

The Voter

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Ames, IA
Web-site: <http://www.ameslww.org>

October 2007

From the President

In June at the Board retreat meeting, we discussed participating in the national project "LWV Story bank." Perhaps you've read about it on the LWVUS web site. Story bank is a project of collecting stories of achievement from League members. This is a part of their membership recruitment initiative.



The following is from the LWVUS web site describing the project. "The Storybank houses wonderful stories of success and triumph from League members across the country. We are seeking submissions from

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**READ IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NOVEMBER
IMMIGRATION STUDY CONSENSUS pg. 2**

Mark Your Calendar

October 18 Thursday

General Meeting

7:00 PM Pre-Meeting: Immigration Q and A

7:30 PM LWVUS Immigration Consensus, Part 1

Northminster Presbyterian Church - Fireplace Room 1416 20th

October 24 Wednesday

Book Club

The Middle of Everywhere: The World's Refugees Come to OurTown by Mary Bray Pipher

led by Frances Smith as hostess, 2159 Country Club Blvd



October 29 Monday

Candidates' Forum

7 - 9 PM Ames City Council Candidates

Ames City Council Chambers

November 1 Thursday

LWV of Ames Board meeting

November 6 Tuesday

City Elections REMEMBER TO VOTE

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 29 Thursday

7 PM Introduction to Caucuses

Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1517 Northwestern Ave.



OTHER EVENTS YOU ARE INVITED TO

October 30th Tuesday

Education and Immigration: Where do the Candidates Stand?

Sponsored by the AAUW (see pg. 4)

At Stone Brooke Club House, 3816 Fletcher Blvd. Ames

LOCAL LEAGUE IN ACTION

What: Certificate of Need Hearing regarding Story County Medical Center's request to build a new hospital

When: October 24-25 (exact date should be available 10 days prior to hearing)

Where: Des Moines (exact location should also be available 10 days prior)

Who: All Ames LWV members are encouraged to attend to show support for our testimony.

How: Contact Ruth Swenson (268-5212, rswenson@iastate.edu) or Jackie Manatt (232-0202, rmanatt@iastate.edu) to arrange car pools.

AMES LEAGUE WILL HOST AN INTRODUCTION TO CAUCUSES

At their Sept. 6 meeting, the Ames League of Women board decided to host caucus training for the public.

A committee of LWV-Ames board members is working with leaders of the Story County Democrats and the Story County Republicans to present the program at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29, at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1517 Northwestern Ave.

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members just like you; exceptional women who have exceptional stories. Stories should highlight the value of membership in the League, particularly personal stories of achievement and leadership. LWVUS will be collecting and posting them on the national Web site, sharing them with members of the media, and encouraging other League members to submit stories and promote the Storybank as well.

The League of Women Voters is a place where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement—your work has demonstrated this and sharing your story can inspire others to join in.”

While I see the value of Storybank as a recruitment tool, I am strongly interested in it also as a way of compiling local history. The Ames League has many stories to tell about studies and advocacy that have shaped our community. What are those stories, both recent and from awhile back? Who are the players? **Let’s get started.** Will you help to compile them? We can begin by suggesting member’s names,

projects, stories. Consider writing about your own experience with the League and how it has shaped your life.

This project fits nicely with recruitment efforts at the local level. We need people willing to do some research and draft presentations about our local League. These would be used as programs/ presentations at local groups to tell them about the LWV and our activities. This doesn’t mean you have to make the presentations (although we’re open to that if you are interested). **Will you help? We look forward to hearing from you.** Feel free to either call or email telling me of your interest, 233-2415 or sharonwirth@yahoo.com.

Sharon Wirth

- **DO YOU WANT TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE LWV OF AMES?**
GO TO OUR NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE AT
<http://www.ameslww.org>

YOUR PRESENCE AT THIS MEETING IS VERY IMPORTANT
ARE YOU READY?
Consensus for LWVUS Immigration Study begins October 18!!!

