



The VOTER

July-August 2012 VOL. 59, ISSUE 4

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League of Women Voters of Washington County, AR

P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

www.lwvarwc.org

CALENDAR

JULY 30 (Monday) – 5:30 PM Annual LWVWC Board of Directors Orientation – Joyce Hale’s house, 285 West Cleburn Street, Fayetteville. All members are welcome if this interests you. We will discuss roles and how to be non-partisan as well as how to turn League stands into action!

AUGUST 23 (Thursday) – 11 AM to 2 PM LWVWC Table in the International Connections Lounge of the University of Arkansas Student Union. VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME!

SEPTEMBER 19 (Wednesday) – 5:30 PM LWVWC Membership Meeting at the Fayetteville Public Library. Program focuses on Initiated Acts on the November Ballot and includes discussion on why people do or do not vote.

OCTOBER 17 (Wednesday) – 6:30 PM LWVWC Membership Meeting. Program explores “Cyberbullying” issues. (Venue To Be Announced).

NOVEMBER 12 (Monday) – 11:30 AM LWVWC Legislative Luncheon in the Washington County Extension Service Auditorium, 2536 North McConnell Avenue, Fayetteville, AR.

DECEMBER 5 (Wednesday) – 6 PM LWVWC Holiday Party and Progress Report on Immigration Issues in the Butterfield Trail Village Lodge.

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From the LWVWC President

By Mary Alice Serafini

LWVWC ANNUAL DINNER - We wrapped up another successful League year at our annual meeting on May 17. Our speakers, Brenda Blagg and Angela Hines, were fascinating. Brenda Blagg, a Northwest Arkansas Journalist who sits on the editorial board of the NWA Times, explained how the process of candidate endorsement takes place. Marion Orton Memorial Grant recipient, Angela Hines, spoke about her project in environmental justice, expanding League member knowledge and perspectives.

We all offered input for programs next year and the Board of Directors is beginning to move ahead with preparations. Program topics that received the highest level of interest from League Members include: Common Core Education, Local examples of Government Privatization, Innovative Transportation Alternatives, Immigration Social Justice Issues, Problems of Bullying (particularly on the Internet), and Local Infrastructure and Development Issues.



Brenda Blagg & Joyce Kennedy



Angela Hines

We are especially pleased that members signed up to organize the programs for five out of the six topics of interest! Please remember that program development is an ongoing process so, Members, let us know of your interests!

The Annual Meeting also afforded the opportunity to elect new officers and members of the Board of Directors for the coming year. Thanks to the Nominating Committee, Genie Donovan, Anita Bukey, Bettie Lu Lancaster and Laura Kellams for their hard work. Thanks as well to everyone who pitched in and made the event such a success – Joyce, Libby, Sally, Nancy, Karen and on and on!

From the LWVWC President (continued) . . .



Joyce Hale and
"Dragon Slayer" Apron

BROWNIE LEDBETTER DRAGON SLAYER AWARD - Congratulations to Joyce Hale, recipient of Brownie Ledbetter "Dragon Slayer" Award at the Arkansas Public Policy Panel/Citizens First Congress Banquet in the Ferndale, Arkansas 4-H Center on June 23. This well-deserved honor was bestowed in recognition of Joyce's work to promote fair elections and clean water protection, as well as her commitment to research and report on the various environmental impacts of fossil-fuel drilling and the shale hydro-fracturing (fracking) process used in the extraction of natural gas. This well-deserved award recognizes the years of work Joyce has contributed to public policy by speaking up, organizing informative events, writing papers (Check out the Fayetteville Flyer for her latest series), writing letters, sending e-mails and serving as a leader in the League and other organizations.

And, we of course, want to honor the memory of Trudy Scott. Trudy was a committed League member who served many years as the Treasurer for the League and was instrumental in helping to build a solid administrative base from which we all have benefitted.

FACEBOOK TRAINING - Thanks to Ivy Mullen for training League members in the benefits and use of Facebook on Saturday, June 30. It is my understanding that League members not only gained skills in use of Facebook but are ready for more training should Ivy have the time. Thanks, Ivy, for the information and very, very useful training!

