



# The VOTER

Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County, KS  
PO Box 1072 • Lawrence KS 66044-1072

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging the informed, active participation of citizens in government & influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

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Local League	www.lawrenceleague.com	www.facebook.com/lwvldc	www.twitter.com/lwvldc
State League:	www.lwvk.org	lwv.kansas @ gmail.com	785-234-5152
National League	www.lww.org		202-429-1965

## League Calendar

Thursday, March 18th	Noon - 1:00 pm	<b>Hot Topic! Medicaid Expansion in 2021:What's Next?</b> Presenter: Spencer Culver from Alliance for a Healthy Kansas. Link on page 2.
Sunday, March 28th	3:00 pm	<b>Community Partnership Meeting.</b> See article on page 3. Recurring link for all Community Partnership meetings on page 2.
Friday, April 2nd		<b>Deadline to submit nominations for the Helen Fluker Award.</b> For information and a nomination form, go to <a href="http://bit.ly/FlukerLWV">http://bit.ly/FlukerLWV</a>
Wednesday, April 7th		<b>World Health Day.</b>
Tuesday, April 13th	6:30 pm <i>New time!</i>	<b>LWVL-DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> All interested League members are invited to attend. Recurring link on page 3.
Wednesday, April 15th	5:30 pm	<b>Sustainability Advisory Board.</b> <i>via YouTube.</i> The Board's purpose is to advise the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence on issues affecting sustainability, environmental protection, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and natural resource conservation environmental protection. Link on page 3.
Thursday, April 15th	Noon - 1:00 pm	<b>Hot Topic: The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (and more!)</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> Join us for an always enlightening conversation with Representative Boog Highberger, 46th District, KS House. Link on page 3.
Monday, April 19th	7:00 pm	<b>LWVL-DC Annual Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> Details and link are on page 4.
Saturday, April 24th	9:30 am - 1:30 pm	<b>The LWV-Kansas Biennial Convention.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> Article and link to registration on page 6.
Thursday, April 29th		<b>LWVUS Day of Action.</b> See President's Message on page 2.
Saturday, May 1st	10:30 am	<b>Helen Fluker Award Presentation.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> See our website <a href="http://lawrenceleague.com">lawrenceleague.com</a> for updates!
Tuesday, May 11th	6:30 pm	<b>LWVL-DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> All interested League members are invited to attend. Recurring link on page 3.

# President's Message



Spring is almost here and it is finally feeling more like it, in many ways. I am encouraged by the US House of Representatives passing the For the People Act, improving voting rights and setting standards for redistricting. The Senate will introduce the bill, SB 1, this week with a vote expected late summer. Please contact Senators Moran and Marshall imploring them to support this crucial bill. In Kansas and across the country, state legislatures are introducing bills to limit voter registration, access and mailed ballots, particularly affecting people of color, students and people with disabilities. It is crucial to get the For the People Act passed.

The Lawrence League will be participating with the LWV of Kansas in the National Day of Action on April 29, highlighting fair redistricting. There will be a series of discussions and presentations that week. Stay tuned to our website, [LawrenceLeague.com](http://LawrenceLeague.com), Facebook and email for upcoming details.

The one year anniversary of the pandemic is heartbreaking in the loss of lives and the emotional, economic and physical impact. It is also hopeful in improving vaccine distribution and decreasing COVID-19 numbers. I will be attending the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 65 in the upcoming two weeks (virtually of course!). A focus of the meetings is gender equity and the tremendous impact the pandemic has had on women. I look forward to sharing what I learn!

Take a moment for self-care and reflection at the momentous time. Whether we recognize it or not, each of us have been profoundly affected during this pandemic. Don't forget to breathe; appreciate the beauty of Kansas in spring.

And get involved! This is a great opportunity to try something new. We appreciate you! Don't forget to attend our annual meeting Monday, April 19, at 7 pm.

Wear your mask and when available, get vaccinated!

