

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



November, 2014

CALENDAR OF LWV DATES –2014

Board Meeting

Saturday November 15th
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
925 N. Waco
9:00 a.m.

Unit Meetings

"State Study on Fracking Consensus Questions"

Tuesday November 11th, 2014

Piccadilly Grill

Central & Rock

COST: \$15.00 (pay at the door)

PROGRAM:

RSVP: Ellen Estes (218-1163)

efestes@cox.net

December – 2014 (No unit meeting)

Saturday January 18th, 2015

11:00 am

St. Paul's Church

925 N. Waco

"Program Planning"

Soup and Salad Lunch

Provided by Board Members

Hot Topics

"Kansas Health Care: Are Kansans Protected?"

4th Tuesday of the Month

Tuesday, November 25th, 11:30 – 1:00 pm

Wichita City Library Auditorium

223 S. Main

Wichita, Ks



November 4th – Election Day

November 8th – League Day – Topeka

November 14th – Register New Citizens

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Sharon Ailsieger & Carole Neal

November 4 is Election Day and I know that all League members and their families will be voting. The Wichita League has worked many hours to get people registered and educate them on the issues. Betty Ladwig and her Voter Service Committee deserve a big THANK YOU for all their hard work. It will be a close election and every vote WILL COUNT!! The issue of the 1 cent sales tax will be on the ballot and the LWV came out in support of the issue. I have been attending the weekly meeting of the YESWichita group, representing the League. I was asked to speak at the press conference which was held for the issue. Only two other supporting groups were asked to speak. The LWV has a lot of credibility in Wichita. We are hoping for a "Yes" vote, but it may be close!! Let us hope that the Election Commissioner's office does not have any problems with counting ballots. NOVEMBER 8 (Saturday) will be League Day in Topeka. If you are interested in going contact me, sailsieger@netscape.net or 773-7420. November 11th Unit meeting and we will be doing consensus on Fracking. The questions will be included with this VOTER. Look them over and be ready to agree or disagree. Hope you have seen the many letters to the editor written by the League and League members. This is the type of visibility which strengthens the League. Finally, I want to welcome new members and returning members. If you have not paid your dues as yet, please do so as soon as possible, as we must turn in a number to National in January. VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! IT COUNTS!!

Sharon Ailsieger Co-President

Voter Service

Betty Ladwig Chair

We registered voters this month at NWHS at 7:30 on the 3rd' at Ruth Clark Elementary School in Haysville on the 13th. A friend from church moved here from Iowa, was born in Io-

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wa and she registered and couldn't find her birth certificate or her passport but had her marriage license, it was copied, and I took to the Election Commissioner's office, the young man at the desk said they would get started on the registration but she would still need a copy of her Iowa birth certificate, she called and got the certificate of birth and I took it in last week and stood while they input so she could vote on 11-4 Election. I remain concerned about the huge number of voters in suspension. Big implications for our numbers voting and outcome possibly, no probably.

Thanks to the folks that have worked so hard this past year to register voters in the many efforts and for National Register to Vote effort on 9-23-14 at the three libraries, Central, Angelou and Alford. A huge thank you for Paul's Sharon's, Connie's, and all the others who have assisted.

Betty Ladwig, Voter Service

Message from National

Thank you so much for your support and handwork for National Voter Registration Day 2014! Our current tallies of results from the day include 9,050 volunteers participating out in the field and 143,831 new voters registered.

Now is the time to make sure that all the new voters registered on National Voter Registration Day actually go out and vote.

Here are some resources that may be helpful for people wanting to know how and where they can vote including nonpartisan candidate listings:

VOTE411.org has a nationwide polling place locator and early voting polling place locator, up to date rules & regs for every state and nonpartisan candidate listings for every voter in America.

GetToThePolls.com by Pew's Voting Information Project also allows voters to find their polling place, hours of operation, and full ballot summary based on residential address.

For absentee voting info resources, check out [Long Distance Voter](#).

If you or anyone you know experiences any issues around voting, please call the Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE or 888-VE-Y-VOTA. The day before and on Election Day, Asian Americans Advancing Justice will have a hotline available in multiple languages at 888-API-VOTE.



Thanks,
Fiona Yau-Luu

Register new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies to vote. Century II - Nov. 14th

For information contact Ellen Estes (218-1163) efestes@cox.net

Treasurer's Report

Elaine Harvey – Treasurer

Exciting news, we have 65 members paid to date and 18 of us who still need to renew for 2014-2015. If everyone renews we will have 83 members. I will be sending out mailed reminders this week. Thanks to all of LWV Wichita-Metro members who are working hard to be informed ahead of Tuesday's elections and to those of us who are running for office and to those of us who are supporting good candidates for public office for your hard work to make democracy work.

To become an individual member, mail your check for \$60 to me Elaine Harvey, Treasurer LWV Wichita-Metro, 4370 N. Eagle Lake Ct. Bel Aire, KS 67220. Please include an extra \$15 if you want your Voter sent to you in paper via regular mail. Household memberships are \$90 and student memberships are \$30.

