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The Voter March 2020

Edited by Jogee Detchemendy

It's Time For Change in Leadership by Carol Young

I have been the Convener for six years. I have enjoyed my tenure, but it is time for a change. Organizations go stale with the same leadership over a long period of time. Personally, I am ready for a change in focus. We elect officers at our Annual Meeting in June, so now is the time for each of you to start deciding to step up to the plate and get in the game!

Jogee, Norma and Devita have one year left on their terms. Ruth Bell's term is up as well, but she can be re-elected, if she chooses to serve. Any of those persons could decide to be the Convener, or we could elect a member who has been involved in leagues in other places, and could bring a totally new perspective, or a person who is new to the LWV, but is willing to use the leadership development tools provided by the LWVUS – and there is plenty of information to be had!

Before you say that you aren't qualified, let me tell you my personal story. I was 27, married, had a full-time job in a hospital laboratory when I became the president of the fledging LWV in Conway. I had plenty of people to help me, and it was a rewarding experience. So, YOU can do this! I'm not going anywhere. I would like to coordinate Vote411 for the November election, and then spend time at the capitol lobbying for all the good bills we plan to get introduced.

Our bylaws will be attached to Voter, so everyone can see the duties of the Leadership Team.

Voter Registration at ECS by Katherine Pope

The League of Women Voters voter registration partnership with the County Clerk's Office continues. On February 27, Episcopal Collegiate School (ECS) welcomed the LWV into their upper school and registered 38 voters. The majority were new voters made up of seniors and juniors, as well as a handful of faculty members who needed to make address changes. Marlene Ware, the ECS upper school librarian, helped organize the voter's registration, giving both her time and enthusiasm. Prior to the event, Ms. Ware posted flyers she and her daughter created, throughout the upper school. She greeted the League with the perfect registration spot, including a covered table, flowers, and bottomless coffee and tea. Lucky League members who got to experience Marlene Ware's hospitality included Carol Young, Katherine Pope, Robert Walker, Donna Drury, and Norma Johnson. Ms. Ware supplied a list of students who will be eligible to vote by November, 2020 and provided the opportunity for students to come into the library and complete their voter's registration forms.

Voter Registration at ECS continued on next page.

The County Clerk's office stopped by to encourage the students, answer questions, and take photos. It was obvious the students were excited about taking this necessary step towards exercising their right to vote. A huge thank you to Marlene Ware, whose help was indispensable, and our mighty volunteers.

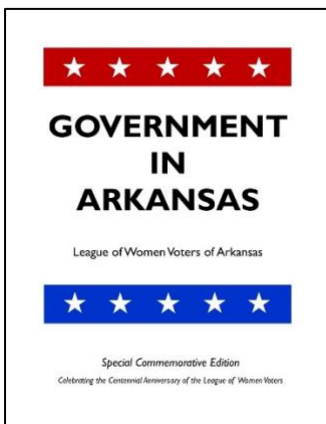
Voter Registration at Hall High

by Carol Young

We celebrated our actual birthday, February 14th, by registering 16 seniors and staff members at Hall High School. Robert Walker, Janna Knight and Carol Young were joined by some Spanish speaking friends, and the Hall Media Specialist, Edie Calloway-Fraiser.

Government In Arkansas- 10th Edition

by Alfreda Brown



A statewide task force, chaired by Beth Barham (Washington), has developed plans to place hard copies of *Government in Arkansas, 10th Edition*, in all Arkansas academic libraries. The task force set a goal to print 600

copies of the publication to share with the academic libraries and to sell. The estimated cost to reach this goal is \$25,000. A funding proposal was submitted to the League of Women Voters of Arkansas Leadership Team to review and approve. Once the proposal is approved, it will be available for League members to use when they meet with organizations, foundations, state agencies and other funding sources for support of this project.

Currently, copies of *Government in Arkansas* can be purchased at the Arkansas State Capitol Gift Shop

in Little Rock. It is also available at the LWV of Arkansas' website. <https://my.lwv.org/arkansas>.

