

THE VOTER

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



February, 2015

Board Meeting

Saturday February 21, 2015
9:30 am
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
925 N. Waco

Unit Planning Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Piccadilly Grill
Central & Rock
COST: \$15.00 (pay at the door)
PROGRAM:
RSVP: Ellen Estes (218-1163)
efestes@cox.net

Partners for Wichita -Trivia Night Party

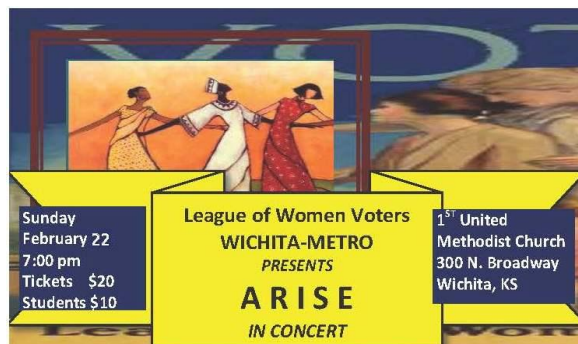
Saturday, Feb. 28, 7:00 p.m.
(doors open at 6:30), at First Presbyterian
Church, 525 N. Broadway (at Central)

Hot Topics

Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 11:30 – 1:00 pm
Wichita City Library Auditorium
223 S. Main
Wichita, Ks
Bring a brown bag lunch, drinks furnished.
Speaker starts at 12:00 p.m.

Decriminalizing Marijuana

February 22, 2015 – Start the 95th Celebration



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Sharon Ailsieger & Carole Neal

January is over and only 11 months of 2015 left!! The first month of the New Year saw the Wichita League gearing up for the local elections in April (we will be helping with at least two forums), attending the public meeting with the Sedgwick County Legislators before they went up to Topeka, and holding different committee meetings for upcoming events—ARISE CONCERT, DINNER WITH WOMEN OF POLITICS, 95TH CELEBRATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT—and the unit meeting that included deciding on our suggestion for the next State Study—Education/Common Core. We held two board meetings in January in order to discuss all the League issues. **We will need volunteers for the Budget Committee, the By-laws Committee, and the Nominating Committee.** We have Chairs but need helpers. These committees are a good way for new members to get their feet wet. Members have stepped up to be callers—**Betty Ladwig, Connie Dean, Elaine Harvey, Ann Starch, Diana Guthrie, & Peg Vines.** A big thank-you to these members who will be contacting you, each month, about League activities. Listen for the phone or check e-mails. If no one contacts you—**let me know!!** Please note that if more members would volunteer for this task, the lists would get shorter!! This is something that you can do from home. Since the State League is not having a Day at the Legislature this year, each League is choosing a day to visit Topeka and their local Legislators. February is the month Wichita has chosen, but a date has not been set—it will take some coordination!! Date TBA! Another date that has been set is the STATE CONVENTION—APRIL 25, 2015—LAWRENCE, KS. Put this on your calendar and plan to attend. Finally, it is with regret that we have lost a long time member—NONA PONDER, age 84. Nona had been active in the Wichita League since she moved back from Wisconsin (where she also belong to LWV) and served in many capacities including President and on the State Board. She was faithful in her

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attendance of League activities and a constant financial supporter. Nona will be sorely missed!
Sharon Ailsieger & Carole Neal, Co-Presidents

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES—WICHITA LWV:

- Nominating Committee:
 - Diana Cubbage (elected)—Chair
 - Paul Babich—Board Representative
 - NEED ONE MORE NON-BOARD VOLUNTEER.
- Budget Committee:
 - Ellen Estes—Chair
 - Elaine Harvey—Treasurer
 - NEED ONE MORE NON-BOARD VOLUNTEER
- By-laws Committee
 - Myrna Hudson—Chair
 - Wendy Kabler
 - NEED ONE MORE NON-BOARD VOLUNTEER
- Local Study Committee—City/County Budget/Taxes—Where does the money go?
 - Carole Neal & Elaine Harvey—Co-Chairs.
 - Carole & Elaine have volunteers, but anyone is welcome. They will begin meeting soon. It is a two year study.
- (The Co-Presidents are Ex-officio members of all the committees.) If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, contact me at 773-7420 or sailsieger@netscape.net)

