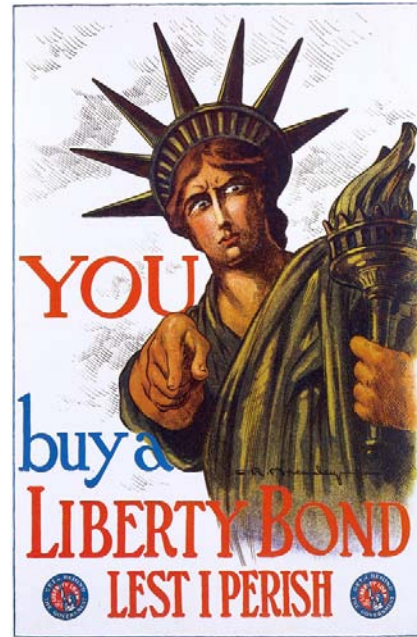


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Patriotism from the Past



League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 1072
Lawrence, KS 66044-1072



The VOTER

Bulletin of the LWV 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.

President:	Cille King	president@lawrenceleague.com	
Membership:	Margaret Arnold	membership@lawrenceleague.com	
Voter Editor:	Ruth Lichtwardt	lightwatcher@gmail.com	
Local League	www.lawrenceleague.com	www.facebook.com/lwvldc	www.twitter.com/lwvldc
State League:	www.lwvk.org	lwv.kansas@gmail.com	785-234-5152
National League	www.lwv.org		202-429-1965

League Calendar

Wednesday, July 16th		Advance Voting Begins.
Saturday, July 19th	7 - 9 pm	Land Use Committee Meeting. Community Mercantile Meeting Room, 901 Iowa St.
Monday, August 4th	Noon	In-Person Advance Voting Ends
Tuesday, August 5th	7 am - 7 pm	Primary Election Day
Thursday, August 14th	7 - 9 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. Lawrence Public Library, Meeting Room B, 707 Vermont. All League members are invited to attend.
Friday, August 15th	9:00 pm	VOTER Submission Deadline. Please send submissions to Caleb at caleb.-morse@gmail.com .
Thursday, August 21	5 - 8 pm	Picnic with the Candidates. Centennial Park East Shelter, north side of 9th Street, 1/2 block west of Iowa. Please see article below.

President's Message

Your League board held a retreat on June 21. We started with introductions, as there were unknowns among us. Attending were Board Members Marjorie Cole, Caleb Morse, Debra Duncan, Midge Grinstead, James Dunn, Austin Turney, Carol Jean Brune, Margaret Arnold and Cille King. Guest attending was Sue Vernon. Caleb, CJ, and Marjorie presented a quick summary of what League does and how. (You can check our website: lawrenceleague.com for policies, bylaws, etc.)

First up: **What should be our top organizational goal this year?** 1) *Hosting the Kansas League Convention - April 25, 2015.* Debra will chair; Austin, Marjorie, Midge, and Sue will serve on committee. Theme possible – history of women voting in Douglas Co and Kansas. 2) *Top priority: voter registration and timely, useful information / education.* We should continue to find registration opportunities and recruit as many members as possible for that purpose. Gather and distribute candidate information. 3) *Retaining / increasing members, particularly younger members.* Example of group of young League members in Florida, where education about civics/politics emphasized, incorporation of social media, recruitment of male members, registering voters in bars, etc. 4) *Establish poll observer Corps* to monitor the election process on election day at the precincts. Tally number of people with problems voting. 5) *Fundraising* – so we can continue our education and outreach. 6) *Help suspended voters get fully registered.*



Next: **What new policy development or action goal should we adopt in the next two years?** These issues were discussed at some length, seemed actionable during this League year, and/or elicited the interest of someone present, who volunteered to take a lead role in acting on them. 1) Recruit a publicity chair or committee to centralize our outreach (a frequent, and so far unobtainable goal). 2) Compile a brief survey of members' skills and interests. 3) Have evening and weekend events as well as the brown bags. 4) Increase our on-line presence. Facebook, twitter, instagram. 5) Push the on-line voter registration site for Douglas County, especially when it comes to young, first time registrants. 6) Find sponsors for programming to offset costs. 7) Increase observer corps – a great activity for newer members.

