

# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY

The **VOTER** February 2019

## President's Message

### Happy Valentine's Day!

We could all do with "a little more love in our hearts," right? I am trying to build that in to my daily communications this year!

First, a big THANK YOU to our legislators who were able to attend our Afternoon with Our Legislators event on Jan 27! We had State Senators Marci Francisco and Tom Holland and State Representatives Eileen Horn, Boog Highberger and Mike Amyx. Barbara Ballard and Ken Corbett were unable to

attend. We had a broad ranging and lively discussion. It was a productive two hours!

I would also like to thank my co-president, Anne Fluker, for all her help, encouragement and intelligent insight! Anne has decided to resign to better focus on full-time work and a brand new baby girl! She promises to continue to offer her guidance. I will most definitely miss her!

Please mark your calendars for our next Drinks & Democracy. Friday,

[Read more: Page 2](#)

## CALENDAR

### LWV-Kansas Position Review Meeting

Thursday, Feb 14 at 1 pm  
Thursday, Feb 21 at 7 pm  
Meeting Room A, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St

### General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 19, 6:30 pm  
Lawrence Beer Company, 826 Penn St

### Hot Topic! KanCare

Thursday, Feb 21, 11:30 am-1 pm,  
Watkins Museum of History,  
1047 Mass St, lower level

### Drinks and Democracy

(fourth Fridays, all welcome)  
Friday, Feb 22, 5-7 pm,  
Johnny's Tavern, 401 N Second St

### Fluker Award

Friday, March 1, nominations due  
Sunday, March 24, luncheon

### Board meeting

(second Tuesdays, all welcome)  
March 12 and April 9, 7-8:45 pm,  
Lawrence Public Library

### Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 13, 11:30 am, Lecompton

## League Position Revision meetings this February

### Here's why we need YOU

To All League Members:

All actions of the League of Women Voters are based on established positions, at the national, state or local level.

Positions are based on issues that have undergone researched study for a period of at least three years and have been finalized after consensus and concurrence.

Established positions are re-evaluated at regular periods in order to remain in the program of issues for possible action.

The current state study is the product of a statewide study committee updating the existing position on **MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS**. It has not been updated since 1995.

Statement of position: The LWVUS statement on **MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS** supports policies that promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families by preventing and reducing poverty. Details include support for providing an adequate economic safety net for low income families and support services for families and children at risk. Recent news reports of foster children sleeping in offices, disappearing, and, at least one incident, being raped have

highlighted the critical need for a re-examination and change within the system.

Local leagues are charged with examining and reaching agreement on areas of the position and reporting to the state study committee. The state board will analyze and develop a final League position that reflects member agreement reports from local Leagues. The position will then be announced to members and the public and be available as the basis for action.

The Study Committee has developed a list of questions for discussion and a collection of academic research and articles on issues involved in the position. This material has been emailed to all League members and is also available in readable hard copy at the Lawrence Public Library. You can prepare yourself for the discussion by at least scanning the provided materials.

Please come to either or both meetings and add your voice to this vital League activity!

—Janice Friedman

- Feb 14, 1 pm, Lawrence Public Library
- Feb 21, 7 pm, Lawrence Public Library

## ABOUT

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.

## President's Message, cont'd

Feb 22, 5–7 pm at Johnny's Tavern North. We are changing the day to the fourth **Friday** of every month. Our January event, changed to Friday due to the ice storm, was such fun! Around 20 people joined us! So let's make it a party! Plan to be there!

We are working with Dr. Teri Finneman's journalism class at KU to improve our social media presence. Be on the lookout in the next few weeks for changes to our Facebook and Twitter as well as a brand new Instagram profile! It's exciting to work with the students and get their ideas and insight! Also, another group is working with the League at the state

level on the Centennial celebration.

Plan on joining us for a General Membership Meeting at Lawrence Beer Company, 826 Pennsylvania St, on Tuesday, Feb 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about the League, upcoming events and how you can get involved! We will socialize and enjoy great food and drinks!

See you there!

— *Kristin Salmans*  
*President, League of Women Voters*  
*Lawrence/Douglas County*

See also Kristin's Letter to  
the Editor, page 4

## Highlights of the Minutes

### LWV L/DC Board Meeting

December 11, 2018

**Present:** Kristin Salmans (Co-President), Melissa Wick (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Tamara Cash, Marjorie Cole, Janice Friedman, Cille King, Marlene Merrill

**Absent:** Margaret Arnold, Jamie Benvenuti, Debra Duncan, Anne Fluker, Kim Gibson, Lori Hutfles

**Guests:** Lauren Baruth-Stroberg, Teri Finneman

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teri Finneman (KU Journalism and Mass Communication faculty) gave an extensive presentation of the public relations campaign draft for the 100th LWV celebration in 2020. She asked for input and consensus on several items her students are working on, including slogans and logos.

Marjorie announced that we have five new members: Barbara Johnston, Jill Fincher, Amy Burgin, Samantha Turner and Susan Tabor.

