



The VOTER

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League of Women Voters of Washington County, AR

P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

www.lwvwarwc.org

CALENDAR

JANUARY 14 (Monday) – REGULAR SESSION OF THE 89th AR GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES

JANUARY 18 (Friday) – LWV MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL DEADLINE (See pages 2 & 8)

JANUARY 23 (Wednesday) – 6:00 – 7:30 PM – “COMMON CORE” EDUCATION FORUM in the Walker Room of the Fayetteville Public Library, 401 West Mountain Street. (See “Common Core Education . . .”/Genie Donovan page 2)

FEBRUARY 20 (Wednesday) – 6:00 – 7:30 PM – FUNDING PUBLIC TRANSIT FORUM in the Walker Room of the Fayetteville Public Library, 401 West Mountain Street. (See “Funding Public Transit . . .”/Karen Rollett-Crocker page 3)

MARCH 2013 – WOMEN’S HISTORY CELEBRATION Date/Time/Venue TBA. (See “Women’s History . . .”/Carole Harter page 7)

MARCH 13 (Wednesday Before Spring Break) – 6:00 – 8:00 PM – ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING venue TBA in Member home.

APRIL 24 (Wednesday) – 5:30 – 7:30 PM – TOPIC TBA venue TBA in the Walker Room of the Fayetteville Public Library, 401 West Mountain Street.

MAY 16 (Thursday) – 5:30 – 7:30 PM – ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

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FROM THE LWVWC PRESIDENT

By Mary Alice Serafini

All the best in the new year of 2013. We look forward to a productive year starting with member interest in the Common Core Curriculum as well as Public Transit. These interests tie us to the success of our schools in Washington County as well as decisions that will come before both the Quorum Court and City Councils regarding public transportation funding. We are determined to get to know our city council and quorum court members and to become better informed citizens through this process. All League members can enjoy and truly benefit from this process.

In December, your Board of Directors discussed League positions and priorities for the Regular Session of the 89th General Assembly. We continue to share concerns on environmental issues, voter access, clean water, natural gas, Medicaid, immigration and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. In order to strive to make an impact during this legislative session, the League of Women Voters of Washington County has joined the Arkansas Public Policy Panel. The Arkansas Citizens First Congress is a coalition of allies who strive to have a strong public voice on certain aspects of public policy. We see this as an avenue to actualize our advocacy on those issues which are priorities for LWVWC.

FROM THE LWVWC PRESIDENT (continued)

Also in December, it was such an honor to recognize Governor Beebe's appointment of Margarita Solorzano to the State Board of Career Education at the League's holiday party. Margarita is the executive director of the Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas and a wonderful advocate for the Hispanic Women of Arkansas's Scholarship Program, a project that LWVWC members are supporting.

In January, we are distributing the Guide to Elected Officials throughout Washington County along with the HWOA Northwest Arkansas Bilingual Newcomers Guide. If you would like to be a part of this distribution, please let us know.

I am looking forward to an active 2013 League year and hope that you are as well. That said, please remember that your membership renewal needs to be sent in by January 18th!

NEW MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL DEADLINE JANUARY 18, 2013

By Mary Alice Serafini & Susan Rausch

Thank you to the many members who have renewed their membership – a triple benefit as you are part of our local, state and national League! It's never too late to renew your membership (**Membership Form provided on page 8**). **PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY JANUARY 18, 2013 FOR INCLUSION ON THE NATIONAL LWVUS ROSTER, IF POSSIBLE.** Dues are \$60/family, \$40/individual, \$20/student and can be sent to LWVWC, P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702. If you are unsure about your renewal, please give me a call or e-mail Mary Alice at ma@maspeaks.com, (479) 466-1624.

“COMMON CORE” EDUCATION FORUM FOR LWV JANUARY 2013 MEETING

By Genie Donovan

Having completed the LWVUS 2012 Study on the “Role of the Federal Government in Public Education”, a follow-up program to relate this material to Arkansas and the “Common Core” will be presented by a distinguished panel. This program will take place Wednesday, January 23 from 6:00 to 7:30 at the Fayetteville Public Library.

