



The Voter

A Publication by the League of Women
Voters of Ames, IA
August 2006

From the President

Greetings Leaguers,

Summer can be filled with lazy, hazy days but it seems that summer in Ames this year has been especially busy and active, particularly in the volunteer hosting department: first came the Iowa Special Olympics, then Odyssey of the Mind, next the big push for Special Olympics USA National Games and finally the Iowa Games. On a smaller scale the LWV of Ames has been active too. Here is a brief summary.

The LWV of Ames has agreed to be a major sponsor of the YWCA's second annual Race Against Racism on September 23, 2006. We would also like to enter our own team in the 5Krun/walk. If you would like to participate contact Jackie Manatt or me, Joyce Hertz.

Congratulations to our local League for being selected as one of five leagues to host a Ukrainian delegation in October. Selva Lehman and Nancy Brown are co-chairs for this major event and we really need many hands to make this a success. Please read Selva's article for ways that you can be a part of this special project.

Randi Peters and I served as delegates to the LWVUS National Convention, *Meeting in the Middle*, at the Hilton in Minneapolis, June 10-13. Nancy Brown was in attendance as delegate for LWVIA and Judie Hoffman attended as the delegate for Hamilton County League in Iowa. All of us attended a special briefing with League people who have hosted Russian or Ukrainian visitors last year. We got some good tips. I have also included a report on the convention in a separate article in the VOTER.

Finally, the board of directors met June 26 for a half-day retreat to set some goals for the coming year and to decide how to focus our efforts. Attendance was great, and I think we generated some enthusiasm for the many tasks before us. This is a very talented board of directors. It also is a very fun group.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.
Joyce Hertz, co-president

Mark Your Calendar

Book Club - Are these continuing

August 23 (Wednesday) 1:30 p.m.
Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder
Led by Randi Peterson at the home of Jan Beran

Candidate Forum

August 28 (Monday) 7:00-9:00 p.m.
School Board Candidates
Dianne Bystrom, Moderator
Ames City Council Chambers

Board Meeting

September 7, 2006 (Thursday) 7:00 p.m.
At the home of Joyce Hertz, 2803 Torrey Pines Circle

General Meeting

September 21, 2006 (Thursday)
7:00 p.m. Pre-Meeting Membership Inquiry: What does LWV do?
7:30 p.m. High Interest (Payday or Car Title) Loans
State Representative Kevin McCarthy, Presenter
Northminster Presbyterian Church - Fireplace Room
1416 20th Street, Ames

Other Dates of Interest

September 12 (Tuesday) School Board Elections

September 23 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. YWCA's Race Against Racism

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League Information

The LWV of Ames Chosen to Host 2006 Ukraine Civic Hosting Program

Our Ames League is one of five local Leagues nationwide that has been chosen by the LWVUS to host five visitors from Ukraine. They will be in Ames from October 14th to the 22nd. The group will include four delegates and one facilitator. We have requested a delegation of women, but at this time we are not sure if that is a possibility. The theme of the visit is "Accountable Governance."

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is receiving funding for this project from the Open World Leadership Center (OWLC). The Open World Program works to increase mutual understanding between the U.S. and participating countries, and enables emerging leaders from those countries to gain firsthand exposure to the American system of democracy. Our grant is part of the Open World Leadership Center's 2006 Civic Hosting Program.

The program will provide firsthand experiences of North America life and culture and an introduction to U.S. democracy at every level. This is a great opportunity for us to also gain insight into the culture of Ukraine. The League of Women Voters of Ames Iowa proposes that the focus of our program on **Accountable Governance** for Ukrainian women be:

- Interface and interactions among different levels of government (primarily local, county, state) for effective decentralization of government operations
 - Transparent, responsive, and accountable government and non-governmental organizations
 - Grass-roots involvement by citizens (unpaid service on councils, boards, committees, commissions) in decision making by government and non-governmental organizations
- Women as agents of change in these processes will be emphasized.

Ardith Maney, a professor of political science at ISU, has agreed to be our resource person for this hosting program. She has a good understanding of our visitors because she has initiated funded programs to enhance the civic education and democratization in several countries of Central and Eastern Europe. One of the countries is Ukraine.

At this point in the planning we are starting to build a detailed agenda. Some of the activities for the visitors will be to meet with elected officials, exchange ideas with

leaders of non government organizations, participate in local community events, and learn about the relationships among the three branches of government.

