

**LWVJC Officers  
and Directors  
2007-2008**

**President**

Barbara Beaumont  
626-6227

**Vice-President**

Audrey Moeller  
466-0945

**Secretary**

Judy Pfohl  
351-1684

**Treasurer**

Julie Pulkrabek  
354-6633

**Voter Editor**

Patricia Ephgrave  
466-9361

**Directors**

Melanie Gross  
354-3179

Polly Horton  
621-1685

Pat Jensen  
338-8123

Alison Smith  
337-9006

Pam Stewart  
466-3130

*Join Us for these Up-coming General Meetings*

**The Influence of the of U.S. Media**

**D**o you think you are well informed by our media? In a time of rising use of the internet vs. the decline of news reporting in newspapers and on television, what can we observe about how the traditional news sources inform the body politic?

On Wednesday March 12th, our speaker, Jeffrey Weiss, will talk about the role of the media in a democracy. He will focus particularly on the role of the media in the U.S.: how it influences presidential races, how it affects our thinking about terrorism, and how it treats dissenters.

Mr. Weiss works for the American Friends Service Committee and also teaches part-time. His master's thesis was concerned with how the New York Times dealt with Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.

Plan on attending this informational general meeting on the U.S. media at the Iowa City Public Library on March 12 at 7:00 PM in Room A.

**Vision For Regional Services**

Chuck Peters, President and CEO of the Cedar Rapids Gazette Company, will speak on "My Vision for Regional Services for the Johnson County Area" at the League General meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 7 PM, North Liberty Community Building, Room B.

Mr. Peters is an attorney and former President of Amana Refrigeration. He has a strong personal interest in the need for a regional approach to services such as transportation, land use, water, sewer, solid waste, and communications for the Linn/Johnson Corridor. He has recently spoken on this topic at the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting. A panel of planners and representatives of local governments in Johnson County will respond to his ideas.

League members who are curious about what in the world keeps our Regional Government Committee working on this topic year after year since 2002, can get a fresh viewpoint and update at this program. Refreshments will be served.

## President's Letter

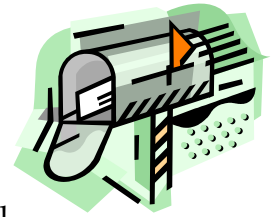
We learned from our meeting with our legislators in December, our first Legislative Forum, and League Lobby Day that in this legislative session any legislation that calls for spending money will not fare well. This is quite a contrast from the "can do" message we received from our legislators last year. It seems that talking about important issues is about as far as the legislature will get.

Pat Jensen did a wonderful job of describing League history and explaining

League policies at our New Member Brunch in January. Judy Pfohl served great food, and all of us who ventured out on that snowy morning learned a lot and had a good time.

We are offering some really interesting programs at the General Meetings in March and April (*see page 1*). We hope you will be able to attend them.

*Barbara Beaumont*



## LWVIA Lobby Day Provides Enlightenment On League Issues and Legislative Activity

The annual LWV of Iowa Lobby Day on February 13th had its usual range of quality speakers who provided members from across the state with information about potential legislation on League priorities. They were Victor Elias of the Child and Family Policy Center, Sean Flaherty, co-chair of Iowans for Voting Integrity, Representative Beth Wessel-Kroeschell of Ames, and League lobbyist Judie Hoffman.

Elias spoke about consumer-related issues, including legislation on predatory lending introduced by Johnson County's Senator Joe Bolkcom; Flaherty addressed the need for all Iowa counties to have voting systems that provide verified votes (voter marked paper ballots and random counting of ballots); and Rep. Wessel-Kroeschell spoke on both the bottle bill (expansion and redemption centers) and the need for further prison services for those with mental

illnesses or substance abuse problems. Judie spoke on several League issues, including the outlook this year for passage of VOICE (Voter Owned Iowa Clean Elections), which is not good.

The general consensus of both legislators and lobbyists is that this year the legislature will not be dealing much with new issues, particularly if they involve money. One exception may be the move toward verifiable "paper ballots" by fall of 2008 for all counties as there seems to be broad bipartisan support even though it will cost \$9 million.

