



# The North Dakota Voter

The League of Women Voters of North Dakota  
PO Box 295  
Fargo, ND 58107-0295  
lwnd.org 701-297-6815

Issue 3

December 2009

**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.**



## League National President Mary Wilson visits North Dakota

Alice Hauan

In mid-September, 2009, the North Dakota LWV was honored with a visit by Mary Wilson, the National President of the League of Women Voters. This was the first time in the history of the ND LWV that a National President has visited us. Mary Tintes made advanced arrangements and asked me, Alice

*Continued Page 2*

## Groups urge equal opportunity in Higher Education Leadership

A group of former North Dakota State Board of Higher Education leaders are urging Governor Hoeven, Chancellor Goetz and SBHE Members to make a commitment to equal opportunity for women and minorities in the selection of staff and board members. More specifically in the search for a new President for NDSU. In an open letter to the editor, signed by Ellen Chaffee former president of Valley City State, Sharon Etemad, former president of Lake Region State College, as well as 7 other women involved in ND higher education, they outline reasons for their concern.

“The North Dakota University System once was a national leader in participation by women on the State Board of Higher Education as university and college presidents. Not long ago about half of the presidents and about half of the Board members were women. Now, the only two women in these roles are in their final year of service. The Board has appointed white men to the last six NDUS presidential vacancies. The Governor has not appointed a non-student woman to the Board for seven years.”

According to the ND University System website, “The eight-member State Board of Higher Education is the policy-setting body for the North Dakota University System. The board includes seven citizen members appointed by the governor who serve four-year terms and one student appointed by the governor for a one-year term. A non-voting faculty advisor is selected by

*Continued Page 4*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Visit from National League President
- 1 Equal Opportunity for SBHE
- 2 Presidents Letter
- 3 LWVND Board Elections
- 3 Convention Summary
- 4 Education Leadership Series Planned



## President's Letter

Lois Altenburg

### League President Visit

*Continued from page 1*

Hauan, to host President Wilson. I happily agreed and met Wilson's plane on Saturday night. On Sunday morning, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, after brunch we left for the bi-annual LWVND State Convention in Jamestown. Pres. Wilson made a helpful presentation regarding the work of the National LWV. She emphasized the amount of work that is being done and needs to be done to legislate and implement Health Care Reform. We all had dinner in Jamestown before leaving for our respective communities.

On Monday, Sept. 14, President Wilson, along with Mary Tintes, Alice Hauan and Jane Ahlin met with Jack Zaleski at the FORUM. They discussed Health Care Reform. It was interesting to me that Mr. Zaleski had neither pencil nor paper to take notes. I believe he was performing a courtesy for us with no intention of printing anything in the paper. At least, I was correct about nothing getting into the paper.

Following that meeting, Alice Hauan, Mary Tintes and President Wilson had interviews at the offices of Senators Conrad and Dorgan. We discussed Health Care Reform and the positions of the LWV. We hope they will support the best version possible of a bill that would make sure that all citizens are covered and that no one is excluded.

We were honored to have President Wilson visit and hope that sometime in the future we may again have the privilege of hosting the National LWV president.☼

*The second half of 2009 has been quieter in ND with no elections this fall and the legislature out of session. This is a time when we take a deep breath and prepare for 2010 elections. It is a good time to get face time with legislative representatives in preparation for next year's activities.*

*On another front our representatives have been busy in Washington D.C. Key votes are looming and with the possibility of real progress on healthcare reform and climate change. The League has been lobbying heavily on our positions. You may have seen television ads in our local media that feature President Mary Wilson asking people to take a critical look at the information presented by special interests concerning healthcare. The official League position on healthcare is straightforward:*

Promote a healthcare policy for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all US residents and controls healthcare costs. (LWV, [Impact on Issues](#) 2008)

*Once the facts have been laid out clearly, getting all interested parties to compromise and still come out with real change is the challenge before us.☼*

Visit our website at [www.LWVND.com](http://www.LWVND.com) for program and calendar information.