OBSERVER CORPS:

What is it? Years ago, the Wichita League tried to have members attend different government meetings, on a regular basis, and put reports in the VOTER. This corps served two purposes: 1) kept the League visible 2) kept government entities on their toes—they knew the League was there. Then too many members started working full time and everything became televised. However, over time it has been discovered that having presence (physical) at meetings is best. The League members did not say anything or

take part in the meeting—just observed. The following meetings were observed:

1. WICHITA CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, 9:00 am—Wichita City Hall
2. SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMISSION—
Wednesday, 9:00 pm—Sedgwick County Court House.
3. USD 259 BOARD MEETING—
Monday, 7:00 pm—North High School
4. METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION-Every other Thursday-
1:30 pm
5. LIBRARY BOARD-Third Tuesday—
Noon—
6. Wichita Central Library – 223 S. Main
7. DABS- by District and different days and places.

Some of the board have changed over the years, so there are others—most of which are only once a month and meet during the day. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, contact me 773-7420 or sailsieger@netscape.net. Perhaps we can get an Observer Corps going again!!

Sharon & Carole

Voter Service

Betty Ladwig Chair

I'm a "clipper" and spread the articles from past weeks out on the dining room table this morn and noted: "Kobach wants to prosecute voter fraud?" Where is it, who are they or is it just a way to disenfranchise voters?

Another article...."Kobach proposes a straight ballot option" Why? a legislator suggests this is a relic of the past, that it promotes mindless voting.

Mr. Kobach also dismisses reaction to the remark on ethnic cleansing.

We should be making it easier to vote, the terrible statistic of 18,000 to 22,000 voters "in suspension" awaiting proof of citizenship, the registration card was always an affidavit of truth, it was illegal to make a false entry on the card,

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why aren't we revoking this legislation that is moving civil rights backward.

It isn't just voting rights that are suffering; other concerns have to do with big time budget woes, inadequate school funds, KPERS, road & bridge construction funds, poverty and hunger issues in the city.

There is a Legislative hot line, 800 432 3924 to get information on specific bills or to verify committee meeting times. The hot line is operated by the State Library of Kansas. Lets use it.

The deadline for filing for the March 3rd primary election was January 27th. The mayoral race has attracted 10 candidates; the election will be April 7th. It will also include BOE candidates.

We will be going into a big year, celebrating the 95th anniversary, doing much voter registration and related activities. If you are interested in helping let me know. Thank you.

P.S. I had called the Election Office earlier in week and Sandy called back this morn and left this information, in Sedgwick County there are currently 6457 voters here and 30,000 in the State in suspension, if you want to call it that.

Betty Ladwig, Voter Service

Register new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies to vote.

We had received information that there would be no more formal ceremonies held at Century II. However, according to the calendar of the District Court the following is scheduled. We will continue to research this issue.

Naturalization Ceremony
March 27, 2015, 11:00am
June 12, 2015, 11:00am
September 11, 2015, 11:00am
December 4, 2015, 11:00am
Century II
Mary Jane Teall Theatre
225 West Douglas

Wichita, Kansas

Forums

The league will participate in Mayoral Candidate Forums starting Thursday February 12 at 6:00pm – 7:30 pm with the Wichita Art Council KWCH and KMWU. The forum will be held in Room 101 at Century II. Free and open to the public. Social time will start at 5:15 p.m.

The arts enhance our quality of life, promote economic development and help build vibrant and connected communities. The arts are a vital part of our city's future; this forum will focus on city government's role in supporting the arts and implementing a comprehensive cultural plan. Questions will allow candidates to share their knowledge and level of support for arts and culture in Wichita.

Will keep you posted on others.

Treasurer's Report

Elaine Harvey – Treasurer

We now have 83 members of LWV Wichita-Metro. Our December Brunch Fundraiser for the Ed. Fund was very successful and it totaled \$815. Then we had two generous Ed. Fund gifts from the Jean Schodorf campaign and the Charlie Jenney campaign.