Home-stays are a cornerstone of the Open World experience. The time spent with host families allows delegates to see how US families live and interact. We hope that host families will be interested in maintaining contact with the delegates after their U.S. visit. Although language barriers may exist, guests and hosts find ways to communicate and learn from each other.

The goal of the Planning Committee, co-chaired by Nancy Brown and Selva Lehman, is to have a high percentage of our League members involved. There are various opportunities for involvement and at this point we are recruiting volunteers to help in those areas. Please read carefully the list below and contact Selva or Nancy if you have any questions.

Besides the core tasks of preparing the program agenda, coordinating translators etc., there are many other areas where we need people willing to help

Please Volunteer your skills. We Need you.

If you are interested in any of the following possibilities please contact Selva as soon as possible by calling her at 232-5571 or e-mail selvarl@mchsi.com.

- ◆ Do you have one or two extra bedrooms in your home? Would you be willing to provide Bed and Breakfast for two of our delegates or for the facilitator?
- ◆ Do you enjoy cooking? We need hosts willing to provide evening meals for six to ten guest Several people can work together to provide the meal
- ◆ Do you enjoy sewing? We would like to have five welcome bags for maps and other goodies to give our guest when they arrive.
- ◆ Do you enjoy organizing social events? We plan to have several informal events in addition to a farewell dinner.
- ◆ Are you willing to drive a 7-passenger van to transport the delegation to the various activities? We would like to have at least two drivers. The program will provide the van and insurance.

We are honored and excited to be involved in the Open World – LWVUS program. We know it will take a lot of work to plan and execute a program that will be valuable to our guest. However, our local League has also much to gain from this effort.

LWVUS National Convention

Meeting in the Middle
June 10-13, 2006

Joyce Hertz and Randi Peters, co-presidents for the LWV of Ames, served as local delegates. We also attended the pre-convention diversity workshop on Friday, June 9.

Highlights of convention:

1. Kay Maxwell, former LWVUS president, was a strong forceful chairwoman. The 2006-2008 proposed slate of officers, directors and nominating committee were approved although there were two additional nominations for director from the floor. The new president is Mary G. Wilson from Albuquerque, N.M. She is an attorney and served as the Advocacy Committee Chair for LWVUS, 2004-06.

2. PROGRAM:

Concurrence: the convention adopted concurrence with the LWVIL Death Penalty Abolition position. IA supported.

New Study: adopted a 3-year study of immigration policy. It will include two years of education and a third year of consensus. The exact scope of the new study will be determined by the LWVUS Study Committee and approved by the LWVUS Board. (Several state leagues have studied or are in the process of studying this topic.)

During the first year the committee will develop a timetable, conduct research and post materials on the LWVUS Web site. Over the first two years of the study, the committee will produce and disseminate background information, public forum materials, articles, including camera-ready articles for Leagues, and resource lists. In the 2nd year, the committee will also write and distribute a Study Guide. In order to minimize costs during both years, materials will be provided electronically.

The third year will be devoted to producing and distributing an Immigration Study Leader's Guide and response forms, and taking consensus.

The proposed budget for the first year is minimal (\$50,000) but adequate. The 2nd year of the study will be minimally funded by the PMP increases. Funding for the 3rd year will be determined at Convention 2008.

Resolution proposed by LWV Minnesota to require a Voter Verifiable Paper Record was passed by the convention after overruling the chair.

BUDGET:

The budget reflects a balance between the financial realities of both a decline in membership and escalating costs of doing business, and the desire to ensure organizational development and national impact for the League.

In 1990, LWVUS had 70 staff. Today there are 25 and LWVUS is working hard to maintain that level. In 1990, the Per Member Payments (PMP) accounted for 48% of the budget; today they account for 32%.

Membership continues to decline from a total of 72,391 in 2003 with 860 Leagues to 71,092 in 2006 with 851 Leagues. FYI, California has 10,460 members in 70 Leagues; MA has 4,477 members with 59 Leagues, IL has 3,733 members in 47 Leagues and IA has 743 members in 15 Leagues. The Convention approved a PMP increase of \$2.50 beginning July 1, 2006 from \$23.80 to \$26.30 and then another \$.50 increase in 2007 to \$26.80.

MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE:

LWVUS is going to conduct a pilot project with 5 Leagues that will focus on increasing members in the age group of 50-65 years of age. It is believed that retirees and empty nesters are strong candidates for volunteer work in the League. (I think the LWV of Ames certainly has found this trend to be true.)

