



# 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

Tuesday, November 3	7:00 am - 7:00 pm	<b>Election Day!</b> If you haven't already voted, now is your last chance!
Tuesday, November 10	2:00 pm	<b>LWV-L/DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> All interested League members are invited to attend. Link will be sent by email.
Wednesday, November 11	6:30 pm	<b>LWV-KU Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> Link will be sent by email to all members.
Thursday, November 19	Noon - 1:00 pm	<b>Hot Topic! Health Care Disparities among Women of Color.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> Alex Tesla Kimball Williams and Christina Gentry with Lawrence/ Douglas County Public Health Dept. will present research. See article & link on page 2.
Tuesday, December 8	2:00 pm	<b>LWV-L/DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> All interested League members are invited to attend. Link will be sent by email.

## President's Message

**VOTE like your life depends on it!**

Happy October everyone!

We are on the home stretch to the November 3 election. All signs point to an historic turnout across the country. Douglas county already has had a record number of mail-in ballots requested and returned as well as in-person advance voting. Take heart in that YOU played a part in this! The enthusiasm, the energy, the number of voters- new and those who may not have voted in decades- who are engaged and educated- the League of Women Voters has had a direct impact. We are not done yet, so keep talking to your friends, neighbors, family. Answer their questions. Offer a ride. Get out the vote!



Meanwhile, we continue to promote civic engagement and growth of our own organization. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is formulating ideas and plans. Look for information from them and check out reading ideas in Library of Links, page 6. The Climate Change Committee is moving forward. We will be looking at doing a climate change position study next year. The Observer Corps will be convening again as well. Do you regularly

attend any local government or oversight meetings? You belong on the Observer Corps! We would like to hear from you! Don't hesitate to call, email or text me or any Board member with questions.

For the next week let's focus on Getting Out The Vote!

Thank you for all you do! Moving forward in #MakingDemocracyWork!

- Kristin

#WomenPowerTheVote2020

[kristinbrightstar@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbrightstar@gmail.com) 334-538-4410

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Eleven new members have joined us this month. We're glad to have you all and hope that some of you will Zoom into our board meeting, listed on the calendar, and to other Zoom events.

Welcome, Sophia Bachman, Cathy Dwigans, Emma Holsclaw, Kenna McNally, Barb Michener, Bryn O'Meara, Martha Taylor, Curt Waugh, Rochelle Waugh, Ray Wilber, and Shane Wilson!

- Marjorie Cole

## POTENTIAL DUES INCREASE – FIRST NOTICE

Our League needs to consider increasing our dues because the LWVK has increased their Per Member Payment to \$20 beginning next year. This means that we will be paying a total of \$52 for each member in Per Member Payments to LWVUS (\$32) and LWVK (\$20) and will have less to fund our local activities.

Dues in our chapter have not been increased since the sliding scale (based on individual and/or house-



hold income) was introduced in 2014. Dues can only be increased by a vote of the membership at an Annual Meeting. The next Annual Meeting will be held in April of 2021.



## HOT TOPIC! HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES AMONG WOMEN OF COLOR

**Speakers Alex Tesla, Kimball Williams, & Christina Gentry with Lawrence/Douglas County Public Health will present their research November 19, 12-1pm.**

Summary: The health of Black women & children are key components to the overall health of our communities. Our team sought to understand the pre- & post-natal experiences of local Black women & birthing people through focus groups, research & networking. We identified common narratives & opportunities to improve (or add to) our medical & community resources. We aim to contribute toward internal training for area medical professionals. Most importantly, we hope our initiative empowers Black families politically & personally with information, resources & community support.

Click on this Zoom link to attend:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87539372660?pwd=ZW42d3hYbVVRZDVFeGhLUXpnMWlmdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 3937 2660

Passcode: 805903

## DEI COMMITTEE REPORT

The newly formed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee had its initial meeting October 1, 2020 to begin to determine the direction of the committee and its purpose within the LWV local chapter. We examined the national, state, and some other local leagues in an effort to best understand the current positions of the various entities. Our eventual plan is to anonymously survey local LWV members to best understand our membership and the path forward for our committee. Be on the lookout for that survey sometime early next year!

If you are interested in joining this important committee, please reach out to the committee chair, Tracy Matthews ([tracymatthews@kw.com](mailto:tracymatthews@kw.com) or 785.727.8342).

## DEI LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

LWVUS offers free monthly webinars on DEI topics to help local League members learn and grow in this arena. You can [find a link to all past webinars here](#). [Click here for the 2020 Webinar schedule](#). November 19 at 6 p.m. is the next webinar.

