I would like to offer a BIG thank to all the members and guests who braved the downpour on Saturday, April 30th to attend the 2016 Annual Breakfast and Business Meeting. Outside the skies were dark and the temperature a bit chilly. However, inside the North Prairie room, everyone was warmed by the high energy and excitement that fills the air whenever league members get together.

The annual meeting is a special occasion for members. Not only do we gather to celebrate successes and recognize and honor our dedicated members. It is also an occasion to preview the upcoming program year and handle league business.

Two of our successes that allow us to offer voter education to more citizens in Story County, were hosting two Legislative Wake-Ups in Nevada and the implementation of Vote411. Another success we celebrated was the purchase of three mini iPads which will allow the voter registration team to register voters with faster and efficiently.

At times League work can be daunting, time consuming and challenging but, as the saying goes hard work is rewarding. Holly Fuchs was honored for her 50 years of membership with the league. The Carrie Chapman Catt award was presented to Linda Murken for her outstanding service to the League.

In the upcoming year the LWV of Ames and Story County will implement the Making Democracy Work award. The idea for this award was developed during the 2015 strategic planning meeting to celebrate our league’s 90th year anniversary. A description of the criteria for the award and a nomination form can be found in this issue of the Voter. Questions, suggestions, or comments can be emailed to President@ameslwv.org.

The Board of Directors welcomes any and all feedback from you, our fellow members.

In League,
Devita Harden
Our annual meeting was held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Gateway Hotel. The featured speaker was Dr. Deborah Turner Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Iowa. The Carrie Chapman Catt award was presented to recipient Linda Murken for her exemplary service to the League.

2016-17 Board Members
The LWV has a mission to promote registering and updating addresses of voters for the Fall 2016 election. Story County has the added challenge of many new voters with changing addresses.

Three Apple I-Pads have been purchased by the Ames/Story County League to help with voter registration. The Secretary of State implemented On-Line Voter Registration on January 1, 2016, with the Iowa DOT. If an Iowan has an Iowa Driver’s License or non-operator Iowa ID, you can now register on-line. The I-Pads will make this process much easier for Iowans.

We will need volunteers to participate in voter registration events. We are planning to register at Downtown Farmers’ Market, Hy-Vee, ISU campus, and location where we are asked to participate. The League owns a pop-up tent, which enables the League to reach out to communities in Story County. If you have an event or organization that would be good for promoting Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Requests, please contact Carolyn Klaus, candjklaus@aol.com or 292-1438. If we can find volunteers to work, we will be there. Get involved – Register voters for the 2016 Election! Contact committee members: Cheryl Binzen, Lynne Bishop, Barb Cobb, Carolyn Klaus, Judy Jones, and Lynne Van Valin

SEEKING PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS
Sue Koehrsen and Bev Kruempel, co-meeting planners, would appreciate your ideas of topics and/or resource people for next year’s monthly programs. They will be working this summer on General Meeting topics to be offered September through next May. Please contact Sue or Bev at suekoehrsen@gmail.com or kruempel@msn.com.
Story County Voter Guide: “LIVE” and Ready for YOU to Spread the Word

The VOTE411 team has created the 2016 Voter Guide for use in the June primary election for Story County. We encourage members to explore VOTE411.org in advance of the upcoming primary election. We hope you see the value of this Voter Guide and will introduce your friends and neighbors to this website.

The Voter Guide can be accessed through the League website (www.ameslwy.org) by clicking on the VOTE411.org icon found on the homepage. After clicking the icon,

1) find the “online voters’ guide”, highlighted in blue in first paragraph. (You can also enter your address at the left of the page, but more info is viewable if you choose the “online voters’ guide” in blue).
2) the next page will allow you to select “Use My Location” or “Enter My Address” in the middle of the page. Select either of these and you will see the candidates in your races.
3) if you are interested in browsing more races (central Iowa and some other Iowa races), click on the “browse information on 2,181 races” and select Iowa.
The “Observer Corps” is an effort to have a silent but clearly visible League presence at meetings of local governmental bodies, with reports of what is observed posted promptly on the League website. Currently, members of the Corps and their assignments are:

- Nancy Halvorson   Ames Parks and Recreation Commission
- Barbara Munson & Jeanette Bohnenkamp   Ames Planning & Zoning Commission
- Rebecca Hoeppner & Devita Harden   Ames Community School Board
- Carolyn McCall   Ames City Hospital Board of Trustees (MGMC)
- Mariam Patterson & John Klaus   Ames City Council
- John Klaus   Story County Board of Supervisors
- Carol Brannon   Ames Public Library Board of Trustees
- Betty Baird   Ames Municipal Electric Utility Operations Review Advisory Board (EUORAB)

Mike Coveyou, Nancy Marks, and Randi Peters are available as substitutes.

