



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.

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State League:	www.lwvk.org	lwv.kansas @ gmail.com	785-234-5152
National League	www.lwv.org		202-429-1965

League Calendar

Monday, December 4th	7:00 pm	League Christmas Party. <i>Conway's Pub, 3115 W 6th St. Ste D.</i> Dinner on your own at 6:30, party starts at 7 pm.
Tuesday, December 12th	7:00 - 8:45 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St.</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Wednesday, December 13th	7:00 pm	Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition. <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St.</i>
Saturday, December 16th	9:30 - 11:30 am	Coffee & Conversation. <i>Z's Divine Espresso, 2351 West 31st St.</i> Drop in any time. See article on page 2 for more info.
Tuesday, January 9th	7:00 - 8:45 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St.</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Thursday, January 18th	TBA	League Program Review. <i>Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St.</i>
Saturday, January 20th	TBA	Meet the Legislators Reception. <i>Carnegie Building, 200 W. 9th St.</i>

Co-President's Message

I regret having to write about Congress when we typically focus on family and the holidays. Duane Goossen's article is headlined: Kansans in Congress repeat tax disaster. "It is a crystal-clear example of a trickle down disaster".

Here is just a brief recap of who wins and who loses. I also recommend that as you get ready for the holidays you take time to write or call Senators Moran and Roberts.

The winners are who you expect—Heirs with the estate tax risen to \$10Million, corporations who will see tax rate drop to 20%, shareholders, and low/moderate income taxpayers with children and no deduction who will get the standard deduction and an increase of \$600 to child care credit. The losers are the sick as bill eliminates deduction for medical and dental expenses; disaster or fire victims as that deduction would be eliminated; residents who claim deduction for state income, property taxes, and limits on the property tax deduction. And finally one that makes no sense – the student loan interest would not longer be deductible and free tuition waivers or stipends or grants to pay for college tuition from businesses would now be taxed. Remember too that the \$1.5 Trillion reduction in revenue would somehow need to be made up.



However, the holidays are time to count our blessings. Our League is blessed with many people who are blessings. Thanks to Melissa Wick who organized the voter registration at the Naturalization Ceremony and registered 200 people at that one event. Thanks to Sharon Brown and Lee Ketzal who organized the November Hot Topic which was on overmedication at nursing homes. Thanks to everyone who is on the League Board - all work tirelessly to solve issues facing the League. Finally thanks to Ruth Lichtwardt who publishes and designs the Voter. (Editor's note: And thank you to Marjorie Cole and Mary Lou Wright, who make sure everyone receives their copy!)

- Marlene Merrill, Co-President



Welcome, New Members!

Four new League members joined in November:

**Mininder Kaur, Bhatia Paramijit, Nancy Peters,
and Megan Moriarty.**

A warm welcome to you all!

Your League Needs Your Help!

Most of your dues go to pay our per-member-assessments to the state and national LWV, leaving less than ten percent to fund our local activities. Fortunately, a loyal group of contributors keep us afloat with annual donations.

Are you considering a year-end contribution to the League? We happily accept contributions (small or large) as we must rely on these to support costs of our local public meetings, mailings, voter service efforts, and voter registrations.



There are two ways to do this. You may make a contribution to "LWV Voters" or to "the "LWV Education Fund". We happily accept both ways and use these contributions to fund our League's activities. You may use

the last page of this newsletter to mail in with your contribution.



For those who itemize on their taxes, there is an advantage to making a check out to "LWV Education Fund". If you itemize on your federal income tax and make your check out to "LWV Education Fund", you are making a contribution to the 501 c (3) part of our organization and will receive a thank-you letter in January, documenting your donation.

We are grateful for all contributions. Our contributors keep us going!

Next Coffee & Conversation

The next Coffee & Conversation on December 16th from 9:30am to 11:30am. Z's Divine Espresso at 2351 West 31st Street. Drop in anytime, join us to discuss upcoming League events, hear about committee needs, and meet fellow Leaguers. No RSVP necessary but contact Melissa Wick at 785-550-6160 or via email at wickma@aol.com if you have any questions.

- Melissa Wick

Report on November Hot Topic: Nursing Home Issues

Kansas Advocates for Better Care was founded in 1975. The League played a role as the founders included League members Lee Ketzal and Petie Cerf.

The mission of KABC is to support and provide guidance for older adults regarding quality long term care, investigate problems experienced in care facilities, provide training for caregivers, and to advocate policy makers for good quality long term care. Our speaker, Laura Meyer Pfeifer, Director of Development and Outreach spoke about a resource booklet on communication with dementia and the work of advocates to get legislative oversight of Kan-Care and an ombudsman. Kansas nursing home inspections is lagging as there are not enough inspectors due to the cuts in state government services.



