

League of Women Voters of Hawaii
League of Women Voters of Honolulu
49 South Hotel Street, Room 314
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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The League of Women Voters of Hawaii
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*A Non-Partisan Organization
 to Encourage Informed Citizen Participation
 in Government and Politics*

ALOHA VOTER
 The League of Women Voters of Honolulu

July 2010 Phone 808 531-7448

State Council to be held August 14, 2010

What is Council? A meeting of the LWVHI State council is held in the interim year between conventions. This year, Council will be held on Saturday, August 14th

According to our bylaws, "the Council shall give guidance to the state board on program, methods of work, and budget as submitted by the state board. The council is authorized to change the program upon the recommendations of the state board or local League only in the event of an emergency provided that...the change is adopted by a two-thirds vote."

The state League in Hawaii has traditionally used council meetings to address internal, and inter-League issues and for leadership training interspersed with other activities. Council is by definition a smaller, more introspective group than gathers at convention.

Voting members at Council are the State Board (which includes presidents from local Leagues) and two delegates chosen by each local League, although all League members are encouraged to attend and to join in any discussion.

State pays transportation costs of state board members; local Leagues pay costs for their delegates. The State Board usually meets right after council.

FOCUS FOR COUNCIL - LWVHI GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In 2006, the Council developed a list of Goals and Objectives. Are they still relevant? What have we accomplished? Which is most important? What do we need to do to make progress on them?

If you will attend the 2010 Council please read the "Goals and Objectives" article on page 2 and bring your thoughts.

**State League Council
 August 14, 2010
 9 a.m – 1 p.m.**

1164 Bishop Street (the Finance Factors Building), Suite 1615.

\$15 includes coffee and sandwich lunch

Registration required. Reservation Form on page 7 or call (808-531-7448) by Thursday, 8/12 . Please spell your name and leave your phone number.

Parking at municipal lots on Alakea St, Bethel St or Beretania at Nuuanu.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES, I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters as part of your voice for citizens and force for change. I enclose:

___ **\$40 ONE YEAR** individual membership

___ **\$60 1-year HOUSEHOLD** membership (for two people who share an address.)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone #: day _____

evening _____

Please make your checks payable to
League of Women Voters
 and return with your application form to:
League of Women Voters
49 S. Hotel St.,#314
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Legalized Gambling: A State or County Issue?

The latest face-off between gambling opponents and supporters raises two questions for Hawaii's League of Women Voters. Is there a divide-and-conquer move afoot? Will county councils reverse their positions against legalized gambling?

On June 24th, the HSAC (Hawaii State Association of Counties) annual conference featured a debate between Alex Santiago and John Radcliffe of Capitol Consultants of Hawaii. Moderated by Dan Cook, the session was billed as "A Fresh Look at Gaming: Can Counties Afford Not To Do It?" Santiago is executive director of PHOCUSED, a social service organization representing those underserved by health and human services. Radcliffe is a lobbyist.

Radcliffe spoke on the benefits of increased revenue from casinos. Santiago countered with information about social impacts and the costs of gambling. Nestor Garcia, the Honolulu HSAC representative and current president, was unsure whether revenue would offset infrastructure and service costs of each county (such as additional police and fire personnel, road or sewer costs.)

Radcliffe also brought up the idea of each county being free to decide whether a casino would meet its particular needs. "Every county is different", he said. "Some just can't overcome the religious or socially conservative elements in their population."

In 2009 and 2010, the county councils of Honolulu and Hawaii passed

League of Women Voters of Hawaii Goals and Objectives

I. Increase public participation in government

- A. Increase voter registration and turnout
 - 1. Distribute voter registration forms with drivers' licenses
 - 2. Expand "get-out-the-vote" campaigns: PSAs, Poster contests for high school students with prizes
- B. Investigate ways to increase voter awareness & knowledge of important issues
- C. Support and study government behavior and process
- D. Use technology to bring government to the public
 - 1. Eliminate need for password on web site
 - 2. Put community calendar on web site
 - 3. Put testimony on web site
 - 4. Increase number of hyperlinks on web site
- E. Support initiative and referendum at the state level
- F. Increase cooperation with other organizations with similar goals (Media Council, Sierra Club, etc.)
- G. Increase use of national and local education funds, other grants

II. Increase League Membership

- A. Recruit newly retired – work with company counseling
- B. Contact new arrivals – LWV welcome wagon
- C. Be visible!
 - 1. Work on magnet issues
 - 2. Be known as relevant and effective
 - 3. Present testimony
 - 4. Write letters to the editor, op-ed pieces
- D. Create junior arm of League
- E. Reach students through speakers on issues; invite them to participate in action
- F. Have active Membership Chairs in each League
- G. Increase diversity, e.g. recruit men, different age groups

II. Plan for Future Leadership

- A. Develop succession plans for each League
- B. Make sure each committee has at least three members
- C. Make sure there is a dedicated chair for any new study

From 2006 Council

resolutions opposing legalized gambling. If this conference is a sign of ongoing legalization efforts, it is important to remind council members and legislators of those resolutions.

