



The League of Women Voters Washington County

June 2007, July 2007, VOL. 53, ISSUE 8

Calendar

July 27, Friday 6:30-9:30, Summer Social, Joyce Hale's home, 285 W. Cleburn
August 11, Saturday 10:30-12:30, Board Training, Joyce Hale's home
September 10, Monday 6:30, Board Meeting, Joyce Hale's home
September 22, Saturday (See Caroline's article for hours), Membership Meeting,
Fayetteville Public Library

From Joyce's Desk

The previous two terms of Genie Donovan and Libby Wheeler have set a high standard for LWVWC leadership. While I have not been active in LWV long enough to develop "sea legs", I know there are committed members to lend a hand when I get wobbly. I need each member to be available to help maintain the quality programs we have come to expect. As we move into the next election year, the League's information on issues will be very important.

There is no lack of topics to investigate as Northwest Arkansas continues to experience growth. Wide ranging subjects: gas drilling in the Fayetteville Shale, high school designs for the 21st Century, tax revenues for city amenities, creating a sustainable community as climate changes, economic and social challenges of immigration, and improving water quality as populations locate on lakeshores and rural property should create something for everyone. Please contact Karen Minkel of your willingness to help develop our programs.

I have yet to meet someone at LWV who did not stimulate good conversation and leave me wishing I knew them better. Programs with full agendas leave little time for social interaction. In order to help me know the members better, I will be hosting a summer and winter social as an opportunity to mingle and introduce potential new members. (See article below.)

Summer Social

Joyce and Jay Hale will host a potluck dinner for members and prospective members Friday, July 27th 6:30. The documentary, *Hacking Democracy*, will be shown. It is described: "With electronic voting machines tabulating more than 80 percent of the ballots cast in America, Seattle grandmother Bev Harris set out to determine the obvious:

Do they work? Based on the evidence presented here, the answer is "not really" The picture that emerges as Harris unearths a treasure trove of info about mishandled votes and the inner workings of the machines is that they're not only fallible but also highly vulnerable to hacking."

Please RSVP (527-2777 or joyhale43@sbcglobal) if you plan to attend and/or bring a guest.

Board Training

Incoming board members will meet August 11 from 10:30 to 12:30 at Joyce Hale's for orientation and review of policy updates.

President's Report – 2007

It's amazing how fast two years pass when one is busy and working with fun and interesting people. Because of the willingness of the board to accept responsibility and of the membership to participate, our League has had a full year, which I'd quickly like to review.

First is our membership, which currently stands at 118, thanks to the dogged determination of Carolyn Madison, who stood by the door at most meetings to corner prospects. And I'm sure Jana Britton's good punch at the membership party lured a few new members. Ours is the largest League in the state (Pulaski Co has 85 members.)

I think the selection of "Smart Growth" as our program theme has also contributed to our increased membership as this is a topic of increasing concern in our region. Under Karen Minkel's able management, we've had usually well attended programs on

1. Using GPS to map natural resources in Washington County to identify and prioritize those areas worth preserving (Karen Rollett-Crocker led this)
2. Attainable Housing – CDC's Senior Project Designer
3. Safeguarding Beaver Lake (Joyce Hale in charge)
4. Population Growth and Diversity dealing with the immigrant population of our area (Diana Worthen and Mary Alice Serafini organized and moderated)
5. Global Warming and Sustainability – Art Hobson

Our League received good press visibility this year, which also helps membership.

1. Our Ukrainian Hosting Experience brought the most coverage – 4 newspaper articles, an Ozarks At Large segment, and appearances on CAT. It took the efforts of many League members to make the "Accountable Governance" program a success. And I received an e-mail from Pilar at the LWVUS this

week asking if we'd host again this fall! I think the good memories we have can last us a few years.

2. We also got good press coverage on the Candidate Forums ably organized by Mary Dillard. I believe there were 5 forums- thanks to moderators Mary Alice, Brenda Gullett, Ann Rosso, Bettie Lu Lancaster, Janice Torbett
3. There was an article in the paper about our donation of books to the Fayetteville Public Library on water, specifically protecting urban streams. Joyce headed this initiative.
4. Another newspaper article discussed our Nomination of the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association for the Department of Environmental Quality's ENVY Award. While our nomination did not win the overall award, the Natural Heritage Association won in the Innovation Category. (Joyce Hale, Mina Marsh, Karen Crocker, Martha Ward)

Other League Activities:

1. Compiled, printed and distributed 5,000 copies of our Washington County Guide to Elected Officials. Ably overseen by Steven Neuse
2. Participated in the Women's History Banquet – our representative was Mary Bess Mulhollan
3. Organized a showing of the film, "Iron Jawed Angels" – Linda Rollston and Georgia Kunze
4. Sent the Elaine McNeil bequest of \$1,000 to the U of A Political Science Department to support student research on women's voting patterns in AR
5. Held a stream ecology field trip on Mud and Clear Creeks –organized by Nancy McCartney and led by Sarah Lewis of the U of A Geosciences Dept.

