



The Voter

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County, Iowa

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and Influences public policy through education and advocacy.



From the President

March Madness is usually a reference to the NCAA Basketball tournament but may be an appropriate description of activity at the Iowa State Legislature. The LWVIA Lobbyist states "in addition to budget differences, the House, Senate, and Governor appear to be far apart on a number of policy decisions" so a late adjournment is expected. Thursday, March 31 the first version of the redistricting maps will be shared. Legislators will focus on assessing new district lines and trying to determine whether to accept the first version. In addition to our scheduled March 26, 2011 Legislative Forum in North Liberty, Dawn Suter, VOTER Services Chair, is setting up one more Forum, date and location to be announced.

Our LWVJC Annual Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. The Program Planning recommendations are in this issue for you, the membership, to review and give feedback to the Board of Directors by April 20, 2011. The proposed 2011-2012 Budget and Slate of Candidates for 2011-13 are also included in this issue of VOTER.

Reality is that positions on our Board and Committees are difficult to fill. The same dedicated people volunteer and do the work. What is your interest? Can you observe a local elected board once a month, attend the LWVJC events, or volunteer to be a Committee Chair?

As always, I encourage you to invite a friend to attend a League activity.

2010-2011 Officers

<i>President</i>	Polly Spencer Horton 621.1685
<i>Vice</i>	Rebecca Reiter 354.7163
<i>Secretary</i>	Mary Ann Bradford 855.8078
<i>Treasurer</i>	Allison Panther 530.3605

Directors

Pat Cancilla 644.2807
Carol Spaziani 338.6140
Melanie Gross 354.3179
Naomi Novick 337-4649
Dawn Suter 321-2601
Gaylen Wobeter 338.5218

PROGRAM PLANNING

By Polly Horton

Members of **League** of Women Voters Johnson County met in the Iowa City Brown Bottle restaurant “back room” to discuss issues of concern to them and their ideas for how **League** should undertake, endorse, or otherwise act on the issues. Recommendations at the State level (LWVIA) were:

- Support HF 45 “SMART Planning” framework for planning in regional councils of government and land use plans. Recommend this be a Legislative Priority in 2011-12.

- Put renewed emphasis to current Mental Health priority

- Advocate on our Pay Day Loans position at the local level : take it to the financial institutions on personable level [talk with local bankers not legislators]

- Support the integrity of Judicial Retention System for appointing judges; clarify and publicize our LWVIA position and educate public on our study

Recommendations at the Local level (LWVJC) were:

- Re-format sequence of position listings to place Iowa City Government at end of list in order to strengthen our identity as LWV **Johnson County**

- Continue support of our **Regional Governance Committee** in the study, education and advocacy of affordable housing, coordinated land use, fire protection, water/ waste water, Joint Emergency Communication Center and Metropolitan Planning Organization, property maintenance, and transit

- Endorse a local Voter Education program on **U.S. Constitution** Issues (not a study)

The above are issues that concern you. Your ideas for how the LWVJC should undertake, endorse, or otherwise program for education on the issues are important. Tell the Board what you care about and work with us to bring your passion about an issue to fruition as a program worthy of League resources.

LEGISLATIVE FORUM March 26

NORTH LIBERTY

By Barb Beaumont

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County will be sponsoring a legislative forum on Saturday, March 26th from 9:30 until 11:30 at the North Liberty Community Center, 520 West Cherry Street, North Liberty. Senators Joe Bolckom, Robert Dvorsky, James Hahn, and Sandra Greiner, and Representatives Jarad Klein, Nate Willems, David Jacoby, Jeff Kaufmann, Vicki Lensing, and Mary Mascher have been invited.

The forums provide an opportunity for dialogue between the legislators and their constituents in Johnson County. The legislators present five-minute summaries of critical issues before their respective houses, particularly those of interest to them. The remainder of the forum is devoted to public comment and questions, beginning with the questions from the co-sponsors. The microphone will then be open to members of the audience.

