



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

September 2008

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

## Calendar of Events

**September 18 (Thursday):** Noon  
Lunch & Learn,  
US Bank Bldg 20<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
13<sup>th</sup> & M.

Guests: Patrick Jones, PhD, and  
Becky Gould, discussing  
Affirmative Action.

*See article at right.*

**September 22 (Monday):** All day.

Debates, St Paul UMC  
1144 "M" Street, Lincoln

*See article at right.*

## **League of Women Voters Kicks off its Lunch & Learn Series with Affirmative Action Discussion**

The topic for the League of Women Voters' September 18 Lunch & Learn is Affirmative Action, featuring Becky Gould, executive director of Appleseed, and Patrick D. Jones, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of History and in the Institute for Ethnic Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. They will discuss the history of affirmative action, why it was adopted, how it has developed over time as well as the details of how it works today. They will address some of the enduring myths and misperceptions surrounding this controversial public policy issue, and attempt to offer a broad context within which to understand the current ballot initiative aimed at ending affirmative action in Lincoln. A brief question and answer period will follow the discussion.

Gould received her JD with Distinction from the University of Nebraska College of Law, specializes in poverty law, and has been with Appleseed since 2001. She is a member of the Nebraska Bar Association. Jones received his PhD in modern U.S. History and African American Studies from the University of Wisconsin. His primary fields of interest

include the civil rights/Black Power era, the 1960s, electoral politics, American radicalism, and America during the Cold War.

Open to the public with advance reservations, the luncheon will be held Thursday, September 18 at noon on the 20th floor of the US Bank Building, 13th and M Streets. The cost is \$9.00 and includes lunch, tax and gratuity. Reservations are required by noon Monday, September 15 and may be made by contacting the League Office by e-mail at [lwv-ne@inebraska.com](mailto:lwv-ne@inebraska.com) or by phone at 475-1411. Leave a message including your name, the number of reservations requested and phone number or e-mail address. The October 16 Lunch & Learn topic will be "Why Vote for My Party?" featuring representatives from the Republican, Green, and Democratic parties.

## **Debates Set for September 22**

The Day of Debates agenda for September 22 is located on page 2 of this Voter. The day will begin at 12:15 pm with a presentation by "Susan B. Anthony," also known as Linda Duckworth, President of the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha.

We were not able to arrange Senate and Congressional District 1 debates. Both Mike Johanns and Scott Kleeb were unavailable for the Senate debate. Jeff Fortenberry is required to be present in Congress for voting on September 22. At this late time, it was unrealistic that we could find a volunteer to work separately on arranging these debates for different day. ("Save the Date" requests were sent to ALL candidates during the month of May.)

At the time of this writing, we have confirmations from all four County Commissioner candidates, so the two County Commissioner district debates will definitely be held. There is one candidate in each Unicameral district who has agreed to debate, although neither Regents candidate has yet made a commitment. The commitment deadline is September 15.

So far, only two League members and one college student have volunteered to assist with the background work needed during the day, and there are other League members who will be serving as debate timers. Only one League member has suggested questions to date; any suggested questions need to be received by September 13. They may be sent to Sharon Nemeth at [dnetlnk@hotmail.com](mailto:dnetlnk@hotmail.com) or mailed to the League office at 140 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 215, 68508. Members can volunteer by using the same email address—or call Sharon at 489-3571.

Debate co-sponsors are the Friends of the Mayor's Commission on Women, the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging, the National Council of Negro Women [Lincoln Section], the North 27<sup>th</sup> Street Business and Civic Association, and Saint Paul United Methodist Church. The LWVLL Education Fund is the primary source for debate funding, including the taping costs incurred by 5CITY TV. The LWVNE Education Fund is providing the funds for 5CITY TV's taping of the Susan B. Anthony presentation. All co-sponsors are contributing either additional funding and debate volunteers and, in some cases, both.

