



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

April 2009

Volume 51 No 9



League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha

Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Champions Run

13800 Eagle Run Drive

9:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

9:15 a.m. - Registration & Coffee

9:30 a.m. - Business Meeting

11:30 a.m. - Luncheon & Program

Speaker: Nebraska State Senator Tanya Cook

Topic: *From Dinkins to Lincoln:*

What I've Learned Working on Both Sides of the Aisle

All League members, spouses, and other guests are invited to attend.

(See page 2 & flyer.)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEBRASKA

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska biennial Convention will be held on Saturday, April 18, in Seward, Nebraska. See reservation flyer.

CALENDAR

Monday, April 6, 12:15 p.m., League Office: LWVGO board meeting.

Tuesday, April 14, 10:00 a.m., Lasting Hope Recovery Center, 26 & Harney: Social Policy Committee meeting.

Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m., Helen Fisher's home: Book Study discussion of China Road. See p. 3.

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, Tanya Cook.

Monday, May 4, 12:15 p.m., League Office: LWVGO board meeting.

Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m., Helen Fisher's home: Book Study discussion of China Road. See p. 3.

Tuesday, May 13, 10:00 a.m., Lasting Hope Recovery Center, 26 & Harney: Social Policy Committee meeting.

Saturday, June 13, 12:00 noon CDT: LWVUS Virtual Council meeting via web from Washington DC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all who promptly renewed your membership with League. We are grateful for your support and any volunteer time you're able to give to LWVGO. For all of you who found us by way of the National League, let me say how glad I am we connected, and I'm sorry if the membership year doesn't always match up to the anniversary of when you first paid dues. If you give Sharon Conlon a call she'll be happy to help you figure out this business of dues. Speaking of dues, we don't ever want money--or lack of--to come between LWVGO and our members. If you've experienced a layoff or endured any other financial misfortune please contact Sharon or me before deciding to not renew.

You probably know we held a very successful day of Running and Winning in the fall of 2007 for 45 high school girls. A number of female elected officials were in attendance, which I know continues to have an impact on those students, and the campaign work we assigned the girls caught their imaginations. Our committee chose to wait until fall of 2009 to hold the second Running and Winning program; we League volunteers had plenty to do during the election season of 2008! If you'd like to be a member of the committee please let me know. We're noticing the second time is much, much easier.

I'm not sure who it was that first dubbed the Seward League the "small but mighty Seward League", but it has stuck and it is well-deserved. They'll be hosting the Nebraska State Convention on Saturday, April 18, and I am looking forward to the day. It begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 1:30; highlights include a talk during lunch by Nebraska Senator Greg Adams and a real debate. I hope we'll have a large Omaha contingent there to support Seward and to thank our own member Peggy Adair for her two years as our excellent State President. The cost is \$25 and the deadline for reservations is Friday, April 10.

Thank you to the following for recent contributions to LWVGO or LWVGO Educational Fund:

Clyde and Mary Anna Anderson	Frances Blumkin	Carol Bryce
Lee Butkiewicz	Renee Claborn	Kathy Lalley-Dewell
Linda Duckworth	Polly Goecke	Kay Lynn Goldner
Elouise Green	Belinda Greiner	Cynthia Hadsell
Dee Hall	Carolyn Ireland	Mary Ann Kirchner
Joanna Lindberg	Junie Malot	Carol McDonald
Elna Peirce	Don Preister	Maryanne Rouse
Geraldine Rueter	Bev Traub	

MAYORAL FORUM AT OMAHA PRESS CLUB

Thursday, April 16, Noon

Mark your calendars and make your reservation soon! It is time to decide on a new mayor for the city of Omaha! A debate between the two winners of the primary election is scheduled for noon on April 16 at the Omaha Press Club. Reservations can be made by calling the Omaha Press Club at 345-8008. The event is co-sponsored by the Omaha Press Club and LWVGO.

PRIMARY FORUM ON KIOS ON MONDAY APRIL 6.

If you weren't able to attend our primary Mayoral forum on March 19 you can still hear it on Monday, April 6, KIOS 91.5 FM, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting Luncheon

Guest Speaker: State Senator Tanya Cook

From Dinkins to Lincoln: What I've Learned Working on Both Sides of the Aisle

State Senator Tanya Cook will be our speaker at the Annual Meeting luncheon on April 25, 11:30, at Champions Run. Along with Brenda Council, Tanya is the first African American woman elected to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Cook's career in politics began in 1989 when she worked on David Dinkins'(D) mayoral campaign in New York City. Since then she has worked on campaigns in Nebraska such as Brenda Council (D) for city council and for mayor, and Ben Nelson (D) for U.S. senate.

