



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

February 2010

President: Patte Newman

President-Elect: Mary Boschult

Secretary: Carol Connor

Treasurer: Margaret Remmenga

Voter Editor: Jim Johnson

## Calendar of Events

**February 18 (Thurs.):** Noon  
LWVLL Lunch & Learn.

**Guest:** State Senator  
Amanda McGill

**Topic:** Legislative Update  
US Bank Bldg 20<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
13<sup>th</sup> & M Streets, Lincoln.

Reservations required by  
Monday noon, Feb. 15.  
*Reservations must be  
honored.*

Contact the League office  
by email at

[lwv-ne@inebraska.com](mailto: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.*

**March 9 (Tues.):**

LWVNE Legislative Day,  
at the State Capitol.

Luncheon speaker:

Kerry Winterer, CEO

Nebraska Department of  
Health and Human Services

*For Schedule and Registration:*

[http://www.lwvne.org/files/2010-  
legislative-day-registration-  
form.pdf](http://www.lwvne.org/files/2010-legislative-day-registration-form.pdf)

## **February Lunch & Learn to Discuss Legislative Issues**

At the Thursday, February 18th League of Woman Voters Lunch and Learn, State Senator Amanda McGill, who represents Northeast Lincoln, will give us a Legislative Update, giving an assessment of how the session is going including discussion of the budget, and other priority issues facing the legislature. She will discuss some of her priorities and perception on how growing partisan involvement in our campaigns is effecting how the legislature works.

Ms. McGill is a lifelong Nebraskan, born and raised in Omaha. She graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2002 with degrees in broadcasting and political science. She is a former television reporter at 10/11 here in Lincoln and KCAU in Sioux City. Since being elected to the Nebraska Legislature to represent Northeast Lincoln, she is serves on the Judiciary Committee, the Business and Labor Committee and is the newly elected chair of the Urban Affairs Committee

In addition to her Legislative responsibilities, Senator McGill is serving pro bono as Managing Director of the YWCA of Lincoln and serves in several leadership roles in national organizations focusing on women lawmakers.

Lunch and Learn events are open to the public. Amanda McGill will speak on Thursday, February 18th, at 12 noon on the 20th floor of the US Bank Building, 13th and M Street. The cost is \$10, which includes speaker, lunch, tax and gratuity.

**Binding reservations** are required by **noon, Monday, February 15th** 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. Include your name, the number of reservations requested, and contact information (phone and email) and if you want a vegetarian meal. All reservations are expected to be honored.

The League of Women Voters Lunch & Learn events are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to May at noon, on the 20th floor of the US Bank Building, 13th and "M" Streets. With advance reservations, all luncheons are open to the public. The March Lunch and Learn will feature Andrew "Skip" Hove, Former Vice Chairman & Chairman Federal Deposit Insurance Corporations speaking on "How the Economy Got This Way."

**Bouquets of Thanks** to Vera Mae Lutz for her dedication to Lunch & Learn as our check-in person at our Lunch and Learn programs. Vera Mae has served on our committee and taken responsibility for coordinating the registrations for us for the past four years. As she and her husband Dan travel to see family and find other places of interest to travel to she has decided to step down as our registrar. We sincerely appreciate the care she has taken to keep our financial records straight. We send you our best wishes as you return to more enjoyable tasks, and we hope to see you regularly at Lunch and Learn.

Friends, please help me welcome Sue Howe as she takes on the position of registrar for the Lunch & Learn programs. She and her husband Herb Howe have been coming to the Lunch & Learn series for the past four years...and possibly even longer. Look for Sue at the check-in table at our February meeting. Also please thank Beth Goble too. Beth has offered to continue to help with the check-in as Sue begins working at the registration table. As a reminder I would like you all to know that the Lunch and Learn Committee asks you to make your reservations for Lunch and Learn by phoning the League office at 475-1411 or by emailing the League office at [lwv-ne@inebraska.com](mailto:lwv-ne@inebraska.com). We are no longer able to take your reservation by email through Nancy Intermill's email address. We also ask that you honor your reservation if you must cancel it after the reservations have been phoned in to the Nebraska Club. Reservations are phoned in by noon on the third Tuesday of each month. Your reservations are due on Monday of that week.

— Karen Dienstbier, Chair  
Lunch and Learn Committee

## Call to Voter Registration 2010

I appreciate the time from all the volunteers doing voter registration. It is an activity important to the League's mission and also a significant revenue source to our budget.

It has been two years since we last updated the list of volunteers. I will be contacting current volunteers to determine if you are still interested in helping on this project. If you have not done voter registration before and are interested in helping, please contact me to sign up as a volunteer and contact Maura Kelly Tolzin, Deputy Election Commissioner at 441-6550 to be trained. Training takes about an hour and is required for us to serve as deputy registrars for the Election Commissioner.

In addition to the question on the arena bond issue, the other offices up for nomination in the May 11 primary can be found on the Election Commissioner's website at

<http://lanaster.ne.gov/cnty/election/candidat0510.htm>

Looking forward to hearing from you.

*Mary Boschult*  
*Voter Registration Coordinator*  
[Mary4now@aol.com](mailto:Mary4now@aol.com)  
483-0415



### Ready to Run

The sixth annual Ready to Run™ candidate school will be held Saturday, March 27, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. This year's workshop is geared toward women who have decided to run for elected office – and their campaign committee members. Respected campaign advisers and women currently in elected office will share insights into what's involved with running a campaign, with an emphasis on finances and fundraising.

