



# 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:  
Membership:  
Voter Editor:  
Local League  
State League:  
National League

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## League Calendar

Saturday, June 3rd	6:30 - 11:00 am	<b>Voter Registration at Lawrence Farmer's Market . 824 New Hampshire St.</b> Set up help at 6:30 am, table open from 7 - 11 am in two-hour shifts.
Tuesday, June 13th	7 - 8:45 pm	<b>LWVL-DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room C, 707 Vermont St.</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Thursday, June 15th	11:30am - 1:00 pm	<b>Hot Topic: Legislative Wrap-Up by Paul Johnson.</b> <i>Central United Methodist Church, 1501 Massachusetts St.</i> Coffee at 11:30, program at noon.
Wednesday, June 21st	8 am - Noon	<b>Naturalization Ceremony at the Lied Center: Need 25 League members &amp; friends!</b> Please see article on page 2.
Saturday, June 24th	9:30 - 11:30 am	<b>Coffee &amp; Conversation.</b> <i>Z's Devine Espresso, 2351 West 31st.</i> Informal member meeting, please see article on page 2.
Tuesday, July 11th	7:00 pm - 8:45 pm	<b>LWVL-DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St.</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Tuesday, July 11th		<b>Last Day to Register for the Primary Election</b>

## Co-President's Message

Just a few days ago there was an article in the newspaper by Duane Goosen in which he likens President Trump's tax plan proposal to Governor Brownback's experiment now playing out in Kansas. He says " Can you see how all political energy goes into crisis management rather than building out future?" Whether it is "pass through plans or consolidating income taxes or whether it is the health care revision which will drop 30 million people from insurance coverage in ten years, we as citizens should be not sitting back but should be writing letters, getting on the phone, or sending emails to our representatives in Washington DC. Our fore-mothers were activists. Take time now to send your message.



This Kansas Legislative session the Open Meetings Law was clarified thanks to Alan Cowles. As League members we can assist others in recognizing governmental business in secrecy and we can ask that the law be followed. Secrecy occurs when meetings are closed without disclosing meaningful information about the subjects to be discussed.

At the board meeting in May the board initiated a discussion about our social media. Our league has a web-site, Facebook, and Twitter accounts. The board had initial discussion about social media guidelines. We want our interactions with social media to be positive and encouraging communication. - Marlene Merrill, Co-President

## Wondering if you are up-to-date on League dues?

You are not alone! There are 80 members who have not paid dues for 2017-18 yet. To find out, contact Marjorie Cole (treasurer), nobledog@aol.com.

The League-year runs from April 1 to March 31 of the next year. Members are kept on the "active list" for a six-month grace period, but on October 1, you will become "inactive" if your dues aren't paid.

If you owe dues, you will receive a snail mail reminder in June—unless you send in a check first. There is a renewal page at the end of each Voter with the League address on it. If you send it with your dues, we can update our directory for changes in your information. We especially appreciate it when you check the boxes at the bottom of the form so we know how you most like to participate. No printer? We'll gladly accept dues checks even without the form.

## Next Hot Topic: Legislative Wrap-Up Speaker - Paul Johnson

We will meet on June 15th at Central United Methodist Church at 1501 Massachusetts. Arrive about 11:30 for conversation and coffee. Program will start at noon and end at 1 pm.

## Naturalization Ceremony at the Lied Center Wednesday June 21

We have been asked to assist with a large Naturalization ceremony – 500 people are expected to become citizens. We need 25 league members and friends to help us that morning to register these new voters. Please check if you can help and send an email to Marlene Merrill or Marjorie Cole. Time commitment will be from 8 am to about noon.



## Coffee & Conversation June 24, 2017 Saturday 9:30-11:30

Informal member meeting at Z's Divine Espresso 2351 West 31st. Get to know your fellow leagues, how to get involved, what we stand for and how women have changed the world. Questions? Call or text: Melissa A. Wick 785-550-6160 or email wickma@aol.com. Looking forward to seeing you there!

## ALERT Letter or Email Your State Legislators NOW



We are approaching the end of the Kansas Legislature's session. At this late date no action has yet been taken on school finance, taxation, or the budget. I urge each of you to take the time to send an email to our representatives.

At the State League meeting earlier this month two resolutions were passed.

1. The League of Women Voters of Kansas...resolves to ask the legislature to provide funding for the necessary safety protection to prevent guns from being brought into all hospitals and institutions of higher learning OR to remove these facilities from the implementation of conceal carry legislation.
2. The League of Women Voters of Kansas...resolves to ask Governor Brownback and the state legislature to provide a good quality of life, now and in the future, in our state by:
  - a. Adequately funding public education
  - b. Adequately funding state highways and roads
  - c. Expanding and reforming KanCare with adequate oversight
  - d. Raising income taxes progressively and equitably to fund points a and c.

