

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

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

Unit Meeting

This is the first Unit meeting for 2014-15.

Tuesday

October 14th, 2014

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Piccadilly Grill

Central & Rock

COST: \$15.00 (pay at the door)

PROGRAM: FRACKING (State Study)

RSVP: Ellen Estes (218-1163)

efestes@cox.net



Calendar Items

Put these dates on your calendar and plan to attend:

November 4th – Election Day

November 8th – League Day--Topeka

November 11th – Unit Meeting (Consensus)

December 6 – Christmas Event (10:00-Noon)

Hot Topics

Election Issues, 2014

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 12-1 p.m.,

Central Library Auditorium

223 S. Main



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Sharon Ailslieger & Carole Neal

Voter's rights issues continue to be at the forefront of the League's concerns—and we still continue to register voters. September 23 was National Voters Registration Day. National League urged all Leagues to take part and Wichita League did its part. We registered voters at three branches of the Wichita Public Library.

The November election will include a question on raising the city sales tax to finance transportation, street repairs, a water plan, and job growth. The League has spoken in favor of the sales tax as it applies to transportation, streets, water and quality of life. The VoteYesWichita group has invited the League to attend its meetings and as League President, I have been attending. I also attended a workshop on economics sponsored by the Kansas Policy Institute.

Finally, September saw one of the best attended Membership/Legislative event that we have had in a very long time. A BIG thank you to Ernestine and her committee. They did a GREAT job.

I also want to thank those members who helped at the Pro-Choice booth at the State Fair this year. The League received many thank yous from Fair goers who really appreciated that we were there. It has been a very busy month and the League continues to be involved in the community.

Hope to see everyone at the October Unit meeting—2nd Tuesday—October 14th. Program will be a final presentation on Fracking. We will take consensus in November, so it is important to attend the October meeting. See you there!!
Sharon Ailslieger Co-President

Voter Service

Betty Ladwig Chair

The National Voter Registration Day for Wichita was observed at three Libraries in the City, Central, Alford and Angelou. We talked to a number

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of people and only registered 10 people. Several expressed concern about voting and things that are going on. Our presence was perhaps the most important part of the day. Several thanked us for taking time to do the registering. A big thank you to Cynthia Berner Harris for her cooperation and welcome.

The Meet & Greet Event was a big success, great turnout and lots of helpers made it such a good evening.

We will be registering voters the upcoming month at NWHS and Ruth Clark Elementary during Parent/Teacher Conferences. If any of you are available to assist please call me or Paul Babich.

The latest figure on "suspended voters" for Kansas is 22,000. This is unacceptable to me and something we all need to be concerned about and letting our legislators know how upset we are.

Treasurer's Report

Elaine Harvey – Treasurer

Dues are coming in well for our July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 League year. We have 59 paid members which is well ahead of last year's paid membership as of late September. My goal is to have 100% of our 2013-2014 members renew by Oct. 10. Send me an e-mail if you aren't sure whether you have paid for 2014-2015 yet. New members who paid after Jan. 30 are counted as members for 2014-2015, we are glad to have you with us! Our regular dues are not tax deductible. Base dues are \$60 a year. That includes receiving the LWV Wichita-Metro Voter via e-mail. People who want to receive our Voter in paper by regular mail should send an extra \$15 per year. A second member in a household's dues are just \$30 a year and \$30 a year is also the amount for dues for students.

Mail your check to me at Elaine Harvey, 4370 Eagle Lake Ct. Bel Aire, KS 67220.

Education/Scholarship Fund

LWV Wichita-Metro has a 501(c3) Education

and Scholarship Fund. We use this money for our voter education efforts and our work to encourage voter registration and active participation in elections and also we give a scholarship each year to a young woman at a one of Wichita's universities to allow her to further her education in the field of government, public service, community volunteerism, and similar fields as identified by the board of the Foundation.

