

the VOTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF AMES & STORY COUNTY IOWA
<http://www.ameslww.org> Late Summer 2020

Versatility, Agility, and Change. Ready, Set, Go!!! **A Letter from Our President During the Pandemic**



Here we are, stuck in the second half of 2020, gasping from our efforts to adapt, understand, and keep up with all that's happening. And to top it off, we wallow in uncertainty. Will schools open in the fall? Will sports return, is 6 feet of separation enough?

When will a Covid-19 vaccine be available? Is it safe to fly to another state to visit my grandchildren? Sadly, this list of questions just scratches the surface. We also must grapple with the larger issues and events related to:

- **Police Brutality**
- **Covid-19 Restrictions**
- **Fair Elections**
- **Changing Government Policies**
- **Erosion of Environmental Protections**

Lest we forget...2020 is also a presidential election year – an election with a critical outcome that is steeped in never before seen levels of viciousness and acrimony.

I apologize for painting such a dark picture of 2020 when my purpose was only to report how well we, the LWV-ASC, have adapted our practices and have continued our work amidst the changes and uncertainty. Despite what sometimes appeared like the total destruction of the world we know, the ONLY thing that we cancelled was our annual meeting. We could not gamble with the health of our members and rather than present a subpar version of our meeting, it seemed prudent to cancel.

We converted our forums, our programs, our board and committee meetings, and even our Coffee Thing discussions to online versions. And yes, you the members, were versatile, agile, and willing to face the challenges of

technology. In fact the evidence reveals that attendance at our meetings and forums was higher than typically at the face-to-face versions of our events.

I have to say it wasn't easy for me either! I listened to hours of YouTube presentations on how to conduct a virtual meeting or forum using the software available to us – Webex. I walked the forum candidates through using the software despite the challenges of one person using a PC computer, another an Apple computer, one iPad, and still others trying to use their phones. I tried to help members to download the necessary software for their participation and felt the anxiety of facing technology. But amidst all of it, we jointly discovered that the cause was greater than the fear of technology.

What to expect for the rest of 2020? The LWV-ASC plans to continue to work virtually. We plan to keep you apprised of issues and opportunities, notify you when action is requested, present quality programs, offer open times for discussion via our Coffee Thing, and work to "Get Out the Vote".

In addition, we have an ad-hoc committee working on distributing masks to our community. I know you are going to love our new website, scheduled to make its debut in October. We plan to harness technology to make it easier to join, donate, and keep apprised of the latest news from our chapter.

So, thank you, dear friends, for picking up your tablets, sitting in front of your computers, or managing to do it all on your smartphones. It is only due to your agility, versatility, and determination that we can weather whatever the rest of 2020 throws our way. While hoping for brighter and easier tomorrows, we can stand tall and quote one of my favorite iconic images of strength and determination, Rosie the Riveter, and say "**We Can Do It!**"

Yours in League,
Linda Serra Hagedorn, Ph.D.
President, LWV-ASC

Welcoming Our New Members....

Welcome to Ed McCracken, Stacy Stoll, Anne Kinzel, Megan Brown, Edward Engle, and Linda Peters.

...and Congratulating Our Long-Time Members Over Fifty Years

Carol Holly	1961
Jean Peterson	1961
Marion Weiss	1962
Johnie Hammond	1968
Virginia Stafford	1968
Jeri Prescott	1968
Marlene Weisshaar	1968
Margaret Tait	1969
John Tait	1969
Marilyn Hayes	1969

45th Anniversary

Jane Halliburton	1975
Ann Campbell	1975

25th Anniversary

Zora Zimmerman	1995
Herman Quirnbach	1995

15th Anniversary

T. Jackie Runyan	2005
Jim Popken	2005
Julie Popken	2005
Barbara Gwiasda	2005

10th Anniversary

Mary Sand	2010
Nancy Halvorson	2010
Judy Trumpy	2010

5th Anniversary

Barb Cobb	2015
Bronwyn	
Beatty-Hansen	2015
Judy Jones	2015
Frances Maudlin	2015
Debra Lee	2015

**Congratulations to each member
reaching an important milestone with the
League of Women Voters!**



Remember to Renew!