I am thankful for each of you and the opportunity to work together. - Kristin

#MakingDemocracyWork

[kristinbrightstar@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbrightstar@gmail.com) 334-538-4410

## Welcome, New Member!

Sage McHenry has been helping the League with voter registration for some time now, but finally has had her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and is the newest League member. Welcome, Sage!  
- Marjorie Cole



## LINKS FOR CALENDAR ITEMS

### Hot Topic! Medicaid Expansion in 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82716443567?pwd=VU4rSIBhNS9nVUd5VWNDaDI3NEExUz09>

### LWVL-DC Community Partnership Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting link for all Community Partner Meetings.

Join Zoom Meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85868570294?pwd=eFRFNHJjQXVIQlgreG53SHMxLldQQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 6857 0294

Passcode: 656791

## Fluker Award Nomination Form:

<http://bit.ly/FlukerLWV>

## LWVL-DC Board Meetings

To join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86368994704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86368994704?pwd=YVczMEpYR2lWk04lTXc5bCtzbWNzQT09)

[pwd=YVczMEpYR2lWk04lTXc5bCtzbWNzQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86368994704?pwd=YVczMEpYR2lWk04lTXc5bCtzbWNzQT09)

Meeting ID: 863 6899 4704

Passcode: 472392

NOTE: This Zoom link and passcode is the same for every Board meeting. The time has changed to 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

## Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting:

These meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm

<https://www.youtube.com/user/lawrenceksvideo>

## Hot Topic! The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89183703473?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89183703473?pwd=UmhSOE9tZkhCZVFEdlFdl2tWYmJ5QT09)

[pwd=UmhSOE9tZkhCZVFEdlFdl2tWYmJ5QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89183703473?pwd=UmhSOE9tZkhCZVFEdlFdl2tWYmJ5QT09)

## LWVL-DC Annual Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89704228871?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89704228871?pwd=Vm9yRVAYMlJPUTJBT2Jjb3ozMWFkOT09)

[pwd=Vm9yRVAYMlJPUTJBT2Jjb3ozMWFkOT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89704228871?pwd=Vm9yRVAYMlJPUTJBT2Jjb3ozMWFkOT09)

Meeting ID: 897 0422 8871

Passcode: 603156

# News about Our Website

[LawrenceLeague.com](http://LawrenceLeague.com) has a new webmaster, Norma Pierce, replacing Kim Gibson, who moved to Missouri and continued to serve valiantly from afar for many months. Thanks, Kim!

Norma has been working with websites on several different platforms since the early 1990s, semi-retiring to Lawrence eight years ago. However, this is a first for Norma, because the platform is Drupal. Learning new stuff is one of Norma's favorite pastimes.

We also have a new webmaster-in-training, Denise Pettengill, board member and Hot Topics Chair.

Objectives are to keep [LawrenceLeague.com](http://LawrenceLeague.com) up-to-date and add content to make it your go-to place for

easy-to-find-and-use data about our League and elected officials. You might see little changes that make [LawrenceLeague.com](http://LawrenceLeague.com) a little more user-friendly.

Please help with suggestions, pictures and patience.

Email: [LawrenceKSLeagueweb@gmail.com](mailto:LawrenceKSLeagueweb@gmail.com)

# Community Partnership

The Community Partnership goal is to bring together various organizations in Lawrence and Douglas County so that we can work toward our common goals while supporting the work that each organization does for the community. Our next meeting is listed on our calendar.

If you would like to attend our meetings or be a part of the Community Partnership group, please contact Ma'Ko'Quah Jones at:

[Makoquahjones@gmail.com](mailto:Makoquahjones@gmail.com)

(785) 424-5591



# Hot Topic! Report

The Hot Topic Committee meets regularly to plan upcoming presentations of interest. Check our updated website, [LawrenceLeague.com](http://LawrenceLeague.com), and FaceBook for updates!

On Thursday, March 18th Noon to 1 PM via Zoom, Spencer Culver with Alliance for a Healthy Kansas will present: **Medicaid Expansion in 2021: What's Next?** Hear the latest on Medicaid expansion in the Capitol, discuss the specifics of Medicaid expansion policy, and

share opportunities to get involved in expanding affordable health coverage to 165,000 Kansans.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82716443567?pwd=VU4rSIBhNS9nVUd5VWVNdDaDI3NEUzO9>

On Thursday, April 15th Noon to 1 PM via Zoom, join us for an always enlightening conversation with Representative Boog Highberger, 46th District, KS House. He will be discussing the **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact** (and more!)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89183703473?pwd=UmhSOE9tZkhCZVFEdlFDL2tWYmJ5QT09>

- Denise Pettengill,  
Chair, Hot Topic Committee

## LWVL-DC Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is coming up quickly! Please join us at 7pm, Monday, April 19 via Zoom. A quorum of members is required to vote on a new budget, new officers, board members and By-Laws revisions.