Mail address (for all) 300 SW 10th St, Topeka, KS, 66612



Speaker of the House Ron Ryckman, Room 370 W

Speaker Pro-Tem Scott Schwab, Room 381 -W

House Majority Leader Don Hineman, Room 372-W

House assistant Majority Leader Tom Phillips, Room 512-N

House Minority Leader Jim Ward, Room 359 W

House Majority Leader Stan Frownfelter, Room: 359-W

President of the Senate Susan Wagle, Room 333-E

Vice President of the Senate, Room 341-E

Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning, Room 330-E

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Vicki Schmidt, Room 441-E

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley Room 318 E

Senate Asst. Minority Leader Laura Kelly Room: 125-E

**Thank you!** - Marlene Merrill, Co-President

## Voter Service Report

The League registered voters at Art in the Park and the Lawrence Farmer's Market in May, including that last stormy Saturday. We registered 35 voters which included 7 new registrations. Thank you to our volunteers Ann Ozegovic, Jamie Benvenuti, Sonja Czarnecki, Janice Freidman, Jane Imber Marlaine Stoor, Sarah Vandermast, Tamara Cash, Harriet Shaffer, Marjorie Cole, Theresa Malarky, and new Voter Service Chair - Melissa Wick.

We will continue registering voters at the



Market and Lawrence Library as we go through this coming local election season. And a surprise! We have a Wednesday, June 21 Naturalization Ceremony at the Lied Center – with up to 500 new citizens to register to vote. We are looking for 26 volunteers and 10 copiers. If you have a copiers that we can borrow or can help from 11 am to roughly 12:30 pm, email [cilleking@gmail.com](mailto:cilleking@gmail.com).

June 1, 2017, noon - Candidate filing deadline for the city commission and school board. As of this writing, we are one candidate shy of requiring an August 1 primary for Lawrence City Commission. July 11 is deadline to register to vote for an August 1 primary.  
- Cille King

## Welcome New Members

**Welcome** to our newest members:

Elizabeth Astrab, Betty Bunch, Teresa Malarky, Anna Prestoy, Catherine Prestoy, Janet Prestoy, Sandy Sanders, Emily Sharp, Denise Stone, and Mary Whitaker. We are delighted to have you!

## Hot Topic Report: Transportation

Transportation experts were on hand to update League members at the last Hot Topic meeting May 18 at Watkins Museum. Addressing issues of the Lawrence/Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization 2040 were City Engineer David Cronin, Transit Administrator Bob Nugent, and Transportation Planners Ashley Myers and Jessica Mortinger. The work of the MPO "identifies future needs and makes investment recommendations for all modes of transportation including automobile, public transit, bicycle, and pedestrians."

Every five years the MPO has to be updated and priorities selected. For example, from the Pedestrian Bicycle Issues Task Force Study, the following are being reviewed: 1) securing a



grant from KDOT for creating safe routes for kids to ride bicycles to school; 2) working on making curb ramps accessible (only half of the 7,000 ramps meet the ADA requirements); 3) completing the Lawrence loop, which is 75% complete; 4) improving safety on roads with the highest bicycling crash rate, and 5) reducing speeds on side streets.



MPOs are established in cities when they reach a population of 50,000. Since 1982, Lawrence/Douglas County have created new plans for 2020, 2025, 2030, and now, 2040. "The MPO brings together residents, local governments, state and federal departments of transportation and other interested persons and organizations to assist in creating transportation policy and developing comprehensive plans that reflect our transportation vision for the future," according to the brand new brochure, which can be found at: <https://assets.lawrenceks.org/assets/mpo/MPOBrochure.pdf>

Most recent statistics (2015) show a ridership of 3,200,000 for the Lawrence Transit and KU on Wheels (75% of residents live within ¼ mile of a bus stop). Other city stats include: 550 miles of sidewalks within the city limits; 123 total bikeway miles; \$10.1 million invested in 2015 road projects; 126 ADA-compliant curb ramps constructed or repaired since 2015; and \$1.9 million of 2015 transportation projects included pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

Q & A topics included sidewalk repairs and how they will be paid for; overhanging trees and shrubs hindering pedestrians; where the new transit hub will be; and what level of sales tax will be levied. For specific complaints, people are encouraged to go to the city website and fill out a complaint form. There was consensus from all attending that "Buses for Everyone" should be a slogan for a campaign to encourage more people to utilize the transit system.