In Case You Missed It: DEI Modules

A series of five modules were developed last year and are available to all Leagues. Leagues are encouraged to watch the pre-recorded webinars together and review the discussion prompts and exercises as a group.

The modules can be found on the [League Management Site](#).

- From the LWV of Kansas October Voter Notes



## VOTER SERVICES REPORT

A big THANK YOU to every volunteer that helped us register voters, answer questions, post lawn signs, distribute fliers, and all the many things our volunteers did during the many voter registration events and activities we conducted over the last few months. WE DID GOOD and we made a difference.

We will be conducting voter services events up to the general election (and beyond during the Ballard food distribution events) so please use the link below to check out our planned events and sign up to help.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b44a9a92babf49-october>

We are also writing and mailing postcards to new registered voters to remind them to vote. You may contact me if you wish to help send out these postcards at [marthajsilks@gmail.com](mailto:marthajsilks@gmail.com)

Every vote MATTERS!

- Martha Silks and Sonja Czarnecki,  
Interim Voter Services Co-Chairs



## VIRTUAL GOVERNMENT CLASSROOM & VOTER REGISTRATION

Each fall the LWV-LDC spends a day at Eudora High School helping to teach the Senior Government class and getting each EHS Senior student registered to vote. The classroom looks a little different this year in the wake of COVID-19, and in mid-September, Eudora High School had both online and hybrid students attending classes when it came time to make our annual visit.

Becky Plate adapted a Virtual Youth Voter Registration Powerpoint presentation, provided by the LWV to create a video lesson that could be used in the classroom or the remote setting. The video educated young voters about the importance of voting, the voting process and walked them through completing the voter registration form. The class was facilitated in person and online by the EHS Government teacher, Mr. Chris Dunback. The League is very grateful for his commitment to ensuring that his students still got registered to vote, even if we couldn't all be together in person. Mr. Dunback collected the voter registration forms, and Mrs. Plate delivered them to the Douglas County Election Office.

Altogether, eighty-two high school seniors were registered in this class. Twenty-six of those registered will be eligible to vote on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Seventy-six students, who will not yet be eighteen by the general election were pre-registered, and their voter registrations will automatically become valid on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

The class video can be found here, and used in other classrooms as needed: <https://youtu.be/HY2gk5zU-s>

- Becky Plate

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The LWV-LDC will be awarding two scholarships for high school seniors in the spring of 2021. The scholarship will be open to any graduating senior from an accredited school in Douglas County, KS (including Baldwin High School, Bishop Seabury Academy, Eudora High School, Lawrence Free State High School, Lawrence High School, Lawrence Virtual School, and Veritas Christian School). Students will be asked to submit an application to our Scholarship Committee at a date that is to be announced.

- Emily A.P. Riner  
605-261-0328

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MINUTES LWV-L/DC BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, VIA ZOOM

**Present:** Kristin Salmans (President), Marjorie Cole (Vice President), Melissa Wick (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Tamara Cash, Cille King, Tracy Matthews, Denise Pettengill, Becky Plate, Martha Silks, MTTP Coordinator Ma'Ko'Quah Jones  
**Absent:** Charley Crabtree, Sonja Czarnecki, Emily Riner  
**Guests:** Katherine Ewing, Connie Stoker, Mara Aubel, Kay Johnson, Amber Sellers, Jeanne Klein, Carladyne Conyers, Ellen Paulsen

**TREASURER:** Melissa reported income of \$3,371.20 in August (dues \$787.21, contributions \$256.68,



scholarship \$2,326.98, Venmo \$.33) and expenses of \$3,144.23 (Venmo test \$.33, VOTER printing \$26.23, VS paper \$38.94, stickers \$454.73, National PMP \$2,624.00).

BALANCE SHEET		09/07/2020
MMA		\$ 27,900.62
CHECKING (08/31/2020)		\$ 10,423.92
NAT'L EDUC FUND		\$ 3,218.30
L/DC SCHOLARSHIP FUND		\$ 4,499.33
CHECKING (09/07/20)		\$ 9,930.25

**LWV-KU CO-PRESIDENT:** Katherine Ewing announced that our KU chapter has 15 new members this year. The group is encouraging online voter registration and considering using incentives to increase participation. A Panhellenic newsletter regarding voter registration will be sent out. Ma'Ko'Quah suggested the KU League members could reach out to multicultural groups and Amber suggested putting together a fact sheet for students that gives information about voting in Kansas.

