

March 2014

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



The VOTER

Bulletin of the LWV of Lawrence-Douglas County, KS

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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League Calendar

Saturday, March 22nd	11:30 am	Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award Luncheon. <i>Smith Center at Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace.</i>
Saturday, March 22nd	7 - 9 pm	Land Use Committee Meeting. <i>Community Mercantile Meeting Room, 901 Iowa St.</i>
Thursday, April 10th	7 - 9 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>Home of Co-President David Burress, 912 Holiday Drive. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Friday, April 11th	9:00 pm	VOTER Submission Deadline. Please send submissions to lightwatcher@gmail.com
Thursday, April 17th	11:30 am	Brown Bag Lunch with Peter Brownlee of Planned Parenthood <i>Watkins Community Musium, 1047 Massachusetts. Please see article on Page 3.</i>
Saturday, April 19th	11:30 am	Annual Meeting. <i>Smith Center at Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace. Please see article on page 2.</i>

Annual Meeting

of the League of Women Voters Douglas County

April 19, 2014 11:30 am

Smith Center at Brandon Woods.

Speaker to be announced.

Call Marjorie Cole (842-0085)

or email at nobledog@aol.com

to register for dinner and the meeting.



Helen Fluker Award: Laura O. Routh

The Lawrence-Douglas County League of Women Voters has selected Laura D. Routh to receive the 2014 Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award. The Fluker Award honors a Douglas County resident who shows leadership in promoting citizen participation in government. Ms. Routh was recognized for her community leadership in multiple endeavors related to making government processes and agencies more accountable, accessible, and open.

While working on completing her Master's degree in Public Administration at the University of Kansas, Ms. Routh was a continuous presence at City Hall, attending many City Commission and Advisory Board meetings to speak out for opening the decision-making process to the general public. She is a strong advocate for establishing a Citizens Review Board for the Lawrence Police and has testified for more accountability from the Police Department when they request additional city funding. Her passionate commitment to the environment led to her appointment as recording secretary and at-large member of the local Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB). Her proposal for greening tax abatements became the basis for the SAB policy, as did her suggestion for volume-based trash rates.

During the past year Routh served as Chair for the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods, advocating for neighborhood issues and promoting public education of city issues such as rental registration and Rock Chalk Park. She is a founding member of MadreLawrence, an organization dedicated to boosting diversity and public participation in local government. She is currently Chair of the Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition where she has shown an ability to bring people together to work towards a specific issue..

"Laura's total commitment to using facts, strong data, and an open and transparent decision-making process may upset the apple cart for some people, but I feel it is ultimately for the greater good and enhances an open democracy for all", said Leslie Soden, 2012 City Commission candidate.



Have you paid your Dues yet?

First, a thank you! We appreciate all of you who have already sent in your dues for the 2014-15 League year, especially those who have filled out the form on the last page of the Voter. There are many ways to be active in the League and knowing your skills and interests helps us find your role. With the elections coming up, as well as some ongoing studies, the next year should be a rewarding one.

We are testing a new dues structure designed to make League membership accessible to more members. For details see the form in this Voter. Our Annual Meeting is April 19, 2014, and we will be voting on the change in dues. Only dues-paid members will be eligible to vote.

How do you know if you owe dues? The League fiscal year runs from April 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015. If you last paid before October 2013, it's time to pay them now. If you don't remember, call or email 842-6085, lwv.ldc@gmail.com to find out.

How much are dues? The board-proposed new dues policy is in effect until a vote at the Annual Meeting determines its permanent adoption. See the form in this Voter for details.

How do you pay? You may mail your check with the completed form to LWV at PO Box 1072, Lawrence, KS 66044, or bring them with you to the Annual Meeting, April 19. Please enclose the completed form.

What if you didn't pay dues last year? If you were officially "inactive" last year, dues you pay now will return you to the active list for the 2014-2015 year.

Brown Bag Lunches

March 20: Dr Joe Douglas

When Dr. Joe Douglas leaves his office at the Bert Nash Mental Health Center, he brings his commitment into the community. He will speak to the Lawrence-Douglas County League of Women Voters on "Mental Health Matters: Are We Doing Enough?" on March 20 at noon at the Watkins Community Mu-

seum. Some of Dr. Douglas' community activities include cooking for Food Not Bombs and singing social action lyrics to familiar melodies. His upcoming program includes a power point presentation on mental health in Lawrence. He also promises to "sing a bit."

