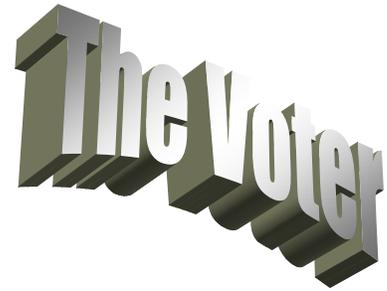




LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WASHINGTON COUNTY

July 2006, VOL. 53, ISSUE 1



CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 15 Board Meeting at Joyce Hale's, 285 Cleburn, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12 LEAGUE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP EVENT,
5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Place to be confirmed later.

From Libby's Desk

While the Washington County League of Women Voters generally takes a break in the summer, lots of planning has been going on. Karen Minkel met with several board members to begin fleshing out the year's programs around our theme, "Smart Growth." (See article below.) Our two new board members, Carolyn Madison, Membership, and Georgia Kunze, Publicity, met with a couple of board members for an orientation to the League and to their portfolio responsibilities. And the Ukrainian Host Committee has met several times to plan a program on the theme, "Accountable Governance," for the four Ukrainians and their facilitator, who will spend eight days with our League in October. (See details below.)

You will receive more information about the September 12th membership party later, but please be thinking about friends and acquaintances who might be interested in joining the League. Please forward names to Carolyn Madison, 2149 E. Mission Blvd., Fay, '03; 530-1111 (cell); CarolynBMadison@aol.com.

I hope you are enjoying a relaxing summer and will join in League activities in the fall.

Ukrainian Hosting Program

Our League received a grant from the National League of Women Voters to host four Ukrainians and their facilitator, October 14-22, 2006. The NLWV was awarded a grant from the Open World Program and selected ten local Leagues from around the country to implement different theme programs. Our topic is "Accountable Governance."

The Ukrainian Host Committee has put together a tentative schedule. Our guests will arrive in Little Rock on Saturday, October 14th, and we hope that the Pulaski County LWV will help with activity scheduling there. A visit to the Clinton Library and a pot luck dinner with LWVPC are in the offing.

Once in Fayetteville late on the 15th, our visitors will begin their home stay experience while learning about city and county government. Our tentative schedule has them spending a day at City Hall, lunching with city officials, attending Drug Court and meeting individually with city department heads in areas of special interest. They'll attend the October 17th City Council Meeting.

This should be an exciting time just before our November general election, and the Ukrainians will meet with County Election officers, attend a League sponsored candidate forum and a candidate rally if possible.

Our guests will spend a day on the University of Arkansas campus with lunch at the Law School to learn about administrative law and to share ideas with faculty and students. We hope the exchange of cultures will continue at our October 18th League Monthly Meeting, which will be a pot luck with the Ukrainians initiating the program.

Other tentative activities include a tour of the Jones Center and Jones Shop, where the non-profit/government relationship will be explored. Lunch is planned at Tyson’s as well as a meeting with their governmental affairs personnel. A tour and meeting with Ozark Guidance Director David Williams will follow.

There will also be visits to CAT and the Government Channel and a discussion of the media’s role in keeping government accountable. And squeezed into this busy schedule will be, we hope, ample time to explore our beautiful Ozarks.

Ukrainian Hosting Committee members are Steve and Jeanine Neuse, Mary Alice Serafini, Sally Kelley, Nancy McCartney, Bettie Lu Lancaster, Karen Minkel, Libby Wheeler and Margaret Clark. We welcome your ideas and will be looking for volunteers to take our guests shopping, perhaps cook a meal in your home or host a barbeque.

Upcoming Elections

According to the Election Commission, the following elections are on the calendar for this fall. Please mark your calendars now.

- August 8 Mayoral Election, Tontitown. Candidate is unopposed.
- September 12 Sales Tax Vote on Sewer, Road and Trail needs. LWVWC will supply more information on this ballot issue in August.
- September 19 School Board/Millage (where applicable) elections
- October 10 Fayetteville Annexation Vote
- November 7 General Election

**Meeting in the Middle, 47th National Convention
June 10 – 13, 2006 Minneapolis, MN.**

Our introduction to the National Convention began with a pre-conference diversity workshop, “Cross-Cultural Conversations and Community Transformation” presented by Vivian Jenkins Nelsen. Ms. Nelsen’s presentation was designed to inspire League members to work with “diverse communities to produce new civic outcomes.”

