



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

Thursday, February 18th	Noon - 1:00 pm	Hot Topic! Redistricting: How It Works and Implications for Kansas. <i>via Zoom.</i> Presenter: Patrick Miller from KU Dept of Political Science. See article on page 5 for link.
Monday, February 22nd		Legislative Advocacy Event for Advocacy in Faith (LEAF) online sessions begin. Registration required. See invitation on page 5.
Thursday, February 25th	6:00 pm	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Meeting. <i>via Zoom.</i> All interested League members are invited to attend. The link will be sent by email before the meeting. See article on page 6.
Saturday, February 27th	10:00 am	LWVK Fundraising Bootcamp. You are invited to come hear Joan Wagnon's secrets to raising funds for LWV. Bring your questions. Link on page 3.
Saturday, February 27th	1:00 pm	By-Laws & 501(c)3 Committee meeting. <i>via Zoom.</i> The link will be sent to committee members before the meeting.
Monday, March 1st		Deadline to Submit Fluker Award Nominations. Link for information and a nomination form is on page 3.
March 5th - 14th		St. Patrick's "Parade." <i>Love Garden Sounds, 822 Massachusetts St.</i> League displays & info table on Saturdays, March 6 & March 13. Sign up on SignUpGenius.com
Sunday, March 7th	3:00 pm	Community Partners Meeting. See Presidents Note. Recurring link for all Community Partner meetings on page 3.
Tuesday, March 9th	6:30 pm <i>Note change in time!</i>	LWV-L/DC Board Meeting. <i>via Zoom.</i> All interested League members are invited to attend. Recurring link on page 3.
Wednesday, March 10th	5:30 pm	Sustainability Advisory Board. The Board's purpose is to advise the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence on issues affecting sustainability, environmental protection, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation, resource conservation, environmental protection. Link on page 3.
Thursday, March 18th	Noon - 1:00 pm	Hot Topic! Medicaid Expansion in 2021: What's Next? Presenter: Spencer Culver from Alliance for a Healthy Kansas. See article on page 5 for link.
Monday, April 19th	7:00 pm	LWV-L/DC Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 29th		LWVUS Day of Action
Saturday, May 1st	10:30 am	Fluker Award Presentation

President's Message

As I sit down to write this note, while listening to the second impeachment trial of Donald Trump, I am struck yet again by the historic precipice on which we stand, as the greatest Democracy in the world. The League of Women Voters is 100 years strong in standing up for democracy. I am heartened and encouraged by our local League and the energy, involvement and passion with which we are charging forward.



The meeting with our Community Partners on Super Bowl Sunday yielded several priorities, the greatest of which is promoting health by getting our community immunized against the Covid-19. We will be working with LMH Health, the city of Lawrence, Haskell, the Senior Resource Center as well as others to educate and get people signed up to receive the vaccine. If you are interested in helping, please contact either me or Ma'Ko'Quah Jones. Our next Community Partners meeting will be Sunday, March 7 at 3pm via Zoom.

Our Voter Services volunteers are working to develop voter registration and civic engagement education videos with the Mainstream Coalition. We will also be participating in the March 5-17 virtual St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown.

The People Powered Fair Maps Campaign is in its second season. Educating voters about the importance of establishing an independent commission to draw the legislative district maps continues. The By-Laws Review and 501c3 Committee will be meeting Feb 27 at 1pm. The Scholarship Committee will be picking up applications from high schools in early March. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will be sending information and a survey to all League members soon. Watch for it, and please respond.

I will be attending virtually the 65th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women March 14-26. Look for information and updates on facebook. CSW65 Priority theme is Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Now is the time to get involved. Don't hesitate to ask a question, reach out, talk to people.

Wear your mask and when available, get vaccinated!

I am thankful for each of you and the opportunity to work together. - Kristin

#MakingDemocracyWork

kristinbrightstar@gmail.com 334-538-4410



Cheryl Weaver is our newest member. We hope to see you, Cheryl, at some of our events!

- Marjorie Cole

LINKS FOR CALENDAR ITEMS

LWV-Kansas is one of the workshop presenters at **LEAF2021**, on **Monday, February 22nd**. This link has additional information and pre-registration.

