



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.

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Membership:
Voter Editor:
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National League:

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League Calendar

Saturday, October 26th	7 - 9 pm	Land Use Committee Meeting. Community Mercantile Meeting Room, 901 Iowa St.
Monday, November 11th	9:00 pm	VOTER Submission Deadline. Please send submissions to lightwatcher@gmail.com
Thursday, November 14th	7 - 9 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. Co-President David Burress' House, 912 Holiday Drive. All League members are invited to attend.
Friday, November 15th	11:30 - 1 pm	Brown Bag Gathering. Watkins Community Museum, 1047 Mass St. "Mexican Immigrants In Lawrence , KS :Their History and Their Stories."
(Tentative) Sunday, January 19th	Time TBA	Afternoon with the Legislators. Location TBA.
January	Time TBA	LWVL-DC Program Planning and LWVUS Program Planning. Location TBA.
February	Time TBA	LWVK Day at the Capitol. Location TBA.
March	Time TBA	Helen Fluker Award Luncheon. Location TBA.

Co-Presidents Message - on the Right to Vote

The League of Woman Voters takes on many issues. Any government law or policy that affects either the welfare or moral integrity of our citizens is a legitimate concern for voters and a legitimate concern for the League. However the League has always advocated for one principle above all others. That principle is the fundamental right to vote.

We must remember that the League was formed after women's suffrage had already been achieved. (Kansans created the first state League in the country even before the 19th Amendment was ratified, but at that time Kansas women had already won the suffrage.) Therefore our purpose was not to create a new right, but rather to fully exercise a right that already existed. Therefore the right to vote had and still has for us a full and expansive meaning:



- A right to face no obstacles against registering and voting
- A right to obtain full information needed for informed voting
- A right to live in a society in which every adult has a right to vote
- A right to have each vote counted equally
- A right to live in a society governed by well-informed voters
- And therefore, also an obligation for each citizen to become informed and an obligation for each citizen to vote!

For that reason, voter services have always been a top priority for the LDC League. In September we conducted two voter registration efforts, which are described elsewhere in this Voter. Those efforts faced severe obstacles due to the new voter registration act lobbied through by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. That act requires complicated documentation of citizenship, which since January 1 has led to the suspension of voting rights for some 20,000 Kansans who attempted to register.

In his keynote address at the Kansas League Day conference in Topeka on October 12, Professor Bill Rich of Washburn Law School described three frightening and nation-wide attacks on these rights:

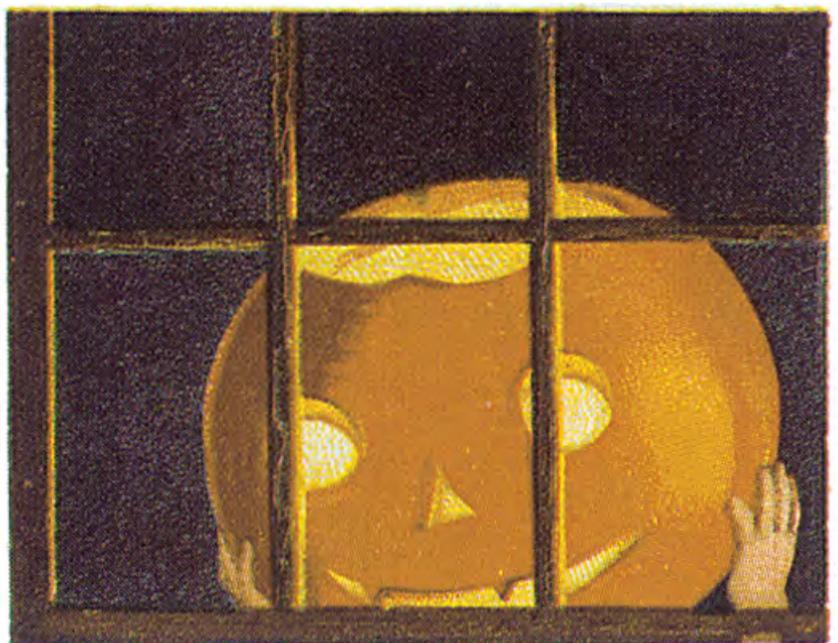
- The creation of multiple obstacles to registration and voting. By design these obstacles discriminate disproportionately against the least powerful members of society.
- Systematic and intense computer-driven gerrymandering, which creates legislative districts that assure dominance in Congress and legislatures by politicians who support the most powerful members of society.
- Dismantling of any limits on campaign finance, coupled with lavish funding of political campaigns and lobbying by the most powerful members of society.

Kansas is ground zero for these attacks. Professor Rich focused especially on the new voter registration obstacles. When I asked Professor Rich what action he recommends for the League, he proposed that we should join the American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit against those obstacles, and that we should help locate individual plaintiffs for that lawsuit. Plaintiffs are a particular concern because in recent years the courts generally demand a showing of specific harm to named individuals before they will take action to protect civil rights.