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

Education/Scholarship Fund

Donations to the Education/Scholarship Fund are tax deductible. Give Generously

Membership

Ernestine Krehbiel – Chair

Welcome new member

Camille Healy

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Fund Raising/95th Celebration

Sally Dewey and Carole Neal – Co-Chairs

This year the League of Women Voters celebrates the 95th anniversary of the national organization, founded in 1920, the same year as the passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote.

We have many events planned to celebrate as well as to raise funds for our Scholarship/Education Fund including a concert on February 22nd featuring ARISE. February 14 is the league's birthday, February is Black History Month and March is Women in History month. In April we will be hosting a Dinner celebration at the Tallgrass Country Club featuring Women in Politics in Today's Environment and we will follow up by participating in the River Festival.

Ancient history?

Many of our current members' mothers could not vote sometime in their lives. Ninety five years after its founding, the league is dedicated to maintaining its role in the volatile political landscape — getting people interested, educated and proactive in the democratic process. The league is very relevant for all ages, especially in times like these with so many challenges and important decisions being made. It believes that we are all affected by the decisions of government and our ability to participate in government.

The league has also included men since 1974. The league would like to reach out to more younger women.

The league is constantly working on getting out the vote and working on educating the public on what is going on in the community and awareness about issues beneficial to the public. What the League strives to do is provide a non-partisan vehicle for examining issues and political candidates. We take a position on the former, but not the latter. Considering the partisan political arena nowadays, it's not easy. It's difficult to maintain the nonpartisan face to the

League, because we are individuals and we have our own point of view. We hope our strength is to be nonpartisan.

The League provides forums that are without bomb throwing. It tries to provide balanced discussions and professional debates to a variety of subjects.

As with any of our projects and events volunteers are the success of any endeavor. If you are interested contact Sally Dewey (652-8788) or Carole Neal (259-7575).

Studies:

Local Study

Carole Neal and Elaine Harvey – Co-Chairs

“Budget and tax policies within the city and county.” The scope of the study will be to determine the responsibilities of each entity and how the budgets are funded. Who pays for what? Where does the money come from?

Hot Topics

Paul Babich and Megan Wright-Hagen – Co-Chairs

Winter/Spring 2015

4th Tuesday: 11:30 am -1:00 pm

Central Branch of the Wichita Public Library
223 S. Main, Wichita, Ks

These programs are free and open to the public. Please share this information with others who are interested. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch, drinks will be provided. **The program starts promptly at noon.**

February 24, 2015

- Decriminalizing Marijuana

There is an effort to get a measure added to the Spring elections to ask the public about decriminalizing marijuana. What are the pro's and con's of decriminalizing marijuana? Come and find out both sides of the issue in this fo-

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rum. The Marijuana Reform Initiative (MRI ICT) and Sheriff Easter will present.

March 24, 2015

- Election Issues for the April election

Let's meet the candidates for the Mayor of Wichita that are on the April ballot.

Follow-up to January Hot Topics by Megan Wright-Hagen

Given other factors that impact election results, can you give us an insight as to what went into the determination that it was the polling results that were off rather than the election results?

Given other factors that impact election results, such as:

- The [Government Accountability Office](#) study released last October that stated that voter turnout between 2008 and 2012 took a bigger hit in Kansas than other states, and that's likely due to Voter ID requirements.
- The [Brennen Center of Law](#) determined that Kansas is one of four states where the Voter ID and citizenship laws could have made a difference in the election results.
- The ['Electoral Integrity Project' Report Ranks U.S. 26th Amongst World Democracies](#) on election integrity. The 'World's Greatest Democracy' rated worst among Western nations; Ranked just below Micronesia, just above Mexico in overall list.
- The [Pew Charitable Trusts Elections Performance Index \(EPI\)](#) report of 2012 [rates Kansas in the bottom 15 percent of all states](#). (Most of the troubles can be attributed to Kansas having the third-largest increases in both rejected provisional ballots (voters without identification or other concerns on Election Day) and not voting at all due to problems with registration or absentee-ballot issues.)
- [Privatizing our vote](#). Our election machines are run by private companies and the soft-

ware is copy written, preventing our election officials from truly being able to verify an election.

