



# 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

|                  |                        |   |
|------------------|------------------------|---|
| President:       | Debra Duncan           | president[at]lawrenceleague.com                   |
| Membership:      | Margaret Arnold        | membership[at]lawrenceleague.com                  |
| Voter Editor:    | Caleb Morse            | caleb.morse[at]gmail.com                          |
| Local League:    | www.lawrenceleague.com | www.facebook.com/lwvldc    www.twitter.com/lwvldc |
| State League:    | http://www.lwvk.org    | lwv.kansas[at]gmail.com    (785) 234-5152         |
| National League: | http://www.lwv.org     | (202) 429-1965                                    |

## League Calendar

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Sun Feb 28<br>4–6 pm               | <b>Local and National Program Planning meeting.</b><br><i>Lawrence Public Library, Mtg Rm B, 707 Vermont St. All League members are invited to attend. [See announcement below.]</i>   |
| Thurs Mar 3<br>1–2:30 pm           | <b>Current Healthcare Issues in the State of Kansas, a conversation with Sheldon Weisgrau.</b><br><i>Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St. All are welcome. [See announcement on p. 5.]</i>  |
| Fri Mar 4                          | <b>Deadline for nominations for the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award.</b><br><i>See announcement on p. 5; nomination form is on p. 6</i>  |
| Sat Mar 5<br>Various times         | <b>Douglas County Democratic and Republican Caucuses.</b><br><i>For more information, see p. 8.</i>  |
| Thurs Mar 10<br>7 pm               | <b>LWV L–DC Board meeting.</b><br><i>Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St. All League members are invited to attend.</i>  |
| Fri Mar 18                         | <b>Deadline for submissions to the March VOTER.</b><br><i>Email submissions to caleb.morse[at]gmail.com.</i>   |
| Sat Mar 19<br>11:30 am–<br>1:30 pm | <b>Helen Fluker Award Luncheon.</b><br><i>Smith Center at Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace. [See announcement on p. 5, nomination form on p. 6.] For reservations, call Melissa Wick at 785-841-4108 or email at wickma[at]aol.com.</i> |
| Sat March 19<br>7 pm               | <b>LWV L–DC Land Use Committee Meeting.</b><br><i>Lawrence Community Mercantile, 901 Iowa St. All League members are invited to attend.</i>  |
| Thurs Mar 24<br>7–8:30 pm          | <b>Hot Topic Guns in Lawrence Buildings.</b><br><i>Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St. All are welcome. [See announcement on p. 4.].</i>   |
| Sat Apr 16<br>11:30                | <b>Save the Date! LWV L–DC Annual Meeting Luncheon.</b><br><i>Smith Center at Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace.</i>   |

### **Don't forget! Local and National Program Planning meeting Sunday, February 28, 4–6 pm, Lawrence Public Library Meeting Room B**

Things we will be considering: What are the most pressing national issues? • Which of these issues demand attention NOW? • Which are feasible to work on now? • Do we have the resources to address them? • Is there a LWV position already? • How can we balance state and local League's calendar of activities with proposed new work? • What is the likelihood of results? • Who is already working on the issue? Are they effective? Potential partners? • Does the issue have "legs" – In our nation? In our state? In our community?

## Message from President Debra Duncan

*Democracy is not a spectator sport.* It's a great motto, isn't it? One to strive for. But it requires a lot of work to make it true. If I were to choose one word to focus on this session, it is *vigilance*. In the 40+ days of this legislative session, there has been a slew of bills introduced (or resurrected from the 2015 session) which are diametrically opposed to league positions. And new ones seem to pop up every day. One of the latest – Sub. HB 2292, [http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2015\\_16/measures/documents/hb2292\\_01\\_0000.pdf](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2015_16/measures/documents/hb2292_01_0000.pdf) – passed out of the House Education Committee just last week when the Committee did a “gut and go.” In other words, they took a bill that was held over from last year, removed the contents, replaced it with a different bill, renamed it and passed it. The “new” bill not only prohibits the state from participating in Common Core Education, it also stops the state from participating in anything *tied* to Common Core principles, such as AP classes, the ACT, and the SAT. Does the League support Common Core? To my knowledge, the Kansas League doesn't have a position on Common Core Education. In fact, our education policy dates back to the late 1990s, long before the existence of Common Core. So what's the problem? The problem is the House Education Committee did not hold public hearings on the bill before they passed it.

