



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.

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National League:	http://www.lwv.org		(202) 429-1965

League Calendar

Wed Mar 12 7 pm	Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition meeting. <i>Basement conference room of the Carnegie Bldg, 200 West 9th St.</i>
Thu Mar 13 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 Mar 14 9 pm	Deadline for submissions to March VOTER. Email submissions to VoterEditor[at]lawrenceleague.com.
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>
Sat Mar 22 11:30 am	2014 Fluker Award luncheon. <i>The Smith Center, 4730 Brandon Woods Terr.</i>
Sat Mar 22 7 pm	LWV L-DC Land Use Committee meeting. <i>Lawrence Community Mercantile, 901 Iowa St. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Thurs Apr 17 11:30 am–1 pm	Brown Bag Lunch Meeting. (Topic to be announced in March.) <i>Watkins Community Museum, 1047 Massachusetts St. Speaker(s) begin at 12 pm. All are welcome.</i>
Sat Apr 19 11:30 am	LWV L-DC Annual Meeting. (Look for details in the March issue of the Voter.) <i>The Smith Center, 4730 Brandon Woods Terr.</i>

Make your reservations for the 2014 Fluker Award luncheon!

Saturday, March 22, 11:30 am (lunch at noon), the Smith Center, 4730 Brandon Woods Terr

Make your reservation to attend the luncheon at which the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award will be presented to a Douglas County citizen who has promoted improvement in government. The formal presentation of the award is at 12:30. The menu for the luncheon will be: Baked chicken quarters with Italian herbs, sautéed shrimp with broccoli in lemon white wine sauce, breaded tomatoes with bacon and parmesan, rosemary red potatoes, mixed greens and champagne cake. The cost of the luncheon is \$14. **Reservations must be made by Tuesday, March 18, with Marjorie Cole (842–6085 or nobledog@aol.com) or Caroljean Brune (764–5130 or bacjb[at]ku.edu).**

Message from Co-President David Burress: Challenges and responses to the Kansas proof of citizenship voter registration requirement



The League's top issue is and always has been voting rights. Today, the top issue for Kansas Leagues is the unreasonable burden imposed on voter registration by the proof of citizenship law that Secretary of State Kris Kobach lobbied through the legislature in 2012. Under that law some 20,000 would-be voters have been placed in "suspension," meaning they can't vote until they have documented their citizenship. As a belated palliative, Secretary Kobach recently jury-rigged a system that automatically registered some 7000 suspended voters who showed up in the Kansas Vital Statistics database. This may be illegal—the law requires "showing documents"—and in any case it discriminates against persons born out of state, women who have changed their names, and some other groups.

Kansas state and local Leagues and other organizations are working to mitigate the effects of this law, and eventually to force its repeal. We have been especially active on the legal front and in direct registration efforts. Later we will need to step up our efforts on public education and legislative lobbying.

Legal challenges. *ACLU demand letter.* On Tuesday, August 13, 2013, lawyers from the Kansas ACLU and the National ACLU's Voting Rights Project sent Secretary Kobach a letter giving him notice that the State of Kansas is not in compliance with the voter registration provisions of the National Voting Rights Act (NVRA) and that, if the State does not change its practices, the ACLU would sue the State of Kansas and Secretary Kobach in 90 days.

Kris Kobach et al. v. the Election Assistance Commission. A week later, Secretary Kobach and the State of Arizona filed a federal suit against the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) seeking approval of changes to the federal voter registration form that would allow Kansas and Arizona to require documentary proof of citizenship. That case essentially raises the issues mentioned in the ACLU demand letter. LWVK, LWV-Arizona, LWVUS, the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University as well as others intervened in the suit. The ACLU did not intervene because the arguments were being adequately addressed. On January 17, the EAC ruled against Kobach's request. Kobach immediately filed an appeal in federal court. Oral arguments on that appeal were heard by U.S. District Judge Eric Melgren on February 11. (Mulgren is a 2008 appointee of George W. Bush.)

Belenky, et al., v. Kris Kobach, et al. Meanwhile, the ACLU filed a separate Kansas state court law suit challenging the documentary proof of citizenship law on state law grounds, specifically contending that Kobach's dual voter registration system violates the Kansas constitution's provisions on equal protection and separation of powers and that Kobach failed to follow administrative law requirements in adopting his dual registration system. (Note that this suit can go forward even if the LWV and its allies ultimately lose the federal suit.)

