



The Voter

August 2011

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

Where did the summer go? The State Legislature worked late into June and now the Federal Congress has just barely met the deadline on the budget and debt bill. LWVUS President Elizabeth McNamara described this as “a time ... when common sense seems to have taken a sabbatical, when good policy is being held hostage to pure politics”.

The LWVJC Board of Directors has met and set the 2011-2012 calendar. We have opportunities locally for making democracy work. Your contributions are valued. Your ideas and energy are needed. Here is a listing of opportunities for your participation whose specifics are in articles in this edition of VOTER:

- Reception for Elected Officials:** informal conversation and brief overviews on the state of County government
- Screening of the film *Miss Representation* in the Landlocked Film Festival
- LWVJC Committee on “**The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education**” convenes
- Constitution Project begins with program “**The Constitution, an overview**”

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Join us, as we study, educate, and advocate!

Polly

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Vice President Carol Spaziani

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Treasurer Allison Panther

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Pat Ephgrave 466-3057

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Miss Representation A Documentary to see

MISS REPRESENTATION, a film examining the media's portrayal of women and girls, will be screened Friday, August 26th at 6:00 PM at the Bijou Theater on the University of Iowa Campus. Roxanne Conlin is the featured speaker following the film. Admission is free.

MISS REPRESENTATION is a new documentary that interweaves stories from teenage girls with provocative interviews from Condoleezza Rice, Lisa Ling, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Rosario Dawson, Gloria Steinem and many others on the subject of women and leadership and the media's role in shaping individual and societal perceptions of what girls and women are valued for. Visit their website at <http://www.missrepresentation.org/home.html>.

Roxanne Conlin, former Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate in 2010 and Governor of Iowa in 1982, brings a personal and unique perspective from which to examine the topics raised by the film. Having broken several glass ceilings in her life and career, Roxanne will share her personal experience of the media and engage the audience in a discussion of what actions we can take to begin to change the way women are evaluated and portrayed in the media.

The LWVJC joined forces with 50/50 in 2020, AAUW, Iowa Women's Foundation and The Women's Resource and Action Center, University of Iowa, (the coalition) to partner with Landlocked Film Festival (LLFF) to bring the film to Iowa City as part of the festival. The new loosely knit coalition worked together to pay for the film, find a speaker, and promote the film within our organizations and in the community.

Partnering with LLFF places the screening in the company of other great documentaries and films as part of this growing annual festival. LLFF provides invaluable publicity for the screening and a built in audience of movie goers. Please visit their website at <http://www.llff.org> and their Facebook page, Landlocked Film Festival.

The film will begin at 6:00 PM and runs slightly under an hour and a half. Roxanne Conlin will speak for a half an hour with audience questions for another half an hour. While the screening is free, we hope you will come prepared to support the work of Landlocked Film Festival by making a generous contribution the night of the screening.

There will be a second screening of the film on Saturday, August 27th at 12:00 PM (noon) at the Englert. Jean-Lloyd Jones, 5050 in 2020 will give a brief introduction of the film.

The AAUW will video tape audience members' responses to the film and their reaction to the issues raised as they leave the screening. The responses will be made available on Facebook. More on that later.

Hope to see you at the movies!

Elected Officers and Appointments

Board of Directors

President Polly Spenser Horton pollyshorton@aol.com 621-1685

Vice-President Carol Spaziani spazianic@msn.com 338-6140

Secretary Gaylen Wobeter gaywob@live.com 338-5218

Treasurer Allison Panther alliepanther@gmail.com 530-3605

Elected Directors

Pat Cancilla twohorse@southslope.net 644-2807 Voter Editor

Pat Ephgrave pnephgrave@oaknoll.com 466-3057 Membership

Melanie Gross melaniegross@gmail.com 354-3179 Webmaster & Caucus Training

Barbara Haring b.haring@mchsi.com 351-4164 Finance Drive

Pat Jensen dpjensen@mchsi.com 338-8123 Membership Orientation

Naomi Novick 337-4649 Voter Service

Appointed Director

Margaret Murphy m.murphy09@gmail.com Communication Chair

Off-Board Appointed Nominating Committee [elected at annual meeting]