**DAY OF DEBATES AGENDA AND CANDIDATE LIST\*†**  
**Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 “M” Street, September 22, 2008**

**12:15 pm** *Speaker*  
Linda Duckworth, President,  
League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha  
*Lady Arrested for Voting! The Life and Times of Susan  
B. Anthony*

**3:30 pm—3:45 pm** **BREAK**

**3:45 pm—4:45 pm** *Unicameral District #21*  
**Nonpartisan**

CANDIDATES: James Arthur Jeffers, Ken Haar  
MODERATOR: Peggy Briggs, LAAA, Live & Learn  
TIMER: Jan Gauger, LWVLL

**1:00 pm—1:15 pm** **BREAK**

**1:15 pm—1:45 pm** *County Commissioners*  
**Partisan** *District 2*

CANDIDATES: Larry Hudkins (R), Barbara Baier (D)  
MODERATOR: Tami Soper, MCW  
TIMER: Shirley Maly, LWVLL

**4:45 pm—5:00 pm** **BREAK**

**5:00 pm—6:00 pm** *Unicameral District #25*  
**Nonpartisan**

CANDIDATES: Travis Wagner, Kathy Campbell  
MODERATOR: Pam Dingman, MCW  
TIMER: Marthaellen Florence, NCNW

**1:45 pm—2:00 pm** **BREAK**

**2:00 pm—2:30 pm** *County Commissioners*  
**Partisan** *District 4*

CANDIDATES: Bernie Heier (R), Nancy Intermill (D)  
MODERATOR: Tami Soper, MCW  
TIMER: Shirley Maly, LWVLL

**6:00 pm—6:15 pm** **BREAK**

**6:15 pm—7:15 pm** *Unicameral District #27*  
**Nonpartisan**

CANDIDATES: Colby Coash, Dan Marvin  
MODERATOR: Marthaellen Florence, NCNW  
TIMER: Debbi Barnes-Josiah, NCNW and LWVLL

**2:30 pm—3:00 pm** **BREAK**

**3:00 pm—3:30 pm** *NU Board of Regents Dist. 1*  
**Nonpartisan**

CANDIDATES: Earl Scudder, Tim Clare  
MODERATOR: Peggy Briggs, LAAA, Live & Learn  
TIMER: Jan Gauger, LWVLL

**7:15 pm—7:30 pm** **BREAK**

**7:30 pm—8:30 pm** *Unicameral District #29*  
**Nonpartisan**

CANDIDATES: Tony Fulton, Susan Scott  
MODERATOR: Kris Beckenbach, MCW  
TIMER: Nicky Turner, NCNW

*\*Candidates are listed in the order in which they will make their opening statements.*

*†Senate debate cancelled: Mike Johanns and Scott Kleeb had scheduling conflicts. Congressional debate cancelled: Jeff Fortenberry must be present in Congress for voting.*

## Voter Registration Update

Thanks to all have helped with the spring voter registration effort. We completed 31 registration events.

Our fall registration effort began on August 8<sup>th</sup> with the new citizen naturalization ceremony with Judge David Piester at the Federal Building. We have 28 events scheduled already and we can expect there will be more since it is a presidential election.

I will be bringing the sign-up sheet to the Lunch and Learns and will be using email for most requests for volunteers. If you have a particular place or time that you would like to help out, just let me know by email [mary4now@aol.com](mailto:mary4now@aol.com) or phone 483-0415.

Mary Boschult,  
Voter Registration Volunteer Coordinator

## Know your Board Members

Again this month, The *Voter* features a short bio of an LWVLL Board members. This month: Mary Boschult. Watch for more articles next month!

**Name** – *Mary Boschult*

**Hometown** – Scribner, Nebraska

**Family Status** – Single.

**Favorite TV shows** – NCIS, The Closer, and The Big Bang Theory

**Favorite Movies** – Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, Star Wars (the first one).

**Mode of transportation** - A 2005 Toyota Highlander that is silver, the color of dust, because I hate to wash cars.

**Last / current book read** – Recently read books are *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen, *Ham, Eggs & Corn Cake- A Nebraska Territory Diary* by Erastus F. Beadle, and *Dreams From My Father* by Barack Obama. Current reading includes *America Our Next Chapter* by Chuck Hagel, *What's the Matter With Kansas?* By Thomas Frank, and *Boom* by Tom Brokaw.

**Most Prized Possession** – My education and willingness to learn something new everyday.

**Something everyone probably knows about me** – I worked for state Health and Human Services for 33 1/3 years and was the Assistant Director of the Department for the last 10 of those years. What a ride!

**Something few people know about me** – I taught graduate classes for UNO's Public Administration program for 5 years.

**Pets** – One 6 pound, long-haired tuxedo cat that looks sweet and friendly but is instead sassy and runs from visitors. She has lived up to her name— Spike.

**Surprising prior occupation or hobby** – In high school I earned money as a swimming teacher and lifeguard. In college I sold shoes at Sears in downtown Lincoln (yes, that was a long time ago) and at the Crossroads in Omaha during the summer and I also sang for weddings and funerals.

