



The VOTER

November 2012 VOL. 59, ISSUE 6

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League of Women Voters of Washington County, AR

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CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 12 (Monday) – 11:30 AM – 1 PM - LWVWC LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON (See “November 12th Legislative Luncheon”/Laura Kellams page 1)

DECEMBER 5 (Wednesday) – 6:00 – 8:00 PM – LWVWC/HWOA HOLIDAY PARTY at the Butterfield Trail Village Lodge, 1923 E. Joyce Blvd. Fayetteville. (See “2012 Holiday Social”/Joyce Hale page 2)

ARTICLES

From the LWVWC President/Mary Alice Serafini (page 1)

2012 LWVWC/HWOA Holiday Social/Joyce Hale (page 2)

CANDIDATE FORUMS/Susan Rausch and Bettie Lu Lancaster (page 2)

LWVWC New Member or Renewal Application & Interest Survey Form (page 2)

FNHA ADVOCACY FOR MT. KESSLER GREENWAY/Bob Caulk (page 3)

CYBERBULLYING: Awareness and Tools for Prevention/Rita Officer and Joyce Hale (page 4)

COX CABLE “Take Charge! Family Contract (page 5)

From the LWVWC President

By Mary Alice Serafini

It is just great to have been a part of the League's successes the last two months. From the Mayoral Forum hosted by Bettie Lu Lancaster to the State Legislator Candidate Forums organized by Susan Rausch, we have contributed to voters' knowledge and information. These forums were made successful by the members who, in spite of busy schedules, volunteered to moderate and time the events. We thank the moderators for their preparation and great management and the timers for their incredible concentration to make sure the events were fair.

The panel on Cyberbullying, in collaboration with Mental Health America, provided an amazingly informative evening for all of us and the many teachers who earned continuing education credit for the event. We appreciate Holt School for hosting the forum. Thanks to panel members Dr. Erica Baughfman/Ozark Guidance Center, Detective David Williams/Fayetteville Police Department, Kelly Zega/Cox Communications, Mike Mason/Holt Middle School, and Grayce Randolph/Fayetteville High School Violence Intervention Prevention Club. And, we now know that Rita Officer is a great moderator! The League members who organized this program put in hours of work, which had a very impactful result. Likewise, we have some energetic members organizing the Legislative Luncheon set for Monday, November 12. Please make your reservations by Thursday, November 8. Thanks to everyone and see you at the Luncheon.

NOVEMBER 12th LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

By Laura Kellams

The League of Women Voters of Washington County will host a luncheon for anyone who wishes to meet our current and newly elected legislators. This will take place at the Washington County Cooperative Extension Service Auditorium, 2536 North McConnell Avenue, on Monday, November 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Just a few days after the election, learn what your representatives and senators have to say about the effect of election results on their work and the issues ahead in the 2013 legislative session. Take this opportunity to express your concerns. A lunch will be provided for \$10.00, but is not required for attendance. Contact Joanna Sites at 927-9800 by Wednesday, November 8 to reserve a lunch.



2012 LWVWC/HWOA HOLIDAY SOCIAL
by Joyce Hale

The LWVWC Holiday Social will include the Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas and their scholarship students for a return visit. They will give an update on President Obama's new policy for undocumented students and what they expect from the 2013 Arkansas legislative session. They will also report on the outcome of their voter registration drive and local campaigns with Latino candidates.

This event will take place Wednesday, December 5, 6:00-8:00 pm at the Butterfield Trails Lodge, 1923 E. Joyce Blvd., Fayetteville. Attendees are requested to share a holiday food item.



CANDIDATE FORUMS
by Susan Rausch & Bettie Lu Lancaster

Forums were held for the candidates engaged in three state races on October 15. Representative Charlie Collins and Adella Gray (House District 84), Paul Graham and David Whitaker (House District 85), and Representative Jon Woods and Diana Gonzales-Worthen (Senate District 7) participated in the 30 minute discussions of issues relevant to their races. The discussions were recorded by the Government Channel and are being shown until Election Day. The forums were also posted to the City of Fayetteville webpage. Candidates for the other races were invited to participate, but were unable.

On September 26th the LWVWC sponsored a "Meet Your Candidate Forum" between the two candidates for Mayor of Fayetteville: Lioneld Jordan and Dan Coody. Moderator: Ann Rosso, Timer: Beth Barham. Ann conducted the forum as the accomplished veteran moderator she is.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR INCLUSION
ON THE NATIONAL LWVUS ROSTER.

