



VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARKANSAS
Political . . . Nonpartisan ... Local . . . State . . . National

Volume 54 January 2007 Number 1



From the President

A review of the status of the League of Women Voters in Arkansas is very heartening. With the tremendous efforts of Benton County League members to achieve League status, the LWVAR is experiencing growth and momentum. Each local league is tackling issues important to their counties using effective advocacy skills as well as voter education practices. Following an active election season of candidate forums and discussions, League members are now turning to state issues. It is especially important to inform your elected officials of the League positions on the ERA, adequate mental health facilities and care, education, water issues and environmental issues. It is also important to accurately inform your community through your educational processes, monthly meetings and studies.

I am impressed with the efforts of local leagues to apply for grants offered through the LWVUS and the success of the grants that are awarded. Open World visitors from the Ukraine, Anatoliy Boyko, Anatliyi Rekun, Yuriy Tretyak and Vitalli Zelyuk, were hosted by the LWV of Washington County in October. In addition to a broad exposure to citizen engagement in Washington County, the Ukrainians visited with members of the Leagues in Pulaski and Benton Counties.

Remembering the contributions of League members who have passed away in the last year, we speak the names of Bobbie Hill, Lois Imhoff and Peg Anderson, all of whom made significant impacts on government in Arkansas through their leadership in the League of Women Voters of Arkansas and their local leagues.

As we look to the future, all members are invited to the 28th Annual Convention and the LWVAR Hall of Fame II to be held in Jonesboro April 28 and 29. The Jonesboro League is setting an agenda that will carry on the League tradition of informed and lively discussion. Come and join the fun.

Thanks to all members for grappling challenges, for your service and for your contributions, including time and resources, to the League of Women Voters.

Yours truly,
 Mary Alice Serafini, President, LWVAR

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HOSTING THE UKRAINIANS

By Libby Wheeler, President, LWVWC

The League of Women Voters of Washington County received a grant from the LWVUS through the Open World Hosting Program to bring four Ukrainians, a facilitator and translator to Fayetteville in October, 2006. Our guests were young professionals eager to study accountable governance and citizen participation in local government.

Several of our League members met the Ukrainians in Little Rock on October 14th, where we toured the city, visited Central High School and the Clinton Museum. Once in Fayetteville, the group settled into their home-stay quarters and began a busy seven day schedule. Activities included meeting Fayetteville city officials and state elected representatives, attending Drug Court, talking with election officials, and sitting in on a city council meeting. A day was spent on the University of Arkansas campus, where the Ukrainians met with political science faculty and presented a program on their county to the Law School faculty. A tour of the Jones Center and Shop, the hub of family gatherings and services in Northwest Arkansas, and a tour of Tyson's Headquarters filled another day. The final work day gave our Ukrainian friends the chance to meet with local groups in their specific areas of interest and to explore the role of the media in accountable governance. Saturday was "All American Day," and included barbeque and a Razorback football game.

The best way to summarize this visit, which involved many in our League and community, is to share a few quotations from our guests.

"It's the culture. What we lack is the trust and faith you have in your political and legal systems. We have the mechanisms, but not the culture."

"You Americans work hard to make a living, then, when you retire, instead of relaxing, you work hard as volunteers to better your community. This is not the case in our country, and it is something we need to encourage."

"To have groups in the community meet together to discuss how to make the community better is awesome. At home, it is every man for "himself."

From this all-male delegation needing souvenirs to take home to wives and children: "I've never shopped so much in my life. I'll need to get into therapy for this addiction when I get home!"

That a cultural exchange occurred between our League and the Ukrainian visitors was evident at the farewell dinner. Our host's 10 year old granddaughter greeted the Ukrainians at the front door. She was in eastern European dress and held out a tray of bread and salt, the traditional Ukrainian welcome. No matter how modest the home, bread and salt are always available to guests. These men were moved - and speechless.

League of Women Voters of Arkansas 25th Annual Council (Reprint)

On a very rainy and windy day a lively group of *League members tackled water issues* in the Cox Building at Little Rock. Marion Orton provided an update on the Leagues water study. This led to a thoughtful presentation by Washington County League member Joyce Hale on watersheds and impervious cover. The following actions are needed to address the serious issues at risk: 1. Document water sources and create baseline descriptions of quality for public database; 2. Educate contractors; 3. Improve oversight; 4. Create incentives for exemplary construction performance; 5. Impose severe penalties to bad actors; 6. Develop watershed protection organizations.

