

VOTER REGISTRATION

Naturalization Ceremony
Friday, December 4, 2015
11:00 am Century II, Mary Jane Teall Theater

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

You are invited to the Dewey's Home
Saturday, December 12TH
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
641 N. Woodlawn, #69

UNIT MEETING

Tuesday, January 12, 2016
11:30 am Olive Tree/ Piccadilly Grill
29th & Rock, \$15 Lunch RSVP w Martha Pint
Topic: Money in Politics Consensus

BOARD MEETING

Saturday, January 16, 2015
9:00 am St. Paul's Lutheran Church

PLANNING MEETING / UNIT MEETING (#2)

Saturday, January 16, 2015
11:00 am St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Soup and Salad will be served by the Board

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

November and December are the "holiday" months, in addition to just the "regular" scheduled events of life!! The League was busy with speaking to the Wichita City Council on the water issue, co-sponsoring the movie on education, presenting programs to community groups and Hot Topics on transportation. While the League is not involved in the recall of a Sedgwick County Commissioner, we have been following what has been happening. The League has also been following the issue of Medicaid Expansion and the issue of money in politics as it applies to the Wichita City Council. Barb and I will be attending the City Council meeting on Tuesday concerning that issue. It is extremely timely as that is just what we discussed at the November Unit meeting.

There will be no December Unit meeting as we will, instead, have a social event on DECEMBER 12, 10:00-12:00 at the home of Sally Dewey. This will also be an opportunity for members to contribute to the LWV Wichita Education Fund in 2015 (it is tax deductible). Since December is so busy with family, shopping, etc. there will be no Hot Topics and no Board Meeting. A reminder, however, that in January, we will have TWO unit meetings– one will be the regular second Tuesday luncheon where we take consensus and a Saturday meeting which will be a Soup Luncheon Planning Meeting. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and will have a Very Merry Christmas!!!!

Sharon Ailsieger & Barbara Fuller,
Co-Presidents



Voter Service- Betty Ladwig, Chair

We will be gearing up for the Presidential Election for 2016, it will be a long year with so much electioneering already happening.

This past month started with a Kansel presentation on Voting on 11-5-15 and then to register some of the students that were eligible. It was time well spent and had contact with a student that wanted to help register voters and was also interested in the League membership. Her name was forwarded to Ernestine for f/u on membership. On the 12th of November we had a voter registration table at the presentation of Education Inc. sponsored by Women for Kansas.

We will be registering voters at the Central Public Library on January 21st from 2:30 to 7:30 at the request of Julie Linneman Our presence will be wherever we're asked.

Hope you saw Wylecia Wiggs Harris' e-mail on "adding Insult to injury". She is our National Executive Director and noted a state senator defending Kansas' outrageous proof of citizenship voter registration requirement claims it's out of "kindness" that his state is bending over backwards to help people register to vote.

First, a restrictive law in Kansas championed by their Secretary of State, requires voters to present a birth certificate or other proof-of-citizenship when registering to vote." And she goes on to outline the difficulties we face in this State. She wants Leaguers across the country to send the Kansas League their message of support. Our League refuses to accept the conditions and is launching an emergency initiative to reach all affected voters and help them complete their applications before they are purged from the rolls. She applauds Kansas for defending voting rights and protecting our democracy by increasing citizen participation in our state.

Let me know if you are available to help in the upcoming year of activity to prepare for the election and to register voters.

Treasurer Report – Elaine Harvey

LWV Wichita-Metro is in great shape financially! We have 82 members as of November 28th which is doing really well, especially since 20 of us are new members. Remember our dues year is from July to June so if you haven't renewed for 2015-2016 yet, please do!! Send me an e-mail at elaine.harvey@wichita.edu if you aren't sure whether you renewed yet. Dues are \$60 a year unless you want our Voter in paper form, if that is your preference send an extra \$15. Make checks payable to LWV Wichita Metro and mail to Elaine Harvey at 4370 N. Eagle Lake Ct., Bel Aire, KS 67220. Hope to see you at our Education and Scholarship Fundraising Brunch at Sally Dewey's house on December 12.

BIG WELCOME
To New Member -

Donna Fisher

Naturalization Ceremony:

On December 4, 2015, citizenship ceremony will occur at 11:00 am. Connie Dean will be at the ceremony to register new voters. If you are interested in attending or to help register new voters, please contact Connie at 260-6611 for additional details.



