



The Voter

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

From the President

The City Council Chambers was packed, and there were still persons waiting in the question queue when the TV cameras shut down at 9:00 p.m. for the school board candidates meeting on August 28. What a great kick-off for the 2006 election cycle!

Our LWV of Ames Program and Directory 2006-2007 is complete. Our first program is scheduled for our regular meeting time, the third Thursday of the month, on September 21. Please note that we are co-sponsoring an additional meeting with the AAUW on Thursday, October 5. The topic is immigration. Since LWVUS has adopted a three-year study of immigration policy (two years of education and a third year of consensus), we thought this event would be a good local introduction to the topic.

The Race Against Racism will be held on Saturday September 23. The LWV of Ames is co-sponsoring this event with the YWCA. Cheer for the League relay team of Mary Atherly, Jeri Prescott, Marlene Weisshaar and Alissa Stoehr.

Also on September 23 is an Iowa League officer training session being held in Ames. Co-presidents Joyce Hertz and Randi Peters, president-elect Sharon Wirth, and treasurer Jackie Manatt will attend from our League.

Martha Isaacson provided an excellent update to the Board on the Story County Hospital (now called the Story County Medical Center) position. Her report, complete with graphs and charts, is available on the Web site. No change in the position is recommended at this time.

LWV of Ames is actively focused on the 8-day visit in October from a Ukrainian delegation to learn about our political system and our community. Selva Lehman and Nancy Brown, co-chairs for this hosting event, would appreciate any assistance that you are able to volunteer. This is a marvelous cultural exchange opportunity.

Finally, our condolences go to Randi Peters upon the death of her mother. Randi's father died last spring and her mother's health deteriorated markedly at the end of the summer. She passed away peacefully at Israel Hospice House over Labor Day weekend.

Joyce Hertz, co-president

Mark Your Calendar

Book Club -

September 27, 2006 (Wednesday)

Noon: *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin led by Mary Richards at the home of Nancy Brown

October 25, 2006 (Wednesday)

Noon: The topic of the Middle East choose a book of your own or one from this list *Inside the Kingdom* by Carmen Bin Ladin; *History of Arab People* by Albert Hourani; *Saladin* by P. H. Newby. *The Contemporary Middle East* APLibrary 956 CON 2006. Everyone come to the home of Marlene Weisshaar with some concepts to share

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

Board Meeting

September 28, 2006 (Thursday)

7:00 p.m. At the home of Joyce Hertz

Other Dates of Interest

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

October 5 (Thursday) 7:00 p.m. What You Need to Know About New Immigrants in Iowa at Bethesda Lutheran Church. See story page 3.

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

Learn about the League

Are you new to LWV? Have you been inactive in LWV for awhile? Do you have a friend who might be a prospective member? Are you curious about what the League of Women Voters really is? If any of these questions result in a 'yes' or "maybe," you just might want to come a little early on September 21st! Our League meeting will be fascinating and challenging! The "pre-meeting member inquiry" might be just what you need to connect, re-connect or introduce someone new to the very important work of the League of Women Voters.

So, please join us at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 21, for an informative session!

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.

October Candidates' Forums

October brings a political forum, presented by the Ames League of Women Voters, in cooperation with the Ames Chamber of Commerce, for almost every Monday evening of the month!

The Ames City Council forum will be held on October 16, 2006. There are two candidates for the one open seat, Erv Klaas and Jami Larson. In view of recent developments and controversies related to the City of Ames, this will be an important one not to miss.

The Story County officers' forum will be held October 23, 2006. There are 2 open seats on the Board of Supervisors, with the following candidates vying for them: Jane Haliburton (D), Jerry Cable (R), Gannon Hendrick (R) and James Strohman (D). The office of County Treasurer has 2 hopeful candidates, David Jamison (R) and Connie Toresdahl (D). The office of Recorder, Susan VandeKamp (R), is facing no opposition. If you feel a little out of touch with county issues, this is a good time to catch up.

Finally, October 30, 2006 is the date of the State Legislative forum for the districts impacting Ames and most of Story County. State Senate District 05 has 2 candidates for the 1 seat, James Kurtenbach (R) and Rich Olive (D). State Senate District 23 also has two candidates, Linda Livingston (R) and Herman Quirnbach (D). Competing for State Representative from District 46 are John Griswold (R), Lisa Heddens (D) and Eric Cooper (L). This, too, is shaping up to be a lively forum.

