



The Voter

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

April 2007

Last Call to Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 28, 2007

Brunch at 9 am

Green Hills Retirement Community Dining Room

Cost is \$9.00

Call in your reservations or email Barbara
Munson

at 232-5077 or amesmunson@aol.com

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE RECEIVE YOUR RESERVATIONS
BY **APRIL 23**

SINCE GREEN HILLS IS CATERING THE BRUNCH.

**SEE ADDITIONAL REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS
STARTING ON PAGE 2**

**BRING THAT PAGE AND PREVIOUS ISSUE OF THE
VOTER WHICH CONTAINS ANNUAL REPORTS**

From the Co-Presidents

We want to urge all members of the League of Women Voters of Ames to attend our annual meeting on Saturday, April 28. This is a wonderful occasion to socialize as well as learn about the many varied activities of our organization. Reservations with Barbara Munson are due by April 23.

Please note two important pieces of information in this newsletter regarding the order of business for the annual meeting. First, there is a proposed amendment to our bylaws to make our mission statement consistent with the national bylaws. Second, there is a recommendation that our local League adopt the national Immigration study as a local study for the coming year. There are articles about these two issues in this VOTER. Also, please bring your special Annual Meeting Voter to the meeting.

Come see who will receive the annual Carrie Chapman Catt Award and join us for brunch at Green Hills Retirement Center on Saturday, April 28.

Joyce Hertz and Randi Peters

Mark Your Calendar

Annual Meeting

April 28, 2007 (Saturday)

9:00-11:00 AM

Green Hills Retirement Community

Book Club

April 25 (Wednesday) at 1:30 PM *The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman led by Marlene Weisshaar at home of Barbara Gwiasda, 3420 Eisenhower Ave.

General Meeting

May 17 (Thursday) 6:00 MP Salad Supper, 6:30 PM Program

General Meeting and Salad Supper:

This Year at the Legislature

Northminster Presbyterian Church Fireplace Room - 1416 20th Street, Ames

Board Meeting

May 3 (Thursday)

6 PM Supper; 7 PM Meeting

At home of Joyce Hertz, 2803 Torrey Pines Cr.

Includes outgoing and new Board members

2007 Convention of The League of Women Voters of Iowa

June 2, 2007

at the Holiday Inn in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Other Dates of Interest

READY TO RUN™:

CAMPAIGN TRAINING FOR WOMEN

Friday, June 1, 2007 8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

Scheman Center, Iowa State University

ANNUAL MEETING ITEMS

General Meeting Planners' Report

"General Meeting Planner" is a new term for the Ames League. Until this year, the monthly general meetings were planned by the Vice President(s) or President(s)-elect. At the 2006 Annual Meeting, the responsibilities were transferred to this position.

Several meetings this year were devoted to topics of interest at the national or state level. The September meeting was on Predatory Lending; the February meeting was devoted to the current LWVIA study on Sentencing and Corrections; and the March meeting was on background material for the LWVUS study on immigration.

The October meeting was an opportunity for members to meet and hear from the visitors from the Ukraine who participated in the "Accountable Governance" program offered by the Ames League.

In November, we brainstormed on possible state and local studies, and made suggestions for meeting programs for the 2007-2008 year,

The January meeting was devoted to LWVIA Legislative Priorities, to help us prepare for advocating League positions with our legislators.

The April Annual Meeting will follow brunch at Green Hills.

We look forward to the May meeting, when we have our Annual Salad supper and review the recent legislative session.

We thank fellow members--Sharon Wirth, Jan Beran, Lauris Olson, Johnnie Hammond, Mary Richards, and Judie Hoffman—for presentations. We also thank Selva Lehman, Nancy Brown and the Ukrainian visitors for presenting the October program.

We felt privileged to be able to schedule all the evening meetings at Northminster Presbyterian Church. We appreciate their spacious, comfortable room, ample parking and well-furnished kitchen.

*Barbara Gwiasda
and Jeannette Bohnenkamp*

Proposed LWV Bylaws Change 2007

The first three articles of all local and state League bylaws must be consistent with those of the LWVUS in order to define and maintain the unity of the organization and the powers and privileges of members. The statement of the purpose for the League was amended at national convention in Minneapolis in 2006. Consequently the LWV of Ames must amend its statement of purpose to be consistent with LWVUS Bylaws.

MOTION: Recommend amendment of Article II, Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Ames, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

(The current version reads, "The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Ames shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.")

Program Planning for 2007-08

A program planning meeting was held on Nov. 16, 2006. In regard to state study issues, Mary Richards and Johnnie Hammond presented an update on the state study committee dealing with prison issues. Local study ideas discussed were focused on updating the affordable housing position and updating/expanding the leisure and recreation position. The issue of timing in regard to study vs. advocacy was discussed. After review of our existing positions on these issues and because of current community discussions and pending actions on these issues, the Board chose not to recommend a new local study.

After giving much consideration to proposing a state study on mental health issues, the Board chose not to pursue this. Rationale behind this was two-fold: (1) lack of willing leadership from within the LWV of Ames and (2) interest in focusing our time and resources on the national study topic of immigration.

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In regard to programming for 2007-08 the Board recommends:

1. Participation in the LWV US Immigration Study.
2. Retention of current Positions on local issues specifically:
 - County Recreation**
 - Land Use, including Natural Resources and Development**
 - Electric Utility**
 - Leisure and Recreation**
 - Affordable Housing**
 - Children at Risk of Abuse from their Caregivers**
 - Story County Hospital** and
 - Transportation Needs in Story County.**
 (See program book for specific details.)
1. A proposed word change in our Living Wages position, that the word "wages" be changed to "income" in the first paragraph.

With the change the **Living Wages** position would read:

The League of Women Voters of Ames:

- Supports adequate income 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.
- Supports the City of Ames and Story County adopting a Living Wage ordinance requiring a livable wage be paid:
 - o to all full- and part-time city and county employees,
 - o 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.)
 - o by firms that receive economic development money or incentives from the city or county.

**Meet New Member
Deb Vance**

Deb Vance was the guest speaker at the League’s March meeting on immigration. With thanks for her expertise and interesting presentation, the Ames LWV honored her with a membership. She was delighted to accept!

Deb just completed her 25th year with International Students and Scholars at Iowa State University where she works with Iowa State's hiring departments and international faculty and staff on immigration and employment issues. She started her education at UNI, graduating from the University of Iowa with a B.S. degree and from Iowa State University with an M.S. She briefly attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, earning a certificate in international business.



Deb is proud to be a 4th generation Ames resident and prouder still to claim Loya Getz, long-time Ames League member and Iowa LWV President from 1959-1963, as her grandmother.

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



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IOWA

First Call to LWVIA Convention 2007

The League of Women Voters of Iowa will hold its 2007 Convention on June 2, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Workshops, a business session and a speech by Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court Marsha Ternus will be part of the convention agenda.

Article VIII, Section 2 of the LWVIA Bylaws says, the convention shall consist of the following delegates:

- members chosen by local Leagues;
- members chosen by member-at-large units;
- members-at-large;
- past state presidents affiliated with the LWVIA, and;
- members of the board of directors of the LWVIA

Article VIII, Section 5 of the LWVIA Bylaws says, the convention shall consider and authorize a program for action, shall elect officers, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and shall transact such other business as may be presented.