



THE VOTER

LOCAL LEAGUE: www.lawrenceleague.com. www.facebook.com/lwvdc. www.twitter.com/lwvdc

FEBRUARY HOT TOPIC

FOSTER CARE IN KANSAS

Thursday, February 18th

Watkins Museum of History

1047 Massachusetts

Social: 11:30 am - 12 pm

Presentation: 12 - 1 pm

Speakers:

Erica Hunter - Kansas Department for Children and Families

Diana Frederick, Executive Director of CASA (Court Appointed State Advocates).

League Calendar

Thurs. Feb. 11th	Board Meeting
7pm - 9 pm	Lawrence Library meeting room A 707 Vermont Street
Thurs. Feb 18th	HOT TOPIC!
11:30am - 1pm	Foster Care in Kansas Watkins Museum
Fri. Feb. 19th	Voter deadline
Sat. Feb. 20th	Land Use Committee
7 pm	The Merc Co-op 901 Iowa Street
Thurs. Feb 25th	League Day at the Capitol (see page 4)
9 am	Meet at Shawnee County Library 1515 SW 10th, Topeka
Sun. Feb 28th	Annual Policy Planning Meeting (page 8)
4pm - 6 pm	Lawrence Library Meeting room B 707 Vermont Street
Sat. March 5th	Helen Fluker award luncheon
11:30 am	Smith Center @ Brandon Woods 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace

Hot Topic Overview

Foster care programs were developed to provide safety nets for children whose families abuse them or are unable to adequately provide for their needs. The program in Kansas is administered by the Department for Children and Families (DCF) and implemented by contractors throughout the state. A number of issues regarding foster care have been in the media in recent months. This program will provide the information you need to better understand the system and evaluate the information you read.



Republican and Democratic
Caucuses are March 5, 2016

Lawrence locations:
Democratic: Central Middle Sch.
Republican: SW Middle School



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I don't know about the rest of you but I have been getting phone calls and e-mails from people asking 1). Why doesn't Kansas have a presidential primary? and, 2). What is a caucus and who can go to it?

To answer the first question, I took the lazy way out. The Kansas Republican Party's website has a Presidential primary timeline. It's in the Kansas Presidential caucus "frequently asked questions" section. <http://www.ksgop.org/#!frequent-questions/c1a8i> The short version is, the statute authorizing a Presidential Preference Primary was passed in 1978 and repealed in 2015. During its existence, it gave the legislature the power to opt out of holding it, so only two Presidential primaries were ever held in Kansas - one in 1980 and one in 1992. Reasons for repealing it: It costs over \$2 million dollars to hold and voter turnout is historically low for primaries.

Before I answer the second question - I know that many of you are very experienced at caucusing so my caucus information won't interest you. I hope, however, that you will take the time to send letters to the editor, post messages on social media and generally talk caucusing up as much as you can to encourage people to go. People who are not involved with political parties only hear the term caucus used in conjunction with legislative sessions and Congress. They don't think these meetings are open to the public. *They need to understand that this **is their primary**.*

So, here are some of the basics of the Kansas Republican and Democratic caucus information. I took this information directly off their websites. Choosing delegates, even the voting procedures can be very complicated and for that kind of detail people need to go directly to their respective party's websites. I have included the web addresses at the end of this article. The websites also have the caucus locations.

In Lawrence, the Democrats are caucusing at Central Middle School, 1400 Massachusetts Street and the Republicans will be at Southwest Middle School, 2511 Inverness.

Both parties caucus on March 5, 2016.**Republican caucus:**

Every county Republican Party is required to hold a caucus or run a joint caucus with a neighboring county. Most do it in one location – schools, churches, armories, restaurants, hotel lobbies, and theaters have been used as locations. Johnson County usually does it in multiple locations

Democratic caucus:

There are two tiers. The first-tier will be held in each Kansas State Senate District. Exceptions do apply in State Senate Districts 1, 5, 14, 18, 20, 33, 34, 36, and 37. A local unit convention will be held for each Congressional District in those State Senate Districts if the number of votes cast for the Democratic Candidate for President in 2012 was over 400.

Who can participate:**Republicans -**

As long as you are a registered Republican on February 4 you can vote. Bring a government issued photo ID with you to verify your voter registration.

Democrats:

Any person who is eligible to vote in state of Kansas and who will be 18 years old on Election Day, November 8, 2016, may participate in the Kansas caucuses. These individuals must reside in the Senate District in which they wish to participate, and they must be registered as a Democrat. Voter registration and party registration is available on the day of the caucus.

How do I Participate in a Caucus?**Republicans:**

On Saturday, March 5, bring a government issued photo ID (like a driver's license) to the caucus location. Be prepared for lines during the check-in process. Each voter will have to have their registration verified.