We do not use our Wichita Education and Scholarship Funds for issue advocacy, that we fund with our regular dues. Contributions to our "Ed. Fund" are tax deductible and may be made at any time during the year. We have several fund-raisers during the year to help raise money for this Fund. The first one on our calendar will be a Holiday Brunch at the home of Sally Dewey on December 6th.

Membership

Ernestine Krehbiel – Chair

The first fall event of the LWV-WM was the membership committee's Meet and Greet event on Sept 16 for candidates and voters. It was held at the Murdock Victorian Parlor 20th Century Center 536 N. Broadway on Sept 16. It was a success. We had well over 100 people attend--many of whom were so anxious to come in they didn't even stop to sign in. Of those who signed in, 56 were non-member guests (and not candidates.)

Many thanks to Sally Dewey--the crowds coming in were so continuous that she never got away from handling the sign-in table so husband /member Dave Dewey had to bring refreshments to her and other "worker bees"

We had 15 candidates for various offices on Nov. 4 They were Democrats, Republicans, Libertarian and Independent and each was asked to self-introduce but with no speeches. All complied graciously and with good humor. (I now wish we had allowed each one minute to say why they were qualified to be elected. Next time.)

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The candidates who came circulated and met voters, answered questions and people sought them out with pertinent questions. One of the frequent questions was what would they do to provide adequate funding for various needs if elected.

The posters around the room showing all the things the League is involved with really allowed guests to find out about us. (One held a 1954 newspaper article about then League treasurer, and longtime member, Jean Garvey) Information about the League was available also in fliers and most guests expressed interest and said that they would consider joining. We have 10 new members and former members rejoining from the event

Members of the board provided finger food and the League which augmented with cheese, fruit and meat trays (Thanks Connie Dean for all that planning and shopping). Ann Garvey generously provided the wine. League committee members helped with the preparation for this event which was meant to encourage new people to learn about the League and JOIN.

Thanks Leaguers who helped to make the night a success: Myrna Hudson, Carole Neal, Sharon Ailsieger, Paul Babich, Megan Wright-Hagan, Sally Dewey and all the many others who pitched in that night.

Fund Raising

Sally Dewey and Carole Neal – Co-Chairs
Our plans are the same as before mentioned and we would like to welcome all members to participate in the planning. Call Sally or Carole and let them know you are interested.

Exciting plans for the upcoming year, the board approved our plans for the following events.

1. In December Sally will be hosting our annual **Christmas Open-house**.
2. February is the league's 94th birthday and will actually be 95 years for our Wichita Unit. In addition it is Black History month. We will be celebrating both with a **2nd ARISE concert**. Sally Dewey and Sharon Cranford

are chair persons.

3. A new event for this year will be a **Lunch with Past and Present Legendary characters**. Joyce Cavarozzi and Diana Cubbage will be in charge of this event.
4. Last but by no means the least we will be creating a **Calendar** that will highlight local dignitaries and their thoughts on the league as well have highlighting our accomplishments. Carole Neal and Connie Dean will be ramrodding this project.

WICHITA LEAGUE DAY AT THE FAIR!!!!

The Wichita League has volunteered to help provide volunteers for the Pro-Choice Booth at the Kansas State Fair for many years. The hours are 9:00 am-9:00pm and require constant coverage. The other side usually has three booths. It requires a commitment which includes a drive to Hutchinson and finding parking. You do get into the Fair for free!!

This year the following members volunteered—deserve a **BIG THANK YOU**:

JOYCE CAVAROZZI, BELYNDA JOHANNINGSMEIR, DIANE GUTHERIE, ELLEN & RON ESTES, MYRNA HUDSON, CORRENE GREEN, AND MY HUSBAND, ROSS AILSLIEGER (who always gets voluntold!!) There was a bowl for donations to the Peggy Bowman Second Chance Fund and we received \$116.00 for the day we were there. It is actually rather fun and can have some great conversations!! If you think this sounds like something you would like to do for the League—think about next year!!
Sharon Ailsieger

Studies:

LWV- Kansas, Study 2013-2015

“Fracking, Water and our Future”

(Additional information is attached to newsletter.)

