

Calling all League Members

LWV Immigration Consensus on January 23rd

An in-depth discussion and consensus membership meeting on the nationwide League study on immigration will take place on January 23, 2008 (place TBA). Members are highly encouraged to do some homework prior to the meeting. A LWVUS study committee has provided a great deal of information about the issue. Several past copies of the *National Voter* have some excellent articles. The February, 2007 issue contains "A Historical Perspective." Immigration Study Briefs # 1 and 2 can be found in the June issue, and Study Briefs #3 and 4 in the October issue.

In addition, the study committee provided eight background papers which can be found by going to the League web site, www.lwv.org. Click on projects in the menu bar, and then on immigration.

Pat Jensen

LWVIA 2008 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The League of Women Voters of Iowa announced its 2008 legislative priorities at its annual Issues Briefing October 6. The priorities are:

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM. LWVIA will work for improved methods of financing political campaigns in Iowa in order to ensure the public's right to know, to combat undue influence, and to promote citizen participation in the political process. We support the Voter Owner Iowa Clean Elections (VOICES) bill, which has passed committees in both the Iowa House and Senate.

WATER QUALITY AND CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS. LWVIA supports management policies to protect our natural resources and protect public health. We urge the Iowa House to approve mandatory inspection of septic tanks (as the Senate has) when property is sold in rural areas. Also, the League supports stronger oversight and regulation of industrial livestock facilities to overcome the negative impacts of industrial livestock production on water quality, air quality, health and quality of life.

PREDATORY LENDING. LWVIA supports economic justice and encourages the Iowa Legislature to pass legislation to reduce payday loan fees and to address the abuses in home mortgage lending.

HELP FOR SPECIAL NEEDS OFFENDERS. LWVIA supports legislation that expands services and programs for the special needs offender. This includes offenders with mental health and substance abuse treatment needs. We also support the availability of mental health and substance abuse treatment for offenders in community based programs.

RETURNABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINER LEGISLATION (BOTTLE BILL). LWVIA is a strong proponent of solid waste management. We support mandatory deposits on beverage

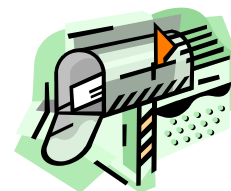
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President's letter

We are having a busy fall with forums and programs. By the time our newsletter is printed, we will have sponsored five forums and been involved in the performance of Votes for Women and the panel discussion on the 29th. I am really pleased with the collaboration on this project of so many local groups.

Our Constitution Day program was very good – I'm sorry that we didn't advertise it more widely. Dave Loeb'sack's office provided us with copies of the constitution. We have a few copies left - if you would like one, let me know.

The local elections are November 6th. We are happy that touchscreen voting is now accompanied by paper recordings of each vote, so the votes from these machines can now be hand counted if necessary.



Please join us for caucus training and discussion of the caucus process for both political parties in Iowa on November 14th (see calendar). Melanie Gross conducted caucus training sessions for the Secretary of State when she worked in Des Moines, so we have the opportunity to learn from an expert.

Barbara Beaumont

New State Study Approved at Convention

At the State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Iowa in May, a new 2-year state study was approved by the delegates. This "Comprehensive Study of Mental Health Delivery Systems in Iowa" is now underway with representatives from the Ames, Black Hawk/ Bremer, Cedar Rapids/Marion, Jasper County, Metro Des Moines, Ottumwa, and Upper Iowa Leagues. The study phase (July 2007-December 2008) is being funded with LWVIA Education Fund monies.

The scope of the study is being refined as the study progresses but will include the following:

1. Identify accepted definitions of terms.
2. Identify current state standards for basic mental health services.
3. Determine access to a broad range of mental health services throughout Iowa with particular attention to services available in rural counties. This will include community-based mental health delivery systems with a focus on availability of a continuum of mental health services and barriers to access.
4. Evaluate availability of services, professional staff (especially psychiatric professionals), and psychiatric hospital beds among counties.
5. Determine involvement of consumers in development and implementation of policy at all levels.
6. Document current funding for mental health services in terms of dollars spent and use of these limited resources. This will include public funding through Medicare, Medicaid, and Hawk I (for children).