Laura reported on the problem of elder abuse which frequently is evidenced by over medication. It is estimated that 50 to 70 percent of people in nursing homes are impacted by doping used as physical restraint. Use of anti-psychotic drugs along with dementia can cause heart problems, falls and is frequently used for discipline or convenience. It is recommended that an Advanced Care Plan be written which plainly states that you don't want it used.



Ombudsman is Barbara.hicker@ks.gov
 Elder Abuse Hotline is 877-662-8362
 Ks Dept of Aging and Disability Services complaint unit is 800-842-0078
Marlene Merrill

November Voter Services Report

November 2 Naturalization ceremony voter registration at the Lied Center. Five hundred people became new citizens at this ceremony. We assisted more than 250 individuals in completing Federal Voter Registration Applications and copying their Naturalization document to provide proof of citizenship. Assisting with registration were: Lynda Berendson, Lynne Bodle, Betty Bunce, Di Bunin, Martha Burbank, Marjorie Cole,

Debra Duncan, Janet Fitzgerald, Marci Francisco, Alicia Fricke, Janice Friedman, Belinda Holmes, Cille King, Zachary King, Teresa Malarky, Gayle Matchett, Megan Moriarity, Lois Orth-Lopes, Ann Oze-govic, Norma Pierce, Marlaine Stoor and Carolyn Young.

My THANKS goes out to all of you for your contribution in making this such a successful event.

November 2: The League sponsored a Eudora School Board Candidate Forum in the Eudora City Hall. The moderated event was well attended with the 4 candidates (three incumbents and one challenger) stating their positions on such topics such as teacher salaries, the need to financially accommodate growth in the district, and working down current district debt. I was pleased to see in the audience a number of recently registered Eudora High School Students of Dr. Robyn Kelson's classes. The request for sponsorship came from Becky Plate, a new league member. My job was to sit by our banner and field questions about the league. Many positive comments were received by Eudora community members who know various league members and our impact on the Douglas County community.

November 2: One this day, a group of re-entry officers and parole officers, peers of Mike Brouwer - Douglas county Sheriff's Office Reentry Director; met in Salina, KS in a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting facilitating interaction and education among officers involved with re-entry for ex-felons. The Committee for Service to Under-represented Populations had targeted this group for a presentation. With Mike Brouwer's assistance, and Ann Zimmerman of the Saline League of Women Voters agreeing to present the same information provided by the Committee on September 15, 2017 (See October 2017





Voter for write-up), the Salina League was granted 30 minutes during the conference. Initial reports indicate that the information was enthusiastically received and the officer attendees were discussing among themselves how they would be able to implement voter registration into their reentry programs.

In development by the Voter Services Committee, is a survey that we ask all members to complete, ask all people we register to complete, ask anyone that stops by our table or booth when we are in a public space to complete that captures the issues at the National, State and Local levels that will cause people to become politically engaged. It is hoped that these issues will then lead the LWVLDL to develop educational and informational materials relevant to the concerns of the electorate with contact information for all candidates and current office holders. In this manner, voters will be able to relate the importance of their concerns with the positions of candidates and the voting records of current office holders.

- Melissa Wick, Voter Services Chair

Drilling Down Kansas

Because Douglas County has been targeted with placement of two waste water injection wells, the KCC has before it an application for approval. At the Fairgrounds on Monday, Nov 20 about 130 people gathered to discuss this proposal. Several representatives of our city and county commissions, and state representatives and Senate were present. The first speaker, Amy Adamson who resides with her family on 15 acres near Baldwin recounted her experiences.- It was a horror story of forest areas now with a tank site, a



roadway built for tanker trucks, open pits, wells leaking, and 20 wells with 64 more wells planned. The effects include loss of property value, destruction of surface which is not compensated and contaminated water (Testing the water is at homeowner's expense).



There are no laws to protect the homeowner and the KCC appears to not be an agency that the public can get relief from. As the third speaker noted the KCC makes the rules and changes the rules. There are barriers such as restrictions on how and when to file a complaint or provide testimony on a drilling application. Also at issue are mineral rights. Unless your deed explicitly gives you mineral rights, you basically have no rights. There currently are no laws to protect homeowners. John Wilson proposed HB 2189 which is supported by many in our county's legislative representatives, but has not yet been passed into law. The bill's objective is that the KCC should require proof a oil driller's lease is valid and should not allow wells drilled near permanent features.

