



The VOTER

Bulletin of the LWV of Lawrence-Douglas County, KS

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

Note from President Carrie Lindsey

THANK YOU to Bev Worster and Cille King, who assisted in registering voters at Lecompton's Territorial Days. Voters: On page 2 is an introduction to Emily Pabst, who we hired to be our Election Cycle Assistant. Emily, whose job is to help find events for the League to register voters and to increase the League's visibility, has done her job very well so far, finding many opportunities for the League to register and educate voters and be visible. Unfortunately, two of these events were CANCELLED due in part to lack of volunteers. While Melinda Henderson, Voter Services Chair, and I are available to work tables, it is not acceptable for one or two League members to carry on all the work of being visible in the community, especially in this heat. If we are to be available to voters this year, we will need a



LEAGUE CALENDAR		
Thursday, July 12 7-9:00 p.m.	LWV L-DC Board Meeting	Plymouth Congregational Church Heritage Room, 945 Vermont St Lawrence
Monday, July 16	Candidate Forum	Lawrence City Hall
Tuesday, July 17	Last day for voter registration for Primary Election	Douglas Co. Courthouse
Saturday, July 21 7-9:00 p.m.	Land Use Committee Meeting	Douglas Co. Courthouse
Tuesday, Aug. 7 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	Primary Election (advance voting ends Noon, Aug. 6)	various polling places
Find more election dates & details on page 4 and dates for <i>volunteer opportunities on page 3!</i>		

steady stream of members to volunteer, even if for only an hour. Please read the article on page 3 that lists upcoming volunteer opportunities as well as contact information for Melinda. And please, if you have email, and haven't already done so, **ACCEPT YOUR**

INVITATION TO JOIN THE LEAGUE'S EMAIL GROUP. It is the quickest way for us to contact you when opportunities arise unexpectedly.

As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting, this is a watershed year for the country and the League. (cont'd pg. 2)

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 Membership:
 Voter Editor: Ruth Lichtwardt 841-5419 lightwatcher@gmail.com (Sally Hayden this issue)
 Local League: <http://www.lawrenceleague.com> National League: <http://www.lwv.org>
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Many of the issues the League supports, including many specific to the sovereignty and rights of women, are at stake. The current board is made up of amazing and invested members, but 13 of us cannot do the work for the entire organization. The League, in order to continue as a viable organization, needs to increase its membership. In order to recruit members, we need to use this year as an opportunity to be both visible and forceful in our mission to encourage "the informed and active participation of the citizens in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy." The League is an historic organization with a mission that meets the needs of today, maybe now more than ever. There are many new faces on the political horizon with ideas, positions, and messages that are both in line with and abhorrent to the League of Women Voter's ideas, positions, and message. The League is a volunteer, member-driven organization. Our local League has a very small budget and we do one fundraising letter per year. That means we rely on the labor of our members to do the vital work of continuing the League's mission. There are

many ways to be involved and *if you wish for the local League to continue to be a healthy organization, please be involved today.*

LET'S START THINKING ABOUT HOW WE EDUCATE CITIZENS ON CIVICS

Part of the League's original mission was to make sure that women, having received the right to vote, became educated about the process and the issues. It often seems that in today's very political world, understanding the process is the last thing on anyone's mind. As a result, there is significant misunderstanding of the role of government and the election process. Democracy "by the people" has been hijacked by crushing amounts of money, with the Citizen's United case opening the door to record-breaking spending. As we pick activities for the League to focus on in the future, we should consider that all elements of our educational outreach, on issues or otherwise, should include the HOW as well as the WHY.

- CL



Meet the League's New Election Cycle Assistant

The LWV-LDC hired Emily Pabst to work part-time through the



general election to increase the League's visibility and support voter registration. She'll identify opportunities for voter registration throughout Douglas County and help Melinda Henderson with the logistics of these events, while *League members will be counted on to staff the registration tables.*

A Columbia, Missouri, native, Emily moved to Lawrence in 2009 to pursue a master's degree in geography at KU. Shortly after graduating in 2011, she began her current position as a redistricting assistant with the Kansas Legislative Research Department.

