



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

September 2009

Volume 52 No 3



LWVGO General Meeting Luncheon September 21, 11:30 a.m. Embassy Suites 12520 Westport Parkway LaVista NE 68128

Speaker:

Marlin Petermann, NRD

He will present an overview of the Papio-Missouri Watershed Plan, discuss the WP-5 project and its inter-relationship to the new ballfield, and explain the NRD's 3-year plan, including the next scheduled dam site at 168th & Fort Street, which will be similar to Cunningham Lake and Standing Bear Lake.

Reservation deadline: September 14.

See flyer.



CALENDAR

Saturday, September 19, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., LWVGO Office at the Center, 1941 South 42 Street, Suite 501: New member coffee. See page 3.

Tuesday, September 15, 7 p.m., Helen Fisher's home: LWVGO book group. See page 4.

Monday, September 21, 11:30 a.m. Embassy Suites, 12510 Westport Pky, LaVista: September luncheon. See above and flyer.

Tuesday, September 22, LWVGO office, 1:00: Ed Fund meeting.

Tuesday, September 22, 7:00-10:00 p.m., College View Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4801 Prescott Ave., Lincoln: Greg Mortensen speaking. See page 5.

Thursday, October 1, 11:00 a.m., League Office: LWVGO board meeting.

Thursday, October 1, 11:30-1:00, Holiday Inn Central: Women's Fund Fall Luncheon. See page 5.

Saturday, October 10, 8:30-2:00, Security National Bank Community room, 1120 S. 101 St.: Ready2Run workshop. See page 3.

Tuesday, October 13, 7 p.m., Helen Fisher's home: LWVGO book group. See page 4.

Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m., Holland Performing Arts Center. Holland Lecture Series, "The Great Crisis and the Predator State". See page 6.

Thursday, October 22, 11:30 a.m., Big Mama's, 3223 N. 45th St. Bldg A: October general meeting.

Thursday, October 29, 8:00-1:15, UNO Alumni Hall. Running and Winning. See page 3.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems I've sent out an inordinate amount of emails to all of you during the past month, and I apologize if it's been more than you care to receive. No one has complained and many of you have been supportive, but still. Much of the information has dealt with health care reform, and it occurs to me not every League member will agree with all points made by our national League. I encourage you to learn as much as you can about any issue and contact your elected representatives regarding such. If you do agree with LWV's position then please identify yourself as a proud League member. If not, the policy is to leave that part out.

It is important that the League of Women Voters works to influence legislation since we are one of the few groups studying issues with consideration toward the good of all. Therefore I spoke on August 11 at the Omaha city budget hearing. I spoke in favor of fully funding the office of Public Safety Auditor--our research of two years ago showed it would be of benefit to our city--and I asked that any tax increase include a sunset feature. It appears that our city council is trying to come up with creative ways to save money and balance the city budget, so stay tuned!

A few of us LWVGO members also met with Senator Johanns and a top aide of Senator Nelson in two separate meetings. Our subject was, of course, health care. In both cases the discussion was friendly and informative, and we were able to get across the League position. Lynne Anderson, Barb Davis, Jonah Deppe, and Barbara Tripp were my fellow meeting attendees, and I appreciate their expertise and support.

The Shrimp Feed was great fun! Thanks to all for your varied contributions toward our one big fundraiser. If you're on Facebook please join our group, called "Omaha League of Women Voters". I'll try to post some photos of the Shrimp Feed on there soon.

Linda Duckworth

SHRIMP FEED REPORT

from Shirley Fritz

We took in \$7151.46 with expenses of about \$2234.11. This leaves us with between \$4900.00 and \$5000.00 to the good. The Board voted to give all profits over \$4000 to the Ed Fund.



Guests eating shrimp



Barb Tripp, George Burcum,
Keri Rheifrank husking corn



Helen Fisher and Linda Duckworth



Linda Duckworth & Barbara Rennard

NEW MEMBER COFFEE

Saturday, September 19
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha office
at the Center
1941 South 42 Street
Suite 501
Omaha, NE 68105

Come and meet other new members and learn about League. We will be discussing the role that League members play as observers of various government entities. All League members are welcome, no matter how long you've belonged. If you'd like to help by bringing something good to eat please contact Sharon Conlon or Linda Duckworth.

RUNNING AND WINNING

Please put October 29 in your calendar and volunteer to work at the "Running and Winning" workshop that will be held at the UNO Thompson Alumni Center that day. We will have over forty five young women from three high schools and Boys' Town present. The volunteers two years ago enjoyed themselves immensely. Plan to be there from 8:00 to 1:15. Lunches will be available. We need the following volunteers:

Facilitators
Registrars
Morning food person
Noon food person
Rovers -- to fill in where needed
Moderator
Photographer
Timekeeper
Judges

If you will be available, please let Sally Fellows or Peggy Adair know asap. It is important that we have enough people for this to run smoothly.

