One of the important missions of the LWV of Ames and Story County is our Community Education Program. Each year we schedule monthly informative presentations for the public which bring issues to the forefront in a non-partisan environment. Recent programs were on the subjects of Human Trafficking in Iowa, Ames New Rental Laws, and Mexican Americans and Police Misuse. The programs employ experts in their subjects to present the information.

LWV members met January 17 and built a broad ranging list of issues for consideration. In addition to the programs the members discussed topics for position studies and our informal issue chats.

Subjects which garnered interest and follow up were:

- How Iowa judges are chosen now and in the future.
- Mental health services in Story County.
- Hog confinement laws and the matrix system.
- The legislative process, how it works.
- The restoration of voters’ rights.
- A revisit of the LWV waste refuse study with an update based on climate change.
- Support for public education and private education in Iowa.
- A review with the Ames Climate Action team.
- The state of EMS in Story County.
- Social services in Story County, a status report.
- A community ID program.
- The Iowa Economic Development Program.
- Storm water management.
- Vote by mail – how does it work.
- The City of Ames comprehensive plan development.
- The Iowa Able Foundation informative briefing.

This extensive list will be prioritized and developed for follow up. Several of these issues are already in the works.

Visit our website for the information on our existing local positions and LWV.org/Iwvia-positions for the State’s. Once a position is taken LWV monitors any actions regarding the issue, lobbies, and advocates for the position.

Community Education Program

STAND YOUR GROUND LAWS IN IOWA

Thursday, February 7, 6:30-8:30
Ames Library Auditorium
**The Presidents’ Message**

Happy Winter! As we prepare this message most of the Midwest is bracing for record setting cold! It seems impossible that we are nearing the end of our two year term as Co-Presidents but here we are.

Our Nominations Committee is hard at work to fill all open Board positions. If they contact you about one of these vacancies, please consider if you are able to serve. It is a great experience no matter the particular position. We have a couple special opportunities coming up for our members.

First, as a co-sponsor of **Ready to Run** on February 15, we have one complimentary registration that one of our members is welcome to use. Please contact either of us if you are interested. You do not have to commit for the entire workshop, we can split it up with more than one person. Check it out in this newsletter and let us know ASAP if you are interested or need more info.

Registration is required and space is limited. Regular registration is $25 per person.

The second opportunity is another event we are co-sponsoring along with the **50/50 in 2020** organization. This is a workshop held at the Capitol that is specifically geared toward women who are considering a run for office at the State level. See information at [http://50-50in2020.org/events/](http://50-50in2020.org/events/) and in an article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please also check out in other articles information about **Capitol Day for LWV** on February 20th and our **Annual Meeting Luncheon** on April 13th at the Gateway Hotel. We hope to have many of you join us at both of these events. And for those who have been around "awhile", yes, we are shaking things up a bit at our annual meeting. This year we are switching to a luncheon rather than the usual brunch. We hope everyone will enjoy something a little different.

Thank you to everyone for being a part of this amazing organization.

Stay Warm!

Nancy & Becky

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**CALENDAR**

**February 7 (Thursday):** Stand Your Ground Laws program, Ames Public Library 6:30 to 8:30

**February 20 (Wednesday):** LWVIA Capitol Day, Iowa State Capitol Building, Des Moines; 9:00 a.m.

**February 23 (Saturday):** Legislative Wake Up; Nevada City Hall, 8:45 to 10:00 a.m.

**February 28, (Thursday):** NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, Gateway Center; 5:30 p.m. (note date change)

**March 8, (Friday):** Women’s Day

**March 12-13, (Tuesday & Wednesday):** 50/50 in 2020, Capitol Building, Des Moines

**March 21, (Thursday):** Program to Be Announced, Northminster Presbyterian Church; 7:00 p.m.

**March 21, (Thursday):** Environmental Action Day, State Capitol

**March 30, (Saturday):** Legislative Wake Up, Ames City Council Chambers, City Hall; 8:45 to 10:00 a.m.

**April 13, (Saturday):** Annual Meeting, Gateway Center, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**May 4, (Saturday):** Legislative Wake Up, Roland City Library, 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. (date may change)

**May 16, (Thursday):** 2019 Iowa Legislative Session Review program, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 7 p.m.

**June 7-8, 2019 (Friday/Saturday):** LWVIA State Convention, ISU Alumni Center, Ames

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**REMINDER**

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

Be a part of this exciting year for LWV of Ames and Story County by renewing your membership. Our 2019-2020 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 about your membership and whether you’ve paid for the current year, please email Carolyn at candjklaus@aol.com or phone her at 515-231-0857.

