



The VOTER

January-February 2014 VOL. 61, ISSUE 1

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League of Women Voters of Washington County, AR

P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

www.lwvwarwc.org

CALENDAR

February 19 (Wednesday) • THE VOTER IDENTIFICATION LAW OF 2014: MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT ON ELECTION DAY • 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fayetteville Public Library • Details Page 2

March 8 (Saturday) • "IRON JAWED ANGELS" • NO CHARGE • 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM • Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson Ave, Springdale • Details Page 3

March 9 (Sunday) • FRAUD & THE ELDERLY VICTIM • 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Community Room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church/Fayetteville • Article by Joyce Hale Page 2

March 31 (Monday) • WOMEN'S HISTORY BANQUET • 5:30 p.m. at the Guesthouse Inn (Formerly The Clarion Inn), 1255 S. Shiloh Drive • Article "Celebrating Women . . ." by Lynné Seymour Page 3

April 16 (Wednesday) • MENTAL HEALTH, 6:00 to 7:30 at the Fayetteville Public Library

May 14 (Wednesday) • LWVWC ANNUAL MEETING • 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. • Kay Goss is the featured speaker in the Witherspoon Hall of the First United Presbyterian Church, 695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville.

May 20 (Tuesday) • PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND NONPARTISAN ELECTION

ARTICLES

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FROM THE LWVWC PRESIDENT

By Mary Alice Serafini

Reflecting on the 2013 League Year, we went out with a bang. The Legislative Luncheon resulted in a good conversation with our legislators and excellent community interest and questions. In December we opened a friendship with members of the Marshallese community who educated and entertained us with lively discourse and dance. Thanks to members who contributed to the scholarship fund for Marshallese high school students to visit college campuses!

With 2014 underway, I need to remind everyone to **PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!** You are the League and your membership keeps us affiliated with the state and national Leagues. So, thanks for sending in your renewal today.

We had a good conversation about program priorities for the next League year. About twenty of us discussed voter service, along with public policy advocacy and priorities. These will all come to the entire membership at our annual meeting on May 14. Meanwhile, we have outstanding programs for February, March, and April which offer opportunities for all members of our community to update themselves on the new voter identification law, Fraud and the Elderly Victim, and insights into the needs of our community for the mentally ill. Enjoy this edition of *The VOTER* and come join us at our upcoming programs.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY! (See Page 6 for Renewal Form)

By Mary Alice Serafini

Your annual dues are \$40 for an individual membership, \$60 for a family membership and \$20 for a student. Checks should be made payable to LWVWC and mailed to LWVWC, P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702. We thank those members who have already renewed and look forward to working together to educate voters and others about meaningful and important public policy.

NEW 2014 VOTER IDENTIFICATION LAW: *ELECTION DAY MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT*
PROGRAM DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 6:00-7:30 AT THE FAYETTEVILLE LIBRARY

Presentation by Jennifer Price, Election Coordinator of Washington County

Question & Answer Session sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Washington County, Arkansas

Beginning January 1, 2014, Act 595 was passed into law, requiring “Proof of Identity” by voters. Since then, procedures and requirements have been developed. Valid identification must be used by every voter. The law makes special provisions for people living in long term care facilities.

Due to this new law, our state will have a major change in how we vote. Voters and citizens who wish to register to vote need to know what is required. The program is aimed at the general public as well as organizations serving citizens who might have more challenges meeting the requirements of the new law.

We will hear the answers to questions such as:

- What are the valid forms of identification?
- How do you obtain a valid voter identification card?
- What are the special issues affecting residents of long term care facilities and absentee ballots?

For more information, contact Rita Officer, roff67@aol.com, 973-9755 or Karen Crocker, krollet@uark.edu, 790-5539. For Voter Identification information from the Washington County website: www.co.washington.ar.us. Go to *Departments/ Election Commission/New Voter Identification Law*.

