



Calendar



May 2
Tuesday
Panel
6:30 pm

Candid Conversations
Officers of Color
Evergreen Library

May 9
Tuesday
5:30 pm

Annual Meeting
Two Olives
R.S.V.P. (see details)

May 20
Saturday
9:00 am

Board Meeting
St. Paul's Lutheran
Church

June 13
Tuesday
5 – 7

Summer Social
Happy Hour w Friends
Public at the
Brickyard
129 N. Rock Island Rd



Democracy
is not a Spectator Sport!

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE– MAY 2017:

Our fiscal year is almost over. Our May unit meeting will be our Annual Meeting. What exactly does that mean? It is when we conduct our final business for the year:

- i Vote on proposed local study for 2017-18;
- i Announce the winner of the League college scholarship;
- i Present the "Citizen of the Year" award;
- i Hear a program on State League lawsuits presented by State Co-Presidents;
- i Receive Annual Meeting packet with annual reports of the Board;
- i Vote on Bylaw changes (if any);
- i Vote on the proposed slate of officers for 2017-18;
- i Say thank you to the outgoing Board members and give directions to the new Board;
- i Vote on the proposed budget for 2017-18.

This is your opportunity to see how the League works and understand what is going on during the rest of the year. The LWV Wichita-Metro's fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30. This is a great time to pay your 2017-18 dues. There are no unit meetings or Tuesday Topics during the summer, but we are looking at having some "summer socials" which will include meeting at a restaurant and enjoying good discussions over drinks– coffee, tea or whatever! A good opportunity to get to know each other and stimulate the brain. Another event may be a fundraiser with ice cream and legislators. The "Candid Conversations" will continue throughout the summer. These discussions/events have been going on for the last few months and are excellent opportunities to discuss race relations in our community. There have been panels, films, and speakers. ALL very educational on the issue of race, bigotry, and how to improve our community. I would like to see more Leaguers in attendance, as we can make a difference.

The VOTER has the upcoming schedule included. Please, look at it, check your calendar and consider attending the discussions. There will be some book discussions, also. If you like book groups, this is for you. My point is that even though there are no unit meetings, there are other summer activities in which the League is involved. The Board will continue to meet and will start to plan programs, etc., for next year.



Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey. Your responses help the Board to know what League members want and what works best for their schedules. FINALLY, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO READ YOUR VOTER NEWSLETTER – IT IS ALWAYS FULL OF USEFUL INFORMATION.

Sharon Aillsieger and Barbara Fuller,
Co-Presidents



Voter Service- Betty Ladwig, Chair

April activities included the MS Walk at Sedgwick County Park two weeks ago. It was an outdoor event and especially windy. The organizers were grateful for our support and announced on p.a. system we were there. Everyone we approached had already registered, but they knew we were there. Many were in wheelchairs. A tent would have helped to hold things down. Ha!

Earth Day organizers at WSU want us there tomorrow for registering voters, again outdoors, keep your fingers crossed on wind and/or rain.

May 5th is a Wellness Fair at Maize South School. It is an early morning indoor event from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

I'm sure you all went to the polls on 4-11-17 for the District 4 Special Election to replace Rep. Pompeo. There is also a school bond election for Goddard Schools and I went to the Courthouse to vote for it prior to a trip out of State.

It will be an interesting year ahead, and we hope for involvement with many of you in supporting the work of the League.



Welcome to our newest members

Carrie J. Heiman
and
Jenny Gholson-Morris



Scholarship Committee – Wendy Kabler, Chair

The committee received, reviewed, and is in the process of interviewing the selected finalists for the 2017 LWV Wichita Sandra Day O'Connor Scholarship. The scholarship committee will announce the recipient selected at the LWV Wichita Metro Annual Meeting on May 9. Additionally, the awarded student will attend the September Unit Meeting in order that League members have an opportunity to meet our 2017 & 2018 LWV Wichita Student Ambassador.

