



The League of Women Voters of Washington County, AR

www.lwvarwc.org

January - February, 2010 VOL. 57, ISSUE 1

Calendar

JAN. 11, Monday, 6:30, Board Meeting, Joyce Hale's home, 285 W. Cleburn.

JAN. 16, Saturday, Final submission for Women In History nominations. Contact Mary Bess Mulhollan for application form at 479-442-7333 or marybess@cox.net.

JAN. 20, Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:30, Fire Side Chat on Health Care Reform. Washington Regional Education Center at Pat Walker Center for Seniors, 12 E. Appleby Rd., Fayetteville. Robert B. Leflar, Professor of Law and Dr. Hershey Garner, Physician, will facilitate the discussion.

FEB. 8, Monday, 6:30, Board Meeting, Joyce Hale's home, 285 W. Cleburn.

FEB. 17, Wednesday, 6:30, Program to Be Announced, Washington Regional Education Center at Pat Walker Center for Seniors, 12 E. Appleby Rd., Fayetteville.

FEB. 27, Saturday, 11:00 am and 4:00 pm, Film, *Iron Jawed Angels*, Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson, Springdale.

FEB. 28, Sunday, 2:00-4:30, Transportation Forum, Fayetteville Public Library Walker Room, Co-Sponsored by City of Fayetteville and LWVWC.

From Joyce's Desk

The League of Women Voters' rich history comes to the fore this 90th year as we remember the acceptance of women's full suffrage and the impact that has had on society. On June 4, 1919 the Nineteenth Amendment passed Congress and on August 18, 1920 it was finally ratified by Tennessee with a one-vote margin. Arkansans can be proud of the prominent role our organization's leadership provided for the cause. Throughout this year I hope to develop a greater appreciation for where we came from as an inspiration for where we need to go. Each generation must relearn its own history and appreciate the lessons of success and failure.

By happenstance I have old books from my husband's family that are contemporary to that period. They are rich in descriptive detail that is frequently lost with the passage of time. I plan to "serialize" some of this material in future *Voters* with the hope that the importance of what we do today as an organization still relates to the original imperative.

In looking ahead, I hope you will give extra thought to the local issues that should be considered when selecting next year's programs. Our ability to maintain membership and have an impact will depend on the interest of these programs. If you are unable to attend the program meeting on March 17, please submit your ideas to Barbara Farley for consideration.

← Looking Backward... The Era of Women's Suffrage



There were two distinct philosophies about who should have the right to vote. One position held that it was a privilege bestowed by the state upon such citizens as were *capable* of exercising it intelligently and for the public welfare. The other view regarded it as the natural right of all adult citizens.

Before the 19th Amendment, there were early examples of women voting in the Colonies and later in States as determination was left to respective Legislatures. But leadership for the women's suffrage movement, which had been building since the French Revolution, reached critical mass after the rise of humanism in the first half of the nineteenth century. Movements in Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States grew until success was achieved.

What were the conditions that created such levels of dissatisfaction among “proper” women that they would take to the streets in large numbers and demand a voice in civic matters? Improved conditions for women and children because of remedial and constructive social legislation were conspicuous in states that were early to advance women's suffrage.

In celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment's ratification, it is difficult to appreciate the intensity of that era without looking to contemporary writings of the time. The following excerpts from *THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA*, Volume 23, published by Dodd, Mead & Co. in 1918 bring the history to life by describing the context of the movement.

“Courageous and gifted women came to the front. Their first task was to secure for their sex facilities for higher education as an absolute condition of intelligently sharing in the world's work. Later they enlisted for the antislavery and the temperance campaigns, although the more conservative among their male allies, with society in general, were shocked by the public appearance of women as speakers or delegates. Yet slavery and intemperance were not the only evils which stirred the awakening social consciousness of women. Here and there even in these early decades a clear voice was raised for political liberation.”

“In legislation for the protection of wage-earning women the equal suffrage States were leaders. In Illinois, since the women were enfranchised (1913), not less than 22 counties were made entirely dry; and in the State many hundreds of saloons were closed through the women's votes.”

Activity met with organized resistance. The National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage (NAOWS) was led by wealthy, influential women and some Catholic clergymen--including Cardinal Gibbons who, in 1916, sent an address to NAOWS's convention in Washington, D.C. In addition to the distillers and brewers, who worked largely behind the scenes, the "antis" also drew support from urban political machines, Southern congressmen, and corporate capitalists--like railroad magnates and meatpackers--who supported the "antis" by contributing to their "war chests." (Excerpt from *One Hundred Years toward Suffrage: An Overview*, Compiled by E. Susan Barber, <http://rs6.loc.gov/ammem/naw/nawstime.html>.)