The delegate briefings were an informative introduction to the convention and what was to come through strict parliamentary procedures, plenary sessions, caucuses, and workshops. League delegates work actively from early morning to late night!

Dr. Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institute addressed “America’s Democracy in a Partisan Era” in his keynote speech. LWVUS President, Kay J. Maxwell, spoke regarding league issues (fiscal responsibility, teamwork, leadership, priorities, democracy agenda, nonpartisanship, and speaking with one voice) in her “Reflections” address.

A Judicial Panel including moderator, Bert Brandenburg and panelists, The Honorable Michael Wolff, Professor Charlie Geyh, and Mary C. McQueen discussed “Understanding the System to Defend the Courts.” Garrison Keillor was the highlight speaker at the banquet.

Workshops and training sessions addressed numerous topics of interest, technology, membership, civil liberties, fund raising, building awareness, and safe-guarding democracy. Caucuses addressed dozens of non-recommended items and resolutions.

The National Program for 2006-2008 includes the adoption of a Death Penalty position by concurrence. The position reads “The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.” Other motions approved include a two year study of immigration policies; requiring a voter-verified paper ballot or paper record with electronic voting systems; elevating the restoration of our System of Checks and Balances and Separation of Powers; supporting the concept of Internal neutrality;

and retaining all existing positions in the areas of Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.

The budget for 2006-2007 was approved and Per Member Payments (PMP) rates were approved...\$26.30 for 2006-2007 and \$26.80 for 2007-2008.

Arkansas voting delegates included Jeanine and Steven Neuse of the Washington County League and Kathleen Velek, president of the Pulaski County League. Stephanie Johnson attended as a member of the Nominating Committee.

Jeanine & Steven Neuse

League Donates Water Materials to Library

Water has been a major concern of the LWV for years. The importance of implementing better water management is critical as NW Arkansas rapidly develops and global warming increases. LWVWC has purchased a series of six books on urban stream practices and donated them to the Fayetteville Library. These books help city dwellers to understand wastewater management on personal and municipal levels. As with the proverbial horse being led to water and trying to make it drink, we have bought the books, now we have to encourage people to read them. We have taken the first step, our next job is to let people know they are there!

The following books are located in the library's reference section: "An Integrated Framework to Restore Small Urban Watersheds," "Methods to Develop Restoration Plans for Small Urban Watersheds," "Urban Stream Repair Practices," "Pollution Source Control Practices," "Unified Stream Assessment: A User's Manual," and "Unified Subwatershed and Site Reconnaissance: A User's Manual." The books are a wonderful resource to individuals interested in management of storm water on their own property, students (junior high through college) studying water issues, ecology teachers, scouts and 4-Hers, and developers. Please keep them in mind and recommend them whenever you can. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they had to be replaced because of heavy use!

Joyce Hale

Focus on Smart Growth

Growth is inevitable and desirable, but destruction of community character is not. The question is not whether your part of the world is going to change. The question is how.

-Ed McMahon, Senior Fellow with the Urban Land Institute

The rapid growth in Northwest Arkansas has created economic and cultural opportunities while also causing anxiety about change and problems associated with growth. The critical issues that face communities during periods of rapid growth and exploring ways to address these issues will be the focus of the League's programs for the upcoming year. Below is a quick preview of the programs to be offered:

September: Membership Meeting

October: Presentation by our Ukrainian Guests

November: Mapping our Natural Resources

December: Attainable Housing

January: Safeguarding our Water Supply

February: Population Growth and Diversity

March: Local Programming

April: Smart Growth Summary and Where the League Stands

May: Annual Meeting

Please contact Karen Minkel at 444-8348 or karen_minkel@yahoo.com if you are interested in organization any of the programming mentioned above.