



The VOTER

Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence–Douglas County, Kansas
 PO Box 1072 • Lawrence KS 66044-1072

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.

Co-Presidents:	David Burress & Cille King	president@lawrenceleague.com	
Membership:	Margaret Arnold	membership@lawrenceleague.com	
Voter Editor:	Ruth Lichtwardt	lightwatcher@gmail.com	
Local League:	www.lawrenceleague.com	www.facebook.com/lwvldc	www.twitter.com/lwvldc
State League:	http://www.lwvk.org	lwv.kansas@gmail.com	(785) 234-5152
National League:	http://www.lwv.org		(202) 429-1965

League Calendar

Fri Dec 21 11:11 am.	2013 Winter solstice. Happy winter!
Wed Jan 8 7 pm	Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition meeting. <i>Basement conference room of the Carnegie Bldg, 200 West 9th St.</i>
Thu Jan 9 7:10 pm	LWV L-DC Board meeting. <i>Home of David Burress, 912 Holiday Dr. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Fri Jan 10 9 pm	Deadline for submissions to January VOTER. Email submissions to VoterEditor@lawrenceleague.com.
Sat Jan 18 10 am	LWVK Board meeting. <i>LWVK Office, 515 South Kansas Ave., Suite C, Topeka.</i>
Sun Jan 19 3–5 pm	Afternoon with the Legislators. See announcement on p. 2. <i>Home of Rita Spradlin, 3144 Campfire Dr. All League members are invited to bring a guest. RSVP to Cille King (cilleking@gmail.com; 785-766-6992).</i>
Sat Jan 25 7 pm	LWV L-DC Land Use Committee meeting. <i>Lawrence Community Mercantile, 901 Iowa St. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Sat Feb 1 12–2 pm	Program planning meeting. <i>Lawrence Fire Station No. 5, 1911 Stewart Ave. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Wed Feb 12 TBA	LWVK Day at the Capital. Topeka.
Thurs Feb 20 11:30 am–1 pm	Brown Bag Lunch Meeting on School Finance. <i>Watkins Community Museum, 1047 Massachusetts St. Speaker(s) begin at 12 pm. All are welcome.</i>
Thurs Mar 20 11:30 am–1 pm	Brown Bag Lunch Meeting on Mental Health Care. <i>Watkins Community Museum, 1047 Massachusetts St. Speaker(s) begin at 12 pm. All are welcome.</i>
Thurs Apr 17 11:30 am–1 pm	Brown Bag Lunch Meeting on Gun Control. <i>Watkins Community Museum, 1047 Massachusetts St. Speaker(s) begin at 12 pm. All are welcome.</i>

Afternoon with the State Legislators 2014 set for January 19

3–5 pm, home of Rita Spradlin, 3144 Campfire Dr.

Please join us for one of our most popular and informative events. The 2014 Legislative Session will have started and Gov. Brownback will have given his State of the State address. So, we will have multitudes to discuss with our state legislators about the new session, pending and possible bills, school funding, and all other budget issues. Light refreshments will be served. All League members are welcome and invited to bring a guest. Please let us know whether you plan to attend, so that we may arrange seating and refreshments. RSVP to Cille King (cilleking@gmail.com; 785-766-6992).

Message from Co-President David Burress: Taking Stock

Year's end is traditionally a time of hectic celebration—but most of us also try to make time for taking stock and making plans. Our League year ends in April, so we do our major annual planning in May and not December. Still, it seems appropriate in this season to review our progress over two thirds of a year, and consider what we can accomplish in the remaining third. Our notable activities and accomplishments have included:

- Board planning retreat in May
- Celebrating the anniversary of US Women's suffrage in August
- Reactivated brown-bag speaker events.
- Voter registration events
- Ongoing efforts to find ways to respond to some 700 suspended voters in Douglas County (i.e. those who haven't provided proof of citizenship)
- Revising our dues structure
- Sending a delegation to State League Day
- Applying for a grant from LWVUS education fund and obtaining \$500 to do voter registration work in local schools.



Many volunteers contributed to these events. Because this is the first coverage the grant project has received in the Voter, I especially want to single out Carrie Lindsey and Cille King for their successful grant writing effort.

We have a very heavy schedule of events for the next four months, including:

- Afternoon with the legislators (January 19)
- Program planning meeting (February 1)
- More brown bag and educational events
- LWVK Day at the Capitol (February 12)
- Fluker Award luncheon (March 12)
- Annual meeting and election of officers (April 19, tentative)
- Starting up our participation in the state study on fracking
- Starting up our participation in the national study on agricultural policy.