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**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

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Be sure to follow us on Facebook at: League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County

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Becky Coats & Nancy Halvorson
Co-Presidents, LWV of Ames and Story County

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The election of 2018 may be over but the League is continuing their effort to be sure everyone is informed and understands the new voter ID laws in Iowa. Carolyn Klaus heads up the effort to spread the word in the community about what is required to exercise your right to vote. She reports:

**Please read and share the changes for voting in elections in 2019. It is the goal of the League to get information out to Story County voters.**

You WILL BE REQUIRED to present an ID at the polls in all elections in 2019 and in the future. Listed below are the ID’s that will be accepted at polling locations:

1) **Iowa driver’s license**
2) **Iowa non-operator’s identification card**
3) **U.S. passport**
4) **U.S. military or veteran’s identification card**
5) **Tribal ID**
6) **Voter identification card** issued under this new law (voter card previously provided by county auditors is not valid for purposes of voting)
7) **If the voter can provide none of these, the voter may establish identity as described under Election Day Registration on the Secretary of State’s website:**

https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/edr.html

Each **active registered voter who doesn’t have** an Iowa driver’s license or an Iowa non-operator’s identification card receives in the mail a voter identification card with a confidential voter verification number. **The voter identification card must be signed by the voter.**

*Voter identification cards are not sent to voters listed by the Iowa DOT as having an Iowa driver’s license or an Iowa non-operator’s identification card. Voters with an Iowa driver’s license or Iowa non-operator identification card receive an acknowledgement card of voter registration, including polling place information.*

**Complicated enough for you? Imagine the voting public’s need for clear and individual information!**

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**Annual Meeting Speaker**

Dr. Kedrowski is the new director for the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics. Most recently Dr. Kedrowski was the executive director for Winthrop University’s Center for Civic Learning and the co-director of its John C. West Forum on Politics and Policy. Kedrowski served as Winthrop’s dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and was named a university Distinguished Professor, Winthrop’s highest faculty award.

Dr. Kedrowski is the author of the book *Media Entrepreneurs and the Media Enterprise in the U.S. Congress* and has authored and co-authored several other books and articles.
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. The Wake-Ups are organized and executed by the Legislative Committee. This session’s schedule of meetings:

**Saturday February 23 – 8:45-10 a.m.**
Nevada City Hall

**Saturday March 30 - 8:45-10 a.m.**
Ames City Council Chambers

**Saturday May 4 – 8:45-10 a.m. (date may change)**
Roland City Library

*In addition, our lobbyist, Amy Campbell, will meet with us to review the 2019 Legislative Session on Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church.*

If you would like to assist in these meetings, contact Judy Trumpy at jmtrumpy@gmail.com.

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**THE STATE OF THE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON**

Co-President Becky Coats moderated the discussion with Dan Culhane of the Chamber of Commerce. This yearly event was held Friday, January 18, at the School Administration Building. This has been a very successful partnership between the League and the Ames Chamber of Commerce. Approximately 80 people heard from community leaders from the City of Ames, Ames Community School District, Mary Greeley Medical Center, the Story County Board of Supervisors, Des Moines Area Community College, and Iowa State University.

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**CAPITOL DAY FEBRUARY 20**

*Save the Date!*

Capitol Day is the opportunity for the League to meet with legislators and our lobbyists to receive updates on our issue priorities. The governor has met with us in the past and also the chairs of the legislative committees involved in our priority issues. This is a great opportunity for members to take action and make our positions known. Contact prez2.lwv@gmail.com if you would like to join LWV members from across the state on February 20.

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**LWV CO-SPONSORS READY TO RUN EVENT FEBRUARY 15**

Ready to Run® Iowa is a nonpartisan campaign training program to encourage women to run for elective office, position themselves for appointive office, work on a campaign or become involved in public life as leaders in their communities. Since 2007, the Catt Center at ISU has offered the Ready to Run® Iowa program as part of a national network founded by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. LWV is a sponsor of this event and as such we are given a guest registration. Contact prez2@lwv@gmail.com if you are interested.

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Visit our website http://www.ameslwv.org
An invitation has been issued to the Iowa members of LWV to join us here in Ames for the State Convention June 7 and 8. A lot of preparation and planning is taking place. The convention is being held at the Iowa State University Alumni Center which offers ADA accommodations as well as an ample free parking.

Ames/Story County LWV is offering overnight hospitality during the convention. Please consider offering members bed and breakfast the Friday night of the convention. It’s a wonderful opportunity to get to know League members from out of town. Please think about the possibility and at a later date we will inform you how to volunteer.

Registration will be open on site 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 7, and from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 8. Pre-registration will be available online March 1st.

Friday evening event at 7:00 p.m. will be an informal presentation on ‘Human Trafficking’ with Dr. George Belitsos, Chair of the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery.

