



# IOWA VOTER

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Visiting Local Leagues

I have had a fine time this spring visiting local leagues. I have been to both board meetings and general meetings. I have even had a few fine meals with local leagues. The work of our local leagues is impressive in many ways. Most local leagues are well aware of the special interests in their communities and are active one way or another to bring information to their communities. I have heard about forums, special events, collaborations with other groups, ideas to build league visibility and membership. We have 15 local leagues and each one has a special approach of its own.

While there are many wonderful activities and ideas throughout our state, there are, occasionally problems in nurturing leadership and even membership. I have thought about membership and leadership recruitment and retention, and it seems to me there are three basic actions for us all to remember:



1. **Be Relevant**
2. **Be visible**
3. **Follow-up**

You will be hearing more about this in future Voters, and particularly at Council. I hope to see so many people at Council that we'll have a problem all fitting in.

*Myrna*, President

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## 2010-2011 LEAGUE CALENDAR

**2010**

Saturday, June 5	State Council – Ames Northminster Church
June 11-15	National Convention – Atlanta, GA
Saturday, June TBD	Board Retreat
Saturday, August 14	Board Meeting
Saturday, August 28	Officers Training
Saturday, October 23	Issues Briefing / Board Meeting
Saturday, December 11	Board Meeting (Telephone meeting if necessary)

**2011**

Tuesday, February 15	Lobby Day / Board Meeting
Saturday, April 9	Board Meeting
Saturday, June 4 or 11	Convention – Cedar Rapids

## LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP AND LEAGUE ISSUES

As planned the Legislative session was short, just 8 days short of the shortest in Iowa history. Having such a short session saved taxpayers over \$1 million dollars.

League presence was felt on Lobby Day when a proclamation from the Governor was read to commemorate the 90th Birthday of League of Women Voters US. Local delegates were present to meet with their elected legislators.

In the end two League priorities received action. One plus was a bill to expand mental health parity. A second positive change was noted in sentencing and corrections reform.

Unfortunately predatory lending protection failed but there was positive activity on that issue at the Senate. Hopefully final action will be taken in the next legislative session.

**RECRUITING POLL WORKERS GRANT**

League of Women Voters of Iowa has received a grant from LWV-US to be spent on recruiting poll workers ages 17-25. Money is available for each local league to have a funded project. The money can be, but is not limited, to be used for training sessions for league members or by the county election office for younger participants, special events at high schools and/or colleges, newspaper articles and advertisements. The opportunities are endless.

Each local president has an application form and more information. Deadline for applications is May 31. Any funds received must be spent by October 1.

Any questions should be directed to Myrna Loehrlein, LWV-IA president.

**STATE BOARD NEEDS YOU**

The Nominating Committee of the League of Women Voters of Iowa is looking for members who would be interested in serving on the state League Board. We need to elect two Directors. We also need to elect a Treasurer and a Vice President. All of these positions have been held and admirably fulfilled by very busy and committed women. We now need some new persons to step up and volunteer to carry on the work of the state League. If you are interested in any of these positions or wish to know more about serving on them, contact:

Pat Harper at 319-233-2106 or email [senatorpat@aol.com](mailto:senatorpat@aol.com)

Jean Dell at 641-680-5885 or email [jeandell@lisco.com](mailto:jeandell@lisco.com)

Lauris Olson at 515-451-7293 or email [lauris\\_olson@me.com](mailto:lauris_olson@me.com)

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912 W 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
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### **STATE COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 5, 2010**

The League of Women Voters of Iowa will meet in Ames on June 5, 2010. The Bi-annual Council meeting will be held at Northminster Presbyterian Church from 10-2.

Attendees will enjoy the presentation of “The Yellow Rose of Suffrage”, the history of the struggle for women’s right to vote in word and song, adapted and directed by Janet Alcorn. Breakout meetings will emphasize topics for local leagues: membership recruitment and retention, recognition and vitality.

Cost is \$30 per person which includes lunch. Each local league is required to pay ahead for 2 members to attend. More may pay to come as non-voting participants.

Ames league requests attendees bring their own mug to reduce the environmental impact of the meeting.