**MTTP:** Ma'Ko'Quah announced that MTTP plans include: working with the KU chapter to use TicTok for reaching out to younger voters; a social media campaign/virtual MTTP making use of hashtags; and calling all community partners for help with our events. Get Out the Native Vote will partner with League. Haskell women want to be involved with our registration events and they will train at Checkers. At Tamara's request, Ma'Ko'Quah will connect with members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church for an event they are planning. She will also reach out to Lawrence Public Library, Latinx, and Jamie Shew regarding him possibly giving a Facebook presentation. We want KU students to volunteer and Martha is sending information about using Signup Genius to all League members.

**DEI COMMITTEE:** Amber is unable to co-chair this committee so we need to find someone to co-chair with Tracy. Amber made several suggestions: We should proceed slowly with this endeavor; get interested people together and talk; check out state and national action plans and goals; look at existing initiatives from the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Food Policy Council; reach out to KU multicultural groups; ask Edith Guffey for input. Ma'Ko'Quah suggested the importance of informing people about social justice language.



**CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE:** Kay announced that the committee is trying to enumerate values and reach out to the community for help establishing an "adaptation action plan". Black Hills wants to partner with this committee. An important necessity will be to have accurate information about costs of renewable energy.

**PRESIDENT:** it would be advantageous for us to find someone to serve as a communications director.

- Sharon Brown, Secretary

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATE LEAGUE COMMITTEE REPORT

Our study committee of ten actively engaged members from Kansas local Leagues has met every other week since May.

The current Kansas position titled Criminal Justice-Adult Corrections was first adopted in 1972 and updated in December 1976. A lot has happened since, and the charge given the committee at this year's Council was to modernize or update. The committee selected to work on Criminal Justice-Adult Corrections and Criminal Justice-Sentencing. We decided to

## LIBRARY OF LINKS

Click on this KCTV clip to see League member Martha Silk interviewed while registering Voters:

[https://www.kctv5.com/school\\_authority/ku-students-help-other-kansans-register-to-vote/article\\_937caaf0-0cd8-11eb-9050-df2797717009.html?fbclid=IwARlTB9PeOvOCewXc85AWm5MxMkw7AKmPSupfCg5YmCIEd8BtNS-rbq4dXc4](https://www.kctv5.com/school_authority/ku-students-help-other-kansans-register-to-vote/article_937caaf0-0cd8-11eb-9050-df2797717009.html?fbclid=IwARlTB9PeOvOCewXc85AWm5MxMkw7AKmPSupfCg5YmCIEd8BtNS-rbq4dXc4)

Looking for something relevant to read? Check out these links:

The Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List.

<https://www.nypl.org/books-more/recommendations/schomburg/adults>

Also the Read Across Lawrence book is The Roundhouse by Louise Erdrich, dealing with issues related to native Americans, particularly women.

<https://lplks.org/read-across-lawrence/>



leave updates on Criminal Justice-Juvenile Corrections for another year.

Since our initial meeting, the committee has been reviewing positions from other state Leagues. We had a highly informative session with Brian Cole, Director of Corrections for Shawnee County. He shared information on the Sequential Intercept Modeling System. We are beginning to compile a spreadsheet comparison of the LWV-Kansas position against issues covered by other state positions.

The committee proposes to do a concurrence rather than an entirely new study. Some of our comparison states have updated or developed new positions in the last couple of years. To review – Consensus means that we research and develop a position, pose questions and send the position to each league in Kansas to discuss and vote upon it; then it is voted on by the membership at the State Convention. Concurrence means that we utilize the written positions of other states and compare them to our position.

As we see weaknesses in our position that are addressed by another state's language, we are editing our position. The end result will be sent to each local League. Each local League will schedule a unit meeting in December/January to hear, discuss and vote on acceptance of the new position. Results from all the Kansas Leagues will be sent to Marlene Merrill by February 14, 2021. The position will be voted on at the State Convention this spring.

- Marlene Merrill  
Chair, Criminal State League Committee



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 (provide coffee/tea/dessert)
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:

# OCTOBER 2020

Calendar .....	1
President's Message .....	1
Welcome, New Members! .....	2
Potential Dues Increase Notice .....	2
Hot Topic! Health Care Disparities .....	2
DEI Committee Report .....	3
DEI Learning Opportunities .....	3
Voter Services Report .....	3
Virtual Government Classroom .....	4
Scholarship Committee News .....	4
Highlights of the August Board Meeting ....	4
Criminal Justice State League Report .....	5
Library of Links .....	6
Membership Form .....	7