Our By-Laws and 501(c)3 Committee has been working efficiently to get the needed changes and applications made in time for the Annual Meeting. Please go to our website, LawrenceLeague.com, to see the revised By-Laws. We plan to accomplish the change to 501(c)3 non-profit status this year.

We would love to see you all in person for lunch, but this year we will again be virtual. Our meeting time of 7 pm will allow more members who work during the day to attend. Please feel free to bring your own dinner or glass of wine! Hopefully 2022 will allow us to gather face to face!

Topic: LWVL-DC Annual Meeting  
Time: Apr 19, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89704228871?pwd=Vm9yRVAYMlJPUTJ3T2Jjb3ozMWFEXQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 0422 8871  
Passcode: 603156

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE Report

Slate submitted by Co-Chairs Jan Roth and Marilyn Hall, and members Ellen Paulsen, Denise Pettengill, Sharon Brown

Officers	President	Emily Riner
	President-Elect	Tracy Matthews
	Vice President	Kristin Salmans
	Secretary	Sharon Brown

Directors	Cille King
	Marjorie Cole
	Denise Pettengill
	Sonja Czarnecki
	Kay Johnson

Nominating Committee	Jan Roth & Marilyn Hall as Co-Chairs
	Ellen Paulsen

Continuing: Completing the second year of their terms	Treasurer	Melissa Wick
	Directors	Tamara Cash
		Charley Crabtree
		Martha Silks





# Proposed Dues Increase for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The following is a proposal for a dues increase that will begin with our new fiscal year. This increase requires a vote of the membership which will be held at our annual meeting currently scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Our dues have not changed since 2013 when a sliding scale based on self-reported income was adopted by the membership. This increase is prompted, in part, by increase in per member payment fees at the Kansas state level (\$20 for an Individual; \$30 for a household) that will be effective April 1, 2021. Addi-

tionally, we are anticipating an increase at the National level where the fees are currently \$32 for an individual; \$48 for a household.

Highlights of the changes: Students, 16 years and older, will be welcomed FREE. We have had significant numbers join, both from high school and college, when the experimental fee for students was lowered to FREE. We encourage membership at this level because the sooner people become civically engaged, the greater the likelihood they will remain civically engaged.

The first tier of dues (based on self-reported income) will be \$25.00 – or WHATEVER YOU CAN PAY. Those underserved by our community and underrepresented at the polls are often also in the lower income bracket. We want to encourage all people to increase their voter education and become politically active, regardless of income. - *Melissa Wick, Treasurer*

## Proposed Dues Increase for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022

	Individual Membership		Household Membership	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Student*	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Under \$25,000**	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$40.00
\$25,000 - \$50,000	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$55.00	\$60.00
Over \$50,000	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$85.00	\$90.00
Sustaining	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Life Member (of 50 Years)	Dues are optional.	Dues are optional.		

\*Student Members: 16 years and older and enrolled in an accredited school

\*\*Under \$25,000: Pay what you can, we need your voices at the table





## By-Laws AND 501(c)3 Committee Report

At last spring's virtual convention, a committee was formed to review the Bylaws and investigate creating a 501(c)3. A committee has been meeting and will propose to the upcoming convention in April for approval of revised Bylaws. Some language was added to expand explanation in Section 5 Meetings – specifically electronic meetings and use of proxy representation. Similar language was added to Article V - Officers regarding teleconferencing and remote access to conduct League business. As our organization works to obtain 501(c)3 status, which will allow all donations to be tax deductible, language the IRS requires was added to Article VI, Section 5 of Financial Administration. This language deals with distribution of funds if there is dissolution of our league.