FRAUD & THE ELDERLY VICTIM

By Joyce Hale

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2:30 – 4:30 PM

for this important LWVWC program at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 224 N. East Avenue, Fayetteville

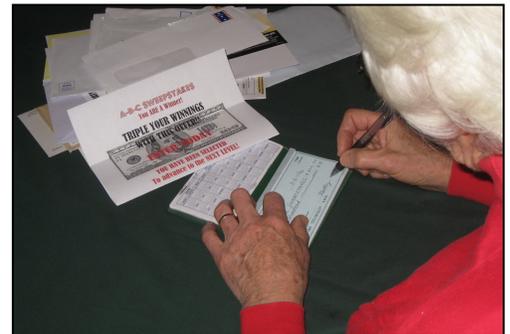
There will be a special showing of the documentary, *FLEECED*, followed by a panel discussion on this growing problem.

Financial fraud and abuse are on the rise. Older adults are the prime target for risky investments, phone and mail solicitations, and various other financial abuses. Preventing financial fraud and abuse from even happening in the first place is the best defense against people and companies who seek to undermine the economic security of older adults.

The National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) has produced a documentary to alert communities to what is happening and work toward prevention. A trailer and examples of the interviews may be seen at <http://www.ncrc.org/fleeced/>.

Why are Older Adults Prime Targets for Financial Fraud and Abuse?

Older adults tend to have more stable lives, usually owning their own homes outright and having a retirement savings “nest egg.” Older adults often have decreased mobility, thus they may spend more time at home where they are available to answer phone calls and accept visitors. They’re less likely to report a fraud because they don’t know where to go or they’re too embarrassed to talk about it. If they do report the crime, it’s sometimes hard for them to remember exact details. Many of the products/services being hawked by con-artists appeal to individuals of a certain age—i.e., anti-aging and other health care products, health care services, and investments related to retirement savings.



What are the Typical Types of Schemes Targeted at Older Adults?

- Sweepstakes scams
- Identity theft
- Charity phone, Internet and mail scams
- Online investments and securities fraud
- Funeral and cemetery scams
- Prescription drugs scams
- Health care/Medicare/Insurance fraud
- Reverse mortgage/homeowner scams
- Grandparent scams
- Romance scams

LWVWC members are invited to work with the program committee to develop and promote this activity. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Joyce Hale, 527-2777.

CELEBRATING WOMEN OF COURAGE, CHARACTER, AND COMMITMENT

By Lynné Seymour

March is Women's History Month and the Women in History Board (WIHB) has been busy planning the annual activities for this year. The WIHB decided to focus on library exhibits in the Jr. High Schools in Washington County and will be working with the school librarians, as well as sending posters, photos, and lists of books to each school. The Board is also working on archiving videos and CD materials of past banquets.

As part of the Women's History Month celebrations, the film "Iron Jawed Angels" will be shown at the Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson Ave, Springdale at no charge on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. This is an excellent film depicting defiant young activists in the early 20th century putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote.

The annual banquet will be held on Monday, March 31 at 5:30 PM at "The Guesthouse Inn" (formerly the Clarion Inn) in Fayetteville. The Guesthouse Inn is under new management with improved decor and cuisine. This should be a very enjoyable evening as we honor the award recipients and pay tribute to the progress made over the years.

Tickets will be available on March 3, 2014 for \$25 each. Nomination forms for this year's honorees are available and must be sent in electronically by February 21, 2014 to Felisha Perrodin at bobcatinar@yahoo.com. Forms may be obtained through Felisha or any LWVWC Board Member. Tickets, nomination forms, and additional information may also be obtained through Lynné Seymour (lwseymour@gmail.com).

WATER IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE: THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONSIDERS THE QUESTION OF HOW WE CONSERVE IT

By Karen Rollet Crocker

At the September 25 League of Women Voters of Washington County meeting on **Conserving Our Two Watersheds**, Mike Malone, President and CEO of the Northwest Arkansas Council, praised the League for sponsoring a panel discussion on what he said may be the most important infrastructure in the region. He then introduced a group of leaders in watershed issues: Bryan Haggard/Ph.D., Director of the Arkansas Water Resources Center at the University of Arkansas; Delia Haak/Ph.D., Executive Director of the Illinois River Watershed Partnership; John Pennington, Executive Director of the Beaver Watershed Alliance; and Angela Danovi, Arkansas Projects Manager of Ozarks Water Watch.