Grace Furukawa, LWV liaison to HCALG (Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling) and Susan Dursin (Hawaii County Co-president)

See **Gambling** on page 3

LWV OF HONOLULU ED FUND SEEKS NOMINEES

The LWV-Honolulu Education Fund board will be choosing a recipient for the \$5,000 Donald & Astrid Monson award for the third year. In accordance with the terms of Astrid's will, the board is looking for an organization or individual who has "made the year's outstanding contribution toward or involving public interest planning, housing or environmental issues."

The first recipient was Jeff Mikulina when he headed the Sierra Club. The second was Donna Wong, Executive Director of Hawaii's Thousand Friends.

To propose an individual or organization, please send the name along with reasons for the choice to the Honolulu Ed Fund by email (voters@lwv-hawaii.com), phone (531-7448) or postal mail (49 S, Hotel St, rm 314, Honolulu HI 96813) by August 31, 2010.

*Robin Loomis
President, Ed Fund*

Mahalo Honolulu Contributors

- Marian Miller
- David & Lee Takagi
- Laura Thompson
- Lois Tyler

Contribute?

If you volunteer to work in the primary (September) and/or the general (November) elections, and you wish to contribute your pay to the League of Women Voters of Hawaii, please call State president Pearl Johnson at 537-5471 or email her at pearlj@hawaii.rr.com.

We're Cleaning Out

In anticipation of a move to smaller quarters, both State and Honolulu Leagues are cleaning out unused papers, publications and files. If you know of any materials that truly must be kept in spite of not having been used recently, please come to the office to earmark them by **August 15.**

Free Books Available

As part of our office clean-out, the books listed below are offered to members. These books were generously donated by various members. To claim a book, call the office (531-7448)

- Hubris – Michael Isikoff & David Corn
- Myth America: Democracy vs. Capitalism – William H. Boyer
- Armed Madhouse – Greg Palast
- A Country That Works: Getting America Back on Track – Andy Stern
- The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community – David C. Korten
- Crimes Against Nature: How George W. Bush & His Corporate Pals Are Plundering the Country & Hijacking Our Democracy – Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
- Anatomy of an Illness as Perceived by the Patient: Reflections on Healing and Regeneration – Norman Cousins
- Dude, Where's My Country? – Michael Moore
- Out of Iraq: A Practical Plan for Withdrawal Now – George McGovern & William R. Polk
- Static: Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders, and the People Who Fight Back – Amy Goodman & David Goodman
- Perfectly Legal: The Covert Campaign to Rig our Tax System to Benefit the Super Rich—and Cheat Everybody else – David Cay Johnston
- Bushwhacked: Life in George W. Bush's America – Molly Ivins & Lou Dobbs
- Democracy At Risk: Rescuing Main Street from Wall Street – Jeff Gates
- Body of Secrets: Anatomy of the Ultra-Secret National Security Agency – James Bamford

Reservation Form for State Council August 14, 2010, 9 am to 1 pm

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

No. of Reservations _____ x \$15.00 per person = \$ _____

Subway Sandwich choice:
Tuna ___ Ham ___ Turkey ___ Roast Beef ___ Vegetable ___

Deadline for reservations is Thursday, August 12
Mail form & check payable to LWV-Hawaii, 49 S. Hotel St, rm 314, Honolulu, HI 96813

LWV-HAWAII PROPOSED BUDGET 2010-2011

	Actual Jun 09-May 10	Proposed Jun 10-May 11
Income		
FUNDRAISING INCOME		
Fundraiser Non- Event	0.00	3,000.00
Member Contrib. & In Kind	290.00	500.00
Total FUNDRAISING INCOME	290.00	3,500.00
INTEREST	10.00	10.00
PER MEMBER PAYMENT		
PMP County of Hawaii	569.00	550.00
PMP Honolulu	1,817.00	1,817.00
Total PER MEMBER PAYMENT	2,386.00	2,350.00
MEMBERS AT LARGE		
MAL Kauai	80.00	80.00
MAL Maui	0.00	0.00
Total MAL PAYMENTS	80.00	80.00
Total Income	2,766.00	5,940.00
Expenses		
BOARD EXPENSES		
Offices Supplies & Licenses	0.00	40.00
Travel-Board Members	721.00	1,500.00
State's share of Honolulu office expenses including printing & mailing of Ka Leo Hana	2,263.00	2,600.00
Total BOARD EXPENSES	2,984.00	4,140.00
COUNCIL/CONVENTION	0.00	250.00
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES		
Fundraiser Non-Event	0.00	940.00
PROGRAM/ACTION		
Legislative Action	0.00	610.00
Total Expenses	2,984.00	5,940.00
Net Income	-218.00	0.00

Hawaii State Ethics Commission Courts Unwelcome Attention

When we learned that the Ethics Commission had asked for the resignation/retirement of its executive director (ED) Daniel Mollway, we prepared testimony in support of Mollway's long and devoted service to the Commission, and his success in elevating its reputation and credibility.

