



# The Voter

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

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

## February 2010

### General Meeting

### February League of Women Voters General Meeting Spotlights Ames Tourism

Did you know that Ames was named "Iowa's Tourism Community of the Year" in 2008? Or that half a million overnight guests stay in Ames each year? Or that tourism brings a \$70 million economic impact to Ames annually? Or that the local hotel/motel tax primes this economic pump?

*(Continued on page 2) Meeting*

### Hold the Date!

Our Annual Meeting this year will be Saturday, April 10, at Green Hills, 2200 Hamilton Drive, from 9:00 am - 11:00am. The cost of the hot buffet breakfast is just \$10.00 ~ pay at the door. We want to ensure that we have a quorum so please send your RSVP to Bev Kruempel [kruempel@msn.com](mailto:kruempel@msn.com) or 292-5029

### Mark Your Calendar for February and Beyond

- February 18**      **General Meeting**  
7:00 p.m. members will meet to discuss potential study topics.  
**It's Your Money**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Northminster Presbyterian Church**  
**1416 20th Street**
- February 20**      **Legislative Wake-Up**  
**8:30 a.m.**

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Meeting—continued

Attend the General Meeting of the League of Women Voters 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 18, at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1416 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames to learn what and who makes Ames a “tourist Mecca”. Come early and have a cup of coffee!

Our presenters will be the leaders of a unique partnership between the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau and the ISU Extension Conference Planning and Management: Julie Weeks, Director of the partnership, and Allyson Walter and Julie Kieffer, managers of the Ames and ISU Extension groups, respectively.

The town-gown effort these women lead has allowed the Ames Bureau and the ISU CPM to work together to help Ames and Iowa State University host prestigious state, national and international events, including the inaugural Special Olympics USA National Games in 2006. Our community is also the proud host community for the Farm Progress Show (biennial host for 20 years), Odyssey of the Mind World Finals (six times), the Iowa Games Summer Sports Festival (23 years) and many other events.

These collaborative efforts have fostered community pride and unique partnerships to increase local economic impact. Join us on February 18 to learn what the future holds for this \$70 million dollar industry and how local hotel/motel taxes help make Ames a better place to live, work and visit.



## Readings for Feb. (and beyond) LWV Book Group

Meetings at 1:30 p.m. on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month

- 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.

## Attention all Ames League of Women Voters:

We are having a special meeting on February 18 from 7-7:30p.m. to discuss topics for issues that may be developed into a study for our local chapter. This meeting will be held prior to our regular meeting that evening.

If you have issues that are of interest to you, please come and let us know what you think would be a valuable study for us to work on.

If you don't think you will be able to attend this meeting, but have suggestions, please let us know. Contact Randi Peters at [RandiP1970@aol.com](mailto:RandiP1970@aol.com) or call 292-4722 and leave a message, or contact Lauris Olson at [lauris\\_olson@me.com](mailto:lauris_olson@me.com) or call 292-4722.

Please keep in mind that our programs are the basis for the league's education and action efforts and includes;

- Issues of which we educate the public
  - Adopted positions in which action is taken
- And issues for study that will lead to a position.

Study is the process by which all levels of League create or update their public policy positions. These positions are reviewed regularly and are added, dropped and amended only after members study the issue (using materials provided by the league), go through some type of consensus/concurrence process, and adopt the position at the next annual meeting.

Action is when the League acts using one of these positions. If a position already exists at our local, state or national level, we do not need to study the issue to take action.

To be most effective, our local league needs to prioritize what issue we will work on this year. To help prioritize the program items to be included and to focus on the issue that will be of interest and impact in terms of organizational development, our Board should consider the following questions:

- Does it fall within League principles?
- To what position does the issue relate?
- Is government action needed or necessary?
- How much member interest is there in this issue?
- Is this a crucial time for the issue?
- Do political realities permit effective action?
- Is this the appropriate level of the League to address the issue?

- Will the League's involvement make a unique impact? Increase the league's visibility?
  - What are the prospects for funding anticipated educational activities and/or action items?
- Will the League be able to engage more members of the community? Form stronger partnerships with other organizations? Attract new members?

Our non-partisan policy is the key to the League of WomenVoter's reputation and adds strength to the League's position of issues.

## Census 2010

The LWV has been asked to participate in helping with public awareness for filling out the Census 2010 information.

The Census Steering Committee has been working on the Claim Ames Event on March 25, to encourage individuals to fill out the census form. More details to follow.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the public awareness, please contact Susan Gwiasda, City of Ames. She has many opportunities for you.

She can be reached at [sgwiasda@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:sgwiasda@city.ames.ia.us). You can call her at 239-5204 office, or 450-6774 cell.



League of Women Voters of Ames  
Voter Editor: Renee Jerman

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.