



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

August 2008

President: Patte Newman
President-Elect: Mary Boschult
Secretary: Carol Connor
Treasurer: Corrie Kielty-Wesely
Voter Editor: Jim Johnson

Calendar of Events

August 11 (Monday): 2:30 p.m.
City budget hearing.
See article below.

September 18 (Thursday): Noon
Lunch & Learn,
US Bank Bldg 20th Floor,
13th & M.
Guests: Patrick Jones, PhD, and
Becky Gould, discussing
Affirmative Action.

See page 2 for fall L&L schedule.

September 22 (Monday): All day.
Debates, St Paul UMC
1144 "M" Street, Lincoln
See article at right.

Lunch & Learn Announces Fall Series

Friends - The Lunch and Learn Committee has put together another great group of speakers for us beginning in September. See the list of speakers on page 2 of this newsletter. With the cost of everything going up, food being one of them, it has become necessary for the Nebraska Club to increase our luncheon fee from \$8 per meal to \$9. I think you will agree with me it is still quite a bargain. Please save the dates so that you won't miss any of the wonderful programs that we have arranged.

See you all in September!

*Karen Dienstbier,
Lunch & Learn Committee chair*

Debates Scheduled for September 22

Debates for candidates in the Senate, Congressional District 1, County Commissioner Districts 2 and 4, NU Regents District 1, and Unicameral Districts 21, 25, 27, and 29 are scheduled for **Monday, September 22, 2008**, at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 "M" Street. League volunteers are needed throughout the day to greet voters, assist candidates, and maintain adherence to debate protocols among audience members.

One or two volunteers to help decorate the candidates' tables on Sunday, September 21 (if the church can find an open time for us) would also be appreciated. To volunteer, members should contact Sharon Nemeth, Debate Coordinator, (dnetlnk@hotmail.com), using "Debate Volunteer" in the subject line or call her at 489-3571). Members are also encouraged to submit questions for any of these debates. Questions may be emailed to dnetlnk@hotmail.com, using "Candidate Questions" in the subject line or mailed to Questions, League of Women Voters, The Apothecary, Suite 215, 140 North 8th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, until September 13, 2008. Debate sponsors will make the final determination of which questions will be used; unused questions will be retained for possible inclusion in future debates.

The LWVLL Education Fund is funding the debates and also the taping of no more than ten hours of debate coverage for re-broadcasting on 5CITY-TV (Time Warner Cable Channel 5). The LWVNE Education Fund has approved a grant to tape and re-broadcast up to three hours for the Senate and Congressional District 1 debates. A member of the LWVGO's Speakers' Bureau will make a presentation related to voting in the case of a debate cancellation; this speech will be funded by the LWVNE Education Fund and taped for use by League members throughout Nebraska. Debate co-sponsors, who are also providing funding and volunteers, are the Friends of the Mayor's Commission on Women, the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging, the National Council of Negro Women, the North 27th Street Business and Civic Association, and Saint Paul United Methodist Church.

City Budget Public Hearing August 11

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens. Citizen input is crucial as the 2008-2009 budget changes are debated. The public hearing for the budget is August 11th, starting at 2:30 PM and running until 10:30 at the City County Building, 555 S 10th St.

A copy of the budget and proposed changes may be obtained from the city website.

http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/08_09_budget.htm

What community services are important priorities to Lincoln? Make your voice heard.

Attend the hearing or email the City Council at: council@lincoln.ne.gov.

**League of Women Voters – Lincoln
Program 2008/2009**

Lunch & Learn

Third Thursday of each month, September through May, Noon – 1:00 p.m.
at the Nebraska Club, 20th Floor of the US Bank Building

September 18, 2008

Affirmative Action

Patrick Jones, PhD – UNL, History & Ethnic Studies
Becky Gould – Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

October 16, 2008

Why Should I Vote For Your Party?

Representatives of Republican, Democrats, Nebraska Party, Libertarians, Green Party
(Representatives of all parties were invited; some are unconfirmed at this time.)

November 20, 2008

Drug Court

Judge Karen Flowers

December 18, 2008

Diversity in Lincoln in the 1920s

Ed Zimmer

January 15, 2009

The Future of Air Travel in Lincoln

Steve Glenn/Executive Travel

February 19, 2009

State of Behavioral Health Services in Nebraska

C.J. Johnson/Region 5 Services *(Not yet confirmed)*

March 19, 2009

Why Aren't More Women Running for Office?

DiAnna Schimek & Kathy Campbell

April 16, 2009

Global Warming in Nebraska

Prof. Ken Dewey *(Not yet confirmed)*

May 21, 2009

Economic Trends

(Speaker to be announced)

Evening Programs

Date & Time TBA

Panel on Immigration

(Speakers to be announced)

Date & Time TBA

Charter Amendment on Conflict of Interest

(Speakers to be announced)

Editor's Note: Many Lincoln League members are familiar with Hawley Bed & Breakfast at 545 N. 25th. It has become a common venue for LWVLL events. Following is its story, as told by owner Peggy Struwe.