And our big technological innovation for the year: The putting out of the VOTER by e-mail! We have Jimmy Stewart and Mary Alice to thank for this and Carolyn Madison for working on getting correct e-mails. We still publish a hard copy of the Voter for those who desire it, thanks to Genie, Jo Bennett, Betty Solis, Patsy Ferritor, Judy Carey.

Others who keep this organization running: Nancy McCartney for taking the minutes, Martha Ward for keeping the books – and Trudy Scott for reviewing them; Joyce Hale for arranging all the meeting places; Sally Kelly for maintaining the Web Page; and Marion Orton for her incredible memory and wise counsel.

Our League sent four delegates to the State League Convention in Jonesboro at the end of April, which was ably conducted by State President Mary Alice Serafini. The state board has specific needs to continue operation, and you will be receiving a letter soon about what our local League needs to do to help. In talking with other Leaguers from around the state, we in the Washington County League should feel proud of our

accomplishments and appreciate the commitment of our members. Not every league has this.

In closing, I need to especially thank two people who have been incredibly helpful to me these last two years. First is Joyce Hale, who welcomed the board at her house each month. Not having to prepare an agenda and also clean my house for board meetings made the job manageable. And second, Genie Donovan, who couldn't escape my constant questions despite changing her residence and changing her e-mail address three times in the last two years. She loves this League and works hard to make sure that no one messes up too badly.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to be your president these last two years.

MEMBERSHIP!

Membership Development will be the focus of this fall's Annual Membership Gathering on Saturday, September 22, 2007, from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Fayetteville Public Library. Plan to come and bring prospective members and interested guests to learn more about the League of Women Voters.

Carolyn B. Madison
530-1111

Finance Drive

The Washington County League of Women Voters could not meet our financial obligations without additional funding from members and also those generous supporters who are not League members.

Our thanks go to the following members who contributed to the League during this fiscal year: Lois & Harry Alward, Leslie Belden, Wanda Belzung, Jo Bennett, Anita Bukey, Mary Burton, Judith Carey, Mary Dillard, Genie Donovan, Helena Gadison, Joyce & Jay Hale, Katherine Hanz, Emily Hart, Bobby Hay, Louise Russert-Kraemer, Bettie Lou Lancaster, Anne Harris LaRew, Nancy McCartney, Kerry Mueller & Dave Hunter, Mary Bess Mulhollan, Izola Morgan, Jeanine & Steven Neuse, Fran Roberts, Trudy & Tom Scott, William Shuman, Betty Solis, Wanda Stephens, Barbara Taylor, Gene Tweraser, Harriet Vernon, Martha & Mike Ward, Alice Webb and Marion Wyckoff.

The following individuals and businesses (non-members) of LWVWC contributed to our 2007 finance drive: Bank of Fayetteville, Woody Bassett, Jim Blair, Collier's Pharmacy, Deborah and Dan Coody, Rita and Sid Davis,

Richard and Charlotte Forsythe, Jack and Jan Groh, Jimmy and Jeanie Hill, Hugh and Brenda Kincaid, Friends of Senator Blanche Lincoln Campaign Committee, McGoodwin, Williams, & Yates, Eunice and Paul Noland, Ozark Steel Co., C.B. and Janet Richardson, Susan and David Schroeder, Philip and Jane Trapp, William and LeAnn Underwood, Representative Jon Woods, and Steve Zega.

Please thank these individuals and businesses on behalf of the LWVWC when you see them. They help our efforts to promote good government for the citizens of Washington County.

The League needs to add some new names to our non-member contributors list. Please think of other likely contributors and be prepared to share them with the Finance Committee next year.

Jeanine N. Neuse, Finance Chair

The League of Women Voters of Arkansas is undergoing a re-vitalization process. This came from the membership who participated in the state convention in Jonesboro. First, all members are invited to a training session:

League of Women Voters Training Workshop
Carolie Mullan, League of Women Voters of the United States
Board Liaison to Arkansas.
Saturday, July 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
in Little Rock
(location in LR to be emailed)

All members are invited to participate in this training to be a part of the revitalization of the state League, to increase their skills as a member of the League and to increase their own impact as a member of the local, state and national League of Women Voters.

Second, at Convention, the 2005 -2007 Board of Directors was charged to identify a slate of officers and board of directors to serve in 2007-2009. This has been achieved and the results are promising. However, each member of the board of directors has a number of committees which need members to be active and make an impact on the state organization, public policy and voter service. So, please step up and join a statewide committee. The commitment is to be active, not to attend meetings but rather to move issues, visibility,

advocacy, and communications forward. Here are the officers and directors and their committees. Be a part of this!