#### TREASURER

Melissa reported that we had income of \$230 in November (dues \$105.00, contributions \$125.00) and expenses of \$13.52 (PayPal \$2.93, VOTER postage \$10.59). Balance Sheet 12/11/2018:

- Stucky Money Market Account \$0.00
- MMA \$10,747.21

Checking (11/30/2018) \$6,400.62

- National Education Fund \$2,002.39

Checking (12/11/2018) \$6,400.62

Kristin moved and Marjorie seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted and filed for audit. Motion carried.

#### VOTER SERVICE

Melissa presented the voter registration report that she submitted to LWVKS. Total events, 81; total new registrations, 1,152; total processed address/name/party affiliation changes and advance ballots, 350; total tabling hours, 350; total number of volunteers, 374; follow-up postcards sent, 850. Kristin also returned a national survey regarding this information.

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Marlene will assist with selecting our LWV \$1,000 Scholarship winner this spring but asked the board to be thinking about choosing a new chairman for this committee.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Grant requests for youth voter registration funds are due. Melissa volunteered to write for this. She will also coordinate with Judy Muller, Topeka League president, regarding a grant for naturalization registration funds.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Tamara will arrange for our Annual Meeting to be held in Lecompton on Saturday, April 13, 2019. We will gather at 11 am and lunch at 11:30 am with the meeting to follow.

*Submitted by Sharon Brown, Secretary*

## Welcome, New Members

The League has three new members: **Logan Strasburger, Janet Yoe and David Snyder!** Look forward to seeing them at upcoming events.

—*Marjorie Cole*

## Hot Topic! KanCare

The Outreach Vista for the Olathe KanCare Ombudsman office will be our speaker on Feb 21. Holly Venn will present information on Medicaid eligibility and services. She will take written questions after her remarks. We will gather at 11:30 am, and the program will begin at noon, finishing by 1 p.m. The meeting place is the lower level of the Watkins Museum of History, 1047 Massachusetts St, 10th Street entrance.

—*Marlene Merrill*

## IN MEMORIAM

We sadly report the deaths of two long time League members in December.

**Carol Klinknett**, a board member, participated often in voter registration events, tirelessly phoned league members without internet connections with League information, obtained support from business for our meet-the-candidates potlucks, and advocated for human rights and environmental causes. There will be a celebration of life for her family and friends at the Smith Center, Brandon Woods, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm on June 8, her birthday.

**Arlene Seely-Bensch**, a long-time League member, faithfully attended League activities with her husband, Larry Bensch, also a League member.

—*Marlene Merrill and Marjorie Cole*

## How to Contact LWV

### League of Women Voters of

### Lawrence – Douglas County

PO Box 1072

Lawrence KS 66044-1072

President Kristin Salmans

email LAWRENCELEAGUEKSPRES@GMAIL.COM

WWW.LAWRENCELEAGUE.COM

WWW.TWITTER.COM/LWVLDLDC

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LWVLDLDC

#### State:

email LWV.KANSAS@GMAIL.COM

WWW.LWVK.ORG

#### National:

WWW.LWV.ORG

## March 1 Deadline for Fluker Nominations

Since 1999, the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County has honored a fellow citizen with the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award.

This year, the recipient will be honored at a luncheon on Sunday, March 24.

The League invites you to submit a nomination, a person worthy of recognition for contributions to our community. If you represent an organization, your nominee does not need to be a member, but simply someone of whom you are aware. If you nominated someone in the past who did not receive the award, you are welcome to submit an updated nomination form or nominate another person.

We have modified our guidelines somewhat. This year, the nominee should be a Kansas resident over age 18 whose efforts may have promoted improvement in government. The activities for which he or she is nominated may be volunteer or an extension of a regular job position. The nominee could have accomplished improvement in government in a variety of ways, such as

- Attempting to increase citizen participation in government
- Educating the public about an issue of importance
- Working toward more “open” government
- Being involved in the community in ways that lead to better political decision-making

Please feel free to attach up to three additional sheets of text to the nomination form with as much detail as possible regarding the activities of your nominee. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 1, 2019.

For questions or additional information, call Janice Friedman at 785-842-5188, email inquiries to [FLUKERAWARDLWV@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FLUKERAWARDLWV@GMAIL.COM).

Thank you for participating in this opportunity to recognize those who help make our government better for all of us.

— Janice Friedman

*For a history of the Fluker award including previous honorees: MY.LWV.ORG/KANSAS/LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS-COUNTY/HELEN-FLUKER-OPEN-AND-ACCESSIBLE-GOVERNMENT-AWARD*



### Nomination Form

#### Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Nominating Criteria

The nominee must be a Kansas resident over age 18, and their efforts (volunteer or as an extension of their work duties) must have promoted improvement in government. They could have accomplished this in a variety of ways, such as attempting to increase citizen participation in government; educating the public about an issue; working toward more “open” government; or otherwise being involved in ways which represent the principles that lead to better political decision-making.