If you should have any questions regarding the 2017 LWV Wichita Scholarship, please contact one of the following committee members: Sharon Aillsieger, Elaine Harvey, Wendy Kabler, Julie Sherwood, or Kayla Vix.



Treasurer Report - Elaine Harvey

As of April 25th, we have \$3,660 in INTRUST in Regular Funds and we have \$572 in Education and Scholarship Funds. Also, as of April 25th, we have \$4,879 of our Education and Scholarship Funds with LWVUS. I need bills to be turned in as soon as possible. I also need people to give me their data on in-kind donations.

Consider paying your 2017-2018 dues at the Annual Meeting on May 10th. New members who joined since February 1st are paid up through June 30, 2018. Our dues year is July 1 through June 30. Dues will be \$60 per year again in the coming year with 2nd members in a household and students at \$30. If you want the newsletter VOTER sent in printed form through the US Postal Service, add \$15 to your membership fee.



Communications Committee

We heard from you loud and clear! We received 26% membership response, which is remarkable! Thank YOU for taking time to complete the LWV Wichita Member survey. As promised, the results will be utilized for planning upcoming League events.



The vast majority of respondents said YES to Summer Social Happy Hour! Let's get the socializing started. Keeping to our beloved Tuesday schedule, the first Summer Social Happy Hour is planned for June 13. Please join us at Public at the Brickyard located at 129 N. Rock Island Road. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends and to meet other Leaguers in a fun relaxed environment. If you should have any questions, contact Kayla Vix at kaylavix@gmail.com.

Additionally, we are always looking for fellow members who would like to share their time and talent in making the League better. If you are interested in assisting the Wichita LWV in communications, please join us at our next lunch meeting scheduled for June 1 at AVI Seabar & Chophouse (135 N Waco). Contact Wendy Kabler at WKabler7@gmail.com if you need further details or directions.

Did You Know? Did You Know? Did You Know?

Famous Quotes:

☐Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less.☐ - Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1868.

☐Of my two ☐handicaps,☐being female put many more obstacles in my path than being black.☐ - Shirley Chisolm, 1970.

☐The prejudice against color, of which we hear so much, is no stronger than that against sex. It is produced by the same cause, manifested very much in the same way. The negro's skin and the woman's sex are both *prima facie* evidence that they were intended to be in subjection to the white Saxon man.☐ - Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1860.

☐Women can afford to teach for one-half, or even less, the salary which men would ask, because the female teacher has only to sustain herself; she does not look forward to the duty of supporting a family, should she marry, nor has she the ambition to amass a fortune.☐ - Catherine Beecher, 1860

Did you Know? submitted by Sharon Ailsieger

**LWV Wichita
ANNUAL MEETING**

Bring Friends

Dinner, Business, Program

**Program: LWV KANSAS Co-President
Kansas Voting Rights and Lawsuits**

Tuesday, May 9
5:30 pm
Program and

Two Olives / Olive Tree
29th & Rock Rd

RSVP with Ellen Estes
316-218-1163 or Efestes@cox.net

Dinner \$18 (cash or check only)

Tuesday Topics:

As the Tuesday Topic winter/spring series ends, we need ideas for future Tuesday Topics. Please share your ideas with Megan Wright-Hagan (meganwh825@cox.net) or Paul Babich (pbabich604@att.net). We are starting to plan now for the Fall 2017 sessions and beyond.

Obituary – Susan Wolcott

League member Susan Wolcott died April 4, 2017, after a 17-year fight with breast cancer. She was a retired high school English teacher and Physical Education teacher. Susan continued to teach, with great good spirit, while undergoing cancer treatments. She was a member of the Sierra Club and a great supporter of keeping the Arkansas River clean.

Fellow League member Ernestine Krehbiel taught with Susan at Metro Alternative High School. Together they chaperoned students on a school trip to Italy to see the wonderful history from Venice to Rome to Pompeii. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to her family. Susan's tireless energy will be missed by all who knew her.