Call to Convention 2020: This One Will Be Epic!

by Carol Young

[First Call: LWV 54th National Convention | League of Women Voters](#)

The League of Women Voters' 54th National Convention at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill & Liaison Washington Capitol Hill June 25-June 28, 2020. We invite our League members to save these dates and plan to join fellow passionate and engaged League leaders for our biennial national gathering to be held in Washington, DC in June 2020.

Pat Landes and Norma Johnson have expressed interest. Pat reserved a room, but may not be able to go, and needs to room by herself, is she does. There is a second double room reserved, so who wants to go with Norma? The LWVAR has three allotted delegate slots, and we can probably have at least one of those if needed. Between our League and the State, we can pay all expenses except food. You learn so much at a national convention, and this being the 100th anniversary and being held in D.C- it should be super exciting! Please let Carol know, at cyoung8151@sbcglobal.net as soon as possible if you are interested in being a part of history!

LWVPC is getting a new Website

by Carol Young

Our Leadership Team decided to join the MyLO platform instead of renewing with GoDaddy. Our state league is already using this system, as are many other local leagues around the country. Many thanks to Clint and Michelle Rhoden for taking on the challenge of getting the new system up and running.

Upcoming Events on next page.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday March 12, 2020 - We will continue our partnership with the Central Arkansas Library System and UALR Public Radio to bring our latest Issues That Matter- The Need to Read; Literacy in Arkansas. Issues That Matter is a public forum for the community. Join us at Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library at 6pm.

The panel includes:

Marci Robertson - Literacy Action

Nancy Leonhardt - Adult Learning Alliance

Dionne Jackson - AR Kids Read

Beverly Jacobs - Tutor at Literacy Action

Sherry Chambers - Director of Literacy for LRSD

As always, we will have a table set up, and will need several people to pass out and collect audience question cards. Please email Carol at cyoung8151@sbcgobal.net if you can volunteer

- Monday, March 16, 2020 – Monthly LWVPC Meeting at Fletcher Library 823 N. Buchanan, Little Rock. Dr. Christopher Etheridge, Assistant Professor in the [School of Mass Communication](#) at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock will speak on the topic Fake News: Implications for Democracy.

Chris Etheridge Assistant Professor. B.A., Knox College. M.S. in Journalism, Northwestern University. Ph.D. in Mass Communication, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Chris is a former journalist with additional experience in strategic communication and marketing. His research is driven by questions about media representations of crime and public safety. Additionally, his scholarship explores the changing relationships between audiences and community media, driven primarily by emerging technologies. Specialty areas include multimedia storytelling, emerging digital media, media ethics, community journalism, reporting and writing.

- Monday, March 23, 2020 - Public Forum: Update on Community Schools at Fletcher Library, 6pm-8pm.

The League is proud to be a co-sponsor of one of a series of public forums on the Community Schools Program, as being developed by our member, Dr. Jay Barth. Dr. Barth, who was appointed by Mayor Scott as Little Rock's Chief Education Officer, explained that these forums are to provide education about what community schools are, and to update the community on where we are in the process, and to get public feedback on the model in LR.

Upcoming Events continued on next page.

- Monday, April 6 2020- Kelly Houston Jones will speak on Race and Women's Suffrage in Arkansas. This event will be from 6-7 pm at Maumelle Library, 10 Lake Pointe Dr., Maumelle, AR 72113