LWV L-DC Brown Bag Lunch Mental Health in our Community

March 20, Watkins Community Museum, 1047 Massachusetts St, ground floor (enter by side entrance)

From **11:30–noon** we'll eat, socialize, and discuss our local health positions; **at noon** Dr. Joe Douglas, Psychiatrist at the Bert Nash Mental Health Clinic, will speak (and sing a bit).

Dr. Douglas discusses mental health with compassion and the deep knowledge he has gained during nearly a half-century of experience. He is particularly concerned with helping people who cannot afford the care they need. Members who have heard him before praise his sincerity and also his music. All are welcome!

As readers of the Voter may recall, our local LWV-LDC had planned to be a party to the ACLU lawsuit, but we withdrew at the request of LWVK President Delores Furtado, who felt there might be some kind of conflict with the LWV position in the EAC suit.

The ACLU suit was filed in Shawnee County District Court on November 21, 2013, but Kobach removed the ACLU suit to federal court just before Christmas. In early January, the ACLU filed a motion to remand the case to state court, and that motion will be fully briefed by next week. While we wait for Judge Melgren's ruling, the case remains on hold in state court.

Irrespective of what decisions are reached on the two suits in the federal and state trial courts, both decisions are almost certain to be appealed. Ultimate resolution of the legal issues will take many months and perhaps years.

Voter registration efforts. After the Kobach law was passed, Kansas Leagues at first concluded that traditional voter registration efforts carried out by the League and other private registrars were no longer feasible. One problem had to do with the need for protecting the privacy of documents that proved citizenship. The League did not want to incur possible liability from having temporary custody either of private documents or of their copies. A second problem is that citizens very rarely carry proof of citizenship in the venues where we traditionally conduct registration drives (e.g. downtown or in grocery stores). Later however some Leagues including LWV-LDC resumed registration work in either of two modes:

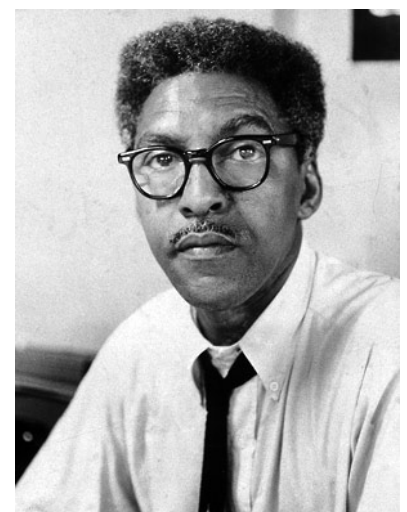
[a] The League helped some individuals send in registration forms without proof of citizenship, resulting in a suspended application. The applicant could complete the registration later by mailing or emailing a copy of a citizenship document to the County Clerk at a later date.

[b] The League helped some individuals make actual copies of citizenship documents and mail them with a registration application directly to the county clerk. This procedure has been effective mainly in the case of voter registration at naturalization ceremonies—where proof of citizenship is immediately available.

However these procedures do not address the problem of suspended registrations. LWV-LDC is engaged in an active project to track down suspended voters and offer them assistance at their homes in order to make copies of documents and mail them to the County Clerk. Despite a rather substantial effort, however, so far our efforts have met with limited success.

Upcoming public education efforts. Based on an initiative sparked by LWVK President Furtado, the Kansas League has collected over \$7000, which will be used to print and distribute some 50,000 trifold brochures explaining how to register and vote under the new Kansas rules. The brochure will also be available on the LWVK website for reprinting and distribution. LWVK will also explore various other avenues of publicity.

Legislative action. At present, conditions in the Kansas Statehouse are discouraging for those of us who support expanding rather than restricting voting rights. Soon, however, the League and other voting rights advocates such as the ACLU, the NAACP, and NOW need to develop a unified long term strategy. I am hopeful that rather than a reactive strategy we will pursue a proactive strategy based on strong moral principles: we should demand not merely repeal of the Kobach voting barriers, but rather an affirmative action by the state of Kansas to register all citizens of Kansas up to and including felons in prison. Further, I think we should demand action by the state to encourage everyone to go to polls, for example by holding polls open on the Saturday before the election and by expanding the mail ballot. I propose the slogan: "Every Kansan votes."



The Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition Needs YOU!



The Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition is a joint endeavor of the LWV L-DC and the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods. The Coalition is dedicated to promoting a walkable community in Lawrence. As the city becomes more densely populated, increasing the walking population will relieve streets of vehicular congestion, accommodate people who choose to walk, provide an alternate method of transportation, and provide a pleasant safe environment for those who must walk.

