



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:	Marlene Merrill & Ann Carlin Ozegovic	president @ lawrenceLeague.com	
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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, February 5th		Deadline to submit nominations for the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award. Submit nomination to FlukerAwardLWV@gmail.com
Friday, February 9th	7:00 pm	Susan B Anthony Birthday Party. 2917 Westdale Road. RSVP 393-1373. BBQ provided, please bring a dish to share. See article on page 2.
Tuesday, February 13th	7:00 - 8:45 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St. All League members are invited to attend.
Thursday, February 15th	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Hot Topic: Conversation with Lawrence Police Chief Greg Burns Watkins Community Museum, 1047 Massachusetts St. Coffee at 11:30, program at noon.
Tuesday, March 13th	7:00 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St. All League members are invited to attend.
Thursday, March 15th	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	League Information & Consensus Meeting on State League Water Position. Baker Wetland Discovery Center, 1365 N 1250 Road.
Saturday, March 24th	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Helen Fluker Award Luncheon. Smith Center, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace.
Tuesday, April 10th	7:00 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St. All League members are invited to attend.
Saturday, April 21st	11:00 am - 1:30 pm	LWVL-DC Annual Meeting. Maceli's, 1031 New Hampshire St.
Tuesday, May 17th		Hot Topic: Affordable Housing in Lawrence

Co-Presidents Message

It has been a busy month. We had our annual "Meet with the Legislators" event at the Malott Room; there is a separate report in this Voter. The same day as our "Meet the Legislators" was the Women's March in Lawrence. Newspaper accounts vary from 1000 to 2500 participants but I understand that the parade extended from South Park to City Hall. Several League members with clip boards registered 16 new voters. Hooray!



Since this is the year for the National Convention (which will be in Chicago), our League met to review the national positions. Some policies are "right on" such as voter protections and redistricting/gerrymandering but we had suggestions for many others. We were glad to see NATO supported but want to strengthen the UN position to include fair treatment of people and better care/prevention of atrocities. There is much in policy about the Executive and Legislative branches but nothing about the judicial branch. We suggested consideration of non-political court appointees and stop political voting in Congress so that consideration of judicial candidates is not held up.

This March our League will hold an informational and consensus meeting on the state's revision of the Water Position. Water use and conservation is one of our state's critical issues. I will be glad that we will have an updated position to talk with legislators about. We should all thank Representative Tom Sloan for his hard work on this issue and also thank Senator Marci Francisco for her work on the state League's Water committee. There is a separate report on the current position and the suggested revisions; please take time to read it.

I am so proud of all the work our Voter Services chair and of all the people who have volunteered to register voters. You all provide an essential service to our community. Recently an incident was brought to my attention so I thought some reminders might be important. Remember we are Non-Partisan. This means we must be cautious about injecting our personal opinions about politics or people in government when we are talking to the public. We don't want our ability to register Voters in parks, at community events, or at Naturalization ceremonies to be stopped because we were careless with our speech.

- Marlene Merrill, Co-President

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Ann Carlin Ozegovic for putting together last month's Voter at the last minute when my computer died.

Welcome, New Member!

Laura Pfeifer is our first new member of 2018. Please welcome her at League events.

Our Heartfelt Thanks!

We deeply appreciate these contributors to our annual fund drive. Without you wonderful, generous people we would not be able to maintain our efforts! Because of your contributions, we will be able to continue our scholarship to a high school senior for at least one more year as well as maintain our informational meetings and voter registration services.

Thanks go to:

Margaret Arnold
Larry Bensch and
Arline Seely-Bensch
Marilyn Bradt
Sally Brandtmay
Marilyn Chambers
Marjorie Cole
Cathy Dwigans
Jacquelyn Elliott
Piersol Foundation
Dennis Highberger
Richard and Sue Himes
Jane Imber
Patricia Karlin
Arla Jones and Kim Kreicker
Denise Pettingill and James
Kreider



**Have a vision.
Be demanding.
- Colin Powell**

Susan Levine
Robert and Betty Lichtwardt
Ann Mah
Eileen Larson and John Naramore
Diane Oakes
Janet Roth
Austin Turney
Melissa Wick

If you have not yet mailed in your contribution, there is still time. Whenever it comes, we will be grateful--large or small. Everything counts. - Marjorie Cole



Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party!