Saturday Keynote Speakers: A Conversation with Andie Dominick and Carol Hunter from the Des Moines Register. Andie is a Pulitzer Prize Winner for Investigative Journalism for her series examining the damaging consequences for Iowa residents of the privatization of the state’s Medicaid program. Carol Hunter is Executive Editor of the Des Moines Register. Rather than a speech, Andie and Carol will have a conversation with the convention attendees, opening up the floor for questions and comments.

Silent Auction: Please consider donating an item or more than one. All proceeds help the LWVIA budget.

Hotel: The Radisson Hotel, Ames Conference Center at ISU, 2609 University Blvd, is hosting our members who need overnight lodging. We have a block of rooms at a rate of $109.00 with a deadline of May 15th for the special rate. We are hosting a continental breakfast at the Alumni Center beginning at 7:45 a.m. Saturday.

LWVIA provides some funding to cover convention costs. Registration fees are set to cover food and other costs.

Committee chairs for the convention planning are:
- Food Service: Bev Kruempel & Mary Sand
- Publicity: Nancy Halvorson & Becky Coats
- Program: Louise O’Donnell & Sue Koehrsen
- Nametags: Judy Jones
- Exhibitors: Linda Hagedorn and Judy Trumpy
- Registration: Carloyn Klaus, Nancy Marks, Lynn Bishop, Dorothy Yoerger & Dava James
- Silent Auction: Randi Peters
- Runners: Mary Wheelock and Barb Wheelock

If you have a specific interest in assisting with the planning and execution, please communicate your interest by email to prez2.lwv@gmail.com. We are looking for volunteers!

NAACP ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND BANQUET FEBRUARY 28

2019 Keynote Speaker

DR. KESHO Y. SCOTT
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
GRINNELL COLLEGE

Gateway Hotel and Event Center
Social 5:30 p.m., Dinner & Program 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Keynote Speaker - Dr. Kesho Y. Scott
Associate Professor Grinnell College

LWV always has a great showing for this event and we hope you can join us. We will pre-register as a group: Send your reservation to: prez2.lwv@gmail.com or call Nancy 515-231-3746 or Becky 515-290-6486
Cost is $75.00/person
You may pre-pay by sending check to: LWV of Ames and Story County, P O Box 2266 Ames, IA 50010

Click to follow our lobbyists on bills this session where we have an interest. Under “select client” scroll down to League of Women Voters to get info on many bills.
http://www.ialobby.com/billtracker/
MEMBERSHIP

Welcome

On December 12, the LWV hosted a welcome orientation meeting for new members of our chapter. Approximately 20 attended and a question and answer session ensued after committee heads introduced the different aspects of the League’s mission. LWV of Ames and Story County has the most members of any League chapter in Iowa at 158 members.

NEW HANDBOOKS SOON AVAILABLE

Board members are currently reviewing a New Board Member Handbook put together by Judy Jones and Barb Wheelock. Also in the works is an orientation book for general members. Both are intended for availability at the April Annual Meeting.

THE OBSERVER CORPS

The Observer Corps continues to recruit members. We need members to attend meetings for Mary Greeley and for the Human Relations Commission. There are other meetings we could attend, such as all the different school boards and city councils in each town. If you are interested contact Paula Toms at 515-291-7987.

Current members and service assignments are:
City Council: Mim Patterson, John Klaus, & Nancy Marks
Ames Community School: Rebecca Hoeppner
Story County Board of Supervisors: Jane Punke, Judy Farthing, John Klaus, and Paula Toms
Ames Planning and Zoning: Fran Mauldin
Ames Municipal Hospital: --------
Ames Human Relations: --------

UNDER THE GOLDEN DOME

Download the Iowa Public Radio app and then listen to the podcast Under the Golden Dome, IPR’s coverage of the Iowa legislature. It’s a great way to stay informed.
http://www.iowapublicradio.org/topic/under-golden-dome#stream/0

FUNDRAISING

The fundraising committee reported that the Worldy Goods fundraiser on November 14 was a great success with sales that evening 10% more than the previous year. LWV received $460 from the event. Thank you to Worldy Goods!

George Belitsos, fundraising committee chairman, reported that the fundraising effort for this year is close to goal. We also received a $1000 contribution to the Education Fund from the Bates Foundation*.

A couple of reminders – the donations to the LWV of Ames and Story County Education Fund are tax deductible, but donations to LWV of Ames and Story County are not.

Often generous donors believe they have benefited the local chapter when they answer a fundraising letter from LWV. Be sure to check that it is a local request and not National if contributing to the Story County Chapter is your intent.

*The Alben F. Bates and Clara G. Bates Foundation, located in Elmhurst, Illinois, has been assisting entities such as the LVW of Ames and Story County Education Fund for over 65 years.