We also have some other unfinished business:

- Implementing the voter registration grant
- Getting serious and membership development and volunteer recruitment
- Planning and implementing a major fund raising event.

In this season it seems appropriate to look back to earlier years and see how far we have come. I was on the League Board during 1999-2002, and then rejoined the Board in 2011. In some ways the League has not changed much in the interim. Many familiar faces are still active. Some faces I knew have moved on, while other volunteers have stepped forward. The number of our members is comparable now to what it was then. I have always been impressed with the depth of talent and time being volunteered for the League, but I sense that we are spread a bit thinner now than we were then.

Year's end is also a time for reaching out. Our annual solicitation went out this month (thanks to Midge Grinstead, Marjorie Cole, and Cille King). A number of League members as well as non-members have already contributed. As of this writing, we have received about \$1200, with more coming in. This year's budget was based on a conservative target of about \$1600, but our new lower dues structure depends on raising more. Last year we raised about \$2500 (less mailing costs).

There is another kind of reaching out we need more of. We need to reach out to potential new members, invite them to our events, and tell them about our newly affordable dues structure. We also need to reach out to existing members who may be interested in volunteering. In the next two months, I hope we can develop some structure for making this happen.



In Memory of Danny Drury

Long-time League member Florence “Danny” Drury died peacefully on December 8, 2013, in the presence of family members. She was 93 at the time. Danny's contributions to the League of Women Voters ranged widely over the decades, from serving as corresponding secretary (1958) for the League unit that met mornings in her neighborhood, to acting as a solicitor for the successful finance drive of 1975, to sharing her insights and hard work for many years on the League's international relations and U. S. foreign policy committees. Danny was always up-to-the-minute and well prepared for these sessions and always asking good questions to keep the analysis going. Danny will be sorely missed by her many League friends.

— Lee Ketznel

Highlights of the November LWV L-DC Board meeting

14 November, 7:10–9 pm, home of David Burress, 912 Holiday Dr.

Present: David Burress (Co-President), Cille King (Co-President and President Elect), Marci Francisco (Vice President), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Caleb Morse (Secretary). **Directors:** Margaret Arnold, Caroljean Brune, James Dunn. **Absent:** Midge Grinstead, Marlene Merrill.

Guests: no guests were present. The consent agenda (including minutes from the October Board meeting with a minor modification, and Treasurer's report) was adopted by unanimous consent. Other items distributed with the agenda: a draft of a letter to the Hospital Board regarding KOMA, a draft of a revised dues model and motion on dues, and a revised annual calendar.

Treasurer's report. Marjorie reported total income for September of \$0 and expenses of \$800.85. Current balances as of 31 October: Checking Account = \$2572.65; Money = \$2102.54; Stucky = \$5625.23; Judiciary = \$581.93; Education Fund (LWVEF) = \$392.10.

Calendar. CJ asked if LWV L-DC would be willing to co-sponsor a talk by Sister Jean Prejean, whom several faith organizations are bringing to Kansas to speak against death penalty in January. There was no objection.

LWVK 2015 Annual Convention. CJ (Margaret) moved to accept a motion that LWV L-DC will serve as local host for the next convention. Cille noted that it looks like a lot of work, but we should do it. There was no further discussion and no one opposed the motion. CJ opined that we need to reserve place now. CJ (Margaret) moved to adopt a motion that we will hold the convention at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. There was no objection to this motion, either. David suggests looking into cost. Cille will do this.

New dues structure adopted. Margaret (CJ) moved to adopt a proposed dues structure as circulated previous to the meeting (see new Membership form in this issue). The new structure would apply to new and renewed memberships for the 2014–2015 League year. CJ thanked the committee for their work. Marjorie noted we still have to pay \$381 for half of US PMP sometime in the spring. We have about \$500 set aside for scholarships. Caleb expressed concern about changing the dues structure before securing adequate funds. CJ responded that we need to make a splash, and argued that we should take the risk, stressing that we're doing this for the common good. Margaret offered that her main worry is with declining membership levels. Marjorie suggested that we could submit a grant application from LWVUS to cover the funding shortfall, but we would need to develop a plan for how we're going to get extra money soon, to meet a short deadline (too soon, it seemed). Marci asked if the proposal follows the annual budget adopted at last meeting. The answer, essentially, was no. Marci raised concerns similar to Caleb's, and also noted that anyone who signs up now will get a year and a half worth of dues. She suggested it would be to encourage people to sign up after February 1st. Marjorie noted that it's a question of whether we should lower dues immediately and gamble on the positive effects, or wait until we have the money in hand. David thought that there is no gamble: if we lower memberships now and operate through April, will have information by Annual Meeting. At worst, we will be about \$1500 in the hole. The motion carried 5-0-2, with Caleb and Marci abstaining.

