

IN THIS MONTH'S VOTER October 2007

President's Report	1
Same Day Registration	1
Invite to New Member Tea	2
Project Vote Smart Bus	2
Tax Reform Meeting	2
Upcoming Forums	3
Secretary Vacancy	3
New Member Update	3
Observer Reports	4
Report on Immigration Forum	4
Partisan/Non-partisan Forum	5
Freedom Fund & Awards Banquet	5
Physicians For Social Responsibility ...	5
Events Calendar	6

Officers and Board - 2007-2008

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

Nominating Committee

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

Off Board Appointments

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

President's Report

What a terrific kick-off for our League year and our Immigration study! Over 125 people attended our introductory immigration forum on Sept. 24th. UNCA Professor Mark Gibney presented an interesting summary of 200 years of immigration in the US, a sketch of US immigration law since 1882, and graphs showing the vast increase of illegal immigrants during the past 20 years. His prepared remarks were followed by a lively question and answer period that brought out many varied aspects of the issue. Congratulations to Marsh Stickford and her hard working immigration study committee on bringing this excellent program to the community.

I overheard much interest expressed in the next League forum that will focus on the economic impact of immigration. Watch for the details of date (mid-November), place and panelists.

The Board recently adopted guidelines for League programming on URTV, the local public access channel. Now, we're ready to take applications from League members to train to use URTV equipment and produce shows on URTV. As a non-profit member of URTV, LWV-A/BC is entitled to free enrollment of up to 3 members in URTV classes. (Go to www.URTV.org to learn about the classes offered.)

League members trained pursuant to the League membership in URTV will be expected to participate, to the extent possible, as volunteer producers or assistants for programs the League wants to make available to the community via URTV. If you're excited about this new way to enhance League outreach to the community, contact me at 232-2883 or rachristie@charter.net to apply to be one of the League trainees.

Between now and Election Day will be a very busy time for Asheville members with election-related forums, Kids Voting, and the Vote Smart Bus visit to Asheville. (See calendar and related articles.). Don't forget to mark your calendar for 2 pm on Sunday, November 4th for socializing with fellow League members and prospective members at our always enjoyable New Member Tea at the clubhouse of the River Ridge Apartments.

Hope you're enjoying our glorious WNC fall weather as much as I am.

President, Ruth Christie



**Same Day Registration-
New this year!**



In 2007, NC legislature authorized "Same Day Registration" to take place only in the Early Voting Periods, from 19-3 days prior to an election, and only at the Early Voting Site, which for Buncombe County is the Board of Elections on College Street. The Early Voting Periods for 2007 are Sept. 20 to Oct. 6 for the Oct. 9 primary and Oct. 18 to Nov. 3 for the Nov. 6 election. To use this process, you must register & vote on the same day at the Early Voting Site. This allows citizens who missed the usual deadline of 25 days prior to an election to register up to 3 days prior to the election.

New Member Tea

Sunday, November 4
from 2:00 - 4:00 pm

at the

River Ridge Apt. Clubhouse

1906 River Ridge Dr.
Asheville, NC 28803
(follow signs to pool)



The New Member Tea is a great opportunity for new and prospective members to learn more about our League and activities and to meet current members. Please join us!

Membership

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

Member names and addresses are not given or sold to other organizations. We do provide mailing labels when we co-sponsor an event with another organization.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year there are a limited number of scholarships given to cover the cost of membership. In exchange for the membership we ask that recipients actively participate in League functions.

If you know someone who is interested in League Membership and has financial need, ask them to contact Jean Parks (e-mail or phone) for an application.

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

Project Vote Smart Bus National Bus Tour to stop at Asheville

Project Vote Smart (PVS) is a nonpartisan organization that researches the backgrounds and records of thousands of political candidates and elected officials to discover their voting records, campaign contributions, public statements, biographical data (including their work history) and evaluations of them generated by over 100 competing special interest groups. Project Vote Smart has made that information available to the public at their web-site www.vote-smart.org and in their The Voter's Self-Defense Manual. This year PVS has acquired a bus to take its Voter's Self Defense System to people around the country.

New League member Judith Hoy and her husband became excited at the prospect of bringing the PVS bus to Asheville. They contacted LWV-A/BC seeking League sponsorship of the PVS bus visit at Asheville, promising to take care of all the logistics. They have contacted PVS and UNCA and have tentative approval to have the PVS bus come to the UNCA campus on Sat., Oct. 27th. The LWV-A/BC Board is excited about the prospects of bringing voter information in a form that may appeal to the younger generation of voters and agreed to sponsor the PVS bus at Asheville if the Judith can work out all the logistics. The League plans to provide NC voter registration forms and "Same Day Registration" information at the PVS bus site.