## LWVLL Participates in City Budget Hearing

The Board of Directors of League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County discussed and voted (by majority vote, with some abstentions) to oppose the Mayor's proposed cuts in StarTran bus routes in the 2008 City budget. In part due to testimony from the League, the StarTran Advisory Board, and other community organizations, as well as concerns expressed by a large number of StarTran riders, the City Council voted against most of the proposed cuts. Testimony (as approved by the LWVLL Board) follows.

To the Honorable members of  
Lincoln City Council  
555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

August 8, 2008

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln/Lancaster County voices its opposition to eliminating mid-day service on StarTran bus routes as proposed in the Mayor's budget for 2008/09. We are pleased that the Council has expressed the desire to ensure that bus service continues citywide throughout the day.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) believes that one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty. The LWVUS opposed crippling cuts in mass transit operating assistance in Washington and continues to fight for legislation to increase federal aid for capital and operating expenses for local urban transportation systems.

Locally, the League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County (LWVLL) policy states "that an improved, efficient, innovative, and imaginative public mass transit system -- owned, controlled, and preferably operated by the City of Lincoln -- should be a public service offered to its citizens as an integral part of a well-balanced transportation system."

We, the LWVLL, would like to use this opportunity to share the policy statements of both the national and local Leagues and voice our opposition to a budget cuts and reduced service on our city's transit system. Our concerns include the following:

1. Cutting several hours out of most routes of a bus system in the middle of the day is neither a public service nor does constitute a well-balanced transportation system. Part-time workers, university students and professors and some staff do not work 8 to 5. Shift workers do not work 8 to 5. Visually impaired, elderly riders, school children, low income individuals and many others who depend on a balanced all-day system to get to work, school, medical appointments and other destinations are not being given equal opportunities to those citizens who have the privilege or ability to drive cars.

2. The rising cost of fuel has created a economic hardship on many Lincoln families and students. It is cheaper to ride the bus than drive individually and that opportunity should be made easier and not more difficult. It also seems counterintuitive to increase the low income category for the Ride for Five and then cut service.

3. The City recently contracted with a national expert on transit systems to revamp the entire bus system and adjust routes for a more efficient system. The changes were implemented with a belief, based on other cities' experiences, that ridership would go down before a more rapid increase. StarTran estimates that prior to the route changes ridership was already up by 20% and those percentages are still higher than last year's summer figures. The new system deserves a chance to work through the first year at least. Anything less is simply throwing away not only a well-respected and well-paid expert's recommendations, but the volunteer work of many community groups and individuals who gave countless hours to come up with a plan they felt was a step forward for a growing community.

4. It is a misnomer to say that local municipalities invest in infrastructure and subsidize transit. Any system that moves people from one point to another is just one part of the entire transportation system and both are necessary in an urban setting. Public Works estimates that the general cost to build one lane mile of a remote roadway is about one million dollars. Comparatively, the savings proposed by cutting two hours of service on StarTran every day was approximately \$600,000 for the year.

We encourage the Council to continue all day service with all existing routes and balance the budget somewhere else that does not impact mobility. An increase in fares to \$1.50 or passports to \$40 per month would be a fair start for nearly \$100,000. Using economic stimulus funds earmarked for new housing (possibly built in areas without bus service) would be another option.

Getting people to work from existing homes to existing jobs must be a high priority to ensure quality of life for all of the citizens of Lincoln.

Sincerely,

League of Women Voters of  
Lincoln-Lancaster County

Patte Newman, President

***MEET ELEANOR ROOSEVELT***  
**a one woman theatre piece performed by Elena Dodd as  
a personal visit with Mrs. Roosevelt**

SCHEDULE FOR LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, OCTOBER, 2008.

All activities are free unless otherwise stated,  
due to the generous grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council and  
supported by the United Nations Association, Lincoln Chapter 100.