The very first sentence of the LWVK's education policy says the LWVK supports: “An education governance structure that is accountable to the voters and provides opportunities for public input...”

Instead of allowing public input, it appears the committee purposely bypassed public hearings on this bill – although they did have an “informational briefing” on the “History of Education” by Dr. Duke Pesta, Professor of English, University of Wisconsin and OshKosh. Dr. Pesta is well known for his anti-Common Core views. He is pro-privatization of schools and involved with Freedom Project Education, which provides on-line education for homeschoolers. No one else was allowed to speak.

Sub HB 2292 has not, by any means, been the only problematic issue to arise during this session. As you know, we have received multiple action alerts from the state league on:

- The numerous attempts to change the Kansas constitution to alter the selection of the Kansas Supreme Court.
- Equity in taxation, the need to balance income tax, property tax and sales tax to support government ADEQUATELY. The legislature needs to:
  - Reinstate income taxes for all as needed to fund our government, and
  - Cut the sales tax on food.
- A concern about adequately funding our public schools because:
  - Our economy cannot survive without excellent education, and
  - Private schools can decline to educate special needs children.
- Ending the death penalty because it COSTS too much, in terms of lives and money!
- Expanding Medicaid because, in addition to covering the healthcare needs of thousands of uninsured Kansans, it is OUR tax money and it raises income for our struggling hospitals!
- The complexity and confusion created by the Secure and Fair Elections (S.A.F.E) Act as people try to register to vote, which also ties into our state League's bills to enhance access to the ballot:
  - Optional weekend voting,
  - Permanent advanced voting, and
  - Designation of citizenship on drivers' licenses.



Keeping up with all of this is a monumental task and the more eyes the better. **If any of these topics interest you**, and you have time to go to Topeka when a bill is being heard, the State League would welcome your help. Once bills reach the floor you can follow from home – both the House and the Senate live stream their general sessions.

# Highlights of the January 14 Board Meeting

7:30 pm, Lawrence Public Library

**Present.** Debra Duncan (President), Cille King (Vice President), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Marci Francisco, Janice Friedman, Carol Klinknett, Marlene Merrill, and Austin Turney, and guests Eric Babb and Bonnie Dunham (acting secretary).

**Absent.** Midge Grinstead, Margaret Arnold, and Melissa Wick.

**President's report.** Debra reported that the League's Orientation, held Jan 10, was very successful with 25 attendees, including board members. Debra announced that Marlaine Stoor has resigned from the board because she wants to focus on volunteering at voter registration events.

**Vice President's report.** Cille reported that the 11-minute voter training video, produced by Washburn students, was released Jan 14. Instructors at Washburn, Wichita University, Fort Hays State and Emporia indicated they plan to use it. Cille, who was involved in the revisions and editing, said the video is available to anyone who requests it. A printed module is included.

League Day in Topeka is scheduled for Feb 25 from 9 am to 3 pm, with a state board meeting to follow. Paul Johnson will speak on Legislative issues.

**Treasurer's report.** Marjorie reported income of \$935 (contributions) in Dec and expenses of \$285.64 (voter services \$232.98, voter printing \$52.66). Net income/outflow was \$649.36. Current balances as of Dec 31 were: checking account \$8,459.20, money market account \$2,105.17, Stucky account \$3,631.36, and Education Fund \$1,597.01.

**Observer Corps.** Janice plans to send an email to members and others, who have indicated an interest in League activities, regarding openings in the Observer Corps. Members would attend and report on activities and actions of local boards. Although only members could represent LWV, the mailing might encourage others to join. Marjorie

can send the information to a list of about 200 people, after Debra reviews the proposed email.

