



IOWA VOTER

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



The League of Women Voters of Iowa is now getting ready for our big event of the year – our biennial convention. The Board is working hard with last-minute plans to make this event fun, memorable, and educational. We will have speakers, workshops, and a chance to learn more about the work of the League of Women Voters. In the business meeting, we will help determine the direction of LWVIA for the next two years.

The Convention will be held at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa. Each convention has its own highlights. Convention this year will be a memorable event not to be missed!

A very important part of Convention will be our chance to say goodbye to Judie Hoffman, League’s beloved lobbyist. Judie has decided that now is the time for her to retire, much to our regret! I personally think she is much too young to think of such a thing! Judy will give a report on how the legislature has done this year, and what success the League has had in influencing legislation to go our way.

Another honored guest speaker will be Janis McMillan from Kansas. Janis is the LWVIA’s liaison to the League of Women Voters of the United States and is also a member of the LWVUS Board. Janis’s topic will be the “State of LWVUS.” She will be happy to answer any questions we might have.

Workshop’s presenters are Dr. Dianne Bystrom and Dr. Myrna Loehrlein. Dianne’s workshop is called “Sowing the Seeds” and will focus on how each League can promote women running for elected office. “Be the Best Board Ever – and Celebrate” is the title Myrna has chosen for her workshop.

Jane Cox from Ames will present her version of Carrie Chapman Catt at 12:30. Carrie will be celebrating a special birthday, and we will help by eating birthday cake!

It has been the custom for many years that LWVUS holds a national convention one year and a national council the next. This year LWVUS has decided to try a different version for Council. On June 13, instead of travelling to Washington, D.C. for Council, local



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IOWA CONVENTION

Saturday, June 6, 2009

Bridge View Center, 102 Church Street- Ottumwa, Iowa

You are cordially invited to attend the 2009 LWVIA Convention

Speakers! Business Meeting!
Workshops!

Birthday Cake! (Carrie Chapman Catt’s birthday)
Jane Cox in “The Yellow Rose of Suffrage”



STATE CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. David Swenson from Iowa State University will be the keynote speaker

Dr. Swenson's speech is called: "Key Characteristics of Iowa's Foreign Born Populations." Dr. Swenson's goal will be to help us understand the diverse social, country of origin, and economic characteristics of Iowa's foreign born residents. He is an Associate Scientist/Lecturer with the Department of Economics in the College of Agriculture.

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delegates (and other League members who so desire) will attend a "Virtual" Council. LWVUS will soon be sending us details as to just how this will work.

The plan is that a "Virtual Council" will save money and travel time in a year when many people might prefer to remain in their own state. It will be very interesting to see how it turns out and to hear what participants may feel about this change.

I attended the "Actual" Council in Washington, D.C. in 2007 and found it to be a very valuable experience. There were many interesting workshops, and I particularly enjoyed the many chances to network with other state league presidents.

In June 2008, six other leaguers from Iowa and I attended the LWVUS National Convention in Portland, Oregon. This was also an extremely valuable experience. I enjoyed getting to know the other Iowans:

Polly Horton, Johnson County; Alice Dahle, Cedar Rapids/Marion; Gene Hill, Sioux City; Selva Lehman

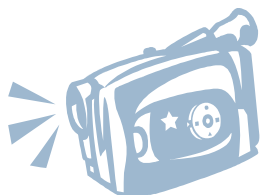
and Lauris Olson from Ames, and Karen Person, Metro Des Moines. I think Polly, Alice, and I will always remember that we "flew away" from the flood in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City that week end. Back home at my house, my son was dealing with my flooded basement. Polly, president of the Johnson County League, even wondered how she would get home from the airport. That week end, the only way to travel from the Eastern Iowa Airport (the Cedar Rapids airport) to Iowa City was to travel by way of Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Des Moines!

Myrna Loehrlein was very involved in flood recovery work, as she and her husband own a rental property that needed a total rehab. Myrna said they had lots of help from family and friends. Alice also helped with flood relief work.

I would love to see everyone at the Bridge View Center on June 6 for the 2009 LWVIA Convention!

Audrey Hauter
President, LWVIA

"BE A POLL WORKER" VIDEO



Our video to recruit poll workers for the state of Iowa is finished! It will soon be available for you to check out on the web. We are focusing on people between the ages of 17 and 30. We talked with three focus groups of college-age people. They told us clearly, that if we wanted people to look at the video, it had better be humorous. So our video shows poll workers as super heroes – which, of course, they are. We have a little more work to do to set up the support web site which will connect interested persons with the Secretary of State's office which will get them to their county attorney.

Our video will be unveiled at the state convention on June 6. It will be a portrayal of LWV like you have never seen. Be there to be among the first to see the Iowa League's first You Tube offering. LWVIA venturing into the ether net – star date 2009 - going where no Iowa State League has gone before.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Final Report - LWVIA "Comprehensive Study of Mental Health Delivery Systems in Iowa"

A 2-year study of Iowa's mental-health systems was approved at the state convention of the League of Women Voters of Iowa in June 2007. Application was made for League of Women Voters Education Fund money to conduct the study. A budget of \$1,225 was approved. Approximately half of the funds were used for the study phase and included printing and mailing the Special Report Issue of the Iowa VOTER.

