



League of Women
Voters®
of Pulaski County

League of Women Voters of Pulaski County

The Voter

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

Volume 59, Issue 4

Affiliated with the League of Women Voters of the United States

April 2011

CALENDAR

April 11

Unit Meeting

UUCLR

Reservoir Road

5:30 P.M.

Discussion

**Recycling issues:
Bring Your Questions!**

Speaker

**Melinda Glasgow,
Director of Recycling for Little
Rock**

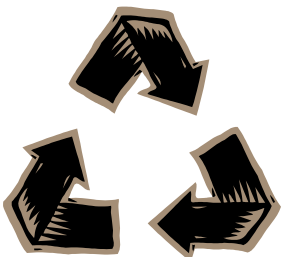
April 18

Board Meeting

Nell's House

7200 Briarwood

5:30 P.M.



The President's Column

The League of Women Voters of Pulaski County needs you. The officers and board members of LWVPC have been serving for several years, and we all feel that we need some new blood on the board. Note that I am not asking for anyone to open a vein for us but just step up and help this very strong organization remain that way. I invite everyone who is interested in the political scene and who cares about our community to bring their energy and ideas to the board meeting. It will be held at my house, 7200 Briarwood Dr, one street south of Markham between Mississippi and Hughes Streets, on April 18 at 5:30 P.M. We will plan our June general meeting, the upcoming year for LWVPC, and discuss the just-completed state convention. Please mark your calendar and be there. The League needs you. Yes, YOU! Don't make me get out my address book and start calling you. Stand up and be counted.

Nell Matthews

LWV AR and LWV Washington County Member Joyce Hale to Speak on Fracking

You can't be a LWVPC member and not know about fracking, the method of extracting gas from shale. This issue was a state League consensus issue two years ago, and we learned that fracking is scarcely regulated, hard on the environment, and of dubious value to citizens of Arkansas. Roads are torn up, property rights ignored, and toxic waste can appear in water sources near drilling areas. Arkansas has enjoyed no increased revenue from the severance tax on gas piped out of state because of rules that exclude wells until they are almost non-producing. Joyce Hale, President of the Washington County League in northwest Arkansas, has seen first-hand these problems. Now an expert on the issue, Joyce will present a series of programs on fracking. One will take place at the LWV AR state convention on Saturday, April 9. She will speak to the Ozark Society at the 2nd Presbyterian Church on Pleasant Valley Drive on Tuesday, April 5 at 7 PM and again to the Environmental Stewardship group there on Thursday, April 7 at 7 PM. During the day, she will speak at Lifequest at 2nd Presbyterian on Wednesday, April 6 at 11 AM. Call the church for more information. If you don't know the latest about fracking, the regulation (or lack thereof) by the Oil and Gas Commission and the EPA, and the toll on Arkansas, the Natural State, you really should attend one of these programs.

Nell Matthews

League of Women Voters State Convention April 9

The 30th state convention for the League of Women Voters of Arkansas is April 9 at the Roosevelt Thompson branch of the Central Arkansas Library System at 38 Rahling Circle, the first street off Rahling Road near Chenal Parkway). Registration will begin at 9:30. Lunch will be available, but please register so that your name is counted. The registration fee will include your lunch. Ms. Peggy Hill, Board of Directors Member of the LWVUS, will discuss how to do a national study. Her project is the national study on education, a topic dear to us in Arkansas. Joyce Hale will discuss the latest in the laws regulating—or not—fracking (see article about all of Joyce's presentations in Little Rock on page 1 of this *Voter*). The LWVPC will be sending several voting delegates, but we hope additional members will want to attend this interesting day of citizen activism.

Nell Matthews

MEETING WITH LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSULTANT

LWVPC members and guests met on March 7 with the consultant seeking a new Little Rock School District superintendent. Fifteen members and friends joined the consultant in spirited discussion. All attendees have or have had children or grandchildren in LR School District.

Some meaningful comments stand out. One member said, "The district has islands of excellence. Those islands need to be extended to include all schools in the district." The need to increase enrollment in the district's middle schools was mentioned, as well as the need to counter negative perceptions about the district. There was tacit agreement with this statement: "Whoever is selected must want to meet the challenging task of better educating our students."

On April 25 the finalist for Superintendent will meet with the public. He/she will speak and then take questions. Put the date on your calendar. Further details will be forthcoming.

Many thanks to LWVPC Education Chair Lynn Parker for making arrangements for our meeting with the consultant.

Ruth Bell, Action Chair

MEET

DISCUSS

ACT



LEAGUERS' LIVES

Our members lead interesting lives doing meaningful things.

Long-time member **SHIRLEY MCFARLIN** is extremely happy to announce her new status as a great-grandmother. The baby, a little boy named Owen Gautier, was born on January 26th. He lives with his parents in Rogers, Arkansas. Shirley's daughter, Lisa is his proud grandmother.

MARIE CRAWFORD was recognized in a recent issue of AY magazine as one of the area's Influential Women.

SUSAN LEON was named by UAMS as one of the Phenomenal Women on their campus.

A letter from **BARBARA PATTY** appeared in the "Letters to the Editor" section of the *Democrat Gazette*.

Contact **Ruth Bell** at 225-2538 or rfbell@aristotle.net to let us know about important events in your life.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

We are now looking ahead toward April and May:

Another, perhaps final, draft of the long range plan for the Maumelle Watershed in Pulaski County will be presented in April, again with opportunity for public comment. Plan to attend one of the meetings and/or comment via the internet on this revised plan.

At LR City Hall, discussion by the City Board on ways the city may increase its income is scheduled in March. The City's response to proposals to privatize the Little Rock landfill is expected by early May. Watch the local media and blogs for more information.

The Little Rock City Board has increased the number of positions on several boards in order to enable those boards to better represent the city's diverse population. Of special concern is the lack of representation of the fast-growing Hispanic and Asian populations on the various boards and commissions. Tell Hispanics and Asians you know about the opportunities available to serve in these positions. Call the City Clerk's office at 371-451 for more information.

Ruth Bell. Action Chair

Don't Forget!

The 30th LWV State Convention is April 9, 2011!

League of Women Voters of Pulaski County
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Little Rock, Arkansas, 72207

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If you would like to join the LWV of Pulaski County, fill out the membership form on the web page or call the League Office to receive a paper form by mail.



League of Women Voters®
of Pulaski County

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF
PULASKI COUNTY**

Come Hear How to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Officers/Board

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2 nd Vice President	Candy Roman	227-8575
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	Dina Nash	246-3026
VIPS Representative	Kathleen Velek	539-3900

Melinda Glasgow, Little Rock City's recycling program coordinator, will address the Unit Meeting on her drive to have half of the city's households using the recycling bins. Melinda brings her marketing background to the issues of decreasing those plastic bags (aka Arkansas tumbleweeds) from the grocery store, improving public awareness of the cost of litter and disposal of trash into solid landfills, and getting everyone on the bandwagon for recycling. The Unit Meeting is on April 11 at 5:30 PM at 1818 Reservoir Road (the UU Church). Please come meet Melinda and find out what to do with those styrofoam peanuts.

League of Women Voters of Pulaski County

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