I knew him best as the lobbyist for the Commission, testifying on legislation to strengthen ethics laws, explaining the effects of certain laws as only he could with his institutional memory of past incidents, and broadening the public's understanding of the role of good ethics laws in making our government work for the people.

League member JoAnn Maruoka, Jo Byrne, president of Common Cause, its executive director, Nikki Love and I attended the meetings of the Commission. The wholesale use of executive sessions left us outside the meeting room, almost

Gambling from page 2

attended the conference. Because HSAC is a taxpayer-funded organization, they reasoned that the session should have been open to observers.

OIP, however, said HSAC could charge the full registration because otherwise "anyone wishing to attend the conference could do so for free." Furukawa and Dursin each paid the \$225 registration. No business related to gambling was transacted. Only one council member from each county attended the session.

Sue Dursin

clueless as to what was happening. What little we could learn made us concerned about the information-gathering process and what it could mean for the credibility of this highly regarded institution.

Staff Complaints

We learned about complaints from some staff; a commissioner interviewed them before the Commission requested Mr. Mollway's resignation. When Mr. Mollway refused, the Commission appointed Chair Maria Sullivan and Commissioner David Randell as an investigating committee.

According to a public report they released, (the full report was not made public), the committee interviewed all of the staff, a former commission chair, and Mr. Mollway. They claim they read all of the testimonies and letters (which were almost all in support of Mr. Mollway).

Jo, Nikki, JoAnn and I framed some questions for the commission. In a letter to the commissioners, Jo and I listed our questions, ending with some pointed words: "The fact that the investigative committee was appointed after the ED was advised to leave his position, (and then was put on paid leave), suggests that the commission has already agreed to replace Mr. Mollway.

Motivation Unclear

Was the investigative committee really appointed to gather objective and pertinent information, or was it appointed to justify the earlier actions? The selection of

people interviewed would be most instructive and as requested before, we ask for their positions and length of their employment. We are not clear what motivated this whole process. Questions about the fairness and objectivity of the process remain. We welcome further clarification. "

Answers Needed

In reply, Chair Sullivan claimed that "OIP opinion 06-01 indicates that under the law, the public may testify and comment on the (public) report. It does not allow for the public to question board members under the guise of testimony and a Board is not required to answer a testifier's questions...." This may be true, but many of the questions do not infringe on the privacy rights of Mr. Mollway, and straight-forward answers could dispel any wrong ideas we may have. The questions all had to do with the process used.

As noted in one of the newspaper articles on this matter, the Commission has the right to terminate the executive director without cause. But to paraphrase Larry Geller in his incisive blog, *Disappeared News*, best practice in the business world is for management to counsel the employee, specify the standards that are to be met, and give the employee a chance to meet those standards before taking any other action.

(Ed. Note: this process is also required for employees of Hawaii State Departments)

Jean Aoki

Honolulu News**Phoenix Rail System Cuts Back on Service**

Geoffrey Paterson, emeritus member of American Institute of Architects, recently returned from Phoenix, which has a 20-mile rail transit system. Here is a quote from the Summer 2010 edition of the official newsletter of Valley Metro:

" On July 26th METRO light rail will undergo changes to service due to a substantial decrease in sales tax collections which provide the funds necessary to operate service...the Valley Metro Rail Board of Directors approved a decision to operate weekday service every twelve minutes instead of every ten minutes from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 pm. All other hours will operate twenty minute service... Another change to service will be the addition of all holidays running on a Sunday schedule."

Says Mr. Paterson, "You can see that Phoenix is having financial problems with their at-grade rail system. Since they do not even have the huge train stations with elevators and escalators with high maintenance, utilities and security, then Honolulu will be in REAL trouble if we continue to pursue this outdated overpriced rail system.

The daily ridership is about 40,000 which is about one third of the ridership projected for Honolulu. The Phoenix system was built for 1.4 billion dollars for a twenty mile system with the Feds paying almost half its cost and the stations are little more than bus shelters with a ticket dispensing machine. Twenty percent of ridership is students but of course our train does not even go to U of H.

The train is very popular with bicyclists who can wheel their bikes right onto the train, something that will not be possible on the Honolulu train. The trains during the day travel with approximately just thirty percent of the seating being occupied..

