



# The Voter

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Ames

February 2007

Editors Julie Snyder-Yuly and Marisa Stadlman

## From the Co-President

The famous LWV saying, "*Study without action is futile; action without study is fatal,*" really was the theme of our February board meeting. I would like to share three topics from that discussion.

First, we learned on the very day of our board meeting that the LWVUS Immigration Study has been shortened from three years to two years. Consensus results will be due in February 2008. Wow! That is only one year away.

Any study is a major activity. However, the complexity and strong feelings surrounding the immigration issue make this topic a real challenge. The Board made the decision to take on the national study of immigration and we will be forming a committee immediately. Please see the immigration article in this VOTER for information and upcoming activities.

I would particularly alert you to two immigration happenings in the month of February. First is a play on immigration by St. Thomas parishioners. They will present *The Line in the Sand* on Thursday, February 22 at 7:30PM the St. Thomas Aquinas Lower Lounge, 2210 Lincoln Way. Theater will be used to tell the personal stories of people affected by U.S./Mexico border migration. Through an hour-long collection of monologues and photos, the audience is exposed to a variety of points of view. Staff of Catholic Relief Services prepared this readers' theater.

Secondly, the Marshalltown Times-Republican has called for a National Summit on Immigration in the wake of federal raids at the Swift plant in Marshalltown and several other locations around the country. This meeting is scheduled for February 26. (See immigration article for details.) Rep. Tom Latham's office has played a key role in helping to set the agenda and secure speakers. Interest has grown with publicity and tickets (free) must be ordered in advance.

Next, our board expressed concern that our local league needs to develop greater capacity

to become strong advocates of our local positions. We decided that we would like to add a director to the board whose primary responsibility is coordinating advocacy efforts much like the director in charge of the observer corps coordinates the observers of various boards and commissions. This will be an appointed position. Anyone who might be interested in this role should contact Joyce Hertz.

Lobbying state positions is a second means for advocacy. Seven persons from our League have expressed interest in attending **Lobby Day, February 14 at the Capitol in Des Moines.** Leaguers from all over the state will gather to lobby for the state legislative priorities on this day. Martha Isaacson is the coordinator for our League. Please see the

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## Calendar

**Lobby Day**  
February 14, 2007 (see story page 2)

**General Meeting**  
**February 15, 2007 (Thurs)**  
7:00 p.m. pre-meeting  
7:30 p.m. How to  
Advocate for LWV State and Local  
Priorities, Northminster Presbyterian Church

**Legislative Wake-Up**  
February 17, 2007  
Saturday  
8:30 a.m. Social Time  
8:45 a.m. Forum and Broadcast

**Book Club**  
**February 28, 2007 (Wed).**  
1:30 p.m.  
*Overthrow* by Steven Kinzer at the home of  
Nancy Brown, 3614 Story Street

**Board Meeting**  
**March 1, 2007 (Thursday)**  
7:00 pm at the office of Lauris Olson,  
109 Kellogg St.

**Consider joining the LWV Book Club. Anyone is welcome, even if you haven't read the book. The more the merrier!**

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article on Lobby Day for details.

Legislative Wake-Up Forums are another way that we have to meet with our local legislators. Lauris Olson, Legislative Action chair, is constantly evaluating our format. There was some discussion that the City Council Chambers are very formal and that the audience is kept at arms length. Lauris is going to see if it might be possible for the legislators to be seated on the floor and closer to the audience at the next session. Give us your feedback on this experiment.

We also want to be sure that League positions are queried at the Wake-Up forums. All of the legislative priorities were mentioned at the last forum and we want to continue to keep these issues in front of the legislators.

Study and action. Both are a vital part of League. Join us in these activities.

## Legislative Wake-Up Forum

The Ames League of Women Voters will hold the second of its 2007 Legislative Wake-Up Forums on Saturday, Feb. 17. Coffee, tea, juice and rolls will be available at 8:30 a.m. The forum will begin at 8:45 a.m. and is scheduled to end at 10 a.m. The forum will be broadcast live on Cable Channel 12 and rebroadcast the next week on Cable Channel 16. Reaction panelists will be Ron Werner-Wilson, president of the Ames Community School Board, and a representative from Iowa State University. Approximately 50 minutes will be allocated for audience questions and comments.

