



the VOTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF AMES & STORY COUNTY IOWA

<http://www.ameslww.org>

Late Autumn 2020

LWV-ASC'S OUTSTANDING WORK TO GET OUT THE VOTE MEETING THE MISSION OF THE LEAGUE



Brenda Brink and Ruth Barnett and the traveling "Voter Van" September 24

Iowa set a voter turnout record this year. 76% of all registered voters cast their ballot in the election. Almost 1.7 million people participated in democracy.

the effort, informing citizens on their rights and the procedures to ensure their vote.

The group partnered at various times with IVOTE students on campus, the NAACP, and others to achieve this huge effort. The team thanks Story County Auditor Lucy Martin for her informative help and most of all her oversight of a smooth and fair election.



Voters outside the Ames Library on the first Saturday of early voting. With a crew of volunteer members, Carolyn Klaus marshalled the forces and worked tirelessly to assure the citizens of Ames and the County had the opportunity to vote. Taking requests for absentee ballots and registering people to vote occupied much of August, September, and October for a team of 35 volunteers who visited sites around the City and County. Education was a large part of



With partners the NAACP on September 24

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is the Glass Ceiling Shattered? The Significance of a Female Woman of Color as VP

While I was growing up, the possibility of a female president was preposterous. I remember asking my father why all presidents were men. His answer was simple; because women can't be presidents. Plain, simple, and the way it was!

Move forward to the late 1960s and 1970s. While in college, I was active in promoting "Women's Lib". We carried signs, we protested and in defiance a few even burned their bras. Why? Because we wanted to eliminate or at least lessen the emphasis on the bifurcation of humankind. We yelled at the top of our lungs for equality in everything including leadership regardless of gender, race, or other demographic.

My "baby-boomer" friends and I have not yet seen the ERA passed. But at least as older women we have now witnessed the glass ceiling become severely cracked. It hasn't been shattered nor eliminated, because women still do not have equal rights in all aspects of life. Yet, there is cause for celebration. Ms. Harris is one-breath away from being the leader of the free world. She will be the highest-ranking woman of color in U.S. history.

How influential will she be? Well, President-Elect Biden has asked his new Vice-President (to be) to "always be the last voice in the room." She will be his highest and most trusted advisor.

I have waited a long time to see a woman in the top office of our land. And now, we are so close, that I think I may live to see it. The glass ceiling has been severely cracked. It will be shattered soon.

I close with a quote from Harriet Tubman that could have been directed to our Vice-President Kamala Harris: "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."



*Yours in League,
Linda Serra Hagedorn
President, LWV-ASC*



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

THE CALENDAR

**Thursday, November 19, 7 p.m.–Virtual Program:
Government, the Economy and Human
Welfare, an Historical Perspective**

**Thursday, November 19–
Wordly Goods Shopping Event**

**Saturday, January 23, 8:40 a.m. sign in:
Virtual Legislative Wakeup**

**Saturday, February 6, 8:40 a.m. sign in:
Virtual Legislative Wake Up**

**Saturday, March 6, 8:40 a.m. sign in:
Virtual Legislative Wake Up**

**Saturday, April 10 (TBD), 8:40 a.m. sign in:
Virtual Legislative Wake Up**

THE BULLETIN BOARD

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

★LWV-ASC is asking for a member to volunteer for the **Chair of the Technology Committee**. The Technology Chair 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 tech needs. Please contact President Hagedorn to discuss the responsibilities for this position at: pres.lwv@gmail.com

★We are always in need of **committee volunteers**. If you are interested in contributing to the League's mission, let President Hagedorn know.

MEMBERSHIP

Be a part of LWV-ASC by renewing your membership or referring others to join.

Dues are as follows:

**\$60 Individual, \$90 Household, \$5 Student,
\$0 Life (50+ years of LWV membership)**

Checks are payable to *LWV of Ames and Story County*. Send your check to:

Treasurer

LWV of Ames & Story County

P.O. Box 2266, Ames, IA 50010

You may also renew at our website

<http://www.ameslwv.org/contact>, print and fill out the form and mail as directed. Thank you!