The second speaker was a geologist. He spoke about the injection wells near Eudora which are 800 to 900 feet deep and are located close to unstable soil. Earthquake potential is determined by a slip on a fault, nearness to plate boundaries, or seismic history and data on geologic structure. He reported that a saltwater injection well was 1.5 times more likely to cause an earthquake as is an oil recovery well. Induced seismicity can occur at a distance of 10 miles from a well.



The state league has a

position on fracking which includes conservation of water as well as safeguarding water quality. It is posted on our web site as well as the state League web site.. Water is an issue of most importance as it is essential to life. - Marlene Merrill

Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition

The Coalition met on October 8. Gary Webber presided. The group discussed the idea of having an urban design class at KU develop a plan for sidewalk repair.

Implementation of Safe Routes to School is also desired. There should be a plan for each elementary and middle school. It is hoped to have three Champions of the program at each school.

The next meeting of the Coalition will be on December 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Meeting Room A of the Lawrence Public Library. - Alan Black

Highlights of the October LWLDC Board Meeting

October 10, 2017, Lawrence Public Library, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Marlene Merrill (Co - President), Ann Carlin Ozegovic (Co - President), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Margaret Arnold, Tamara Cash, Debra Duncan, Anne Fluker, marci francisco, Janice Friedman, Kim Gibson, Cille King, Thea Perry, Melissa Wick **Guest:** Diana Bunin



TREASURER: Marjorie



reported income of \$200 for September (all in dues) and expenses of \$437.72 (meals and hospitality 207.01, administration 201.05, VOTER printing 29.66). Net Inflow/Outflow was - \$237.72. In - kind contribution: postage \$39.20. Current balances as of September 30 were checking account \$13,232.18, money market account \$2,106.92, Stucky Account \$1,633.81, Education Fund, \$430.39.

CO - PRESIDENTS: Regarding the ACLU's new program, Let People Vote, launched on October 1, Marlene inquired if League needs a civic participation campaign. The following ideas were suggested: keep doing our many voter registration activities and events; write letters to the editor; public education; members talk to neighbors, students, feminist groups; provide small registration kits to non - profit groups and senior organizations.

It has been decided to open the Fluker Award statewide and solicit nominations through the nine Kansas leagues. Janice volunteered to chair the committee with Margaret and Anne assisting.

STATE PRESIDENT: Cille gave a water position update. Progress is being made on the one year study. Our present position does not align with state law. Study packets will be out in early January. Results need to be back to



LWVKS by mid - March and will be taken to the state convention in Great Bend.

NEW BUSINESS :

Discussion was held regarding the portfolio description for Voter Service Chair and changes were suggested.

Teresa Malarky's name was submitted as a possible board member and discussion followed. Ann moved and Janice seconded that Teresa be asked to join the board as a director. Motion carried.

- Sharon Brown, Secretary

League of Women Voters Kansas Co-President's Report

League Day in Leavenworth – October 21 – Largest turnout in at least 4 years – 68 – with several last day and unregistered walk-ins making for a cozy gathering. Guest speaker, Davis Hammett (Loud Light), talked about his childhood and family that discussed politics, and the need to be factual with young voters – telling them how laws impact them personally. Micah Kubic, Executive Director of ACLU of Kansas, explained how the constant attacks on democracy with the current administration, have led to a tripling of donations and Kansas ACLU staff (from 2.5 to 9). The coalition partners for Democracy Tomorrow are working to get a groundswell to affect 2018 Kansas legislation, and voter engagement for the 2018 elections.



LWVK discussed legislative priorities for 2018. The **Legislative – Observer Corp** – will have a meeting on November 20, 1 pm, at the LWVK office. Local Leagues gave highlights of their League activities. Two previously elected officials

talked about lessons learned: the need to have a fire in the belly to withstand the campaign; you can't please everyone, and can lose long time friends; make sure you have a group to help and support you.



ACLU Kansas Training

Sessions – 13 in Kansas. Goal is to get citizens participating in contacting their legislators, (by postcard, calling, writing, and/or in-person) expressing their views on legislation – especially those that harm participation, democracy, and our rights. LWV membership forms were handed out at the Lawrence and Pittsburg sessions.

Kansas League membership was 738 on 1/31/15, 790 on 1/31/16, 869 on 1/31/17, and is now 1121 members.

LWVK is a co-sponsor for the Kansas Rural Center conference, held 11/17 & 11/18. League members will be attending.

Local issue: Lawrence League needs to decide how/who will print and mail weekly Legislative Reports to members who don't have email, or who for other reasons would like a hard copy. Last spring there were 16 names on the list.

- Lucille King





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, 2019.)*

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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New Citizen!
November 2 Naturalization Ceremony

