

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



CALENDAR OF LWV DATES –2014

Board Meeting

July 12th – Saturday 10:00 a.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

HOT TOPICS— Wichita City Library

September 23rd

Education in Kansas- Where is it going?

October 28th

Current Election Issues

November 25th

KanCare – 1 year later

Unit Meeting

September 9th - 5:00 p.m.

Piccadilly Grill

Membership Evening

Kansas State Fair

Sunday, September 7th

Pro-Choice Booth

Judicial Candidate Forum

Tuesday July 22nd

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Eugene Hughes Building

WSU Hughes Metroplex

Room 132

5015 E. 29th

Wichita, KS

Co-sponsored with

Wichita Women Attorneys

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Sharon Ailsieger & Carole Neal

Summer is definitely here and the drought may be over, but the League is as busy as ever!!

There were meetings, community engagement meetings that began in May and went all the way through June. There were meetings on transportation. There have been meetings concerning the new downtown library. The League has been represented at all of these meetings.

Carole Neal, Ellen Estes, Ernestine Krehbiel and I attended the LWV-US National Convention in Dallas—and it was great!! Voter Service has finished the grant, received from National, on registering youth and the underserved. The State Study Committee on Fracking held a meeting in Topeka and I attended for the Wichita League. The 2014-15 LWV-Wichita/Metro board is in place and had its June meeting with a luncheon at my home. **Welcome to new**

Board members, Marilyn Hansen and Myrna Hudson. Our local study is on Budget and Budget Policy. **Carole Neal and Elaine Harvey**

are the co-chairs. They will be forming a study committee. If this sounds interesting, contact them. While there are no unit meetings in June, July, and August, the Board continues to work and plan for the upcoming year. The fiscal year begins July 2014, and dues are due--\$60 for individuals and \$90 for household memberships. It is an election year and the League has already been asked to help with forums/debates. We have put together questions for candidates to answer via VOTE411. Hot Topics will begin again in September and those programs are in place. The League will, again be volunteering to work a day, Sunday September

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7, at the State Fair Booth for Pro-Choice. We could still use some more help—you get into the Fair for free. Contact Sharon Ailslieger, 773-7420 or sailslieger@netscape.net, if you are interested. If you are willing to serve on the Membership Committee, Voter Service Committee, or Fund Raising Committee just contact the designated.

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

1) A series of community engagement meetings were held May 15–June 26, at the downtown YMCA. The goal of the meeting was to gather recommendations on where to invest public money to help shape Wichita's future. **The League represented at four of these meetings.** The subjects were as follows:

- May 15: Business, industry, commerce, transportation
- May 22: Building, development, real estate
- May 29: Engineering, architecture, design, environment
- June 5: Arts, culture, recreation
- June 12: Social services, community health and wellness
- June 19: Neighborhoods
- June 26: Education

I was able to attend three of the seven meetings and Diana Cabbage attended the last session for the League. My observations included the fact that almost no one attended the meetings. The future of our city will be based on the input of maybe 25-30 people in a city of over 300,000.

2) Six workshops were held by WAMPO (Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization) on transportation within the Metro Area. **The League was represented at least three of these places.**

- May 17---Goddard
- May 19—Downtown

- May 22—Andover
 - May 27—Bel Aire
 - May 28—Maize
 - May 29---Derby
- Again, the observation was that not many citizens attended.

3) The City of Wichita held seven meetings on the budget and proposed sales tax. **Unfortunately, due to scheduling, the League was unable to attend these.** (If anyone attended, as just citizen, let us know your thoughts)

- June 17—Avita-629 S. Maize
- June 18—Evergreen Recreation Center
- June 23—Boys & Girls Club
- June 24—Osage Recreation Center
- June 26—Eastminster Presbyterian Church
- June 30—WATER Center
- July 1---Lionel Alford Library

4) Finally, during the week of June 9-13 meetings were held concerning the proposed new Downtown Library. **League members were there!!**

As you can see, there have been MANY opportunities for citizen input on use of tax dollars—it is a shame that more people did not use the opportunity to make their voices heard.