VOTING IN THE PRIMARY

The primaries for Republicans and Democrats will be held August 7th. Primary Elections decide who will be on the ballot for the General Election, and by extension, who are the choices for our leaders of tomorrow.

Voter Registration and Voter Education Starts NOW!

FINALLY. Late on the evening of June 7th, three U.S. District Court judges created new redistricting maps for the state of Kansas; Lawrence and Douglas County saw several changes. All of Douglas County now resides in the 2nd Congressional District, and the state Senate, Representative, and Board of Education maps saw changes as well. Earlier this year, changes were made at the county level to the three county commission districts. The new maps are at http://redistricting.ks.gov/Plans/district_court.html Additionally, legislation passed in 2011 includes pushing back the deadline for voter registration from the 15th day to the 21st day prior to the election (to end the overlap between the beginning of advance voting and the end of voter registration) and requiring voters to produce a photo ID to vote.

So we have two big goals before us: educate voters in Douglas County about these changes and register as many voters as possible between now and October 15th. *In order to accomplish these goals, the League membership is going to need to step up and participate.*

What can you do to help?

1. Submit questions for the candidates.

The League is a member of the Voter Education Coalition (VEC), the local umbrella non-partisan organization created to promote civil dialogue and broad participation of citizens and candidates through community forums. The VEC is planning to host a forum on July 16th at City Hall, to which candidates for these partisan primary elections have been invited: 2nd Congressional District (Democrats) and Kansas Senate districts 2, 3 and 19 (Republicans). The VEC is also planning activities in September and October, prior to the general election. Additionally, we will be putting together a Voter Guide for the general election. So pull out your national and state League positions, review them, and come up with some great questions we can ask these candidates regarding their support of our positions. If you don't have a hard copy of our positions, you can find them online at our website: <http://lawrenceleague.com/Positions.html>.

2. Volunteer to staff a Voter Registration/Education table at upcoming events.

We can register voters through October 16th and we can do voter education until the general election (November 6th). Two of the opportunities we have scheduled so far:

- Farmers' Market, Baldwin City, Saturday mornings, 8:00–noon; through September.
- Final Fridays, Downtown Lawrence, 5:00–9:00 p.m., July 27, Aug 31, Sep 28, Oct 26.

Opportunities Emily Pabst, our temporary Election Cycle Assistant, is working on for us for the next couple of months include:

- Local grocery stores, sporting events (sadly, we were unable to get enough volunteers to do the recent Tour of Lawrence), the library, and the annual sidewalk sale. We also want to consider opportunities to register students once school begins again.

If you are interested in volunteering at any of these activities, please contact

Melinda (melin@sunflower.com 841-8191). If you have any other ideas about how to be visible to register and educate voters over the next few months, she wants to hear those, too.

3. Volunteer to help put together the Voter Guide for the general election.

4. Donate

If you aren't able to help staff a table, can you donate something

from the list below or give funds to purchase one or more of the items?

- A case of bottled water (it's a long, hot summer, and many of these tabling opportunities will be outside)
- Padded folding chairs for the volunteers
- An easy-set-up canopy to shade the volunteers (\$100-150)
- Cover the cost of laminating five maps for the table

If we haven't heard from you about how you'd like to help, Emily will be contacting you soon. This is a watershed election year for many reasons. But remember...League is only as good as its membership makes it. Thank you.

-Melinda



Tellers Restaurant is hosting a Meet & Greet with candidates for State Senate, State Representative, and County Commission, July 18th from 6-8 p.m. KLWN will be covering this event live on-air and it is open to the public. This event is free, however, dinner reservations are suggested.

UPCOMING 2012 ELECTION DATES

- **Tue Jul 17:** Last day to register for primary elections
- **Wed Jul 18:** Advance voting for primary begins
- **Mon Aug 6, at Noon:** Advance voting for primary, in person at County Courthouse, closes
- **Tue Aug 7:** Primary Election
- **Tue Oct 16:** Last day to register for general election
- **Wed Oct 17:** Advance voting for general election begins
- **Mon Nov 5, at Noon:** Last day to advance vote for general election in person at County Courthouse
- **Tue Nov. 6:** General Election

Polling places are open 7 a.m.–7 p.m. on Election Day. You will be able to vote if you are in line at your polling place before 7 p.m.

