Our 2017 Annual Meeting at Gateway Hotel

The League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County

2018 BRUNCH AND ANNUAL MEETING

Ticket Price $20.00

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Registration 8:30 – 9:00 am
Brunch & Meeting 9:00 – 11:00 am
North Prairie Room Gateway Hotel, Ames

Guest Speaker, Kimberly Hope
Operations Manager
Iowa Resource for International Service

RSVP by April 4th
Carolyn Klaus

candjklaus@aol.com
515-231-0857

OUR SPEAKER, KIMBERLY HOPE

Kimberly Hope graduated from Iowa State University in 2008 with a B.A. in Political Science, emphasizing in NGO’s and international non-profit work. She has lived in South Korea teaching English, spent a summer on a medical houseboat in the Amazon Rain Forest, and traveled on service trips to South America. Hope was drawn to work for IRIS and “give back to the local community and the world”.

IRIS brings students, journalists, business people, educators, and government leaders to Iowa from Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and Asia. IRIS is a non-profit, non-religious organization. Its mission is to promote international understanding, development, and peace. It was founded in 1993 by former Lieutenant Governor Bob Anderson and is celebrating its 25th year. From 2014-2017 more than 400 participants came from 37 different countries to stay with host families across Iowa.
The Presidents’ Message

Just about a year ago we wrote: “We are both excited about this task we’ve taken on and with your encouragement and support we are ready to work hard.” Well, here we are, still excited, but recognizing just how naïve we were twelve months ago. Often we say, “How did one person do all this?” And this is where we now say a huge thank you to all the presidents who preceded us for all they did in that role.

We’ve had a great year and have been able to keep good things going that had been in place the past few years. We continue to appreciate the fact that our League is a band of very talented, dedicated citizens who care about democracy in our community. We value the involvement and input of every member.

In this off-year election we cannot be complacent. Our Voter Services Team, with the informative Vote 411 website and our Voter Registration events, which are scheduled for a number of sites, will keep our voters informed. We also want them encouraged to take advantage of their right to vote on Election Day. Be a nag – ask your neighbor, friend, or relative if they are registered and if they are going to vote. Do they know where to vote? Do they need a ride? We can each do a lot of one-on-one encouraging in our community.

If you have an idea to share, something we can do to help you, or a concern you’d like us to address, please contact us. We want everyone to know our Board meetings are open to any member who would like to attend. The meetings are on the 1st Thursday of each month from 5:00 - 6:45 pm at YSS. If you are interested in attending, contact prez2.lwv@gmail.com for information. We hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity.

We had one very sad event this past year when long time LWV member and lobbyist Judie Hoffman lost her long and valiant battle with cancer on November 30th. We are incredibly proud that we were able to bestow the inaugural Making Democracy Work Award on Judie at last year’s Annual Meeting. Using funds donated to State LWV in Judie’s memory, the Board of LWV of Iowa had Voter Information cards printed that outline clearly all the changes for voters in 2018 and 2019. These cards are being provided for every League group in Iowa, free of charge. We will be providing some of these cards for attendees at the Annual Meeting on April 14th. Lastly we thank you for the opportunity you have given us. Last year we promised to continue to work hard, to keep you informed, and we also promised it would be fun. Our thanks for an amazing year, let’s do it again!

In League,
Becky Coats & Nancy Halvorson, Co-Presidents

T-Shirts and Jackets

The Ames League has T-shirts and jackets for sale. The T-shirts are 100% cotton, printed on both front and back. The jackets are gray fleece and run small. T-shirts sizes available – S, M, L, & XL. $15.00. Jackets, which come in men’s and women’s styles, available in S, M, L, and XL. $30.00

To order email prez2.lwv@gmail.com

Calendar

Saturday, April 7, Talk Feminism Panel Discussion, Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Avenue, 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 7, Legislative Wake Up, Gilbert Gilbert Community Building, 105 SE 2nd, 8:30 am refreshments, 8:45-10:00 forum. All Story County legislators invited.