—Caleb Morse



Fund Drive Thanks

We are deeply grateful to the early respondents to our end-of-the-year appeal! Thanks go to Marnie Argersinger • Virginia Ashlock • Carol Jean Brune • Marjorie Cole • Bob and LeeAnn Duver • Kay and Gary Hale • Tom Harper • Dick and Sue Himes • Carol Jacobson • Cille and Joe King • Susan and Stuart Levine • the Piersol Foundation, Janet Roth • Toni Taylor • Joyce Wolf.

MLD Report



Surprise! The initials stand for Membership and Leadership Development. Certainly our League wants to enroll new members, but just as important is nourishing the ones we have. Our MLD manual from the state League also encourages partnering with local groups with similar inter-

ests. Another section is entitled “Becoming Visible in Your Community.”

This year we have celebrated and educated each other quite often, but we could certainly extend the membership. One of the best ways to encourage others is to invite them to the next meeting you attend. Meanwhile, we have done pretty well in working with other groups and increasing our visibility. We were pleased to “Celebrate the Vote,” a rally in South Park shared with several Lawrence groups as well as individual volunteers. We have also gathered for four monthly brown-bag lunches, two devoted to city and county government. The other two, health care and immigration, have explored the ways Lawrence citizens apply two important national League positions to our own communi-

ty. Attendance has varied from twenty-six to forty with many visitors as well as League members.

During the new year, after our January “Afternoon with the Legislators,” we are again planning brown-bag lunches on the third Thursdays of February, March, and April. Tentative topics include school finance, mental health, and gun control. We have received some constructive suggestions from committee and board members. These include setting aside some time at the beginning of each meeting to eat and visit before beginning the program itself at noon. Attendees have also suggested reducing the number of speakers in order to allow time to develop ideas and consider questions. Present committee members want to encourage more League members to participate in planning and executing these monthly events. A few phone calls, a plate of cookies, introducing speakers... There is no need for the same folks to have the fun of putting an event together.

Many thanks to CJ Brune, Marjorie Cole, Cille King, Marlene Merrill, and Marilyn Roy for their many contributions. We would really welcome more help. If you would like to make suggestions or add your efforts to ongoing MSD activities, please let me know. You will really be welcome!

— Margaret Arnold, Membership Chair

Observer Report: Homeless Issues Advisory Commission

December 10, 2013

Members present: Brad Cook (Bert Nash), Becky Peters (Family Promise), Laurie Hooker (LDCHA), Lt. Trent McKinley (LPD), Michael Brouwer (Douglas County Sheriff’s Office Re-Entry Program), Cary Strong (Lawrence business community), Hubbard Collinworth (at-large). **Absent:** Kadie Jorgensen (LMH), Hubbard Collinworth (at-large), Matt McCluer (Salvation Army). **Staff:** Danelle Dresslar, Rhonda Peterson. **Public:** Sandra Kimmons, CJ Brune, Loring Henderson.

Brad Cook distributed the 3rd quarter Bert Nash Homeless Outreach Report, which showed an increase in the number of chronically homeless people. Although the reasons for this are unclear, Brad believes that it reflects a number of folks returning from a previous quarter. The flexible spending funds for this program, designated to provide emergency shelter for up to a week, is depleted and has been since August of this year.

Loring Henderson reported on the continuing capacity problems at the Lawrence Community Shelter. Approximately 20–25 people are turned away on any given night, and are given a list of possible emergency shelters in the Kansas City area. Henderson reported that the occupancy maximum at the Shelter is 125. Currently 22 families are in

residence. Henderson will be asking the City Commissioners to allow for a “cold weather policy” which would allow for the Shelter to house 25 more individuals on an emergency basis. These residents would be provided a mat and blankets for the night and breakfast in the morning, and then sent on. Current fire code would allow for this temporary expansion and Henderson is trying to find the funds for additional staff and overhead for this project.

Sandra Kimmons, Kansas Department for Children and Families, gave an overview of the current changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). ALL individuals saw their benefits decrease on November 1, due to the end of the increased benefits provided by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Even the minimum benefit of \$16 is being reduced to \$15.

Persons who are able-bodied, age 18 through 49 and have no dependents may receive food



assistance for 3 months out of 36 months. They may receive additional months if they meet an exemption and are employed 20 hours a week or are participating in approved employment and training program. These training programs are very narrowly defined by the federal guidelines. Exemption reasons include a person medically certified to be unfit for employment, one who has to care for a dependent child or an incapacitated household member, a pregnant woman, a person receiving unemployment compensation, a regular participant in a drug or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program, or a student enrolled at least half-time.