**Art contest/scholarship:** Cille reported on efforts by Johnson County's League to increase voter participation by engaging students in Activism through Arts, a contest for high school seniors using a variety of media. Entries can be an essay, poetry, music, visual arts, drama, film or other creative expressions. Currently, LWV L-DC already sponsors the Stucky scholarship for high

school students, which involves answering questions about the student's civic involvement. Marlene, who chairs the Stucky Scholarship committee, said it is well established and receives good support from district employees. After discussion, it was determined that it was probably too late to start a new contest this spring semester. However, League will look into working with the Lawrence Public Library on a contest for this summer and, perhaps, have a fall display of entries ready before the November election.

**Use of Education Funds for Per Member Payment (PMP).** Currently most of the donations designated for the tax-deductible Education Fund are used to pay 1/4 of the state and 1/2 of the national PMPs for our members. Donations to the General Fund and standard dues remain in the local treasury for unrestricted local use, including paying the remainder of the PMPs. If available, Education Fund contributions must be used for educational purposes only. The consensus was that we are careful to follow state and national guidelines.

**Fundraising.** Marjorie said the Dec fundraising letter was successful, and has brought in over \$2000 in donations. Janice recommended that the board plan time to look at other fundraising options.

— Bonnie Dunham



## March Hot Topic—Guns in Lawrence Buildings

Thursday, March 24, 7-8:30 pm, Lawrence Public Library Auditorium

City and county representatives will comment on the implementation of Kansas concealed-carry laws, especially in safeguarding public buildings. For instance, do we modify rules and notifications for places used by minor children in the city and county? Many young citizens take part in Parks and Recreation programs; junior tournaments are held at Rock Chalk facilities; scouts and others use buildings on the Douglas County Fairgrounds. What kinds of information about guns in public spaces do Lawrence citizens need? Panelists from the City of Lawrence and Douglas County will speak and answer questions. **All are welcome**, so please bring your friends and neighbors! Watch for more information about this event in future mailings.

## Report on LWV L-DC February Hot Topic

The tremendous challenges and rewards of caring for vulnerable children in the state of Kansas were presented to League members at the Feb 18 “Hot Topic” session at the Watkins Historical Museum.

Erica Hunter, a social work supervisor for the Department of Children & Families, spoke about how the process works in protecting children. She explained that after deciding which cases the department could help (approximately 50% to 60% of the some 56,000 requests statewide) they talk with the alleged victims; work with law enforcement and court system; and complete the risk and safety assessments. Hunter also explained how the department utilizes all community services available, including family members and friends, to avoid having to remove the child from the home. Hunter stated that often we are successful using Family Preservation Services only, but when a child is still at risk then the decision goes to the District Attorney first, and then to the District Judge who makes the final decision to place the child into foster care.

Diana Fredrick, executive director of Douglas County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), explained because of the shortage of foster care families in Lawrence many children are placed outside the area. Of the new cases in Douglas County, 77 are girls, 55, boys. Some 47 are under the age of 5. Many of these cases, she explained, were the result of methamphetamine use. There are now 60 CASA volunteers who are assigned to one child each. Becoming a volunteer requires 30 hours of training, a commitment of at least one year of service, and other requirements like references and background checks.

In addition to the city and county governments, there are some 50 local agencies involved in focusing on reducing child abuse in the community. The main goal is always to get the child out of foster care and into a permanent home. Independent Living and Step Gap are two programs designed to help kids who age out of the regular foster care system.

Fredrick said Douglas County CASA is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Founded in 1991 by the Hon. Jean Shepherd, Douglas County joined the now 980 CASAs nation-wide. Fredrick thanked the League for their support. She also announced that the local CASA is one of 10 CASAs national wide that is being used as a training model.

—Ann Carlin Ozegovic



***Don't miss this: Current Healthcare Issues in the State of Kansas,  
a conversation with Sheldon Weisgrau, Director,  
Health Reform Resource Project***

**Thursday, March 3, 1-2:30pm, Lawrence Public Library Auditorium**

Presented through the joint sponsorship of the Lawrence-Douglas County Advocacy Council on Aging, the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County, Community Village Lawrence, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, and the Lawrence Public Library.

**League seeks nominations for the Helen Fluker  
Open and Accessible Government Award**

The Lawrence-Douglas County League of Women Voters is accepting nominations from individuals or community groups for the Helen Fluker Award, which is given annually to recognize an individual for promoting open and accessible government at all levels.