PANEL PARTICIPANTS:

Dr. Sean Connors, University of Arkansas College of Education

Dr. Tracy Selby Tucker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Unit of Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Marcia Jones, Springdale Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Kay Jacoby, Fayetteville Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Nancy Smith, Kindergarten Teacher at Butterfield Elementary School



QUESTIONS FOR FORUM PARTICIPANTS

1. What is “Common Core”?
2. Why are Arkansas schools implementing Common Core?
3. How have teachers been trained to implement Common Core?
4. How does Common Core teaching differ from the past?
5. Does Common Core allow for reviewing skills already taught from one grade to the next?
6. Does Common Core put an extra burden on teachers?
7. Has Common Core added a financial burden on school districts?

All LWVWC members and the public are encouraged to attend and learn of the important influence these new standards will have on public education. Professional Credit Hours for schools and staffs will be available for the Fayetteville School District and possibly for the region. For more information contact Genie Donovan 521-3296.

CYBERBULLYING YOUTUBE LINK

By Joyce Hale

Did You Miss the LWVWC's Cyberbullying Program in October? This excellent program of panelists knowledgeable in cyberbullying was moderated by Rita Officer and can be seen in a video recording by going to the LWVWC web page or on the Internet at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLYet54HH_M.

FUNDING PUBLIC TRANSIT FORUM FOR LWV FEBRUARY 2013 MEETING**By Karen Rollett-Crocker**

The Public Transit Forum will take place Wednesday, February 20 at the Fayetteville Library from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Since the Arkansas State One-half Percent Sales and Use Tax for highways and other transportation passed in November 2012, there is a new opportunity for transit funding. Some tax funds will be distributed to counties and cities in Arkansas for public transportation and other transportation uses under Act 752. See <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2011/2011R/Acts/Act752.pdf>.

PANEL PARTICIPANTS: Christian Cortez - Northwest Arkansas Community College student/bus rider, Sarah Marsh - New Fayetteville City Councilwoman, Jerri Van Hoose - ORT Board Chairman

According to the *Northwest Arkansas Transit Development Plan*, our existing transit system is inadequate to meet the current and growing transportation needs of the region. For the future, many in our region hope to make mass transit a viable alternative to single occupant vehicles to lessen air pollution and traffic. To accomplish this, transit expansion is needed.

QUESTIONS FOR FORUM PARTICIPANTS

1. How will decisions be made for use of locally distributed highway tax funds?
2. What is the value of public transit as seen from other cities' experiences?
3. What are riders' experiences in using the ORT system, and how might the system be improved?
4. What are the future needs of ORT and what is the best way to fund them?

LEVELS OF AVAILABLE FUNDING: In the next 10 years, Washington County will receive about \$12 million, Fayetteville will receive about \$13 million, and Springdale will receive about \$12 million. Eleven other towns in Washington County will receive between \$69,000 and \$1 million. Benton County will receive about \$12 million, Bentonville about \$6 million, Rogers about \$10 million and Bella Vista about \$4 million. Twelve other towns in Benton County will receive between \$15,000 and \$1.6 million. Madison and Carroll counties, who are also served by ORT, will receive about \$4 million and \$6 million each. For more information on these 'turnback' funds see http://www.arkansashighways.com/2012_hcestax/CC_turnback.pdf.

MARGARITA SOLÓRZANO/HWOA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO STATE BOARD OF CAREER EDUCATION**Adapted from Arkansas Department for Career Education Website**

M. SOLÓRZANO/Source:
<http://www.laprensanwa.com/2011/04/28/alcanzando-metas/>

Congratulations to the Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas Executive Director, Margarita Solórzano, who was recently appointed, by Governor Mike Beebe, to the Arkansas Department of Career Education State Board. The mission of the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) is to "provide leadership and contribute resources to serve the diverse and changing career educational needs of Arkansas youth, adults, and persons living with disabilities. The State Board of Career Education is composed of seven members appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate. Act 803 of 1997 requires the appointment of one member from each congressional district and three members from the state at large. The members are to be selected from among parents, business, industry, labor, persons with disabilities, minorities, and other groups representative of the many career opportunities available in the state.