If you have questions about your membership, please email Carolyn Klaus at candjklaus@aol.com or phone her at 515-231-0857.

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This year again LWV supplied “Vote on Tuesday” yard signs. In addition, Vote411 disseminated flyers informing the County about their candidates and serving as a resource for information. Approximately 8000 flyers about registration and absentee voting were distributed. Area high schools were visited with educational information and registration for those 18 or soon to be 18. Senior facilities were also a major effort for the team.



Carolyn Klaus and the Voter Van, September 24.

LWV-ASC thanks Deery Brothers of Ames for their generous contribution of our “Voter Van” which enabled us to take our message throughout the City and County. The crew put some miles on it, and it made an impression on the public as it rolled into the various sites. It was also in the Census Caravan, a non-partisan effort to ensure that Ames gets its fair share of funding and representation.



At the Census Caravan, advocating for the vote.



On Campus with IVOTE and ISU Democrats August 14

During National Voter Registration Day and weekend the visits included the ISU Campus, St. Thomas Aquinas parking lot, the 3C’s building in Huxley, and on September 24 again at the St. Thomas parking lot.

The League registered over 500 voters!



With the NAACP on September 26



On the last day - Hogan Martin, Tammy Koolbeck, Renee Klaus, Lynne Carey and Carolyn Klaus.

All Together a Successful Effort at Empowering Our Citizens

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT



Activist and US Representative Bella Abzug in 1974

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. Iowa ratified the Amendment in 1972. At this time the US House has passed a resolution to extend the ratification deadline. The US Senate has not. **Contact your senators to make your views known.**

OUR MEMBER NEWS



We welcome new members Janet Dixon and Lee Smithson, and new student members Tate Rasmussen, Rasdeep Oberoi, Abigail Meehan, Megan Ziemann, Kayla Wernsing, and Sehba Faheen. And we welcome back member Brenda Thorbs-Weber.

As of the end of September we had 171 members, 10 of them life members, 16 student members, 29 household, and 116 primary members.

Member Erwin Klaas was honored with a dedicated Heritage Stone for his conservation efforts and his role in leading the effort to establish Ada Hayden Heritage Park.



We note the passing of member Dr. Pat Thiel. Pat was Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science and Engineering at ISU, and former Chair of the Department of Chemistry, amongst her many other achievements. We were fortunate to have such a trail-blazing person as a friend and fellow member.

WORLDLY GOODS



This year the fundraiser which we have held with the help and generosity of Worldly Goods on Main Street will be both **virtual and in the store.**

Worldly Goods is a non-profit that provides a marketplace for artisans of the world to be paid a living wage and work in safe conditions. They have arranged for LWV-ASC to earn 10-15% of sales during the given time of -

**Thursday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
in the store**

And on their website all day Thursday.

Help us raise funds for our continued efforts to educate and assist people in their right to vote.

Go to www.worldlygoods.org

LEGISLATIVE WAKE UPS



It's that time again! The Iowa legislature convenes January 11, and LWV-ASC will start their Legislative Wake Ups soon after. These forums invite all of our area state representatives and senators to inform the public and take questions from their constituents. This year they will be held virtually. They begin at 8:45 a.m. and last until 10. Members will be sent a link to participate.

Our Wake Ups include both parties in their invitations.

Dates for the Wake Ups:

Saturday, January 23, 8:40 a.m. sign in

Co-sponsor Bridge Home*

Saturday, February 6, 8:40 a.m. sign in

Co-sponsor The Arc**

Saturday, March 6, 8:40 a.m. sign in

Saturday, April 10, (TBD)

**Bridge Home is devoted to bridging the gap between homelessness and housing by providing shelter, support, and inspiring a pathway forward to those experiencing or on the verge of homelessness.*

***The Arc of Story County has enriched the lives of those with intellectual and development disabilities since 1953. It provides support and advocacy for families and persons with disabilities as they learn and grow within the community.*

A quick rundown of the election results-

There are 26 new faces in the Legislature. The House Republicans flipped 7 seats and only lost one. In the Senate each party flipped one seat. That means the House split will be 59 Republicans versus 41 Democrats and the Senate stays the same at 32 Republicans and 18 Democrats.

