



The League of Women Voters Washington County

July-August, 2009, VOL. 56, ISSUE 5

<http://www.lwvarwc.org>

Calendar

AUG. 1, Saturday, 9:30 a.m., Board Meeting & New Member Orientation
Fayetteville Public Library Walker Room

AUG. 8, Saturday, 6:30 social and 7:00 film, *A Sense of Wonder*, LWV Summer Social, hosted by Nightbird Books, 205 W. Dickson St., Fayetteville (See following story)

AUG. 15, Voter Registration Deadline for Annual School Election

SEPT. 7, 11:30, Monday, Agenda Planning, Hammontree's at Nightbird Books

SEPT. 8, Early Voting Begins for School Election

SEPT. 14, 6:30, Board Meeting, Joyce Hale's home, 285 W. Cleburn.

SEPT. 15, Annual School Election

SEPT. 23, Wednesday, 6:00, Monthly Member Meeting. Fayetteville Public Library Walker Room. Panel to discuss AEP SWEPCO's Turk Coal-Fired Power Plant and requested rate increase.

From Joyce's Desk

Here we are at a fresh start for a new League year. I am looking forward to working with a fine board that is well prepared to make this year one of our best. While we will not be busy hosting candidate forums in this off-election year, there are plenty of new issues demanding our attention plus the old ones that have not gone away.

We will be spending more time on each issue than in the past in order to gain a deeper understanding before developing a consensus position. Watch for study materials to be posted on our web site for additional information. If a topic looks interesting to you, you are encouraged to take part in program planning and development. Here are the program chairs for you to contact:

Transitioning Children Out of Foster Care – Marge Zinke margez@swbell.net, 443-3682

LWVUS National Action on Health Care Reform – Mary Alice Serafini ma@maspeaks.com, 521-0291

LWVWC Local Study on Transportation – Karen Rollet-Crocker krollet@uark.edu, 442-9360

2009 – 2010 LWVWC Leadership

OFFICERS:

Joyce Hale – President
Barbara Farley – 1st Vice President
Sara Caulk – 2nd Vice President
Nancy McCartney – Secretary
Susan Rausch – Treasurer

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:

Judith Carey
Karen Rollet-Crocker
Sally Kelley
Bettie Lu Lancaster
Carolyn Madison
Mary Bess Mulhollan
Marge Zinke

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS:

Libby Wheeler
Genie Donovan
Mary Alice Serafini
Molly Rawn
Kelly Roark
P. J. Peters

Summer Social – Film: *A Sense of Wonder* about Rachael Carson

The LWVWC is joining forces with Nightbird Books to enjoy a summer social and view a special screening of the film, “*A Sense of Wonder*,” a new documentary about the life of Rachel Carson. This will take place on Saturday, August 8th at 6:30 at Nightbird Books (205 W. Dickson St.) for light snacks, conversation, and information on local environmental groups and products. The film will begin at 7:00pm. Soups and sandwiches may be purchased before the film from *Hammontree’s*, located inside Nightbird Books. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

About the film:

When pioneering environmentalist Rachel Carson published Silent Spring in 1962, the backlash from her critics thrust her into the center of a political maelstrom. Despite her love of privacy, Carson’s convictions about the risks posed by chemical pesticides forced her into a very public and controversial role.

Using many of Carson’s own words, actress. Kauhilani Lee, embodies this extraordinary woman in a documentary-style film, which depicts Carson in the final year of her life. Struggling with cancer, Carson recounts with both humor and anger the attacks by the chemical industry, the government and the press as she focuses her limited energy to get her message to Congress and the American people.

The 55-minute film is an intimate and poignant reflection of Carson’s life as she emerges as America’s most successful advocate for the natural world. Though Silent Spring was published nearly 50 years ago, Carson’s message still resonates as Arkansans confront local, regional, and global environmental problems.

Admission is free, but seating is limited to 60 before standing-room-only is available. Advance tickets may be reserved, but must be picked up by **August 5** at Nightbird Books, 205 W. Dickson Street. Call Nightbird Books at 479-443-2080 or stop by for ticket availability. Learn more about the movie at: www.asenseofwonderfilm.com.

Board Orientation

Genie Donovan will conduct an orientation for the board's first meeting, August 1, 9:30 am in the Fayetteville Library, Walker Room. New board notebooks will be presented to assist members in organizing materials and following duties throughout the year. A group picture will be taken. All board members are strongly urged to attend. If a board member cannot be present, they are asked to notify Joyce Hale to make arrangements for receiving their notebook.

September Membership Recruitment and Program

Much has been written about the AEP SWEPCO's Turk coal-fire power plant being built near Texarkana and the company's requested consumer rate increase. LWVWC has invited a panel to discuss the history, conflicts, and electric rate impact on Wed., Sept. 23, 6:00 to 7:45 at the Fayetteville Public Library's Walker Room. Representatives of AEP SWEPCO and Audubon have accepted their invitations and a representative of the Attorney General's office has yet to respond. Moderator for the panel and questions will be Hoyt Purvis, Journalism Department of the University of Arkansas. September is Member Recruitment Month. You are encouraged to bring a guest and learn about this important issue.

Foster Care

The organization meeting for our statewide foster care study was held on June 30, 2009 in Fayetteville. A committee has been organized and tasks assigned. The first statewide study item is the DVD of the Foster Care in Arkansas meeting held on February 18 in Fayetteville. A representative from each local League has been contacted about the study. If any League does not have someone who picked up a copy of the DVD at the state convention, please let your state representative know. We hope that all of our League members will have an opportunity to review the DVD which gives an overview of Arkansas foster care and describes some of the problems with Arkansas foster care services.

The Foster Care Committee decided to focus the foster care study on services for the transition of foster children out of foster care and into the community. This decision is based on a number of factors: Foster care is a huge study and we wanted to narrow our concern to a smaller, manageable area where we can take action to try to correct the problems that we find in that area. Although help with transitioning out of foster care and into the community is critical to the future success of the foster child, Arkansas does not now have a transition program for foster children or appropriate legislation to help with this problem. There is a Federal Law that provides funding for a transition program to states that apply for the funds. The law is effective October 7, 2008 and unless otherwise noted, states must enact legislation to apply.

LATEST CONTRIBUTIONS

Please thank the following people whose names were not on the list of contributors to the League Finance Drive in May:

Non-members: Jim Blair and Jeannie Hill

Members: Nancy McCartney, Marjorie Zinke, Jane Scroggs, Karen Crocker, Barbara Farley, and Joyce and James Hale.

We especially appreciate these additional donations because the National LWVUS dues have been increased \$2.00 for this coming year.

MEMBER HEALTH REPORT

As most of you know, some of our members have had life-changing health problems this summer. The latest information about them is:

Marion Orton—After suffering a stroke last month, Marion is now at home with the care of her daughter Lisa and son Billy. She will be having therapy most afternoons but would appreciate visitors between 10:00 and 12:00 and of course would love cards and letters. She is making progress daily and is her usual cheerful self.

Marion Wyckoff—Her efforts to battle cancer continue and she keeps us informed about the treatments she endures with courage and practicality.

Mary Alice Serafini—Has had a hip replacement and feels she is almost as good as new.

Trudy Scott—She broke her ankle this summer and after therapy at Health South is now at Brookstone Assisted Care apartments near NWARegional. She is learning the intricacies of using a walker and would love visits from 10:00 to 11:30 and 5:30 to 7:00. Letters and cards should be addressed to her home address.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
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