A panel of three experts David Carruth, President, Ark. Wildlife Federation; Tony Stevenson, Natural Resource Conservation Service; and Joe Krystofik, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ark. Delta Sub-office provided expertise and opinions from different points of view. League members entered into the discussion with gusto, opinions and insightful questions. The discussion was stimulating and educational.

Clinton School of Public Service Student Malcolm Glover shared his history with the League in Florida on voter service issues and then gave a wonderful presentation on the Clinton School of Public Service, its purpose and his engagement in the program. Mr. Glover traveled to Darfur, Sudan for his summer internship and will complete the masters program this year.

Julie Thompson, Director of Communications with the Arkansas Department of Education provided an update on K-12 education in Arkansas, including recent reforms, financial issues, facilities, curriculum and meeting the goals of No Child Left Behind through a new model which tracks individual student progress.

During the *Council Business Meeting*, the LWVAR voted to recommend the Member-At-Large Unit of Benton County to League status which is processing for LWVUS recognition this month. In addition, an annual budget was adopted for the coming year. Program recommendations included sharing a DVD of the Council's water study presentations and encouraging local leagues to continue to inform themselves on important water issues in their areas and in the state. There is a desire to visit the Grand Prairie Project with Tony Stevenson in this League year. Medicaid in Arkansas was chosen as the area of study for 2006-2007.

Mark your calendars for Convention 2007 to be held in Jonesboro along with the LWVAR Hall of Fame Tribute April 28 – 29, 2007.

See you there!

G o v e r n m e n t i n A r k a n s a s

The 2005 edition of Government in Arkansas is a valuable tool for students, teachers and citizens at large. Members of LWVAR are encouraged to contact schools in your area to encourage teachers to include this valuable book in their courses. Recently updated, this book clearly explains the way our state works and the government processes that are in place. Encourage members of your community to go to our website, www.lwv-arkansas.org for ordering information.

CONVENTION 28

Jonesboro, Arkansas
April 28 – 29, 2007

Convention Location: Holiday Inn
3006 South Caraway Road
Jonesboro, AR
870-935-2030

RESERVATION

Name of Participant: _____

Local League or MAL Affiliation: _____

Check one of the following:

- I will be attending Convention 28 as a voting delegate \$50
 I will be attending Convention 28 as a full observer \$50
 I will attending Convention 28 as a nonmember \$50

The above registration fee included Convention entry, workbook, Hall of Fame Luncheon, workshops and breaks.

- I will be attending Convention for workshop (s) only \$30
 I will need Guest Hall of Fame Luncheon ticket(s) \$20

Total amount Enclosed \$ _____
(Please make checks payable to LWVAR)

Note: Please indicate here if you have a special needs meal request _____

Please complete this registration form and return it to: LWV of Arkansas
C/O Linda Okiror, Treasurer
1208 Frontier Lane
White Hall, AR 71602

For questions, call the LWVAR office at 501-376-7760. Reservations should be received no later than April 1, 2007. No refund will be made for cancellations received after April 15.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARKANSAS

28th Convention
The League of Women Voters of Arkansas



April 28-29, 2007

Holiday Inn

Jonesboro, AR

Friday, April 27, 2007

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Meeting of the Board of Directors
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Dinner
8 p.m. - 9:p.m.	Caucuses

Saturday, April 28, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Convention Registration
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Pre – Convention Workshops
12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Convention Opening Greetings Sue Garrison, President - LWV Jonesboro Welcome Mayor – City of Jonesboro Occasion Mary Alice Serafini
	<u>Lunch Served</u>
	Introduction of Keynote Sue Garrison
	Keynote Speaker (Invited) Jimmie Lou Fisher or Attny. Gen. Dustin McDaniel
	<u>Hall of Fame II Tribute</u>
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Business Meeting
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Caucuses

Sunday, April 29, 2007

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	President's Breakfast in Holiday Inn restaurant
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Business Meeting Program Election of Officers Council 2008 Convention 2009 Local League Direction to the State Board
11:45 a.m.	Closing Remarks / Convention 28 Evaluation

See you there!

