



The VOTER

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League of Women Voters of Washington County, AR

P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

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CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 19 (Wednesday) – 5:30 PM - LWVWC Membership Meeting for Members and the General Public 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. (See “September Membership Meeting: Informing and Inspiring Participation” page 2.)

SEPTEMBER 28 (Friday) – 9:30 AM – 11:45 AM – ENGAGED COMMUNITIES PROJECT at the Fayetteville Public Library, headed by Dr. Ron Warren/UA Communications Department, to promote citizen accessibility to good information. **LWVWC Volunteer(s) needed.** (See “From the LWVWC President” last paragraph this page.)

OCTOBER 5 (Friday) – 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM - Hispanic Women’s Organization of Arkansas’ 12th Annual Conference - Jones Center, 922 East Emma Avenue, Springdale, AR. The Honorable Mike Beebe, Governor of the state of Arkansas will deliver the keynote address, *What Is It That Unites U.S.?* (See “Governor Mike Beebe Keynote Address . . .” page 2.)

OCTOBER 5 (Friday) & 6 (Saturday)– 7:30 PM - THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS GRIDIRON SHOW with emcee David Gearhart, Chancellor of the University, at Rogers Little Theater, 116 S Second Street in Rogers. For tickets contact Mary Alice Serafini, 479 466-1724 or ma@maspeaks.com. (See “Gearhart and The Gridiron” page 3.)

OCTOBER 16 (Tuesday) – 6:30 – 8:30 PM LWVWC Monthly Meeting for Members and the General Public - Holt Middle School, 2365 Ruppel Road, Fayetteville. Program includes a presentation and Panel Discussion on “**Cyberbullying**” issues. (See “Cyberbullying: Awareness and Tools for Prevention“ page 3.)

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From the LWVWC President

By Mary Alice Serafini

The League Year is in full swing! After a summer of watching for ballot initiatives and watching our League members across the nation battle for fair access to voting, the League of Women Voters of Washington County started the year with RAZORBASH 2012, talking to students about voting and offering voter education. Just in time for the “BASH”, Libby Wheeler updated the Citizens Guide with 2012 voter, tax and licensure information.

Now we are preparing our **2012-2013 opening annual membership meeting, on September 19 to RENEW membership (LWVWC Application/Renewal/Interest Survey Form on page 5)**, as well as to talk about ballot issues and just why people step up to vote or simply avoid voting. Hopefully, all League members are part of the step up group! Watch for an exciting month of October with the 12th Annual Hispanic Women’s Conference, a very informative evening on “Cyberbullying”, a forum for mayoral candidates and filming of candidates for school, city, county and state offices.

As always, we are pleased to have League members volunteer not only to organize events, but also to interview and time candidates, support voter registration and show up at public events. Please let us know what you would like to do – an hour here and there makes a huge difference. We are looking forward to seeing you at our monthly member meetings as well as the numerous opportunities to contribute to the cause. When you have a moment, check out VOTE411.org.

The League of Women Voters of Washington County is invited to participate in The Engaged Communities Project, spearheaded by the U of A’s Department Communication Professor Dr. Ron Warren. The project focuses on making good quality information available to citizens so they can make informed decisions and connect to their community. As a participating organization, the League needs to have a member attend a meeting on September 28th and another in December. A LWVWC volunteer is needed. Please call Mary Alice at (479) 466-1624 or e-mail her at ma@maspeaks.com.

September Membership Meeting: Informing and Inspiring Participation

By Laura Kellams

Arkansas has one of the lowest voter participation rates in the nation. As part of our annual membership meeting on September 19, the League of Women Voters of Washington County will look at what motivates people to vote, how participation rates have changed and what type of information inspires citizens to go to the polls. The meeting will also include a look at ballot issues facing voters in November, from local liquor-sales votes to the medical marijuana issue on the ballot statewide.

The meeting will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Walker Community Room in the Fayetteville Public Library, with the panel discussion beginning at 6 p.m. Speaking on the panel will be Janine Parry, professor of political science at the University of Arkansas, and Greg Harton, the editor of the Northwest Arkansas Times who will soon become editorial page editor for Northwest Arkansas Newspapers.

The membership meeting is the time when League members seek to get more people in the community involved in our nonpartisan mission of civic engagement. Please attend, and bring a friend who is interested in improving the political process in Arkansas.



Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas' 12th Annual Conference Governor Mike Beebe Keynote Address:

"What Is It That Unites U.S.?"

By Joyce Hale

The Honorable Mike Beebe, Governor of the state of Arkansas will deliver the keynote address at Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas' 12th Annual Conference, *What Is It That Unites U.S.?* This event will take place from **9:00 AM to 3:30 PM Friday, October 5th, 2012 at the Jones Center, 922 East Emma Avenue in Springdale.** On-site registration opens at 8:00 AM.

During his tenure, Gov. Beebe has risen to many challenges, including guiding the state through a severe economic downturn. Arkansas' balanced budget and improved educational attainment reflect the principles of hard work that have distinguished Gov. Beebe's administration.