LWVWC Program Schedule for Fall 2012-Spring 2013

by Karen Rollet-Crocker

Much of great interest is being planned for this Fall by the Washington County League of Women Voters. Each month we will host major topic discussions on community issues, local elections, and citizenship/immigration policy developments, as well as presentations by local political representatives. We invite League members and the general public to attend.

A mid-September program is scheduled for reviewing Arkansas State Initiated Acts that will be on the November ballot. The following month, in October, a candid discussion on "Cyberbullying" is planned. November will feature our Legislative Luncheon, which affords those in audience an opportunity to hear concerns from local legislators and to ask them questions. In December, our Christmas meeting and party will include updates on immigration issues.

Dates and locations are listed below, along with LWVWC Members who will take the lead in planning these events. Please contact these individuals or Karen Rollet Crocker (krollet@uark.edu), if you are interested in helping.

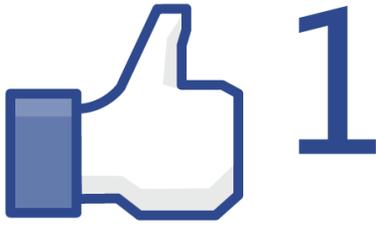
-Wednesday, September 19 (5:30 PM) Fayetteville Public Library. LWVWC Membership Meeting - Topic: Initiated Acts on the November Ballot. Planner: Laura Kellams

-Wednesday, October 17 (6:30 PM) (location to be announced). LWVWC Membership Meeting - Topic: Cyberbullying. Planners: Karen Rollet Crocker, Ivy Mullen and Libby Wheeler

-Monday, November 12 (11:30 AM) Washington County Cooperative Extension Auditorium. LWVWC Legislative Luncheon.

-Wednesday, December 5 (6:00) Venue To Be Announced. LWVWC Holiday Party -Topic: Progress on Immigration issues. Planners: Joyce Hale and Bettie Lu Lancaster

Winter/spring topics will include local follow up of last year's national studies on **Common Core Educational Standards** (Planners: Genie Donovan and Ivy Mullen) and **Government Privatization** (Planners: Susan Rausch and Libby Wheeler). The League is interested in how these national issues affect our communities here in Washington County. Dates and locations for panels on these topics will be announced later.



Facebook Seminar Builds Members Publicity Skills

by Ivy Mullen

On June 30, several members of LWVWC attended the Facebook Seminar, to learn about a new way to approach the social media website. Participants were introduced to a few basic Facebook tools (newsfeed, wall/timeline, like, comment, share, and events), and instructed in ways to utilize each one in a personal and professional manner.

Members gained an understanding of how to use Facebook professionally in order to network and show support for issues, causes, or organizations for which they are passionate. For example, "Liking" the page for LWVWC on Facebook automatically connects you to receive any updates that we post, including events and other important information.

Perhaps one of the most interesting realizations many participants had was highlighted by Dot Neely, regarding the value of utilizing Facebook's feature that allows a business or an organization to keep a running count of the number of times their website is "Visited" or accessed. She explained how businesses interested in analyzing the effect of advertising and nonprofit organizations that depend on grant funding can benefit from Facebook users "Liking" their page. Not only does this simple action allow them to keep interested parties informed, but the Facebook also offers tools to help businesses and organizations track website visit data.

Using this data, groups like LWVWC and other organizations can see how many people are following their page and talking about it on Facebook. The information is then utilized by organizations when reporting to donors or other constituents about its effectiveness.

Ultimately, what's really important about using Facebook professionally is that it benefits you by keeping you in the loop with up-to-date information. It also helps out your favorite organizations to just "Like" and show support for them. If you don't yet use Facebook in this way, I encourage you to explore it as an option.

Thank you to all who attended and to those who use Facebook to further our publicity efforts. For those who were unable to attend in June, I will happily hold another seminar in the Fall, if an interest is expressed. Contact me regarding any questions or interest you may have.

