



The League of Women Voters Washington County

September – October 2009, VOL. 56, ISSUE 6

lwvarwc.org

Calendar

SEPT. 8, Tuesday, Early Voting Begins for School Election

SEPT. 8, Tuesday, Agenda Planning, Hammontree's at Nightbird Books, 11:30.

SEPT. 14, Board Meeting, Joyce Hale's home, 285 W. Cleburn, 6:30.

SEPT. 15, Annual School Election

SEPT. 23, Wednesday, Monthly Member Meeting. Fayetteville Public Library Walker Room. New Member Invitation/Social, 5:30. **Program - Electricity in Arkansas**, 6:00.

OCT. 5, Monday, Agenda Planning, Hammontree's at Nightbird Books, 11:30.

OCT. 12, Board Meeting, Joyce Hale's home, 285 W. Cleburn, 6:30.

OCT. 14, Wednesday, Monthly Member Meeting. Washington Regional Education Center at Pat Walker Center for Seniors, 12 E. Appleby Rd., Fayetteville. **Program - Foster Care**, 11:30

From Joyce's Desk:

The LWVWC Board met August 1st and welcomed new faces to the group. A special thanks to Genie Donovan for the thorough orientation to get us started on the right foot. I am particularly looking forward to working with four new board members. Sara Caulk, 2nd Vice President, will reserve meeting rooms and provide program logistics. Susan Rausch is our new treasurer and will be happy to receive your dues as we start this new season of programs. Molly Rawn has already been busy as publicity chair and will keep everyone informed through the media about our activities. J. P. Peters has gone so far as to take video recording instructions at CAT in order to make video records of our programs. These will be shared with other Leagues and provide programming for community television. I appreciate the contributions every board member provides to make LWVWC the most dynamic League in Arkansas.

The summer social at Nightbird Books was well attended. In addition to the film, *A Sense of Wonder*, portraying the life of Rachel Carson, Kelly Roark gave an interesting introduction. She set the stage with slides illustrating the public's casual use of highly toxic chemicals at the time *Silent Spring* was written. Donations from those attending were generous and made it possible to purchase a copy of the film for the Fayetteville Public Library. If you were unable to attend this event, you will soon be able to borrow a copy for home viewing.

Our first member program for this season is an important panel (details inside). Please come and bring a guest. We have four panelists, each with a special expertise, coming from Little Rock to help us understand the critical issues regarding Arkansas's electrical future. Hoyt Purvis will moderate the program. It is important to show the speakers at all our programs how much we appreciate their generosity by providing well-attended events.

You Are Invited

To The Annual Membership Gathering

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Walker Meeting Room - Fayetteville Public Library
401 W. Mountain, Fayetteville, AR

Please come, bring prospective members,
enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages, and
learn more about what the League will be doing in the upcoming year.

Membership information and applications will be available before the
Public Information Panel

**“Electricity in Arkansas”
Program begins at 6:00**

If you would like further information, contact
The League of Women Voters

www.lwvarwc.org
www.lwv-arkansas.org
www.lwv.org

Electricity in Arkansas: A Rapidly Evolving Issue

A informational discussion on electrical transmission and generation across the State and its impact on the ratepayers will be held, Wednesday, September 23 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Fayetteville Public Library. Arkansas finds itself in the odd situation of both needing to expand electrical production while maintaining an overcapacity of potential electrical generation in the form of idle or underused generating plants. The problem seems to lie within the transmission of power. Ultimately the enormous cost for both building new transmission lines and new generating plants is borne by the ratepayers and the environment.

The program will be moderated by Hoyt Purvis, of the University of Arkansas's Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism. The panel will include Sandra Byrd, VP, Strategic Affairs, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation; Ken Smith, Executive Director of Audubon Arkansas; Eddie Moore, attorney and expert on ratepayer issues and rights; and Nicholas Brown, President and CEO of Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

This is also a special LWVWC membership invitation event. While the program begins at 6:00 we will also have a social time beginning at 5:30. We invite new members and old to join us at 5:30. Please bring guests and refreshments will be served. More information about joining the League will be available before and after the program.

WOMEN'S HISTORY BANQUET-- It is early, but I am asking you to think about the women you might nominate who would receive recognition at the "Women in History Banquet" that is held in March. Nominations will be considered in early January, 2010. Nominations should be of women who live in Washington County who have made a difference in the lives of others in Washington County with their activities in the community. Nominees should have contributed over a period of time, have made contributions beyond their employment, and are role models to all ages. They should be able to attend the banquet and speak for about five minutes. CALL MARY BESS MULHOLLAN, 442-7333 OR E-MAIL marybess@cox.net IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A NOMINATION FORM.

Health Care Reform

One of the reasons that we are members of the League of Women Voters is we strive to be informed voters. We study national, state and local issues to make sure we are accurate and truthful in our interests and stands. Now is the time to weigh in with our legislators and communities with information YOU can provide to voters. Do this through e-mails, telephone calls and letters to the editors written from your knowledge that you have gained through the League of Women Voters. Here are some key points that you can use in your conversations, letters and e-mails:

1. We have an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health.
2. The New England Journal of Medicine, 70 percent of Americans surveyed believe the health care system needs major changes, if not a complete overhaul.
3. All Americans must have health care coverage, including the choice of a quality, affordable public insurance plan. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system. We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents.

4. We believe that health care legislation must establish a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families. It is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions and so costs can be controlled.
5. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount we spend on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. If nothing is done to control costs, we could be spending \$3 trillion for health care by 2011 and \$4.2 trillion by 2016. The federal government needs to take additional strong action to reduce the costs of health care for individuals, businesses and communities.
6. We must reduce or eliminate the cost-shifting that currently exists in health care financing and work to streamline the system. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans will be key.
7. Encourage our legislators to work together, to base their decisions on truth and what is needed for citizens.
8. Use a personal experience to make your point.
9. Encourage your legislators to use good sources for their information, not just information generated by the health insurance industry.
10. If you can, find a strength in the health care/health insurance circumstances of our country and point that out.
11. Whatever you do, use the information at www.lwv.org, issues, pull down "Take Action" and choose health care reform. Your voice makes a difference and the research and study of the League of Women Voters makes a difference.

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