May 17, Review of 2018 Legislative Actions, Amy Campbell, LWVIA Lobbyist, Ames Library PEO Room 7-8:30 pm

June 5 Primary Voting Day in Iowa

June 28-30, National Convention, Chicago

REMINDER

There are still a few of you who have not renewed your membership…

Be a part of the exciting year ahead for LWV of Ames and Story County by renewing your membership. Our 2018–19 year begins July 1. Dues, which have not increased for several years, are as follows: $60 Individual, $90 Household, $30 Student, $0 Life (50+ years of LWV membership)

Checks are payable to LWV of Ames and Story County. Send your check to: Carolyn Klaus, Treasurer LWV of Ames and Story County P.O. Box 2266, Ames, IA 50010

If you have questions please email Carolyn at candjklaus@aol.com or phone her at 515-231-0857.

The VOTE411.org website informs the user of their candidates, the issues, and where they may vote. PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND COWORKERS.
WE NEED YOU!
This chapter of the LWV is incredibly active and as a member you should be proud, but we need the continued involvement of all of our members. Listed below are a few activities and events which our League either organized or took part in this year. Each is a wonderful opportunity to get involved and meet other League members in the coming year.

July 4th Parade & the Lincoln Highways Days Parade – Our league participated in these events as a means to get our organization much needed exposure. We carried signs about issues that are important to us and handed out flags rather than candy. We were well received and plan to expand our participation to include other parades around Story County.

New Members Gathering – An opportunity for the League to get to know our new members and for our new members to receive a brief orientation about the League. Opportunities to get involved, League issues, and events are discussed.

Community Education Sessions – Held to educate the public on crucial issues that we face as a community. Some of the 2017/2018 issues included Justice Reform, Ames Urban Fringe Plan, the New Voter Laws, Affordable Housing, and the Story County Parks System.

Candidate Forums – Were held for the Ames School Board candidates, the Ames Mayoral candidates & Mary Greeley Medical Center Board of Trustees, and the Ames City Council. These forums enabled voters to meet the Candidates and get their views on issues prior to the elections.

Legislative Wake-Ups – Venues that allowed voters to meet their legislators, ask questions, and learn legislators’ views on issues. These Wake-Ups were held in Ames, Nevada, Story City, and Gilbert.

Other Activities – Observer Corps, Book Club, Coffee Thing, Issues Chats…

These are just some of the ways to get involved with the League. Please contact Nancy Halvorson or Becky Coats prez2.LWV@gmail.com and we can help to get you started.

NEW MEMBERS....
We’ve been fortunate to welcome some wonderful new members to our League recently. Here is a short list of those who have recently decided to join us. Pat Thiel, Ames, pthiel@iastate.edu James Evans, Ames, evans@ameslab.gov Christopher Reynolds, Huxley, reynoldsjessica@yahoo.com Brenda Brink, Huxley, brendabrink@gmail.com Julie Popken, Ames, jim@jimpopken.org Robyn Lutz, Ames, rrlutz@gmail.com Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, Ames, bweske81@gmail.com Rosemary Osheim, Story City, drosheim@iowatelecom.net Taylor Blair, Ames, tblair@iastate.edu (student) Dorothy Yoeger, Ames, dorotheyoeger@gmail.com Mara Kealey, Ames, mrkealey@iastate.edu (student) Ben Freese, Dike, tracy@tracyfreese.com Tracy Freese, Dike, tracy@tracyfreese.com Mary Wheelock, Ames, mwheelo@gmail.com

Join the Ames and Story County League and make a DIFFERENCE!

REMEMBERING...
Several members have passed away in recent months. Judie Hoffman, former city councilwoman, LWV lobbyist and public service advocate. “A public servant in the best definition of the term.”

She received the Gov. Harold Hughes Award for her work against the death penalty and the LWV Making Democracy Work Award in 2017.

Janet Klaas, Ames resident with a 35 year career as a librarian, historian, and volunteer. She was awarded the 2017 Ames Historical Society’s Farwell T. Brown Award for exceptional service to the Society.

Jeanette Smithson, Ames resident, active volunteer and League member.

