

President's Message

Everyone get ready to walk with us in the St. Patrick's Day Parade! It's always a fun event and great to see the community support we have as well! Many of our members are planning to dress in suffragist outfits representing our 100th year! Plan to join in the fun! Tuesday, March 17 downtown Lawrence. (Ed. Note: Cancelled, please join us next year instead!)



We are looking for someone to lead our Welcome New Members Committee! This would be coordinating contacts and reaching out to the new members. We usually have 6-8 per month. When you join a new group, it always helps to have someone include you and invite you along. Anyone great at hospitality? We need you! Let me know!

Voter Registration events will be kicking in full swing as we move through the spring. We are happy to provide on-the-job training. If you haven't ever participated, this is one way to get involved easily! Contact Melissa Wick at wickma@aol.com to coordinate.

Our next Community Partners meeting for March to the Polls is Monday, March 23 at 6pm at the Keller Williams just off 6th and Lawrence. Lindsey Begham from the Voter to Voter program will join us to explain how to maximize the effectiveness in GOTV. Please join us as we further map out events and outreach. Getting Out The Vote in low voter turnout areas is our goal with MTP. See how you can help!

Looking forward to working together as #WomenPowerTheVote in 2020!

- Kristin

kristinbrightstar@gmail.com

334-538-4410

From the Editor: Please note that a corrected version of the article in the last Voter, "Governmental Business in Secrecy in Kansas 2019 Update," has been posted on the LWVL/DC website: [corrections to Open Meeting Act article](#)

Welcome, New Members!

We have eight new members: **Lara Jost, Jerusha McFarland, Laura Meyer, Vicki Smith, Sophie Sturm, Linda Watts, and Pamela** and **Joe Whitaker**. Welcome to all of you! We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

St. Patrick's Day Parade

This event has been cancelled

Please join us in this Lawrence tradition of a rousing St. Patty's Day Parade!

The parade starts at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, March 17. Come and join us at about 12:30 near South Park. You will be able to text or call Melissa Wick, 785-550-6160, that morning to find out where we are in the lineup and where we are sitting at the time.

We have a pickup truck and wagon with hay bales for those of you who do not wish to walk the entire route, we will have candy to hand out – no throwing as that creates an unsafe situation that may lead to scrambling in the middle of the street for treats – we have banners to carry and signs to wave – all promoting voting, but not supporting any candidate or political party. Wear a suffragette costume from the early 1900's, a white ensemble or just something from your closet. The parade route line up begins at South Park and we walk at least until the bridge, then many people ride, however some of us walk across the bridge also.

An extra bag of candy would be appreciated - dum-dums, multi-packs etc. We try to save some treats for the spectators on the bridge and the spectators lining the route in North Lawrence. The final stop is at the parking lot of "The Bird" in North Lawrence. We will have a car shuttle back to the point of origin, around South Park. Please arrange to park your car at "The Bird" and assist to shuttle participants back to the South Park area.

Any questions, contact Melissa Wick 785-550-6160, or wickma@aol.com

Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award Luncheon Invitation!

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. The award honors a Kansas resident who has shown exceptional leadership in promoting citizen participation in government.

We are delighted to announce that this year's recipient will be Davis Hammet. Davis is the former Director of Operations for the international progressive nonprofit, Planting Peace, where he worked to maintain and expand programs around the world ranging from medical relief to human rights and bully prevention. He co-created the rainbow colored Equality House across from the Westboro Baptist Church hate group where he lived for 5 years. His work and commentary has been covered in The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, MSNBC, and most other major outlets.



After several years of successfully organizing to win victories from the local to national level, Davis Hammet founded [Loud Light](#) to advance youth civic participation and mobilize underrepresented communities in Kansas.

Please join us to honor Davis Hammet at a luncheon at the Smith Center, 1501 Inverness Drive, on Sunday, March 29. Lunch will be \$20 with a discounted price of \$15 for students. Please email or call Marjorie Cole for reservations at nobledog@AOL.com or 785-842-6085.

Annual Due\$ Notice

If you have not paid dues since October 1st of 2019, please remit your annual dues as soon as possible. Our fiscal year runs April 1st through March 31st. Dues received now will keep you an active member until March 31, 2021. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact our Membership Chairperson, Marjorie Cole, at 785-842-6085 or via email at nobledog@aol.com.

In order to vote for officers and other league business, your dues must be paid on or before the Annual Meeting scheduled for April 18, 2020.

- Melissa Wick, Treasurer

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Lawrence/ Douglas County Chapter of the League of Women Voters will be held on Saturday April 18th, 2020 at the Baker Wetland's Discovery Center, 1365 North 1250 Road,

Lawrence, KS. Doors will open at 11:30am with lunch being served buffet style starting at 12 NOON. Business meeting will follow in which new directors will be elected, budget will be presented and approved and other business that may arise from the floor. Price for the luncheon is yet to be determined, but will be in the \$20 to \$25 range.

