



The League of Women Voters of Washington County, AR

www.lwvarwc.org

APRIL-MAY, 2011 VOL. 58, ISSUE 3

Calendar

APRIL 8, Fri., 4:00 pm, LWVAR Board Meeting. Location in Little Rock to be determined.

APRIL 9, Sat., 10:00 am, LWVAR Convention. Roosevelt Thompson Library, 38 Rahling Circle Little Rock, AR.

APRIL 11, Mon., 5:30 pm, LWVWC Board Meeting. Joyce Hale's home 285 W. Cleburn.

APRIL 16, Sat., 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. ECO-Trade Show. East Square Plaza (former Bank of America Building on the Square)

APRIL 19, Tues., 7:30 pm, Documentary Screening, *BAG IT*. Walton College of Business Auditorium at the University of Arkansas. No charge for attendance.

APRIL 20, Wed., 6:30 pm, Alternative Transportation Panel. Washington Regional Education Center at Pat Walker Center for Seniors, 12 E. Appleby Rd., Fayetteville.

MAY 6, Fri., 9:00 am, Hispanic Women's Organization 10th Annual Conference, Jones Center

MAY 9, Mon., 5:30 pm, LWVWC Board Meeting. Joyce Hale's home 285 W. Cleburn.

MAY 19, Thurs., 5:15 pm - Meet & Greet Sheffield Nelson, 5:45 pm - LWVWC Dinner, 6:30 pm – Program, 8:00 pm - LWVWC Annual Meeting. "The Lodge" at Butterfield Trail Village, 1923 E. Joyce Blvd., Fayetteville.

From Joyce's Desk

This year, Fayetteville's Earth Day/Week is promoting many events with an ECO-Passport of activities and gives LWVWC an opportunity for visibility and education. Extra volunteers are needed to make these events plus other LWVWC activities happen. Please look at the list below and see where you would be willing to give a little extra time to promote the LWV. Seeing worthwhile activities attracts new members and participating helps old members commit to renewal. We have almost one hundred members in the LWVWC and we need others besides the board to come forward. I hope you will consider supporting one of the following items (see dates and time above):

1. ECO-Trade Show Exhibit – To be held during the Farmers' Market with eco-friendly organizations and businesses having displays. We need people to man our exhibit, tell the public about our programming, and pass out *Guide to Elected Officials*. The exhibits will be set up inside, so there are no worries about weather.
2. *Bag It* Documentary Screening – We need a person to introduce the film (the press packet will tell all you need to know) and pass out door prizes that come with the film.
3. Persons interested in meeting and working with Hispanic individuals who are interested in voting.
4. Serve on the Annual Meeting/Dinner Committee with special guest, Sheffield Nelson, speaker.

Let me know by emailing me at joycehale43@gmail.com or call 479-527-2777. I look forward to hearing from you.

ECO-Passport Activities Include Film Festival



bag it
is your life too plastic?

LWVWC and the Applied Sustainability Center of the University of Arkansas have partnered to sponsor the award winning documentary, *Bag It*, on Tues., April 19, 7:30 pm at the Walton School of Business Auditorium. **There is no admission charge, but there will be door prizes.**

Plastic is everywhere and infiltrates our lives in unimaginable and frightening ways. In this touching and often flat-out-funny film, we follow “everyman” Jeb Berrier, who is admittedly not a tree hugger, as he embarks on a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world. What starts as a film about plastic bags evolves into a wholesale investigation into plastic and its affect on our waterways, oceans, and even our own bodies. We see how our crazy-for-plastic world has finally caught up to us and what we need to do about it. Today. Right now.

Sheffield Nelson to be Guest Speaker for LWVWC Annual Meeting-Dinner



PHOTO BY JULIEN RACINE

Natural gas development in the Fayetteville Shale play has had economic benefits reported as well as economic costs. An earlier increase to the natural gas severance tax, initiated by Governor Beebe and approved by the Legislature in 2008, has fallen short of the anticipated revenue that was projected to meet the needs of the Arkansas Highway Department’s construction projects. Revelation of damage amounting to \$455 million to highways by truck traffic serving gas wells with only about \$54 million from severance tax to offset this expense has made it necessary to look for additional income. An initiated act proposed by Sheffield Nelson, former President and Chairman of Arkla, Inc. and currently a partner with the firm Jack Nelson Jones, has received clearance by the Arkansas Attorney General and proposes a severance tax increase plus removal of current exemptions.