<https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/2021KansasLegislative-EventforAdvocacyinFaithLEAF>

LWV-US Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Upcoming Webinars: All webinars are scheduled for 7pm ET and all will be recorded:

•**February 18:** Event Planning Through a DEI Lens and How to Apply it The Day of Action: [Register Here](#)

•**March 11:** Gender Identity: [Register Here](#)

•**April 22:** [Register Here](#)

LWVK Fundraising Bootcamp, Feb 27, 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98707508896?pwd=Vld-QN0EIYUdWYUE5dTBUOGJFcm5OZz09>

Meeting ID: 987 0750 8896

Passcode: LWVK

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)/ Meeting ID: 987 0750 8896

Fluker Award Nomination Form:

<http://bit.ly/FlukerLWV>

LWV/LDC Community Partners Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting link for all Community Partner Meetings.

Join Zoom Meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85868570294?pwd=eFRFNHJjQXVlQlgreG53SHMxLldQQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 6857 0294

Passcode: 656791

LWV-LDC Board Meetings

To join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86368994704?pwd=YVczMEpYR2lWk04lTXc5bCtzbWNzQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 6899 4704

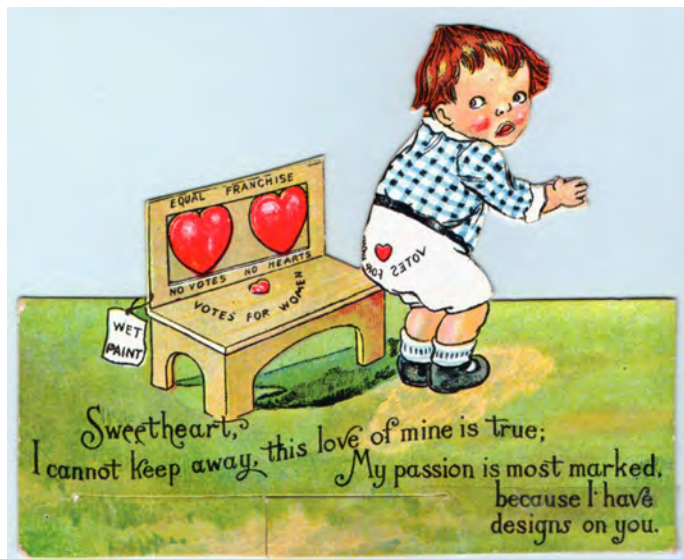
Passcode: 472392

NOTE: This Zoom link and passcode is the same for every Board meeting. The time is changing to 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting:

These meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm

<https://www.youtube.com/user/lawrenceksvideo>



OTHER IMPORTANT LINKS:

Hot Topic! If you missed the January 21st program on the **Death Penalty in Kansas** you can catch the recording here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/CLJZQbJLAek-mv91b9g9nsFELYo1f782Ky0bjOufyP-GY5S873C3WF58qTZVZLiQ.aKaOpYmP7RyD4plz>
Passcode: J8NQq^#2

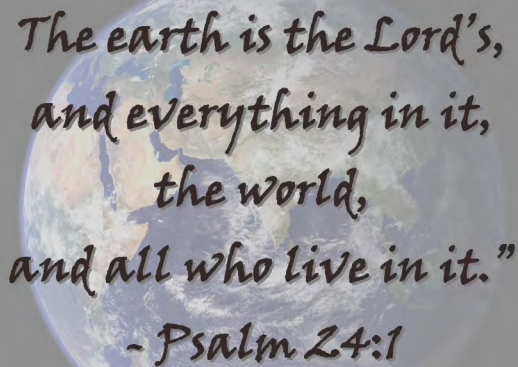
LWV-US Remaining Non-partisan in Hyper-partisan Times, a message that should be read by all League members from Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO. To read, click here: [Remaining Nonpartisan in Hyper-partisan Times](#)

Support for HB 2008: Ma'Ko'Quah Jones and Becky Plate have prepared this testimony from our League to support HB 2008 in the Senate Committee for the Judiciary:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16ExVIFVIIeuljy-Cpg950VI2S0LgLCChaZlts6svTD4eo/edit?usp=sharing>

DEI Self-Education: Watch James Baldwin in "I Am Not Your Negro," an Oscar-nominated film by Raoul Peck at Independent Lens on PBS. In one excerpt from 1963, Baldwin speaks about the "the future of the Negro in this country," which is "precisely as bright or as dark as the future of the country." The central question he asks is aimed at American white people, asking them to address why they created and needed the idea of "the nigger." Visit <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/i-am-not-your-negro/>.

L.E.A.F. 2021 In It Together Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith



*The earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it,
the world,
and all who live in it.”
- Psalm 24:1*

Annual event hosting speakers, panel discussions and educational workshops.

Hosted by Great Plains UMW and Church Women United; open to all.

