

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

September 21st

St. Luke's Church

N. Waco

9:00 a.m.

Unit Meeting

September 16th – 6:30 p.m.

Murdock Theater

Membership Evening

Kansas State Fair

Sunday, September 7th

Pro-Choice Booth

National Registration Day

Tuesday, September 23rd

Hot Topics

Tuesday, September 23rd

Brown Bag- 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Wichita Central Library

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Sharon Ailsieger & Carole Neal

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The summer months are over, school has started, the State Fair (September 7th—League Day to support the Trust Women's booth) is around the corner and the General Election is only two months away. The political ads, phone calls, and forums are really getting into gear. What this all means is that the League is going to be even busier. In just the last two weeks the Wichita League has been approached to facilitate candidate forums, register voters, and provide voter education to groups. In addition, we will have a Membership Event on September 16th and will be involved in National Registration Day on September 23rd when we will register voters at three of the Wichita Public Library branches. Hot Topics will begin on September 23.

The August Board meeting was August 16 and included a workshop on MLD (Membership & Leadership Development) led by Ellen Miller of the Johnson County League. This is the ongoing plan from National to grow the League and develop new leaders. Planning for the upcoming year included fund raising activities, local study on Local Tax

Serving on a study committee is a great way to "get your feet wet" in League activities. The State Study on Fracking is winding down and we will be taking consensus in November. I have represented the Wichita League on this committee and have learned a lot.

Summer was not a vacation for League. Megan and I attended a workshop on the Open Records Law. The League testified at the City Commission, in favor, of placing the proposed sales tax on the ballot. The League supports funding for the water plan and for rapid transit. The State League requested that local Leagues attend the canvassing session (counting of Provisional ballots). I attended the Sedgwick County session and Megan Wright-Hagan attended the Butler County session.

The League continues to try to keep up with the issues and be a visible organization within the

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community. Put the League dates on your calendar, plan to attend unit meetings (**second Tuesday of each month**), volunteer for a committee, and become involved in the issues of your community. Finally, **dues are due!! Hope to see everyone at something!!**

Sharon Ailsieger & Carole Neal, Co-Presidents.

Voter Service

Betty Ladwig Chair

Wow! A busy, busy summer and upcoming September. Before that though I want to thank all of you that were so helpful in the Filling the Gap effort to feed children across the city. We served 9,646 meals during the 10 days. There was also medical screening, the vision testing included 88 children, up 23 from Spring Break. Thank you, thank you. A couple Moms asked me the last week "what are we going to do when you are gone?" This was at Colvin Neighborhood Center.

Paul & I manned the Voting Registration Table at NWHS for New Teacher Orientation August 1st for the day. Sharon and I also participated in the Rally at A. Price Woodard Park for Women for Kansas "Taking Back Kansas" rally. on 8-29, (till we got rained out) also registering voters.

Upcoming in September 2nd is a Benjamin Hills Neighborhood Forum for the 92nd District, this will be at St. Andrews Lutheran Church at 7:00. On September 9th is a District 5 Commissioner Forum with Melody McCrae and Mr. Ranzau, this will be at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church at 7:00.

September 6th we will be at College Hill Women's Bd. meeting at 11:00 on voter registration.

September 23rd is the designated National Voters Registration Day. We will be registering voters at three branches of Public Libraries, Central, Alford and Angelou. Need helpers for three hrs. on that day from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. PLEASE

CALL IF YOU CAN ASSIST AT ANY OF THESE THREE BRANCHES ON SEPTEMBER 23rd. 722 5123, 258 1962.

Most recently Reflection Ridge wants us to do a repeat for a forum and is in the process of contacting available candidates, date not set to date. Will keep you advised.

Thanks to all of you that have been so helpful in the past weeks, a busy year!!!

Register new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies to vote.

