



IOWA VOTER

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Beginning Again

Fall is nearly here, actually the weather feels like it has already arrived. Each year the rhythm of the seasons in Iowa brings us from a summer when time is (hopefully) a bit more relaxed, to fall when so many of our activities take on new energy. LWVIA has already done some revving up for this year. We enjoyed a fine Officers' Training on Saturday August 29. We are planning for our Issues Briefing on October 24. And we are looking forward to an outstanding celebration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters and women's right to vote in 2010.

I am very interested in gathering ideas and information about what your league has planned for the big celebration. Some suggestions were made at the Officers' Training, but I am thinking that your league has even more good ideas for your own community and maybe ideas we could all use. I am particularly interested in ideas that will engage the entire community, that will increase the visibility of the League, and that will make a statement about the importance of everyone's full and informed participation in our democracy. What are you planning to do for and with your members and your entire community?

Please e mail your ideas at lwvia@live.com. We are all waiting to hear from you.

Keep up the good work!

Myrna, President

INTRODUCING OUR NEW LOBBYIST

After many years of the finest representation by our friend and fellow member, Judie Hoffman, and upon Judie's retirement, LWVIA has a new lobbyist. Her name is Amy Campbell.

Amy is part of a lobbying team. Her business partner is Craig Patterson. While Amy is a registered Democrat, Craig is a registered Republican. The combination is good reflection of League's non-partisanship policy.

Amy's resume is extensive, so I will just mention a few items. She represents 12 other clients in Iowa including AARP, Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the Iowa Juvenile Detention Association, and the Iowa Library Association. She has degrees in political science and international studies. Amy has provided advocacy and grassroots services to Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council, Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa, and Iowans with Disabilities in Action. She has provided advocacy trainings for a number of groups including Health Care Access for Kids coalition, Iowa Association of rural Electric Cooperatives, and Western Iowa Human Services Advisory Council.

Amy will be a practical, energetic, well-informed representative to League. We are happy to have her on our team.

Welcome Amy.



2009-2010 LEAGUE CALENDAR

**Saturday, October 24, 11 AM -3PM**

Issues Briefing at the Altoona Library

Saturday, October 24, 3:15 PM -5PM

State Board Meeting at the Altoona Library

November

Interview state legislators - all local leagues

Saturday, December 12, 9AM-11AM

State Board Meeting - phone meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Lobby Day in Des Moines

Sunday, February 14, 2010

League of Women Voter's 90th Birthday

ISSUES BRIEFING

The annual Issues Briefing will be Saturday October 24, 2009, from 10-3 at the Altoona Public Library. The LWV-IA state board meeting will follow.

League members will greet our new state lobbyists Amy Campbell and her business partner Craig Patterson. Amy is busy getting speakers lined up for the Issues Briefing. She will be providing information for members on priority issues as identified by the state board as well as giving guidance, advice and materials on all issues pertinent to the state League.

The State League Board identified Mental Health and Predatory Lending as the two critical issues to work through the state legislature. The board listed Immigration and Sentencing reform as areas of secondary priority.

Following Issues Briefing, local leagues will be asked to interview their elected state representatives and senators. The interviews help Amy get a feel for the direction of her lobbying efforts and give each local league a chance to influence the views of their legislators on each issue.

Watch for further information by email and Website

CORRECTIONS TO MENTAL HEALTH PAPERS

Several errors have been brought to my attention. If you have saved the four Mental Health Background Papers, please make the corrections that are given below. These corrections have been made to the consolidated pdf file that is on the state League website.

Here are the corrections:

- Winter Voter 2009, Part II, page 9, citation #20: Should read National Alliance (not National Association)
- Special Report Issue of Voter 2009, Part III, page 4, line 2, change year to 2001 (not 1991) and Part IV, page 12, line 3 below the daily cost tabulation should read ...expected to pay (not the pay)

Nancy E. Brown,
chair, Mental Health Study Group

NEWS FROM LOCAL LEAGUES

Hamilton County receives good visibility each July though their County Fair booth. They conduct a Straw Poll consisting of six questions on local, state, and/or national issues. For example, one question this year was "Should water bottles be added to the bottle bill law?". The booth costs \$75. There were more than 500 votes cast; the local radio station tallied the votes each day and announced the results. League got lots of good publicity for limited funding

Johnson County has an early fall social for League members and all elected officials from city, county, state, and national levels who reside in the county. The social is a change to mingle, to influence, and be influenced in a casual setting. The event is considered a "thank you to officials" by the league.

Greater Des Moines has been developing coalitions. One is with groups who are concerned about global warming. Sisters on the Planet and others are involved. Immigration and Mitchellville are other interest areas.