



Vol. 71

Board 2013-14

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League of Women 2014 Voters of Iowa

THE VOTER

LWVIA Officer Training/Leader Update

Saturday, August 23, 2014

10:00-2:00

Marshalltown Community College, Marshalltown, Iowa
(south of Hwy 30 and Hwy 14 Intersection, enter south driveway)

Registration with LWVIA Board Member Sue Wilson

wilsonsue@mchsi.com

Email Sue your name and Local League to be registered.

Deadline August 20, 2014 for registration.

Cost \$10 for lunch and drinks-pay at the door.

Training:

Voter Registration

Treasurer Training

Social Media—TWITTER

Update on 2015 Legislative Priorities

"Making Connections" Advocacy work in Johnson County League

MLD-Membership, Leadership, Development



LWVIA Delegates to National Convention in Dallas at Banquet, June 9, 2014 L-R

Front Row Devita Harden-Pres. Elect Ames LWV, Bonnie Pitz-President LWVIA-Jasper Co., Deb Turner-VP LWVIA-President Metro Des Moines, Terese Grant-Co-President Grinnell LWV, Tina Pace-LWVIA Board-Linn County.

Second Row Linda Murken-President Ames LWV, Mary Ann Nelson-MLD State Coordinator-Linn County, Dave Pitz-Jasper County LWV, Jessie Hill-Metro Des Moines LWV, Effie Hall-Grinnell LWV, Janet Rampulla Boddicker-Linn County LWV

President's Letter

What has the Iowa League been up to? On May 17, 2014 over 30 members attended Council 2014 in Coralville organized by the Johnson County League. One of the highlights of the gathering was the presentation on water quality by past legislator and founder of the Iowa Policy Project, David Osterberg. He gave a very comprehensive overview of water quality issues and Robin Cash, Linn County League member videoed the presentation which is now available for viewing on the League website. Robin also videoed our Lobbyists Amy Campbell and Craig Patterson as they gave their summary of the 2014 Legislative Session. Another highlight of the day was the Recognitions awards presented by LWVIA Board members, Fran Henderson and Mary Rae Bragg. Four Leagues were honored for their work this last year including Ames LWV-Informational forum regarding \$19 million bond issue, Johnson County LWV-"Making Connections" group discussions to further organize and increase effectiveness of the current advocacy committee, Linn County LWV-Annual State of the City and State of the County Events, Muscatine LWV-Voter Registration for young people, Meetings that focused on local, state and national issues—violence in Muscatine, EMS, Immigration, Ag Update, Voting Rights, and Three Candidate Forums. Each League was presented with a silk yellow rose to represent the fight for Suffrage. A short business meeting was held with the budget passed for 2014-2015 and Polly Horton, Johnson County was elected to the State Board to replace Fran Henderson, Jasper County who completed a two year term.

How can we improve on a great Council experience? By going to Dallas for LWVUS Convention 2014! Iowa sent eleven delegates to Dallas with LWVIA state officers including myself, Vice President, Deb Turner and Board member Tina Pace. Local Leagues were represented by Ames president, Linda Murken and President elect, Davita Harden. Grinnell delegates included Effie Hall and new Co-President Terese Grant. Linn County delegates were Janet Rampulla Boddicker and State Coordinator for MLD (Membership, Leadership and Development) Mary Ann Nelson. Jessie Hill represented Metro Des Moines LWV and Dave Pitz was the Jasper County League delegate. Nine of these delegates had \$320 of the \$335 registration fee covered by the State League as approved in the 2013-2014 budget. We hope to continue this effort so that as many Iowa League members can attend a National Convention as possible. The work being done around the nation is so impressive and it is great fun to see it firsthand.

At Convention, a promotional video was shown demonstrating League activities from all over the United States. It was a wonderful surprise to see the Jasper County League marching in the Fourth of July Parade in 2013. We again walked the Parade this year holding our Jasper County League banner and signs encouraging people to use VOTE411.org for election information and also we marched with great joy and pride because Jasper County is celebrating 80 years as active League members. We will celebrate this milestone at our Membership Event in September.