See the national website [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org) for everything you wanted to know about the League, great tools, and issue papers.

## State Convention Summary

### Speakers

Lloyd Omdahl and Representative Cory Mock provided valuable information in their presentations on reapportionment

### Programming

The state board made a motion to continue with reapportionment as a study topic for 2009-2010. It is timely as in 2010 the census data will become available and there will likely be redistricting attempts by the legislature.

There was also discussion of taking on childcare and early childhood education.

### **Apportionment**

The League's Position

*Statement of Position on Apportionment, as Announced by National Board, January 1966 and Revised March 1982:*

**The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. The League is convinced that this standard, established by the Supreme Court, should be maintained and that the U.S. Constitution should not be amended to allow for consideration of factors other than population in apportionment.**

The preceding is taken from the national LWV position. It can be found published at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).☼

### **LWV of North Dakota Board of Directors 2009-2010**

*President:* Lois Altenburg

*Vice President:* Connie Hildebrand

*Secretary:* Alice Hauan

*Treasurer:* Carol Sawicki

*Nominating Committee for 2009-2011:*

Mary Tintes                  Carol Reed

*Directors:*

Kathy Osteen                  Renee Stromme

Rhonda Schwartz          Linda Jagielo

## ND League board elections

Two new board members were added and there were a number of position changes made at the state convention held this year in Jamestown on September 13. Renee Stromme and Rhonda Schwartz have come onto the board. Renee has been on the board in past years, although Rhonda is a new member. Her bio is below. The ND League welcomes their participation.

President, Lois Altenburg and vice president Connie Hildebrand remain in their positions. Alice Hauan has moved from a director position to that of secretary. Carol Sawicki, previously on the nominating committee now holds the treasurer position. Kathi Osteen has moved into a director role and Linda Jagielo is also a director. Mary Tintes has joined Carol Reed as a member of the nominating committee for 2011-2013.

The ND League is pleased to have such a qualified and active board to lead our state efforts and oversee the local chapters.

The North Dakota state board primarily oversees local chapters and offers support and resources for programs and activities within the state.☼

## Rhonda Schwartz biography

Rhonda Schwartz is Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Thormodsgard Law Library at the University of North Dakota School of Law in Grand Forks, ND. She received a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Cincinnati, an M.L.S. from the University of Pittsburgh, a J.D. from the University of North Dakota School of Law, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of North Dakota. Dr. Schwartz currently teaches Advanced Legal Research and International and Foreign Legal Research at the School of Law. She and her husband, Dr. Charles Moretti, Chair and Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at UND, have two grown sons: Luke (St. Olaf College Class of 2000) and Joel (Carleton College Class of 2006). ☼

## **Equal Opportunity higher education**

*Continued from page 1*

the Council of College Faculties.”

In a follow up letter sent by the Executive Director of the North Dakota Women’s Network, Renee Stromme, states that the WN is “greatly interested in playing an active role in advancing Women’s status in higher education”. The group is working to build a coalition of interested individuals and organizations to “improve equity and diversity for women in the higher education system across the state.

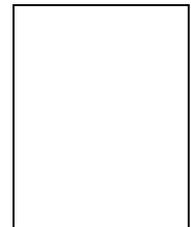
The letters were printed during November, in major publications state wide in attempt to rally support for this important issue.☀

## **Women in Education Leadership series planned for 2010**

Lois Altenburg represented the L WVND at a meeting at the NDSU Alumnae Center. Former ND Attorney General and Gubernatorial candidate Heidi Heitkamp presided at the meeting. Representatives of AAUW, The Women’s Network, PEPP, The Women’s Fund of the FM Foundation and other organization were present. A decision was made to host a series of presentations and workshops. The focus in 2010 will be on Women in Higher Education, especially women in administrative and leadership positions. The L WVND is especially interested in projects which result in action and positive change. Details will be posted at [www.lwvnd.org](http://www.lwvnd.org) as they develop.☀

**Become a North Dakota League member or renew today!  
701-297-6815 or email lwvnd@q.com.**

L WVND  
508 4<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED