



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.lwv.org | | 202-429-1965 |

League Calendar

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Thursday, July 22nd | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | July Hot Topic! Sarah Dehart Faltico will present "Building Community Power with the Kansas Climate CORE". <u>Note earlier time!</u> Link and article on page 3. |
| July 24th - August 1st | | Douglas County Fair , <i>Fairgrounds, Lawrence, KS.</i> |
| Tuesday, August 3rd | 7:00 am - 7:00 pm | Primary Election for Lawrence City Commissioner and School Board candidates |
| Tuesday, August 10th | 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm | LWVL-DC Board Meeting , <i>via Zoom</i> . All interested League members are invited to attend. Recurring Zoom link on page 3. |
| Monday, August 30th | 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm | Opening Session of Crystal Bennett's Foundation Workshop: "From Colorblind to Color Brave" . <i>Location to be announced; see page 4.</i> |
| Saturday, Sept. 11th | | LWVL-DC Day to run the LWW booth at the Kansas State Fair . See article on page 3. |
| Tuesdays from Sept. 14 to Oct. 12th | 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm | Courageous Conversations Toward Being Anti-Racist . Small Group (25 folks), <i>location TBA</i> . DEI article on page 4. |
| Sunday, September 19th | 5:00 pm | September Potluck/Candidate Forum . <i>Centennial Park, 600 Rockledge Road</i> . See President's Message, page 2. |
| Saturday, Oct. 23rd | 11:30 am | Helen Fluker Award Ceremony and Luncheon . More details to be announced. |
| Monday, October 25th | 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm | Final session of Chrystal Bennett's Workshop: "Our Liberation is Bound Together" . In person, 100 folks maximum. See DEI article on page 4. |
| Tuesday, Nov. 2nd | 7:00 am - 7:00 pm | General Election. |

President's Message



Greetings all,

As of July 1, a new law enacted by the Kansas Legislature makes it a felony conviction to impersonate an election official, amongst other unclear language. The Kansas League of Women Voters has joined Loud Light, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, and the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center in filing a temporary injunction and are requesting that parts of the law be barred from being enforced. Because of this, all nine of the local LWV chapters in Kansas have temporarily suspended in-person voter registration activities. Please see the LWVK press release here: <https://lwvk.org/about-lwv-of-kansas/press-releases>

While this is a disappointing law that makes it more challenging for us to do the essential work of registering voters, we hope that a decision will be made in favor of the people of Kansas very soon. I will be sure to share more information when it is made available.

Don't forget that the primary election occurs on August 3. See all voting and election information for Douglas County residents here: <https://www.douglascountyks.org/depts/voting-and-elections>

As always, we encourage our membership to get to know their candidates (and save the date as we will have a gathering on September 19, 2021 at 5:00pm for you to meet your general election candidates). See below for information on the many Lawrence City Commission and USD 497 School Board primary election candidates:

See here for the Lawrence Times Q&A with Lawrence City Commission Candidates: <https://lawrencekstimes.com/2021/06/23/meet-lawrencecitycomm-primary-candidates/>

And for the USD 497 School Board Candidates: <https://lawrencekstimes.com/2021/07/01/meet-usd497bd-primary-candidates/>

Stay tuned as our DEI Committee will be sharing a wonderful opportunity for you to attend a series of training sessions. We look forward to learning from Crystal Rozelle-Bennett and to digging into our commitment to better embed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into our work.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at emilyapriner@gmail.com or 605-261-0328 with any questions, comments, or needs. Wash your hands, tell those you love how much they mean to you, and stay well.

-Emily Riner

Correction to Last Month's President's Message:

Please note that last month's President's Message was incorrect regarding memorials for Melissa Wick. The family requests that memorials be made to Theatre Lawrence and the Lawrence/Douglas County League of Women Voters in lieu of flowers or other gifts.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to our three newest members,
Cheryl Lincoln, Joe Pierron, and Debby Hadel. We look forward to seeing you at League events!



LINKS FOR CALENDAR ITEMS

Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting: These meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOLHXiojsOvnyQsoRdFxUaO>

LWVL-DC Board Meetings:

To join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86368994704?pwd=YVCZMEpYR2lTXc5bCtzbVWMzQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 6899 4704

Passcode: 472392

NOTE: This Zoom link and passcode is the same for every Board Meeting.

