Fall, 2015 Volume #76 Page 1



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IOWA

BOARD 2015-16:

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VOTER REGISTRATION DAY ACTIVITIES:

League members across Iowa volunteered to register voters on September 22. Top Photo: Jayn Chaney, president of the Grinnell LWV, runs a registration drive with members Harriet Adelburg & Nancy Cadmus (Photo by Sofi Mendez). Bottom Photo: Phyllis Franklin Devine (center) and Pat Billingsley, of LWV of Metro Des Moines, register a student at DMACC's Southridge campus.



LWVIA CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS:

November 3 Election Day

November 7, 10 am, LWVIA Board Meeting, 330 N 8th Ave East, Newton January 9, 10 am, LWVIA Board Meeting, Marshalltown Library

February 1, 7 pm, Iowa Caucuses

March 5, 10 am, LWVIA LWVIA Board Meeting

March 10, 10 am, Capitol Day, Des Moines, IA

April 30, 10 am, LWVIA Board Meeting, Grinnell, IA

June11, 9 am LWVIA Council, Marshalltown,, IA

June 16 - 19, LWVUS Convention, Washington, D.C.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Bonnie Pitz, LWVIA Co-President

October has been so beautiful this year and it is hard to take the time to enjoy the beauty. League members are as busy as ever preparing and holding multiple candidate forums for grateful communities. We are also working to understand the implications of a constitutional amendment, the evolving changes and perceptions related to criminal justice issues, preparing for the Iowa Caucus experience and engaging young voters. In September, Leagues registered voters in naturalization ceremonies, shopping centers, universities, colleges, community colleges, farmer's markets, grocery stores and in food banks. Leagues are becoming quite creative in finding non-registered citizens. Metro Des Moines partnered with the Des Moines Register and the Des Moines Social Club to sponsor, "Register Your Damn Vote," a series of activities to get Iowans registered and also to hold mock caucus experiences.



Our Leadership Training in Marshalltown was enhanced by a powerpoint by Karen Person on explaining the Iowa LWV website, and encouraging Locals without them to explore website possibilities. Mary Ann Nelson worked with us to explain the Membership, Leadership, & Development activities. Those attending also spent time fine tuning the 2016 Legislative Priorities.



The LWVIA Issues Briefing was also held in Marshalltown, at Marshalltown Community College. Our speakers this year included Matt Lechtenberg, Water Quality Initiative Coordinator for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). Matt's presentation gave information about the types of solutions to reduce nitrogen in water runoff. Included were cover crops, saturated buffers, wetlands, buffer strips. He emphasized the need for partnerships of all involved, including 95 partners in the Water Quality Initiative. His presentation convinced the State Board to think in terms of collaboration as we work on improving water quality in Iowa.

Senator Rob Hogg was the second presenter at the Issues Briefing and gave a moving talk about climate change and what each of us can do to reduce our "carbon footprint." I read his book, America's Climate Century: What Climate Change Means for America in the 21st Century and What Americans Can Do About It. I would recommend this book to anyone who has concerns about climate change because with easy to understand descriptions, Senator Hogg gives the big picture of how climate change is affecting our world. He helps us to understand and communicate with others the serious concerns we have for the future.

Best of luck as League prepares for another year of helping citizens to vote and helping get information out to the public so that each citizen can make an informed vote. We expect to communicate more during the 2016 Legislative Session so that League members can let their legislators know of our Priorities and we can work together to make Iowa a great place to live.

Nov. 12 Hearings On Bakken Pipeline In Boone – Be There!

by Linda Murken, Ames & Story County LWV

The League of Women Voters of Iowa is a member of the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition. The Coalition plans to have members present when the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) takes public comments on November 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Community Building, Boone County Fairgrounds, Boone, Iowa. We will be there early, at a pavilion to the left of the Community Building, to meet those who have come to make comments, and to make available talking points and other information. For more information, go to www.nobakken.com or email lindamurken@gmail.com. *We hope to see many League members from across the state at this important event.* The IUB will also begin evidentiary hearings on November 16 at 9 a.m. at the same location. They may last several days or even weeks. See the following article for Bakken data:

A MOUNTAIN OF MONEY

by Larry Koehrsen, Ames & Story County LWV Member; Author of a series of essays for the Ames Tribune on contemporary environmental controversies including the following article on the Bakken Pipeline

The proposed Dakota Access Pipeline is unprecedented in Iowa. Those who say we have a lot of pipelines in the State and this is no big deal are wrong. This is a project that is well beyond our previous experience.