PARTNERING WITH THE YWCA



Recently the Ames YWCA asked our president, Linda Hagedorn, to give a talk to junior high girls about suffrage. The talk included an activity for the girls which was writing to their senator about the ERA. The talk was taped and will be available on LWV-ASC's Facebook page.

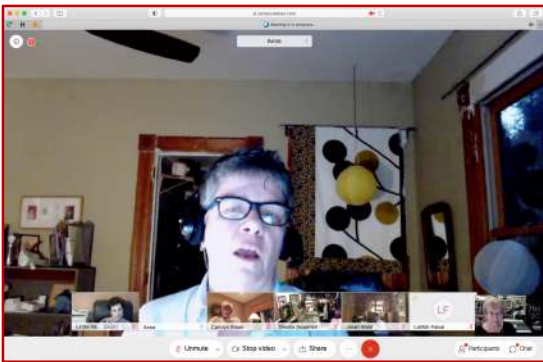
LWV-ASC PRESENTS PROGRAMS

Our program committee, led by John Klaus, has presented several excellent informative programs in the past few months, all conducted virtually and all attracting an audience that exceeded expectations.

Videos of these lectures can be accessed on our Facebook page, League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County. They are also available on KHOI-FM archives.

Disfranchisement, Voting Rights, & the Suffrage

Presented by Dr. Brian Behnken, Associate Professor of History at ISU on Thursday, August 20. Dr. Behnken lectured on the historic disenfranchisement of people in our past. Historically, the government disenfranchised citizens, and then activists and their efforts helped to expand the suffrage. He compared history to events today.

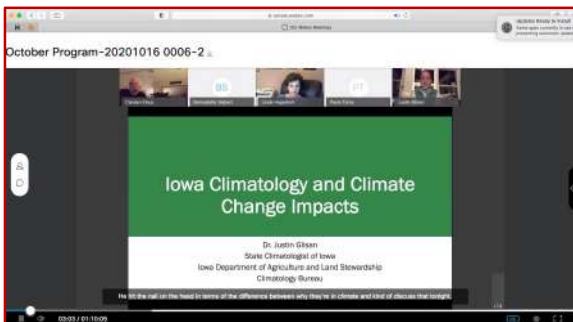


Lecturer Anne Kinzel, speaking virtually to the audience.

Masks and Quarantine:

What Can Law Bring to the Conversation

Presented by Anne Kinzel, JD, MA, on Thursday, September 17. Ms. Kinzel spoke about the law and what it says about mask mandates and the limit of government powers. Ms. Kinzel is a public health specialist and used her experiences to illustrate the discussion.



Title screen, virtual lecture October 15

Iowa Climatology & Climate Change Impacts

Presented by Dr. Justin Glisan, State Climatologist of Iowa, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, on Thursday, October 15.

Dr. Glisan gave the audience a history of the Climatology Bureau and how it works, then spoke about the differences between weather and climate. The climate projections for Iowa and its impact were addressed and he gave us the climatological outlook for Iowa in the short and long term.

PROGRAM PLANNED FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19

You are invited to the November LWV-ASC **World Class** program. Our speaker, **Joshua L. Rosenbloom Ph.D.**, Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department of Economics at Iowa State University and Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research will present:

Government, the Economy, and Human Welfare: An Historical Perspective



This talk will make use of illustrations from U.S. history to discuss the role that government plays in influencing the economy and affecting persons well-being.

The link to this lecture on webex:

<https://iastate.webex.com/j.php?MTID=mb12026f43ef32014f67eaaa7db85266e>

Thursday, November 19, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

DOCUMENTARY STILL AVAILABLE



The LWV of Des Moines hosted a virtual screening of the documentary “Rigged: The Voter Suppression Handbook” on September 30th. If you missed this showing it is available on Prime and on YouTube. It chronicles how American democracy is being threatened and what we can do to save it.