Do I need to show ID at the voting poll?

As of Jan 1, 2012, Kansas law requires all voters (except those meeting specific qualifications) to present photo identification at the polls. Registered voters who do not possess one of the IDs below are entitled to receive a free non-driver ID card from the Kansas Division of Motor Vehicles by signing an affidavit affirming that the ID is needed for voting. Persons age 65 or older may use expired photo ID documents.

Acceptable forms of ID:

- Driver's license issued by any U.S. state or district
- State ID card issued by any state or district
- U.S. passport
- Local, state, or federal employee badge or ID document
- U.S. military ID
- Kansas student ID from an accredited post-secondary education institution
- Local, state, or federal public assistance ID card
- Concealed carry license from any state or district

Voters who are not required to present photo ID when voting:

- People with a permanent physical disability that makes it impossible to travel to obtain ID
- People whose religious beliefs prohibit photographic identification (there are additional requirements to qualify for this exemption)

Do I need to prove my citizenship before I can vote?

After Jan 1, 2013, Kansas law will require voters registering for the first time in Kansas to provide proof of U.S. citizenship before they may be entered onto the voter rolls. If you have successfully registered to vote before that date, you will not have to prove your U.S. citizenship in order to vote.



LAND USE COMMITTEE

The May meeting of the Land Use Committee (LUC) was held at the Merc on the 19th at 7 p.m. The Committee discussed agenda items for the Planning Commission (PC) May 21 meeting and decided to write one letter to the PC on one major issue: the question before the PC of reviewing and approving a “package deal” for development of a 50-acre recreational center to be surrounded by almost 100 acres of additional commercial zoning on the northwest side of the intersection of K-10 and 6th Street.

BACKGROUND The planning changes required approval by the PC of three separate items: changing the comprehensive plan (CP, Horizon 2020, which until now designated this west side of the 6th and K-10 node for industrial, employment-related use); approving the text change to the Land Development Code (LDC) to include a new Community Commercial District, CC600, that would allow a total of 600,000 square feet for retail use to be associated with this community recreational center; and rezoning the 146 acres to a new CC600 District. Changing the comprehensive plan involved not only changing the Commercial Land Use chapter of the CP, but also the West of K-10 Plan (Chapter 14, Specific Plans),

and would change the nodal plan for the 6th & K-10 intersection to CC600. This nodal plan change would also include the already zoned commercial use on the east side. [NOTE: Changing the LDC to include the new CC600 District *allows a maximum of two “big-box” stores exceeding 100,000 sq. ft. of gross area.* By definition a big-box store may be 50,000-200,000 sq. ft.] This redirection of *Horizon 2020* from industrial park-type use on the west side of this node *would allow a commercial center approaching, in size, a regional draw type.*

OUR LETTER: This would be such a major shift in use and “weight” as an activity center to this intersection that we were concerned about the impact on all of Lawrence, especially on the Downtown. (A recent professional analysis by a consultant has determined that we are over zoned for commercial land use.) Therefore, we included all three items in one letter and *asked that all three items be denied.* Our reasoning:

(a) The proper procedure for adopting the first two items—the CP change and the text amendment to the LDC—had not been completed before the public hearing on the zoning change occurred.

(b) The impact on the city, but more importantly the impact on the Downtown, of the more acres of intensive and concentrated commercial zoning was not adequately studied by impartial consultants, as required by the Comprehensive Plan.

(c) The impact on the city of losing the prime location as an industrial-business employment center was not considered. We asked if it wouldn’t be better to preserve the area for industrial use as currently recommended.

(d) The effect of the change in traffic intensity from industrial use to that of intensive commercial on that node and on 6th Street had not been properly studied by professionals.

(e) The staff acknowledged that the types of retail uses going into this node should be controlled, however, they did not provide an effective method. We suggested using a Planned Development Overlay District or a Special Use approach.

