

**LWVJC Officers
and Directors
2006-2007**

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626-6227

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337-7943

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466-9361

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644-2807

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621-1685

Pat Jensen
338-8123

Audrey Moeller
466-0945

Naomi Schedl
351-6140

Alison Smith
338-6140

2007 Annual Meeting and Dinner

**Redlawsk to Speak on
“Voters and Candidates: a New Age for
Political Campaigns”**

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County will hold its annual meeting at a dinner at the hotelVetro on Wednesday, May 23rd. The featured speaker will be University of Iowa Professor David Redlawsk presenting his perspective on “*Voters and Candidates: a New Age for Political Campaigns.*”

David Redlawsk is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa, having received his Ph. D from Rutgers, an MBA from Vanderbilt and a BA from Duke. He has published research on voters and emotions, and is co-editor of the book Hate Speech on Campus exploring issues surrounding speech codes and multicultural education at public and private institutions.

The annual business meeting will address several matters. As is required, the budget for the following year must be approved, as well as voting for the new officers and Directors for the Board. In addition, we will vote to approve a change in the bylaws, to increase the dues structure, and to readopt our current local league positions.

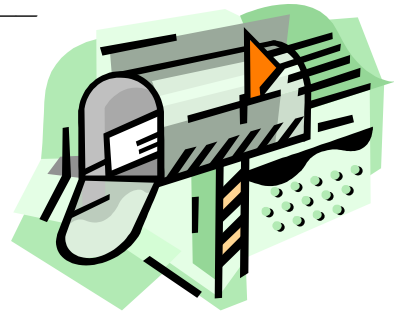
This should be an exciting event at a new venue. Please send in your reservations for your self and for any guests by May 20th to Julie Pulkrabek.

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President's letter

We're winding down our LWVJC year, which coincides with the academic year. We've held candidate and legislative forums, continued our regional government study, and tried a movie series.



We'll have our annual meeting and dinner on May 23rd and our annual reception for legislators on June 13th.

Our state convention is June 2nd in Cedar Falls at the Holiday Inn.

My thanks to retiring board members Naomi Schedl and Judith Crossett, and to Alison Smith, who will be continuing. Pat Hayek is ending her term as secretary; she has done a superb job for two terms, and we all appreciate her hard work.

Our board has worked smoothly with the help of everyone. We look forward to working with the new members of the board, and, if you are interested in being more involved, be sure to contact me and let me know – we're always looking for willing workers!



Members to Vote on Dues Hike

The budget for 2007-2008 is printed on page 3. The Board of Directors approved the proposed raise in dues (as indicated by a footnote in the "Dues" column) to be voted on at the annual meeting on Wednesday, May 23rd. This is necessary to conform to our Bylaws, Article VI. Financial Administration, Section 2:

a. *The amount of annual dues shall be recommended by the board of directors and shall be voted upon by the members at the annual meeting. The dues shall reflect the varying per-member payments to be made to the LWVIA and the LWVUS.*

The proposed increase is largely because of increases in National and State Per Member Payments. Currently, we are

paying *more* to National and State per member than we receive in dues.

Although everyone has been very generous with their donations to the League, we are apprehensive about counting on continuing donations for our fiscal viability. The proposed increases are for Single and Household Memberships, from \$50 to \$55 and \$75 to \$82.50, respectively. The student rate will continue at \$25 to encourage students to participate.

The Budget Committee and Board will respond to any questions or concerns on this issue at the Annual Meeting or before at your convenience. For any member who has already paid dues for 2007-2008, we will consider you paid regardless of the vote at the annual meeting on the Dues issue.

Save for the Budget

Spring Reception on June 13th

Our annual Spring Reception for the elected officials of Johnson County will be on Wednesday, June 13th from 5:30 –7:30. It will be at the home of Richard and Ann Feddersen at 3843 Locust Ridge NE in North Liberty.*



chance for League members to get together for a pleasant time.

Refreshments will be served again by courtesy of the Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative..

Please come to the 2007 Spring Reception!

This is our opportunity to host the many legislators who have appeared at our forums and met with us at meetings, to greet and visit with them informally. It is also a great

* From the Park Road bridge on Dubuque Street, go north 5.1 miles. □ Turn right on 275th Street NE, go .4 miles, turn right on Locust Ridge Road, go .2 miles to 3843 Locust Ridge Road.

