



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LINN COUNTY

www.lwvlinncounty.org

May 2018



Cedar Rapids State of The City

By Libby Slappey

Mayor Brad Hart gave his first State of the City address on Wednesday, February 28. The twenty-seventh annual State of the City Luncheon, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Linn County, was held at the Doubletree by Hilton Cedar Rapids. A total of 570 people were in attendance.

We are grateful to the following Gold Sponsors: Alliant Energy, H. R. Green Inc., MidAmerican Energy, Rockwell Collins, Shuttleworth & Ingersoll PLC and Simmons Perrine, Moyer, Bergman PLC.

Gubernatorial Forum Held Saturday, April 21 at Ballantyne Auditorium



Left to Right: Mary Rae Bragg, Moderator; Marco Battaglia and Jake Porter, Libertarian Candidates; Nate Boulton, Cathy Glasson, Fred Hubbell, Andy McGuire, John Norris and Ross Wilburn, Democratic Candidates

LWV Linn County Annual Meeting & Dinner



ELMCREST COUNTRY CLUB
1 Zach Johnson Drive, Cedar Rapids, IA
Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Social 5:30 - 6:00 (cash bar), Dinner 6:00 – 6:45, Meeting 6:45

Dinner will include, salad, a choice of entree, dessert bars and beverage.
Cost will be \$25.00, with the gratuity being covered by the League.



Two of our members, Jennifer Borcharding and Ashley Vanorny will speak about their experience in running and holding elected offices in Cedar Rapids.

We hope to have a big turnout. Be looking for your email invitation in your inbox. Questions regarding the event may be referred to Catherine Basile at cbasile2106@gmail.com or (319)431-2284.

Welcome New Members

By Abbie Smith

We have a few more members since the new year. It's great to see more and more interest at each event we hold.

I hosted a new member coffee on March 5th and we had six new members attend: Kara Trebil-Smith, LeAnn Carlson, Pete and Sue Rowbotham, Nancy Harris and Sylvia Popelka. League members who attended to 'talk league' were Judy McDowell, Myrna Loehrlein, Laure Wess Peters, Jean McMenimen, Janet Boddicker-Rampulla and Ann Bromley. Thanks to Jean and Ann for helping with food for the event.

In March and April, we have seven more new members: Dawn Jones (our new Social Media Chair), Karen Kladivo, Bev Philpott, Ed Popelka, Heather Shane, Jennifer Cress-Sliffe and E. Ellis Vann. We are so glad to have all of you join and we look forward to getting to know you. Let's all find ways to help them become involved in our important League business!

Mount Vernon/Lisbon Unit News

By Jane Carlson

The Mount Vernon/Lisbon Unit of the League of Women Voters of Linn County has now been organized for almost twelve months. The unit has seventeen members who are also included in the membership of the County, State and National Leagues. About half of the Unit members were members of the disbanded League of Women Voters of Mount Vernon/Lisbon and about half are new League participants. All are glad to get together monthly and plan League activities for our area. Members are also appreciative of the County League for being able to participate in its activities as well as its handling of league administrative duties such as membership, treasurer, etc.

The MV/L Unit has hosted three forums. It was great for the Unit to have as its first event, an August forum for the September Mount Vernon School Board election. Experienced league members worked together with those for whom it was their first forum to "pull off" a great event. Many Unit members had people in the community tell them, both the night of the forum and at other times, how glad they were to see the League active in our area again. The Unit also hosted an October forum for the Mount Vernon City Council election. Finally, a March informational forum was held for a Mount Vernon Community School District April bond issue election.

Several members of the Unit are enthusiastically registering voters and working to increase voter participation. To that effect a group went to Mount Vernon Community High School and registered over twenty voters. There also was a voter registration table set up at the Cornell College Commons which, although no voters were registered, the visibility definitely increased student interest in becoming registered to vote in their home communities. Additionally the Unit gathered enough signatures to have a satellite voting station at the High School on a night with several activities. Over two hundred people took advantage of the satellite station to vote in the election early. Voter registration activities will resume in the fall.

The MV/L Unit will be hosting a LWVLC brown bag lunch meeting on May 21st. The details of this meeting can be found in the usual places. Although taking place on a Monday when many of Mount Vernon merchants take a day off, the Unit is glad to be able to show off The First Street Community Center as well as our beautiful downtown. Right from the first meeting in May of 2017 Gun Safety was a topic in which all in attendance were interested. When asked to host a County League meeting Gun Safety immediately was chosen as the topic. Christine Lehman Engledow from Iowa Moms Demand Action will be the speaker to be followed by a Q and A. It is hoped that many county League members will be able to be in Mount Vernon.

Although still feeling its way as a Unit of the county League those involved are very satisfied with the arrangement and are committed to continuing with this format. All are grateful for the county League working with the Unit in this way.

Naturalization Ceremonies

By Laure Wess Peters

Thanks to many volunteers who are willing to help register new voters after the Naturalization Ceremonies. We have registered about 90 new citizens thus far in 2018. Each new citizen receives a copy of the United States Constitution and information about the new Voter ID law as they leave the courtroom. If they don't have time to stay for a few extra minutes to register, we make sure they have a voter registration form and know where to return it after completion.

The Naturalization Ceremonies are usually held at the United States Courthouse, 111 7th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. The League will be there registering voters at 1:30 pm. on Friday, May 18; Friday, June 15 and Friday, July 20. If anyone would like to volunteer to register new citizens contact Laure Wess Peters at lwesspeters@gmail.com.

Calendar

Tuesday, May 15: LWVLC Annual Meeting 5:30 pm, at Elmcrest County Club, 1 Zach Johnson Drive NE, Cedar Rapids.

