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Board 2013-14

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2014 League of Women Voters of Iowa THE VOTER

Advocacy Day! Capitol Day! Lobby Day!

Whatever you want to call it

Let's go to the State Capitol and Have some Fun!

When: February 18th

Where: Jessie Parker Building-Grant Room • Iowa Voc. Rehab

512 East 12th Street • Des Moines, Iowa

9:30-Registration and Coffee

10:00-Background information from Amy and Craig

Topics:

- Water Quality
- HIV Modernization
- Funding Mental Health
- SF 385 Court to review special sentences
- Shackling of Pregnant Prisoners

Not expected to be topic this year:

- Photo ID

(Remember legislation changes quickly during the session, there may be changes in Lobby Day.)

11:15-To the Capitol

11:30-Make lunch arrangements with your Legislators-Capitol Cafeteria

12:15-Call out Legislators on house and Senate Ag Committee, House and Senate Natural Resources & House Environmental Protection
Attend Committee Meetings as available

2:30-Regroup at Capitol Cafeteria to review day

LWVIA plans to have a table on the first floor rotunda with copies of the LWVIA Legislative Priorities for this 2014 session. We will be passing out treats to all who come by.



x11194525 fotosearch.com

Please register with Melissa at melissacahalan@yahoo.com

President's Letter

Greetings at the start of this New Year!

How do we make 2014 the best year ever in League? Let's start by making Voter Education the top of our "To Do" list. 2014 will be quite year for important elections in Iowa. We can join VOTE411.org and provide Voter Guides for all the important State wide Elections. E.J. Gallagher and I will start the process. Local Leagues did a superb job this last fall with Candidate Forums all over the State.

We will continue Voter Registration as very high priority. Last year the work done by our Local Leagues in Ames, Muscatine and Ottumwa led to a dramatic change in the layout of the Voter Registration Form. The communication of registration concerns with the old form led to League working with the ACLU and the Secretary of State Office to petition the bipartisan Voter Registration Commission to change the form. This was accomplished on December 18, 2013 at their meeting. The new Voter Registration form has question three removed and the overall font larger as requested by the ACLU and League. The new Voter Registration form is expected to be made available on April 9, 2014.

How about a great turnout for Capitol Day on February 18, 2014 in Des Moines? We will meet at the Jessie Parker Building, 512 East 12th Street, Des Moines for our morning prep from Amy and Craig and then go to the Capitol to speak to our legislators. Let them know you are coming in that day and ask them to join you for lunch in the cafeteria. We can ask every single member of the Senate and House Ag Committee, Senate and House Natural Resources and the House Environmental Protection Committee what they plan to do about water quality. It is an election year, I expect they will visit with you!

How about another State Study? Maybe --Sand Fracking. This is an upcoming issue in NE Iowa. Materials to submit for a State Study have been emailed to all Local League Presidents. As you are planning for local programs in 2014-2015, this would be an interesting topic. Who knew it would be coming to Iowa!

Council 2014 in Iowa City--that will be fun. It will be held May 17, 2014. Plan to attend and celebrate League. Bring lots of new young members so they can learn more about League activities and meet League leaders from all over the state.

Highlight your early summer with a trip to Dallas for LWVUS Convention. Talk about stimulation, so much to learn, so much to get excited about. This Convention is June 6-10, 2014. The State League has it in the budget to cover the cost of registration for one person from each Local League. Be sure to discuss this with your local members and find a League guy or gal who will make the most of the opportunity.

We have so much to look forward to this upcoming year. See you in Des Moines, February 18, 2014!

Bonnie

Looking Ahead for 2014

January 25-LWVIA Board Meeting-Cedar Falls Public Library, Cedar Falls

February 18-Lobby Day-Grant Room, 512 12th Street Iowa Vocational Rehab Services, Des Moines

March 15-LWVIA Board Meeting-Grinnell

May 3-LWVIA Board Meeting-Marshalltown

May 17-LWVIA Council, Coralville Library, Coralville

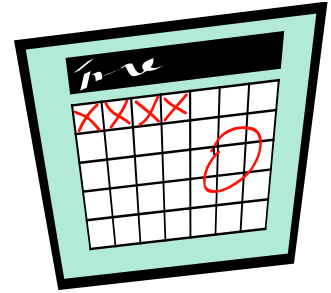
June 6-LWVUS National Convention, Dallas Texas

July 26-LWVIA Board Meeting

August 23-Leadership/Office Training

September 20-Issues Briefing

November 15-LWVIA Board Meeting



(Dates and locations subject to change.)

MLD Continues

Membership, Leadership, Development

This work is showing success! Because MLD is active in Iowa, 58.34% of Iowa Leagues showed growth from January 2013 to September 2013. Two of our local Leagues showed growth of over 10%, Ames and Johnson County. The final numbers will be coming out after January 31, 2014. Be sure to update your roster by the January 31, 2014 deadline.

League can only have success if we maintain our numbers and show growth, MLD allows that to happen. We are looking for people who believe in the work of LWV and want to see it continue well into the future. Do you have 2-4 hours a month to ensure our future? Get involved with MLD! If you are interested contact: Tina Pace (Statewide Director MLD) pacetree@mchsi.com or Bonnie Pitz (LWVIA President) dbpitz@iowatelecom.net

Betty Tiara 1933-2013

Betty passed away at home in early December, 2013. She worked in the LWVUS National office for over 14 years. She was part of the membership field support department. Before joining LWVUS staff, she worked as Department of Defense School System, working as a teacher and principal, serving students and military families in Europe and Asia. A memorial service was held on December 14, 2013. Please send any messages of condolence to the LWVUS office in care of Kelly McFarland Stratman kmfarland@lww.org or via US mail. All messages will be forwarded to Betty's family. More information will be shared in the Leader's Update.

Iowa's Watershed Demonstration Projects

Eight soil and water Conservation Districts within Iowa are managing watershed projects designed to support Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy with the end goal of increasing soil health while improving water quality. These projects are designed to educate, encourage, and engage landowners and operators to adopt long lasting conservation practices. Preserving our soil and improving water quality is testament to Iowa's commitment to leave an environment heritage worthy of future generations.

Jeri Thornsberry, Black Hawk
Bremer LWV, Water Quality
Advocacy Committee



For Immediate Release
Friday, Dec. 6, 2013

Contact: Dustin Vande Hoef
515/281-3375 or 515/326-1616 (cell)

8 WATERSHED DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS SELECTED IN INITIAL ROUND OF WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE FUNDING

Projects will focus on adoption of practices outlined in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

DES MOINES –Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey today announced that eight watershed demonstration projects have been selected to receive \$4.1 million in funding through the Iowa water quality initiative over the next three years. In addition to the state funds, the eight projects will provide over \$8 million in matching funds to support water quality improvement efforts.

“We were extremely pleased by the number of high quality applications and are excited for these projects to get started,” Northey said. “These watershed demonstration projects will play an extremely important role in demonstrating water quality practices and encouraging additional farmer adoption so we can continue to make water quality improvements across the state.”

The eight projects are within the large priority watersheds prioritized by the Iowa Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC), which include the Floyd, Boone, South Skunk, Skunk, Middle Cedar, and Turkey.

The demonstration watersheds selected cover 605,774 acres. The projects will implement and demonstrate the effectiveness and adaptability of a host of conservation practices including, but not limited to: cover crops, nutrient management, wetlands, terraces, bioreactors, buffer strips, no-till, strip-till, nitrogen inhibitors, extended rotations, conservation cover, drainage water management and manure management.

More than 30 partners from agriculture organizations, institutions of higher education, private industry, the local, state and federal government, and others, are working together on these projects with the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) serving as the project leaders.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship received a total of seventeen demonstration project applications. All were reviewed by a committee including representatives from the Department, Iowa State University, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Northern Iowa, and the University of Iowa. The committee made recommendations that were used by the Department in selecting the projects to be funded.