Nelson will be the guest speaker following the LWVWC Dinner preceding the Annual Meeting. The activity will take place at “The Lodge” at Butterfield Trail Village, 1923 E. Joyce Blvd., Fayetteville. A reception to meet the speaker is scheduled for 5:15 pm and dinner will be served at 5:45 pm. Reservations for the dinner are \$10.00 per person and must be received **before Friday, May 13** by email to joycehale43@gmail.com. A pasta dish with a salad, dessert, and drink will be served.

Do We Need Public Transit?

A knowledgeable panel will discuss problems facing Alternative Transportation at the next member meeting. Speakers will be Uvalde Lindsey, State Representative District 88, Jerre Van Hoose, Member of the Ozark Regional Transit Board and former Mayor of Springdale, and Phil Pumphrey, Executive Director, Ozark Regional Transit.

This activity will take place at Washington Regional Education Center, Pat Walker Center, 12 E. Appleby Road, Fayetteville on April 20, 2011, 6:30 pm.

In the next 2 years, we could lose our current 11 bus Ozark Transit System due to major cuts in Federal funding. The system will need additional local funding to keep going for those who need it. In addition, public transit may be an important choice in the future for people who wish to save money while commuting or who want to support social and environmental needs in our community. Two possible choices are:

1. Build a more extensive system as our area has increased growth, increased gas and energy costs, and an aging population that needs public transportation. This requires an election where voters will be asked to pay ¼% sales tax (5 cents per \$20.00) to offer more transit choices for businesses, citizens who can't drive, and everyday commuters and riders who wish to cut transportation costs.
2. Keep our limited system as is. This will require doubling our current local funding (\$750,000 doubled to about \$1,500,000) from cities, counties, and Northwest Arkansas Community College.

The panel will discuss these and other issues related to public transportation needs.

See the League website www.lwvarwc.org for more information on transit needs.

PLEASE REVIEW the Following Materials before the Annual Meeting

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2011-2012

2011 Nominating Committee Report - Betty Solis, Chair, Lois Alward, and Jeanine Neuse

OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED:

President – Mary Alice Serafini (Term Expires 2013)
1st Vice President – Karen Rollet-Crocker (Term Expires 2012)
2nd Vice President – Joyce Hale (Term Expires 2013)
Treasurer – Susan Rausch (Term Expires 2013)

BOARD MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED (Terms Expire 2013):

Dot Neely Martha Ward
Sally Kelly Marge Zinke

2012 Nominating Committee: Anita Bukey, Chair, Genie Donovan, and Judy Carey

Officer Completing Term in 2012: Nancy McCartney, Secretary

Board Members Completing Terms: J. P. Peters, Bettie Lu Lancaster, Molly Rawn, and Laura Kellams

Program for Action 2011-2012

(NOTE: The full text of the Program for Action may be viewed at www.lwvarwc.org/programforaction.pdf)

At its March program selection meeting, LWVWC members proposed the following changes to our Program for Action for the coming year. This document is the basis for our League's advocacy work. We will vote on the changes listed below at the Annual Meeting on May 19th.

Section IV – Hillside Development Standards

- * Add to item 4 the word “Fayetteville” to read “Follow the Fayetteville 2020 Plan’s recommendations for hillsides:”
- * Delete items 6, 7, 9 and ll. These will be incorporated into Section X - Protection of Ecosystems

Section VIII – Parks Management

- * Create in section 1 a new statement to read: “6. Provide adequate maintenance for all parks.”

Section X – Protection of Ecosystems

- * Expand item 1 to read “Designating for protection in land use planning areas that are highly ranked ecosystems, such as waterways, stream banks and floodplains.”

Based on the LWVWC’s study of child poverty in our area, a new section will be added to the Program for Action.

