

THE VOTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF AMES & STORY COUNTY IOWA
<https://my.lwv.org/iowa/ames-story-county> *Winter 2022*

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You're Invited – LWV-ASC Planning Meeting January 20

Early every year the LWV-ASC Board and members meet to discuss and submit ideas for the agenda for the year, what projects will be considered, what educational programs for our “Learn With The League” will be pursued, and which goals will be actively tackled in the coming year. Ideas for studies are submitted.

An important task for 2022 will be the effort to ensure everyone eligible has the ability and the right to vote during the midterm elections.

A question to ask yourself that gets to the heart of our efforts in planning and commitment is “What if YOU couldn’t vote?”. That thought energizes planning sessions and focuses our personal efforts to keep LWV-ASC

an important entity. Our belief is that in the strength of our collective numbers we can make a difference.

You are invited to listen and give your input. Come with your thoughts, questions, and your important concerns. With Covid and winter weather, members can choose to meet face-to-face or virtually. Come with your ideas!!

Contact Mary Sand, 515-290-5827, msand@isunet.net,
with any questions.

LWV-ASC Annual Planning Meeting for All Members: Thursday, January 20, 6:30 pm, at the Ames Public Library Danfoss Room or Zoom
(<https://zoom.us/j/5481024111>)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



When I turned the calendar to 2022 it made me think of Bill Murray's movie "Groundhog Day" and how the pandemic again continues to impede our lives. With that said we will continue to be safe and offer our events in a variety of opportunities. We are accessible while you are on winter getaways, vacation, or hunkered down from winter storms or the threat of Coronavirus.

LWV-ASC has lots of issues we are tracking. We are asking you to be our eyes and ears for the following areas:

- The Ames Climate Change Plan
- Homelessness in Ames and Story County
- Housing in Ames and Story County
- The County Supervisors and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- The Ames Community School District
 - Ames High School Building Project
 - Hiring of the new Superintendent
- The City of Ames
 - Aquatic Center
 - Lincoln Way Corridor
 - City Hall Plaza

If you see an issue you are watching and wish to share your observations, please contact Paula Toms, Observer Corps Chair. paula.toms@me.com

Finally, the news from our state and national governments sometimes seems difficult to understand, impacting the LWV's 100-year-old efforts to ensure voting rights to all. Consider making a difference by participating in our efforts defending democracy. **The time is now.**



*Carolyn Klaus, President
League of Women Voters
Ames & Story
County pres.lwvasc@gmail.com
Phone: 515-231-0857*

CALENDAR

**January 20 6:30 pm Annual Planning Meeting
Ames Public Library Danfoss Room**

January 26 1:30 pm Book Club on Zoom

**January 26 11:30-1:00 pm State of the
Community Luncheon
Ames Community School District Office**

February 7 Iowa State Caucuses

**February 16 ISU Mary Louise Smith Chair
Lecture on Webex**

**February 17 7:00 pm Learn with League Lecture
Ames Public Library**

**February 24 5:30 pm Iowa State Lecture "When
Women Run" on Webex**

**March 17 7:00 pm Learn with the League Lecture
Ames Public Library**

**April 21 4:30 pm 2022 Annual Membership
Meeting/Supper Gateway Conference Center**

LWV-ASC SCHOLARSHIP

The LWV-ASC is awarding one \$500 scholarship to a student beginning college in the 2022-2023 academic year. The Awardee must be a high school graduate or GED recipient, a resident of Story County, Iowa, and be accepted to and plan to attend an accredited college or university in Iowa. There are no age, gender, citizenship, college major, or political view specifications. The Recipient will be chosen based on community involvement, goals, and aspirations consistent with the mission and beliefs of the LWV-ASC.

The application response may be sent via email to Pres.LWV@gmail.com or mailed to LWV-ASC, P.O. Box 2266, Ames IA 50010. **The application must be received by March 15, 2022.**

Application:

https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/lwv-asc_scholarship.pdf

MEMBERSHIP

Be a part of LWV-ASC by renewing your membership if you haven't done so for the current year, or please REFER OTHERS TO JOIN.