Membership renewals were due the first of July. If you have not renewed, just go to the LWV-ASC website at <http://www.ameslww.org/contact/>, print and fill out the form and mail as directed. Thank you!

(An anonymous donor has contributed funds to assist in aiding those who are in need of assistance paying the members fee. Contact Judy Jones at jj8212@gmail.com)

The Calendar

- **Thursday, August 20 – 7:00 p.m.**
Program (Virtual)
Disenfranchisement, Voting Rights, and the Suffrage.
- **Wednesday August 26 –**
Women's Equality Day
- **Thursday, September 17 – 7:00 p.m.**
Program (Virtual)
Covid-19, When Are Quarantines and Other Measures Unconstitutional?
- **Tuesday, September 22 –**
National Voter Registration Day
- **Thursday, September 24 – 7:00 p.m.**
Candidate Forum (Virtual)
Iowa Senate District 24
- **Wednesday, September 30 – 7:00 p.m.**
Candidate Forum (Virtual)
Iowa House Districts 48 & 49
- **Thursday, October 1 – 7:00 p.m.**
Candidate Forum (Virtual)
Story County Offices
- **Thursday, October 15 – 7:00 p.m.**
Program (Virtual)
Election Issues
- **Tuesday, November 3 – U.S. General Election**
- **Thursday, November 19 – 7:00 p.m.**
Program (Virtual)
What Now? Post-Election Perspective

**Tech Savvy?
Here's Your Opportunity to Help!**



LWV-ASC is asking for a member to volunteer for the Chair of the Technology Committee. The Technology Chair attends monthly Board meetings and is responsible for keeping the website up to date, updating the LWV-ASC Facebook page, and providing instruction, assistance, and support for the League's technology needs. This chair would form his/her own committee staff and would work closely with the Publicity Committee and Tech Liaison.

If you have some knowledge of website construction, want to learn more, and want to serve the LWV during a crucial time, please contact President Linda Hagedorn to discuss the responsibilities for this position at:

Prez.LWV@gmail.com or call 515-450-5261

Power + Pluck Exhibit Touring



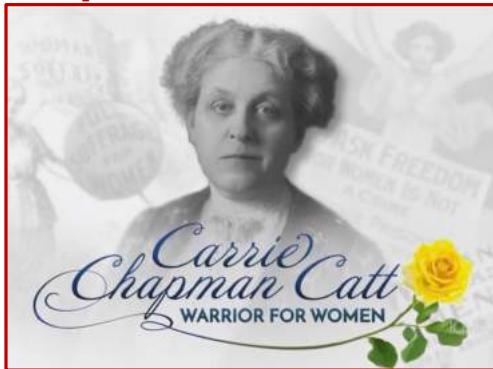
First suffrage march, Boone, Iowa 1908

Power + Pluck: Remarkable Women of Story County is a traveling exhibit featuring stories of women’s suffrage, along with stories of seven ground-breaking women from Story County communities. Developed by the Ames Historical Museum with Hard Won/Not Done and sponsored by Altrusa International, the exhibit is still on display. It’s currently on exhibit at Slater’s Heritage Hall Museum until August 28, then on to Nevada Historical Museum in September and to Ames in October.

Hard Won/Not Done

Events for the Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment that could not be moved to a virtual or online format have been cancelled or postponed. However, the website remains available as a resource for information. Go to: <https://19th-amendment-centennial.org>

Carrie Chapman Catt: Warrior for Women



Missed the airing of the excellent Iowa PBS documentary about the suffragist movement and Iowa native Carrie Chapman Catt? It will be rerun at 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 23, and at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26. You can still catch it at:

<http://www.iowapbs.org/catt/story/36343/carrie-chapman-catt-warrior-women>

August 18, 1920



VOTES FOR WOMEN!



One Woman, One Vote

The documentary *One Woman, One Vote* will be aired on Iowa PBS on Sunday, August 23 at 5 p.m., and on Monday, August 24 at 10 p.m. This documentary gives us a look at the woman’s suffrage movement in the United States using old photos and films.

