

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF IOWA

THE VOTER

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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President's Message

By Terese Grant, LWWIA President

The 2022 Legislative Session has finally come to an end.

The Senate was able to finally pass the bottle bill and make a number of changes. The final bottle bill was not what the League had advocated for and does not benefit Iowans.

However, the Governor's plan to issue scholarships to individual students to attend private schools did not pass this year. The League and most Iowans did not support this proposal because of the dramatic harm this would do to public education in Iowa.

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LWVUS Convention

The League of Women Voters of the U.S. Convention will be held on June 23 - 26, 2022, in Denver, Colorado.

All local Leagues are welcome to send members to this event.

Every League has voting delegates according to the number of members in the League:

- 1 - 49 members = 1 delegate
- 50 - 99 members = 2 delegates
- 100 - 149 members = 3 delegates

One additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional 50 voting members.

Delegates and attendees will have the option to attend either in person or virtually.

The cost for registration is \$475 for in person and \$300 for virtual.

Visit this page for more information about the convention:

<https://www.lwv.org/manage-your-league/council-convention>

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We are also very concerned about the lack of transparency and accountability in the state government today. This will need to be a major focus for the LWV of Iowa going forward, and we will need to find ways to address this lack of transparency and accountability. Our work to advocate for issues and defend democracy is an ongoing task.

Soon after the draft opinion from the Supreme Court was leaked, the LWV of Iowa was asked to join several organizations to plan a rally in Des Moines. We held it on the west steps of the State Capitol on Saturday, May 7, at 3:00 p.m. It was well attended and the speakers were excellent. We were there defending women's rights for reproductive health care.

The LWVUS also issued a strong statement:

"Reproductive care is essential health care and a fundamental right that the Supreme Court is preparing to undermine. All people deserve access to quality health care, including abortion, and the privacy to make reproductive choices."

This is an issue that we will continue to advocate for.

We will gather for our first in-person event since February 2020 at Council in Cedar Falls on June 4, 2022. This will be a great opportunity to elect new officers and to vote for the proposed budget.

We will learn more about what is happening in local leagues and be introduced to the new local League, LWV of North Iowa. We are fortunate to have Chris Larimer, UNI Political Science Professor, as our guest speaker and to learn about the lowans for Responsible Gun Laws. We are also hoping that Dr. Deborah Turner can join us if her schedule allows.

I am looking forward to seeing many League members at Council!



50 Years!

Congratulations to League of Women Voters of Black Hawk-Bremer Counties member Willie Mae Wright, who was recently honored for 50 years as a League member!

Thank you for empowering voters and defending democracy, Willie Mae!

Report of Nominating Committee 2022

Nancy Halvorson - Vice President, 2022-2024

Shannon Patrick - Treasurer, 2022-2024

Jean McMenimen - Director, 2022-2024

Linda Hagedorn - Director, 2022-2024

Nancy Porter and Linda Meloy, whose terms expire this year, are both stepping down from the Board.

Submitted by: Gaylen Wobeter and Mary Rae Bragg

2022 LWVIA Council Meeting June 4, 2022 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Community Foundation of NE Iowa 3117 Greenhill Circle, Cedar Falls, IA

LWVIA Council is held in the interim year between State Conventions. The Council shall be composed of two delegates from each local League, Members-at-Large (MAL) unit, and the State Board members.

This important meeting includes the election of Vice President, Treasurer, and two Board of Directors members; gives guidance to the Board of Directors on program and methods of work; adopts a budget for the ensuing year; transacts other business presented to the Board; and offers training to attendees.

We will also have a featured speaker, Professor Christopher Larimer. He is Professor of Political Science at the University of Northern Iowa, where he also serves as the Program Coordinator for the Master of Public Policy program. Larimer's research focuses on voter turnout, public policy, and Iowa politics. He currently serves as the Political Analyst for KWWL-TV 7 News in Northeast Iowa and is a regular guest on Iowa Public Radio's River to River.

While the in-person registration deadline has passed, virtual registration is open through Thursday, June 2, 2022. The cost to attend virtually is \$15.

If you are interested in attending virtually, contact Melissa at lwviowa@gmail.com to make payment arrangements and obtain the Zoom information.

To view/download/print various council documents, including the agenda, go to <https://www.lwvia.org/meetingandconventiondocs>



2022 Primary Election Important Dates

Tuesday, March 29 - First Day to File
Absentee Ballot Request with County
Auditor

Wednesday, May 18 - First Day of
Absentee Voting

Monday, May 23 - Pre-registration
Deadline; Deadline to Request
Absentee Ballot to be Mailed

Saturday, June 4 - Auditors' Offices
Open for Absentee Voting

Monday, June 6 - Absentee Ballot In-
Person Deadline

Tuesday, June 7 - Primary Election
Day; Absentee Ballots Receipt
Deadline

(Source: Iowa Secretary of State -
<https://voterready.iowa.gov>)

Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization Update

By Nancy Porter, UMRR-ILO Vice President

My role as Vice President of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization has been continually exciting. Our dedication to environmental issues surrounding water and soil is prevalent.

