



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METRO DES MOINES

## *The Voter*

### 2012-2013 Calendar:

September 22 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	LWVIA Issues Briefing at Drake Public Library, 930 Park St, Grinnell, IA.
September 25	National Voter Registration Day! Volunteer to help register students this week. Contact Sherrie at (515) 771-0181.
October 8 5:30 - 8:00 pm	LWVMDM Membership Kick-off Event: Christopher's Restaurant, 2816 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines. Keynote: Iowa Chief Justice Mark Cady.
October 9 7:30 - 9:30 am	Children's Health Issues Legislative Forum; Virginia Thompson Auditorium, Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Des Moines.
October 18, 6:00 pm	LWVMDM Board Meeting, 3662 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines
November Date TBD	Film: "Patriocracy" with panel discussion to follow. Time & Location: TBD
November 6	General Election Day
November 29, 6:00 pm	LWVMDM Board Meeting, 3662 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines
December 1 11:15 a.m.	Metro Des Moines Holiday Luncheon: Location: TBD. Keynote: Dr. Dennis Goldford to speak on Election 2012.
January 17, 2013	LWVMDM Board Meeting, 3662 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines
January 24, 2013 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Mental Health Redesign Panel & Discussion: Panelists: DHS Director Charles Palmer, Senator Jack Hatch, & Representative Renee Schult; Plymouth Congregational Church, 42nd & Ingersoll
February 12, 2013 10:00 - 3:00 pm	LWVIA State Advocacy Day @ IA State Capitol, Des Moines
March 7, 2013	International Women's Day Celebration, Hall of Laureates
April 27, 2013 11:15 am- 1:30 pm	LWVMDM Annual Meeting and Luncheon; Chamberlain Mansion at Wesley Acres.
June 1, 2013	LWVIA State Convention, Ames, IA

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# President's Message

By Deborah Ann Turner, M.D.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness.." This timeless quote from Charles Dickens' Tale of Two Cities clearly describes the current status of American politics and society. We may think it is the worst of times because we as a nation are embroiled in major political and social crises that sometimes feel overwhelming and non-ending . However, in many ways it is the best of times because we are better equipped with resources to make changes that are meaningful than any other time in history. But it will take a great effort on the part of many to effect change.

The Metro leagues is fortunate to have an incredibly resourceful and hard working Board of Directors who are dedicated to making this the best of times for our citizens and membership. The Board spent a beautiful Sunday in July developing a plan of action for the coming year and has already moved forward in implementation. The program is going to be informative, interesting and varied. I encourage all members to make an effort whenever possible to participate and as always bring a friend.

LWVIA state board is also rising to the challenge of the times. At the state board meeting on Saturday they voted to become an official member of Iowa Children's Policy Coalition. This is a coalition dedicated both to educating the public and lobbying for legislation about issues that impact the lives of children and families. These are many of the same issues that the League supports. Des Moines Metro is planning to co-sponsor two legislative forums with the group this fall.

The State Board also set the legislative agenda for the year. Women's health, mental health, and Governance which includes voting right protection and preserving Iowa's fair and impartial court system are the top three issues. Sentencing and Correction reform, Social policy, Environment and energy policy , and Preschool education are the Leagues other legislative priorities. Watch your email and the LWVIA website for a full report on the Legislative Agenda.

The Legislative Briefing is set for September 22 in Grinnell. The program is going to be very productive and informative. Think about carpooling so more members can attend. It would be great to have a strong Metro showing.

LWVUS is aggressively seeking to make it the best of times for America and for its local and state Leagues. The Membership and Leadership Development program is in full swing and the Des Moines Metro membership team is working with the state membership coaches. We have set a membership goal to increase by 10% but are continuing to seek and to welcome new members.

Finally, Des Moines Metro was contacted by LWVUS about their new program "Truth in Campaign Advertising".

