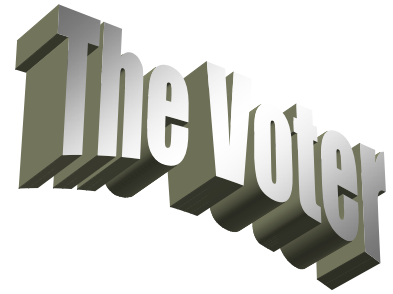




**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

APRIL 2006, VOL. 52, ISSUE 7



CALENDAR

- April 10, Monday.** Meeting of the Pollution Control and Ecology Commission to change rules for Arkansas' Extraordinary Resource Waters.(ERW) 6:00 pm, Jones Center (see page 3 for info)
- April 11, Tuesday, Blair(Fayetteville) Library Election.** Early voting has already started.
- April 19, Wednesday, Monthly Member Meeting,** "What's Right, What's Wrong with the Department of Human Services in Washington County?" Blair Library, 11:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch. (see reminder below)
- April 22, Saturday, "Earth Day in the Evening",** 6:30 p.m., Terra Studios Restaurant, Durham. For more information, see back page.
- April 29, Saturday, Arkansas State League Council,** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Central Arkansas Library System, Cox Creative Center Meeting Room, 120 Commerce St., Little Rock. (see article below) Please call Libby, 521-1158, if you plan to attend so carpooling can be arranged.
- May 1, Monday, Board Meeting,** at Joyce Hale's, 285 Cleburn, 6:30 p.m.
- May 6, Saturday, May Trail Walk.** Meet at Gulley Park (Township, Fayetteville) at 9:00 a.m.
- May 18, Thursday, Annual Meeting,** 6:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Activity Room, 695 E. Calvin St., Potluck Dinner. (See article below)
- May 23, Tuesday, Primary Election**

FROM LIBBY'S DESK

This is a busy time of year for all organizations, and the League is no exception. We had a good discussion led by Jana Britton and a good crowd for the local program choosing session in Patsy Ferritor's lovely home. Mary Bess Mulhollan, who handled reservations for the Women's History Banquet along with League Treasurer, Martha Ward, reports that 137 people attended this uplifting event. A small contingent of Leaguers hiked the Walker Park Trail on April 1 and were surprised at the variety of activity in this park that could be seen from the trail (baseball, soccer, tennis, skate boarding, dirt biking, horseshoeing, walking, eating, playing.) The trail along the stream on the west side of the park was pleasant except for a litter problem, which needs attention.

Coming up are the library vote (April 11), the April Monthly Member Meeting, State League Council and the May Annual Meeting. Please put these dates on your calendar and read the information below on these items. The League has no stand on the library millage vote

APRIL MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING

Betty Solis and her committee (Sharon Echols, Marge Zinke, Judy Casey and Sami Kopelman) have planned a discussion on the Department of Human Services in Washington County. The program "What's Right, What's Wrong with DHS in Washington County?" will address a problem and a segment of our society whose needs should be heard. Please bring a sack lunch with you to the Blair Library at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 19 for an informative session

LWVWC "PROGRAMS FOR ACTION," 2006-2007

At the March 15 Local Program Planning meeting, a few minor revisions were proposed to our Programs for Action for the coming year. These will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May. Also discussed were local issues we'd like to study for future programs. It became apparent as we talked that the issues of interest were related to the rapid growth of our area. Thus we decided to adopt the theme "**Smart Growth**" for the 2006-2007 year and to plan programs under this rubric as member's interests and time permit. Suggested topics are Beaver Lake and Our Water Supply, Workforce Housing, Minority Concerns (English Language learners), Public Transportation including light rail, and Land Conservation. A state League study on immigration may also materialize.

Jana Britton, Program Chair

ANNUAL MEETING

You are invited to the 53rd Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Washington County. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Activity Room of the First Presbyterian Church on Thursday, May 18. Members are asked to bring a dish of their choice to share. Plates, silverware and drinks will be furnished.

Libby Wheeler, President

MY FRIEND, ELAINE McNEILL

Elaine McNeill was my friend and she was also a true friend of the League of Women Voters. Almost as soon as she was old enough to vote she joined the League and for the next fifty years supported it with her energy, her time, and her spirit, including presidency of the Washington County League and board member of the Arkansas State League. She has continued her support by leaving a bequest of \$1000 to LWVWC.

Because we want members to help decide how to remember Elaine with her gift, we are listing a few of her activities and interests. Please read through this and call or email Libby Wheeler with your suggestions.*

She was a professor in the Department of Sociology and U of A and vitally interested in fair treatment for all people, especially active in the school integration movement. Access to the voting booth was a consuming passion as was equality in the workplace for women. She shared her love of organic gardening with many of us who took cuttings from her garden and ate at her table.

