



The Voter

A Publication by the League of Women
Voters of Ames, IA
Annual Report Special Edition

Call to Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 28, 2007

Brunch at 9 am

Green Hills Retirement Community Dining Room

Cost is \$9.00

Call in your reservations or email Barbara Munson
at 232-5077 or amesmunson@aol.com

It is important that we receive your reservations by **April 23**
since Green Hills is catering the brunch.

**PLEASE BRING A COPY OF THIS ANNUAL
REPORT WITH YOU**

From the Co-Presidents

We were delighted to attend the LWVUS National Convention, "Meeting in the Middle," held June 2006 in Minneapolis. It is always stimulating to hear about the activities of League across the nation and to learn about the challenging issues confronting our democracy. We both returned with a willingness to undertake the national study on Immigration that was adopted.

Our board of directors began the year with a retreat and one of the areas we wanted to improve was advocacy. We participated in the LWVIA Issues Briefing in the fall and Lobby Day in Des Moines in the spring. Many of our programs focused on current issues. For a second year we supported the YWCA's Race Against Racism. Our updated local league study on the Story County Medical Center was featured in *The Tribune's* series on whether Story County needs another hospital and also in an article in *The Des Moines Register*. The Community News section of *The Des Moines Register* featured our Living Wage study in January 2007. We are also collaborating with AAUW and AMOS in examining the immigration topic.

The League of Women Voters is always busy with voter education, but this election year voter interest was especially high. The League and the Ames Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored three candidates' forums, and all were well attended. We also maintained a booth on campus during the ISU student political awareness week.

Our Legislative Wake-Up Forums provide an opportunity for both education and advocacy on statewide issues. We have tried to be more diligent in ensuring that our LWV priorities are given attention at these forums.

The LWV of Ames also undertook two very special activities this year. In October we hosted a delegation from the Ukraine. They learned a lot from our group and hospitality, and we certainly learned from them, their viewpoints and their understanding of our country and our grassroots political system. On June 1 we are co-sponsoring with the Carrie Chapman Catt Center the Ready to Run Campaign. This workshop will teach campaign strategies and empower women in Iowa to run for political office. We would like to think that Carrie Chapman Catt would be very proud of this joint effort.

There have been many ways to be involved in League. Whether serving on the Board of Directors, participating in the book club discussions, attending general meetings and forums, observing, hosting international visitors, planning special events, paying dues or putting out *Vote Tuesdays* signs, we want to thank everyone who has helped make this year so positive. And for all of those who shouldered the extra load, we are most grateful.

Joyce Hertz and Randi Peters, Co-Presidents

League Information

PROPOSED BUDGET, 2007-2008

	2006-2007	YTD (3/16/07)	Proposed 2007-2008
BEGINNING BALANCE (checking and CD)			9,500.00
INCOME			
<i>Dues</i>	6,200.00	4,373.00	6,200.00
<i>Contributions</i>			
Member			
Nonmember			
Subtotal	2,000.00	845.00	2,000.00
<i>Other</i>			
Interest (checking and CD)	10.00	14.00	250.00
Ed Fund*	1,602.00	1,190.00	0.00
Dinners/Misc	250.00	61.00	250.00
Ukrainian Exchange Program	—	5,063.00	—
From Beg. Cash Balance-LWV	0.00	—	—
From Beg. Cash Balance-EF	1,000.00	—	—
TOTAL INCOME	11,062.00	11,546.00	8,700.00

EXPENSES

<i>Board and Administration</i>			
President	100.00	16.00	100.00
Treasurer	150.00	127.00	50.00
Misc. Board Expenses	50.00	41.00	0.00
<i>Administrative Committees</i>			
Finance	150.00	0.00	150.00
Membership	100.00	39.00	100.00
Publicity	30.00	—	30.00
<i>Delegates & Travel</i>			
State Convention/Council	250.00	0.00	250.00
National Convention	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Regional Workshops	75.00	0.00	75.00
<i>Other Meetings</i>	25.00	0.00	25.00
<i>Financial Support for the League</i>			
National PMP			
Local Account	1,332.00	612.00	1,454.00
EF Account*	1,332.00	1,473.00	—
State PMP			
Local Account	2,520.00	2,667.00	455.00
EF Account*	280.00	283.00	—
<i>Bulletins</i>			
VOTER	500.00	153.00	500.00
Membership Directory*	80.00	99.00	100.00
Web Page*	160.00	250.00	160.00
<i>Educational Activities</i>			
Publications	10.00	0.00	10.00
Study Groups	100.00	0.00	100.00
Observer Corps	10.00	0.00	10.00
Voter Service*	500.00	116.00	500.00
Local LWV Meetings	100.00	374.00	400.00
<i>Position Support</i>	50.00	0.00	50.00
<i>Other</i>			
Dinners/Scarves	150.00	53.00	150.00
Legislative Forums	150.00	96.00	150.00
Scholarships*	250.00	0.00	0.00
Ready to Run Workshop	0.00	0.00	500.00
Awards	150.00	0.00	150.00
Ukrainian Exchange Program	—	3,502.00	—
Transfer of Final Cash Balance	958.00	—	—
TOTAL EXPENSES	11,062.00	9,901.00	9,119.00