The estimated construction cost of the 1,134 mile long pipeline across four states is \$3.8 billion. The Iowa portion is 343 miles costing \$1.35 billion. It is designed to carry hazardous material at a pressure of 1,450 pounds per square inch (psi) from river to river. There is no pipeline in Iowa today that approaches this magnitude.

The pipeline is financed and will be owned by a Texas corporation with the backing of a mountain of oil money. It will be operated solely for the benefit of parties outside the State of Iowa. At no point along the Iowa portion of the line will oil be added to, or taken from the pipe.

The mountain of money behind the project makes it an almost irresistible force. The proposed 30-inch pipeline will have a maximum capacity of 570,000 barrels per day. At a market price of \$60 per barrel, the value of the oil passing through the state will be \$12.5 billion per year. For reference, the entire Iowa corn crop has a value of approximately \$10 billion per year.

The pipeline, if constructed, will cross our farms, forests, and wetlands. The two major rivers that delineate our state lie in the route, as do our internal rivers and countless small ditches, streams and drainage structures. Interstate highways, state highways, county roads, and farm drives will all feel the push from the mountain of money.

Our land, our most precious resource, will be excavated, churned up, and compacted such that it will take generations to restore the qualities that nature created. The pipeline will leak. Over the lifetime of the project, possibly fifty years, there will be a number of small leaks.

There will be several large leaks. The possibility of a

catastrophic incident is great enough that it should influence our evaluations.

The moneyed backers talk about safety. In spite of the talk, for them, a leak is a calculated financial risk. For Iowans, a leak can be a source of irreparable damage.

The Dakota Access Pipeline will carry crude oil extracted from the North Dakota Bakken shale formation by hydraulic fracturing. This fracking effort results in massive disruption of the landscape, devastating water use, water pollution, and even earthquakes. North Dakota is now captive to the mountain of money. The state is experiencing an oil boom and seeing its natural resource base raped in the process. We are able to do better.

All of the disruption and destruction of natural resources from North Dakota to Illinois is because of our insatiable appetite for cheap energy. The proposed pipeline facilitates our reliance on fossil fuel for at least another fifty years. Another half-century of burning of fossil fuels will guarantee continuation and acceleration of our climate change woes.

Approval to build the Dakota Access Pipeline rests with the three member Iowa Utilities Board. The mission statement of the Board, in its entirety, reads "The Iowa Utilities Board regulates utilities to ensure that reasonably priced, reliable, environmentally responsible, and safe utility services are available to all Iowans". This statement hardly seems to provide a rational for moving forward with the project.

The mountain of money interests are attempting to influence input to the Board with the prospect of a few short-term jobs and one-time lease payments. Damages to the landscape and the environment are dismissed as a cost of progress.

We can be smarter. We can take actions that help preserve our resources, our state, and our world for all who follow us. Saying no to the pipeline should be an easy call.

TIF: TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCING STUDY

from Lauris Olson, Ames & Story County LWV Member and LWVIA TIF Study Committee member

The state League's study of tax incremental financing (TIF) in Iowa got underway Sept 26 with a meeting in Marshalltown. The Johnson County League proposed the study.

Tax Incremental Financing has been used for decades by

local municipalities and counties around the United States. Originally, the use was limited to pay for renewal of run-down, or "blighted" areas. Its use has been expanded to also cover economic development projects. Under the rules of tax incremental financing, a city, town or county creates a special tax district that includes the property or area to be developed or renovated,



borrows money through bonding to do the project and then uses any increases in tax revenue generated by the increased value of the properties to pay off the bonds. The increases in tax revenue diverted to pay off the bonds also include not only that government's, but the incremental revenue due to any other government units that normally would benefit from the increased taxable valuations.