All are welcome to attend. The program shares goals in the Kansas League of Women Voters' "League Study Positions" with Lawrence citizens:

[We] endorse a mental health system which decreases dependency on costly emergency

services, reduces poverty and homelessness among people with mental illness, reduces rates of incarceration, supports healthy recovery, and strengthens families.

April 17: Peter Brownlie of Planned Parenthood.:

"Respecting Conscience, Promoting Health: Sex Education in the Schools." 11:30-12:00: Eat and discuss League matters. 12:00 noon. Mr. Brownlie will speak. Watkins Community Museum, lower floor, 1047 Massachusetts. Everyone is welcome.

League Members Speak Out

Opinions from League members this month in the *Lawrence Journal World* include:

David Burress, Letter to the Editor: Patent Policy (appeared March 6); a response to this letter: Ron Barrett-Gonzalez, president Kansas Conference of American Association of University Professors Lawrence: Exasperated Kansan : (appeared March 14); and Midge Grinstead, Letter to the Editor: Animal Welfare (appeared March 14).

Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition Report

The coalition met on 3/12/14, 7 pm at Carnegie Hall. Guests included Chris Rogge from the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC). The groups agreed to stay in touch, work together, and seek common ground.

The sole agenda topic for the April LPC meeting will be a discussion of funding options for improving

pedestrian access and safety, and completion of a safe pedestrian network. We have identified 6 possible options--not mutually exclusive--to discuss. These include:

1. existing sales tax revenue;
2. new sales tax revenue;
3. sidewalk utility on water bill;
4. property tax/mil levy increase;
5. general funding from any source as a City responsibility similar to streets;
6. enforcement and possible cost sharing for improvements.

If you or your neighborhood/organization have opinions on how sidewalks and pedestrian infrastructure should be funded, please attend the April LPC meeting or send your comment to the group.

Facilitator Laura will contact City Hall to ask a finance person to attend our April 8 meeting and provide details on the various options. Laura will also check with Dave Corliss about the survey and the sidewalk inventory and send an update.

Until April, all are encouraged to brainstorm ideas on collaborating with the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), and provide suggested responses to Dave Corliss' memo of 2/12/14.

Future guests to be invited to an LPC meeting include (soon to be) Mayor Amyx; the Chair of the Traffic Safety Commission; Lawrence Police Chief Tarik Khatib. Be thinking about how we'd like to structure those discussions.

LPC website: [www://lawrencewalks.org](http://www.lawrencewalks.org)

- Cille King

Notes are taken from Laura Routh's follow-up report.

Open Meetings Update

The Lawrence League continues to be concerned about violations of the Kansas Open Meetings Act in Douglas County. Most commonly these are caused by a failure of the board or commission to specify the subject(s) to be discussed in the closed session.



For the details of the law relating to open meetings and the history of the violations we have seen in Douglas County, please see the report Government in Secrecy in Douglas County, Kansas 2009 - 2013 by Alan L. Cowles, M.D., available at http://www.lawrenceleague.com/files/LWV_LDC_report_Government_in_Secrecy.pdf. Any time a board or commission operates in complete secrecy, we consider that a violation of the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

During 2013, as far as the available minutes of the Board of Directors of Lawrence Memorial Hospital indicate, that Board continued to close almost every meeting without mentioning any meaningful subject in the process. When they did that, the Hospital Board operated in complete secrecy, clearly in violation of the Kansas open-government policy stated in the Open Meetings Act. At times in 2013 the County Commission continued to do the same. In 2013, as compared to 2012, we saw a large decrease in the use of closed sessions by the City Commission, with three violations in the first eight months of 2013 but none more recently.

The Board of Directors of the Health Department, which covered up a \$750,000 lawsuit in previous years, had four violations early in 2013 but did not have any closed sessions, and therefore no violations, during the last half of 2013. Letters from President Burruss to the Hospital Board and from Alan Cowles to David Corliss, City Manager, have not been answered.

We continue to study open meetings violations and plan to give you an update in the next issue of the Voter.



Highlights of the February Board Meeting

Present: David Burruss (Co-President), Cille King (Co-President and President Elect), Marci Francisco (Vice President),

Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Caleb Morse (Secretary). Directors: Margaret Arnold, Caroljean Brune, James Dunn. Absent: Midge Grinstead, Marlene Merrill. Guests: Marilyn Roy.



