her three daughters are married, living in New York City, Georgia, and Arkansas. Her only son was killed during the last days of WWII and is buried in an American Military Cemetery in Holland. She has five grown grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



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;

The N.C. Justice System, A Reality Courtroom Series

The Civics 101 committee is finalizing plans to make the reality courtroom series very interesting and informative. The series will be given on 3 successive Thursday evenings, 4/19, 4/26, and 5/3 from 6-7:30 pm in the 5th floor courtroom in the Buncombe County Courthouse. In addition to parking on College Street, parking for this series will be available in the jury parking lot, corner of College and Valley streets, from 5:30-8:00 pm.

The committee hopes League members will make a special effort to attend this series and to invite friends, co-workers, and neighbors to attend. Several judges, lawyers and court personnel are giving freely of their time to appear in this series. It is much appreciated and has been a collaboration of many hands and much hard work. Thanks to all.

submitted by: Ruth Christie



*Welcome to our newest
member:*

Ms Marian Sinks

bafgso@aol.com

METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT BOARD

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

At a Planning retreat preceding the regular Board meeting, Board members identified issues for the coming year. Those were:

- Consider a uniform affordable housing definition.
- Look at infill incentives.
- Initiatives to consider service to un-served areas.
- Pump station issue as affected by land use plan.
- Associated condemnation.
- Review appropriateness of incentives toward MSD goals.
- Rate structure; relief to low income customers.
- Define MSD role in land development.
- Partner with cities/towns on growth/land use issues —communication with cities & towns.
- Review/develop extension policies.
- Incentives—are they effective/workable.
- Are we just a reaction to developers?
- Should we go into Madison County?
- Review consolidation of employee benefits.
- How much growth do we need/at what cost?
- Can capacity of present facilities sustain growth?

The regular meeting began at 2:10 p.m. with all members present. Infrastructure maintenance, actually plan treatment plant facilities, occupied most of the meeting. Staff and Gary McGill, consulting engineer, presented a facility plan with recommendations for the future. The projected wastewater flow in year 2020 is 31.3 mgd (million gallons/day), within the plant's capacity. The secondary micro screens are in poor condition and must be replaced. Currently some of the rotating

biological contactors (RBCs) are inoperable and need to be repaired or replaced. The RBC process should be phased out in 20 years—not currently the best technology. The grit and grease removal system is not performing satisfactorily and the current mode of operation needs to be switched to the original sequential mode. The Board accepted a proposal of \$351,300 for itemized Schreiber equipment; the amount is within budget. The Consolidated Motion Agenda was approved. The Right of Way committee will meet on April 4th and the Capital Improvement committee on April 5th. All meetings are open to the public.

Submitted by: Leah Karpen, Observer

Board of Adjustment City of Asheville Monday, March 26, 2007

Four items on the agenda:

- First was a request for a variance to construct a new single family home on Horizon Hill Road. The plans did not meet current setback requirements. The request was denied, one reason being that a change of the building's design could conform to requirements.
- Second was a variance concerning the "channelized automobile storage" for a proposed 20-unit hotel at 11 Lodge Street in Biltmore. Because of the entry into traffic, the Board would not act without the personal testimony of a traffic engineer, who was not available at the time. The matter was tabled to a future meeting.
- Third was a request for variance in size of sign for a proposed hotel at 127 Acton Circle. The owners presented much material to support their case. The request was denied.
- The last item was request for a wall sign that exceeds allowable sign size at 339 New Leicester Highway. The developer withdrew the request prior to a hearing.

*Submitted by: Leah Karpen,
Observer*

Constituent Meeting with Representative Bruce Goforth

Representative Bruce Goforth, D-Buncombe, House 115 held a breakfast meeting with several members of the electorate, including Tom Coulson from Common Cause, myself representing LWVABC and Adam Sotak of Democracy North Carolina. The initial focus was set by Tom Coulson who had arranged the meeting to discuss public owned elections with a particular focus on extending the public financing used by the judicial election candidates to the Council of State (department and commission heads).