This is a national effort to urge media sources to engage in stringent fact checking in political ads and report the discrepancies to the public. Des Moines is one of the top 5 cities in the United States being targeted with third party ad campaigns. Des Moines Metro has been offered special support in combating this attack on our political system. The program is supported by the well respected Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania through its Factcheck.org and Flackcheck.org programs. We look forward to working with National and will keep you posted on the process as it unfolds.

So as in our day to day lives we begin to think it is the worst of times remember instead it is the best of times to become engaged, involved and make a difference.

Hope to see you all at our fall programs. Once again Hats Off to an Awesome Board of Directors.

*Deb*

Sincerely,  
Deborah Ann Turner , MD  
President Des Moines Metro



## 2012 Voter Registration Project

By Sherrie Taha

There's excitement brewing about voter registration activities this fall! The Des Moines Metro branch of the League of Women Voters (LWV) has partnered with Ames LWV in order to support a First-time Voter Registration project. The project is the result of a grant funded by the League of Women Voters US Education Fund (LWVEF). The goal is "... to engage new citizens, and community college, technical college and/or vocational school students in the electoral process in order to redress the fact that young people, new citizens, and other underrepresented communities remain severely underrepresented in our nation's electorate." A major focus of the registration activities will be on DMACC campuses throughout the Des Moines area, in Boone, and their career academy in Ames at the Hunziker Center on the ISU campus. We are also setting up registration opportunities for students in the Des Moines and Ames High Schools.



Our branch has also registered to be part of National Voter Registration Day, September 25th, which will have events taking place all across the country. The national LWVUS is one of the sponsoring organizations for this event.

Times and specific locations for the registration drives are in the process of being confirmed, some will be before, some will be after and some will be on September 25th. There will also be information to record and tally as well as trips to the county auditor's office with registrations, and follow-up phone calls to make reminding registrants to vote. So, there are lots of ways and opportunities for you to participate (training will be available). Don't hesitate to call (515) 771-0181. Let Sherrie Taha know your availability and areas of interest.

**It's the volunteers that will make this ... and all aspects of our democracy ... a great success!**

## Books League Members are Reading

By Judy Dirks

Several book titles have been discussed in our summer board meetings. We thought we'd share these with the rest of you – FYI. Please feel free to suggest further titles throughout the year for publication in THE VOTER, or to include personal remarks, or even a book review if you wish.

This year's book review meeting is tentatively scheduled for February. The featured title will be:

***EcoMind- Changing the Way We Think to Create The World We Want***  
by Francis Moore Lappe'

"Solutions to global crises are within reach," says Frances Moore Lappé. "Our challenge is to free ourselves from self-defeating thought traps so we can bring these solutions to life." In *EcoMind*, Lappé helps facilitate a much needed shift. She argues that much of what is wrong with the world, from our eroding soil to our eroding democracies, results from ways of thinking that are out of sync with human nature and nature's rhythms. Be sure to purchase this book, or see if it is available at your local library. (from Amazon.com)

Other titles of interest include:

***Winner Take All Politics – How Washington Made the Rich Richer*** by Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson

***The Iowa Precinct Caucuses: The Making of a Media Event***  
by Drake Professor Dennis Goldford

***The Woman Behind the New Deal: Frances Perkins***  
by Kristin Downey

***The Secret World of the Supreme Court***  
by Jeffrey Toobin

Enjoy a good read!

# LWVMDM Membership Kickoff Event

Christopher's Restaurant  
2816 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines  
Monday, October 8, 2012

## Keynote Speaker: Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady



5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Membership Event and Keynote Address

### Justice Mark Cady, Ft.

Dodge, was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1998 and was named Chief Justice in 2011. He was born in Rapid City, South Dakota. Chief Justice Cady earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Drake University. After graduating from law school in 1978, he served as a judicial law clerk for the Second Judicial District for one year. He was then appointed as an assistant Webster County attorney and practiced with a law firm in Fort Dodge. Cady was appointed a district associate judge in 1983 and a district court judge in 1986. In 1994, he was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals. He was elected chief judge of the Court of Appeals in 1997.



