



The Voter

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

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

August 2009

From the President

The 2006 National Special Olympics, the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) and the Iowa Games are just few of the big-scale events involving thousands of people staying a week or more that Ames has successfully hosted.

The visitors have enjoyed Reiman Gardens, our easily accessible sporting venues, the walkability of our downtown, the fine quality of our museums and entertainment venues, and the large quantity of up-to-date affordable hotel and motel options.

So putting on a first-class convention for 1,100 people representing local and state Leagues from around the nation in June of 2020 should be possible. Our peers in Iowa's other Leagues certainly think so. During the June 2009 state

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Voter owned Iowa Clean Elections

Join State Representatives Lisa Heddens and Beth Wessel-Kroeschell to brainstorm how to reduce and eliminate the influence of big money on our political system.

Wednesday, August 12

6 p.m.

Ames Public Library

RSVP to:

David Goodner

Community Organizer

Iowa CCI

(515)282-0484

Mark Your Calendar for August and beyond

- August 30** "Three Cups of Tea, a Mother's Perspective"
2 p.m. at the Ames Public Library
- September 2** Ames School Board Candidates Forum
4 p.m.
Location TBA
- September 17** General Meeting
Health Care
7:30 p.m.
Presbyterian Church Fireplace Room
1416 20th Street

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convention, the delegates voted to host the League of Women United States for the 2020 national convention.

The year 2020 marks the 100th birthday of the league. Our national league liaison told the state delegation that the St. Louis LWV is also planning on putting in a bid. Our community's proven past record will be an important factor. But the selection committee will also want to be convinced that the Ames League itself can spearhead a successful state convention.

The next two state conventions are set for June 2011 and June 2013. During our Ames annual retreat later that same month, your Ames board decided to offer to host the 2011 Iowa convention, if we could get a non-board member to chair the committee.

Board secretary Bev Kruempel called a few of our general members over the summer to ask if they would lead the effort. To date, no one has stepped forward.

The task would entail booking a meeting room with sound and video capacities to accommodate 50 to 75 people for one day, working with a hotel to set aside a block of rooms for the preceding night, and arranging a continental breakfast, sit-down lunch, and two beverage and snack breaks.

The committee would also put together goodie bags filled with

information about Ames and donations from merchants, and the convention packets. The committee would work with the state board to develop the program. The committee will also oversee the day's hosting activities and registration table.

The board is asking each of you to consider serving on a hosting convention for the 2011 state convention. Remember, It's a big task for one person; a very manageable task for a committee of four or five.

Making a list.

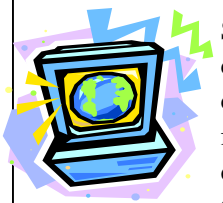
Do you know someone who isn't interested in joining the Ames League of Women Voters, but wants to support our work by donating to our general or educational funds? Marlys Potter and the board are creating a new list of possible donors for our October 2009, fundraising drive. Please submit any ideas you have to any board member prior to the Sept. 3 board meeting.

Submitted by Lauris Olson

Lauris Olson, President

Ames School Board Forum

The Ames School Board Candidates Forum sponsored by the Ames League and the Ames Chamber of Commerce will take-on a high-tech component this year.



Staging a live-broadcast forum in the city council chambers requires a lot of coordination. Also, each time we hold a forum in the chambers, the city graciously donates staff time for a broadcast technician. Your leaders in the League and the Chamber always want to make the best use of the city's generosity. In addition, we have received feedback that some community members find the city hall environment intimidating, while others would like to be able to ask questions via the Internet

With only two candidates running for three seats and no known write-in possibilities, this year's forum shifts from a venue that helps voters choose to an opportunity for in-depth

dialogue on problems and possible solutions. Therefore, we are taking this opportunity to try web-casting the forum.

The webcast will be transmitted live at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 2. The staging location has not been selected yet. Members of the public will be invited to participate by either coming to the staging location to ask their questions live or sitting at their computer screen and send questions via electronic communication - e-mail, instant messaging or text messaging. A telephone option will also be offered. The forum will be visible for repeat viewing via podcast, with the website or websites offering the podcasts to be announced. We also hope to work with the Ames Community School District to rebroadcast the forum on Cable Channel 7.

More information will be communicated via e-mail (for our members who have it) and mailings (for those who do not).

Submitted by Lauris Olson

2009-2010 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meet the 2009-2010 board

members (more members will be highlighted in the September issue)



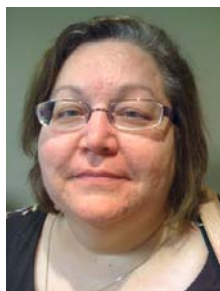
President—Lauris Olson

Lauris Olson owns AmesNewsOnline.com, a community news and information website, and the Ames Bulletin Board, a quarterly events and community information magazine. Her first memories of League involvement are from her childhood, when she accompanied her mother on door-to-door voter registration drives in Mason City. She joined the Ames League in 2003.



Vice-President—Randi Peters

I am Vice-President of the LWV of Ames. I have been involved with the LWV since 2003. I am employed as Assistant to the President at Venuworks in Ames.