As readers of the LDC VOTER will be aware, both of those actions are supported by the LWV-LDC Board.

As to seeking new plaintiffs, the LDC League met with Douglas County Clerk Jamie Shew to discuss voter registration issues. Mr. Shew has been extremely cooperative with the League, and has given us full data on all registered voters in suspense in Douglas County. It is our plan to adopt a multi-stage effort both to help register voters now in suspense and to seek plaintiffs for the ACLU lawsuit. This effort will include:

- phone calls to suspended voters
- travel with a copying machine to houses of voters to copy their citizenship documents (if they exist), and
- followup phone calls in cases where we have reason to suspect a suspended





voter might be willing to be a plaintiff.

Please email me at president@lawrenceleague.com if you are willing perform any part of this effort. You can do as much or as little work as you like, and if you prefer you can work at home on the telephone.

As close readers of the Voter may also be aware, there have been some differences of opinion between the LDC League and Kansas League President Dolores Furtado concerning the ACLU lawsuit.

Ms. Furtado believes that joining the lawsuit is risky and that there is a possibility of losing and creating bad precedents. Ms. Furtado states that she has been strategizing with national lawyers at LWWUS and at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University. While she supports efforts to seek out plaintiffs for the ACLU lawsuit, she is not ready to recommend legal action by LWWK at this time. Instead, Ms. Furtado recommends focusing all of our efforts to register as many voters as we can within the existing law.

The LDC Board believes that the existing law is so egregious that it must be resisted on legally available fronts. We believe that the idea of a risk-free lawsuit is illusory—or rather that the only way to avoid risk is to accept the certainty of loss by refusing to sue. We also believe that the decision to join or not join the ACLU lawsuit rightfully rests with the LWWK Board and

not with Ms. Furtado acting alone. We also believe that any strategic and legal considerations should be documented in full detail for the LWWK board (although it may be necessary for strategic reasons to keep those documents confidential) rather than merely summarized as oral conclusions.

For that reason, I have sent the following statement to the presidents of all the local Kansas Leagues:

To the Local Leagues of Kansas:

- As we are all aware, there is a systematic nation-wide movement led by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and others to pass laws and rules that make it more difficult to register and/or vote.
- Kobach designed and lobbied into existence new registration laws in Kansas. They are among the worse in the nation, with 1/3 of all attempted registrars (currently some 20,000) in suspension and unable to vote.
- There is good reason to believe that these efforts violate the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).
- In particular, this June in *Arizona v ITCA* the US Supreme Court upheld a lawsuit against the State of Arizona that voided similar laws, also designed by Kobach. LWW of Arizona was a plaintiff.
- That decision was hailed by LWWUS as a great victory (see <http://www.lww.org/press-releases/lww-reacts-supreme-court-decision-national-voter-registration-act>).
- Several other state Leagues have sued state governments on registration and voting rules in recent years, most recently in North Carolina.
- We have been informed by LWWUS staff that the decision to sue the state government is a state League responsibility.

- The ACLU has served a 90 day notice to Kobach on an intended law suit against the new registration laws. (The notice is required by law under the NVRA).
- The ACLU needs both individual voters and organizations to join the law suit as plaintiffs. There will be no cost to the plaintiffs.
- The Board of the LWV of Lawrence and Douglas County is petitioning the LWVK Board to join the ACLU lawsuit as an organizational plaintiff.
- LWV-LDC requests that other local Kansas Leagues join in our petition to the LWVK Board.

- David Burress

November

Brown Bag Gathering:

Mexican Immigrants in Lawrence: Their History and their Stories

The national League of Women Voters supports an organized path to citizenship for immigrants. This Lawrence League panel offers information about the concerns and interests of local Hispanic residents, thus "Their History and their Stories." Please note that this gathering is on a Friday:

November 15, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Watkins Community Museum, 1047 Massachusetts. Featured speakers are Jennifer Ananda, attorney at Highberger and Ananda; and Marta Caminero-Santangelo, Professor of American Literature and Women's Studies at KU.

Both panelists deal directly with Latino/a residents in their daily work. Jennifer's specialties include immigration law, deferred action for children of immigrants, adjustment of citizenship status, and family law. She holds graduate degrees in law and social work, both from KU in 2010. Marta (Ph.D., University of California at Irvine, 1995) has written two books and numerous essays on fiction by minority women. She has interviewed many Lawrence Latinas for a forthcoming publication, "Documenting the Undocumented: Life Narratives of 'Illegal' Immigrants," in the journal *Biography*.

Please plan to come to this informative gathering. All of our brown bag lunches are free and open to the public.