The nominee should be a Douglas County resident above the age of 18 whose efforts promote improvement in government, either as a volunteer or as an extension of his or her employment. The nominee could have accomplished this in a variety of ways, such as:

- Attempting to increase government participation
- Educating the public about an issue
- Working toward more open government
- Participating in the community, leading to better political decision-making.

Previous award winners include: Mary Michener, Hilda Enoch, Larry Kipp, Betty Lichtwardt, Allan and Louise Hanson, Mary Davidson, Forrest Swall, Jesse Branson, marci francisco, Jamie Shew, Margaret Farley, Dave Ranney, Scott Criqui, Mitzi McFatrigh, Laura Routh and Sandy Praeger.

The award is given in honor of the late Helen Fluker, who was a long-time League member serving on its board and twice as its president. Her career included working for Department of Army and the Department of State.

**The deadline for submission is Friday, Mar 4, and the award will be presented at a luncheon on Mar 19 (see League Calendar on p. 1).** The nomination form is printed on p. 6 of *The Voter* and are also available at the League's website <http://lawrenceleague.com/>. For more information, or to make your reservation for the Luncheon, contact Melissa Wick at 785-841-4108 or wickma[at]aol.com.



***League in the News!***

**Recent appearances by LWV L-LC and League members in the Lawrence *Journal-World*.**

Anna Slemmer, Letter to the Editor *Just Compensation* (Feb 19), about there being no compensation for that man who was unjustly imprisoned for a murder • Patrick Wilbur, Letter to the Editor *Misguided Effort* (Feb 20), about raising the legal age to purchase tobacco • Staff editorial *Communist Plot?* (Feb 23), in praise League's efforts to register and inform voters about the issues • Story *City Commission responds to Kansas Senate bill targeting Lawrence's affordable housing ideas*, featuring testimony from Melinda Henderson.



**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.

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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 by March 4, 2016. If you prefer to email your nomination, please send to [lawrenceksleague@gmail.com](mailto:lawrenceksleague@gmail.com). Thank you!*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Welcome New Members!***

Please welcome our newest members, Eric Babb, Marilyn Hall, Courtney Shipley, and Jane Tuttle. We look forward to your participation in our activities.

–Margaret Arnold

## **Voter Registration Efforts**

**High Schools.** In late Nov and early Dec, we went to LSH, FSHS, and the new Career Center to register voters. We took 319 applications and 196 proof-of-citizenship documents. In checking the Feb 2 suspense list, there were still 92 who have not provided their document. The 90 days before purging those names was fast approaching, so we tried to contact the students. LHS has a social worker, and this semester an intern, who had been going through students' files for documents, and contacting students and parents. They provided 12 documents on Feb 10, and have only 10 students still in suspense. Some League members went to FSHS Feb 9 and 10, during lunch hour, to get additional documents and voter registrations. We received 5 documents from those on the suspense list and 13 new voter registrations, 2 of which included the required document. Five more have since turned in documents, leaving 60 from the Nov drive still in suspense at FSHS. The Secretary of State's office had said that there would be monthly checks against Kansas Vital Statistics of those in suspense. Those found with Kansas birth certificates would be



automatically removed from the suspense list and registered to vote. That is obviously not working properly, as 14 of the 17 documents that we viewed on Feb 9 and 10 were Kansas birth certificates. Those should have been caught in the Vital Statistics checks between late Nov and Feb.

Thank you Marlaine, Julie, Janice, Marjorie, Debra for helping with the voter drive at FSHS.

**Lawrence Public Library.** Educate Lawrence, a group that works to educate the public on Kansas legislation effecting education, sponsored speakers at the Library on Feb 16. They invited the League to register voters at the event. We received ten voter applications. Nine were address updates or party affiliation changes, and one had just turned 18 years old—a new voter.

Thank you Marlaine, Melissa, and Marjorie for help with the registration tables.

– Cille King

## ***From your treasurer***

Thanks go to all of you who are paying your dues early! They are officially due by March 31, 2016. In order for you to vote at the Annual Meeting (Saturday, April 16), your dues must be paid. Please complete the membership form on the last page of *The Voter* and indicate your interests and abilities.

