



# Bulletin

League of Women Voters  
of Greater Omaha  
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**League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha**

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

**February/March 2009**

Volume 51 No 7

## **LWVGO Birthday Luncheon at Field Club Thursday - February 12, 2009 – 11:30 a.m.**

**3615 Woolworth Avenue**

**Meet and greet the speaker at 11 a.m.**

**Speaker: Janis McMillen, Ph.D.**

**“Making Democracy Work:  
Meeting the Challenge”**

The reservation deadline is Friday, February 6th

See flyer and page 2



## **CALENDAR**

- Monday, February 9, 7:00 p.m., TAC Building, 3215 Cuming St.: Health Care Reform Community Forum. See page 7
- Tuesday, February 10, 10:00 a.m., Lasting Hope Recovery Center, 415 S. 25 St: Social Policy Committee meeting. See page 3
- Tuesday, February 10, 7 p.m.: Great Decisions Discussion: Energy and the global economy. See page 3
- Thursday, February 12, 11:30 a.m., Field Club, 3615 Woolworth Ave.: League birthday luncheon. Speaker Janis McMillen, our liaison to the LWVUS. See flyer and page 2
- Tuesday, February 17, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., State Capitol: Legislative Day. See flyer.
- Tuesday, February 17, 7 p.m.: Great Decisions Discussion, the Arctic.
- Thursday, February 19, noon: Educational Forum program, Dr. Lee Simmons, speaker.
- Tuesday, February 24, 7 p.m.: Great Decisions Discussion, U.S. and Egypt
- Monday, March 2, 12:15 p.m., League Office: LWVGO board meeting.
- Saturday, February 28, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Sharon Conlon's: New member orientation. See page 8
- Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m.: Great Decisions Discussion, Global food supply.
- Tuesday, March 10, 7 p.m.: Great Decisions Discussion, Cuba after Castro
- Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.: Great Decisions Discussion, Universal human rights.
- Thursday, March 19, promptly at noon: Mayoral forum at the Omaha Press Club. (No March 9 general meeting.)
- Monday, April 6, 12:15 p.m., League Office: LWVGO board meeting.
- Thursday, April 16, promptly at noon: Mayoral debate at the Omaha Press Club.
- Saturday, April 18, Seward, Nebraska: LWVNE Annual Meeting. See flyer.
- Saturday, April 25, 9:15 a.m., Champions Run, 13800 Eagle Run Drive.: Annual Meeting. Speaker, Ben Gray.
- Monday, May 4, 12:15 p.m., League Office: LWVGO board meeting.
- Saturday, June 13 through Monday, June 15 - LWVUS Council meeting in Washington DC.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda Duckworth, President

This Bulletin is following closely on the heels of the Voter, published by the League of Women Voters of Nebraska, and The National Voter, published by the League of Women Voters of the United States. I hope you'll have a chance to read all three, and for now I'd like to especially draw your attention to the Priority Bills section of our state publication. Our state President, Peggy Adair, noted that she only had to wade through 700 or so bills instead of the usual 1100! She and the state board chose a number of bills to watch, support, or oppose. You can help by choosing a few to focus on and contacting your Senator; you can help even more by signing up to be a League lobbyist. Think of it: you can tell your friends and relatives you're a "lobbyist" and see what kind of reaction you get!

You may have received my email that listed at least seven League events occurring in the little month of February. That includes the four Great Decision meetings, Legislative Day in Lincoln, and our annual birthday bash at the Field Club. We have recently learned that Mayor Fahey plans to attend that meeting, so please come early and attend the reception where you'll get a chance to visit with him and our speaker and our winner of the Making Democracy Work Award.

Now I'd like to put on my Education Fund hat and let you know of an opportunity for fame, a modest amount though it may be. If you or your company donates at least \$1,000 to the Education Fund we will thank you in the upcoming *Voters' Guide*. We think it's good advertising for you; smart voters are a valuable audience. And now is a good time to thank the members who answered our recent request for donations:

### **LWVGO Birthday Luncheon**

Thursday, February 12, 11:30 a.m.

