

# The Voter

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Ames, IA  
 Web-site: <http://www.ameslww.org>

## January 2008

### From the President - Encourage involvement in City Government



Now is the time! As a former City Council member, I encourage you to complete an application and ask you to encourage others to do the same for one of the many openings on the City of Ames' Boards and Commissions. Part of the reason Ames is such a wonderful community is the involvement of its' citizens and their diverse backgrounds. A pool of applicants rich with diversity of race, gender, ethnic background and from a variety of geographic locations is the first step toward ensuring balance on Boards and Commissions.

Feel like you want to know more about a particular Board or Commission? Consider attending one of their meetings or tuning into

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Mark Your Calendar

#### 2008 DATES

**January 3 CAUCUSES, BE A PARTICIPANT**  
**No Board meeting due to conflict with Caucus date**

**January 10 Thursday**  
**7 PM Ames Happening: A Community Update**  
*Ames City Council Chambers - 515 Clark Ave.*

**January 17 Thursday**  
**General Meeting 7:30 PM**  
**LWVUS Immigration Study Consensus**  
*Northminster Presbyterian Church - Fireplace Room 1416 20<sup>th</sup>*

**January 19 Saturday**  
**Legislative Wake-Up**  
**Social Time: 8:30 AM**  
 8:45 - 10 AM Forum and Broadcast  
*Ames City Council Chambers*



**January 23 Wednesday**  
**Book Club - Infideli by Ayaan Hirsi Ali and/or Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life by Queen Noor**  
*led by Jan Beran as hostess, 304 24<sup>th</sup> Street.*

**February 27 Wednesday**  
**Book Club - Daughter of the Desert: The Remarkable Life of Gertrude Bell by Georgina Howell and/or Desert Queen: The Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell by Janet Wallach**  
*led by Joyce Hertz as hostess, 2803 Torrey Pines Cr.*

**February - date to be announced LWVIA Lobby Day**  
 Des Moines - IA  
 See Voter for date and place

**February 16 Saturday**  
**Legislative Wake-Up**  
**Social Time: 8:30 AM**  
 8:45 - 10 AM Forum and Broadcast  
*Ames City Council Chambers*



**February 21 Thursday**  
**General Meeting 7:30 PM**  
**Local Unit Program Planning:**  
**Reviewing National and Local Programs**  
*Northminster Presbyterian Church - Fireplace Room 1416*

### REMINDER OF NEW SPECIAL EVENT "AMES HAPPENING: A COMMUNITY UPDATE" JAN 10, 2008 AT 7 PM

The League is excited to announce this new event. We've invited top elected officials to speak about the 2007 year in review and look ahead to events and issues of 2008. Mayor Ann Campbell, School Board President Gail Johnston, and Mary Greeley Medical Center Chair Sarah Buck have agreed to participate. Following their presentations we'll have time for questions and answers.

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their meetings on Channel 12 where many are broadcast. Send in your application by February 9. Once you have sent it in, follow up to be sure it arrived in City Hall. Consider contacting Council members to introduce yourself and share why you are interested in serving. Whether or not you are

appointed (unfortunately everyone won't be), stay involved and continue to learn more about YOUR city government. Everyone benefits when citizens are involved.

By Sharon Wirth  
President

### LEGISLATIVE WAKE-UPS

The 2008 session of the Iowa General Assembly should prove to be a notable one, so the board of Ames League of Women Voters is committed to getting more member and public involvement in our next round of Legislative Wake-Up Forums.

The LWV –Ames Legislative Wake-Ups bring together the state legislators who represent Story County with the county's residents for monthly updates while the legislature is in session.

Legislators use the first part of the 75 minutes to explain what is happening at the Capitol. The public and LWV members use the remaining time to ask questions and advocate for issues. Call-in questions are also taken and the League has reactivated the tradition of including a reaction panelist to focus on a timely issue before the legislators.

This year's forums are scheduled from 8:45 to 10 a.m. on the following Saturdays: Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 15 and April 19. Coffee and treats are served beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Because the wake-up forums are broadcast live on the City of Ames cable access Channel 12 and rebroadcast on public cable access Channel 16, they provide information and access to many more Ames-area residents than those who attend in person.

We could use your help in making this year's

wake-up forums a success.

New League member Mary Ann Dilla has volunteered to lead a Legislative Wake-Up Forums committee. I will serve as the committee advisor and liaison to the LWV-Ames board. We are looking for several people who would be willing to work two of the four sessions. (Four out of four forums would be great, but we think asking you to only work two of the four is more realistic and less stressful.)

Volunteers are needed to set up and serve coffee, help the audience with the microphone, monitor the call-in line and clean up afterward.

We will also need reaction panelists. If you are especially passionate about one of the LWV – Iowa 2008 Legislative issues, put your passion to work by becoming a reaction panelist. Or recommend a local expert to serve instead.

You can also support the Wake-Up Forums effort by attending the sessions and making comments or asking questions of the legislators.

