



The Voter

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

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

September 2007

From the President



"They who plant a garden, believe in the future." No doubt you have heard this saying or a similar variation before. Recently while digging, dividing, and re-planting iris bulbs, I began thinking about how League members are a lot like gardeners. (The idle mind needs something to do while digging in the fertile Iowa soil)! As League members we put our energy and efforts into a variety of projects, plant seeds, nurture our ideas, and keep working until our plans come to fruition/harvest.

The Ames League has many of those types of projects going on right now. Candidate forums (remember to vote Sept 11), immigration and mental health studies, increasing membership, observing public meetings with the "sunshine laws" in mind, and

advocacy for our study positions are some that fit into this category. The League has long depended on those believing in the future and their ability to shape it to accomplish League goals. So if you haven't been "gardening" with the League, get started!

Begin by taking a look at our soon to be available program/membership directory. I hope all of you will attend the excellent set of general meetings scheduled. Get informed, join a committee, or volunteer to help at an event. You'll be glad you did. And when you are gardening with the League, there are few weeds to hoe/pull!

Sharon Wirth

Mark Your Calendar

September 11 Tuesday

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS - REMEMBER TO VOTE

September 20 Thursday

General Meeting and Salad Supper

6:30 PM Salad Supper - **Bring a salad to share**

7:30 PM General Meeting

Transportation Needs of Low-Income People in Story County

Northminster Presbyterian Church - Fireplace Room 1416 20th



September 26 Wednesday

Book Club - Palestine: Peace, not Apartheid

by Jimmy Carter

led by Mary Richards as hostess 3217 West Street.



October 4 Thursday

LWV of Ames Board meeting - 4037 Fletcher Blvd.

October 6 Saturday

LWVIA Fall Workshop

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Altoona Public Library - 700-8th Street - Altoona, Iowa

October 18 Thursday

7:30 PM - General Meeting

LWVUS Study: Immigration

Northminster Presbyterian Church - Fireplace Room 1416 20th

**OTHER EVENTS YOU ARE INVITED TO
More Information inside**

September 16 Sunday

3:00-4:30 PM

Immigration: The Difficult Questions: candid and open conversations about immigration

Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1517 Northwestern Ave, Ames

October 30th Tuesday

Education and Immigration: Where do the Candidates Stand?

Sponsored by the AAUW

At Stone Brooke Club House, 3816 Fletcher Blvd. Ames

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED THE MEMBER SURVEY PLEASE DO SO NOW. PRINT PAGE 7 COMPLETE IT AND RETURN TO : LWV OF AMES, 4037 FLETCHER BOULEVARD, AMES, IA 50014

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Salad Supper and General Meeting

September 20, 2007

6:30 p.m. Salad Supper

7:30 p.m. Meeting: **Transportation Needs of Low-Income People in Story County**

Northminster Presbyterian Church, Fireplace Room
416-20th Street, Ames, Iowa

The Annual Salad Supper will be held before the General Meeting at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1416 20th Street, Fireplace Room, at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring a salad to share. The board will provide beverages, table settings and service. (Note that this event has been changed from the last to the

first meeting of the year.) The General Meeting will begin at 7:30.

Panel members for the program will include:

David Sahr, Beyond Welfare

Josh Cliffe AND John Middents, Heartland Senior Services of Iowa

Vanessa Baker-Latimer, City of Ames

Alissa Stoehr, Panel Moderator

Panel members will discuss programs offered by their respective agencies to help alleviate the high cost of transportation for low-income people in Ames and surrounding communities. CyRide and United Way of Story County will also share information.

UPDATE OF THE WORK OF THE AMES LWV IMMIGRATION STUDY TEAM

The August 15 public screening of ***A Little Salsa on the Prairie: the changing character of Perry, Iowa*** was a huge success. Library staff and LWV volunteers continued to set up more and more chairs until we began the program. Many persons stayed for the excellent panel discussion. We were especially pleased to have the mayor of Perry, Viivi Shirley, and Eddie Diaz, director of the Immigrant Advocacy Center in Perry share their firsthand knowledge of the changes in their community. Jody Swilke and Kent Newman, producers of this documentary, reported on the several public screenings in progress and the possible future showing on public television. Needless to say, immigration is an important issue for our state and for our country.