League of Women Voters of Arkansas Board of Directors 2007-2009

Officers	Liaison	
President	Mary Alice Serafini WC	Finance Drive, Office Management, Geographic Represe
First Vice President	Stephanie Johnson PC	Advocacy, Education, Environment, Bylaws, History
Second Vice President	Linda Okiror PB	Communications, Nominating, Voter Service
Secretary	Sure Garrison JB	Membership
Treasurer	Don McMillan FS	Effective August 1, 2007
	Directors	Committee Members
Advocacy	India Olean Brown FFB	Stephanie Johnson, Laquita Saunders, Wanda Stephens
Bylaws Review and Revision	Delores McMillan FS	Laquita Saunders, Marion Orton
Communications	Laquita Saunders JB	
Education	Delores McMillan FS	Dot Lishock
Environment	Dot Lishock FFB	Marion Orton, Diane Gately
Finance Drive Chair	Kathleen Velek PC	Stephanie Johnson, Pauline Novak
History	Marion Orton WC	Libby Wheeler
Membership	Luanne Weir FS	Genie Donovan, Mary Johnson
Nominating Committee	Sue Garrison	India Brown, Pauline Novak, Kathleen Velek, Libby Wheel (Recent past presidents of local leagues)
Office Management	Vacant	
New League	Gwen Millager BC	
Voter Service	Patty Sullivan FFB	Phyllis Leslie

League of Women Voters of Arkansas Board of Directors, Committees and Responsibilities

President

Role: Provides leadership through planning, goal setting and prioritizing. Preside over league functions, maintain league files and records, interface with LWVUS, prepare agendas, maintain calendar, direct office staff, monitor local league undertakings, serve as spokesperson for the League, approve all publications and press releases, represent the LWVAR, assure non-partisanship of organization.

Directors/Committee Chairs who Liaison with the President

Finance Drive:

Organize annual finance drives for members and non-members. Establish a calendar of finance drives with local leagues. Establish a committee and carry out fund-raising and development linked to the goals and actions of the LWVAR

Office Management:

Review current office set up for cost and efficiencies. Recommend alternative strategies to assure a presence in Little Rock.

First Vice President

Role: Provide leadership through goal-setting, oversight of program and program committees, support study to develop stands on public policy, serve as a consultant to local leagues, coordinate workshops for annual meetings, provide content for the VOTER, compile reports to the League including study consensus, present proposed program and carry out LWVAR program priorities.

Directors/Committee Chairs who Liaison with the First Vice President

Advocacy:

Stay abreast of public policy and legislative developments for which the LWVAR has a stand. This committee will recommend to the President and Board action and the implement letter writing, e-mail campaigns, meetings, etc., which addresses the policy, issues upon approval from the Board.

Education:

This person will stay abreast of educational policy in Arkansas and could have an active committee based on the interests of local leagues. Oversee studies in this area.

Environment:

Stay abreast of environmental policy in Arkansas and could have an active committee. Work closely with Advocacy Committee. Oversee studies in this area.

Bylaws Review and Revision:

Review bylaws and make recommendations for changes and updates. Bring in line with LWVUS.

History:

Assure that the history of LWVAR is archived. Assist in the transfer of League documents to University of Arkansas Library. Interface with library to assure organization of archives. Make recommendations to the Board.

Second Vice President

Role: Coordinate liaison with local leagues, maintain files of local league bylaws, budgets, minutes and publications, support local league efforts, advise the nominating committee, facilitate all communications, oversee all publications, carry out voter service.

Directors/Committee Chairs who Liaison with the Second Vice President**Communications:**

Create a team to produce the VOTER and other publications. Identify a website manager and oversee design and updates. Develop a LWVAR listserv. Facilitate all communications.

Nominating Committee:

Nominate Officers, directors and committee chairs.

Voter Service:

Carry out voter service in conjunction with local leagues. Compile and produce publications. Write articles for the VOTER, produce information for the website.

Secretary

Role: Record meetings, conventions and councils and distribute. Support Membership development.

Directors/Committee Chairs who Liaison with the Secretary**Membership:**

Assure that all local leagues maintain records in national database. Maintain records of Members at Large and nationally recruited members. Link nationally recruited members with local leagues. Support a coordinated membership effort with local leagues.

Treasurer

Role: Maintain general operating budget, pay bills, keep checking and investment accounts, prepare Treasurer's Report. In coordination with Budget Committee and Trustees, invest monies. Prepare and submit reports to government agencies. Recommend budget decisions to Board. Collect MAL dues, inform membership chair and deposit monies.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

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Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
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