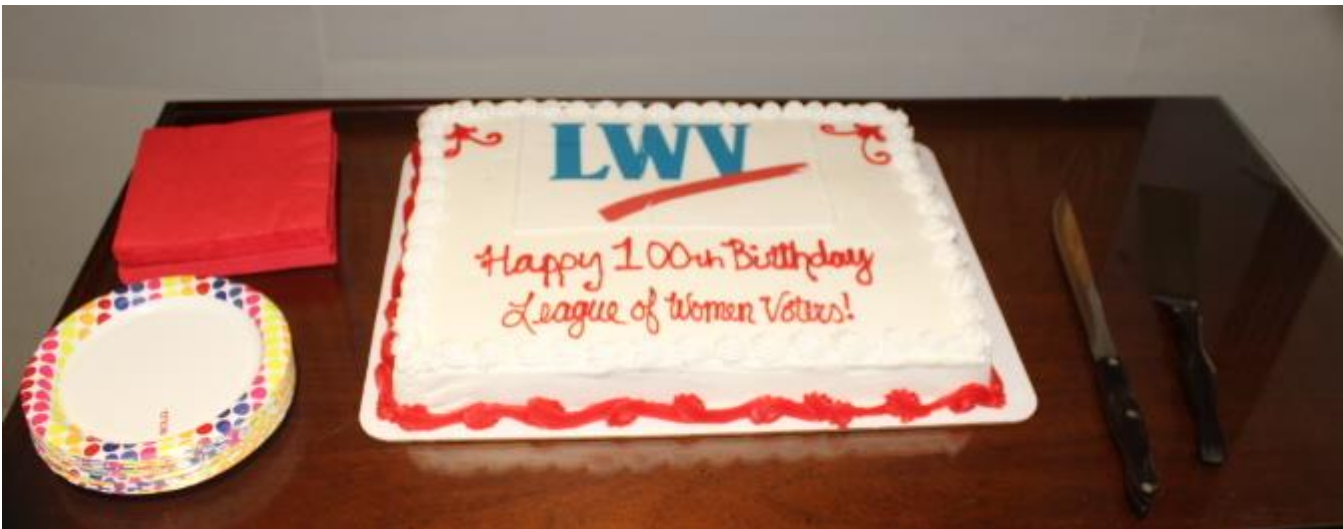
The history of suffrage in Arkansas has always been connected to race. For example, white women activists often used racial arguments to advocate for their own voting rights. At the same time, while African American women in Arkansas had supported the political struggles of the men in their community since Reconstruction as well as organizing for their own vote, they gained only limited access to the franchise with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Kelly Houston Jones will explore the varied aspects of early-twentieth-century women's politics, broadly defined, in relation to race and offer ways to understand the entangled history of race and suffrage in Arkansas.

Kelly Houston Jones is assistant professor of history at Arkansas Tech University. Her work has appeared in the journals *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* and *Agricultural History*, and in several edited volumes, including *Arkansas Women: T* (View Full Event Description Here: <https://cals.org/event/race-and-womens-suffrage-in-arkansas-3/>)

We Looked Good For 100 Years Old!

Article by Carol Young. Photos by Alfreda Brown

Thanks to all the members and guests who braved the chilly, wet weather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the LWVUS.



Pat Landes put together the slide show of our history as well as the written history, read wonderfully by Devita Harden. Devita also handled the check in and dues collection that evening. Danielle Butler pulled together the history of the Pulaski County League, after having completed a full marathon in Austin Texas. It was presented by Maria Jones.

We Look Good for 100 continued on next page.



Lu Smith and Marcy Taylor brought a marvelous array for food and drink. I had one new member say, " If I had known you served wine, I would have joined sooner!" I had to burst their bubble by saying we don't always serve wine! We were entertained and informed by Adophine Fletcher Terry, as performed by Sydney Crosby of the Old State House Museum. We had three new members join, Barbara Lenarduzzi, Lynn Foster and Kay Danielson.

I want to acknowledge our in-kind donors, for this event and for the one in November:

For the November Party:

Wine - Jay Barth and Chuck Cliett

Gift cards to Raduno for our hosts and cello entertainer - Mindy Morrell

Food - Mary Wildgen and Sheila Primm

For the Birthday Celebration:

Use of Hillcrest Hall, CALS and Nate Coulter

Cake- Community Bakery

Voter continued on next page.

Little Rock School District Information

by Norma Johnson

Arkansas Education Secretary Johnny Key has approved a Little Rock School Board election zone plan, clearing the way for the nine-zone plan to be enacted by Pulaski County election officials in time for a Nov. 3 election of a nine-member school board.

Regarding the recommendations of Superintendent Mike Poore, the Commissioner takes the following actions:

Approve the LRSD Community Blueprint modification to move the Rockefeller Elementary K-5 to the Washington Elementary campus for the 2020-21 school year. Additionally, Rockefeller will be used as a birth to pre-K center.

