



# The Voter

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Ames

November 2006

Editors Julie Snyder-Yuly and Marisa Stadlman

## Calendar

### Book Club

No meeting for November or December

### General Meeting

#### Program Planning Meeting

November 16, 2006  
7:30 p.m.  
Northminster  
Presbyterian Church

No General Meeting in December

#### January 18, 2007 (Thurs)

7:00 p.m. pre-meeting  
7:30 p.m. How to Advocate for LWV State and Local Priorities, Northminster Presbyterian Church

### Board Meeting

No meeting in December

### Other Meetings of Interest

#### Candidate Forum

January 20, 2007  
Saturday  
8:30 a.m. Social Time  
8:45 a.m. Forum and Broadcast

## From the President

On the back of our Program and Directory, we list four objectives for our organization. As we arrive at the peak of the election season, I think it is good to be reminded that we are truly fulfilling all of these objectives.

#1. To establish positions on public policy issues through member participation and agreement.

Our November 16 general meeting is that special meeting we hold once a year to talk about the issues that concern us in our local community and to determine whether to undertake a new study. All study and political action start here. Please consider joining in this grassroots process of identifying and lifting up what matters most to us.

#2. To take concerted actions that secure public policies consistent with League positions.

Our updated Story County Hospital position was cited in the Tribune series on whether Story County needs a new hospital. The Living Wage study group has invited other groups to work with us in determining a strategy to implement the

goals. LWVIA held its Legislative Issues briefing in October and has targeted its priority issues. A Lobby Corps is being strengthened. Legislative interviews will be conducted after the election.

#3. To enhance citizen participation in federal, state, and local government decisions.

The LWV of Ames had a table on ISU central campus during the Political Action Week (PAW), which was sponsored by GSB. The event was to raise up student political awareness around a number of issues. Our local league co-sponsored the Race Against Racism with the YWCA. The Observer Corps is being reinvigorated. The Legislative Wake-Up forums that begin in January allow citizens to interact with our elected officials.

#4. To increase citizen participation in the election process.

The LWV of Ames has co-sponsored with the Ames Chamber of Commerce four candidates forums for the school board candidates, for the city council candidates, for the Story County candidates, and for the state legislative candidates. Attendance was excellent in the City Council Chambers,

and all the sessions were taped for additional viewing on the public access channel.

The above activities are "classic" League activities. We are now about to embark on another classic venture—co-sponsoring with the Carrie Chapman Catt Center a training session for women who want to run for elective office or who are just beginning to consider running for public office. The *Ready to Run* Campaign will be held June 1 in Ames. Iowa is only one of 5 states who have never elected a woman to the U.S. Congress or Senate.

And oh yes, did you recognize any of the faces in the November issue of *Facets for Women*? The League of Women Voters was featured in the Facets Faces section.

Finally, on behalf of the LWV of Ames, I want to extend a big thank you to Nancy Brown and Selva Lehman for their tremendous effort to coordinate the highly successful visit by 4 Ukrainian visitors. We all benefited from this exchange.

*Joyce Hertz, co-president*

**1.024 million  
votes were  
cast in Iowa  
for the 2006  
midterm  
elections.**

## November 15 Program Planning Meeting

We ask for your input as we focus on Program Planning at the November General Meeting. Please attend and suggest general meeting topics and studies for the state and local Leagues to adopt.

At this important meeting we will review state and local positions to consider updating. Members of the local state study committee will provide an update of the state study. Review of current local positions and suggestions for new local

studies will also occur. Both state and local positions are printed in your program booklet.

The League does not take action on an issue until study and adoption of a position has occurred. The local League may want to consider a new study since the study and update of the Story County Hospital position has been completed. Now is the time to come forward and share your ideas. Local studies must involve local issues,

not national or state issues. We need your input!

**Join us to share ideas. Please bring your 2006-2007 Program and Directory to the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Meeting place:**

**Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1416 20<sup>th</sup> Street at 7:30 pm. See you there!**

## Observer Corps Needs YOU!

Are you a GOOD LISTENER and INTERESTED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

If so, the LWV Observer Corps is a good match for you.

