



The Voter

A Publication by the League of Women
Voters of Ames, IA
August 2005

From the Co-Presidents

Dear Friends:

I hope you have had a relaxing and refreshing summer, and are ready for a great year of League programs and projects.

Since our last Voter, the Ames League hosted the LWVIA Convention, and earned praise from the delegates around the state. Thanks to all of you who were volunteers or delegates. Please note the LWVIA President's thank you elsewhere in the *Voter*

Your board had been busy this summer, especially Randi Peters. With the help of Ruth Swenson, Jane Greimann, Bev Crabtree, and Membership Chairs Barbara Munson and Judy Dolphin, Randi has planned some exceptional programs that support League's studies and advocacy priorities. Please note that the League's first event is the School Board Candidates' Forum, August 29, organized by Mary Richards and Miriam Patterson, Voter Service Chairs. Mark your calendars for that and other events that League is sponsoring or co-sponsoring.

Although there are no General Meetings in the summer, the Board has continued to meet. We had an all-day retreat July 9, for orientation and to consider priorities for the next year. High on the list of priorities are to:

- Provide more advocacy on issues for which we have developed positions.
- Provide leadership training and opportunities
- Work more effectively with other organizations with common goals.

Nancy Brown, League of Women Voters of Iowa (LWVIA) Secretary, and I represented the Ames League at the "Celebrate Voting" Gala August 5 at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. The event was organized by LWVIA and other organizations. We were very proud that Jan McNelly, former LWVIA President was honored for her efforts to implement HAVA (Help Americans Vote Act).

One disappointment of the last few months is that we have a vacancy on the board, that of Co-president-elect. We have a vibrant and active league, but we need members who are willing to take leadership positions. I can say from experience that the rest of the board members have made this a very rewarding job, and "Many hands—and heads—make light work." Being able to share the position with someone else certainly makes it a rewarding and almost an easy job. We encourage you to to nominate potential candidates.

Jeannette Bohnenkamp

Mark Your Calendar

Book Club

August 24, 2005 (Wednesday) see page 2 for details

Candidate Forum

August 29, 2005 (Monday) at 7:00 pm at the City Council Chambers

Board Meeting

September 1, 2005 (Thursday) from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm at the home of Jeannette Bohnenkamp, 2222 Barr Dr.

General Meeting

September 15, 2005 (Thursday) Living Wage Study at Stone Brooke Community Center.

October 20, 2005 (Tuesday) Story County Medical Center at Greenhills Dining Room.

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League Information

LWV Races Against Racism

The League of Women Voters of Ames is sponsoring the YWCA's Race Against Racism. This year's 5K fun run/walk will be held September 24 at Nutty Woods, North River Valley Park in Ames.

The 5K fun run/walk will help the YWCA develop and implement a multicultural day camp for elementary school children in grades 3-5. The camp will provide opportunities for campers to appreciate different cultures and traditions. Campers will also learn important life skills and to appreciate diversity in our community through personal interaction, the arts, history and stimulation.

The League will be organizing at least 1 team to participate in the 5K fun run/walk. Team registration is \$12 per person (due by September 8) and each team needs to be at least 5 people. If you are interested in participating in the run/walk, please contact Julie Snyder-Yuly at jsnyder@iastate.edu or 294-9867. Friends, children and spouses of League members are all encouraged to participate.

In addition to participants, the League is in need of volunteers from 8:00 a.m. to noon to pass out information at their table. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jeannette Bohnenkamp or Selva Lehman.

The League encourages interested members to come out and participate in this fun family event. You can get more information about the Race Against Racism by calling the YWCA Ames/ISU at 294-1663.

Dear wonderful folks from Ames,

I want to thank all of you, particularly, and all of your worker bees and other members who helped make our LWVIA State Convention a success. Things worked smoothly from my perspective; hope it did from yours as well.

You were all so very organized and good at doing your jobs. I knew when we were to have the convention in Ames that your League's performance would be top notch. And it was.

Again, thank you all for a job VERY well done!

Pat Jensen

Book group schedule 2005-06

Ames League of Women Voters Reading Club has set up its schedule for the 2005-06 year. The club meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm in homes of League members. As a reminder, Big Table Books has discounts for book groups.

August 24th: *Thurgood Marshall* by Juan Williams. Led by Jeannette Bohnenkamp. Home of Jan Beran, 304 24th St, 232-2790, Available in paperback.

September 28th: *Beer and Circus* by Murray Sperber Led by Jan Beran. Home of Mary Jo Brearley, 1537 Linden Dr., 232-1499, Available in paperback.

October 26th: *Seneca Falls Inheritance* by Miriam Grace Monfredo. Led by Frances Smith
Home of Jeannette Bohnenkamp, 2222 Barr Dr. , 232-3480, Library has "Gab Bag". Pick up copy from Frances at the preceding meeting.,
Or make arrangements with her.