Happy "Liking!" Ivy Mullen/LWVWC Publicity Chair (ivy.mullen@gmail.com)

ERA Chosen as Priority by Citizens First Congress

by Berta Seitz

Arkansas Citizens First Congress 2012 Convention was held June 22-24 at Ferndale 4-H Center near Little Rock. The theme was "One Vision, One Voice." This Group is a coalition of very diverse groups from all over Arkansas who come together and choose the legislative items for long term priorities which may take years to pass and short term priorities which they will work to pass the next legislative session. They also honor people throughout the state that have had a positive effect on their communities or state at "The Dragon Slayer Award Dinner."

The top honor, 'the Brownie W. Ledbetter Dragon Slayer Award' was awarded to Joyce Hale. The program said, "Joyce Hale embodies the fight against the social disease of oppression. Since coming back to Arkansas, Joyce has been a corner stone activist moving Arkansas to protect the environment and be socially responsible. She was one of the first in the state to sound the warning bells about an industry that threatens the water supplies and livelihoods of thousands of Arkansans." We say CONGRATULATIONS, Joyce. We think this honor is well deserved. Those joining Joyce at the banquet were her husband, Jay Hale, her sister-in-law, Bo Long, and members Gladys Tiffany, DeDe Long, Wanda Stephens, Martha Ward, Berta Seitz and the Honorable Lindsley Smith.

ERA Chosen as Priority (continued) . . .

The Equal Rights Amendment was submitted for consideration to be chosen as a short term priority issue by the Fayetteville Forward Green Economy Group and by the ERA Arkansas Coalition. Lindsley Smith and Berta Seitz represented ERA Arkansas with Sarah Marsh and Joanna Pollock representing Fayetteville Forward Green Economy Group. First, the ERA was presented at the Civil Rights Caucus. It was chosen as one of two priorities voted out to the whole Congress. Lindsley Smith was the enthusiastic spokesperson throughout the presentations. When presented to the whole Congress it was chosen to be put on the priority list. Then Sunday morning after another vote, the Equal Rights Amendment was chosen as a Top Five Short Term Priority.

Being selected by the Citizens First Congress as a priority is a great honor and achievement, however the best part is it provides paid staff to work the issue plus many informed hardworking volunteers as well as many groups who carry name recognition and influence with legislators. Rose Mims who wrote the guest editorial this week in the Democrat/Gazette against the ERA is a full time ultra conservative lobbyist who opposes all progressive legislation labeling it all as worthless, harmful, useless and a waste of legislators' time. The ERA is not dead. After the Madison amendment was ratified after 203 years in 1992, three female attorneys, Allison L. Held, Sheryl L. Herndon, and Danielle M. Stager researched the issue and it was published in the Spring 1997 issue of the William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law under the title "The Equal Rights Amendment: Why the ERA Remains Legally Viable and Properly Before the States." This became known as the "three-state strategy." The Congressional Research Service reviewed this research and concluded that acceptance of the Madison Amendment does have implications for the ERA. There are four steps to passing an amendment: First, it must be passed by Congress. Second, it must be signed by the President. Third, it must be ratified by $\frac{3}{4}$ or 38 of the states. Fourth, it must be accepted as ratified by the U.S. Secretary of State. We are in the third phase. Three more states are needed to ratify. Arkansas needs to step forward and stand up for all of her citizens her be included in the U.S. Constitution thus giving all citizens the same protections and rights. Illinois, Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia are all working to ratify the ERA.

Attending the Arkansas Citizens First Congress was a rewarding experience showing how people can work together and that those who do achieve great things. The five short term priorities are: Create an Arkansas Civil Rights Commission; Increase number of state-wide election monitors and require criminal background checks of political candidates; Require Best Management Practices in Natural Gas Development; Ratify the ERA and Prevent Wage Theft. The current Long Term Priorities are: Prevent punitive legislation towards immigrants; Improve opportunities to learn for all students; Adopt an Arkansas State Energy Plan; Implement the Arkansas State Water Plan; Promote renewable energy resources and Fight bad tax cuts and protect Medicaid. Let's all get ready to work!

