

November 2012



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METRO DES MOINES

The Voter

LWVMDM invites you to our

Annual December Holiday Luncheon

with keynote speaker



Professor Dennis Goldford

Author, Drake Professor, & KCCI Political Annalist

“A Post-Election Analysis”

11:15 am, Saturday, December 1st
Noah’s Ark Ristorante, 2nd Floor
2400 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines

Cost: \$16: Lasagna or Fried Chicken
(Vegetarian Lasagna by Request)

RSVP to Carol Hibbs by Nov. 27 with Meal Selection

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Karen Person

League Calendar 2012-2013:

- November 29, 6:00 LWVMDM Board Meeting, 3662 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines
- December 1 11:15 a.m. Metro Des Moines Holiday Luncheon: Noah’s Ark Ristorante, 2400 Ingersoll, Prof. Dennis Goldford A Post Election Analysis.
- 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
- February 18, 2013 6:00 - 7:30 pm Book Discussion, “EcoMind - Changing the Way We Think to Create the World We Want” by Francis Moore Lappe’, at the Des Moines Central Library
- 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

Iowa Mental Health Redesign Panel

LWVMDM & AMOS to CoHost Panel Discussion Meeting

By Teresa Bomhoff

The League of Women Voters and AMOS will host a panel discussion on "Mental Health Redesign" on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013, at Plymouth Congregational Church, 42nd and Ingersoll, from 6-8 P.M. in Waveland Hall.

Panel members will be DHS Director Charles Palmer, Senator Jack Hatch, and Representative Renee Schulte.

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 has assumed all Medicaid costs freeing up county funds to pay for non-Medicaid services.
- Counties are deciding on with whom they will be in a region. Counties will submit their letter of intent to join a region anytime between June 2012 and April 2013.
- Standardized assessment tools are implemented.
- Rules are to be developed for transition funding, exemption from regionalization, accreditation, sub-acute services, and other processes -12 rule making processes total.

By the Jan. 24, 2013 panel meeting, several milestones in mental health redesign will have been reached.

- In November 2012, the National Election results will be known and the list of state legislators determined.
- In November 2012, a second round of legislative workgroups will have concluded their meetings.
 1. Children's workgroup
 2. Judicial workgroup
 3. Data and statistical workgroup

4. Outcomes and performance measures workgroup
5. Transition committee
6. Workforce workgroup
7. Interim study committee
8. Continuum of care committee
9. Brain injury workgroup
10. Residential care facility workgroup

- In December 2012, each workgroup will have submitted a report with recommendations to the state legislature. To locate the reports: <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Partners/MHDSRedesign.html>
- The State Legislature will have convened on January 14, 2013.
- Legislation will have been introduced to further the redesign of the mental health and disability system including but not limited to transition funding legislation to keep the present system operating and services in place.

The three panelists will provide comment on the progress of the redesign, the legislation being considered in the new legislative session and any other topics they have determined to be important to share. There will be ample time for questions and comment from the participants attending the event.

Please join us for the latest information on redesign and a discussion of what to expect in the future.