Her time in the McNeill's cabin at Beaver Lake satisfied her love of nature and the outdoors.

Elaine was a gift to all of us.

Genie Donovan

- For example, one suggestion is to support a graduate student to study why single women have such a low voting rate.

COUNTY CLERK ASKS LEAGUE TO HELP WITH VOTING MACHINES

County Clerk Karen Pritchard has asked for League volunteers to help learn the new voting machines and teach others how to use them. The new Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires an electronic voting machine at each polling place. Washington County will still use the ballots previously used but several improvements have been made on that system.

SPECIAL CENSUS

The City of Fayetteville began its Special Census on March 30, 2006. If population projections are correct, the City has the opportunity to receive an additional \$3 million for services, which means it is critical that we have an accurate count. If you are interested in working as a census taker, the City may still need your help. The hours are flexible and the pay is \$11.00 per hour. Please contact Sherrie Langhennig in Human Resources at 575-8276.

Karen Minkel

PRAISE FROM THE NATIONAL LEAGUE*

Dear Karen Minkel,

We have received your final report and we are very excited about its comprehensiveness and excellence of content. You did a great job organizing this regional forum: panelist of good level, excellent promotional and program materials, and good press coverage. Therefore we are very pleased with the results and we will be really happy to work with you and your league in the future.

*We have a DVD of that forum on the Arkansas Judiciary and Amendment 80 for any members wishing to view it. Contact Libby Wheeler at 21-1158.

LETTER FROM AN ILLINOIS LEAGUE ABOUT ABOLISHING THE DEATH PENALTY

Dear Fellow League Members:

The League of Women Voters of Illinois and the League of Women Voters of Evanston are bringing Abolition of the Death Penalty to the LWVUS national convention in June and we urge your support.

We are asking delegates to the LWVUS Convention to adopt this position by concurrence at the convention: "The League of Women Voters of the United States supports the abolition of the death penalty."

Soon your League will be receiving background materials and research on the death penalty in the mail so that you can come to the convention informed on this vital issue. For your convenience, we have also attached the materials to this email.

These and additional materials will be posted on our state web site www.lwvil.org/death_penalty

A Sunday morning and a Sunday evening caucus will be held at the convention hosted by the Maryland, New York, and Ohio Leagues. These Leagues adopted the death penalty abolition positions in 2005.

We invite your State League to cosponsor the concurrence. "Cosponsoring" means that the State League will contact all its local League delegates urging them: (a) to inform themselves with the materials they received from Illinois, (b) to attend the caucuses, and (c) to support and to be cheerleaders for the concurrence. Please urge your State League to do so

Please send your questions, concerns, and/or support to dpconcurrence@lwvil.org.

Sincerely....

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ARKANSAS COUNCIL

Calling all League Members to LWVAR Council! All members of the League of Women Voters are invited to the Arkansas Council on Saturday, April 29, 2006. Council is a gathering of League members throughout the state to talk about issues that interest all of us. This year, we will have some provocative discussions about water throughout the state - discussions enhanced by the local Leagues' studies on water. In addition, we will have talk and discussion about education in Arkansas, K-12 as well as pre-K issues. Come see everyone and get your League "fix" for exploring different points of view and becoming better informed on issues that impact all of us. The registration form is found in the State VOTER, published on the state website: www.lwv-arkansas.org To save costs, this is the only form of state Voter this winter.

So go on line, catch up with the state news, download your registration and sign up. (Details of Council location, time, etc is in the Calendar, page 1.) **Mary Alice Serafini, LWVAR President**

APRIL 10 POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY MEETING
Monday, April 10, Jones Center, Springdale, 6:00 p.m.

The Pollution Control and Ecology Commission which is under the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is holding a hearing concerning the rule change in the Arkansas Extraordinary Resource Waters (ERW). The Lee Creek controversy is an example of what this rule change might entail.

“EARTH DAY IN THE EVENING”
Saturday, April 22, 2006, Terra Studio’s Restaurant, Durham, AR 6:30 p.m.
(\$15.00 for dinner, \$5.00 for bus ride leaving from Ozark Natural Foods at 6:00)

The Omni Center for Peace, Justice & Ecology is sponsoring this dinner catered by Ozark Natural Foods and guest speakers, Lincoln and Alice Day. The Days are making a film (part of which will be shared) called
“Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives: the Environmental Footprint of War and Preparations for War”

The Days will also encourage sensible priorities: healing the earth instead of abusing it, encouraging cooperation between individuals and groups who want to do this.