Report on LWV National Convention, Washington DC, June 8 – 12, 2012 by Nell Matthews/President LWVPCAR Attending as Arkansas Representative

The 50th biennial convention of the League of Women Voters concluded with election of a new board and officers; the passage of a \$1 increase in national PMP to \$31 with a tie in to the cost of living; approval of one new study item, a review of the existing LWV 1988 farm policy; approval of concurrence to oppose mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines, especially as applied to drug-related offences; and concurrence with the fair campaign finance and election activities.

That one sentence, long as it is, barely hints at the packed 4.5 days of meetings, plenary sessions, and events of the convention. As a representative of Arkansas, I participated in the Parade of States. Katherine Reynolds, representing LWV Pulaski County, and I were the only Arkansans present. With Katherine holding the Arkansas sign, I reported that we continued to work in areas of clean air and water, especially as affecting drinking water sites such as the Maumelle watershed and as affected by drilling and production of natural gas with fracking techniques.

Report on LWV National Convention (continued) . . .

Officers and Board: We will have a new liaison because Peggy Hill has rotated off the board. I believe it will be Linda Wassenich of Texas, but I haven't received any confirmation. Elizabeth McNamara is continuing as President for a second term. A full list of officers and board can be found at <http://www.lwv.org/content/nominated-slate-2012-2014>. No other nominations were received from the floor, and the slate was elected by unanimous consent.

PMP Increase: The increase in National PMP to \$31 was more controversial. The state League from Connecticut organized the opposition with support from all regions. Cheryl Dunston noted that at \$31, many Leagues were 'under water' with more going to State and National than being collected. Arkansas is with about 5 other states at \$10 PMP, with Idaho having the lowest at \$9. Idaho has 'streamlined' its state board in a revitalization effort. Several states charge \$15 to \$25.

The League has lost membership: 75,000 in 2005 down to 50,000 in 2012 with a loss of the associated PMP. While no change in PMP has occurred in the past two years, the cost of living has increased with National being affected as much as any organization in all areas of fundraising. They reminded us that the PMP is not dues, per se, but a charge to all Leagues set by number of members listed that can be paid by any means, be it our own dues, by our fundraising activities, or other means of raising money. Tying PMP to social security COLA rates or a similar consumer index is an attempt to avoid the bruising battles at convention over future PMP increases.

Katherine and I split up to attend as many caucuses as possible over topics seen as important to Arkansas and Pulaski County. Some highlights are listed below:

Campaign finance: We are urged as citizens to report media misuse in the ongoing political battles to <http://www.flackcheck.org/>. Impressive examples of extraction of partial sentences or out of context statements were shown in PAC advertising with sins on BOTH sides. Actors posing as concerned citizens, scare mongering, elaborate editing to place people against controversial backdrops are just a few of the ways media is used to influence without facts. In plenary session, we passed a concurrence to develop a comprehensive program to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance in order to inform our education and legislative efforts as needed.

Elimination of Mandatory Minimum Sentencing: We learned that a lot of trials are only for show with the decisions for punishment already set. On the basis of the charge that the prosecuting attorney decides to level against individuals, in federal trials, the judge is limited to ordering the mandatory minimum sentence, rather than consider any rehabilitative efforts or fitting the punishment with the crime. These mandatory minimums have filled our prisons with over 71% of the inmates charged with some form of drug activity. The attempt initially was to provide some sort of equity in punishment among races and social economic classes, but the result went astray in elected prosecutors' zeal to show that they are tough on crime. In plenary session, we approved concurrence in exploring and utilizing alternatives to imprisonment and mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Agriculture Policy: We will have a consensus study in the coming two years to update the existing policy written in 1988. The motion approved by the delegates included consideration of genetic modifications, farm corporations, subsidies, biofuels, food labeling, and food safety. A committee will be formed and the consensus study materials will be sent out in about a year.

Failed Issues: As I have seen at the past two conventions, the effort to have the League support a cabinet-level Department of Peace failed. A proposed study on human trafficking failed. Study of corporate personhood and transparency in elections failed. (I believe that the concurrence on Campaign Finance was considered good enough by the delegates.) Review of the current drug policy, and study of nuclear power as an alternate energy source also failed.