FYI - IOWA'S GENDER BALANCE LAW

A 2009 law that localized the scope of gender equity in Iowa went into effect on January 1, 2012. It requires “all political subdivisions of the state” to be gender balanced in their appointments to municipal commissions, committees, boards, and councils. The ISU Catt Center has conducted a study. Most recent data gathered shows: 14 counties have achieved gender balance on 7 boards and commissions; women hold 33% of county board and commission seats; 67.6% of all reported county boards and commissions are gendered balanced. Go to <https://cattcenter.iastate.edu/research/gender-balance-project/> for more information.

LWVIA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



New legislators are sworn in, January 2020

The LWVIA Board and its lobbyists met on November 11 to finalize and prioritize the issues for which LWV will be advocating and lobbying during the upcoming Iowa legislative session, which begins January 11. Here are the priorities:

★Protect and follow Iowa's model redistricting process.

★Rethink our approach to criminal justice and ensure quality for all:

- Ensure equal treatment under the law, regardless of race, racial mixture, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, or sexual orientation.
- Amend the Iowa constitution to restore voting rights for those with past felony convictions.
- Expand judicial flexibility by eliminating mandatory sentencing.
- Continue opposition to the death penalty.

★Protect Iowa's natural resources and environment:

- Build upon the state's successful container redemption law (bottle bill).
- Fund REAP at no less than \$20 million.
- Increase the sales tax and dedicate new funds for water quality and environmental initiatives.
- Promote sustainable farming practices.
- Develop state strategies to address climate change.



Our lobbyists Amy Campbell and Craig Patterson

★Improve the health and safety of Iowans:

- Fund the entire range of services in the regional mental health and disability services system.

- Ensure Medicaid services are comprehensive and accessible.
- Guarantee access to women's reproductive health services.
- Prevent human trafficking and support victims.
- Promote responsible gun ownership.

★Build Iowa's workforce:

- Fully fund all levels of public education (pre K-12, community colleges, Regents universities), including adequate computer technology and affordable internet connectivity, and oppose the use of vouchers for private and home school education.

- Help more families access childcare assistance without losing job opportunities.

- Adopt policies and fund programs that welcome refugees and immigrants to Iowa.

- Require public and private employers adopt fair chance hiring practices, (i.e. *ban the box*).

★Demand government accountability and transparency:

- Change legislative rules to require all amendments and bills discussed in a committee to be available to the public prior to a vote.

FOREVER STAMP ISSUED



The US Post Office issued a stamp in August honoring the suffrage movement. This forever stamp is illustrated with the colors of the National Women's Party. It can be purchased on line or at your post office.

THE OBSERVER CORPS



League Observers are members who volunteer to attend public meetings in Story County. They do not speak for the League but do report back to the League regarding the issues discussed. Observers are encouraged to report occurrences of citizens being treated unfairly or disrespectfully. We are looking for volunteers. Contact Paula Toms at paula.toms@me.com.

MASK UP!



The well-organized effort of the Ames League to make and distribute masks to the area community continues. With the uptick of the virus in our county, the distribution of masks to those who need them is even more important. In addition to sewing masks, the committee has also purchased masks with funds donated for that purpose. Masks have been distributed to the Food Pantry, Salvation Army, several churches, and Food on First. To donate masks or if you have questions about the mask campaign, please contact Barb Pedersen at bped54@yahoo.com.

VOTE411.org UPDATE



Since its inception in 2006, VOTE411.org has provided **36 million** voters the information they needed before Election Day. Voters deserve to know where the candidates stand on important issues to fill out their ballots. VOTE411 does not speak on behalf of candidates. Instead, it provides all candidates an opportunity to answer the most pressing questions in their communities. Vote411 was a major tool in LWV's toolbox as we strived to register and get out the vote this year. Vote411 also was a recourse for users to report difficulties in voting. There were many other efforts initiated by the League during this election which was an explicit challenge to the League's mission to assure everyone the ability and the right to vote. Organizing@lww.org created a tool kit to make a voting plan, organized a text-a-thon, held Bring Your Own Ballot parties, offered Bystander Active Training, and offered training to members on best ways to approach get-out-the-vote efforts. Locally the LWV-ASC distributed informative leaflets about Vote411 throughout the county.



