



The League of Women Voters Washington County

April 2007, May 2007, VOL. 53, ISSUE 7

CALENDAR

March 31, Saturday, Field Trip on Stream Ecology, 9 am – 12 noon. Meet at Mud Creek Trail Parking area on Old Missouri Rd. Those wishing to participate must notify Nancy McCartney (575-4370w, 521-6872h) or nmccartn@uark.edu as space is limited. Details in Feb/Mar Voter

April 9, Monday, Board Meeting, Joyce Hale's home, 285 Cleburn, 6:30 pm

April 11, Wednesday, Monthly Member Meeting, Sustainable Growth and Global Warming, 6-7:30 pm, Fayetteville Public Library (See article below)

April 28 - 29 – State Convention, Jonesboro

May 17, Thursday, Annual Meeting, 6:00 pm pot luck, First Presbyterian Church Activity Room, 695 E. Calvin St. Representative Lindsley Smith will speak (Information below)

From Libby's Desk

Please put the above dates on your calendar and join us for these end-of-year activities. We'd like to know if the bimonthly newsletter format meets your needs and if you've experienced download or printing problems in getting the information off the Internet.

Since the last newsletter, we've had an excellent program on Population Growth and Diversity (part of our Smart Growth Series) and seen an inspiring suffragist movie, *Iron Jawed Angels*. We have proposed updates for our *Program of Action*, suggested program topics for 2007-8, formulated a slate of officers for next year, revised by-laws and prepared a budget. These items will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 17th.

This will be my last desk column as LWVWC president. There are too many people to thank for all the help they've given me and the hard work they've done to keep this organization relevant and active. I look forward to remaining on the board and working with our new president (assuming she'll be elected!), Joyce Hale.

Programs

Join us on April 11 for our last program this year addressing smart growth. Art Hobson, former physics professor at the University of Arkansas, will discuss global warming as it relates to local sustainability issues. Global warming and sustainable communities have been a frequent topic of discussion during the past year, beginning with the release of Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," which was followed by Wal-Mart's "green" campaign announcement. Dr. Hobson will offer an insightful analysis of broad global warming concepts and provide suggestions on local action. This program will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Walker Community Room at the Blair Public Library.

Our annual meeting on May 17 will feature Representative Lindsley Smith who will update the League on the state legislature's recent session. We will also call for a consensus on the program theme for next year. At the program meeting in March, League members proposed continuing the theme of smart growth, with particular attention to transportation issues. Members also proposed that one program devote attention to the 2008 Presidential election and the issues that all the candidates will need to address during the campaign. Please bring your favorite dish and join us for the last meeting of the year.

Proposed By-Law Changes

At its 2006 Convention, the League of Women Voters approved two by-law changes that local Leagues need to incorporate into their by-laws. These will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on May 17th. Our current by-laws date from 1998, and we may have missed a previous update voted on by the national convention. Below is what we have now and what is proposed.

Now:

Article II

Purpose and Policy

Sec. 1. Purpose. The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Washington County is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Proposed:

Article II

Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the League of Women Voters of Washington County are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Now:

Article III
Membership

Sec. 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the League of Women Voters of Washington County shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

- a) Voting members shall be those citizens at least 18 years of age. Members who have been enrolled in the League of Women Voters for 50 years or more shall be life members and shall not be required to pay annual dues.

Proposed:

**Article III
Membership**

Sec. 2. Types of Membership

- a. **Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.**
- b. The above are housekeeping changes we need to make.

Our local board has proposed a change in the by-laws in dues assessment approval. Heretofore, dues for the coming year have been approved at the annual meeting in May. The League’s National Convention meets in June, and if the Convention raises national dues for the coming year, we cannot take action until the following annual meeting in May. Therefore it is proposed:

Now:

Article VI

Sec. 2. Dues. Annual dues as set at the annual meeting shall be payable September first.

Article VI

Proposed:

Sec. 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be set by the Board equal to the total of state and national obligations, rounded to the next higher dollar, plus local dues as set by the membership at the annual meeting. Dues are payable September first.