Dues are as follows:

\$60 Individual, \$90 Household, \$5 Student,

Checks are payable to *LWV of Ames and Story County*.

Send your check to:

LWV of Ames & Story County c/o Treasurer

P.O. Box 2266, Ames, IA 50010

You may also renew at our website:

<https://my.lwv.org/iowa/ames-story-county>

Print and fill out the form and mail as directed. Thanks!

SPECIAL EVENTS TO NOTE

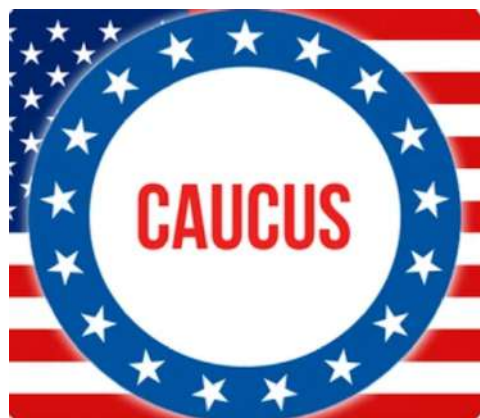


The 2022 State of the Community, sponsored by the Ames Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County, will be held on **Wednesday, January 26, from 11:30-1:00pm** at the Ames Community School District Administration Office. There are limited seats in person and there is a virtual option to join through Facebook Live.

Join us for this free event to hear from community leaders!

- Dr. Wendy Wintersteen, President, Iowa State University
- MD Isley, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Des Moines Area Community College
- Mayor John Haila, City of Ames
- Paula Vincent, Interim Superintendent Ames Community School District
- Latifah Faisal, Story County Supervisor
- Brian Dieter, President and CEO of Mary Greeley Medical Center

To register for the event, visit ameschamber.com/events or by clicking [here](#). Please note, there are limited seats in person and there is also a virtual option to join through Facebook, available on League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County Facebook Live. Any questions call President Klaus at 515-231-0857.



Both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party of Story County are holding their caucuses on the same day, Saturday, February 7, 2022. The Democrats are meeting at the Ames Middle School and the Nevada Public Library at 6 pm for registering and 7 pm for proceedings. See their Facebook site for details.

<https://www.facebook.com/StoryCountyDemocrats/>.

The Ames Republicans are meeting at the Oakwood Road City Church while other Republicans in the County are meeting at various sites. Go to the Republican Party's Facebook site for details.

<https://www.facebook.com/StoryCountyGOP>

Caucuses are organized and conducted by the political parties. A caucus is not an election. You must be registered to vote to participate in a caucus, but you may register or change your registration at the caucus site.

This caucus will select delegates to each party's County Convention.

Women in Politics Lecture February 16, 2022, 7:30 PM



Former New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez will be the lecturer for the annual Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women in Politics event. The lecture is sponsored by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, Political Science, and the Committee on Lectures funded by Student Government. Martinez believes that the states are increasingly becoming battlefields for the nation's most intractable and difficult political fights. The lecture will be offered on Webex. <https://bit.ly/3spYpZ6>

Lecture February 24 5:30 PM



Dr. Nichola Gutgold's new book 'Electing Madam Vice-President: When Women Run Women Win' focuses on the communication style and campaign rhetoric of the six women who ran for president in 2020. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics and the Committee on Lectures. This lecture is offered on Webex: <https://bit.ly/3stmLBg>

LEARN WITH THE LEAGUE



Professor Dirk Deam, lecturing December 18

Our December program was well received. There have been more than 160 views on-line in addition to the 45 people attending in person. The combination of "in person" with live stream on Facebook, first used for the School Board forum, has taken our voter education outreach to a much higher level than anticipated.

