



The League of Women Voters Washington County

OCTOBER 2006, VOL. 53, ISSUE 3

CALENDAR

October 9, Monday, Board Meeting, Joyce Hale's home, 285 W. Cleburn, 6:30 p.m.

****October 18, Wednesday, Monthly Member Meeting,** "An Evening with our Ukrainian Visitors," **Potluck Dinner,** Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, 4703 N. Crossover Road. Dinner at 6:30; Garden Tour at 5:45 p.m. (See article below)

From Libby's Desk

It was good to see many of you at the League's Membership Party on September 12th, which marks the official beginning of our League year. Lots of planning has been going on for this year, and lots of activity is underway. Thanks are due to Carolyn Madison for a successful membership gathering; to Jo Bennett, who prepared the material on the September 12th ballot issues, which appeared in the Voter and was shared with other groups; to Jo and Genie Donovan, who spoke to Butterfield Trail Village residents on these ballot issues; to Joyce Hale, who represented the League at the environmental Secchi Day on Beaver Lake; and to Mary Bess Mulhollan, who set out League material at the Omni Peace Rally.

Mary Dillard, aided by Genie Donovan and Janet Torbett, is overseeing the fall Candidate Forums for our League. Mary Alice Serafini moderated the school board forum; Brenda Gullett, the forum for District 89 of the Arkansas House. These were aired on the Government Channel. And as of this writing, three more forums are being scheduled – Fayetteville City Council, Wards 1 and 2, and the District 92 seat for the Arkansas House. Thanks, Mary.

Finally, **the Ukrainians are coming!** Sponsoring five Ukrainians in Fayetteville to study "Accountable Governance" for eight days, October 14-22, is a *huge* undertaking for our League. An abbreviated schedule of activities for our visitors is included below. Please attend the potluck with your favorite dish on October 18th. Also you are welcome at the luncheons on Tuesday, October 16th and Friday, October 20th, but you need to call Judy Carey at 443-7033 to make a reservation if you plan to attend. The deadline for reservations is October 12th. Hope to see you at these events. We need your support.

Monthly Member Meeting

As noted above, our October monthly member meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the new Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. This is a potluck dinner, so please come with your favorite dish. The program will be provided by our Ukrainian guests and will be about life in the Ukraine. There will be time for questions. Botanical Garden Director Scott Starr will lead a tour of the garden at 5:45 prior to the dinner. The emphasis for our Ukrainian guests will be on how public/private cooperation and funding has resulted in the realization of this resource for our community.

Summary of Ukraine Hosting Program, October 14-22, 2006

Accountable Governance

Citizen Participation in Local Governance

Public/Private Cooperation in Delivery of Services and Economic Development

October 14, 2006 – Arrival in Little Rock. One night hotel stay. Dinner with LWV of Pulaski County

October 15, 2006 – Tour of Little Rock. Brunch at Clinton Library. Tour of Clinton Library. Drive to Fayetteville to host family. Dinner with host family (League members to provide food)

Host families: Bettie Lu Lancaster –2

Cathy Boyd – 2 plus facilitator - 3

October 16, 2006 – Local Government Day

Walking tour of downtown Fayetteville, ending at City Hall. Overview of Fayetteville City Government with Susan Thomas and Karen Minkel; Lunch at Powerhouse with Mayor and members of City Council. Attend WC Drug Court. Meet with County Judge Jerry Hutton. Informal dinner at the Neuse's

October 17, 2006 – Election Issues

Meet with Nancy Varvil and Karen Pritchard to discuss HOVA, see voting machine, etc. VIP viewing of a candidate forum hosted by LWVWC. **Lunch at Uncle Gaylord's with Mary Dillard speaking on "The Fundamentals of Campaigning."** Local legislators invited; League members invited. Taping of Ozarks at Large segment with Kyle Kellams. Tour of Campaign Headquarters. Attend City Council meeting. Late dinner on Dickson St. with Ukrainian and American students.

October 18, 2006 – U of A and Ukrainian Presentation Day

Tour of U of A campus led by Ethel Simpson. Meet with Administrative Law Professor Christopher R. Kelley. Lunch at Law School with program by our Ukrainian guests on government in the Ukraine. Meet with Todd Shields to discuss the Arkansas Poll, etc;

League Member Monthly Meeting – potluck at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, Program on the Ukraine presented by our guests.

October 19, 2006 – Public/Private Cooperation in Delivery of Services, Economic Development and Accountable Government

Tour of Jones Center and Jones Shop led by Dan Ferritor. Meet with EOA and Single Parent Scholarship Fund staff. Lunch at Tyson Foods with tour and discussion led by Archie Schaffer. Visit to Ozark Guidance, tour and meeting with David Williams. Dinner with host families (League members provide food)

October 20, 2006 – Media's Role in Accountable Government

Shadowing of city officials in areas of Ukrainians' individual interest (police, parks, planning – or others such as public schools, youth center.) **Lunch at U of A Multicultural Center, Arkansas Union, with program on the media's role in keeping government accountable. Panel discussion by journalism professors Hoyt Purvis, Larry Foley, Louise Montgomery and Gerald Jordan. League Members invited.** Visit to CAT led by Sky Bleylock. Interview with local newspaper (need help with this contact); Farewell barbeque dinner at home of Joyce and Jay Hale

October 21, 2006 – All-American Day

Farmer's Market on the Fayetteville Square. University of Arkansas Football Game with pre-game luncheon. Shopping. Light dinner at Nancy McCartney's (League members provide food)

October 22, 2006

Brunch at Hale's house (if departure time allows); Departure from XNA

Needed are small gifts for a gift bag for each Ukrainian visitor

Planning Committee members: Bettie Lu Lancaster, Margaret Clark, Sally Kelley, Karen Minkel, Steve and Jeanine Neuse, Nancy McCartney, Mary Alice Serafini and Libby Wheeler.

Membership Dues for the New League Year are Due

The League is beginning its new year, and dues for 2006-07 are due. Single memberships are \$35 and family memberships are \$52, the same as last year. Please send dues to LWVWC, PO Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702. And please include you e-mail address. Thanks!

Annual Membership Gathering – September 12, 2006 Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Annual Membership Gathering at the Fayetteville Public Library on September 12. There were about fifty people in attendance, and at least five new memberships have resulted so far. Extra thanks goes to the League Board members who prepared and provided many varied refreshments, especially Jana Britton who did the punch. Appreciation in particular belongs to Libby Wheeler, President, for all her effort in organizing, managing and arranging the meeting, materials and agenda. New members are:

Brenda Gullet (former State Representative)

Jean Kelley (daughter of member Sally Kelley)

Rev. Kerry Mueller and Rev. Dave Hunter (ministers of the Unitarian Church)

Cephus Richard (candidate for State Representative)

Jimmy Stewart (graduate student)

Carolyn B. Madison

LWVWC Nomination

Our League has nominated the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association for the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's ENVY Award in the category of "Innovation." Joyce Hale and Martha Ward prepared the lengthy nomination form. Details next month.

Other Events

The Gridiron Show – This is not a League sponsored or endorsed event, but one you might enjoy. The political comedy show takes place on October 6th and 7th at 8:00 p.m. at the Rogers Little Theater. The show is sponsored by the American Association of University Women and the Society of Professional Journalists, who write and perform the skits. Proceeds support scholarships. For tickets, call Wanda Stephens, 442-5250.

Mental Health Candlelight Vigil will be held on Sunday, October 8th, 7:00-8:00 p.m., on the Fayetteville Town Center Plaza. This event is sponsored by the Mental Health Association in Northwest Arkansas and the Springdale Affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Our League has a stand on mental health, which includes supporting the removal of stigma about mental illness and working with other groups to ensure proper care and treatment is available for the mentally ill. Your attendance at the Vigil is a way to take action on a League consensus.

The following editorial was in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Northwest Edition on Saturday, August 26, 2006. In case some members missed it we thought you might enjoy seeing it. Sent to the Voter staff by alert State President Mary Alice Serafini.

ONE OF her many admirers remembered Peg Anderson of Fayetteville from their days together in the Fayetteville Garden Club. When she joined the club, the admirer didn't realize membership involved much more than discussions about rhododendrons. It was, Admirer of Peg recalls, "the most politically active garden club" in the known universe. Well, sure, with a spark plug like Peg Anderson around, that was bound to be the case. She was a long-time fixture in the politics of Fayetteville, of Washington County, even of Arkansas. When she died last week at the age of 84, her obituary had space for only a brief summary of her active and eventful life. She served for 10 years on the quorum court in Washington County, but her political involvement was much broader than that. For years, she was active in the League of Women Voters. She built the Washington County chapter of the League into one of the most influential chapters in the state.

Along the way, she wrote the league's booklet, Government in Arkansas—five editions' worth. The booklet was the first comprehensive look at how Arkansas government worked written for a general audience. It's been used as a text in high school and college classrooms. Legislators have been known to use it as a handy reference. (Goodness knows they need all the help they can get.) Via her booklet, Peg Anderson taught whole generations of Arkies about their state government. We, too, can remember using it as a handy-dandy guide to state government. Ms. Anderson later wrote a similarly comprehensive guide to the history and workings of Washington County government.

In 1979, Peg Anderson worked tirelessly in favor of rewriting Arkansas' antiquated constitution. Voters turned down the revision, but not before she used the occasion to teach even more Arkansans about their state.

Another admirer of hers mentioned that, while Peg Anderson devoted years to the nonpartisan League of Women Voters, she herself was intensely partisan. Once, when Ms. Anderson had to change doctors, she quizzed the prospective physician to be sure he was a Democrat. She wasn't about to entrust her health to a, gulp, Republican.

All who knew her could tell stories about Peg Anderson's energy and passion. Those qualities united her personal and political lives. She was as good a friend as she was a politico. But perhaps her biggest contribution was the example she set for others. Many of the friends she made went on to lives of public service themselves. She didn't just show others how to do it, she made it look like fun.

From our State President, Mary Alice Serafini:

The Voter is now available in electronic form, thanks to Patsy Ferritor. With the increased cost of the print form of The Voter, plus postage expenses, members who can receive The Voter electronically and are willing to receive it electronically are asked to let new member Jimmy Stewart know. Jimmy's e-mail address is jgstewart@yahoo.com. Jimmy will verify your e-mail address, batch your address with all the others and give them to Patsy Ferritor for the next edition of the Voter. So, please go to your computer and send Jimmy a note via e-mail to verify your e-mail address by October 21. Thanks for helping us debut this new form of The Voter!

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