The workshop takes place at College of St. Mary's Hilmer Art Gallery. Registration is \$25 per person, or \$15 for students.

Ready to Run™ is a project of the Women's Fund of Greater Omaha and Friends of the Lincoln Mayor's Commission on Women.

To register, send a check to:

*Women's Fund of Greater Omaha*  
*7602 Pacific Street, Suite 300*  
*Omaha, NE 68114*

Or call 402.827.9280 to register by phone.

## Mayor's Senior Policy Aide for Sustainability addresses January Lunch & Learn

The January 21<sup>st</sup> Lunch and Learn attracted a record number of attendees. The L&L committee's Green Theme for much of the series is credited with what looks to be the best year ever! Four local high school students joined the group of 58 attendees. The students are part of the Humanities School at Lincoln High School. They were generously provided with scholarships for half price lunches by our member Bob Boyce. (See page 4 of this newsletter to find out how you too can help sponsor a student attend future Lunch & Learns!)



Milo Mumgaard, Senior Policy Aide for Sustainability to Mayor Beutler, gave a very informative wrap up of the various stimulus monies and where they are being used the energy sustainability projects that the City is funding. Milo emphasized that the Mayor is working toward Lincoln becoming the “greenest city” in the Midwest. He would like to ensure that sustainable practices and policies are in place to carry our community into the future and ensure our continued high quality of life. Milo thinks that Lincoln has done a good job of planning its growth. Our stewardship has provided for the needs of future generations and will meet the very important economic, social and environmental issues that are particular to Lincoln. One example often cited is the use of new technology, clearly illustrated by LPS's use of geothermal heating.

On February 13, 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed. Goals included efforts to create new jobs and save those existing and to invest in long term economic growth. Examples of strategies employed were to increase broadband coverage with recovery zone bonds and to create jobs in the energy sector. Another program is the cash for clunkers plan. Other funding includes \$283 billion in tax cuts and benefits, \$240 million for education and \$1.2 billion distributed to states for education and healthcare.

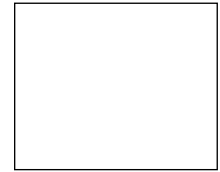
To date, Lincoln has received \$22 million with a variety of projects in progress or planned for the future. Some of the projects to be funded are, twelve miles of arterial rehabilitation which will cost 9.3million dollars, StarTran will invest in hybrid shuttle type vans and bike racks for another 3.7 million dollars, and the Theresa Street and Northeast Water Treatment facilities, along with the Stevens Creek trunk sewer will use clean water funds of 10 million dollars to upgrade their facilities. Urban Development will use approximately \$475,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds for streetscapes in North Bottoms, South Salt Creek, and Hayward Park improvements as required by the American with Disabilities Act. Region V funds of \$726,000 will be used for temporary assistance for our homeless population. Workforce Investment Act funding of \$892,000 will provide jobs and training for our youth. This will include 200 temporary jobs with the Parks and Recreation Department.

In additional to \$20 million distributed to Lincoln directly through the program competitive grants were written which brought in another \$2 million. Americorps will receive grant funding of \$261,000 and the COPS program will enable the city to hire four more police officers for three years. This will cost and estimated \$679,000. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Clean Diesel Program will receive \$120,000 and an Environmental Protection Agency grant of 1 million dollars will be provided for clean diesel.

Additional funds that will benefit the Lincoln area include \$572,035 for the People's Health Center. Community Block Grants will provide 1.3 million dollars to upgrade homes. Lincoln Action Program will receive another 4 million dollars to weatherize homes. It is estimated that the University of Nebraska Lincoln received \$18 to \$20 million.

There are also energy efficiency stimulus funds which require local matching funds and must be used within 18 months. This 2.5 million dollars will be used to promote conservation through reduced energy use, improved efficiency and by creating partnerships which will promote Lincoln as a green city. The money will also support green jobs, and good building practices. All of these programs will help to promote conservation. The City hopes to create 50 to 60 jobs if funding is provided. Three of them would be local government jobs and the others will be in the private sector. The goal is to create a Lincoln Green zone with \$20 million of tax funds. The idea is that the \$20 million would encourage \$100 million of local leverage funds that could be used to ramp up retrofitting in Lincoln's neighborhoods which will help them to become more energy efficient.

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

#### **Sponsor a Student Reservation for Lunch & Learn**

There has been interest expressed in some of the Lunch & Learn presentations scheduled for this spring by Lincoln high school students. Since the cost of lunch is fixed by what we pay for lunch, tax and service charges for the facility, the League is unable to offer discounted lunches for those who find it somewhat cost prohibitive.

We are asking our membership if they might be willing to “sponsor” a high school student to encourage her or his participation in these events. In January, the students are being asked to report back to the class on what they have learned.

The LWVLL board discussed this idea in January with the suggestion that anyone who would like to help to offer to sponsor students at future lunch and learns — please contact L&L committee chair or member Karen Dienstbier ([kdien@neb.rr.com](mailto:kdien@neb.rr.com)) or Patte Newman ([pattnewman@neb.rr.com](mailto:pattnewman@neb.rr.com)) to offer financial assistance.

It was agreed that a 50% reduction (\$5 off) might be appropriate to offer students on a first come, first served basis and only if sponsorships are available. Specific details of how this type of sponsorship would be left to the L&L Committee to work out.

Thanks for considering a different way to promote the League of Women Voters to a younger audience!