



## IN THIS MONTH'S VOTER

### November 2011

Election Forums .....	1
Registration Activity .....	1
Member Spotlight.....	1
A Word from the Board.....	2
Economics, Budgets & You .....	2
Community News:	
Spots on Boards & Commissions.....	3
The AB Tech Referendum .....	3
LWVUS Privatization Study .....	4
Asheville City Council Forum .....	5
October Board Minutes (DRAFT).....	6
Membership Form.....	7
Calendar .....	8

### 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

#### BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the office of Sister Cities of Asheville, 29-1/2 Page Avenue. All members are welcome to attend meetings of



## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The League's Meet & Greet at Pack's Tavern Sept. 20 drew between fifty and sixty voters glad of a chance to talk face-to-face with the eight candidates (or their representatives) for three Asheville City Council seats. All the candidates expressed gratitude to the League for hosting the event. Thanks to Program co-directors Jan Schwartz and Judith Hoy for a great event.

And as a result of Yvette Wessel's organizing work, the League also sponsored a forum Sept. 27 for Weaverville Town Council candidates that was attended by more than 50 Weaverville residents.

Our Oct. 18 forum for the six candidates who made it through the primary election — Mark Cates, Saul Chase, Jan Davis, Lael Gray, Mark Hunt, Chris Pelly — cosponsored by the NC Center for Creative Retirement, drew four score and several citizens to hear the candidates, giving us a little hope that on Election Day we'll have a better voter turnout than the 10.5 percent who voted in the primary! For Davyne Dial's report on the forum, see p. 5.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

Yvette Wessel, Karen VanEman, and a few other intrepid Leaguers signed up close to two dozen voters before the primary by visiting tailgate markets, libraries, community centers, and other sites. We appreciate their dedication to This year United Way, the NC Budget & Tax Center and the NC Justice Center are teaming up to share the story of the economy and the state budget. Be prepared to answer a few questions and learn facts that you can put into action. Here's a snapshot of what to expect:

- How have the state budget and the economy impacted your community?
- What budget trends are developing, and how long will it take for NC to recover from the Great Recession?
- Is NC falling behind in areas like Education, Health and Public Safety?
- How can you impact the issues you care most about? Join with others to focus your local advocacy for the greatest outcome.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

She's 27.

That's right—our volunteer of the month is 27 years old, a fresh presence in a 92-year-old organization with members often twice her age and more.

So why was she interested in joining the League of Women Voters? And what is she hoping to see—and help—the League achieve?

Sitting outside the West End Bakery one late afternoon recently, Karen Oelschlaeger talked about what attracted her to the League and how she sees her volunteer roll as Social Media Director.

"I just like to know what's going on and how it's happening and what one can do to affect it," said the energetic young woman. "I'm a fan of working with the system you have, so the



Karen Oelschlaeger

better you know that system, you know that you can operate within that system." She liked the League's involvement with redistricting, she noted, and the opportunity to work on particular legislative issues—"even if it's slower than some particular people might like," she added.

The League's neutral, nonpartisan approach also appealed to her. And the fact that it's the League of Women Voters was particularly important, because she'd found prior political engagements more dominated by...well, men. With the League, she said, "You get that integration of women and politics that you do not see every day."

"I find myself going for coffee all the time with women's husbands," Karen said, laughing. It's the "dudes" in her own social circle who are more involved in politics.

Growing up in Charlotte, Karen wasn't groomed in the fine art of political conversation, she admitted. "My

*cont'd on page 4*

## Officers and Board 2011-2012

### Board

Co-Presidents:

Administration	Janet Bowman
Issues	Barb Panarites
Outreach	Yvette Wessel
Secretary	Nelda Holder
Treasurer	Ann Bass
Membership Chair	Peggy Heilig
Program Co-chairs	Jan Schwartz & Judith Hoy
Community Relations Chair	A.D. Reed
At-large	Karen VanEman

### Off-Board Appointments

Corresponding Secretary	Fran Myers
Hospitality	Beth Johnson
Office Phone	Christine Singleton
Webmasters	Nelda Holder & Karen Oelschlaeger
Membership Database	Jeff Stanton
Assistant Treasurer	Pamela Nickless

### Nominating Committee

Sonya Friedrich, Chair  
Janet Bowman, Bonnie Habel, Karen Van Eman, Yvette Wessel, members

## Membership

Individual: ..... \$50  
Household: ..... \$75  
Student: ..... \$20

The League of Women Voters welcomes women and men who are interested and supportive of our principles and goals. 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 a limited number of scholarships are given to cover the cost of membership. In exchange for the membership we ask that recipients actively participate in League functions.