Members Vote Needed at Meeting Proposed change to LWV Bylaws

In order to bring our bylaws into compliance with our National and State bylaws, the following article needs to be amended by deleting the phrase “of citizens”.

Article II. Purposes and Policy
Section 1. PURPOSES. The purposes of the LWVJC are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

LWVJC members will vote on the above proposal at the Annual Meeting on May 23 2007.

Report of the Nominating Committee

□ The Nominating Committee offers the following slate of candidates for open seats of officers and directors of the Board of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County for 2007-2008:

- Vice-President □ Audrey Moeller
- Secretary □ Judy Pfohl
- Directors □ Alison Smith
- Pam Stewart
- Melanie Gross
- Nominating Committee
- Karin Franklin
- Lolly Eggers

□ Respectfully submitted by the 2007 Nominating Committee:

- Karen Countrymen
- Polly Horton
- Karin Franklin

March Legislative Forum

A Legislative Forum was held on March 31, 2007 at Harvat Hall in Iowa City. Representatives Vicki Lensing and Mary Mascher were present, as were state senators Becky Schmitz, Bob Dvorsky and Joe Bolkcom. The forum was broadcast live. LWV Board member Alison W. Smith served as moderator.



The co-sponsors for the forum were the Sierra Club, Environmental Advocates and the Empowerment Board.

The elected officials provided summaries of the successes and challenges in this years' legislative term. High points were the passage of the tobacco tax and minimum wage bills. Mary Mascher discussed the preschool education bill and other education initiatives. Joe Bolkcom spoke about advances in environmental reform and greenhouse emissions.

Questions from the audience members included inquiries about telecommunications regulation, ethanol and fossil fuel issues, preschool and daycare legislation, mental health parity and clean air quality.

Students from the Iowa City school district also attended and asked questions regarding wind power, women and poverty, school staffing, teacher quality and factory farming. *Alison W. Smith*

Save the Date for LWVIA State Convention

The League of Women Voters of Iowa will hold its 2007 State Convention on June 2, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The keynote address will be given by the Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, Marsha Ternus. A business session and workshops will be part of the convention agenda.

The convention shall consider and authorize a program for action, shall elect officers, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and shall transact such other business as may be presented. There will also be reports on the 2007 session of the Iowa Legislature and on the "State of the State League".

Two workshops are planned as part of the convention proceedings. The first workshop will cover the United Nations and the League's role, and the second the caucus process.

Johnson county is entitled to send eight delegates to this state convention, so If you are interested in attending, please contact Barbara Beaumont at 626-6227 or bgbeaumont@juno.com.

Johnson County League Welcomes Two New Members

Gaylen B. Wobeter

2605 Bluffwood Circle

Iowa City, IA 52245

Wobagtony1@peoplepc.com



Dawn Suter

609 Brown St.

Iowa City, IA 52245

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVE WITH TRANSIT SURVEY REPORT AND POWER POINT TALKS TO GROUPS

The Regional Government Committee had a busy year working on the League local position supporting the improvement of regional cooperation in delivery of local government services within Johnson County and urging elected officials and citizens to make better use of mechanisms available for this. The position also calls for finding other avenues to pursue greater and more effective intergovernmental coordination. They have promoted the concept of a Central Emergency Communications Center for the County which is now under concept development by the County and Iowa City. This year they focused on a more regional approach to public transit service so that the developing areas outside cities can be served.

Committee members monitor several regular intergovernmental meetings. They have also developed a Power Point presentation "Regional Government 101" and presented it to six local service organizations. Audiences are suggesting services they would like to see merged as well as strategies for cooperation that might be pursued by the League and others. If League members belong to a community organization that would like a presentation, please let us know. Plans are underway to work with Iowa City Community Cable TV production staff to prepare a version that can run on local cable channels.

A major effort this spring was administering a survey of all local elected officials soliciting their attitudes toward public transit as an essential part of the community infrastructure (82% agreed that it was) and their perceptions of needs in their own cities/county for public transportation (64% believe there are underserved areas.) A 32.8% return has been summarized and our recommendations developed and presented to local intergovernmental organizations as well as the respondents. We are urging an increased emphasis on public transportation in all existing transportation planning activities and that creative ways be found to fund improvements. We also studied the Long Range Multi-Modal Transportation Plan currently under update by JCCOG and requested that study of a metropolitan transit authority be included.