HYDROFRACKING QUESTIONS

Questions and information came from **Hydrofracking: What Everyone Needs to Know** by Alex Prud'Homme. It was published in 2013 by Oxford University Press.

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1. What are the biggest concerns in terms of water supplies?

- a) The amount of water used—about 5 million gallons per well—on average. Total for all shale wells drilled equaled 0.3 percent of all fresh water used in 2011.
- b) The injection of chemicals underground at extreme pressure.
- c) Safe disposal of fluid and “disposed water” remains a challenge.
- d) Some companies are experimenting with using recycled water.
- e) Another plan is to develop mobile recycling units that will treat flow back, and then reuse it.
- f) Some companies are experimenting with using brackish water.

2. Does fracking deplete aquifers?

- a) In 2011, only one-fifth of the water used for hydro fracking was brackish or recycled water; the rest was clean water.

3. Does hydro fracking contaminate groundwater?

- a. Even in the best-run hydro fracturing operations, there are many opportunities for water pollution.
- b. Hydro frackers claim to use an array of sophisticated engineering techniques to study their underground explosions and carefully control the extent of the fractures in shale formations, and thus the spread of fluids.
- c. How well regulated is groundwater?
- d. The EPA has paid close attention to hydro fracking operations.
- e. Environmentalists and some energy analysts have not been impressed with the regulatory oversight of hydro fracking.

5. What is Methane migration?

Methane is the main component of natural gas and it has a climate changing potential 20 times greater than carbon dioxide when measured over a 100-year period. While methane is not toxic, if allowed to concen-

trate in an enclosed space it carries a high risk of combustion.

- a. There is concern that methane can migrate from wells into underground aquifers and water wells, and then into the atmosphere.
- b. Biogenic methane is found at shallow depths, where water wells are typically drilled; energy companies usually pursue the deeper thermo genic methane. Through the use of isotope analysis, the methane in water can be identified as biogenic or thermo genic.

6. Are the chemicals in hydro fracking fluids harmful?

- a. Drillers tend to disclose only enough information about their fracking fluids to comply with worker-safety regulations.
- b. As for the small percentage of chemicals that are kept confidential, energy officials defend the use of trade secrets as necessary for innovation.
- c. A 2011 congressional report found that of 2,500 hydro fracking chemicals used, over 650 of them contained “known or possible human carcinogens, regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, or listed as hazardous air pollutants.”
- d. States have regulated the fracturing process for more than six decades and, many feel, they have compiled an impressive record of enforcement.

7. How is flow back disposed of?

- a. It is generally pumped into a pit, then into a separator tank that allows oil to surface; oil is skimmed off and sold. The remaining flow back needs to be carefully disposed of, which is where things get tricky.
- b. Most states dispose of fluids by pumping them deep underground into injection wells. However, the geology of the area must be considered.

8. Can flow back be radioactive?

- a. The simple answer is “yes.” The radioactivity is low, but measurable.
- b. Another source of radiation is man-made radionuclides, which are sometimes used as “tracers,” to help define

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the injection profile, the fractures, and the fluid flow created by hydro fracking.

9. What are injection wells?

10. Does hydro fracking cause earthquakes?

- a. As the number of wastewater injection wells have risen since 2001, the number of earthquakes measuring 3.0 or higher in midcontinent regions that are usually seismically quiet has surged—50 in 2009, 87 in 2010, 134 in 2011.

11. What are “fugitive emissions”?

- a. Once a well has undergone hydraulic fracturing, natural gas released from shale flows naturally up the bore-hole to the surface most of it is captured and put to use. But, some of this gas, most of which is methane, escapes into the atmosphere. These leaks are called “fugitive emissions.”
- b. Fugitive emissions of methane, in particular, are hard to measure and researchers disagree on the numbers. EPA has estimated methane leaks at a rate of 2.3 per cent of total production.