Even better, bring a friend to the forum with you. Here are four wonderful opportunities to show our League at work in Ames and encourage League membership.

For more information, contact me at 515-233-3220 (days) or e-mail to [lauris\\_olson@mac.com](mailto:lauris_olson@mac.com)

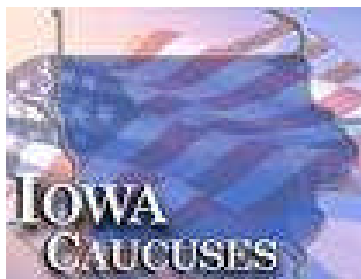
By Lauris Olson  
President-elect

### NOVEMBER INTRODUCTION TO CAUCUSES A GREAT SUCCESS

Over 60 people attended the Ames LWV "Introduction to Caucus" workshop, held Nov. 29 at Bethesda Lutheran Church.

Matt Randall, Story County Republican Party Co-chair, and Jan Bauer, Story County Democratic Party Chair, explained the caucus rules according to their respective parties and then conducted mock caucuses.

The event was carried out without any campaigning for current candidates or issues. The chairs used former presidents of their



respective parties as candidates. The caucuses selected candidates for county conventions from the audience, and debated fun resolutions provided by the committee. Participants enthusiastically supported fictional resolutions for "Deep-fried Twinkies as the state food," and "National park status for the corn maze near Ames."

The meeting was organized by Lauris Olson, Jim Popken and Jeannette Bohnenkamp. Selva Lehman and Barbara Gwiasda assisted.

**IMMIGRATION STUDY UPDATE**

**LWVUS IMMIGRATION STUDY CONSENSUS PART TWO**

The "Immigration Issue" is not going away. It is part of the presidential campaigns. A controversial anti-illegal-immigration organization, Federation for American Immigration Reform Congressional Task Force, staged a two-day event at the Des Moines Marriott with 20 radio talk show hosts from all over the nation. The tone was often angry and divisive.

The League has tried to gather a great deal of information on this topic and pursue it from many vantage points. We are now in the process of taking consensus with the goal of establishing a national position.

**What:** LWVUS Immigration Study Consensus, Part II, will be held at the January General Meeting. Part I was conducted in October 2007 and went

very well. You do not need to have been present at Part I to participate in Part II. Please come!

**When:** Thursday, January 17, 7:30PM. Come early if you would like to see the video clip from last meeting. It will be shown at 7:00PM.

**Where:** Northminster Presbyterian Church, Fireplace Room, 1416 20<sup>th</sup> Street.

The consensus questions are printed below. I hope you will have a chance to read them over before you come.

Joyce Hertz  
chair of Immigration Study group

**YOUR PRESENCE AT THIS MEETING IS VERY IMPORTANT**  
**Consensus for LWVUS Immigration Study continues January 17<sup>th</sup> !!!**

**LWVUS Immigration Study Consensus Questions 2 to 7**

**Instructions:** Rate each of the following "High Priority," "Lower Priority", "Disagree," or "No Consensus."

**Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows:** (rate each one)

- a. **Deport Unauthorized Immigrants**  
 High Priority                       Lower Priority                       Disagree                       No Consensus
- b. **Some Deported/Some Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in U.S.**  
 High Priority                       Lower Priority                       Disagree                       No Consensus
- c. **Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of US Employers**  
 High Priority                       Lower Priority                       Disagree                       No Consensus
- d. **All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.**  
 High Priority                       Lower Priority                       Disagree                       No Consensus
- e. **If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry**  
 High Priority                       Lower Priority                       Disagree                       No Consensus
- f. **Assess Fines Before Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment Of Status**  
 High Priority                       Lower Priority                       Disagree                       No Consensus

**Question 3: Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:** (rate each one)

- a. **Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the U.S**  
 High Priority                       Lower Priority                       Disagree                       No Consensus

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- b. **Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus
- c. **Entering the U.S. as Students**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus
- d. **Entering the U.S. because of Persecution in Home Country**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus

**Question 4a: In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include: Social Security Card or Other National Identification Card with Secure Identifiers for *All* Persons Residing in the U.S.**

- High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus

**Question 4b: Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including: (rate each one)**

- i. **Physical Barriers (such as Fences) and Surveillance at Borders**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus
- ii. **Increased Personnel at Land, Air, and Sea Entry Points**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus
- iii. **More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas Until They Leave the Country**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus
- iv. **Verification Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure Identifiers.**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus
- v. **Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus
- vi. **Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus
- vii. **A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to Go in and Out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus
- viii. **Significant Fines Proportionate to Revenue for Employers Who Fail to Take Adequate Steps to Verify Work Authorization of Employees**  
 High Priority       Lower Priority       Disagree       No Consensus

**Question 5: Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.**      Consensus:       No Consensus:

**Question 6: Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.**      Consensus:       No Consensus:

**Question 7: Comments (Limited to 150 words.)**

## A STATEMENT TO AMES CITY COUNCIL

At the November meeting of the Ames LWV board, we talked about the advisability of presenting parts of our positions on Land Use—the sections under Natural Resources and under Development—to the Ames City Council. This discussion arose from my observing the County Board of Supervisors meetings. During three meetings this fall, the BOS unanimously approved a new subdivision of 300+ homes to be built just northwest of Ada Hayden Park (and lake).

