

LWV



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF AMES & STORY COUNTY

the VOTER

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

<http://www.ameslww.org>

Winter 2021

OUR LOBBYISTS, WORKING FOR US



The Advocacy Cooperative's introduction into their website with their pledge to us.

Keeping on top of things at our Capitol can be challenging for volunteer organizations. Fortunately, the Iowa League of Women Voters has enlisted the Advocacy Cooperative.



Founded in 2003, owners and partners Amy Campbell and Craig Patterson chose to maintain a smaller, more focused client base and emphasize service, custom game plans, individual attention, and results. They promise strong Capitol Hill lobbying combined with coordinated advocacy campaigns.

Craig has thirteen years of experience including five years in Washington working with Congressman Jim Nussle, then as a lobbyist on the Federal level. Amy has spent more than twenty years in public policy and political processes, including three years as a political campaign consultant. Consultant Tori Squires has more than twenty-five years of experience in grant writing, community development,

public policy, and advocacy for non-profit. She works with the Bill Tracker during session.

Advocacy Cooperative's other clients include AARP Iowa, Iowa Behavior Health Associates, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Iowa Library Association, among many others.

The group's services include •Lobbying •Legislative monitoring and reporting •Legislative analysis and tracking •Bill and amendment drafting •Custom online bill data bases •Administrative rules review •Public policy consultation •Grassroots network development •Advocacy training and campaigns •PAC organization and administration •Strategic planning, and more. They work with the LWVIA's published State Public Policy Priorities.

During Session, Advocacy Cooperative issues a weekly Legislative update email. At the end of the Legislative session in May, they conduct an update for us, reporting on what has happened on the issues LWV advocates.

The Advocacy's website is <http://www.ialobby.com/> . Their invaluable tool, the **Bill Tracker**, can be accessed on their site or <https://www.ialobby.com/billtracker> . On their site you can find addresses and phone numbers for the Iowa House and Senate and their members.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT HAGEDORN

Be the Bridge that Spans Across the Troubled Waters

For this letter to the members of the LWV-ASC, I ask that we take a realistic look outward at the current state of our country as well as a look inward through our collective conscience. We are living in troubled times, experiencing division and polarization of a proportion that has not been seen in this country since the Civil War. We **MUST** do better. A functional society must acknowledge individual differences and rights to opinions while also excluding hate, discrimination or hurt for reasons of race, gender, sexual orientation or political views. **And the LWV must take it one step further in acting upon the obliteration of hate.**



Let us not forget that the LWV was founded as a “mighty political experiment” to annihilate discrimination of women. As a social science researcher, I know that experiments are designed to support or negate one or more hypotheses. In this case, the hypotheses were:

- Women are capable of comprehending political issues and can cast a well-informed vote;
- Women are capable of playing large roles in public affairs; and can be trusted to make serious and important decisions;
- Women are capable and should hold public office.

The evidence shows that we have confirmed these hypotheses. And now I cast a new hypothesis for testing:

- **The members of the League of Women Voters of Ames and Story County can serve as a bridge over the current troubled waters within our community. We can confront, inform, and act against the epidemic of hatred.**

To do this, I offer a framework from the [Southern Poverty Law Center](https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/ten_ways_to_fight_hate_2017.pdf) entitled *Ten Ways to Fight Hate* (https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/ten_ways_to_fight_hate_2017.pdf). The ten ways encourage us to stand-up, join-up, speak-up and teach others.

1. Act
2. Join Forces
3. Support the Victims
4. Speak Up
5. Educate Yourself
6. Create an Alternative
7. Pressure Leaders
8. Stay Engaged
9. Teach Acceptance
10. Dig Deeper

And this is exactly what we, the LWV-ASC intend to do.