Section XII – Child Poverty (2011)

The LWVWC, concerned about the rise of child poverty in our area, advocates for Washington County lawmakers to address the links between child poverty and educational opportunity, economic barriers and physical well-being. The League supports:

1. Placing limits on school districts’ ability to carry over state revenue that is supposed to be used for the benefit of low-income children;
2. Expanding access to quality early childhood education, such as the Arkansas Better Chance Program;
3. Creating quality after-school and summer programs;
4. Providing equal opportunity for higher education for all Arkansas high school graduates, without exception;
5. Expanding access to subsidized childcare for all eligible, low-income families;
6. Establishing a refundable, state-level, earned income tax credit;
7. Expanding school wellness centers in more schools;
8. Reducing the number of uninsured children in Washington County by expanding ARKids First eligibility and making enrollment in the program easier for families;
9. Establishing health literacy programs.

Program Selection for 2011-2012

Please bring your suggestions for programs for the coming year to the annual meeting on May 19th. Suggestions at the last board meeting included Immigrant Community Involvement, Emergency Preparedness, and a continuation of this year’s Transportation program. There is also the possibility of a LWVUS study on the Impact of Privatization of Government and a state study, based on our local study, of Child Poverty. Other proposals are welcome as is a willingness to participate in the planning of future programs.

League of Women Voters of Washington County 2011-2012 Proposed Budget

	BUDGETED 2010-2011	Income/Expenses 7-1-10 to 3-31-11 with 2 mo. Remaining	PROPOSED BUDGETED 2011-2012
REVENUES			
Dues	4,100.00	3,550.00	3,500.00
Contributions - Members	700.00	475.00	400.00
Non-members	700.00	535.00	400.00
Grants			
Interest AG Edwards Reg./CD	220.00	167.25	220.00
Interest AG Edwards Sch./CD	50.00	35.70	50.00
Other Sources/Reserves	500.00	390.00	200.00
TOTAL REVENUE	6,270.00	5,152.95	4,770.00
EXPENDITURES			
A. OPERATING COSTS:			
Duplication	50.00	0.00	0.00
Supplies	100.00	189.47	100.00
Postage	200.00	84.00	130.00
Board, Committees, Meetings	200.00	0.00	50.00
Internet Renewal (5 yrs.)	0.00	75.00	0.00
SUBTOTAL OPERATING COSTS	550.00	348.47	280.00
B. MEETINGS/TRAVEL:			
State Convention/Council	150.00	0.00	150.00
National Convention	300.00	0.00	0.00
Annual Meeting	50.00	0.00	100.00
Other Meetings	100.00	0.00	100.00
SUBTOTAL MEETINGS/TRAVEL	600.00	0.00	350.00
C. FINANCIAL SUPPORT (DUES):			
State PMP	890.00	445.00	420.00
National PMP	2,570.00	2,643.30	2,505.00
SUBTOTAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT	3,460.00	3,088.30	2,925.00
D. VOTER			
Printing	125.00	15.30	50.00
SUBTOTAL VOTER	125.00	15.30	50.00
E. EDUCATIONAL:			
Publications	250.00	0.00	215.00
Programs	800.00	648.53	600.00
Grants			
Voter Service	200.00	0.00	200.00
SUBTOTAL EDUCATIONAL	1,250.00	648.53	1,015.00
F. POSITION SUPPORT:			
G. BOARD DISCRETIONARY FUND:	160.00	120.00	150.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	6,145.00	4,220.60	4,770.00



Fayetteville Farmers' Market



Cinco de Mayo



Earth Day

It Must Be Spring! Time to Celebrate!

There are many opportunities to represent the League of Women Voters in our community. Keep an eye on our calendar and enjoy the many varied activities where LWVWC participates. We are particularly interested in connecting with the Hispanic community as they become a larger population in our area. Please let us know if you are interested in taking part as a LWV member at other meetings or events. We also look forward to partnering with other groups working on the related issues. If you are in another organization where this would help us both, please suggest that to someone on our board.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
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Nonprofit Organization
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