The Equal Rights Amendment



The Equal Rights Amendment ratification extension has come up before the national legislature every year since its inception, but discrimination on the basis of sex is still not prohibited by our Constitution. **In a guest commentary to the Ames Tribune on July 7, LWV-ASC President Linda Hagedorn urged Senators Grassley and Ernst to vote yes on the resolution to ensure the final ratification of the ERA.** “We have traveled the long and winding road fraught with bumps, barriers, and dead ends, leaving the proposed amendment waiting, forgotten and often considered old news,” wrote President Hagedorn, who stated Iowa statistics – the inequality in wages (\$.78 for every dollar earned by a man), and the number of women living in poverty in our state.

At this time the US House has passed a resolution to extend the ratification deadline. The US Senate has not. Contact our senators to make your views known.

Welcome Our Technology Liaison

We recently hired an ISU student, Megan Brown, to assist in building our refurbished website. Once the website is built, Megan will maintain and update the site and social media, working with our Tech and Publicity Chairs.



Megan is originally from Macedonia, but the last eight years have been spent in Iowa. This is her first year at Iowa State majoring in Civil Engineering with an emphasis on environmental engineering and a minor in sustainability. Her hobbies are playing the piano, reading, traveling, and the outdoors.

Remembering Mary Jo Brearily who passed away March 23. Mary Jo was past Co-President from 2002-2004



Informative Programs Scheduled

The League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County, as stated in its bylaws, undertakes "... to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education". This year's monthly educational programs are planned with that purpose in mind.

At this time programs are held virtually. An email is sent to every member which includes the link to the Webex live-program broadcast. Viewers are able to participate. In the future the plan is to invite the public by publishing a link.



The introductory screen for our first virtual program July 16.

Our first program was on July 16. The featured speaker, Kent Spillers, Adjunct Instructor, DMACC, gave an informative presentation on "distance learning" entitled: ***The New Normal: How to Conduct Business as Usual in a Virtual Environment***. The program had a good turnout, likely due to the ease of attending in the comfort of your own home. The program was recorded and President Hagedorn distributed an email with a link for viewing. Future programs, which are always held on the third Thursday of the month include:

August 20 - ***Disenfranchisement, Voting Rights and the Suffrage*** Dr. Brian Behnken, Associate Professor of History, Iowa State University,

September 17 - ***Covid-19, When Are Quarantines and Other Measures Unconstitutional?*** Anne Kinzel, Retired Public Health and Hospital Attorney

October 15 - ***Election Issues***, TBD

November 19 - ***What Now? A Post-Election Perspective*** presenter TBD.

It's planned that these virtual meetings will become events for the general public that will serve our purpose of helping the electorate gain an improved understanding of the issues affected by the power of voting.

Our thanks to John Klaus and his team, Stephen Godfrey and Marcia Thompson, for tackling the virtual world and planning some very relative programs for our future.

Membership Meetings



Under our bylaws, the Board of Directors is required to have at least nine meetings, and at least four meetings of the membership are required. At this time the Board has decided that the membership meetings will be held in conjunction with the informative programs scheduled on the third Thursdays of each month. (Not every program will include a meeting, however.) **These meetings are virtual and an invitation email with a link will be sent out to members so they may attend and participate.** This is an opportunity to catch up and be informed on what LWV-ASC is doing and what you can do as a member. The virtual meeting format will assist LWV-ASC in the future, eliminating concerns of weather and pandemic.

**Look for your email invitation to each meeting.
Click the link to join in!**

Membership Meeting Held July 16



Virtual Screen - Program Chair John Klaus

Our first virtual membership meeting was held July 16. Chaired by President Linda Hagedorn and Program Chair John Klaus, much of the information was carryover from the cancellation of our annual meeting in April. The agenda included:

- President Hagedorn introducing the new Board members which were voted in by email earlier in the year.
- Publicity Chair Barb Wheelock reporting on the work of the ad hoc Mask Committee
- Voter Services Chair Barb Pederson reporting on planning for the Candidate Forums
- Carolyn Klaus reporting on the work being done to facilitate voter registration and voting by mail for the general election
- Bob Haug, Co-Chair of the Solid Waste Management Study, presenting an update and leading a discussion of the next steps toward implementation.
- Presentation of the Carrie Chapman Catt Award to Randi Peters, which had originally been scheduled for the cancelled annual meeting.

Voter Registration Report- Absentee Ballot Voting

The Voter Registration Committee has been meeting weekly and have put in place aggressive plans to register voters and to assist in the effort to promote safe voting with absentee ballots in Ames and Story County.