The consensus questions are now available on the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org as well as all the background papers and other resources. Our

committee is counting on all **LWV of Ames members to do your own background reading.**

For those of you who do not have computer access to materials or prefer hardcopy reading, we have 3 notebooks available for you to borrow and read. These will be available at the September meeting or you may contact Joyce Hertz, 292-7782.

Our present strategy on how to approach consensus is to do it in two parts. Part One will be conducted at the October 18 General Meeting. This meeting will cover the lengthy and comprehensive Question 1 of the consensus questions and the prioritizing of the important issues covered. Part Two will be conducted at the January 17 meeting so that our results can be sent to LWVUS by February 1. Please plan to attend BOTH sessions.

There are two other local public events that will address immigration issues this fall.

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- DO YOU WANT TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE LWV OF AMES?
- DO YOU WANT TO FIND LINKS TO LWVUS STUDIES AND POSITIONS?
- DO YOU WANT TO FIND HELPFUL LINKS TO VARIETY OF RESOURCES RELATED TO LEAGUE POSITIONS?

GO TO OUR NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE AT



<http://www.ameslwv.org>

(Continued from page 2) *Immigration update*

AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) is inaugurating a roadshow in Ames to confront some of the difficult questions about immigration. It will be held **Sunday, September 16, 3:00-4:30p.m. at**

Bethesda Lutheran Church. The featured speakers will be two immigration attorneys, Lori Chesser of Davis Brown Law Firm in Des Moines, and Ferzana Hashmi, Hashmi Law Firm in Des Moines. AAUW has invited the LWV of Ames to its Tuesday, October 30 meeting at the Stonebrooke Club House. The program is entitled *Education and Immigration: Where do the Candidates Stand?* Jane Johnson and Mary Ann Lundy are in charge of the program.

To make decisions about immigration policy and systems one must confront some values questions. From the Report of the Independent Task Force on Immigration and America's Future, I quote:

"Three times in our history, the United States has experienced 'peak periods' of large-scale immigration that coincided with transformative economic change. Today we are living through a fourth peak period, as globalization prompts the United States to complete the transformation from a manufacturing to a knowledge-based economy.

With over 14 million newcomers, legal and illegal, the 1990's ranks numerically as the highest immigration decade in American history; the current decade will almost certainly surpass it...

Yet, our nation's official immigration policies are increasingly disconnected from the economic and social forces that drive immigration...

The nation's attention is focused on illegal immigration... Still, illegal immigration is but one aspect of immigration. Today's debate side-steps the broader question that looms for America's future: What kind of immigration policy and system would harness the benefits of immigration to advance US national interests in the 21st century?

Perhaps you would frame the big question differently. However, please consider carefully what you consider to be the genuine benefits of immigration and what you consider to be the specific challenges that must be addressed. Then we'll all come together and see if we can develop consensus on this issue.

Joyce Hertz,
Chair of Immigration Study

Have you moved or changes your e-mail?
Please send notice of change to Jackie Manatt:
2926 Monroe Dr. Ames, IA 50010
manatt@iastate.edu

**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.**

NEWS FROM LWVIA

Legislative Issues Briefing Saturday, October 6th, 2007 Altoona Public Library

Registration 9:30 AM
Program 10:00 am to 2:30 PM

We have an exciting group of speakers lined up to bring you background information on the 2008 legislative priorities of the League of Women Voters of Iowa.

Topics will include:

Water Quality and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

Speaker-- Rep. Donovan Olson of Boone County, Chair of the Environmental Protection Committee
The League supports stronger oversight and regulation of industrial livestock facilities to control and lessen their impact on water, air quality, health and quality of life.

Campaign Finance Reform

Speaker-- Pat Harper, chair of the LWVIA Clean Elections committee and former Iowa State Senator
The League supports the Voter Owned Iowa Clean Elections (VOICE) legislation which would provide public financing for political campaigns for state and local offices. It is intended to lessen the power of "big money" in our government.