Community Events:

LWV Wichita-Metro Board Members

Sharon Aillslieger – Co-President sailslieger@netscape.net

Paul Babich – Voter Service/Tuesday Topics
pbabich604@att.net

Sharon Cranford- scan50452@cox.net

Sally Dewey – Fund Raising/Education Fund
sallydewey@cox.net

Ellen Estes – efestes@cox.net

Barbara Fuller – Co-President - utwbarb@cox.net

Marilyn Hansen - mnhansen@cox.net

Elaine Harvey - Treasurer - elaine.harvey@wichita.edu

Wendy Kabler – VOTER Editor- wkabler7@gmail.com

Mary Knecht – knechtmary@hotmail.com

Ernestine Krehbiel – Membership Chair/MLD
ekrehbiel@cox.net

Betty Ladwig – Voter Service Chair - o7b406@aol.com

Judy Loganbill - judithloganbill@msn.com

Martha Pint – Program Chair Martha - pint@hotmail.com

Pat Reinhold – Secretary - patinwy@gmail.com

Megan Wright-Hagan – Tuesday Topics/Publicity
meganwh825@cox.net

CANDID CONVERSATIONS

A discussion of race in Wichita

APRIL

Voting Rights and Racial Justice

The right to vote is a core freedom in America. However, developments in the electoral process have had an effect on voters, and those changes have racial implications. Micah Kubic, head of the Kansas American Civil Liberties Union, speaks about matters of voting rights on race.

Tuesday, April 11
6:30-7:45 pm
Central Library

Cracking the Codes Film Discussion

From director Shakti Butler comes a new film that asks America to talk about the causes and consequences of systemic inequity. *Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity* features moving stories from racial justice leaders. Join the conversation and dig deeper into how race affects our day-to-day life and is embedded in our social fabric.

Saturday, April 22
1:30-4:30 pm
Central Library

MAY

Officers of Color Panel Discussion

Join a candid conversation with a diverse array of police officers who know the challenges of being part of the community and part of the Wichita Police Department. How does their race & ethnicity create opportunities? Are there special pressures on them from the community they serve?

Tuesday, May 2, 6:30-7:30 pm
Evergreen Branch Library



WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY



CITY OF WICHITA



www.wichitalibrary.org/candid



May Topic: Freedom of Information Act, Kansas Open Records Act, and other legislation you can use to be a more informed citizen. There's a lot to know... come find out where to look. Find out more at KMUW.org.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging 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!!!!