Margarita is a native of Mexico who came to the United States in 1990. Since then she has worked full-time to support her family, has learned English and has become a U.S. citizen. Solórzano came to Arkansas in 1996 and in 1999 became a founding member of the non-profit organization, Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas. She is now the executive director, a position she's held since 2005. In 2003, Solórzano earned an associate's degree in social work from the Northwest Arkansas Community College. She is a founding member of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) council 754 and serves on the boards and councils of several other organizations."

(Source: ACE Website/About Us: <http://ace.arkansas.gov/aboutUs/Pages/default.aspx>)

LWVWC/HWOA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

By Joyce Hale

**A DONOR HAS AGREED TO MATCH, DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR,
ALL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THIS WORTHY FUNDRAISER.**

The League of Women Voters of Washington County is impressed with the **Hispanic Women’s Organization of Arkansas’s Scholarship Program**, which helps highly qualified students secure the funding to further their education. These undocumented students have achieved high academic standards in Arkansas’s schools but now are experiencing roadblocks to continuing their education. We urge you to remember these young people in your holiday gifting and through the New Year.



www.hwoa.org

Top Ten Reasons to Support Hispanic Women’s Organization of Arkansas’s Scholarship Program:

10. Diversity enriches education and society in general.
9. Recipients provide role models to their siblings and extended family.
8. Recipients are future leaders.
7. Recipients want to give back to society.
6. Immigration restrictions victimize undocumented children who have had no say in their situation.
5. Allowing undocumented students to continue their education protects the investment the public has already made in their earlier schooling.
4. Recipients have been top achievers in their classes.
3. The U.S. needs their intellect and capabilities.
2. Non-resident tuition charges are punitive.
1. Contributions are greatly appreciated and a good human investment.

Other HWOA Programs:

Guiding Empowering and Mentoring

- Practical Computer Classes
- English Language Acquisition
- Personal Development
- Parenting Classes

Reaching for the American Dream

- Citizenship Assistance
- Voter Registration
- Civic Participation

Yes, I want to support HWOA scholarship and community integration programs!

_____ \$25 _____ \$35 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 _____ Other

Make checks payable to HWOA/Non- Profit Organization

Send to HWOA, 614E. Emma, Suite 231 or P. O. Box 6132, Springdale, AR 72766

Name or Business _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Thank you for your tax deductible gift!

LWVWC JOINS FORCES WITH ARKANSAS PUBLIC POLICY PANEL

By Joyce Hale



The LWVWC Board has voted to become part of a state-wide coalition of progressive organizations known as the Arkansas Public Policy Panel. Together these groups can better monitor and advocate for legislation impacting education, environment, social and economic justice, and civic participation. This non-profit education group located in Little Rock works closely with the Clinton School of Public Policy using interns to review all bills before the legislature and alert APPP organizations when action is needed. The sister arm of APPP is Citizens First Congress. It plays a separate lobbying role supporting priority issues selected by delegates to the CFC Convention.

THE TIME FOR SHALE GAS ADVOCACY IS HERE

By Joyce Hale

A major effort to introduce seven natural gas reform bills was attempted in the 2011 legislature and failed to get out of committee after massive industry opposition was rallied. But that was before earthquakes, toxic spills, new EPA reports on water, and an ongoing drought that has caused people to question removing millions of gallons of fresh water from its natural cycle to use for fracking.

After regrouping and taking a more targeted approach, one bill, **A Landowner Bill of Rights**, is being readied for the upcoming session. You will receive more information once the bill is filed and public support needed. Your voice and many others will be important to counter the influence of the industry. There is division within our area's legislators about how unrestricted the gas industry should be to operate in Arkansas.

For those who do not think that they have a stake in this, it is important to realize that national forests are under immense political pressure for gas drilling. To learn the full story on natural gas development, you are encouraged to watch Anthony Ingraffea, Cornell University Professor and former gas industry engineering specialist in this presentation: <http://ecowatch.org/2013/industry-insider-to-fracking-opponent/>. Also go see Matt Damon in *Promised Land*. Showings begin January 4-10 at the Razorback Malco Theater. Check with the theater for screening times.



GOVERNMENT IN ARKANSAS BOOK

By Libby Wheeler



The League of Women Voters of Arkansas is proud to announce the publication of the 9th edition of *Government in Arkansas*. The book is approved as a textbook for Arkansas schools, and was given to each of the nine Washington County state legislators (pictured above) who attended our League's Legislative Luncheon just after the November 2012 election. It is a good introduction to how our state government works and how citizens can have an influence on it. This updated edition includes information on the change from biannual to annual legislative sessions.

For League members who would like a copy of the book, it is available for a \$20 donation. Please mail you request and remittance to LWVWC, PO Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

Used with permission by author, Maylon Rice

All of Arkansas elected solons – State Representatives and State Senators - love hearing from you, the electorate. Remember, it was you the voters who this past November, sent these elected officials down to Little Rock to make laws for the state. During the busy 60-day session, which kicks off the week of January 14, 2013, getting in touch and staying in touch with your solon can be a little tricky and a little frustrating. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Here are some quick “**DOs**” and “**DON'Ts**” to help you stay in touch with your elected officials.

First and foremost – STATE Representatives and STATE Senators – can only help you with STATE issues. **Your outrage letters to the federal government**, such as the IRS, your Social Security benefits, the U.S. Armed Services, President Barack Obama, U.S. Senator Harry Reid or U.S. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, **have no bearing on what can be done in Little Rock**. Neither can your state Representative or state Senator get you out of a speeding ticket, immediately lower your taxes or make your neighbor rake the leaves in his yard.



LETTERS AND NOTES: Personal and business correspondences still need to go to the home or office back in their district.

DO send all correspondence you want them to read at the State Capitol to: State Representative (insert name) or State Senator (insert name), C/O State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

DON'T expect the mail from Northwest Arkansas, on most days, to be in the State Capitol the next day – i.e. a letter mailed Monday will usually be in the solons hands by Wednesday, but rarely on Tuesday.

DO send ample postage, the state will not be picking up postage due letter and the new rules for overages on weight – even in a business letter – applies.

DON'T send them such items as illegible handwritten notes or clipped copies of newspaper stories with line-after-line underlined or highlighted with a yellow marker.

DO use the House Bill Number or Senate Bill Number when referring to a bill. Example: If you are in favor of lowering the sales tax on groceries that piece of legislation is House Bill 1021, use HB 1021, when corresponding to the solons. Likewise, if Senate Bill 034 is a bill for expanding the concealed carry of guns and you are against that bill, use SB 034 when commenting on that issue. Legislators are trained to look for a particular bill by its House or Senate bill number to make sure they have the correct issue you are writing about.

EMAIL: While most elected officials will use the official House and Senate email address – not all of them do. Some will use a gmail.com or yahoo.com account, or the same account they used during their campaign.



Check directly with your House or Senate member – or consult this column in the weeks ahead - for an email address for all the Washington County state House and Senate members.

DO send short, concise emails with your name and address in the email. An email with no name from hotmomma345@yahoo.com may not get a reply if the legislator does not recognize who “hotmomma345” is?

DON'T send forwarded emails. If you receive an email from a friend opposing a bill – don't just forward that email – write about why you want a vote up or down on that issue. A forwarded and forwarded and forwarded email loses its individuality.



CALLS TO SOLONS: There is an art to reaching out. While all of us love a good, positive telephone call from friends and solons in the midst of the state's political machinery; not all telephone calls, texts and Twitter feeds to our elected solons meet that criteria.

Almost every state legislator tells me they have one or two (or a select few) have as many as three telephones. All admit and one time or another – they silently wish the cell phone was never invented. Here are some hints I have gathered after years of trying to stay in touch with those down at the capitol.

DO call the House telephone number, [501-682-6211](tel:501-682-6211) during the session for House members and the Senate telephone number, [501-682-2902](tel:501-682-2902), during the session for state Senators.

DON'T call one number and expect to leave a message for both (a state Senator and the state Representative). The switchboards are set up for each chamber.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS . . . (continued)

DO remember these phones are being answered by non-partisan (by training) folks who are there simply to receive your name; your phone number; who you are calling; the bill number you are calling about; and a very, very short message. **For example:** “*I am (insert your name) from Farmington, I am calling for State Rep. David Whitaker, on HB 1101, please have him call me back at (insert phone number).*”

DON'T try to get the solon onto your personal schedule. If you want them to call you back, expect the call when they can return the call.