The Ames League is planning an expansion of their already expansive Voting Registration efforts this year. Leagues around the Country are encouraged to sign up for Voting Registration Day, September 23, 2014. If your League signs up, (check League Update to join) you will get Voting Registration material from National sent your way. Not sure how to go about Voting Registration process? Talk to your County Auditor to get the lowdown. There will also be a webinar offered by National on August 15, 2014 and September 4, 2014. (Use League Update)

Voter Registration is one of the most satisfying projects League members can participate in. This is a great way to have new members participate in League activities.

This Summer Voter has a number of articles written by our League delegates from Iowa about what they learned and experienced in Dallas. There are no new National Studies but a great many topics that need attention and education for our members and the general public. You will get specifics about: Climate Change, New Jersey Resolution on Human Trafficking Concurrence, Campaign Finance Reform-Democracy Program Planning--changing situation, Inspiring Women Political Leaders, Felon Voting, and Electing a National League President.

Upcoming events include Officer Training/Leader Update on August 23 in Marshalltown at Marshalltown Community College and Issues Briefing on September 20, 2014 also in Marshalltown at the Library.

I look forward to working with many of our New League Leaders for this coming year. In League,

Bonnie Pitz

President LWVIA

"Inspiring Women Political Leaders"

Written by: Jessie Hill, LWV Des Moines Metropolitan

Just this past June, I had the opportunity to attend the 2014 League of Women Voters National Convention in Dallas. To say it was an extraordinary experience is an understatement. I learned so much about how LWV works as a whole and gained a better understanding of what other states are doing to carry out the League's mission. I attended a variety of caucus sessions and walked away with excellent information that I brought back to Iowa.

One of the first caucus sessions I attended was a screening of the documentary "Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way." Created by filmmaker Donna Zaccaro, a former NBC Today producer and daughter of Geraldine Ferraro, the film walks viewers through the life of the first woman Vice Presidential nominee on a major national party Presidential ticket. Senator Geraldine Ferraro was selected in 1984 by then Presidential candidate Walter Mondale to serve as his running mate, and the selection was historic for women in politics.

While I was watching the film, I couldn't help but think of where women are at today in political leadership positions throughout the world. Though we have seen more women candidates for higher office since Senator Ferraro, the United States has yet to elect a woman president or vice president. Here in Iowa, we have yet to elect a female governor. We also sit within the last four states that have yet to send a woman to Congress. Why is it taking us so long to elect women into these higher positions on the national and state level?

The answer to that question is somewhat like the structure of an onion - throughout the years we keep peeling back more and more layers, discovering new levels to the puzzle. According to a study conducted by Political Parity, one of the main reasons women don't run for office is lack of encouragement and inspiration. We need to encourage more women to run for office at local, statewide and national levels. The inspirational story of Geraldine Ferraro makes a difference, and the inspiration and encouragement of thousands of women within the League of Women Voters has the power to change the tide as well.

What I ultimately walked away with at the end of convention was a deeper sense of pride in our organization. The amount of knowledge and information my fellow League members shared in caucuses and plenary sessions was incredible. I was extremely impressed and excited to know that we have League members across the nation who are not only informed but are experts on issues. Not only do we need League members to continue learning more about the issues and informing voters - we also need them to encourage women to seek leadership positions and to pursue leadership positions themselves. The women of our Iowa chapter have inspired me tremendously, and I plan on paying it forward.

In conclusion, I challenge you to this: think of a woman who you believe would be an excellent leader, whether it be for a political office or within the League. Think of that woman and reach out to her. Get together for coffee or grab some lunch. Tell her that she has potential and plant the idea in her mind. Encourage her; inspire her with stories like that of Geraldine Ferraro. You may not see results right away, but the more we can encourage and inspire today the more we will see that tide change in the years to come.