OUTCOME: The Planning Commission approved the Staff Report and all three items discussed above. The City Commission has engaged an architectural firm for the recreational center plans. The rezoning will be considered in August.

Volunteer for substitute Voter Editor

If you could put together the newsletter in Sept., Oct., Nov., or next Feb. (Editor Ruth will be traveling and unavailable), please offer your help to rlichtwardr@earthlink.net or contact President Carrie.

Highlights of the May Board Meeting

May 10, 2012, 7-9 p.m.

Present: Carrie Lindsey (President), David Burress (President Elect), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Caleb Morse (Secretary); Directors: Margaret Arnold, Bonnie Dunham, James Dunn, Sally Hayden, Melinda Henderson, Cille King, Marlene Merrill. **Absent:** Ruth Lichtwardt, Milton Scott. **Members present:** Alan Black, Nancy Dunn, Betty Lichtwardt, Bob Lichtwardt.

Treasurer's report. Marjorie reported total income for April of \$941.00 and expenses of \$294.10. Income: \$111 contributions, \$830 dues; also, \$538 was collected for Annual Meeting lunches, but those bills are still outstanding. Expense: \$25 to LWV-Concord-Carlisle, \$110 for State Meeting registrations, \$125 for the March *Voter* printing, and \$33.60 for postage and postcards.

As of May 1, balances in various accounts:

Checking = \$3666.55 Money Market = \$4398.30

Stucky = \$7115.40 Judiciary = \$1088.58

Three dues scholarships have been awarded; the Dues Scholarship fund (subset of the General Fund) currently has \$155 available.

President's Report. Carrie reported on a successful Annual Meeting. She noted that directions to the Board include looking at partnering with the Older Women's League on the issue of death with dignity. Also: [A] She heard from Alan Cowles, former Board member of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, that he is proposing the City adopt a policy requiring appointed boards to receive information on the Open Meetings Act. Carrie offered to write a letter of support on behalf of the League.

[B] League presented a letter to the City Commission on a proposed collaboration between the Chamber, County and City that would focus on recruiting businesses to bring in new primary jobs. The letter was well received, and Mayor Bob Schumm said he appreciated League sending it. The City directed staff and the Chamber to present answers to the questions asked and bring it back to the Commission.

[C] Carrie suggested a plan of action to prevent misunderstandings re: land use and the League positions

and to better divvy up the work load, so Betty Lichtwardt doesn't have to shoulder so much of the burden single-handedly. These items comprise the proposed plan:

1. Plan in advance, annually, which board member will attend each Planning Commission meeting.
2. Convey to the general membership that if they wish this committee to continue, there must be more active participation by more members.
3. Appoint someone at each LUC meeting to write letters that Betty can assist in editing.
4. Have every letter refer to the specific part of the Land Use/League position related to the letter's topic.
5. Require that the letter be proofread by at least three people, two who attended the meeting and another board member besides that who attended the meeting.
6. Final DRAFT of letter should be sent to Board President and all members who attended LUC.
7. If a letter is going to endorse a letter by another organization, the Board must be notified so objections, if any, can be made. Also notify the organization whose letter we are endorsing.
9. A request should be sent to other organizations to please notify the League President and Land Use Committee Chair when they will be referring to our letters in public meetings.
10. Members should be reminded via email and in the newsletter of our policies related to 4.

After some discussion on this plan, no action was taken; see further discussion below.

Action and Discussion Items

Observers Kay Hale has volunteered to serve as our observer for City Commission meetings.

Stucky Award. FSHS graduate Billy Barnes received the 2012 Stucky Award. He had already registered to vote before the award ceremony and was very excited to receive the award. He plans to pursue a degree in sports management at university.

National Convention. Carrie pointed out that the \$1000 allocated in the annual budget to defray the cost of travel to National Convention is not nearly enough to cover the delegate's expenses, even though she (Cille King) has found a roommate. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and passed that Cille turn in all receipts for reimbursement, and that the additional budget deficit will be covered through fundraising. Nancy Dunn, who will be attending National Convention with James anyway, volunteered to serve as our second delegate. It was moved & seconded to accept her offer, with the

suggestion that she treat the registration fee as an in-kind donation to the League.