County Services

Vital to All of Us

More than twenty-six League members and guests gathered on Thursday, September 19, at the Douglas County Courthouse for the season's first brown-bag lunch. County Commissioner Mike Gaughan, assisted by County Administrator Craig Weinaug explained ways in which the city and county collaborate to meet such needs as law enforcement, health care, land use, and voting.

Counties and cities in Kansas carry out programs of the state, often expanding services when state funding has been cut. For instance, health care and social services receive Douglas County attention through administering vaccinations and offering other disease control measures. Health Care Access and Visiting Nurses are two programs augmented by county funds. These funds have also supplemented mental health care, particularly a Bert Nash program for school children. The county also helps to oversee conservation efforts and supplements work on food policies. In addition, maintenance of roads and improvement of transport are Lawrence and Douglas County responsibilities. They also collaborate on law enforcement and administration of the county jail. The most familiar services provided by the county are registration and vot-

ing.

Some audience members were surprised to learn about the many social service programs the county



helps support. As Craig Weinaug pointed out, programs are often affected by the values of leaders we elect.

- Margaret Arnold

National Voter Registration Day

Our local league registered voters at the Lawrence Library and Checkers grocery on National Voter Registration Day, 24 September 2013. We registered 14 voters, handed out 4 additional voter registration forms, gathered 3 names who wanted information on the League, and answered numerous questions about registering to vote and the League.

Thank you to our volunteers: Ruth Gibbs, Margaret Arnold, Bill Arnold, Marjorie Cole, Carolyn Klinknett, Marlene Merrill, Lee Ann Duver, Bob Duver, Marilyn Roy, Melinda Henderson, the Lawrence Library and security guards, and Jim Lewis for Checkers.
- Cille King

League in the News

League Co-Presidents David Burress and Cille King published a letter to the editor of the Lawrence Journal-World, urging congress to restore the Voting Rights Act, in Voting rights

(http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2013/sep/25/letter-voting-rights/?letters_to_editor). Annie Reed sent a nice letter to the editor praising our efforts to register voters on National Voter Registration Day, in League lauded

(<http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2013/oct/02/letter-league-lauded/>).



And League board member Caroljean Brune was profiled in an Journal-World article, Longtime Lawrence activist recalls 1972 fight for women's rights (<http://www2.lj->

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world.com/news/2013/sep/29/longtime-lawrence-activist-recalls-1972-fight-wome/).

Notes from League Membership Committee Meeting

The Membership Committee met at 2:00 p.m. on September 30 at the home of Margaret Arnold, 1728 Brandon Woods Drive. Present: Margaret Arnold, CJ Brune, Marjorie Cole, Cille King, Marlene Merrill, and Marilyn Roy.

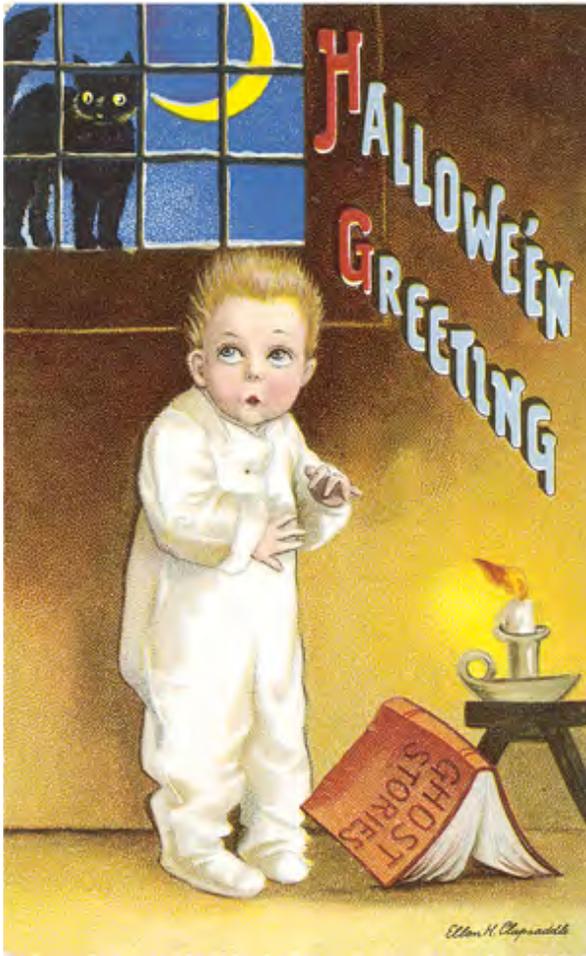
Discussion begin with responses to the September 19 brown bag meeting with Douglas County representatives Mike Gaughan and Craig Weinaug. Comments were generally favorable, especially since the speakers were good and so many guests were present. Margaret will contact those who signed up to get more information about the League.

