

Calendar

January VOTER 2018

Tues, Jan 9	7 - 8:45pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting, Lawrence Public Library (A) All league members are invited to attend.
Wed, Jan 10	10 - 5 pm	Kansas Peoples Agenda Rally at the Capital (See article following for details.)
Wed, Jan 17	7 pm	Water Advocacy Team Meeting, Central United Methodist “The Kansas River: How Bad and What Can We Do About It?” Tom Stiles, Assistant Director, KS Dept of H & E Focus Groups Discussion follows at 8 pm
Thurs, Jan 18	4:30 - 6:30 pm	League Program Review Lawrence Public Library Room C Note: This year we review the national positions.
Sat, Jan 20	1:30 - 3:30 pm	Meet the Legislators Reception and Forum, Malott Room KU Union
Sat, Jan 20	1 pm	Celebrate Women’s March One Year Later, South Park
Tues, Jan 23	8:30 am	ACLU Citizen Participation Day at Capital
Fri, Feb 9	7 pm	Susan B Anthony Birthday Party, 2917 Westdale Rd. RSVP 785-393-1373 BBQ provided,. Please bring dish to share
Tues, Feb 13	7 - 8:45 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting Lawrence Public Library (A) All league members are invited to attend.
Thurs, Feb 15	11:30 am – 1 pm	League Hot Topic, Watkins Museum Conversation with Greg Burns, Lawrence Police Chief Burns, Lawrence Police Chief

Co-President’s Report

Now that winter has arrived, that means the Legislature will soon be back in session. Our League will host a meet and greet with state legislators and local commissioners on Saturday January 20. As in past years there are many issues to be addressed, including school finance, water issues, and the budget. There may be a move to put forth a Constitutional amendment to limit the influence of the Court or perhaps define the Legislature as the final authority on school funding. Please plan to attend and bring your questions. We will be meeting in the beautiful Malott Room in the Kansas Union on the 6th floor--go to the left upon exiting the elevators.

Other events to be aware of are revisions to Horizon 2040 Plan; the various health agencies continued work on a community health plan; the location of the bus transfer station; developing and financing a plan to resolve mental health needs of our homeless and jail populations; and selecting a plan and financing a county jail expansion. One of our League’s goals is to increase citizen participation. Becoming an observer is a perfect activity for a new member or an experienced member who would like to become more involved in League actions. It is a simple process - attend a public meeting, wear your League button and don’t speak as you are an observer not a participant, and write up some notes to be published in the Voter. Contact Janice Friedman (Janice_friedman@sbcglobal.net) or me (merrillm92@yahoo.com) and tell us what you would like to do or which organization you would like to observe

Congratulations to Melissa Wick for authoring a successful voter registration grant. This \$500 grant from national will allow the Lawrence League to work with high school teachers to establish dates to register young people to vote and also to education youth on the importance of voting.

Some other coming League activities are a review of National League positions January 18 and an ACLU Citizen Participation day at the Capital on January 23. *Marlene Merrill*

Kansas People's Agenda January 10

The Kansas People's Agenda coalition seeks to elevate the needs, concerns, and voices of individuals living in our state. At the first gathering last January, over 700 people filled the Capitol rotunda. Below are the highlights of the upcoming Kansas People's Agenda "People's State of the State" Rally on January 10, 2018.

This year's program represents diverse speakers from around the state on issues that are important in Kansas and as a nation. Since *your voice is needed* and some of us are new to engaging with legislators, the morning will include lobby training (space is limited; please sign up in advance!)

Schedule

8:15-8:45am Interfaith prayer with Kansas Interfaith Action

9:30-11:00am Lobbying training in ground floor auditorium

11:30am-1:00pm People's State of the State Rally

Featured Speakers include: Rev. Jermaine Pennington, Wichita, Poor People's Campaign leader; Mursal A. Naley, Garden City, Somali community leader for immigrants and workers; Charles Baker, Junction City, lead steward fighting for workers' rights; Eugene and Mamie Anderson, Wichita, fighting voter suppression; Latonya Boyd, Topeka, activist working on gun violence and domestic violence prevention; Ashanti Spears, Lenexa/Topeka, citizen activist; DREAMer and speakers on issues related to health care access; Tom Giessel, Larned, farm economy and the environment, and education.