Chairs are given broad latitude in running their event. Once you are checked-in, you will proceed to the main seating area. The chair of the caucus will call the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Following the introduction, there will be the opportunity for representatives from various campaigns to present information about their candidate. Once all the representatives have had an opportunity to discuss their candidate, ballots will be distributed and you can vote. People can come in at any time to vote. Voting will be by secret ballot. You will only vote for one candidate. You do not have to stay after you have cast your ballot.

Democrats:

On Saturday, March 5th, caucus registration will open at 1:00 PM and close at 3:00 PM. Voters must be in line by 3 PM to participate. At 3:30 PM (or when the registration process is completed) the caucus chair shall call the meeting to order and appoint a secretary of the caucus. Eligible caucus goers have 30 minutes to divide to form Presidential preference groups. If a preference group does not have enough people to be considered "viable", 15% of total caucus goers, eligible attendees will have an opportunity to join another preference group or acquire people into their group to become viable. Delegates are then awarded to the preference groups. While the preference groups are forming, the caucus chair shall determine the 15% viability threshold based on the registration rolls at the close of registration.

After the preference groups form, the caucus chair shall announce a preliminary vote count and delegate allocation, including the number of votes needed to qualify for the 15% threshold. This announcement shall be followed by a reasonable period of time to allow caucus participants to change their presidential preference.

When the final vote count and delegate allocations are announced, each participant shall express their preference for a Presidential candidate, or uncommitted status, by signing on the corresponding sheet for that candidate, or uncommitted status.

Delegates are selected at each caucus to send to the district convention. It will be held on April 2nd.

Names on the ballot:**Republican Candidates:**

1. Jeb Bush
2. Dr. Ben Carson
3. Chris Christie
4. Ted Cruz
5. Carly Fiorina
6. Mike Huckabee
7. John Kasich
8. Rand Paul
9. Marco Rubio

Republicans: 40 delegates, 37 alternates

10. Rick Santorum
 11. Donald J. Trump
 12. James Gilmore
- (names will be rotated)

Democratic Candidates:

1. Hillary Clinton
2. Rocky De La Fuente
3. Martin O'Malley
4. Bernie Sanders

Democrats: 37 delegates, 3 alternates

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, including how to become a party delegate, SEE:

<http://www.ksgop.org/#!caucus/cl95.> (Republican)

<http://www.kansasdems.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/DelegateSelectionPlan-FinalVersion.doc.pdf> (Democrat)

Now is the time to pay dues!

Just fill in the handy renewal form on the last page of the Voter, select your dues category, and mail the form with your check to LWV-L/DC, PO Box 1072, Lawrence KS 66044. We especially appreciate your filled-out form so that you can be offered the ways of participating you like most. Your dues are used to pay our per-member-payments (pmps) to League of Women Voters-US (\$32) and League of Women Voter-Kansas (\$18) as well as cover our local expenses for activities such as voter registration, our newsletter, and

educational meetings. We have found that providing a sliding scale for dues works, making League membership available to everyone.

Only members who have paid dues for 2016-17 will be able to vote at our Annual Meeting, April 16, 2016, although we accept dues paid at the door.

To those of you who have already mailed in your dues (some of you even including contributions), we extend our extreme appreciation!

LEAGUE DAY AT THE CAPITOL

9:00 am – Topeka/Shawnee County Library -1515 SW 10th – Topeka, KS Registration

9:30 am- Car pool to Kansas Capitol – 300 SW 10th Ave – Topeka, KS

Meet in Visitor’s Center Auditorium for information on session and committee meetings by Paul Johnson. Observe sessions, committee meetings and meet with your legislators (contact them before the day to see if they are available)

12:00 pm—Return to Topeka/Shawnee County Library 12:15 – Lunch/Announcements

1:00 pm—Speakers from the Topeka Capital Journal:

Tim Carpenter - State House Bureau Chief - Transparency in our legislature.

Celia Llopis-Jepson – Education Editor - Update on Education Funding.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zip Code_____ e-mail_____

Local League_____

Registration fee, \$20, includes lunch. Mail registrations to LWV Kansas, 515 So. Kansas, Suite C, Topeka, KS 66603. You may pay at the door but please let us know in advance if you are planning on attending by email at lwv.kansas@gmail.com or call 785-234-5152.

Minutes of the December Board Meeting
League of Women Voters – Lawrence/Douglas County
December 10, 2015
The Lawrence Public Library, 7 pm

Present: Debra Duncan (President), Cille King (Vice-President), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Margaret Arnold, marci franciso, Janice Friedman, Carol Klinknett, Marlene Merrill, Austin Turney, Melissa Wick

Excused: Marlaine Stoor, Midge Grinstead

Debra called the meeting to order at 7:10. Janice moved and Marlene seconded approval with changes of the minutes of the last meeting. Debra distributed a tentative Agenda.