This event teaches those of all faiths to use their spiritual gifts to drive legislative advocacy. The event is non-partisan and non-denominational.

February 22nd 6pm - Online Event

Expert Panel:

**Crisis Management for the
Average Kansan**

Public Health - Dr. Lee Norman

Education - Dr. Randy Watson

Racism - Rev. Dee Williamston



Register here:
tinyurl.com/LEAF2021

Donations accepted



Keynote Speaker
Lynn Rogers

WORKSHOPS

- Climate + Energy Project
- League of Women Voters
- Kansas Interfaith Action
- Alliance for a Healthy Kansas
- Gun Sense Legislation
- White Fragility
- Kansas Children's Cabinet
- Kansas Death Penalty

LWVK Co-PRESIDENTS TO PRESENT AT LEAF 2021

VIRTUAL EVENT

Teresa Briggs and Cille King, LWVK Co-Presidents, will present a session about the work of the League titled "Our Work Doesn't Stop at the Ballot Box." The annual Kansas Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith (LEAF) will take place online this year, beginning at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 22. [Click here for more details and to register.](#) All workshops are recorded for you to watch at your own pace. Other groups presenting include Climate + Energy Project, Alliance for a Healthy Kansas, Moms Demand Action and other aligned organizations. The event is free! Here is a [link to the event on Facebook.](#)

HOT TOPICS!

The Hot Topics Committee has many interesting programs lined up. We hope you can join us on the third Thursday of every month noon to 1 PM via Zoom.

Hot Topic! Redistricting: How It Works and Implications for Kansas,

Thursday, February 18th, with presenter Patrick R. Miller of the Kansas University of Political Science.

This talk will examine the redistricting process. What is it? How does it work? What standards drive the process? How could this play out in Kansas? And, what will the implications be for Kansas elections in the next decade?

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82779587495?pwd=bG80cktrUnZUWnpPTk02VFBDbFRHQOT09>



Hot Topic! "Medicaid Expansion in 2021: What's Next?",

Thursday, March 18th, with

Presenter Spencer Culver from Alliance for a Healthy Kansas.

Hear the latest update on Medicaid expansion in the Capitol. The specifics of Medicaid expansion policy will be discussed along with opportunities to get involved in ex-



panding affordable health coverage to 165,000 Kansans.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82716443567?pwd=VU4rSIBhNS9nVUd5VWNDaDI3NEExUz09>

- Denise Pettengill

Chair: Hot Topic Committee

MONTHLY GREEN CHALLENGE

Each month, we challenge members to take one action toward living a "green," sustainable life-style and fighting climate change. This month's challenge: Eliminate Food Waste.

Food waste in the US occurs mostly in stores and at home—either because it spoils on the store shelf or before we can eat it. According to an NRDC study, Americans throw away up to 40 percent of the food they buy. Combat food waste by shopping for only what you need, eating leftovers, composting scraps, and donating excess to Just Food and other Lawrence organizations.





When I asked you to be mine
 Give me time is all you'd say,
 Now that you're a Suffragette
 Time you'll get, in Holloway.

LWV DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Current goals and areas of support were finalized at the January 21 meeting by members Tracy Matthews, Kristin Salmans, Emily Riner, Marjorie Cole, Connie Stoker, Carladyne Conyers, and Kay Johnson.

- 1) Determine the temperature of the current membership regarding the ideas behind a DEI committee.
- 2) Determine the value of the LDC/LWV to diverse communities.
 - a) Increase the BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) members within the local League.
 - b) Develop partnerships between the LDC/LWV and other organizations within the community, including grassroots organizations, to cultivate collaboration and intersection.

- 3) Bring anti-racist/diversity training to current membership and determine the value of training to current membership.
- 4) Examine the current Wichita and Johnson County Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training.

A survey we would like to use to better understand the place of our League membership was developed on Google Docs. We are still seeking feedback, but once we have an approved, finalized copy, we will send it to League members. We plan to distribute the survey using SurveyMonkey so members will respond anonymously. Our goal is send it to members by the end of February.

Our next Zoom meeting will be February 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm. A link will be mailed before the meeting and all interested League members are invited to attend.

- Tracy Matthews, Chair

PROPOSED DUES INCREASE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Following is a proposal for the dues increase which would begin with our new fiscal year. This increase requires a vote of the membership at our annual meeting, currently scheduled for April 18th, 2021. Our dues have not changed since 2013, when a sliding scale based on self-reported income was adopted by the membership. This increase is prompted, in part, by an increase in per member payment fees at both the National and the Kansas state level that will be effective April 1, 2021.