Friday February 9, 2018
7:00pm at 2917 Westdale Rd.
RSVP to 785-393-1373 if you plan to attend
The League will provide BBQ,
please bring a salad or side dish to share.
A Susan B Anthony Bingo is planned
along with lots of good conversation!

Voter Outreach Update

In January we had several successes, including:

- registering 16 voters at the Lawrence Women's March
- initiating discussions with Bert Nash and the Lawrence NAACP to provide voter registration training to their staff and members
- getting a list of community organization referrals for potential partnerships
- being invited to provide voter registration at the Kaw Valley Seed Fair on February 10th

Unfortunately, we are not able to move forward with the civics program at the Jail at this time, but we are looking into other options. Due to space constraints, the Re-Entry program is not able to add any new classes.

Thank you to all the League members who helped with our outreach efforts! We couldn't do this without your help. - *Jamie Benvenuti*

Anyone who is interested in joining our Committee, please contact Jamie Benvenuti jamie.benvenuti@gmail.com or Melissa Wick wickma@aol.com

Youth Registration Webinar Report

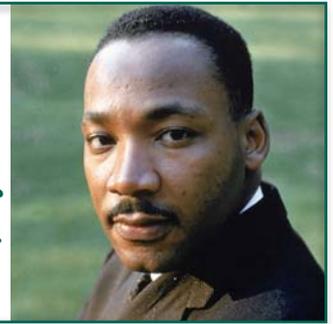
On January 16 league member Jamie Benvenuti attended the Effective Youth Voter Registration webinar presented by LWV US Programs and Outreach Director Maggie Bush. The full presentation can be viewed on youtube at the link below. Some tips included:

1. Reach out to as many students in the high schools as possible, not just those in government classes.
2. Tell your story of how you registered to vote, why voting is important to you.
3. Partner with other community organizations who share visions of increasing youth civic engagement. Examples included: NAACP, Retired Teachers Association, "Families in Schools," and junior leagues.

Maggie Bush sent a follow up communication to the attendees which provided the links to the full presentation as well as the most recent Empowering Youth Voters of Tomorrow training guide. She will also be compiling a

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



list of text service programs for Leagues that wish to follow up with youth voters via text. - *Jamie Benvenuti*

Effective Youth Voter Registration webinar (64 min): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlqiaG_O5U

Empowering Youth Voters of Tomorrow training manual: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/high-school-voter-registration-training-manual-3rd-edition>

Report on Meet the Legislators Reception & Forum

Community, state and legislative leaders updated about 40 League members and friends Saturday, January 20, at the Mallott Room at the KU Union. Co-president Marlene Merrill moderated the "Issues Update." Participating were State Representatives: Barbara Ballard, Tom Sloan, Boog Highberger, and Eileen Horn; State Senator: marci francisco; State Board of Education members: Janet Waugh and Ann Mah; and County Commissioners: Nancy Thellman and Michelle Derousseau.

Topics were wide-ranging and included school funding, government transparency, "speedy trials," new jail, home schools, Crosscheck, and civic engagement.

Representative Horn, our newest legislative member, reported she is looking forward to serving on three committees: Health and Human Services, Federal and State Affairs, and Agriculture.

Representative Sloan, serving his tenth term, said he would be working on the State Water Plan, cyber security, high speed internet, and on several energy issues.

Commissioner Thellman, who is beginning her tenth year on the County Commission, spoke on the top issue for the county—building a new jail and mental health care



Jamie Benvenuti and her son at Women's March January 20



**Our mistreatment
was just not right,
and I was tired of it.
- Rosa Parks**

services.* She also wants lawmakers to look again at the three-year old law that expands the "speedy trial" time limit from 90 days to 150 days, which she said has contributed to overcrowding. She also said that we have the lowest paid state supreme court judges in the country.

An increase in the social services budget will grow from 11 million (2018) to 13 million (2019) according to Rep. Ballard, who serves on the social services committee. She is also on the KanCare Oversight Committee which she hopes will open up to new vendors. She reported some 350 million was taken from the KDOT budget. "The condition of our state roads is factored in when you talk about economic development. Kansas, which has some 5,000 bridges, is the fourth largest state in number of road miles, but many are at a 'level 5.'"