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Additional rounds of funding for new watershed demonstration projects are expected next year.

A short summary of each of the projects follows here.

Benton/Tama Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Project

Grant award: \$468,000

Total project: \$747,000

Project leaders: Benton SWCD

Partners: Tama SWCD, DuPont Pioneer, Iowa State University Extension, Benton County Extension Service, Iowa Soybean Association, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Iowa Learning Farms, Iowa Farm Bureau, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Project Details: This project will partner with multiple organizations to demonstrate a host of nutrient reduction practices on cropland devoted to seed corn production. Seed corn acres have largely been neglected in traditional conservation practice implementation. Through the use of conservation practice demonstrations, field trials, and field days the project intends to prove the adaptability of these practices and how they can be translated across seed corn production industry wide.

Boone River Watershed Nutrient Management Initiative

Grant award: \$1,009,803

Total project: \$1,853,103

Project leaders: Wright SWCD

Partners: The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Soybean Association, Kossuth SWCD, Humboldt SWCD, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance, Hagie Manufacturing, The Conservation Fund, North Central Cooperative, Iowa State University Extension

Details: The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District has assembled a broad group of partners to help implement a demonstration project in the designated watersheds. Public and private groups are committed to creating at project that demonstrates the practices and approaches outlined in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The foundation of the project will be to develop and promote "Farmer Champions" as advocates of implementing conservation practices by providing an example for others to follow.

Central Turkey River Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Project

Grant award: \$498,000

Total project: \$5,529,924

Project leaders: Winneshiek SWCD

Partners: Turkey River Watershed Management Authority

Details: The Winneshiek SWCD takes a grassroots, producer to producer interactive approach to marketing targeted watershed projects that will help demonstrate the ability of practices to improve water quality while maintaining productivity. With Northeast Iowa Community College as a centralized location in the project area, the college will serve as a hub to bring together an education and community wide focus to improving water quality.

Demonstration of Targeted Nutrient Reduction Systems for Clayton County

Grant award: \$207,000

Total project: \$333,000

Project leaders: Clayton SWCD

Details: The Clayton SWCD will demonstrate a combined approach of multiple practices within the targeted watersheds through peer to peer landowner interaction to help spread information and ultimately adoption. This basis of understanding how land use decisions affect the various pathways of nutrient loss will help motivate farmers throughout the area to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from their farms.

Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project

Grant award: \$499,530

Total project: \$751,501

Project leaders: Blackhawk SWCD

Partners: Iowa Soybean Association, BMC Aggregates, Tama SWCD, Blackhawk County, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Details: The Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project addresses the challenge of improving water quality by creating a demonstration watershed so producers within and around the region can learn about the installation and effectiveness of conservation practices to help foster adoption on their farms. The project seeks to broaden awareness of nutrient loading issues and solutions, engage private sector partners, foster adoption of in-field, edge-of-field, and off-field practices, and to bring about reducing nutrient loss in the watershed.

Van Zante Creek Water Quality Improvement Project

Grant award: \$639,839

Total project: \$1,534,839

Project leaders: Marion SWCD

Partners: Jasper SWCD, Pathfinders RC&D, Iowa Soybean Association, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Details: The Van Zante Creek Water Quality Improvement Project is coordinating with stakeholders including: farmers, landowners, agricultural service providers, agronomists, and contractors to provide a collaborative effort to reduce nutrient loss. Using the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, the project will assess a baseline for producers and develop adaptive steps to achieving reductions in nitrogen and phosphorus loads to the stream on a farm by farm basis.

West Branch of the Floyd River Water Quality Initiative

Grant award: \$360,000

Total project: \$608,000

Project leaders: Sioux SWCD

Partners: Farmers Coop Society, Dordt College Agriculture Stewardship Center, Iowa State University Extension, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Farm Bureau, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Details: The West Branch of the Floyd River Water Quality Initiative will showcase nutrient reduction practices with a special emphasis upon accelerating the adoption across a broad cross-section of the agricultural community. The project engages both public and private agricultural entities to foster adoption of a variety of conservation practices. This watershed boasts the largest concentration of livestock production in the state. The practices outlined will help address livestock related concerns by comparing conventional practices to implemented conservation practices to increase awareness and foster adoption.