We are seeking outside funding for this program, but if you would like to make a contribution (in addition to your time), it will be gratefully accepted. Make the check out to the League of Women Voters Ed Fund and you can deduct it from your taxes.



READY TO RUN

Saturday, October 10, 2009
8:30 am - 2 pm
Security National Bank Community Room
3 Pacific Place
1120 S. 101 St.
(Pacific Place)

"You know, you should think about running for office!"

"We need more women in elected office--one of those should be you!"

"You're really good at this--why don't you run for office?"

What does it take to run for office? Come find out! Hear from pros, meet women in elected office, ask questions--and then make some plans! Bring a friend and let's change the face of politics!

Call Women's Fund of Greater Omaha, 827-9280.

\$50 registration

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy to the family of Lora Martin, a member who died on August 10. Services and burial were held in Hannibal Missouri.

BOOK STUDY GROUP

The LWV-GO book group will resume its monthly discussions on Tuesday, September 15th. We will meet at Helen Fisher's home at 7 p.m. We will be discussing *The Predator State* by James K. Galbraith. We'll discuss Part One (chapters 1-6) for our first meeting. Parts Two and Three will be discussed on Tuesday, October 13th. Also note, the author will be speaking on Tuesday, October 20th at the Holland Center as part of the Holland Lecture Series. Several members of the book group are planning to attend this lecture.

If you would like to join us for the new season or for the lecture, please contact Anne Shaughnessy. League members and their guests are always welcome!

HEALTH CARE REFORM

from Lynne Anderson

Health care reform has been the issue generating a lot of activity since Congress began its summer recess. LWV supports health care reform, and with the vigorous campaigning both pro and con LWVGO has been very active. Linda Duckworth, Jonah Deppe, Barb Davis and Lynne Anderson met with Senator Mike Johanns on August 17. Senator Johanns graciously met in the League office. The meeting can be described as a thoughtful, considerate conversation. Senator Johanns is known to be opposed to many aspects in the bill voted out of the House of Representatives and is expected to vote "No". He is particularly opposed to the Public Option item. He attempted to minimize the problem by taking issue with the publicized number of 47 million uninsured with his numbers reported as only 12 million uninsured who wanted insurance and are not able to obtain insurance. He also focused on the large amount of additional tax money that would be required to provide insurance for the uninsured. Of note, he did emphasize that there are current programs that are available that do not have all eligible persons enrolled such as Medicaid and SCHIP (Kid's Connection in Nebraska). That does have some validity and perhaps Nebraska needs some volunteer groups working to enroll children as it does not appear that State funds are available for that purpose. All in all, Senator Johanns was gracious but does seem to be an opponent to any proposed legislation for substantial National Health Care Reform.

August 18 was a scheduled meeting attended by Linda Duckworth, Jonah Deppe, Barb Tripp and Lynne Anderson with Ms. Louise Lattimer, a long time aide to Senator Nelson. Senator Nelson remains uncommitted about how he will vote with the big issue that of a Public Option. Ms. Lattimer did say that although early on there had been about 20 to 1 contacts to Senator Nelson opposed to Health Care Reform but that recently the contacts had shifted strongly to support legislation. Linda clearly stated that LWV strongly supports meaningful National Health Care Reform. Ms. Lattimer took notes during our discussion and indicated that our comments would be transmitted to Senator Nelson. Thoughts of our group following the meeting was that Senator Nelson has not decided how to vote and will be influenced by communication from his constituents. Other events that some of our group have attended include the forum held by Senator Nelson at UNMC which had a huge turnout of over 1200 people. I was able to be seated in the auditorium and was impressed with the clear, thoughtful answers and statements by Senator Nelson. The crowd was respectful and most of the questions were indeed questions, not overt statements for or against legislation. Of great interest, Senator Nelson stated that the House Bill was "irrelevant" and that the final bill was to come from the Senate Finance and Health Committees. In conclusion, this is a work in progress and constituents can have a substantial influence on Senator Nelson. Senator Johanns will almost certainly be opposed to any bill but deserves to hear our thoughts and concerns.

The marvelous richness of human experience would lose something of rewarding joy if there were no limitations to overcome.

The hilltop hour would not be half so wonderful if there were no dark valleys to traverse.

Happiness is a habit - cultivate it. - Elbert Hubbard

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD MEETING, JULY 11, 2009, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

by Virginia Bigelow, State Liaison

Laura Schneider is the new State Chairwoman, and this was her first state meeting. Laura started by asking for a volunteer to organize the Legislative Day meeting for 2010, but no one was named at this meeting as this activity does not start until the early spring.

The League has been notified that we have been asked to help with the 2010 Census. Anyone who is interested can contact Laura for more details [dates etc].