Chief Justice Cady is a member of the Order of Coif (honorary), Iowa State Bar Association, Iowa Judges Association, and Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers (honorary). He is the Iowa chair of iCivics Inc. He also served as chair of the Iowa Supreme Court Task Force on the Court's and Communities' Response to Domestic Abuse and the Drake Law School Board of Counselors. Chief Justice Cady is the coauthor of *Iowa Practice: Lawyer and Judicial Ethics* (Thomson-West 2007). He is also the coauthor of *Preserving the Delicate Balance Between Judicial Accountability and Independence: Merit Selection in the Post-White World*, 16 Cornell J.L. & Pub. Pol'y 101 (2008), and the author of *Curbing Litigation Abuse and Misuse: A Judicial Approach*, 36 Drake L. Rev. 481 (1987).

### By Judy Dirks

This year's Metro Des Moines League membership kickoff event will be held on Monday, October 8. The gathering will be held in the banquet room of Christopher's Restaurant, 2816 Beaver Avenue. A social hour will begin at 5:30 with a welcome/introduction presentation at 6:30. The keynote address by Iowa's Chief Justice Mark Cady will begin at 7:00.

The League is pleased to have such a distinguished individual address our members and friends! Chief Justice Cady will be speaking on *how the Iowa merit selection system for appointing judges fosters fair and impartial courts that follow the rule of law, respect the constitution, and protect individual rights*. Chief Justice Cady comes highly recommended by the Ames League, having addressed their branch last year.

Please make every effort to join your fellow League members at this fall event! Also, consider inviting interested friends and acquaintances to join you and consider affiliating with our League. Meetings are free and the public is encouraged to attend. Appetizers and nonalcoholic beverages will be provided, and a cash bar will be available. If possible, RSVP to Karen Person 515-255-8304 ([kp19293@yahoo.com](mailto:kp19293@yahoo.com)) or Judy Dirks 515-210-0201 ([jjmdirks@mchsi.com](mailto:jjmdirks@mchsi.com)) by October 1 to insure ample seating and refreshments.

# Iowa Mental Health Redesign Continues

## Second Round of Legislative Workgroups to Meet this Fall

By Teresa Bomhoff

Legislative workgroups met in the fall of 2011 and gave vision to what a redesigned adult mental health system in Iowa would look like. Mental health redesign legislation was passed in the 2012 legislative session to reflect that vision and formed the framework of the redesigned system.

A second round of legislative workgroups will meet this fall (August through November) to continue to work through more details. To locate workgroup members, meeting schedules, research information and other documents related to redesign, go to: <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Partners/MHDSRedesign.html>

Legislative Workgroups scheduled to be meeting are:

1. Children's workgroup (2nd year) – (the vision of what a children's mental health system will look like in Iowa)
2. Judicial workgroup (2nd year) – (re-write commitment laws, define a mental health advocate system in Iowa, state initiatives in jail diversion)
3. Data and statistical workgroup (a streamlined and limited set of data to track)
4. Outcomes and Performance measures workgroup (for individuals with mental illness, providers and regions)
5. Transition Committee (to identify and attempt to resolve issues arising with redesign)

6. Workforce Workgroup (IDPH to be responsible for this workgroup- will start meeting in September)
7. Interim study committee (legislators - for further analysis of financing the MH and disability system)

Members of the public are welcome to attend workgroup and committee meetings. There are opportunities for public comment at each meeting. Comments and suggestions can also be made by email [DHS-MHDSRedesign@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:DHS-MHDSRedesign@dhs.state.ia.us)

Reports listing workgroup recommendations are due in early December. Additional legislation will then be developed for the 2013 Legislative session.