Treasurer—Karen Shimp

Karen Shimp is the Chief Financial Officer and Board Secretary for the Ames Community School District. Karen was active in League in Pella, Iowa some years ago where she served as Treasurer. Karen has a grown son who attends DMACC.



Membership—Barbara Gwiasda

After my retirement, four years ago from the International Office at ISU, I decided it was time to join League of Women Voters. The following year I was a Meeting Planner

co-chair and member of the Board, that was a great experience in what one might call grassroots LWV. Currently I am in my second year as Membership Chairman and I am trying to get people to join *before* retirement. Travel, grandchildren, and volunteer activities seem to occupy my retirement. After living in Ames, Iowa now for forty years and raising a family here, this former Chicagoan considers herself an Iowan.



Website and Voter—Renee Jerman

Renee Jerman is employed on the Web Team at the Department of Transportation. She fondly remembers spending time at the neighborhood voting location with her parents. She joined the league in 2007.



Observer Co-chair—Marcia Thompson

Marcia Thompson has lived in Ames since 1968 and taught in the Ames Public Schools for 28 years. Her interest in the political process and government at all levels led to her involvement in League of Women Voters. She will be working with the Observer Corps.



Observer Co-chair—Jean Prestemon

Jean Prestemon, resident of Ames since 1965, retired after teaching 21 years at Sacred Heart in Boone. She joined LWV in 2007.

Observer Corps Needed

In an effort to cover more city and county meetings, The League of Women Voters Observer Corps will try a new approach this year. Jean Prestemon and Marcia Thompson, co-chairs, will be contacting members to request their service in a pool of observers for a variety of meetings, including Ames City Council, Ames School Board, Story County Supervisors, and others related to local government.

The purpose of the new plan is two-fold. First of all, observers will be asked to commit to only four meetings during the year rather than the full schedule of meetings. Second, in order to fill all the meeting times, a large portion of the membership will be asked to participate. Hopefully, the pool of observers and substitutes will provide the flexibility needed to accommodate travel and work schedules.

Observer Corps participants learn about issues facing the community and how these issues are addressed. The observers help promote open, transparent, and accountable government as well as connecting elected/appointed officials with their constituents. Additionally, the League seeks to educate the public through information disseminated from these meetings and helps identify areas where further study or action is needed in a community.

Please call Jean Prestemon (292-1652) or Marcia Thompson (292-4428) if you are interested in volunteering for Observer Corps during the coming year.

Submitted by Marcia Thompson

Readings for LWV Book Group 2009 – 2010

Meetings at 1:30 p.m. on 4th Wednesday each month, except August

Aug. 30



Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson. Jerene Mortenson, Greg's Mother, will be a guest at a Salad potluck 12:30 p.m., Jan Beran, hostess, 304 24th Street. Mrs. Mortenson will speak on Three Cups of Tea, a Mothers Perspective at 2 p.m. at the Ames Public Library Auditorium, open to the public.

Sept. 23

Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama. Selva Lehman, hostess, 4037 Fletcher Blvd.

Oct. 28

Dead Aid by Dambria Moyo. Jan Beran, hostess, 304 W. 24th Street

Nov. 18

When the Rivers Run Dry by Fred Pearce. Marlene Weisshaar, hostess, 1703 Pierce Ct.

Dec. 16

This Child will be Great by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Barbara Gwiasda, hostess, 3420 Eisenhower Ave.

Jan. 27

Blood and Politics: The History of the Nationalist Movement from the Margins to the Mainstream by Leonard Zeskind. Randi Peters, hostess, 3127 Greenwood Rd.

Feb. 24

Founding Faith: Providence, Politics & the Birth of Religious Freedom by Steven Waldman. Mary Richards, hostess, 3217 West St.

Mar. 24

Ecological Intelligence: How Knowing the Hidden Impacts of What We Buy Can Change Everything by Daniel Goleman. Nancy Brown, hostess, 3614 Story St.

Apr. 28

Giants: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln by John Stauffer. Frances Smith, hostess, 2347 Hilton Court

May 26

The Ascent of Money by Niall Ferguson. Joyce Hertz, hostess, 2803 Torrey Pines Circle.

Three Cups of Tea, A Mother's Perspective

Our LWV book group is sponsoring along with the Ames Public Library a presentation, "Three Cups of Tea, a Mother's Perspective" by Jerene Mortensen at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, August 30 at the Ames Public Library. Our group is pleased we were able to book her. A former Ames LWV member, Ruth Jones, has heard her and gave us the lead. Jerene has visited the schools in Pakistan. She will be showing a DVD and talking for about 30 minutes and then will have a Q and A. League members are invited to a Potluck Salad Luncheon at Jan Beran's (304 24th Street) at 12:30 prior to her library talk. Please inform Jan if you will be coming, 232-2790. Prior to that at 9:30 she will be speaking at the Forum at Bethesada Lutheran Church and at 10:45 at Northminster Presbyterian Church during the Christian Education hour. Anyone is invited to attend those, as well. For your information. There is now a Young Reader's Edition of the book and a book for young children called *Inherit the Wind*. Children are welcome at any of the talks.

League of Women Voters of Ames
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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.