The Corps needs more members. Ideally there should be a three-person rotation for the Ames City Council, and a four-person rotation for the Board of Supervisors. Also, we need people to observe the Story County Planning and Zoning Commission and the County Conservation Commission.
Story County Supervisors Democrat Candidate Forum

The League hosted a forum on Monday, May 23 for the two Democrats on the primary ballot running for Story County Board of Supervisors, Reno Berg and Lauris Olson. Berg is retired from 35 years as president of Mainstream Living working with people with disabilities. Olson is a journalist who has made an extensive study of Story County government. This is her second run for this seat. The forum was moderated by League member, Jan Flora.

The candidates were in agreement on most topics raised by the audience. They both wanted to expand the Story County Board of Supervisors to five members to better represent rural portions of the county. They both opposed the Bakken pipeline and the use of eminent domain for this purpose, and said the current board should have taken a stand against it. Raising the minimum wage was an important issue for them both but there was uncertainty about the amount. Olson called for a study to determine the best hourly rate for the county.

Water quality was addressed several times during the forum. Both agreed this is an important issue and praised the current board for granting funds to help relocate residents of Crestview Mobile Home Park who had been dealing with contaminated water for many months. Berg did not support the Des Moines Waterworks lawsuit against 3 counties accused of contaminating the Raccoon River. He would have brought the various parties together to discuss possible solutions. Olson stated she is generally not in favor of one government entity suing another but in this case it was important to get everyone’s attention.

Defective bridges were addressed. Both candidates wanted the present 20-year plan accelerated because they said many of the county’s 280 bridges are potential safety hazards. Olson suggested a special levy to speed up repairs and replacement. Berg suggested federal help is needed as well as a special assessment.

Olson and Berg praised the county for its Cornerstone to Capstone (C2C) Comprehensive Plan. Other topics discussed were Tax Increment Financing (TIF), use of county money for a housing trust fund, and advocating with the legislature for mental health services.

The primary election is Tuesday, June 7. Polls are open 7am-9pm.

Submitted by Mary Sand, Voter Service Co-chair
League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County

The Making Democracy Work Award

Award Nomination Form

Criteria

In honor of its 90th anniversary, the League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County established the Making Democracy Work Award. Beginning in 2017, the League of Women Voters (LWV) may recognize one organization and/or one individual each year with a Making Democracy Work Award. Current LWV board members are not eligible for the individual award.

This award recognizes and honors those who have made outstanding contributions by:
- promoting voting rights
- educating voters
- formerly serving as an outstanding public service appointee or elected official
- assisting and promoting voter registration
- leading efforts to introduce public policy that promotes fairness, equality, and diversity
- making government more transparent and accountable
- or demonstrating advocacy for youth, or the disenfranchised to become more involved in democracy.

With this award, the LWV honors the outstanding efforts of those individuals and organizations who have inspired others to continue to make democracy work. Honorees must be able to attend the April annual meeting of the LWV and must be willing to permit media coverage of their story and award. At its annual meeting, the LWV will award both an engraved plaque as well as a paver that will be placed in the Plaza of Heroines on the Iowa State University campus. In lieu of the paver, an honoree may choose a monetary gift of $100 to a charity of their choice. Honorees are invited to speak briefly at the LWV annual meeting.

To nominate an individual or organization for this award, please complete this form and submit it with the required supplemental materials:

1. Full name of nominee (either individual or organization) and contact information:

   ________________________________________________________________

   Address: ________________________________________________________

Revised 5/16/16
Cell and home numbers:_________________________________________________

Email address:________________________________________________________

2. Name of person submitting the nomination:
______________________________________________________________

How long have you known nominee?________________________________

What is your relationship to nominee?________________________________

Your address:________________________________________________________

Your cell and home phone numbers:__________________________________

Your email address:__________________________________________________

3. Attach a narrative (no more than one page) describing how your nominee fits the award criteria. Introduce the nominee with a brief overview of his/her background and why the nominee deserves this award.

4. Attach up to three letters of support or statements from coworkers, friends, or supporters who are aware of the nominee’s accomplishments and contributions to making democracy work.

Please submit all materials by [add deadline date] to chair of the LWV award selection committee [add name and contact information].