"If Phoenix with a population four times that of Honolulu and a train system that cost one quarter of our projected cost still cannot make it financially then it is apparent that we are on a collision course for a financial and aesthetic disaster.

After flying in to Los Angeles, Denver and Phoenix on this trip and looking down on many miles on each side of the aircraft of dense development reaching to the horizon, and then flying into Honolulu with a narrow strip of land between our mountains and the sea reminded me of returning to a village; not exactly a location for a potential "high capacity" metro rail system that is being forced upon us."

The population of the Phoenix metropolitan area in 2008 was 4.3 million. Oahu's population, including the North Shore, the Windward areas and Waianae, was 904,000. The projected cost of Honolulu's rail system is over \$5 billion. Phoenix's rail system cost \$1.5 billion.

Pearl Johnson

Local Leader & League Member Recognized by Foundation

Les Ihara, Jr, a veteran leader of the Hawaii Legislature and a long-time advocate for the role of citizens in politics and government, has been elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Kettering Foundation, a research foundation with offices in Dayton, Ohio, Washington, D.C., and New York City. "Les Ihara's distinguished career in public life connects with the foundation's research into the roles of citizens in politics and government," said David Mathews, Kettering Foundation president.

Ihara ... focuses on ethics, campaign finance, open government, citizen participation, civil rights, consumer protection, environmental...

In a legislative career that began in 1986, Ihara has held a number of leadership positions. Senator Ihara currently serves as Majority Policy Leader and focuses on ethics, campaign finance, open government, citizen participation, civil rights, consumer protection, environmental, and aging issues.

The focus of the Kettering Foundation's research is: What does it take to make democracy work as it should? For more information about the Kettering Foundation's research and its publications, visit the foundation's Web site, www.kettering.org.
Kettering Foundation
. Announcement

Applauding LWVUS For Another Successful Convention

Reading about the June Convention of the LWVUS and following some of the pre-convention email discussion among leaguers from different states attempting to persuade each other to vote for various studies, pushing for certain convention rules, urging attendance at various caucuses, etc., I felt the excitement building up. I knew this was a convention not to miss, but physically I was unable to travel to Atlanta.

By all accounts, this convention held on our 90th anniversary was a very productive, exhilarating and meaningful event. I've been to a few LWVUS conventions, and I am convinced that if we could afford to send about a half dozen young potential leaders to one of these conventions every few years, we would not lack for active leaders and members. The pulsating energy, excitement, and focused attention to each item up for debate and decision in that hall just capture and sweep you along.

The debate is not confined to the plenary sessions. I remember when a resolution for an increase in our per-member-payment was turned down at one of our conventions. The Hawaii delegation had voted in favor of the raise, I believe. During the next break, people from different delegations started talking to each other, and agreed that we needed to take another vote, because the raise was necessary. So, in the next plenary session, someone who had voted in opposition asked to reconsider the vote taken earlier. The raise was passed followed by enthusiastic applause.

The late-night caucuses led by well-informed members, the many enjoyable excursions, the wares market where ingenious products devised by the different Leagues are up for sale, the opportunity to meet with members from all over the country, the speeches by famous national leaders, are all there to instill pride in our organization. Above all, you begin to really understand the meaning of ours being a grassroots organization.

Jean Aoki

National LWV Elects New President

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) celebrated its 90th anniversary at its national convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The four-day gathering gave over 600 League members from around the country a chance to celebrate our accomplishments on health care reform, election reform and judicial independence, and to discuss important public policy issues.

MacNamara, the LWVUS' 18th president, will serve a 2-year term. A League member since 1983, MacNamara was president of the Georgia League from 2001 to 2006. She was elected to the LWVUS national Board in 2006 and was vice president until 2010.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius addressed the

Agriculture Group Will Focus on Regulations

Honolulu League's agriculture group will change its focus from getting leases for small farmers from the State to focusing on state regulations which impede the operation of small farms.

At our June 21 meeting, a member with experience in farming in Hawaii pointed to various rules of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) which are onerous to small farmers. She said, for example, the state forbids farmers to eat a part of the crops they sell.

The group decided to look at the DOA Administrative Rules, which seem to be equivalent of regulations, and focus on rules which seem unnecessary and onerous. Dealing with government is what League does best and we will see what can be done to change those rules.

The agriculture group is headed by Honolulu League's Planning & Transportation committee and includes interested non-League members. We have met several times since January and will meet again on Monday, August 9 at 10:30 am at the League office. We welcome all who are interested.

Pearl Johnson, chair

convention on the role of women in American politics

Delegates set the LWVUS program agenda for the next two years, voting to study the federal role in public education and privatization of government functions.

From LWV.org