



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

October 2008

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

Calendar of Events

October 16 (Thursday): Noon
Lunch & Learn,
US Bank Bldg 20th Floor,
13th & M.

Topic: *Why Should I Vote
for Your Party?*

See article at right.

November 4 (Tuesday):

General Election Day

Polls open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sample ballots at:

[http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/2008/
sampleballots/index.html](http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/2008/sampleballots/index.html)

League's October Lunch & Learn Features Nebraska's Political Parties

Why Should I Vote for Your Party? is the topic of the League of Women Voters' October 16th Lunch and Learn. Representatives from the Republican, Green and Democratic parties have agreed to participate. Each participant has been asked to identify the issues most important to his/her party and address how the party intends to handle those issues. A question and answer period will follow.

The luncheon will be held Thursday, October 16th, 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. Lunch & Learn events are open to the public. Reservations are required by noon Monday, October 13th and may be made by contacting the League Office by e-mail at lww-ne@inebraska.com or by phone at 475-1411. Include your name, the number of reservations requested and contact information: your phone number or e-mail address.

The League of Women Voters' Lunch & Learn events are 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. All luncheons are open to the public with advance reservations. The November 20th Lunch & Learn speaker will be Judge Karen Flowers, speaking on *The Drug Court — Is it Working?*

Sign Up Now to Help with Voter Registration

Please consider this a call to action for every League member who receives this newsletter. Whatever you do in the next month - PLEASE consider taking two hours time and volunteering to help register people to vote. If you cannot get out to help, please get on your phone and call five people (asking them to call five friends as well) and tell them to be sure to vote.

Jan Gauger and I were invited to Memorial Stadium this week to help UNL students register to vote or sign up for absentee ballots. We registered over 70 students with requests for another couple dozen absentee ballot forms. In addition, we handed out dozens of post-it notes web information on how some of the out-of-staters could get absentee ballots from their own states. All in all, I have to say, it was probably the most valuable two hours I've invested in a long time.

The students were great fun to chat with and very gracious. Many thanked us for making it so easy for them. Their enthusiasm and interest was absolutely energizing. One young man come back after ten minutes, looking concerned. He said he was afraid he might be doing something wrong and asked me how it all worked. I explained that he's registered to vote now so he can, but he doesn't have to. I explained how the polling place is set up, how they have your name listed and you just walk in and fill out your ballot. He now knows that he can change his address or party registration whenever he wants — but he's ready to go. Others asked what they needed to bring to vote. Lesson of the day was: it's a mystery to some. This "voting thing" is another great unknown or first in life and for some it may be intimidating. We need to demystify the process if we want to get voters up to a respectable percentage of the total population.

Unfortunately not everyone has achieved that comfort level of "experience" from growing up with parents who are involved. A friend told me how her family made a huge celebration out of registering to vote and voting for the first several elections, just like the milestones of confirmation in church or turning 16 and getting a driver's license or graduations. That is a model we should all aspire to continue for our own families or neighbors. If we see that people around us have not been made aware of that very core issue of participating in a democracy we do need to give them that nudge and help them along. Growing up in my family, we were lucky. We knew it was important when my father would grouse (!!!) when they came home that my mother canceled out at least one of his votes every election. And, most memorably, in 2004, he repeatedly asked for his absentee ballot from his death bed so he could vote one last time. He struggled to write with his non-stroke affected hand and my sister had to help him fill in the ovals. He did complete it but died before that presidential election so that last vote would never be counted.

In this historic year, with so many firsts and so much at stake at the national level everyone needs to get out of their own personal comfort zone and take one extra step to get more people involved.

As League members we should understand that we need to not only exercise our own right to vote, but also encourage others to understand the importance of that duty and responsibility in living in a democracy. Please consider signing up for just one voter registration before November. Contact Mary Boschult today at mary4now@aol.com or phone 483-0415 to volunteer.

—Patte Newman, LWVLL President

5CITY TV DEBATES SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 8, 2008

In addition to being able to view the debates on Time Warner Cable Channel 5, they can also be accessed via video-on-demand at <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/cic/5citytv/video.htm> (VOTE 08 Candidate Debates) or viewed on Nebraska on Demand Channel 101 on any Time Warner cable system (digital cable required).