League of Women Voters of Arkansas



Proposed 2007-2008 Budget

Prepared 01/01/2007

EXPENSE	2006-2007 Budget	Proposed Budget 2007-2008	INCOME	2006-2007 Budget	Proposed Budget 2007-2008
Board of Directors			Allocation from Ed Fund		
Copying	\$50.00	\$50.00	Citizen's Info Guide	\$600.00	\$0.00
Meetings (Travel)	\$750.00	\$750.00	Government in Arkansas	\$500.00	\$0.00
Postage	\$25.00	\$25.00	GTAE0	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Publications	\$25.00	\$25.00	Office Support	\$300.00	\$0.00
Telephone	\$300.00	\$300.00	Total	\$3,900.00	\$0.00
President	\$750.00	\$750.00			
Secretary	\$10.00	\$10.00	Allocation from Gov. in AR	\$5.00	\$0.00
Treasurer	\$40.00	\$40.00			
Total	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	Book Sales		
			Government in Arkansas	\$8,200.00	\$4,000.00
Organization			Winning Campaigns	\$100.00	\$100.00
Budget Committee	\$25.00	\$25.00	Total	\$8,300.00	\$4,100.00
Nominating Committee	\$25.00	\$25.00			
Development	\$300.00	\$300.00	Contributions		
Membership Brochures	\$150.00	\$150.00	Members	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Membership Service	\$200.00	\$200.00	Non-Members	\$500.00	\$500.00
PMP's for MAL's	\$630.00	\$630.00	Total	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Voter	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00			
Total	\$2,930.00	\$2,930.00	Endowment Trust Interest	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Program & Action			Grants/Fundraising	\$1,000.00	\$5,160.00
Advocacy&Lobbyist	\$200.00	\$200.00			
National Convention/Council	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	Local Leagues		
State Convention/Council	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	Pledges	\$300.00	\$300.00
Program & Action	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	PMP's	\$2,585.00	\$2,585.00
Publication by LWVAR	\$100.00	\$100.00	Total	\$2,885.00	\$2,885.00
Voter Services	\$625.00	\$625.00			
Citizen's Guide	\$600.00	\$600.00	Mal Dues	\$1,715.00	\$1,435.00
Government in Arkansas	\$500.00	\$500.00			
GTAE0	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	State Council/Convention	\$1,500.00	\$500.00
Office Support	\$150.00	\$150.00			
Winning Campaigns Promo	\$50.00	\$50.00	All Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$9,025.00	\$3,725.00			
			TOTAL INCOME	\$23,305.00	\$18,080.00
State Office Operations					
Salaries	\$1,760.00	\$1,800.00			
AESD	\$10.00	\$20.00			
FICA	\$160.00	\$275.00			
Capital Expenses	\$1,065.00	\$1,065.00			
Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Maintance Contract	\$100.00	\$0.00			
Postage	\$350.00	\$350.00			
Property Taxes	\$40.00	\$50.00			
Rent	\$3,840.00	\$3,840.00			
Supplies/Copying	\$300.00	\$300.00			
Telephone/Internet	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00			
Banking Fees	\$275.00	\$275.00			
Total	\$9,400.00	\$9,475.00			
All Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,305.00	\$18,080.00			

Welcome League of Women Voters of Benton County

From the LWVUS Membership Chair Christine Bradford: The LWV of Benton County (AR220) was recognized as a full-fledged League on September 14, 2006 and by the LWVUS Board in October 2006 under the name the LWV of Bella Vista, Rogers, Bentonville and Lowell. The name has now been officially adopted as the LWV of Benton County.

The League of Women Voters of Arkansas welcomes the League of Women Voters of Benton County. Benton County Members came together to prepare an excellent application and are in their second year of meetings and programs. Congratulations to their officers Olga Berg, President; Laura Hamilton, 1st Vice President; Fran Kolbe, Secretary; Mary Johnson, Treasurer; Sheree Miller, Sue O'Neal and Emma Buzick, Board Members. Thanks to Marion Orton for serving as the Liaison from the Board of Directors of the LWVAR. We look forward to an active future for LWVBC. Mary Alice Serafini, President, LWVAR

Report from Benton County

The League of Women Voters of Benton County have been active this League year. In August, members enjoyed "Potluck and Politics" with area leaders from the Highway Commission, School Board, State Senate, and Regional Transit. Two Candidate Forums took place in Bella Vista as they prepared for a vote on incorporation as a city. In October, Benton County members joined the Washington County League at a dinner with the visitors from the Ukraine. Throughout the fall, members conducted a mental health care study, interviewing area hospitals as well as following developments in mental health care services in Benton County.

