

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII COUNTY
PO BOX 665
HILO, HAWAII 96721

MARCH 2011

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Hawaii County Co-Presidents

Helen Hemmes
935-6214
hemmesh@hawaiiantel.net

Susan Dursin
328-8514
sgd8@hawaiiantel.net

CALENDAR:

- Thursday, March 22: WVA Vote pre-count
1-3 p.m. Hale Halewai, Kailua-Kona
- Thursday, April 7: WVA Vote Count
8-4 p.m. Waikoloa Clubhouse
- Saturday, April 16: Hawaii County LWV Annual Meeting
Tex Drive-in, Honoka`a
10:00 a.m. General Membership Meeting
11:00 a.m. Speaker
12:30 p.m. Board Meeting

HELP NEEDED!!

We are scheduled to count votes for the Waikoloa Village Association on Thursday, April 7th. At least ten members are needed; more volunteers would mean an earlier finish. If possible, plan to work all day, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. If you cannot work a full day, please volunteer for either the 8-12 or the 12-4 shift. This is the largest vote count Hawaii County LWV does, and it generates much-needed funds. Please let Marian Wilkins or Sue Irvine know you will work. We will car pool.

Marian Wilkins
325-6116 g-mwilkins@juno.com

Sue Irvine
935-8080 susan.r002@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING



We're delighted to announce that **Kathleen A. Frankovic**, retired CBS News Pollster, will speak to us at our annual meeting on Saturday, April 16, at 11 a.m. We're still in the process of confirming the title of her talk but anticipate that she will speak on the methods, history, and challenge of getting accurate information without slanting facts when conducting polls or a similar topic.

Some of us were privileged to hear Frankovic speak at the Big Island Press Club Annual Dinner on January 29, 2010. In the media release issued for that event, Stephanie Salazar shared pertinent background information, as follows: "Frankovic, one of the world's leading experts in public opinion polling, recently retired from CBS News, where she was the network's Director of Surveys and Producer, with major responsibility for the design, analysis and broadcasting of results from CBS News and CBS News/New York Times polls. She remains an election and polling consultant for CBS News and other public opinion research organizations. In 2008 Frankovic received the American Association for Public Opinion Research Association's Lifetime Achievement Award given for an outstanding contribution to the field of public opinion research." Frankovic earned an A.B. from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in political science from Rutgers University.

Frankovic now is a resident of Hilo. She used the words "Aloha" and "Mahalo" in her farewell memo to her colleagues so know that her talk - regardless of the specific topic - will be of interest to friends and members of the LWV of Hawaii County. Plan to join us.

Helen Hemmes

VOTER is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County, a non-partisan organization established to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Contributors: Margaret Drake, Susan Dursin, Helen Hemmes, Marianna Scheffer

Editor: Maiden Temple

Submit information for publication to Maiden Temple, tcmet@hawaii.rr.com, or 73-4595 Old Mamalahoa Hwy., Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

HAWAII COUNTY LWV RECOMMENDS CRITERIA FOR BOE APPOINTMENTS

Following the November election when the public voted to give the governor authority to appoint members of the Board of Education, several Hilo members met as an ad hoc committee to consider school board selection. The committee, made up of Sheria Rosenthal, Michael Rohr, Marianna Scheffer, and chaired by Margaret Drake, first listened as Rosenthal presented information on the current makeup of the BOE. Then they reviewed the system used for selecting the University Board of Regents. They created the following lists, which were forwarded to Valere McFarland, State League Chair of Education, and to Governor Abercrombie.

Appointees should embody the following qualities or experience.

1. Has expertise in education.
2. Has attended public school/college, or been involved in educational issues or as a volunteer.
3. Demonstrates knowledge of local conditions
4. Understands points of view of all vested interests, parents, administrators, teachers, students.
5. Demonstrates a democratic outlook as in wanting to provide education for **ALL** the children.
6. Expresses a “student centered” approach to problem solving.
7. Manifests the capability to look out for students without compromising educational standards.
8. Shows skill in presenting appropriate educational programs with the money and structures needed to implement them.
9. Communicates humanistic educational values which include creativity and the ability to inspire.
10. Demonstrates skill in listening and shows empathy
11. Is responsive to community such as answering e-mails and telephone calls.
12. Demonstrates acceptance of the business point of view.