Lawrence faces many challenges. The sidewalk network is incomplete. Mass transportation needs to be integrated with other modes of transportation. New development should have more pedestrian-friendly designs. The aging population needs transportation options. The community, in general, needs to understand the advantages of walking and how to create an environment that encourages walking. There is a lot of interest among various civic groups. We support and encourage forward movement with all.

Caroljean Brune, the previous League representative, has had to step down due to a class conflict this semester. The Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition meets the second Wednesday of every month, at 7 pm, in the basement conference room of the Carnegie Building on Vermont Street, in downtown Lawrence. Please contact Caroljean Brune (bacjb[at]ku.edu), David Burress (dburress[at]ku.edu), or Laura Routh (lauridi[at]hotmail.com) if you would be interested in serving on this committee. Also, visit the website www.lawrencewalks.org for additional information.

Highlights of the January 9 LWV L-DC Board Meeting

7:12–9:04 pm, home of David Burress, 912 Holiday Dr

Present: David Burress (Co-President), Cille King (Co-President and President Elect), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Caleb Morse (Secretary). **Directors:** Caroljean Brune, James Dunn, Midge Grinstead, Marlene Merrill. **Absent:** Marci Francisco (Vice President), Margaret Arnold. **Treasurer's report.** Marjorie reported total income for Dec 2013 of \$1275 and expenses of \$274; net inflow was \$1,000.04. Current balances as of Dec 31, 2013: Checking Acct = \$3,595.69; Money Market Acct = \$2,102.82; Stucky Acct = \$5,625.98; Judiciary Acct = \$581.63; Education Fund (LWVEF) = \$1,432.10.] **New appointments.** Marlene volunteered to chair the Stucky Committee; Caleb volunteered to serve as a member. CJ volunteered to serve on the Fluker Committee, and will look for some people including a chair. **Grant for Youth Voter Registration.** Cille reported that we received \$500 to register youth at 4 high schools and HI-NU, perhaps also at private high schools. The first webinar on best practices on how to get youth interested, involved, registered, and voting, had taken place earlier in the day. Cille is looking for contacts at area high schools in civics classes, and plans to update voter information card. **Suspended voter registrations.** Melissa Wick volunteered to call people towards the end of the alphabet. But, so far no one has allowed League to visit them at home. Also, no one has taken documents to

Jamie Shew. **Should we incorporate as a nonprofit?** David reviewed the requirements, which include a \$20 registration fee, and \$40 annual reporting fees (which would start in second year). There was some discussion about this and whether we should incorporate as a 501(c)(3). The consensus was that we should take no action in the short term, at least. **New membership drive, continued.** CJ asked what this would constitute. Midge thought maybe a membership meeting, like at Brown Bag Lunch, where members discuss League stuff. David offered that every time we have a BBL, we should include a short presentation about what League does. **Discussion on soliciting volunteers.** Suggestions raised in the discussion included *Voter* announcements (probably don't work); pamphlets (probably don't work); introduction before meetings; personal call to members who don't do a lot, or calling past board members. Cille volunteered to serve as the pitch person at next BBL. As to forming an *ad hoc* committee to form a plan, Marlene said NO! and the rest of us agreed. **Spring fund raising event.** Midge is looking into having a local running group hold a fun run in our name. If that doesn't work, maybe a little more labor intensive run would be possible. If not that, then maybe a dinner or appetizers or a silent auction fundraiser. Stay tuned.

—Caleb Morse

Land Use Committee Report

7 pm, January 25, Community Mercantile public meeting room

At our January meeting, the Land Use Committee discussed Planning Commission (PC) Agenda items, and decided to send one letter to the PC. Cille King represented the League at the Jan PC meeting.

Our letter concerned **Item #2, PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR GOING SOUTH ADDITION** in the January PC Agenda which had been rezoned two months earlier in November. This was a proposed 10.6 acre conventional RM district with a permitted 15 units per acre (RM15) located immediately east of O’Connell Rd and adjacent to O’Connell Youth Ranch. It was intended for low income residents. **The PP consisted of only two large lots to accommodate a permitted total of 121 units.** The Concept Plan, a non-binding proposed configuration of the development, showed three private driveways serving the apartments in these lots, but all of the parking spaces were grouped in clusters fronting directly on, and opening onto, these main driveways. This kind of parking design is prohibited for “joint use driveways” in residential uses in our Land Development Code (20-915(g)(1), we presume because these main driveways are the only access ways into the parking spaces. When cars leave or enter the parking spaces they would block through-traffic in the driveways. In addition, the number of units exiting the driveways onto one public street available in the design seemed questionable according to the Fire Code and would likely create safety problems.