Pause until the 2021-22 school year the conversion of J.A. Fair to a K-8 campus incorporating students from David O. Dodd Elementary, Romine Elementary, and Henderson Middle School. Further, it is directed the LRSD Facilities Master Plan be updated to reflect this planned future use of the J.A. Fair campus.

Treasurer's News

by Devita Hardin

Greetings League members,

I have good news and not so good news to share with you. The not so good news is that we did not meet our 2019-2020 budgeted contribution goals (\$1500.00) to LWV Ed Fund. We did, however, receive \$900.00 from our donors for which we are truly appreciative. Now for the good news, thanks to our committed members and contributors we exceeded our budgeted operating goal of \$2000.00 by \$157.00.

More good news, I am excited to announce that in February, Lynn Foster, Terri Crook, Catherine (Kay) Danielson, and Barbara Lenarduzzi joined the LWVPC. Currently, we have 98 members including 6 lifetime (50 year) members and 4 students.

With a solid financial footing and continued growth in membership LWVPC is on tap to have a successful year in "Making Democracy Work" for all.

Information from Our Observers Corp: Updates on Issues We Are Following

by Ruth Bell

Little Rock City Government:

The study of Air BNB and other companies providing that type of rental housing requested of City staff by the Little Rock City Board will be finished and presented to the City Board sometime this month. LWVPC expressed concern at the Planning Commission level due to the lack of information available about location, number of these rentals, and lack of any mechanism available to control the intensity of its use.

Mayor Scott's two proposals regarding changes in the governance structure of the City were pulled down from a recent Board agenda. We expect them to be presented again to the City Board at a later date.

Central Arkansas Water:

The company owning the crude oil pipeline that runs from Illinois to the Gulf Coast and through the Maumelle Watershed, has commissioned a study to evaluate reopening the pipeline (which has been closed since it broke several years ago near Mayflower, severely damaging homes in a subdivision and almost reaching Lake Conway). If the company decides to reuse the pipeline it must get permission from a federal Commission charged with oversight of pipelines carrying hazardous materials. That Commission traditionally makes its decisions based on technical information. Public input is not usually sought. CAW is monitoring the situation, and has plans to be in touch with other water utilities in the state who also have the pipeline running through their watersheds, and with stakeholders like ourselves, so we all can work together to limit any negative impact on drinking water that reopening the pipeline may cause.

Metroplan Observer Needed:

Metroplan is a multi-county planning entity that coordinates planning in the counties that make up central Arkansas. Its Board includes county judges of their area of service and mayors of all incorporated cities, towns and villages in that area. Its planning recommendations inform the use of federal funds for transportation, economic development, and livability issues in the geographic area. Metroplan statistics and recommendations of projects to be funded are a part of requests for federal project monies in the Central Arkansas region.

The full Metroplan Board & the Metroplan Executive Committee meet on alternate months from 10 am to noon on the 4th Wednesday of each month. As required by federal law, three citizen advisory committees- on transportation, livable neighborhoods, and economic development meet at other times. Their purpose is to offer input on proposals.

Most recently Metroplan was in the news for working toward using federal transportation funds for a biking/hiking trail from one end of the Metroplan area to the other.

LWVPC would like someone to volunteer to attend the monthly Wednesday meetings. For more information call myself (Ruth Bell) at 501 225 2538 and/or go to the Metroplan web page. I hope to hear from you soon.

Due to the length of this Voter for information on observing opportunities aside from Metroplan, please see prior Voters which are located at our website. *Special thanks to Michelle Rhoden for managing the LWVPC website.

Leadership Team 2019-2020

Ruth Bell- one year remaining. 501.225.2538 or rfbell@aristotle.net

Jogee Detchemendy - new term. 662.312.9277 or jogeeduzzi@gmail.com

Devita Harden- Treasurer new term. 770.617.3096 or devita467@gmail.com

Norma Johnson-new term. norma_johnson58@yahoo.com

Carol Young- President one year remaining. 501.680.3947 or cyoung8151@sbcglobal.net

League Links:

[League of Women Voters \(National\)](#)

[League of Women Voters \(State of Arkansas\)](#)

[League of Women Voters of Pulaski County](#)

