



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

November 2009

President: Patte Newman

President-Elect: Mary Boschult

Secretary: Carol Connor

Treasurer: Margaret Remmenga

Voter Editor: Jim Johnson

Calendar of Events

November 19 (Thurs.): Noon
LWVLL Lunch & Learn.

Guest: Jim Otto

Topic: *Everyone is a
Politician*

US Bank Bldg 20th Floor,
13th & M Streets, Lincoln.

Reservations required by
Monday noon, Nov. 16.
*Reservations must be
honored.*

Contact the League office
by email at

lwv-ne@inebraska.com

or by phone at 475-1411

Include your name, the
number of reservation

requested, contact
information (phone and/or
email) and if you want a
vegetarian meal.

See article at right.

League of Women Voters Lunch and Learn to focus on Retail and Lobbying

At the Thursday, November 19th League of Women Voters Lunch & Learn, in his talk "*Everyone is a Politician*", Jim Otto says he "will share some interesting facts on retail in Nebraska, some experiences from lobbying the Nebraska Unicameral and ask two important questions:

- (1) Is Your Vote for Sale?
- (2) Will G_d Bless America?

Prior to his present position as President of the Nebraska Retail Federation, he worked in the private sector from 1970 to 1985, and then for the government in 1986. Jim no longer works for the government but he works closely with government in his lobbyist roles for both the Nebraska Retail Federation and the Nebraska Restaurant Association.

Lunch and Learn events are open to the public. Mr. Otto will speak on November 19 at 12 noon on the 20th floor of the US Bank Building, 13th and M Street. The cost is \$10 and includes speaker, lunch tax and gratuity. Binding reservations and required by noon, Monday, November 16th and may be made by contacting the League office by e mail at lwv-ne@inebraska.com or by phone at 473-1411. Include your name, the number of reservations requested, contact information (phone and mail), and if you want a vegetarian meal.

All reservations are expected to be honored.

The League of Women Voters Lunch & Learn events are held at noon on the third Thursday of each month from September through May, on the 20th floor of the US Bank Building, 13th and "M" Streets. All luncheons are open to the public with advance reservations. The December Lunch and Learn will feature Ingrid Krist, Director, Community CROPS, discussing *Growing, Buying, Using Local*.

Provisional dates to save for interested local League members from League Women Voters of Nebraska:

Mark your calendars for Legislative Day on Tuesday, March 9, based on remaining openings at the Governor's Mansion. Volunteers are needed to arrange for a hearing room and speakers for the morning. Kerry Winterer, HHS CEO, appears to be the choice of the majority of Board members for the noon speaker, assuming he is available and willing to address the group.

The Hastings League has set Saturday, May 1, 2010, for hosting the LWVNE Council. Please mark your calendars. All State Board members, all off Board members, the president of each local League and two delegates from each local League serve as delegates to conduct business. Other members may attend as observers.

Your local League Board is working on a joint event with the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging for Women's History Month in March 2010.

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

Report on October Lunch & Learn

The October Lunch and Learn speaker was Lori Seibel, President and CEO for the Lincoln Community Health Endowment. She made an excellent presentation on the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Healthcare Safety Net. This task force will be completing their 6 month project in early November. Their goal was to develop innovative, ambitious, and tailored recommendations to strengthen Lincoln's healthcare safety net.

They identified seven key topic areas: Medical Home; Safety Net Efficiencies and Enhancements; Healthcare Volunteers; Health Information Technology; Prevention, Wellness and Health Education; Resource Development; and Implementation. The Task Force made observations about the healthcare system of **today** and developed goals for creating an improved healthcare system of **tomorrow**. The group identified 23 recommendations. Of these, three were prioritized as the most urgent for implementation.

Highest Priority Recommendations:

- 1) Assure that People's Health Center (PHC) completes a comprehensive strategic plan to increase capacity. Examine the opportunities to relocate PHC to a larger facility and/or expand to satellite clinics and include a planned approach to secure additional medical providers and accompanying staff.
- 2) Assist uninsured individuals, many whom access the healthcare system via free clinics, in appropriately navigating the health/human service system in the following ways:
 - a) Develop a "hub" of patient advocates who personally assist uninsured patients in accessing appropriate care and services;
 - b) Explore ways to integrate eligibility assessment, application form preparation, and the collection of supporting documentation for multiple programs into a single, patient-friendly guided interview among safety net and human service providers.
- 3) Identify individuals who will provide ongoing assistance to project staff in implementing the action steps of this report (Phase II). These individuals, along with designated staff, will convene individuals and groups as needed around implementation strategies and provide periodic updates to the Mayor, stakeholders, and the general community. In addition, these individuals will closely monitor national healthcare reform and its potential impact on Lincoln's safety net system.

The full task force report will be available online soon through the City's website.

Thanks to Ms. Seibel for an informative update on this very important project.