League of Women Voters of Kansas

Factsheet

Issues Related to the Secure and Fair Elections (S.A.F.E.) Act

1. According to the Government Accounting Office and research conducted by Rutgers University and others, participation in the vote dropped 3% at the institution of the requirement for government issued photo ID to vote in Kansas in 2012.
2. Of the 7% determined not to have a photo ID, Project Vote indicates that number includes 27% of African Americans, 19% of Hispanics, and about 30% of persons earning less than \$24,000 per year. In the 2016 election, the Secretary of State reports 308 persons did not produce a photo ID at the polls and lost the right to vote. (We do not know how many stayed home because they did not have such documentation available to them through lack of car ownership or drivers' licenses: resulting in no transportation to the election office to properly complete multiple forms; no transportation to the Vital Statistics Office to properly complete multiple forms; and no transportation to their DMV to properly complete multiple forms.)
3. The provision of Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) in order to register to vote built a roadblock for those wanting to register to vote in Kansas. Thirty-four thousand persons, or 16% of voter registrants, did not provide their birth certificates or other allowable documents by August, 2015. Young voters were particularly discouraged by this requirement.
4. Through rulemaking allowed in the S.A.F.E. Act, the Secretary of State was able to cancel voter registrations in their entirety if they had been on the "Suspense" or "Incomplete Voter Registration" list for 90 days or more.
5. Granting the Secretary of State authority to prosecute "voter fraud" and raising the crime from misdemeanor to felony status imparted fear into the voting process. The search for voter criminals using Office of the Secretary of State lawyers resulted in no voting by undocumented residents and miniscule "fraudulent" behavior on the part of voters. (Nine prosecuted cases and one or two "serial" double voters.)
6. Many thousands of Kansans appeared at the polls on November 8 with the expectation that they were registered to vote. Their vote was denied because, for whatever reason, they were not on the voter rolls. Some may have filled out an application that was cancelled by their election office; some may have been on a current "suspense" list; or some may have sent documents that were lost, including lost in electronic transmittal.
7. The Safe and Fair Elections Act is expensive to the state of Kansas, requiring maneuvering of multiple systems across multiple agencies. Computer systems have broken down entirely under the weight of voter applicants, especially those who want to register to vote online, mostly young people. It has cost local governments as yet uncalculated expense in attempting to notify persons that they need to bring in their documentary proof of citizenship in order to be able to vote in Kansas.
8. Most importantly the SAFE Act disrespects the desire and right of Kansas citizens to vote. It mocks the democracy for which we stand, and separates us by age, education, economics, and race in the vote, our most precious right we hold in common. It prevents some groups from an inch of power they gain by exercising their right to vote. It embarrasses the state of Kansas and demands continuous attention and money from advocates to protect the right to vote for all. It forces expense on the would-be voter born out of state in ordering birth certificates. And it has proven to be for naught.



9. We would hope that the Office of the Kansas Secretary of State would stand on his head to see that every possible citizen of every background have easy access to the vote. Instead the busy and burdened citizen is forced to do gymnastics in order to exercise their MOST BASIC and VALUED RIGHT.
10. Other states have adopted voter legislation which increases access to the vote.
11. Election Day Voter Registration allows 11-12% more to vote in the 16 states in which it has been instituted.
12. Likewise, a permanent or semi-permanent mail-in ballot increases voter participation.
13. Automatic voter registration is popular and positive but has technology costs and problems with which Kansas is already familiar.
14. The League of Women Voters of Kansas seeks to protect the vote for ALL citizens. We look to the State Constitution describing the power to the people and President Lincoln's words that "ALL the people" (emphasis his) have access to power for inspiration and support in doing our work to inform the public and protect the S.A.F.E. Act.

Co-Presidents Marge Ahrens and Carole Neal
League of Women Voters of Kansas



LWV ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 9TH

Dinner, Business, Program.

Bring a friend!

PROGRAM: LWV KANSAS Co-Presidents
Presentation on LWV Lawsuits and Voting Rights

TIME: 5:30 pm

PLACE: Two Olives Banquet Hall Rock Rd & 29th Street

RSVP: Ellen Estes - efestes@cox.net Or call 218-1163



MEMORANDUM

To: State and Local League and ILO leaders

From: Pat Donath, Chair, LWVUS Bylaws Committee

Subject: Amendment to Conform Bylaws Adopted at LWVUS Convention 2016

During the 2016 LWVUS National Convention, delegates approved amendments to Article III, Section 2 of the bylaws pertaining to Types of Membership. Requirements around voting membership in League were changed. Voting membership is now open to non-citizens and to individuals 16 years of age or older. As League policy requires “**consistency**” in the first three articles of the bylaws of all Leagues, this memorandum explains how state and local Leagues and ILOs should amend their own bylaws to reflect those of LWVUS.

Each League board should review and approve the language. Because this is a conforming amendment, it is not necessary to bring this issue to all members. Please note that Leagues cannot specify something different than the amendment approved at the LWVUS National Convention.

The previous language read:

Article III, Section 2. Types of Membership.

A. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

B. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

The new language as approved at the LWVUS National Convention reads:

Article III, Section 2. Types of Membership.

A. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

B. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

For further information on the proposed amendments and rationale for their proposal, please see the [Convention Workbook and Program](#). And for more information about the actions taken at Convention, please see the [Report of Convention Action](#).