Reservations are open to all members and guests, please contact Melissa A. Wick at 785-550-6160 or at the treasurer's email address:

lawrenceksleaguetreas@gmail.com. We look forward to your attendance.

Nominating Committee Report

Here is the proposed slate for election at the Annual Meeting, April 18, 2020.

OFFICERS:

President Kristin Salmans

President-Elect Emily Riner

Treasurer Melissa Wick

DIRECTORS, to begin a two-year term:

Tamara Cash
Charley Crabtree
Martha Silks

2020-2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Jan Roth and Marilyn Hall, Co-chairs
Ellen Paulsen

(Continuing, completing the second year of their terms are Vice-president Marjorie Cole, Secretary Sharon Brown, Directors Cille King, Tracy Matthews, Denise Pettengill, Becky Plate.)

Submitted by the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee, Co-chairs Jan Roth and Marilyn Hall.



Observers Report: How to Get Involved in Lawrence's 2020 Strategic Plan

The City of Lawrence is developing a plan for the future of the city and is anxious to involve as many members of the community as possible. In February two community meetings were held at the Carnegie Building and an online survey has been sent to solicit information about what the public would like. At this point, small group discussions are being offered to organizations and any interested group can request a meeting or information by emailing strategicplan@lawrenceks.org. The City website has more information at lawrenceks.org/strategic-plan.

You can stay up-to-date on the Strategic Plan process by subscribing to the e-news list. Go to lawrenceks.org/subscriptions and check "Strategic Planning Process" to get subscribed. We've also created a [Strategic Plan 2020 infographic](#) with information on the community engagement opportunities.

- Tamara Cash

2020 Kansas Presidential Primary

The Kansas Democratic Party is switching to a primary this year and using Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) to determine delegate distribution among the Presidential Democratic candidates. On September 6, 2019, the Republican Party announced that there will not be a Republican primary this year.

To be eligible to participate in the Democratic Kansas Presidential Primary, voters must be registered as a Democrat. Voters can change their party affiliation online or on the day of the primary. Kansans who are already registered will begin receiving their ballots with prepaid postage envelopes on March 30th.

From March 9 to March 17, newly registered Democrats can request mail-in ballots. April 24 is the post-mark deadline to return completed mail-in ballots. On

Primary Day, May 2, in-person voting occurs from 10 am - 4 pm. Same day registration is permitted.

Highlights of the Minutes LWV-L/DC Board Meeting February 11, 2020

Present: Kristin Salmans (President), Marjorie Cole (Vice President), Melissa Wick (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Tamara Cash, Cille King, Tracy Matthews, Denise Pettengill, Emily Riner
Absent: Becky Plate, Thea Perry, Norine Spears

Guests: Marlene Merrill, Kerry Altenbernd, Ursula Minor, Ben MacConnell, Patrick Wilbur, Joanna Harader, Lori Johns, Barbara Palmer

Kristin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Kerry Altenbernd and Ursula Minor, representatives from the Lawrence/DG County Community Remembrance Coalition, presented information about the Equal Justice Initiative campaign to recognize local victims of lynching. Five members of Justice Matters initiated a discussion concerning the Douglas County Commission's recent proposal to take action on jail expansion that would involve issuing bonds without a public vote on the matter.

TREASURER: Melissa reported income of \$1,787.96 in January (dues \$870.81, contributions \$437.15, scholarship donations \$225, fundraising \$155, LWV Educ Fund \$100) and expenses of \$2,071.38 (\$100 Educ Fund pass through, \$1,090.40 board retreat, \$50 annual meeting space rental, \$31.48 VOTER printing, \$30 Kaw Valley event fee, \$769.50 state PMP).

BALANCE SHEET 02/10/2020

MMA	\$10,775.59
CHECKING (01/31/2020)	\$8,065.46
NAT'L EDUC FUND	\$3,168.30
L/DC SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$2,872.34
CHECKING (02/10/2020)	\$7,935.46

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

PRESIDENT: It was decided to table discussion about the board retreat until the March meeting. Kristin announced that the next MTP/Community Partnership meeting will be held Monday, March 23, 6:00 p.m. at the Keller Building Conference Room. Sonja Czarnecki has written a draft MTP Project Coordinator job description. Kristin will be a league representative

at the UN Commission on the Status of Women being held in New York City beginning March 9, 2020. She will have the opportunity to share her report from this meeting with other Lawrence organizations. VotER, an emergency room-based voter registration initiative would cost \$1200 to install at a hospital.