The group will be looking at the purpose of TIF and its benefits, uses and costs to state and local government.

Other key issues they plan to examine include wind turbine farms in TIF districts, inter-community competition, corporate preferences and the financing of government facilities.

Johnson County league member Barbara Beaumont is chairing the study group. Other members of the study group right now are Linda Schreiber, Johnson County League, and Kathy Kahoun of the Des Moines Metro League and Lauris Olson of the Ames-Story County League.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Barb Beaumont at bgbeaumont@juno.com. The study group's next meeting will be at 2 p.m on Friday, Nov. 13 at the Marshalltown Public Library.

TO FIND T.I.F. STUDY MATERIALS, GO TO <u>LWVIA.ORG</u>
WEBSITE, AND CLICK ON "T.I.F. STUDY" ON HOME PAGE
OR CLICK HERE

OPEN GOVERNMENT IS GOOD GOVERNMENT!

CELEBRATE SUNSHINE WEEK MARCH 13-16, 2016

CONSIDER LWV ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR LOCAL LEAGUE



FREE RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT:

HTTP://WWW.SUNSHINEWEEK.ORG

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKS THE BEST! (THE BEST WE ALL HAVE TO GIVE)

by Myrna Loehrlein, Linn CountyLWV

Does your League story sound like these stories from real LWV members?

- "Working together with other members in LWV... has allowed me to know the most wonderful friends."
- "Without the LWV, I would not be where I am today."

"Today I mentor others who possess the same leadership potential that ... I never guessed lay latent within me." I know my story does.

The nominating committee is working on ideas that came to us from the LWVUS "Little Green Book." It recommends things like having an application process for LWV board and committee positions. Now that is a new idea! The thought is that LWV deserves the best we all have to give it. We need to match skills, interests, abilities, and available time to the opportunities LWV has to offer. Serving on the board or on a League committee truly is not a chore, it is an opportunity. The other members of the board and committees are committed to making your experience the best opportunity possible.

Be ready for you or your league to receive a call from the LWVIA nominating committee. We will be thinking not only about officers, directors, chairpersons, and committee members for next year, but also for our LWVIA future – yours and mine. Let's make it a great opportunity for us all.

LWVUS ROSTER UPDATE

by Karen Person, LWVIA Administrative Assistant

After 15 years, LWVUS has acquired one of the best constituent relationship management (CRM) systems on the market. LWVUS has outlined a plan to bring Leagues on to the system with a goal date of all Leagues being on by January 31. Iowa local leagues are included in the plan for November training. LWVUS wants to be sure that roster managers, and those at the Local League level with access to the roster, will receive important information about training on the CRM and that it will not go into a spam folder.

If you are a roster manager for your Local League, be sure to put the following emails into your Address Book or listing of "safe" emails:

support@lwvus.zendesk.com

support@salesforce.com

When LWVUS is ready to start our state (scheduled for November 9 but may be later) managers will be sent info on a series of steps:

- I. Watch a YouTube video demonstration
- 2. Download the LWVUS Database User Guide
- 3. Complete a brief questionnaire on materials
- 4. When they have confirmed you completed the questionnaire, you will be sent a password & link
- You will have 24 hours to access that link and create your own password
- 6. After setting up your password, you will have complete access to the database. However, you can practice with test data before you begin with your data.

LWVUS does thank all members for your patience and understanding as they strive to make this transition as easy as possible. Karen Person, LWVIA Administrative Assistant, will have completed the State Training for the CRM system by the end of October. If you have questions, contact her:

LWVKaren@yahoo.com

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Iowa 2016 Legislative Priorities

VOTING RIGHTS

- Modernize Iowa's election laws so all Iowans may register to vote online using the Secretary of State's website by 2017.
- ★ Oppose legislation that requires voters to show a photo ID when voting.
- ★ Change lowa Code to allow felons who have completed their criminal sentences to vote.