Potluck and Politics kicked off the new year as members met with the Sheriff and the Director of Decision Point. Members also participated in the ERA Rally in Little Rock on January 24.

From LWVUS President Mary Wilson:

2007 LWVUS Advocacy Priorities and Election Plans Set

At last week's January Board meeting, the LWVUS board voted unanimously to adopt the following 2007 Advocacy priorities: Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, and Healthcare Reform. In addition, the Board reaffirmed the League's commitment to maximizing voter education and participation in the months leading up to the 2007 and 2008 election seasons. Please keep an eye out for more information on these important issues!

Resolve to Recruit New Members in 2007!

Make sure to keep your New Year's resolution to invite new members to be a part of your League in 2007. Membership recruitment is not just the job of the membership chair. Every member should be a League ambassador and ASK people to join. Here are 3 tips for recruiting members:

Make a connection: Tell your personal story about what League means to you. Submit your story to the LWV Storybank!

Ask: Be sure that your conversation about League includes an invitation to join LWV; don't assume that it is implied.

Make it easy: Have a membership brochure or other League information (such as your League's Web site address) available. Or, direct them to www.lwv.org to join

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Fair Field Bay
MAL Unit

The FFB LWV MAL represents members from Van Buren, Cleburne, Stone and Independence Counties. New members welcomed to the league in 2006 are: Analea Cook, FFB; Phyllis Odden, FFB; Jean Pierzchala, FFB; and Dorothy Lishock, Drasco.

The Year in Review:

In February the League heard from Speaker Jack Robinson, Superintendent of the Shirley School District regarding the bond issue for building a new high school and replacing the sewer system. The bond issue passed.

Under the guidance of India Olean Brown, an extensive Water Study was completed and findings submitted to Marion Orton. In conjunction with our water study League Members have been invited by the Save Greers Ferry Lake Committee to attend a meeting with State Legislators.

India Olean Brown reported on the new voting machines now being used in Van Buren and Cleburne counties. Ester Bass, Clerk of County was Speaker at the April meeting and explained changes in Van Buren County Voting Procedures. Some members attended a pre-trial use of the new voting machines.

An election for new Board Members was held and the new Co-Presidents are Janet Swanson and Dorothy Lishock; Secretary/Treasurer is Nancy Johnson.

After a two month recess in June and July the League reconvened in August with a "Welcome Back" Tea.

The issues to be considered for the remainder of 2006/2007 are: Elections and reaching out to local voters; The Arkansas School System; and Drilling for gas in Arkansas.

In November, Jon Rainbolt, Special Education Supervisor for the Arch Ford Education Service Co-operative, spoke regarding education issues in Arkansas. This project, under the guidance of Shirley Patterson, will be completed in February, 2007.

Smart Growth in Northwest Arkansas

*Growth is inevitable and desirable, but destruction of community character is not.
The question is not whether your part of the world is going to change.
The question is how.*

-Ed McMahon, Senior Fellow with the Urban Land Institute

The 2000 U.S. Census found that Northwest Arkansas was the sixth fastest growing Metropolitan Statistical Area in the nation. The rapid growth in this area has created economic and cultural opportunities while also causing anxiety about change and problems associated with growth. The critical issues that face communities during periods of rapid growth and exploring ways to address these issues were the focus of the Washington County League's programs for the 2006-2007 year.

A series of five programs began in November, which featured Fayetteville's Natural Heritage Association, a non-profit organization that recently completed a study mapping our watershed's most threatened environmental resources. The program shared the results of the study and engaged the audience in a brainstorming session on how to protect these resources through public policy and organized private efforts. December's program highlighted a partnership between the University of Arkansas's Community Design Center and Habitat for Humanity that will result in a neighborhood of affordable homes be Arkansas's first "green" neighborhood. The designers created an eco-friendly neighborhood by utilizing creative methods for stormwater management and maximizing the energy efficiency of the 17 homes. The project demonstrated the possibility of building neighborhoods that are more environmentally friendly, higher density and offer greater opportunities for community interaction than conventional subdivisions. January's program featured a dialogue between representatives from the Beaver Water District and the audience about the threats of rapid growth to our water supply and policy initiatives that would offer additional protections.