This will help reduce the membership committee's job of making personal contacts. Thanks.

LWVWC New Member or Renewal Application & Interest Survey Form

Name _____ Date _____ New/Renewal _____
Address _____ City/Zip _____
Phone Number _____ E-Mail (Please print carefully) _____

DUES: Individual Membership - \$40 Family Membership - \$60 Student - \$20

If preferred payment is by check and delivery by mail, write check payable to "LWVWC" and send to the following address: LWVWC / P. O. Box 4 / Fayetteville, AR 72702

Check LWVWC activities for which you may be interested in volunteering:

- Attend City Council, Planning Commission, Task Force, Quorum Court, etc. Meetings when needed
Voter Registration
Help with TV Candidate Forums
Help with Publicity, Displays, or Posters
Assist with Mailings
Assist with Telephoning
Provide Food for Events
Lobby State Legislature
Provide a Facility/Home for Meetings
Provide Transportation to Meetings
Video Record or Photograph Activities
Newsletter Writing
Other

I wish to receive calls to action on specific issues of interest: All League Concerns _____ Education _____ Environment _____
Social Policies _____ Voting & Governance _____

I wish to limit my membership to receiving the newsletter. _____

I do not wish to join, but would like to make a contribution (any amount appreciated). _____



FNHA ADVOCACY FOR MT. KESSLER GREENWAYS

By Bob Caulk

The Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association (FNHA: <http://fayettevillenatural.org/index.php>) is an advocate for preserving the Mt. Kessler Greenways in southwest Fayetteville. The east side of Fayetteville has significant greenspace (Lake

Fayetteville, Mt. Sequoyah Woods, Lake Sequoyah and Lake Wilson). Population growth to the west, has made protecting greenspace on the west side of Fayetteville a priority.

The Fayetteville City Limits encompass one thousand of the 1500 acres that make up the Mt. Kessler Greenways. Three property owners on Mt. Kessler have already put over 200 adjacent acres in conservation/agricultural easements and the City of Fayetteville has 200 acres for a regional park and a corridor on the ridgeline for a trail.

The University of Arkansas is investigating the purchase of property to relocate its outdoor recreation intramural facilities. One of the properties under consideration includes 180 acres that were part of the failed South Pass development. This parcel is adjacent to the proposed Fayetteville regional park. The balance of the property (460 acres), contains woods, bluffs and trails that we hope can be preserved for future generations.

Chambers Bank owns both of the properties due to foreclosure and would probably provide a good deal, if the University would agree to purchase the combined 640 acres. This could help the University meet the urgent needs created by its recent and planned growth. About 30 acres along Cato Springs would be a superb location for student housing. Using the balance of the land to add hiking, biking, running and nature study to its outdoor recreation program is a low cost way to promote student and staff health improvements.

Please send a personal letter, email or call asking Chancellor Gearhart* to support locating the intramural facility on the Mt. Kessler property and urging the University to obtain the entire parcel. It is important that he know that the advocates for the UA Mt. Kessler property purchase are Fayetteville residents, as well as UA faculty, students, alumni and other University supporters. The decision on the location of the intramural facility will be made soon. Acting **NOW** is essential.

*Chancellor G. David Gearhart
University of Arkansas
Administration 425
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Email: GDGEARH@uark.edu
Telephone: [479-575-4140](tel:479-575-4140)



Bob Caulk (bobcaulk@cox.net)/FNHA President, requests that you also send him an email outline of your comments to Chancellor Gearhart in support of the UA Mt. Kessler Property Purchase. Your input would be appreciated and of great value in promoting the preservation of greenspace on the west side of Fayetteville.

You are invited to explore the Mt. Kessler Greenways Website at <http://mtkesslergreenways.com/index.html> for more on the History of Mt. Kessler, along with additional information and photographs.

CYBERBULLYING: Awareness and Tools for Prevention

By Rita Officer and Joyce Hale

Cyberbullying is a worry for young families and educators. Wherever young people have access to computers, whether in homes, schools, cafes, libraries, or other public places, adult oversight is important. This means that even on occasions when children are using grandparents or family friends' computers, there should be an understanding about safety and social good manners.

An audience of 45-65 people attended the Cyberbullying panel discussion at Holt Middle School on October 16. As it had been arranged for Fayetteville School faculty to receive continuing education credit, the majority of the attendees were teachers and social workers. Judging by the large crowd and the time audience members lingered after the program, the evening was deemed a rousing success! Rita Officer served as moderator for the event, which was co-sponsored by the League and Mental Health America.



