

THE VOTER

League of Women Voters Wichita-Metro, P. O. Box 2411, Wichita, KS 67202
Lwvwichita.org E-mail lwvwichitametro@att.net Phone number 316-259-7575



June, 2015 Newsletter

CALENDAR OF LWV DATES –2015

Board Meeting

No June Meeting

Unit Meeting

No June Unit Meeting

Hot Topics

On summer break

Voter Registration

Naturalization Ceremony

June 12th – 11:00 am

Century II

Contact Connie Dean for information

(316) 260-6611

consuelodean@hotmail.com

95th LWV Celebration

19th Amendment Parade Coordinator

Mary Knecht

knechtmary@hotmail.com

942-8068



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Sharon Ailsieger & Barbara Fuller Co-Presidents

School is out, summer is here—along with River Festival. Unfortunately, the Kansas Legislature is STILL IN SESSION!! It is so sad that these elected politicians cannot figure a way out of the financial hole into which they find themselves!! In addition, they are trying to influence the Judiciary, give unnecessary legal powers to the Secretary of State, and make life, just generally, more difficult for the poor in this state!! However, the LWVKS and local Leagues have been contacting the Legislature and the Governor to let them know how we feel!! On top of the bad decisions they make, they use our dime to fight when a law is unconstitutional. What a sad state of affairs!!

Let us move on to happier thoughts. Our 18 MONTH LEAGUE CALENDAR will be available by June 23, 2015 when a special League event is being planned. The time is, tentatively, 6:00-8:00 pm, at Naftzger Park (downtown). It will be in the evening and ALL Wichita League members are invited to come, purchase a calendar and take some to sell, if possible!! The cost will be \$20 each and proceeds will go to the League. The Wichita League will not have regular summer Unit meetings, but there will still be activities—**your help is needed**. Contact Sally Dewey or Carole Neal if you can help in any way.

Other news is that the LWV-Wichita/Metro has its' own phone & number—it is 316-573-5583. Either Barb Fuller or I will answer. However, you can still call me at home (316-773-7420) or on my cell (316-841-5936). Barb's phone is 316-684-1935 (home) or 316-210-6531@.

The May Board meeting was on May 26th and there will be no June Board meeting—too many people on vacation—me included!! We did some brainstorming and discussed changing

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Unit days and times—maybe have a couple of more evening or Saturday meetings. **WHAT DO YOU MEMBERS THINK??**

Another suggestion was to combine the responsibilities of **Unit Chair/Callers Coordinator/ Program Contact** into one portfolio. The responsibilities would include 1) Taking reservations for events, 2) Setting up the lists for the callers 3) Once the Board has set the program, the speaker would need to be contacted. **I NEED A VOLUNTEER!!**

Finally, would anyone be interested in being **Observer Chair or VOTER EDITOR or WEBMASTER?? AGAIN, VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** and they can be off-board positions, if necessary. Please think about these positions and let me know if you are interested. This is good way to “get your feet wet” in the League.

**Register new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies to vote.
Century II – June 12th, 2015**

**Treasurer Report
Elaine Harvey**

Dues for 2015-2016 now due!

Our LWV Wichita-Metro Dues year is from July 1 to June 30 so that dues will be due July 1. Thanks to the early, early payers who have paid by May 31! Our LWV Wichita-Metro dues also cover our LWV US and LWV KS memberships so they are a bargain. We are part of an organization with a long and proud history, 95 years, working to encourage informed voting and to protect the right to vote. Dues are \$60 a year. That includes our "Voter" newsletter sent by e-mail. If you prefer a paper voter mailed to you, please send an additional \$15. If you are a student or a second member in a household, dues are

\$30.

Mail Checks to:

**LWV Wichita-Metro
Elaine Harvey
4370 N. Eagle Lake Ct
Bel Aire, KS 67220**

**95th Anniversary Celebration –
19th Amendment**

The League has joined forces with other groups to celebrate the Leagues Anniversary
Those included are Wichita Public Library, NOW, Wichita Professional Communicators, Female Clergy, Hispanic Women, AAUW, Alpha Kappa Alpha, LWV Wichita Metro and others.