The League will continue to make its voice heard and/or just observe—but we will be there. If just observing a meeting sounds like something you would be interested in, just let me know. The League used to have an **Observer Corps and it would be great to bring it back.**

Weekly meetings that need to be physically observed include the 1)The City Council, 2) the Sedgwick County Commission 3) USD 259 School Board 4)Wichita Area Planning Commission. We just need **observers (League presence).** **Reported by Sharon Ailslieger Co-President**

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LWV National Convention

If you ever have the opportunity to go to a National League of Women Voters convention, go!!! Over the years I have attended many conventions and when I decided to attend the league's convention this year I anticipated more of the same. However, I was pleasantly surprised. First it was wonderful to be surrounded by approximately 700 men and women from across the country that are like minded and open to discussing issues out in the open. Sharon Ailsieger and I went as voting delegates for Wichita, Ellen Estes subbed as a delegate from Great Bend and Ernestine Krehbiel was a State delegate.

Kansas was well represented overall and we participated in many areas and found most to be informational and gave us some good ideas. Following is a report from National on the convention.



Carole Neal – Co-President

WASHINGTON, DC – The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) held its 51st biennial national convention this week in Dallas, Texas. The four-day gathering gave League members from around the country the opportunity to celebrate the organization's accomplishments on voting rights, campaign finance reform and the environment, and to discuss important public policy issues.

In her acceptance speech, the League's reelected national president Elisabeth MacNamara challenged delegates: "Our communities are stronger because the Leagues are there. Let's not be afraid to keep getting in the way and make a difference on big money and campaign finance reform, redistricting, climate change and voters' rights."

MacNamara thanked members for entrusting her with a third term and the leadership of this storied organization approaching its 100th anniversary. "Thank you for faith in the League and the future."

Throughout the gathering, delegates rallied around the League's 2014 Power the Vote initiative for their elections work this year, and set the LWVUS program agenda for the next two years, vowing to continue our fight for voting rights and campaign finance reform. In addition, delegates reinforced the League's efforts to combat climate change and adopted a three-part program focusing on key structures of American democracy, including campaign finance reform, the constitutional amendment process, and redistricting reform for the U.S. Congress. The League also adopted a position on human trafficking enabling state and local Leagues across the country to take action protecting victims of such crimes.

"League delegates are deeply concerned about the big money that is polluting our elections," said MacNamara. "At Convention, we came together and pledged to educate our communities and fight in our legislatures to protect our democracy."

Voter Service

Betty Ladwig Chair

A busy time has begun and did two programs on Voting Registration changes the past week for Greenwood Manor and McLean Manor Asst. Living facilities. They were very interested and distributed literature that McLean Manor resident was going to put in their newsletter this week. Made a display and took the big board on Suffrage to Greenwood Manor. The newspaper clippings file was interesting to them. They are concerned about the 18,000 voters that are still in suspension, (the figure on 6-12-14) The Sat-

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urday Wichita Eagle on Saturday, June 26, noted in an article "ACLU seeks to block Kansas voter-citizenship move." Much news and Candidate Schodorf proposes voting changes and calls for suspended voters being able to vote until the State repairs the system. The e-mail from Elizabeth MacNamara, our President, wrote on 6-25 about the VRAA of 2014 and the hearing regarding the gutting of the act by the Supreme Court in the Senate being a good step but now we need to get the House to also follow the Senate's lead and move forward with a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee. She says discrimination at the ballot box is real. "Access to the vote is not about politics; it's about justice and equality"

Finally my grandson, Will, in Oklahoma City, went with his Mom to the polling place last week. The poll worker asked his Mom about her party affiliation and then asked Will too. She also asked if he was a Democrat because she was "making him," Will said "no, look, I have my own mind; I AM almost nine in 8 days."



Will score 1, Poll Worker 0.