Upgrading an Old House

By Peggy Struwe

We started our adventure by buying a house that we could only date by the fact that water was installed in March 1893 by Lincoln Water. So we think the house was built in 1892, however some houses around us are older. Water was put into the house across the street in 1890 so it was available.

We started by having the roof stripped and covered with sheeting and new shingles. We opted to have dimensional shingles put on that looked like cedar shingles that had weathered.

First problem we encountered was that squirrels were getting into the attic. So we had the gables fixed where squirrels were getting in and had the gables and upper trim painted.

We built a victorian porch on the house. It had been torn off in the 1930's. We knew the dimensions by researching the house in the Sandborn maps at the State Historical Society. The Sandborn maps give a foot print and description. We designed the porch by researching victorian porches and drawing the design appropriate for the period. In order to replace the porch, we had to get approval from the historic commission, planning commission and city council to get an exception. Some time in the past, the city made the set backs deeper in the yard, so to replace the porch as it was originally needed special approvals. My husband and I built the porch with the help of one person we hired. The porch is 10 feet wide and 61 feet long.

Next we replaced iron water pipes in the basement with copper. The basement was open and pipes visible and readily accessible. Other plumbing is replaced as it becomes available with renovations. A new water line was installed in the house before we purchased the house.

We then replaced four old furnaces with energy efficient furnaces. Central Air was put in at the same time and all window air conditioners were removed. A new energy efficient water heater replaced the 100 gallon old water heater. At that time, electrical work was done, 4 meters removed and 1 installed, so LES put the utilities underground for us with an upgrade of electrical box. The gas company also removed 4 meters and installed 1 meter and a new gas line.

Throughout this time, I painted many times. As apartments opened, I had them insulated from the inside because the house had metal siding on the outside. To insulate, they drill a 2 inch hole between each stud and blow the insulation into the cavity. Then I fill each hole with drywall compound 2 or 3 times, sand, prime and paint.

Then I had R50 insulation blown into the attic. I gave up a lot of storage space to do this, but saving on utilities was more important than storage space.

What we learned over the years is that it is important to do our own tear out so you can get down to studs or wall and floor. You have no idea what some people including contractors have done. It is important to get down to the basic and remove anything that has to come out. So if you are going to repair yourself or hire a contractor, you know what is there. Contractors don't like to do tear out. They will inflate the cost because they don't know what they will encounter, so it is better to have it out so the contractor can see what they are starting with and can base their bid on that.

Another thing we do is share information with other old house owners on contractors that work with old house projects.

We also are very careful to make sure everything is done to code for safety for all.

We try to do everything right and according to code and we have had a lot of contact with the city. We have found some people in the city helpful, but on the whole, I would say that it has been difficult. Sometimes one department tells you to do something and then another department tells you can't do something. I have found it difficult to make progress in Lincoln. The left hand doesn't seem to know what the right hand is doing.

As we worked on an apartment, we did not rent it again and so over time the house became empty. I opened the Hawley Bed & Breakfast with one suite on first floor.

The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*
League of Women Voters
The Apothecary, Suite 215
140 North 8th St.
Lincoln NE 68508
475-1411
<http://www.LincolnLeague.org>



Time Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay

Memories of Alberta Clifford

Longtime League member, Alberta Clifford passed away on Sunday, July 6 at the age of 93. Alberta loved League of Women Voters and League and its members loved Alberta.

Alberta first joined League when she lived in Illinois. She continued her involvement in League when she moved to Lincoln.

Alberta was active in small unit groups of League. Members recall that Alberta could always be counted to “do her homework” and be informed on issues. Alberta served as the Membership Chair of the local Lincoln LWV from 1992-1995. Carol Ochsner recalls that Alberta called her several times (Carol’s first year in LWV) to encourage her to come to unit meetings and other activities.

She also was active with voter registration. Sharon Nemeth recalled that Alberta was always willing to do voter registration, even as a quick “fill-in” at the last minute. “Well into her 80s, Alberta was not only a dependable voter registrar, but also one who made the process seem like fun. With her bubbly personality and generous spirit, she accepted every one as a person of worth. I especially enjoyed discussing governmental policy matters with her while driving to the voter registration sites. What a joy she was!” recalls Anita Fussell.

Lois Poppe remembers Alberta as being affirming and appreciative of League members’ efforts. At the same time, Alberta was very humble as to her own League efforts. Jo Ritzman and other League members have similar memories of Alberta.

In 2003, Alberta received the local League of Women Voters’ Long Term Service Award. Her thank you at that time, is printed here:

*To the League of Women Voters of Lincoln/Lancaster County,
I'm truly overwhelmed to have been chosen for a Long Term Service Award from the
League of Women Voters, and to have my name added to the beautiful plaque in the League
office. There are so many members who have contributed so much more through the years.
I do feel deeply honored, and I thank you!
Alberta Clifford*

A Memorial Service for Alberta Clifford will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, Friday afternoon on August 22, 2008. Details will be in the Lincoln Journal Star the week of August 22.