In addition, we will be joined by poets, musicians, and performers as well as visual artists, bringing the issues of Kansans to us from multiple experiences. Performers include: Ana Marcela Maldonado Morales, Jonathon Andrews, Diana Yael Martinez, Martinez Hillard, Matt Spezia, and Brail Watson.

1:00-4:00 Visit your legislators! Bring them a KPA brochure, share your own experiences as a Kansan, and ask for their support on issues close to your heart.

Please sign up via the website: <https://kansaspeoplesagenda.org/> and please share this invitation to attend! You can order a t-shirt and sign up for lobby training through the link as well! *Thea Perry*

Welcome New Members!

December brought us four new members: Lori Hutfles, Nancy Harness, Norine Spears, and Michael Wolfe. A warm welcome to you all!

Helen Fluker Award

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. Next year, the recipient will be honored at a luncheon in Lawrence on Saturday, March 24.

The League invites you to nominate a person worthy of recognition for contributions to your community. If you represent an organization, your nominee does not need to be a member. Feel free to submit an updated form for a previous nominee or someone new.

We have somewhat modified our guidelines. This year, the nominee should be a Kansas resident over age 18 whose efforts have promoted transparency in government. The activities for which he or she is nominated may be volunteer work or an extension of a regular job position. Some accomplishments worthy of consideration include:

- 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 Monday, February 5, 2018. For questions or additional information, call Janice Friedman at [785-842-5188](tel:785-842-5188), email inquiries to 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*

Voter Services Report

During December we conducted one event at Free State High School, registering 114 students to vote. In addition, we submitted a request for the 2018 Youth Voter Registration Grant from National and were approved for \$550 to offset expenses related to conducting voter registration drives in high schools, colleges, and reaching out to under-served populations. *Melissa Wick*

Voter Outreach Update

Following is a brief report from the Committee for Voter Outreach to Underrepresented Populations As a follow up to our successful voter registration training program for parole and probation officers last September, we are in talks with Re-Entry Director Mike Brouwer about implementing a voter education class as part of the life skills curricula offered through Douglas County Jail. We will keep you posted about our progress! Anyone interested in joining our committee or helping with this particular project, please email jamie.benvenuti@gmail.com. *Jamie Benvenuti*.

Coffee & Conversation

A lively group of Leaguers met December 16 at Z's Divine Espresso at 2351 W. 31st. We discussed a wide variety of topics, from the successful voter registration drive at Free State High School; the Issues Survey which is in development; establishing contact with KU groups interested in registering students to vote; and the postcard writing campaign on December 17th. A number of new members attended and we received one new membership on the spot. Mark your calendars for the next Coffee and Conversation Saturday, March 16, at Z's. This casual meeting is open to all members or persons who may be interested in becoming a member. Hope to see you in March. *Melissa A. Wick, Voter Services Chair*

In Memoriam

Robert Friauf, a longtime League member and supporter, died December 3, 2017. A professor emeritus in physics at KU, he was also active in community activities, playing his clarinet in the Lawrence Civic Band summer concerts in the park well into his 90's.

Jinny Ashlock, League President in 1998-99, died December 8, 2017. She was active in the League for many years and remembered for hosting in her home many board and other League meetings. The League benefited from her skills as a wordsmith. She always knew the exact wording to accurately express a position.

Virginia Seaver, a Life member of the League, died on Christmas Day, 2017. She served as president of the League of Women Voters of Kansas, as well as local league president in 1951-52. She was active in civic and volunteer activities, especially interested in promoting appropriate health care availability for women. A banner she sewed is still in use in our voter registration booths.

We will miss these loyal members. *Marjorie Cole*