If you would like to help please contact Lauris Olson at 451-7293 or at [lauris\\_olson@mac.com](mailto:lauris_olson@mac.com). Help is needed with set up and serving, taking telephone questions, handling the audience microphone and tear down/clean-up. Recommendations for guest reaction issues/panelists are also welcome.

### LOBBY DAY is February 14

**Our annual gathering at the Capitol in Des Moines to lobby for our legislative priorities will be Valentine's Day, February 14.**

**Date/Time:** February 14, 2007

9:30a.m. – 12:00	Update and preparation session
12:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Meet with legislators at capitol
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Report to Judie Hoffman on your contacts

**Location:** Calvary Baptist Church, 606 East 9<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines

**Purpose & Plan:** To advocate for our LWVIA legislative priorities. In the morning we'll get prepared on the issues, and in the afternoon we'll lobby our representatives in the Iowa Legislature.

**Coordinator:** Martha Isaacson is contacting our representatives to set up a time to meet, probably over lunch. She will coordinate rides to Des Moines and answer any questions you may have. 292-5233 or email [martha.isaacson@gmail.com](mailto:martha.isaacson@gmail.com)

**Program:** Topics will include Election Reform, Water Quality, outlook for LWVIA legislative priorities, the ins and outs of lobbying.

**Impact:** The larger our numbers, the greater the impact. Let's go for it!

**Directions:** From Interstate 235 exit South onto East 14<sup>th</sup> St. to the Capitol. Turn West (right) onto Grand Avenue and go to East 9<sup>th</sup> St. Turn North (right) onto 9<sup>th</sup> – the church is on the West side of the street just beyond the Wallace Building (glass front). The church parking lot is on the North side of the building.

## LWVUS Immigration Study Moved Forward One Year!

National President Mary G. Wilson announced in her February 1, 2007 Leaders' Update that the LWVUS Board voted to shorten the LWVUS Immigration Study from a three-year study to a two-year study. Under the new timeline, LWVUS will distribute a Leader's Guide, including consensus questions, in August 2007, and consensus forms will be due back in the national office by February 1, 2008. Using these responses, the Immigration Study Committee will prepare a position statement for Board approval at their spring 2008 meeting.

According to Mary's announcement, the decision to shorten the study process was made for a variety of reasons: "Members have expressed widespread support for a shorter study, Immigration Study Committee background materials are already available on the Web site, and many local Leagues are already holding educational meetings and forums on the subject."

Our local board voted to participate in the national study at our February meeting. That means we have one year to do serious backgrounding, reading, interviewing, participating in forums and seminars, and understanding some of the strong feelings and passions generated by this issue. If you are interested in participating in this study please contact Joyce Hertz, 292-7782, [tjhertz@midiaowa.net](mailto:tjhertz@midiaowa.net). There will also be a sign-up sheet at the February meeting.

To prepare yourself for this study, here are some things that you can do. Read *Immigration: A Historical Perspective* in the February **National Voter**. This is the first in a scheduled series of three articles. Go to the LWVUS web site: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Click on "For Members," then "LWVUS Immigration Study," under "Quick Links." There are four background articles prepared by members of the national committee and a resource list called Immigration 101. When our local committee is formed, we will use this list as a starting point for additional materials.

Plan to attend the March 17 general meeting. Instead of the program listed in your program

booklet (update on Story County Hospital), we will have a program on immigration. We want to consider some of the issues that particularly impact our local area.