The conference will be an exploration of the human character and the ability people have to adapt, embrace and appreciate aspects of different cultural groups. Our common search unites us and allows us to make positive changes through the *celebration of education, culture and community*. As a new immigrant destination state, Arkansas is now home to 186,050 Hispanics, according to the 2010 Census. These immigrants bring new cultures to the region, adding richness to the lives of all residents, as well as needs that the community has not previously had to address. Two counties HWOA serves in Northwest Arkansas, Washington and Benton, have seen an increase of 150% in population over the past decade and are home to 65,741 Hispanics. Many Arkansas institutions were not equipped to meet the needs of locals, much less the growing needs of people from diverse backgrounds.

HWOA is a non-profit whose mission is to advance opportunities for Hispanic women and their families, to celebrate and teach others about our cultures, and become active participants in the community.

REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 5

Full conference registration, if received by September 21, 2012 is \$50.00

After September 21, registration is \$60.

Please mail your registration to HWOA, P.O. Box 6132, Springdale, AR 72766

For more information call 479-751-9494

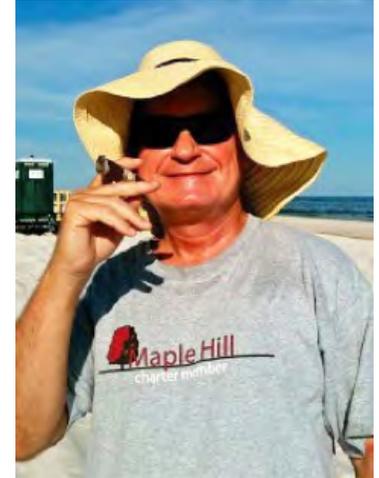


Gearhart and The Gridiron

By Mary Alice Serafini

THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS GRIDIRON SHOW will be held **October 5th and 6th, 2012, at Rogers Little Theater, 116 S Second Street in Rogers.** David Gearhart, Chancellor of the University, will be emcee. Whatever your take on the world of politics and news, expect an evening of fun from the 2012 Northwest Arkansas Gridiron Show. Gridiron sketches, songs, and spoofs, written and performed by the local Society of Professional Journalists, provide ample opportunity to laugh along with an audience that includes parodied newsmakers.

The event is co-sponsored by the Fayetteville branch of the American Association of University Women. Proceeds fund University scholarships awarded by both groups and the Rogers Little Theater. Admission is \$25. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. for general seating. Show begins at 7:30 p.m. For tickets contact Mary Alice Serafini, (479) 466-1724 or ma@maspeaks.com.



“When I told my wife I’d be emceeing the Gridiron, she said, “Why? Did you lose a bet?”
(http://nwagridiron.com/NWAGrid/2012_Gridiron.html)

“Cyberbullying: Awareness and Tools for Prevention”

by Joyce Hale



About one-third of online teens (ages 12-17) have been “cyberbullied”. Girls are more likely to be targeted than are boys.

Concern about the growing incidence of cyberbullying, facilitated by increasing use of social media and computers, is challenging schools and parents to find ways to educate the community and prevent this harmful practice. As computers take on a greater role for students and their availability increases, parents must become more involved in their children’s computer use to assure safety and healthy relationships. Many students have a greater awareness of how to use social media than their parents, but lack an understanding of the problems and dangers. Parents, who are reluctant to become involved, out of respect for their children’s privacy, may not realize the dangers and are failing to give their children proper guidance.

The League of Women Voters of Washington County will present a panel discussion to heighten awareness of parents and adult leaders of youth groups about cyberbullying. Panelists to offer a wide perspective of the problem include a mental health counselor, an Internet service provider, school counselor, and a police officer. Individuals offering anti-bullying programs and information about cyber safety devices will have materials available after the program. **This activity will take place Tuesday, October 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 at Holt Middle School, 2365 Ruppel Road, Fayetteville.** Contact Libby Wheeler at (479) 521-1158 to request additional information.

DIRECTIONS:

Holt Middle School is in west Fayetteville off Mt. Comfort Road at 2365 Ruppel Road (it is the next stoplight after Salem Road). Turn right onto Ruppel and the school is visible on the left. Go past two bus drives and turn at the left drive. The program will take place in the school cafeteria.



Arkansas Citizens' Guide

By Libby Wheeler

The Arkansas Citizens' Guide, which includes information on voting registration and requirements, obtaining a driver's license, and listing and paying personal and property taxes in Arkansas has been revised and updated. One hundred copies have been printed, and many were distributed at the recent **RAZORBASH 2012** event on the U of A campus. Wider distribution in Washington County will await the new year when we can combine this brochure with an updated Guide to Elected Officials. The Citizen's Guide is now ready for dissemination by Leagues in the rest of our state.

A few noteworthy changes were verified and made in the publication. Real and personal property taxes are now due on October 15th of each year. Identification for a driver's license must include proof of legal presence. As always, if one's name or address changes, the County Clerk's Office of one's current residence must be notified.