A critical procedural issue with this type of large-lot, conventionally zoned, multi-family design is the fact that there is no public review of the final Site Plan. In our letter we pointed out these safety problems with the proposed Concept Plan and asked the PC to instruct the

staff to “require a safer design regarding access” in the Going South Site Plan, and ask the staff to “propose better standards as Text Amendments for multiple family development.” One ray of hope was that the Planning Commission seemed to share our concern for the safety of the residents with this design, and asked the staff to arrange the parking closer to the residential buildings. In our letter we did not list the differences between Planned Developments and conventional district requirements. In future reports we hope to do this in detail.

Other Agenda Items briefly discussed at our meeting were **ITEM NO. 1: RS7 & IG TO OS; .6 ACRE; 547 MAPLE ST & 500 PERRY**, a rezoning to Open Space to accommodate an upgraded stormwater pump in North Lawrence; **ITEM NO. 3: REVISED PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BELLA SERA AT THE RESERVE; 4500 BOB BILLINGS PKWY**, an addition of four smaller apartment buildings, adding fewer units than originally allowed to this upscale condominium development; **ITEM NO. 4: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP); GOOD EARTH GATHERINGS; 858 E 1500 RD**, a request for renewal of an expired CUP for an educational/nature/small retail project in the county, and **MISC NO. 1: VARIANCE FOR CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY; 51 N 2190 RD** to accommodate a two-lot, non-conforming county residential land division. All items were approved by the Planning Commission.

Two items were deferred by the Planning Commission: **ITEM NO. 5, a CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT; LODGING HOUSE & RECREATION; 1804 E 1500 RD**, located on the north side of 24/40 Highway on the southern and western border of the Airport property was deferred to allow the applicant to be present in order to answer questions and respond to concerns. **ITEM NO. 6, a TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING REGULATIONS; AGRITOURISM** was deferred to allow for more public input and further review by the staff.

The Wed evening Planning Commission meeting earlier had been canceled and the scheduled items on the Wed agenda had been deferred.

—Betty Lichtwardt

League Day at the Capitol

February 13, Topeka



Informative speakers and lively discussions alarmed, armed and motivated more than 50 Leaguers and guests. Day at the Capitol featured several speakers. Here are some the high points of their presentations. **Paul Johnson, LWVK lobbyist and author of our weekly Legislative**

E-Reports. • Kansas revenue has dropped 21%, largely due Kansas new tax structure, including no income taxes on LLC's, Subchapter S, and Sole Proprietorships. Sales tax income dropped 3%. Revenue shortfall will result in continued low funding of education and other programs, and a reduced ending balance. Budget shortfalls are projected for 2017 and beyond. • Elections rules are raising contribution limits. • Election dates for local (city and school district) elections might be changed from spring to fall and these elections might become partisan. • Energy policy. Net Metering—the Legislature is considering reducing homeowners and business owners reimbursement for renewable energy (solar and wind) that is sent to the grid. Renewable Energy Portfolio—the Legislature is considering reducing current goal of 20% renewable energy by 2020. We are already at 15% renewable energy in Kansas. Kansas ranks 48th in the U.S. on energy conservation policy. • Kansas is spending only one half of what we previously spent on implementation of the Kansas Water Plan. 80% of Kansas water use goes to irrigation. **Linda Sheppard, Kansas Insurance Dept.** At the end of 2013, 350,000 Kansans were on Medicaid and another 40,000 might be eligible under our current strict requirements. The Federal government pays 53% while Kansas pays 47%. Medicaid expansion, allowed under the ACA, would cover another 182,000 Kansans, with 100% payment from the Federal Government, reduced no lower than 90% in the coming years. Wyandotte and Douglas Counties have among the highest percentage of low income residents that could be covered by expanded Medicaid. **Sean Gatewood, Kansas Health Consumer Coalition (KHCC).** KHCC is an umbrella organization to