Treasurer's Report

Elaine Harvey – Treasurer

Dues are due for the 2014-2015 dues year!! Please send your \$60 dues to Treasurer Elaine Harvey at 4370 Eagle Lake Ct. Bel Aire, KS 67220 and write the check to LWV Wichita-Metro. If you want to receive the LWV Wichita-Metro Voter by regular mail, please send an additional \$15, standard delivery of our Voter is by e-mail. Your \$60 membership makes you a member of the local, state and national levels of the League.

Our LWV Wichita-Metro dues year begins July 1. Thanks to those who have already paid their dues. New members who paid their dues after January 31, 2014 are "paid up" through June 30, 2015. Individual memberships are \$60

a year, family memberships are \$90 a year.

You can also contribute to the LWV Wichita Metro Education and Scholarship Fund. Contributions to the LWV Wichita-Metro Education and Scholarship Fund are tax-exempt whereas our dues are not. Please mark your check Ed. Fund if you are contributing to this fund.

League of Women Voters - Nonpartisan Policy

As a reminder for all members in this election year with so many issues at stake following is the League's Nonpartisan Policy.

The League of Women Voters of Wichita Metro may take action on governmental measures and policies, but it shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Recognizing that the League experience uniquely equips members for public life and wishing to encourage members to utilize their knowledge and abilities, non-board members are urged to participate fully in party activities (on an individual basis). Board members' activities must be limited to preserve the League's nonpartisan status.

The co-presidents, the voter's service director, and any other board member whose position is deemed sensitive shall not run for or hold elective office. If a board member declares for an elective office, the member should resign from the board. Public notices released by the League announcing the resignation of a board member to run for such an office should be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of endorsing the resigning board member's candidacy.

Board members shall not undertake any action that will cause them to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for office or any political party. The president, voter service director and holder of any other board position deemed sensitive shall not participate in any political campaign in any way. Other board members

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shall not chair or administer fundraising or political campaigns, chair campaign events, or work in a significant way in the campaign of a candidate.

A board member may serve on any public board, commission, committee, or coalition; however, that board member does not represent the League unless officially designated as a League representative by the League board. A board member may not speak or in any way work against a League position.

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a board member are to be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the board member.

Other Goings On

**Update on our environment issues:
Excerpts from RECYCLING IN KANSAS
News You Can Use
July 2014 - Vol. 26, No. 7**

PRO-KS MILLER RECYCLING CENTER,
725 E. Clark, Wichita KS

WASTE CONTROL & RECYCLING COALITION

The June 9 meeting of the Waste Control & Recycling Coalition was held at East Heights United Methodist Church, Crestway & Douglas. The speaker was Tonya Bronleeve who explained the functions and responsibilities of the Wichita Air Quality Department and various practices that should be adopted by citizens and businesses to help maintain EPA requirements. Graphics presented show that Wichita Air Quality is generally within those requirements, but the trend of pollutants is upward. If you would like to participate but cannot attend noon meetings, please call 316-807-0318, and we will try to make other arrangements. If we all join together, more can be accomplished.

Contact for Ozone Alert Emails at <http://eepurl.com/yWcDv>. Contact Tonya at Tonya Breedleewe, Environmental Quality Specialist, Air Quality, City of Wichita, bronleeve!wichita.gov, 316-268-8350.

Marydel Grayum, Chairperson & Richard Brown, Program Chairman

OPPORTUNITY VILLAGES IN EUGENE, OREGON

Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE) is a homeless shelter with low capital investment. Eugene believes it has about 3,000 homeless people. Services already available are Eugene Mission with Bed, Food and Gospel; St. Vincent de Paul runs a homeless car-camping program providing a safe, legal place to park a car or camper; sheltercare serves mostly people with mental disabilities, but also has a medical respite program for short term shelter for homeless people released from the hospital.

Supporters of the village are now promoting another Opportunity Village to be called Emerald Village Eugene.