In addition to hearing the current status and outlook of League issues, LWVJC members Barbara Beaumont, Gaylen Wobeter, Pat Jensen and Dwight Jensen met with local legislators and mingled with hundreds and hundreds of other Iowa citizens lobbying that day!

*Pat Jensen*

## Johnson County League Welcomes Two New Members

Steve Atkins  
539 Stuart Court  
Iowa City, IA 52245  
[sjatkins45@aol.com](mailto:sjatkins45@aol.com)



Jessica Hook  
2205 13th Street  
Coralville, IA 52241  
[jessica-hook@uiowa.edu](mailto:jessica-hook@uiowa.edu)

## In Memorium

Ruth Bonfiglio, a long time member of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County, died on January 22, 2008. Ruth worked tirelessly on the issues of juvenile justice and child welfare. In addition to being a founding member of Youth Homes, Inc. (now part of Four Oaks of Iowa) she also served for over 20 years as a Board member. Ruth served as League observer of the Board of Supervisors for many years.

Ruth's sense of humor and clever remarks made her a delightful person, and we will sorely miss her.

## Resolve to Make a Difference in 2008

The caucuses were a great opportunity for Iowans to get engaged in government at a grassroots level and now it is time to focus our energy on our Iowa elected officials.

The League was very successful last year in getting its priorities passed. With your help, 2008 will be a great year too. Be sure to work with other interested groups. Many groups including Sierra Club and Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement are also working on passing campaign finance legislation (voter owned elections) and controlling factory farms. Many church groups are interested in payday loan legislation and better mental health care for Iowa prisoners. There is strength in working with others.

The Legislature is short on cash this year, but we have many priorities that require little money. Remind your elected officials that they can do great things even when money is tight.

LWVIA Newsletter

## Johnson County Land Use Committee Update

A Committee appointed by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors has been meeting monthly for approximately the past 18 months to review and revise the County Land Use Plan. The intent of the plan is to embody our shared goals in a vision for the future; to build community and to enhance and preserve the quality of life in Johnson County. It is the intent of the plan to proactively protect the environment; preserve agricultural lands and operations; and minimize conflicts between incompatible land uses.

The Committee has made a number of recommendations for review by the Zoning Commission and the Supervisors. These include re-evaluate current North Corridor Phase I and Phase II concepts; adopt a specific long-term road improvement plan for the North Corridor; adopt a policy for funding road improvements; assist JCCOG in developing a comprehensive master transportation plan for the County; create village area plans for appropriate County Villages; establish or update fringe area plans with local governments; develop a Scenic Road Ordinance; consider development of a Cultural Overlay District; and develop a Natural Resources Policy.

There will be a Joint Meeting between the Board of Supervisors, the Zoning Commission and the Land Use Planning Committee on March 10, 2008 at 2 PM in the Board of Supervisors meeting room in the County Building.

The meeting is open to the public.

*Pasquale Cancilla*

## Save the date!

### Annual Meeting on May 21, 2008

WHO League of Women Voters of  
Johnson County  
WHERE Holiday Inn Hotel and  
Conference Center, Coralville  
Iowa  
WHEN Wednesday May 21, 2008;  
5:30 PM

**Business meeting** 5:30  
**Reception / Social** 6:00  
**Dinner** 6:30  
**Program—David Osterberg** 7:15

Program, dinner choices and cost will be  
published in May 2008 Voter

***Promote LWVJC Membership—  
bring a guest to the Annual Meeting***

## LWVJC CALENDAR March—June 2008

### MARCH

3 Board Meeting—ICPL Room E @ 4 PM  
12 General Meeting “*The Influence of U.S.  
Media*” ICPL Room A, 7:00 PM  
29 Legislative forum—IC Council Emma  
Harvat Hall @ 9:30 to 11:30 AM

### APRIL

7 Board Meeting—ICPL Room E @ 4 PM  
23 Regional Study Committee Report,  
North Liberty Community Building, Room  
B @ 7:00 PM  
26 Legislative forum, IC Council Emma  
Harvat Hall @ 9:30 to 11:30 AM

### MAY

5 Board Meeting—ICPL Room E @ 4 PM  
21 Spring Annual Meeting TBA

### JUNE

5 LWVJC Spring Reception @Old  
Capitol Museum, 5-7 PM