Ruth Swenson, former Associate Dean of the College of Science and Humanities, past LWV President, and recipient of the Carrie Chapman Catt Award.
THE CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD 2018

Mary Sand

This year the unanimous decision of the Award Committee names Mary Sand the Carrie Chapman Catt Award Winner for 2018.

Mary projects a deceptively quiet persona, but, in fact, her work to combat injustice and unfairness is tireless and unyielding and has made a difference from local community efforts to global justice issues.

Her professional training is as a dietician. She used that expertise to help organize and coordinate the Eastwood Community Garden in Ames, where the residents of low-income subsidized housing learned to plant, care for, harvest and use fresh produce.

Mary’s role as mother led her to be a volunteer leader of a Brownie Scout Troop and a PTA volunteer leader at Edwards school for five years. She combined her dietetics knowledge with her passion that children develop healthy habits to create and teach Introductory Nutrition and Healthy Choices to Edwards school fourth grade classes.

A passion for social justice on a national and global scale has led Mary to an active leadership role in Amnesty. She joined Amnesty International in 1975 and became a part of the Ames Group 40 Chapter in 1979. She has been the local leader of that group for decades, and acts as the Amnesty International State Coordinator for Iowa. Her quiet tenacity and refusal to abandon a cause for justice is especially valuable in an organization where the efforts to aid a “prisoner of conscience” can last many years.

Mary has been a member of the Ames-Story County League of Women Voters since 2013. She has served on the Board of Directors since 2013. As a Board member, she has served as Publicity Chair, and currently serves as Voter Service Co-Chair. In these roles, she works hard to inform the community of League events and makes sure members have opportunities to hear and question their elected officials. She has spoken eloquently about voting rights, such as granting 16-year old’s the vote and reforming the caucus system to include absentee voting.

She also is a member of the Onion Creek Band, fiddling with them since 1990. Whatever task she accepts, Mary performs it quietly, competently and conscientiously. The last thing anyone would ever call her is a showboat. So we are singing her praises for her.

Submitted by Linda Murken and Mary Richards (Mary was also nominated by two other members.)

CAPITOL DAY

Our Co-Presidents, Nancy Halvorson and Becky Coats, joined about two dozen League members from other state chapters attending LWVIA’s 2018 Capitol Day on February 21. The group was briefed on bills re: felons’ voting rights, water quality, and the bottle bill. The League’s lobbyists, Amy Campbell and Craig Patterson, commented on different issues and their status. New this year to Capitol Day activities was League of Women Voters exhibitor’s table set up on the first floor under the rotunda. League members handed out information about the League and its legislative priorities.
**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

**Wake-Ups!**  
**The League Informs the Public**

Why are they called Wake-Ups? The meetings are scheduled from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings. Our legislators and the crowd, fortified with coffee and donuts, tackle the issues on the Legislature’s docket.

One of the most important things that LWV does is to invite the local legislators to meet with the public and answer their questions. This is done on a timely basis when the Iowa Legislature is in session. This winter and spring we have held three Wake-Ups and will have a fourth on April 7. We met January 13 in Nevada at their City Hall, February 17 in Ames at the Ames City Hall, and March 3 in Story City at their City Hall. This was the first Wake-Up we have held in Story City, a meeting which was co-sponsored by the Roland and Story City Kiwanis. April 7 we will hold a wake up in Gilbert at their community building at 105 SE 2nd Street.

The Wake-Ups have a moderator and each question and answer is timed. It’s a great opportunity for a reasonable exchange of opinions and solutions. We have experienced a healthy attendance by the public. Recently we were encouraged by the attendance of a couple of Republican legislators at the Story City Wake-Up. We have been having trouble attracting them to the sessions. The Wake-Ups are organized and executed by the Legislative Committee.

**The State of the Community Luncheon**

This yearly event was held Friday, January 19, at the School Administration Building. This has been a very successful partnership between the League and the Ames Chamber of Commerce. Approximately 80 people attended to hear the presentations made by all the panel members.