Representation should be sought from the following community groups and/or areas of expertise.

1. Educators
2. Person from Business to help define future job needs.
3. Person from the Military as so many children from this community attend public schools
4. Person with Budgetary experience
5. An educational Theorist who understands testing both quantity and quality as well as testing systems.

Margaret Drake

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AS OF MARCH 7, 2011

Things in Honolulu can change very quickly, but as of this date:

1. SB8, enabling the governor to directly appoint school board members has passed.
2. All gambling legalization bills appear to be dead, but there remains a slight possibility of merging one of them with a non-gambling bill later.

3. HB100, the vote by mail bill, appears to be dead after it was limited to primaries and special elections.
4. HB1575, which would have changed the present Hawai`i County pilot program for comprehensive public financing, is dead. Changes were made to protect the program from being ruled unconstitutional and to provide a somewhat higher level of funding.
5. HB1385, which would have established an easement and no-build zone along the length of the Ala Kahakai Trail on state land, is dead. Rep. Jerry Chang, chair of Water, Land and Ocean Resources, would not schedule a hearing.

Susan Dursin

OBSERVERS' PROGRAM

One task of The League of Women Voters of Hawai`i County is to monitor our public officials and hold them accountable. An excellent way to do this is by observing the Hawaii County Council meetings. Notice of these meetings is posted in a timely fashion on the Hawaii County Council web site, <http://www.co.hawaii.hi.us/council/council.htm>. The Council meets alternately in Hilo and Kailua-Kona. Besides observing in person, Council meetings are accessible by video-conference and broadcast on community access television. You can find viewing times in your television schedule.

Observing is an excellent way to learn about local politics and to keep up-to-date. Attending Council meetings in person is a great way for members to learn and contribute, interacting with other League members, the Council, and the public. Get yourself known! Get the League known! Other benefits are that Observer Reports help League to formulate plans, can be completed on a volunteer basis and even can be completed from your own home.

A few rules: when attending a meeting as an Observer, do not testify. It's important to remain neutral. If confronted, simply show your LWV pin and state that you are there as an observer, representing the League, which is a non-partisan organization.

On the next page is an Observer's Report, which is meant as a guideline for Observers. Feel free to modify this.

Please send or e-mail completed reports to me at 189 Paukaa Drive, Hilo, HI 96720 or mscheffe@gmail.com. If you need more information, please contact me by e-mail or at 808-934-8137 or 808-936-6418.

Marianna Scheffer

League of Women Voters Hawaii County
Observers' Report

Meeting attended _____ Date _____

Your name _____

Site of meeting _____

Attending via videoconference? _____ Which site? _____

Type of meeting:

Regular Special Public Hearing Committee Meeting

Members or staff absent, names _____

Media coverage? Yes No

Names of reporters or media _____

Audience at your site: Under 10 10-20 21 or more

Audience at other sites: Under 10 10-20 21 or more

Total in attendance at all sites: _____

Agenda: Please attach and check items approved

Was agenda available in time? _____

Were agenda items clearly described as to what was to be discussed? _____

Was there adequate background material available to the public? _____

Was there adequate opportunity for public input? _____

Evaluation:

Did the meeting start on time? _____

Were all members present? _____

Were members attentive? _____

Did the members appear to have "done their homework?" _____

Were members courteous to each other and to the public? _____

Were provisions of the Sunshine Law observed? _____

Were there issues of particular concern to the League? _____

Other _____

Please send or e-mail completed reports to Marianna Scheffer at 189 Paukaa Drive, Hilo, HI 96720 or *mscheffe@gmail.com*. If you need more information, please contact Marianna by e-mail or at 808-934-8137 or 808-936-6418.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to join **The League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County**, a non-partisan organization established to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Residence _____ Business _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Dues: _____ Individual (\$45)

_____ Household: any or no relationship of two individuals (\$67.50)

Additional Name: _____

Additional Name(s) @ \$22.50 : _____

_____ Student (\$22.50)

NOTE: Men are welcomed as members.

Mail to: The League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County, PO Box 665, Hilo, HI 96721