Fund Raising - Sally Dewey, Chair



Celebrating 95 years
Woman Getting the
Vote & The League of
Women Voters

Get your LWV Wichita
Metro Calendar
Honoring the Women
of Wichita
Half Price ---

LWV Calendars make excellent gifts for friends and family. Calendars are now \$10. Contact Sally Dewey at 662-8788 Eastside, Elaine Harvey at 744-2935 Downtown, or Sharon Ailslieger at 773-7420 West Wichita.

Observer Corps:

We would like to revive the **Observer Corp** within the Wichita League.

Other Leagues in Kansas are doing so, with great results. Years ago, Wichita had a strong Observer Corps until the government bodies began to televise their meetings. This led to the thought that the meetings be observed from home. However, we have learned that a **League presence is needed** at these meetings. Such meetings include City Commission, County Commission, Board of Education, Metropolitan Planning Commission, Library Board, Transportation Board— just to name a few. These meetings are open to the public and need to be observed— with a live body— by the League. If you would be interested in chairing this endeavor— organizing League members to be observers— please contact me at sailslieger@netscape.net or 773-7420



HOT TOPICS:
Human Trafficking
Tuesday, January 26, 2016
Noon – 1pm Wichita Public Library

VOTER Notes --Highlights

Gearing Up to Repeal the Death Penalty in Kansas--The Kansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (KCADP) held its annual meeting Saturday, November 7TH in Topeka. Featured speakers were Diann Rust-Tierney, executive director of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and Nebraska State Senator Colby Coash.

- i Senator Coash was instrumental in getting the death penalty repealed this year in Nebraska. Legislation passed 30-19 overriding a veto by the Governor.
- i Nebraska became the seventh state in eight years to repeal the death penalty and the second conservative state to repeal since North Dakota in 1973.
- i Senator Coash noticed that legislation to repeal the death penalty failed to pass year after year. He determined that the reason previous bills had failed was the narrative told to support repeal. He pitched the death penalty as expensive and a symptom of big, broken government.
- i Diann Rust-Tierney, executive director of the NCADP, said that the US Supreme Court will not lead the inquiry into whether the death penalty violates the 8th amendment. Rather, It will assess what the majority of the states do on this issue and then likely follow their lead. To abolish the death penalty in the United States, it is up to the legislatures to do so state by state.
- i Kansas advocates are hopeful that 2016 will be the year our state passes legislation to abolish the death penalty. Kansas Representative Steve Becker, Buhler, will introduce a bill.



- i The League of Women Voters U.S. supports abolition of the death penalty.

Taxation, a hot topic in 2016

The League of Women Voters of Kansas seeks volunteer observers who will follow taxation bills this legislative session. Taxation will be hotly contested among lawmakers, special interest groups and taxpayers. The tax position of the LWVK is, in short, that taxes should be fair, equitable and adequate to meet the needs of all Kansans. (2013)

Jane Brooks granddaughter passed away on 10/2/15. Katherine Brooks (Tassie) Augustine was the granddaughter of first leader of National League of Women Voters, 1919. The following obituary was published in the Eagle on 11/19/15.



EL DORADO-Augustine, Katherine Brooks 91, died peacefully in her sleep on Friday, Oct. 2, 2015, at her residence at Elmcroft Assisted Living in Roswell, GA. Tassie, as

she is called by her friends and family, was known for her generous and compassionate nature. Tassie was born March 23, 1924, in Wichita, KS where she lived with her parents, Willard and Hazel Carson Brooks, and sister, Pauline (deceased). After graduation from Wichita East High School, Tassie attended Sweet Briar College in Virginia and the University of Kansas, where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. On June 21, 1945, Tassie married Capt. James W. Augustine (deceased). Together they raised 5 children in the Potwin/El Dorado area. The family attended Trinity Episcopal Church in El Dorado where Tassie thoroughly enjoy many volunteer aspects of the church including serving as vestry member and as a member

of the choir. She was a long time member of many civic and genealogical organizations in El Dorado and Wichita and volunteered her time to many charities. Her passion was her family and genealogy followed by her beloved bridge clubs, attending opera and symphony performances, and the travel she enjoyed while visiting her family and the many trips and cruises with friends. Tassie is survived by her 5 children and their respective spouses, Jane Swift (William) Barr of Roswell, GA, Jon (Jen) Augustine of Kansas City, KS, David (Joni) Augustine of Peoria, IL, Mary (Eric) Schoppman of Roswell, GA, and Brooks (Jane) Augustine of Naperville, IL; 10 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren. Although her memory lives on she will be dearly missed by her family and friends alike. A memorial service is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 400 W. Ash Ave, El Dorado, KS, officiated by Mother Christine Gilson. A reception will follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to VITAS Community Connection, Attn: Brenda Bloomer, 1575 Northside Dr. NW, Ste 375, Atlanta, GA 30318. Notes of condolence may be sent to the family c/o of Mrs. Jane Swift Barr, 520 Wayt Rd., Roswell, GA 30076.