Honoring Pat Harper

Pat Harper is the Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Iowa. She has served on the State Board since June 2013. On June 19, 2014 of this year, Pat was honored by Courier Communications in Waterloo as one of the individuals to be chosen for "Eight over Eighty." This program is the "Courier's way of standing up and cheering business and community leaders who set peerless examples in their fields well into their retirement years." Jim Offner, Business Editor, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier. Pat was honored for her work as a Career teacher, State Representative, State Senator and volunteer work she still does for the Cedar Valley Community. A reception was held at the Sunnyside Country Club on June 19, 2014 had about 200 friends and families participate in the celebration. Pat's own Black Hawk -Bremer LWV was well represented. Best wishes to Pat for this very special honor.

The League of Women Voters of Iowa wants to give a special thank you to Melissa Calahan for serving as the League's Administrative Assistant for almost 3 years. Melissa was chosen to do secretarial duties but soon ended up as our Web Mistress and Social Media Consultant. We very much appreciate the work Melissa has done and wish her and her family much success in future career plans. Her work putting the Voter together for these last years speaks for itself and we appreciate and admire those efforts. The League Board voted to assign Karen Person the duties of Administrative Assistant beginning this August 2014. One of Karen's first challenges will be to update the website a project recently started by Melissa. Bonnie Pitz



Left: Sue Johannsen receiving an award at Council for Muscatine League from Fran Henderson and Mary Rae Bragg. League Board Members.



Above: Pat Jensen from Johnson County receiving an award at Council from Fran Henderson and Mary Rae Bragg.



Above: Linda Murken accepting an award at council from Fran Henderson and Mary Rae Bragg.



Left: Joanne Smith from Linn County accepting an award from Fran Henderson and Mary Rae Bragg at Council.

My First League Convention

By Tina Pace

WOW! LWVUS 2014 Convention was a sight to behold. 660 attendees, 120+ volunteers from the Texas league, and 20 or so staff gathered at the Dallas Omni Hotel in June. I was struck by the commitment of the members. There were around 60 hours of training, caucus and business meetings in a 96 hour period and every one that I saw was very well attended. The importance of MLD was emphasized in every LWVUS session.

The business meeting followed Robert's Rules of Order closely and while there was some occasional confusion things remained civil and orderly, if somewhat drawn out. Everyone that had an opinion and chose to was allowed to speak and many did.

There was a challenger who was nominated from the floor for the office of president. That led to much campaigning and discussion of the future of the League, its financial goals and policies. While it was all very interesting and stimulating in the end, Elizabeth won re-election handily with the support of most of the Iowa delegation.

The caucus meetings center around projects in which Leagues are interested and on which they want to promote action or establishment of a concurrence or a LWVUS position. Human trafficking, global warming, living wage, and restoring felons' voting rights were some of the topics.

Since this was my first national convention I wandered around in awe of the whole affair most of the time. I have to admit that I contributed very little but learned a great deal about both LWV and its members. I was most impressed by the great work being done by LWVUS and state Leagues around the country. We truly are a vital and effective voice for democracy!!

National Convention 2014 - Dallas Texas LWWUS

By Mary Ann Nelson

My adventure to the League of Women Voters National Convention began with Cedar Rapids' LWW members Tina and Janet who shared the experience. My first trip to Dallas, besides in an airport, brought the blue skies, rain clouds, breathtaking sunsets, and night light shows that were viewed through large, modern windows of the two-year-old Omni Hotel. We ventured the halls, bought our wares, and sipped our wine with new and old friends. Since we sat for many hours for the plenary in the banquet halls and training and caucuses in meeting rooms, the modern facility certainly helped accommodate our personal needs. Days started with meetings at 7:30 and lasted until 10:00 at night, though as much as one wanted to take it all in, my observation was that people did prioritize their day including private and reflective times.

