



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

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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

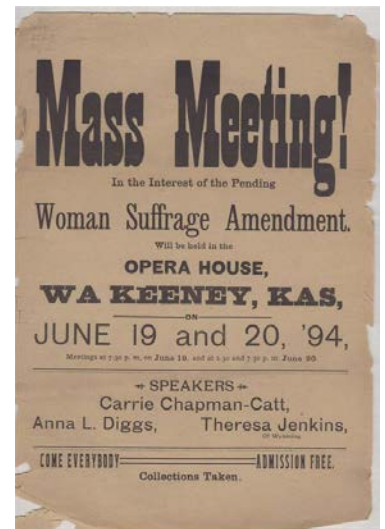
Thurs Mar 24 7–8:30 pm	Hot Topic <i>Guns in Lawrence Buildings.</i> <i>Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St. All are welcome. [For more information, visit our website, or see the announcement on p. 4 of the <i>Late February/early March VOTER!</i>]</i>
Tues Apr 12 4–6 pm	LWV L–DC Board meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Fri Apr 15	Deadline for submissions to the May <i>VOTER.</i> Email submissions to caleb.morse[at]gmail.com .
Sat Apr 16 11:30 am	LWV L–DC 2016 Annual Meeting and Luncheon <i>Smith Center at Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace.</i>
Sat Apr 16 7 pm	LWV L–DC Land Use Committee Meeting. <i>Lawrence Community Mercantile, 901 Iowa St. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Sat Apr 23 9 am–5 pm	LWVK 2016 State Convention <i>Holiday Inn Salina, 3145 South 9th St, Salina. [For registration information, visit http://www.lwvk.org/calendar.html.]</i>
Thurs May 19 11:30 am–1 pm	Hot Topic <i>Education Issues in Kansas</i> <i>Watkins Historical Museum, 1047 Massachusetts St. All are welcome. [Details to be announced in the next <i>VOTER.</i>].</i>

Call to Annual Meeting and Luncheon!

April 16, 2016, Smith Center, 4730 Brandon Woods Terr.

Doors open at 11:30 am; lunch will be served at 12 pm.

Prior to the business meeting, David Burress will provide an update on our on-going Economic Development Study and a panel of legislators will provide an update on the 2016 Kansas Legislative session. The cost of lunch will be about \$15. For reservations, contact Marjorie Cole (842-6085, [nobledog\[at\]aol.com](mailto:nobledog[at]aol.com)). *Remember* that in order to vote on business items, you must have paid your annual dues prior to commencement of the business meeting. Dues will be accepted at the door! For agenda items, including a slate of nominees, see page 3.



Message from President Debra Duncan

It's officially spring, the Jayhawks are in the Sweet 16 and, boy, do we have a lot to do!

We have already been very, very busy. Since January we have held a new member orientation, the Afternoon with our State Legislators, a Local and National Program Planning Meeting, a *Hot Topic* meeting on foster care and CASA, and our annual Fluker Award Luncheon, and co-sponsored "Current Healthcare Issues in the State of Kansas, a conversation with Sheldon Weisgrau" with several other Lawrence groups, and some of us attended a very interesting Humanities Council presentation on "Women Rising: How Kansas Women Gained the Vote 1859-1912" hosted by the Eudora Historical Society.

And we are just getting started. On Thursday, March 24, we will have a *Hot Topic* on conceal-carry weapons in public venues like Rock Chalk Park and the County Fairgrounds, on April 9, LWVK is co-sponsoring the statewide Audubon Conference to be held at the old Holiday Inn here in Lawrence. Annual Meeting is April 16 and State Council (anyone can attend) is in Salina on April 23. Then we start our "real" work! We hope to have *Hot Topics* on school finance this spring and early summer.

And, of course, our main focus will be registering and educating voters. We will be registering high school students again this spring and will have voter registration tables at various locations around Lawrence. Please contact Cille King if you would like to help. If you are unsure how to register voters or would like a refresher course, please watch the training video the commissioned by LWV Kansas. It's on the state League website (www.lwvk.org).