For broadcasts after October 8, go to <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/cic/5citytv/guide.htm>

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

7:19 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 2
7:52 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 4
8:20 PM VOTE08: UNL REGENT DISTRICT 1
8:53 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #21
9:51 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #25
10:48 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #27
11:43 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #29

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

11:30 AM VOTE08: Unicameral District #29
2:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #21
3:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #25
4:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #27
5:30 PM VOTE08: UNL REGENT DISTRICT 1
9:00 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 2
9:32 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 4

Thursday, October 2, 2008

1:00 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #27
2:00 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #29
3:24 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 2
3:57 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 4
4:25 PM VOTE08: UNL REGENT DISTRICT 1
5:04 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #21
6:02 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #25

Friday, October 3, 2008

2:02 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 2
2:34 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 4
3:03 PM VOTE08: UNL REGENT DISTRICT 1
3:36 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #21
4:34 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #29
5:34 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #27
6:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #25

Saturday, October 4, 2008

4:00 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #21
5:00 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #25
6:00 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #27
7:00 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #29
7:30 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 2
8:00 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 4
8:30 PM VOTE08: UNL REGENT DISTRICT 1

Sunday, October 5, 2008

3:00 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #29
4:00 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #27
5:00 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #25
6:00 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #21
7:00 PM VOTE08: UNL REGENT DISTRICT 1
7:30 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 4
8:00 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 2

Monday, October 6, 2008

No broadcasts of the debates

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

7:00 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 2
7:30 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 4
8:00 PM VOTE08: UNL REGENT DISTRICT 1
8:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #21
9:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #25
10:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #27
11:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #29

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

11:30 AM VOTE08: Unicameral District #29
2:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #21
3:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #25
4:30 PM VOTE08: Unicameral District #27
5:30 PM VOTE08: UNL REGENT DISTRICT 1
9:00 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 2
9:30 PM VOTE08: County Commissioner Dist. 4

Lunch & Learn Reservations

If you are not receiving an email notice about our monthly Lunch and Learn series, but would like to do so, please send me an email asking me to add you to the list. My email is intermill@earthlink.net. That notice will tell you the program topic and who the featured speaker will be.

You can respond to my email and make your reservation online. You may also, of course, phone the office and leave a message with your reservation. That number is 475-1411.

I know that we have some new members whose email addresses I may not have. Others of you may have changed your email address, and I need to know that, too. I just don't want to miss anyone! Thank you.

—Nancy Intermill, L&L e-mail coordinator

September Lunch & Learn

Our 2008 / 2009 League Lunch and Learn series was opened by two dynamic speakers who explained the history of Affirmative Action. Becky Gould, an attorney and Executive Director for the Appleseed Center and UNL Professor Patrick Jones explained why Affirmative Action policies were enacted in the United States, the challenges they have faced in the past and the challenges they face in the future. The most obvious of these is the current ballot initiative which would change the Nebraska State Constitution.

Prof. Jones set by the scene by discussing the historical background of affirmative action. He spoke of Californian businessman Ward Connerly's efforts to end affirmative action in several states. He and Becky Gould outlined why Nebraska was chosen as a target state for the petition drive and why lawsuits have been filed based on questionable tactics used to get people to sign the petition. Ms Gould addressed what is at stake for all of us who live in Nebraska.

Photographs on this page are from the September L&L.



Letter to the Editor

League member Bonnie Coffey wrote the following in response to an opinion piece submitted to the Lincoln Journal Star by Dwayne Ball (see <http://www.journalstar.com/articles/2008/06/21/opinion/columns/doc485af53252c8a086690629.txt> for the Ball op ed):

Dr. Dwayne Ball of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln's asserted in a letter to the editor (Lincoln Journal Star, of 6/20/08) that the affirmative action petition's aim "...is to end discrimination." This assertion is disingenuous at best. I'm intrigued by the fact that his primary complaint concerns alleged discrimination at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, yet he's elevated this incident to an attempt to eliminate what he considers discrimination across the entire state. If he has a situation with UNL, why hasn't he made diligent efforts to address that with UNL instead of resorting to an effort that will – most assuredly – not end discrimination?

For those of us who have taken the time to research the impact of similar efforts in California and Michigan, there is a serious and real danger of unintended (or, perhaps, intended) consequences. As a woman, I see grave implications for Nebraska women and girls.

In California, for example, immediately after Proposition 209 passed, the State of California stopped collecting data on race, gender and ethnicity in employment and contracting. This means that we have no way of knowing when women and minorities are moving forward or sliding backwards. If you're not keeping score, you can't tell who's advancing and who's losing. Since women and minorities have been on the losing side of job expansion and establishing businesses, that's of concern to me.