Our thanks are given to the committee for their generous work to complete this task. Members included: Marcie Francisco, Boog Highberger, Emily Riner, Marjorie Cole, Debra Duncan, Ruth Lichtwardt, Gina Spade, and Marlene Merrill



# LWVK STRENGTHENING Democracy: Beyond 100

We've reached our 100th birthday! What now? What is our next 19th? Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy remains at the heart of the League's work, even in the middle of a pandemic and a very divided electorate. Join us as we gather virtually to learn how Kansas League members strengthened democracy in 2020 and the plans for the next biennium. We will share ideas to further the work, and receive a bit of inspiration to sustain us as we enter our second century.

We will gather via Zoom. The \$10 fee defrays convention costs. After completing the [registration form](#), you will receive a Zoom link and electronic copy of the Convention booklet prior to Convention.

LWVK-DC is allowed to have 18 member delegates to the LWVK Convention. If you would like to attend as a voting delegate, please contact Sharon Brown ((785)-2079, or email [sharonrbrown@sunflower.com](mailto:sharonrbrown@sunflower.com) or Denise Pettengill (785) 332-2976, or email [pettengilldenise@gmail.com](mailto:pettengilldenise@gmail.com). We will reimburse the \$10 registration fee for voting delegates.

Our keynote speaker is [Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace](#), Kansas Secretary of Administration. Prior to Governor Kelly's appointment, Dr. Burns-Wallace served as the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies at the University of Kansas. Dr. Burns-Wallace began her career as a Foreign Service Officer (FSO) with the U.S. Department of State. She served Foreign Service tours in Guangzhou and Beijing, China; Pretoria, South Africa; and, in Washington D.C. Click her bio above (linked to her name) for more info. Dr. Burns-Wallace is a dynamic speaker on a variety of topics and has a special interest in women's leadership and issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

# VOTER Suppression WATCH Dos & Don'ts FOR VOTER TURNOUT

The Nonprofit Vote has released their November 2020 National Voting Report.

Kansas ranks down 31st for voter turnout of the eligible population. The 10 states with the highest turnout had either or both: same day voter registration or mailed ballots to all registered voters.

The 10 states with the lowest turnout had either or both: 4 week cut off for voter registration before the election, or an excuse required for a mailed ballot.

70% of the voters across the nation voted either by mail or early, compared to 30% who voted on election day.

<https://www.nonprofitvote.org/documents/2021/03/america-goes-polls-2020.pdf>

- Cille King, Co-President, LWVK

# SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Scholarship Committee has received 15 applications from senior high school students from schools in Douglas County. We will be meeting to review applications and essays and will be announcing the recipients in May. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of LWV-LDC and our donors, we will be giving away \$2000 in scholarships this year.

- Emily Riner, Chair

# DEI Self-Education

If we seek to build a racially equitable and truly participatory democracy, then white LWV members need to understand the conceptual differences, implications, and consequences of racial segregation, integration, and cultural assimilation. Read John Powell, "Is Racial Integration Essential to Achieving Quality Education for Low-Income Minority Students, In the Short Term? In the Long Term?" *Poverty and Race* 5.5 (Sept.-Oct. 1996): 7-10, at

<https://prrac.org/is-racial-integration-essential-to-achieving-quality-education-for-low-income-minority-students-in-the-short-term-in-the-long-term-john-powell/>.

# MONTHLY GREEN CHALLENGE

Each month, we challenge members to take one action toward living a "green," sustainable life-style and fighting climate change. This month's challenge:

As the world's #1 producer of plastic waste, the US generated 46 million tons in 2016, more than 280 pounds for every person in the country. The average American eats, drinks, and breathes in more than 74,000 microplastic particles every year, according to a 2019 calculation.

Kick the plastic habit: Avoid single-use plastics by using cloth bags to carry groceries and other purchases; carry a reusable water bottle; choose plastic-free school and office supplies; use plastic bags to recycle shredded paper; wash and reuse various plastic bags and containers and/or cover refrigerated food with cotton wraps; use glass or steel straws; use cloth rags rather than foam sponges; microwave food in glass or ceramic containers (because plastic leaches chemicals); try recyclable toothbrushes and shampoo bars; store items in cardboard boxes rather than plastic tubs.

