Editor’s Note: This issue of the VOTER contains all the information you will need for the 2014 Annual Meeting. You may want to print and bring it with you to our annual meeting and brunch.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF AMES

Date: Saturday, April 19, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Location: North Prairie Room, Gateway Hotel

Agenda: Presentation of the 2014 Carrie Chapman Catt Award, Election of Officers and Directors, Consideration of Proposed Studies, Updates.

You need to be current on your dues in order to vote. (Dues are currently $60, $90 for joint membership, $30 for student membership).

Cost: $20 for brunch. Includes fruit, scrambled eggs, sausages, potatoes, pastries, coffee or tea, milk and fruit juice. Please plan to pay by check for you and any guests.

RSVP by email if possible, by April 10 to Board Secretary Mike Coveyou at ameslwvsec@gmail.com or 515-232-2418.

This Year’s Two-Part Challenge:

1. Bring a guest! If you decide to bring someone, please email or call Mike by April 5 with the number of guests so we can make sure we order enough food.

2. Wear your best (or strangest) spring bonnet. There will be judging, but we don’t know who the judges will be or what rules they will apply. There will also be a prize for the bonnet they select – and it will be a good one this time!

Please bring a copy of this issue of the Voter with you if you want to have any of the information available during the business meeting. (We will have one extra copy per table.)

We look forward to seeing you, your guest(s) and your bonnet at the annual meeting.
President’s Report:  
State of the League of Women Voters of  
Ames

2013–2014 – A Year of Snowstorms and Surprises

Usually one can look at the Calendar of Events or the bookmark for an accurate record of what we accomplished during the League year. Not so this year! The snowstorms played havoc with our schedule, and particularly seemed to like third Thursdays. “It’s snowing – there must be a League event scheduled” was heard way too often.

And we had several “surprises” – events or activities that weren’t originally on our radar when we developed the calendar of events but were opportunities for us to weigh in on an issue or be of service to the community.

While the weather was still balmy, we packed in a lot of special events. Among them were:

- Hosting the 2013 LWVIA Convention at the Memorial Union
- Marching in Ames’ Fourth of July parade
- Distributing League materials at Reiman Gardens’ First Flower Caucus
- Registering voters on Women’s Equality Day at the Carrie Chapman Catt Center, and at the Ames Public Library
- Co–sponsoring, with the Ames Chamber of Commerce, a program on Civility in Politics with Mary Kramer and
- Testifying at hearings held by the City of Ames regarding the plan to make needed improvements to the City’s power plant

Then we got this:

And even during what turned out to be the 10th coldest winter in recorded history in Iowa, we managed to hold most of our regularly-scheduled meetings, plus

- Participating in study and update of the LWVUS Agriculture Policy and
- Holding an informational forum on the proposal for the Ames Convention Center

As we conclude a year of snowstorms and surprises, I would like to thank the numerous League members who were instrumental in planning and organizing these activities and events: the Board of Directors, Ag Study committee, Voter Registration volunteers, State Convention Host Committee, Fourth of July parade participants and all of you who helped out at events.

And a special thanks to League Observers for your ongoing work on our behalf.

I hope to see you on April 19!
Joyce Samuels is the recipient posthumously of the 2014 Carrie Chapman Catt Award for her service to the League of Women Voters and her many years of advocating for multiculturalism in the Ames community and Iowa.

Joyce served as membership co-chair of the League of Women Voters of Ames from 2011 until 2013. She was an enthusiastic force in successfully attracting younger members and persons of color and increasing the overall League membership. Before coming to Ames in 1973 she served on the state board of the League of Women Voters in West Virginia.

The Ames League and its members are far better for what Joyce taught us about diversity and acceptance. What she specifically taught was that the need for acceptance goes beyond race and gender. We need to welcome every individual into our membership regardless of the person’s differences and treat that person the same as any other member. She valued every individual and fought for the rights of all.

Described by community leaders as an energetic, civil rights, diversity and community service advocate, Joyce served on many boards and agencies which promote justice such as the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Ames Human Relations Commission, American Civil Liberties Board, The Ames Few and The Archie A. and Nancy C. Martin Foundation for which she was vice president. The Martin Foundation is an ongoing project to preserve the memory of Iowa State University’s segregated past and those who worked to end it.

Joyce was a pioneer in working with others to establish Dialogues which led to FACES, a festival designed to promote diversity, cohesiveness and understanding in Ames. It annually celebrates the city’s diversity and unity.

Joyce was employed with the National Animal Disease Lab, Iowa Department of Transportation and Iowa State University Extension. She led affirmative action and equal opportunity programs for ISU Extension and worked with field staff involved in a variety of diversity efforts throughout Iowa. In 1997 Joyce was quoted in Inside Iowa State saying “Progress can be slow but we’re beginning to see more awareness and concern for diversity issues. Iowans in rural communities have never had to encounter people of color or people who don’t speak their language, but we’re finding that people really want to help each other.”

