

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



March, 2015

CALENDAR OF LWV DATES –2015

Board Meeting

Saturday, March
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
925 N. Waco
9:00 a.m.

Unit Meeting

Tuesday, March 10th
11:30 am
Piccadilly Grill
Central & Rock
COST: \$15.00 (pay at the door)

PROGRAM: Gun Control

RSVP: Ellen Estes (218-1163)
efestes@cox.net

Hot Topics

Tuesday, March 27
11:30 – 1:00 pm
Wichita City Library Auditorium
223 S. Main, Wichita, Kansas



Primary – Tuesday March 3
April 7th – Election Day

LWVK STATE CONVENTION
APRIL 25, 2015
HOLIDAY INN
LAWRENCE, KS

If you are interested in going, contact Sharon Ailsieger or Carole Neal. At least one car will be going up on Friday evening.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Sharon Ailsieger & Carole Neal

Usually, I try to make my message upbeat and tell all the activities of the League. But, this month I am really concerned about the bills being passed in Topeka that include absolutely NO GUN CONTROL, CENSORSHIP OF MATERIALS WITHIN SCHOOLS, PRACTICALLY NO BARGAINING POWER FOR TEACHERS, PREVENTION OF CHOICE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, POLITICAL SELECTION OF JUDGES AND, OF COURSE, WHERE THE MONEY WILL COME FROM TO KEEP THE STATE FROM BEING BROKE!! These are issues that will impact us all and are very scary. Some will be challenged in the courts (WHICH ARE NOT BEING FUNDED ADEQUATELY) and the State will be forced to spend MONEY IT DOES NOT HAVE ON COURT CASES. Plus, I did not include the VOTING CHANGES the Secretary of State has proposed. NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATORS!!! Every letter, e-mail and phone call counts—even if you and that person are on opposite ends of agreement—LET THEM KNOW WHERE YOU STAND!! Many of them think these bills are what the “people of Kansas” sent them to Topeka to do!! Let them know that not ALL THE PEOPLE agree!! We must make our voices be heard—over and over!! Our State is fast becoming a scary place to live (I think the Taliban is close at hand!!). The League has been lobbying, but we need our individual members to speak up as voters and constituents of our elected Legislators!! Go for it Leaguers!!

Sharon Ailsieger & Carole Neal, Co-Presidents.

Voter Service

Betty Ladwig Chair

We had a voter registration table set up at the ARISE concert last Sunday on that bitter cold evening. The presence of the League is important and we were also welcoming.

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Thanks to Carole, Sandra Rankin and all those that assisted in the successful Forum last Tuesday working with Women for Kansas at Scottish Rite Temple. They were good to work with and a big, big thank you to Carole for all her work. Great questions, script and good moderating by Susan Peters. No one, unless involved, realizes how much ground work and planning goes into a successful event like Tuesdays, the mechanics and simple things that all need to be attended to. Hope you all either were there or looked at it on KAKE.Com. Lots of positive comments afterward KAKE is interested in a post Primary forum.

Thanks to Carole and Connie for helping with the Art's Council forum pre-Primary and another one coming up on 3-19 post-Primary. We've had other inquiries. The General Election is April 7th.

I need names of any that are willing to help in the upcoming activities, registering voters, manning the tables at events, if you're willing to work only daytime or can attend in evening. Please call if you are interested and what time of day so I can get a registry started. Another busy year coming up.

We're glad to see Paul out and about again after his recent surgery. We've missed him.

Betty Ladwig, Voter Service

Register new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies to vote.

March 27th

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Century II

Mary Jane Teall Theater

225 W. Douglas Ave.

Wichita, KS 67202

Unit Meeting Information

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Gun Control, as Adopted by 1990 Convention and amended by the 1994 and 1998 Conventions:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety. The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

The League supports a ban on "Saturday night specials," enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

Fund Raising

Sally Dewey– Chair

The ARISE concert was beautiful even though the weather kept the audience small. We did cover our expenses with a little to spare. Now, we look forward to the "Outstanding League Women" recognition luncheon in April. More about that to come. Meanwhile, work continues to make our "Outstanding Wichita Women" calendar project come out in May. We will count on the help of everyone to get this out into the community. Sally L. Dewey- Fund Raising Chair

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

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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.

Hot Topics

Paul Babich and Megan Wright-Hagen –

Co-Chairs

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

11:30 am – 1:00

Central Wichita Public Library

223 S. Main

Wichita, KS

Election Issues 2016: Wichita's Mayoral Race

Meet the Mayoral candidates on the April ballot. Learn more about topics of local interest, and ask questions to area decision-makers.

2015 marks 95th anniversary of the 19th Amendment---Women get the Vote!

The League of Women Voters is proud to remind the community that this year is the 95th anniversary of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote. While the Continental Congress was meeting in Philadelphia in 1776, Abigail Adams cautioned her husband John, "Remember the Ladies." He responded, "The Declaration's wording specifies that all men are created equal."

Seventy-two years later, in 1848 the first women's rights convention in the United States was held in Seneca Falls, New York. For decades activists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Alice Paul, Lucy Burns and Carrie Chapman Catt campaigned for women suffrage.

