



The League of Women Voters Washington County



November, December, 2008, VOL. 55, ISSUE 3

Calendar

NOV. 19, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Monthly Member Meeting.

Fayetteville Public Library Walker Room, 6 p.m. This will be a forum on the LWV State Study on Land Protection with Conservation Tax Incentives led by Joyce Hale and Karen Rollet-Crocker. (See following story)

NOV. 24, Tuesday, Mayoral Run-off Election

DEC. 8, Monday, 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. HOLIDAY PARTY

Joyce Hale's home, 285 W. Cleburn. (See following story)

DEC. 17, Wednesday, 11:30, Monthly Member Meeting.

Fayetteville Public Library Walker Room. Bring sack lunch. Roundtable discussion on Transportation in Northwest Arkansas.

League of Women Voters of Arkansas

While everyone prepares for the state study under the leadership of Joyce Hale, this very same Joyce Hale took two days to move the LWVAR office from room 504 to 315 at 2020 3rd Street in Little Rock with the help of Linda Okiror of Pine Bluff. Due to her heroic efforts and determination, this results in a significant savings each month in rent and telephone costs. Bravo to Joyce for tackling this job and putting us in a position to use our resources in a responsible way.

Government in Arkansas, the book produced by LWVAR, is now on the list of approved textbooks! Any teacher who requests this as a text also gets a CD of lessons, worksheets and quizzes, a gift of the Reeds who authored this edition. Please note, you need to read this book because we will all take the quizzes at State Convention and test our own knowledge of Government in Arkansas!

The Board is considering beginning another revision of Government in Arkansas and is seeking a volunteer from each local league to serve as steering committee. Please contact Mary Alice Serafini, ma@maspeaks, if you are interested in this project.

Save the Date! Convention is Coming!

The League of Women Voters of Arkansas' State Convention will be held in Fayetteville the weekend of April 24-26, 2009. The board meeting Friday afternoon and the programs on Saturday will be held at the Fayetteville Public Library. We are looking for a venue for Sunday morning, where we could have breakfast and meeting space for about 50 people. Suggestions?

Events will include program sessions, a wine and cheese party, a banquet, walks around the Farmers' Market and Botanical Garden, and good camaraderie. Five rooms at the Cosmopolitan for Friday and Saturday nights are being held for our out of town members, and home stays will be available as well. Please plan to be a part of this weekend, which is hosted by the Benton and Washington County Leagues.

Local Program for State Study

November 19, 6:00 pm at the Fayetteville Public Library, a program on protecting land with conservation tax incentives will be offered. This topic has been selected for statewide LWVAR study concluding with a consensus activity. While a number of states have been moving toward this preservation method, it remains controversial. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear differing opinions from Joyce Hale, who has property with a conservation easement, and Bob Kossieck, who represents property rights advocates. Graduate student, Dorothy Effa from the University of Arkansas, will present the findings from her recent survey on conservation easements. This program will be more meaningful if those attending have reviewed the materials at <http://www.lwvarwc.org/lwvar/lwvarconservationstudy.htm> or asked for the study

notebook titled: Providing State Tax Incentives for Land Conservation available at the Fayetteville Public Library.

Holiday Social Drop-In

In keeping with last year's successful Holiday Social/Shower, there will be another opportunity to help the Peace at Home Women's Shelter. While many celebrate with parties and entertainment this time of year, other families will suffer added stress from seasonal demands and the economic downturn. Join LWVWC members **Dec. 8, 7:00 – 8:30** at the home of Joyce Hale, 285 W. Cleburn St., and bring a favorite party snack along with gifts for the women's shelter. The number in need is shocking: 90 women and 170 children! Statistics indicate, approximately 50% of children are between ages 4-12, 25% under 3 and 25% 13-16.

Things used in the shelter or given women when they move out on their own:

DIAPERS! Sizes 4 through 6 please. We usually have smaller sizes, but the larger sizes are always in high demand and short supply.

Pull ups (4t to 6t)

Newly purchased bras – all sizes

Newly purchased women's panties – sizes 5 through 8

Small kitchen appliances, e.g., toasters, blenders, microwaves, coffee pots

Pots and Pans

Dish sets

Silverware

Cooking utensils (spatulas, wooden spoons, etc.)