**Historical Committee in Planning Stages**

A group of League members and those who are interested from the community met December 11 to initiate and define a program about the history of the local league. The group’s goal is to provide an opportunity for new and existing members to become informed about the history of the local and state organizations. If you are interested call Carolyn Klaus at 515-231-0857.

**Be Sure to friend us on Facebook**

at: League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County.
This is the second year the LWV of Ames and Story County has awarded the Making Democracy Work Award, which recognizes 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
- Demonstrating advocacy for youth or the disenfranchised to become more involved in democracy

This year the unanimous decision of the Award Committee names two individuals who were nominated jointly.

Edna and Wayne Clinton are awarded the 2018 Making Democracy Work Award. Both have been engaged and active citizens for decades. Throughout their professional lives they have always placed the betterment of others and the community before themselves. Their impact is felt by all who have had the privilege of working with them.

Both Wayne and Edna have promoted voter rights and educated voters for years, first throughout the time Wayne spent as a County Supervisor and as a private citizen. Wayne and Edna have personally experienced the detriment of inequality and bigotry and have worked tirelessly to educate the community and promote diversity and inclusion. They have gone beyond promoting voter rights and educating voters as they do not only do it during election season, they do it as part of their everyday lives.

Edna has always stood by Wayne’s side. She is the epitome of a strong female leader and has proven this on numerous occasions, but none more clearly than in her role as President of the Ames NAACP.

Throughout his time in office Wayne assisted with and promoted voter registration. Edna did so also, both as the wife of a candidate and incumbent as well as a member of the League of Women Voters. Their work to promote civic and voter education and participation added positive impacts on the community, made people more aware of the electoral process, and held them accountable to participate.

While in office Wayne introduced and implemented policies that promoted fairness, equality, and diversity, and Edna’s work in the community and with the NAACP continues to do so in a major way. With their work to engage people and make government more responsive and considerate to the unique needs of members of our community, they created an environment in which transparency and accountability can thrive. Edna is truly a leader.

Wayne and Edna have not only had a profound impact on their own children and grandchildren, they have devoted their lives to educating youth and enabling them to be the best they can and empowering them to succeed. They are active supporters of the Boys and Girls Club as well as YSS and their work with the Ames School District is well noted. They are an inspiration for the disenfranchised of all ages and their impact is not going to stop anytime soon.

Submitted by Drew Kamp
New Voter Info Card

Below is a printed card which has been created for all Leagues across the state to hand out to voters this year. The funds for this informative card come from a memorial to our own member Judie Hoffman.

League Co-Sponsors Program

Ames and Story County LWV is co-sponsoring a panel discussion, Talk Feminism, Saturday, April 7, at the Ames Public Library. Participating on the panel will be Kirsten Anderson, former employee of the State of Iowa; Srishti Mathur, Ames High School Feminist Club; Jehan Faisal, victim and advocate; and Mindy McGinnis, author.

Visit our website: http://www.ameslwv.org

Voter Registration! Educating the Public on Voter Law Changes

Members volunteering to inform and register voters had their initial meeting on January 9 at the Ames Public Library. There were 32 members in attendance. Lucy Martin went over the voter registration form and updated members on the new Voter ID laws in Iowa.

The volunteers divided into three groups:
- University and Student Residential Apartments, Assisted Living Story County High Schools

These groups are contacting apartment managers, school principals, and university groups to set dates and make arrangements for reaching ALL of Story County.

Events scheduled at this time:
- March 27 – ISU Civic Engagement Training Meeting
- March 28, 12:00 to 4:00 - Voter Registration – Parks Library
- March 29, 4:00 to 8:00 – Voter Registration – Parks Library

There are THREE elections in Ames and Story County this year. With the New Voter ID Laws and the deadlines for registration and requesting absentee ballots, we will have many opportunities to educate.

- April 3 – Ames and Gilbert School Bond
- June 5 – Primary Election
- November 6 – General Election

The 2019 State Convention

Our local league will be hosting the 2019 State Convention on June 7-8 here in Ames. Co-Presidents Nancy Halvorson and Becky Coats will be recruiting volunteers for planning committees. The Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau is assisting with some of the planning. If you have a specific interest in assisting with the planning and execution (program, lodging, food, for example) please communicate your interest by email to: pres2.lwv@gmail.com.
**VOTER SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

**Candidate forums.** Three candidate forums were held in 2017 for the Ames Community School Board (August 24), Ames Mayor and the Mary Greeley Medical Center Hospital Board (October 12), and the Ames City Council (October 26).