In May 2008 Joyce received an Unsung Hero Award for her many years of advocating for multiculturalism in Iowa and building a supporting network for the city’s growing black community. An example is The Ames Few, a black women’s support group in the community.

She received two degrees from Iowa State University -- a Bachelor of Science in Sociology in 1978 and a Masters in Higher Education in 1985. Joyce served in the Navy for 4 years (1952-1956). She died December 17, 2013. A brick in the Plaza of Heroines of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics will be donated in her name.

Joyce Samuels 2014 Carrie Chapman Catt Award Recipient
POSİTİON S OF THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF AMES - 2014

County Recreation (1976-77, updated 1986-87)
- Support for acquisition of land to complete the Skunk River Greenbelt between Ames and Story City.
- Support for maintaining the Skunk River Greenbelt for nature study and other recreational activities that are compatible with the ecological balance of the area.

- Support for land use plans for Story County and Ames that include and consider the immediate and long-range economic, social, cultural, recreational and environmental effects of all proposed land use changes.
- Support for public participation at all levels of planning and zoning decision-making, with the objective of controlling growth. Support for flexible, multifaceted programs to protect open space, including zoning, financial incentives, acquisition and landowner education.
- Support for the development of dependable funding sources to ensure the acquisition and management of adequate amounts and types of open space to meet future public needs.
- Support for coordinated long-range land use planning among local agencies.
- Support for adequate funding to ensure strict enforcement of all zoning ordinances as part of comprehensive plans.

Natural Resources
- Support for policies that ensure stewardship of land, water and biological resources. The League supports preserving and ensuring sustainable use of prime agricultural land, greenbelts, high quality natural areas, environmentally sensitive areas and recreational open space.
- Support for ordinances that provide installation, monitoring and abandonment procedures for underground storage tanks.
- Support for comprehensive natural resource inventories and support for requiring the consideration of inventory data in land use decisions.

Development
- Support for county and municipal policies promoting compact development patterns that are energy efficient and environmentally, socially and fiscally sustainable.
- Support for policies that emphasize the use and restoration of existing infrastructure and appropriate use of vacant land within developed areas.
- Support for action to encourage active use of concentrated commercial areas (such as downtown Ames and Campustown).
- Support for policies that include open space among infrastructure requirements for new development.

- Support for a municipally owned electric facility for the city of Ames.
- Support interconnection of power systems including possible expansion of the use of regional power pools; buying and selling of power; emphasis on the use of renewable resources (i.e., the utilization of refuse-derived fuel from the Solid Waste Recovery System and by-product steam for heating purposes, and wind generated power)
- Support a continued high level of reliable service; direct citizen access to the decision making process; a system of financial reporting that is accurate, accessible and understandable.
- Support an electric utility that is part of the total energy-planning picture. This planning must consider the economic consequences to the community. Continued priority should be given to conservation efforts, including use of energy audits and exploration of load management techniques.


Youth
- Support for participation of youth in decision making on public policies concerning leisure activities for youth.
- Support for additional facilities for both structured and non-structured public recreational activities for youth.

Low Income Subsidies
- Support for the continued development and implementation of public subsidies for low-income persons for leisure activities in Ames.

Affordable Housing (1992, amended 2012)
- Support the city of Ames’ housing goal to "provide a wide variety of housing types and locations to serve the residential needs of the present and future populations" (from Ames Land Use Policy Plan). To accomplish this goal we must create and maintain an adequate supply of sound affordable housing for the

Continued on page 5
very low, low, and moderate income individuals and families in our community by:

- Supporting programs to maintain and expand home ownership opportunities
- Creating new affordable housing units in both the city and university community (both rental and owner-occupied)
- Conserving and maintaining existing housing stock
- Exploring planning for affordable and accessible housing in all neighborhoods and communities
- Supporting public/private partnerships to expand housing opportunities
- Using a variety of financing approaches to help families secure adequate housing.
- Supporting programs that mitigate the risks of foreclosure.

**Children at Risk of Abuse from their Caregivers (1994, amended 2004)**

- Support for private and public comprehensive prevention programs such as good prenatal care, parenting programs and classes for caregivers. The League supports protection, treatment and on-going therapy for the abused.
- Support for increased emphasis on education and rehabilitation for abusers (in and out of prison).
- Support for enforcement of laws that require responsible reporting of child abuse.
  (Note: Caregivers includes parents, step-parents, foster parents and guardians)

**Story County Hospital (1997, amended 2004, affirmed by Board 2006)**

- Support for providing citizens of Story County with information about the services, usage and financial status of Story County Hospital and Long Term Care Facility.
- Support for retention of the long-term care and ambulance services.
- Support for discontinuing acute care (inpatient) services.
- Support for alternative services to meet health and other social services needs of Story County residents.