Please indicate below or attach a statement explaining why you feel this nominee should be considered for the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award. Please feel free to attach up to three additional sheets to this form.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please date and sign the form and return by March 1, 2019.

#### Helen Fluker Award Selection Committee

LWV L/DC

PO Box 1072

Lawrence KS 66044

To email your nomination, please send to [FLUKERAWARDLWV@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FLUKERAWARDLWV@GMAIL.COM).

Thank you.

From the Lawrence Journal-World, Jan 21, 2019  
Letter to the editor

## Speak up about Secrecy

To the editor:

In its 2017-18 series “Why So Secret Kansas,” The Kansas City Star found our state government is one of the least transparent in the nation. These secrecy tools remain intact: anonymous bills, unrecorded votes, “gut and go,” and majority-party leadership controls.

All bills introduced in Kansas should contain the name(s) of the originator(s). The Star found “more than 90 percent” of our laws “passed in the last decade” were anonymous. This secretive practice prevents us from knowing who is pushing legislation and who stands to benefit. Last session, the House speaker ordered committee chairs to stop allowing introduction of anonymous bills, but many refused.

Generally, for laws to pass in Kansas, they must be heard by committees in the House and the Senate. Kansas legislators too frequently use a device called “gut and go” to avoid the two-chamber process. Gut and go, which strips a bill of its content, replacing it with a completely unrelated measure, may be useful in rare circumstances. Kansas legislators have made a practice of using it to quickly introduce and pass controversial legislation.

We need rule changes for selection of chairs, committees and scheduling. Current rules allow majority leadership to prevent votes on properly introduced and worked bills, like Medicaid expansion.

Contact your legislators. The LWVK urges all Kansas legislators to put names on bills, record all votes, limit gut and go, and vote for new rules that prevent overly partisan blocking of the legislative process.

Kristin Salmans,  
President of the League of Women Voters Lawrence/Douglas County

[[HTTP://WWW2.LJWORLD.COM/OPINION/2019/JAN/21/LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR-SPEAK-UP-ABOUT-SECRECY/](http://www2.ljworld.com/opinion/2019/jan/21/letter-to-the-editor-speak-up-about-secrecy/)]



Attention to speakers Jan 27

## Q&A with State Legislators Attracts Audience of 40

Seven state legislators answered questions from a crowd of about 40 league members and guests Jan. 27. The range of topics was wide and the discussion lively.

At the event titled “Afternoon with Our Legislators,” the panel members were Sen. Tom Holland (D-Baldwin City), Sen. Marci Francisco (D-Lawrence), and Representatives Eileen Horn (D-Lawrence), Mike Amyx (D-Lawrence), and Boog Highberger (D-Lawrence). The event took place at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.

Questions regarded education funding, Medicaid expansion, reducing sales tax on food, tax law (especially decoupling the state form from the federal), Sheldon’s Law requiring churches to report known instances of child abuse, cost of electricity, renewable energy, water resources, the dredging of creeks and sending the silt into the Kaw River, increasing transparency in the legislative process (bill authors, committee votes), rural revitalization, expansion of K-10, climate change, same-day voter registration, the death penalty, and more.

Each speaker gave a brief summary of hopes for this session as well as committee

memberships and bills in progress. (Bills are developed in committees and, if approved by the committee, submitted to the House and Senate. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House have control over what legislation is presented for vote. Cooperation and compromise are required for a bill to pass the legislature and go on to the Governor.

What can individuals do to promote their causes? All the speakers said communication from the public is vital — postcards, letters, emails, telephone calls. It helps to contact legislators who are in committees working on bills you support, especially chairs, and the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. If you don’t support bills, it also has impact if enough people inform legislators of their wishes. You can encourage friends and relatives in areas outside Lawrence to contact the legislators they voted in and let them know what they want.

A final question: Why are we offering refreshments on Styrofoam plates? The answer is that plates were purchased years ago, those unused passed on each

year. The choice is to throw them away either before using them or after. We plan never to purchase more.

— Marjorie Cole





## Make a Difference — Join/Support the League!

Membership is open to any man or woman who is 16 years of age or older.  
 New or renewed memberships received now will expire March 31, 2020.  
 Please send this form with a check made out to LWV L/DC to

**LWV L/DC**  
**PO Box 1072**  
**Lawrence KS 66044**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  Renewing member  New Member

Name(s) (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the League (Facebook, Web Site, Friend, Other) \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested voluntary membership assessment:\***

Approximate Household Income	Individual membership	Household membership
Student** .....	FREE .....	FREE
Under \$25,000 .....	\$20 .....	\$35
\$25,000–\$50,000 .....	\$35 .....	\$55
\$50,000+ .....	\$55 .....	\$85
Sustaining member .....	\$100 .....	\$150
Life member (of 50 years).....	\$0	

\* LWV L/DC membership assessment supports the National and State Leagues at \$50/membership (\$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. (Tax-deductible. Write check to “LWV Education Fund.”)

As a League member or supporter, I would like to participate in League activities 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** \_\_\_\_\_

# The **VOTER** February 2019

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