The Committee will meet after the Annual Meeting to discuss how well our approach to this broad and difficult subject is working and decide on next year's work. Interested League members are invited to join these hard working committee members: Barbara Beaumont, Mary Ann Bradford, Pat Cancilla, Lolly Eggers, Pat Ephgrave, Pat Jensen, Cathy Johnson, Nancy Lynch, Audrey Moeller, Rebecca Reiter, Carol Spaziani, and Virginia Stamler.

Carol Spaziani

Grants from National LWV Available

Two years ago LWV JC received a grant for LWVJC activities focusing on Democracy and Our Airways. Two new grants are now available for application by local Leagues. If any League members are interested in working on these topics to secure a grant and develop programs for next year, please contact Barbara Beaumont at 626-6227 or bgbeaumont@juno.com.

\$1,000 Grants Available: "Safer, More Compassionate World" Global Forum
The LWV Education Fund and the organization Our Voices Together are

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**League of Women Voters of Johnson County's
2007 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING & DINNER**



Speaker: UI Professor David Redlawsk

presenting his perspective on

Voters and Candidates: a New Age for Political Campaigns?

Business Meeting 5:30-6:00 PM
Reception /Social 6:00
Dinner 6:30
Program 7:00 or 7:15

WHERE: hotelVetro Plaza Room 2 201 S Linn St Iowa City 337-4058
WHEN: Wednesday May 23, 2007; 5:30 PM
COST: \$25.00 [Choice of Tuscan Chicken, Gluten Free Chicken, or Vegetarian]
RESERVATIONS: Send your choice & check by MAY 20, 2007

Menu

Mixed Greens with Sliced Roma Tomatoes and Cucumbers/ assorted dressings

Tuscan Chicken: Chicken Breast wrapped in Prosciutto, stuffed with feta cheese and spinach, with Madeira sauce/ Oven Roasted Yukon Gold Potatoes / Asparagus

Gluten Free Meal: Plain Chicken Breast/ Plain Baked Potato/ Fresh Vegetables

Vegetarian : Tortellini New Orleans

Rolls and Butter

\$25.00 per person

Parking: Use lot formerly for Tait's Natural Foods (just south of hotelVetro) or Dubuque Street ramp 2E (access skywalk to Plaza Room 2).

Promote LWWJC Membership – bring a guest to the Annual Meeting!

(Please cut here, fill out reservation form below, and send to Treasurer Julie Pulkrabek)

**League of Women Voters of Johnson County's
2007 ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/e-mail: _____

Guest(s)' Names: _____

Number of Reservations: Tuscan ____ Gluten Free ____ Vegetarian ____

Amount enclosed (pay to LWWJC) @ \$25.00 each: _____

Send to Julie Pulkrabek 4698 Fox Lane NE Iowa City 52240

juliepulk@aol.com

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cosponsoring "Safer, More Compassionate Work Forum on: 1. Reframe Our National Discussions on Terrorism, and 2. Empower Individuals to Take Action. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for Local Leagues wishing to organize a forum between September 1 and December 15th, 2007.

\$1,000 Grants Available: Constitution Day 2007

Constitution Day is celebrated every year on September 17th, the same day the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787. This year, the League of Women Voters' [Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary](#) program is combining efforts with [The Constitution Project](#) to celebrate this important day. Grants of \$1,000 are available for Leagues wishing to apply. Resources will be available including speakers, pocket constitution books, and a toolkit to use with audiences.

For more information on these grants, contact [David Ward](#) at dward@lwv.org before May 30, 2007 for guidelines to participate.

LWVJC CALENDAR May—June 2007

MAY

7 ☐ Board Meeting,
ICPL Room @ 4 PM

23 ☐ Annual Meeting @
hotelVetro, 5:30 PM ☐

JUNE

4 ☐ Board Meeting,
ICPL Room E @ 4 PM

13 LWVJC Spring
Reception at Ann
Feddersen's home

SUMMER

TBA Joint Board Meeting