



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

April 2011

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

Calendar of Events

April 21 (Thursday): Noon
LWVLL Lunch & Learn.

**Holiday Inn Downtown,
141 North 9th Street, Lincoln**

Speaker: Dan Marvin

Arena Update

Reservations required by
Monday noon, April 18.

Reservations must be honored.

Contact the League office by
email at lwv-ne@inebraska.com
or by phone at 402-475-1411.

Include your name, the number
of reservations requested, contact
information (phone and/or
email).

See article at right.

April 23 (Saturday):
LWVNE State Convention.

May 19 (Thursday): Noon
LWVLL Lunch & Learn.

**Holiday Inn Downtown,
141 North 9th Street, Lincoln**

Speaker: Deb Shoemaker,

Peoples Health Center,
discussing their role in

Lincoln's Healthcare Safety Net.

lwv-ne@inebraska.com or by calling 402-475-1411, leaving name, number of reservations requested, and contact information (phone and email).

The League of Women Voters Lunch Learn events are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to May at noon at The Holiday Inn Downtown, 141 N 9th Street. All lunches are open to the public with **binding advanced reservations**. Deb Shoemaker from the Peoples Health Center will discuss their role in Lincoln's Healthcare Safety Net, at the Thursday, May 19th LWV Lunch and Learn.

LWV 2010/2011 Membership due

TO ALL MEMBERS:

Just a reminder that your League of Women Voters memberships are due in April. As 2009/10 member you should have received the letter in either an email or hard copy mailed to your home address. Please submit membership checks (\$50) to LWVLL, 4600 Valley Road, Suite 306, Lincoln 68510. Be sure to update your name, address, email and telephone number so it can be included in the LWVLL directory this spring.

THANK YOU!

Arena Project to be Discussed at April 21 Lunch & Learn

At the Thursday, April 21st League of Women Voters lunch and Learn, Dan Marvin, Executive Director of the Joint Public Agency will give an overview in An Arena Update. From 2005-2009, Dan Marvin served as an At Large member of the Lincoln City Council. While serving he was on the Railroad Transportation Safety District, Community Development Task Force and the City Council Internal Liquor Committee. He introduced an early retirement plan that lowered costs for city government and led efforts supporting policies to increase road funds that helped create jobs in the community. From 2003-2005, Marvin was a member of the Mayor's Infrastructure Finance Studies and Finance Committee, the Streets, Roads, and Trails Committee, the Economic Development Task Force, and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission.

Dan is the president of Marvin Investment Management Co. Before starting his own firm in 1993, he spent 11 years as a stockbroker for Shearson, Lehman Brothers (Smith Barney). He helped individual investors with retirement planning, tax planning and 401(k) plans.

In 1981, Dan Marvin received a BS in Philosophy from UNL, continuing his education in accounting at SCC, course work at the Association for Investment Management and research and graduate course work at UNL.

A board member of the Country Club Neighborhood Association, Dan has served the association for multiple years. In 1999, Dan Marvin was named a Lincoln Public Schools "Outstanding Volunteer."

Dan and his wife, Donna, have lived in Lincoln for 28 years. They have three children: Kate 21, a college senior; Matt, 19, a freshman in college; and Emily, 9, a fourth grader at Rousseau Elementary School.

Lunch and Learn events are open to the public. Dan Marvin will speak on Thursday, April 21st at 12 noon at the Holiday Inn Downtown, 141 N. 9th Street. The \$10 fee includes speaker, buffet lunch, tax, and gratuity. **Binding reservations** are due noon, Monday, April 18th, and may be made at lwv-ne@inebraska.com

Community Members Invited to a Performance of “Life in a Jar”

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun (South St. Temple) is hosting a special event on April 30th, to coincide with the annual Holocaust Remembrance.

The event is a performance called "Life In a Jar" which is the story of Irene Sendler, an administrator at the Warsaw School of Social Work during WWII. She had a network of helpers who rescued people - mostly children- from the Warsaw ghetto. They made false papers for them and found places to hide them. Many of the children were kept in Catholic homes. She kept track of the placements of all of the children (2500) so that they could be reunited with their families after the war, but the majority of the parents died in the camps. You can get the full story at www.irenasendler.org.

“Life in a Jar” was originally a high school project that has grown into a tolerance movement of which you may already be aware.