Linda Serra Hagedorn, Ph.D.
President, LWV-ASC

THE CALENDAR

- Saturday, February 6, 8:45 AM sign in:**
Virtual Legislative Wake Up
- Thursday, February 18, 7 PM:**
Virtual Membership Program
“Garbage In: Energy Out: Does It Still Make Sense?”
- Saturday, March 6, 8:45 AM sign in:**
Virtual Legislative Wake Up
- Monday, March 8:**
International Women’s Day
- Thursday, March 18, 7 PM:**
Virtual Membership Program
Subject TBD
- Saturday, April 10, 8:45 AM sign in:**
Virtual Legislative Wake Up
- Thursday, May 20, 7 PM:**
Lobbyists’ Update (Tentative)
- Saturday, June 12:**
Virtual LWVIA State Convention
- Thursday, June 17, 5 PM:**
LWV-ASC Annual Meeting, Gateway Hotel

ANNUAL MEETING NOW IN JUNE



Pictured, our 2019 meeting at Gateway Center

The current Covid pandemic has caused the Board to postpone the usual April Annual Meeting until Thursday, June 17. Another change will be timing – it’s now scheduled for an evening meeting at Gateway Center starting at 5 PM with a light supper provided.

At this meeting we review the past year, approve any actions the League wishes to take during the present year, and we elect our Board members and officers. The *Carrie Chapman Catt Award* and the *Making Democracy Work* award are announced also.

All members and guests are invited. Look for more information in your emails as the date comes nearer.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Linda Hagedorn	President	2021
Rebecca Hoepfner	Secretary	2021
Barb Espaland	Treasurer	2023
Tom & Kay Myers	Fundraising	2022
Judy Jones	Membership	2023
Barb Wheelock	Publicity	2022
John Klaus	Meeting Planner	2022
Paula Toms	Observer Corps	2022
Barbara Pederson	Voter Service	2021
Judy Trumpy	Legislative Action	2022
Louise O’Donnell	Voter Editor	2021
Open	Website	2020
Becky Coats & Nancy Halvorson	Past Co-Presidents	2021

THE CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD

Each year the Carrie Chapman Catt Award is bestowed on a long-time member who has made significant contributions to the community outside their profession. Recent recipients are Randi Peters, Carolyn Klaus, Mary Sand, and Linda Murken. A nominating committee considers possible candidates each year.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

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

★We are always in need of committee volunteers. Currently, as a result of our recent **Members’ Planning Meeting** we are interested in forming committees to address the issues of: **Diversity & Inclusion, Rural Transportation, Immigration, Education Post Covid, and Mental Health**. Please contact President Hagedorn to get more information at: prez.lwv@gmail.com

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:
<https://my.lwv.org/iowa/ames-story-county>, print and fill out the form and mail as directed. Thank you!



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

2021 STATE OF THE COMMUNITY HELD VIRTUALLY

Every year LWV-ASC partners with the Ames Chamber of Commerce on a community-wide update which traditionally is a luncheon. Not this year! The presentation was held on Thursday, January 28, on Zoom with a “sold out” crowd of 60 attending.



The local officials participating in the question and answer meeting were **Jenny Risner**, Superintendent of the Ames Schools; **Brian Dieter**, President/CEO of Mary Greeley Medical Center; **Wendy Wintersteen**, President, Iowa State University; **Robert Denson**, President, DMACC; **Lisa Heddens**, Chair, Story County Board of Supervisors; and **John Haila**, Mayor, City of Ames. The panel was moderated by Linda Hagedorn, LWV-ASC President and Dan Culhane, President/CEO of the Ames Chamber. LWV member Carolyn Klaus was timekeeper.

The panel addressed several questions put to them by the moderators. Among the questions asked and answered were – How can collaborative partners help assist you to meet challenges and opportunities?; What projects are you facing in the new year and how can people assist that effort?; and How is your organization addressing diversity and inclusion?. The excellent presentation can be accessed and viewed on the Chamber’s Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AmesChamber/videos/1172305643249019>



You can register now for the February 26 Workshops.

