



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

November 2008

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

Volume 51 No 4

Awareness to Action:

A Community Approach to Youth Violence

Panel Discussion

UNO Alumni Center, 6705 Dodge Street

Monday, November 17 - Discussion of the problems

Tuesday, November 18 - Discussion of possible solutions

7 to 9 p.m. each night

*****Open to the public*****

Please mark your calendars for both nights and plan to attend this important public panel discussion. Though the panel is still being formed, we will feature League member and Omaha City Councilman, Jim Suttle; Professor Emeritus from the UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Dr. Sam Walker; and the Executive Director of Voices for Children, Kathy Moore. Tracy Madden from WOW-T will be the moderator.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HEDY AHLVERS

The Omaha Area Board of Realtors has announced that Hedy Ahlvers received the Distinguished Service to the Nebraska Realtors Association Award. Congratulations to Hedy!



CALENDAR

Monday, November 3, noon, League Office: LWVGO board meeting.

Tuesday, November 11, 7p.m.: Book Club. See page 3.

Thursday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.: International Relations Committee meeting. Comprehensive Immigration Reform addressed by Prof. David Weber. 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 1, noon, League Office: LWVGO board meeting.

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

This may be something I shouldn't admit openly, but Peggy Adair, our Nebraska League President, and I both agree: we'll be glad when this election is over. We've both enjoyed meeting with many different groups in our work with the Speakers Bureau, and registering voters is always a good time, but new events have occurred that have, shall we say, presented new challenges. By the time you receive this I will already have contacted you asking for help with at least one of these challenges, so let me say thank you right now.

Speaking of thank yous, four of us met at the offices of The Reader on October 2 and had a rather good time digging out Voters' Guides from the September 25 edition. You can imagine how ink-stained our hands were after that, but guess what? New member Helen Atwater had thought to bring mini-wipes; Katy Green, Sharon Conlon and I were in awe.

I'm also grateful to our Congressional debate committee: Barbara Rennard, chair, Belinda Greiner, timekeeper, and Gary Kerr, moderator. All agreed it was an interesting debate, even "scrappy" at times, and quite a success. Karren Kerr was our greeter; Barbara Tripp and Sally Fellows saw to it that campaign buttons were removed from sight.

I'd like to think all our Voters' Guides will be distributed by the time you receive this, but I bet that won't be the case. Please give Sharon Conlon a call and offer to take some off her hands. We just had a call at the office today from a store asking us to bring them a stack; their customers were "clamoring" for Voters' Guides!

Remember to vote!

VOTERS' SERVICE REPORT

Barbara Tripp, Voters' Service Chair

The Voters' Service Committee provided Voters' Registration at 67 venues from mid-May through mid-October and have expended more than 220 hours' registering voters; this election season is proving memorable considering the number of Americans who are registering. As you know, even though that is the first step, people must also go to the polls!

Following are the registrars who contributed to the League's remarkable service in this endeavor:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Ruth Kruse | Gary/Karren Kerr | Linda Duckworth |
| Pat Galusha | Bev Traub | Keri Rheinfrank |
| Marianne Crane | Pat Hanson | Marilyn Routt |
| Jessie Bell | Muriel Frank | Carolyn/George Ireland |
| JoAnne Draper | Anne Shaughnessy | Ruth Thomas |
| Helen Fisher | Doris Olson | Sally Fellows |
| Annette Conser | Andrea Kuhn | Lori Bain |
| Mary Ann Sturek | Bev Fellman | Mary Lien |
| Sue Moskovits | Barbara Rennard | Peggy Adair |
| Belinda Greiner | Rob Phillips | David Kirk |
| Barbara Davis | Elouise Green | Barbara Tripp |

Many thanks to all of you.