COMMUNITY MLK DAY

Co-President Becky Coats assists in cutting the cake for the Martin Luther King Annual Celebration at Ames Middle School on Monday, January 21. The League was a co-sponsor of the event.
NEW RENTAL ORDINANCE
INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Sara Van Meeteren, City Building Official, speaks November 15

About 25 people gathered to hear details about the City’s rental code, including the rental cap ordinance on Thursday, November 15, at Northminster Church. Sara described very involved procedures and exceptions. The details of the complex code can be accessed at www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/inspections/rental-occupancy-regulations-and-rental-concentration-information or by calling the City of Ames Inspection Division at 515-239-5153.

STAND YOUR GROUND LAW
INFORMATIONAL MEETING FEB. 7

On Thursday February 7th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Ames Public Library Auditorium, a non-partisan community discussion of the Stand Your Ground Law will be presented by the League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County and the Carrie Chapman Catt Center at Iowa State. 

A panel discussion will take place allowing for audience questions or comments. Members of the panel are Story County Attorney Jessica Reynolds, Story County Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald, Ako Abdul-Samad, Founder of Creative Visions and State Legislator, Lisa Heddens, State Legislator and Executive Director of NAMI of Central Iowa, a representative from the Ames Police Department, and Wayne Clinton, former educator and former Story County Supervisor.

The moderator will be Karen Kedrowski, Director of the Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University. This non-partisan presentation addresses the current status of Stand Your Ground in Iowa.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY
MARCH 8
#Balance for Better

For the past several years LWV has participated in the International Women’s Day Celebration at the Ames Public Library. Planning is underway and LWV needs one or two members who will step up and help with the effort. A planning meeting is held each Wednesday from 12-1 p.m. and the day of the event requires a few hours helping to set up and host. Contact prez2.lwv@gmail.com if you are interested in supporting this event.

SEE YOURSELF HERE – GETTING WOMEN ELECTED WORKSHOP

This workshop is geared to women considering running for office at the state level.

50/50 in 2020 is an organization with the specific goal of increasing the number of women in public office. It supports women during all stages of running for and serving in public office.

A workshop will be held March 12 and 13 in Des Moines. A $30 registration fee includes an afternoon session starting at 1:30 on the 12th at the Capitol. A networking social hour and dinner that evening are included in registration and will be at another location with a shuttle provided.

This event is co-sponsored by LWVIA with the 50/50 in 2020 organization. All meals and lodging other than the evening of the 12th are at participants’ expense. Registration will be after February 1. http://50-50in2020.org/events/

Ames Council News

Join the over 1100 people who subscribe to Council News. Council News is a short email informing citizens of Ames about the actions of the Ames City Council. To subscribe please visit this URL: http://cn.amesnews.net
CAFOs and the LWV

LWV of Ames & Story County has a land use position that supports preserving and ensuring sustainable use of prime agricultural land. The League of Women Voters social policy is to promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) are not consistent with either this land use policy or this social policy.

Last month, the Story County Board of Supervisors voted to recommend approval to the DNR on three factory farm applications. Despite overwhelming public opposition, Longview Pork LLC and the Henry Family's applications were approved by the DNR.

The League attended the Supervisors meeting January 15 to support their opposition position.

THE LEAGUE ADVOCATES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

League of Women Voters of Iowa is a member of the Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa’s largest and most comprehensive environmental organization. LWVIA is one of more than 65 organization and numerous individuals who join together to work for a safe, healthy environment and sustainable future for Iowa. IEC will be holding their Environmental Lobby Day on March 21 and League of Women Voters would like a member or two that might be willing to hand out materials about us at a table. There is no cost for the members, and League will supply the materials. If you are interested in helping us advocate for water quality, sustainable environmental resources, and clean air, contact Karen, (515) 864-1416.

Environmental Lobby Day
Thursday, March 21, 2019
9 AM – 1 PM
Iowa State Capitol

KHOI-FM Community Radio in Ames records our candidate forums for later broadcast on their station and placement on their Web site. These broadcasts may be edited to a length which fits the program format. Visit https://khoifm.org for past forums and to access the coming forums on the website.

OUR NEW SOUND SYSTEM

LWV of Ames and Story County is in the proud possession of a new sound system which will help facilitate our different forums, informative meetings, and wake ups, which are held in various venues. The new system assures us of clear and professional meetings.

A new Political Directory is available. The names, numbers, and emails of our government’s representatives are all listed. This Directory is handed out at various events and at our annual meeting.

WHY WE DO STUDIES

By Karen Person, LWV of Metropolitan Des Moines

“Studies take a lot of time and are a lot of work for League members, so why do we bother? Because if we as a League want to take action - such as to advocate for or against a particular legislative bill or fight against a city ordinance - Leagues at local, state, or national levels can ONLY do so when they have a “program” that allows for that advocacy. Program is defined as ‘selected governmental issues that the League has chosen for concerted study and action at the national, state or local level’. Program is not the same thing as “programs” which are League meetings where there may be speakers, discussions or other activities.”