Is Our Democracy in Peril...What Would the Founders Say?

was presented by Dirk Deam, Teaching Professor in Political Science at ISU. Professor Deam discussed the distinction between "democracy" and "representative-republic", the implications of a "representative republic" on our voting choices and of the grave dangers of political parties behaving as "winners-take-all". His lecture was based on our history and the Constitution.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmesLeagueOfWomenVoters/videos/235079428742175>

The November 18 lecture *Empowering Women World Wide*, presented by Dr. Cornelia Flora, is available for viewing also. Dr. Flora presented information based on her work with women's groups all over the world.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmesLeagueOfWomenVoters/videos/218462107080442>

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Martin Luther King

The Meeting Planning Committee has decided the Learn with the League programs for February and March will be centered on the means and methods for attaining justice-societal justice and criminal justice, as meant by the constitutional promise of equal protection for all citizens.

The February program will address the available avenues for people of modest means to have access to beneficial government programs, the intended protections of government regulations, and undiminished prerogatives of citizenship. The presenter will be Carin Forbes, Executive Director and Chief Counsel for the Legal Aid Society of Story County. **Thursday February 17, 7:00 pm, Ames Public Library and on Facebook.**

The March program will be about issues of criminal justice such as pretrial release, effective representation of counsel, and parole that are not always equitable for people in poverty. The presenter for this program has yet to be determined. **Thursday, March 17, 7:00 pm, Ames Public Library and on Facebook.**

Justice: Based on or behaving according to what is morally right and fair.

Fair: In accordance with the rules or standards; legitimate.

The committee also decided to explore providing prepared questions, drawn from League members, to the presenters in advance of the presentation. Ideas broached for future programs were public health policy to include mental health, and regulation of internet content.

Committee Chair John Klaus and members Karen Kellogg, Rosemary Osheim, Devon Lewis, and Cornelia Flora.

ANNUAL MEETING KEYNOTE SPEAKER SELECTED



It is my pleasure to inform the members that Dr. Walter Suza, frequent guest columnist for the Ames Tribune and Des Moines Register, will be the Keynote Speaker at our Annual Meeting in April. Dr. Suza is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Agronomy at Iowa State University. He received his PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2006, and a Masters Degree from Murray State University in 2002. He writes on the intersections of spirituality, anti-racism, and social justice. Our Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, April 21, at Gateway Conference Center in Ames. *John Klaus, Meeting Chair*

**Be sure to connect with us on Facebook.
We have over 770 followers - become one! League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County.**

LWV-ASC BOOK CLUB



In the January meeting Cheryl Binzen and Mary Richards will lead a discussion of *Braiding Sweet Grass: Indigenous Wisdom Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmer. **The meeting will be held on Zoom January 26 at 1:30.**

The group will also discuss book selections for the spring. As books are selected they will be added to our anticipated shelf at the Main Street Dog-Eared Books Store.

The LWV-ASC Book Club welcomes new members.

Contact **Jim Noland** at jcnoland@mac.com
or **Mary Richards** at maryrich@isunet.net



Petition to Amend Iowa's New Voting Laws



The League of Women Voters of Iowa and eight Iowa-based co-sponsors will present petitions to the leadership of the 89th General Assembly at Iowa's Capitol in February. The petitions, which contain signatures of Iowa voters, urge legislators to repeal sections of the newly-enacted voting laws. Iowa's new voter laws make voting harder, disqualifies voters more easily, shortens the voting time by 31%, makes elections more difficult to administer, and invites interference by political parties in elections.

Registered voters can sign the petition online.