- **Ames Community School Board forum, August 24,** at the Ames Public Library. Candidates: Tim Rasmussen (incumbent), Monic Behnken, Roy Cakerice, Janet Colton, and Gina Perez. Topics of discussion included solving the achievement gaps that have plagued the school district, building a new high school vs. renovating the current one, and replacing the swimming pool.

- **Ames Mayor and Mary Greeley Medical Center Hospital Board of Trustees forum, October 12,** in the Ames City Hall. Candidates for mayor: John Haila and Victoria Szopinski. Candidates for MGMC Hospital Board: Mary Kitchell (incumbent), Beth Swenson, and Pamela White (incumbent).

- **Ames City Council forum, October 26,** in the Ames City Hall. Candidates: Gloria Betcher (incumbent, Ward 1), Amber Corrieri (incumbent, At-large), Rob Bowers (Ward 3), David Martin (Ward 3).

**The State of the Community, January 19.** This annual event includes a free lunch and is cosponsored with the Ames Chamber of Commerce. The featured speakers this year were Ames Mayor John Haila; President of the Ames Community School District Board of Directors, Alisa Frandsen; Chair of the Mary Greeley Medical Center Board of Trustees, Sarah Buck; Chair of the Story County Board of Supervisors, Rick Sanders; President of Des Moines Area Community College, Rob Denson; and Senior Vice President and Provost at Iowa State University, Jonathon Wickert.

**Political Directories.** The Political Directory is updated after each election. Over 200 were printed and distributed over the last year. Special thanks to League members who helped make the forums happen by moderating, keeping time, setting up, and breaking down. We greatly appreciate the reporters who were ever present helping us get the word out. We look forward to the upcoming 2018 races.

Submitted by Mary Sand

**MEETING PLANNERS ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

The meeting planners Deb Schildroth and Bev Kruempel met with Deb Lee and Becky Coats to go over the program suggestions from the January 2017 Program Planning meeting, the “hot” issues of the year, our legislative priorities, and our position statements. The following community education events were held: (a) September 21, “Urban Fringe Plan” by Jerry Moore, Story County Planning and Development Director; (b) October 19, “Low Income Housing Panel” with Vanessa Baker-Latimer, Ames Housing Coordinator; Luke Jensen, RES Development, Inc.; Amber Corrieri, Story County Housing Trust and Ames City Council; and Misty Metschke, Central Iowa Board of Realtors, Director Multiple Listing Committee and from Hunziker and Associates; (c) Nov. 16, “Voter and Election Changes in Iowa” by Story County Auditor Lucy Martin; (d) February 15, “County Parks including Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor and Hickory Grove Park” by Mike Cox, Story County Conservation Director; and (e) March 15, Justice Reform – Where We’ve Been, Where We are Now and Where We’re Going” by Jerry Bartruff, Director of the Iowa Department of Corrections and Jessica Reynolds, Story County Attorney. All sessions were held in the Ames Public Library with the exception of the March 15 meeting at Youth and Shelter Services. A meeting is planned for May 17 with Amy Campbell, League of Women Voters Iowa Lobbyist, to do a wrap up of the Iowa Legislature.

Submitted by Deb Schildroth and Bev Kruempel

**VOTER REGISTRATION REPORT 2017--2018**

We started the fall with the school and city elections. In preparation, we participated in Women’s Equality Day with the Carrie Chapman Catt Center at Catt Hall by registering students and faculty. We encouraged voter registration at the International Peace Walk in September. It was a great opportunity to explain to the IRIS students how voter registration and democracy operates in America. On National Voter Registration Day in September we set up tables at East HyVee and the Ames Public Library. We also had tables at the candidate forums for Story County residents to register and requests absentee ballots. Our numbers for the fall push to register were low. We registered a total of 63 new voters and several absentee voter requests. After the fall elections were finished, we moved on to preparing for Election 2018. The Iowa Legislature passed new voter laws to be implemented in 2018 with further changes coming in 2019. The League is reaching out to high schools, apartment complexes, older resident centers, and ISU to register voters and educate individuals on the Voter ID requirements on election day. We presently have three committees working on each of these areas in Story County. If you want to be a part of the drive to register and educate voters, please contact us.