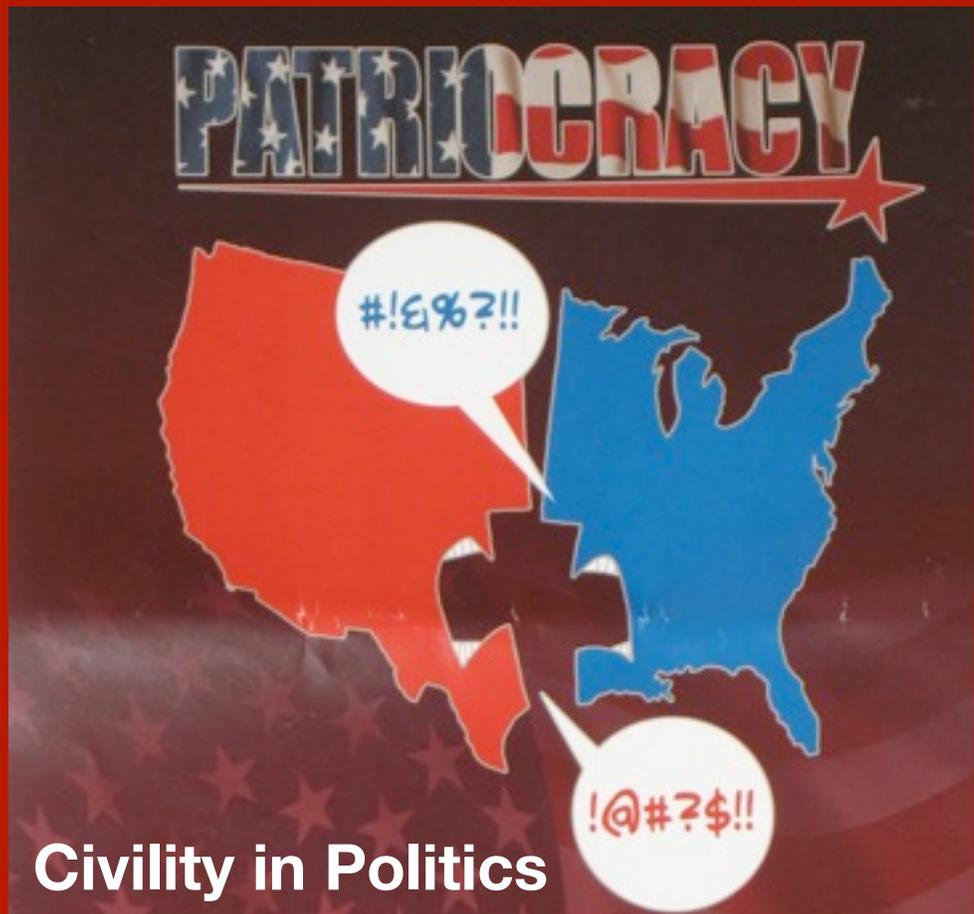
In FY 2014, legal settlement ends and redesign eligibility rules and core services begin. Regions begin operating on or before July 1, 2014.

Iowa Mental Health Redesign Panel

January 24, 2013, 6 - 8:00 pm

Plymouth Congregational Church
Ingersoll Avenue and 42nd Street

Meeting is free and open to the public



Civility in Politics
Film & Panel at Drake University are Success
by Karen Person

On November 1, LWVMDM and the Drake Student Senate co-sponsored a meeting on Civility in Politics. It began with a showing of the film 'Patriocracy' about the polarization of America by both those on the right and the left. The subsequent panel discussion was moderated by League President Deborah Turner. It included four panelists - Emily Grimm, Drake student; Rachel Paine-Caufield, Drake professor; Jo Oldson, Democratic state representative; and Scott Raecker, Republican state representative. Though each panelist had a unique perspective, they had a convergent conclusion - more civility is needed if we are to solve our country's complex problems.

Books League Members are Reading

By Karen Person

Most Iowan's know Sally Pederson as the former Lt. Governor and advocate for autistic individuals. They may not be aware that she is also half of a dynamic duo as her husband, James A. Autry, is a Fortune 500 executive, and a well known poet and author. His recent book, *Choosing Gratitude; Learning to Love the Life You Have* is a lovely collection of stories, reflections, and

poems. It reminds us all that gratitude is a choice we make day to day. As a psychologist, I have long believed that the individual has choice as to if to dwell on the positives or the negatives in one's life- we all have plenty of both. This quick read book was a good reminder to enjoy those moments for which we can be thankful.

Membership Kickoff at Christopher's Justice Mark Cady's Remarks Inspire Audience

By Gary Kaufman

The annual membership meeting for the League of Women Voters of Metro Des Moines was held at Christopher's Restaurant, 2816 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines on October 8, 2012. There was a lavish assortment of delicious hors d'oeuvres provided by the League from Christopher's as well as a cash bar. In addition to League members and the general public, four legislators were in attendance, Senators Jack Hatch and Matt McCoy, Representative Jo Oldson, and Representative (now Senator) Janet Peterson, and one future legislator, Representative Marti Anderson, who is also a member of the League.