Call me at 744-2935 if you are uncertain if you paid your dues for 2014-2015 or send an e-mail to elaine.harvey@wichita.edu. We would like to print our directory in mid-November and we want you to be in it!

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Education/Scholarship Fund

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

Fund Raising

Sally Dewey and Carole Neal – Co-Chairs



Summer sailed on, Fall is flying fast and the holidays will be here! Remember: Saturday morning, December 6th, you are invited guests to a ten o'clock brunch at the home of Sally and Dave Dewey, 641 N. Woodlawn #69. [Reminder to park on Murdock Street and use the north door.]

Come to spend the morning from ten to twelve and visit with friends, or just drop in for a few minutes if you must get on your busy way. It will be a good time together because you will have an opportunity to contribute to the League Education Fund! This fund enables us to accomplish the things for which we stand. LWV works to educate all people by speaking to many groups and printing information on issues for which we have a position. We offer scholarships, especially to older students who want to continue or finish an education. The league assists with candidate debates and receptions, a help in getting candidate information out to voters. We also help register voters.

The League of Women Voters, Wichita-Metro, works to do a big job in the community very well! You help when your check makes this happen! Be generous!

The League fund raising committee will have a busy winter season!

Our eighteen month calendar will be getting underway to be ready for July 1st, 2015. In **March, Women's History Month**, there will be a luncheon to honor some of our leaders, past and present.

February celebrates Black History Month and we will again sponsor a concert by ARISE, the remarkable choir that performs Black Spirituals in word and song. This event was quite successful last year and many have asked that we do it again.

The venue for the concert will again be First United Methodist Church and the date is set for February 22nd. Tickets are \$20.00 and every league member will be needed to help! This is a time to work inter-community as well as fund raiser for the league.

More information will follow on our other celebrations and projects. 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).

League of Women Voters Kansas

LEAGUE DAY 2014 – TOPEKA, K S



**November 8, 2014
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
1275 SW Boswell Ave.
Topeka, KS**

PROGRAM

**9:30 – 10:00 am Registration and Breakfast (Continental Breakfast and Beverage)
10:00 am. Greeting & Overview of the Program**

10:05 am Dr. Bob Beatty, Political Science Department, Washburn University "Election 2014 what happened, why and what it means"

11:00– Noon Local League Successes during Election Reports from Local Leagues

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Noon Lunch: Hot entrée, cookies

12:15 pm Diane Eickhoff: Kansas Humanities Council- Women Rising: How Kansas Women Gained the Vote 1859-1912

1:15 -1:20 pm Remarks by MLD coordinator

1:30 to 2:15 pm

Breakout Sessions

- Legislative Session 2015: Dolores Furtado and Ernestine Krehbiel
- MLD teams: Marge Ahrens and Ellen Miller
- Open Meetings: Alan Cowles

2:15 to 3 pm Repeat Breakout sessions

3:00 pm Adjournment: wrap-up Dolores Furtado

(Deadline November 5) Please register by e-mail to Betty Wykoff (wykoffbr@yahoo.com) or Anita Kaiser (donanitakaiser@kc.rr.com)
Registration Fee: \$ 30.00 Pay at the door

Retention of Justices and Judges

The results of an evaluation of justices and judges on the Supreme Court and on the Court of Appeals have been received by LWV-K. It is important that voters cast an informed vote. Therefore, we are making the information accessible by providing the website of the Kansas Judicial Evaluation Committee KansasJudg-eReview.org that shows a copy of the results of the evaluations by attorneys and peer judges. This summary does not include evaluations for district judges.



Studies:

LWV- Kansas, Study 2013-2015
"Fracking, Water and our Future"

CONDENSED CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

09/28/2014: LWVK Fracking Study

1. WATER CONSERVATION:

While fracking for oil and gas utilizes a much smaller proportion of Kansas water resources than agriculture, water used often involves conversion of existing water rights or use of special temporary permits. In Kansas, contaminated

waste water is often disposed in deep-wells and lost to future use.

Given the existing LWVK position on priorities for water use, should LWVK support measures that would encourage reduction of overall water usage for fracking, including but not limited to, restricting conversion of water rights and/or use of "temporary permits" for oil/gas production; metering/monitoring of water use and water disposal; promotion of re-use/recycling of water and use of non-potable sources?

2. WATER CONTAMINATION:

Currently recognized sources of *potential* surface and groundwater contamination are surface/pad activities (spills during drilling and fracking fluid mixing, transport of materials, delivery/transfer, well blow-out); improper well construction and casing integrity; release of natural gas from deep fractured zones; other existing/abandoned wells which might provide routes for movement of gas, oil and drilling fluids; storage, transfer and transport of product via truck, train, pipeline; storage, transport, disposal of waste fluids in waste water treatment systems, tanks, evaporation pits, deep-wells.