Friday, May 18: Naturalization Ceremony 1:30 pm at United States Courthouse, 111 7th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids.

Monday, May 21: Luncheon Meeting 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at First Street Community Center, Library Meeting Space, 221 1st St NE, Mount Vernon. Speaker: Christine Lehman-Engledow from Iowa Moms Demand Action. Please bring a brown bag lunch, beverage will be provided.

Friday, May 25: Book Club 1 – 3 pm, Marion Public Library, 1095 6th Ave Marion. Discussion of “Killers of the Flower Moon” by David Grann. New members welcome.

Wednesday, May 30: LWVLC Linn State of the County Luncheon 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids.

Saturday, June 9: LWV Iowa Council Newton, Iowa.

Friday, June 15: Naturalization Ceremony 1:30 pm at United States Courthouse, 111 7th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids.

Monday, June 18: Luncheon Meeting 11:30am – 1:00 pm, Conference Room, Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 5th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids. Hosted by Joanne Smith. Details to follow.

Wednesday, June 20: LWVLC Board Meeting 6:00 – 7:30 pm, at Human Services Campus Conference Room, 317 7th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids.

Friday, June 22: Book Club 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Marion Public Library, 1095 6th Ave, Marion.

June 28 thru July 1: LWV National Convention, Chicago

Monday, July 16: Luncheon Meeting 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Details to follow.

Wednesday July 18: LWVLC Board Meeting 6:00 – 7:30 pm, at Human Services Campus Conference Room, 317 7th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids.

Friday, July 20: Naturalization Ceremony 1:30 pm at United States Courthouse, 111 7th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids.

Friday, July 27: Book Club 1:00 – 3:00 pm at Barnes & Noble Coffee Shop, 333 Collins Rd NE, Cedar Rapids. We will pick books to read for the coming months.

High School Voter Outreach

By Laure Wess Peters

A committee met in March to discuss what we could do to help Government teachers in the Linn County High Schools get eligible students registered to vote. We will provide a packet of information for the teacher, including voter registration forms, and offer to pick up the completed forms and deliver them to the Linn County Auditor’s Office.

We will provide each student with a postcard which has commonly asked questions about voting and the online resources to find the answers.

LWVIA Lobby Day

By Myrna Loehrlein



Seated: Nancy Emrich Freeman; Back Row: Myrna Loehrlein, Joanne Smith, Rep. Art Staed, Donna Butters

On February 21, we made the drive to Des Moines for the annual Capitol Day. We heard from several legislators who came to greet us as we gathered in the legislative dining room. We were updated by our lobbyists Amy Campbell and Craig Patterson with information about bills of particular interest such as the bottle bill and the water bill. We donned our yellow sashes (reminiscent of suffragists) to heighten our visibility, then fanned out to talk with representatives and senators.

Several of us went to the gallery to observe floor debate. We were invited by Rep. Art Staed to come to the well of the House for a picture. During debate, we were joined in the gallery by

Rep. Todd Taylor who commented on the proceedings while voting from that location.

[A Message from LWVLC President](#)

League has been very busy this late winter/early spring. A gubernatorial primary forum was held on Saturday, April 21 at Kirkwood College Ballantyne Auditorium. There were approximately 300 people in attendance.

All six of the Democratic candidates and two Libertarian candidates for governor were questioned by moderator Mary Rae Bragg, LWVIA President. This was a first for our League; we partnered with the Johnson County League to plan and organize the forum, but Leagues from throughout the state were contacted about the event as it was live-streamed on our Facebook page. Many Leagues met together to watch the forum. We also encouraged viewers, as well as audience members, to submit questions for the candidates. According to member Breanna Oxley, we had between 50-60 views through the Facebook live-stream, 32 “likes”, 75 comments and 43 “shares” on Facebook during the two-hour forum. It has now been viewed over 2600 times. This was billed as a state forum and it truly was.

My thanks to Laure Wess Peters for organizing the committee and spearheading the efforts, as well as to committee members Laura Engler, Gail Rieger, and Breanna Oxley. Paula Vaughn and Cindy Riley from the Johnson County League also were committee members.

Many other members volunteered the day of the event to make for a very successful forum. We celebrated the event with a lovely luncheon and great conversations at the Hotel at Kirkwood.

Please plan to attend our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 15 at Elmcrest Country Club. Be on the lookout for an email invitation.

The May noon luncheon meeting will be Monday, May 21, 11:30 – 1:00 at the Mount Vernon First Street Community Center, 221 1st Street, Mount Vernon. Topic: Gun Safety: Speaker Christine Lehman-Engeldow from Iowa Moms Demand Action. Discussion moderated by Roger Johanson, Mount Vernon/Lisbon Unit of the League of Women Voters. This is brown-bag so please **bring your own lunch**. Beverage will be provided.

This is an exciting year for League, as it is National Convention, held in Chicago, June 28-July 1. Four of our members plan to attend: Myrna Loehrlein, Helane Golden, Teel Salaun Thebeau and Nancy Emrich Freeman.

– *Jean McMenimen*, President, LWVLC

[Legislative Resources:](#)

Iowa Legislature Website: www.legis.iowa.gov

Email Addresses for Legislators: FirstName.LastName@legis.iowa.gov

Capitol Postal Address: Capitol Building, 1007 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319

IA House Switch Board: (515) 281-3221

IA Senate Switch Board: (515) 281-3371

LWVIA Legislative Priorities: www.lwvia.org

Campbell/Patterson Lobbyists' Website: www.ialobby.com



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