Thank you to all of you who have responded to our recent fund request. We are grateful for each of our friends and members who help us continue the mission of the League. And, it's not too late to contribute! If you have friends, family, and acquaintances to whom you would like us to send our request letter, let us know. Thank you!

BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!



The much awaited book *And They Persisted...A Century of Impact by Iowa Leagues* by member Linda Meloy is now available. The League donated and delivered them state wide to libraries and high schools.

To order send a check for \$27.50 made out to LWVIA Education Fund and mail to Linda Meloy, 605 Larch Lane, Iowa City, IA 52245, or by using PayPal on the website www.lwvia.org.

KHOI ELECTION DISCUSSION ON FACEBOOK



On November 12, President Linda Hagedorn and Karen Kedrowski, Director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center at ISU, were interviewed by KHOI in Ames, the subject, the election. The conversation touched on the role of women in politics, the current divisiveness and its causes, and the need for compromise, among other subjects. The conversation can be accessed on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=297020214767233&ref=watch_permalink

THAT COFFEE THING



Watch for emails inviting you to our virtual discussions-join our conversations on line. Monday mornings at 10 once a month, they're a great way to socialize. Your email invitation includes a link to join in.



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CANDIDATE FORUMS LEAD UP TO ELECTIONS

During the campaign season, LWV-ASC held three candidate forums, each virtual and all well attended by the public. **These forums are available in KHOI's archives and on Facebook.**



Candidate Cynthia Paschen virtually addresses the public

On September 24 a forum was held for District 24 State Senate. During the Q&A, the candidates, Cynthia Paschen (D) and Jesse Green (R), addressed the cost of education, criminal justice, the pandemic, and the need to work across the aisle. Approximately 25 people attended. The forum was co-sponsored by the AAUW.

A second candidate forum, this one for state representatives for Districts 45, 46, 48, and 49 was held on September 30. Participating were Beth Wessell-Kroeschell (D-45), Ross Wilburn (D-46), Jack Friend (D-48) and Sheldon Spencer (D-49). Declining attendance were Rob Bacon (R-48), Dave Deyoe (R-49) and Eric Cooper (L-45). An excellent Q&A took place.



Candidate for County Supervisor Latifah Faisal answers questions virtually.

The final forum for County offices was held on October 1 with over 45 attendees. Participating were candidates for County Supervisor Latifah Faisal (D), Lisa Heddens (D), Steven O'Rourke (R), and John Henry (R). County Auditor Lucy Martin, Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald, and County Attorney Tim Meals, all uncontested, answered questions about the coming election.

The League thanks all those who participated in these forums which educate the voting public on the issues. Thank you to the committee for pulling the candidates together and scheduling and moderating these informative discussions.

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>

Be sure to see the cameo profiles of 22 Iowa women (seven black and 15 white) who were instrumental in Iowa's suffrage movement, found under the heading Profiles in Courage and Persistence. The stories are a must read to fully comprehend their dedication to Iowa being the fourth state to ratify the 19th amendment on July 2, 1919.

FELONS RIGHTS UPDATE



After years of steady and unrelenting work by the League of Women Voters of Iowa and many others, on August 5 the Governor signed an executive order restoring voting eligibility to persons who have been convicted of a felony, no payment of fees, fines, or restitution required. Just persons convicted of murder were excluded. The Governor still supports a constitutional amendment to fix the problem permanently, so that will be the task for the coming year.

Governor Reynolds executive order automatically restores voting right to people with felony convictions once they have completed their sentences including any probation or parole. Those whose voting rights are not automatically restored can still petition the governor individually to ask for restoration.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY ON KHOI



Women's Equality Day was August 26. On August 28 KHOI aired a discussion on felons' rights with County Auditor Lucy Martin; Karen Kedrowski, Director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at ISU; Al Womble, Chair of the Democratic Black Caucus; and our League member **Carolyn Klaus**. The discussion included the County's preparations for Election Day, the League's efforts to assist, inform and enlist voters, the historic struggle for suffrage, and the hurdles faced by felons and parolees to gain a voice in our democracy. You can hear this discussion in KHOI's archives at: <http://khoifm.org/node/2328>