Looking Forward



Planning for Future Programs

Barbara Farley, Program Chair

On March 17th the League's annual *Local Program Planning* meeting will be held at Barbara Taylor's house between 6:30- 8:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to develop topic areas for future programs of study. These programs are the basis for future advocacy and are an essential part of the League's work. The attendees of the March meeting will have an opportunity to shape the programs for next year. Every League member is welcome to present their favorite *burning local issue* in an informal way to the rest of the group. A lively discussion will follow where everyone is encouraged to participate. Other members, who share a similar interest, will take part and help to flesh out the idea. By the end of the evening a few good topic areas will begin to take shape.

The March meeting is essentially the first step. In May during the Annual Meeting, the ideas that develop out of the March meeting, will be presented to the membership and voted on. During the voting process people can sign up to help and form committees. Last year this proved very successful.

Once a topic idea is approved by the membership at the annual meeting, the Chairperson, with the help of a small committee, will take the lead and develop it into a public program. We realize that for some this may seem like a daunting task. However, we want to reassure that brave person you won't be alone. The League is happy to offer support in many areas. First we have a step by step document that helps guide the process: [League Program Guideline](#). Additionally, the League is responsible for arranging the meeting place and taking care of overhead equipment etc. and refreshments. The League is also responsible for the publicity and can help with visual aids and designing the graphics for a flyer, if need be. Joyce Hale, as League President, will be glad to make contact with the 'experts', if it is felt necessary. Most importantly all the board members are ready to help.

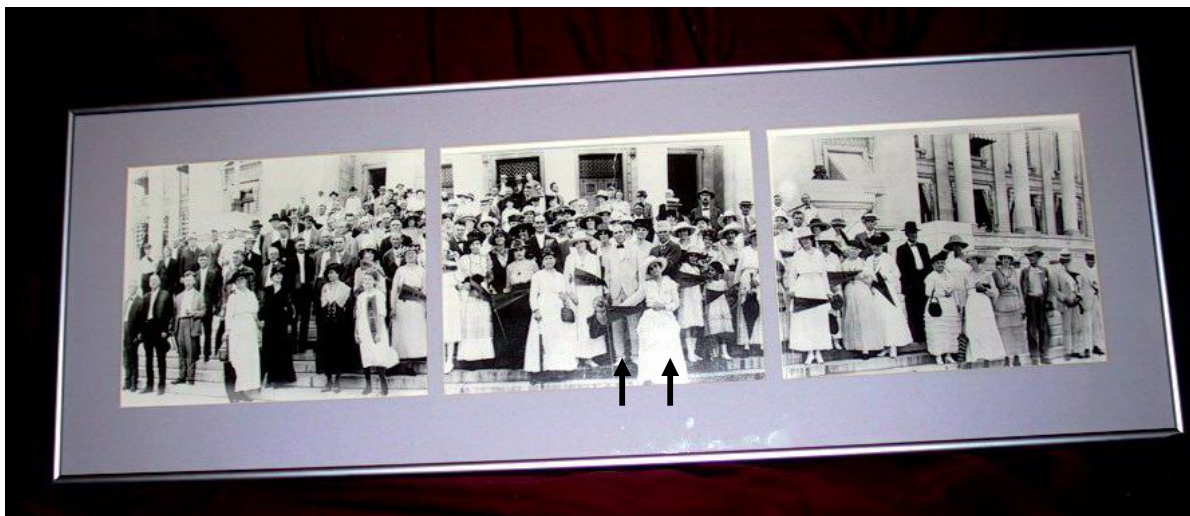
The format for the program can be flexible. There is no right way to hold a program. The program can involve showing of a film or reviewing of a book followed by a discussion group. Or the meeting can consist of a panel discussion with one expert or multiple experts assembled to discuss a range of issues surrounding a single topic with public comment afterwards. A more relaxed format could consist of a free flowing discussion centered on one study topic to be held around several large tables. The study materials for any program will be posted on the League's web site prior to the meeting. It is also possible to invite another interest group to participate and in this way extend the reach of a public program to a wider audience (i.e. Sierra Club or Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families). I hope everyone will come. Please contact me if you have any questions at bafarle@uark.edu.

----- Final Annual Membership Renewal Reminder! -----

LWVUS requires all League rosters to be updated by January 31st. Please contact Susan Rausch, treasurer, srausch@uark.edu, if you have not yet updated your membership or send in a renewal with the form on our website www.lwvarwc.org/membership.pdf. Thank you!