West Fork Crooked Creek Water Quality and Soil Health Initiative

Grant award: \$484,250

Total project: \$866,800

Project leaders: Washington SWCD

Partners: Keokuk SWCD, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Iowa State University Extension

Details: The West Fork Crooked Creek Water Quality and Soil Health Initiative will demonstrate and accelerate the adoption of conservation practices that have been proven to be most effective in reducing nitrate-N and phosphorus in streams. This project will build upon work completed in the one portion of the designated watersheds and demonstrate the effectiveness and adaptability throughout the larger project area.

Ideas for League Programs-For your own Local Leagues

At a LWVIA Board meeting it was suggested that we give some ideas out for Programs for the Local Leagues of Iowa. In Jasper County we have focused on local government for a good many years, learning as much as we can about how things really operate in our own community and county. We try to advertise every monthly program and open them to the public with refreshments. Some ideas include:

- **County Auditor**--very important to understand the process he/she goes through to make every election fair.
- **Soil and Water Conservation District Program**
- **TIF-Tax Incremental Financing Program**
- **Planning and Zoning Organization**
- **City Administrator**
- **Hospital Administrator**
- **Red Cross Operation**
- **City Water Works**
- **Agriculture Extension Service**
- **County Landfill Operation**
- **Recycling Centers**
- **County Conservation Office Work and Planning**
- **City Waterworks**
- **Water Pollution Control Plant**
- **Sand Fracking**--a new issue for Iowa but very concerning

Many of these programs relate directly to our study of Agriculture and Food Safety and also our Legislative Priority of protecting natural resources, especially water quality in Iowa.

51st LWVUS National Convention

Power: Our Voices Our Votes

Dallas, Texas • Omni Dallas Downtown Hotel • June 6-11, 2014

Check the National website for details but some important items include:

Cost: Registration \$335 includes trainings, briefings, general session, networking, banquet & program.

Online registration deadline--May 23, 2014 • (additional cost if late registration \$385 on site)

Hotel booking deadline is May 12, 2014

Save your receipt for registration so that one person from each League can be reimbursed for cost from LWVIA



Sustaining Effective Fire & Emergency Medical Services in Iowa-Statewide Study

LWVIA 2013-2014 Statewide Study:

Key Topics:

- 1) Are Iowans in all geographic areas of the state receiving effective fire response and emergency medical services?
- 2) Do the variety of federal and state laws and regulations and local ordinances that authorize and/or require the provision of fire and emergency medical services ensure equitable and effective services are available statewide?
- 3) Are fire response and emergency medical services that rely upon volunteers adequately staffed with volunteers willing to commit to continued participation? Which, if any programs, policies and incentives, are best suited to maintaining existing ranks and recruiting new volunteers?

Background: In Iowa, emergency fire response and emergency medical services are provided by a mosaic of organizations established in various ways.

Some are staffed entirely by “career” fire fighters and emergency medical technicians; others are staffed entirely by volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical technicians; and others staffed by a mix of career and volunteer personnel. Many of the volunteers receive no compensations and donate their time, while others are “paid on-call” or “paid by call”.

Organizational structure varies. Some are departments of cities, others of townships, while others are privately organized non-profit organizations. Some large businesses maintain internal fire services. In some places, fire and emergency medical services are provided by the same agency; in others provider agencies are separate.

For the most part, this “system” appears to have served Iowans well. But recent anecdotal evidence suggests that some areas are experiencing less than optimal responses to fire and emergency medical calls.

Study Plan: The committee will conduct most work online. (Accommodations will be made for those not online.) Occasional face-to-face meetings will occur, with effort to meet at locations around the state.

Interested in Participating? Please contact:

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Or

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