promote doctor, dentist and health care assess. Their website (<http://kshealthconsumer.com/>) highlights projects, testimony, and actions. KHCC's advocacy day at the Capitol will occur on March 18, 2014 (beginning at 9 am), during the veto session. They also plan rallies around state. The organization plans to host broad health care forums for candidates this election season, because they need local buy-in. • An Oregon study of "health care or not" found that mental and emotional health greatest benefit. • Gatewood mentioned another website League members might find interesting <http://howmuchhaskyleftonthetable.com/>. **Lunch discussion panel.** Senator Vicki Schmidt, R-Dist 20 (part of Shawnee Co), Rep. Ed trimmer, D-Dist 78 (part of Butler Co), Rep Melissa Rooker, R-Distr 25 (part of Johnson Co). • Base State Aid per Pupil (BSAP) for 2012–14 is \$3838—less than 2001–02, when BSAP was \$3870. If adjustments were pegged to changes to the consumer price index, BSAP of \$3600 in 1992 would have reached \$6001 in 2013. The Legislative Division of Post Audit recently reported "We found a strong association between the amounts districts spend and outcomes they achieve.... [A]ll other things being equal, districts that spent more had better student performance." • The Governor's lower income tax structure is a failure as "an adrenaline shot in the arm". Kansas has 13,000 fewer jobs and fewer businesses than when Gov Brownback took office. • Bills are submitted that are discriminatory and unconstitutional, such as HB #2453, a bill allowing discrimination. Americans for Prosperity funded by the Koch brothers, will likely send postcards stating "Senator (or Representative) such and such voted against 'religious freedom' when, in fact, they were voting against discrimination. **LWVK President Furtado.** • The LWVK lawsuit is in Federal Court in Wichita, with Judge Eric Melgren. • \$7229 has been raised for the "Protect Your Voice, Protect Your Vote" campaign. A tri-fold pamphlet is designed and 50,000 will be printed to distribute throughout the state for voter education on registration requirements. Some of the funds will be used for our Vote411.org website for voter information. • The LWVK study on hydraulic fracturing will require September or October general informational meetings for consensus, in advance of the April 2015 LWVK convention. Break out group discussions finished the day; Communications, Vote411 questions, and Legislative Issues.

—Cille King

Share our Skills

Many members have noticed a list of volunteer activities on our membership forms (printed in every month's *Voter*). Options range from research and public speaking to making phone calls, help set up for meetings, bringing refreshments. The Membership Committee has gathered some names under many of the categories, but more volunteers would really be welcome. We may be overlooking someone who would really like to be asked. If you are not shy, we welcome you anyway. Thank you for taking another look at the final page of each newsletter and marking what interests you. You can send a copy to the League address or attach it to an e-mail. I can be reached at [mjarnold\[at\]ku.edu](mailto:mjarnold[at]ku.edu). —Margaret Arnold

Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award

Each year the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County presents the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award in memory of Helen to honor a Douglas County citizen over the age of 18 who has made a difference in government. The recipient of the award should have somehow promoted improvement in government through efforts as a volunteer or as an extension of her/his work duties. A variety of ways that this may have been done are: • attempting to increase citizen participation in government • educating the public about an issue • working toward more open government • being involved in the community in ways that lead to better political decision-making. **Nominations are due on March 7, 2014.** Please complete the nomination form on page 8 and mail or e-mail it as directed on the form. The award will be presented at a luncheon on Saturday, **March 22**, at the Smith Center, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace. The event will begin at 11:30 with lunch served at noon. The formal presentation of the award is at 12:30. Cost of the lunch is \$14. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, March 18, Marjorie Cole (842-6085 or [nobledog\[at\]aol.com](mailto:nobledog[at]aol.com)) or Caroljean Brune (764-5130 or [bacjb\[at\]ku.edu](mailto:bacjb[at]ku.edu)).



Helen and Bob Fluker had an active career in government service. She often spoke of how while in government service, she was never allowed to influence policy, could only support policies of the government, and could not be a League member. After retiring and settling in Lawrence in 1974, she became active in the community and several volunteer organizations including the League of Women Voters. With sincere dedication, she served as local president and on the board of directors of the local and state Leagues for many years. She valued her membership, the kind of research the League did, and its goals of active citizen participation in government. After

her death in 1998, this award was established by the League with the help of her family. We honor her commitment to the League by honoring some of the “unsung heroes” in our community.

Past recipients are Mary Michener (2000), Hilda Enoch (2001), Larry Kipp (2002), Betty Lichtwardt (2003), Allan and Louise Hanson (2004), Mary Davidson (2005), Forrest Swall (2006), Jessie Branson (2007), Marci Francisco (2008), Jamie Shew (2009), Margaret Farley (2010), Dave Ranney (2011), Scott Criqui (2012), and Mitzi McFatrigh (2013). [For a short description of the accomplishments of each past recipient, visit our website (www.lawrenceleague.com)!]

New Members and Future Orientation Gathering

In addition to **Melissa Wick**, we welcome **J. Michael Pryor** and **Margaret Ann Bodle**. We hope to interview them and others for future *Voter* issues. Please plan ahead for a special orientation of new members early in April at the home of Marci Francisco, 1101 Ohio St. Present board members will share thoughts on League history, positions, and current programs.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LAWRENCE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award Nomination Form

Name of Nominee _____

Title/Organization (if applicable): _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Nominating Criteria

The nominee must be a Douglas County resident over age 18, and their efforts (volunteer or as an extension of their work duties) must have promoted improvement in government. They could have accomplished this in a variety of ways, such as attempting to increase citizen participation in government; educating the public about an issue; working toward more “open” government; or otherwise being involved in ways which represent the principles that lead to better political decision-making.

Please indicate below or attach a statement explaining why you feel this nominee should be considered for the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award. Please feel free to attach up to three additional sheets to this form.

Your Name _____

Title/Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

*Please date and sign the form and return to Helen Fluker Award Selection Committee • LWV L/DC • PO Box 1072 • Lawrence KS 66044 by **March 7, 2014**. If you prefer to email your nomination, please send to [bacjb\[at\]ku.edu](mailto:bacjb[at]ku.edu). Thank you.*

Date _____ Signature _____

Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 20, 4:30–6:45 pm

Board Members Present: Joan Golden, Chair; Chris Burger, Fran Devlin, Brady Flannery, Ursula Minor, Deborah Thompson, David Vance. **Absent:** Gould/Evans Architects. **Library Staff:** Brad Allen, Director; Sherri Turner, Assistant Director; Kathleen Morgan, Library Foundation Director. **Guests:** BA Green; Gordon Fitch, Friends of the Library; Elinor Tourtellot, LWV L–DC.

Library Director's Report. Building Renovation/Expansion. Construction continues on the expansion of the library. Many of the exterior walls are up and some of the terra cotta has been applied on the north and east walls. They are close to getting the building closed in and then will start work on finishing the inside. The bids for the furniture are in and are on budget. **Hiring.** The Library is near the completion of its search for the new Head of Readers' Services. **Lawrence Music Project.** The Library is securing funding from Mass Street Music to help develop an online cache of local music. The leaders of this project, library staffer Sean Wilson and local music blogger/enthusiast Fally Afani, have been working with Philsquare on creation and development of the site. **Library Foundation Director's Report. Friends / Foundation Annual Letter Update.** The Friends and Foundation joint fundraising letter has resulted in raising \$27,785. **"Toast to the Library" Update.** The planning continues for the "Toast to the Library" party that will take place in conjunction with the opening of the new building next summer. The committee chairs are busy recruiting new members. Four signature sponsors of \$5000 each are lined up for the event. They are Stevens & Brand, Crown Automotive, NIC, Inc., and Intrust Bank. Only one more sponsor at this level is needed. **Carol Nalbandian Memorial.** The Foundation is serving as the collection point for donations to Carol Nalbandian's memorial fund. To date, we have received 30 gifts totaling \$1,600. The Friends voted at its January meeting to match donations up to a total of \$2,000. Carol's memorial service is scheduled for February 28th at Woodruff Auditorium. **Planned Giving Seminar.** On January 8, Kathleen attended a planned giving seminar sponsored by the Topeka chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The presenter was Martin Ahren who is in charge of Washburn's planned giving program.

Foundation Assistant. The Foundation is pleased to announce that Jean Ann Oden started work on January 3rd as an administrative assistant for the Foundation.

The Library Friend's Report. Gordon Fitch reported that there would be no Spring Book Sale. They plan to have a late summer sale in the Borders space before the lease runs out. Surplus library furniture will also be on sale. The annual meeting will take place on March 2nd. The volunteer of the year is Diane Lowe who took books home and "cooked the books" in her oven to rid them of any bugs. By the end of the year the books sold on Amazon for \$9,500.

Ongoing business. BA Green. The construction is on schedule. The building will be enclosed soon. The exterior facade is progressing. The basement drywall is finished and 95% of walls are framed. **Springsteen.** Springsteen has completed the Library's position descriptions but has yet to finish suggestions for salaries.

New Business. Library conduct policy. The library conduct policy will be amended to end the permanent suspension for disorderly conduct. The policy will be reworded to state that a suspension for thirty days can be appealed after the thirty days. Suspensions are rarely appealed. **Outdoor space usage.** Brad and Joan met with David Corliss and agreed to let the city's Parks and Recreation to be in charge of the outdoor space. The library will still be able to control the schedule for its own events but will not have the responsibility of setting up and cleaning. The agreement will be assessed in six months to see how it is working for the Library and the City. **Brad's annual review.** Deb, Fran and David agreed to review Brad's work. —*Elinor Tourtellot, observer*



It's time to pay your dues!



Dues are being accepted now for the 2014–2015 League Year. We are testing a new dues structure designed to make League membership accessible to more members. Our Annual Meeting is April 19, 2014, and we will be voting on the change in dues. Only dues-paid members will be eligible to vote. **How do you know if you owe dues?** The League fiscal year runs from April 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015. If you last paid before October 2013, it's time to pay them now. If you don't remember, call 842-6085 or email [lww ldc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:lww ldc[at]gmail.com). Members who fail to pay dues in the first six months of the fiscal year are listed as "inactive". Those who have been League members for fifty years or more are Life Members and paying dues is optional. **How much are dues?** The board-proposed new dues policy is in effect until a vote at Annual Meeting determines its adoption. See the form in this *Voter* for details. **How do you pay?** You may mail your check with the completed form to LWV at PO Box 1072, Lawrence, KS 66044, or bring them with you to the Annual Meeting. **What if you didn't pay dues last year?** If you were officially "inactive" last year, dues you pay now will return you to the active list for the 2014–15 year. Thanks go to those who have already paid. —*Marjorie Cole, Treasurer*

Report on February Brown Bag: "State Decisions, Local Schools"

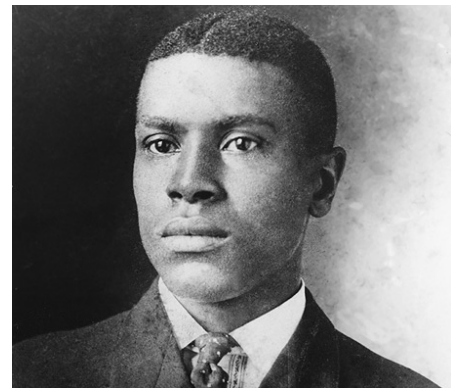
At our February 20 gathering we learned how well League has supported Kansas public schools in the past and how great the need for such support continues. Before presentations by outside speakers, CJ Brune shared her experiences working with LWVK members to pass a constitutional amendment for equitable school funding in 1992. It is still on the books: "The State of Kansas should promote equity in educational opportunity for all through a school finance plan which makes equivalent resources available to each pupil regardless of the wealth of any particular school district."

Marlene Merrill moderated discussion and speeches by our two guest speakers, Vanessa Sanburn of the USD 497 School Board and Mark Desetti, Public Relations and Communications Officer of the Kansas National Education Association. Desetti augmented the topic of equitable funding, referring to a Kansas Supreme Court decision of 2005. The Court's ruling asked the Legislature whether or not they could continue to operate schools in violation of the Kansas Constitution. In subsequent years funding did increase up to the recession of 2008, dropping off at that point. After the recession the State has not restored promised funds to education.

Vanessa Sanburn explained the difficulties schools face even with a 10% cut. Programs such as remedial education and supplemental food needs have suffered. Kansas is among the lowest third of states in comparative funding yet among the highest third in achievement. Both speakers encouraged League members to counter misleading statements and figures currently used to attack public education. For instance, expenditures "per pupil" sometime reflect money for janitors, counselors, and even contributions to retirement funds rather than actual classroom expenditures. Other misleading statements attack the "Common Core" program as a federal intrusion rather than admitting the formation of subject standards by local teachers throughout the state.

We heard that large numbers of individuals have been attacking public schools in committee hearings during this session. As League members, let us watch educational issues and take action.

—*Margaret Arnold*



League Members Speak Out

Opinions from League members this month in the *Lawrence Journal World* include: David Burress, Letter to the Editor: *Spreading Stores* (appeared Jan 23); Cille King and David Burress, co-presidents, LTE: *Court System* (Feb 3); and M. Roy, LTE: *Rental Issues* (Feb 4); Scott Criqui, LTE: *Disheartening Bill* (Feb 15); Caroljean Brune, LTE: *Wasteful Spending* (Feb 21).

Afternoon with the State Legislators

This is one of our best attended annual events. More than 50 attended, filling the room (and enjoying the refreshments), to hear and raise questions for our legislators. Senator Marci Francisco, Representatives Tom Sloan, John Wilson and Connie O'Brien, and State Board of Education members Janet Waugh and Carolyn Campbell joined us. Co-President David Burress asked the Legislators for their leanings and comments on issues where the LWV has positions. Here are brief summaries of their answers.



Co-President Cille King addresses the audience at Afternoon with the Legislators.