**Transportation Needs in Story County (2004)**

- Encourages providers of transportation in Story County to collaborate in designing a comprehensive, cost-effective, environmentally-friendly, and energy-efficient plan to meet the transportation needs of Story County;
- Encourages ASSET to survey member agencies that provide transportation to their clients to explore sharing of services or developing contractual arrangements with public transit agencies;
- Encourages non-profit organizations to contract with public transit agencies or other transportation providers as an alternative to operating their own vehicles;
- Encourages agencies to seek efficiencies through shared services such as centralized vehicle maintenance and driver training;
- Supports increased federal/state/local funding for public transit or, at a minimum, full funding of public transit through the existing state "use tax" formula;
- Supports expanded efforts to mitigate cost of public transportation for low-income people;
- Supports existing efforts by Wheels to Work to enable welfare recipients to become car owners; and
- Encourages expansion of opportunities for low-income families to become car owners through the development of additional car ownership programs that include elements found to support successful programs in other communities.

**Living Wages (September 2005, amended April 2007)**

- Supports adequate income to enable working people to cover basic needs and to live with dignity and a sense of self-worth.
- Affirms the principle of equal pay for equal work.
- Supports the City of Ames and Story County adopting a Living Wage ordinance requiring a livable wage be paid:
  - to all full- and part-time city and county employees
  - by firms whose contracts exceed $15,000 for any 12-month period
  - by firms that receive economic development money/incentives from the city or county.

**Recreation Needs, Programs, And Facilities For Seniors In Story County (2011)**

- Supports programs that educate about the importance of exercise and an active life style in promoting well being and good health for Story Country seniors
- Supports adequate facilities for wellness/exercise activities including, but not limited to, indoor walking, warm water exercise, ballroom dancing, yoga and tai chi
- Supports public/private cooperation in providing recreation facilities and programs for Story County seniors, and
- Supports exploration of ways to subsidize fees for prescribed exercise/wellness programs for seniors in Story County for whom expense is an obstacle.
Planning excellent programs for League this year was not difficult, but dealing with the weather was. We are sure we set a record for the number of cancelled general meetings. We started the year in October with a huge crowd to hear the topic, The Current Situation in Agriculture in Iowa and the United States presented by Angie Carter and Cornelia Flora. In October we cancelled our program on Voter Intimidation, Voter Suppression at the last minute when our presenter broke her arm. In November we cancelled our program on Housing Issues in Story County when an ice storm moved into town. Everybody was geared up for a Soup Supper-Program Planning meeting in January until we had a snow storm. This meeting was rescheduled in February and started off with delicious desserts provided by the board. We had a good discussion about possible future national studies, some of these we sent to LWVUS. We also discussed possible topics for local programming in 2014-2015.

In February we cancelled our general meeting on the topic of Mental Health Services due to another storm. Our March topic was Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services in Story County presented by Angie Shreck and Steffani Simbric. April brought our annual meeting and brunch at the Gateway Hotel and the year concluded with a Legislative Wrap-Up by our lobbyist, Amy Campbell in May.

All of the meetings, held at Northminster Presbyterian Church, were recorded and later rebroadcast by KHOI FM. We thank them for this service.

-- Judie Hoffman
-- George McJimsey

Letters for the 2013-14 LWV Finance Drive were sent on September 10, 2013 to 119 members of the community. The cost of printing the letters was paid through the League’s account with Prints, and the postage cost was $64.40. To date, contributions from LWV members and other donors total $1755.

-- Maureen Wilt

We used several different communication methods to publicized League events this year. Announcements of the League’s General Meetings, Legislative Wake-Ups, Candidate forums, and the State of the Community were sent to the Ames Tribune, the Iowa State Daily, the Nevada Journal, the Story City Herald, the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, the Ames Bulletin Board, Ames Patch, KCCI AM, and KHOI FM.

League members appeared regularly on the KCCI Friday Breakfast Club to publicize upcoming events. Public service announcements were recorded monthly and were aired on KHOI FM. PSAs also appeared on the City of Ames Government Access Channel 12.

Information regarding League events and photos were posted on Facebook. E-blasts were sent by the League President to all LWV of Ames members for all events as well as some event cancellations due to bad weather.

A photo of the 2013-2014 board appeared in the Tribune’s Sun section.

-- Mary Sand
-- Devita Harden
The 2013 State Conference for the LWVIA was held in Ames on 6/01/13 in ISU’s Memorial Union. A "Ready to Run" and an Advocacy Preconference Session were held. The conference provided opportunities to meet with members from other Leagues in Iowa, participate in training, and learn more about League issues and activities at the local, state, and national level.