November & December No Meeting

January 25th: *Short History of Islam* by Karen Armstrong. Led by Marion Weiss. Home of Marion Weiss, 2529 Northwood Dr., 232-3145, Again library will have "Gab Bag"; pick up from Marion.

February 22nd: *The Price of Loyalty* by Ron Susskind. Led by Randi Peters.
Home of Frances Smith, 2159 Country Club Blvd., 292-9295 Available in paperback.

March 22nd: *Interpersonal Divide: The Search for Meaning in a Technological Age* by Michael Bugeja. Led by Mary Jo Brearley. Home of Jean Peterson, 2227 Hamilton Drive, 296-5182. Available in paperback.

April 26th: *Washington D.C.* by Meg Greenfield. Led by Mary Richards. Home of Mary Jo Brearley, 1537 Linden Dr., 232-1499.

May To Be Announced

To get your name on the mailing list so that you will receive reminders of book group meetings, call or E-mail Frances Smith (292-9295 or fmsmith@iastate.edu) or Mary Jo Brearley(232-1499 or mbrearle_2000@yahoo.com).

HELP WANTED - Ames LWV Observer Corps

The Ames League is in need of more individuals to serve in the Observer Corps. As an observer, you will attend meetings and send a brief report to the Observer Chair. Observers do not speak at meetings, unless they have a question they wish to ask. Participating in the Observer Corps not only benefits the League, but you will be surprised at the personal rewards you will gain from this experience. Call Betty Johnson at 292-2995 for details if you are willing to serve as an observer or a substitute.

Observers are urgently needed in the following areas:
Story County Supervisors, Tuesday, 9:30 am, Supervisor's Office, County Courthouse, Nevada;

Story County Conservation Board, 2nd Monday, 7 pm, McFarland Park;

Ames Planning and Zoning Commission, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7 pm; and

Ames Parks and Recreation Commission, 4th Thursday, 4 pm

The following observers are currently serving:
Martha Isaacson, 4th Monday, 5:00 p.m., Story County Medical Center Board.

Nancy Brown, 4th, Monday, 5:30 p.m., Mary Greeley Medical Center Board of Trustees.

Ruth Larson, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Ames City Council.

Betty Johnson, 2 Mondays monthly, 6:30 p.m. Ames School District Board of Education.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP

Tired of attending League meetings alone? Consider sharing a ride with other members. This is not only a great way to meet other members, it also provides transportation to someone who may not be able to get to a meeting on their own.

League Lingo Deciphered

New members, potential members, and anyone else who struggles to understand the positions and terminology used by the League, here's a special opportunity for you to brush up on League lingo! For a half-hour before the September 15 General Meeting, you'll have the chance to find out just what consensus is (we'll be taking consensus following the presentation that night of the Living Wage Study).

So come early—7 pm to the Stone Brooke Community Center—and find out what it's all about. You might find the answer to questions such as, "How come League won't just take a position?" We'll be inviting prospective members and community activists to join us in this informational meeting. Notify Barbara Munson of potential members to invite: amesmunson@aol.com

Look for other pre-General Meeting opportunities like this in the future. October 20's pre-topic will be the Observer Corps

League Looking to Learn More about Members

The League is looking to learn more about its members so that it can serve them better. Members of the Board will be begin making calls between August 22 and September 15 to ask you a series of questions about your interest in and participation in the League. The phone calls will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

If you would like to complete the survey but prefer not to be called, please contact Jeannette Bohnenkamp at jbohenk@netscape.com or at 232-3480 by August 19 and she will forward you the survey to complete.

We look forward to talking to you. Expect a call from a League member soon inquiring about the following:

- your preference in receiving newsletters and notices
- League issues that interest you the most
- League activities that interest you the most
- Issues that you wish the League would study/advocate

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Co-Presidents:
Jeanette Bohnenkamp
Selva Lehman
Voter Editor: Julie Snyder-Yuly

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.

Meet a Member

Elizabeth (Betty) Johnson

Observer Corps Chair

Elizabeth Johnson, known to everyone as Betty, relocated to Ames from Sussex County, New Jersey, via Orange County, New York, in 2001. She is a native of Montclair, New Jersey. Betty earned her B.A. in American History from Rutgers and earned an M.A. in counseling from New York University.

Her activities in the League began in the 1970's while employed at Orange County Community College in which a number of women faculty and administrators were League members. She delved into health maintenance organizations and charter school studies, registered voters, presided at candidate forums and served as co-president and in many other board positions. She was widowed in 1996 when her husband of 46 years, Raleigh, died of cancer.

Betty joined the League shortly after moving to Ames to learn about issues that citizens in the Midwest are concerned about. She just finished a stint on the Nominating Committee and is getting her feet wet in her new role as Observer Corps chairperson.



The 2005 Political Directory and Voter Guide has been distributed to the Ames Public Library, City Hall, Story County Auditor's office and many other places around town. It can also be found on LWV of Ames website at www.ames.ia.lwvnet.org.