



## Support from Cy

One of the thirty Cy statutes around Ames shows his support for voter registration.

## Upcoming Events:

Oct. 16 - 7:00 p.m. - General Meeting - Ames Land Use Policy Plan. Ames Public Library, Farwell T. Brown Auditorium.

Oct. 20 - 7:00 p.m. - Candidate Forum: State Senate and House. Ames City Council Chambers.

Oct. 22 - 1:00 p.m. - Book Club

Nov. 20 - 7:00 p.m. - General Meeting - Evolution of Voting Rights. Ames Public Library, Farwell T. Brown Auditorium.

## NEW LOCATION FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

Starting October 16, we will hold our General Meetings in the Ames Public Library, Farwell T. Brown Auditorium, south side. We will continue to start meetings at 7:00 and will need to end promptly at 8:30, to allow time to re-set the room and be out of the Library by 9:00.

Reasons for the change were a significant increase in the rent for the Fireplace Room and the availability of more meeting rooms in our re-modeled Library. It is truly a wonderful space to hold informational events and we are grateful to the Ames Public Library for welcoming us. We also are appreciative of Northminster Church for their support and assistance over the years.

We will continue to hold Candidate Forums, State of the Community and Legislative Wake-ups in the Ames City Council Chambers, where we can have our events steamed and rebroadcast when staff are available. We thank the City for allowing us to continue to use the Chambers, which are an excellent venue for our government-related events.

All events continue to be open to the public. Remember to bring a friend!

***PLEASE NOTE:*** New bookmarks, showing the new location, will be available at the October meeting. But if you already have one, please hold onto it for your use and take a few of the new ones to give to potential members and other interested folks.



## President's Column - Reflections on September



Eric Holder has been an incredible champion for voting rights and for human rights. I am sad to see him leave the AG's Office and am sure many of you are as well. But I know he'll continue to be a strong voice on these issues after he leaves office. And WE need to continue to work to avoid discriminatory practices in our voting systems and ensure that voting is accessible for all. What will the next Legislative session bring: Revisiting the bill for on-line voter registration? Another push for photo voter ID? Resolving the postmark issue with absentee ballots? We had an excellent presentation by DeNora Getachew from the Brennan Center at the Issues Briefing so are well prepared. See article elsewhere in this issue for a summary. I would also be willing to share a hard copy of her power point presentation and will see if we will have access to an electronic one.

The other news was about the Climate March in NYC Sept. 21 and the UN Climate Summit Sept. 23, to build the momentum needed to achieve a binding agreement in 2015. What can we do locally and in Iowa to address this issue? Our State League has done great education and advocacy on water quality, which is a part of the climate change issue and a huge issue for Iowa. We had three great speakers at the 2013 Issues Briefing on this topic. If you would like to update yourself on this issue, in preparation of the 2015 session, you can find their presentations at <http://www.lwvia.org/Publications.aspx> A big issue in 2015 will be REAP funding. And locally there will be many issues: the power plant conversion, flood mitigation strategies and responsible development.

On a personal note, seeing the Tibetan monks create a sand mandala at the Lounge in the Memorial Union was truly inspiring. A mandala's healing power is said to extend to the whole world even before it is swept up and dispersed into flowing water—a further expression of sharing the mandala's blessings with all. It is also an ultimate reminder of the impermanent nature of existence. The grains of sand the monks swept up from the table on which it was created were sent down College Creek behind the Union. The hopes of the people who accompanied the monks for the people of the world – particularly for those in Ebola-tormented Africa and the war-torn Middle East – went with them.



## The Election: What Just Happened?

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Mara Liasson, national political correspondent for National Public Radio and a contributor to the FOX News Channel, will analyze the results of the Nov. 4 midterm elections as the fall 2014 Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics.

Liasson will present “What Just Happened? The 2014 Elections and Beyond” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, in the Sun Room of the Memorial Union at Iowa State University. The presentation, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics.

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## 2014 Issues Briefing

By Carol Alexander Phillips & Donna Elliott

Several members of the Ames League of Women Voters board attended the Iowa LWV 2014 Issues Briefing on Saturday, September 20, 2014. This article will summarize the meeting: 1) a review of the 2015 Legislative Priorities by Bonnie Pitz, LWVIA President, 2) a brief synopsis of a presentation by DeNora Getachew, NYU School of Law on “Bringing Online Voter Registration to Iowa,” and 3) a brief synopsis of a four-person panel discussion on “Human Trafficking in Iowa: Trends, New Laws and Ongoing Challenges.”

The 15-minute review of 2015 Legislative Priorities covered Voting Rights, Water Quality, Justice Reforms, Democracy, Violence Against Women, Education and Health Care. To find out more, go to [www.lwvia.org](http://www.lwvia.org).

## Online Voter Registration

The next presentation on online voter registration highlighted Iowa’s leading role in Voter Registration Modernization, i.e., we have electronic voter registration at Iowa DMV’s and portability and fail-safes via Election Day Registration. However, it is noteworthy that we don’t have online voter registration, unlike 24 other states. And we need the Secretary of State to support this so the House will pass a bill, as the Senate did last year. Online registration is user friendly convenient, saves money, improves accuracy and is easier for county auditors.

Several questions from those attending were discussed. The first question was what is the biggest barrier to Online Voter Registration (OVR)? The response was both cost and commitment from leadership. Other questions were on portability for students, safeguards, voter registration as a federal process, whether county auditor’s association was contacted to work on an OVR bill, and several others.

## Report on LWVIA's Training on Human Trafficking, 9/13/14

By Carol Alexander Phillips

What is human trafficking? A human trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion in addition to belittling statements and bullying to sell the services or labor of a person under the age of 18 without their consent. Persons who are trafficked are victims whose rights have been exchanged for a life of slavery. Children between the ages of 11 and 14 are the typical victim. Trafficking affects both genders, but females comprise 75% of the figures.

Does human trafficking occur in Iowa? The Iowa Highway Patrol Officer clearly articulated the point that 75% of the Iowa troopers stated that trafficking was not occurring in their community. Since there are 300 missing persons in Iowa each month, this figure appears to be too high. Troopers are being trained to experience trafficking through the point of view of a criminal. The effort is called "Operation Tour" and is being enacted in every state. Terminology is changed to "prostituted person" rather than prostitute. A trafficked person is a victim, not a criminal. Specific treatment is being offered to victims by specifically trained troopers. Troopers are looking for "an absence of normal" to determine if something is amiss.

We were given 3 rules to follow when viewing someone being coerced or bullied. Firstly, don't get involved. Secondly, report the details of what you saw. Thirdly, call local officers. For more information, you can contact the National Human Trafficking Resources Center, 888.373.7888.

VICTIM SERVICES STUDY

YOU ARE INVITED

We'd like to offer you an opportunity to join us in our work on a study of Victim Services in and around Ames for those who in one way or another have suffered domestic abuse. We are trying to focus on the basic financial needs of a victim such as affordable housing, affordable childcare and transportation. These are some of the key needs that unfortunately, when not met, often send the victim right back to the abuser. If you have an interest in this very important study, please join us. Our next meeting is Wednesday October 1st, 5:30 p.m. at Nancy Halvorson's. Please call or email if you'd like to join us or would like further information.