ENDING BALANCE

9,081.00

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF AMES PROPOSED EDUCATION FUND BUDGET, 07-08

BEGINNING BALANCE			2,700.00
INCOME			
Member/Nonmember	1,602.00	1,190.00	2,000.00
From Beg. Cash Balance	1,000.00	—	—
TOTAL INCOME	2,602.00	1,190.00	2,000.00
EXPENSES			
National PMP	1,332.00	1,473.00	1,454.00
State PMP	280.00	283.00	270.00
Membership Directory	80.00	—	—
Web Page	160.00	—	—
Voter Service	500.00	—	—
Scholarships	250.00	—	—
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,602.00	1,756.00	1,724.00
ENDING BALANCE			2,976.00

Annual Reports

President Elect

The Ames League has had a busy, productive year. The 2006-2007 year has passed by quickly. Spring and the LWV 2007-2008 year are just around the corner. Both signal exciting new beginnings!

Let's take a few minutes to reflect on the past year. In May, Joyce Hertz, Sharon Wirth, Nancy Brown and Judie Hoffman were in attendance at the LWV of IA Council in Decorah. It was an informative and well attended meeting and an excellent opportunity to hear what other Leagues are doing while being updated on state priorities and activities. Randi Peters, Joyce Hertz, Nancy Brown and Judie Hoffman attended the LWV US National Convention in Minneapolis in June. Also in June was a half-day retreat for the local Board where we set goals for 2006-2007. This was an energizing way to focus on the upcoming year.

September brought the Race Against Racism co-sponsored by the YMCA and LWV of Ames. An Iowa LWV officer training session was held in Ames on Sept. 23. Ames officers in attendance were Joyce Hertz, Randi Peters, Sharon Wirth and Jackie Manatt. In addition to officer training, this was an excellent opportunity to network with members of other League chapters throughout the state.

I think everyone would agree the highlight of our year was hosting a Ukrainian delegation in October. Selva Lehman and Nancy Brown co-chaired this wonderful cultural exchange. Ames was honored to be one of five local leagues nationwide chosen by the LWV US for this experience. Grant funding was received from the Open World Leadership Center. Numerous

League Activities

Ames Leaguers volunteered their time, energy and homes to make this effort successful. A huge thank you to all involved for making this such a special experience.

We again hosted candidates forums, legislative wake up forums, informative general meetings, participated in Lobby Day at the State Capitol, and participated in other special events as we worked to achieve League objectives.

At the March board meeting, the Ames League voted to be involved in the national consensus process on immigration. The March general meeting, "Immigration 101" was an excellent beginning to understanding the complexities of this important issue. We encourage you to become involved in the local study process. Joyce Hertz will serve as contact person.

The Ready to Run Campaign Training is a new activity the Ames League is undertaking this year, serving as co-sponsor with the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at ISU. The workshop will be held on June 1 in Ames. The event is a comprehensive bipartisan campaign workshop. While targeted toward women, it is open to both men and women. The Ames League is excited to be involved in bringing this opportunity to the citizens of Iowa.

With the local participation in the national consensus process on immigration and the Ready to Run campaign workshop, we are off to an excellent start for 2007-2008. I look forward to a productive and fun year ahead. We are always looking to increase our membership and involve more members in the League's activities. Please tell your friends about the League's exciting events and I challenge each of you to be directly involved in the coming year.

Sharon Wirth

Nominating Committee

The Committee has worked diligently to seek candidates for all the positions that need to be filled this coming year. At this point we have not yet been able to secure names for all positions. We hope that by the time of Annual meeting we will be able to have a completed slate.

The nominees as of this date are as follows:

Position	Term ends	Nominee
President	2008	Sharon Wirth
President Elect	2008	Lauris Olson
Treasurer	2009	Jackie Mannatt
Voter Service	2009	
Co-Observer Corps	2009	Sandra McJimsey Meg Tait
Publicity	2009	Jim Popken

Legislative Action	2008	(vacant)
Being an unexpired term the Board can do the appointment		
Nominating Committee	2008	Betty Baird

Publicity Report

The publicity chair sent notices of general meetings and candidate forums to the local news media. Lauris Olson, Legislative Action Chair, handled the publicity for the first two Legislative Wake-Ups and the publicity chair handled the publicity for the last two. The program co-chairs, Jeannette Bohnenkamp and Barbara Gwiasda, sent publicity notices for the January and February general meetings when the publicity chair was out of town. They and the publicity chair sent e-mails to community groups about the March meeting on immigration as a means of getting more community involvement. This was productive because the meeting was well-attended by many community members.