## *YOUR LEAGUE ACTIVITIES 2011-12!*

This year we have had an exciting start in events to inform and educate our voters and members. In September we hosted a Meet & Greet for the Asheville City Council primary election candidates, which was well attended and appreciated by the candidates and the public. It was followed by two outstanding forums for Asheville City Council candidates and the Weaverville Town Council candidates.

For those who missed the forum, you can watch it on the League website at [www.ablww.org/Candidates.html](http://www.ablww.org/Candidates.html)

Brent Laurenz, Director of Outreach for N.C. Center for Voter Education, videotaped the Asheville forum. He has posted the video on the websites below and attached a YouTube link:

<http://voterradio.com/asheville/>  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9djtDMff7Wo&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9djtDMff7Wo&feature=youtu.be)

Throughout the fall we have been active with voter registration at different sites throughout our community; in addition, in October, we hosted the Shur leadership Development Initiative for the Mountain leagues.

Chair Janie Wilson and other committee members completed the league National Education Study in October, which involved two consensus meetings and a lot of work. We plan to have a membership meeting to review national consensus.

December will be the month for our Holiday Party for members: please bring a friend, especially a potential new member! Book the date of Saturday, December 10, 4 to 6 p.m. for our potluck hors d'oeuvres (think about what sweet or savory treat you can bring!) and wine, as you "Meet Your New City Council" as well as other municipal and county officials.

In the spring, we will have several interesting programs:

- Black Mountain College Art Gallery is the tentative site for the Get to Know the Legislators event to take place in late March or April. It will be an opportunity to show our city, county and state elected officials our appreciation for their work.
- Our speaker for our February 2012 event will be Dr. George Peery, who will talk about redistricting. Date TBA.

- In March we will have a very special with event, "Women's History Month" about Francis Perkins, to be co-sponsored by NC Stage Company. Details aren't finalized, but this might be a major fundraiser for the League as well.
- Later in March or in April we will host a Meet Your Legislators event at the Black Mountain College Art Gallery. Details TBA.
- We'll have our Annual Meeting in May.

We have an exciting year of programs for your enjoyment and enrichment. We look forward to any suggestions that you would like to make to assist us in planning. 2012 is going to be a critical time for voters to be informed. We need your help in our work for the community. Please contact a board member and get involved.

Barb Panarites

On another subject, the upcoming Buncombe County sales tax referendum (*see p. 3*), Professor Bob Joyce at UNC Chapel Hill has provided us with a link with additional information about the proposed county tax for AB Tech capital improvements. Professor Joyce is at the School of Government and teaches public law and government.

It is his opinion that the provision in the resolution specifying that the proceeds of the additional sales and use tax will be used exclusively for capital improvement needs of the community college "is not binding on this board of commissioners or future boards." He offers a link to a discussion of the issue of "binding future boards" by his colleague Frayda Bluestein:

<http://sogweb.sog.unc.edu/blogs/localgovt/?p=1372>

## **Economics, Budgets, & You**

United Way of Asheville, the NC Budget & Tax Center, and the NC Justice Center are teaming up to share the story of the economy and the state budget. Here's a snapshot of what to expect:

- How have the state budget and the

*cont'd on page 4*

The City of Asheville appoints public members to numerous boards and committees, and the League encourages citizens to be engaged and involved in their government. As a League member, if you believe your knowledge and experience will be of benefit to one of these boards or committees, we encourage you to apply.

The boards listed below currently have vacancies. The deadline for receiving applications for these openings is Wednesday, November 2 at 5 p.m.

