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2007-2008**

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*Come Celebrate!*

## CONSTITUTION DAY—2007

Prior to our election forums, the League of Women Voters of Johnson County will offer an issues program to remind us of the basis for these elections—our Constitution. Asked at the close of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 what type of government we would have, Benjamin Franklin replied, “A republic, if you can keep it.”

To celebrate the Republic and its Constitution, the LWV will host a Constitution Day Seminar.

<p><b>Where:</b> Iowa City Public Library (Room A) <b>When:</b> Monday, September 17, 2007 <b>Time:</b> 7 PM</p>
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The forum will be co-sponsored by IOWA (Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys) □ Our speakers will be Johnson County Attorney Janet Lyness and Professor Tung Yin of the University of Iowa College of Law.

County Attorney Lyness received her BS and JD degrees from the University of Iowa, served as Assistant County Attorney since 1990 and County Attorney since 2006.

Professor Yin received his BS from California Institute of Technology and his JD from University of California, Berkeley. He teaches courses in national security law and Constitutional law. His areas of research include constitutional issues arising out of the global war on terrorism. □

All are invited to this discussion of the Constitution and vital issues of our time. Save the date!

### Fall Council Candidate Forums

<p>Watch for the League Iowa City candidate forum (October 22<sup>nd</sup>) the and the North Liberty candidate forum (October 30<sup>th</sup>). Primary candidate forums for all cities are on an as needed basis.</p>
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Five of us attended the State Convention on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Cedar Falls. Our legislative lobbyist, Judie Hoffmann, reported that in the last legislative session many issues that the League has supported passed, including the increase of the minimum wage, an increase by \$1.00 of the tobacco tax, the requirement of verified paper trails in elections, and same day registration for voters. One of the workshops at the convention featured caucus training for the January 14<sup>th</sup> caucuses. Our local league will be offering caucus training in November.

Because our newsletter will be printed before the filing deadline for Iowa City Council candidates, we have planned a forum for a city council primary election. Please check to see if there will be a primary in newspapers or on the auditor's page of the Johnson County website.

The LWVUS has been conducting a study of immigration. There have been several excellent articles in the National Voter, and there are eight articles at the [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). I urge you to read these over the next few months. The last process in conducting a study is having a meeting of local leagues to determine concurrence with the national proposed position. If local leagues concur, the position will be adopted at the national level. Our January meeting will involve a discussion about the immigration study and a concurrence vote on several issues involved.

The annual LWVIA Issues Briefing will be on **Saturday, October 6**, at the Altoona Library. Judie Hoffmann, our LWVIA lobbyist, will arrange excellent speakers and we will learn about the LWVIA priorities for the upcoming legislative session. I went last year and found it most informative. Call me if you are interested in attending.

*Barbara Beaumont*

## Forum on Legal Age for Iowa City Bars

The LWVJC will sponsor a public forum on the ballot issue of the legal drinking age in Iowa City. It will be on Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Iowa City Public Library, Room A. There will be speakers on each side of this proposed ordinance amendment: Jim Clayton, owner of the Soap Opera, and another person to be announced. After their discussion, questions will be taken from the audience.

The November 6<sup>th</sup> Iowa City election will have this issue on the ballot. Citizens will vote on an ordinance amendment proposed by petitioners to change the age of patrons in a business licensed to sell liquor, wine, or beer for consumption on the premises. The current ordinance requires that patrons must be at least 19 years old to be on the premises after 10 PM. The proposed amendment would change this age from 19 to 21 years old by inserting the words "*legal age*" in every place that now has "*19 years old*".

The current exceptions would still apply:

- employees can be under 21;
- an under-age person accompanied by a parent, guardian, spouse, or registered domestic partner who is 21 years old or older, may be on the premises after 10 PM;
- a business that meets the Iowa City definition of a restaurant is exempt from the minimum age requirement and will remain so.
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Restaurants would still have to apply for an exemption certificate which issued by the Chief of Police and must be displayed at every entrance to the premises.

Bring your friends and your questions on October 18<sup>th</sup> to join what promises to be a lively discussion!

*Naomi Novick*

## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS 2006-2007

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Iowa State Bank  
Lenoch & Cilek  
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Electric Co-op  
McDonald Optical  
Technigraphics  
West Bank  
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### Welcome to Our New Members

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### Ready for Caucus ?

It's caucus time again! Join us for a training and discussion of the caucus process for both political parties in Iowa. We will have a mock caucus with a general Q & A session following. The caucus training and discussion will be held at the Iowa City Public Library on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in Room A.

#### *Votes for Women*

At 8 PM on October 25<sup>th</sup>, a staged reading of Elizabeth Robins' 1907 play, *Votes for Women*, will be offered at the UI Mabie Theater. Come!

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LWVJC CALENDAR SEPTEMBER—DECEMBER 2007

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SEPTEMBER

- 11 Board Meeting—ICPL Room E @4PM
- 11 Iowa City School Board Election
- 17 Constitution Day, ICPL, Room A  
@7 PM. Co-sponsored by the Iowa  
Organization of Women Attorneys
- 26 Iowa City Council primary candidates'  
forum, if needed, IC Council Emma  
Harvat Hall @7 PM

OCTOBER

- 1 Board Meeting—ICPL Room E @4PM
- 9 Iowa City Council primary, if needed,  
ICPL, Room A @ 7 PM
- 10 Coralville City Council candidates'  
forum, if needed, Coralville City  
Council Chambers
- 18 21 Only Forum, ICPL Room A  
@ 7 PM
- 22 Iowa City Council candidates' forum,  
IC Council Emma Harvat Hall @7 PM

- 25 Performance of *Votes for Women*,  
Mabie Theater, U of Iowa @8:00 PM

- 26 Panel discussion of play. TBA

- 30 North Liberty City Council candidates'  
forum

NOVEMBER

- 6 Board Meeting—ICPL Room E @4PM

- 6 General Election Day

- 14 Caucus Training ICPL Room A  
@ 7 PM

DECEMBER

- 3 Board Meeting—ICPL Room E @4PM

- 8 Brunch. Tour of Marriott

- TBA Legislative lobbying with legislators
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