The group then specified items to organize before the October 17 meeting on Affordable Health Care. Marilyn Roy has interviewed Jim Jewell at our new meeting place, Watkins Community Museum, regarding audio-visual equipment and microphones + tables and chairs for the meeting. Parking is available behind the Community Building. At the meeting itself CJ and Cille will greet guests, providing name tags and sign-in sheets. CJ volunteered to bring cold drinks; James Dunn will be asked to bring cookies. Marlene Merrill will moderate the discussion, which begins promptly at 11:30 a.m.

At the November meeting on Mexican-American immigrants, Marilyn Roy will moderate the discussion. This is our only Friday brown-bag, scheduled for November 15. Speakers are Jennifer Ananda, attorney at Highberger and Ananda, and Marta Caminero-Santangelo, KU professor of American Literature and Women's Studies. Both have personal experience relating to immigrants in Lawrence. Several committee members agreed that visitors from El Centro Hispanico and elsewhere should receive special invitations.

A discussion of future meetings followed. Most members considered December too crowded to add a noon event. In January the League's Afternoon with

The 13th Hallowe'en of the 21st Century



OBSERVER REPORTS

Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

August 16, 2013, 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
7th and New Hampshire

Board Members Present: Chris Burger, Joan Golden, Fran Devlin, Brady Flannery, Ursula Minor, Deborah Thompson, David Vance

Library Staff: Brad Allen, Director; Kathleen Morgan, Library Foundation Director

Guests: BA Green Construction, Gordon Fitch/Friends of the Library, Elinor Tourtellot, League of Women Voters

Library Director's Report

Building Renovation/Expansion: Brad announced that the Vermont Street garage opened to the public on September 6th. BA Green and Gould Evans continue to work on figuring out the least expensive solution to the completion of the garage project. The library building itself continues to progress with the construction of the expansion foundations. Construction of the west wall on the lower level will begin soon.

Read Across Lawrence: Our annual community book reading project "Read Across Lawrence" is currently in high gear. This year's book is The Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan. The library is partnering again with KU Libraries and also has a new partner in "KU Common Book", a part of KU's First Year Experience that gets all freshmen reading the same book. The project kickoff was a grand success. Hundreds of books were handed out on Mass Street. Additionally, Brad portrayed the "Biblioczar" at the "Lawrence Creates Makerspace", handing out books from the library's new book fortune-telling booth, created by volunteer Jean Ann Oden.

Cancellation of Friends Book Sale: The Friends of the Library Book Sale has been cancelled. Despite the disappointment about the lost revenue and the cancellation of a major community event, the Friends did an outstanding job containing what could have been a

the Legislators consumes planning time and involves members' plans to attend. We decided, however, that February, March, and April offered time for a new round of brown-bag meetings. Topics suggested included Fracking, Gay and Lesbian rights, School Finance, Mental Health (including Bert Nash, the Community Shelter, Prisons, and Juvenile Justice), Gun Control and Gun Violence, Corporate Development in Lawrence, and Economics, especially relating to a "Monetarist" position. The top three votes went to mental health, school finance, and gun control. Advocates of the gun control topic recalled 1990 and 1994 violence prevention programs, 1998 attempts to regulate firearm sales, and attempts of the 106th Congress to close loopholes in existing laws. There was also a very strong interest in hearing the economist Marjorie Cole had found impressive. All agreed that she would be a good choice for the Annual Meeting.

Resolving to meet again in early December, the committee adjourned at 4:00 p.m. - *Margaret Arnold*

serious public health issue. Brad applauds the fast and decisive efforts of the Friends group.

Library Foundation Director's Report

Endowment Pledges: Kathleen announced that the Library Foundation has received a \$50,000 commitment from a local donor to name the northwest corner adult reading room. In addition, the Foundation is close to confirming a second gift of \$50,000 for the outdoor reading garden near the entrance to the building. These funds will be added to the library's programming endowment and will qualify for the NEH match should the Challenge Grant application be approved in December.

Banned Books Trading Card Awards: The first ever Banned Books Trading Card Awards will be on Thursday, September 19th at Liberty Hall. This free community event opens at 7 pm for a preview party and silent auction of artwork submitted for this year's competition. The partnership with the KU Theatre Department promises to make the program lots of fun and a just a little off-the-wall. In addition, Eric "Mean Melin", the 2013 World Air Guitar Champion, will make a guest appearance.

Dr. Bob Reader Update: The Foundation has received a \$1,500 gift to the Dr. Bob Reader program. This anonymous donor has pledged to support two years of book purchases for the program to enable the fund to grow. The balance of the Dr. Bob Reader program now stands at \$42,000. In addition, earlier this month the Foundation submitted a \$5,000 grant application to the Rice Foundation to fund the purchase of teen books for the program. (Currently the books offered are for children aged birth to twelve years.)