Sen. Francisco thanked the Kansas Supreme Court for the additional undefined funds for public schools which open up opportunities for early education. A question from the audience asked, how do we make sure the money goes to the students instead of the administration? Board of Education member Ann Mah responded: "Show up at meetings. Elect people to school boards who support that view. But also, we have to pay to keep good administrators."

To another question: "How do you check on home schools?" Mah responded, "We have no control on home schools, and no authority to check on them." Janet Waugh, also on the State Board of Education, added, "There are wonderful home schools, but there are some tragic ones as well." Rep. Ballard added "We do help them some, with text books, school plans, and bus rides."

In response to a question on Crosscheck, the program that looks for double voter registrations, Rep. Sloan said, "We're having some folks in from the Secretary of State Office to discuss this!" "We have to stay involved in voting issues and we're lucky to have Jamie Shew," Mah said.

Kansas has never had a civic government class requirement but has left it up to local district control. Rep. Ballard spoke about the Dole Institute's three-day civic engagement program beginning February 19. More than 600 students have participated in the past 12 years.

Rep. Horn spoke about the need to safeguard our water supply. She is working on a bill regarding surface owner rights vs. mineral such as the drilling cases in Eudora and Baldwin.

Other topics included school consolidation; the need for mental health training for teachers; medicinal cannabis; how the new federal tax changes will affect Kansas; and how to find the revenue if taxes are taken off food.

Rep. Highberger wrapped up the session by making a plea for "electing a new governor which would change the most politicized Kansas Corporation Commission ever."

- Ann Carlin Ozegovic

Observer Report

City of Lawrence Public Incentive Review Committee (PIRC)

Tuesday Nov. 14, 2017

Meeting place: City Commission Meeting Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

Subject: Review Requested Economic Development Support for The Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence Center for a Great Future

PIRC members attending:

Aaron Cromwell, Cromwell Environmental,
Jill Fincher, Board of Education,
Ken Easthouse,
Mike Gaughan, Douglas Co. Commissioner,
Michelle Fales

City staff attending:

Diane Stoddard, Asst. City Manager
Britt Crum-Cano, Economic Development Analyst
Danielle Buschkoetter, City Manager Admin. Asst.

Boys and Girls Club Representatives Attending:

Colby Wilson, CEO
Monica Dittmer, Director, Center for a Great Future

Agenda:

I. Administration and Procedures

**"The cost of
liberty is less
than the price of
repression."
- W.E.B. Du Bois**



- a. The Mayor and Vice Mayor are no longer PIRC members. They are considered in conflict because the City Commission votes on final approval of the application.
- b. PIRC membership will be increased by 3 at-large members to be appointed by the Mayor for staggered terms.
- c. Joint Economic Development Council has been dissolved
- d. By-laws will be written and adopted for future meetings
- e. There will be term limits for all PIRC members
- f. The chair of PIRC will be chosen by the PIRC members as set forth in the by-laws
- g. Ken Easthouse was designated temporary chair
- h. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

2. Discussion of application by Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence for Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) financing to obtain sales tax exemption on construction materials for the Center for a Great Futures, to be located at the College and Career Center:

- a. The Center for a Great Future will be for teens who are no longer eligible for afterschool programs.
- b. The building costs will be about \$4.2 million financed with IRB proceeds.
- c. Mar-Lan will be the prime contractor with area companies as subcontractors.
- d. The project doesn't qualify for sales tax exemption on construction materials under current state law. This will be investigated further.
- e. The Boys and Girls Club has after school programs in each elementary school
- f. There are no programs for kids after the 5th grade.
- g. Many children are on their own after school because there aren't enough places in the Boys and Girls Club programs.
- h. The Center for a Great Future will coordinate with the Lawrence Career and College Center for high school juniors and seniors
- i. The Boys and Girls Club will bus students from all four middle schools to the Center for a Great Future

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

- Barack Obama



- 3. Decision
 - a. PIRC unanimously approved the motion for the application by the Boys and Girls Club for IRB's to construct the Center for Great Futures.