Sherry Miller, the State Treasurer, gave us a report as to the current balance in all accounts--\$64,670. This amount includes the Ameritas Investment of Ed Fund (\$7,131.57) and the Endowment Fund (\$47,193.12). The budget for 2009-2010 is \$14,104. total for all state activities.

The Pro-choice organization has notified the Nebraska League office that it is time to pay the annual membership fee. The fee this year will be \$100--an increase from the \$25 fee we have paid in the past. After Sherry checked to see if the LWV-NE could qualify for the small organization fee, she found we did not qualify, and it was decided to send the full \$100. fee.

Jonah Deppe [our state Director for Health Care] informed us that Senator Johanns has held meetings regarding this very important issue, and that she will attend and keep us informed as to what is going on.

Nancy Packard (from Lincoln) and myself are planning to attend the annual meeting of the various officials of all the state power producers in Lincoln on September 8th. Nancy & I are just observers, but we both gain a lot of valuable information about electric power in the state.

Each of the Liaisons from Hastings, Lincoln, Omaha, Sarpy County, and Seward made brief reports from her area. Most activities are in the planning state, and all the important details will be reported in the fall.

GREG MORTENSON SPEAKING IN LINCOLN

Date: September 22, 2009

Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Location: College View Seventh-day Adventist Church
4801 Prescott Avenue, Lincoln, NE

Tickets cost \$15 per person or \$10 each for groups of 20 or more.

On September 22, Union College presents speaker Greg Mortenson, co-author of the New York Times bestseller, **Three Cups of Tea**. Since 1993 Mortenson has devoted his life to establishing education and literacy programs in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and he serves as executive director of Central Asia Institute, a nonprofit organization. To learn more about this event, log onto <http://www.ucollege.edu/mortenson> or call Union College Advancement Office, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 402-486-2973 or 402-486-2569

Seek to do good, and you will find that happiness will run after you. - James Freeman Clarke

I have learned to use the word impossible with the greatest caution. - Wenher von Braun

Mark your calendars for the 9th Annual Women's Fund Fall Luncheon

Thursday, October 1, 2009

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Holiday Inn Central

He Says - She Says

How to Effectively Communicate with the Opposite Sex at Work

Keynote speaker: Audrey Nelson, PhD

Register online at www.omahawomensfund.org.

You never really lose until you quit trying. - Mike Ditka

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009
The Holland Lecture Series presents
“The Great Crisis and the Predator State”
by Professor JAMES K. GALBRAITH
7:30p.m. Holland Performing Arts Center

Seating is limited. Watch for directions in September about ordering your **free** tickets.

EMAIL DELIVERY OF LWVNE VOTER

Please let the LWVNE office (lww-ne@inebraska.com) 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.

MEMBERSHIP
New members

Maggie (Margaret) M. Johnson

Martha Parker

Margaret Gondring

New email address:
Carla Hanson

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!

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Individual Member \$60 _____
Family Member \$90 _____ (2 individuals at the same address)
Introductory, \$40 _____ (joining for the 1st time)
Full Time Student \$20 _____

Support the League's work of mobilizing citizens and influencing policy through advocacy and education.

_____ Enclosed is a contribution to League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha
Checks made to LWV-GO

_____ Enclosed is a tax deductible contribution to League of Women Voters Educational Fund
Checks made to LWV-GO Ed Fund

Send to
League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha
1941 S. 42nd Street, Suite 501
Omaha, NE 68105-2956

LWVGO
General Meeting Luncheon
September 21, 11:30 a.m.
Embassy Suites
12520 Westport Parkway
LaVista NE 68128



Speaker:
Marlin Petermann,
NRD



He will present an overview of the Papio-Missouri Watershed Plan, discuss the WP-5 project and its inter-relationship to the new ballfield, and explain the NRD's 3-year plan, including the next scheduled dam site at 168th & Fort Street, which will be similar to Cunningham Lake and Standing Bear Lake.

All meals are \$20.55.

Please return this form and your check made payable to LWVGO to:
LWVGO, 1941 South 42 Street, Suite 501, Omaha, NE 68105-2945
The reservation deadline is September 14.

Menu Selections: Lunch includes a garden salad, fresh baked rolls & butter, fresh seasonal vegetables, and coffee, tea, or water.

- _____ Tropical Chicken - Marinated grilled chicken breast topped with pineapple salsa served with white rice.
- _____ Classic Meatloaf - Old fashioned thick-cut meatloaf, served with chef's style macaroni & cheese.
- _____ Vegetarian Penne Pasta - Penne pasta with baby spinach, roasted garlic, cremini mushrooms and sweet peas with pecorino cream.

Name _____ Phone _____

Number Attending _____ Total enclosed _____

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

LWVGO
General Meeting Luncheon
September 21, 11:30 a.m.
Embassy Suites
12520 Westport Parkway
LaVista NE 68128
Speaker:
Marlin Petermann, NRD
(See page 1 and flyer)

“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.

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.