FY 2013 (7-1-12 to 6-30-13) is a transition year – the current mental health system continues to operate while preparations are made for the new design. The state assumes all Medicaid costs freeing up county funds to pay for non-Medicaid services. Counties are deciding who they will be in a region with. Standardized assessment tools are implemented. Rules are to be developed for transition funding, accreditation, sub-acute services, and other processes.

FY 2014 – legal settlement ends, redesign eligibility rules and core services begin. Regions begin operating on or before July 1, 2014.

## League Will Partner Candidate Forum

### Topic: Health and Well-Being of Children

By Teresa Bomhoff

The League of Women Voters Metro Des Moines will be a partner organization for the nonpartisan Blank Children's Hospital legislative candidate forum.

**Purpose:** To generate awareness and discussion among state candidates from Polk County districts running for the Iowa Legislature regarding the health and well-being of children.

**Date:** Tuesday, October 9, 2012

**Time:** 7:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

**Location:** Virginia Thompson Auditorium, Iowa Methodist Medical Center Campus

Questions will be developed ahead of time with the assistance of partner organizations. The questions will be sent to the candidates in advance of the forum. Candidates in contested races will be invited to answer the questions. Those running in uncontested races and current Senators not up for re-election attending will be introduced and thanked for attendance.

*Please plan to attend...and bring a friend!*

# Join LEAGUE

## It's Renewal Time for Membership

**Annual membership dues are \$60 per person or \$90 per household. Dues include local, state and national membership.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Send dues and above information to:**

LWVMDM  
PO Box 65752  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

# LWVMDM Board Sets Goals for 2012-13

By Deborah Ann Turner, MD.

At the July 22, 2012 retreat, the LWVMDM Board set as its goals for the coming year

1. Develop educational programming that supports the positions of the League
2. Plan all educational meetings in collaboration with other organizations
3. Increase membership by 10 percent
4. Increase awareness/visibility
5. Participate in the LWVUS studies
6. Increase visibility in the legislature – attendance at committee hearings, etc.
7. Coordinate at least one event with another League
8. Develop a program of voter education
9. Increase board involvement in the Voter newsletter so that each board member writes at least two or more articles for the 2012-13 year.

Board meetings for the coming year will be from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on August 16, October 18, November 29, January 17, and March 21. Board meetings deal with the business of League - setting up events, determining priorities, and working out the details of how League can fulfill its mission within the budget approved. Board meetings are open to all members. Meetings will take place in the party room at 3662 Ingersoll Avenue. Contact Sherrie, #771-0181 if you would like to attend.

## MLD Training

### Growing the League, Making Democracy Work

By Molly Shanks

Four league members attended a special Membership and Leadership Development training seminar last July. These seminars have been offered by LWVUS since 2005, based on membership needs and research covering leagues nationwide. Iowa's two-day session was held July 7-8 in Waterloo. Three national trainers facilitated these sessions, including: Sara Sanders from the LWVUS support team, Carol Reimers from the National Board, and Judy Goldberg who is a Ruth Shur Fellow/National coach.

These national coaches also held early training sessions with Iowa coaches. Iowa's state coaches were led by Tina Pace from Linn County LWV. Metro Des Moines' members Deb Turner and Sherrie Taha received additional training July 6 in Waterloo. Other members attending later sessions were Molly Shanks and Judy Dirks.

The training focused on three key points all Leagues need to address to increase membership and keep participation vital. These focal points included: 1) collaborating with other

local organizations-allies whenever possible, 2) increasing visibility of the League and taking advantage of opportunities to invite interested individuals to become new members, and 3) working with media of all varieties (especially online forms) to get the message out regarding League concerns and activities.

Members attending the MLD training received many practical and exciting ideas of new approaches to use in membership recruitment and active membership involvement. Expect to be hearing from the Des Moines Metro League soon regarding our upcoming year's program and activities. All current members are encouraged to consider individuals from their friends and acquaintances who might be interested in joining our ranks.

The MLD's motto "*Growing the League, Making Democracy Work*" will be an inspiration to our own League this coming year.