Friends of the Library Report

The Friends are currently deciding what to do with the quarantined books that are infested with bed bugs: to heat them, to cool them, or to throw them away.

Renovation/Expansion update

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BA Green Construction reported that the building is still on schedule, with completion scheduled by May 7th. The roofing is a layered system. The question is to keep the current plan of a twenty year roof or to go with an upgrade of another layer costing an additional \$80,000 and extending the roof life for an additional ten years. After much discussion, the Board decided to defer the decision of the roof to the city.

New Business

The Board decided to discuss the future vision of the Library at the next board meeting.

Brad suggested that the library website educate the public by posting the names and pictures of the current board members. - Elinor Tourtellot

Homeless Issues Advisory Commission

September 10, 2013

Members present: Brad Cook (Bert Nash), Becky Peters (Family Promise), Laurie Hooker (LDCHA), Lt. Matt McCluer (Salvation Army), Michael Brouwer (Douglas County Sheriff's Office Re-Entry Program), Cary Strong (Lawrence business community), Hubbard Collinsworth (at-large)

Members absent: Kadie Jorgensen (LMH), Trent McKinley (LPD)

Staff present: Danelle Dresslar, Rhonda Peterson
Public present: Pat Benabe, CJ Brune, Saunny Scott, Carrie Lindsay, James Cook, Loring Henderson

Carrie Lindsay distributed several brochures relating to the Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority's home ownership program. Because LDCHA participates in the Moving-To-Work program, which grants them a rural waiver from HUD and not all of their programming is "traditional," all work-abled people are required to work 15 hours minimum, and there are minimum and maximum rents established.

LDCHA has established an across-the-board matching grant for any participant enrolled



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in the home ownership program. Last year, eight families purchased homes, and four of the families used the matching grant and received the full \$3,000. Because of the impact of funding, LDCHA no longer has a full-time home ownership and literacy staff member, and does not have matching funds in its budget for the year ending September 30, 2013. As a result, only six

families were able to receive matching grants this year. Lindsey also reported that two-thirds of the people who are served in the rental program are disabled, which means they pay a flat 30 percent of their income for rent. An additional 424 families are in the Moving To Work program, and pay either the minimum or maximum rents established by the Housing Authority.

The Commissioner raised several questions concerning the Lawrence Community Shelter's space. Cook stated that the staff had addressed the issue of increased need for more beds for the winter, as they are already turning people away in the summer. If more space is needed, it would be brought before the City Commission.

Henderson reported that overcrowding is not an issue, since the Shelter does not admit more than the 125 allowed by the current zoning. However, staff is concerned about the need to provide accommodation for the increased persons seeking shelter in cold weather. The LCS Board and city planning staff are currently involved in discussions about how to increase sleeping space. Henderson cautioned that increasing the permanent additional space would lead to other issues such as permanent staffing and overhead, all requiring additional funding.

A lively discussion involved the upcoming change in the SNAP program, particularly as it will affect Douglas County residents. As of Oct. 1, Kansas let its waiver lapse that would have allowed single able-bodied persons of low income to receive food assistance even if they were not working 20 hours a week. Hooker reported that 22,000 persons in Kansas will

be dropped from SNAP, but she will not know how many in Douglas County are affected until the notices go out from the Department of Children and Families. Peters and Strong suggested that representatives from the Workforce Center and the DCF speak to these issues at a future meeting.

The next HIAC meeting will be October 8, 8:30 am, City Commission Room

- CJ Brune, bcj@ku.edu

Highlights of the September 12th Board Meeting

7:10–9 pm, home of David Burress

Present: David Burress (Co-Pres), Cille King (Co-Pres and Pres Elect), Marci Francisco (Vice Pres), Marjorie Cole (Treas), Caleb Morse (Secr); Directors: Margaret Arnold, Caroljean Brune, James Dunn, Midge Grinstead, Marlene Merrill.

Guest: Patrick Wilbur. It was noted that Ruth Gibbs had tendered her resignation from the Board earlier in the day.

Treasurer's report. Marjorie reported total income for August of \$255 and expenses of \$40. Current balances as of 30 Aug: Checking Acct = \$3415.59; Money Market = \$2102.26; Stucky = \$5624.50; Judiciary = \$581.93; Education Fund (LWVEF) = \$1571.98.