12. What are the consequences of fugitive emissions?

- a. There have been cases where released airborne substances tied to hydro fracking have coincided with reports of health problems among residents.
- b. New technology and regulations could cut methane leakage to less than 1 per cent of total production and ensure that natural gas impacts the climate less than coal or diesel fuel.

13. Why are reports about health impacts mostly anecdotal?

- a. One reason is that once cases have been settled, the documents are sealed.

14. What is the impact of shale oil and gas on the U.S.? Economy?

- c. Hydro fracking has helped to create new jobs, higher incomes and tax windfalls for cash-strapped states.
- d. In 2000, shale gas represented merely 2 percent of the nation’s energy supply; by 2012, it was 37 per cent.

- e. There are predictions that shale oil could provide as much as 6 million barrels a day by 2020, which would bring the United States close to energy independence in oil by then.

15) Where is hydro fracking restricted?

- a. Vermont, New Jersey and Ohio have attempted to limit or stop fracking all together. Cities in Colorado have also banned fracking.
- b. Concerns included sinkholes, earthquakes, water quality, and just quality of life within the community due to truck traffic, road use, etc.

16) How is hydro fracking being regulated?

- a. The development and production of oil and is regulated by a matrix of federal, state and local laws. Most federal laws are administered by the EPA or the Dept. of the Interior, though development of federal lands is overseen by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service.

17) What are federal regulators doing to improve the environmental safety of fracking?

- a. In 2010, Congress requested that EPA study the extent of hydro fracking’s impact on the environment.
- b. To gauge the impact of hydro fracking on water supplies, the EPA is conducting a landmark nationwide study of 24,925 wells that were drilled with the process between September 2009 and October 2010. The study includes 18 research projects that will attempt to answer important questions about the use of water in five distinct stage of hydro fracking.

Local Study

Carole Neal and Elaine Harvey – Co-Chairs (Study will begin after November Election)

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?

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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**

Election Issues, 2014

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 12-1 p.m., Central Library Auditorium, 223 S. Main

Election Day is on Tuesday, November 4; are you ready to vote? Get your questions answered about the issues Wichitans will be deciding in November.

Kansas Health Care: Are Kansans Protected?

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 12:00-1:00 p.m., Central Library, 223 S. Main

After the 2013 roll-out of KanCare and the 2014 roll-out of Health Care Exchanges, how are Kansans doing on their health care coverage? Let's explore the roadmap ahead of how to make sure Kansans are healthy.

Church Women United In Wichita October Listening Forum

"Public Education in the Heartland"

October 3, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Inter-Faith Ministries

829 N Market

Wichita, Kansas

Refreshments at 1:00pm followed by program

Guests are Welcome!

For additional information, contact

Marge Zakoura-Vaughan at 316-684-3256

Speakers:

Diana Cabbage



Dr. Diana Cabbage's service to public schools covered more than 40 years. Her vast experience at USD 259 included serving as teacher, assistant principal, principal and an area superintendent. She was also School Superintendent in Moline IL. Currently retired, she is a community activist working with many groups including, The Arc of Sedgwick County, Shepherd Center West, Chamber Music at the Barn, The League of Women Voters, and American Association of University Women.

Sheril Logan



Sheril Logan is President of the School Board of USD 259, Wichita's School Board. She is a Senior Fellow in Education at WSU and has worked at WSU for a number of years including as Assistant Dean of the College of Education. Sheril is now retired from USD 259. Her entire career has been in public education, from classroom teacher, to Elementary School Principal, to Assistant Superintendent, Coordination of Chapter 1 Reading, and Assistant Superintendent of USD 259 Schools.

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Off Board:

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

Board Notes:

Paul Babich and Connie Dean have taken a leave from the board until after election.



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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