NOTE: See the Boys and Girls Club website for more information. - Dan Dannenberg

Highlights of the Board Meeting

December 12, 2017

Present: Marlene Merrill (Co-President), Ann Carlin Oze-govic (Co-President), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Tamara Cash, marci francisco, Janice Friedman, Cille King, Thea Perry, Melissa Wick
Guests: Kristin Salmans, Lori Hutfles

Absent: Margaret Arnold, Debra Duncan, Anne Fluker, Kim Gibson, Teresa Malarky

TREASURER: Marjorie reported income of \$1,005 for November (dues, \$910, contributions \$95) and expenses of \$2582 (PMP LWV-US \$2,176, state meeting registration \$300, VOTER postage \$49, VOTER printing \$26.99, Voter Service postage \$30.33). Net inflow/outflow was -\$1,577. Current balances as of November 30 were checking account \$11,257.02, money market account \$2,107.19, Stucky account \$1,634.03, Education Fund \$430.39.

Dashboard 12/12/17 (Status Summary as of November 30, 2017)

	Year to Date	Annual Budget
General Fund Income	\$6,119.00	\$11,000.00
General Fund Expense	\$5,796.83	\$ 9,636.00
General Fund		
Net Revenue	\$ 322.17	\$ 1,634.00

CO-PRESIDENTS: Water study consensus needs to be ready to approve by late March. Information will be coming to local leagues in January. It was suggested the board ask Amy Burgin to represent the Lawrence League on the state water committee and provide information to our



Just don't give up what you're trying to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong.

- Ella Fitzgerald

general membership. Kristin and Lori contacted Amy and she agreed to take on this task.

STATE PRESIDENT: The State Board needs league members to assist with voter service, public relations, and advocacy. Please contact Cille if you are interested in helping.

VOTER SERVICE: Six hundred twenty-two voter registrations have been completed since June. Congratulations to Melissa and the league members who have helped with this effort! Melissa discussed the generational survey she is preparing. She will email her suggestions to board members so they can prioritize items.

NEW BUSINESS: Ann initiated a discussion regarding our Facebook page: are there any concerns about our posts? It was decided that all posts should be from credible news sources and appropriate for our mission.

These additional calendar items were announced:
Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party, Friday, February 9, 2018, 2917 Westdale Rd, 7:00 p.m. RSVP to 785-393-1373. BBQ will be provided, please bring a dish to share (salad, etc.) (Susan's actual birthday is February 15.)

LWV-L/DC Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 13, 2018, Lawrence Public Library, 7-8:45 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Land Use Committee

The League's Land Use Committee was among many who opposed the Clinton Parkway/Crestline 522-bedroom apartment complex. The Douglas County Planning Commissioners unanimously denied a proposed change to the city's comprehensive plan to accommodate the project at their meeting January 24. Writing on behalf of the committee was Melinda Henderson, assisted by marci francisco.

- Ann Carlin Ozegovic

Water Resources Management Policy

At the Great Bend League Convention in 2017 it was approved to modify portions of the LWVK 2015 Water Resources Management Policy Statement to:

1. Enable league members flexibility to engage in advocacy on any State of Kansas recognized "beneficial use"



I have come to believe over and over again that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of having it bruised or misunderstood. - Audre Lorde

You're not obligated to win. You're obligated to keep trying to do the best you can every day.

- Marian Wright Edelman



of water

2. Clarify conservation provisions with existing and long held Kansas water doctrine.

Two definitions:

1. Riparian - landowner must own a parcel of land adjacent to a watercourse, such as streams, lakes, and ponds.
2. Prior appropriation - is legal doctrine that the first person to take a quantity of water from a water source for beneficial use, agricultural, industrial, or house, has the right to continue to use that quantity of water for that purpose.

Water Use in Kansas creates complex legal circumstances. IGUCA (Intense Groundwater Use Control Area) have been formed to modify the "first in time" doctrine. But during this later drought, public water requiring entities like the Quivira Wildlife Refuge saw that their long held "first in time" water use rights were not upheld. Kansas organizations and water users began urging the State to build "sustainable" approaches to address escalating water depletion, promote better water usage infrastructure, and minimize irreparable damage to water supplies and ecosystems.