Four documents were prepared to educate League members and others about Iowa's mental health delivery systems. They covered the following topics: (Part I) Background and Context, (Part II) Mental Health Services for Children and Youth, (Part III) Mental Health Services for Adults, and (Part IV) Mental Health Services for Mentally Ill Offenders. These reports were published sequentially in the Iowa VOTER in fall 2008, Winter 2009, and Special Report Issue 2009. All issues of the Iowa Voter are posted on the League of Women Voters of Iowa website, <http://www.lwvia.org>, and are available to the public from this site. The documents also have been compiled into a single Pdf. file that can be accessed from the website. A proposed state position on mental health was printed in the Special Report Issue (February 2009).

During February and March 2009, members of the study group made presentations on "Transforming Iowa's Mental Health System" to 10 of Iowa's 15 local Leagues. These meetings were open to the public, and non-members were invited to contribute information and participate in discussion of the proposed position. Attendance at these meetings ranged from 6 to 28. A total of 168 persons attended these educational presentations. Several of the other local Leagues scheduled programs with local mental health presenters. Written feedback on the proposed position was received from eight local Leagues.

Comments and suggestions received from local Leagues were evaluated by the study group. Revisions were made to original statements, and a statement was added. The study group has submitted the revised position (please see below) to the Board of Directors with the recommendation that the revised position be presented to the delegates for concurrence at the state convention on June 6, 2009. Concurrence is the act of agreeing with a statement or position.

Mental Health Study Group: Nancy E. Brown, Ames League (chair); Carol Hagen, Upper Iowa League; Judy Meyers, Black Hawk/Bremer League; Jamie Sawin, Jasper County League

REVISED LWVIA POSITION ON MENTAL HEALTH - April 10, 2009 (submitted for concurrence by delegates to LWVIA Convention June 6, 2009)

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports a coordinated and comprehensive state-funded mental health system that ensures convenient and equitable access to an established menu of mental health services for Iowans of all ages who need mental health services, and elimination of legal settlement.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports adequate funding of a comprehensive menu of services, including those that promote early detection and treatment of mental illnesses and co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Appropriate levels of care should be available that meet people's needs in or near their home communities.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports a mental health system that individualizes care to meet a person's specific mental health needs and focuses on the person's strengths and ability to recover.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports a mental health system that is adequately funded and accountable to its consumers and communities by providing efficient, effective, and evidence-based programs and services.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports sustained funding to expand effective programs that divert mentally ill individuals from the criminal justice system. Examples include mental health crisis intervention teams, jail diversion programs, and mental health courts.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports eradicating the stigma of mental illness and treating persons with mental health needs with the same respect, and treating their illnesses with the same urgency, as persons with other health needs.

Submitted by: Mental Health Study Group: Nancy E. Brown, Ames League (chair); Carol Hagen, Upper Iowa League; Judy Meyers, Black Hawk/Bremer League; Jamie Sawin, Jasper County League

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NEWS FROM LWVUS:

Working for Health Care Reform for All Americans

As House and Senate committees begin to draft health care reform legislation, national League President Mary G. Wilson sent [a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives](#) urging them to work to achieve comprehensive system-wide reform that provides quality, affordable health care for all Americans. The League's Lobby Corps has been visiting Congressional offices on this important issue. Also this month, the League [announced its support of the Department of Health & Human Services \(HHS\) Rescission Proposal](#) to fully rescind a HHS regulation that would negatively impact patient access to health care services and information, particularly in the area of reproductive health care.

League of Women Voters Representatives Travel to "Discover the New Russia"

A delegation of members and staff of the League of Women Voters will travel to Russia May 11th through May 23rd. The two week trip will visit Moscow, Kaluga and St. Petersburg, where they will meet with government officials, U.S. Embassy staff, NGO leaders, and friends and partners. The League is working with Friendship Force International, an expert in cultural exchanges, in organizing this citizen exchange to Russia. A key component of this trip is to reconnect with alumni of the League's *Civic Hosting Programs*. "I am excited to see this first-ever citizen exchange by League members to Russia," said Mary G. Wilson, national President of the League of Women Voters. "Connecting with civil society organizations in Russia will help to strengthen the relationship between the two countries."

"The League is privileged to have this opportunity to travel to Russia to learn and discuss current issues about its democracy, particularly as it impacts women and elections," said Zaida Arguedas, Senior Director of Global Democracy Programs. "Since 1999 the League has been working with Russian partners and this exchange will allow us to expand our work in the region."

The Global Democracy Program of the League of Women Voters Education Fund has hosted delegations of Russian leaders through grants from the Open World Leadership Center since 2005. In total, 15 Leagues have hosted 100 Russian citizens in 14 states. The *Civic Hosting Program* works to increase mutual understanding between the United States and participating countries, and enables leaders from Eastern Europe and Eurasian countries, to experience American democracy and civil society in action. Through this program, Russian delegates are hosted in the home of League members for a week while they participate in programs on American democracy, politics, and citizenship. The League members and staff will be exposed to a similar program on contemporary Russian democracy and politics, including home stays in the homes of several of the individuals hosted by Leagues.