Many of the apartment complexes have received packets for their student move-in beginning August 1. **The packets include instructions on registering at their current address and completing an Absentee Ballot Request Form, the forms themselves, and info on 411.** For the student apartments not receiving packets, the League is partnering with their property management to send emails with the same information. This team is headed by Sue Carpenter and Barb Wheelock.

Karen Kedrowski is in charge of Election 2020 on campus. The University has signed on with the Big 12 to compete for the highest number of students voting. The League has made **4,000 packets** for all students in the fraternities and sororities. **We will be registering voters on August 26 to celebrate Women's Equality Day.** Stay tuned as Karen is looking for support on campus.



The many retirement and care facilities have been contacted throughout the County. The League has delivered over **1,400 packets** to these numerous locations to enable Story County residents to vote safely. Janet Wahl has worked on this initiative along with local food banks.

There will be satellite voting at the Ames Public Library the four Saturdays in October. The satellite voting for campus will be at Scheman Center with the dates still to be determined.

The League will be participating in National Voter Registration Day on September 22. We are working on locations at this time, if you are available, please SAVE THE DATE.

The League will do everything possible to have protective supplies available for our volunteers. Contact Carolyn Klaus to volunteer:

candjklaus@aol.com call or text at 515-231-0857

Many thanks to our County Auditor, Lucy Martin, for the many forms necessary to make the packets, and for keeping us up to date on election issues.

Reaching Out To:

- Student Apartments and Property Management Personnel
- Senior Housing and Long-term Care Facilities
- Iowa State University Student Housing and Fraternity/Sorority Houses
- Story County School Districts to Register Students and Encourage Teachers and Staff to Request Early Voting By Mail

The Story County Auditor has positions for the fall election:

- Absentee Ballot Board
- Poll Workers
- Temporary Workers
- Technicians

Call the Auditor's Office at 515-382-7210 or check it out on the Auditor's website:

<https://www.storycountyowa.gov/91/Auditor-Elections>

Vote411

Register to vote, find
your polling place,
ballot info, and more at
VOTE411.org

VISIT VOTE411.ORG

Voter Services Interim Chair Barb Pedersen reported on the progress of Vote411 at the July 16 membership meeting. Barb's committee develops the questions which will be addressed by the candidates, contacts the candidates to get their bios, photos, and input which are then published at 411's website. Information gathering could not start until after Iowa's primary. Questions for the candidates have been evolving as the issues dynamically change.

The Committee also prints informative handouts which are distributed throughout the County. **The importance of Vote411 to the coming election cannot be overstated.** Getting the information out to the public is one of the most important tasks of the committee. If you are interested in assisting, contact Barb at: bped54@yahoo.com

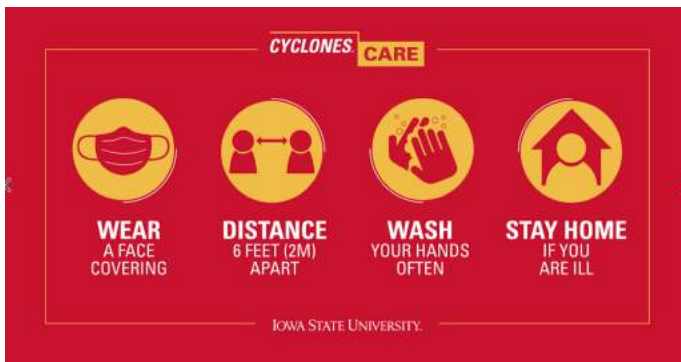
Did You Know-

Leagues across the country are now engaged in **more than double** the number of litigations than in 2019. With more than half the country engaged in litigation in federal and state courts due to COVID-19, to combat purging, and to proactively protect upcoming redistricting processes, the League has joined in many of the suits.

Keeping the Community Safe



Recently, League members initiated a discussion on how the League could promote and facilitate the wearing of masks in Ames and Story County. A group of members formed an ad hoc committee to explore how best to participate in keeping the community safe. Committee members are Barb Pedersen, Barb Wheelock, Carolyn Klaus, Chris Mondak, Dava James, Herman Quirnbach, Linda Murken, Lisa Barnes, Martha McCormick, Nancy Halvorson, Rebecca Coats, and Ruth Barnett.



