

The Voter

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

September/October 2008

2008-2009 LWVJC

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TAKE YOUR PLACES, LADIES!

TAKE YOUR PLACES, LADIES! is a one-act play by playwright E. Joyce Schulte of Creston, Iowa, that will be performed in Boone, Iowa, on October 25, 2008. The play weaves history and humor together as it takes you through some of the history of Iowa women, and some men, working to attain the Nineteenth Amendment, giving women the right to vote. Come meet Great Granny, her daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter as they explore the memories and memorabilia from the time she marched for suffrage.

Also enjoy the Centennial Re-Enactment of the 1908 Women's Suffrage Movement Parade. Feel free to wear your best 1908 Period clothing and relive history. Although it took 72 long years, interrupted by the Civil War, to

achieve woman suffrage, it has been law for 88 years.

Schedule of Events:

9:00 a.m.:

Suffrage Parade monument dedication;

- 10:00 a.m.: Parade participants assemble at 500 7th St. (Boone HS),
- 12:00 p.m.: Suffrage Parade Reenactment; speeches given in the same place as in 1908 (8th and Story Streets);
- 1:30 p.m.: Reception, lunch, music, "Meet the Suffragists" historical exhibits, and participating agency displays in the adjoining park.
- 2:30 p.m.: enjoy TAKE YOUR PLACES, LADIES! at Boone High School.

For more information, visit . . .

www.celebratesuffrage2008.org.
Let's Celebrate Women's Suffrage!



Welcome

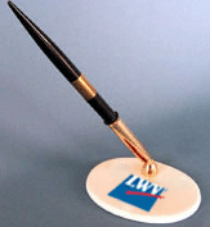
OUR NEW MEMBERS

Bryson Dean
Maureen Donnelly
Charlie Eastham

Karen Fox
Angela Iles
Mildred Laudie

Elizabeth Pearson
Mae Schatteman
Rod Sullivan





President's Letter

I ATTENDED THE 2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION of the League of Women Voters in Portland, Oregon, where Iowa was also represented by Ames, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Sioux City members. The plenary sessions, workshops and caucuses were filled with facts and ideas on organizational best practices, communication, fundraising, meetings, programs, and membership recruitment. Interacting with intelligent, dedicated, and determined Leaguers from across the nation was incredibly stimulating.

The "hot" topics approved for the 2008–2010 program were health care, global climate change, and the National Popular Vote compact. But the focus we were asked to bring back to local leagues is membership. Nationwide, the League has 850 leagues, including 16 new local ones since 2006, but most of the local leagues have declining membership. The League has lost an average of 3.1% of its members for the last three years. As of January 2008, the League had 67,726 members, compared to 74,951 in January 2005.

As membership declines, the national league gets less of its operating budget from PMP (per member payments) and local Leagues have less human power to conduct voter services, studies, and advocacy. In addition, the number of nonprofit organizations has topped 1.6 million. Several of these also address some of our program issues. We are to promote the value of membership in LWV to counter declining membership and a crowded field of nonprofit groups seeking funding.

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. LWVUS developed the acronym FOCUS to summarize the distinctive features of LWV:

First rule of League: *nonpartisanship.*

Outreach to your community: *program.*

Consensus: *membership agreement and board consensus (not going alone).*

Us, the grassroots: *membership growth and diversity.*

Speaking with one voice: *consistent message from all levels.*

I urge you all to invite friends to attend a LWVJC sponsored forum or event. Asking friends to join is a very successful strategy to counter declining membership. Share your story of why you are a member, and introduce them to the opportunities LWVJC can offer. Membership in the League offers personal involvement for the public good.

Polly Horton, President

STAY UP TO DATE by visiting the following websites:

League of Women Voters of Johnson County, Iowa: www.lwvjc.org

League of Women Voters - Iowa: www.lwvia.org

League of Women Voters - U.S.: www.lwv.org

And make sure to check out previous Voter newsletters online: www.lwvjc.org/newsletter.html

RECEPTION FOR JOHNSON COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

THE LWVJC WILL HOST a reception for the elected officials of Johnson County on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the home of Gail and Frank Zlatnik, 1531 Phoenix Drive, Iowa City. Refreshments will be served, and John's Grocery will cater.

Directions: from Mormon Trek Boulevard, take Rohret Road west to Phoenix Drive. If you have any questions, contact Audrey Moeller at adm445@msn.com or 466-0945.

Please put this date on your calendars, and plan to come meet-and-greet those who serve us. We hope to see you there!

THE LWVJC'S NEW SEASON, full of numerous interesting and informative programs, is approaching quickly. We endeavor to have a prominent LWVJC representation of our members, guests, and potential members at these programs and meetings.

As with any organization, membership fluctuates, so recruiting new members is important for the LWVJC's vitality, perseverance, and distinction. This is where you can help the League! If each of us would invite friends, co-workers, family members, or even good acquaintances to a League program, others will see the benefits of becoming a member firsthand!

Encourage anyone interested in joining to contact LWVJC's membership chair, Rebecca Reiter, 354-7163 or rebecca-reiter@uiowa.edu— or you might offer to contact Rebecca yourself! She will provide all the details on joining. Personal contacts are important, and you are critical in this recruitment process!

DUES ARE DUE! Dues cover from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009. Please make out your check to LWVJC and mail to:

Julie Pulkrabek, Treasurer
Johnson County League of Women Voters
4698 Fox Lane NE
Iowa City, IA 52240

Individual membership:	\$55.00
Family membership:	\$82.50
Student membership:	\$25.00

If you have paid your dues, many thanks. If you are uncertain if you have paid, contact LWVJC's membership chair, Rebecca Reiter, at rebecca-reiter@uiowa.edu or 354-7163.

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Membership in the League offers personal involvement for the public good.



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

SEPTEMBER

9: School Election

10: Reception for Johnson County elected officials. (See p. 3 for details.)

20: LWV of Iowa presidents/leadership training: 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., State Historical Bldg, 600 E. Locust, Des Moines.

OCTOBER

11: LWV Issues Briefing: 10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Newton Motor Inn, 2000 W. 18th Street S., Newton. (Check the LWVIA website for details regarding fees and registration.)

TBA: Congressional forum (Dave Loeb-sack / Mariannette Miller-Meeks) (Check

Upcoming Events

our website for an update on dates, times, and location.)

TBA: County Auditor forum (Tom Slock-ett / Hanna Gugliuzza). Conservation ballot issue informational panel to follow immediately thereafter. (Check our website for an update on dates, times, and location.)

25: Suffragist Parade in Boone, Iowa. (See p. 1 for details.)

NOVEMBER

4: Presidential Election.



*League of Women Voters
of Johnson County, Iowa*

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