MLD – Membership Leadership Development was often highlighted throughout the convention as a priority for the League both in energy and monetarily. Moneys were being solicited from League members with a double or triple of the contribution, depending on the day. Being the Iowa State Coach for MLD, I attended the training sessions to further my knowledge of my position as well as information for State Coaches. Simply stated, the purpose of MLD is to grow the League. Four training sessions discussed approaches, gave inspiration, and answered questions.

Visibility LWW was certainly visible if anyone looked at the Omni Hotel during the second evening. On the outside of the building, about every other floor had multicolored lights swirling around. This particular night, the twenty-story build was lit up with the large letters LWW in solid blue lights. How impressive! Yes, visible. The purpose of this session was to show the importance of understanding messaging using social media to enhance visibility. Obviously, pictures of the lit Omni were put on Twitter and Facebook immediately. Using Tina Pace's emphasized word, intentionally, we advanced our skills to stay in line with the world of today. I propose that we very intentionally start growing our knowledge and use of social media at the state and local levels, starting at a comfort level for all. I finally got to see a Tweet so I will admit I was a bit intimidated by this session, although I was far from alone. Grimm Brothers and their magic mirrors had nothing over the Omni Hotel in Dallas Texas, the location of the National League of Women Voter's 2014 National Convention. As Beauty tended the Beast, she could look into the lives of her father and brother she had left behind in another part of the world, attendees could look into television screen appearing as they blushed their face in the mirror. Press the remote in the bathroom, and in the middle of the mirror, surprise, on pops the channel you have programmed. Visibility on screens of all types will certainly be part of the future if we want to be noticed and heard.

Effectiveness A neuroscientist from the University of Texas spoke on strengthening our own capacity to coach and interact. Her focus was on the frontal part of the brain, "our CEO." One of two things that stood out was multitasking is not as affective as doing each part separately. The second was to focus on what is important: "While hunting elephants, don't chase rabbits." Her purpose was to facilitate our thinking about how we are the most effective and how we can coach others in fulfilling their rolls as members and leaders.

Fundraising Galvanizing our positions in the media and presenting thoughtful forums draw attention to well-prepared events. In turn, we are noticed and respected. This may take money to put "on the shine" and we should not be afraid to use it to enhance the League. It was emphasized that we should not apologize for asking for donations. Being creative in fundraisers can be surprisingly fun as well as satisfying. We cannot be afraid to think big and enhance our positions.

Program Leagues grow because people are interested in their program. It again is important to be "intentional" as to have high-impact advocacy programs whether for voting rights or public policy. It is what brings members back for more. Involving members in an active manner to strength programs increases visibly and reputation.

National Convention was certainly an experience I would love to see all members have the opportunity to experience. It was motivational as well as just fun. I am certainly thankful to the League for the opportunity and hope I can give back with what I have learned.

Structures of American Democracy –Convention 2014—Dallas Texas

Effie Hall, Delegate to Convention from Grinnell League of Women Voters

By far the most crucial action taken by the delegates of the 51st biennial national convention of the LWVUS is to set its program agenda for the next two years. This agenda includes a comprehensive three-part program that will combine a study and review of three key and specific structures of American democracy, namely the U.S. Constitution, campaign finance reform, and redistricting (get specifics at lwwma.org).

In the next two years, the LWVUS will study what it will entail to amend the U.S. Constitution, including holding constitutional conventions.

The LWVUS will also review and update its position on campaign finance in light of 40 years of change since the Watergate reforms, in order to enhance member understanding of the new schemes and structures used to influence elections and erode protections against corruption in our political process, and to review possible responses to counter them in the current environment of rapid change.

The third aspect is to review the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress, through the redistricting task force, for the purpose of developing action steps.

Recognizing the importance of these three key structures of our democracy in the current political climate, the delegates likewise passed overwhelmingly a strongly-worded resolution that expressed the need for a “comprehensive national action program that will support the aspirations and content of our positions and mobilize our members.” Calling on the LWVUS board to expedite the development of such a plan, the delegates asked that the study and review be done “quickly, deliberately, and collaboratively to produce results that will allow the League, unified and strong, to participate fully in local, state and national efforts to reclaim our democracy.”