Adoption of the agenda. The agenda was adopted as modified by unanimous consent as distributed previous to the meeting.

Consent agenda. The consent agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

[Other items distributed with the agenda: letter to the Lawrence Memorial Hospital Board on KOMA; menu proposals for Fluker Award Luncheon and Annual meetings; LWV L-DC Program Planning meeting report and copy of email from Burruss to LWVUS on our program priorities.]

Treasurer's report. Marjorie reported total income for Jan 2014 was \$540. Expenses were \$271.35.

Current balances as of Jan 31, 2013:

Checking Acct = \$3,874.34;

Money Market = \$2,102.96;

Stucky = \$5,626.38;

Judiciary = \$581.63;

Education Fund (LWVEF) = \$1,432.10.

January responses to our Dec fund raising letter brought the total received up to \$2,220. Of that \$1,130 has gone into the General Fund and \$1,090 has gone into the Education Fund.]

Introduction of, and brief comments from, any other visitors. Marilyn Roy offered her resignation from the Membership Committee and made some suggestions on how we should make League more relevant to working people. She is still willing to help with Brown Bag Lunch announcements.

Voter registration report. There was not much progress to report on our Suspended Voter Project, but committee members had met again and still have yet to register a single suspended voter. Cille reported that, as of last meeting, 302 names removed from list, but about 170 added in interim. There was some discussion of the list and telephone numbers. The latest word from Jamie Shew was that clerks need access to Vital Statistics, which they now have through the SOS

Land Use Committee February Meeting

Saturday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. the Land Use Committee (LUC) met at the Merc to discuss the upcoming Planning Commission (PC) meetings to be held Monday, the 24th and Wednesday, the 26th. We decided to send one letter to the PC on the Agenda that included four related items. We also discussed the other items on the Agenda.

The four related issues were Items No. 4, 5A, 5B and 5C. Item No. 4, was a Text Amendment (TA) to the Land Development Code (LUC) that would allow “participant sports and recreation” uses in the CN2 District (Neighborhood Shopping) with a Special Use Permit (SUP). Item No. 5A, would rezone 10 (almost 11) acres on the southeast corner of Inverness Drive and Clinton Parkway to the CN2 District (Neighborhood Shopping) from RSO (Single Dwelling Residential Office). Item No. 5B would rezone with an SUP about 7 acres of the same site to allow “participant sports and recreation, outdoor uses.” Item No. 5C would allow the remainder of the almost 11 acres to be rezoned, also with an SUP, for a Fast Food Drive-in. This property on the corner would have direct access to Inverness Drive.

It should be noted that the Planning Commission recently adopted an Area Plan, a sub-category of the Comprehensive Plan (CP) for this neighborhood, that showed this land as a Neighborhood Commercial use. Because Item No. 5A, the rezoning to CN2, was in conformance with the Inverness Park District Plan, we did not object to this item in our letter. However, we did object to Items 4, 5B and 5C. The overall CP in Chapter 6, its Commercial Land Use Chapter, categorizes the different shopping centers as to different sizes and intensities, with the smallest and least intense uses being for neighborhood shopping centers—the CN1 and CN2 Districts. The proposed use here, 7 acres of recreation use, would vastly exceed the recommended size of this use for neighborhood shopping centers. The recommended size in the Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 6, is not larger than 50,000 square feet, or a little over one

office. David noted that LWV President Furtado had spoken to League Day about this and described a common problems that examination of Vital Statistics records won't fix: namely, those born in Kansas and later changed their names. Evidently, the SOS's office is now trying with little success to cross check against marriage certificates; and SOS is now trying to set up system whereby anyone in Vital Statistics is already registered, thereby creating two classes of voters (i.e., residents born in Kansas and residents born in other states).

Fluker Award Luncheon and menu. Prior to the meeting, CJ had circulated a menu for the Fluker Award Luncheon. The proposed menu was approved by consensus. Margaret, CJ, Marjorie, Bonnie Dunham, Lee Ketzal, and Cille are on the Fluker Award Committee.

Annual Meeting menu. Prior to the meeting, CJ had circulated a menu for Annual Meeting. The proposed menu was approved by consensus.