Information on meetings, forums, wake-ups, etc., has been sent to the Tribune, KASI radio, the Iowa State Daily, Ames Life & Times (Des Moines Register on Thursday), and Ames 365 (free community website). If the meeting (whatever type) was of general interest to county residents, information was also sent to the Nevada Journal, Tri-County Times, and the Story City Herald and Reminder. Publicity was also sent to all the above listed media plus television stations in the area before and during the visit of the Ukrainians last fall.

Clippings which appeared in print are kept for archival files at the Iowa State University Library. A special thank you to all Board members who gave information to the media and/or collected clippings when the publicity chair was out of town.

Jeri Prescott

Finance Committee

The Ames League receives financial support above and beyond member dues, thank to contributions from members and others in the community. Starting in 2004, the League increased its focus on asking for community support. In February 2007 hand-addressed requests for support went to more than 225 households and businesses. Planned giving has not been emphasized though it, too, has potential for the Ames League.

Contributions to date total \$845 to the local league fund and \$1,220 to the national fund (Education Fund, which is a tax deductible contribution.), or a total of \$2,065. The budget for 2006-07 is based on total contributions of \$3,600. The Ames League has received 55 percent of that amount in contributions to the two funds.

Karen Bolluyt and Alisaa Stoehr

Legislative Action

Ames League of Women Voters co-president Joyce Hertz and five other members of the Ames League, including Iowa LWV lobbyist Judie Hoffman and me, attended the Oct. 14, 2006, Iowa League of Women Voters Legislative Briefing in West Des Moines to become familiar with the state League's legislative priorities for the 2007 Iowa General Assembly.

The five priorities were:

- Election Reform – Support implementing voting systems and procedures are secure, accurate, recountable and accessible. Support a requirement that all touch-screen voting machines print Voter-Verified Ballots.
- Minimum Wage - Support increasing the minimum wage in Iowa
- Water Resources - Support adequate funding and policy changes to protect the quality and quantity of our ground and surface water resources.
- Tobacco Health Issues – Supports an increase in taxes on all tobacco products. Support local control of smoking ordinances.
- Sentencing and Corrections – Support expanding substance abuse treatment in prison and in Community-Based Corrections. Supports additional funding for targeted programs for special needs inmates who are mentally ill, mentally retarded or socially inadequate. Oppose enactment of the death penalty in Iowa.

Iowa held statewide elections in November 2006, and all five of the legislative seats in Story County were on the ballot. Three incumbents, Sen. Herman Quirnbach, and Reps. Lisa Heddens and Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, all Democrats from Ames, retained their seats. The senator and the representative elected to represent the more rural parts of Story County were first-time legislators. The new senator, Rich Olive of Story City, is a Democrat and the new representative, David Deyoe of Nevada, is a Republican. Quirnbach, Heddens and Wessel-Kroeschell are members of the Ames League of Women Voters.

The five legislators were invited to a lunch meeting with Ames League members on Dec. 19. Sen. Quirnbach and Sen. Olive, and Rep. Wessel-Kroeschell were able to attend. Reps. Deyoe and Heddens had other commitments. Eight members of the Ames League were there to present the 2007 legislative priorities. The legislators present were supportive of league positions. The first week of the session, both houses passed a law raising the minimum wage to \$7.25 this fall. Subsequently, the legislature approved a \$1 per pack tax increase on cigarettes, as well as tax increases on other tobacco products. Some progress was made on election reform and water resources issues.

On Feb. 14, five members of the Ames League traveled to Des Moines to join other LWV of Iowa members for a lobbying day at the state capitol.

The Ames LWV hosted four televised public forums with Story County's legislative team while the legislature was in session. These Legislative Wake-Up forums were held on Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17 and April 14.

The formats for this year's Legislative Wake-Up Forums changed. Forum dates were moved from the end of each month to the middle of the months so that Story County residents could have more opportunities to meet face-to-face with the elected officials. Reaction panelists were once again incorporated into the forums, highlighting different issues at each forum. Feedback from audience members and the legislators prompted changes in the operating rules for the forums, creating a more informal, interactive environment for the exchange of ideas.

Lauris Olson

The VOTER Newsletter and Website

The on-line distribution of the *Voter* continues to be a successful means of communication and cost savings. Deadlines for information to be published have been established to ensure the newsletter goes out the second week of each month.