Vote on Privatization Study Consensus Meeting. David presented a report on the consensus statement arrived at (by consensus!) at the May 5 consensus meeting on the LWV US Privatization Study. It was unanimously voted to submit it to the LWV US study committee.

LUC meetings and letters. As noted above in the President's report, Carrie had concerns that some letters sent to the City and Planning Commission in recent months did not reflect well on the League, and that the League is taking advantage of Betty Lichtwardt's good will and work ethic by asking her to do so much of the work carried out under the aegis of the Land Use Committee. Carrie circulated a calendar of coming LUC meetings and solicited board members to commit to attending one. She also had recommendations on future meetings and actions of the LUC (see President's report, above), specific to the LUC and not applicable to all committees. Carrie voiced her concern that people who are not current League members have too much involvement in the LUC and suggested that these people be removed from the LUC distribution list. Alan Black asked why it would be an issue if non-members had a chance to see and comment on drafts of letters (the only sensitive information shared on the list) and Betty noted that all but two of the people on the distribution list are current members, and those two are past members. The LUC has not broadcast its activities to the general public.

Bob Lichtwardt commented that Betty continues with her work for the LUC because many people (planning staff included) have told her that it's important work. Carrie concurs, but also thinks League is expecting too much from Betty and letting her down by not having others contribute. Betty said it would be good to get people more involved, but to have as a policy that someone else besides Betty, who knows the issues best, should write letters [see President's report, suggestion 3] is just impractical, since Betty would still have to check them all for factual accuracy. Margaret asked how the Board and general members could become more educated about planning issues. Betty suggested that KU urban planning faculty could instruct us all in urban planning, but noted many of the issues are complicated and people learn about consequences of some regulations only after years of paying attention to how particular issues play out. Betty suggested that one thing we could do as a group would be to formulate some general recommendations to the city about how to improve the process and outcome of planning. Melinda said it would be better if League was more proactive rather than reactive on planning issues. Alan noted that one issue we might work on is proportional representation: The

County Commission selects half of the Planning Commissioners (mostly from outside the Lawrence city limits), even though only 8% of the county's population resides outside of Lawrence. Bob noted that Betty has accumulated an extensive library on planning and is willing to lend these documents to interested members. No action was taken on this item.

New policy. Melinda circulated an amendment to Policy #19 adding language governing the listserv; the language was adopted unanimously. Melinda will run the listserv; Caleb will continue to run the website. He will send out on the listserv a call to members who do not want their images posted on the website.

Committee Reports.

Membership and Leadership Development. Bonnie is working on a history of LWV L-DC; when done it will be posted on the website. One thing she learned in her research is that membership levels were higher when we had meals at membership meetings. The poor turnout at the last Brown Bag Lunch was disappointing and Bonnie is may set up a short survey to help her figure out why. She is still meeting with Gwen Elliott, our MLD coach.

LWVK Board. James reported the Great Bend League, having run into membership and leadership problems, is considering going on a hiatus or at least suspending their bylaws. The Emporia League suspended their bylaws several years ago, in an effort to keep their chapter going with a different leadership organization; it is reported to be successful by participants, though their membership has not grown appreciably.

Voter Service. Melinda reported that she had joined the Facebook Vote 411 team, and is getting more updates from them every day. Either LWV K or LWV US will be responsible for populating our site with questions for state and national races; we'll do the local races. The Voter Education Coalition, co-chaired this year by Jane Bateman and Ann Gardner, does not plan to carry out voter registration activities at this time, so we are free to do as we please there (see elsewhere in this issue for action in that area).

Melinda and Carrie visited with a sorority at Baker University, whose members wanted information on good citizenship issues and how to register to vote. Melinda explained to them why you might select a political party, and how you do it.

-Caleb Morse



July 2012

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Find the new political district boundaries at: [http://redistricting.ks.gov/ Plans/district_court.html](http://redistricting.ks.gov/Plans/district_court.html)

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