



The League of Women Voters Washington County



December, 2007, January, 2008, VOL. 53, ISSUE 11

Calendar

Dec. 16, Sun., Carbon Caps Task Force Meeting, will meet to focus on Global Warming legislative action at the Omni office at 902 W. Maple, 1:30 pm.

Dec. 19, Wed., Monthly Membership Meeting, "Water Conservation and Protection," another Smart Growth theme, looks at an update of condominiums on Beaver Lake and onsite sewage treatment systems, Fayetteville Public Library, 11:30. Bring sack lunch, if desired. Drink provided.

Jan. 7, Mon., Board Meeting, Joyce Hale's home 285 W. Cleburn St., Fayetteville, 6:30.

Jan. 16, Wed., Monthly Membership Meeting, "2008 Campaign Issues", Fayetteville Public Library, 6:30.

Jan. 23, Wed., Collaborative Forum, "Fayetteville Shale Play" is the topic for a collaborative forum with LWVWC and Ozark Highlands Group of Sierra Club, U of A Law Court Room, 7:00.

From Joyce's Desk

By the time this VOTER arrives, our part in the Immigration Study will be complete but you can be sure the real work is just beginning. Understanding honest differences is no easy task. The consensus positions will not be entirely what everyone likes, but it is an important beginning. Once LWVUS consensus is defined, we are obligated to connect with our representatives and let them hear the LWV's official voice. We should also discuss immigration FACTS in everyday conversations with family and friends. I still think the LWVUS Immigration Policy Conference pod cast, which will remain on our web page for awhile, is some of the best information I've heard on how we have come to be in this situation and recommendations for improvement. We all look forward to the completion of the immigration report scheduled to come out in late March, 2008.

This season always carries an extra load of events and can reduce attendance of regularly scheduled activities. Unfortunately, problems do not take a holiday. Area water use always demands our attention. I hope you will be in town for our member meeting Dec. 19 and support our speakers with your attendance. Please let other groups and individuals with concerns about water management in our area know about this panel discussion. (Details follow.)

Please note a calendar change. The January board meeting has been moved to the first Monday, Jan. 7th to keep from being in the same week as the member meeting, Jan. 16th.

I hope that all of you had a pleasant Thanksgiving and will enjoy the upcoming holidays as well. It is a very busy time but certainly deserves our attention in sharing love and wishes for peace when much of the world is in such strife.

Global Warming

The LWVUS has made Global Warming a priority issue. Arkansas is finally taking action largely due to citizens in our community who worked very hard to develop and pass legislation to create a Global Warming Commission. These individuals recognize that this is just the start of their work. They have now formed a Carbon Caps Task Force (CCTF) to develop a large registry of individuals concerned and willing to speak to representatives when legislation related to climate change is introduced. If you are concerned about this issue and willing to contact your representatives, email Maya Porter clanarkansas@yahoo.com. The CCTF will be meeting **1:30 pm, Dec. 16th** at the Omni Office at 902 W. Maple. All interested persons are welcome.

Water Conservation and Protection

There has been a lot of interest in the condominium project on Beaver Lake, small subdivisions outside city services and the regulation of onsite water treatment. This program will give you an opportunity to hear from the people directly involved with these issues and their varied opinions. Speakers include: Fred Jacks, Mayor of Bethel Heights; John Gray, Mayor of Greenland; Kevin Harrison, Project Coordinator for Grandview Heights Condominiums and Alison West, Field Inspector for Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Sack lunches are permissible. Coffee and cider will be provided at the Walker Room of Fayetteville Public Library, **11:30, Dec. 19th**.

Fayetteville Shale Play

In order to study the issues surrounding the Fayetteville Shale Play and develop consensus in the state study presented by the Fairfield Bay LWV, the Washington County League is joining with the Ozark Highlands Group of Sierra Club to present an exciting forum. The panel of speakers has not been developed entirely at this writing, but two already accepting the invitation are James Bradbury from Fort Worth, a Texas attorney familiar with the Bartlett Shale projects and Amy Mall, Senior Policy Analyst, Natural Resources Defense Council, who recently testified in Congressional hearings on gas drilling. The program committee hopes to secure a spokesman from the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission and a legislator or landowner living in the affected area.

The Forum is scheduled for **7:00 pm, January 23rd** in the University of Arkansas Law Courtroom. The electronics and communications equipment of this facility will allow Amy Mall to participate from Boulder, Colorado via teleconferencing. DVD's of this program will be made available to the Government Channel, CAT, all state Leagues and legislative representatives in the area of the Fayetteville Shale. All League members are encouraged to attend this important forum or watch the proceeding when it is available to prepare adequately for a consensus deliberation in February. You will find the study summary and questions on our web page www.lwvarwc.org. This material should help prepare you for questions to present our guest panel.

Elaine McNeil Bequest Awarded

At its last meeting, the Board voted to award the \$1,000 Elaine McNeil bequest to Karen Sebold, a master's student in political science at the University of Arkansas.

Karen is taking advantage of two recently available data sets, heretofore sealed, that were collected by Diane Blair during the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections. Diane conducted interviews with dozens of campaign workers during the '92 and '96 races, and Karen is analyzing the content of these interviews and examining the differences in how men and women interpreted the success and failures of the campaigns. She is finding that the women campaign workers emphasized very different reasons for the success of the campaigns and offered very different perspectives than their male counterparts on how the campaign was organized. Her work has implications for candidates running for election. They need to understand the different perspectives of their campaign staff, and this understanding of gender differences can help candidates run a better overall campaign.

It is hoped that Karen will be available to share her results with us at the League's Annual Meeting in May

Presidential Candidate Issues

Just weeks before the earliest caucuses and presidential primaries, the League of Women Voters will hear Dr. Andrew Dowdle, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Arkansas, on issues in the presidential campaign. This program is on Jan 16, 11:30 - 1:00, at the Fayetteville Public Library meeting room, **and is co-sponsored by AAUW**. Bring a sack lunch if you want to eat there. The public is invited.

Dr Dowdle's specialty includes the presidential nominating process, U.S parties and elections, and American national government. He will discuss the top three or four issues voters will probably use to make their choice, other issues we will consider, and effective ways for individuals to influence issues. A list of web sites has been compiled by Janice Torbett on how to get comparative information on candidate stands and voting records. We will hear suggestions on how to evaluate candidate speeches, answers and ads, and various poll results. Questions from the audience are invited.

Wanda Stephens

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS STILL HERE!

The renewed members total 42 and new members 8 this year.
New members since the last Voter: Jim House, Mary Lynn Kennedy, Bill & LeAnn Underwood, and the Serials Department of the University of Arkansas Libraries.
Membership Renewals - the following members have renewed their memberships since the last Voter:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Jo Bennett | William Shuman |
| Jana Britton | Gene Tweraser |
| Mary Burton | Alice Webb |
| Harriet Jansma | Libby Wheeler |
| Barbara Taylor and James Jackson | Marion E. Wyckoff |
| Mary Alice and Phillip Serafini | |

The League's DUES FOR 2007-08 ARE DUE. Single memberships are \$40 and family \$60. Please bring dues to the next meeting or send to LWVWC, P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702. Attached is a Membership Form. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

For those who have not already renewed your membership dues, we ask that you fill out the following form and submit it to our treasurer. If the spouse of a member or a student wishes to join, the dues are half of a regular full membership. There has never been a more important time to promote voter education and issue awareness. Your dues help accomplish this objective.

***** cut here *****

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
2007-08 Membership Renewal Form**

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____ Telephone _____

Individual Membership \$40.00 _____
Spouse 20.00 _____
Student 20.00 _____
TOTAL _____

**Please send your payment to:
LWVWC, P. O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
Post Office Box 4
Fayetteville, AR 72702

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Fayetteville, AR
Permit #461

Voice Mail: 479-575-1841