Registration for the first two workshops in the 2021 Ready to Run Iowa Campaign Training for Women workshop series, which will be held virtually this year, is now open. There is no cost to attend any of the workshops and you can register separately for as many workshops as you wish. Registration for the March and April workshops will open one month prior in to each workshop date. Register at: <https://cattcenter.iastate.edu/events/ready-to-run-iowa/>

PROGRAM MEETINGS PLANNED

Program events are on the third Thursday of each month. The lobbyists’ presentation is expected to be on the third Thursday of May and the LWV-ASC Annual Meeting is planned for the third Thursday of June, the 17th.

The Program Planning Committee met and discussed the issues raised at the recent membership planning meeting. Programs will be developed based on those issues. The members of this committee are: John Klaus, Steve Godfrey, Karen Kellogg, and Rosemary Osheim.

The program for **Thursday, February 18**, is proposed, which will be a distillation of the OLLI course presented by Bob Haug entitled: *Garbage In, Energy Out*. Bob was the co-chair with Mary Richards of the League Study of the Ames Solid Waste Processing Plant. Bob is retired after 27 years as Executive Director of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

The program for March is tentatively planned as a panel discussion on the subject *K-12 Education: What Are We Doing?*

INFORMATIVE PROGRAM HELD NOVEMBER 19



On November 19, a virtual program by Dr. Josh Rosenbloom, Chair of the ISU Economics Department, was well attended. The subject: *Government, the Economy, and Human Welfare: an Historical Perspective*.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT DOCUMENTARY WINS EMMY

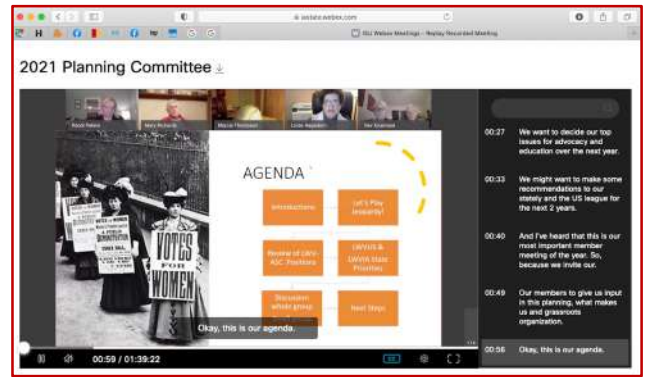
The National Academy of TV Arts & Sciences, Upper Midwest Chapter, honored Iowa PBS staff with an Emmy in the historical documentary category for *Carrie Chapman Catt: Warrior for Women*. Narrated by Kate Mulgrew, it was produced, written and edited by Laurel Bower and produced by Debra Herbold. Congratulations to Iowa PBS!



REPRESENTATIVE KATIE PORTER TO SPEAK FEBRUARY 26



ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING JANUARY 21



Congresswoman Katie Porter, who represents California’s 45th District, is the 2021 Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics at ISU.

A native of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and a former law professor at the University of Iowa, Congresswoman Porter, as a member of the Financial Services Committee and the House Oversight and Reform Committee, has asked tough questions of bank CEO’s and administration officials to hold them accountable. As a consumer finance expert, she has been instrumental in introducing legislation which assists working families. She won her second term in a heavily Republican district through her strong advocacy of middle class issues. Rep. Porter demonstrates an extraordinary example of Truth to Power.

The virtual lecture is **February 26 at 7:00 PM**. It’s sponsored by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women in Politics, Political Science, and the Committee on Lectures. Virtual Event - <https://bit.ly/3hMpJcV>



Under the Golden Dome

Recommending *Under the Golden Dome*, a weekly podcast during the Iowa Legislative session. It provides context, depth, and better understanding of the session by breaking it down and making it easier to understand.

OUR REDESIGNED WEBSITE LIVE!

