



# The Voter

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

## From the Co-Presidents

Dear League Members

October is a busy month for the Ames League. In addition to the General meeting, there is the City Council Candidates' Forum and the LWVIA Issues Briefing in West Des Moines. I hope they all are on your schedule.

We are lucky to be so close to the location for the Issues Briefing. Judie Hoffman, the League of Women Voters of Iowa lobbyist and Ames LWV member, arranges a program to give us background for advocating the Iowa League's priorities in the following legislative session. Lunch with Leaguers from around the state is always interesting, and carpooling makes even the trip enjoyable.

Thanks to the Living Wage Study Group. You have worked hard for a long time on this. Thanks also to members who voted for the position at the September meeting. It was very helpful for those of us who went to the Housing meeting to be able to speak for the League. Make sure to read the article on the Living Wage position.

Jeannette Bohnenkamp



Miriam Patterson and Jeannette Bohnenkamp staff the League's information table at the Race Against Racism

## Mark Your Calendar

### Book Club

**October 26, 2005 (Wednesday)** 1:30 p.m.  
*Seneca Falls Inheritance* by Miriam Grace Monfredo. Led by Frances Smith. At the Home of Jeannette Bohnenkamp, 2222 Barr Dr. 232-3480

### November & December No Meeting

### Candidate Forum

**October 24, 2005 (Monday)** Ames City Council Chambers  
7:00-9:00 p.m. Ames City Council Candidates

### Board Meeting

**November 3, 2005 (Thursday)** At the home of Betty Baird  
2707 Duff Avenue.

### General Meeting

**October 20, 2005 (Thursday)** 2200 Hamilton Dr.  
7:00 Membership Inquiry Pre-Meeting  
7:30 Story County Medical Center at Greenhills Dining Room

**November 17, 2005 (Thursday)** 130 S. Sheldon  
7:30 "What the League has Taught Me"  
Collegiate United Methodist Church & Wesley Foundation  
Annex - Use West Entrance

### Other Important Dates

**October 27, 2005 (Thursday)** 8:00 p.m. (tentative time)  
Carrie Chapman Catt Center Fall 2005 Mary Louise Smith  
Chair - Soledad O'Brien  
Great Hall, Memorial Union

**October 30, 2005 (Sunday)** 8:00 p.m.  
Manett-Phelps Lecture in Political Science: Chuck Hagel,  
Nebraska's senior U.S. Senator  
Sun Room, Memorial Union

**November 17, 2005 (Tuesday)** Remember to Vote!

# League Information

## November General Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 17 at 7:30  
At the Collegiate UMC/Wesley Annex  
130 S. Sheldon

In November we'll do several things:  
We'll hear a panel of longtime League members on the subject: **"What the League Taught Me."** Many LWV members learned, through their League experiences, how to become politically involved, and they'll share that information with us that night.

We'll **look for new members** who are interested in practicing nonpartisan politics. Anyone who is interested in running for office will want to come and learn and network with others of similar interests.

Current members, be sure to think of potential members to bring to this meeting. Let Judy (dolphinames@yahoo.com) or Barbara (amesmunson@aol.com) know of anyone who should receive a special postcard invitation.

We'll **celebrate the League's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday (with ice cream and cake)**, and we'll celebrate League's success at empowering and training women and men to work within the system to achieve their goals.

## Meet a Member Karen Bolluyt Co-Finance Chair

Karen Bolluyt is membership director for the WOI Radio group, a consortium of public radio stations with headquarters in Ames. She also has worked as a communications specialist for the Iowa Extension Service and Iowa State University and as a science writer for the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station. From 1990 to 2001 she was director of College Relations for Iowa State's College of Agriculture.

Earlier in her career she was a language arts and journalism teacher in three Iowa school systems and a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya, East Africa. Her parents farmed in northwest Iowa until she was 12, at which time they moved to Orange City where they purchased and operated a feed-grinding business.



## Adoption of Living Wages Position

At the December General Meeting the membership adopted the following position

The League of Women Voters of Ames:

- Supports adequate wages to enable working people to cover basic needs and to live with dignity and a sense of self-worth;
- Affirms the principle of equal pay for equal work; and
- Supports the City of Ames and Story County adopting a Living Wage ordinance requiring a livable wage be paid:
  - to all full- and part-time city and county employees,
  - by firms whose contracts exceed \$15,000 for any 12-month period. (This applies to the hours the employees are working on city or county contracts.)
  - by firms that receive economic development money or incentives from the city or county.

This was the culmination of two years of hard work by the Study Group.

With this position the Ames League continues to express its deep concern for those in Ames and Story County who because of the low wages they are paid, in many cases without benefits, are struggling to cover basic needs. This lack of adequate income and lack of affordable housing compounds their problems, and the consequence is that they will have to seek additional assistance. As consumers we maybe are saving money with cheaper items, but as a taxpayer or donor the cost of providing the "safety net" keeps on increasing. With the adoption of this position, plus a previous one on Affordable Housing, the Ames League affirms the principle that working people need adequate wages and housing that they can afford to live in.

The Board will start to develop a strategy on how to best pursue and advocate for this goal. During the February General meeting we hope to get the League membership and others involved in Organizing for Local advocacy.