President's Report: Debra reported that the National League of Women Voters Convention will held in Washington, D.C., June 16-19.

The annual Fund Raising letter has been mailed.

Vice-President's Report: Cille reported that the State Board had met last Saturday. A video has been filmed for college training on how to register voters and an anonymous contribution of \$5000 has been made to pay for the video. The state has applied for a \$1000 grant from the Ed Fund to pay for registration.

In Lawrence high schools we have registered 302 applicants, 190 from Free State and 112 from Lawrence High. Fifty-eight percent of these are accompanied with necessary documents. Students still needing documents were given instructions on how to provide these and warned that they must do this within 90 days.

Treasurer's Report: Marjorie reported income of \$20 (dues) in November and expenses of \$148 (for videos of Hot Topics programs and Voter printing). The Net Inflow/Outflow was - \$128.00. Current balances as of November 30 were Checking Account, \$7837.44; Money Market Account, \$2105.08; and Stucky Account, \$3,631.21.

Committee Reports:

Voter Service Report: Cille reported on the Dec. 12 Naturalization Ceremony at the Lied Center. Eighteen League members (Margaret Arnold, Marjorie Cole, Carladyne Conners, Bonnie and Jon Dunham, LeeAnn and Bob Duver, Bernadette Forge, Janice Friedman, Janet Gerstner, Cille King, Carol Klinknett, Ann Carlin Ozegovic, Erin Reazin, Anna Slemmer, Marlaine Stoor, Melissa Wick) registered new voters, all fully documented with new naturalization papers.

Hot Topics!: Margaret reported that there would be no Hot Topics! Meeting in December and that on January 10 there would be an Orientation Meeting for new and reviewing league members with Ellen Miller, Membership Director from the State League, presenting.

Margaret distributed a list of possible Hot Topic dates and suggestions. She asked for ideas for upcoming Hot Topics. Gun Legislation, Foster Care in Kansas, Affordable Housing, Homelessness and Shelter Housing, School Funding, the Appointment of Judges were discussed along with possible presenters and questions. Carol suggested we have a committee for Hot Topics.

New Business:

An orientation meeting, Sunday, 2 to 4 is planned. [It was later rescheduled for 1 to 3 because of a conflict.] Ellen Miller, the Membership Director on the LWV-K board will present League . Carol volunteers to make phone calls to all new members since the last orientation encouraging them to attend.

Future Planning: Margaret has arranged for three upcoming events to be held at the Smith Center: Afternoon with the Legislators Sunday, January 17, 2016, the Fluker Award Luncheon Saturday, March 5 and t he Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, April 16th with a luncheon at the Smith Center at 11:30.

At 9:00 the library closed and our meeting was adjourned.

The next board meeting will be 7 pm, January 14, 2016, at the Lawrence Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Cole (substitute secretary)

AFTERNOON WITH STATE LEGISLATORS

Senators marci Francisco and Tom Holland and Board of Education Member, Janet Waugh, joined League members to talk about issues of importance in the new legislative session. They each made a brief statement, and then the floor was opened to questions.

Senator Francisco began the forum by stating that the state is struggling to pay its bills, and she expressed concerns at the way they are attempting to find efficiencies. Areas of interest for her during this session include making sure politics stay out of the courts and the clarification of open meeting laws. Additionally, she is very concerned about waterway issues and highway maintenance.

Senator Holland agreed with his colleague's assessment of the state's fiscal condition. He stated clearly that the state is "flat broke." He said that this year, Kansas will be a few million dollars short and next year significantly more due to the use of one time funds. He does not see a way to get out of the crises without a change in direction. He is also very concerned about the pay-to-play environment, with lobbyists and contractors spending thousands of dollars on individual legislators each year.

Janet Waugh talked about the forums the Board of Education hosted through out the state. She said that the people they met expressed the belief that education must be flexible to meet the needs of all children, with equal focus on both academic and nonacademic skills. There is also a strong interest in quality preschools and all day kindergarten. She said that due to block grants, there is less money now, especially in growing districts. The only funding increases having gone to KPERs and bond and interest payments. She believes that education and educators are under attack, and since businesses have moved to Kansas over the years because of quality education, she is afraid that will not continue.

Janice Friedman

OBSERVER CORP.

The Douglas County League of Women Voters would like to expand our Observers Corps. The League has always been active in educating the community and supporting government transparency. Members of the Observers Corps are asked to sit in on meetings and write a brief report that can be published in the Voter, our monthly newsletter. When available, a link to board minutes will be included. We are currently looking for people who would like to get involved. I have attached a list of Lawrence boards that may be of interest. There may be others I have missed. If you are interested or

have questions, please contact me at janice_friedman@sbcglobal.net.