Our League has joined the **ISU CYCLONES CARE** campaign along with other community entities united to promote community health. The campaign message is 4 pillars: Cover Your Face, Wash Your Hands, Social Distance, & Stay Home If Sick. ISU will share its graphics and will allow groups to co-brand, creating a consistent message throughout the community.

Mask Up!

To pursue the original goal of mask distribution in the community, an email was sent out to League members, inviting them to participate by sewing masks and/or donating materials or dollars.

So far talented and generous members have sewn and donated over **150 masks!** But the League can use more. The masks will be distributed to the Salvation Army, Food on First, several churches, and other locations. There will be masks for distribution on our voter registration tables on campus. With Ames schools, City buildings, and many retail businesses now requiring masks, the need is great.

Please contact Barb Pedersen at: bped54@yahoo.com if you can sew masks. We can provide the supplies. If you have supplies (cotton fabric, elastic) to donate, let us know.

Candidate Forums

Last spring LWV-ASC held its first virtual candidate forums. The County Supervisor Primary Election Forum was held on May 14th and had 30 attendees. The State Senate District 24 Primary Election Forum was held on May 21st with 35 attendees. The public was notified through print and social media of the opportunity to join each forum. WebEx allowed the attendees to ask questions of the candidates. Both forums were recorded. To obtain a link to the recordings, contact Linda Hagedorn at prez.LWV@gmail.com. Recordings are also available in the KHOI archives.



County Supervisor candidate Steven O'Rourke at the May 14 Forum
Positive comments came from all participants. Candidates welcomed the opportunity to get their message out during these unprecedented times.

Future forums will be virtual until further notice. The Voter Services Committee is preparing for virtual forums for Iowa House, Senate, and Story County races. For the first time the AAUW will be co-sponsoring the forums with the League this fall.

The tentative dates:

Iowa Senate District 24 - September 24

Iowa House 48 and 49 - September 30

Story County Offices - October 1

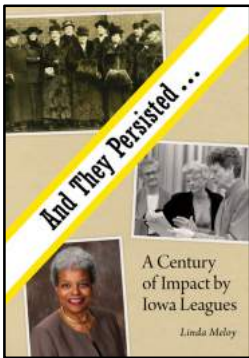
These forums will be from 7-8:30 P.M.

An email will be sent out with a link and instructions for participation. The public will be invited to attend virtually. If you would like to assist in the forums contact Voter Services Chair Barb Pedersen at: bped54@yahoo.com

In His Words

“When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself. Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.” From the last essay written by John Lewis, read after his death.

Centennial Book – Order Today



And They Persisted... A Century of Impact by Iowa League will arrive in September. The softcover book is over 300 pages with 90 photos and graphics. **ORDER TODAY!** \$27.50 (includes tax and delivery)

To purchase online, go to www.lwvia.org, scroll to the bottom and click on the donate button. To pay by check, send your check made payable to: LWVIA Education Fund, 605 Larch Lane, Iowa City, IA 52245. Please include your name, along with mail and email addresses payment. *(Remember, those of you who contributed \$200 or more to LWV-ASC in 2019 will receive a book FREE.)*

Introducing the 2020-2021 Board

2020-2021 LWV-ASC Board	
Board Member	Position
▶ Treasurer and President Elect	▶ Carolyn Klaus
▶ Publicity	▶ Barb Wheelock
▶ Fundraising	▶ Tom and Kay Meyer, Dava James
▶ Legislative Action	▶ Judy Trumpy
▶ Observer Corp.	▶ Paula Toms
▶ Program Committee	▶ John Klaus
▶ Voter Services	▶ Barb Pedersen
▶ The Voter Editor	▶ Louise O'Donnell
▶ President	▶ Linda Hagedorn

President Hagedorn introduced the Board at the July 16 meeting

In the absence of the annual meeting the Board was approved virtually. The roster:

President	Linda Hagedorn
President Elect	Carolyn Klaus
Secretary	Rebecca Hoepfner
Treasurer	Carolyn Klaus
Fundraising	Dava James, Tom & Kay Meyer
Legislative Action	Judy Trumpy
Program Planner	John Klaus
Membership	Judy Jones
Observer Corps	Paula Toms
Publicity	Barb Wheelock
Voter Services	Barb Pedersen (Interim)
Voter Editor	Louise O'Donnell

These committee chairs are ably assisted by committee members who make it happen.