Please contact the City Clerk's Office at 259-5601 or by e-mail at mburleson@ashevillenc.gov for an application form.

**ABC BOARD** - The members oversee the operation and administration

of the ABC system.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** - The Board (1) hears and decides applications for approval of variances from the terms of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), except where the UDO places responsibility for hearing or considering such a variance with another body; (2) hears and decides appeals from any order, requirement, permit, decision, or determination issued or made by an administrative officer of the City in enforcing any provisions of the UDO; (3) services as the City's Housing Code Appeals Board; and (4) performs such additional powers and duties as may be set forth elsewhere in the UDO and in other laws and regulations.

**HOMELESS INITIATIVE**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE** - One vacancy is for a current or former homeless person. The purpose of the Committee is to implement the Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, and its duties and responsibilities shall include (1) conduct research and investigation into issues about homelessness, including causes and effects within Asheville and the surrounding area; (2) formulate and make recommendations to local governmental entities and social service agencies to reduce the incidence of homelessness; (3) act as a clearinghouse for information on local homelessness issues; and (4) other duties as requested by the City Council, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, or as the Committee deems appropriate.

## COUNTY SALES TAX REFERENDUM

Many people both in and out of the League have spoken out either for or against the "AB Tech Tax" referendum that will be on the ballot Nov. 8, which states, in full, "Local sales and use tax of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes." "FOR" or "AGAINST." Dr. Hank Dunn, president of AB Tech, was guest speaker at our annual meeting and luncheon June 4, and recently asked the League to endorse the tax. The League is prohibited by our by-laws from doing so without study and agreement by the membership, so we will not endorse or oppose; rather, we want to share what information we have so as to help members make an informed decision.

The concern most frequently raised has been that the language of the referendum is so vague that there is no guarantee that the money will be used for its intended purpose, which is stated to be for capital improvements, including new buildings, at AB Tech; others have expressed doubt that the tax will expire at its stated time, in 2029. Both individuals and organizations have asserted that a future commission could divert the funds to any other purpose they so wished.

The text of the resolution, passed by the County Commission, that directed the Board of Elections to place the referendum on the ballot appears below. By printing the resolution here, we hope League members will have more information from which to

make up their own minds as to whether or not to support the tax:

### RESOLUTION NO. 11-08-10

A resolution directing the Buncombe County Board of Elections to conduct an advisory referendum on the question of whether to levy a one-quarter percent sales and use tax in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-537.

WHEREAS, in 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted the "One-Quarter Cent County Sales and Use Tax Act", Article 46 of Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes which authorizes counties to levy an additional sales and use tax; and

WHEREAS, in order to levy the local sales and use tax, Buncombe County, through the Board of Elections, must conduct an advisory reference in accordance with the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-287; and WHEREAS, Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College is in need of many major capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, in order to fund said improvements, the Commissioners would like to get voter approval to enact a one-quarter percent sales tax increase to fund the AB-Tech projects; and

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners wish to hold the advisory referendum during the general election in November 8, 2011; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is intended

to clarify Resolution #11-01-8 to include a sunset date for the sales and use tax to be used exclusively for stated capital improvement needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-537, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners directs the Buncombe County Board of Elections to conduct the following advisory referendum, with the concurrence of the Buncombe County Board of Elections, to be held on November 8, 2011 in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 163-287.

2. That the advisory referendum shall be in the following form: [ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.

3. This sales and use tax will sunset in 2029 and will be used exclusively for the stated capital improvement needs of Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College.

This the 16th day of August, 2011.

ATTEST BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

David Gantt, Chairman

## PRIVATIZATION STUDY

Committee Chair: Janis McMillen, Kansas  
 Members: Cathy Lazarus, California;  
 Diane DiIanni, Tennessee; Nora Leech,  
 Washington; Carole Garrison, Virginia;  
 Muriel Strand, California; Ann Henkener,  
 Ohio; Ted Volskay, SC

The LWVUS has sent us the following information to let you know the timeline and scope of the Privatization Study. In late summer, there will be a Privatization Study List for all interested League members and study materials will begin to be posted on the LWVUS website ([www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org)). In the interim, please feel free to contact Committee Chair Janis McMillen at [jkmcmillen@kc.rr.com](mailto:jkmcmillen@kc.rr.com) with questions.