Predatory Lending

Speaker-- Jessica Whitney, Office of the Iowa Attorney General

We support economic justice, and encourage the Iowa Legislature to pass legislation to regulate fees for payday loans and to address abuses in home mortgage lending.

Help for Special Needs Offenders

Speakers-- Dr. Bruce Sieleni, Mental Health Director for the Iowa Department of Corrections and Jeanette Bucklew, IDOC Deputy Director of Offender Services
The League supports legislation that would expand services and programs for offenders who need mental health and substance abuse treatment. We support making this type of treatment available in community-based programs.

Returnable Beverage Container Legislation, "Bottle Bill"

Speaker Invited—Watch your e-mail for more details!
Iowa passed a law in 1978 that established deposits on certain types of beverage containers. The League supports expanding the law to cover types of containers that have come onto the market since the law was passed. Further, we urge the Iowa Legislature to increase to two-cents the amount paid to redemption centers for handling returned containers.

How to Talk to Your Legislators

Speaker—Judie Hoffman, LWVIA

Be there to kick off the League year

Saturday, October 6 at the Altoona Library - 700 8th St. SW, Altoona, Iowa

New State Study Approved at Convention

At the State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Iowa in May, a new 2-year state study was approved by the delegates. This "Comprehensive Study of Mental Health Delivery Systems in Iowa" is now underway with representatives from the Ames, Black Hawk/Bremer, Cedar Rapids/Marion, Jasper County, Metro Des Moines, Ottumwa, and Upper Iowa Leagues. The study phase (July 2007-December 2008) is being funded with LWVIA Education Fund monies.

The scope of the study is being refined as the study progresses but will include the following:

1. Identify accepted definitions of terms.

2. Identify current state standards for basic mental health services.
3. Determine access to a broad range of mental health services throughout Iowa with particular attention to services available in rural counties. This will include community-based mental health delivery systems with a focus on availability of a continuum of mental health services and barriers to access.
4. Evaluate availability of services, professional staff (especially psychiatric professionals), and psychiatric hospital beds among counties.

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5. Determine involvement of consumers in development and implementation of policy at all levels.

Document current funding for mental health services in terms of dollars spent and use of these limited resources. This will include public funding through Medicare, Medicaid, and Hawk I (for children).

The next meetings of the study group are on Saturday, September 22 in Cedar Falls/Waterloo and on Saturday, December 1 in Cedar Rapids. We welcome other League members who have an interest in this topic. If interested, please contact me at 515/292-3388 or via email (nebrownames@hotmail.com).

Nancy E. Brown, Ames League
Chair of Study Committee

SAVE THE DATE!
LWVIA IS A SPONSOR
spread the word about this event free and open to the public
No Exit: A Summit of Human Trafficking
Tuesday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m.
Hoyt Sherman Place, Des Moines

AND YOU THOUGHT SLAVERY HAD BEEN ABOLISHED?

While slavery is illegal in the United States, it is still a reality for thousands of people. These people are victims of human trafficking. Vulnerable groups of people across the globe are forced into involuntary servitude through the use of coercion or force. People from all ages and backgrounds are bought and sold by an array of perpetrators that vary from well-established criminal networks that also profit from trafficking in drugs and weapons to corrupt government officials. More than 17,000 victims are trafficked into the U.S. each year.

Why don't we hear about this? Human traffickers thrive because their victims are usually immobilized by fear and threats. Often they cannot speak English or are convinced that no one will help them.

Even when traffickers are caught, their victims continue to go unnoticed. Victims of trafficking are entitled to apply for a visa to remain in the United States, but not all law enforcement officials recognize trafficked victims or understand the services they need. Instead, victims are deported into the same conditions that led to trafficking in the first place.

TRAFFICKING HAPPENS IN IOWA

- Igor Voyitenko brought four Russian nationals to the Quad Cities and forced them to work in a cleaning company. The case was handled by immigration authorities who deported all the men back to Russia, including Voyitenko.

- Demont Bowie, from Wellman, Iowa forced a 13 year-old girl from Minneapolis to work in prostitution across eastern Iowa. The case was prosecuted as kidnapping.
- A group of farm workers from Mexico and Central America traveling through Iowa to Wisconsin declared themselves to be victims of debt bondage, their passports and other documentation taken from them. They were afraid to stay in Iowa to resolve their situation.
- A Chinese national was brought to Ames by a relative under false promises of a respectable job. While in Ames she was isolated in the restaurant where she was forced to work. She was physically and sexually abused. The survivor currently struggles to remain in the country legally.