(The Eugene Register Guard, May 30, 2014 and Gretchen Miller, former mayor and city council member)

KCC APPROVES WESTAR PLAN

The Kansas Corporation commission (KCC) voted in May to let Westar Energy move forward with the plan to let customers pay for electricity before they use it. This plan is a pilot project and the start will be limited to 1,000 customers. Prepay will be available in parts of Wichita, as well as Lawrence, Silver Lake and Rossville. (Wichita Eagle, May 26, 2014)

COAL PLANT GETS GO-AHEAD AGAIN

Kansas' top environmental regulator at the end of May gave approval to a \$2.8 billion coal-fired power plant in the western part of the state. This was Dr. Robert Moser head of the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE). This happened only days before federal rules which would cause utilities to curb green-house gas emissions. Dr. Moser approved changes in a 2010 pollution-control permit for Sunflower Electric Power Corp. for a 895 megawatt plant near Holcomb. The changes impose stricter controls on nitrogen-dioxide, sulphur-dioxide and other pollutants that were imposed by the Kansas Supreme Court last year.

(The Wichita Eagle, May 31, 2014)

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POLLINATOR DECLINE

Pollinator decline is coming from dwindling Monarch butterfly populations, the alarming effects of Colony Collapse Disorder, and massive bumblebee die-off from pesticide poisoning on the West Coast, among the main reasons. In 2000, the Convention on Biological Diversity declared a pollinator crisis. According to the Food and Agriculture Report of the United Nations, "Pollination is a keystone process in both human managed and natural terrestrial ecosystems." According to a conservation biologist at the UC Berkeley, "You can thank a pollinator for about one-third of the food you eat." (KRC Rural Papers, Joanna Voight, April, May, June, 2014)

REGULATE FRACKING

The Obama administration has announced its first steps toward tighter regulation of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." Companies may be required to disclose the contents of the fluids used in the oil and natural gas drilling technique. The EPA says it will gather public comment for 90 days.
(Wichita Eagle, May 10, 2014)

WASTE TIRE PYROLYSIS

KDHE (Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment) has issued a permit for Waste Tire Pyrolysis. This means that cut tires will be thermally decomposed in an enclosed, oxygen-starved environment. Blizzard Energy, Inc., of Great Bend, is the company doing this work. The pyrolysis process will convert the tires into pyrolysis oil, carbon black, steel and synthetic gas. This facility is the first of its kind in Kansas.
(Solid Waste Update, KDHE, June 2014)

REJECT KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Residents of Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas met at "The Keeper of the Plains" in mid-May in Wichita to urge all officials to reject the Keystone XL Pipeline and other dirty-fuel projects. There is a rising tide of activism demanding that we choose clean energy for the future. The damage from the Keystone XL Pipeline would be far-reaching. Join in opposing the Keystone XL Pipeline which would bring filthy tar sands

through our country.

(Yvonne Cather, Kansas Chair of Sierra Club, Wichita Eagle, May 21, 2014)

THREATENED SPECIES LIST

The federal government has placed the Lesser Prairie Chicken on the list of Threatened Species. "Threatened Species" means that federal officials think the bird is in danger of extinction. This set off what might be a battle over states' rights. The Lesser Prairie Chicken is a species of grouse with feathered feet and striped plumage. It lives in Kansas, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Colorado. However, its habitat has shrunk by more than 80 percent since the 19th century. The once-open prairie has been transformed into farms, ranches and towns, with roads, fences, power lines, wind turbines and oil and gas wells.

Gov. Sam Brownback, of Kansas, says, "This is an overreach on the part of the federal government. He also was quoted as saying the listing would jeopardize Kansas's largest industries - agriculture and energy.
(Wichita Eagle, March 28, 2014)

SWEDEN IS SO GOOD AT RECYCLING

Sweden is so good at recycling that it has to import garbage from Norway to fuel its energy programs. (Carolyn Tamborski, May 29, 2014)

Editors: Margaret J. & Paul A. Miller, 430 Waverly, Wichita KS 67218 - 316-686-2555
kansasrecycling@gmail.com

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?

Please contact Carole or Elaine if you would like to be involved in the study. We need 4-6 individuals.

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Off Board:

Nominating Committee – Diana Cubbage

Webmaster – Kay Johnson

Unit Chair – Ellen Estes

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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)

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

Donation _____

Contacts:

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Sharon Ailsieger Co-President
Ernestine Krehbiel Membership Chair

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