

# December 2016

Calendar .....	1
Observer Corps .....	1
January Hot Topic .....	1
Greetings from the Treasurer .....	1
Vice President's Report .....	2
Highlights of the Board Meeting .....	2
Membership Form .....	3





# The VOTER

Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County, KS  
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.

Co-Presidents:	Debra Duncan & Marlene Merrill	president @ lawrenceleague.com	
Membership:	Margaret Arnold	membership @ lawrenceleague.com	
Voter Editor:	Ruth Lichtwardt	votereditor @ <a href="http://lawrenceleague.com">lawrenceleague.com</a>	
Local League	<a href="http://www.lawrenceleague.com">www.lawrenceleague.com</a>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/lwvldc">www.facebook.com/lwvldc</a>	<a href="http://www.twitter.com/lwvldc">www.twitter.com/lwvldc</a>
State League:	<a href="http://www.lwvk.org">www.lwvk.org</a>	<a href="mailto:lwv.kansas@gmail.com">lwv.kansas @ gmail.com</a>	785-234-5152
National League	<a href="http://www.lwv.org">www.lwv.org</a>		202-429-1965

## League Calendar

<b>Sunday, January 8th</b>	<b>2:00 - 4:00 pm</b>	<b>New Member Orientation.</b> <i>Smith Center at Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace. Ellen Miller, Leader.</i>
<b>Tuesday, January 10th</b>	<b>3:00 - 5:00 pm</b>	<b>LWV-DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room C, 707 Vermont. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
<b>Thursday, January 19th</b>	<b>11:30 am - 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Hot Topic: Plans for the City with new City Manager Tom Marcus.</b> <i>Watkins Community Historical Museum, 1047 Massachusetts. Eat &amp; chat at 11:30, program at 12:00.</i>
<b>Saturday, January 28th</b>	<b>1:30 - 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon with the Legislators and County Officials.</b> <i>Smith Center at Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace.</i>
<b>Saturday, March 18th</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Helen Fluker Award Luncheon.</b> <i>Smith Center at Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace.</i>

## Observer Corps

Transparency in government is an absolute necessity in any democracy. The League can play an important role informing the community of what is happening in local boards, committees and government entities. Please consider volunteering to observe a group of interest. The requirement is simple. Sit in on meetings and report back to the board, so that your comments can be added to the Voter. A brief account of important developments and a link to official minutes is enough to keep our members informed. We will be having a meeting after the holidays to answer questions and discuss procedures. If you would like to volunteer now or talk about the program, feel free to contact Janice Friedman at [janice.friedman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janice.friedman@sbcglobal.net).



## January Hot Topic: City Manager Tom Marcus

Please plan to come and bring guests to our January 19 Hot Topic, featuring our new city manager, Tom Marcus. We will gather at the Watkins Community Histori-



cal Museum, 1047 Massachusetts, at 11:30 a.m. for light refreshments and Marcus' presentation at noon.

Marcus has been spending time with Lawrence groups since his arrival in Lawrence, fulfilling his appointment of March, 2016. He brings with him over 40 years of municipal experience during which he led several Midwestern cities, most recently Iowa City. His background includes a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master's of Public Administration. He is particularly interested in capital improvement, oversight of major departments, and social justice. He is spending his first months becoming acquainted with the community and its culture, especially the ways in which Lawrence, Douglas County, KU, and Haskell fit together.

We hope for a good attendance so that we can learn of city plans and express our views about our community. The meeting is free and open to the public.

## Greetings from the Treasurer...

An enormous thank-you to all who have responded to our fund-raising letter! Those of you who have

contributed to the LWV Education Fund will receive a letter in January that can be used with your tax return.

We appreciate your support—without it we would not be able to manage our educational programs (open to the public), voter registration/education efforts, or publish our newsletter. YOU make it possible.