Because Prop 209 eliminated any outreach to women and minority businesses for California's contracting business, real dollars awarded to certified women's business enterprises fell by roughly 40%. Because there's no more outreach in California to encourage woman and minority contractors, only 1/3 of certified Minority Business Enterprises in that state's 1996 transportation construction industry are still in business today.

A group calling itself the National Coalition of Free Men (CFM) in Los Angeles filed suit to challenge, among others, breast cancer screenings and battered women's program shelters. In *Blumhorst v. Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles*, an individual CFM member directly sued battered women's shelters for violating equal protection by allegedly providing services to women, but not men and sought to eliminate state and county funding as a remedy. In *Coalition of Free Men v. State of California*, that state was sued to have 81 statutes and 4 regulations creating services and funding specifically directed to meeting women's needs declared unconstitutional. Examples include the Office of Women's Health, breast cancer screenings, domestic violence protection, children's visitation rights for incarcerated mothers, job training for women in non-traditional employment and an ombudsman for women veterans of our armed forces.

Even more onerous are those companies who have reportedly used Prop 209 as an excuse to not use women and minorities, making it a new form of discrimination: "Prop 209 passed, and we don't have to use you anymore." The Good Old Boy Network gets a new strategy to put in its playbook.

Dr. Ball's beef is with UNL – the women and minorities in Nebraska would appreciate it if he'd take up his grievances with UNL and not inflict his bile on us.

Please be fully informed and vote a resounding "NO" on this November's ballot.

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

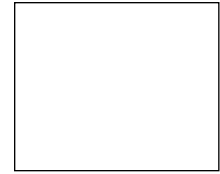
SCHEDULE FOR LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, OCTOBER, 2008.

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.

Sat Oct 18, 9 am – 4:30 pm. First Lutheran Church 1551 S. 70th St.	Nebraskans for Peace Annual Meeting. To register contact NFP at 475 4620. Early registration \$25, at the door \$30.
Sat Oct 18, 7:00 pm Loft at the Mill 800 P Street, Suite 301.	<i>An Evening of Love, Rage, and Hope: 60 Years of Human Rights.</i> 7:00 pm: Doors open; Human rights displays, snacks 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 Omaha.	<i>Meet Eleanor Roosevelt</i> performance at UNO Women Studies.
Mon Oct 20, various times. Omaha.	Millard School District: 3 presentations
Tue Oct 21, 8:30 am, 10 am. Lincoln Public Schools.	2 presentations
Tue Oct 21, 1:30 pm Legacy, 56th & Pioneers.	Dessert. Carla Hiatt 610-5071.
Tue Oct 21, 3:30 pm-4:00 pm. City/County Building Room 113.	Interview with Larry Williams (Human Rights) on 5CityTV. Phone 441-8691. Will play several times during October.
Wed Oct 22 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 2:30 pm.	Lincoln Public Schools, 3 presentations.
Wed Oct 22, 7:00 pm. 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. Union College Amphitheater, 3800 S. 48.	Contact Chris Blake 486-2600
Thur Oct 23, 1:30 pm. Legacy Terrace, 57th & Fremont.	Dessert. Carla Hiatt 610-5071 Part IV.
Fri Oct 24, 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 2:30 pm.	Lincoln Public Schools, 3 presentations.
Fri Oct 24, 6:30 pm. Savannah Pines, 3900 Pine Lake Road	Anne Bremer SPACT@savannahPines.net Part II
Sun Oct 26, 6 pm. East Campus Student Union Ballroom.	United Nations Association Lincoln Chapter (UNA) Banquet. For information call Andi Peterson 467-5356.
Mon Oct 27, 10 am. Landing Retirement Home 3500 Faulkner Dr., Williamsburg	Kay Anderson 420-9355 kayanderson@ihs.org Part II
Tue Oct 28 1:30 pm. Legacy Estates, 72nd & Van Dorn.	Desserts. Carla Hiatt 610-5071.
Wed Oct 29 Crete Public Schools, Crete	2 performances: 1:15 pm, 2:30 pm. Dr. Kyle McGowan 402-474-1005
Thur Oct 30, 11:30–12:45 Emerson Recital Hall in Vance Rogers Fine Arts Building.	Nebraska Wesleyan Elaine Kruse, Part IV
Thur Oct 30, 5:30 pm 233 S 13th 20 Floor, Nebraska Club.	Mayor's Committee on International Friendship and Friendship Force. Part IV. 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, 14th & R Streets in Lincoln. Schedule is as follows:

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.*