Submitted by Carolyn Klaus
**LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT 2017-2018**

**Legislative Wake-Up Forums**
The LWV of Ames and Story County scheduled four wake-ups this year. We expanded further in the county this year with scheduling the first ever Wake-Up in Story City. It was well attended and the co-sponsor, Kiwanis of Story City and Roland, has invited LWV to schedule one in Roland next year. We are very pleased with the opportunities to branch out into communities previously not having a LWV connection. The welcome and cooperation we have received from Nevada, Gilbert and now Story City has been remarkable and we are very appreciative of all their efforts to make these Wake-Ups successful.

Wake-Up Dates are/were:
- **January 3rd** – Nevada
- **February 17th** – Ames, Co-sponsored by Youth and Shelter Services
- **March 3rd** - Story City, Co-sponsored by Story City-Roland Kiwanis
- **April 7th** - Gilbert

**2018 LWV Lobby Day at the Capitol**
On February 21, Co-Presidents Becky Coats and Nancy Halvorson attended Lobby Day. Unfortunately, no other members were in a position to attend. We usually have a much better representation and are very hopeful more will attend next year. This is an informative time to meet with Legislators and gain valuable insight into what is happening on the floor as bills are presented, argued and subsequently passing or not making it through.


Reporting on the status of water quality legislation, lobbyist Craig Patterson has signed Senate File 512 and called it “a good first step” in cleaning Iowa’s waterways, the original Iowa’s Water and Land Legacy (IWiLL) bill continues to be the goal because it contains an increase in the state sales tax to provide needed funding.

Lobbyist Amy Campbell said that although an expansion to the state’s Bottle Bill did not make it through funnel week deadline, the fact that an effort to do away with it completely also failed can be seen as a win for conservationists.

Submitted by the Legislative Committee

**ANNUAL FUNDRAISING REPORT 2017-2018**

The 2018 fundraising year began with a new project. The fundraising committee designed t-shirts and fleece jackets. The t-shirts cost $10 each and sell for $15. Jackets sell for $30 and the League receives $7 each. Each shirt and jacket displays our logo.

On October 15 the 2018 annual fundraising letters were mailed. This is the League’s only donor solicitation each year and we thank all who responded with a gift and continued to support us. Our 2018 fundraising goal is $6,000. The solicitation letter listed 11 new and expanded LWV projects in need of donor support:
- $275 to purchase 2000 mini American flags to hand out at the July 4th parade and other county outreach events.
- $560 for LWV to expand and promote voter registration, education and social media activities.
- $200 to convert the 75th anniversary of the 19th amendment from VHS to DVD’s – one for each state chapter.
- $300 to co-host the State of the City luncheon.
- $315 to promote and recognize the 2018 Make Democracy Work Award.
- $300 to participate in Welcome Fest at ISU to engage new students.
- $600 for membership scholarships for 20 ISU students to join the League of Women Voters
- $150 for six membership information orientations.
- $800 to complete a microphone and PA system purchase for educational events and forums.
- $500 for the national fee and the expansion of VOTE411.org to increase visibility and outreach.

On November 29, a portion of the sales at Worldly Goods in Ames was designated to the LWV. During the 4-Hour span of time, sales were a total of $2,100. Worldly Goods gave the League 20% of the proceeds, $420, to the League. This was considered a successful fundraising event. This was the second year for this event and we exceeded last year's sales when the proceeds to the League were only $287.

As of March 1, the fundraising campaign has raised a total of 75% ($4,500) of its $6,000 goal. We’re grateful to all our 2018 donors for their support of our mission. The campaign runs until June 30. Consider helping us to successfully reach our goal. Your gift of any amount would be greatly appreciated!!