Prior to the opening January 2014 Session of the Iowa legislature, five members of the LWV of Ames met with four area legislators in November. We discussed action priorities for the spring legislative session and gauged support for LWV priorities. Legislators were asked to support an emphasis on the right to vote for all eligible voters, an increase in health services and a decrease in Medicaid waivers, improvement of water quality and waterways, and making shackling of pregnant women illegal.

Four LWV of Ames joined other Iowa League members on Capitol Day in Des Moines on 2/18/14 to engage in training and meet with available area legislators. We followed up on our discussion concerning the five LWV priorities for legislative action and gave legislators an opportunity to share their perspective with constituents over lunch and before or after committee meetings.

Three LWV Legislative Wake-Ups have been held with area legislators on Saturday mornings at Ames City Hall in January, February, and March. The Wake-Ups provide an opportunity for legislators to share their views and constituents to ask questions formally during the Wake-Up Forum and informally before and after over snacks. The co-sponsors were Ames Area Conservative Women, National Alliance on Mental Illness, and A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy. These co-sponsors not only increased the audience, they added diversity to the questions asked. It appears this legislative session is on schedule to adjourn before the April 25 Wake-Up, canceling this final event.

If you have a burning legislative issue or question, contact your LWV Legislative Chair or Co-Chair.

-- Carol Alexander Phillips

Eight monthly or bi-monthly Voters, plus the Annual Meeting Supplement, have been published during the 2013-14 League year. They have been distributed to all Ames League members and to presidents of the other Iowa Leagues.

Thanks to all who have contributed to these issues by writing articles and taking photos.

-- Mary Richards, VOTER Editor

"Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come...."

Hours of effort have paid off and the new-and-improved AmesLWV website is up and running, with both public and private (member only) features, lots of interactivity, an easily accessible

Continued on page 6
calendar, and more. Glitches and headaches still crop up, as is to be expected, but we hope you are using and enjoying this means of communication.

-- Jim Noland, Web Manager

**Membership Report**

In order for our League to grow, it takes all of us to invite others and bring them to the meetings and events. We have been successful in bringing sixteen new members into our League in this past year. They were invited to a New Member Brunch held on Saturday, March 1st. It was another snowy day, but ten board members, four new members and three guests enjoyed the warm and festive gathering!

More than thirty people were contacted through mailings, which included a letter informing them of what the League is, when meetings are held, the membership brochure, a schedule bookmark, and a political directory and voter guide. They receive the Voter for the next three months to help them make their decision.

Our new membership co-chair, Nancy Halvorson hosted some of our younger members with a brunch in her home. We asked for their help with some new ideas and also leadership to entice a younger group of women and men to join us in accomplishing the goals of the League of Women Voters in Ames.

We are delighted to have several of our newer members who have taken on leadership roles in our League. The coming year will be an exciting one, so please keep on inviting new people and encouraging the leadership!

-- Barb Brodie
-- Nancy Halvorson

**Nominations Report**

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<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Term Expires</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Linda Murken</td>
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<td>Pres-Elect</td>
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<td>Meeting Planner</td>
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**Voter Service**

Candidate forums for the Ames School Board and Ames City Council were held in the Council Chambers of Ames City Hall last year on August 29 and September 30, respectively. Three school board candidates and eight city council candidates, as well as Mayor Ann Campbell, spoke at these forums.

Continued on page 9
Seven regular Observer Corps volunteers attended the boards and commission meetings of the City of Ames, Story County, Ames School District, Mary Greeley Medical Center, and Ames Planning and Zoning this year. They kept League Board members informed of matters of importance and interest to the Ames League. Observer reports may lead to local League study and action, and promote transparency and accountability, the democratic principles of good government. Observers develop appreciation of the time and talents expended by the members of local boards and commissions, identify the benefits they give to the community, and gain a greater involvement with and knowledge of local government. The Observer Corps demonstrates that the Ames League is interested in how democracy works in local government. Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

-- Nancy Marks

Observer Corps Report

Continued from page 8

The State of the Community event, presented on February 13 of this year, was also held in the Council Chambers of Ames City Hall. Co-sponsors were the Ames Public Library and Ames Chamber of Commerce. Reports were given by Ann Campbell, mayor of Ames; Sarah Buck, chair of Mary Greeley Medical Center Board of Trustees; Luke Deardorff, president of the Ames School Board; Paul Toot, chair of the Story County Board of Supervisors; and Miles Lackey, Chief of Staff for Iowa State University President Steven Leath.

Voter Service, with the help of the City Clerk’s office, Nelson Electric and First Class Signs, also arranged to have the “MAKE DEMOCRACY HAPPEN” banner suspended over Main Street to remind citizens to vote—the desired end result of the information provided by our committee’s other activities.

-- Jackie Runyan
-- Marla Miller

Ames League of Women Voters
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Ames, IA 50014