



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

Tues Jun 14 4–6 pm	LWV L–DC Board meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library Meeting Room C, 707 Vermont St. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Thurs Jun 16 11:30 am–1 pm	Hot Topic Legislative Wrap-up with LWVK Observer Paul Johnson <i>Watkins Historical Museum, 1047 Massachusetts St. All are welcome. [See announcement below.]</i>
Sat Jun 18 7 pm	LWV L–DC Land Use Committee Meeting. <i>Lawrence Community Mercantile, 901 Iowa St. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Tues Jul 12 4–6 pm	LWV L–DC Board meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library Meeting Room C, 707 Vermont St. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Fri Jul 15	Deadline for submissions to the June VOTER. <i>Email submissions to caleb.morse[at]gmail.com.</i>
Thurs Jul 14 5–8 pm	Meet the Candidates: Picnic and Speed-dating <i>Centennial Park East Shelter, 2203–2269 W 9th St. All are welcome. [See announcement on p. 2]</i>

June Hot Topic—Legislative wrap-up with Paul Johnson

Thursday, June 16, 11:30 am, Watkins Community Museum, Ground Floor Mtg Rm, 1047 Massachusetts St.

Gathering and refreshments from 11:30 am–12 pm; presentation begins at 12 pm.

Please enter the museum by the side, accessible door.

Join us to hear Paul Johnson, when he describes the Kansas Legislature’s 2015–2016 session. Paul serves as LWVK’s observed during the legislative session and writes about it in his popular Legislative e-Reports, which are posted on the Legislative Updates page of our website. Paul will join us for refreshments, introduce himself, share the legislation most pertinent to League positions, and take questions about the session. Paul’s well-informed and popular presentation is always interesting! This event is free and open to the public, so please bring a friend.



Emancipation band at the Juneteenth celebration in Austin, Texas, 1900.

Message from Co-President Marlene Merrill

Our League has been very visible with recent voter registration efforts, spearheaded by Cille King and Melissa Wick. Members manned registration tables at Farmer's Market on Saturdays, at Art in the Park, and at city festivals. Generally, at least 10 registrations are gathered at each of our events. If you have some time and would like to volunteer for this important work, please contact Cille.

An interesting article circulated describing the history of KDOT "sweeps" by the Governor into the State General Fund. It is significant that most of the money taken from KDOT is never paid back into the highway fund.

- in 2002, Governor Graves swept \$94.6 million and it was all paid back.
- in 2003, Governor Sebelius swept \$30.6 million but only \$15.3 million was paid back.
- in 2010, governors Parkinson and Brownback swept \$253 million and none was paid back
- between 2010 and 2016, more than a billion dollars has been swept and none was paid back.

On May 10, Debra Duncan and I were privileged to attend a ceremony in which the Mabel Stucky Memorial Scholarship was awarded to a high school senior at Lawrence High School. It was interesting to note that about 25 local organizations awarded scholarships totaling \$80,000. The winner of this year's Stucky Scholarship was Stefan Petrovic. Stefan is planning to attend Harvard University and major in government and statistics. During high school he was active in Model UN, Student Council, Geography club, forensics, and Boys and Girls Club, among other activities. His essays reflected a keen understanding of the importance of strong participation in government. Congratulations to Stefan! My thanks to Carol Klinknett and served with me as this year's committee to read applications for the Stucky Scholarship.

In June Debra, Cille, and I will be attending the National Convention *Making Democracy Work*. Look forward to reports on the convention when we return.



Women ride in the Juneteenth Parade in Houston, Texas, in 1900.

LWV L-DC & The Voter Education Coalition invite *YOU* to a Candidates' Potluck

5-8 pm, Thursday, July 14, Centennial Park East Shelter House (off 9th St—west of Biemer's BBQ)

Our non-partisan event will include brief two-minute speeches from all candidates, followed by "speed-dating" as candidates move from group to group for informal conversation. Best of all, there will be *food!* The event will start at 5 pm, and we plan to eat first and get started with candidates' presentations at 6:15 pm; the event will end at 8 pm. Bring your friends and family, and — if you like — a side dish or dessert to share. A main course, lemonade, iced tea, water, and table service will be provided by the LWV L-DC and VEC.

We would appreciate an RSVP by Sunday, July 10, to lawrenceksleague@gmail.com. For more information, visit the VEC website (<http://www.votereducationcoalition.org>), or the League website! *All candidates who will be on Douglas County ballots, from our U.S. Senate race to Douglas County positions, are invited to participate.*

Highlights of the April 12 Board Meeting

4 pm, Lawrence Public Library

Present. Debra Duncan (Pres), Cille King (Vice Pres), Marjorie Cole (Treas), Margaret Arnold, marci francisco, Janice Friedman, Midge Grinstead, Carol Klinknett, Marlene Merrill, and Austin Turney.