Important 2016 Voting Deadlines

July 12	Last day to register to vote in Kansas primary elections
July 13	First day for advance voting in primary elections
July 29	Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail
August 1	Last day for advance voting in person
August 2	Primary elections and last day for absentee ballot to be received
October 18	Last day to register to vote in the general election
October 19	First day for advance voting in general election
November 4	Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail
November 7	Last day for advance voting in person
November 8	General election and absentee ballots must be received by close of polls (7 pm)

Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition Report

March 9, 7 pm, Building, 200 West 9th St

Erin Paden presided over the meeting. Two KU students, Benjamin Pease and Marcus Richmond, told about digital storytelling. Their class, in the Film and Media Studies Department, has selected the Coalition as its client for a project. The plan is to prepare videos—up to 10 minutes long—to educate people about pedestrian safety (especially students). Tess Banion is the liaison between the class and the Coalition. Erin plans to attend a national conference on Safe Routes to School to be held in Columbus, Ohio on April 5-6. The Pedestrian-Bicycle Task Force has prepared a draft report to the City Commission. The Coalition will send a letter endorsing the report. The Coalition's next meeting will be on April 13.

—Alan Black

Business items on the 2016 LWV L-DC Annual Meeting agenda

Saturday, April 16, Smith Center, 4730 Brandon Woods Terr

In order to vote, you must have paid your annual dues prior to commencement of the business meeting. Dues will be accepted at the door!

Proposed slate of officers for 2016-2017.

Co-Presidents (one-year term): Debra Duncan and Marlene Merrill

President Elect: [unfilled]

Vice-President (one-year term): Cille King

Secretary (two-year term): Sharon Brown

Treasurer (two-year term): Marjorie Cole

Directors (each nominated for a two-year term): Tamara Cash • Carol Klinknett • Ann Carlin Ozegovic • James Pryor [Continuing on the Board in the second year of a two-year are directors Margaret Arnold, Marci Francisco, Janice Friedman, Midge Grinstead, and Melissa Wick.]

Nominating Committee (each nominated to a one-year term): Mary Lou Wright, chair • James Dunn • Lee Ketzal [Two board members will be appointed to the nominating committee by the board of directors at a later date.]

Proposed Biennial Programs. The Board has adopted the recommendations made at the Planning Meeting.
National Program. Agree with the request made by LWV to focus nationwide on the following action items.

Make Democracy Work

1. Develop an overarching, coordinated LWV focus to protect and expand voting rights in the 21st century
2. Emphasize action to advance our Principals and Positions, both current and arising from the 2014-2016 program in regard to positions on Voting Rights, Money in Politics, and Redistricting.

Local Program. The Board recommends adoption of the following two items.

1. Carry over the Economic Development Study (approved at 2014 Annual Meeting) for one more year.
2. Review and update the LWV L-DC transportation policy, which was established in 1971, paying particular attention to whether the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities are being met.

Proposed change to our by-laws. Following a recommendation from LWVUS*, the Board recommends amending Article IV (Board of Directors) to read (new language in italics)

Section 5. Meetings. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board. *The Board is authorized to hold electronic meetings if they are conducted by a technology (such as telephone or video conferencing) that is available to all and allows all persons participating to hear each other at the same time.*

*"Although most board meetings will probably take place in person, bylaws may authorize electronic meetings if they are conducted by a technology (such as telephone or video conferencing) that is available to all and allows all persons participating to hear each other at the same time. E-mail is useful for communications between board meetings, but official decisions may be made by e-mail only if the bylaws specifically authorize them and discussion/debate procedures have been adopted in advance."

Open Meetings Update

The Kansas Open Meetings Act [K.S.A. 75-4317 et seq.] specifies that in closing an open meeting, any governmental body subject to the Act must pass a formal motion in which is stated (1) the subjects to be discussed in the closed meeting, (2) the justification for closing the meeting and (3) the time and place at which the open meeting is to resume. The purpose of this requirement is to enable Kansas citizens to know enough about what their elected officials are doing so that they may respond appropriately.

To serve their purpose, the required motions need to give citizens meaningful information about the subjects being discussed.