### Scope of the Privatization Study:

The purpose of this study is to identify

those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

### Timeline:

Aug.-Oct. 2011: Information provided to local and state Leagues

Nov. 2011-May 2012: Leagues are encouraged to participate in the study on Privatization of Government services, assets and functions, and the impact on local communities by scheduling meetings to educate members and communities about the issue and come to consensus.

### Organization:

The committee will provide a history and background of privatization, a glossary of terms, legal issues to be considered when privatizing at different levels of government, current state regulations on privatizing and case studies on successful and unsuccessful privatizing efforts. Finally, the committee will provide suggested policies and parameters to be considered when privatizing.

### Recommended Reading:

1. Government Privatization: History, Examples, and Issues
2. Paul Starr, "The Meaning of Privatization," Yale Law and Policy Review 6 (1988): 6-41.
3. Privatization: A Seattle League Study

---

### ***Oelschlaeger (cont'd)***

parents voted, but that's about it." After high school, she left the South to attend Wesleyan University in Connecticut ("known for its political activism," she added), where she majored in psychology and Spanish. She became involved in environmental organizing in her first two years there, left to spend her junior year in Spain.

After graduation, she was ready to be back in the South and in 2007, she came to Asheville—where her father grew up. She put her energy into developing her own dog-walking business for a while, but recently she both joined the League and returned to school, this time for a Master of Social Work degree at UNC Chapel Hill, where she commutes one day a week.

Shortly after becoming a League member, Karen volunteered to serve as Social Media Director and quickly moved the Asheville-Buncombe County League into the cyberworld through a new website ([ablwv.org](http://ablwv.org)), a Facebook presence ([www.facebook.com/ablwv](http://www.facebook.com/ablwv)), and an account with Twitter ([Twitter@ablwv](https://twitter.com/ablwv)). Her hope is to increase awareness and engagement in general, but specifically with "maybe a slightly younger demographic." And she wants more folks to know about

"these awesome events" put on by the League, which she called the "Cadillac" of candidate forums.

And she can explain the new emphasis to the less familiar.

Twitter? "It'll change your life!" said the enthusiastic, cell-phone toting, two-thumb messenger. More soberly, she explained, "Twitter is good if you are interested in local or state or national breaking news — if a piece of legislation just passed, who voted what way. It's good for connecting you with people who care about what you care about."

Facebook? The advantage there, she said, is the League has a presence and "those who are involved can more easily share information with their friends and family and others who might be interested."

The website? "I would really love to highlight some of the League's issues... and really educate and inform people about those issues," she said of plans for expanding the current site. She'd also like to integrate a legislative action feature to encourage people to support positions the League supports. "I think having an up-to-date website is critical if you want the public to know you exist and are doing something," said the webmaster.

What else might attract younger women (and men) into the predominantly

grey-haired League? "More beer," Karen quipped, then added, "I would like to see the League continue to think about and consider which issues resonate with younger folks. Health care is a good one."

"Flexible timing of events," she said, would be helpful. "Highlight the fact we already do have people under 30—that (more) would be welcome. Give them a reason to be there. You've got a lot of very capable young people. Give them something to do with that skill set. And keep it fun."

---

### ***Budget Talks (cont'd)***

- economy impacted your community?
- What budget trends are developing, and how long will it take for NC to recover from the Great Recession?
- Is NC falling behind in areas like Education, Health and Public Safety?
- How can you impact the issues you care most about? Join with others to focus your local advocacy for the greatest outcome.

The conference will be Tues., Dec. 6 from 8:30–10:30 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Haynes Building on the AB Tech Enka Campus. To reserve space visit <http://bit.ly/pgetm1>; for questions, contact Ron Katz at [rkatz@unitedwayabc.org](mailto:rkatz@unitedwayabc.org) or (828) 255-0696.

## CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES Q &amp; A

reported by Davyne Dial

The LWVAB held a candidates forum at the UNCA Reuter Center on Tuesday, Oct. 18 that drew exceptionally high attendance and lively debate. All six candidates for Asheville City Council participated, beginning with opening statements and then responding to questions submitted on 3x5 cards or via Twitter or email.

NB: Opening and closing statements are summarized here in the order in which the individuals placed in the primary election; answers to questions are listed in alphabetical order for ease of comparison.

*Opening Statements*

- Marc Hunt described his extensive experience in running nonprofit organizations, his commitment to collaboration with county and other levels of government, and his longtime leadership experience.
- Chris Pelly identified himself as a 21-year Asheville resident and longtime advocate for East Asheville neighborhoods.
- Lael Gray, an educator, business owner, and consensus-builder, said she had spent her life working for justice and racial equality and that she wants to work to make Asheville more pedestrian-friendly.
- Jan Davis, a small-business owner, noted his eight years on City Council as a centrist who focused on Civic Center renovations; he expressed deep concern about the need for good governance and Asheville's well-being.
- Mark Cates iterated his emphasis on jobs and his desire to bring balance to City Council as a Republican.
- Saul Chase, an educator and former member of Boone's Town Council, said he is running in large part because of his concerns for Asheville's infrastructure (streets & sidewalks).

*QUESTION: How would you make Asheville City School Board appointments?*

Cates: Board members need experience on education matters and financial knowledge due to budget crunch.

Chase: would look for people who realize education is more than mere multiple choice questions.

Davis: wants balance and transparency.

Gray: We need more oversight after Boards

are in place; at present there is not so much oversight after City appoints board members. Hunt: concerned about student achievement gap; would solicit for better candidates. Pelly: School system budget of \$6,000,000 for 4,000 students needs more oversight and accountability.

*Question: How would you increase revenue? (All oppose raising property taxes.)*

Cates: "Grow our economy and we'll have needed revenue for infrastructure and City employee raises."

Chase: Supports a referendum for infrastructure development.

Davis: "We need to give raises to City employees or they will go elsewhere, and the City will lose good people." Have to make choices between infrastructure and salaries. Going to be a difficult budget year so Council needs experienced members to overcome a difficult financial situation. Would like to see more TDA revenue come to city.

Gray: Wants to look at possibility of acquiring a larger share of hotel taxes.

Hunt: "City residents already pay a large share compared to others who use the city regularly." Would look at acquiring more of hotel taxes, as does Gray.

Pelly: Would bring NCDOT to the table for some much-needed infrastructure, and wants a bond referendum, with priorities set by citizens on how to use referendum monies.

*Q: Would you expand the powers of Police Advisory Board.*

Cates: Does not support investigative authority of a PAD, wants tighter integration into community. Uses Chicago PD as an example of this idea.

Chase: Hopes new chief will emphasize community policing, but doesn't support review board.

Davis: City needs to reorganize the Board so it has teeth.

Gray: Wants all citizens to participate in holding PD accountable; the Advisory Board needs bigger and sharper teeth.

Hunt: Council and senior staff have a duty to accountability, but shouldn't delegate authority, but Advisory Board is critical for oversight.

Pelly: Is aware LGBT and other minorities

feel vulnerable. Need a liaison to handle complaints and need ongoing training.

*Q: How would you bring more jobs to Asheville.*

Cates: We have over 17,000 unemployed, and the African American community is in a depression. All energy needs to go to establishing jobs; market Asheville as "the Silicon Valley of Environment."

Chase: Need to improve infrastructure as means of providing jobs. FDR's WPA is an example of job creation that we still are benefiting from. Also provide jobs through better snow removal.

Davis: Need an educated work force—AB Tech referendum is good start. But also need to look at development rules.

Gray: Need to do lot of work in terms of minority populations feeling welcome, and make City feel more open.

Hunt: "Asheville's appeal is our authenticity, but we have lowest average wages in state. We need to leverage our appeal, but move away from entrenched emphasis on tourism and attract entrepreneurs and high-tech businesses."

Pelly: Supports AB Tech referendum.

*Key excerpts from closing statements:*

Hunt: "A lot of Council work is hard choices, but occasionally there are sizzly ones. I have a clear strategic vision based on my past experience."

