



Bulletin

League of Women Voters
of Greater Omaha
1941 South 42 Street
Suite 501
Omaha, NE 68105-2945
Phone: 402-344-3701
www.omahalwv.org

League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha

A non-partisan political organization open to all persons 18 years of age or older

October 2008

Volume 51 No 3



CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE Thursday, October 16 Omaha Press Club

The League of Women Voters and the Omaha Press Club are sponsoring a debate between Lee Terry and Jim Esch. Come hear the candidates' opinions on a variety of issues.



The debate will be held at The Omaha Press Club October 16. Come for lunch at 11:30 a.m. The debate begins promptly at noon and will last one hour.

Tickets are available by calling The Press Club, 345-8008. Tickets are first come, first served. A large crowd is anticipated, **so call NOW!**

The Press Club is located on the 22nd floor of the First National Center, 1620 Dodge Street. Park at the Doubletree Hotel garage and bring your ticket to be validated.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 2, 6:30pm, The Scott Conference Center, The Scott Conference Center, 6450 Pine Street: Holland Lecture series, Political Judges vs. Democracy.

Thursday, October 2, 7-9 p.m., Millard Library, 13214 Westwood Lane: Sisters on the Planet Event. The Human Face of Climate Change.

Monday, October 6, noon, League Office: LWVGO board meeting.

Saturday, October 11, 8:30 a.m., Doane College, Crete, NE. Advocacy Workshop.

Tuesday, October 14, 7 p.m., 9212 Capitol: Book Club. See page 3

Thursday, October 16, 11:30 a.m., Press Club. Debate between Lee Terry and Jim Esch. See above.

Tuesday, November 11, 7p.m., 9212 Capitol: Book Club

Thursday, November 13, 7:30 p.m., 1623 S. 79 Ave: International Relations Group meeting. See page 3

Monday, November 17, 7:00 p.m., UNO Alumni Center: General meeting: Panel discussion of the problems of youth and violence. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m., UNO Alumni Center: General meeting. Panel discussion of the solutions to the problems. Free and open to the public.

Monday, December 8, 11:30 a.m., Holiday Luncheon, Upstream Brewing Company, 17070 Wright Plaza. Speaker: Leslie Byers, author of *Heather's Rage: A Mother's Faith Reflected in Her Daughter's Mental Illness*, will speak about children and mental health issues in Nebraska.

Monday, January 12, 7 p.m.: League program planning for 2009-2010. Wine and cheese at home of Kathy Dewell, 1687 S. 153 St.

Thursday, February 12, 11:30 a.m., Field Club, 3615 Woolworth Ave.: League birthday luncheon. Program to be determined.

Monday, March 9, 11:30 a.m.: General meeting. Dundee Presbyterian Church. Free potluck luncheon. LWVGO Book Club presentation led by member Anne Shaughnessy.

Saturday, April 25, 9:15 a.m., Champions Run, 13800 Eagle Run Drive.: Annual Meeting. Luncheon speaker to be determined.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda Duckworth, President

Are you as amazed at all the developments of this election season as I am? It seems to be translating to very high voter turnout, which in turn means a lot of extra activity for us. Fortunately, our Speakers Bureau is up to the task, and Barbara Tripp and her twenty or so volunteers are able to keep up with voter registration demands as well. Thank you all!

Many thanks also to Kathy Dewell and her hard-working committee. The *Voters' Guide* is out and looking good. This issue proved to be especially challenging with the large number of Learning Community candidates added to the usual crowd of political hopefuls. We are grateful to The Reader for giving us a break on the price of printing; please note it is available in Spanish as well.

As to distribution, The Reader is assisting with that too, but there are still plenty of schools, churches, organizations, places of business, and senior housing that have requested Voters' Guides. We welcome help from our members and I've decided to turn Saturday, October 4 into a *Voters' Guidifest*. Come by my house (look for the red, white, and blue balloons) between 10 and 2 on that day, pick up a stack of Voters' Guides, and stay for a visit if you have the time. If you think I live too far west you can also get them from Sharon Conlon. They'll be on her front porch any time. Also, please keep track of your mileage when delivering them. Our League will receive 51 cents for every mile we trek in the cause of voter education, thanks to the HAVA grant.

Thank you for your patience regarding our Yearbook. We had hoped to have the newest edition to our members by the first of September, but it looks like we'll be doing well to get it to you by the first of October. In the meantime, please contact me if you have questions of any kind. Our baby just left the nest for college so anything you can do to distract me will be of assistance.

Lastly, a big WELCOME to all our new members! I'm looking forward to getting to know you and hope that membership in League will be as wonderful a thing for you as it continues to be for me.

VOTERS' SERVICE

from Barb Tripp, Voters' Service Chair

Members of Voters' Service have been working long and hard meeting all demands for our services. We have responded to more than 50 requests to take voter registration; this is 50 times League has been visible in the community. Lisa Wise, Deputy Election Commissioner, in thanking us for all we have done, said "I don't know how we would be getting all these drives done without your help". Many many thanks to each of you.