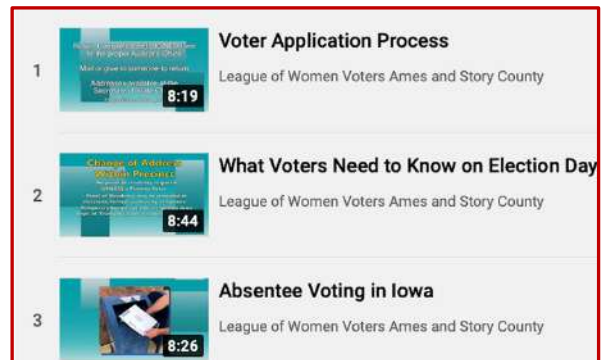
Co-sponsors of the petition include: League of Women Voters of Iowa; Common Good Iowa; Des Moines Chapter, The Links, Incorporated; Episcopal Diocese of Iowa; Iowa Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.; Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO; Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund; and Sierra Club Iowa Chapter.

TALK RADIO!



LWV-ASC will soon have a regular presence on local KHOI Radio, 89.1 FM. We've been invited to do a monthly live interview spot on subjects of our choice. Stay tuned for updates!

HOW WE VOTE VIDEO



The title screen. The video is in 3 parts.

The new video which LWV-ASC developed in cooperation with Iowa auditors is now available for viewing on LWV-ASC's Facebook page. The educational video explains the behind the scenes process of voting in three steps. Posters were created with a QR code which takes the user directly to the video. Next steps are to present the video in the schools, educating the students about their vote.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0w_x4bRo8zZyFB31lyLuioyT2tMIVqU4

LWV-ASC MEETS WITH SCHOOL



On December 8 the Ames School invited LWV-ASC to an update about the school and the issues facing it. Interim Superintendent Paula Vincent, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Hawkins, and Director of Media Relations Eric Smidt spoke for over an hour and answered the questions from the group. 22 members attended.

THE NEW OBSERVER CORPS

*The Observer Corps needs YOU
In the past we monitored specific
government meetings - now we want
to hear about the ISSUES.*

We are seeking people who have an interest in an issue they would choose to monitor and follow. Our public officials need to know we are listening! We are interested in how we are being impacted by decisions made by our officials. The League needs to be aware of issues in a timely manner.

It's no longer required for Observers to attend public meetings on site.

There are many ways to stay informed: watch streaming on the entity's website, read agendas and minutes for their meetings, watch recorded meetings, or with Zoom, and follow-up with personal contact with necessary people if desired. Identify yourself as a League member.

If you become an Observer, we ask that you inform the League about what you have learned. Your reporting would be distributed with emails and short bulletins in The Voter newsletter to our members.

Examples of entities and some of the issues which may be followed for the League:

City Council

Downtown Plaza Climate Change
Housing Transportation
Aquatic Center Homelessness
Rescue Plan Fund Distribution
Lincoln Highway Corridor

Story County Board of Supervisors

Rescue Plan Fund Distribution
Ioway Creek Flood Mitigation
Climate Change Transportation

Ames School Board

City Planning and Zoning

Or any other issue you may want to follow!

If you are interested contact President
Carolyn Klaus or Paula Toms-
paula.toms@me.com

Making Democracy Work Award Call for Nominations!

In honor of its 90th anniversary, The LWV-ASC established the Making Democracy Work Award in 2017. With this award, the League honors outstanding efforts of individuals and organizations who have inspired others by:

- ★Envisioning ways to improve their community
- ★Working to have a strong, safe, vibrant, and inclusive community
- ★Joining with others to effect beneficial change in civic activities
- ★Promoting fairness, equality, and diversity
- ★Encouraging all citizens to be involved in the democratic process
- ★Being passionate about preserving democracy

The League welcomes nominations from across Story County. Those eligible must reside in Story County, or if an organization, they must be located in Story County or have a local chapter in the County. Elected public officials who are currently serving may not be nominated, however appointed officials currently serving on a public board, commission, committee, or task force are eligible. Members of the League who are currently serving on the Board may not be nominated. The League announces the honorees at its Annual Meeting. Application forms are available on line on the LWV-ASC website or by email to pres.LWV@gmail.com

Nominations are due by Tuesday, March 1.