Pelly: "I am a proud progressive" who thinks cooperation is very important, but that Council members also need clear ideas for Asheville's future.

Gray: Her work as "a nationally recognized educator, small-business owner, and longtime neighborhood advocate and organizer in Montford has laid a solid foundation for working on Council."

Davis: "I have had real achievements in riverfront development and affordable housing," and is a centrist on Council.

Cates: "My Mom taught me moderation, and Council needs me [as a Republican] to balance progressives. Jobs need to come before everything else."

Chase: "I am concerned about neighborhoods; they are neglected in favor of downtown."

## LWV OF ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING OF OCT. 11, 2011

### DRAFT

LWV of Asheville-Buncombe County  
BOARD MINUTES  
October 11, 2011

*Board Members Present: Ann Bass, Janet Bowman, Peggy Heilig, Nelda Holder, Judith Hoy, Barb Panarites, A.D. Reed, Janet Schwartz, Karen VanEman, Yvette Wessel*

The board of the League of Women Voters of Asheville-Buncombe County met at 6 p.m. on October 11, 2011, at 33 Page Ave., with co-president Barb Panarites presiding. Announcements included the following:

- Grant application has been filed for N.C. redistricting topic for February program
- LWV's stored documents from Miles Building have been delivered to UNCA for archiving. It was moved, seconded, and approved that Panarites appoint a committee to deal with documents remaining after UNCA's process. Panarites appointed Holder, Reed, and will contact Ruth Christie and Sonja Friedrich to serve.
- National League Convention dates are set for June 8-12 in D.C.
- Hosting of Shur leadership workshop on October 1 was successful. Attendees from our League were Karen Oelschlaeger, who gave a social media report, Davyne Dial, who discussed board and commission reports, Beth Johnson, and Panarites.
- UPS copying service cards are available for Florence Ryan or League purposes; copies are 4 cents, including white paper; we can still copy for 4 cents on color paper if we provide that paper.

#### Minutes:

The minutes of the September 13, 2011, board meeting were approved unanimously.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Bass presented a written report outlining

disbursements since the end of July.

- Bass asked about the preferred reporting format for the board, and will investigate Quick Books format for providing line-item reporting on expenditures per month and year-to-date according to our budget. She will also contact Catherine Alter to schedule a review of the books before the end of November.

Bass then explained a dilemma with the IRS and our nonprofit identification number on file with the bank. At some point the IRS pulled the Madison County number and applied it to our account. Bass is pursuing rectification. At present, only Panarites is authorized to sign checks on our accounts due to this snafu.

#### Program Committee Report:

A written report was submitted by Hoy and Schwartz. Hoy noted that the board is expected to be in charge of the planning meeting for 2012 and details of the annual meeting. Municipal and county officials will be invited to the December 10 event, in addition to the new Asheville City Council. The program committee will look into February 22 for the guest speaker on redistricting.

#### Membership Committee Report:

Current membership is 75 total (57 individuals, 1 student, 5 life members, and 6 households), as presented by Heilig.

#### Community Relations Report:

Reed will prepare 300 LWV business cards for board use. He reported that, prompted by an inquiry through our website, he prepared an outline of how Asheville government works — something we could post on our website and add descriptions of other municipal governments as well as the county government. This idea met with enthusiastic response.

Reed implored everyone to send newsletter information to him at adreed@charter.net under the subject line: Newsletter.

#### Voter Registration Report:

Wessel noted about 20 registrations had been tallied, and that the downtown Pack Library corridor had been the most successful location. She also noted that the Weaverville town council forum was highly successful.

#### New Business

- Panarites presented a request from Dr. Dunn of ABTech for League support of the proposed .25 percent sales tax referendum dedicated to ABTech, and asking for an opportunity to speak to the League again. After discussion it was determined that the board was not in a position to support or oppose the referendum (*NB: See p. 3 for additional information.*)

• Panarites suggested that the board meeting agenda have time allotments. There was consensus that future agendas provide suggested times per item (extra time may be requested), and that Hoy be appointed gatekeeper.