Tanya served as Director of Urban Affairs for two Nebraska governors: Mike Johanns (R) and Dave Heineman (R). Please join us to hear about insights gained from working on both sides of the aisle and what she's learned thus far as a new state senator.

See flyer for luncheon reservation form.

TAKE THE CHINA ROAD

Need a break from spring cleaning? Eager for an evening of thoughtful conversation? Ready to take a trip, at least vicariously? Plan to join the Book Study group on Tuesday, April 14 to discuss the first half (chapters 1-13) of China Road by Rob Gifford.

There are three bound copies of this book in the Omaha Public Library collection. Paperback copies are in stock at The Bookworm in Countryside Village; tell the clerk you're a member of the League book club to receive a 20% discount.

The rest of China Road (chapters 14-23) will be discussed on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. Helen Fisher hosts these gatherings in her home, beginning at 7p.m. Please call her (397-2027) to let her know you'll attend.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF CARRIE HOWARD

Carrie Howard, a former League member and daughter of State Senator Gwen Howard, died on March 24. She was 33. Carrie had been involved in political campaigns since age 4.

Her enthusiasm and vitality were inspiring and infectious--she was bright and full of life and willing to share her engrossing interests and talents. We remember how she was brimming with creative ideas and enthusiasm, and are sorry that Nebraska has lost such a dynamic activist.

Our condolences to Senator Howard and family.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF ROBERT GRISSOM

Our condolences to Virginia Grissom, whose husband, Dr. Robert Grissom, died on March 17. Dr. Grissom was a greatly respected physician and the first full-time chair of Internal Medicine at UNMC.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD

On February 12, LWVGO announced Connie Hammitt was this year's recipient of the Making Democracy Work award. Connie's dedication to the needs of children and the families of children with persistent mental illness is exemplified by her participation in the Children in Crisis Task Force and her Chairmanship of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. Connie's leadership led to an innovative state-wide modern day Pony Express Ride, in which motorcycle riders carried letters from children and their families to be delivered to Governor Heineman highlighting the needs of families experiencing persistent mental health issues. We salute your innovative ideas and dedication to Making Democracy Work!

Congratulations Connie!

A THANK YOU FROM CONNIE

February 13, 2009

Dear Linda;

I would like to thank you and all of the Members of The League of Women Voters, in selecting me as your 2009 recipient for "Making Democracy Works" Award.

I sit here, still in complete awe of this prestigious award, and I cannot begin to express my feelings on what this means to me. In all of the time I have been speaking out and advocating for mine and other children's rights, that have been subjected to the emotional, mental and behavioral issues that we have all been facing, I have never intended on receiving any recognition for my actions. I do this as my passion, helping the families and children that have lost all hope in obtaining the services and guidance they so desperately need.

We have an obligation to our children, to insure their growth and futures in tomorrow's society, and I believe that with the help and insight that this organization and others like you bring to the table, we can make a difference, and make significant changes in their lives.

Again, I want to thank you with all my heart, and I will hold this award in great esteem, not for me but for all of the families and children in their time of need.

Gratefully yours, Connie Hammitt

They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.

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

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Speaker:

Nebraska State Senator Tanya Cook

(See page 2 & flyer.)

MEMBERSHIP

Invite your friends to join the League of Women Voters. Tell them why you belong to League. They will get to know other interesting members and can choose any level of involvement. Our community needs their participation for a strong, safe, and vibrant place to live!

See <http://www.omahalwv.org/documents/Membership Form.pdf> for a membership application.

2009-10 NOMINATIONS

See the enclosed Annual Meeting Workbook for the list of next year's officer nominations.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE NOMINATIONS

Nominate a member for the Make a Difference Award! Send your nomination to Linda Duckworth by mail or email - trduck@cox.net. Deadline: April 10.

The following are past awardees: Dorothy Dollis, Carol McDonald, Nancy Shugrue, Phyllis Comstock, Barba Edwards, Beverly Traub, Karren Kerr, Polly Goecke, Pat Galusha, Annette Conser, Belinda Greiner, Jeannette Smith, Sally Fellows.