Serving on the Observer Corps is easy AND essential, not only to accomplish the League's goals but also to promote good, open government. Observers are the eyes and ears of the League. They do what the name says—attend meetings of a council, board or commission, takes notes, and then report to the League. An observer does not speak at the meetings she/he is observing.

Observers' reports guide the Leagues study and action agenda and alert us to things like violations of the

open meetings law. Over the years, observers have helped ensure that governing bodies in Ames and Story County follow the principles of democratic decision making. In return, Observer Corps volunteers have become some of the most informed folks in town!

Currently we need observers to attend meetings of the following:

Ames City Council (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm)

Ames School Board (2 Mondays each month, 6:30 pm)

Ames Planning and Zoning Commission (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 7 pm)

Ames Parks and Recreation

Commission (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 4 pm)

If you can help cover any of these, please contact Sandra McJimsey at 292-9013 or [skmcjimsey@yahoo.com](mailto:skmcjimsey@yahoo.com).

Many thanks to Nancy Brown, Barbara Munson and Martha Isaacson for their continued service on the Observer Corps! Respectively, they follow the boards of Mary Greeley Medical Center, Story County Supervisors, and Story County Medical Center.

**Sandra McJimsey, Observer Corps Chair**

## The League and the Catt Center get women “Ready to Run”

The League of Women Voters of Ames and the Carrie Chapman Catt Center will be sponsoring a campaign training school for women this summer.

*Ready to Run* is a bi-partisan training program for women developed by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University in New Jersey. The program aims to recruit and train women to run for all levels of office.

The Iowa training will be for

women who are already ready to run and for those who are considering running in the future. The training will feature elected and appointed leaders, campaign consultants and other party officials to help prepare women to run for elected office.

Topics for the training school will include how to fundraise, navigating your political party, working with the media, building networks and developing your message.

The Catt Center and the Ames League will be putting together a planning committee to begin work on this training program. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Ames League co-president Joyce Hertz at [tjhertz@midiaowa.net](mailto:tjhertz@midiaowa.net).

Ready to Run will be held Friday, June 1 at the Scheman Center at Iowa State University.



## Meet A Member: Sharon Wirth

Hello, I'm Sharon Wirth, currently serving as president-elect. I am pleased to be serving on the board with such an exceptional group of women! Not a new face to Ames, I am again becoming actively involved with the LWV after serving 16 years as the First Ward Representative on the Ames City Council. Serving the citizens of Ames was an exciting privilege and adventure.

I came to Ames to attend ISU, and later decided this community was a wonderful place to live. Ames is a rare community with many involved citizens and caring organizations which combine to make it an exceptional place with a bright future. The LWV of Ames is one of those organizations.

Currently I'm working at ISU in the Textiles and Clothing Program as a teaching lab coordinator/lecturer. I manage the lab and teach a beginning clothing construction class where students learn apparel construction and engineering. Yes, there is much engineering in clothing construction! It's a very interesting place to be! I also teach classes at Memory Bound, a creative scrap booking store. I enjoy mixed media and rubber stamp art/ collage when I have some free time.

My husband, Don, and I live in the Old Town Historic District near downtown Ames. I was a major organizer of the district and the local historic preservation legislation. It's exciting to see so many



positive changes in this neighborhood since the district was designated in 1989. Don is the finance manager at Iowa Public Radio and general manager at WOI Radio. We have 2 children. Our son, a computer consultant, lives in Chicago and our daughter is currently a senior at ISU.

I look forward to fun and productive times with the LWV of Ames.

*"I really do appreciate your efforts to remember Jane. And the placement of the bench just below our house is very special. I will see it several times a week. Jane would have loved it. You were a very special group to her in many, many ways."*

*And keep up your good work,"*

*Lowell Greimann*

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

*My mind and soul are still in Ames. For the first time in my life, and in such a short time, I found such a number of good people ... I felt at home ... Thank you to all the people we met and for their sincere interest and the great way they treated us ... Thanks for all what you are doing ... Natasha*

