



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.

Co-Presidents:	Debra Duncan & Marlene Merrill	president @ lawrenceleague.com	
Membership:	Margaret Arnold	membership @ lawrenceleague.com	
Voter Editor:	Ruth Lichtwardt	votereditor @ lawrenceleague.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

Tuesday, December 13th	3:00 - 5:00 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room C, 707 Vermont. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Friday, December 16th	7:00 pm	League Holiday Gathering. 2917 Westdale Road. Please see article on page 2.
Sunday, January 8th	2:00 - 4:00 pm	New Member Orientation. <i>Smith Center at Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace. Ellen Miller, Leader.</i>
Tuesday, January 11th	3:00 - 5:00 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room C, 707 Vermont. All League members are invited to attend.</i>
Thursday, January 19th	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Hot Topic: Plans for eat City with new City Manager Tom Marcus. <i>Watkins Community Historical Museum, 1047 Massachusetts.</i>
Saturday, January 28th	1:30 - 3:00 pm	Afternoon with the Legislators. <i>Smith Center at Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace.</i>

Co-Presidents Message

After 597 days, the Presidential campaign and election is finally over!

Cille King did a fantastic job as our Voter Registration Chair and thank you to all of the volunteers who helped in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, registering voters, working on the suspended voter list, providing food for candidate forums, hauling around and setting up the league canopy and tables, attending local events to man tables, providing rides to other leaguers...I can't begin to name them all. Read Cille's summary to learn how our efforts helped voting turn out in Douglas County!



Looking toward the future, we have some fun events coming up **AND WE NEED YOUR HELP.** We are forming committees to plan for the following events:

December:

Holiday Party, Marlene Merrill's house, December 16th



January:

New member welcome and mentor committee. We are trying to establish a mentoring program for new members. If you have any suggestions or ideas this may be the committee for you!

January - Afternoon with State and County elected officials.

February:

We are going to have a birthday party to celebrate:

- Women's History Month
- LWW 97th anniversary
- Susan B Anthony's Birthday

March:

Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award Luncheon

St. Patrick's Day Parade! Suffragettes over the decades! We are planning on entering the parade, not with a float, but walking or riding in antique cars. Help us plan!

April:

Annual Meeting - Sunday, April 23rd (tentative)

Mabel Stucky Memorial Scholarship

If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact Debra Duncan at herditb4@me.com. - Debra Duncan

Upcoming Events!

Holiday Gathering

As we look forward to December, mark your calendars for the League Douglas County/Lawrence League holiday gathering. It will be December 16 Friday evening at 7 PM. The address is 2917 Westdale Rd (West from Crestline onto Westdale and proceed through 4 curves of road. House is on South side of street) Bring a snack or treat to share and something to drink. I will have coffee and tea available. - *Marlene Merrill*

January Hot Topic

Start collecting questions to ask our city manager. If you wondered about the Parks and Rec master plan, what the city is doing to attract businesses here, or what is happening at the water treatment plans then mark your calendar for the League's January Hot Topic. It will be January 19 Thursday at the Watkins Museum downstairs room at 11:30 for conversation with the program at noon. Tom Markus the City Manager will have some comments to make and then will be open to questions.

Tom Markus began his service to the

City of Lawrence in March 2016. Tom previously served as the City Manager for Iowa City, Iowa and several management positions across the Midwest. Markus has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a core curriculum in Finance and Urban and Regional Studies from Minnesota State University. He has a Master of Public Administration degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois. He is a Credentialed Manager with the International City/County Management Association and attended the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University. With over 40 years of municipal experience, Tom believes that public service is a calling and a choice to serve a community.

Welcome New Members!

We have two new members this month, **Sally Kelsey** and **Judith Dutton**. Please welcome them!

Land Use Committee

The Land Use Committee did not meet in November. Due to declining membership, the Board has been discussing the future of this committee. For those of you who don't know what it does, each month the



Committee meets to review agenda items and staff recommendations for the Lawrence Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission <https://lawrenceks.org/boards/lawrence-douglas-county-metropolitan-planning-commission/>

lawrenceks.org/boards/lawrence-douglas-county-metropolitan-planning-commission/

Description: The Commission's primary function is the preparation, adoption, and maintenance of long-term comprehensive land use plans to guide the future development of Lawrence and Douglas County. Another function of the Planning Commission is to study the appropriate zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations and to make recommendations to the City Commission and Board of County Commissioners concerning amendments both to the text and districts. Kansas planning laws also authorize the Planning Commission to recommend development plans for public facilities, capital improvements, urban renewal, environmental sanitation, and area beautification. The Planning Commission also acts as the City's Metropolitan Planning Organization which allows the City to apply for transportation program monies.



The Committee determines whether to write letters of recommendation or support on these items; often (if the Planning Commission approves an agenda item) continuing on with additional letters, or testimony, before the City Commission.

The Land Use Committee has been part of the IWVLDLC's work for decades, and, in fact, was instrumental in establishing Lawrence's zoning laws. Betty Lichtwardt has been the driving force behind the Committee, with membership varying over the years. Unfortunately Betty is no longer able to participate, but the Board feels the Committee is important and should continue. It normally meets once a month at 7 pm on Saturday night and we believe the meeting time is the primary reason behind the membership decline. If you are interested in urban planning or want to know what is really happening in Lawrence and Douglas County, this is the



Committee for you.