Karen Person gave a presentation on the history and background of the League and the keynote speaker was Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady.



Chief Justice Mark Cady gave an example of the seriousness that the Iowa judiciary gives when making their pledge to uphold the Iowa Constitution and the law of Iowa. In 1933, during the depths of the great depression, a large group of angry men, many of them farmers facing foreclosure, stormed the courthouse in Le Mars, Iowa, and confronted Judge Charles Bradley, whose docket included presiding over foreclosures. The men demanded that Judge Bradley stop signing foreclosure orders, and Judge Bradley refused noting that it was his duty to uphold the law, even if it was unpopular. The men grabbed him and dragged him to the city square. There they again demanded that he stop signing foreclosure orders. He refused. The men knocked him to the ground, pried open his clenched teeth with a screwdriver and poured alcohol down his throat. They then threw him into a truck and drove him to the outskirts of town, where they declared they were going to hang the judge. They blindfolded the judge, placed a rope as a noose around his neck and again they demanded that he stop signing foreclosure orders. The judge again refused. They poured grease over his body, and pulled the rope taut around his neck and he was lifted off the ground

until he became unconscious. After being reminded by a newspaper editor that they would all be charged with murder if they did not relent, the mob disbursed. Judge Bradley was not in his courtroom the next day, understandably, but the judge who was there continued to carry out the rule of law as Judge Bradley did. This illustrates that in Iowa, judges must act in a fair and impartial way and make decisions based on the facts of the case and the rule of law and not popular opinion.

Chief Justice Cady pointed out that Iowa has been at the forefront in protecting individual rights of Iowans. In 1868, the Iowa Supreme Court held that the state's equal protection clause would not permit segregation, even though, at that time there was a strong public sentiment for segregated schools. In 1873, the Court held that the Iowa constitution would not permit segregated dining areas even though it was the prevailing custom. In 1869, Iowa admitted the first woman to practice law in the nation, while most other states were openly denying such practice. He noted that courts must make decisions based on the laws and not on what we once thought was true. Thus, Iowa courts are set up to search for the truth, and for that truth to be used to better frame those values and principles declared in our constitution. He noted that history reveals that neither the United States Supreme Court nor the Iowa Supreme Court has led the public down a path of civil rights that the state and nation did not want to embrace over time. We have never amended our constitution to take away a civil right once recognized by the courts. Chief Justice Cady noted that fair and impartial courts have been important to our past and are essential to our future.

It was a very moving presentation. For a more comprehensive summary of the remarks of Chief Justice Cady please go to our web site: <http://www.lwvmdm.org/RemarksofIowaSupremeCourtJusticeMarkCady.html>

As far as membership goes, as of the date of the writing of this article, we have 6 new members of the League of Women Voters of Metro Des Moines, and 23 current members have already renewed their membership on to the next year. The League appreciates their continued support, and if you have not yet renewed your membership, please do it today. It means so much.

This fall, voter registration tables were set up and staffed by League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Des Moines volunteers. Our efforts were focused on three DMACC locations, including the Success Center, the Urban Campus, and the Ankeny Campus. Here, Sherrie Taha and Judy Dirks help a DMACC student with registering to vote. Photo courtesy of Sherrie Taha.



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**

League Receives Surprise Bequest

By Gary Kaufman, Treasurer.

The League of Women Voters of Metro Des Moines was pleasantly surprised when the League received a bequest of \$5000 for the League's Education Fund from the estate of Lois Watson. John Watson, the executor of the estate, said in an accompanying note, "Until recent years when Lois' health side-lined her, she was a staunch supporter of the League and the wonderful women she worked with over the years." We salute Lois Watson for being such a great member and supporter of the League and thank her for the generosity she showed by including us in her will. Salute!