The Temple is working with the Lowell Milken Center in Fort Scott, Kansas, <http://www.lowellmilkencenter.org>, which presents this story in the form of a play to promote tolerance in the US and worldwide. This is their purpose statement:

The Lowell Milken Center works with schools around the world to teach respect and understanding among all people, by developing projects about unsung heroes whose actions promote these values, regardless of race, religion and creed. These projects are in the form of performances, documentaries and exhibits, or other creative ideas. Now entering its third year, the Lowell Milken Center has reached over 110,000 students and over 2,000 schools in all fifty states, with involvement growing world-wide.

The Lowell Milken Center follows two major objectives:

1. Teaching respect and understanding
2. Telling inspiring stories of unsung heroes to change behaviors and attitudes

An evening performance on April 30 at the Johnny Carson Theatre will be a community fundraiser. Tickets are \$20, and \$10 for youth 18 and under. The cast will engage in a discussion with the audience following the performance. Reservations can be made by calling Lorie Schwartz at 402-261-8850.

Voter Education

On February 14, 2011 Maura Kelly Tolzin, Lancaster County Deputy Election Commissioner and LWVLL member and Mary Boschult LWVLL President-Elect and voter services celebrated the 91st birthday of the League of Women Voters by providing voter registration and voting information on KZUM, 89.3 FM. The invitation to do the “Our Street” show with Sean Ryba and Lynn Fischer was facilitated by Patte Newman, LWVLL President.

There are 174,316 registered voters in Lancaster County. We helped make that happen. The election turnout for the Haymarket Arena was 40% and while some folks think that is good, we know we can do better. We have work ahead of us to engage the participation of the public in their government. Participation in neighborhood groups and groups like the League of Women Voters are good ways to become educated on government issues and processes. The League also urges interested people to run for office or volunteer for appointment to government boards, commissions or advisory groups.

We are fortunate to have access to the meetings of elected officials through attending the meetings in person or viewing them on television or the internet. We want to remove barriers to people to vote. Voter registration is a relatively simple process and the League is happy to help with that process. Early voting through the mail or at the Election Commissioner’s office is one of the ways to facilitate increased voting. There were several bills introduced this legislative session about voting and voter registration. Some streamline the process while some increase controls and limitations.

To those who believe their one vote does not count, we remind them that the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which enacted Women’s Suffrage was ratified by one vote—Harry Burn in the Tennessee legislature.

Submitted by Mary Boschult, Voter Services Coordinator

March Lunch and Learn Discussed Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln

Bob Rauner M.D., MPH, was our Lunch and Learn's March speaker. Dr. Rauner shared data from the Center for Disease Control [CDC] regarding trends in obesity for adults and children from 1993-2009 that sadly clearly noted a steady and drastic increase in weights of both adults and children. He also compared United States statistics to 30 other countries showing the U.S had the highest percentage of obese adults of all 30 States.

In addition Dr. Rauner shared Lincoln Public School data and Lincoln community data which also show high rates of obesity.

He feels the cause for this trend is due to a number of factors including:

- Too Many Liquid Calories-pop, energy drinks etc
- Food Advertising –is geared to encourage kids to eat unhealthy food
- Economics of food-the most calorie dense low nutrition food is often the least expensive
- Less Physical Activity-adults and children are simply not “moving” enough

Dr. Rauner gave these simple individual solutions:

- Go for a walk – shoot for at least 10,000 steps per day.
- Drink less soda & other sugar sweetened beverages.
- Eat more fruit & vegetables.
- Watch Less TV.

Individual commitment is key but the community at large must also be involved to reverse the trend:

1. Encourage breast feeding-Nebraska has passed a law that woman can now breastfeed in public. We were the second to last State to implement such a law. The law is waiting the governors' signature.
2. Education- Each school district/school should:
 - Develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive plan for coordinated school health based.
 - Establish a School Health Council and each school building establish a School Health Team
 - Designate a School Health Coordinator to assist with implementing and evaluating coordinated school health.
3. Workplace disease prevention and wellness programs- have shown medical cost savings averaging \$3.27 for every \$1 spent and reduced absenteeism savings averaging \$2.73 for every dollar spent.

Legislative Actions

1. Apply for a waiver to eliminate sugar beverages from the Nutritional Assistance Program.[Food Stamps]
2. Support an increase on cigarettes tax to help fund some of the activities needed to address obesity rates.
3. Establish a Statewide Children's Advisory Committee to track trends and help set recommended policies on nutrition and physical activity.

Dr. Rauner indicated there are many community activities work toward solutions and he challenged each of us to join in. Dr. Rauner's full Power Point presentation is posted on the League website at:

<http://lincolnleague.org/Voter/BobRaunerPresentation.pdf>

The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*

League of Women Voters ®

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<http://www.LincolnLeague.org>



Time Dated Material

Please Do Not Delay