LAWRENCE PEDESTRIAN COALITION

The Coalition met on January 13, with Erin Paden presiding. Germaine Haleboua asked whether the Coalition would be interested in becoming a client for the Digital Storytelling class she teaches in the Film and Media Studies Department at KU. The group took a vote and decided to do so. Members of the class will produce an interactive narrative that addresses the Coalition's needs in terms of outreach, awareness and education around walking and pedestrian experiences. Tess Banion will be the liaison between the class and the Coalition.

Jessica Mortinger and Adam Weigel reported on the Douglas County Regional Pedestrian Plan. They presented data on pedestrian crashes, including a map showing the locations. The staff is waiting to see the recommendations from the Pedestrian-Bicycle Task Force.

Marilyn Hull, Chair of the Task Force, said funding is the major problem for carrying out a plan. A public comment period on the group's recommendations will start on January 25. There will be a public meeting at the City Hall on February 3. The group will report to the City Commission by March 1. The Coalition's next meeting will be on February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center at 402 North Second Street.

— Alan Black

LAND USE COMMITTEE

In 2014, the Land Use Committee wrote a letter to the Planning Commission opposing the 613,200 square foot Southpoint retail development center (which included a hotel, restaurant and 410,600 of retail shopping) at Hwy-59 and K-10. The project resurfaced in late 2015 under the name KTEN Crossing with 247,000 square feet of retail. Moving forward with the plan would have required a change to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Horizon 2020) and the Revised Southern Development

Plan. The Planning Commission denied the request. It went before the City Commission in early January. Since the issues were the same, we resubmitted our 2014 letter as testimony to the City Commission. After a very lengthy hearing, the CC denied the request, ultimately stating a belief that changes should be made through the planning process and not by exception. To read their findings of fact click here: https://www.lawrenceks.org/assets/agendas/cc/2016/01-26-16/kten_findings_of_fact.pdf

The Land Use Committee also sent a letter to the Planning Commission on Monday, January 25th, opposing a conceptual special use permit request for a neighborhood shopping center with a fast food drive-in at 24th and Inverness, a neighborhood with one entrance, two schools and lots of pedestrians. (For reference - two years ago a developer wanted to put a Family Fun center at this location).

This property was rezoned last year from residential to neighborhood commercial use. A restaurant, bar, lounge, even a brew pub, can be built there without special permission. Only a fast food restaurant with a drive-thru (which also would include a drive-in, like Sonic) requires a Special Use Permit. Planning Staff recommended deferring the SUP but we asked for denial, pointing out that in 2015, when this property was rezoned, Planning Staff specifically said "high volume, multi-peak hour traffic generators, such as a chain fast order food use would not be consistent with neighborhood-oriented development." Staff went on to point out that the Planning Commission could recommend fast food with a drive-thru be prohibited but suggested it be left in, in case a coffee shop or something similarly appropriate moved in. Several neighbors testified in opposition to the SUP request at the hearing. The Planning Commission denied the request

Debra Duncan

A Heartfelt Thanks to All of our Donors!

Bill and Margaret Arnold
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“A Goal without Planning is Just A Wish”

Join us on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 28, for our biennial national and local program planning meeting

On or before March 1, 2016, League boards provide input on the focus for the LWVUS's nationwide education and advocacy work for the 2016-2018 biennium. Our choices for the national study may also influence what we choose to study ourselves.

For 2016-2018 the LWVUS is asking us to consider a nationwide League program focus:

Make Democracy Work

1. Overarching, coordinated LWV focus to protect and expand voting rights in the 21st century
2. Emphasis on action to advance our Principals and Positions, both current and arising from the 2014-2016 program:

- Voting Rights
- Money in Politics
- Redistricting

Since the 2014 convention LWVUS has focused on:

1. The key structures of democracy program:
 - study of the Constitutional Amendment Process
 - money in politics review and update
 - redistricting review
2. Voting Rights and Voter Protection
3. Election Reforms
4. Voter Service

Leagues may concur or recommend an additional or alternative program item, such as:

- a new study,
- concurrence with a position held by a state or local LWV or
- the review and update of an existing national position.

The process culminates with the adoption of a national LWV program at convention in June.



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, 2017.

Date _____ Renewing member _____ New Member. _____ I heard about the League via (Facebook, website, friend, other): _____

Suggested voluntary membership assessment: *

<i>Approximate Household Income</i>	<i>Individual membership</i>	<i>Household membership</i>
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 \$50/member (\$32 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:



of Lawrence-Douglas County
PO Box 1072
Lawrence, KS 66044-1072

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