River Festival Parade was a great success.



Our Co-President Barb Fuller, Voter Service Betty Ladwig and Past-President Carole Neal.

Check out our LWV Wichita Metro Facebook for more pictures. Great Job Mary Knecht for leading this great event. We had 82 marchers honoring the efforts of our foremothers and forefathers in getting the 19th Amendment passed.

Save the Dates: 19th Amendment Celebration Activities

Wednesday, August 12, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

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Wichita Public Library Downtown, Senior Wednesday

A panel of LWVers will share what it took to get the 19th Amendment passed.
Free and open to the public.

Sunday, August 16, 2:00 – 4:00 pm Wichita Sedgwick County Historical Museum

Historian and author Diane Eickhoff, with support from the Kansas Humanities Council, will present "Women Rising: How Kansas Women Gained the Vote, 1859-1912."
Reception following.
Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, August 26, 7:00 – 9:00 pm WSU Hughes Metroplex National Women's Equality Day Celebration

Former Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger will be the keynote speaker at a major patriotic event with music and brief remarks from local female leaders that commemorates the actual signing of the 19th amendment 95 years ago on August 26, 1920. This event is co-sponsored by the WSU Departments of Political Science and History.
Free and open to the public.

KS League Goes On

Letter to Governor

Honorable Sam Brownback
Kansas State Capital

May 25, 2015
Re: Senate Bill 34

Dear Governor Brownback:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Kansas (League), we urge you to veto Senate Bill 34.

As you may know, SB 34 would grant the Kansas Secretary of State prosecutorial authority for certain election crimes. The League does not have a position on this issue.

However, the League is extremely troubled by Section 5 of the bill, which amends K.S.A. 25-2416(a), by removing the term "and willfully" from what would become a severity level 7, nonperson felony.

Currently K.S.A. 25-2416(a) addresses voting without being qualified as "knowingly and willfully" voting when one is not entitled to vote. SB 34 would change this to "knowingly" voting when one is not qualified, removing the element of "willfully."

The League fears that such removal of the term "willfully" would place at risk of prosecution many of the 33,000 persons who are currently on the Secretary of State's "suspense" list of not fully registered voters. These persons could attempt to vote, being unaware that their registration was incomplete. Such attempt would subject them to possible prosecution, a severity level 7, nonperson felony for "knowingly voting or attempting to vote without being qualified in any election district when not a lawfully registered voter in such election district" regardless of whether their attempt was willful or not. SB 34(a) (1).

Sincerely,
Carole Neal and Marge Ahrens, Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Kansas (Topeka)

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LWV Wichita-Metro Board Members

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Carole Neal – Past President
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Megan Wright-Hagan – Hot Topics/Publicity/MLD
825 N Sagebrush Ct
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(316) 733-6270
meganwh825@cox.net
(Continuing until she moves)

Off Board:

Nominating Committee – Ellen Estes/Sally Morse
Webmaster – To be announced
Unit Chair – To be announced

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate. **Join Us!!!!**

Name (Please Print) _____

Names of additional member in household _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Business Phone _____ Email Address _____

Annual Dues \$ 60.00
Add'l Household Membership \$ 30.00
Student Membership \$ 30.00
Hardcopy monthly newsletter \$ 15.00
(Newsletter is emailed monthly with no charge)
Donation _____

Areas of Interest:
Voter Education: _____
Studies: _____
Board Position: _____
Other: _____

Contacts:

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Barbara Fuller | Co-President | Phone 684-1935 | Email: utwbarb@cox.net |
| Sharon Ailsieger | Co-President | Phone 773-7420 | Email: sailieger@netscape.net |
| Ernestine Krehbiel | Membership Chair | Phone 653-9229 | Email: ekrehbiel@cox.net |



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