The Civil War disrupted suffrage activity as women, both in the North and South, divert

their energies to "war work." However, this activity served as a training ground and they gained important organizational and occupational skills that they used in later campaigns.

World War I slowed down the suffrage work too as some, but not all, suffragists decided to shelve their suffrage activism in favor of "war work." In the long run, this decision proved to be a prudent one as it added another reason why women deserved the vote.

Over the years suffragists were scorned by men and some women, husbands and friends, cursed, spat upon, arrested many times only to picket and keep on campaigning. Their filthy jail cells were mold-infested and their meager food crawled with maggots. In one parade, abusive crowds pushed and shoved marchers, knocking them down, sending 100 women to the hospital. But, they continued their campaigning with even more zeal.

Finally, Tennessee was the last state to pass the 19th amendment, by one vote, and on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified, another 72 years after the Seneca Falls Convention.

Interestingly, in 1912 Kansas was the 8th state to allow full suffrage for women. Wichita has an important standing in modern suffrage history. Mrs. Jane Brooks from our great city was elected the first national president of the League of Women Voters and we have the distinction of having established the first local chapter.

Today, membership in the League is open to any citizen, male or female, who is interested in studying issues, finding out more about candidates running for office, and safeguarding our democracy. As always, each and every citizen must understand the importance of her, and his, one vote. The League of Women Voters works tirelessly to this end.

Contributed by Mary Knecht

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THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Being a member of the League of Women Voters can be very time consuming—or not! It all depends on a member's schedule, commitment and willingness to volunteer—but a choice few cannot do it all. The Wichita League is so lucky because we have members who have stepped up to the plate and I want to take this opportunity to say **thank you** to the following:

Board Members: Sally Dewey, Carole Neal, Betty Ladwig, Paul Babich, Marilyn Hansen, Megan-Wright-Hagan, Elaine Harvey, Joyce Cavarozzi, Sharon Cranford, Ernestine Krehbiel, Myrna Hudson and Connie Dean. As a Board member they are expected to attend a monthly Board meeting, plus they have assigned portfolios.

ARISE CONCERT: Sally Dewey, Carole Neal, and Sharon Cranford were involved in the planning. Helping that evening were Dave Dewey, Elaine Harvey, Betty Ladwig, Ernestine Krehbiel, Carole Neal, Connie Dean, Megan Wright-Hagan, and Myrna Hudson. Even with the weather not wanting to cooperate, it was a success!! If you did not attend, then you missed a VERY GOOD CONCERT AND FUN EVENING!!

CALLERS: Betty Ladwig, Connie Dean, Ann Starch, Diana Guthrie, Elaine Harvey, and Mary McCrea. These are the people that will be contacting you each month to remind you of League events. If anyone else would like to volunteer—contact me.

Committees:

Nominating: Diana Cubbage (Chair), Paul Babich, Barb Fuller. They will be looking for someone to serve as a Co-President and some new Board Members. Please consider serving. This is a big job—makes it easier by saying "yes."

OR BETTER YET—VOLUNTEER!!

By-laws: Myrna Hudson (chair), Wendy Kambler, Dave Dewey.

Budget: Ellen Estes (Chair), Elaine Harvey, Edith Gustafson

Units & Coordinating Registration of new citizens: Ellen Estes. Volunteers at this event (every other month) included Connie Dean, Meredith Mauck and Lillian Mayer.

Hot Topics: Paul Babich & Megan Wright-Hagan. If you have not attended this event on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the City Library, you have missed very informative and educational events. This offers Leaguers another way to be informed!!

Candidate Forums and Voter Registration: Betty Ladwig. Again, as Leaguers these events offer great opportunities. Timers, question gatherers, and facilitators are often needed. Great opportunity to **volunteer**. Members who have helped include Connie Dean, Paul Babich, Sandra Rankin, Mary Knecht, Carole Neal, Ernestine Krehbiel, Myrna Hudson, Diana Cubbage, Elaine Harvey & Ellen Estes.

Membership: Ernestine Krehbiel. We had a very successful Membership event last fall and our number stands at 85. Carole Neal produced the membership booklet and Elaine Harvey (as Treasurer) helps Ernie keep the numbers correct.

MLD REPS: Myrna Hudson, Connie Dean, Megan Wright-Hagan. This requires being available for a conference call once a month to discuss local League issues. It is Leadership Development from LWV-US. Carole Neal is a State MLD Rep.

I hope I have not missed or forgotten anyone. My goal is to say a **big thank you to all those members who have stepped up!!** It takes a lot of people to make the League work—please consider volunteering, in the future.

AGAIN, THANK YOU!!

Sharon Ailsieger and Carole Neal-Co-Presidents

As you can tell **Sharon** wrote this thank you which I whole heartedly agree with. However, **Sharon needs a big Thank You** for all she has done also. She has participated in everything

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that we have done and continues to be a great
leader. Carole Neal – Co-President

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LWV Wichita-Metro Board Members

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Betty Ladwig – Voter Service Chair
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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)

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

Donation _____

Contacts:

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

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