All other participants who are able-bodied, age 18 through 49 and have no dependents must find employment by January 1, 2014 in order to continue to receive their current food assistance.

The Commission discussed changing the frequency of the meetings and agreed, because of no hot topics at present, to begin to meet quarterly, rather than monthly, beginning in March, 2014.

The next HIAC meeting will be March 11, 2014, 8:30 am, City Commission Room.

– Caroljean Brune



Land Use Committee Report for November

The Land Use Committee (LUC) met at the Community Mercantile meeting room at 7 pm on November 16. We considered all of the five upcoming Planning Commission (PC) Items on their Monday, Nov 18 meeting Agenda. There were three controversial issues, and after discussion decided to send a letter on one item; however, after more intensive study decided against sending it. Cille King represented the League at the PC meeting on Monday.

Item No. 1, IG (General Industrial) to CS (Strip Commercial) in North Lawrence, was a logical change to an area of about two acres. OUTCOME: the item was approved.

Item No. 2A and 2B was the annexation and rezoning to RM15 (Multiple Family) of almost 11 acres in far east Lawrence. This area was a linear-shaped two-lot subdivision wedged between an almost equally sized and shaped 40+-lot RM12D (duplex) development and the O'Connell youth ranch. The location lent it credibility for the multiple family use, but in our discussion we questioned the validity of zoning this 121-unit development as a conventional district. Our position has been that conventional zoning should not be used for large-lot multiple family developments, and instead, for various important reasons the Planned Development (PD) Overlay District should be used instead. We have presented this position in the past many times without any detailed response by the planning staff and decided not to send a letter this time. Instead, Cille King, who was representing the League at the PC meeting, voiced our objection. OUTCOME: the issue was questioned by the PC and the staff voiced their opinion that there wasn't much difference between the two types of zoning because the conventional districts require site planning. (We need to respond to the PC again on this issue because there really are major important distinctions between the two types of zoning: conventional v.s. the Planned Development Overlay district. The PD Overlay District standards are much higher and have many reasons for being used for large-lot multiple family zoning over those of conventional districts.)

Item No. 3 was the revised Preliminary Plat for Menards. This is located between the Home Depot development and the Naismith stream, and fronts on 31st St. The developer submitted an almost 50- acre revised plat that now includes the additional almost 9-acre adjoining triangular tract (the Snodgrass property) between the original Menards property and the Naismith Valley stream. This additional acreage is being absorbed into the overall Menards plat as "Lot 3." A large portion of this lot adjacent to the stream is floodplain. In our discussion we originally intended sending a letter, but after careful study, we couldn't find any errors, and consequently, did not send it. OUTCOME: the PC approved the Menards Revised Preliminary Plat.

Item No. 4 was a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for seasonal camping on Natalya Lowther's farm in North Lawrence. This has been pending since 2010. The farm is being used for training young people in agricultural practices, and approval of the request for camping on the grounds would provide the convenience of on-site living for the students during the time of their training. The CUP was heard in September but deferred for two months so that the staff could add the additional conditions requested by the PC. When this CUP request was heard earlier, in September, we had sent a supporting letter. The neighbors vehemently opposed it. OUTCOME: this time it was denied with a close vote of 5-4 by the PC. This CUP is on the County Commission Agenda to be considered on December 11 at 6:30 pm.

The last item on the Agenda was **Miscellaneous No. 1, review of the PC Meeting Calendar** for 2014. OUTCOME: adopted.

– Betty Lichtwardt



Observer Report of Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees

November 18, 2013, 4:30–5:30 pm, 7th and New Hampshire streets.

Board Members Present. Joan Golden, Chair, Chris Burger, Fran Devlin, Brady Flannery, Ursula Minor, Deborah Thompson, David Vance. **Library Staff.** Brad Allen, Director; Kathleen Morgan, Library Foundation Director.

Guests. Gordon Fitch, Friends of the Library; Elinor Tourtellot, League of Women Voters

Library Director's Report. Building Renovation/Expansion. Much of the concrete floor in the expanded areas of the library are in place. The roof is being installed. Considerable framing has been in place on the main level.

RFID. The Library's RFID task force hopes to have a recommendation ready to present at the December Board meeting. The task force has seen demos from Bibliotheca and D-Tech and will visit Johnson County Library to see a 3M system in operation. Tech Logic will also provide the library information.