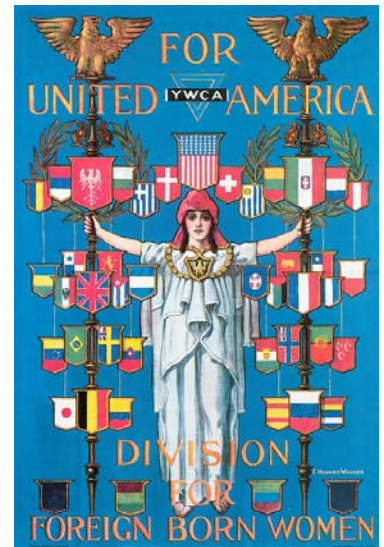
Thirdly: **Suggestions were either not within the purview of LWV L-DC, not actionable (at least within a 1-year period), or actions that we already are taking, more or less.** 1) Environmental Sustainability, including water issues and the effect of the Ogallala aquifer shrinking have in Douglas County. Perhaps some research to quantify the issues. 2) The formal filing (with the secretary) of a report summarizing programs – possibly committee end-of-year reports. 3) Expansion of Medicaid in Kansas (we need legislative change of mind). 4) Use vote411.org as soon as possible (need state-wide help). 5) Identify and engage more volunteers with our projects (with all the great programs and projects – you'd think volunteers would be in abundance). 6) GMO labeling law – Vermont just instituted the first in the country. A study to determine if it could be a model. 7) What amount is required for a living wage in Douglas County and Kansas?

Finally: **These issues may have merit, but were not discussed at length, and no one volunteered to take a lead role in acting on them.** 1) Effects of Brownback's tax policies. 2) Compile a "Speaker's Bureau" on subjects League members can share with others. 3) See if the Library will either use our website or the Douglas County Voter Portal (or vote411.org when it is available) as their homepage during the campaign season. 4) Establish a LWV unit at KU.

These issues hold a great deal of passion for your board members. We see so many ways that the League could benefit the conversation in policy discussions and directions. If you have an interest in any of these concerns, please contact one of the board members to become more involved. It will be a very rewarding experience.

A huge thank you to Caleb for supplying minutes for the retreat.

- Cille King



Check out the newly remodeled library and our League voter registration/information table on Sunday, August 3, 2014, 1:30 - 5:30 pm, in meeting room B.

All Voters Information

Please vote in this year's primary election.
Your vote does matter.

When you go to the polls for the August 5th primary, you will be given a ballot. If there is a question about your voter registration, you will be given a provisional ballot. If you are a suspended voter – one who filled out the voter application but didn't provide 'proof-of-citizenship', your provisional ballot will not be counted. If you applied to vote since the January 1, 2013 law, but haven't received your voter card from

the county clerk, you might be one of those 'suspended voters', and you have until August 4th, the day before the primary election to get your documentation to the county clerk's office in order to have your ballot counted. Check online for your voter registration status: <http://www.douglascountyelections.com>.

Unaffiliated voters can declare which party they want to affiliate with and vote in that primary.

The instance where you might not receive a ballot is when the poll workers are directing you to your correct polling location.

Picnic with the Candidates August 21, 5 - 8 pm

Our Lawrence/Douglas County League and the Voter Education Coalition have invited every candidate standing for election to a pot-luck picnic in Centennial Park East Shelter on Thursday, August 21, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. We are also inviting the general public.

We have invited all candidates and hope to educate large numbers of attendees. As League members we need as many people and friends as possible, and we also need help from as many folks as possible. Please plan to bring food. The main dish will be provided, but we welcome donations of appetizers, vegetables, desserts, and more.

If you can help publicize the gathering, help with physical arrangements, help organize the presentation of food, help find sponsors, or suggest entertainment other than the candidates, please let the League board know. Cille King, president, is representing us: cilleking@gmail.com; Midge Grinstead is organizing fundraising: mgrinstead@humanesociety.org; and I am coordinating: mjarnold@ku.edu.

Everyone is welcome! We would love to see more than a hundred people turn out.

- Margaret Arnold

Voter Education Coalition

The VEC (of which the League is a member) held a candidate forum on July 2, 2014 at the City Commission Chambers. Candidates included local primary challenges: Kansas House District 45 - Republicans Tom Sloan and Jeremy Ryan Pierce; Kansas House District 46 - Democrats Boog Highberger and Abbie Hodgson; Douglas County 1st District - Democrats Mike Gaughan and Greg Robinson. Neither the Kansas 45th or the Douglas County 1st have candidates in the opposing party, so those races will most likely be decided in the primary election.

