



# The League of Women Voters Washington County

September 2007, VOL. 53, ISSUE 9

## Calendar

**Sept. 15, Sat., Steam Outing/Watershed Walk** led by Sarah Lewis 9:00-12:00 (See below)

**Sept. 18, Tues., School Board Election**, Zone 4 (Early voting starts Sept. 10)

**Sept. 22, Sat., Annual Membership Meeting**, Fayetteville Public Library 9:30–11:00

(Please pass invitation below to friends and newcomers who would like to join League.)

**Oct. 8, Mon., Board Meeting**, Joyce Hale's home, 6:30

**Oct. 17, Wed., Monthly Membership Meeting**, "School Growth and Long Term Planning,"  
continuing our theme, Smart Growth, Fayetteville Public Library, 6:30 p.m.

## From Joyce's Desk

I am learning there are a lot of ways for the LWVWC to have visibility... even before we have officially started our year of programs. I was pleased to represent our group at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Secchi Day at Prairie Creek on Beaver Lake August 28th. This important water sampling activity at 36 GPS sites involves volunteers, particularly students, under the guidance of the Beaver Water District. My display provided the opportunity to tell the long history of League interest in water quality and quantity. About 200 individuals participated, asked good questions and took some of our literature.

The League sponsorship of a School Board Candidate Forum for Zone 4 was an interesting event for me to moderate. I appreciated the excellent questions provided by Jeannine and Steven Neuse.

## Viewing Schedule for School Board Candidate Forum

Sunday, Sept. 9      10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 10    10:45 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 13    6:03 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 14     10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

I also took the opportunity to promote the Annual Membership Meeting and upcoming election by tabling the Farmers' Market. It was a beautiful day visiting and distributing information.

Knowing which candidate truly represents your views and interest is difficult with the long list of issues today. A website: <http://myelectionchoices.com> was recently sent to me by a friend and I would like to pass it along as an interesting exercise to examine your own views in many areas and see how that matches with the full list of presidential

candidates. Being an informed voter takes a lot of work and while this series of questions takes a bit of time, I think you will find it instructional.

While the Summer Social was not broadly attended July 27<sup>th</sup>, the documentary, "*Hacking Democracy*" was found interesting enough to share with the Washington County Election Commissioner, John Burrow. Four LWV members, who viewed the documentary, visited the county's election staff to discuss voting machines and local practices. The Board voted to purchase a copy of the documentary for both Fayetteville and Springdale Libraries. I encourage you to check it out when it is available.

### **E-mail vs. Printed Voters**

Most of our Voters are now sent by Email. This is showing considerable cost savings for the League treasury. However, the most important thing is that they are read. If you are currently receiving the Voter by mail and would be willing to have it sent electronically, please notify Carolyn Madison [CarolynBMadison@aol.com](mailto:CarolynBMadison@aol.com) to make this change. We will continue with printed copies unless we hear otherwise. It is also important that you keep all addresses current whether snail mail or electronic.

### **Steam Outing/Watershed Walk**

The Ozark Headwaters Group of the Sierra Club will sponsor a stream hike from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 15. Sarah Lewis, a University of Arkansas Environmental Dynamics Ph.D. student, will acquaint participants with the functions, component features, and condition of the Clear Creek Watershed, which is part of the larger Illinois River Watershed. Lewis also will demonstrate methods of land use and stream analysis in relation to urban stream dynamics. The hike will begin at the Hwy 112 Bridge near Greathouse Spring, where the 2006 hike ended, and culminate at the Clear Creek-Mud Creek confluence near South Ball Street in Johnson. Registration is limited to a maximum of 20 people to reduce potential trail wear and tear, as well as optimize group leader/participant communication. For information, contact Sarah Lewis at [sel01@uark.edu](mailto:sel01@uark.edu) or 575-6951.

### **National Immigration Study**

The task of taking part in the LWVUS Immigration Study is an especially large undertaking. Work has begun to layout a plan studying the subject and concludes with a special consensus meeting on November 28th. Background papers have been written on:

Economic Aspects of Authorized and Unauthorized Immigration  
Immigration and the Economy

Overview: Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms  
Effects of Global Interdependence on Migration  
Immigration: Diversity and Inclusion  
Federal Immigration Policy: Enforcement Issues  
What Motivates Immigration to America?  
Immigration Policy: Family Reunification

Four study briefs provide additional information. A consensus kit is designed to help each local group organize the consensus activity. You may easily access these items on the LWVWC web site: [www.lwvarwc.org](http://www.lwvarwc.org). For a clearer understanding of an issue dramatically impacting our region, you will find this material very enlightening.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

The League decided to continue the theme of Smart Growth during our 2007-2008 Program. Last year, members had the opportunity to hear presentations on affordable housing, community and governmental efforts to protect our environmental resources and water source, our area's growing diversity and global warming. Next year's program will address alternative transportation, immigration, school growth, family work policies and include a special program on presidential campaign issues.

#### **September 22: Membership Meeting**

Bring a friend or colleague who you think would be interested in the League's work.

#### **October 17: School Growth and Long-term Planning**

Springdale and Fayetteville have both added new schools to their districts. How do the districts plan for long-term growth and adequate facilities?

#### **November (Forum Date TBA) and 28 (Consensus): Immigration (National Study)**

Our panel of speakers who discussed the growing diversity in Northwest Arkansas in March 2007 unanimously told the League that immigration was a topic that needed to be addressed at the federal level. The National League is in the process of conducting a national study, and salient issues will be presented at this program.

#### **December 19: Water conservation and protection**

What are the policy options available to communities to ensure protection and conservation of key water resources?

#### **January 16: 2008 Presidential Election and Campaign Issues**

Many state primaries will be held in February 2008. This program will provide insight on the main policy issues that all the presidential candidates will have to address during the course of their campaigns.

**February 20: Alternative Transportation**

Representatives from business, government and the local communities in Northwest Arkansas would like to make this area a candidate for federal funds to build a light rail system. What is the status of their work and is a light rail system a feasible project?

**March 19: Local Programs**

Join League members for wine and cheese to update local policy stances.

**April 16: Family Work Policies in Northwest Arkansas**

How family-friendly are most business in Washington County compared to businesses across the state and across the nation? How do family-friendly policies affect productivity and hiring competitiveness in the workplace?

**May (Date TBA): Annual Meeting**

Plan on eating a delicious potluck dinner and attending our annual business meeting.

All of our League members bring expertise to different policy areas, and we encourage you to volunteer to help coordinate one of our programs. Please contact Karen Minkel 444-8348 or [karen\\_minkel@yahoo.com](mailto:karen_minkel@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering. Many of these programs could use more committee members. These committees will have the ability to shape the format and topic focus and choose speakers. We welcome your involvement!

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OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

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U. S. Postage Paid  
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**The League of Women Voters  
Washington County**

You Are Invited

To The Annual Membership Gathering

Saturday, September 22, 2007

9:30 to 11:00 a.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.

If you would like further information,  
contact Carolyn Madison at  
(479) 530-1111

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