Hot Topic!: Building Community Power with the Kansas Climate Core, July 22 at 11:30 am. Please note early time!

To join Zoom meeting, go to <https://my.lwv.org/node/39880/>

Volunteer for State Fair LWV booth, Saturday, Sept. 11. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448acaa2ea0fcl-lwvldc>

www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448acaa2ea0fcl-lwvldc

Other Important Links

If you missed a Hot Topic program, they are available for later viewing on our YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLHXiojsOvnyqsoRdFxUaO>

Competitive Races for Kansas redistricting Explained: Check out this video from LWVK regarding Kansas redistricting and subscribe to their YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbMQn5cxUhl>

VOLUNTEER AT THE KANSAS STATE FAIR!

We are still looking for volunteers to work at the LWVK booth that will celebrate our centennial at the state fair. There will be options to carpool if you prefer not to or cannot drive and you will receive free entrance into the fair. Please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448acaa2ea0fcl-lwvldc>



JULY HOT TOPIC! BUILDING COMMUNITY POWER WITH THE KANSAS CLIMATE CORE

Sarah Dehart Faltico is a Program Coordinator for Climate + Energy Project, focused on a systems-based approach to building community power through civic engagement. Sarah manages CEP's Integrated Voter Engagement work and organizes Kansas Environmental Leadership, providing leadership training to envi-

ronmental leaders across the state. She also works at the intersection of Climate Resilience and public health to encourage civilians to take action for a Resilient Kansas.

Prior to her work at CEP, Sarah worked in both the corporate and non-profit worlds, forging multi-sector partnerships and working at the intersections of organic agriculture, food access, community health, and racial and environmental justice.

Sarah believes that a systems-based approach can help amplify the voices of those first and most impacted by climate change.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The DEI committee and the LWVL-DC Board of Directors is pleased to bring Crystal Bennett, of Thryve, LLC to the LWVL-DC. Crystal has proposed a series of workshops based on the results of the survey sent out earlier this year.

The workshops will include From Colorblind to Color Brave (August 30, 5:30pm-8:30 pm) to help League members better understand their own bias, You can sign up for this workshop at the following link: <https://bit.ly/LWVcolorbrave> .

There will also be five intensive sessions entitled Courageous Conversations Towards Being Anti-Racist. These will run for five consecutive Tuesdays starting September 14 until October 12.

They will be held from 5:30pm - 7:00pm. If you are interested in these sessions, it is strongly encouraged that you attend all five. According to Ms. Bennett, only attending a portion of these classes will impact your end results. There are only 25 slots available for this series of five workshops. You can sign up for these workshops here:

<https://bit.ly/LWVCourageousConversations> .

The final workshop is entitled Our Liberation is Bound Together. This workshop "is inclusive of all in understanding how toxic culture is created and sustained and the benefit of using trauma informed strategies to improve the lines of communication."

This workshop will be held October 25 from 5:30pm - 8:30pm. You can sign up for the final workshop here:

<https://bit.ly/LWVOurLiberation> .

We are still working on locations for these events. As a reminder, the number of attendees is limited, especially for the Courageous Conversations series. If you have any questions about the various workshops, please reach out to Tracy Matthews at tracymatthews@kw.com .

The next Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee meeting will be held on August 5, at 5:30. If you are interested in joining the committee, please reach out to Tracy Matthews.



DEI SELF-EDUCATION

The term “critical race theory” has been co-opted by conservatives in an attempt to stop Kansas educators from teaching factual BIPOC history and politics, <https://www.kcur.org/news/2021-06-11/the-controversy-over-critical-race-theory-creeps-into-kansas-schools>.

Imagine Leonard Pitts Jr.'s satirical scenario happening in a Lawrence classroom, <https://www2.ijworld.com/opinion/2021/jun/17/opinion-allow-teachers-to-teach-the-truth/>.

Here are the five, main 2020 Kansas History, Government, and Social Studies Standards:

- 1-Choices have consequences.
- 2-Individuals have rights and responsibilities.
- 3-Societies are shaped by the identities, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups.
- 4-Societies experience continuity and change over time.
- 5-Relationships among people, places, ideas, and environments are dynamic.