Boog Highberger, Abbie Hodgson, and Tom Sloan all view Gov Brownback's tax cuts as a mistake and should be repealed, or at least frozen. Only Jeremy Pierce defended the tax cuts. Highberger,



Hodgson, and Sloan all support the state's renewable energy standards that require utilities to produce 20 percent of their electricity by renewable sources by 2020. They also support for the Common Core standards for reading and math. These three oppose the state's photo-ID requirement to vote and proof of citizenship to register to vote. Pierce differed in all these issues: opposing the renewable energy standards and Common Core standards, and supporting the photo ID and proof of citizenship requirement.

ship requirement.

Mike Gaughan criticized the state tax cuts for forcing counties to raise property taxes to fund their mandated programs. Greg Robinson said local government need to stop giving money away to developers. Both thought some savings could be had in consolidation of some city and county services, but that it would be politically difficult.

Channel 6 recorded the forum and it is available on demand and will shown again on Channel 6. This report contains a condensation of the Lawrence Journal World article: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2014/jul/02/candidates-blame-topeka-problems/>

The next VEC event is a candidate 'meet and greet' in conjunction with the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce's update of the Peasley Vo-Tech facility. It will be held at Maceli's on Wednesday, July 16 at 8:30 - 9:30 am. RSVP's requested.

The next day - Thursday, July 17, the VEC will table next to the League at Lawrence's fabulous Downtown Sidewalk Sale on the SW corner of 8th and Massachusetts St. The VEC will have candidates stop by to visit with shoppers. They will provide their campaign literature. The League will have voter registration and information.

The VEC will also hold a candidate 'meet and greet' at the Lawrence Farmer's Market on Saturday, July 26, from 7 - 11 am.



Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition Report

Mayor Mike Amyx attended the meeting of the Coalition on July 9. He indicated agreement with the goals of the organization but made no commitments. He

reported that the City Commission had discussed starting a pilot project to enforce the State law that makes property-owners responsible for maintaining their sidewalks. It has directed the City Manager to draft a resolution forming a task force to develop a prioritized list of bicycle/pedestrian projects.

The Public Works Department has updated its 2006 inventory of sidewalks and identified defects. To correct these problems and provide sidewalks on both sides of all the existing streets in Lawrence would cost in the neighborhood of \$50 million.

Laura Routh, the Coalition's Facilitator, submitted the draft of a letter to the Kansas Department of Transportation supporting the City's application for Safe Routes to School funding. This was approved.

The Barker Neighborhood Association will hold a Walkability Audit on July 28 and an Active Living Community Workshop the following day.

The next meeting of the Coalition will be on August 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Carnegie Building.

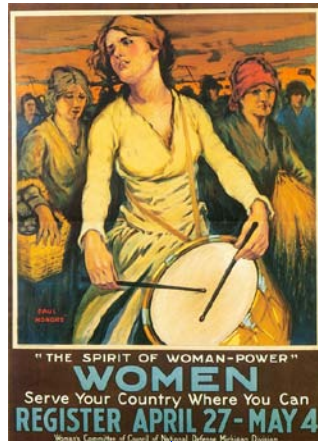
- Alan Black

June Brown Bag Lunch



Rabbi Moti Rieber, who chairs Kansas Interfaith Power and Light, spoke on "Respecting the Earth" at the June 26 gathering of members and guests at Fire Station #5. The IPL works with churches and civic groups to encourage the use of renewable energy. They have also testified to legislative committees and other decision-making groups on such issues as net metering, energy efficiency, the Federal Climate Change Action Plan, and climate denial. The League also has national, state, and local positions affirming the environment.

Rabbi Rieber supplemented his clear discussion with a PowerPoint presentation. He explained evidence for climate change, clarifying questions from the audience. Some evidence he cited included de-



creasing supplies of fresh water; temperature irregularities, and the presence of climate refugees. Above all, he voiced the moral challenge posed by worldwide climate alterations.

He is willing to give us advice as we study and, at some point, update our positions.
- Margaret Arnold

League Members Speak Out

Opinions expressed in the Lawrence Journal World recently include:

Letter to the Editor by David Burress, Shared Facilities (urging consideration of sharing police and sheriff's facilities), 6-24-14 and Letter to the Editor by Kaitlyn Klein (KU journalism student and League Summer Volunteer), Primary Vote, (on the importance of registering to vote in the Primary Election), 7-5-14.
-Marjorie Cole

Highlights of the June Board Meeting LWVL-DC

12 June 2014, 7-9 pm, home of Marjorie Cole,

Present: Cille King (Co-President), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Caleb Morse (Secretary). Directors: , Margaret Arnold, Caroljean Brune, Debra Duncan, James Dunn, Midge Grinstead,

Absent: Carrie Lindsey (Vice President), Marlene Merrill, Austin Turney.