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(Continuing until she moves)

Off Board: Martha Pint – Unit Chair, Programs and
Callers Nominating Committee – Ellen Estes/Sally
Morse

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 _____

Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Annual Dues \$ 60.00
Add'l Household Membership \$ 30.00
Student Membership \$ 30.00
Donation _____

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



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
WICHITA METRO



LWV Money in Politics Additional Information

THE DEBATE: CAN GOVERNMENT REGULATE MONEY IN POLITICS?

This paper looks at three of the ideological underpinnings of the debate about whether government can restrict money in politics.

Libertarian vs. Egalitarian: Dawood 2014

Yasmin Dawood¹, addresses the duality in the debate on campaign finance in terms of libertarian and egalitarian perspectives. According to the libertarian approach, the government should not restrict electoral speech because individuals should be free from state control, democracy depends on a free market of ideas, and speech should be rebutted rather than censored. Many argue that this is the underlying rationale for First Amendment guarantees of personal rights. Under the libertarian approach, the constitutional protection of free speech means that there is a presumption against the state's regulation of campaign contributions and expenditures. The egalitarian approach, by contrast, holds that the state regulation of speech is required in some instances to prevent the wealthy from monopolizing political discourse. Those with the greatest wealth could monopolize the means of communication. Concentrations of private power may mean that the speech of those less powerful is never heard, and consequently, that the marketplace of ideas does not represent the full range of views and speakers.

Fundamentalist vs. Idealist: Sunstein 2005

Further light is shed by considering the methodology applied at the level of Supreme Court jurisprudence as examined by Cass Sunstein² who identifies four categories of justices: (1) Fundamentalists, who seek to understand the Constitution as it was understood at the time of adoption [around 1789]; (2) Perfectionists (i.e., idealists), who read the Constitution in broad terms to put its ideals in the best possible light; (3) Minimalists, who avoid either of the foregoing extremes and who favor narrow decisions that only address the specific questions in contest without taking stands on the broader issues; and (4) Majoritarians, who believe that judges should respect the outcomes of democratic processes and uphold legislative policies unless they are clearly beyond constitutional boundaries.

Sunstein's approach would yield the following classifications for Supreme Court justices: The Requist/Roberts majority would be Fundamentalists; the majority on the preceding Warren Court would be Perfectionists; any moderates (not consistently following either extreme) would be Minimalists; and those who upheld the innovations of the New Deal in response to the Great Depression would be Majoritarians. Examples of Majoritarian movements that led to the amending of the Constitution are the adoption of women's right to vote (19th Amendment, 1920) and the adoption (18th Amendment, 1919) and then repeal (21st Amendment, 1933) of prohibition of liquor. Looking at the current makeup of the Supreme Court, this classification system for judicial ideology seems useful in understanding the Fundamentalist (conservative) and Perfectionist (progressive) dichotomy.

Conservative vs. Progressive: West 1990

Robin West³ brought sociological considerations into analysis of the conservative-progressive polarization. Very broadly, conservative constitutionalists view private or social normative

authority as the legitimate and best source of guidance for state action; accordingly, they view both the Constitution and constitutional adjudication as means of preserving and protecting that authority and the power that undergirds it against either legislative or judicial encroachment. In contrast, progressive constitutionalists view the power and normative authority of some social groups over others as the fruits of illegitimate private hierarchy, and regard the Constitution as one important mechanism for challenging those entrenched private orders.

Where the conservative is likely to see in a particular social or private institution a source of community wisdom and legitimate normative authority, the progressive is likely to see patterns of domination, subordination, and oppression that inevitably attend such inequalities of power. For this reason, the debate ongoing between progressives and conservatives is only superficially over interpretive issues; on a more substantive level it is over the value of the visions of the good defined by the various hierarchies that make up their private and social life. Thus, the deepest divisions in modern constitutional thought are not a function of jurisprudential differences, but of socio-political orientation.

¹ Yasmin Dawood, "Campaign Finance and American Democracy," (to be published in the Annual Review of Political Science, June 2015), <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2528587>. Dawood draws the libertarian/egalitarian distinction from Cass Sunstein, 1995. *Democracy and the Problem of Free Speech*, New York: The Free Press.

² Cass R. Sunstein, 2005. *Radicals in Robes*, New York: Basic Books.

³ Robin West, 1990. "Progressive and Conservative Constitutionalism," Michigan Law Review, Vol. 88, No. 4, p. 641, <http://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/facpub>.