You might recall that in the November General Meeting, we were all admonished to speak to our legislators: Let them know our LWV positions and our need for their support. So on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, I spoke on behalf of the Ames League at the City Council's work session.

The council was discussing the Ames Urban Fringe Plan, which allows (or perhaps Ames gives

over to the county) authority over subdivisions within a 2-mile border of Ames' city limits.

The two positions mentioned above under Land Use pertain to preserving environmentally sensitive areas (such as the lake at Ada Hayden as a clean water resource) and promoting compact development patterns. (Refer to your program book for the full position statements.)

One of our mottos is: Action without study is fatal; study without action is futile. It is the hope of the board members that such action is not futile and that we represent our membership well.

Barbara Munson,  
Board Secretary

and Observer of Board of Supervisors meetings

## LONG STANDING LEAGUE MEMBER DIED

Long-time member (over 34 yrs), Jauvanta Maurine Walker, known to friends as Jav died Monday, Nov. 12, 2007, at the Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, after suffering a fall at a meeting of the Iowa chapter of Pen Women. A graduate of Iowa State University, she was a technical writer and editor for the Statistics Department. Jav was a published poet, an accomplished photographer and painter, and was recognized for her knowledge of Southwestern Native art.

Jauvanta was born Nov. 28, 1926 in Lubbock, Texas. She grew up near Rochester, New York and in Athens, Ohio.

Jav's fond links with Ames and Iowa began in 1943 as an Iowa State student in mathematical statistics and creative writing. She received a B.S. degree with top honors in 1947 and stayed on to work in Iowa State's Statistical Laboratory for over 30 years, mainly as a technical writer and editor.

In 1948 she married Dr. Albert L. Walker, English professor and department chairman. They had a very close relationship until his death in 1980. Besides strengthening relationships among faculty members, their families, and other departments, Jav was active in the Faculty Women's Club and other ISU groups. She and Albert enjoyed jazz music. They drove frequently to the Southwest to learn about and

collect materials about Native American arts and cultures.

After being widowed, Jav pursued this interest in Native Americans through further travel in the Southwest, Alaska, and other places in the U.S. and abroad. Besides photography, she developed skills in art and design by completing a B.A. degree in fine arts (1992, cum laude) and an M.A. in anthropology and related subjects (1995) at ISU. In her thesis she pulled together years of observations about Native North American art and artists.

Jav also pursued interests in creative writing. Many of her poems appeared in "Lyrical Iowa". She published in other literary magazines. She received regional and national awards for writings, photographs and abstract paintings. Many of these creations reflected her sensitivity to native cultures, and love for storytelling and Southwest landscapes. She was an officer in the Iowa Poetry Association and National League of American Pen Women groups in Iowa.

Amid all this she took time to relax with friends in bridge groups, courses for seniors at ISU and elsewhere, and learning tours abroad.

She approached everything that she did in quiet, deliberate manner that included collecting vast amounts of background materials.

League of Women Voters of Ames  
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President: Sharon Wirth  
Voter Editor: Selva Lehman

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.

**NATIONAL NEWS: ABOUT LWVUS FOR DETAILS ABOUT THESE ITEMS PLEASE GOT TO <http://www.lwv.org/>**

**[Watch our Women as Candidates Event,](#)**

Watch a video from our special event, "The Changing Faces of Power: Women As Candidates." This lively expert panel discussion was the first in our three-part Women in Politics series, presented in partnership with the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum. Keep an eye out for the rest of this series in the New Year!

[http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=The_Changing_Faces_of_Power_Women_in_Politics_Forums&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=10279)

[Section=The\\_Changing\\_Faces\\_of\\_Power\\_Women\\_in\\_Politics\\_Forums&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=10279](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=The_Changing_Faces_of_Power_Women_in_Politics_Forums&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=10279)

**[NEWS: LWV Tackles Voter Disenfranchisement in the States](#)**

Phase II of the League's Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project is now in full swing, expanding critical statewide efforts to oppose voter disenfranchisement and improve election administration. Visit our new project area online <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=PAVP1>

to learn about the issues and the impact of this important field work. To learn more about one issue that has a significant negative impact on voter participation, read [Michael Slater's election reform feature](#) that appeared in the [The National Voter • October 2007](#)

**[Tools you can Use](#)**

**[Book: Choosing the President 2008!](#)**

The League is now taking orders for our updated guide to the presidential election process: *Choosing the President 2008*. This handy paperback explores the voters, candidates, parties, media, and donors who make up our election system, and walks through the process of electing a president--including everything from the caucuses and primaries to navigating Election Day. A great gift idea for the students or first-time voters in your life! To order a copy (\$11 plus S&H), go to [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=LWV\\_Store](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=LWV_Store)

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