Guests: none.

Consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved as distributed previous to the meeting (including minutes from the 8 May meeting [with minor corrections from James], Treasurer's report). [Other items distributed with the agenda: dashboard; Stucky Committee report.]

Treasurer's report. Marjorie reported total income for May of \$155 and expenses of \$1,326.03. Current balances as of May 31: Checking Acct = \$5,265.40; Money Market = \$2,103.49; Stucky = \$5,627.75; Jud-



ciary = \$381.63; Education Fund (LWVEF) = \$396.23.]
Vice President role. Cille reported that Carrie plans to move to Wichita later this year and probably won't be very involved in LWW L-DC as a consequence, but she has not resigned.

On voters who register using the federal form. Cille reported that Secretary of State Kris Kobach plans to allow those registered with

Federal Form to vote provisional, and only count the votes they cast in federal elections.

Suspended voter outreach. Cille reported that she had received a new list of suspended voters from the Douglas County Clerk's office. She has passed it along to Marlene, who is massaging it into a working list.

New appointments. Midge offered, to general acclaim, to replace Carrie as one of two Board members on the Nominating Committee. Midge (Margaret) moved to ask Debra to inquire with a friend who might be interested in joining the Board; motion carried unanimously.
 - Caleb Morse

Land Use Committee June Meeting

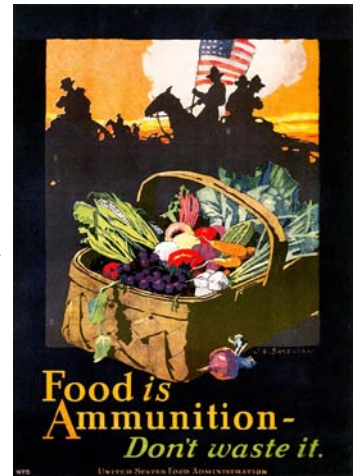
The Land Use Committee (LUC) met on Saturday, June 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the Merc. We discussed the Planning Commission (PC) June 23rd Agenda and decided to send a letter regarding the request for a Comprehensive Plan change and development proposal located between the western section line and Highway 10 immediately north as it intersects with 6th Street extended. On June 30 we also sent a letter to the City Commission on the issue of approving a Site Plan for Menards home improvement store that had been appealed by the owners of the neighboring Home Depot property on their



west side. Cille King represented the League at the Planning Commission, and both she and Melinda Henderson spoke for us at the City Commission on July 1.

Letter to the Planning Commission

Our main concern and the subject for our letter to the PC was ITEM NO.2, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 7 and 14; K-10 & FARMERS TURNPIKE PLAN and what followed the comprehensive plan changes; that is, Items 3A through 3F. Requested changes to the Future Land Use Map would allow the new designation of Industrial uses where Residential/Office uses were originally shown, and would change the recommended uses to allow a change in the definition of Residential/Office to permit Single Family Residential use in addition. This would have allowed Items 3A through 3F to change the subject tract to build mini-warehouse storage units to furnish extra stor-



age space for their proposed intensive small-lot single family houses (with densities of 5 units an acre). They proposed to build the single family houses adjacent to the storage units between Highway 10 and the west boundary of Section 20. This would have changed the intent of this area in the Comprehensive Plan (CP) from Office Research to Single Family Residential and Limited Industrial in order to allow placement of mini-storage units in that specific location.

In our letter to the PC we objected to changing the proposed uses on the grounds that the City needs this highly visible and choice area for Employment-related Land Use. Also, to change the intended uses in the Residential/office category in the CP would change the intended uses in other areas of the same category and distort the intentions of the CP. Also, the high visibility of this location to K-10 would negatively affect this important Gateway to the city. In addition, the proposed changes to this portion of the Northwest Plan would adversely affect the fragile land north of Rock Chalk Park, which could be developed better as a low-density cluster development. Finally, when residential areas are incorporated into the City, they should be designed to be interconnected as por-

tions of complete neighborhoods including neighborhood needs having convenient pedestrian access rather than developed in a piecemeal isolated way unrelated to larger neighborhood areas.

OUTCOME: the PC denied Items 2 and 3A through 3F.

