



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

April 2009

President: Patte Newman
President-Elect: Mary Boschult
Secretary: Carol Connor
Treasurer: Margaret Remmenga
Voter Editor: Jim Johnson

Calendar of Events

April 18 (Saturday): 9:30 am – 1 pm
LWVNE biennial Convention,
Seward Civic Center,
616 Bradford, Seward)

April 20 (Monday):
(Schedule on page 2)
Candidate Debates (General Elect.)
St. Paul United Methodist Church,
1144 M Street
See article page 2.

April 16 (Thursday): Noon
Lunch & Learn,
US Bank Bldg 20th Floor,
13th & M Streets, Lincoln
Topic: *Global Warming: Fact or
Fiction?*
See article at right.

League of Women Voters Lunch & Learn to Focus on Global Warming

At the April 16th League of Women Voters Lunch and Learn, Dr. Ken Dewey will address the topic “*Global Warming: Fact or Fiction.*” The issue of climate change and global warming is complex, and it is difficult to separate the science from the politics swirling around this subject. Dr. Dewey will examine this timely topic and will present scientific and logical counter arguments to those claiming that there is no global warming, or that the recent global warming has ended.

Dr. Dewey is a full professor in the UNL School of Natural Resource Sciences and a member of the university’s Applied Climate Sciences Group. He also creates the content and maintains the UNL Nebraska Weather and Climate website (www.nebraskaweather.org). A Chicago native, he received his Ph.D. in geography and atmospheric sciences from the University of Toronto in Canada. Except for two years spent at the National Weather Service’s Techniques Development Lab in Washington, D.C., his entire career has been at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has received numerous teaching awards, research fellowships, and funded research grants.

Lunch & Learn events are open to the public. The luncheon will be held **Thursday, April 16th** at 12:00 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, April 11th and may be made by contacting the League Office by e-mail at lwv-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. Those with reservations will be expected to honor them.

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 May Lunch & Learn will feature Dr. David Forsythe discussing *Human Rights: Positive and Negative*.

Debates Scheduled for April 20

Debates for the May 5, 2009, general election are scheduled for Monday, April 20, in the Bevins Family Life Center at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 “M” Street. There will be two positions on the Airport Authority, four subdistricts for the Lincoln Public Schools Board, and three at-large City Council seats on the ballot. This article is being written prior to the primary election, so which candidates will be debating is unknown at this time; the exception is in LPS Subdistrict #7, where Donald Mayhew and Andrew Ringsmuth have both agreed to debate. It is questionable if we will be able to hold a debate in either LPS Subdistrict #1 or #3 as the challengers in both districts did not respond to a debate request for March 17. An attempt will be made after April 7 to secure their participation in a debate; both incumbents are willing. The agenda is listed elsewhere in this Voter.

Ideally, two League volunteers should be present in the background during all debates. These volunteers greet candidates and voters, distribute nametags, help with setting up for the next debate, and maintain audience debate decorum. Please volunteer to help by emailing Sharon Nemeth at dnetfink@hotmail.com or calling her 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 27th Street Business and Civic Association, the NAACP, 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. All co-sponsors are contributing either additional funding or volunteers and, in some cases, both.

LWVLL Holds Annual Meeting

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters was held April 4th with 16 in attendance. The facility at Savannah Pines was a wonderful atmosphere to generate not only animated discussion on agenda items but to catch up with members we don't see often enough.

Although some of this is in the mailing sent out last month, I'd like to recap some of the activities of the League in this past year and repeat our thanks to the hard working members who make us all look good. Sometimes we take individual efforts for granted and don't realize how crucial each one of these people are to the success of an organization as a whole.

Several things increase the visibility of the local League and these events don't just happen. Candidate forums are organized by Sharon Nemeth and her volunteer team and many sponsors who recognize the need for a fair, balanced and neutral forum for the public to meet political candidates. Having disaster free events (bunting and tape problems do not count!) is due to the flawless organizational skills and past experience of this top notch team.

Voter Registrations arranged by board members Maura Kelly Tolzin and Mary Boschult continue to be the League's biggest source of funding. For some, trying to line up the over 144 volunteers to get to 70 plus sites to help in these efforts might be a daunting task – but Mary and Maura take it in stride. Last year the League members and other volunteers helped increase voter registration number by more than 9300 in Lancaster County.

The Lunch and Learn (L&L) programs organized by board member Karen Dienstbier's committee have been outstanding this year. We are grateful for the support of the Ed Fund (Pat Stephen and trustees) for advertising dollars and appreciate the diligent efforts of Lois Dam who worked on a marketing plan along with monthly press releases. Lois is passing these duties on for next year. The programs have been not only educational and entertaining, but have also been an attractive means for recruiting new members.