- [Gerrymandering](#). Is Lawrence still split in half?
- [Dark money](#) and massive coordinated attack ads.
- **We have a Secretary of State who is in charge of our fair and unbiased elections who has stated:** Earlier in the program, Kobach used a more subtle form of racial dog-whistle by accusing Democrats of "replacing American voters" with "socialist" Hispanic voters. While reading polls about political attitudes broken out by race, Kobach said that "if you look at it through an ethnic lens," Democrats want to create a locked-in vote for socialism" by "replacing American voters with newly legalized aliens." - See more at: <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/kobach-ethnic-cleansing-possible-if-hispanics-become-us-majority#sthash.jExhVARb.dpuf> as well as questionable comments about ethnic cleansing. The original Wichita Eagle article has a link to the radio program where the original statements were made: Kris Kobach dismisses controversy over 'ethnic cleansing' comment - <http://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article4047969.html>
- **The crosscheck program developed by our SOS.** [Interstate Crosscheck](#) is computer system that officials claim can identify anyone who commits the crime of voting twice in the same election in two different states. While the current list of seven million "suspects" did not yield a single conviction for double voting, Crosscheck did provide the grounds for removing the registrations of tens of thousands of voters in bat-

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tleground states. The purge proved decisive in North Carolina, Colorado, Kansas and elsewhere. Without Crosscheck, the GOP could not have taken control of the US Senate." [Original report.](#)

- **Locally we have an [election commissioner](#) who did not allow the press to observe the vote counting in the primary election – and so probably did not during the general election.** “It’s the second time this week that Lehman’s office has encountered controversy over doing its business behind closed doors.
 - On Tuesday, news reporters were denied access to watch the election office count the votes in the state primary election, as had been allowed in the past.”
- Our Sedgwick County Election Office [recruiting family and friends](#) to work polls.
- **As reported in League monitoring that more than half of the provisional ballots were not counted. (Election Process: Election 2014: 887,000 (51%) voted. Provisional Ballots: Over 50% of ballots not counted. Citizenship requirement: Over 25,000 applications have not provided documentation.)**

Other Goings On

For fun and funds with Partners for Wichita... Come to our Trivia Night Party

The League has signed up for a team. You’ll have a good time and do good for folks who need our help. Join our Celebrity Emcee, Jenn Bates, KWCH-TV 12 Eyewitness News Morning Anchor, for the fun.

What: Teams of 8 collaborate on Trivia questions of all kinds and compete for lots of prizes. Drawings and quick games between rounds of questions, gift baskets, lots of prizes, snacks and fun – to benefit Partners for Wichita’s pro-

grams.

When and where: Saturday, Feb. 28, 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30), at First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Broadway (at Central).

Who: All ages, high school, college age, and “mature” adults. Teams with a mix of ages are great! People from congregations, organizations, families, clubs, all over town.

Donations are needed: Teams and individuals to come...

Sponsors: Contributions as an Event Sponsor (\$1,000+), and for 10 “rounds” (\$200) and 10 “breaks” – (\$100).

Prizes: Gift coupons and special gifts for winners

Gift baskets: Baskets of gift items and coupons to benefit community programs. Info at danielle@partnersforwichita.org. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Make a difference for children, youth and families — Filling the Gap Lunches for Kids, Bags of Blessings personal care items, Youth Corps for middle school students, and more.

If you would like to play let us or Danielle@partnersforwichita.org know.

Kansas League of Women Voters 2015 Convention

Save the Date

Saturday, April 25, 2015

*Holiday Inn and Convention Center
200 McDonald Drive
Lawrence, KS 66044
www.holidayinn.com/lawrenceks
785-841-7077*

10 rooms are held @\$89/night for Friday, April 24, 2015

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LWV Wichita-Metro Board Members

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Megan Wright-Hagan – Hot Topics/Publicity/MLD
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Off Board:

Nominating Committee – Diana Cubbage
Webmaster – Kay Johnson
Unit Chair – Ellen Estes

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 _____

Contacts:

Carole Neal	Co-President
Sharon Ailsieger	Co-President
Ernestine Krehbiel	Membership Chair

Areas of Interest:

Voter Education: _____

Studies: _____

Board Position: _____

Other: _____

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