DO tell the operator if the legislator does or does not need to call you back. Example: I am (insert name), my phone number is (insert number) calling Senator Uvalde Lindsey on SB201. I am against that bill and want him to vote No on SB201. He does not have to call me back. Or I would like for him to call me back.

DON'T expect solons to call you immediately back. All the House committee meetings and sessions in the House chamber are streamed on-line you can find the link and watch these sessions each day. A member sitting in on a committee panel cannot often get up and leave that meeting to talk with you on the telephone.

DON'T expect the House or Senate member to answer you back if you phone is blocked and does not show your telephone number on the caller ID. ALSO, all calls to the House or Senate switchboard are only delivered to the solons desks in their chambers. The switchboard does not chase all over the capitol looking for the members.

DON'T expect the House or Senate members to call you back during the afternoon session of each chamber – unless things are moving very slow.

DO remember that the committee meetings are before and after the Chamber sessions are over during the day. Most committee meetings are early in the morning with all kinds of different caucus meetings being sandwiched in between.

DO remember that some solons will accept text messaging, if they know whom the text is from.

DO remember all phone calls, texts and even Twitter exchanges should be made with civility, clean language and even-tempered exchanges. Sending off a “terse” or “inappropriate” text, “threatening” email or “ugly” Tweet will probably not gain a response.

The solons do want to hear from you the voters.

WOMEN'S HISTORY DINNER IN MARCH 2013

By Carole Harter

At this time the annual Women's History Awards Dinner is not scheduled as a venue has not been selected, but traditionally it is held the last week of March. As you probably know, nominations are taken from the various participating sponsors and the selected women are honored at the dinner. Their criteria is that the nominee: 1. Should live in Washington County, 2. Have made a difference in the lives of others here with her community activities, 3. Have contributed in the past and continues to be of service, 4. Have made contributions beyond her employment, 5. Is a role model to all ages, and 6. Is able to attend the banquet and speak for approximately five minutes. Anyone can nominate a woman by completing the approved form before the deadline. I'll send you the form upon request. There will be further information as the deadline, venue and other details are set. Anyone wanting to help may contact Carole Harter at 640-8336 or caroleharter@gmail.com, and please watch the Voter for updates.”

THANK YOU TO LWVWC MEMBERS WHO HAVE JUST JOINED/RENEWED FOR THE 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR

Lois Alward	Emily R. Hart	Mary Katherine McKinley	Dr. Jane Scroggs
Mary E.	Carol Harter	Scotty McLemore	Berta Seitz
Leslie & Ted Belden	Betty Hayes	Izola P. Morgan	Mary Alice Serafini
Wanda Belzung	Margo Heintelman	Mary Bess Mulhollan	Phil Serafini
Jo Bennett	Dr. Peter Heintelmann	Linda Nicometo	Lynne Seymour
Brenda Boudreaux	Patricia Hensman	Cindy Nimmo	Betty Solis
Karla Bradley	Liz Howick	Rita Officer	Wanda B. Stephens
Anita F. Bukey	Eleanor Hughes	Nancy L. Owens	Beth Sylvester
Judith Carey	Harriet H. Jansma	Pauline Parnell	Dr. Barbara Taylor
Bethel Cunningham	Laura Kellams	Kristen Parnell-Davidson	Martha Ward
Betty L. Davis	Sally Kelley-King	Mary Jean Place	Alice Webb
Jane Davis	Bettie Lu Lancaster	Anne Prichard	Elizabeth Wheeler
Don B. Deweese	Sherri Lewis	Susan Rausch	David Williams
Mary Dillard	Rep Uvalde Lindsey	Maylon Rice	Amy Wilson
Eugenia Donovan	Carolyn B. Madison	Karen Rollet-Crocker	Marge Zinke
James (Jay) Hale	Louise Mann	Georgia Ross	Dr. Otto Zinke
Joyce Hale	Nancy McCartney	Dr. James Scroggs	UA Libraries/Serials Department

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY JANUARY 18, 2013 FOR INCLUSION ON THE NATIONAL LWVUS ROSTER

This will help reduce the membership committee's job of making personal contacts. Thanks.

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

Checks should be made payable to "LWVWC" & mailed to: LWVWC/PO Box 4/Fayetteville AR 72702

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

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

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

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). _____

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
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