Report on LWV National Convention (continued) . . .

The study of corporate personhood was resurrected in an effort to change the 280 'Yes' to 283 'Nay' decision, but was ruled out of order.

There were many excellent speakers both in Plenary Sessions and in caucuses. Unless you attend such an event, you cannot understand the emotions and charged atmosphere of a national convention of LWV. The 2014 Convention will be in Dallas. I hope that Arkansas produces a large delegation of young members so that we can see some revitalization ourselves.

Nell Matthews, June 24, 2012.

Beaver Water District Education Center Dedication and Public Opening

(06/08/2012 BWD News Release by Amy Wilson/BWD Public Affairs Director Adapted by Dot Neely)

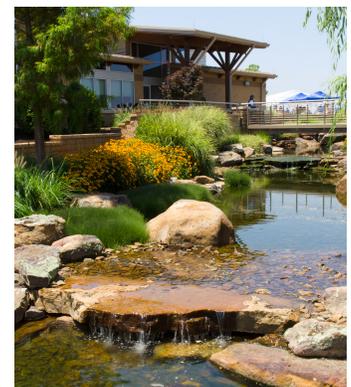
A June 5 ceremony was held by Beaver Water District to dedicate its Water Education Center in honor of John Lewis, Bank of Fayetteville President, BWD Board Member for over 32 years, and President of the BWD Board from 2000 until the time of his death in 2007. The BWD Education Program and Water Education Center were created to promote the Philosophy of Source Water Protection that Mr. Lewis helped to write, which the BWD Board approved in May of 2006. The dedication was followed by a Public Opening for the Water Education Center at 301 N. Primrose Road in Lowell, Ark. on June 27. The Center will now be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



John Lewis

Philosophy of Source Water Protection:

It is our responsibility as citizens and leaders of the Northwest Arkansas community to continue the tradition of long-term thinking and protect the resource that past visionary leaders provided for us. It is that resource that has raised our standard of living and improved countless lives, making possible a sustained economic prosperity unlike any in the United States.



BWD Administration Center
Photo by Don Shreve

The Walton Family Foundation awarded BWD with a three-year grant of \$229,250 in March of 2011 in order to enhance and accelerate the District's existing efforts toward the creation of a comprehensive Water Education Center within its Administration Center. The Water Education Center's instructional opportunities go hand-in-hand with the District's K-12 programs for the schools.



Photo by Don Shreve

The Water Education Center is designed to educate both children and adults about the value of drinking water and stewardship of the watershed as a natural resource. The Center includes:

- Scale Drinking Water Plant Model
- Interactive Kiosks exploring History of Water, Water Treatment and Watersheds
- Wall Size Watershed Map
- 50 Person Education, Presentation & Meeting Room

Beaver Water District Education Center (continued) . . .

The building and grounds also offer many opportunities for education about drinking water treatment and watershed awareness including:

- LID (Low Impact Development) Walking Tour
- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Building information

Beaver Water District supplies drinking water more than 300,000 people and industries in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding areas, or one in 10 Arkansans. These cities then resell the water to surrounding towns and communities. The District's mission is to serve our customers' needs by providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements and is economically priced consistent with our quality standards. For more information, visit www.bwdh2o.org



City/County/Country Voter Internet Resources by Dot Neely

Overall and as expected, League Members are generally more aware of political issues, engaged in democratic processes, and adept at finding information sources for consensus studies or to enhance our own individual perspectives regarding candidates for public office and events that affect city/county/country level legislation. For the convenience of Leaguers and all fellow citizens desirous of further expanding functional knowledge of and becoming involved to a greater degree in aspects of governance that directly or indirectly impact our lives, a wealth of voter information pertaining to U.S. elections and issues may be found on both the LWV/National (<http://www.lwv.org/>) and the LWVWC (<http://www.lwvarwc.org/>) websites. In addition, a list of local NW Arkansas to state-wide Voter Internet Resources is presented here.