If you were not able to attend the annual meeting on May 21, 2022, the presentation by a busy and very reputable panel is recorded and can be found on our website at: <https://www.lwvumrr.org/annual-meeting-2022.html> This link will also provide you with the annual report and other information regarding the annual meeting.

Our priorities for engagement can be found in the areas represented by the speakers. The Farm Bill (a government program to encourage good use of the land along the Mississippi by farmers) and Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI) remain priorities. PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl life time chemical substances) has been added as a priority due to these contaminants found in our rivers in Iowa and all over the nation.

UMRR-ILO will be educating members and acting on behalf of these initiatives. We need to learn about these areas, educate others, and work to keep our rivers in the four-state area and everywhere clean and useable.

Quoted

"Most people perceive think tanks to be non-governmental organizations, but research reveals the majority are associated with political parties where most of their funding comes from wealthy individuals and - to a lesser degree - corporations...The most reliable, highly factual, least biased and non-partisan think tanks people ought to trust include the Brookings Institution, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, National Bureau of Economic Research, RAND Corp., and Pew Research Center."

- from 05/13/22 *Cedar Rapids Gazette* article by Professor Emeritus of Marketing (UNI) Steve Corbin.

League-impact Legislation for Children/Adolescents

Reflecting the League's continual concern for children and reflective of societal issues across time

By Linda Meloy, LWVIA State Board

Child health - Department of Health services for the deaf (1975).

Required immunizations of children for German measles, mumps, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and polio before entering school, with exceptions granted only for religious reasons (1997).

Insurers required to allow a 48-hour maternity stay in the hospital for a regular delivery and a 96-hour maternity stay for a C-section (1996), called the "drive-by delivery bill" (1996).

Hawk-I Children's Health Care (CHIP) covering children up to age 19 from certain poverty level households (routine checkups, immunizations, doctor visits, prescriptions, dental and vision care, lab and X-ray services, and outpatient hospital care) (1998).

Single-pack cigarettes to be placed behind store counters so that children and young adults could not have easy access, as well as the prohibition of advertising of cigarettes near playgrounds and schools (1998).

Prohibition of giving away cigarettes and tobacco products as free samples and banning of promotional give-aways in concert with the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products (1999).

Establishment of ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Accounts (like college saving plans) that allow children and adolescents with disabilities to save money for future living or education services, without impacting eligibility for Medicaid or Social Security (2016).

Thinking Like a Watershed:

2022 Series on Soil and Water Conservation

Tuesday ~ June 7th @ 7 pm CT

Your Locally Grown Alternative (Farm)!

How the 7th generation of a Century Farm family takes on urbanization, food security, and soil & livestock health...

**LaVon Griffieon— Farmstead Matriarch,
Griffieon Family Farm**



Registration is required. Go to <https://www.lwvumrr.org/blog/your-locally-grown-alternative-farm> for more information.

Join Mississippi River Network on June 10

By Nancy Porter, MRN representative from LWWIA

Join Mississippi River Network on June 10, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. for a tour of the National Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque, led by Jacob McGovern, Educational Director.

Carpooling will be available from Iowa City. You may also make plans to travel together from other locations, to arrive by 10:30 a.m.

Members will gather for lunch after the tour - location TBD - along with discussion and evaluation.

Some reimbursement is available to members through grant money from the Mississippi River Network. The reimbursement amount will be divided among attendees.

Email RSVPs and questions to Nancy Porter at nancy55555@icloud.com (that's five 5s!), and include "MRN" in the subject line of the email.

Early Funding of State League in Iowa

By Linda Meloy, LWWIA Historian

Since next fiscal year's LWWIA Budget is on the June 2022 Council Agenda (as it is yearly at council or convention), here's a bit of history on the early funding of the State League in Iowa...*from League Finances a la the 1919-44 History of the League in Iowa...*

"The Iowa League of Women Voters has made no outstanding record which would serve as a model in financing its own activities. As far as the League Minutes from 1919-44 show, it accepted and followed the inherited custom of its forbearers in requiring only small dues from its members and **depending largely on munificent contributions of men and women who believed in the value of education** for women **for effective citizenship**, and were willing to assist in maintaining it as a greatly needed aid to an effective democracy. Had the League been created as a Lodge, or a Benevolent or Relief Organization, that system of finance might have been tenable, but, since it [was and] is none of those, its budget began to dwindle when large fortunes became more rare and the first flush of popularity for the citizenship training for women passed its peak."

Are we aiming for financial support from the "munificent contributors" in our state?

68,234 homeowners in Iowa have a net worth of 1 million dollars or more (2.27% of our population). The top 20% of households (600,000) earn \$193,000 or more each year. So there are individuals out there who could be "munificent contributors" to the League (individuals who could give larger and more generous amounts of money than is usual).

Are we documenting our many and varied actions Defending Democracy that could lead them to the donation button on our webpage or to a local League member in their community? Are we heralding particular individuals in our state who make significant contributions to society that are consistent with League values and who could be future contributors to support our work?

IN OUR COUNTRY, **WOMEN**
CONTINUE TO FACE
DISCRIMINATION
BASED ON SEX.



IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE SENATE
BRINGS **S.J. RES 1** TO A VOTE SO
THAT THE RATIFICATION OF THE
ERA IS FINALLY ACHIEVED.

THE TIME IS NOW.



