



The League of Women Voters Washington County

February 2007, March 2007, VOL. 53, ISSUE 6

CALENDAR

February 21, Wednesday, Monthly Member Meeting, "Population Growth and Diversity," 6-7:30 pm, Fayetteville Public Library. See article below. This program is part of our series on Smart Growth.

March 12, Monday, Board Meeting, Joyce Hale's home, 285 Cleburn, 6:30 pm

March 15, Thursday, Local Program Selection, 7 pm, Patsy Ferritor's, 577 Rockcliff, Fayetteville. See article and new procedure for program selection below.

March 17, Saturday, Iron Jawed Angels, a movie about the Suffragist Movement, 1 pm, Fayetteville Public Library. See information below.

From Libby's Desk

Your League board is trying out a bimonthly newsletter format to save time and money, so please be sure to put the above dates on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming programs.

Our January program on Beaver Lake, ably organized by Joyce Hale, drew a good crowd and resulted in two new League members. Beaver Water District board members and staff discussed the history of the lake, how water is apportioned, the effects of development on our water supply, the consideration of property rights, the impact of on-site sewer systems and water quality. As with any League meeting, there were many questions, and protecting our water supply in this time of growth will be an on-going priority.

Our League board decided to offer the \$1000 Elaine McNeil bequest to the U of A Political Science Department as a stipend for student research on the voting behavior of women in Arkansas. We are waiting to hear if the Department accepts the guidelines we proposed.

Finally, our League received a Certificate of Appreciation from Mary Wilson, President, LWVUS, for our participation in the Ukrainian Civic Hosting Program. Included was a note from Zaida and Pilar, the two LWVUS staff who worked with us on the program. Quoting from their letter on a handmade card from the Ukraine: "We were very pleased to work with you – the quality of your program and the professionalism and commitment of your League members...was much appreciated....We also appreciate the way your League, your host families, and your community treated the delegates with such warmth

and generosity. Your outstanding work is the best way to promote mutual understanding across cultures..."

The League of Women Voters

Presents

Smart Growth: The Diverse Immigrant Population in Northwest Arkansas

Fayetteville Public Library-Community Room

February 21, 2007

6 PM

When a community faces rapid growth within a relatively short period of time (10 years or less) with a population that is ethnically, linguistically and culturally different than what had been historically customary, it is described as undergoing "emerging diversity" (Worthen, 2004). Our area ranks first in the nation in Latino growth and is home to the second largest Marshallese population in the U.S. February's program will focus on the rapidly growing and diverse immigrant population in Northwest Arkansas.

Join us as League members, **Dr. Diana Gonzales Worthen** and **Mrs. Mary Alice Serafini** facilitate a discussion with panelists **Ms. Val Gonzalez**, Adult Program Director, Just Communities; **Mr. Frank Head**, Director, Catholic Charities Immigration Service, Northwest; **Katherine A. Deck**, Interim Director, Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas; **Mrs. Carmen Chong Gum**, Marshallese Outreach Coordinator, Jones Center for Families; **Mr. Chris Stecklein**, Program Officer, Care Foundation, Inc. and **Mr. Al "Papa Rap" Lopez**, School-Community Liaison, Springdale Public Schools. They will focus on the following questions:

- Who are the diverse immigrants?
- What are their needs and concerns?
- How do they benefit the Northwest Arkansas Community? How do they enrich our culture?
- How do we successfully integrate all groups (new groups and established groups) into a healthy, thriving community?

Iron Jawed Angels

In honor of Women's History Month, the League of Women Voters of Washington County is sponsoring a special movie presentation of "Iron Jawed Angels," starring Hilary Swank. The film is a real-life portrayal of the final eight years of the women's suffragist movement in America, which extended from 1848-1920. You'll be amazed to learn how much these brave women endured, even putting their lives at risk, to help American women win the right to vote. "Iron Jawed Angels" inspires us all to take our right and responsibility of voting seriously.

