



# The League of Women Voters Washington County

[lwvarwc.org](http://lwvarwc.org)

November - December, 2009, VOL. 56, ISSUE 7

## Calendar

**NOV. 7, Saturday, 12:00 noon, 540 Film Festival, *Split Estate***, documentary showing the impact of gas drilling on communities and individuals, Fayetteville Continuing Education Center on the square (also known as the Global Campus.)

**NOV. 9, Monday, 6:30, Board Meeting**, Joyce Hale's home, 285 W. Cleburn.

**NOV. 18, Wednesday, RESERVATION DEADLINE for Legislative Luncheon**, see article for contact information.

**NOV. 23, Monday, 11:30 – 1:00, Legislative Luncheon.** Washington Regional Education Center at Pat Walker Center for Seniors, 12 E. Appleby Rd., Fayetteville.

**DEC. 14, Monday, 6:30, Brief Board Meeting, Place TBA**

**DEC. 14, Monday, 7:00 – 8:30, HOLIDAY DROP-IN SOCIAL, Place TBA**

## From Joyce's Desk

Congratulations to Marge Zinke and her committee for bringing their work to a climax with the excellent Foster Care Panel. Providing this important information to our members and the community exemplified the League's role in public policy education. As the entire state membership moves toward a consensus position, we will develop another opportunity for future advocacy.

Several occasions to use our stands have recently presented themselves. This shows the continuing value of earlier efforts. Because of our long-standing involvement with water issues, I was asked to represent the League at two water quality sessions of the Legislature's Joint Performance Review Committee Oct. 30-31. The first panel discussed water concerns resulting from gas drilling in the Fayetteville Shale Play and the second pointed out the need for a Water Management Plan for the State of Arkansas. For years the League has advocated for this and should be ready to support a proposed study to accomplish this when it comes up in the next Legislative Session. Rep. Lindsley Smith serves as the Representatives' Chair for the JPR Committee and Rep. Uvalde Lindsey is also a member. We are proud to say that both are LWVWC members.

The LWVWC's donated copy of the Rachel Carson DVD, *A Sense of Wonder*, has now been presented to the Fayetteville Library. If you missed seeing it at the Summer Social, you can check it out to enjoy at home.

**540 Film Fest Features Documentary, *Split Estate***

After hearing about the environmental issues of gas drilling in the Fayetteville Shale Play, the public now has an opportunity to see the impact this development has had on individuals and communities in Colorado and New Mexico. The award winning documentary, *Split Estate*, puts a human face on problems developing as the rush to provide natural gas sweeps the country. The screening will take place Saturday, Nov. 7, 12:00 noon at the Continuing Education Center on the square.

This film points out what needs to happen if we are to protect Arkansas's water resources and air quality while inadequate regulations leave communities vulnerable. It is necessary for everyone to comprehend the long-term concerns that are seldom discussed along with revenue and employment projections.

Arkansas continues to be one of the primary locations for natural gas development using the new "fracking" method. Few realize the special Federal exemptions given the oil and gas industry by Congress when using this new process. They are not required to observe the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, or other laws protecting the public from chemical and environmental damage. Much can be learned from states, which have been using this process for several years. Advocacy for legislating greater environmental protection is needed. Taking time to view this documentary will make it evident that protection is needed now. If you use natural gas, you have a role to play in advocating safer development procedures and a responsibility to support reforms.

**LWVWC Legislative Luncheon**

An informal luncheon with Washington County legislators will take place Nov. 23, 11:30 to 1:00 at the Pat Walker Center for Seniors. The objective is to get to know our political leaders better in order to promote a good working relationship and develop common interest. The League needs to hear what each representative and senator hopes to accomplish, along with their committee assignments, and projections of the coming annual session. On the other hand our legislators need to know about our study issues and programs. Working together can create an effective partnership. While this event welcomes LWVWC members and the public to an open exchange, the discussion will relate to issues connected with the League's program areas.

A delicious catered lunch will be available for those of you who make a reservation by November 18th. For \$10 you will have a choice of either a garlic and herb chicken quiche or a spinach quiche, with a mixed green salad, a drink and a desert. To reserve your lunch, phone Bettie Lu Lancaster, 521-4069, by November 18th.

### **SAVE THE DATE FOR A HOLIDAY SOCIAL**

A holiday social for December 14 from 7:00 to 8:30 is in the works, but the location is still in the planning stage. The board will meet briefly at 6:30 at the same location, but adjourn ASAP for refreshments and visiting. Invitations will be sent with all details and encouragement to bring a guest. This will be a good opportunity to bring someone who might be interested in joining the League.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

The LWVWC would like to welcome our new members: Karla Bradley, Fran Alexander, and Nancy Owens. We would also like to give a friendly reminder of those of you who have not renewed for the 2009-2010 membership year. If you would like to renew by mail, please send your check for \$40 to The League of Women Voters of Washington County, PO Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702. Please indicate that you are renewing in the memo line of your check.

### **Government in Arkansas – A New Edition Now Available**

Published by the League of Women Voters of Arkansas, *Government in Arkansas*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, is a citizen and student guide to state government. You may order your copy or copies at Educators Book Depository in one of the following ways:

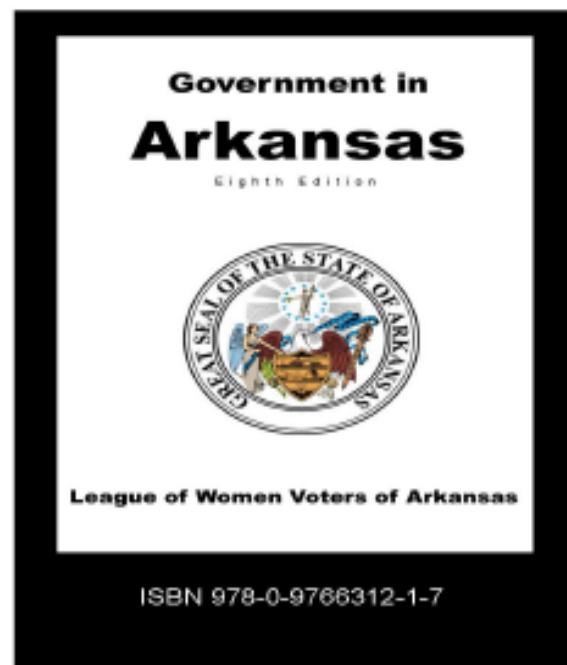
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## **Government in Arkansas Update**

Many thanks go to the editors, Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Margaret Reed, for completing the 2009 edition of Government in Arkansas. This edition includes a section on the Secretary of State, a reformatted layout with review questions in each chapter and a free Teacher's Resource CD available for all school orders. Printed by Lightning Source, a print-on-demand publishing company, the book is available at the Educators Book Depository in Little Rock for re-sale at the still affordable, \$15.00 per copy, plus the cost of shipping. A few copies are available through LWVWC at the cost of \$17.00, including shipping.

The Depository still has a 2004 edition inventory of over 3,000 books. If you know worthy individuals or organizations that may benefit from complimentary copies of the 2004 edition, you may call the Depository at 501-490-0007 and arrange to pick up any quantity of books for re-distribution.

LWVAR Treasurer Joyce Hale distributed 400 copies of the 2004 edition to the 2009 Class of the Arkansas Governor's School on the campus of Hendrix College.

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