- Ann Carlin Ozegovic



To receive email updates on the MPO go to [www.lawrenceks.org/subscriptions](http://www.lawrenceks.org/subscriptions) and sign up for Transportation Planning List.

Links to the transportation studies:

- Transportation 2040 (Current plan) - <https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/t2040/>
- Transportation 2040 Update (website for updated plan – currently working on) - <https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/t2040-update>
- Regional Pedestrian Plan - <https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/pedplan>
- Multimodal Planning Studies (Countywide Bikeway System Plan, Fixed-Route Transit & Pedestrian Accessibility Study, Commuter Park & Ride Study) - <https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/study>
- Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan - <https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/transit>
- Bike Share Feasibility Study - <https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/bikeshare>
- Pedestrian Bicycle Issues Task Force - <https://lawrenceks.org/boards/bike-ped>
- Transportation Commission - <https://lawrenceks.org/boards/transportation-commission>
- Transit COA - <https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/transitcoa/>
- MPO Brochure - <https://assets.lawrenceks.org/assets/mpo/MPOBrochure.pdf>

## Stay up to date with us on Facebook !



Facebook is a fun way to engage with the League of Women Voters Lawrence/Douglas County! Keep up to date between issues of The Voter by "liking" our page [@LWVLDLC](https://www.facebook.com/LWVLDLC) on Facebook. Share events and stories that you particularly enjoy with your friends who may also want to join the League. Find out about upcoming events and indicate you are "Interested" or "Going" so that others will want to join you.



We would like to increase the use of our Facebook page this year, so we are embarking on a six-month project to diversify our content to include upcoming events and reports (with pictures!) of recent League activities. By increasing our Facebook presence, we will have a useful tool to inform members about our activities in the upcoming election cycle in 2018. We will also have a way to let you know how you can impact your local, state, and national governments with actions to support our League positions.

Let's work together to make our Facebook presence a tool for our members and a beacon for our possible new members. There's a link on the web site, if you want an easy way to find us. If there is something you would like to see us add to our Facebook postings, please contact a Board member.

- Kimberly Gibson



**OBSERVER CORPS:** Janice announced that she would be following through with observer volunteers.  
- Sharon Brown, Secretary

## Highlights of the April Board Meeting

April 11, 2017

**Present:** Debra Duncan (Co-President), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Ann Carlin Ozegovic, Tamara Cash, Janice Friedman, marci francisco, Kim Gibson, Midge Grinstead, Cille King, Carol Klinknett, Melissa Wick

**Absent:** Margaret Arnold, Marlene Merrill

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Income for March 2017 was \$1,457  
(Dues \$1,170, Contributions \$287)  
Expenses were \$345.59  
(Meals & Hospitality \$90.63, Voter Printing 54.96)  
Net Inflow/Outflow was -\$1,111.29

Current balances as of	Feb. 28, 2017	March 31, 2017
Checking Account	\$9,264.11	\$10,390.52
Money Market Account	\$2,106.39	\$2,106.47
Stucky Account	\$2,633.19	\$2,633.3
Education Fund	\$1,565.39	\$1,346.39

Dashboard, 4/11/17  
(Status Summary as of March 31, 2017)

	Year to Date	Annual Budget
General Fund Income	\$ 10,809.39	\$10,000
General Fund Expense	-\$10,362.71	\$10,000
General Fund Net Revenue	\$ 446.68	\$ 0.00

Marjorie presented the Proposed General Accounting Budget that will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. She reminded the board that in-kind donations are not included and that is the reason expenditures are so low. Melissa has audited the treasurer's books and her report will appear in the Annual Meeting program.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Marjorie announced that we have four new members. Debra volunteered to head up a committee that would establish a mentoring program.

## News from National League

### League Sends Memo to U.S. Senate Regarding Healthcare

The League sent a memo to members of the U.S. Senate regarding essential elements that need to be provided for any forthcoming legislation on health-care. The League maintains that any legislation to replace the Affordable Care Act must include elements to cover preventive care, pre-existing conditions, support funding for Medicaid and must not discriminate against women.

### League Joins Brennan Center on Public Records Requests

The League of Women Voters in Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, and Alabama joined with the Brennan Center to request all communications and documents related to the Secretary of States in these states that may have discussed the activities of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. The Secretaries of State have all been appointed to serve on the commission.

### League Joins Letter to EPA Secretary Pruitt

The League expressed deep concern over the EPA's recently noticed process for evaluating existing regulations that can be "repealed, replaced, or modified". The letter was joined by environmental, public health and public safety groups from around the country.