- **Abolishing the death penalty.** Rep Sloan was against, saying some crimes are so hideous, the convicted shouldn't remain alive. Sen Francisco, Reps Wilson and O'Brien, and SBOE members Waugh and Campbell agreed with the League position on abolishing the death penalty.
- **Funding education at an increased (and appropriate) level.** Rep O'Brien thought education funding was more than adequate. All others were for increased funding; however, some noted that decreased revenue under Governor Brownback made more funding unlikely.
- **Removing the requirement to provide "proof of citizenship" when registering to vote.** Rep O'Brien thought the requirement should stay in place, even if it meant tens of thousands were on the suspense list and unable to vote. All others were for removing the requirement to provide proof of citizenship. The requirement is costly and an undue burden on would-be voters.



- **Retaining the "merit based" selection of Kansas Supreme Court Justices.** Rep O'Brien thought we should change the current selection to the federal model. All others thought we should keep our current "merit based" selection, which is the League's position.

- **Expanding Medicaid.** Rep O'Brien was against expanding Medicaid. All others were for the expansion, noting it would mean increased dollars coming back to Kansas, thousands fewer without health insurance, money going to hospitals to cover costs for care, and more jobs.

SBOE members Waugh and Campbell, while not able to vote on the issues presented, have to deal with the decreased school funding and laws implemented regarding curriculum and assessments. Both members support the Common Core standards that have been developed by several states and strive to increase student achievement. —Cille King

Membership and Leadership Development: Studying Ourselves



Have you heard an acquaintance praise the League for our work with elections? Rightly so—but League also works on studies and takes positions to foster an environment in which everyone has a chance. We would like to look at our positions gradually, beginning with our spring brown bag lunches. At the March BBL, for instance, we will eat at 11:30 and review our positions on health care, especially our advocacy of a sliding scale for patients, exemplified by Bert Nash. Then, at noon, our speaker will begin. Please bring guests. We are excited to discuss League activities with everyone.



—Margaret Arnold

Images: **page 2: Barbara Jordan** (1936–1996), first African-American woman elected, and later re-elected, to Congress from the deep South (Rep – TX, first elected 1972); **page 3: Bayard Rustin** (1912–1987), pacifist, civil rights activist, architect of the 1963 March on Washington, openly gay long before Stonewall; **page 4: Shirley Anita Chisholm** (1924–2005), first African-American woman elected to Congress (Rep – NY, elected in 1969), first major-party African-American candidate for President (in 1972); **page 5: George Washington Carver** (1864–1943), conservationist, research scientist, and inventor, professor of Agriculture at the Tuskegee Institute, often associated with peanut butter, which he worked on for its potential as a sustainable crop, born in Diamond Grove, Mo., lived as a child in Fort Scott and Minneapolis, Ks.; **page 6: Madame C. J. Walker** (Sarah Breedlove McWilliams Walker; 1867–1919), inventor, entrepreneur, one of the first American women to become a self-made millionaire, largely on the profits from her hair-care products; **page 7: Peter**, in *The Snowy Day* (1962) by Ezra Jack Keats, the first full-color picture book to feature an African-American child as the main character, won the Caldecott Medal in 1963 and ranked fifth in a 2012 *School Library Journal* poll of top 100 picture books of all time; **page 9: Coleman Hawkins** (1904–1969), tenor saxophonist, innovator in swing, big band, and bebop, born in St. Joseph, Mo., attended high school in Topeka; **page 10: (upper left) Fannie Lou Hamer** (1917–1977), civil rights and peace activist, organizer of the Mississippi Freedom Summer, representative to the 1964 Democratic Convention for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; **(lower right): Oscar Micheaux** (1884–1951), novelist, screen-writer, first major African-American feature filmmaker and producer, lived as a child in Great Bend, where he is buried; **page 11: Gwendolyn Brooks** (1917–2000), poet, educator, winner of numerous prizes and fellowships, born in Topeka; **page 12: (left) Satchell Paige** (1906–1982), pitched for the Kansas City Monarchs and K.C. Athletics, first player to be inducted into the baseball Hall of Fame based on his record in the Negro Leagues, buried in Kansas City; **(right) Roger Arliner Young** (1889–1964), marine biologist, her publication “On the excretory apparatus in *Paramecium*” (*Science*, 1924) was the first in her field by an African-American woman; **page 11: Nina Simone** (1933–2003), pianist, composer, singer, High Priestess of Soul.



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:

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

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In honor of Black History Month, this issue of the *Voter* includes images of some barrier -breaking African-American politicians, entrepreneurs, athletes, artists, scientists, inventors, and one fictional character important to the guest editor's kid. How many can you name? Answers and short biographies of each are on page 12.



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