Meet and greet at 11 a.m.

Come early to the February birthday luncheon and meet our luncheon speaker Janis McMillen (our liaison to the LWVUS) and also meet our Making Democracy Work award winner (to be announced). We will hold a *meet and greet* at 11 a.m. just prior to the luncheon. If any elected city officials are in attendance, we'll include them in our receiving line as well.

Janis McMillen, Ph.D., of Overland Park, Kansas, is a 15-year member of the League and has held several positions on her local and state League boards, including two terms as local League co-president and two terms as president of the Kansas League. In 2008, she was on the LWVUS Bylaws Committee, and in June 2008 she was elected to the LWVUS Board of Directors. Her board responsibilities include chairing Education Fund activities. The title of her presentation is "Making Democracy Work: Meeting the Challenge."

We hope you will come to our *meet and greet* before the luncheon, help us welcome our new liaison to Omaha, and also help us congratulate our Making Democracy Work awardee.



### **BARBA AND TESSIE EDWARDS HONORED AT MLK CELEBRATION**

At the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration January 19 Tessie and Barba Edwards received the President's Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award. They are Omaha natives and longtime LWVGO members who have brought their zeal for education, health care management improvement, and community involvement to Omaha for more than 50 years. Congratulations to Barba and Tessie!

## **MAYORAL FORUMS AT OMAHA PRESS CLUB**

March 19, Noon

April 16, Noon

The League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha and the Omaha Press Club have scheduled a forum for mayoral candidates on March 19, 2009. The forum will be held at The Press Club over the noon hour. Announced candidates Hal Daub, Jim Suttle, and Jim Vokal have already been invited. Reservations can be made by calling the Omaha Press Club at 345-8008. Additionally, a debate between the two winners of the primary election is scheduled for April 16th. We hope to see you at both events! The events will be open to the public to attend.

Invitations have gone out to the three announced candidates for mayor, Hal Daub, Jim Suttle, and Jim Vokal to participate in a candidates forum at the Omaha Press Club at noon March 19th prior to the primary election. The two winners in the primary election have been invited to a debate at noon at the Press Club April 16th prior to the general election. Both events will be co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Omaha Press Club. The events will be open to the public.

Please make your reservation with the Press Club.

### **GREAT DECISIONS FOR 2009!**

What a fine start for the Great Decisions group! First-timers joined familiar friends for a thoughtful discussion about the challenges posed and opportunities presented to America by "rising nations" such as India, China, and Brazil. Many thanks to Helen Fisher for her gracious, generous hospitality!

The Great Decisions Global Affairs Education Program is a project of the Foreign Policy Association (FPA). The LWV-GO book group will continue to discuss one essay each Tuesday evening through March 17, 2009. Our schedule is:

February 3 ---- Afghanistan and Pakistan

February 10 - Energy and the global economy

February 17 - The Arctic age

February 24 - Egypt: key ally in the Middle East

March 3 ----- Global Food Crisis

March 10 ----- Cuba on the verge

March 17 ----- Human rights in a new era

March 24th and 31st will serve as "catch up" dates in case inclement weather leads to cancellation of any meetings. Additional information about the program is available at [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org).

Every LWV-GO member is welcome to attend any or all of these discussions, regardless of previous book group participation. (You don't have to commit to every week or every topic.)

Helen hosts the meetings in her home; discussions begin at 7p.m. Please RSVP each week to Helen or to Anne.

### **CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF CHARLENE TIERNEY**

Charlene Tierney, a League member since 1963, has died. Services were held January 16. The following appeared in the OWH.

**TIERNEY**-Charlene Janice. Executive Director of Omaha Suburban Rotary for 37 years. Preceded in death by husband, Phillip Tierney. Survived by sons: Chris Tierney and wife Sheryl of Omaha, Kevin Tierney of Claremont, CA; grandson, Max Tierney.