Expansion of President's report. David gave a verbal update on our planned voting rights lawsuit. During the Aug meeting, we decided to sign on to the ALCU's lawsuit, if we could find a Douglas Co plaintiff. The ALCU quickly identified a local plaintiff. David called LWVK President Dolores Furtado after the press release announcing we're signed on came out. When President Furtado learned that we had not signed a representation agreement, she essentially ordered David not to sign it, saying she's been talking to LWVUS and that it's



really a state issue, not a local one. David will contact the ACLU to let them know that we have been asked not to sign on by state. There was some concern that our state president has essentially unilaterally, and without discussion by the state board, decided that LWVK is not going to be involved. And, it appears, at least one other local League is eager to join this lawsuit. Cille (Midge) moved that we contact other Leagues to see which are willing to pressure state with a joint letter to sign on to the representation agreement. After some discussion, David called the question and the motion was adopted by unanimous consent. David asked if anyone else would be interested in finding additional plaintiffs. Cille and Marlene volunteered to work on this in a couple of weeks. It was agreed that for now we'll take no formal action, but David will discuss recent events with Doug Bonnie of the ACLU.

Drone resolution. Patrick Wilbur distributed copies of a resolution on drone use within city limits. The resolution is modeled on one already adopted by the city of Charlottesville, Virginia, and is being proposed by five local groups (the Douglas County Libertarian and Republican parties, the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice, MadreLawrence, and Young Americans for Liberty at KU). Patrick is also asking other local civic organizations endorse the resolution. Key points of the resolution include: that the city should not purchase of drones until guidelines adopted at state level; that the city should not purchase weaponized drones; and that the city should not use drones for surveillance. Patrick explained that the group's goal is to be proactive on civil liberties and also reasonable in their request. He noted that there are some perfectly justifiable uses for drones and that no one knows what future regulations may come down from the state. The main issue, he thought, is that money for purchase may come very quickly, and it would be wise to have a policy adopted beforehand. David (Caleb) moved to sign on to the resolution. David drew from the League's Impact on Issues and suggested a series of analogous

positions. After an exhaustive discussion of both the intent and wording of the resolution, David clarified our position, noting that we support a moratorium, due in large part to our long advocacy on civil liberties, but there are some there were some issues that needed to be described more clearly than they were document under consideration. Marci offered to write a competing resolution for us to consider. Margaret (Marlene) moved to table the original motion; motion to table carried. There was no objection to the non-motion to have Marci draft another for League to endorse.

Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition funding. David moved that we contribute \$48 to the Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition, to which LWV L-DC belongs, to cover half of the cost of putting up a website. The Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods was willing pay the other half. We had already decided to support the efforts of the Coalition during a previous meeting, and there was no objection to making this contribution.

Policy on dues/fundraising/scholarships. David (Marlene) moved that we appoint an ad hoc committee to propose a policy on dues, fundraising, and member scholarships. There were no objections, and David appointed Marjorie, Midge, and himself to this committee.

Letter to the editor. Prior to the meeting, David circulated a notice from LWVUS, suggesting local Leagues submit letters to the editor of their local paper about the importance of fixing the Voting Rights Act. Cille (Marlene) moved to have David write such a letter to the Lawrence Journal-World; there were no objections.

LWVUS Agricultural Update consensus process. David asked if we want to participate in this study. Marci and other thought there is general agreement that the policy is in need of updating and suggested holding a couple brown bag lunches on subject. Marlene volunteered to take over Marci's lead on the LWVK hydraulic fracturing study, so Marci could take the lead on the agriculture update. Marci agreed to



this. **Policies on Observer Corps representatives.** David proposed the following key points for an Observer Corps policy: Observers may not speak at meetings they observe, but may speak at other meetings; Observers must wear a badge; Observers must notify observed committees in advance. CJ objected to the requirement that observers wear a badge and there followed some discussion about the proposed badge's utility and whether or not it was just silly. In the end, CJ was "grandmothered in" to continue as she has in the past. Margaret volunteered to serve as the editor of Observer Corps reports. - Caleb Morse



plant here. This wholesale water supply District No. 25 proposes to furnish rural treated water to Rural Water Districts No. 2 in Douglas County (DC) and No. 5 in DC and Osage County. No. 2 is located south of Lawrence, No. 5 in southwest DC, and includes the Osage RWD No.5 that extends into DC, so the rural area to be furnished with rural water is very extensive, encompassing more than one-fourth of all of rural Douglas County. This vastly increased available rural water to these areas can be predicted to cause a major increase in rural non-farm residential use and a major expansion in the accompanying problems this would cause. Our letter pointed out the problems of locating the plant near the UGA, the floodplain, the effect on the water table during drought, and the general effect of the expected increase in water supply on expansion of rural residential growth and wasteful use of water in the rural area.

Land Use Committee

September 2013 Meeting

The Land Use Committee (LUC) met at the Merc on Saturday, 7:00 p.m., September 21 to discuss the Planning Commission (PC) Agenda items to be considered by the PC Monday, September 23rd . The PC Agenda had three items that we considered particularly important, and we sent letters on these. We were represented at the PC meeting by Cille King who gave presentations on our letters and supporting positions.