Strengthening League Visibility within the Community

Devita Harden, President –Elect Ames League of Women Voters

- Delegates attending the 2014 League of Women Voters National convention had the opportunity to attend training sessions and engage in round table discussions designed to provide information that would maximize your League’s impact and visibility while minimizing the workload.
- The importance of utilizing social media such as Facebook, Twitter and websites is one of the most efficient and cost effective methods to broaden visibility. Using social media allows us to interact with LWV members and to develop relationships with potential members and partners in real time. Both Facebook and Twitter are free and easy to set up.
- Tips were provided for using social media effectively. Content that performs well on Facebook includes photos and images, breaking news, history or anniversaries, and sharing news from other Leagues. To increase the number of Twitter followers, use popular hashtags, such as #climatechange and #voterid. These will allow you to follow real time conversations about news of the moment. Also, make sure your Facebook page and Twitter account are linked to your League’s website. Your website should be simple to use and deliver clear messages about League positions and possible actions.
- Round table discussions allowed groups of ten delegates to share best practices and strategies they are using to increase visibility within their communities. One best practice shared to strengthen partnerships was to provide general meeting guest speakers an honorary membership for a year. An insightful strategy offered to amplify democracy at work was to record public forums and general meetings. By posting them on the website they can be view by larger audiences at any given time.
- Delegates were encouraged to visit the Leagues’ national website for more information relating to the use of social media.

Making Democracy Work: Electing a President, 2014

It was a familiar process.

- First, you hear an “exploratory committee” is being formed.
- Then emails start showing up, stating issues and positions.
- Supporters distribute literature, and campaign buttons appear.
- Meet and greet events are held.
- The candidates debate.
- At the election, there are lines at the polls and some confusion.
- But through a transparent process, with recountable ballots, results are certified and announced.

What was different was it was happening, not in our local precincts or counties, but at the League of Women Voters National Convention in Dallas.

Usually the Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates (one for each office), and delegates vote in the slate. What made the process different this time was the announced intention to nominate Florida League President Deirdre Macnab from the floor.

Despite the candidate debate being held over a lunch hour without food, nearly all of the eligible voters attended. Despite long lines and some confusion, nearly all of the eligible voters voted. Despite being nominated from the floor rather than through the usual nomination process, the challenger won nearly 1/3 of the votes.

How did this happen?

It all began when Macnab, President of the LWV of Florida, withdrew her name from the slate of board members to be nominated by the LWVUS Nominations Committee and instead declared her intention to run for LWVUS President. She stated her concerns about three issues: loss of membership nationally; a slate for board members that did not include any people of color, men or young people; and the burden continual PMP increases place on local leagues. She said it was time for a change in leadership and offered the results the Florida League had achieved on these issues as evidence she could do the same for the League nationally.

McNamara responded the League has been very effective in recent years in halting the decline in membership numbers, increasing efforts through the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program and in voter protection efforts in several states. Her message was to stay the course.

McNamara, who was running for a third term as LWVUS President, won by a little over 400 to a little under 200 votes. Given that the Reports of Convention listed between 630 – 643 delegates present at the three days of business meetings, we can assume a turnout rate of around 95%.

Granted, we were a “captive” electorate – but still this is an impressive result. (But who would have expected anything different from the League?)

As we work on increasing membership numbers and diversity on a state and local level, and to keep our Leagues financially sound, leadership and support from National are critical. I believe the League will benefit from Macnab’s challenge, as it generated a much-needed discussion of these issues. And what an example this election provided in Making Democracy Work!

Linda Murken, President
League of Women Voters of Ames
July 13, 2014

Resolution to the 2014 LWVUS Convention on the Restoration of Voting Rights for Felons

**Submitted by the League of Women Voters of Clackamas County, Oregon, with
the support of the League of Women Voters of Oregon**

.....