### **SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE, February 10**

The Social Policy Committee will meet on February 10 at 10 a.m. at the Lasting Hope Recovery Center, 26th & Harney Streets. Park at East end of the parking lot. Come to the north door--up three steps.

We will be discussing

- 1) Vokal's Independent Police Safety Auditor
- 2) Children's Mental Health Legislation-
- 3) Learning Communities

## **Recommendations from the Program Planning Meeting for 2009-2010**

### **Please Vote!**

If you were not able to attend the Program Planning meeting on January 26, you can still participate in the process. Below are the recommendations made by the Monday evening group. To add your votes, assign points for up to 7 of the items below, using 1 for the highest interest and so on. The board will decide later what to do with the recommendations. You may email your choices to [rshaughnessy@unomaha.edu](mailto:rshaughnessy@unomaha.edu), or mail this form to the League office, or call your rankings in to the office. **Please let us know what your programming interests are by February 28.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Violence
- \_\_\_\_\_ Homelessness and Poverty/Food Pantry Services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Behavioral (Mental) Health
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reproductive/Sexual Freedom
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bandwidth (WIFI)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Progress of the Learning Community Council
- \_\_\_\_\_ Omaha by Design/Annexation/City Planning/Infrastructure/Use of Public Space
- \_\_\_\_\_ Energy and Local Policies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Health Care Reform
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obama Stimulus Plan and How It Affects Nebraska and Women
- \_\_\_\_\_ Affirmative Action
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Safety in Omaha
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Popular Vote
- \_\_\_\_\_ Death Penalty
- \_\_\_\_\_ Immigration e-Verify
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION UPDATE

Please take a minute to look at your information and let me know if any updates are needed or any information is missing. Note that much League information is sent out via e-mail. If your current e-mail address is not shown, please let me know. Updates should be given to Sharon Conlon. It's important that we have your current contact information in order for you to be aware and take full advantage of all that League has to offer, so please take a minute to check your information.

### Year book corrections January -09

(below is information that was missing from this year's yearbook)

Lynne Anderson	Jim Esch	Ada Jeppesen
	Susan Furay	Wendi Jensen
L.D. Bain	Beverly Fellman	
	Patricia Germann & Dawna Robertson	Suzanne Kerkemeyer
Shari Benscoter		Kay Kriss Weinstein
William Robert Bingham		Jack Kubat
	Richard Gorton	
Dr Robert Binhammer	Zella Grant	Mary Ann Lamanna
Amy Blumenthal	Virginia Grissom	Dorothy Lanphier
Jeanne Burke	Wanda Gottschalk	Amy McGill
Lee Butkiewicz		
Mary Carlson	Katy Green	Lora Martin
Donna Allen Cover	Jeene Hobbs	
Walta Dodd	Frances Howard	Mele Mason
Marilyn Erickson	Tina Hubbell	Linda Middleton

Mary Jo Monohan

Cynthia Peters

Dr Maryanne Stevens

Sue Moskovits

Liz Rea

Charlene Tierney  
Member since 1963  
Died 1-15-08

G William & Linda Orr

Cathi Roberts

Jean Tobin

Elna Peirce

Anne Shaughnessy

Deborah Trivitt

Cheryl Peterson

Mary Ann Sofio

Kay Kriss Weinstein

Rosalee Yeaworth

### **New members / prospective members,**

Linda Duckworth & Sharon Conlon will be having a **Saturday** morning get-together to introduce you to the many different aspects of League and answer any questions. We'd also like to get to know you and discuss what level of involvement you would like.

Please RSVP to Sharon Conlon. Hope to see you **Feb. 28th, 10-11:30 a.m.**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Please contact your friends about joining the League of Women Voters. It's a great way to make a difference. Your community needs leaders to participate in order to be a strong, safe and vibrant place to live! Dues are \$60 for a single membership and \$90 for a family membership. If you or someone you know would like to join, please send us the information below.