Because the LWVWC did the updating of the Guide, we took the credit in the brochure and have listed our contact information as well as that of the LWV in Arkansas.



LWVWC Promotes Voter Awareness at RAZORBASH 2012

By Karen Rollet-Crocker



League of Women Voters of Washington County representatives spent Thursday, August 23, 2012 from 11 AM – 2 PM on the University of Arkansas campus in the midst of RAZORBASH 2012. This annual event, celebrating its 9th year, introduces students to U of A On-Campus and Fayetteville Community organizations. League volunteers included Joyce Hale, Cindi Nimmo, Karen Rollet-Crocker, and Libby Wheeler. Our major goal was to encourage students to vote in November and to learn about qualifications for voting.

Joyce Hale made 50 cupcakes with “Razorback Red” frosting to be used as prizes for correctly answering **Voting Questions***. Such a great treat proved to be quite a draw for students. We enjoyed interacting with them about such topics as their voting knowledge, where they will be voting, and if they still needed to register to vote.

League members may want to see how much they know about voting by responding to the questions listed below. Sorry, the cupcake prizes are all gone!

***RAZORBASH 2012 Voting Questions (Answers below):**

1. What are the basic qualifications to register to vote in the US?
2. Name 3 places where you can pick up a voter registration form to vote in Arkansas.
3. As a student, should you vote absentee from your hometown - or here in Fayetteville? What are the considerations?
4. What is the deadline for registering to vote in Arkansas?
5. How do you find out where your voting place is?
6. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization. What does non-partisan mean?
7. If you spoil a paper ballot, can you get another one?
8. Where can you find on-line answers to questions about voting?



Photo Source:
<http://indulgy.com/post/uNt1SWxKJ1/razorback-cupcakes-just-use-mini-marshmallows-fo>

RAZORBASH 2012 Answers to Voter Questions: **1.** US Citizen, 18 years old, and registered in the district where you will vote; **2.** At a voter registration campaign location, on-line, motor vehicle office, county clerk's office, public libraries, military recruitment office, etc.; **3.** Vote on issues or for candidates associated with the location of your preference (hometown or Fayetteville) in which you are registered, know candidates, and are knowledgeable about local issues; **4.** 30 calendar days before an election; **5.** Call the county clerk's office or go on-line to find your voting place at www.voterview.org; **6.** The LWV does not support a candidate or political party. The LWV is a multi-issue organization, whose mission is to encourage informed, active citizen participation in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy; **7.** You can get up to 3 ballots at your polling place; **8.** At the Secretary of State's Office - Arkansas.gov



HWOA Annual Conference 2012
Registration Form

What Is It That Unites U.S.?
Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Mike Beebe
Governor of the State of Arkansas

Friday, October 5, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
On site registrations starts at 8:00am.
At the Jones Center
922 East Emma Avenue, Springdale, AR 72764

Participant Information

Name _____ Email _____
 Title _____ Organization/Business _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____

Registration - Full conference registration includes access to all sessions and the luncheon.
 Full conference registration, if received by September 21, 2012 is \$50.00.
 After September 21 registration is \$60.00.
 Students with current ID may register for \$15.00.
Exhibit booth spaces are available. Check below to register as an exhibitor.
 Exhibitor registration fee is \$100 (Note: Exhibitor registration includes one luncheon ticket.)

*Please mail your registration to P.O. Box 6132, Springdale Arkansas 72766.
For more information call us at (479)751-9494.*

Make Check Payable to HWOA. Please do not send cash.

LWVWC New Member or Renewal Application & Interest Survey Form

Name _____ Date _____ New/Renewal _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail (Please print carefully) _____

DUES: Individual Membership - \$40 Family Membership - \$60 Student - \$20

**If preferred payment is by check and delivery by mail, write check payable to "LWVWC" and send to the following address:
LWVWC / P. O. Box 4 / Fayetteville, AR 72702**

Check LWVWC activities for which you may be interested in volunteering:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend City Council, Planning Commission, Task Force, Quorum Court, etc. Meetings when needed | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobby State Legislature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide a Facility/Home for Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with TV Candidate Forums | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide Transportation to Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Publicity, Displays, or Posters | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Record or Photograph Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Mailings | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Telephoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide Food for Events | |

I wish to receive calls to action on specific issues of interest: All League Concerns _____ Education _____ Environment _____
Social Policies _____ Voting & Governance _____

I wish to limit my membership to receiving the newsletter. _____

I do not wish to join, but would like to make a contribution (any amount appreciated). _____



The LWVWC enthusiastically supports the activities of the HWOA. They have worked hard to register voters and develop strong community relations. Participation in this event supports the HWOA Scholarship Program.

What Is It That Unites U.S.?

REGISTER NOW!

\$50 by Sept. 21st
\$60 afterwards

Gov. Mike Beebe
Keynote Speaker



Friday, October 5th, 2012

at The Jones Center
Springdale, Arkansas

CELEBRATING EDUCATION, CULTURE & COMMUNITY



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
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Nonprofit Organization
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