***All locations are in Lincoln except as otherwise noted.***

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| Sat Oct 18, 9 am – 4:30 pm.<br>First Lutheran Church<br>1551 S. 70th St.                | Nebraskans for Peace Annual Meeting.<br>To register contact NFP at 475 4620.<br>Early registration \$25, at the door \$30.  |
| Sat Oct 18, 7:00 pm<br>Loft at the Mill<br>800 P Street, Suite 301.                     | <b><i>An Evening of Love, Rage, and Hope: 60 Years of Human Rights.</i></b><br>7:00 pm: Doors open; Human rights displays, snacks<br>7:30 pm: Reading of the Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights followed by <i>Meet Eleanor Roosevelt</i> , and then presentation of youth produced videos focusing on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights |
| Sun Oct 19, Time TBA<br>Omaha.  | <i>Meet Eleanor Roosevelt</i> performance at UNO Women Studies.   |
| Mon Oct 20, various times.<br>Omaha.  | Millard School District: 3 presentations  |
| Tue Oct 21, 8:30 am, 10 am.<br>Lincoln Public Schools.                                  | 2 presentations   |
| Tue Oct 21, 1:30 pm<br>Legacy, 56th & Pioneers.   | Dessert. Carla Hiatt 610-5071.  |
| Tue Oct 21, 3:30 pm-4:00 pm.<br>City/County Building Room 113.                          | Interview with Larry Williams (Human Rights) on 5CityTV.<br>Phone 441-8691. Will play several times during October.   |
| Wed Oct 22<br>8:30 am, 10:00 am, 2:30 pm.   | Lincoln Public Schools, 3 presentations.  |
| Wed Oct 22, 7:00 pm.<br>Gateway Senior Living, 225 N. 56th St.                          | Contact Theresa Moody 467-0228  |
| Thur Oct 23, 8:30 am.   | Lincoln Public Schools.   |
| Thur Oct 23, 10:30 –11:20 am.<br>Union College Amphitheater, 3800 S. 48.                | Contact Chris Blake 486-2600  |
| Thur Oct 23, 1:30 pm.<br>Legacy Terrace, 57th & Fremont.                                | Dessert. Carla Hiatt 610-5071 Part IV.  |
| Fri Oct 24,<br>8:30 am, 10:00 am, 2:30 pm.  | Lincoln Public Schools, 3 presentations.  |
| Fri Oct 24, 6:30 pm.<br>Savannah Pines, 3900 Pine Lake Road                             | Anne Bremer SPACT@savannahPines.net Part II   |
| Sun Oct 26, 6 pm.<br>East Campus Student Union Ballroom.                                | United Nations Association Lincoln Chapter (UNA) Banquet.<br>For information call Andi Peterson 467-5356.   |
| Mon Oct 27, 10 am.<br>Landing Retirement Home<br>3500 Faulkner Dr., Williamsburg        | Kay Anderson 420-9355<br>kayanderson@ihs.org Part II  |
| Tue Oct 28 1:30 pm.<br>Legacy Estates, 72nd & Van Dorn.                                 | Desserts. Carla Hiatt 610-5071.   |
| Wed Oct 29<br>Crete Public Schools, Crete   | 2 performances: 1:15 pm, 2:30 pm.<br>Dr. Kyle McGowan 402-474-1005  |
| Thur Oct 30, 11:30–12:45<br>Emerson Recital Hall in<br>Vance Rogers Fine Arts Building. | Nebraska Wesleyan<br>Elaine Kruse, Part IV  |
| Thur Oct 30, 5:30 pm<br>233 S 13th 20 Floor, Nebraska Club.                             | Mayor's Committee on International Friendship and Friendship Force. Part IV.<br>Meal. Host: Dr. Richard Hammer 477-0242 rhammer@alltel.net. 7 pm.   |

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

### **UN-L Lecture Series on Democracy**

In 2008/2009, there will be a group of lectures on democracy at the UN-L Student Union, 14<sup>th</sup> & R Streets in Lincoln. Schedule is as follows:

Sept. 30, 7:00 p.m.

Professor John Hibbing: *There is Such a Thing as Too Much Democracy.*

Oct 7, 7:00 p.m.

Professor Tim Borstelmann; *More and Less Equal: the Reshaping of Democracy since the 1970s*

Oct 23, 7:00 p.m.

Professor Charlyne Berens: *Speaking Freely: Why Freedom of Expression is Vital to Democracy.*

Nov. 6, 7:00 p.m.

Professor Loukia K Sarroub: *Literacy for Democracy: Possibilities and Limitations.*

Dec 9, 7:00 p.m.

Professor Thomas McGowan: *Educating for Democracy: The real and the Ideal of the American Public Schools.*

Jan 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Professor David Forsythe: *Democracy and Human Rights in the Context of Terrorism.*

Feb 19, 7:00 p.m.

Professor Ted Hamann: *The Challenge of U.S./Mexico Transnationalism to the Linkage Between Schooling and Democracy.*

March 11, 7:00 p.m.

TBA

April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Professor Anna Shavers: *Citizenship: the Significance of Borders, Rights and Identity.*