Highlights of the changes: Students, 16 years and older, will be welcomed FREE. We have had significant numbers join, both from high school and college, when the experimental fee for students was lowered to FREE. We encourage membership at this level because the sooner people become civically engaged, the more likelihood that they will remain civically engaged. The first tier of dues based on self-reported income will be \$25.00 – or WHATEVER YOU CAN PAY. It has been noted that those underserved by our community and underrepresented at the polls, are

often also in the lower income bracket. To encourage civic engagement and promote voter education, we are encouraging people without funds for a \$25 annual fee, to pay what they can.

Beginning Fiscal Year 2021-2022

	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Household</u>
Student	FREE*	FREE*
Under \$25,000	\$25.00**	\$40.00**
\$25,000 - \$50,000	\$40.00	\$60.00
Over \$50,000	\$60.00	\$90.00
Sustaining	\$100	\$150
Life Member (of 50 years)	\$0	

*Student Members: 16 years and older and enrolled in an accredited school

** Under \$25,000 - Pay what you can, we need your voices at the table.

- Melissa Wick, Treasurer

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MINUTES LWV-L/DC BOARD MEETING JANUARY 12, 2021 VIRTUAL 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, Emily Riner, Martha Silks

Absent: Charley Crabtree

Guests: Katherine Ewing, Jim Fluker, Janice Friedman, Emma Holsclaw, Kay Johnson, Jeanne Klein

Marjorie announced that we have one new member. Sharon suggested we form a committee to make welcoming phone calls to all new members.

TREASURER: Melissa reported income of \$4,381.78 in December (dues \$143.68, L/DC scholarship \$71, MTTT grant \$2,895.40, fundraising \$836.70, LWV-EF \$435) and expenses of \$994.33 (LWV-EF \$435, stickers and fliers \$559.33).

BALANCE SHEET	01/01/2021	
MMA		\$27,905.28
CHECKING (12/31/2020)		\$7,353.73
NAT'L EDUC FUND		\$4,843.39

L/DC SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$4,709.33
CHECKING (01/01/2021)	\$10,741.18

The treasurer's report be accepted and filed for audit. Motion carried.

FLUKER AWARD: Jim Fluker presented background information on Helen Fluker, a longtime League member who passed away in 1998. To honor Helen, her husband established the Open and Accessible Government Award to recognize citizens for contributions to transparency in government. The Fluker family plans to continue to host the ceremony in Lawrence and also strengthen the statewide search for candidates. The board set May 1 as the date for the ceremony with the deadline for submissions to be turned in six weeks prior to that. Janice Friedman will be our contact with the Fluker family. Katherine Ewing and Emma Holsclaw volunteered to assist.

BEAT THE VIRUS: Emma has produced PSA graphics regarding the pandemic (Show Your Care and Wear Your Mask) and these were presented to the board. Board members are asked to please share these on all social media platforms. Kay suggested making one to support getting the vaccine.

PRESIDENT: Kristin appointed Denise and Sharon to represent the board on the Nominating Committee. The board selected Monday, April 19th, 7:00 p.m. for our Annual Meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Emily is the committee chair and will be assisted by Tamara, Marlene Merrill and Jeanne Klein. The opportunity to apply for our scholarship has been expanded to include all students in accredited high schools in the county. The committee will begin working on this project in March.

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE: Kay will attend LWVUS meetings on this subject. We should expect to see more discussion from the new administration in Washington. We are working to establish goals and activities for League and our community partners. Individual actions are very beneficial and Jeanne Klein volunteered to submit tips to be included in the VOTER. Becky suggested putting monthly environmental challenges in the VOTER. Kay encouraged board members to attend meetings of the City of Lawrence Sustainability Advisory Board which are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

- Sharon Brown, Secretary



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:*

Approximate Household Income	Individual Membership	Household Membership
Student** (until 1/2021)	FREE	FREE
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 & 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) _____

Email _____

Phone _____ (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:

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www.facebook.com/lwvldc • www.twitter.com/lwvldc

FEBRUARY 2021

Calendar	1
President's Message	2
Welcome, New Member!	2
Links for Calendar Items	3
Other Important Links	3
LEAF Flyer	4
Co-Presidents to Present at LEAF	5
Hot Topic! Redistricting	5
Hot Topic! Medicaid Expansion	5
Monthly Green Challenge	5
LWV DEI Committee	6
Proposed Dues Increase	6
Highlights of the Board Meeting	7
Membership Form	8