Absent. Melissa Wick. **Guests.** Tamara Cash, James Dunn, Kim Gibson, Ann Carlin Ozegovic, and Sharon Brown.

President's report. Cille, Debra, Marlene, and James Dunn will be attending the LWVUS Convention, June 16–19, in Washington D.C. • Debra listed various committees that would be aided if there were more involvement of the general membership, especially new members. The list included Fluker, Stucky, Voter Service/Registration Team, Membership/Recruiting and Retention, Welcome, and Observer Corps. It was also suggested that we change the membership form by including other possible committees to join such as Fund-raising, Program Planning, Calling, Media/Social Media, and Public Speaking. At the May board meeting committee assignments will be made and new books should be available. • Debra asked that all reports given at future board meetings include a written copy for the secretary's use.

LWVK and Voter Service report. Cille announced the following voter registration information: A training session was held April 10, and five new members were also signed up. On April 12, twelve students were registered at Free State High School. Registration data that is sent to the website of the Secretary of State is not being forwarded to the counties.

Treasurer's report. Marjorie reported income of \$2,164 in March and expenses of \$848. Current balances as of March 31, were: checking account \$9,569; money market account \$2,105; Stucky

account \$3,632; Education Fund \$684. • The proposed annual budget for 2016–2017 was reviewed and discussed. The Total Meals and Hospitality figure was incorrect and needed to be changed from \$1,000 to \$1,700. Janice moved and Midge seconded that the budget be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Observer Corps report. Janice suggested that observer corps members be asked to submit a short paragraph of the highlights or focus of a meeting rather than a lengthy report, and they can also provide an online link to the organization's minutes. She will send Debra an update of observer corps information and plans to add meeting times to the main list of organizations.

Old Business. Marjorie presented a dues analysis explaining the sliding scale categories. The average dues payment per person was \$54.55, enough to pay our PMP with a small amount left over. It was decided to continue with the dues scale for the coming year. She announced an increase in membership of 24 since January. Nineteen are new members and five others are returning from inactive status. Midge suggested using mentors for new members. • Debra announced that Mike Pryor's name will be removed from the Nominations Committee slate because he has filed to run for office in the coming primary election.

New Business. marci suggested a possible format change for Hot Topic meetings: gather for brunch at a restaurant to discuss issues and then attend the speaker's presentation. • Debra thanked Austin for his two years of dedication and valuable service to the board.

– Sharon Brown

Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition Report

May 11, 7 pm, Carnegie Building, 200 West 9th St

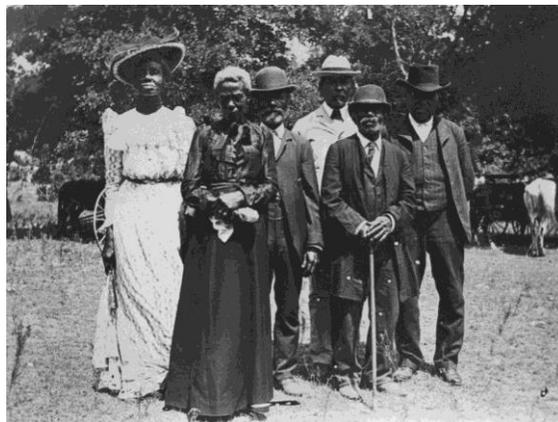
Erin Paden presided over the meeting. • The Final Report of the Pedestrian-Bicycle Issues Task Force was submitted to the City Commission on May 3. The Commissioners seemed supportive, but the City Manager's response was disappointing. The report recommends creation of a consolidated Transportation Commission that would include the Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Public Transit Advisory Committee. • The Board of Education is considering a new School Area Traffic Control Policy. It has received a draft. • KU students in the Film & Media Studies Department made a digital storytelling presentation at the Library on pedestrian safety. It was suggested that the presentation be 20 minutes long and include 10 slides. • The next meeting of the group will be on June 8 in Meeting Room A of the Lawrence Public Library.

– Alan Black

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Juneteenth celebrations commemorate the abolition of slavery in Texas, on June 19, 1865. Freedom Day came to Texas as Union troops arrived at Galveston to begin Federal occupation of the state, a full two months after the end of the Civil War, five months after ratification of the 13th Amendment, and more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation officially took effect. On that day, US Army Major General Gordon Granger read General Orders, No. 3, which stated “The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United State, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor....” Still, it would take another year for the practice of slavery to be eradicated from the state, and many decades before African-Americans would secure their full civil rights. Today, Juneteenth is officially observed in many states, including Kansas.



Participants in the Juneteenth celebration in Austin, Texas, 1900.



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