WATER QUALITY

- ★ Protect Iowa's water resources by increasing funding for the Nutrient Reduction Strategy and requiring participation in the program.
- Fully fund the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program.
- Expand Iowa's landmark "Bottle Bill" legislation to include additional containers.

JUSTICE REFORMS

- ★ Eliminate mandatory minimums for nonviolent drug offenders.
- ★ Adequately fund treatment for children and teens that were victims of human trafficking.
- ★ Equalize the threshold of crack cocaine to that of powder cocaine.

HEALTH CARE/MENTAL HEALTH

- ★ Enact laws and policies to immediately increase the capacity of the state's mental health workforce.
- Enact policies that guarantee access for all residents to comprehensive, uniform, and affordable health services including a full range of reproductive services.

PRESERVING OUR DEMOCRACY

- Require transparency in campaign funding and reporting.
- Provide adequate funding for elections and the electoral process.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Require that correctional institution restraint policies comply with the practice guidelines of the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, which prohibit the shackling of pregnant women.
- ★ Fully fund lowa's domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

EDUCATION

- * Require all school districts offer free four-year-old preschool.
- ★ Fund universal preschool to eliminate waiting lists and guarantee access in all areas of the state.
- ★ Require the lowa Legislature comply with lowa Law in setting Pre-K-12 education allowable growth.

GUN SAFETY

- ★ Do not weaken lowa's gun safety laws.
- Pass legislation that will address current loopholes.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

- Establish EMS as an "Essential Service" that must be provided statewide, with funding.
- Provide stable funding streams for fire service and EMS to meet minimally acceptable standards for training and equipment.



86th Iowa General Assembly 2016 IOWA LEGISLATIVE SESSION TIMETABLE*



Note: This Session Timetable is subject to change

*See HCR 6, HR 4, and SR1 (2015)

JANUARY 11	First day of session (lowa Code Sec. 2.1)
JANUARY 22	Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill drafts
(Friday of the 2nd week)	to the Legislative Services Agency (Senate Rule 27 and House Rule 29)
FEBRUARY 19 (Friday of the 6th week)**	Final date for Senate bills to be reported out of Senate committees and House bills out of House committees (Joint Rule 20)
FEBRUARY 22 - 26 (7th week)	Senate only considers Senate bills and unfinished business House considers only House bills and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)
FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 11 (8th and 9th weeks)	Debate not limited by rule
MARCH 11 (Friday of the 9th week)**	Final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees and House bills out of Senate committees (Joint Rule 20)
MARCH 14 - 18 (10th week)	Senate considers only House bills and unfinished business House considers only Senate bills and unfinished business (Joint Rule 20)
MARCH 21	Only the following bills are eligible for consideration: (Joint Rule 20)
(Beginning of the 11th week)	Bills passed by both Houses
	Appropriations Bills Managed Managed Bills
	Ways and Means Bills Covernment Oversight Bills
	Government Oversight Bills Legalizing Acts
	Administrative Rules Review Committee Bills
	 Committee Bills related to delayed or suspended Administrative Rules [lowa Code Sec. 17A.8 Bills co-sponsored by Majority and Minority Leaders of one House Conference Committee Reports
	Companion Bills sponsored by Senate and House Majority Leaders
	Concurrent or Simple Resolutions
	Joint Resolutions nullifying Administrative Rules
	 Bills on the Veto Calendar (Joint Rule 23) Unfinished Business
APRIL 4 (Beginning of the 13th week)	Amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate (House Rule 31.8)
APRIL 19	100th calendar day of the session [Per diem expenses end - lowa Code Sec. 2.10(1)]

^{**}The February 19 and March 11 committee deadlines do not apply to Appropriations Bills, Ways and Means Bills, Government Oversight Bills, Legalizing Acts, Administrative Rules Review Committee Bills, Committee Bills related to delayed or suspended Administrative Rules [lowa Code Sec. 17A.8(9)], Bills co-sponsored by Majority and Minority Leaders of one House, Conference Committee Reports, Companion Bills sponsored by the Majority Leaders of both Houses after consultation with the respective Minority Leaders, Concurrent or Simple Resolutions, and Joint Resolutions nullifying Administrative Rules. Legislative Information Office: 08/06/2015