## Some Good Resources

FEDERAL UPDATES ON ISU GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
WEBSITE: <http://www.gov.iastate.edu/federal/>

Iowa State's Office of Government Relations keeps a website updated with information on federal government relations' activities, including information on Iowa's Congressional delegation, appropriations' progress, links to federal agencies, research organizations and higher education organizations, and more.

## LWV Membership Inquiry Pre-Meeting, October 20, 2005

Another opportunity to understand more about your League of Women Voters comes on Thursday, October 20 at 7 pm. For a half-hour before the October general meeting, you'll have the chance to find out about the League's "Observer Corps." What does it mean to be an observer? How does it help you and the community? What does an observer do? So come early—7 pm to the Green Hills Dining Room (2200 Hamilton Drive)—and find out the answers to your questions.

This is also a good chance to bring any potential members so they can find out about one of League's functions. Notify Barbara Munson of potential members to invite: amesmunson@aol.com.

## LWVIA Legislative Issues Briefing on Saturday, October 15th West Des Moines Public Library

This annual event is one of the best ways to learn about Legislative Issues, it provides time for learning, sharing, networking, fellowship, and fun! This events will help you to feel "ready for whatever tasks and issues" we need to work on to ensure that the League's voice will be strong and 'on point' during the upcoming Legislative Session! We would like to have a good group from Ames going and would like to car-pool when possible. The cost is \$10 per person.

**If you are able to go please contact Selva Lehman, before October 12 at 232-5571 or e-mail at selvarl@mchsi**

### Schedule

9:30 - 10:00 Registration and Coffee

Welcome ~ Marla Sheffler, LWVIA President

Update on Restoration of Felon Voting Rights  
Gary Dickey, Policy Director and General Counsel to the Governor  
Why We Need to Raise the Tobacco Tax in Iowa and How to Do It  
Cathy Callaway - Senior Field Representative, American Cancer Society, National Government Relations Department

Short Break

Voting System Security in Iowa and HAVA Update  
Anthony Carroll – Secretary of State's Office

Advocacy Committee Announcements

Lunch

2006 LWVIA Legislative Issues  
Judie Hoffman, LWVIA Lobbyist  
Sentencing Reform Panel: Why We Don't Need a Death Penalty in Iowa  
Dr. Roxann Ryan, former Iowa Assistant Attorney General and now a professor at Simpson College  
Mandatory Minimum Sentences: Where Do We Go From Here?  
Mary Richards, former Story County Attorney

3:00 Wrap-up and Evaluation

### **Driving Directions to West Des Moines Public Library 4000 George M. Mills Civic Parkway**

**From NORTH on I-35 Turn EAST (LEFT) onto George M. Mills Civic Pkwy - EXIT #70**

**From SOUTH on I-35 Turn EAST (RIGHT) onto George M. Mills Civic Pkwy - EXIT #70**

**Then, from either of the above:**

Continue EAST on G.M. Mills Civic Pkwy – (pass Walgreen's, on Right, then Prairie Life Recreation, and several churches on Left. G.M. Mills Civic Pkwy curves slightly NE as you continue. Pass Valley Stadium and new City Hall on Right. The West Des Moines Public Library is next. Turn RIGHT, just BEFORE the Library sign, onto the drive between the WDM Resource Center and the Library. Then make a right toward the Library and park!

**From EAST on I-235 Turn SOUTH (LEFT) onto 35th Street**

**From WEST on I-235 Turn SOUTH (RIGHT) onto 35th Street**

**Then, from either of the above:**

Continue SOUTH on 35th Street – pass Valley High School on Right. Major streets you will cross are Ashworth and EP True Civic Parkway. Shortly after you cross EP True Civic Parkway, the West Des Moines Police Station will be on your left. Just past the Police Station, 35th Street becomes G.M. Mills Civic Pkwy - follow the Parkway when 35th Street turns toward the left. The Library is coming up soon on your left. Turn LEFT onto the drive between the WDM Resource Center and the Library. Then make a right toward the Library and park!

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Selva Lehman  
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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.

### Ames League Members and Friends Raced Against Racism

LWV Ames not only gave financial support to the YWCA's Race Against Racism, it also fielded 16 members and friends on three teams who competed under the name of "League of Volkswalkers I, II, and III".

Other LWV members also participated as single walkers and as cheerleaders. The morning of September 24 started out rainy, but cleared in time for the event, which included the race as well as entertainment, prizes, and speakers.

LWV members of the teams included (in alphabetical order) Mary Atherly, Betty Baird, Nancy Brown, Joyce Hertz, Martha Isaacson, Jackie Manatt, Jeri Prescott, and Julie Snyder-Yuly. Friends of Leaguers who participated included Michelle Boettcher, Jennifer Durst, Chris Fowler, Elizabeth Fowler, Maddie Fowler, Ruth Hill, Betty Teague, and Dawn Westphal.



**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](http://www.ames.ia.lwvnet.org).**

*Left to right Jackie Manatt, Judy Jackson, Joyce Hertz, Tom Jackson, Mary Atherly, Martha Isaacson, and Betty Baird all participated in the 2005 Race Against Racism. The rain didn't hold anyone back!*