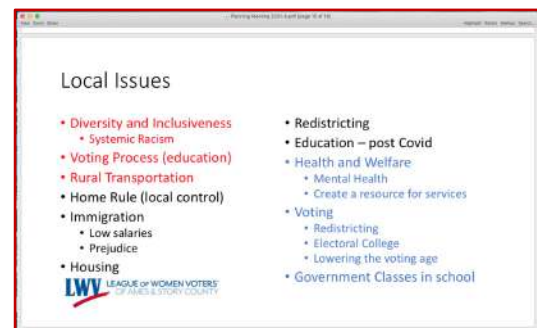


Our home page.

The redesigned website is now available. Go to <https://my.lwv.org/iowa/ames-story-county> We’re excited to unveil this to members and the public!

Over 30 people attended the virtual Annual Planning Meeting on Thursday, January 21, moderated and led by President Hagedorn. After initial discussion, the attendees broke into small groups to address issues, stimulated by the LWV of Iowa’s Policy Priorities and Positions and our own existing local Positions. The results of the discussions are used to outline the 2021 concerns we will pursue after review by the Board. The meeting was recorded and can be accessed here:

[Play recording](#)



A screen from the virtual Planning Meeting.

Emerging Issues to Pursue:

- Diversity and Inclusion
- Rural Transportation
- Immigration
- Education Post Covid
- Mental Health

Although we can’t tackle all of these issues, we will follow up on the topics selected by the Board.

We are currently seeking those who wish to participate on a committee addressing any one of these issues. Please contact President Hagedorn at Prez.LWV@gmail.com

The group also made topic suggestions for the monthly informative programs. Subjects included Home Rule, Politics and Gender, and School Vouchers as possible programs.

If you have ideas you would like to add to the planning process contact President Linda Hagedorn at Prez.LWV@gmail.com

FROM OUR STATE VICE-PRESIDENT

I'd like to report that the first ever statewide fundraiser for LWVIA has thus far received a bit over \$5,000 of the \$10,000 goal. Our general "ask" was that each member donate \$10.00 and unfortunately, participation was less than anticipated. This will limit some of the assistance we'd hoped to provide to perhaps special statewide membership efforts or assistance to our chapters who do not have the luxury of large treasuries. The fundraising team will continue to work hard to grow this fund for the benefit of all LWVIA members.

During the last State Convention held in Ames in June 2019, Dubuque volunteered to host the 2021 event. They had many wonderful plans made for Convention but alas, again a fine plan was struck down by Covid concerns. Therefore, this year's State Convention will be held **virtually Saturday, June 12th**. We all regret and acknowledge that this is disappointing but we are working to still make it very interesting and even have a little fun. More details to follow in the next couple of months. The convention team would be pleased to hear your questions or ideas. I am a member of the planning team and can be reached at nancyh.lwvia@gmail.com or 515-231-3746. Thank you.

Nancy Halvorson

Vice-President, LWVIA

LWVIA CREATING TASK FORCES

The LWVIA in response to the 2021 priorities will be creating six task forces:

1. Redistricting
2. Justice (looking at redistricting)
3. Environment (bottle bill)
4. Workforce (emphasis on childcare)
5. Health (emphasis on mental health)
6. Accountability in government and the election

FROM OUR NATIONAL LEAGUE



The 117th Congress has made the For the People Act their top priority. The League supports this comprehensive democracy reform bill (known as H.R.1 in the House and S.1 in the Senate) with important provisions, including the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, fair redistricting, D.C. statehood, and more. Contact your representative and tell them to pass the For the People Act.

NEW HOPE FOR THE ERA



Activist and Congresswoman Bella Abzug in 1974

In January the U.S. House and Senate introduced legislation to remove the time limit on the Equal Rights Amendment and finally include it in our Constitution. Last year Virginia ratified the ERA bringing the total state count to the required 38. Now it's time for the legislature to pass it and finally include women in the Constitution. Contact your representatives now and urge them to support legislation to remove the ERA's ratification deadline.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Membership Chair Judy Jones reports that we now have 10 life members, 14 student members, 114 primary members, and 27 additional members for a total of 165 members of LWV-ASC. This total is used to calculate our dues to the State and National.