Examination of the 2014 minutes of the governing bodies of the 10 most populous counties and the 10 most populous cities of Kansas reveals that 631 closed sessions were held for a total of at least 240 hours. All of the governing bodies except for the Manhattan City Commission closed meetings at times without disclosing any meaningful information about the subjects they were to discuss. In doing so, they conducted at least 200 hours of governmental business in complete secrecy. The full report *Governmental Business in Secrecy in Kansas* and a brief summary are available at www.KansasOpenMeetings.org and at www.lawrenceleague.com/MeetingMinutes.html

By conducting a substantial portion of their business in complete secrecy, these governmental bodies acted in opposition to the clearly-stated purpose of the Kansas Open Meetings Act, that “the conduct of governmental affairs and the transaction of governmental business be open to the public.” Their actions are inconsistent with the respect most citizens of Kansas want shown for open government.

Prior to the enactment of the Open Meetings Act, governmental bodies conducted governmental business in complete secrecy at will. Now almost all of the governing bodies of the largest cities and counties in Kansas pass meaningless motions and then conduct governmental business in complete secrecy. The Kansas Open Meetings Act should be amended to require that when closing an open meeting, a governmental body state the specific subjects to be discussed in sufficient detail to allow members of the public to identify the specific issues that the governing body intends to discuss in the closed session.

On January 25, at the request of Senator Marci Francisco, the Senate Judiciary Committee introduced Senate Bill 360, an amendment to the Kansas Open Meetings Act. A judiciary Committee hearing was held on February 2nd. At the hearing, Sen. Francisco explained the purpose of Sen. Bill 360, I explained some of the background of the bill, and several persons representing interested organizations spoke in favor of the Bill. A representative of the League of Kansas Municipalities was neutral with regard to support. No one spoke against it. Because concerns were raised about specific wording, a meeting was held on February 8th, at which those concerns were addressed and, we believe, resolved.

At the request of Senator Marci Francisco, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means introduced Senate Bill 487 on March 3. This was a revision of Senate Bill 360 that incorporated the changes agreed to in the February 8th meeting. By introducing Senate Bill 487 in the Committee on Ways and Means, Sen. Francisco extended the time during which it could be considered. On March 4, 2016, the bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. It now awaits further consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senate Bill 487 can be read at www.KansasOpenMeetings.org.

Please ask your senators and representatives to support Senate Bill 487. — Alan L. Cowles

Highlights of the February 14 Board Meeting

7 pm, Lawrence Public Library

Present: Debra Duncan (Pres), Cille King (Vice Pres), Marjorie Cole (Treas), Margaret Arnold, Midge Grinstead, Carol Klinknett, Marlene Merrill, Austin Turney, Melissa Wick, and guest Ann Carlin Ozegovic. Absent: marci francisco, Janice Friedman

President's report. Debra announced that the new banner would arrive by February 16, in time to be used at the Educate Lawrence program at the library. The annual Afternoon with State Legislators meeting was discussed and it was suggested that next year's program not be scheduled on the same weekend as Martin Luther King Day events. Debra asked for comments on the proposed art/scholarship contest, Activism through Arts. Cille moved and Marjorie seconded that League sponsor this activity. A chair will be appointed at the annual meeting in April. Caleb Morse will be preparing the VOTER for the next few months. Changing the time/day of board meetings was discussed and "Go-to-Meeting" will be used to gather member choices. The LWV National Convention being held June 16-19, in Washington DC. League will sponsor two delegates.

LWVK/Voter Service report. Cille reported the KS Vital Statistics office is cross checking birth certificates with voter registrations, not the Secretary of State's office. Vital Statistics does not have the manpower to keep up with this process. A civil rights hearing was held on January 28 regarding the Safe Act in KS (safe and secure elections). Many speakers gave testimony, the majority of them not in favor. On February 2, , League member Alan Cows

testified at a Senate Judicial hearing on Bill 360 in reference to open meetings. The state VOTE411 organization needs volunteers to help with the huge task of adding information to their website.

Treasurer's report. Marjorie reported income of \$479 (contributions) in January and expenses of \$334.13 (PMP to LWVK, 4th quarter). Net income was \$144.87. Current balances as of January 31 were: checking account, \$8,459.20; money market account, \$2105.17; Stucky account, \$3,631.36; Education Fund, \$1,597.01.