Whereas the LWVUS position on Voting Rights states unequivocally that “voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed;”

Whereas currently there are wide disparities in state laws regarding the eligibility of felons to vote;

Whereas there is much confusion among election and prison officials-and felons themselves-about voting eligibility laws;

Whereas major inequities exist in rates of felony convictions, based on race, economic status, and harshness of sentencing laws;

Whereas nearly six million people in the United States are currently denied the right to vote because of felon disenfranchisement laws;

Therefore be it resolved, we, the delegates to the 2014 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to:

**Strongly advocate for passage legislation that restores voting rights in federal elections to citizens with felony convictions who have*

released from prison or who have been paroled or placed on probation.

**Use the resources of LWVUS to provide support to Leagues who are working to repeal state felon disenfranchisement laws.*

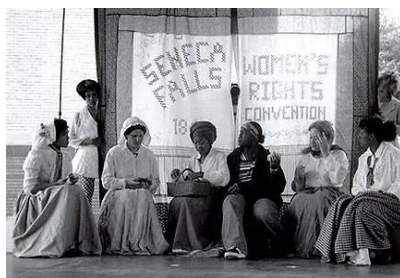
The LWVIA Board will most likely adopt “restoration of voting rights for felons” as one of the 2015 Legislative Priorities under Voting Rights.

This resolution was approved by LWVUS Convention Delegates in Dallas on Tuesday morning 6-10-14.

Retrace History in Upstate New York!!!

This October 22-26, join the League of Women Voters of Florida for a trip to upstate New York! Travel with us as we retrace history and the American suffragist movement! Tour the homes of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Harriet Tubman; visit the National Women’s Hall of Fame; explore Rochester, Seneca Falls, Auburn and much more! This is a chance not only to learn about the lives and work of these amazing women (and men!), but stand in the places where history was made! This is a trip you do not want to miss!

The price to attend this wonderful trip is \$885 per person, which includes 4 nights in a hotel (two nights in Rochester and two nights in Seneca Falls), exciting group tours throughout upstate New York, museum entry fees, and some meals. This price does not include air fare to and from upstate New York. If you have questions about the trip, please contact LWVF Events Coordinator Megg Murphy at lwvfevents@gmail.com or 850-224-2545.



VOTE411.org

How do I register? Who is on my ballot? Where/How do I vote? When are elections? Answers to these questions and more will be answered on the new website VOTE411.org. This is an important initiative sponsored by the Iowa League of Women Voters providing nonpartisan information to the public. Users of this site can also find information about absentee ballot information, factual data on candidates, as well as responses by the candidates on vital issues. Voters can type in their address and find the poll location for the voting precinct where that address is located. All of this valuable information will help the voters of Iowa across the state.

An important feature of the Iowa website will be information on candidates for the offices of U.S. Senator, Governor/Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, Secretary of Agriculture, and Attorney General. Voters will see biographical information about each candidate and also read their opinions about current issues. Having all of this information in one place will help voters make informed decisions.

Local Leagues have the option of expanding the candidate information to include U.S. Representatives and state and local races. VOTE411.org can also be used for ballot initiatives.

League of Women Voters has always been a leader in the democratic process and this is just one more tool that shows the public that we are committed to that goal.

Terese Grant, Co-President, Grinnell LWV

NOTE: I am in the process of getting the VOTE411.org site up and going for Iowa. I expect it will be operational by August 15, 2014. Bonnie Pitz

Human Trafficking and the League

A topic of interest to me when attending the LWVUS convention in Dallas was the request of the New Jersey LWV to get concurrence of human trafficking. It's everywhere, even in Iowa and the Midwest. Human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world. The New Jersey LWV held a caucus "Advocating for the Concurrence of Human Trafficking" The League adopted a position on human trafficking enabling state and local Leagues across the country to take action protecting victims of such crime.

The NJ LWV has a lot of information and links to expand this information. Their website is http://www.lwvnj.org/issues_womenfamily.html.

