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Officers and Board - 2007-2008

President - Ruth Christie
 President elect, Civic Education-
 - Barb Panarites,
 Vice President - Open
 Treasurer - Jack Saye
 Recording Secretary - Linda Brown
 Membership - Jean Parks
 Voter Enfranchisement - Hal Hogstrom
 Voter Editor - Anne Higgins
 Programs - Open
 Observer Corps - Linda Brown

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

February Immigration Study Committee Report

submitted by Marsha Stickford

On February 1, our local results from three Consensus meetings on Immigration were submitted to the National League. So officially, the work of the Immigration Study Committee is completed. I want to thank all active committee members (Hal Hogstrom, Leah Karpen, Jennifer Kantonen, Barb Panarites, Ruth Christie, Sally Boerschig, and our Madison County representative, Yvette Wessel) for the lively and informative discussion on the issues and their work in conducting two really wonderful forums and three very successful Consensus meetings, and the materials to support them. Also, a special thanks to Beth Lazer, new member Kathryn Liss, and Leah Karpen for their able facilitation of the discussions during Consensus meetings. Thanks to Valerie Hogstrom for providing such wonderful refreshments! Committee members Leah Karpen and Ruth Christie also deserve special mention for hosting meetings at their homes.

The consensus on the Consensus meetings is that, while not well attended by our members, they were very valuable and educational for those who participated. Involved members gained a much clearer understanding of this complex, important, and difficult issue. We will be interested to see how the National League use the input gathered to formulate a position on immigration.

It is my hope that our local League will stay involved and engaged with this issue and find ways to impact the policies and procedures our local governments, agencies, and law enforcement adopt to address it as we struggle to balance the benefits and challenges of integrating immigrants into the life of our community. I encourage our members to find ways to stay informed on the impact of immigration – it will continue to be an important public policy issue for years to come and is worthy of our attention and advocacy.

Mark Gibney Named Visiting Distinguished Professor at English University; Human Rights Scholar Will Also Present Research in Netherlands

Mark Gibney, UNC Asheville Belk Professor of Humanities, was recently named Visiting Distinguished Professor in the Faculty of Law at Lancaster University in Lancaster, England. Gibney will remain a full-time faculty member at UNC Asheville and will travel to Lancaster University to deliver a lecture once a year and to collaborate with faculty.

“For my part, it provides me with the opportunity to continue my work in human rights with one of the most renowned human rights programs in the world,” Gibney said.

Gibney is a widely respected international human rights expert. Each year he produces the Political Terror Scale, which ranks 175 countries according to their levels of human rights violations. The scale has received wide acclaim and is featured prominently in the recent book “Human Security Report” (New York: Oxford University Press). Gibney is also the author and editor of numerous journal articles and books, including “The Age of Apology: Facing Up to the Past” (University of

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Membership

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

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

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

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

Vote411.org

Everything you need to know about voting in your state, and much more.

This election will affect you and your family—so register today! Would you like to find out more information on the candidates running? Just go to VOTE411.org to get started. While you're at it, make sure your friends and loved ones are registered too! VOTE411 is also your one-stop shop to request an absentee ballot, find your polling place, and much more!

An Invitation to Our Members

If you are interested in voter rights, a government responsive to the will of people, or the protection of citizen's right to know, please consider becoming more involved with our League whose mission is to support these principles.

Currently, there are openings on our Board for the upcoming year.

Involvement on the Board is a valuable way to gain an understanding about how the League works to support its principles.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Grace Curry: Phone 254-3924

E-mail gracecurry1@charter.net

Share Your Talents

While Raising Money for the League

The League is considering a silent auction at the Annual Meeting in May. League members may donate gift certificates for services or entertainment, as well as for gift baskets. If you have a gift or service to donate for the auction, please contact Anne Higgins at AnneHiggins@charter.net.

It is a great way to get to know our members and their talents, as well as to take home some valuable gifts. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Mark Gibney, continued from page 1

Pennsylvania) and "Five Uneasy Pieces: American Ethics in a Globalized World" (Rowman & Littlefield). In 2006, he was named the 2006 winner of the International Human Rights Award by the Human Rights Coalition of North Carolina. Gibney holds a doctorate from the University of Michigan and has taught previously at Purdue University and served as a guest professor at the University of Copenhagen and the University of Bergen.