– Marjorie Cole

## Important web links for voter registration and Kansas Presidential Caucus information

Both Republican and Democratic presidential caucuses will take place on March 5.

- To participate in the Republican Caucus, you must be a registered Republican no later than Feb 4, 2016. For more information, visit <http://www.ksgop.org/#!caucus/cl95>. (For a list of candidates, visit <http://www.thegreenpapers.com/P16/KS-R>.)
- To participate in the Democratic Caucus, you can register up to and including the day of the caucus and can participate if you will be 18 by Nov 4, 2016. For more information, visit <http://www.kansasdems.org/caucus-2016/>. (For a list of candidates, visit <http://www.thegreenpapers.com/P16/KS-D>.)
- Check your voter registration online by entering your first and last names and date of birth at <https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do>.
- If you have a Kansas driver's license or Kansas non-driver ID, you can register to vote or update your registration online at <https://www.kdor.org/voterregistration/>.
- If you want to register to vote in Kansas with a paper form, go to <https://www.kssos.org/forms/elections/voterregistration.pdf>.
- New Kansas voters need to provide "proof of citizenship" in order to register to vote. To find out more about accepted documents, visit <http://www.gotvoterid.com/proof-of-citizenship.html>.
- If you were born in Kansas, you can request a certified copy of your Kansas birth certificate at <http://www.kdheks.gov/vital/birth.html>; you can request a FREE copy of your birth certificate with this form (form BCA) at <http://www.gotvoterid.com/pdf/BCA.pdf>.
- If you were born in another state, you can find information about how to obtain vital records from your state at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>.
- To update your Kansas driver's license and voter registration address online, visit <https://www.kdor.org/dl/>.



— Cille King

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*Helens in History* (with many thanks to Wikipedia, from which I borrowed liberally!). **Page 2, Nannie Helen Burroughs** (1878–1961), educator, orator, religious leader, civil rights activist. A vocal advocate for women's rights and education, she founded the National Training School for Women and Girls in Washington, DC, which provided classes for African-American girls and young women in the segregated South. **Page 3: Helen Humes** (1913–1981), jazz and blues singer, vocalist with the Count Basie band who helped define the sound of vocal swing music. **Page 4, (Upper right) Helen Frankenthaler** (1928–2011), abstract expressionist painter and major contributor to the postwar American art. **(Lower left) Helen Octavia Dickens** (1909–2001; BS, University of Illinois 1932, MD 1934), doctor and professor of obstetrics and gynecology. The daughter of a former slave, in 1950 she was the first African-American woman to be admitted to the American College of Surgeons. **Page 5, Helen Naramore Fluker** (1919–1998), diplomat, volunteer, advocate for open government, and long-time member of LWV L-DC. **Page 7, (Upper right) Helen Hardin** (*Tsa-sah-wee-eh*, 1943–1984), innovative painter who combined images from Native American tradition with modern abstract art. **(Lower left) Helen Miller Fraser** (1881–1979), Scottish suffragist, educationalist, and Liberal Party politician, the first woman to be adopted in Scotland as an official prospective parliamentary candidate and in 1922 one of three women candidates to stand for election. **Page 8, Helen Thompson Woolley** (1874–1947), psychologist whose pioneering research tested common assumptions about gender-based difference, as well as the effects of child labor. **Back page, Helen Adams Keller** (1880–1968), American author, political activist, and lecturer, the first deafblind person to earn a BA (Radcliffe College, 1902), and, yes, a socialist. She was not, to my knowledge, a member of the League.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®**  
OF LAWRENCE / DOUGLAS COUNTY

**Make a Difference – Join/Support the League!**

**Return this form with a check made out to LWV L/DC, and mail to LWV L/DC, PO Box 1072, Lawrence, KS 66044.**

*(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, 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 \$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:

\_\_\_\_\_

**PO BOX 1072 • LAWRENCE KS 66044-1072**

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

# Feb-early March 2016

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In honor of Women's History Month and our own Helen Fluker (see p. 5), this issue of *The Voter* is devoted to *Helens in History*. How many can you name? Answers are on page 6.



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