## Vice President's Report

**Suspense Voters:** We have the results of our Suspense Voters outreach the weekend before the November General Election. Eleven league members contacted 99 of the people who needed to provide their proof of citizenship to the Douglas County Clerk in order for their vote to count. Out of the 99 people contacted, 42 registered to vote, and 33 actually did vote. The percentages were lower among the KU students who were living in the dorms, as we were only able to leave the informational flyer in their mailbox and text those who provided phone numbers. 35 of the 99 were dorm residents, of which 7 registered and 6 voted. We thank our members who made such a heroic effort to help citizens have a voice in the election.

**Kansas League:** The LWVK held their board meeting on Saturday, 12 December.

**Student Leagues:** Currently, we only have a Washburn University student league. However, Kansas State University is interested in starting a league. Who wants to help start a Kansas University league in Lawrence?

**Legislation:** The LWVK legislation committee will be meeting again on Monday, 19 December. Some of the members will be meeting with the ACLU regarding same day voter registration before the full committee meeting. This will be one of several topics of legislation that the League plans to support in 2017.

**Election Canvass:** The state league is working on compiling the canvass reports regarding provisional ballots from the largest counties, and a few of the smaller counties. We find that there is no standard format for the 105 counties to report the categories of provisional ballots, and that counties interpret some statutes differently.

### State Study – School Finance

The state study chair, Gwen Elliott has prepared the study packet, including 16 questions and background information. These questions and information should be studied by our members, voted on, and comments should be provided back to Gwen and the LWVK board by March 15, so that the results can be tabulated and provided 30 days the state convention (Saturday, April 29, 2017). The State League convention will be held in Topeka. If you would like a pdf of the packet sent to your email address, email [cilleking@gmail.com](mailto:cilleking@gmail.com).

- Cille King

## Highlights of the Board Meeting

November 15, 2016, Lawrence Public Library

**Present:** Margaret Arnold, Tamara Cash, Marjorie Cole, Debra Duncan, Janice Friedman, Kim Gibson, Midge Grinstead, Cille King, Carol Klinknett, Marlene Merrill, Ann Carlin Ozegovic, Melissa Wick

**Absent:** Sharon Brown

**Co-President's Report:** Debra discussed the difficulty in getting the City Manager scheduled for a meeting with the League. Margaret will keep calling to try to set up a Hot Topic meeting in January. Debra reported that Alan Black and she were the only two members attending the last two Land Use meetings and she suggested changing the meeting time. Marjorie suggested we put this on hold until January to decide how to move forward with this issue.

**Vice President's Report:** Cille submitted the following: On November 14 eight board members and Melinda Henderson (primary organizer) assisted with the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association Board elections. It was a less contested race than last year. There were 15 people on the ballot for 13 positions and 86 people showed up to vote. League members finished the vote tally about an hour after the polls closed.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas is working to promote legislation to remove voter suppression and make registering and voting more efficient. Currently county election offices and citizens are spending time and money following complicated procedures that are burdening the process. The Kansas League will also be supporting other groups on expanding Medicaid, making taxes fairer and adequate, increasing funding for education, and funding the state water plan.

**Membership:** Marjorie announced that Sally Kelsey and Judith Dutton have become new members of the League.

**Coming Events Discussed:** New member welcome and mentor meeting set for January 8 at the Smith Center, 2:00 p.m.

Afternoon with state legislators and county officials, January 28, at the Smith Center, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Celebration of Women's History Month in February

Fluker Luncheon, March 18 at the Smith Center, 11:30 a.m.

League members in St. Patrick's Day Parade – sign up on-line!

Lawrence-Douglas County League Annual Meeting and State LWV Convention, both in April.

**Announcements:** Debra announced that Kim will be the new webmaster for the League and Ruth Lichtwardt returns as editor of the VOTER. Tamara announced that she recently presented the economic development powerpoint to several chamber board members.

- Ann Carlin Ozegovic, Substitute Secretary





**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, 2018.)

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