Recently member Bob Haug was the lecturer for an OLLI class entitled *Garbage In: Energy Out: Does It Still Make Sense?* Bob retired in 2014 after serving 27 years as executive director of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

Member Mary Richards was also a lecturer for the OLLI class called *Climate Action and Planning Ames*. Mary served as Story County Attorney for 19 years. She's a member of the Ames Climate Action Team.

Bob and Mary co-chaired the League's local study on *Waste Management in Story County*, completed in March 2020.



We regret to note the passing of Lynne Bishop, member since 2008. Lynne was an Editor at ISU Press and active as a political volunteer. Lynne leaves her husband, children, & grandchildren.



FUNDRAISING 2020



In addition to our annual fundraising effort and its results we also received donations for our Mask Up initiative and funds to assist in Voter Registration. This year we offered donors gifts as small thank-yous, including the signed book by Elaine Weiss, *The Women's Hour*.

We've exceeded our budgeted fundraising goal, and due to Covid, have not experienced some of the usual expenses during the year 2020. However, our usual Wordly Goods fundraiser was hampered by the pandemic and did not perform as well as in previous years.

Thank you to all who donated to support the League's efforts to make sure everyone has the opportunity and the right to vote, and to support the League's mission.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD

In honor of its 90th anniversary, The LWV-ASC established the Making Democracy Work Award in 2017. Recently a special committee reviewed the requirements and issued a revised announcement and application form. 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.

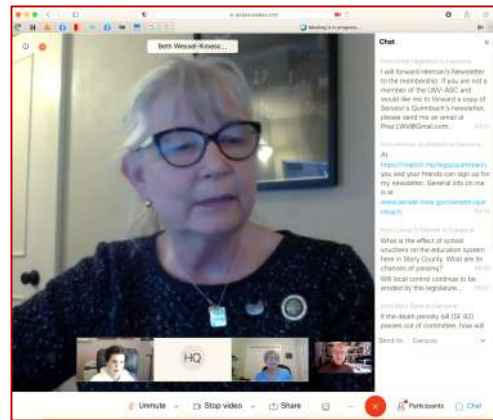
The League announces the honorees at its Annual Meeting.

There is an application form and other information on nomination requirements. Nominations are due by Friday March 19, 2021. Contact prez.lwv@gmail for nomination forms and more information.

WAKE UP!



Our first Wake Up legislators' panel was held on Saturday, January 23. Co-sponsored by The Bridge Home (formerly Emergency Residence Project), it was moderated by member Judy Trumpy. Executive Director of The Bridge Home, Jodi Stumbo, spoke briefly about the organization. 32 people joined the panel virtually to ask questions of our legislators and hear their answers. Legislators present were **Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell**, **Senator Jesse Green**, and **Senator Herman Quirmbach**. Those invited who did not attend were Annette Sweeney, Rob Bacon, Dave Deyoe, and Ross Wilburn.



Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell addresses concerns from the attendees.

Issues brought up included the Bottle Bill, School Vouchers, the Death Penalty, and Local Control. The program is recorded and available on KHOI. It also can be viewed on our Facebook page or copy this link to your browser:

<https://iastate.webex.com/recording/service/sites/iastate/recording/14b3467dbcd64e1887c999fb97be91de/playback>

Future Wake Ups are on **Saturday, February 6, Saturday March 6, and Saturday, April 10**. All will be virtual. An email with a link will be mailed out before each Wake Up. You may access the February 6 meeting here:

<https://iastate.webex.com/webappng/sites/iastate/meeting/download/4cd29ef5b7f54731bd1285b11378a756?siteurl=iastate&MTID=m93ccdbd762f729cd1941a081abc96887>

Senators Quirmbach and Green shared the links to their newsletters:

<https://www.senate.iowa.gov/senator/quirmbach/>
<http://www.iowasenaterepublicans.com/senators/jesse-green/>

Representative Wessel-Kroeschell can be reached at:

<http://wesselkroeschell.com/>

**PLEASE VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE-
LWV of Ames and Story County**