Information on elected-, appointed-, or volunteer positions on City Councils, Commissions, and Boards may be obtained by visiting the website for a selected municipality. Links to Northwest Arkansas major cities are furnished below:

BENTONVILLE – <http://www.bentonvillear.com/>
FAYETTEVILLE – <http://www.accessfayetteville.org/>

ROGERS – <http://www.rogersarkansas.com/>
SPRINGDALE - <http://www.springdaleark.org/>

The following links will provide access to all Voter Resource categories (1-6) listed below. Category entries 1-6 include direct links to category specific information.

AR SECRETARY OF STATE “Elections Division” - <http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx>
BENTON COUNTY “County Clerk” - <http://www.co.benton.ar.us/CountyClerk/Default.aspx>
WASHINGTON COUNTY “County Clerk” - <http://www.co.washington.ar.us/index.aspx?page=329>
WASHINGTON County “Election Commission” - <http://www.co.washington.ar.us/index.aspx?page=186>
ARKANSAS VOTER VIEW - <https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/>

1) VOTER INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

AR Secretary of State “Voter Resources” - <http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Pages/voterResources.aspx>
 BENTON COUNTY “County Clerk” - <http://www.co.benton.ar.us/CountyClerk/VoterRegistration.aspx>
 WASHINGTON COUNTY “County Clerk” - <http://www.co.washington.ar.us/index.aspx?page=369>

2) LOCAL VOTING PRECINCTS and POLLING PLACES:

AR Secretary of State “Maps” - <http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Pages/maps.aspx>
 BENTON County “Where To Vote” - <http://www.co.benton.ar.us/CountyClerk/Precincts.aspx>
 WASHINGTON County “2012 Precinct Information” - <http://www.co.washington.ar.us/index.aspx?page=580>

3) 2012 ELECTIONS CALENDARS:

AR Secretary of State – http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Documents/2012_Election_Calendar.pdf
 BENTON County “2012 Scheduled Elections” - <http://www.co.benton.ar.us/CountyClerk/ElectionDates.aspx>
 WASHINGTON County “2012 Election Dates” - <http://www.co.washington.ar.us/index.aspx?page=526>

4) 2012 BALLOTS:

AR Secretary of State “Election Information” - <http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Pages/electionInformation.aspx>
 BENTON COUNTY “County Clerk” - <http://www.co.benton.ar.us/CountyClerk/Default.aspx>
 AND <http://www.co.benton.ar.us/CountyClerk/BallotInfo.aspx> (Links to VOTER VIEW)
 WASHINGTON County Election Commission - <http://www.co.washington.ar.us/index.aspx?page=186>

5) 2012 CANDIDATES:

AR Secretary of State “Election Information” - <http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Pages/electionInformation.aspx>
 WASHINGTON COUNTY - <http://www.co.washington.ar.us/index.aspx?page=581>

6) ELECTION LINKS

BENTON COUNTY “Election Commission Links” - <http://www.co.benton.ar.us/ElectionCommission/Links.aspx>
 VOTER411 - <http://www.vote411.org/>

LWVWC 2012-2014 Board of Directors

Board Officers for the next 2 years:	1 st Vice President - Karen Rollet-Crocker		Secretary - Nancy McCartney	
Board Members:	2-Year Terms	Rita Officer, Ivy Mullen, Laura Kellams, Libby Wheeler		
	1-Year Term	Carole Harter		
Officers who will continue to serve are:	President - Mary Alice Serafini 2 nd Vice President - Joyce Hale Treasurer - Susan Rausch		Continuing Board Members are:	Dot Neely, Sally (Kelly) King, Martha Ward

HOLT MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR LWVWC STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION ASSISTANCE

Dear Ms. Libby Wheeler: Thank you so much for helping us with Student Council elections this year. As you know, we have never done school wide voting before but, it turned out great! You taught me how important it is to exercise my right to vote. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and would like to thank you once more for your time and effort. **Warmly, Alex Gershon, Student Council President, Holt Middle School**

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

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