President Mary Wilson's M & M message: 4 Ms

- a. Members
- b. Money
- c. Media
- d. Message: We (LWV) help grow citizen participation and teach people how to do public policy.

What's Going On Around Here?

Do you know of an event or activity that might be of interest to League members? If so, e-mail your information to the League co-president, Joyce Hertz (tjhertz@midiova.net). Timely and pertinent information will be included in our newsletter to keep members updated on what the Ames/ISU community has to offer.

League Activities

Legislative Wake-Up Forums

The League of Women Voters has set the dates for its monthly Legislative Wake-Up Forums for the 2007 Iowa General Assembly 2007 session.

The timing of each Wake-Up Forum has been changed in an attempt to increase both the number of constituents who participate in the Saturday morning forums and the timeliness with which legislators are able to provide information to and receive input from constituents. In the past, the forums were usually held the day after the Ames Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheons at the end of each month. This year, the forums will be held in the middle of each month.

The dates reserved at Ames City Hall for the League of Women Voters of Ames Legislative Wake-Up Forums, which are co-sponsored by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center and the American Association of University Women, are:

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2006
Saturday, Feb. 17, 2006
Saturday, March 17, 2006
Saturday, April 14, 2006

Ames School Board Candidate Forum

It's nearly fall, which means that Candidates' Forums will soon be in vogue! Before every contested local, county and legislative district election, your League, in cooperation with the Ames Chamber of Commerce, presents a Candidates' Forum. It's an opportunity for all the candidates to be seen, heard, and questioned by the public.

The first forum this fall will be for Ames School Board candidates, where seven persons are competing for four seats. It will be held in City Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, August 28, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be moderated by Dianne Bystrom, director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics.

All Ames League of Women Voters members are especially encouraged to attend, so as to be current with school district issues and acquainted with those seeking Board membership. Bring a friend and come along!

YWCA 2nd Annual Race Against Racism

Once again, the League of Women Voters of Ames is organizing one or more teams to participate in the YWCA's 2nd annual Race Against Racism 5K run/walk. This year's race will be held Saturday, September 23. The Race begins at 8:30 a.m. at North River Valley/Nutty Woods Park (behind Carr Pool) in Ames.

Proceeds from the 5K fun run/walk will help the YWCA fund *Camp Molding a Better Tomorrow*, 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 of 4-6 members to participate in the 5K fun run/walk. Team registration is \$12 per person (**prior to September 7**) or \$100 in collected pledges. If you are interested in participating in the run/walk, please contact Julie Snyder-Yuly (jlsnyder@iastate.edu or 294-9867) or Jackie Manatt (rmanatt@iastate.edu). Friends, children and spouses of League members are all encouraged to participate.

Join other league members and make a difference in your community by running, walking or volunteering in the 2nd Race Against Racism 5Krun/walk. Festivities following the race include entertainment and guest speakers for the whole community to enjoy!

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 or on their website at www.ywca.org/amesiowa.

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 of Women Voters of Ames
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Co-Presidents:
Joyce Hertz
Randi Peterson
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

Joyce Hertz

Co-President

My name is Joyce Hertz and I am currently the co-president of the LWV of Ames. However, I am neither new to Ames nor to the League...just returning to active status.

I grew up in Ames, graduated from Iowa State University, worked for a year under Bill Pelz at the DOT, then got married to Tom Hertz and moved away for 10 years. During that time we lived in Washington, D.C., Ann Arbor, Michigan, London England, and Chicago. I first joined the League of Women Voters in Du Page County, Illinois. Upon returning to Ames in 1978, I joined our local League. I served on the board in several capacities and then was president from 1988-89. Shortly thereafter I was elected to the Ames City Council as an At-Large member. For seven years I also worked part-time as assistant manager at the EXPLORE store.

I have a strong interest in affordable housing and have served as president of Story County Housing and was a founding member and president of the Story County Community Land Trust. Presently I am active in AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy), the new grassroots citizen organization growing in the Des Moines metropolitan area and Ames area.

On a more personal level, Tom and I have two grown children. Jana is married and she lives and works in Indonesia. Our son Alan is a veterinarian in Pennsylvania. We also lend a helping hand to our mothers—Marjory Hertz at Green Hills and Miriam Dickson in the Health Care Center at Northcrest.

It's good to be back among friends and wonderful community leaders.