Submitted by George Belitos
MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

The League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County welcomed 24 new members to our League during this time period. The new members were from Ames, Dike, Huxley and Nevada, which makes our outreach in the county very positive.

The people of Story County want involvement in an organization committed to good government that provides individuals a voice on the many issues confronting our community, and our state and federal government.

May 18, 2017, we held a new member recruitment. The Membership Committee hosted new, veteran, and potential members at an evening meeting held at the Northcrest Community social room. The meeting was dedicated to raising awareness of League activities and opportunities for service for new members. All committee chairs shared their responsibilities and described how members can become active participants in the League of Women Voters for Ames and Story County.

June 13, 2017, we held a second orientation for new members and those showing interest at the home of Carolyn Klaus. Various committee chairs shared their responsibilities and described how members can become active participants in the League of Women Voters for Ames and Story County.

On June 8th, the membership committee met with the co-presidents to review responsibilities and activities of the membership committee.

Also during the year two information sessions were held at restaurants for groups requesting LWV details. Carolyn Klaus and Judy Jones, Membership co-chairs hosted a group and Nancy Halverson and Judy Jones met with a group from Alpha Delta Kappa in September.

Current membership Jan 31, 2018

Members 108
Spouses/2nd 23
Students 3
Life 23

There is a need to keep members involved in our League and this will be the challenge for leadership in the coming year. Membership will continue to solicit new members from various avenues during the coming year.

Submitted by Judy Jones

OBSERVER CORPS ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

The Observer Corps is a classic, fundamental function of the League of Women Voters. Simply stated, it is a group of League members who are dedicated to improving local government boards and commissions by observing and reporting what happens at their meetings.

The observer is to be conspicuous at the meeting, sitting in the front row of attendees, wearing the League badge, and taking notes for a report of the proceedings. The observer prepares a report that is published electronically on the website of the League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County.

During the period from April 2017 through March of 2018, the Observer Corps published 97 meeting reports. The members of the Observer Corps, and the governmental bodies that they observed, are as follows:

Carolyn McCall  Mary Ann Schwering
Mary Ann Schwering  Carolyn McCall
Rebecca Hoeppner  Ames Planning &
Ames Planning &
Zoning Commission  Zoning Commission
Miriam Patterson  Ames Community
Ames Community
School Board  School Board
Fran Mauldin  Rebecca Hoeppner
Ames Human
Ames Human
Relations Commission  Relations Commission
John Klaus  John Klaus
Story County Board of
Story County Board of
Supervisors and  Supervisors and
Ames City Council  Ames City Council
Paula Toms  Paula Toms
Jane Punke  Jane Punke
Ames City Council  Ames City Council
Nancy Marks  Nancy Marks
Ames City Council  Ames City Council
Judy Farthing  Judy Farthing
Boards of Supervisors  Boards of Supervisors
Judy Trumpy  Judy Trumpy
Ames Parks &
Ames Parks &
Recreation  Recreation
Commission  Commission

All the reports are accessible to the League members on the League website.

The number of meetings observed and reported is small relative to the total number of city, county, and school board meetings occurring in Story County that could have been observed and reported. Many more observers are needed. If you are willing to join the Corps, please contact Paula Toms, the next Corps Coordinator.

Submitted by John Klaus
Observer Corps Coordinator
What’s Happening...

What Do the Committees Do?
The League has so many new members, it might be useful to list the some of the general duties of each committee and opportunities for volunteering:

**MEETING PLANNING:** (Deb Schildroth, VACANT): Identify and set up speaker schedules for general meetings, information gathering, schedule locations, arrange and set up meetings.

**MEMBERSHIP** (Judy Jones/VACANT): Recruit and contact potential members. Keep new members informed, conduct new member events.

**VOTER EDITOR** (Louise O’Donnell, Jan Beran): Prepare Voter quarterly and for annual meeting, disperse to members.

**VOTER SERVICE** (Mary Sand/VACANT): Organize candidate forums, prepare/carry out forums, update the political directory, organize the State of the Community Event. Organize VOTE 411.org, work with candidates, voter registration.