But there is hope. In 2006, the Iowa Legislature approved legislation criminalizing human trafficking. Although a great beginning, much needs to be done to bring together law enforcement, service providers for the victims of trafficking, and policy makers.

Please join the Iowa Council for International Understanding, together with the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Network Against Human Trafficking, as an experienced panel of speakers representing the US Department of Justice, the US Department of State, a respected non-profit organization, and a former trafficked victim will educate, inform and inspire us to take steps to end this horrendous practice in Iowa.

NEWS ABOUT LWV MEMBERS

Our League President has been recognized with the Professional and Scientific Outstanding New Professional Award from Iowa State University

This award recognizes a professional and scientific staff member who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments unusually early in his or her professional career at Iowa State. A \$1,500 award is granted.

Sharon Wirth, teaching lab coordinator, department of apparel, educational studies and hospitality management

Wirth has demonstrated outstanding management skills in overseeing the sewing and textiles labs for more than 200 students each semester, and she displayed remarkable patience and creativity in working with students at all levels in the successful completion of their projects. She frequently visits manufacturers to bring new innovations and improvements to the labs, and she collaborated with faculty to produce a series of instructional materials on DVD for students.



(taken from Inside Iowa State, a newspaper for faculty and staff, is published by the Office of University Relations)

TWO SPECIAL INVITATIONS TO THE LWV OF AMES

Immigration: The Difficult Questions

Introducing a traveling series of candid and open conversations about immigration

These traveling conversations will take place across the state of Iowa over the next four months

First Stop: Ames

The Public is invited to Participate

Sunday, September 16, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1517 Northwestern Ave, Ames, IA

Focus: Common Opinions About Immigration

"Illegal immigration is breaking the law." + "The laws aren't working."

"Let's change the laws." + "Let's enforce the laws we already have."

"Amnesty for those who immigrate illegally is wrong." + "How do we deport 12 million people?"

"Immigrants are trying to integrate." + "Immigrants don't learn English."

"Immigrants overwhelm our social services." + "Immigrants contribute to our economy."

"Immigrants bring strong family values." + "Immigrants increase crime."

"We have enough immigrants already." + "Immigrants enrich our culture with diversity."

"Immigrants steal jobs from U.S.-born citizens." + "Immigrants provide needed labor."

"Fences are good." + "Fences are bad."

Featured Speakers:

Ms. Ferzana Hashmi, Immigration Attorney, Hashmi Law Firm, Des Moines
Ms. Lori Chesser, Immigration Attorney, Davis Brown Law Firm, Des Moines

Sponsored by: AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy)

For more information contact Sheryl Rippke 515-268-9769



MEMBER'S SURVEY

PRINT THIS PAGE AND AFTER COMPLETING IT RETURN TO:

**League of Women Voters of Ames
4037 Fletcher Boulevard, Ames, IA 50014**

Name:

Phone:

Address:

e-mail:

Street:

City and ZIP:

Areas of interest

- Immigration Housing Living Wage
- Environment Book Club Voting –equipment and processes
- Finances (Others) indicate area of interest

Would you be willing to help:

- organize Candidates Forums? organize Legislative hearing?
- address mailings? lobby Legislators with other LWV members?
- reach new members? do phone calls to other members?
- register voters? Fundraising?
- observe government meetings such as school board, city council, planning and zoning board?

(Observers do not speak at meetings but observe the meetings.)

Do you have skills on the following areas?

- | | |
|--|--|
| Do you have experience with publisher programs? | Would you be willing to learn? |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have experience working with web sites? | Would you be willing to learn? |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have experience working with Spreadsheets? | Would you be willing to learn? |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

Biographical information

Tell us about yourself in 300 words or less: (include some family, professional involvements and hobbies) Enclose picture if possible

League of Women Voters of Ames
4037 Fletcher Boulevard, Ames, IA 50014
President: Sharon Wirth
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.

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