There has not been a membership chair for several years for the League. Filling those gaps we thank Lois Poppe for her dedication to checking the office regularly for messages and to Ann Wahl who mails out membership packets when needed. Ann also served as nominating committee chair this year.

One special event held for Women's History Month in 2009 was the March showing of Iron Jawed Angels at Edgewood Theatre with several sponsors including the League HAVA grant. Attendance at the morning and evening showings were 96 and 167 respectively.

Your League Board is a tremendous team who all step up to get things done. In no particular order, Karen Diensbier serves as L&L chair. Mary Boschult (Voter

Services Chair) is technically president-elect but we will share duties as co-presidents in the coming year. We were sorry to see Ann Harrell Avery and Tari Hendrickson Sweeney move on and thank both for their many years of service to the League. We thank Corrie Kieilty-Wesely for serving as treasurer and committing to another term on the board. Margaret Remmenga will be taking over treasurer duties. Carol Connor has done an exemplary job of documenting our board meetings (and filtering out the fluff!). Peggy Struwe opens up her bed and breakfast for board meetings and works on the website. (See www.lincolnleague.org) Jim Johnson is also our website guru, L&L photographer, and monthly newsletter editor. Nancy Intermill worked on the HAVA grant and finds the time to send out email notices for Lunch and Learn. Maura Kelly Tolzin (in addition to voter registration duties) created the yearbook last year. Obviously, this is a fantastic board that works well as a team.... but we depend on you as well.

We look forward to the coming year with new projects, events, fundraisers, study groups, and better visibility. We are open to any ideas to increase membership and to increase involvement of our membership as a whole. Thanks to everyone for your participation in any and all of these activities and we look forward to hearing from you!!!!

Patte Newman, President

Lunch & Learn Series

Members of the Lunch and Learn Committee would like to express their appreciation to all of our members (and their guests) who have shown such great appreciation for our speakers and programs this year. We are fortunate to have a wealth of resources in our community to draw from!

In an effort to encourage attendance from the community at large, we placed ads in the print media the last two years—and it was very successful! We appreciate the support of the LLWV-LL Education Fund in this endeavor. If you would like to support the effort to publicize the Lunch and Learn series, please consider making a donation. Your donation to the LLWV-LL Education Fund is tax deductible, and all you need to do is indicate "L&L Series" on the memo line of your check to be sure that it is directed toward this purpose.

Checks should be sent directly to the League office, at 140 N 8th St # 215, Lincoln, NE 68508. Note: Separate checks should be sent for membership dues, for proper accounting purposes.

League welcomes Pat Stephen as 50-year member

At the Annual Meeting, we recognized Pat Stephen as a member of League of Women Voters for 50 or more years. Two other League of Women Voters of Lincoln/Lancaster County have this designation – Helen Boosalis and Ruth Snyder. (There may be other members who could receive this designation. Members could have been members of League of Women Voters in other communities in addition to Lincoln/Lancaster County. If you or someone you know has been a member for at least 50 years, please contact us at the League of Women Voters office.)



Lois Poppe presents Pat Stephen with 50-year certificate and rose.

For members unable to attend the Annual Meeting, here is a copy of the Recognition Presentation:

50 Year Member –Pat Stephen

Pat Stephen has been a member of League of Women Voters since 1957, first in Massachusetts, then, since 1961, as a member of the League of Women Voters of Lincoln/Lancaster County. The following is a sampling of Pat's involvement in League of Women Voters through the years:

active in unit groups; President of the LWV of Lincoln/Lancaster County; President of LWV of Nebraska; Finance Chair of LWV of Nebraska; Legislative Day registration/greeter for last 8-10 years; assists with Candidate Debates; volunteers with Voter Registration; and current LWV of Lincoln-Lancaster County Education Fund Chair.

Mary Boschult, Voter Services Chair, reports "Pat has helped with voter registration for the League a number of times since I became Voter Service Chair. I was able to do two of the times with her and she was always willing to answer my questions about the League and share her knowledge and experiences with me." Pat serves the important role of Mentor for newer League members.

Lois Poppe presented Pat with a letter of recognition from the League of Women Voters of the United States and a certificate stating that Pat is a Fifty-Year Member of LWV. Lois also presented Pat with a yellow rose wrapped in purple tissue – a tradition that reminds us of the early suffrage days.

March/April League Events

The Lincoln-Lancaster League of Women Voters sponsored a series of debates on March 17; also the LWVLL Annual General Meeting was held on April 4th. The pictures on this page are from those events. (Also see page 5 for pictures from the March Lunch & Learn.)