Our first letter was on **Agenda Item No. 3, Request for a CUP (Conditional Use Permit)** for a Wholesale Water Treatment Plant. This item was possibly the most serious and far-reaching that we've been confronted with in some time. The proposed water treatment plant was proposed to be built immediately south of the Kansas River within the boundary of the Lawrence Urban Growth Area (UGA) and barely out of the 100-Year Floodplain. The treatment plant would take access on the north side of 15th Street extended (County Road North 1500 RD), and the pipelines would extend south to intersect City land. This Rural Water Supply District No. 25 has received a permit from the State Division of Water Resources and now needs a Conditional Use Permit from Douglas County in order to build its

Unfortunately, in our letter we omitted emphasizing the effects of rural residential sprawl on loss of agricultural land use and pressures on county finances, among other major problems. Our League representative, Cille King, verbally presented these problems to the PC based on our Land Use Position, supported by our 1999 Report, **Save Our Farmland, Save Our Cities**, and the PC discussed these issues. **OUTCOME:** Regardless, the PC voted to grant the CUP, 10-0. (Please see Cille's letter at the end of this report on the Wholesale Water Treatment Plant, PC Item 3.)



Our second letter dealt with **Agenda Item No. 4, CUP Seasonal Camping in N 1700 Road**, North Lawrence (Pinwheel Farm). This was a continuation of an application by Natalya Lowther for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP), deferred at her request in 2010, to allow camping of student farm volunteers to learn organic farming on her farm. Our LUC letter supported her application based on its purpose. The location of her farm is mainly the problem for neighbors, because it is wedged in between a row of residences in North Lawrence on its

north edge and east of 3rd Street. The farm extends into the county, is zoned Agricultural, and a portion of it is the floodplain. Since her original application was deferred, Ms. Lowther has worked to make her farm more presentable, and has obtained an Agri-tourism permit for selling produce and related activities. She is asking for the CUP now mainly for the seasonal camping. **OUTCOME:** the PC tentatively approved her application but deferred it to give Staff time to modify the conditions: shorter time-limits on the CUP to give a "trial" period; a shorter camping season and fewer campers; better sanitary and bathing facilities; appearance improvements, road surfacing, etc. The application will be reheard in two months.

Our last letter was on **Agenda Item No. 6, RS7 to RM12; 2.119 Acres, 2118 Ridge Court.** RM12 zoning allows any type of multiple family housing at a density of 12 units an acre. This is a request by Tenants to Homeowners for a 2-acre, one-lot multiple duplex, affordable rental housing project for elderly tenants located on the vacant land behind what is currently the United Way building, formerly a nursing home. The subject vacant lot fronts on Cedarwood Avenue. Aside from objections about traffic, noise, and wild parties that accompany multifamily housing, the neighbors have a major existing problem with storm drainage, sanitary sewer backups, and flooding. The vacant land provides real, tangible environmental benefits to the neighborhood. Developing this land to an intensive use will exacerbate already serious problems for this neighborhood by increasing rainwater runoff and sanitary sewer load.



Because this is proposed as a conventional one-lot development, and will be a minor subdivision of the existing larger lot, the Code does not require the replat or the site plan to be reviewed by the Planning Commission; instead, it will be reviewed administratively by the Staff. This means that the environmental problems will be addressed too late to really correct the already existing problems, magnified by the

proposed development. We sent a letter to the PC on this issue and pointed out that the neighborhood needs these problems corrected before further intensive development takes place here. Furthermore, the current planning system is backwards because before rezoning is approved that intensifies land use in an area, its environmental problems such as these should be corrected or planned to be corrected. Once rezoning is granted, it is relatively irreversible and too late to prevent environmental problems that would result from the change. **OUTCOME:** The PC voted unanimously to approve the rezoning.

Conditional Use Permit; Water Treatment Plant; ¼ mile E of I750 Rd & I500 Rd

I spoke to both the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission on September 23rd and the Douglas County Commission on October 9 for the League regarding the proposed water treatment plant for rural Douglas and Osage Counties. When ending my testimony to the Douglas County Commission I said that this new plant would lead to wasteful use of water. I knew immediately that I had misspoken, and to further explain, wrote the Commissioners an email, below.

Growing up with only cistern water, my mother used the same sudsy water for 2 or 3 loads of laundry and we took baths in an inch of water. Once we had a constant water supply, we no longer had those tight restrictions. Those old lessons stay with me as I mull the implications of increased water supplies to rural Douglas County and the obvious results that means for increased demand and use.

Mr Flory stated that people should be able to do what they want to do with their land. Of course, there are restrictions from the county, state, neighbors, and the nature of the land. Is it hilly or flat, rocky or deep top soil, dry or a wetland. Is it in the city with city services, water, sewer, utilities or is it in a rural area with none. People buying land should understand the implications.