The Kansas Division of Water Resources most recent report on water usage concluded: "On average, irrigation makes up 85% of the consumptive use of water in Kansas. This can vary significantly depending on weather conditions. Municipal public water supply is next, accounting for about 10% of total consumptive use of water in the state. The remaining 5% of consumptive water use is for industrial, recreation, stock watering, hydraulic dredging and other uses."

In October 2013 Governor Brownback made a call for action to create a new 50 year Vision for Water in Kansas.- public meetings followed. In 2015 and 2016 amendments were made to the Kansas Water Appropriations Act to address the water crisis. Some Kansans want to see faster action to create a sustainable water supply.



**I used to want the words
"She tried" on my tombstone.
Now I want "She did it."
- Katherine Dunham**

LWVK Current Position (summarized)- last revised in 2009. The LWVK recognizes that water is a natural resource basic to the present and future well being of Kansas citizens and to the economy of the state. A continuous supply of water must be maintained through conservation and the use of the best available technology. Because of inequitable distribution, variable quality, and competition for water, there must be orderly planning for water suppliers, various uses, water quality, and strict enforcement of water laws, regulations, and management procedures.

Planning —Short term and long term planning for water resources should consider all waters of the state. Planning would address: drinking water sources, water quality, agriculture, energy production, wildlife and ecosystem management, flood control and recreation.

Water Rights – The state should have and use the authority to review regularly both the purpose of and quantity of water used by water rights holders and to recover rights as needed. Water rights holders should be permitted to hold their rights without using them when there is no pressing need for a higher priority use. (Currently it is “use it or lose it” so everyone consumes all they are entitled to use).

Water Supply – This is a state responsibility. It does so by means of construction and maintenance of dams and reservoirs, purchase of additional or excess water storage capacity in federal reservoirs, purchase of water rights and promotion of sustainability of groundwater resources. LWVK supports the establishment of water management districts by aquifer, watershed, river basin to enhance water planning and program implementation.

State Water Plan – Supports the goal of preserving and improving surface and groundwater supply, use and quality. There should be enforcement of enacted statutes and regulations to ensure water quality. There should be Standards for safe drinking water and ambient water with Mandatory practices and penalties imposed on those that impair water quality.

Conservation —Actions by Kansas include requiring conservation plans, metering of water flow, developing demonstration projects, recycling and reuse when economically feasible, etc. Encourage energy development that utilizes

water efficiency, water reuse, and Best Management Practices. The League views the conservation of water as critical in the protection of the wetlands of the state. The planned depletion of groundwater is not an acceptable policy for water conservation.

Financing – Water users, beneficiaries and State all have roles in financing water programs and projects.

Proposed Changes

Proposal 1 In the Water Rights Section, eliminates “the ranking of beneficial uses.” League questions the policy of giving all “beneficial uses” equal weight and ranks priorities of water use as:

1. domestic and municipal,
2. livestock and general farm use,
3. minimum stream flow,
4. irrigation,
5. industry,
6. oil or gas production, and
7. recreation.

Public health and safety should preempt all other rights when water is in short supply.

Proposal 2 Conservation of Water – eliminate Section H and reaffirm “first in right” First in use legal doctrine.

Encourage energy development that utilizes water efficiency and Best Practices. The League views conservation of water as critical in the protection of the wetlands of the state. The planned depletion of groundwater is not an acceptable policy for water conservation.

Section H does not address the water use framework. Under Kansas law, “water within the state” is to be dedicated to the use of the people.

If anyone would like the complete packet of materials, please send me an email and I will email it to you. It is an extensive document. *- Marlene Merrill*

Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations. If you adopt their attitudes, then the possibility won’t exist because you’ll have already shut it out. – Mae Jemison





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:*

Table with 3 columns: Approximate Household Income, Individual membership, Household membership. Rows include Student**, Under \$25,000, \$25,000 to \$50,000, Over \$50,000, Sustaining member, Life member (of 50 years).

* 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

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February 2018

Calendar	1
Co-President's Message	1
Welcome New Member	2
Heartfelt Thanks!	2
Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party!	2
Voter Outreach Update	3
Youth Registration Webinar	3
Meet the Legislators Reception Report ..	3
Observer Report	4
Highlights of the Dec. Board Meeting ...	5
Land Use Committee	6
Water Resources Management Policy ...	6
Membership Form	8



Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.

- Harriet Tubman