Committee reports. Margaret reported the upcoming Hot Topics meeting are: February, Foster Care in KS; April, The Economy; May, Education. Because the regularly scheduled March meeting is on St. Patrick's Day it was decided to change the date to avoid conflict with downtown activities and parking issues. Carol and Eric Babb will assist Marlene on the Stucky Committee. Marjorie and Debra will help Margaret on the Membership Committee. Debra announced that it is necessary to form a committee to prepare for the Annual Meeting in April. The establishment and work of committees was discussed.

Sliding scale for memberships. Pros and cons were discussed. Using this method has proven to be successful so the decision was made to continue its usage for now. Marjorie was asked to present membership fee information at the Annual Meeting on April 16.

– Sharon Brown

Welcome New Members!

Our League has had a record number of new members in the past month (some indicating that they had heard of us through Kris Kobach.) Please welcome Jan and Virgil Dean, Kimberly and John Gibson, Dorothy Hoyt-Reed, Lisa McLendon, Judith Meyer, John Naramore, Sarah Potter, Mary Lou Reardon, Kate Rogge, Courtney Shipley, Jane Tuttle, and Judith and Theodore Wilson! We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming activities. A number of inactive members have renewed memberships and unsolicited contributions to support our work have come in with supportive letters. Thank you, Mr. Secretary of State, for making us more visible.

– Marjorie Cole

Don't miss this: Audubon Conference 2016
Silent Spring: Threats to Birds, Bees and Other Wildlife
Saturday, April 9, 8 am–7 pm, Holiday Inn, 200 McDonald Dr

LWVK is one of the sponsoring organizations for the 2016 Audubon Conference. Speakers include entomologist Jennifer Hopwood (Xerxes Society), ecologists Helen Alexander and Peggy Shultz (KU), lawyer Randy Rathburn, and psychologist Matthew Sanderson (KSU), as well as educators, citizen scientists, and advocates, with a historical performance by Ann Birney as Rachel Carson, and a viewing of Stephen Lerner's film *When the Well Runs Dry*. For more information about speakers, and a link to the registration form, visit <http://www.audubonofkansas.org/about/silent-spring-conference-2016>.

Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award Winner: Ruthi Rapp

The Seventeenth Annual Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award Luncheon was held on March 19, at the Smith Center at Brandon Woods. The Fluker Award honors a Douglas County resident who shows leadership in promoting citizen participation in government. This year's honoree, Ruthi Rapp, was recognized for her community leadership in promoting improvement in government through her work with the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence encouraging and facilitating Kids Voting Kansas.

Ms. Rapp has volunteered for Kids Voting Kansas for many years, acting as the sole liaison to bring the education program into all 14 Boys & Girls Club locations in Lawrence. She has increased youth participation in Kids Voting Kansas to 6,723 by exposing youth to the experience of participating in the democratic process.

Ms. Rapp worked with the Boys & Girls Club staff to implement citizenship curriculum and activities leading up to voting day. She put together age-appropriate activity notebooks for each site that can be used for many years. As a result of her efforts, more youth in Lawrence are growing up as informed citizens who will now have the tools needed to participate actively in local and national government upon reaching adulthood. Mr. Rapp's impact on future citizen participation is immeasurable.

Ms. Rapp was nominated by Monica Dittmer, Director of Operations at the Boys and Girls Club, who introduced Ms. Rapp. Ruthi spoke about all the other people and organizations who helped with Kids Voting. Helen Fluker's husband, Bob, one son, John, two granddaughters, Mary and Anne, a cousin, John Naramore, and his wife, Eileen Larson, were among about 45 people who remembered Helen and honored Ruthi Rapp. Ruthi was presented with an engraved silver salver.

– Cille King



Ruthi Rapp explaining the Kids Voting Kansas program in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence at the Fluker Award Luncheon.



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

President@lawrenceleague.com • www.lawrenceleague.com
www.facebook.com/lwvldc • www.twitter.com/lwvldc

March-early April 2016

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At the request of Educate Lawrence, Lawrence League members manned a voter registration table at the March 12 “Rally for Education” in South Park. Pictured (r-l): Carol Klinknett, Marlaine Stoor, Cille King, and Margaret Arnold.



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