Now:

Article VII

Sec .2. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held, the date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall:

- c) set the dues for the ensuing year

Proposed:

Article VII

Sec. 2. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held, the date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall:

- c) approve any local dues changes in addition to national and state obligations.**

**LWV Washington County 2007-2008
Proposed Slate**

		Term Expires
President:	Joyce Hale (1 yr)	2008
1st Vice President:	Karen Minkel	2009
2nd Vice President:	Sami Kopelman	2008 (one year unexpired term)
Secretary:	Nancy McCartney	2008
Treasurer:	Mary Fitzpatrick	2009

Board Members to Be Elected:

Judith Carey	2009
Karen Rollet-Crocker	2009
Sally Kelly	2009

Board Members Continuing Terms:

Carolyn Madison	2008
Jeanine Neuse	2008
Steven Neuse	2008
Mary Bess Mulhollan	2008

Board Members To Be Appointed:

Mary Alice Serafini	Genie Donovan
Marion Orton	Jana Britton
Sharon Echols	Libby Wheeler

Respectfully submitted by: Jane Scroggs, Chair, Nominating Committee; Members: Lois Alward, Genie Donovan, Bettie Lu Lancaster, Betty Solis, Martha Ward.

Guide to Elected Officials Brochure

In February the board distributed almost 5,000 copies of the 2007-09 Guide to Elected Officials to more than 60 locations in the county, from Winslow to Springdale, from Lincoln to Elkins. We have a few left so if you want some please call Steven or Jeanine Neuse at 442-3018.

Proposed Dues Increase

The enclosed proposed budget is predicated on a dues increase from \$35 to \$40 for individual memberships and from \$52 to \$60 for families. Our national dues increased last year and will do so again this year. We want to meet this obligation and have funds on hand for the 2008 election season. The increase will be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting.

COMING ELECTION

On April 10th, Fayetteville voters will be asked to consider an impact fee for roads:

“The intent of the Road Impact Fee is to off set costs to the City of Fayetteville taxpayers that are reasonably attributable to providing necessary capacity improvements to collector or arterial streets to serve new developments.”

To give some background, Fayetteville already assesses impact fees for other services provided by the city. For example, a greenspace (or parks) fee or land in lieu of, has been assessed for some time. There are also fees for water, sewer, police and fire incurred by new developments in Fayetteville. The City Council enacted ordinances to put those fees in place.

This proposed Road Impact Fee, however, is being presented for voter approval by the current population. The fee will NOT affect structures already in place. Only new development will “bear a proportionate share of the costs” to provide for the additional street capacity needed.

As a part of this ordinance there is a table that outlines the rates for different types of development. For example, a new residence would pay a different rate than a new commercial or industrial structure or a hotel.

Compared to the fees already incurred by new development, the new fees for roads would more than double the current fee assessments. At present a 2100 square foot residence is assessed a follows:

Water	\$308
Sewer	835
Parks	960
Fire	203
Police	223

Roads would add \$3409 to those fees for a total of \$5,943. Assuming a \$120 per square foot cost for the home, the Road Impact Fee would add a little more than two percent to the total cost.

The following statement is a quote from “Fayetteville/Road Impact Fee Study” done by Duncan Associates, May 2006”

“Based on the annual number of permits issued in recent years, annual road impact fee revenue could amount to \$4.1 million to\$4.5 million.”

POLLING CHANGES FOR FAYETTEVILLE VOTERS

In order to exercise your right to vote this spring, you should be aware of several changes in the location of polling places. The changes are listed below:

PRECINCT #	FORMER LOCATION	NEW LOCATION
1, 5, 26, 35	Ramay Jr. Hi	Clarion Inn (rear entry) 1255 Shiloh Dr.
2 & 20	Leverett	Covenant Church, 4511Wedington(Wof540
7 & 29	Root	East Side Baptist Church, 325 S. CrossoverRd
14 & 22	Woodland Jr. High	Dwelling Place,1855Mt.Comfort
16	Greenland	Wiggins Memorial Methodist, 205 W 6th
38 & 41	Johnson	Dwelling Place, 1855 Mt. Comfort
6	Trinity Temple	Same location, but in different building

You will notice that these moves are from school locations and have been done at the request of the Fayetteville School District. The schools that are still being used will be changed as soon as other locations can be found. Remember that absentee voting and early voting at the County Clerk’s office are still available.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
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