WATERSHED 1: BEAVER LAKE AND THE WHITE RIVER WATERSHED

Professor Haggard pointed out that the surrounding ecosystems of the White River watershed that drain into Beaver Lake are 9% urbanized, 25% grasslands/agrarian, and 63% forest. We, along with 420,000 other fellow Arkansans, depend on the source waters from this watershed and drink water from Beaver Lake everyday. Major water quality issues identified are increasing loads of eroded sediment and nutrients (primarily phosphorus and nitrogen), algal growth, taste and odor problems, and possible future need for expensive additional disinfection of the water if the watershed is not adequately protected.

John Pennington added that the Beaver Watershed Alliance's mission is to make sure the lake's water quality is sustained and enhanced. A major goal is to restore the rivers that are considered impaired by EPA standards: the West Fork of the White River, War Eagle Creek, and the lower White River. Top concerns are streambank erosion, stormwater runoff, sediment control from construction sites, and limiting the construction of impervious area such as parking lots where polluted water runs off into streams and rivers. One of the most difficult issues is mixed diffuse or "non-point source" pollution, where the contamination source cannot easily be identified.

Angela Danovi of the Ozarks Water Watch broadened the perspective of the meeting by pointing out that the White River is a shared water resource between Arkansas and Missouri. Her organization has been working to support conservation of the river and the four major reservoirs: Beaver Lake, Table Rock, Taneycomo, and Bull Shoals. Ozarks Water Watch believes that these are the four cleanest manmade lakes in North America, and wants to keep it that way. Special reports and activities inform the public in both states, including *Status of the Watershed* annual report, programs such as *Living with Land and Water in the Ozarks*, and *Water Watch Week* in June. Locally, the organization is sponsoring *LakeSmart* and *StreamSmart* programs that involve and educate people in NW Arkansas.

WATERSHED 2: THE ILLINOIS RIVER WATERSHED

In contrast to the Beaver Lake watershed, the Illinois River ecosystem, beginning in Hogeye and flowing through the western part of the NW Arkansas, is 13% urbanized, 50% agrarian, and 36% forest. Professor Haggard pointed out that it is 63% human dominated. Delia Haak, of the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, noted that the watershed is rapidly developing and is projected to be 50% urbanized by 2050, primarily due to major economic engines such as Walmart, Tyson Foods, and J.B. Hunt. In the Illinois River, the amount of phosphorus is the central issue, since many nutrients from fields and wastewater treatment plants are discharged into the watershed. Major agreements of state joint committees from Arkansas and Oklahoma have resulted in declining pollution since 2000, although a second agreement has not yet lowered the phosphorus level to the agreed amount. Several locations are considered impaired by EPA standards: Lake Wedington, Clear Creek, and Sager Creek.

HOW TO CONSERVE BOTH WATERSHEDS: MANAGEMENT PLANS

Both watershed groups have Watershed Management Plans. Delia Haak listed 8 tools for watershed protection that were also discussed by John Pennington. “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) include riparian buffer zones, pasture management, stormwater control, septic system repair, and biological testing. An additional tool is land conservation, including the use of the Conservation Easements legislation sponsored by the League of Women Voters under the direction of Joyce Hale. Green infrastructure planning and low impact development should also be promoted and implemented.

Interestingly enough, John Pennington noted that a recent public survey resulted in the discovery that over 50% of respondents thought that individual action would not make a difference in water quality issues. He felt that public awareness would lead to education and then to action. Educational programs such as rain gardens, outdoor education and recreation, and scientific research will lead to change. Current development of a watershed education center around Cave Springs, which has the largest population of Ozark Blind Cavefish and a large population of grey bats, is underway. All four panelists made it clear that working with diverse individual stakeholders and land owners, as well as the general public, encourages opportunities for partnerships that provide solutions.

Questions from the audience highlighted concerns about karst geology, which Paul Justus, planner from the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, said was the subject of an ongoing study. Also, a question about future cost and supply of water resulted in a comment about the need for sustainable financial investment to conserve the watershed by each supplier who sells Beaver Lake water. It was also suggested that in the future there will be efforts to encourage the public to reduce water consumption by ‘saving a gallon here and a gallon there’, even though our region is considered to be ‘water rich’.

SUMMARY

In summary, Mike Malone said that it struck him that in NW Arkansas we need to address many problems accompanying rapid population growth. When we are confronted with major issues such as water quality, we need to deal with them proactively, which he thought in this case was happening, with the involvement and direction of these very knowledgeable individuals.