Fall, 2015 Volume #76 Page 8

NONAGENARIAN SHERRY HUTSHISON SHARES OF LWV'S PAST

By Karen Person, League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Des Moines



LWVIA Life Member Sherry Hutchison is 96 years old and joined League of Women Voters of Iowa in the 1940s. Eleanor Roosevelt was one of Sherry's heroes because, "She showed that women could be an example in how you think, and not how you look." Sherry met and married her husband during World War II. His job at the Des Moines Tribune brought her to Des Moines. Because there was a housing shortage, they rented the upstairs of the home belonging to Margaret Casady. Since there was no kitchen upstairs, they bought a gasoline stove for cooking and washed their dishes in the tub! Margaret Casady turned out to have a big influence on Sherry as she was an active League member who invited Sherry to her first League of Women Voter's meeting.

Margaret was a mentor to Sherry as she became involved with League. At that time, Metro Des Moines LWV had over 500 members and 15 Units. A Unit was a neighborhood group

who would meet regularly for coffee and to discuss issues and studies, - national, state, and local - being done by League. Metro Des Moines studied and took a position to support a change to a Council/Manager form of governance for the city. Sherry said, "We went around town trying to see that people understood about Council Manager form of government, and it passed." Originally, there were only at-large positions on the Council, "But people in some parts of town were concerned they were not being well represented. League studied that and came up with a position supporting a combination [of at-large and region based Council Members] which was then adopted."

At the state level, Sherry was part of team of Des Moines League members who would go each day during Session to the Legislature to lobby. She would go once per week and then would share what had happened by phone with the member who was going the next day. She is proud to have been part of the LWV team which advocated for Nonpartisan Reapportionment through the Legislative Service Agency; Governor and Lt Governor running as a team; 4 year (instead of 2 year) terms for state office; reorganization of state government so that many elected positions became appointed; elimination of Justices of the Peace and other elected judicial positions that may not have a background in law; and legislators being elected by population district rather than by county. Sherry's advice for those League members who want to make the world a better place, "Be optimistic, and don't get discouraged too easily."

KUDOS TO JERI THORNSBERRY

Black Hawk - Bremer LWV Member Jeri

Thornsberry, Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioner in Black Hawk County, received the Ken Wagner Award on at the 68th Annual Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commissioners Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. The Ken Wagner Award is given annually to an outstanding beginning soil and water conservation district commissioner of 5 years experience or less. The award is given in memory of Ken Wagner who was instrumental in the development of Iowa's soil conservation district program. He was a soil conservation district commissioner with the Johnson County Soil Conservation District and was a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee from 1948 to 1961. Jeri has an eye towards marketing conservation and her efforts have enabled the District to put forth a significantly more polished and cohesive message to the media and the public. She has also written 2 grants, and revamped the Districts hiring process. Congratulations Jeri and "thanks" from LWVIA for all your efforts!

KUDOS TO JEAN BASINGER

Metro Des Moines LWV Member Jean Basinger received the ACLU of Iowa Louise Noun Award at the American Civil Liberties of Iowa 80th Birthday Bash on October 2. Basinger has been a leader in Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners and in Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE). In 1991, she helped form the Justice Reform Consortium, 17 organizations working for reform through legislation. She was chair of the Restorative Justice Taskforce of the Iowa Board of Church and Society. She's also served for 20 years on the board of Hansen

House of Hospitality for Men, which assists those leaving prison. The Louise Noun Award is given annually by the ACLU of Iowa to honor people who have contributed significantly to the defense of civil liberties.



