



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

August 2007

President: Pat Walter
President-Elect: Patte Newman
Secretary: Peggy Struwe
Treasurer: Corrie Kielty-Wesely
Voter Editor: Jim Johnson

Calendar of Events

August 14 (Tuesday): 5:15 p.m.
LWVLL Board meeting,
Green Gateau, 10th & L Streets.

September 11 (Tuesday): 5:15 p.m.
LWVLL Board meeting,
Location to be announced.

September 20 (Thursday): Noon
Lunch & Learn,
US Bank Bldg 20th Floor,
13th & M.
Guest: Mayor Chris Beutler.
(See article at right.)

October 16 (Tuesday): 5:15 p.m.
LWVLL Board meeting,
Location to be announced.

October 18 (Thursday): Noon
Lunch & Learn,
US Bank Bldg 20th Floor,
13th & M.

Lunch & Learn

The LWVLL Lunch & Learn Committee is working on an exciting fall schedule of speakers. The luncheons will again be held on the third Thursday of each month from September through May, at noon on the 20th floor of the US Bank Building, 13th and M Streets. Cost is \$8.00 and includes lunch, tax and gratuity. Following is information about the speakers for the first two events, September 20th and October 18th.

Chris Beutler is a native Nebraskan, who has devoted his life to serving the City of Lincoln and the people of Nebraska. Mayor Beutler previously had a long professional career in the Nebraska legislature beginning in 1978. During his time in the legislature he served in a number of capacities and was always a leader in promoting legislation impacting environmental, health and education issues. In May, 2007 he was elected as the Mayor of Lincoln. During his campaign he promised not to raise taxes in the first year and to conduct a department by department review to assess effectiveness, productivity and fiscal management. Mayor Beutler will be our guest speaker at the September 20th Lunch and Learn. The Mayor will give us an overview of his first few months in office.

Recently Southeast Nebraska Hematology and Oncology Consultants received a national grant to promote a pilot project with the **National Functional Genomics [NFGC]** directed by the H Lee Mofitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. The goal of this pilot project is to provide any tissue for genomic analysis. Very simply, genomic analysis will unravel the genetic and protein signatures of cancerous tissue. It is felt genomic analysis is the key to developing more effective treatments for all types of

cancer. All local physicians will eventually be involved in this project; however the three main oncology leaders are: Dr. Mark Carlson, Dr. Nathan Green, and Dr. Cary Peterson. This is one of several research projects that will truly help us move toward an improvement in cancer outcomes. A member of the Genomic project will be the speaker at the October 18th lunch and learn. This will be one of many public presentations that will be made over the next year to educate our community about this extremely exciting research project.

Opportunities to Help the League

The League of Women Voters Lincoln Lancaster County has two excellent opportunities open and available to be filled as soon as possible.

Voter Services Coordinator:

This position is extremely important and exciting as we are entering a General Election Year and we need a coordinator and his or her team to work with Maura at the Election Commissioners office and set up the LWV members who will be working with Voter Registration. Please contact Pat Walter as soon as possible if you are interested. You may know of someone not yet a League Member who would be a great candidate...and a great new member.

Public Relations:

We also need someone to make certain that all of the efforts of the League and all information of our projects are shared with the community...and we are recognized for all of our efforts All of these events are great for the recruitment of new members....Please contact Pat Walter and we will inform the public of the projects and participation of the League in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Contact Pat Walter, pattysells@yahoo.com or 430-8410.

LWVLL testimony on Lincoln/Lancaster County Womens Commission

Editor's Note: On August 8, 2007, the Lincoln City Council voted to discontinue funding for the Lincoln/Lancaster County Womens Commission (LLCWC). This followed an earlier decision by the County Commission to withdraw their portion of the LLCWC funding.

At the August 6 Council budget hearing, the LWVLL Board of Directors authorized board member Nancy Intermill to testify on behalf of the League in favor of continued funding for the LLCWC. Though the Council chose to dissolve the Commission, it was felt that we should reprint the comments here for historical purposes. Following are Ms. Intermill's comments on behalf of LWVLL.

Good afternoon Chairman and City Council members. I am Nancy Intermill and I am here today as a representative of the League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County, whose Board has asked me to convey to you our strong support of continued funding for the Lincoln/Lancaster Women's Commission. This is my fourth marathon City Budget meeting in as many years, when I've come before you to discuss why we need a Women's Commission.

While the Women's Commission represents the interests of Lincoln's women in many areas, the area of greatest concern to the League is equal representation. The League believes that the community is best served when boards and committees reflect broad community representation, particularly in economic level, geographic location, sex, age, race and expertise. The Women's Leadership Board Recruitment project, developed in response to the Commission's 2004 report entitled

A Place At the Table was designed to specifically address the issue of under-representation because women, both nationally and locally, do not enjoy the same voice in government and policy-making that men do. The Women's Commission report showed that while 51 percent of Lincolnites are women, only 25 percent of those serving on the boards of corporations and government entities are women. This was true in 2004, and it is true today. The fact that we have only one woman sitting on the City Council and one woman on the County Commission illustrates our concern.

By eliminating funding for the Women's Commission your action will significantly diminish the voice that women have in the Lincoln community because it is the primary local commission in which women are well represented. Members of the League were extremely disappointed when the County Commission chose not to extend the Interlocal agreement funding the Women's Commission. We are equally concerned that you, members of the City Council, will take the path of least resistance and follow that lead. While we are aware of the budget challenges you face, we believe that equal representation should be at the top of your priorities in our democratic system. Women bring a unique point of view to the table that addresses concerns such as childcare, caregiving, health care and pay equity. Issues such as these are at the heart of the quality of life that we all cherish in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Women's commissions across the country are connected to government for credibility, recognized as a seat of power, and are recognized as sources of information for policy-making. Women's Commissions possess reliability because they have no vested interest; they are vehicles to coalesce and collaborate with communities with a greater goal than an individual organization. Governments establish and maintain women's commissions from the desire to have women represented in everything government does.

We urge you to support the maintenance of balance among decision making entities by providing funding to maintain the infrastructure of the Commission. The staff of the Commission has an excellent track record of leveraging their resources by collaborating with other groups and organizations to fund their projects. City funds support salary and office space, but all of the programming that the Women's Commission does is underwritten by private and public supporters. The monies received from the city are for administrative expenses only and represent just 5/100th of 1% of the total City budget. The women of Lincoln, who comprise 51% of Lincoln citizens, certainly deserve at least that much representation.

The League of Women Voters supports the LLCWC's long term vision to improve the economic success of women and families in our community. We are asking the City Council to do the same.

Thank you.

The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*
League of Women Voters
The Apothecary, Suite 215
140 North 8th St.
Lincoln NE 68508
475-1411
lwv-ne@inebraska.com



Time Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay

Advertising for the 2007-2008 Yearbook

If you are interested in advertising in the yearbook...

NOW is the time.

Please submit your business card with a \$50 payment and we will have your ad in the back of the book. If you would like a larger ad please contact Pat Walter and we will discuss those arrangements. We would like your response as soon as possible and I will be personally contacting the last members who had ads in the book.

Ann Wahl and Martha Hunter have done an incredible job with the preparation of this publication....

Thank you!