The next meetings of the study group is on Saturday, December 1 in Cedar Rapids. We welcome other League members who have an interest in this topic. If interested, please contact me at 515/292-3388 or via email (nebrownames@hotmail.com).

Nancy E. Brown, Ames League, chair

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containers to promote recycling and reuse and to reduce litter. The League supports expanding the law to cover beverage containers that have come on the market

since the 1987 law passed. The League strongly urges the Iowa Legislature to expand the amount paid for handling to redemption centers to 2 cents.

Interested in Regional Governance? Join the League's Active Committee

The LWVJC Regional Government Committee has studied and advocated regional delivery of services for five years. Now many others are looking at regional solutions to a number of governmental issues and challenges: a centralized dispatch system is being organized and the building site to house the service has been selected; at the League's suggestion, the Johnson County Council of Governments included in its Long Range multi-Modal Transportation Plan the study of a regional transit authority; and the Iowa City fire chief suggested merging the County ambulance service with the City fire department .

The Committee is moving forward to examine water and sewer facilities and delivery throughout the County and to monitor the progress of the dispatch system, transit, land use, and any regional

issue that arises. And, its members continue to attend all meetings of regional bodies, such as JCCOG and ECICOG.

This year the committee – to give the co-chairs a respite from organizational work – has restructured to share the total work load of the group. All League members are encouraged to join the committee to learn more about how local governments work together – or don't – and what issues are evolving that might be better governed through regional cooperation or delivery of services. Just contact any committee member, including Carol Spaziani, spazianic@msn.com, or Pat Jensen, dpjensen@mcschi.com.

Won't you step up and contribute your energy and knowledge to moving regional governance forward?

Pat Jensen



League of Women Voters of Johnson County
Join us for the Annual Holiday Brunch
For Members and Friends



Program: Mary Lee Kruse

" Iowa Art at the Marriott: Iowa Artists Collection and Iowa Writers' Books"

Where: Coralville Marriott Hotel, 300 E. 9th Street, Coralville, IA 52241

Place: Carrie Chapman Catt Room

When: Saturday December 8, 2007

Time: 9:30 — 11:30 AM

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Reservations: RSVP by Dec. 5th, 2007. Mail your check to Treasurer Julie Pulkrabek
 4698 Fox Lane NE, Iowa City 52240, or phone (319) 354-6633,
 or e-mail juliepulk@aol.com

—————*Please cut along line and send in*—————

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/e-mail _____

Guest(s) Name(s): _____

Number of Reservations: _____

Amount enclosed (Payable to LWVJC) @ 25.00 each _____

Remember to Vote on November 6th!

The polls in all Johnson County cities will be open on November 6th 7 AM to 8 PM (except Oxford and Shueyville, noon to 8 PM).

Coralville, Hills, Lone Tree, North Liberty, Oxford, Shueyville, Solon, Swisher, Tiffin and University Heights will all vote for mayor and council members. Iowa City will vote for council members.

Six communities will decide ballot measures. *Hills*: ballot issue, water system; *Iowa City*: initiative, bar admission, and charter amendment, police review board; *North Liberty*: ballot issue, hotel/motel tax; *Shueyville*, ballot issue, length of terms; and *Tiffin*: ballot issue, hotel/motel tax.

Meet with Our Legislators

Come meet with our legislators on Saturday, December 15th at 9:30 AM at the Cottage Bakery. At that time we will discuss the LWVIA legislative priorities for the next session with our local state legislators.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come to this meeting. Pat and Dwight Jensen and Pam Stewart attended the October 6th LWVIA Issues Meeting in Altoona and will fill us in on what they learned about priorities for legislation from the LWVIA for 2007-2008.

LWVJC CALENDAR November—December 2007

NOVEMBER

- 5 Board meeting, ICPL Room E @ 4 PM
- 6 Election Day
- 6 Regional Govt. Committee, Cottage Bakery @4 PM
- 14 Caucus Training ICPL Room A @ 7:00 PM

DECEMBER

- 3 Board meeting, ICPL Room E @ 4:00 PM
- 8 Annual Brunch
- 15 Advocacy meeting: State legislators, Cottage Bakery @ 9:30 AM