The "Meet a Member" feature has received numerous positive comments from readers. We are also trying to put more information on new members in as they become members. This was done to create a more personal feel to the newsletter and to give the members the opportunity to get to know one another. We have begun this section featuring the board members; however, once we have featured the board members we will begin featuring general members.

The VOTER is e-mailed to 94 current members, the board members of the League of Women Voters of Iowa, and approximately 20 additional individuals a month who are being recruited to join or who have made contributions to the Ames League. Additionally, 25 hard copies are mailed to individuals who do not have e-mail access. The newsletter is also printed out so it is available to prospective members, available at events, and posted on the League's website.

After a long delay of almost a year we have now a new website that gives us more flexibility on content, is easier to manage and is more user friendly. During the next few months, we will be adding additional features and more links to resources to help members and visitors learn about League issues. The new site is <http://www.ameslww.org>. We encourage members to contact us if you have suggestions to make this site more effective and user friendly. Another added feature is that we now have access to web-mail and in the future we will be using it for sending the VOTER and other regular communications.

Julie Snyder-July and Selva Lehman

Voter Services

This has been a particularly interesting and busy year for “Voter Services” in the Ames League, as there were elections in all the constituencies in which this local league is involved.

Also, it was the year for primary elections for state government offices. The voter services year began in May, with a letter to the editors of all Story County newspapers to remind of the primary election on June 6 and to instruct readers of the procedure for registration, for absentee ballots, and to give a heads up regarding the new voting machines to be used county-wide. Voters, of course, were urged to take advantage of their privilege to vote.

In August the League took primary responsibility for the first of the fall series of forums, the Ames School Board forum, featuring seven candidates for the school board. Diane Bystrom of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center was moderator, and there was a standing-room-only crowd in City Council chambers for the forum. For the third year, there was a representative of the Ames High School student body on the questioners’ panel.

On October 16, the Ames Chamber of Commerce was primarily responsible, with the assistance of the League, for the City Council forum which had only one seat contested. In spite of this small field of candidates, the Council forum generated a great deal of interest, and again there was a good sized crowd in attendance.

On October 23, the Ames Chamber, assisted by the League, hosted the Story County officers’ forum, with a field of nine candidates for the offices of County Attorney, Recorder, Board of Supervisors and Treasurer. Only the office of County Recorder was unopposed.

The final candidates’ forum, for state legislative offices, was hosted by the League with Chamber assistance, on October 30. Lauris Olson moderated this event, and there was an enthusiastic crowd in attendance. The ISU student body was represented on the questioners’ panel, in addition to the usual participation by a League member, an Ames Chamber member, and a member of the media.

Prior to the general election on November 7, Voter Services arranged for the display of the “Vote” banner over Main Street for ten days and for the removal of the banner after the election.

In February the 2007 *Political Directory and Voter Guide* was created for distribution around the county, with additional copies printed in March before annual membership mailings.

Miriam Patterson

Membership

The League of Women Voters has a membership of 115, five of whom are new members since July 2006. A LWV inquiry session was held at 7:00 P.M. prior to the September general meeting. It was an opportunity for potential members to learn about the workings of the League. Information was provided by Joyce Hertz, Nancy Brown and Judy Dolphin. Six non-leaguers attended.

Co-chairpersons shared the responsibilities of contacting potential and lapsing members. Suggestions were made by LWV members and several individuals expressed interest. These people received letters of invitation to become members, a LWV brochure and a membership coupon. The treasurer notified the Membership of lapsing (after two notices) members. Personal contacts with these members were made by one of the co-chairs.

The co-chairs recognized that the difficulty in recruiting younger members. An advisory committee of Alissa Stoehr and Lauri Olson met with the co-chairs for the purpose of proposing some exciting activities, which will raise the League’s visibility with younger people. Several projects will be put into place during the summer and early fall.

Marlys Potter and Judy Dolphin

Observer Corps

This past year LWV of Ames has consistently had observers at meetings of the Story County Board of Supervisors, the Story County Medical Center Board of Trustees, and the Mary Greeley Medical Center Board of Trustees. Thanks to Barbara Munson, Martha Isaacson, and Nancy Brown, respectively, for their attendance at these meetings. In addition, Martha Isaacson volunteered to begin observing at the Story County Conservation Board’s meetings. We appreciate the time and careful attention that our observers give to cover the proceedings of local government bodies. Being the eyes and ears of League, these observers help the League Board identify emerging issues of interest to the League. Equally significant, the observers help ensure that local public officials follow Iowa’s open meetings law.

Next year we hope to have observers also at meetings of the Ames City Council, Ames Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Ames School Board. Please consider joining the Observer Corps!

Sandra McJimsey

League of Women Voters of Ames
4037 Fletcher Boulevard
Ames, IA 50014
Co-Presidents:
Joyce Hertz
Randi Peters

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.