Century II - Sept. 19th and Nov. 14th

Treasurer's Report

Elaine Harvey – Treasurer

We need dues

Dues are just \$60 a year and with that you get membership in our LWV Wichita-Metro, LWVKS and LWVUS and you help support our effort to make democracy work locally, statewide and nationally. With the \$60 you get our local voter sent to you by e-mail and our state and national publications and web resources. I would be glad to receive your dues at our membership event on Sept. 16 but it would be great if you could mail your check to me at

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

Thanks much to those who have already paid dues for our 2014-2015 dues year (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2014). Some paid in the spring. If you aren't sure whether you have paid yet, please send me an e-mail at

Elaine.Harvey@wichita.edu and I will let you know if I received your check. EVH

Education/Scholarship Fund

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

Our Education/Scholarship Fund annually grants a scholarship to a well deserving college student who shows a desire to further their education in social or governmental areas. In 2014 we gave a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. In addition we pay ½ of our National Dues from this account and the cost of educating voters

Membership

Ernestine Krehbiel – Chair

Plan on joining us at a "MEET and GREET

With **Candidates**, Prospective Members, New Members, Already-Members, Guests. **Yes, please bring guests** Finger Food, Wine and Good Conversation

Tuesday Evening

Sept 16,

6:30 to 8:30 pm

at the

Murdock Victorian Parlor

20th Century Center

536 N. Broadway

Wichita

Find out what the women and men of the League are doing to help make Democracy work. PS: Men are IN in the League.

Fund Raising

Sally Dewey and Carole Neal – Co-Chairs

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 Cabbage 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 as highlighting our accomplishments. Carole Neal and Connie Dean will be ramrodding this project.

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).

This is a difficult election year for our league members and board members. Due to the current political environment several of the leagues positions are in direct opposition to several candidates views and there are many groups that have invited the league to support them in their efforts to support candidates. Even though we would like to participate we must remain bi-partisan to be able to, C host forums and debates. We are reposting the Nonpartisan Policy to give us all a guideline to follow. Carole Neal Co-President.

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 elec-

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tive 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 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.

Studies:

LWV- Kansas, Study 2013-2015

"Fracking, Water and our Future"

Proposed Scope of Work

This proposed scope of work was developed as an outcome of the Fracking Breakout Session at League Day, October 12, 2013, Topeka, KS, following a panel discussion on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) by Rex Buchanan (KGS), Susan Stover (KWO) and Duane Schrag (Sierra Club). (Industry representative Ed Cross (KIOGA) declined participation at the last minute, but has provided reference materials.)

A. The study should focus on hydraulic fracturing in Kansas.

While the Study Committee was encouraged to utilize all available research materials on fracking, session participants agreed that the actual consensus process should address issues in Kansas. There are sufficient geological, hydrological, geographical and economic conditions in Kansas for which a focused position would make a more effective lobbying tool. The study should include an overview of the agencies responsible for regulating water and fracking activities, enforcement mechanisms, local controls, public participation opportunities, transparency of process and availability of information.

B. The study should focus on oil and gas production that utilizes hydraulic fracturing.

The session participants agreed that this study would address fracking (both vertical and horizontal) associated with oil and natural gas production.

C. The study should focus on water-related issues associated with hydraulic fracturing.

Primary water-related issues include sources of water utilized, total use vs. net use, water rights, permitting processes, drilling fluids composition/regulation, groundwater and/or surface water contamination, waste water disposal methods (waste water treatment plants, surface waters, deep well injection, water cycle losses, reuse/recycling), and water allocation/appropriation. Also mentioned were truck traffic, road damage, noise, dust and air pollution/methane emissions, but the consensus was that land/surface impacts would be addressed only if they were "connected" to water issues. Therefore, induced seismic events (earthquakes) are to be included since they have been linked with deep well injection of liquid fracking wastes. Land application of well cuttings will be addressed since there is potential for run-off to contaminate soils and surface waters.

D. The study should focus on the future of water resources, the "macro-view."

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With competition for water resources already an issue in Kansas, the study should address current and future water usage (including future climate change impacts and energy needs), priorities for water usage and the current process of water allocation/appropriation ("Should industry get special treatment?").

About 25 League members participated in a lively 1-hour discussion, including the following Study Committee members: Elaine Giessel (JoCo, Chair), Peggy Neal (JoCo), Saralyn Pace (JoCo), Anita Kaiser (JoCo), Sharon Ailslieger (Wichita), Kay and Jim Calvert (Emporia), Marlene Merrill (Lawrence), and Carol Jacobson (Lawrence). Committee member Camille Nohe (Topeka) was not in attendance. Panelist Duane Schrag, contributed to the discussion and has offered to serve as an advisor, as has League member Susan Stover. Several League members requested to be included in future communications but would not be official Study Committee members.