A new documentary, *A Little Salsa on the Prairie: The Changing Character of Perry, Iowa*, has been released. The 55-minute film chronicles the significant change that began in Perry in the early 1990s when an influx of Latino workers and their families came from Texas, California, Mexico and Central America to work at the local meat packing plant. Perry's Latino population increased from 47 in 1990 to 1,873 in 2000, accounting for 24.5% of the total population. A presentation of the documentary was held February 6 at the Olmstead Center at Drake. DVD copies are available for \$25. For more information, visit [littlesalsaontheprairie.com](http://littlesalsaontheprairie.com)

A group at St. Thomas Aquinas is preparing a short play, *Line in the Sand*, about the immigration issues at the Mexico-US border. It will be held on Thursday, February 22 at 7:30pm.

An Immigration Summit in Marshalltown will be held on Monday, February 26 at the DeJardin Hall on the campus of Marshalltown Community Center. The program will begin at 9:a.m.with registration taking place the hour prior to the event. The local newspaper, the Times-Republican, called for the summit in the wake of raids in December by agents with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. Those agents detained nearly 100 workers from the Swift & Company plant in Marshalltown.

The goal of the summit is to spark a national dialogue on the issue and give elected officials a chance to understand what the issues are at the grassroots level in order to formulate policy in Washington that better addresses the needs and concerns of the country. Members of the general public who want to attend must obtain tickets. There is a maximum number of two tickets per request. Those interested in tickets need to send their name, organization, phone number and a self-addressed stamped return envelope to: Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce, ATTN: Immigration Summit, P.O. Box 1000, Marshalltown, IA 50158.

Immigration is a very hot topic right now and so we want to be aware of the many groups

who are looking at this issue and the wide range of perspectives. AAUW has been studying this issue and we shared a program with them last October, "What you need to know about New Immigrants in Iowa" presented by Dr. Mark Grey, Director of the Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration.

AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) has a research team on immigration. Several League members attended an AMOS program on January 25, "Immigration Laws and Their Impact; and Organizing for Positive Change" presented by Lori Chesser, immigration attorney, and Kirk Martin from Migration and Refugee Services of Catholic Charities in Des Moines.

Last week there was an immigration overpopulation conference in Washington, D.C. in which former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm spoke about the dangers of illegal immigration and how they could destroy the United States. A book, *Mexifornia*, by Victor Hansen Davis talks about how immigration, both legal and illegal, is destroying the state of California. Obviously, there is an anti-immigration movement in the US too.

Please consider becoming a part of a timely study and joining in the national debate.

### Carrie Chapman Catt Award

Nominations for the Carrie Chapman Catt award are welcome now. Each year a member from our league is honored for her/his active participation in the goals and mission of the League of Women Voters, service to the wider community and significant individual accomplishment. Last year's recipient was Judy Clem.

Jan Beran and Ann Campbell are co-chairing the selection committee for this year. Please share your recommendations with either of them.

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4037 Fletcher Boulevard  
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Co-Presidents:  
Joyce Hertz  
Randi Peterson

## Meet a Member

Marisa Stadlman – Editorial Assistant for the Voter and ISU student

Marisa Stadlman is a twin who says she is nothing like her sister either in appearance or interests. An older brother kept things lively for the girls while growing up in Ankeny and now lives not far away in Minnesota. Marisa's mother has a number of siblings who live close by in surrounding states so the Stadlman home in Ankeny is the focal point for many family reunions.

Currently, this busy lady works at Carrie Chapman Catt Center on the ISU campus, where she serves as an undergraduate teaching assistant for “Leadership, Personal and Professional Explorations for Women” and as a peer mentor for the Center’s ACT Learning Community. In addition to her work on campus, she waitresses in Ankeny on the weekend.

She is also the president of the Catt Associates student organization. As president, she is coordinating a financial workshop for young women entitled "From Debt to Dollars: Financial Power for Young Women." She recently helped co-create the “Women Impacting ISU” calendar, which recognizes the impact of women’s accomplishments on campus. When Marisa graduates from Iowa State University, she will enter the Master’s of Public Administration graduate program at Iowa State

The ideal career for Marisa would be to work with programs for young women which would equip them to be actively involved in the public sector. For now, she enjoys hanging out with her friends, spending time with her boy friend and her cat Sugar and watching a movie now and then.