Our KU student league members have asked for help acquiring 15-20 t-shirts. It was suggested that KU be put on the front and the Centennial logo on the back. Becky Plate has submitted our PPFM report for January. Tamara will attend and report on future City Commission Strategic Planning meetings.

Submitted by Sharon Brown, Secretary

Kansas LWV Council 2020

The biennial Council 2020 is hosted this year by the League of Women Voters of Emporia and will meet Saturday, April 25, from 8:30 am - 5 pm, at the Emporia Country Club, 1801 Rural St. in Emporia. On the LWV Kansas [Facebook](#) event page you can ask questions or connect with other attendees.

Event Highlights include:

- Paul Johnson, author of weekly Policy Watch updates, and Michael Smith, Emporia State professor, will be our featured speaker
- We will elect new members to our State Board and Nominating Committee: Nominations needed for LWVK Treasurer, Nominating Committee member and Chair
- We will vote on
 - Medical Indigence Position Statement Update
 - a possible new update to a Position Statement
 - Articles of Incorporation update (and hear about the 501(c)(3) conversion process)
- Centennial T-shirts will be available for purchase!

What's happening with the League position on Kan-Care Expansion?

All League positions, necessary for advocacy, are based on studies at the national, state or local level. This year the LWV-Kansas is updating the 1987 position on Medical Indigence. It will be submitted to the state board and, once approved, presented at the State League Council on Saturday April 25 in Emporia, KS.

Each Kansas League sent representatives to work on the state study. Marlene Merrill and Janice Friedman are representing our League. The LWVK Study Committee developed a position draft and a list of consensus questions for all Kansas Leagues to examine and evaluate. The committee then reviewed the recommendations and comments and developed the final draft position which follows:

[Revised Position as of 3/6/20] Health: Medical Indigence

BACKGROUND: The LWVK State Convention of 1987 adopted a state study of Medical Indigence in recognition of the serious need for basic health care availability. Details of the LWVUS position, "Access to Health Care," may be found in IMPACT ON ISSUES 2000-2002. This most recent Kansas update is adapted from the 2018-2020 LWV U.S. position on Health Care.* LWVUS announced its initial health care position in April 1992 and the final position in April 1993. The 2016 Convention updated the position by concurrence to include behavioral health.

STATEMENT OF POSITION: We define medical indigence based on 2018 Kansas Statute 65-7402. "Medically indigent person" means a person who lacks resources to pay for medically necessary health care services. This updated position addresses medical indigence by proposing that all residents should have access to affordable, high quality health care.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas believes that:

1. A basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all Kansas residents.
2. A basic level of quality behavioral health care at an affordable cost should be available to all Kansas residents.
3. The ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources.
4. Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act provides an important step to address gaps in coverage for the medically indigent – people who lack resources to pay for medically necessary health care. LWV KS supports Medicaid Expansion in Kansas to cover individuals up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level.
5. Other Kansas health care policy goals should include:
 - a. The equitable distribution of services,

- b. Efficient and economical delivery of care
- c. Adequate total state expenditure level for health care

BASIC LEVEL OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE: The League supports:

1. Every Kansas resident should have access to:
 - a. A basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care.
 - b. Affordable, quality dental, vision, and hearing care.

BASIC LEVEL OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: The League supports:

1. Behavioral health as the accepted term that includes both mental illness and substance use disorder.
2. Behavioral health care that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.
3. In and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive service.

*Adapted from the Statement of Position on Health Care, as announced by the National LWV Board, April 1993 and supplemented by concurrence to add Behavioral Health, June 2016.



Mary Maloney was an Irish suffragette and protestor who spoke out against Winston Churchill during a 1908 election for Parliament. After Churchill made insulting remarks about the women's suffrage movement and refused to apologize, she appeared at Churchill's speaking engagements for the



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/DC, and mail to the address below.
Membership is open to any person who is sixteen years of age or older.
New or renewed memberships received now will expire March 31, 2021

Date _____ Renewing Member _____ New Member _____

I heard about the League via (Facebook, website, friend, other): _____

Membership Dues:*

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.

* Our membership assessment supports the National & 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 _____ (ZIP) _____

Phone _____ Email _____ (each member)

As a League member or supporter, I would like to help support League activities by participating in:

- General Membership Meetings: Set up and/or tear down, Hospitality, Taking notes/writing report of meeting
Membership: Recruitment, Mentor/follow-up with new members, Provide a ride to a member, Phone members without internet access
Voter Services: Register voters, Help with voter education

- Contribute to the League by: Researching for League studies on issues, Participating in fund-raising activities, Attending/reporting on government meetings, Representing the League at community events, Serving 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: _____

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