Should the LWVK support measures to ensure protection of water quality from drilling, fracking and waste disposal activities to include, but not limited to, baseline and ongoing monitoring of local water quality (surface/groundwater); full disclosure of fracking fluid contents; use of "tracer" technologies; protective closure measures in new permits; plugging of abandoned wells; ongoing monitoring for well pressure and casing integrity; and safe storage, transport and disposal of product and wastes?

3. WASTE MANAGEMENT:

Solid and liquid wastes from drilling, fracking and disposal activities have the *potential* to impact local surface and groundwater quality.

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Should the LWVK support measures (permitting, monitoring, enforcement) to protect waters from contamination from disposal of drilling-associated wastes, including but not limited to collection, containment, transportation, illegal dumping, land application, holding tanks, evaporation pits, and deep-well disposal?

4. INDUCED SEISMICITY:

There is a growing body of evidence that fracking-related activities, especially deep-well disposal of large volumes of waste water, are associated with increased incidence of local earthquakes.

Should the LWVK support measures to protect public and private interests from induced seismicity through improved subsurface mapping; an enhanced seismic monitoring and geologic data gathering system in Kansas; increased public accessibility of the data; development of a mechanism for financial compensation for community impacts of drilling-related activities?

5. FUNDING:

Tax revenues deposited in the State General Fund pay for government services including education. The amount of revenue collected each year fluctuates depending upon the economy. Specific activities overseen by government can be funded through fees which are intended to be restricted, that is, available to pay for costs associated with the activity.

Should the LWVK support the adoption of industry fees and/or taxes to fund adequately the regulatory oversight of fracking-related activities, including but not limited to, agency staffing, permitting, monitoring, enforcement, citizen education, public participation and representation, and a compensation mechanism to cover damage attributed to oil and gas extraction?

6. OUR FUTURE:

For a society to be sustainable, it must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The three "E's" of sustainability, which should be weighed equally, are environment, equity and economics. Sustainability has become an issue as a result of significant concerns about the unintended social, environmental, and economic consequences of population growth, economic expansion, consumption of our natural resources and pollution.

Should the LWVK's "macro view" for the future of Kansas include adequate, clean and affordable water for all users, including wildlife; energy independence and diversity of energy sources with promotion of KS renewables; long-term economic stability and investment; an affordable cost of living for all Kansans; adaptations to deal with climate change and associated water shortages, including appropriate changes in the agricultural sector; environmental equity?

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A number of State agencies are involved in regulating (permitting, monitoring, enforcing) the appropriation of water, the extraction of oil and gas, and the waste disposal activities associated with fracking. (See background paper.)

Should the LWVK support meaningful and ongoing public participation in the regulatory processes, including but not limited to transparency of the regulatory processes; enhanced citizen education; appropriate and timely notification; public hearing accessibility; availability of data; public input opportunities; enhanced local decision-making?

8. MORATORIUM:

To date, the study committee is unaware of any League position on fracking that supports a moratorium or ban, although several countries, states and local governments have voted to

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suspend at least some aspects of drilling and/or waste disposal.

Under what circumstances, if any, would you support placing a moratorium or ban on fracking-related activities in Kansas? Be as specific as possible with regard to conditions of the ban, location, length of time, etc.

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.

Hot Topics

11:30-1:00 p.m., Central Library, 223 S. Main
Paul Babich and Megan Wright-Hagen – Co-Chairs

“Kudo’s to Paul and Megan, the last two Hot Topics have been extremely successful and interesting. In September Kansas Board of Education Board Member, Kathy Busch gave us a great overview on the issues that affect the future of our public school system and in October we were able to ask questions of the people on both sides of the sales tax issue. Thank you Paul and Megan for your great work.”

Kansas Health Care: Are Kansans Protected?
Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014

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.

Election Analysis of November 2014 elections
Tuesday, January 27, 2015

What happened in the November elections and what are the benefits and repercussions? Dr. Russel Fox from Friends University Political Science Department will present.

Decriminalizing Marijuana
Tuesday, February 24, 2015

There is an effort to get a measure added to the spring elections to ask the public about decriminalizing marijuana. What are the pros and cons of decriminalizing marijuana? Come and find out both sides of the issue in this forum. The Marijuana Reform Initiative (MRI ICT) and Sheriff Easter will present.

Election Issues for the April election
Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Let’s meet the candidates for the Mayor of Wichita that are on the April ballot.

New Innovation Center on the WSU Campus
Tuesday, April 28, 2015

What inspired the innovation campus and what does it mean for Kansas? President John Bardo, President of WSU, will present the ideas behind the concept and what it means for business and Kansas.

These programs are free and open to the public. Please share this information with others who are interested. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch, drinks will be provided. **The program starts promptly at noon.**

Other Goings On

Speakers Bureau

Carole Neal – Co-President participated in a panel discussion with Oletha Faust Goudeau, Dr. Carolyn Bridges, Elma Broadfoot, Marcey Gregory and Gail Jamis on Women in Politics for the Goddard Women’s Club. They contributed \$100 in behalf of the speakers to our Education Fund.

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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:

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Sharon Ailsieger Co-President
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