



The Voter

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

Web-site: <http://www.ameslww.org>

November 2007

From the President



ANNOUNCING A NEW ARRIVAL

What: Ames Happening: a Community Update

When: Jan 10, 2008 at 7 pm

Where: City Council Chambers, Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.

Who: Everyone

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

Mark Your Calendar

November 16 Thursday

General Meeting

7:30 PM - How to Advocate for LWV State and Local Priorities 2008

Northminster Presbyterian Church - Fireplace Room 1416 20th



November 28 Wednesday

Book Club - Unbowed, A Memoir by Wangari Maathai led by Nancy Brown as hostess, 3614 Story Street.

November 29 Thursday

7 PM Introduction to Caucuses

Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1517 Northwestern Ave.

December 6

7 PM Board meeting

2222 Barr Dr.



NO GENERAL MEETING OR BOOK CLUB IN DECEMBER

2008 ADVANCE DATES

January 3 CAUCUSES, BE A PARTICIPANT

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 20th

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 - Infiled by Ayaan Hirsi Ali and/or

Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life by Queen Noor

led by Jan Beran as hostess, 304 24th Street.

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. The event will be broadcast live on channel 12.

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NOVEMBER INTRODUCTION TO CAUCUSES

By Lauris Olson
President-Elect

Do you know someone who has never participated in an Iowa caucus? Someone new to Iowa? Someone who has just turned 18? How about a friend or family member who has decided it is time to get involved in Iowa's unique role in choosing the next president?

Invite them to our Nov. 29 "Introduction to the Iowa Caucuses."

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You might be thinking: Plenty of meetings to go to. Why should I attend this one? This event furthers the League's objectives to encourage informed and active participation in government. Rarely do the Ames citizens have an opportunity to hear first hand from these important elected officials at the same time, in the same place. The League believes all citizens should be informed about the issues elected officials are dealing with and have the opportunity for direct communication with them. Mark your calendars for

Jan 10 and plan to take advantage of this unusual opportunity.

For additional information or questions about this event, please contact Sharon Wirth (233-2415; sharonwirth@yahoo.com) or Bev Kruempel (292-5029; kruempel@msn.com).

SEE YOU THERE!

**Membership in the League offers
personal involvement for the public good.**

**The League of Women Voters is
where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to
civic improvement.**

(Continued from page 1)

The Ames League of Women Voter's is partnering with the county committees of the Story County Democrats and Story County Republicans to offer training targeted to first-time or infrequent caucus goers. The training will take place at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 29, at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1517 Northwestern Ave.



To make this as welcoming an environments as possible for those new to the process, those attending will not be allowed to campaign for real candidates or issues. Campaign literature, buttons and other rhetoric will not be allowed.

No registration is required, although it would be helpful to let someone on the committee know about any entities organizing groups to attend.

Participants will hear presentations from representatives of both political parties holding 2008 caucuses in Iowa on Jan. 3 and then get a chance to participate in short caucus scenarios based on the procedures of the two parties. The candidates and issue(s) debated in the mock caucuses will be fictional.

The LWV caucus committee also will need people to help with set up, coffee service and tear down.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Jeannette Bohnenkamp at jeannette_bohnenkamp@hotmail.com, Jim Popken at jim@jscada.com or Lauris Olson at lauris_olson@mac.com.

**DO YOU WANT TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE LWV OF AMES?
GO TO OUR NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE AT**

<http://www.ameslww.org>

NOVEMBER 15 GENERAL MEETING

Please join us at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Fireplace Room, 1416 20th Street, Ames, at 7:30 pm.

Every year, LWVIA selects certain priority issues to lobby at the state level. Judie Hoffman, LWVIA Lobbyist, presented an Issues Briefing in October to give us background necessary to lobby our own legislators. This year, several Ames League members were able to attend the Issues Briefing in Altoona, and have graciously agreed to share the information with us at the November General Meeting. In addition, Sharon Wirth will share hints on lobbying city council members. Participants at the general meeting are:

Lauris Olson: **Water Quality**

Selva Lehman: **Predatory Lending**

Nancy Brown: **Help for Special Needs Offenders**

Bev Kruempel: **Campaign Finance Reform**

Barbara Gwiasda: **Bottle Bill**

Judie Hoffman: **How to Talk to Your Legislator**

Sharon Wirth: **How to Talk to Your City**

Councilperson about Local Issues

YOUR PRESENCE AT THIS MEETING IS VERY IMPORTANT

ARE YOU READY?

Consensus for LWVUS Immigration Study continues January 17th !!!

IMMIGRATION STUDY UPDATE**CONSENSUS RESULTS FOR LWV IMMIGRATION STUDY**

On Thursday, October 18 our local League began part one of the consensus process for the LWVUS Immigration Study. Betty Baird served as the moderator and Lauris Olson was the recorder. 18 members participated.

Part one included *Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as:* eleven criteria, a – k.

(Rate each one): High Priority, Lower Priority, Disagree or No Consensus.

Of those items selected as "High Priority", select the three most important criteria and list them in order. The results for the LWV of Ames were

1. Humanitarian crises/political persecution in home countries
2. Economic, business and service employment needs in the United States

3. Family reunification of authorized immigrants and naturalized citizens with spouses and minor children

At the January 17, 2008 general meeting we will conclude the consensus process with Questions 2-6. All members are invited to participate whether you attended the first session or not.

Again, the study committee invites you to go the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org, for wonderful background resources. In particular we would especially recommend watching or listening to the panel discussion from the LWVUS Council 2007 annual meeting in June. The podcast, *Immigration Policy in the 21st Century*, is excellent. There are 3 panel presentations plus a lively Q & A session. This event took place right after the first failed attempt at immigration reform in the U.S. Senate.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN JANUARY.

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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.

NATIONAL NEWS: ABOUT LWVUS

NEWS: League Speaks Out Against Voter Disenfranchisement

League President Mary Wilson spoke out this month following an announcement that Arizona's Secretary of State would sue the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to force an ID requirement as part of the federal mail voter registration application form. *"We had hoped that using states' rights as a way to disenfranchise American voters was a thing of the past,"* Wilson said in a statement. *"We all understand that an ID requirement will undermine voter participation, especially by older women, minorities, and persons with disabilities."*

NEWS: League and American Express Join Forces to Help America Vote

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is thrilled to announce that the American Express Company has awarded the League a major grant to support voter education in sixteen key communities. *"American Express is proud to support the critical civic engagement work of the League...an organization that Americans have trusted for 87 years to provide them with accurate, unbiased information about our democratic system,"* said American Express Foundation President Timothy J. McClimon. !

To receive news from National League, Please subscribe to their e-letter at:
<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home>