Brad reported that the library partnered with the Dole Institute on their program about Richard Ben Cramer, author of the acclaimed book about the '88 election, What It Takes. He attended the NEKLS Directors' Institute for a networking event for directors around the region. He also attended the Library Journal Design Institute event at the St. Louis Public Library.

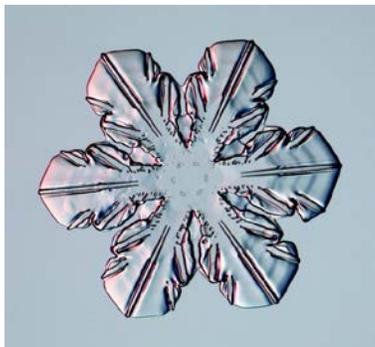
Library Foundation Director's Report. Library Opening Events. Members of the Foundation's Library Opening Committee are meeting regularly to plan the grand opening events for the new library.

The preliminary plan.

Spring, 2014: Hard hat tours of the building for special constituencies (city commissioners, board members, major donors, media, KU partners, etc.).

One week to 10 days after library gets possession of building: Luncheon at library building to thank major donors. City commissioners and board members will be invited.

Thursday evening prior to opening day: "A Toast to the Library" fundraising sneak peek.



Friday (eve of opening): Friends / Foundation reception (all donors and Library Friends invited).

Saturday (opening day): VIP Breakfast (City commissioners and other elected

leaders, board members, other VIPs invited) followed by public dedication and unveiling of building; a speech from the Mayor and other activities all day throughout the library.

Commemorative Program.

There will be a special commemorative publication for the library's opening. The program will be high quality and will feature articles on the history of the library, a list of our donors, a map of the new building and other highlights.

Friends/Foundation Annual Letter. The Friends and Foundation joint fundraising letter has been drafted and is at the printer.

Beach Selection Committee. The committee to select the Ross and Marianna Beach Speaker Series author for 2014 met on November 12. The group assembled a list of ten possible authors to invite. The committee will meet on December 12 to continue its deliberations. Members are: Brad Allen, Polli Kenn, Karen Allen, Carrie Edwards, Mary Gage, Margie Coggins, Heidi Raak and Kathleen Morgan.

Friends of Library. Gordon Fitch reported that the Friends will have a tour of the new library space on November 26 at 2:00pm. The Friends are developing a new process for handling book donations due to the limited space and the few volunteers.

Ongoing Business. Springsted Update. Brad said that Sharon Klumpp, who represents Springsted, and the Library are focusing on developing job descriptions. It is important that job descriptions are defined in terms that can be compared effectively to positions at other libraries. Brad said he hopes to hear from Sharon soon and have the work completed by the end of the year.

Brad explained the library's new direction document is a statement of values and of organizational priority based on what the public and donors want. Examples of priorities are: how maintenance will be done; reclassification of genre and picture books; plan for the civic plaza, now called the Newman Family Library Lawn. The Board decided to set up a meeting to collaborate with City and Parks and Recreation for usage and scheduling of lawn space.

— Elinor Tourtellot





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LAWRENCE / DOUGLAS COUNTY

Make a Difference – Join/Support the League!

Complete form, enclose check made out to LWV L/DC, and mail to the address listed below.

(Membership is open to anyone who will be eligible to vote in the next November election.

New or renewed memberships received now will expire March 31, 2015)

Date _____ Renewing member

_____ New Member. I heard about the League via (Facebook, Web Site, Friend, Other): _____

Suggested voluntary membership assessment:*

Approximate Household Income	Individual membership	Household membership
Student**	_____ \$17	_____ \$29
Under \$25,000	_____ \$20	_____ \$35
\$25,000 to \$50,000	_____ \$35	_____ \$55
Over \$50,000	_____ \$55	_____ \$85
Sustaining member	_____ \$100	_____ \$150
Life member (of 50 years)	_____ \$0	

* Our membership assessment supports the National and State Leagues at \$49/member (\$31 National and \$18 State).

** High school or postsecondary student enrolled at least part time in an accredited institution.

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

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. Write check to "LWV Education Fund."

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

As a League member or supporter, 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
- Represent League at community events
- 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
- Microsoft Word / Excel / Quickbooks
- Website/Social Media design/management

My interests include:

PO BOX 1072 • LAWRENCE KS 66044-1072

President@lawrenceleague.com • www.lawrenceleague.com

www.facebook.com/lwvldc • www.twitter.com/lwvldc

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League of Women Voters
Lawrence–Douglas County
PO Box 1072
Lawrence KS 66044-1072