Search these Kansas Standards for specific content, <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Career-Standards-and-Assessment-Services/Content-Area-F-L/History-Government-and-Social-Studies>. For example, “Students will analyze and evaluate how our political process works, the growing role of interest groups, and mass media’s impact on our political ideologies” (pp. 177-78).



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: Vote green values with your wallet.

- Vote with your consumer dollars by supporting women- and BIPOC-owned green businesses.
- If you happen to own stock in any company, be sure to vote your proxy ballots to let management know you want corporate practices that support people and the planet. [Download the 2021 Proxy Preview here.](#)
- Urge Congress to restore the power of shareholders to push corporations on social and environmental issues and hold corporations accountable.
- One study found that just over a third of the 500 companies in the S&P 500 stock index have set ambitious emission reduction targets, while 215 had no target at all and the rest had weak targets. Question corporations’ annual reports by researching what they aren’t doing to fight climate change within the next five years (or less).
- If you haven’t already done so, add Socially Responsible Investments (SRI) that apply Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria to your retirement portfolio. These companies and mutual funds perform as well if not better than non-ESG investments.

- Jeanne Kline

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MINUTES - LWWL-DC BOARD MEETING

June 8, 2021

Present: Emily Riner (President), Kristin Salmans (Vice President), Brian Kuehl (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Tamara Cash, Marjorie Cole, Charley Crabtree, Sonja Czarnecki, Kay Johnson, Cille King, Tracy Matthews, Denise Pettengill, Martha Silks

Absent: Emma Holsclaw

Guests: Kay Emerson, Jeanne Klein, Norma Pierce, Eileen Spickler

Emily called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The board shared favorite memories of Melissa Wick. Brian announced the establishment of the Melissa Wick Memorial Scholarship. Almost \$2,900 in donations has been received so far. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded yearly and Brian will ensure that that amount is available until 2027.

TREASURER: Brian reported income of \$325.18 in May (dues \$276.93, MAW Memorial \$48.25) and expenses of \$32.79 (VOTER printing).

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| BALANCE SHEET | 06/01/2021 | |
| MMA | | \$27,911.05 |
| CHECKING (05/31/2021) | | \$12,216.37 |
| NAT'L EDUC FUND | | \$4,843.39 |
| L-DC SCHOLARSHIP FUND | | \$4,729.32 |

Marjorie moved and Charley seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted and filed for audit. Motion carried.

VOTER SERVICE: Sonja reported on the student sticker design competition. The flyer will be revised and middle school students will be eligible to participate also. The deadline for entries is August 27. Norma and Sonja will establish an email address for submissions.

DEI: Tracy presented a proposal of services from Crystal Rozelle Bennett regarding racial issues. It would involve three 90-minute Zoom classes for members, spread out over several months. The cost would be \$3000. Kristin moved and Marjorie seconded that the board move forward with this event. Discussion included the suggestion of payment using funds from Ann Ozegovic's estate gift to our league, and also offering this to our community partners. Motion carried.

STATE LEAGUE: Cille announced that LWWK has entered into a lawsuit with several other organizations to challenge newly enacted voting laws that make it more difficult for Kansans to vote. LWWK is asking members to immediately contact their senators and ask them to vote YES on SI, the For the People Act. LWWK has produced three short YouTube videos to help explain the basics of redistricting. Questions for candidates are needed for the VOTE411 site.

- Sharon Brown, Secretary



LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY

Make a Difference - Join/Support the League!

Return this form with a check made out to LWVL/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:*

| Approximate Household Income | Individual Membership | Household Membership |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Student** | FREE | FREE |
| Under \$25,000*** | \$25 | \$40 |
| \$25,000 to \$50,000 | \$40 | \$60 |
| Over \$50,000 | \$60 | \$90 |
| Sustaining member | \$100 | \$150 |
| Life member (of 50 years) | \$0 | |

* Our membership assessment supports the National & State Leagues at \$50/member (\$32 National and \$20 State).

** Student members: 16 and older and enrolled in an accredited school.

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

_____ 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 League General Fund.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ _____ for 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 (provide coffee/tea/dessert)
- 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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www.facebook.com/lwvldc • www.twitter.com/lwvldc

JUNE 2021

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