Cosponsors of the March 26th forum will be Environmental Advocates and the Iowa City Area Group of the Sierra Club.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**By Audrey Moeller, Pat Hayek,
and Naomi Novick**

Vice President—Carol Spaziani

Secretary—Gaylen Wobeter

Directors—Pasquale Cancilla 2011-2013

—Patricia Ephgrave 2011-2013

—Pat Jensen 2011-2013

—Barbara Haring 2011-2013

Nominating Committee Members

—Audrey Moeller

—Rebecca Reiter, Chair

Continuing on The Board

—Polly Spenser Horton, President

—Alison Panther, Treasurer

—Melanie Gross, Director

—Naomi Novick, Director

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
MAY 4TH 2011

PREPARED BY Gaylen Wobeter

The League will continue its goal of education and advocacy of the Iowa Judicial System at our dinner meeting at May 4th by featuring Angela Onwuachi-Willig as our speaker. Onwuachi-Willig was of nine finalists for the three vacancies on the Iowa Supreme Court. She was the only woman, and the only person of color on the short list of nominees. Gov. Brandstad did not select her for the court.

Onwuachi-Willig is a Professor of Law and the Charles M. and Marion J. Kierscht Scholar at the U. of Iowa. Her research and teaching interests include family law, employment discrimination, race and the law, feminist legal theory and evidence. For a more complete biography check her web site at the U of I College of Law.

The May 4th meeting will be held in the West Ball Room at the Clarion Highlander on North Dodge St. The evening will commence with social hour at 5:00, followed by the annual meeting at 5:30, dinner at 6:00 and at 7:00 our featured speaker. The dinner is \$23.00 payable to our treasured Allie Panther, 308 1/2 Dubuque St., Iowa City, 52245. Make checks payable to the LWVJC. Please return the following form to Allie before April 29th with your Choice of entre. **The form is on the last page. [Page 6].**

**LWVJC COMPARED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AND RECOMMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET**
Prepared by Allison Panther

	YTD FEB 2010-2011	ANNUAL BUDGET 2010-2011	PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET 2011-2012
<u>Income Categories</u>			
Contributions	\$ 475.00	2160.00	2000.00
Dues	2087.50 **	4000.00	4000.00
Special Events	695.44	1800.00	1800.00
90th Anniversary		150.00	1
Interest	0.88	25.00	10.00
Miscellaneous Income		100.00	100.00
Restricted Income			
Education Fund	125.00	1200.00	2000.00
Total Income	3383.82	9435.00	9910.00
<u>Expense Categories</u>			
Board & Administrative			
• Board Tools	0.00	50.00	50.00
• Fundraising	0	150.00	150.00
• Membership	0	125.00	125.00
• Miscellaneous	0	25.00	25.00
Total Board and Admin/		350.00	350.00
New Leadership		150.00	2
Delegates Travel and Reg.	36.00	1500.00	1500.00
EDUCATION			
Activities/Promotional Ads	0	600.00	0.00
Web site	0	55.00	0.00
Constitution Project			1000.00
Total Education	0	655.00	1000.00
Operating			
First Class Postage	12.83	100.00	100.00
General Supplies	0	25.00	25.00
Photocopying	0	25.00	25.00
Telephone	0	0	0.00
Total Operating	12.83	150.00	150.00

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National

State

Johnson County

BUDGET REPORT CONTINUED

Per Member Payment

National	801.90	2300.00	2300.00
State	831.25	1700.00	1700.00
Total Per Member Pmnt.	1633.15	4000.00	4000.00

Position Support & Action

Judicial Retention	0	10.00	630.00
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Special Events

90th Anniversary	466.78	350.00	1	2200.00
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Voter/Bulletin

	149.79	50.00		50.00
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TOTAL EXPENSES

	3592.83	9435.00		9900.00
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Income/Loss to Carry

	[\$209.01]	0.00		10.00
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Forward

** Plus dues received before the start of the current fiscal year

1 90th anniversary will be removed for 2011-2012 budget

2 Possible funding for the Iowa N.E.W, Leadership training is still to be determined

ENTRE FORM FOR ANNUAL DINNER MEETING MAY 4TH

CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE OF ENTRE

1] Orange Roughy

2] Pork Loin w/Chasseur Sauce

3] Chicken Marsala

All entrees include roasted red potatoes, tossed salad, seasoned vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, and water. Almost all of the menu is gluten free. For more clarification, call Gaylen Wobeter, 338-5218.

Return this form with check for \$23.00 per person made out to the LWVJC to Allie Panther, 308 1/2 Dubuque St., Iowa City, Iowa, 52245