Program planning meeting report. Caleb (Marjorie) moved to adopt the recommendations of the PPM. Cille noted that Betty Lichtwardt had confirmed that item 3 is already policy. David clarified that—assuming so—the motion would be amended to strike that item. The motion carried by consensus.

Putting information on website on how legislators voted on League issues.

Marci noted that she still needed to talk to Cille about this, because she now has an intern who could devote time to the work required. The issue is How do we identify League issues? Could get all data and pare out the ones that passed unanimously? CJ thought it should be easy these days to get info on how legislators vote via social media, and doesn't think League should take on this project because it's too cumbersome. Marci thought several interest organizations do same thing, but we want to produce our own legislative scorecard. Marci will have interns devote some time to this for this legislative year and last, and provide info at end of session. Marci, Cille, and Caleb will work on identifying League issues and formatting the data.



- Caleb Morse



acre. Therefore, this use would not be in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan for this site or this Neighborhood District Plan.

In our letter to the PC we emphasized this, as well as mentioning the noise, clutter, and light glare, all of which would not be able to be buffered. We should probably have stressed the fact that this Text Amendment and proposed SUPs for the ten plus acres, at least the recreational use, would be contrary to Horizon 2020, our Comprehensive Plan, as well as the neighborhood's sub-plan, the Inverness Park District Plan. This is a really serious land use planning issue, especially because the staff recommended approval. OUTCOME: It was deferred to the March PC meeting, coming up on March 24.

We discussed the other Agenda Items, but did not send letters. One issue of note was Item No. 1, the New Hampshire Redevelopment Plan. The only responsibility of the PC here was to determine the conformance to the CP of this proposed 7-story mixed use building on the northeast corner of 9th and New Hampshire. Because this is in a redevelopment area for the Downtown, the basic determination to the CP deals with the conformance of the proposal with the Urban Conservation Overlay District and its accompanying Downtown Design Guidelines. OUTCOME: The Staff Report had recommended that it was in conformance to the CP, and at the meeting the PC approved this conformance. We should mention that this allowed the proposal to go to the City Commission on March 4. The City Commission eliminated the existing outdated financing for the district, a Tax Increment Financing (TIA) agreement,



allowing them now to consider approving a new TIA for the northeast corner of the New Hampshire project plus a new Transportation Development District for the area. Approving the redevelopment project plus considering the public financing will go to a public hearing at the City Commission meeting on April 4.

Another item that was discussed in detail was Item No. 3 (A and B), a redevelopment multi-storied multi-use apartment proposal to be rezoned to MU-PD (Mixed Use Planned Development) that will replace Berkeley Flats on the east side of the KU Stadium. The developers have named this "Here, Kansas." It will include 156 student dwelling units, plus parking, student amenities, and commercial uses. OUTCOME: approved.

Two other items that should be mentioned were Items 7 and 8. Item No. 7 was a CUP for a "Lodging House and Recreation Facility" on the northwest corner of 24/40 southwest of and next to the Airport property, approved after modifications by the applicant. Also approved was Item No. 8, the Text Amendment to the county zoning regulations for Agritourism, also modified after considerable review and to be next considered by the Board of County Commissioners.



Welcome New Member!

Please welcome Ellen Paulsen to the League. She has been attending meetings and participating in events for a number of months but has officially enrolled this month. Her interests range from leading meetings to making telephone calls and helping to arrange rides.

Next month we will begin a series of interviews with new members.
- Margaret Arnold

Member Information Sheets

Thanks to everyone who took time to mark skills and interests on the form accompanying dues renewal. We are building a "skills bank" to engage more of us who can contribute even in small ways. I also appreciate the requests for Brown Bag topics. So far, climate change and then fracking are on the list. In addition to the forms you send to Marjorie Cole as Treasurer, please feel free to contact Margaret Arnold: mjarnold@ku.edu



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:

General Membership Meetings:

- Set up and/or tear down
- Hospitality (provide coffee/tea/dessert)
- Taking notes/writing up report of meeting

Membership:

- Recruitment
- Mentor/follow-up with new members
- Provide a ride to a fellow member
- Phone members without internet access about special updates

Voter Services:

- Register voters
- Help with voter education

Promotion of League to our Community:

- Public speaking
- Represent League at community events
- Observer corps (attend/report on government meetings)
- Help with research for League studies on issues
- Serve 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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