AUTHOR LESLIE BYERS TO SPEAK AT DECEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Leslie Byers, author of *Heather's Rage: A Mother's Faith Reflected in Her Daughter's Mental Illness*, will speak at our December 8 holiday luncheon. The title of her talk will be: *A Mother's Journey Through Her Daughter's Mental Illness*. Leslie will chronicle the years of frustration her family experienced as they fought an enemy they struggled to name, as they overcame mounting obstacles, and ultimately came to a place of discovery and healing. Leslie will bring copies of her book for sale which she will gladly autograph. The 11:30 holiday luncheon will be held at Upstream Brewing Company West. See the reservation flyer in this bulletin. We hope to see you there!

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, November 11

The LWV-GO Book Club will gather at 7p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 to finish discussing "The Post-American World" by Fareed Zakaria. We'll recap chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-129) then cover chapters 5-7 (pp. 129-259). That evening participants will also determine the schedule for discussing the eight essays in the 2009 Great Decisions program and learn the options for ordering the anthology.

LWV-GO members who are not familiar with the Great Decisions (GD) program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association are encouraged to contact book club members who took part in the 2008 discussions and/or to visit the Foreign Policy Association's website (www.fpa.org). GD topics for 2009 are:

- 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

The LWV-GO book club participated in Great Decisions for the first time in 2008, although several League members had discussed GD essays through church groups and other organizations in previous years. This past winter we planned to discuss one essay a week over 8 consecutive weeks, January-March; bad weather caused us to reschedule only once.

Helen Fisher continues to host the book discussion gatherings in her home. Please call Helen or contact Anne Shaughnessy to RSVP or for additional information about the LWV-GO book club.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.

at the home of Jane Smith

Prof. David Weber will address the issues of Immigration Reform and invites all LWV-GO members to join in the discussion of:

Comprehensive Immigration Reform: What it means and how we get it.

- Border Security
- Real ID (e.g. driver's licenses)
- E-verify
- Banking/Tax issues
- DREAM Act
- I.C.E. raids in the U.S. (Postville, Swift Co., etc.)
- Local enforcement of immigration laws: Fremont, Hazelton; etc.
- Legislative reform

Professor David Weber joined the Creighton University School of Law Faculty in July 2008. Prior to this he held a position as an associate at the law firm of Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., in Minneapolis, Minnesota. While in private practice, Professor Weber served for over two years on the Board of Directors of Centro Legal, Inc., a non-profit provider of legal services to the Hispanic community. Fluent in Spanish, he worked in Guatemala before entering law school and also spent time living in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. He received his B.A. in economics from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Minnesota.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Please contact your friends about joining LWVGO. Dues are \$60 for a single membership and \$90 for a family membership. We need the member's name, address, and home phone number. Also work phone and email address if available. Send this information to the League office, 1942 S. 42 St., Suite 501, Omaha NE 68105, with a check payable to LWVGO.

Are there any changes in your name, address, phone number, or email address? Please send changes to the League office.

If you have any 3-fold membership cards in your possession, please be sure to change the dues amount to \$60 for a single membership and \$90 for a family membership.

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.

New Members:

Lynne Anderson

Wanda Gottschalk

Linda Middleton

Helen J. Atwater

Maj. Lenora Ingram

Mary Jo Monohon

Shanna Austin

Wendi Jensen

Catherine Roberts

Amy Blumenthal

Suzanne Kerkemeyer

Ardith Stultz

Janice Foster

Lora Martin

Deborah Trivitt

Frances Mendenhall

Kay Kriss Weinstein

U.S. HISTORY

1905 - President Grover Cleveland wrote an article for *Ladies Home Journal*, joining others in the U.S. who **opposed women voters**. The president said, "We all know how much further women go than men in their social rivalries and jealousies... sensible and responsible women do not want to vote."

from

Mary Howarth, LWV Oakland Area (Michigan)

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

CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

We have agreed to provide volunteers for the Council of State Governments' conference December 4 through 7. Duties will include directing conference attendees to correct rooms for meetings and serving as greeters. Venues will include Gallup University, Joslyn Art Museum, Holland Performing Arts Center, and the Qwest Center. We will be able to sit in on various meetings and talks, making it a fascinating experience.

Please contact Linda Duckworth or Anne Shaughnessy if you'd like to help. Note that the conference runs from a Thursday to a Sunday.

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.

“A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change”

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.