I want to welcome the newly trained registrars who have joined our group; they are: Lori Baine; Bev Fellman; Mary Lien; Andrea Kuhn; Sue Moskovits; and Mary Ann Sturek.

If you are newly trained and your name is not on this list, I am unaware, so please let me know.

Peggy Adair's observations after a registration experience were: We provided stellar voter service by contacting the election commissioner's office on behalf of two voters. One is a bride-to-be who is getting married on October 11. She wanted to know what to do to assure she will be able to vote. The EC gave us several options for her, and she decided to do early voting before her wedding date. Another person had just moved to Bennington and had re-registered but didn't know where her polling place is because she is unfamiliar with her new town, so we called the EC and got the street address of her polling place for her.

Thank you for all you do.

MEMBERSHIP

Lori Bain

<LDBAIN@cox.net>

Please contact your friends about joining LWVGO.

Welcome New Members! You are part of a community that shares a passion for positive change on the local, state and national levels. Your membership and contributions enable us to mobilize citizens and influence public policy through advocacy and is vital to our efforts to Make Democracy Work® for all!

LWV offers a whole new world of opportunities to apply the skills and smarts you've accumulated during a successful career.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, October 14, 7 p.m.
9212 Capitol

All LWV-GO members are invited to join the discussion of "The Post-American World" by Fareed Zakaria on Tuesday, October 14th at 7 p.m. That evening we'll focus on chapters 1-4 (pages 1-128); we'll discuss the rest of the book (chapters 5-7, pages 129-259) on Tuesday, November 11th. "The Post-American World" is available through the Omaha Public Library in both hardcover and audio book form. The Bookworm in Countryside Village has copies available for purchase; you will receive 20% off when you mention the League book club. Individuals are also welcome to purchase the book online or through another vendor.

Helen Fisher continues to host the book club meetings in her home. Members are welcome to call Helen or to contact Anne Shaughnessy for information about the book club.

In October book club participants will also discuss whether or not to take part in the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions program early in 2009. All League members are welcome to express their opinions on this issue, even those who do not usually attend the monthly book club meetings. The FPA has announced these topics (subject for the 2009 program):

- The U.S. and rising powers
- Afghanistan and Pakistan
- Energy and the global economy
- The Arctic age
- Egypt in the 21st century
- Global food supply
- Cuba after Castro
- Universal human rights

For additional details about the Foreign Policy Association and its Great Decisions program go to www.fpa.org. Please contact Anne Shaughnessy to indicate your interest in LWV-GO discussing the Great Decisions topics and your preference for the timeline to be followed.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GROUP

The International Relations Group will hold its first meeting of this year at Jane Smith's home on Thursday, November 13, 7:30 PM--after the Presidential Election.



GREETING NATURALIZED CITIZENS

For many years we have greeted the new naturalized citizens at the monthly ceremony at the court house. It is a very rewarding event. We congratulate them and give them information on voting and a pen with the LWV name. It makes the ceremony more festive. The naturalization office has asked if we would consider attending the ceremonies at their other site. If anyone is interested in participating in this delightful chore, please let Linda Duckworth know.

LWV is an organization where smart, active leaders work to create change in their communities.

The community needs everyone to participate in order to be a strong, safe, fair, and vibrant place to live.

LWV is involved in shaping the important issues to keep our community strong.

Linda Duckworth, President
Annette Conser, Editor
Mary Ann Kirchner, Mailer
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER OMAHA
1941 South 42 Street - Suite 501
Omaha, NE 68105-2945
402-344-3701
www.omahalwv.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 356
Omaha, NE

TIME DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE
Lee Terry and Jim Esch
Thursday, October 16
11:30 a.m.
Omaha Press Club
Call 345-8008 NOW for reservations.

LWVNE STATE LIAISON, Virginia Bigelow

On September 9, 2008, Nancy Packard (from Lincoln) and myself attended the annual meeting of the Nebraska Power Review Board, and I am happy to report that the Nebraska Power "system" is working well, with adequate power for the needs all over the state, and that the rates Nebraskans pay are about 5th lowest of all the states. Examples: [average prices per KWH]

	Nebraska	Texas	Illinois	Pennsylvania	US Average
1996	\$ 5.32	6.16	7.69	7.96	6.86
2007	6.21	10.27	8.56	9.07	9.14

Another way of expressing these figures is that Nebraska's price is about 43.7% less than Market Price. This is due to the fact that Nebraska is a 'regulated' state, whereas most of the nation switched to 'free market prices'.

The representatives [from all over the state] also discussed the future of wind and nuclear power in the state, and they agreed both are on going, but current status is minimal. If anyone has questions, feel free to contact me: (402) 334-2431.

EMAIL DELIVERY OF LWVNE VOTER

Please let the LWVNE office know if you are willing to receive your Voter by email OR if you need a hard copy. It is important to have as many people as possible receiving the State VOTER by email. They need your name and email address. If you have already replied, you don't need to send your information again.