We are always in need of committee volunteers. If you are interested in any of the above committees, let the chair or the President know.

We are currently seeking a Voter Services Chair. Contact President Hagedorn if you are interested at pres.lwv@gmail.com.

Report from the State

Former LWV-ASC Co-President Nancy Halvorson is now Vice-President of the League of Women Voters of Iowa. She recently reported she is chairing a fundraising committee focused on several projects. The committee was formed to help grow the treasury in order to assist chapters with projects that they may not have funds to wholly support. This would probably be structured in a matching situation.

Any questions or ideas, please feel free to reach out to nancyh.lwvia@gmail.com.

Fundraising on Track for 2020-21

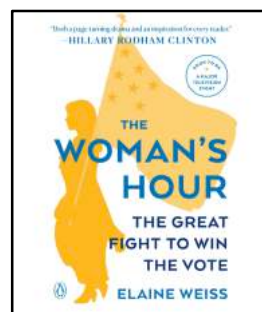
The Fundraising Committee, chaired by Tom Meyer and Dava James, with members Kay Meyer and Randi Peters, has been working on the development of the fundraising program for this year.

The fundraising effort in the past has included the participation of the Worldly Goods shop on Main Street in Ames, which the last few years has dedicated one afternoon in which a percent of sales has been donated to LWV-ASC. Because of the pandemic and other issues, that event may not take place this year.



A peek at the proposed notecards to be in packs of 5.

A new effort the committee has been exploring is the addition of gifts to the donors who contribute. In development are bookmarks, notecard packs, and the gift of signed copies of Elaine Weiss' book *The Women's Hour*.



"Both a page turning drama and an inspiration for every reader"- Hillary Rodham Clinton Ms. Weiss was the featured speaker at the February Centennial Kick Off. She has graciously agreed to sign some of our copies to benefit our League.



Please Visit Us on Facebook – We Have Timely Updates, Notices of Events, and More
LWV of Ames and Story County

The Carrie Chapman Catt Award 2020 – Randi Peters



During the virtual member meeting on July 16, the League awarded Randi Peters with the Carrie Chapman Catt Award, a presentation originally planned for the cancelled annual meeting. The Award recognizes outstanding community service. Randi is past President and past Co-President of our League and currently serves on our fundraising committee.

Randi has served as President of the Ames Chapter of the American Association of University Women and Co-President of the Ames Chapter of the American Red Cross Disaster Response Team and as President of the Story County Center for Creative Justice. She has also served the community in a wide array of organizations and ad hoc committees including: The Ames Community Schools Multicultural Committee, The Ames Foundation Board, The Habitat for Humanity Board, The Youth and Shelter Services Board, The Ames Chamber of Commerce Education and Government Affairs Committee, and the Mary Greeley Medical Center Foundation Board. Randi is active in her faith group and has been a worker and leader at Bethesda Lutheran Church, including being president of the Women Ministries.

Randi lives the philosophy expressed by Carrie Chapman Catt: *Service to a just cause rewards the worker with more real happiness and satisfaction than any other venture in life.* Congratulations, Randi!

That Coffee Thing



Watch for an email inviting you to our virtual discussions. In lieu of the coffee klatch around the table, join the conversation on myriad current events and issues on line. On Monday mornings at 10 once a month, they're a great way to catch up and socialize. Your email invitation includes a link to join in. Questions - contact Nancy Halvorson at Nancyh.lwvia@gmail.com or call 515-450-5261.

Waste Management Study Update



During our virtual member meeting on July 16, Bob Haug, co-chair with Mary Richards of the committee updating our position on waste management, briefed us on its progress. The position revision was voted on virtually and approved as our formal position, and Mary Richards has sent it to Mayor Haila, the City Council, and City employees and thanked them for their cooperation during the study's research. On April 17 the Ames Tribune published an article on the study and the League's recommendations to the City, including adopting a formal climate action plan on a local level and ending the burning of waste to generate electricity. The study is calling for action in response to the climate crisis, changes in markets for recyclable materials, maturation of the regional energy market, and significant increases in utility operation and maintenance costs. Bob indicated that the committee is working on ways to again bring the study before the City and public, and hopes to foment some action or response.