Other items that we discussed and were approved were Items 1A and 1B, rezoning to Mixed Use Planned Development and approval of the Preliminary Development Plan for "Here @, Kansas," the proposed luxury student apartments on Indiana Street east of the KU Stadium; Item 4, Conditional Use Permit for Westar Energy; 1703 E 902 Rd, located immediately east of the proposed mini-warehouse area in Item 3E; Item No. 5, Extension of the Preliminary Plat for "Mercato," the vacant shopping center on the northeast corner of 6th and Highway 10, allowed on the basis that the delay in development was not the fault of the developer; and a Variance granted to 708 and 712 Rhode Island Street to allow undersized lots in order to accommodate a misplaced garage across a lot line.

Letter to the City Commission

In addition to our PC letter, we also sent a letter to the City Commission dated July 30 addressing their Regular Agenda Item No. 3, Appeal of the Menards' Site Plan. This issue was brought before them because it was appealed by the Home Depot owners who objected to Menards not conforming to an agreement with them regarding storm drainage. The issue was brought to our attention by a member of the League who detected an irregularity in the Site Plan process. After we were given the proper authority to act, the Land Use Committee checked and discovered that, in fact the Menards' Site Plan had been approved out of the proper sequence before recordation of the Final Plat with the Register of Deeds and they were about to be issued a Building Permit. Not only that, but the Final Plat given Administrative Approval had not been in conformance with the Preliminary Plat that was approved by the Planning Commission. This was very much out of the proper sequence and approval process based on our Land Development Code.

The basic problem with not following the proper sequence of recordation of



the Final Plat before approving the Site Plan is that if a Building Permit is issued based on the Site Plan alone, the accuracy of the lot lines, physical features, and any number of critical issues that must be finalized before recordation of the Final Plat are only approximate or entirely absent on a Site Plan. For instance, in the past, when the proper sequence has not been followed, some development lots have been found later not to have the minimum dimensions to conform to the requirements of their zoning districts. This happened in

the case of a financial institution building on the south side of West 6th Street, and before that, with a residential development on the Bluffs, to give two memorable examples.

OUTCOME: The Planning Commission approved the Site Plan and Plat for Menards with conditions, with the Building Permit to be issued following recording of the Plat.

A Thank You from the Treasurer!

We are especially grateful to Mary Lou Wright who sent out "gentle reminder" cards. Appreciation goes to those who sent delinquent dues payments. Many included contributions either to our general fund or education fund, much needed.

Generous contributions have been made in Memoriam for Mary Davidson, our longtime League member who died in June.

Welcome New Member!

Please welcome Maggie Carttar, who joins us after a long career in education, the law, and family activities. She has taught science to sixth-graders at Sunset Hill School, has served on the school board, and has worked as Placement Director for the KU Law School. The whole Carttar family takes an interest in political and social issues.





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LAWRENCE / DOUGLAS COUNTY

Make a Difference – Join/Support the League!

Complete form, enclose check made out to LWV L/DC, and mail to the address listed below.

*(Membership is open to anyone who will be eligible to vote in the next November election.
New or renewed memberships received now will expire March 31, 2015)*

Date _____ Renewing member
_____ New Member. I heard about the League via (Facebook, Web Site, Friend, Other): _____

Suggested voluntary membership assessment:*

Approximate Household Income	Individual membership	Household membership
Student**	_____ \$17	_____ \$29
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 and State Leagues at \$49/member (\$31 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 _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>General Membership Meetings:</p> <p>___ Set up and/or tear down</p> <p>___ Hospitality (provide coffee/tea/dessert)</p> <p>___ Taking notes/writing up report of meeting</p> <p>Membership:</p> <p>___ Recruitment</p> <p>___ Mentor/follow-up with new members</p> <p>___ Provide a ride to a fellow member</p> <p>___ Phone members without internet access about special updates</p> <p>Voter Services:</p> <p>___ Register voters</p> <p>___ Help with voter education</p> | <p>Promotion of League to our Community:</p> <p>___ Public speaking</p> <p>___ Represent League at community events</p> <p>___ Observer corps (attend/report on government meetings)</p> <p>___ Help with research for League studies on issues</p> <p>___ Serve on the Board of Directors</p> <p>I have the following skills:</p> <p>___ Editing articles/reports</p> <p>___ Database management</p> <p>___ Microsoft Word / Excel / Quickbooks</p> <p>___ Website/Social Media design/management</p> <p>My interests include:</p> <p>_____</p> |
|---|--|

PO BOX 1072 • LAWRENCE KS 66044-1072

President@lawrenceleague.com • www.lawrenceleague.com
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