Rebecca Reiter Chair rebecca-reiter@uiowa.edu 354-7163

Audrey Moeller moellerad@gmail.com 466-0945

Off-Board Appointed Iowa Legislative Forums

Barbara Beaumont Chair bgbeaumont@juno.com 626-6227

Off-Board Constitutional Study Committee

Chair Dawn Suter Chair ddsgrant@mchsi.com

Member Rebecca Reiter [see above]

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ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTMENTS [continued]**Facilitator**

Mary Ann Bradford mabradford@mchsi.com 885-8078

Members Brunch [Co-Chairs]

Lolly Eggers lollyegg@msn.com 338-8963

Audrey Moeller [see above]

The United States Constitution & The Supreme Court:

Their impact on your daily life.

A Series of Community Conversations

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Johnson County

A comprehensive report on the United States Constitution project will be in a special edition of the Voter later this month. We have made great progress in the last few months and are finalizing some presentations. Please mark your calendars for the first two events:

September 16, Iowa City Public Library, 7-9pm. Todd Pettys, Associate Dean for Faculty and H. Blair and Joan V. White Chair in Civil Litigation will give a talk entitled "The Mythology of the American Constitution" with an introduction from David McMahon, Associate Professor of History, Kirkwood Community College.

October 11, Iowa City Public Library, 7-9 pm. Ben Stone, Executive Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa will speak on the Bill of Rights as part of the Iowa City Public Library's annual Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival. His talk is entitled "What's the Bill if We Don't Get It Right? Individual Freedom and the Constitution". Mr. Stone will be introduced by LWVJC board member Carol Spaziani.

Dawn Suter and Rebecca Reiter, co-chairs.

Carol Spaziani, Lolly Eggers and Pat Jensen, committee members.

ARE YOU READY TO STUDY OUR NEWEST LWVUS ISSUE? IT'S CALLED...

"FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION"

Studies are part of League Program which includes all the positions the League uses to affect public policy. This topic was adopted by the 2010 National Convention delegates. Since that time a National Education Study Committee was appointed and has prepared a Leader's Guide, Background Papers, and consensus questions for members to discuss. All the information may be found on the LWVUS website. Their efforts are greatly appreciated as they have provided meaningful materials from which we can learn the issues.

Our newly formed LWVJC Education Committee consists of Nancy Porter as Chair, Joyce Leff, Tyson Smith, Ann Wade, Linda Levey, and Mary Ann Bradford as Facilitator. If you are interested in helping on the committee, contact Mary Ann. Our all-member meeting to make decisions on the discussion questions will be held in late October. There is much reading for the committee members and others to tackle in a comparatively short time for our consensus report to LWVUS must be in by November 30, 2011. More information will be coming from our committee to keep you abreast of our activities and schedule.

The LWVUS website is www.lwv.org. If you are asked to sign in, use your name and the password assigned previously by them to you. If you are a new user or a non-member sign in and make up your own password. Sometimes you don't have to complete this information at all.

Double click on the For Members column near the top of the page.

Db. click on Projects and Programs in left column.

In right hand column under Taskforces and Studies, db. click on The Education Study: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education.

Scroll down to the bottom of the page, db. click on Consensus Kit. The Education Study Leader's Guide.

Under the list of contents, db click on the last item, Downloads and Related Links.

Print Related Files: Leader's Guide (pdf File) of 20 pages.

Return to #6 step, db. click on Download and Related Links.

Scroll down to Related Links: Background Papers, the Education Study Background papers of 56 pages. Then print the papers. mabradford@mchsi.com

Please join us for the State of Local Governments in Johnson County Reception!