1. What is consensus? Consensus is the process the League uses to reach member agreement on study issues. It is neither a simple majority nor unanimity; instead it is *an overall sense of the group*. In other words, consensus results from answers to questions on which members can find common ground and agreement. Group discussion that allows an exchange of ideas and opinions is the preferred way to achieve consensus.

2. Role of moderator. The moderator communicates the discussion norms, keeps the discussion focused, gives everyone the opportunity to speak, and recognizes member agreement and moves on, maintaining the recommended schedule.

3. Member experts. Members of the local Immigration study team will be available to provide background information for the

consensus questions. They will attempt to provide factual answers for assigned questions as needed.

What is your role?

- Circle **October 18**, 2007 on the calendar.
- Come **early at 7:00 PM** to quiz the study team with your particular questions.
- General meeting begins at 7:30PM at **Northminster Presbyterian Church.**
- If possible, read some of the background materials available at the LWVUS website, www.lww.org, especially the four one-page summaries (also in the June and October 2007 issues of the *The National Voter*).
- Focus on consensus **Question 1, parts a and b.** (available in August Voter) In January we will complete the remaining questions.
- **Engage** in developing a new League position!

Candidates' Forums

The November, 2007, local elections are fast approaching and your Ames League of Women Voters board of directors invites you to get involved in our community education efforts.

The Ames League of Women Voters is partnering with the Ames Chamber of Commerce to offer an Ames City Candidates Forum at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 29, in the city council chambers at Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.

Several volunteer opportunities are available.

Like to watch the clock? Then volunteer to monitor the speaking times. Chatting with friends and strangers alike more your style? We invite you to pour lemonade and serve cookies at the refreshments table. Two LWV-Ames members are also needed to help set up the council chambers before the meeting, pick up the chambers after and monitor the microphone during the meeting.

We also are looking for one member to represent the League on the three-person panel. The volunteer will work with me and other league members to

develop several questions for the city council candidates. Each panelist normally poses one to two questions to the candidates before the forum is opened up to audience and call-in questions.

There are five candidates in three city council races and four candidates for four seats on the Mary Greeley Medical Center Board of Trustees.

In Ward 2, incumbent Jami Larson is running unopposed. In Ward 4, challenger Andy Bock is running against incumbent Riad Mahayni. The at-large seat has Pat Brown challenging incumbent Matthew Goodman. Both Brown and Goodman are members of the Ames League of Women Voters.

The MGMC Board of Trustee candidates are Louis Banitt, Sarah Buck, Karl Friederich and Ken McCuskey. All are incumbents. Trustee candidates will be introduced but will not be answering questions.

If you are able to help, please contact me at 233-3220 or lauris_olson@mac.com by Oct. 12.

By Lauris Olson
President-elect

**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) Caucus

Other political parties planning to hold caucuses in Story County for the 2008 election cycle are also welcome to participate.

No campaigning will be allowed.

The goal is to increase attendance at local caucuses by helping citizens understand the process. The format will focus on what is expected of those attending a caucus and will be designed to give confidence to the voter who may otherwise be intimidated by the process.

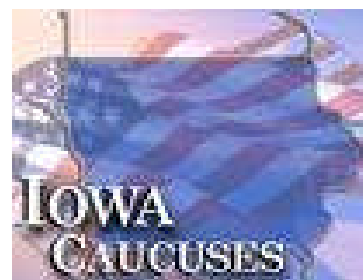
Participants will also participate in mock caucus scenarios.

For more information or to help with the Nov. 29 presentation, please contact committee members

Jeannette Bohnenkamp, Lauris Olson, and Jim Popken.

Further information will be available in the November Voter.

Jeanette Bohnenkamp



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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.

INVITATION FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW)

The Ames Branch of AAUW invites the League of Women Voters of Ames to their October 30th. Meeting. This is on a Tuesday at 7 PM and will be held at the Stone Brooke Club House 3816 Fletcher Blvd. The program is entitled "Education and Immigration: Where do the Candidates stand?" The positions of the major Republican and Democratic Candidates for President on those two issues will be discussed.
Jane Johnson and Mary Ann Lundy are in charge of this program