Representative Goforth was very receptive to the concept of public financing and further expanding it. He talked about the mounting pressure to do fundraising and how it puts candidates in a bind. If you don't raise money, you can't get elected, and with the money comes at least the perception of influence. No matter who is a source of the money, some other group will hold it against a candidate. He sees members of the House performing a public service which should not require lots of time for fundraising because they already spend a lot of time away from their homes and businesses in Raleigh. They shouldn't have to spend their time at home fundraising. Representative Goforth mentioned that going to 4 year terms for House members would help reduce the fundraising pressure. Further, he talked about the need for increased mileage reimbursement and legislative pay as key facets of increasing public access/participation in the House races.

Representative Goforth also raised the topics of the problems the state is facing with mental health reform, education and the environment, which we discussed very briefly as most of our hour and a half had flown, and he had to leave for Raleigh.

Submitted by: Jack Saye

Asheville Buncombe League of Women Voters Field Trip to Legislature

Proposal for visit to NC Legislature - Agenda for a Trip:

Arrive in Raleigh for 6:30PM or 7:00 PM dinner. Dates to determined by those interested in participating. Cost is about \$79/night/room, 2 people, 2 beds, nonsmoking.

Mary Klenz will be there with a group, Judie Burke LWVNC President, and possibly one or two more state board members. They will invite someone to join us for dinner to talk about the history of NC Politics as background.

The next morning we will meet at the legislature at 10:00 AM for an issues briefing. Mary will invite 1-2 people that the LWV works with on issues to give a briefing on the issues, status of bills, etc that LWVNC is working on. We will allow about an hour for that.

Next, we tour the legislature; stop by local representatives' offices, etc. They also can make arrangements for an appointment with our representatives. Someone from state board will be with us to fill in details on issues, etc.

Next, we will lunch in the cafeteria at the legislature.

After lunch we will attend a committee meeting depending on the day of the week. The legislature usually convenes at 2:00-2:30 PM. We could observe that for a bit before we go home.

It will be a full day but very informative. Mary will be with us along with one or two state board members to facilitate. We need to pick dates that will work for us. They then can invite one or two other leagues to join us. Mary will coordinate all the arrangements so we just need to show up.

Please contact me if you are interested in visiting the legislature. It will be a special opportunity and experience that will be so meaningful.

Barbara Panarites

bpnarites2@charter.net

828-236-5987

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



for the LWV/ABC

Annual Meeting

Where: Asheville Country Club

When: May 19, 2007

To be discussed:

- Nominations
- Proposed Budget
- By-Law Changes

Look for your invitation by e-mail shortly.

Advocacy Opportunity

RESULTS: Creating the public and political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty.

The LWV/ABC was invited to attend the first informational meeting of Results in Asheville. I attended on our behalf in a fact gathering capacity. There were about 20 people there representing a wide array of organizations from churches to green builders, colleges to national and international groups.

RESULTS is a nonprofit grassroots advocacy organization, committed to creating the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty. **RESULTS** is committed to individuals exercising their personal and political power by lobbying elected officials for effective solutions and key policies that affect hunger and poverty. You can find more information on this organization at www.results.org.

The group is forming a working team, goals to be determined. If anyone is interested in attending meetings of this group, please let me know and I will be happy to share their contact numbers with you. Next meeting is April 19, at 7:00 p.m at the UNCA Ramsey Library.

Kathleen Balogh

THE VOTER



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LEAGUE CALENDAR 2007

APRIL

- Civics 101 Class 1-Overview of Court System Courthouse 5th floor April 19
- Board Meeting April 18 at North Asheville Library
- Civics 101 Class 2 - Criminal Court Procedure April 26

MAY

- Civics 101 Class 3-Civil Court Procedure May 3
- Annual Meeting May 19

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

- Natl Victim's Right Week April 22
- AIDS Project: Dining Out for support in fight against AIDS April 26
- International Women's Peace Conference, Dallas, TX July 10-15



This edition of the Voter is dedicated to Kathleen Balogh, who lead our League with enthusiasm and a positive spirit. Thank you from all who have benefitted from your service.

Next board meeting is April 18, 2007 at the North Asheville Library.