### League Opposes H.R. 806

The League urged Senators and Representatives to oppose H.R. 806 the "Ozone Standards Implementation Act". Despite its name, the legislation would systematically weaken the Clean Air Act without a single improvement, undermine Americans' 46-year right to



healthy air based on medical science, and delay life-saving health standards already years overdue.

## Democratic Party Seminar Voter Suppression

An outstanding panel discussion on voter suppression highlighted the May seminar of the Douglas County Democratic Party May 13 at the Lawrence Art Center. Micah W. Kubic joined the ACLU of Kansas as its executive director in January 2015 with more than 15 years of experience in civil liberties, civil rights, and racial justice work. Attorney Mark P. Johnson, a partner at Dentons in Kansas City, has taught First Amendment law at KU's Journalism School since 2008 and election law and campaign finance at the KU Law School since 2010. Jamie Shew was first elected Douglas County Clerk in 2004 and ran unopposed in 2016.

Because of the wave election in 2010, the majority GOP was able to pass restrictive election laws, including the S.A.F.E. (Secure and Fair Election) law, Kubic explained. While three other states (Arizona, Alabama, and Georgia) have created proof of citizenship laws, Kansas is the only state that is enforcing it. "Kobach is very smart, knows the law, and doesn't trim his message," Johnson said. "Even though there is no evidence of fraud, we will probably have to live with the law." Working towards the 2018 election is critical as "they'll be writing the rules for the 2020 census. We have to pay attention before they draw the lines." Johnson also recognized the League of Women Voters. "They are your warriors in this fight!"

Kansas has a better ID law than many other states, Kubic said. "College students in Iowa, for example, cannot use their student ID to vote. Shew added that Kansas will accept ID from any other state. "We will help people create their own ID. We build a ramp over any problem to help people vote, including paying for getting a copy of a birth certificate if born outside of Kansas." He praised his peers across the state. "If we could have



same day registration we could eliminate 90% of the provisional ballots." Kubic echoed this and added it would increase the numbers voting by 11-12%. They all agreed that the work to be done was to get the voting restrictions repealed, pass same day voting registration, and get more people involved to make this happen.

Voluntary donations collected at the meeting were made in memory of Mike Pryor, a committed Democratic activist and member of the League of Women Voters.

**NOTE:** Normally, LWV members would not be publicizing or participating in a partisan event, but since fighting voter suppression is at the top of our mission list, this meeting was considered an exception. We would welcome invitations from any organization to discuss voting rights for all. —Ann Carlin Ozegovic

## Answers to May's Just for Fun: Kansas Firsts

Cover: Susanna Madora Salter: First woman Mayor in the U.S., Argonia, 1887

1. First all-woman city government in the U.S.: Oskaloosa, 1888
2. Protection: First town in the world with all citizens under age 40 immunized against polio
3. Hattie McDaniel: First African American female Oscar winner
4. Charles Robinson: First Kansas Governor; also first U.S. governor to be impeached
5. Amelia Earhart: First woman on a solo transatlantic flight
6. Peggy Hull: First accredited woman war correspondent in the U.S.
7. Kansas Constitution: First U.S. state constitution to prohibit alcohol
8. Lucy Hobbs Taylor: First fully trained woman dentist in the world
9. First U.S. Bullfight: Dodge City, 1884
10. Mable Chase: First woman county sheriff in the U.S., 1926
11. Moses Grinter: Operated first ferry in Kansas, 1831
12. First helicopter patent granted, to Charles Wilson and William Purvis, 1910
13. Ronald Evans, First Kansan in space



**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 any man or woman who is sixteen years of age or older.  
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:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>General Membership Meetings:</p> <p>___ Set up and/or tear down</p> <p>___ Hospitality (provide coffee/tea/dessert)</p> <p>___ Taking notes/writing up report of meeting</p> <p>Membership:</p> <p>___ Recruitment</p> <p>___ Mentor/follow-up with new members</p> <p>___ Provide a ride to a fellow member</p> <p>___ Phone members without internet access about special updates</p> <p>Voter Services:</p> <p>___ Register voters</p> <p>___ Help with voter education</p> | <p>Promotion of League to our Community:</p> <p>___ Public speaking</p> <p>___ Represent League at community events</p> <p>___ Observer corps (attend/report on government meetings)</p> <p>___ Help with research for League studies on issues</p> <p>___ Serve on the Board of Directors</p> <p>I have the following skills:</p> <p>___ Editing articles/reports</p> <p>___ Database management</p> <p>___ Microsoft Word / Excel / Quickbooks</p> <p>___ Website/Social Media design/management</p> <p>My interests include:</p> <p>_____</p> |
|---|--|

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

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