CHRISTMAS SEASON PARTYING WITH MARSHALLESE FAMILIES

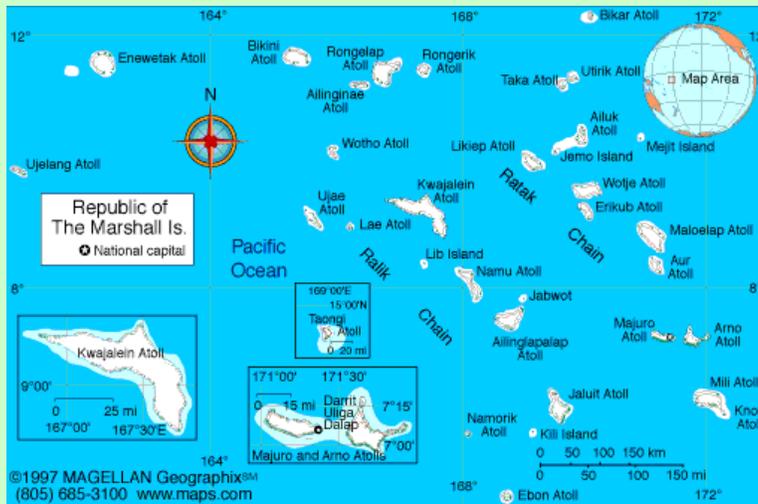
By Karen Rollet-Crocker

On December 4, we invited local Marshallese to celebrate the season with us. A very informative slide show was shown by Joe Kaminga and Merlyna Chinglong. Traditional Christmas songs and dances were performed, and cookies made by the members of Joij An Jesus Church were provided as refreshments. The party was planned with the help of Consul General Chong Gum along with members Grace Donoho, Karen Rollet Crocker, Bettie Lu Lancaster, and J.P. Peters.

Donations given through the nonprofit Springdale Public School Education Foundation will help the Pacific Islander’s Club of Springdale High School with their fundraising effort to take Marshallese seniors on an educational trip to Northwest Arkansas Community College, Northwest Technical Institute and the University of Arkansas. This will encourage students to continue their education beyond high school.

\$300 was collected, and the League Board decided to visit a club meeting in order to give the funds to them.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands



Total area: 70 sq mi (181 sq km), includes the atolls of Bikini, Eniwetok, and Kwajalein

Population (2010 est.): 65,859 (growth rate: 2.0%); birth rate: 29.9/1000; infant mortality rate: 24.5/1000; life expectancy: 71.4; density per sq km: 349

Capital and largest city (2003 est.): Majuro

Monetary unit: U.S. Dollar

Northwest Arkansas has the largest number of people from the Republic of the Marshall Islands (Marshallese) living in the continental United States. The estimated population in Northwest Arkansas ranges from 6,000 – 10,000 depending on the information source. This trend is reflected in the number of school children in Springdale School District who have indicated they are Asian/Pacific Islanders. In 1990, 110 (1.40%) of the student population were Asian/Pacific Islanders, whereas in 2013 the number increased to 1,939 (9.63%).

The office of the Consulate General of the Republic of the Marshall Islands is located in Springdale, AR.



Current Membership 2013 – 2014

RENEWALS

FALL 2013

- Genie Donovan
- Joyce & Jay Hale
- Harriet Jansma
- Sally Kelley-King
- Sherri Lewis
- Carolyn Madison
- Nancy McCartney
- Dot Neely
- Rita Officer
- J.P.Peters
- Susan Rausch
- Karen Rollet-Crocker
- James & Jane Scroggs
- Mary Alice & Phil Serafini
- Lynne Seymour
- Martha Ward
- Libby Wheeler

WINTER 2013-2014

- Lois Alward
- Mary E. Barham
- Jo Bennett
- Judy Carey
- Betty L. Davis
- Elizabeth Howick
- Bettie Lu Lancaster
- DeDe Long
- Mary Bess Mulhollen
- Shelby Rogers
- Betty Solis
- Barbara Taylor
- Bud and Marge Zinke
- UA Serials Department

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

- Holly Basky
- Emily DeLong
- Nancy Denn
- Jeanine and Steve Neuse
- Glenda M. Patterson
- Gene Tweraser

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP 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:

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

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