The next Planning Commission meeting is December 12th, which means the Land Use Committee will meet sometime between the 8th and the 11th. The meeting time will be negotiable. If you are interested in attending or would like additional information, please contact Alan Black at ablack@ku.edu.
- Debra Duncan



Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition

The Coalition met on November 9. Gary Webber presided.

Several questions about sidewalks were discussed: Does state law require home-owners to be responsible for sidewalk maintenance? Who is liable when there are accidents caused by inadequate sidewalks? Who is responsible for shoveling snow on sidewalks?

The City is creating a Transportation Commission. There will be one member representing the interests of pedestrians. Some members of the Coalition will apply for the Commission.



There was brainstorming about objectives for 2017. One is to make pedestrian issues a part of the City's strategic plan. There will be an election of City Commissioners in November 2017. The Coalition will support candidates who support its interests.

The next meeting of the Coalition will be on December 14 at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A of the Lawrence Public Library.
- Alan Black

Voter Service Report

League members spent over 25 hours visiting 90 of the 143 suspense listed voters in Douglas County the weekend before the November 8 general election. We left a flyer with everyone which explained the ways that they could sub-

mit their proof of citizenship documentation in order to finish their voter registration and have their vote counted. We thank Sharon Brown, Lynne and Laura-lyn Bodle, Tamara Cash, Marjorie Cole, Audrey Kamb-Studdard, Ann Carlin Ozegovic, Ellen Paulson, Thea Perry, and Melissa Wick for their citizen outreach.

Board members assisted with the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association Board Elections on November 14 for the second consecutive year. The neighbors cast 86 ballots. Melinda Henderson did an excellent job on designing the multiple ballots which gave every candidate a chance to have their name first, last and every position in between on the ballot and the technique for a triple check on the vote count.



Douglas County held their general election canvass on Thursday, November 17, giving vote tallies for every precinct and listing categories for the provisional ballots.

Of the **2,006** provisional ballots, **1,296** were either wholly or partially counted. This includes 17 voters who provided proof of citizenship after the poll books were assembled but before the deadline, and 5 who voted in advance with their proof of citizenship in hand.

Of the **709** not counted:

- 217** were not registered in Douglas County (or anywhere in Kansas)
- 40** had not provided proof of citizenship
- 92** said that they registered on-line or at the DMV but did not show in the voter rolls
- 33** did not provide ID (when called, some did say that they wouldn't bother because the vote wasn't close)
- 24** had moved out of county more than a month before the election
- 2** Advance ballot was returned by postal service
- 297** Registered in another Kansas county
- 4** Felony but hadn't reapplied
- 1** came in after the polls were closed

- Cille King

Highlights of the October Board Meeting

October 11, 2016, Lawrence Public Library

Present: Debra Duncan (Co-President), Marlene Merrill (Co-President), Cille King (Vice President), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Margaret Arnold, Ann Carlin Ozegovic, Tamara Cash, Janice Friedman, Kim Gibson, Carol Klinknett, Melissa Wick
Absent: Marjorie Cole, Midge Grinstead

Guest: Marion Goodell

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Debra reminded the board about the State League Day to be held on Saturday, October 15 in Manhattan. Sharon will outline our Lawrence/Douglas County League activities this year.

Debra initiated a discussion about the Land Use Committee. Betty Lichtwardt has served as an invaluable member of this committee for decades but is unable to continue. Alan Black is the present chair and meetings are held on Saturday evenings at the Merc, not a popular time for a meeting, affecting attendance. Ideas for revitalizing this committee were discussed. Volunteers interested in land use issues are needed.

A holiday social is planned for December 15 at Marlene's home.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Cille reviewed the scheduled voter registration events leading up to the last official day to register, October 18. She also announced these events related to the upcoming election:

A presentation on the history of candidate debates by Diana Carlin, Sunday, October 16, 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the Lawrence Public Library

The KTWU candidate forum for 2nd Congressional District, U.S. Senate, Monday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. on Channel 11

Community forum on Kansas courts featuring two current Kansas Supreme Court justices, Marla Luckert and Carol Beier, discussing the Informed Voters, Fair Judicial Project, Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 p.m. at the



Carnegie Building

MEMBERSHIP: Margaret announced the names of two new members, Mary Boatwright and Marion Goodell.

OLD BUSINESS: Debra asked for volunteers to help at the ELNA election on Monday, November 14.

- Sharon Brown, Secretary

October Hot Topic: Kansas Supreme Court

Prior to the November election, LWV members and friends had the opportunity to get an inside look at the Kansas Supreme Court through the eyes of Justice Carol Beier and Justice Marla Luckert. The two justices spoke at a October 18 Hot Topic forum at the Carnegie Building in Lawrence. District Judge Sally Pokorny, appointed in 2009 by Governor Sebelius to serve as District Court Judge in Lawrence, moderated the discussion.