Nominations Are Now Open for the Carrie Chapman Catt Award

The Carrie Chapman Catt award is bestowed annually to a long time member who has made significant contributions to the community outside their profession. A nominee must NOT be holding a party affiliated elected office. The successful nominee will also have demonstrated leadership attributes and contributions to the League of Women Voters. A nominating committee reviews all submitted nominations for possible candidates each year. More complete criteria for the award is available on the home page of the LWV-ASC website.

Nominations are due by Friday, March 18

Nominations will be accepted by letter describing the nominee's contributions to LWV. Additional supportive letters may be included for the nominee as well.

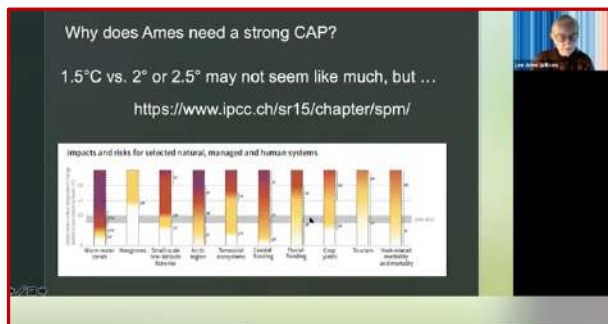
Letter(s) may be submitted electronically:

nancyh.lwvia@gmail.com

If regular mail is preferred, please send to:

LWV of Ames and Story County
P O Box 2266, Ames, IA 50010
ATTN: Catt Selection Committee

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE



Visit our Facebook page and access the Youtube video of the presentation made by Lee Anne Wilson on the Ames Climate Action Plan (CAP), introduced by member Mary Richards. The Supplemental Input Committee which includes representatives from Faith-Based, Non-Profits, Healthcare, Non-City Government, Schools, Businesses, and ISU Students, is tasked with assisting in the CAP reduction goal by providing feedback and input. Member Bob Haug is active on the Committee and acts as an Observer for the League.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmesLeagueOfWomenVoters/videos/1339815469792312>

FYI's



► Our President Carolyn Klaus and member Nancy Halvorson traveled to Mason City recently to advise on setting up a new LWV group for Northern Iowa. National president Dr. Deborah Turner also attended.

► LWV-ASC has renewed their membership with the Ames Chamber of Commerce for the coming year. The Chamber and our League are partnering again this year on the State of the Community Luncheon on January 26.



► The **NAACP Freedom Banquet** will be at the Gateway Conference Center on February 17. The League usually sponsors a table. Contact President Carolyn Klaus if you are interested in attending. Go to

<https://www.naacpamesiowa.com> for information.

► There will be no Capitol Day this year. Usually held in March, the pandemic has limited the ability to meet with the legislators in person. The State League is planning an event to be announced.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



President Carolyn Klaus and Program Chair John Klaus speak at the gathering for new and prospective members social on December 5, held at the Homewood Golf Course Club House. Member Bob Haug spoke on Ames climate efforts and Observer Corps Chair Paula Toms spoke about the role of the League and the Observer Corps. There was a lively question and answer session.

New membership brochures have been printed and are available. New versions will be placed at the Library and at City Hall. If you know of a public place where brochures could be available to people interested in joining, let Judy Jones know. jj8212@gmail.com



Welcome our new members. Our League is the largest in the state and growing!

★ Timothy Meals, Ames ★ Tammy Kersting, Story City
★ Janet Kvach, Ames ★ Devon Lewis Ames

REPRESENTATIVE ONE-ON-ONES

President Carolyn Klaus and Legislative Chair Judy Trumpy will be meeting with our local representatives individually in the next few weeks. The League seeks to become more effective in our interactions with our legislators and hopes to gain insight into successful and impactful exchanges.

REMEMBER THE BILL TRACKER!

The online Bill Tracker was created by our lobbyists to help us track the progress of bills introduced during Iowa's state legislative session. It's updated daily, so you always know the information is current. You can sort bills to get the information you need quickly - by priority status, issue/topic, bill number, status, or bill title. <https://www.ialobby.com/billtracker>