Moderator Rita Officer

The panelists (listed following) possessed a wide range of expertise and offered practical knowledge to the audience. Panelists: Dr. Erica Baughfman of Ozark Guidance, Detective David Williams of Fayetteville Police Department, Kelly Zega/Cox Communications Director of Public Affairs, Mike Mason/Holt Middle School Principal and Student Representative - Grayce Randolph/Fayetteville High School Violence Intervention Prevention (FHS VIP) Club President.

In describing her personal experience as a witness of cyberbullying and the price she paid for standing up to the bullying, Grayce exemplified the theme of the evening which was: everyone who is a witness of bullying must call it for the abuse that it is and take steps to stop it. Young people are quite unlikely to tell parents that they are being bullied and all panelists emphasized that adults must take responsibility to protect their children.

Panelist Kelly Zega suggested that a contract between parent and child be created to begin a conversation and establish the ground rules for Internet use. This tool is useful in establishing house rules and may be downloaded at Cox Communication's web page. http://ww2.cox.com/wcm/en/aboutus/datasheet/takecharge/family-contract.pdf?camcode=takecharge_jw-family-contract-link_tc-family-contract_0511 . See an example of the Cox Cable "Take Charge! Family Contract" on page 5.

The presentations were emotionally powerful and audience members responded with rapt attention. The panelists agreed to stay and answer individual questions and audience members took advantage of the opportunity. Reporters from local TV news stations conducted individual interviews with some panelists. Tables full of reference materials from a variety of sources such as Cox Communications, Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Ozark Guidance, etc. . . , were quickly depleted.



Karen Rollet-Crocker poses a question for Cyberbullying forum panelists.

We received excellent feedback from audience members. The League has been invited to participate in a panel presentation by the FHS VIP club in January. The presentation revealed the enormous challenge communities and school systems face as they seek ways to engage parents in dealing with this increasing problem. Committee members for this program were: LWVWC Members Joyce Hale, Libby Wheeler, Karen-Rollet-Crocker, Ivy Mullins, and Rita Officer and Mary Norton of Mental Health America.

Joyce Hale taped the program and was able to get it uploaded to various outlets, including You Tube. If you missed attending this event, it is available for viewing on this YouTube link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLYet54HH_M



SMART CHOICES FOR YOUR COX DIGITAL HOME

TAKE CHARGE! FAMILY CONTRACT

This family contract establishes media use ground rules for our home. Clearly defining these limits helps (name of child/children) and our entire family make smart TV, Internet and Phone choices.

TV

- I will watch only TV programs and movies that my parents feel are appropriate for me – even when I'm not at home or my parents are not around.
- I will respect and comply with the parental control settings in my home at all times.
- I will watch no more than (insert number) hours of non-educational television each day and only after completing my homework.

**Insert any additional TV rules created by you and your kids together.*

Internet

- I will use only chat rooms and Web sites approved by my parents.
- I will never give out any of my personal information online or use a screen name that tells people I'm a child.
- I will never meet an online "friend" face-to-face.
- I will never respond to offensive or dangerous e-mails, chat, or other communications. If I receive any upsetting or scary messages, I will tell my parents immediately.

**Insert any additional Internet rules created by you and your kids together.*

Phone

- I will never talk to strangers on the phone or in person. If I don't recognize the caller, I won't tell them any personal information or reveal if I'm home alone.
- If a phone call upsets or scares me, I will give the phone to my parents or hang up immediately and tell my parents what happened.
- I will not call any 900 or 976 phone numbers without the permission of my parents.

**Insert any additional telephone rules created by you and your kids together.*

Signatures:

Parent(s): _____ Date: _____

Child: _____ Date: _____

Family Contract Usage Tips

1. *Customize the highlighted sections (or any portions) of this document. Keep your wording as precise as possible to prevent any misunderstandings.*
2. *Specify rewards and consequences. For example, your child would lose TV watching privileges for a designated amount of time for breaking the rules. Likewise, you could create a reward system with items such as extra allowance for compliance.*
3. *Start by asking your child to establish the rules, consequences and rewards to encourage a sense of ownership. They are more likely to respect the limits if they helped create them.*
4. *Don't hesitate to enforce the family contract. Evaluate your child's behavior regularly and talk about their TV, Internet and phone usage.*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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