Both justices shared their backgrounds and inspirations for becoming attorneys. Judge Luckert, the first generation college graduate from her Goodland farm family, was inspired by the civil rights era and her reading of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Justice Beier was attracted to public service when in Catholic High School in KCK watching the Watergate hearings on TV. In 2000 Beier was appointed by Governor Bill Graves to the Kansas Court of Appeals where she served until being named to the Kansas Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice Bob Abbott in 2003.

Justice Luckert was appointed by Governor Joan Finney to the Third Judicial District Court in 1992. In 2000 she became Chief Justice of the Third Judicial Court and in 2003 she was appointed by Governor Bill Graves to the Kansas Supreme Court. She explained the importance of how judges are selected; the process by which cases reach the court; and how decisions are made. She also said how collegial the court is and how all seven members get along, with maybe some exceptions "during the heat of the argument."

Emphasizing the importance of education, Justice Luckert lamented the fact that in a recent survey of college grads, 10% thought Judge Judy was on the US Supreme Court and one-third could not name two branches of government. In an effort to make the court more visible and accessible, the court "went on the road." During the past five years, they held sessions in various communities around the state. It proved very popular; demonstrated by as many as 350 people attending in Hiawatha and 700 in Hays.

Both Justices Beier and Luckert are active in the National Association for Women Judges (ivp.nawj.org), the organization who sponsored the Informed Voters, Fair Judges Project.

Afterword: On November 8, thanks to the voters of Kansas, and the work of the NAWJ and Kansans for Fair Courts, the five justices on the Kansas Supreme Court and six on the Court of Appeals were retained.

- Ann Carlin Ozegovic

In Memoriam

Bill Arnold, a long time League member, died November 17, 2016. He was a retired KU professor of



sociology, active in causes advocating reform, especially in the area of criminal justice. He served the League as a board member; contributed to study sessions and attended all our activities, as well as always being there in more mundane ways, setups and cleanups, supplying refreshments, and importantly, bringing his wife, Margaret, a current board member, to meetings. We will sorely miss his friendly face and supportive comments.

Ruth Anderson Turney, 87 died at home in Lawrence, Kansas on October 9, 2016. Ruth was an active League member since moving to Lawrence with her husband, Austin, in 1994. Memorials may be made in her name to Church & Synagogue Library Association

or National Alopecia Areata Foundation and may be sent in care of the Warren-McElwain Mortuary.

Statement on Election Night Results

11/09/2016 | by Sarah Courtney

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president Chris Carson released the following statement on Tuesday night's election results:

"The League of Women Voters congratulates the American people for turning out to participate in our democracy.

"Unfortunately, in too many cases, voters had to overcome significant barriers that were erected by elected officials and other political operatives. These ongoing threats to voters' rights are unacceptable.

"This is the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act. Thousands of eligible voters were purged from the rolls. Onerous voter ID laws prevented eligible voters from casting their ballots. We saw cases of misinformation and intimidation at the polls.

"We can and must do better. All year the League has worked in more than 700 communities, in every state, to register and help eligible Americans get ready to vote. In the 2016 election, more than 4 million people used our digital voter resource, VOTE411.org to find the election information they needed.

"The League of Women Voters will continue our work to expand participation in the election process and work to give a voice to all Americans."

25 ways to be more politically active

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/15/politics/ways-to-be-more-politically-active-trnd/index.html>

A Personal Letter to Save Suicide Prevention in the State of Kansas

Hello caring world:

My name is Scott Criqui. I am the newly elected board president of Headquarters Counseling Center (HQ). HQ is a National Suicide Prevention Lifeline crisis center that serves people from all over the state of Kansas. Our programs are operated by volunteer counselors. We answer more than 20,000 calls a year.

I am honored and humbled to serve as president in this very finically challenging time. I take this role to heart. I volunteered at HQ as a counselor and trainer for six years. In that time frame, I was also an intern and paid staffer. With my background in human resource, I was asked to join the board when HQ needed to hire an executive director. I am also a donor and advocate for HQ and our clients.

Ever since a friend of mine killed himself in high school, I joined the caring fight to assist others that were feeling hopeless. Coming out as gay in the 90s, I know the value of a safe space...and how desperately important it is to those in need of a community. Being a survivor of sexual abuse, I understand the value of a listening and caring person. #IamHQ

My hundreds of hours on the phone, my hundreds of dollars donated, my limitless passion and caring, and my countless conversations with friends have not been enough. I need your help. HQ needs you. And more importantly, our callers need you.

Headquarters' future is uncertain and the path forward is dark, but that is when HQ has always been there. Supporting others at the darkest of times. And I know we, together, can carry this important agency forward into a better time. Donate online by visiting www.headquarterscounselingcenter.org Ask friends to donate. Share this message. Provide your ideas to me. Do it now.

This is the moment our mission is on the line. And, it will take all of us working together to answer the call!

On the line with you,
Scott



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 L/DC, and mail to LWV L/DC, PO Box 1072, Lawrence, KS 66044.

(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, 2018.)

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 \$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 _____

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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President@lawrenceleague.com • www.lawrenceleague.com
www.facebook.com/lwvldc • www.twitter.com/lwvldc

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