The information we need is: Name, Address, City, State, ZIP, Phone, Email address. Please send membership information to: League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha, 1941 S. 42nd Street, Suite 501, Omaha, NE 68105-2956. Checks should be made payable to the League of Women Voters.

An additional contribution to support the League's work of mobilizing citizens and influencing public policy through advocacy and education will be gratefully accepted.

### **“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.

While they were saying among themselves it cannot be done, it was done.

Join the great company of those who make the barren places of life fruitful with kindness.

## **LWVNE STATE REPORT**

Virginia Bigelow

The state LWV-NE board met in Lincoln on January 24, 2009. We started off with the President's report (Peggy Adair), and one of her first items was a request for volunteers for the positions which are open on the state board. They are: Women's Issues, International Government, Action Vice President and--as always--Lobbyists for the League. This last position is open to anyone who has special interest and is willing to travel to Lincoln to monitor the progress (or lack there of) of the subject/special interest through the Legislature. Anyone with a special interest: "Come on Down !". We devoted quite awhile to reviewing the suggestions the members had to the update of the state policies document. Peggy announced that 3 legislators will be asked to join us for lunch on February 17th-- our Legislator Day in Lincoln. [I hope many LWV-OMAHA members are in attendance in Lincoln that day.]

Laura Schneider (Hastings Liaison) reported on a new issue at the Hastings Regional Center. She told us many people have been buried there on the grounds of the center over many years, but records of exactly who they were have not been available to the public. They are now trying to correct that situation. So if you think some long lost relative might be there, contact Laura.

The other Liaisons reported: Lincoln's (Patte Newman) 'Lunch & Learn' is going strong. Seward (Pris Lawin) reported that plans are progressing for the state convention in Seward on Saturday, April 18th. Hope there will be lots of Omaha Leaguers attending.

## **HEALTH CARE REFORM FORUM**

There will be a Health Care Reform Community Forum, entitled "Is Health Care Reform Within Our Reach?" in Omaha on Monday, February 9th, 7 p.m. at the TAC building, 3215 Cuming St. The forum is open to the public and is being hosted by several organizations engaged in the health care reform discussion at the state and national level.

## **ANNUAL WORKBOOK REPORTS DUE IN MARCH**

All Annual Workbook reports will be due to Annette Conser late in March. This includes the Annual Meeting agenda, Nominating Committee report, 2008 Annual Meeting minutes, Ed Fund reports, and Executive Board reports from each director. If you need a copy of last year's report, please let Annette know. The bylaws were changed last year to say that the workbook needs to be sent out 15 days before the Annual Meeting.

LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

LWV is where citizens like you are actively engaged in effecting change on the local, state, and national level.

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.

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

As an LWV member, you have the opportunity to contribute in a leadership role through the organization that has a great impact on local, state, and even national issues.

Linda Duckworth, President  
Annette Conser, Editor  
Mary Ann Kirchner, Mailer  
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TIME DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**LWVGO Birthday Luncheon at Field Club**  
**Thursday - February 12, 2009 – 11:30 a.m.**  
**3615 Woolworth Avenue**  
**Meet and greet the speaker at 11 a.m.**  
**Speaker: Janis McMillen, Ph.D.**  
**“Making Democracy Work: Meeting the**  
**Challenge”**  
See flyer and pages 1 & 2

**Save the Date**  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEBRASKA**  
**FIRST CALL TO CONVENTION 2009!**

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska biennial Convention will be held on SATURDAY, APRIL 18, in Seward, Nebraska. Please let your members know so they can reserve this date on their calendars.

Also, if your local League has any recommendations for changes to LWVNE Program or LWVNE By Laws, please send those recommendations to the state League office by FRIDAY, JANUARY 17. The League office email is [lwv-ne@inebraska.com](mailto:lwv-ne@inebraska.com).

If you have any questions, contact your President, Peggy Adair.

**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 to save postage. They need your name and email address. If you have already replied, you don't need to send your information again.