Cleaning supplies for the women's new apartments- eg. dish soap, sponges, cleanser, bleach, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, laundry baskets, mops, buckets, brooms etc....

This may not seem all that exciting to you, but it's one of the first things women ask for when they leave and, of course, these items cannot be purchased with their food stamps.

Radio alarm clocks for shelter rooms. (We let the women take them to their new apartments when they move out, so we always need a new supply.)

Bed Pillows

2009 calendars and datebooks

Nail polish

Razors

Shaving Cream

Deodorant

Full size bottles of shampoo and conditioner

Transportation Dollars in Northwest Arkansas

Dr. Steve Luoni from the University of Arkansas Community Design Center, Jeff Hawkins, Executive Director of the Regional Planning Commission, and Mike Malone, Executive Director of the Northwest Arkansas Council offered differing perspectives on

transportation dollars in Northwest Arkansas. Dr. Luoni recently completed a comprehensive study on the feasibility of light rail in the region, while Mr. Malone successfully lobbied for state legislation that will enable the region to form a Regional Mobility Authority, which allows regions to enact a tax to fund desired transportation projects. The Northwest Arkansas Council has been especially supportive of a western bypass. The Regional Planning Commission completed a 2030 transportation plan two years ago after soliciting public input throughout the region.

Dr. Luoni emphasized the need for putting transportation dollars toward mass transit, while Mr. Malone and Mr. Hawkins instead emphasized the possibilities of the newly formed Regional Mobility Authority and how representatives from local municipalities will be able to prioritize transportation projects and advocate for a local tax to support those projects. Municipalities will have votes on the Authority apportioned by population. Mr. Hawkins stated that interchange improvements were the most needed transportation projects region wide, and Dr. Luoni stated that investment in rail transit should be the number one priority.

The League examines and approves by consensus local policy stands each March. In order to revisit the League's stands on transportation, the December 17 program participants will review transportation research and propose revisions or additions to the League's policy stands. We look forward to a lively and thoughtful discussion. Those who would like to participate in the study circle should read the following documents: *Visioning Rail Transit in Northwest Arkansas: Lifestyles and Ecologies*. University of Arkansas Community Design Center. May 2007

http://uacdc.uark.edu/books/complete/8Visioning_Rail_Transit_in_Northwest_Arkansas.pdf

2030 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan. Regional Planning Commission. April 2006

http://www.nwarpc.com/Transportation/2030_Northwest_Arkansas_Transportation_Plan.pdf

Note: There are a number of documents provided by the Regional Planning Commission that participants may also want to reference, including prioritized transportation projects and maps. This is a lengthy document, so participants should feel free choose the more relevant sections for discussion purposes.

“Alliance Designed to Focus on Roads.” *Northwest Arkansas Times*. February 25, 2008.

<http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/217902/>

If a League member would like to receive hard copies of these documents, please contact Karen Minkel at 444-8348 and she will mail or hand deliver the document.

VOTER

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Members Paid:

- 1-2. Alward, Lois & Harry
3. Belzung, Wanda

4. Bradberry, Hope - New
5. Bukey, Anita
6. Burton, Mary
7. Carey, Judith
- 8-9. Caulk, Sara & Robert - New
10. Donovan, Genie
11. Drummonds, Joy - New
12. Everett, Nettie - New
13. Farley, Barbara
14. Fitzpatrick, Mary
- 15-16. Hale, Joyce & James
17. Lois Hayes - New
18. Heinzelman, Margo
19. Jansma, Harriet
20. Kelley, Sally
21. Koeppe, Jessie - New
22. Lancaster, Bettie Lu
23. Madison, Carolyn B.
24. Mann, Louise
25. Marsh, Mina - New
26. McCartney, Nancy
27. McSpadden, Karen - New
28. Miller, Nanette Nelson
29. Mulhollan, Mary Bess
30. Orton, Marion
31. Rausch, Susan - New
32. Roark, Kelly - New
33. Rollet-Crocker, Karen
34. Russert-Kraemer, Louise
35. Seitz, Berta
- 36-37. Serafini, Mary Alice & Phil
38. Stephens, Wanda
39. Ward, Martha
40. Webb, Alice
41. Weidner, Shea - New
42. Wilson, Frances - New
43. Zinke, Marge

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

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