**On Monday, August 22, from 5-7 p.m.
Kirkwood Room, 515 Kirkwood Avenue, Iowa City**

This event will feature beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and a short review of "The State of My Government" from each town and from the Board of Supervisors.

This is a great opportunity to chat informally with our elected officials and hear the highlights of what's happening in local government.

This is also an ideal event to bring a prospective member. Help us show off our League and build membership!

Margaret Murphy

CELEBRATE OUR NEW MEMBERS

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County is pleased to welcome these members who have joined since June 2011.

Lily French

Margaret Murphy

Angela Onwuachi-Willig

Please welcome them and continue the fine work of recruiting more interested voters into the League. Pat Ephgrave Membership Chair.

WANT – ADS

LWVJC has a **FAX machine** stored in a member's attic. Do you or an organization you belong to need a **FAX machine**? Contact Polly Horton pollyshorton@aol.com or 621-1685

HELP needed.

LWVJC seeks **assistant for web maintenance**; will train. Contact Melanie Gross: melaniegross@gmail.com or Polly Horton

Committee members and **Chairperson for Annual Meeting 2012** needed to choose site, menu, and coordinate reservations/ details. Program will be provided by Constitution Project. Contact Polly Horton

Calendar 2011-2012 LWVJC

*Board of Directors meet first Monday of month 4-6 PM ICPL

*Voter articles are due the Friday following Board Meeting

August 2011

Board Meeting

Voter Deadline

? Education Study Material
Shared

Reception for Elected
Officials

26-27 Film Miss Representation

September 2011

Labor Day

? Education Study Committee
Board Meeting
School Board Election
Voter Deadline

October 2011

3 Board Meeting

Continued on next page

January 2012

9 Board Meeting

13 Voter Deadline

? Caucus Training

? Constitution Program

? Finance Committee

February 2012Continued

6 Board Meeting

6 Iowa Caucus

10 Voter Deadline

? Finance Campaign

14/15 Lobby Day LWVIA

? Constitution Program

March 2012

Board Meeting

Calendar Continued

October [continued]

7 Voter Deadline

11 Constitution Program

11 Primary Election

15 LWVIA Issues Meeting

? City Council Candidates Forum

? Membership Program

November 2011

7 Board Meeting [11Voter]

8 Election Day

? Constitution Program

? Education Study consensus due

December 2011

3 Holiday Brunch

5 Board meeting 9 [Voter]

? Legislative Briefing

March 2012

5 Board Meeting

9 Voter Deadline

9 Appoint Budget Committee

? Constitution Program

? Affordable Housing Program

April 2012

2 Board Meeting

? Constitution Program

? Membership Renewal Letter

11 Nominating committee slate

May 2012

2 Nominating Committee Report

16 or 23 Annual Meeting

June 2012 4Board [Voter]

5 Primary Election

WELCOME TO MARGARET MURPHY—LWVJC'S NEW COMMUNICATION CHAIR

THE LWVJC Board at its August meeting, appointed Margaret Murphy, a new League member, to the Board of Directors. Margaret, a Journalism and Political Science major at the University of Iowa, has agreed to take on the job of Communications Chair. Margaret will be available to the Board as well as other League committees, to write and distribute press releases about League activities and help with other ways of promoting events.

She also will be responsible for disseminating Email messages to all League members using the group Email address on our Google account. She may take on other public information tasks as time goes on. Committees or individual League members who would like Margaret's help with publicizing League activities should draft a message to her containing all the details of what you want to communicate as well as indicating to whom it should be sent and when. Pertinent documents should also be attached. If members want to send or forward messages to all League members about non-League activities or events, the message should first be sent to President, Polly Horton, pollyshorton@aol.com, for her approval with a draft of an appropriate explanatory cover note.

Margaret's skill in writing press releases and some articles for the VOTER will be most helpful. Thank you, Margaret. She can be contacted at:

1-309-331-4787 or m.murph09@gmail.com.