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.

CANVASSING –SEDGWICK COUNTY:

Sharon Ailslieger Observing

(Included County Commissioners and County Attorney)

1. Provisional ballots-----1,560
 - a. Counted—611
 - b. Not counted—949
(13 provided no proof of citizenship and did not use the Federal form)
2. Reasons for not counting the ballots:

- a) Returned without envelope or name
- b) Switched political party at the polls
- c) Ballot were returned by the post office—undeliverable
- d) Voted after the polls closed
- e) Failed to sign the envelope
- f) Not registered
- g) No ID with mail ballot
- h) Voter errors

BUTLER COUNTY CANVASSING

Megan Wright-Hagen Observing

What I will say is that from the canvassing meeting, I know that the number of provisional ballots included a lot of people who moved - and they would have been provisional even without all the new voting laws. I know that there were people who voted at the wrong locations (polling stations as well as due to moving) and their ballots were partially counted.

- 1) total number of provisional ballots: 252
 - i) number counted - entirely: 106
 - ii) number counts partial: 58
 - iii) number not counted: 88
2. Total # on the suspense list: 456
 - i) 7 used the federal form

I think it's worth repeating at this point. According to Butler Co., if the state form was used and the person is on the suspense list, it is illegal to count their vote.

Megan Wright-Hagen

Hot Topics

Paul Babich and Megan Wright-Hagen – Co-Chairs

Public Education: Where Is It Going?

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 12-1 p.m., Central Library Auditorium, 223 S. Main

With daily news reports about school testing, school funding, charter schools, and Common Core standards, it can be hard to envision the future of public schools. Join us for a lively discussion of the changes and challenges to public education. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch; drinks will be provided. Room opens at 11:30 a.m.

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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.

Other Goings On

Eating the right kind of food is important for our health, but making healthy food decisions can be a challenge. Based on a 2010 survey by Kansas Health Institute, 40% of all Kansans have a diet that is considered "poor," while 51% have a diet that "needs improvement."

Imagine trying to eat a healthy diet if you were food insecure.

- 1 in 7 Kansas do not know where their next meal is coming from.*
- 1 in 5 Kansas children are food insecure.*
- Increasing rates of obesity among those in poverty could result in hundreds of thousands of Kansans developing diabetes or other health risks in the next 20 years.

*Statistics from Kansas Food Bank and America's Map the Meal Gap study.

Join us in creating a more secure and healthy community. Donations may be brought to a site near you or brought to the Kansas Food Bank (1919 E. Douglas) on Thursday, September 18 between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM as part of their Hunger Action Month Open House. For a list of donation sites please contact Partners for Wichita-

ita. We are seeking donations of the following food items.

Fruits and Vegetables:

- Low or no sodium canned vegetables
- No sugar added or unsweetened canned fruit and fruit cups
- Unsweetened, all natural applesauce

Grains:

- Plain, low sugar oatmeal or rolled oats and cream of wheat
- Whole grain, high fiber cereal (e.g. Cheerios, All Bran, Kashi, Total)
- Whole grain pasta
- Brown or wild rice

Dairy:

- Low fat shelf stable powdered mil
- Low fat, calcium fortified and shelf stable regular, soy, almond or rice milk
- Low or no fat pudding cups

Snacks:

- Low fat granola bars
- Plain, no salt added popcorn
- Whole wheat fig bars
- Whole grain rice cakes
- Reduced fat, whole wheat and multi-grain crackers
- Dried fruit (100% fruit, no sugar added fruit leathers, raisins and dried fruit)

Proteins, Beans and Legumes:

- Low sodium canned chicken, tuna, and other seafood in water
- Low sodium beef stew, chili, or bean soup
- Low or no sodium or dried beans and lentils (black, pinto, white and kidney beans, chickpeas, etc.)
- Low sodium or all natural peanut butter.

September is Hunger Action Month. Donations of foods like these will help families who are food insecure have a healthy diet. Thank you! For information contact Partners for Wichita, 316-263-1389, danielle@partnersforwichita.org.

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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:

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

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