Incidences of human trafficking in the U. S. is available at [Trafficking.org](http://www.trafficking.org). Per this site, 100,000 – 300,000 underage girls are being sold for sex in America, the average age is 12-14 year old, 50,000 women and children are trafficked in the U.S. each year and 1 of 3 teens on the street are lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of running away from home.

A lot of the NJ League's information was from [PolarisProject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org). Statistical snapshots from this site of venues: Fake massage business, internet based (Craig's List), residential brothels, street prostitution, hostess and strip clubs, escort services, truck stops, labor trafficking, agriculture and farms, domestic workers, restaurants and food service, factories and manufacturing, peddling and begging rigs, hospitality industry

Concurrence with the Human Trafficking position of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey was recommended by the board and adopted by the delegates. It is: "We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools".

A couple of things surprised me – Nail salons are notorious for trafficking and that Duluth, Minnesota is the #1 place traffickers use in the U.S.

Janet Rampulla Boddicker-Linn County LWV

Climate Change—Challenge for League

Based on Scientific evidence, climate change is coming no matter what people think so we must adapt for it.

“Global climate change is one of the most **serious threats** facing our nation and our planet today. Increasingly severe consequences are projected for more people and more regions of the world unless we act now—as individuals, as communities, and as a nation. For its part, the League is calling for prompt action to cut this country’s GHG emissions, set limits on carbon pollution from new and existing power plants, invest in a clean energy economy, and help the world’s poorest countries tackle the challenges of climate change.”

“The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force was created by the LWVUS Board in 2006 to provide information and assistance to the national board and staff on issues pertaining climate change and to develop materials for use by League members at the local, state and national levels. The task force includes a national board liaison and eight local League members, all of whom have worked on climate change and /or energy issues for many years.

Working together by email and occasional conference calls, task force members have provided substantive information and advice regarding federal legislation and national climate change policy. A major and ongoing project has been the development of this toolkit. Task force members have also written background papers on a variety of climate change topics. These are included in the Resources section of the **toolkit**. “(LWVUS toolkit)

LWVUS Website: www.lwv.org/global-climate-change (Toolkit on right side of bar)

Two states were highlighted in the work they are doing on climate change and rising sea levels.

- 1) Southeast Florida Regional Compact <http://southeastfloridacclimatecompact.org>
- 2) Delaware League of Women Voters www.lwvdelaware.org/studies.html
(highlights the work done on climate change study)

Other important Ideas shared:

- *climate change is happening-focus on local climate change
- *focus on solutions—not doom and gloom
- *talk about opportunities vs. crisis
- *educate local mayors about climate change
- *use phrase “in our changing climate”
- *energy efficiency in buildings is important

Use the League Toolkit www.lwv.org/global-climate-change

Dave Pitz, delegate to Dallas Convention, Jasper County League member

The LWVIA wants to acknowledge the contributions and work done by two League Leaders these last two years. – Fran Henderson from Jasper County League, and Tina Pace from Linn County League.

Fran Henderson is a long time member of the Jasper County League and has served two years on the State Board. As a valuable member of our Board she has been instrumental in coordinating League activities, discussing issues, planning work, attending events, and lobbying and communicating with our Legislators. We appreciate Fran’s enthusiasm for League and her continued support and knowledge of League issues at the local and state level.

Tina Pace, a dedicated member of the Linn County LWV has served on the State Board Member as the State Coordinator for MLD (Membership, Leadership and Development). In the spring of 2012 Tina was recruited by Past State President Myrna Loehrlein to serve as the MLD leader for the state. Tina has worked with State Coaches to keep communications open with all 12 Local Leagues in Iowa. She has held monthly phone conferences with Local League MLD leaders and two statewide training sessions. As a member of the LWVIA Board, she keeps us up to speed on MLD and actively participates in League lobby activities and all statewide League events.

LWVIA appreciates the contributions of both Fran and Tina and extends to them a heartfelt thank you for all their great contributions to the State Board and LWV. We look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.

Deborah Ann Turner, VP LWVIA • Bonnie Pitz, Pres. LWVIA