SCHEDULE for ELENA DODD PERFORMANCES

MEET ELEANOR ROOSEVELT for HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS ON APRIL 13- 25, 2009

Mon, April 13 7:00 PM First-Plymouth Chapel at 20th & D St. Human Rights Songs “Baby Needs Shoes”
7: 30 PM “MEET Eleanor Roosevelt: One Woman Performance” by Elena Dodd

Tues. April 14 9:00 AM Eastmont Towers (Seasons Bldg. 1st floor gallery) 6305 O St.
Introductory Talk at Golden Kiwanis Meeting
2:30 Hartley Elementary School at 730 N. 33rd
Early evening Judy Hart Informal Time with Angels Theatre Group

Wed. April 15 10AM Morley Elementary 6800 Monterey Drive
Noon Burkholder Artists at 719 P St. Informal Gathering
2:30 PM Pyrtle Elementary at 721 Cottonwood Drive

Thurs. April 16 10 AM Sheridan Elementary at 3100 Plymouth Ave.
2:30 PM Prescott Elementary at 1930 S.20th St.

Fri. April 17 10:00 AM Bryan Community High School at 1801 S 40th St.
12:15 Pathfinder Program at Lancaster County Youth Services at 1200 Radcliff
(Contact Randy Farmer for directions at 441-6817)

Sat. April 18 OPEN

Sun. April 19 OPEN

Mon. April 20 3:30 PM Doane College at Crete Campus (1014 Boswell) Performance for a Class
7:00 PM Sheldon Hall (call 826-8271 for info) Public Performance

Tues. April 21 10:30AM Hastings Public School 5th graders
7:30 PM Hastings Public Library (contact 463-7615) Public Performance

Wed. April 22 10:00 AM Cornhusker Hotel (10 min. Introduction as Eleanor Roosevelt)
Sponsored by the Lincoln Human Rights Commission, Fair Housing Conference
(Contact Larry Williams at 441-8691 for more information)
2:30 PM Maxey Elementary at 5200 S. 75th St.

Thurs. April 23 1:30 – 2:30 PM State Capitol at Nebraska Supreme Court (2nd floor) Public Performance

Fri. April 24 8:30 AM Huntington Elementary at 2900 N. 46th Street
2:30 PM Brownell Elementary at 6200 Aylesworth Avenue

Sat. April 25 10:00 AM Holiday Inn (9th & O) Meet Eleanor Roosevelt Presentation
Noon Lunch (make reservations with Bob Haller at 488- 4258/ mshortt@inebraska.com)
Following: Discussion of UDHR as applicable to Lincoln’s place in the present day world

“THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, among the peoples.” From PREAMBLE OF UDHR

Former Senator DiAnna Schimek Addresses How to Convince More Women to Run for Office at March Lunch & Learn

Our March Lunch and Learn schedule was intended to be a joint discussion with former State Senator DiAnna Schimek and current State Senator Kathy Campbell. Due to a death in the family, Senator Campbell was unable to attend; LWVLL sends our condolences to her and her family, and we look forward to working with her in the future.

However, Senator Schimek carried on with a lively, informative presentation. The two senators had met earlier in the week to plan the talk; DiAnna had been looking forward to presenting with Kathy, but went ahead in her absence.

Senator Schimek cited statistics which showed that the number of women in office had increased markedly between the 60s and the 90s, but has leveled off since then. When she was first elected to the legislature, there were nine women in that body; this number increased to 13 but is now back down to nine.

Among the reasons that she thinks women don't run for office as frequently as men:

- Family responsibilities.
- More women are working at full-time jobs these days.
- It's particularly hard for rural women to serve in Lincoln.
- Women are often less comfortable than men with the "rough & tumble" of politics.
- Women have traditionally held jobs that aren't conducive to running for office.
- Political parties are often less eager to encourage women to run.
- External support: Women who are encouraged to run by the people around her are more likely to consider it, but that support is often less forthcoming for women than for men.

Senator Schimek did say that she thinks people are more open to women in office now than back when people such as Helen Boosalis and Jan Gauger were getting into politics. But we still need to get out and encourage women to run.

Audience member Jane Kinsey said that there is an organization called Emily's List that women can ask for funding if they're liberal, but it's harder for conservative women to find such funds. Senator Schimek said that there are groups, such as the Susan B Anthony List; however for these groups (liberal and conservative) usually don't fund candidates for local or state offices, just federal offices.

Bonnie Coffey brought attention to a workshop that will be held in the fall for prospective women candidates; Bonnie invited women to consider attending. All in all, it was a great discussion!



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League of Women Voters ®
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