So mark your calendar for **Saturday, March 17th at 1:00 at the Fayetteville Public Library, Walker Room.** Doors will open at 12:30; admission and popcorn are free. Please extend this invitation to your family, friends, and especially your favorite teenager(s) to come experience this special history-based film (movie run-time is two hours). Linda Ralston

LWV WATERSHED OUTING

Come learn about stream ecology on a field trip to one of our very own urban streams—Clear Creek. Under the leadership of Sarah E. Lewis from the U of A Geosciences Department, we will visit two sites along the stream and discuss watershed ecology, riparian buffer zones and macroinvertebrate communities within the stream. You will learn to identify macroinvertebrates so that you can determine the health of the stream's ecosystem. Plan to become active in protecting watersheds in our community.

SCHEDULE FOR FIELD TRIP

NOTE: GROUP PARTICIPANTS WILL BE LIMITED TO 15 INDIVIDUALS for ecological and communication reasons. Please call Nancy McCartney, 575-4370 or 521-6872 or email nmccartn@uark.edu

Saturday, March 31, 2007

9:00 am	Meet at Mud Creek Trail Parking area on Old Missouri Rd. (Parking)
9:15 am	Walk to Mud Creek site
9:30 am	Stream Analysis & Watershed Discussion
10:00 am	Bug kicking & macroinvertebrate identification – indexing
10:30 am	Drive to Hwy 112 Bridge at Clear Creek – Car pool (?)
11:00 am	Stream Analysis & Watershed Discussion
11:15 am	Bug kicking & Macroinvertebrate identification – indexing
11:45 am	Questions & Discussion
12:00 pm	Finish up

SUPPLIES TO BRING – Wading boots or waders, Drinking Water, Hat, Bug Spray, Sun Screen, Snack, Camera, Notebook (optional)

FINANCE DRIVE

It is about that time...our annual finance drive begins in March. Thank you for your past support. We have had a busy year hosting Ukrainian visitors, studying "Smart Growth" distributing voter information plus more.

Help us get a head start and save postage! Make a generous contribution by mailing your support to LWVWC, P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR. 72702 ...TODAY.

Jeanine N. Neuse, Finance Chair

P.S. The Guide to Elected Officials for 2007-09 will be ready soon. Thanks for your help in printing 5000 copies for distribution to voters! If you have names of individuals or organizations that may help support our efforts, please e-mail them to me. Thanks for your help jneuse@fayar.net

GUIDE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

“Guide to Elected Officials” is a listing of city, county, state and national elected officials with addresses, phones, email. Steven Neuse, LWV Voter Service Chair, produces this labor-intensive project every two years. It is delivered all over Washington County to city halls, county clerk, churches, schools and libraries. Twenty-five copies are given to each recipient by the League Board members. This is one of our most important services to citizens of Washington County and one that is awaited eagerly.

Copies of the “Guide” will be available at our member meetings. You are urged to take some for yourself and your friends. If you belong to groups that could use them, feel free to take a sufficient number.

Note: Contributions received in the FINANCE DRIVE are used to pay for the “Guide”. So join other League members in the envelope-stuffing party with Jeanine Neuse. (See article this Voter).

Call to Convention

The League of Women Voters of Arkansas will gather in Jonesboro on April 28 and 29 for the 28th Annual State League of Women Voters Convention. All members of all Leagues throughout Arkansas are invited to attend and engage in dialogue, discussion and education about issues important to all of us.

League of Women Voters of Arkansas Convention 28

Jonesboro, Arkansas

April 28 - 29, 2007

Holiday Inn

3006 South Caraway Road

Jonesboro, AR

870-935-2030

RESERVATION

Name of Participant:

_____ Local League
or MAL Affiliation _____

Check one of the following:

I will be attending Convention 28 as a voting delegate \$50

I will be attending Convention 28 as a full observer \$50

I will attending Convention 28 as a nonmember \$50

The above registration fee included Convention entry, workbook, Hall of Fame Luncheon, workshops and breaks.

I will be attending Convention for workshop (s) only \$3

I will need Guest Hall of Fame Luncheon ticket(s) \$20

Total amount Enclosed \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to LWVAR)

Note: Please indicate here if you have a special needs meal request

**Please complete this registration form and return it to: LWV of Arkansas
C/O Linda Okiror, Treasurer
1208 Frontier Lane
White Hall, AR 71602**

For questions, call the LWVAR office at 501-376-7760. Reservations should be received no later than April 1, 2007. No refund will be made for cancellations received after April 15.