- There was a discussion of developing guidelines for League's participation in coalition with other organizations. Wessel noted that such guidelines had been spelled out about three years ago in a Voter edition. She and others will research this for the next meeting.

• Panarites noted for the record that email approval had been given by the board to co-sponsor the United Way's presentation of the December 6 overview of the state budget (by the N.C. Justice Center).

- It was decided that a board structure review will replace our normal January board meeting. Holder volunteered to organize the review and Schultz will reserve a table at the Battery Park Book Exchange. Written review questions will be presented to the board ahead of time to focus the meeting.

The next board meeting is scheduled for November 8 at 6 p.m. (5:45 for social time). The October meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Nelda Holder, Secretary

*Invite a friend to join*

**THE LEAGUE**

2011 - 2012

**League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County**

**PO Box 8292, Asheville, NC 28814**

828-258-8223

<http://ablwv.org>

on Twitter@ablwv

[www.facebook.com/ablwv](http://www.facebook.com/ablwv)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Second Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_ Check if a change or an update of information \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category:

Individual (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Household (\$75) \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

Student (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Treasurer, ABLVW, P.O. Box 8292, Asheville, NC 28814**

I want be INVOLVED! My issue interests are \_\_\_\_\_

League activities center around COMMUNITY RELATIONS, MEMBERSHIP and PROGRAM. Please check those areas which are of interest to YOU!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

\_\_\_ Writing articles \_\_\_ Contacting Media \_\_\_ Social Media \_\_\_ Observing Boards & Commissions

\_\_\_ Voter Registration \_\_\_ Speakers Bureau

MEMBERSHIP

\_\_\_ Communications with members \_\_\_ Assessing member skills, interests \_\_\_ Telephoning

\_\_\_ Staffing membership table at events

PROGRAM

\_\_\_ Help organize Candidate Forums, monthly programs, social events \_\_\_ Host events

\_\_\_ Participate in League Study Committee

The League Of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all citizens of voting age, male or female, who subscribe to the League's purpose and policies.

# THE VOTER



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ASHEVILLE &  
BUNCOMBE COUNTY

PO Box 8292, Asheville, NC 28814  
828-258-8223

<http://ablwv.org> [www.facebook.com/ablwv](http://www.facebook.com/ablwv)

## LEAGUE CALENDAR 2011-12

### NOVEMBER

**General Election**.....Nov. 8

**Board Meeting**.....Nov. 8

### DECEMBER

**NC Budget & Tax Center Road Show**  
Presented by United Way/Asheville,  
Haynes Bldg, AB Tech Enka.... Dec. 6

**Holiday Party** .....Dec. 10  
Welcome New Asheville City Council  
members and other Buncombe County  
and municipal elected officials.  
Saturday, 4 to 6 p.m., at Blackbird  
Gallery, 365 Merrimon Ave., drinks and  
hors d'oeuvres.

**Board Meeting**.....Dec. 13

### JANUARY

**Board Meeting**.....Jan. 10

### FEBRUARY

**Board Meeting**.....Feb. 14

**Redistricting: the outcome and the  
future;** George Peery, speaker .....TBA

### MARCH

**Womens History Month** ..... March 5  
6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. performance  
about Francis Perkins, cosponsored by  
NC Stage Company.

**Board Meeting**.....Mar. 13

### APRIL

**Board Meeting**.....Apr. 10

**Meet Your Legislators**.....TBA  
Black Mountain College Art Gallery.  
Drinks & hors d'oeuvres.

### MAY

**Board Meeting**.....May 8

**Annual Meeting**.....May 19

## Happy Holidays!

The League invites all members  
to meet our elected officials  
over hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

**Sat, Dec. 10, 4-6 p.m.**

**Blackbird Gallery**

**365 Merrimon Avenue**

(between Coleman and Spears Aves.)

**RSVP Jan Schwartz at 350-9533**

### Your Event Here!

If you know of an event compatible  
with the League's work, let us  
know and we'll try to list it. Send  
the information to [adreed@charter.net](mailto:adreed@charter.net)  
or mail it to the League P.O.