We only have to look at Johnson County to see the results of ample residential water in rural areas - when the county realized how many lateral fields were

being built, they felt they had to extend the sanitary sewer to the then unincorporated areas. Is Douglas County prepared for that cost? Sprawl is not what we want for Douglas County.

In a LJW article from Sunday, Dec 5, 1993, the city and county commissioners also had the discussion on rural water disagreements:

http://www2.ljworld.com/news/1993/dec/05/city_county_in_conflict/

Even Schulte agrees with that. Country-loving people will continue moving into unincorporated parts of the county, despite the city's current restrictions. And once the water meter limits go, so goes the city's influence on rural development.

A new plant would only make matters worse, Schulte said. To pay off the multimillion-dollar debt, rural water officials would sell as many meters as possible -- even to the point of recruiting people to move out of the city.

"That would be the worst thing that could happen," he said. "That's the opposite of what the city wants to see happen ... then we'd just have a truly uncontrolled in the county."

The Douglas County Commissioners approved the request to build a new rural water treatment plant -- 3-0.
- Cille King

New Member Note:

Alan Cowles

Alan Cowles is a partly-retired physician who has specialized in family practice and pediatrics. He is a graduate of Oberlin College, the University of Rochester and Stanford University.

Alan's interest in the League of Women Voters grew out of his interest in open government. After finding that the Board of the Health Department closed several meetings to discuss a \$750,000 lawsuit that had been filed against them, he began to study the use of closed meetings by other Douglas County boards and commissions. He found that since January 2009, the Board of Trustees of Lawrence Memorial Hospital, the Board of Directors of the Health Department, the County Commission and the City Commission held at least 176 closed sessions (closed portions of open meetings). In at least 120 instances, with the full support of their attorneys, no meaningful information was

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disclosed to the public about the subjects or issues discussed in those closed sessions. By doing this, these groups conducted a substantial portion of their business in complete secrecy, at times in violation of the Kansas Open Meetings Act. Alan's report *Government in Secrecy in Douglas County, Kansas*, has been accepted by the League and is on our website at:

http://www.lawrenceleague.com/files/LWV_LDC_report_Government_in_Secrecy.pdf.

Alan's other main interest is in reforming our national Social Security disability policy, which he calls "our \$440 billion national lottery." He points out that our federal budget for rehabilitation is less than one percent of what we spend on disability benefits and that we need a major shift from warehousing disabled people to helping them to return to active and productive lives. See www.disability-reform.org or www.AADPR.org for details.

Alan is married to Linda Cowles, R.N. They have two grown children and live in far west Lawrence.

Answers to

Self-Portraits

Name the Artist

The paintings illustrating the September issue were all self-portraits by well-known artists. They were:

Cover: Henri Rousseau; 1: Antonio Allegri (Correggio); 2: Judith Leyster; 3: Parmigianino; 4: William Hogarth; 5: Rembrandt; 6: Max Beckman; 7: Giorgio De Chirico; 8: Gustave Courbet; 9: Vincent van Gogh; 10: Amedeo Modigliani; 11: Angelica Kauffmann; 12: Frida Kahlo; 13: Sofonisba Anguissola; 14: Laura Knight

The 13th Hallowe'en of the 21st Century



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(Please note: new or renewed memberships after September 30, 2012 are valid through March 31, 2014)

Our dues support the National and State Leagues as follows: \$31 National and \$18 State per member. Total: \$49/member
Our local League retains only \$6 from Individual membership dues and \$5.75 each for Household membership dues.

Date _____ New member _____ Renewing member _____
_____ Individual Membership (\$55) _____ Household Membership (\$85) _____ *Student Membership (\$20)

*University student enrolled full or part time in an accredited institution.

I'm interested in joining the League...please send me information on financial aid available for membership.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ _____ to help sponsor a League membership.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ _____ for the League General Fund.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ _____ for the League Education Fund*

*This contribution is tax-deductible

_____ I am not a member, but would like to support the League with my contribution as indicated above.

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

As a League member, I would like to help support League activities by participating as follows:

General Membership Meetings:

- Set up and/or tear down
- Hospitality (provide coffee/tea/dessert)
- Taking notes/writing up report of meeting

Membership

- Recruitment
- Mentor/follow-up with new members
- Provide a ride to a fellow member
- Phone members without internet access about special updates

Voter Services

- Register voters
- Help with voter education

Promotion of League to our Community

- Public speaking
- Attend community events as League representative

Observer corps (attend/report on government meetings)

Help with research for League studies on issues

Serve on the Board of Directors

I have the following skills:

- Editing articles/reports
- Database management
- Proficient in Microsoft Word / Excel / Quickbooks
- Website/Social Media design/management

My interests include: _____