GROUP WORKING TO END MASS INCARCERATION

Condensed from The Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law, October 21,2015

Today 130 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and attorneys general from all 50 states join together as a surprising new voice calling for the end to unnecessary incarceration in the U.S. — while maintaining public safety. The new group, **Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration**, marks an unprecedented partnership among the nation's top law enforcement leaders to push reforms to reduce incarceration and strengthen public safety. . President Barack Obama will host members of the group at the White House tomorrow, where group leaders will speak on why they believe reducing imprisonment while protecting public safety is a vital national goal.

"As the public servants working every day to keep our citizens safe, we can say from experience that we can bring down both incarceration and crime together," said Co-Chair Garry McCarthy, Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. "Good crime control policy does not involve arresting and imprisoning masses of people. It involves arresting and imprisoning the right people. Arresting and imprisoning low-level offenders prevents us from focusing resources on violent crime. While some may find it counterintuitive, we know that we can reduce crime and reduce unnecessary arrests and incarceration at the same time."

Members of the group will work within their departments as well as with policymakers to pursue reforms around four policy priorities:

- Increasing alternatives to arrest and prosecution, especially mental health and drug treatment. Policies within police departments and prosecutor offices should divert people with mental health and drug addiction issues away from arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment and instead into proper treatment.
- Reducing unnecessary severity of criminal laws by reclassifying some felonies to misdemeanors or removing criminal sanctions, where appropriate.
- Reducing or eliminating mandatory minimum laws that require overly harsh, arbitrary sentences for crimes.
- Strengthening ties between law enforcement and communities by promoting strategies that keep the public safe, improve community relations, and increase community engagement.

"Our decision to come together reflects the deep commitment among law enforcement's ranks to end unnecessary, widespread incarceration," said Law Enforcement Leaders Co-Chair Ronal Serpas, former Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department. "As leaders of the law enforcement community, we are committed to building a smarter, stronger, and fairer criminal justice system. We do not want to see families and communities wrecked by our current system. Forming this new organization will allow us to engage policymakers and support changes to federal and state laws, as well as practices, to end unnecessary incarceration."

"There is no validation more important to our efforts to reduce incarceration and enhance public safety than the word of the men and women we entrust to protect our communities," said Mark Holden, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Koch Industries. "Today, the nation's most respected law enforcement leaders declare their support for efforts to reduce incarceration. Our current system is a disservice to them. It requires law enforcement to handle issues that aren't necessarily criminal in nature and creates friction with the communities they serve. They deserve better than this and so do the Americans they protect and serve."

Brennan Center for Justice often partners with League of Women Voters in our work for justice and good public policy.

Interested in Justice Issues? Please join us for the **LWVIA Criminal and Juvenile Justice Committee** meeting. We will meet Thursday, Oct. 29, from 10-1:30pm at Northcrest Retirement Community, 1801 20th St, Ames, in the Fireside Room. Please bring your planner and a lunch. For more information and the agenda, contact Karen, lwvkaren@yahoo.com or Jo Ann, jo2@cfu.net (319-266-7756).

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION ILO KICKOFF MEETING

By Karen Person, Metro Des Moines LWV Delegate to the 1st Annual Meeting

October 24 was the first annual meeting for the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region InterLeague Organization, UMRR ILO, marking a unique collaboration on environmental issues by Leagues in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Agenda items at this kickoff meeting included adoption of the By-Laws of Incorporation, election of

officers and board members, and playing of the *Watershed Game*, an interactive and educational game that local LWVs can utilize to educate our fellow citizens, elected officials, and students about the importance of effective water shed planning. Twelve attendees from Iowa included (left to right in photo) Devita Harden, Sue Wilson, Jean Cheever, Jeri Thornsberry, Tam Prenosil, Myrna Loehrlein, Linda



Murken, Judy McDowell, Karen Person, Bonnie Pitz, and Mary Ann Nelson. Not in photo, Janet Durham. Held at the Dubuque Convention Center, the fall trees around the Mississippi were at peak color, contributing to the sense of commitment in attendees to save our precious environment.

League of Women Voters of Iowa - Iwvia.org Karen Person, Administrative Assistant 4345 Grand Avenue, Unit 1 Des Moines, IA 50312