Agenda

Saturday, April 28, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Convention Registration

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pre - Convention Workshops

12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Convention Opening

Keynote Speaker

Martha Schoffner, State Treasurer

Hall of Fame II Tribute

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Business Meeting

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Caucuses

Sunday, April 29, 2007

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. President's Breakfast in Holiday Inn restaurant

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Program for 2007-2009, Election of Officers, Direction from Local Leagues.

11:45 a.m. Closing Remarks / Convention 28 Evaluation

See you there!

Mental Health Advocacy

Thanks to the request from LWVWC to support legislative efforts to find a solution to the need for in-patient acute psychiatric care in Arkansas, the LWV of Arkansas sent 135 letters to each state senator and representative as the General Assembly gathered in Little Rock. A letter of support was also sent to Diane Mackey who was asked by a Legislative Public Health Committee to work with a coalition of interested parties to address the dire need for in-patient acute psychiatric care. All League members are asked to stay informed on this important issue and to talk to our Legislators about this issue.

Mary Alice Serafini
3305 Summerhill Drive
Fayetteville, AR 72703
(479)521-0291

PROGRAM PLANNING

(A.K.A. The Wine and Cheese Fling at Patsy's House)

Put it on your calendar. Thursday, March 15th, 7:00 pm at Patsy Ferritor's house, 577 Rockcliff Rd. We gather to have a party and select local program for the coming year.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Board has received a pointed suggestion that members would rather not listen to someone read the League "Program for Action." So we are trying something different. You will receive a copy of "Program" either by email or in the mail. Each member will be responsible for reading and deciding whether you think we should change or omit any of our positions and what new concerns you think the League should address in the coming year. LOCAL (City and County) must be the focus.

Karen Minkel, Vice president for Program, will lead the discussion. So help her out and bring some good ideas with you.

At this meeting we will also take consensus (reach an agreement) on the following statements resulting from the two programs on Smart Growth in our last two member meetings. These items will then be added to our "Program for Action" after their approval at the Annual Meeting in May.

Program for Action Additions 2007-2008

The LWVWC supports conservation of areas that are highly ranked ecosystems within the watersheds of communities in Washington County as determined by scientific study through the following policies:

1. Land use planning should include designations of areas that are highly ranked ecosystems.
2. In the future transition from farmland, prairies, and woodlands to urbanization, there should be a balance of land preservation and community development.
3. The public sector should encourage conservation efforts or purchase of highly ranked properties through the use of tax credits, transfer of development rights or property taxes.
4. Private fund raising for land conservation efforts should be encouraged through public/private matching programs.
5. Political entities in Northwest Arkansas should work together to develop regional and county park systems for the future use of all citizens.
6. Public education about the links between preservation of natural areas, community health, environmental sustainability, economic growth and resistance to global warming should be supported and encouraged.

The LWVWC supports the creation of a diversity of quality housing options to serve the entire range of income levels in our community through the following policies:

1. Incentives for creating higher density projects that incorporate “green” building and development practices such as a contiguous system of bioswales and rainwater gardens to capture runoff.
2. Incentives for traditional neighborhood developments that incorporate a range of housing options within one neighborhood.

The LWVWC supports a comprehensive immigration reform plan that will expedite:

1. Family reunification
2. Labor force stabilization
3. A pathway for permanent residence and citizenship

WOMEN'S HISTORY BANQUET

The Women's History Banquet will be Wednesday, March 28, 6 p.m at the Clarion Inn. Tickets will be \$17. including tax and tip. Mary Bess Mulhollan will have tickets for sale at the next two Member Meetings.

We have a very short time to nominate people to honor. These women should have made a difference to the communities in Washington County. It is suggested that we think about people who have done their service as a volunteer as well as those who have been employed to perform their service. Please call Mary Bess with suggested names at 442-7333.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
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Voice Mail: 479-575-1841

Nonprofit Organization
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