**FUNDRAISING/FINANCE** (George Bellos /VACANT): Help create a strategic plan, draft an appeal, compile the donor list, record donations.

**OBSERVER CORPS** (Paula Toms): Identify entities to be monitored, attend scheduled meetings of identified entities, report on each, notify the Board on issues which may require input.

**PUBLICITY** (Mary Ann Dilla / VACANT): Attend all meetings and take notes, issue public service announcements, submit PSA’s to area media, speak on broadcast media, handle print advertising and hand-out pieces.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION** (Miriam Patterson /VACANT): Contact legislators, schedule legislator interviews, plan & manage Legislative Wake Ups.

**NOMINATING:** (To be appointed) Identify candidates for Board positions.

**WEBMASTER/FACEBOOK:** (Mike Coveyou/ VACANT) Maintain and update.

*If you wish to review job descriptions, access our website, [www.ameslwv.org](http://www.ameslwv.org) and log in*

The vacancies we will have after our Annual Meeting in April are:

Co-chairs for - Membership, Meeting Planning, Finance, and Publicity. We need two co-chairs each for Legislative Action and Voter Service (current chairs will train). We also need computer savvy individuals who can help out with the maintenance and updating of [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) prior to elections.

If you have questions, or if you think you could be interested in assisting in any way please contact one of the Nomination Committee Members:

Jane Halliburton jhistory24@gmail.com 515.232.8681
Sue Koehrsen suekoehrsen@gmail.com 563.260.0955
Mike Coveyou mcoveyou@gmail.com 515.314.3730

Make a difference!

**The LWV Book Club**

You’re invited to join the LWV Book Club! We meet the 4th Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m.

The April selection is *The Senator Next Door: A Memoir from the Heartland*, Amy Klobuchar. May’s selection is *Al Franken: Giant of the Senate*, Al Franken. The group is non-partisan; the selections are mostly (but not always) non-fiction. The group is open to all League members.

If you are interested and would like to see the books chosen so far for the year go to [LWV of Ames and Story County Book Club](http://LWV of Ames and Story County Book Club). If you have questions or would like to join us, Email jcnoland@mac.com.

*Non-Partisan, Energetic and Dedicated Group Seeking Applicants Eager to Make a Difference on Its Board. Call 515-231-3746 or 515-290-6486 for a Good Time.*
The NAACP Banquet

Nineteen local League members attended the NAACP 18th annual Freedom Fund Banquet on February 1 at the Gateway Hotel. Keynote speaker was Aiddy Phomvisay, Director of Central Campus for the Des Moines Public School District and a former Ames teacher. The banquet’s many speakers addressed the topics of diversity and discrimination locally and nationally.

Community Education Meetings
Three recent public meetings were held, thanks to the meeting committee’s planning and execution. All were well attended and answered many questions. On February 16 Presenter Mike Cox, Story County Conservation Director, spoke on the development and Planning of our County Park lands. Of special interest was the area of Dakin’s Lake. November 16, Lucy Martin, Story County Auditor spoke on the changes to Iowa’s Voting Laws to a large group of citizens.

Worldly Goods Fundraiser a Success
On November 29, a portion of the sales at Worldly Goods in Ames was designated to the LWV. During the 4-Hour span of time, sales were a total of $2,100. Worldly Goods gave the League 20% of the proceeds, $420, to the League. This was considered a successful fundraising event. This was the second year for this event and we exceeded last year's sales when the proceeds to the League were just $287.

Issues Chats
From time to time the co-presidents hold informal issue chats where one subject is discussed or anyone may address a topic they are interested in. The chat on December 28 at the home of Nancy Halvorson discussed the Bottle Bill.
Join in our next ‘Issues Chat’ session for another lively discussion with other League members. Keep your eyes peeled for an email invitation.
To read more about the issues and positions of the local, state, and national Leagues, go to the website: www.ameslwv.org/

REVIEW OF 2018 LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS
Thursday, May 17, 7 p.m., The Ames Public Library
Amy Campbell, LWV Lobbyist

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