You can access the full report at:

http://www.ameslwv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/SWSUD_FINAL_REPORT_20200224.pdf

The 2020 Census Bulletin

At the time of this writing Iowa is tied for fourth place in the U.S. for response to the census at a 68.4% response rate. Six postcards have been sent out to households which haven't responded, a last reminder before census takers begin showing up at households on August 11.

The Census Bureau is cutting short critical door-knocking efforts for the census. Attempts by the Bureau's workers to conduct in-person interviews for the census will end on Sept. 30 — not Oct. 31, the end date it previously indicated would be necessary to count every person living in the U.S. **There is fear of a massive undercount.** The condensed door-knocking timeframe increases the risk of leaving out many people of color, immigrants, and other historically undercounted groups. It's also unclear how much longer households can submit census responses on their own. The Bureau's website now reads that phase will last until the end of field data collection.

LWV-ASC recently distributed census information to various venues in Story County. Efforts are hindered by the lack of public gathering places due to Covid-19.

Felons' Voting Rights Update



The League of Women Voters of Iowa and our own Chapter have been active in pressuring Iowa's legislature to pass the Felons' Voting Rights Act which would allow a convicted felon to regain his voting rights.

As of 2016, 2.2 percent (60,000) of voting-age adults in Iowa were unable to vote because of felony convictions. The only way a former felon in Iowa can currently regain the right to vote is to individually petition the governor. Iowa is the only state which still denies felons the right to vote. In 2011 Governor Kim Reynolds predecessor, Terry Branstad, revoked an earlier governor's executive order which automatically restored felons' voting rights.

The Governor signed a Republican-backed bill that excludes former felons who committed certain crimes, including homicide and sex offenses from automatically regaining voting rights, and that requires released felons to pay restitution before they can vote. Democrats opposed the law, calling restitution a latter-day poll tax.

The Republican led legislature, which must first pass a constitutional amendment, has declined to move ahead. Lawmakers have adjourned for the year without taking action. Governor Reynolds has promised to sign an executive order restoring felons' rights but she has not taken action on that promise. As the general election draws closer, the issue becomes more imperative. **Make your opinion known by contacting the Governor at: <https://governor.iowa.gov/contact> or call 515-281-5211.**

Women Power the Vote



On the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, LWVUS is launching a discussion series, *Women Power the Vote*, to explore what can be done in the next 100 years to ensure fair elections for all. The series kicks off on **August 12th** with a conversation between CEO Virginia Kase and President Dr. Deborah Turner on **Facebook (LWVUS)**, **live at noon**.

The National Convention

This year's biennial National Convention was held virtually in June with 1396 people attending. Delegates from our chapter were President Linda Hagedorn, Louise O'Donnell, Carolyn Klaus, and Becky Coats.



"We, as an organization, acknowledge our own difficult history with racism while we embrace our future, where DEI will become part of our DNA."

Dr. Deborah Turner, M.D., J.D

Our new national president, Dr. Deborah Turner, from Des Moines.

In President Turner's address she laid out her vision for the next biennium: Making Vote411 a household name, advancing our DEI work, and embracing inter-generational conversations.

"On this historic anniversary, let's advance equality, period. We should not rest until there are more Black and Brown women in public office. We should not settle until a woman of color has an equal opportunity to cast her vote." *Keynote Speaker Norah O'Donnell, CBS News*



Among motions that were passed and entered into the record at the Convention were: supporting the abolishment of the electoral college and immigration reform, advocating climate change legislation, and legislation against racism and police brutality.

DEI- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

The League of Women Voters is pursuing an active program which influences many, if not all, of the positions taken by the League. **DEI** is defined as **Diversity-Equality-Inclusion**.

Diversity-the presence of differences that may include race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic status, language, disabilities, age, or political perspective.

Equity-promoting justice, impartiality and fairness within the procedures, processes, and distribution of resources by institutions or systems.

Inclusion-an outcome to ensure those that are diverse actually feel and/or are welcomed. Inclusion outcomes are met when you, your institution, and your program are truly inviting to all.