Gibney's international collaborations will extend to the Netherlands next week when he travels there to present a paper at the international conference on "Transnational Human Rights Obligations in the Field of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights." In the last decade, he helped formalize the concept of transnational state obligations, which focuses on human rights obligations that states have to individuals outside their territorial borders.

"The effort here is to completely re-think the entire human rights enterprise," Gibney said. "The ultimate goal is the recognition that states have human rights obligations not only to their own citizens, but to people all over the world as well."

This cutting-edge topic is also the theme of Gibney's forthcoming book, "International Human Rights Law: Returning to Universal Principles" (Rowman & Littlefield).

November 2007 Membership Report

Membership numbers:

- ❑ 99 local members
 - ❑ 8 lifetime members
 - ❑ 13 national members
- 120 Total**

These figures will be used for our per-member-payment to national unless we have more changes before January 31.

Additions and Corrections for your directories:

Cathie St. John-Ritzen
(828) 626-3793
cathie@asheville-elderlaw.com

Marion Sinks (US)
(828) 669-1788
bafgso@aol.com

Janie Wilson
(828) 281-3653
janie2wilson@hotmail.com

Annika Brock and Elaine Potter's
correct zip code: 28804
(listed once under each name)

Linda Brown's new information:
new email:
lindabrown7@bellsouth.net
same phone: 236-3720

Joy Hays' phone number:
687-9496

Marjorie Stockton's phone
number: 628-1662

Carol Young's town:
Biltmore Forest

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Making Democracy Work.

Remembering a Milestone

General Membership Meeting
Sunday March 9, at 3 pm

March is Women's History Month. It is only fitting that we look at events that have shaped women's lives in a profound way. During this month, we invite you to look at a pivotal time in our recent history and to join us for a brief discussion.

Recently, I heard Sarah Colton, Marie Colton's daughter, talk about her recently published novel, Tilt 68. The novel is about a young Southern college woman and the profound changes she experienced in her life in the tumultuous year 1968 when the sudden availability of 'The Pill' thrust unprecedented freedom on a generation of women in the context of the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War protests and the arrival of drugs on campus. I thought this might make an interesting program for League members during Women's History Month.

The LWV-A/BC was enthused at my proposal, so I have arranged for Sarah Colton to speak with us on **Sunday, March 9 at 3 PM** in **Deerfield's Blue Ridge Room**. Marie Colton made the arrangement for us to use this meeting room at her new home.

The Blue Ridge Room is on the main floor of the Community Center at Deerfield. Deerfield is off Hendersonville Road, opposite the driveway to Wal-Mart. Take Lambeth Drive from Hendersonville Rd. to the stop sign, turn left, and then a quick right into the parking lot for the Community Center.

Come hear Sarah's thoughts on the changes wrought by that pivotal year, and share your memories and impressions of the effect on women in the US.

For more information, call Ruth Christie at 232-2883

General Membership Meeting

April, TBA

A membership April program was proposed at our board meeting which would have a theme relating to young activists interested in the political process. The program would be open to our members and the community at large.

The program will include individual participants telling their story about experiences in our political landscape. We are interested in how and why they became active. These panelists will be from local political parties. There will be a question and answer period after the presentations. Please consider questions to ask our young panelists. Plans are not firmed up for the program yet so watch for the information to be forthcoming. It will be an evening program.

submitted by: Barbara Panarites

OBSERVER REPORTS

Metropolitan Sewerage District Board Meeting January 16, 2008

Absent were Brownie Newman and Terry Bellamy; about 15 observers attended, mostly staff. The chair, Mr. Aceto, welcomed new board member Steve Metcalf of Weaverville, and presented him with a manhole-opening tool. There were no committee reports.

Mr. Hartye noted the District received a Standard & Poors long term rating of AAA/A-1+, and the AA Bond rating. Mr. Robert Hobson of Bank of America presented a comprehensive report on MSD variable revenue bonds, with charts and explanations. The average variable rate of interest was 3.11%. His conclusion was that the stock market has settled down.

On the consolidated motion agenda, the following were approved: 2008 meeting dates and budget calendar; Scott Powell to be Deputy Finance Officer in the Finance Officer's absence; an Internal Control Policy* prepared by the Finance Officer, with no discussion; contract with T& K Utilities in the amount of \$506,823 as low bidder(of nine bids) for the Shelburne Road Wet Weather Interceptor replacement.