- Jeanne Klein







# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MINUTES

## LWVL-DC Board Meeting February 9, 2021 Virtual via Zoom

**Present:** Kristin Salmans (President), Marjorie Cole (Vice President), Melissa Wick (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Charley Crabtree, Cille King, Tracy Matthews, Denise Pettengill, Becky Plate, Martha Silks

**Absent:** Tamara Cash, Emily Riner

**Guests:** Katherine Ewing, Kay Johnson, Jeanne Klein, Lori Hutfles, Wayne Ricks, Ma'Ko'Quah Jones

Kristin called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Marjorie moved and Melissa seconded that the January minutes be accepted as corrected: Emma's PSA graphics were for Beat the Virus; Denise and Sharon were appointed as board members on the Nominating Committee. Motion carried. Marjorie announced that Cheryl Weaver is a new member.

**TREASURER:** Melissa reported income of \$921.20 in January (dues \$243.10, contributions \$678.10) and expenses of \$752.41 (VOTER \$45.91, State PMP \$706.50).

BALANCE SHEET	02/01/2021	
MMA		\$27,906.50
CHECKING (01/01/2021)		\$10,741.18
NAT'L EDUC FUND		\$4,843.39
L-DC SCHOLARSHIP FUND		\$4,709.33
CHECKING (01/31/2021)		\$10,909.97

Martha moved and Denise seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted and filed for audit. Motion carried. Melissa presented the proposed dues in-

crease for fiscal year 2021-2022. After discussion it was decided to keep student memberships free. Also, on our sliding scale, members with income under \$25,000 may pay what they can. This information will be included in the next VOTER and be presented at our Annual Meeting in April for a vote by the membership. Melissa, Emily and Kristin will hold a committee meeting to prepare the budget for the coming year. Marjorie agreed to audit the treasurer's books for 2020-2021.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS:** Ma'Ko'Quah reported that seventeen participants attended the meeting on Super Bowl Sunday. Our first priority is encouraging community wide COVID vaccination. We will work with LMH Health to get information out using door hangers, fliers and canvassing. Other priorities suggested were consolidation of community election forums, getting the Medicaid expansion message out, and bringing climate change to the forefront.

**DEI COMMITTEE:** Tracy announced that current goals were finalized at a meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The committee looked at a developed survey and will review feedback before sending an approved final copy to the membership. They plan to use Survey Monkey so responses will be anonymous.

**ONGOING BUSINESS:** Sunday, September 19 was selected for our Annual Candidate Picnic. We plan to participate at the KS State Fair on Saturday, September 11.  
- Sharon Brown, Secretary







LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LAWRENCE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

Make a Difference - Join/Support the League!

Return this form with a check made out to LWV/DC, and mail to the address below.
Membership is open to any person who is sixteen years of age or older.
New or renewed memberships received now will expire March 31, 2022.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_

I heard about the League via (Facebook, website, friend, other): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues:\*

Table with 3 columns: Approximate Household Income, Individual Membership, Household Membership. Rows include Student, Under \$25,000, \$25,000 to \$50,000, Over \$50,000, Sustaining member, Life member.

\* Our membership assessment supports the National & State Leagues at \$50/member (\$32 National and \$18 State).
\*\* High school or postsecondary student enrolled at least part time in an accredited institution.

I am not a member, but would like to support the League with my contribution as indicated below.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the League General Fund.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the League Education Fund.\*\*\*

\*\*\* this contribution is tax-deductible. Write check to "LWV Education Fund."

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ (each member)

As a League member or supporter, I would like to help support League activities by participating in:

- General Membership Meetings: Set up and/or tear down, Hospitality, Taking notes/writing report of meeting
Membership: Recruitment, Mentor/follow-up with new members, Provide a ride to a member, Phone members without internet access
Voter Services: Register voters, Help with voter education

- Contribute to the League by: Researching for League studies on issues, Participating in fund-raising activities, Attending/reporting on government meetings, Representing the League at community events, Serving on the Board of Directors
I have the following skills: Editing articles/reports, Database management, Microsoft Word / Excel / Quickbooks, Website/Social Media design/management
My interests include: \_\_\_\_\_

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