February's program will examine the issues associated with the greater diversity of cultures within a rapidly growing community, and April's program will focus on the issue of sustainability, particularly as it relates to global warming. League members will discuss the policies presented in this year's program at their March meeting and determine whether they should become part of the 2007-2008 Program for Action.

Written by Karen Minkel

OUR WATER STUDY CONTINUES

How can the people of Arkansas protect the quality and quantity of our water? The Arkansas League has a position on this question. However, new water projects and problems are continuing to occur. Perhaps we need to be more specific in our stand. This past year the various Leagues have looked at problems in their own areas. Does our position cover or give enough guidance to you?

Your assignment #I

- What additions or deletions should be made to our water position?
- Should we add a section on each of the large water users agriculture, industry, wildlife protection, recreation, drinking?
- Should we emphasize methods of conservation and long range sustainability?
- Should special emphasis be on fast growing areas where land and water are being stressed by chemical runoff, change of drainage terrain and heavy construction around drinking water lakes and sources.
- Should we have funding priorities, political criteria, global trade values?

Your assignment #II

Look at the Grand Prairie Irrigation Project DVD. It was filmed at our Council meeting in April 2006. (A local TV channel showed it several times in Fayetteville) David Carruth, President, Arkansas Wildlife Federation; Tony Stevenson, Natural Resource Conservation Service; and Joe Krystotik, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, were our speakers. They talked and showed power point as they competed with a pounding rain on the metal roof overhead.

- How does the plan promote conservation and irrigation efficiency?
- In general what is its water agreement plan?
- What is its impact on wet lands?
- What affects unknown outcomes? --global warming, different crops, economy, etc.
- How is the project being funded?

What is the future of the Corps of Engineers, global trading, sustainability as they pertain to this project? Please report to me your opinions, your ideas, whether done as a committee or the whole league. Most important we hope this additional thinking about one of Arkansas's most urgent problems will give us all a better understanding of actions going on in the state and how we can speak up to protect our state's water. Marion Orton marionorton@yahoo.com 479 442-8036 by Feb. 13, 2007.

Submitted by: Marion Orton

***Peg Anderson Memorialized
with Endowment Fund Investment***

Family and League members memorialized Peg Anderson with a combined contribution of \$602 designated to one of her favorite League projects, the Endowment Fund. Peg was instrumental in creating this fund that would provide support, in perpetuity, for the League's outreach to the citizens of Arkansas. This contribution combined with funds from the estate of Mary Parsons provides quarterly operating funds to the state League office. Many thanks to those League members who so honored the memory of Peg Anderson: Bruce Anderson, Ruby Chittenden, Don and Delores McMillan, Mary Bess Mulhollan, Elizabeth Ream, Trudy and Tom Scott, Wanda Stephens, Lyell and Marcella Thompson, Martha and Michael Ward, Jo Fullerton Wheeler and Marion E. Wyckoff.

Submitted by Linda Okiror, Treasurer

Awards & Honors

The LWVWC has nominated the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association for the 2006 Arkansas Environmental Stewardship Envoy Award in honor of their innovative efforts complete a land conservation survey and study and its first successful purchase of land for environmental preservation. Upcoming programs include: January 10, "Water Resources;" February 14, "Population Growth and Diversity;" March 14, Local Program Selection; April 11, "Sustainable Growth;" April 29, LWVAR Convention and Hall of Fame II, Jonesboro.

Reminders to local leagues

If your local league anticipates any changes in bylaws for 2007, please submit them in writing to the LWVAR. Forward a copy of your monthly VOTER as well as a copy of the meeting of your Board of Directors to LWVAR 2020 West 3rd Street, Suite 504, Little Rock, AR 722205 and/or the e-mail address: lwvar@aristotle.net. Please make sure that a copy of the minutes from your 2006 annual meeting as well as your annual budget for 2006-2007 has been sent to the state office as well.

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ARKANSAS**

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