All forums begin at 7:00 PM in Ames City Council Chambers. At the School Board forum on August 28, 2006 there was standing room only, so plan to come early and get a good seat! There will, as always, be opportunity for questions from the audience.

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@midiaowa.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 Information

September Ames LWV General Meeting - High Interest Loans

Iowa House Representative Kevin McCarthy and Brian Meyer will discuss High Interest (Payday and Car Title) loans at the Ames LWV General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. September 21, in the Fireside Room at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1416 20th Street. Representative McCarthy represents the 67th district of Iowa. Mr. Meyer is the assistant attorney general for the state of Iowa. In the last session of the Iowa Legislature, Representative McCarthy introduced a bill to regulate high interest loans — the Loan Shark Bill. Though the bill has passed the Iowa Senate three times with overwhelming bipartisan support, similar legislation introduced in the House has not been allowed to come to a vote. Mr. Meyer was active in the successful effort to pass the bill in the Senate.

Last year, the Ames League adopted a position that states in part that working people should be able to cover basic needs

and to live with dignity and a sense of self-worth. This meeting will highlight the challenges many low income people meet with high interest loans.

The pre-meeting at 7:00 p.m. is a description of the League of Women Voters organization, intended for new members, for those interested in membership or just in learning more about how the League functions. Pre-meetings are designed to explore topics familiar to many members, but likely not to guests or to new members. Anyone – member or guest – is welcome.

We are very fortunate to be able to schedule all the League evening general meetings at Northminster Presbyterian Church. Ample parking is available near the south door entrance of the church and Fireside Room.

LWV Ames and AAUW Host Immigrant Program

The American Association of University Women of Ames and the League of Women Voters of Ames announces its fall kick-off program "New Immigrants in Iowa: Challenges and Opportunities."

The program will be presented by Mark Grey, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Northern Iowa and the Director of the Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration. The mission of the Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration (ICILI) is to guide and prepare Iowa communities and businesses as they accommodate immigrant and refugee newcomers living and working in Iowa. Dr. Grey is a recognized expert on immigration in Iowa. He conducted an in-depth study of immigrants in Storm Lake and worked in Marshalltown, Fort Dodge, Mason City, and Muscatine to understand the impact of new immigrants on their communities.

The program is scheduled for 7:00 p.m, October 5, 2006 at Bethesda Lutheran Church on 1517 Northwestern Avenue. It will follow a potluck salad supper at 5:30. The public is encouraged to attend. The program is scheduled for 7:00 p.m, October 5, 2006 at Bethesda Lutheran Church on 1517 Northwestern Avenue.



The dates for the Visit from the Ukrainian delegates are from October 14 to the 22nd.

We will be welcoming a delegation of three men and one woman, plus a facilitator.

Please consider volunteering your time to help during their visit.

Call Selva at 232-5571 or selvarl@mchsi.com

League Activities

League of Women Voters of Ames

4037 Fletcher Boulevard

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Co-Presidents:

Joyce Hertz

Randi Peterson

Voter Editors: Julie Snyder-Yuly and Marisa Stadlman

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

Greg Vitale



Greg joined the Ames League this summer, although how he found the time is beyond me! Summer for Greg means hours and hours of volunteering with the Skunk River Paddlers, of which he is a founding member. The group of 60 dedicated paddlers has been hard at work to improve canoe and kayak access to the Skunk River. This year they have contributed more than 375 hours to extend the Skunk River Water Trail all the way to Cambridge, an 18 mile addition to the Story City to Ames trail. The group has been instrumental in achieving \$55,000 in grants and contributions to build access areas, make signage and other important aspects of the water trail.

LWV's Saturday Legislative Forums drew him to join the League. He appreciates the opportunity for citizens to ask questions of the legislators in a non-partisan, direct and public dialogue. He commented that the League asks tough questions and doesn't promote grandstanding. He particularly praises the candidates' forums and believes that this work of the League is critically important.

Greg works in the office of the Iowa Attorney General in the Utilities Division. He is originally from Ohio and earned a MS in Economics at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. He and his wife, Dr. Florence Hamrick, live in Ames. Florence is on the faculty at Iowa State University.

When Greg isn't working or building water trails, he can be found kayaking on Lake Superior, paddling down an Iowa river, hiking a trail or doing something else outdoors. We are glad that he has found some time for the League of Women Voters!