LWV Celebrates 90th Anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment's Ratification

The State Board of LWVAR will soon be considering an event to be held at the State Capitol in celebration of the Nineteenth Amendment becoming law on August 26, 1920. We hope the picture below will be accepted into the State Capitol's gallery collection for permanent viewing.



This picture was taken July 28, 1919, when Governor Charles Brough (left arrow in picture) called a special session for the purpose of ratifying the Nineteenth Amendment. The vote passed 74-15, making Arkansas the twelfth state to ratify the Amendment. Women filled the Arkansas capitol carrying yellow banners reading, "Votes for Women."

As a result of the Nineteenth Amendment, Arkansas witnessed the transformation of the Arkansas Equal Suffrage Central Committee (AESCC) to the Arkansas League of Women Voters (ALWV), with Florence Brown Cotnam, president (right arrow in picture.) The ALWV created citizenship schools to inform the new voters on the responsibilities of government and their voting rights.

January Member Meeting - A Fireside Chat on Health Care Reform

LWVWC members have asked for a Fire Side Chat on Health Care Reform so we will gather on Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Washington Regional Medical Center Pat Walker Center for Seniors. Rob Leflar, League member, law professor, public health professor and editorialist and Hershey Garner, physician and White House guest of President Obama to talk about Health Care Reform have agreed to facilitate the conversation. This means that League members should read up on some of the current issues and come to the Fireside Chat with any and all of your opinions on the current state of Health Care Reform. It is recommended that League members read Rob Leflar's editorials on Health Care Reform, which can be found at <http://www.lwvarwc.org/healthcareresources.htm> . Go to the section on **Reports and Analysis**, where you will find the three commentary editorials:

Health Care: Yellow Lights, Red Flags (Leflar, Northwest Arkansas Times, Monday, November 16, 2009).

Health Bills: What's At The Core (Leflar, Northwest Arkansas Times, Monday, November 30, 2009).

Medical Malpractice Reform? (Leflar, Northwest Arkansas Times, Monday, December 14, 2009).

A Video Presentation by Professor Robert B. Leflar, Health Care Forum (Leflar, U. of Arkansas School of Law, October 10, 2009) may also be viewed from this site.

As always, webmaster Sally Kelley has put together a wonderful page of important things to read about health care reform.

Come as an opinionated League member and have a wonderful conversation about issues important to all members of our community.

When: Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: Washington Regional Education Center at Pat Walker Center for Seniors, 12 E. Appleby Rd., Fayetteville.

Sisters on the Planet

The League of Women Voters of Arkansas has signed a contract with the League of Women Voters of the United States to participate in a program sponsored by Oxfam America called Sisters on the Planet. Accordingly, the LWVUS and LWVAR will participate in the following activities:

1. Identify five potential Sisters on the Planet Ambassadors and recruit at least one successfully.
2. Sponsor a showing of the film, *Sisters on the Planet*, and invite Senator Lincoln's Staff members to the viewing.
3. Sponsor a meeting with Senator Lincoln's staff, League members and the state and national presidents. It is likely that Mary Wilson, LWVUS President, will attend this the first week of March.
4. Mary Wilson will meet with state newspaper editors and key reporters.
5. League will publish op ed pieces on climate change.

So, save the first week of March for a trip to the Capitol. We also hope to hang the picture of Arkansas suffragettes in the Capitol during, before or after Mary Wilson's visit. For more on climate change and the LWVUS, please visit www.lwv.org.

Film, *Iron Jawed Angels*, to Kickoff Women's History Month

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, Fayetteville Business and Professional Women once again be sponsoring a free movie viewings of *Iron Jawed Angels* at the Shiloh Museum in Springdale at 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. For more information contact Becky Morehouse at 479-601-1443 or faybpw@hotmail.com.

Transportation Forum Set for February 28

The League of Women Voters of Washington County will co-sponsor a Transportation Forum with the City of Fayetteville. The Forum will be held in the Fayetteville Public Library Walker Room on February 28th from 2:00 - 4:30 pm.

The goals of the event are to disseminate information regarding regional transportation options, planning mechanisms, and opportunities for public input, to recruit committed volunteers to serve on the FFEAC Transportation Group, and to gather data through a public survey.

Organizations that will be invited to be a part of the Forum include XNA, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, the Arkansas State Highway Commission, City of Fayetteville Transportation Planning Board, Razorback Transit, Ozark Regional Transit, the UA Community Design Center, and the Bicycle Coalition of the Ozarks.

Additional information is available from Susan Rausch (srausch@uark.edu) or Karen Rollet-Crocker (krollet@uark.edu).

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