*Note: Objectives of internal control are: Accuracy of financial reporting; compliance with laws and regulations; effective and efficient operations, and to ensure compliance with management policies and procedures. The Board plans a retreat prior to the March meeting to discussion goals and objectives and unfinished matters from the retreat. Ideas for discussion were solicited.

Submitted by: Leah Karpen, Observer

A Typical Week in the Life of Leah

Last week was what I could call my "government week."

- On Tuesday I was at Asheville City Council regular meeting (which I left at 7:00 to attend a political meeting).
- On Wednesday I attended meeting of Historic Resources Commission, which was mostly taken up with discussion of plans by St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Charlotte Street for removal of the residence and renovation of the chapel, with proposed new sanctuary.
- On Thursday consultants for the Parks and Recreation Department presented comments from the previous focus groups as well as received new suggestions. The purpose of those meetings is preparation of a 10-year long-range plan for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Would you as a League member like to get involved in attending meetings of Boards and Commissions that interest you? Come to the February 25 League meeting and get more information about how you can participate as an Observer.

Submitted by: Leah Karpen, Observer

A Night at the Theater

Many of us will be attending a night of entertainment offered by the North Carolina Stage Company. On Wednesday, February 27, we will meet for the production of "Moonlight and Magnolias." Tickets are \$20 and your ticket price will include a \$5 tax-deductible gift to the Florence Ryan Education fund. Tickets are available from Hal Hogstrum or at the door if you mention the League. So gather for a night with friends and local theatrical talent.

League of Women Voters Storybank

As League members, there is no better way to tell about the benefits of being a member than to share your personal stories. These stories are compiled in the League Storybank on the national website, www.lwv.org. The following story was submitted by Kathleen Balogh, and explains how being a member has given her skills and knowledge that has enhanced her career and life.

Leadership Positions Held:

- Local League President
- Secretary
- Other: State Board Member

Joined the League in 1998

Joined the league:

- While raising a family
- While in the workforce

Where did the story occur: Asheville, NC

This is my story of: How being a member has given me skills & knowledge that has enhanced my career & life.

Title: Civil Discourse



I knew before I joined the LWV that it is a non-partisan organization. I did not fully understand how that could impact my life, both personally and professionally, until I joined my local LWV and saw this practice in action. Members reminding each other during heated discussions that it is issues, not individuals, that we are concerned with. Also reminding each other that we are not 'stupid, or backward, or non-American' if we disagree with each other.

As a member of my local league, during these turbulent and often ugly and mean spirited times, I had many opportunities to publicly practice the art of 'civil discourse' as I like to call it - and as President to remain neutral in candidate campaigns, even outside of LWV activities.

This intentional practice of 'civil' discourse has helped me learn to express myself in situations where I know there is disagreement with my ideas without becoming defensive. Working for state government gives me ample opportunities to work with the public and to practice the art of 'civil' discourse.

I don't believe there is any other organization that so carefully and respectfully studies issues, giving all sides the respect they deserve, before coming to a position that is defensible on factual grounding.

I love the reputation the LWV has in our communities, and have felt very privileged to have been elected into leadership positions.

And all it took in the beginning was for someone to ask me to join!

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 Asheville, NC 28814
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 www.abc.nc.lwvnet.org/

LEAGUE CALENDAR 2008

FEBRUARY

Program Planning Meeting - Potluck supper and local program planning meeting at the YWCA at 5:30 pm Feb 25

(Board Meeting 5:00 at YWCA prior to Program Meeting.)

LWV Night at the Theater- \$20 at North Carolina Stage Company (see article for details) Feb 27

MARCH

Program Meeting - Tilt 68 by Sarah Colton 3 pm at BlueRidge Room in Deerfield's Community Center. (see article for more details) March 9

Board Meeting 5:30 at YWCA March 25

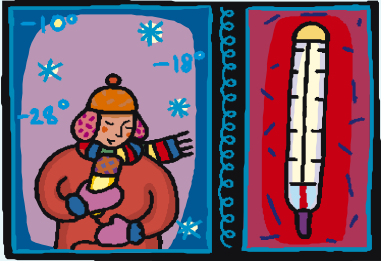
APRIL

Board Meeting 5:30 at YWCA April 22

Program Meeting - General Membership meeting - Date and Time TBA April

MAY

Annual Meeting at Monte Vista Restaurant, Black Mountain - 5:30 May 19



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.

**The League of Women Voters
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