PVS should be promoting the bus stop in the local media. Watch for the specifics.



Tax Modernization:

How Will State Tax Reform Impact *Your State?*
Your Community? Your Business?

A conversation about the future of revenue and public investments in NC sponsored by the NC Justice Center on Tues., Oct. 16, 2007 from noon till 3 pm at Asheville Renaissance Hotel. State Senator Martin Nesbitt and fiscal policy experts from the NC Budget & Tax Center will be there. Lunch will be provided, free of charge. Make your reservation by contacting Alyssa at 919-856-2570 or Alyssa@ncjustice.org.

LWVNC and NC Justice Center are in a coalition working on tax modernization. Senator Nesbitt, from Buncombe County, and Senator Clodfelter, from Mecklenburg County, are taking on the task of trying to modernize the NC tax system. LWVNC expects this to be a hot issue in the coming year and wants local Leagues to be ready to help educate the public.

About the League of Women Voters

MISSION OF THE LEAGUE

The 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.

Recording Secretary Vacancy

Want to learn about the workings of our League? Consider volunteering for the Recording Secretary position. We need someone to step in for the remainder of the year. No experience necessary. The task involves recording the proceedings of the Board meetings and preparing the minutes. The Board meets monthly on the 4th Tues. at 5pm for about 2 hours. Meetings are held at the YWCA on South Broad Street in Asheville.

Benefits: Work with an enthusiastic and committed group of people.

FMI: contact Grace Curry at 254-3924

League Candidate Forums

The Asheville City Council Forum is planned for October 17, at 7:00pm in the UNCA Reuter Center-Chestnut Ridge Room. It will be co-sponsored by North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement and Kids Voting. We plan to have students from Kids Voting participating at the forum.

The first question for the candidates will be our League question: When a developer asks for permission to rezone land in order to build a development, what criteria would you use to make that decision?

The forum will be filmed by the Academic Video Production at UNCA. It will also be shown on URTV on November 3rd thru the 5th. URTV schedules their programs on various days at random times. To see the schedule go to www.URTV.org.

Plans have been completed for the forum. We need League members to pass out flyers in their communities, churches and places of business. You will be receiving a flyer in your e-mail in the near future. Please call me if you need additional flyers.

Black Mountain Aldermen and Mayor Candidates Forum will be held on October 25, 2007 at 7:00 PM. It will be held at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts. The forum will be sponsored by the Black Mountain News, and co-sponsored by the LWV. We will be providing a moderator, timer, question scanner team to assist them.

It has been a very interesting election period due to the changes from non-partisan to partisan and back to non-partisan. This is a great opportunity for the League to teach the voters the differences between partisan and non-partisan elections. Ruth has written an excellent paper on comparison of partisan and non-partisan elections. I encourage members to attend the Asheville Forum on Partisanship Elections of City Council. Please refer to the Voter for time and place for this important forum.

Submitted by: Barbara A. Panarites



Welcome to our Newest Members

Annika M. Brock
abrock@mwbavl.com

Mr. Joseph P. McGuire
jmcguire@mwbavl.com

Susan M. Dotson-Smith
susan@dotson-smithlaw.com

Carol C. Young

OBSERVER REPORTS

METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT

Board Meeting - September 19, 2007

Chairman Aceto presided; Brownie Newman was absent. About 16 observers attended, mainly staff. There were no committee reports. General Manger Hartye announced an employee picnic will be held October 11. Employee Angel Banks was elected Southeast Region Chair of the International Right of Way Association, a trade association of 10,000 members. The local Continuing Education class for Wastewater collection system operators had 48 people in attendance. State and National surveys showed that wastewater rates are typically 23-24% higher than water rates. Hartye met with County Commissioners regarding growth problems. The Personnel Director has resigned. The Board approved a contract with Black and Veach in the amount of \$650,000 for design of a replacement of the current Secondary Microscreen System (SMS), which is the final barrier before wastewater enters the river. The SMS system has been unsatisfactory for some time. The engineering estimate for future work is \$500,000.

Another project approved was replacement of a problem interceptor along Sweeten Creek Road at Rock Hill Road. The contract was awarded to Buckeye Construction Co. in the amount of \$1,596,220.50, the low bidder. These two necessary projects should help explain sewer rate increases.

...Leah Karpen, Observer

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Making Democracy Work.

REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER 24TH FORUM ON IMMIGRATION

This event, co-sponsored by the Congregation Beth ha Tephila, was a great success. Professor Mark Gibney presented a very interesting and provocative talk which was very well received by the approximately 125 people in attendance. There were representatives from the two cosponsoring groups as well as members of the general community, students from UNC-A, and members of the Madison and Henderson Counties' Leagues.

The next forum will be held in mid-November, the projected date is Thursday, November 15th at 7:00 PM. We are still in the process of arranging for the location. An email and flyer will be sent out as soon as the date and location is confirmed. This Immigration Forum will focus on the Economic issues associated with Immigrations and will feature a panel who will present a broad perspective on the issue – from the big picture benefits and challenges to more personal experiences. Please watch for the announcement for this event!

In November, you will receive more information about our local Consensus process, which will be used to capture local League members' input and formally share it with the National League as they move forward to create a Position on Immigration. We anticipate that this process will consist of several opportunities for League members to gather together in smaller groups to discuss this issue and come to a group consensus on 6 questions that have been formulated by National. The dates and locations for these events will be listed in the November Voter.

For more information, please contact Marsha Stickford, chair of the Immigration Study Committee at 258-0210 or mestickford@charter.net.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Leadership Asheville Forum
in conjunction with
North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement
presents a forum on

City Elections: Partisan vs. Non-partisan

(Asheville’s Referendum on Tuesday, Nov. 6)
Thursday, October 11 from 7:00 – 9:00
At the NC Center for Creative Retirement
At UNCA’s campus

Presenters will address the following questions:

- Charlie Hume** – leader of Let Asheville Vote – Why decide by a referendum?
- Bill Sabo** – UNCA professor of Political Science - What is the role of political parties?
- Brownie Newman** – Asheville City Council member - Why should political parties be involved?
- Jan Davis** – Asheville City Council member - Why should city elections remain non-partisan?

Questions and Answers from the audience will follow the presentation.
This forum is open to the public at no charge.

Please contact moderator Joe McGuire with any questions
(828) 254-8800 ext. 350
jmcguire@mwbavl.com

Freedom Fund & Awards Banquet

The Asheville Branch of NAACP will host the Freedom Fund and Award Banquet on **Oct. 20 at 7 pm** at the **Crown Plaza Hotel** in Asheville. The Keynote speaker will be Mayor Terry Bellamy. Donation is \$35 through Oct. 15, or \$45 after that. For more information, contact Ruth Christie at 232-2883.

Physicians For Social Responsibility

- Dr. Catherine Thomasson, national president of Physicians for Social Responsibility will speak on **“Iran: Exploring Myths, Revealing Realities”** on October 11 at 6:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served.
- On October 12, her topic will be **“Health Effects of Global Warming and Solutions for a Warming World”**. A light breakfast will be served, beginning at 7:30 am.
- Both meetings will be at MAHEC at 501 Biltmore Avenue, on Mission Hospital Side. There is no fee for attendance, though contributions will be accepted.
- The public is invited to both of these presentations. For more information, call Dr. Lewis Patrie at 299-1242.

THE VOTER



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/

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Asheville, NC 28801
Permit No. 181

LEAGUE CALENDAR 2007-2008

OCTOBER

LWV - Forum for Asheville City Council Candidates - 7:00-9:00 UNCA Reuter Center, Chestnut Ridge Room Oct 17

Black Mtn Candidates Forum for Mayor and Alderman 7:00-9:00 at Black Mtn. Center for Arts Oct 25

NOVEMBER

New Member Tea -2:00 - 4:00 at the River Ridge Club House (follow signs to the pool) Nov 4

Economic Impact of Immigration, Date, Location, and Time to be determined mid Nov

DECEMBER

Holiday Party at Crowfield's Dec 14

JANUARY 2008

Consensus meeting for League members on Immigration Study week of Jan 14

FEBRUARY 2008

Program Planning Mtg - Potluck at the YWCA 5:30 Feb 25

MAY

Annual Meeting - 5:30 May 19

Board Meetings @ YWCA, 5 pm, 4th Tues of the month except December.

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

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

NAACP sponsored pre-primary forum Brown Temple CME church, 32 Phifer St. 6:00pm - Oct. 4

Forum to discuss partisan city elections at UNCA Reuter Center, 7-9pm. Sponsored by Leadership Asheville- ... Oct 11

State Tax Reform meeting sponsored by NC Justice Center; Asheville Renaissance Hotel at 12:00 noon - Oct 16

NC Bar Assoc, Women's Division Dinner - Guest Speaker Justice Ruth Bader-Ginsburg. Grove Park Inn - \$50. Reserve @ 919 657-1560 - Oct 18

Election Day- Nov 6

