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The Voter August 2020

Edited by Jogee Detchemendy

August LWVPC Meeting

by Pat Landes

Find out how we can empower voters!

You are invited to the LWVPC regular monthly membership meeting on Monday, August 17, at 6 pm via Zoom meeting platform to hear about the issues of voter registration and absentee voting. Right now is the time we can make a difference in getting voters registered and helping them to better understand the absentee voting process.

We are fortunate to have Pulaski County Circuit and County Clerk, Terri Hollingsworth, to present information and answer our questions on this timely issue.

The League's position on voting is: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

So please plan on attending and have your questions ready.

LWVPC Needs Observers

by Ruth Bell

The Covid-19 Virus and the change to virtual public meetings that it has caused makes it easy for those members who wonder if they might like to observe public meetings to try it from their home. Check with the elected body or commission you are interested in and follow their directions to view the meeting virtually. View the meeting agenda on their web page. Watch the meeting while eating dinner or having a cup of coffee. If you find what you see interesting or curious watch the next meeting. If you think you would like to do it regularly let Ruth Bell (rfbell@aristotle.net) know and she will suggest LW Voters issues or concerns to watch for and share with our Leadership Team.

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Voter Service

by Devita Hardin

Shout out to Barrett Goodwin for joining the Voter Service Committee. Barrett brings to LWVPC a wealth of knowledge regarding voting services. We look forward to hearing his suggestions and ideas in educating and engaging voters. Barrett will also assist in registering voters along with Katherine Pope.

Speaking of registering voters, National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September, 22. Details of LWVPC plan to register voters on this day will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, on August 12, LWVUS is offering a webinar to assist in voter registration during the current health crisis: “Planning for your National Voter Registration Day Event During the COVID Crisis: A crash course in registration event planning for in-person AND online events. Plus, we’ll teach you how to COVID-proof your in-person events and share a cheat sheet for the different digital tools you can use to register voters.” [RSVP NOW](#)

It gives me great pleasure to share with you that Vote411.org was recently won the 2020 Webby People's Voice Award for Best Government & Civil Innovation Website. According to Virginia Kase, CEO of the LWV Education Fund. “To win the Webby People’s Voice Award means so much because it is recognition from the public who value our site. This honor helps bring more visibility to VOTE411, a resource every voter can trust for accurate and unbiased information this and every election cycle.”

And in case you were unaware LWVPC has an outstanding Vote411committee! Committee members are Carol Young, Julie Weaver, Candy Roman, and Marnie Wightman. Thank you so much ladies for volunteering to do this important work.

Poll Workers Needed

by Danielle Butler

Did you know?

It takes about 1,000 poll workers to effectively conduct the General Election in Pulaski County. In a recent survey conducted by the [Pulaski County Election Commission](#) 403 of our existing poll workers are willing to work the polls this November, but 241 said no, and 70 are on the fence.

The average poll worker in Pulaski County is 73 years old, which is a group very vulnerable to COVID-19. We have more poll workers over the age of 90 than aged 18-25.

We need younger folks to serve as poll workers to keep our older generation healthy, protect our democracy, and ensure a safe and efficient election process this November. Please consider serving yourself, or encouraging those in your circle that are not vulnerable to long term effects from COVID-19 to apply!

Learn more about serving as a poll worker: <https://www.votepulaski.net/index.php/poll-worker/how-to-become-a-poll-worker>

Apply online to be a poll worker: <https://pulaskicountyar.easypollworker.com/account/apply>

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Membership Update

by Devita Harden

Dear League members,

Please join me in welcoming Joshua Price to LWVPC. We look forward to Joshua's participation in our work as Defenders of Democracy.

We now have 103 members, including 7 households, 4 students, and 6 life time members. It appears, we are on our way in meeting our goal of increasing membership by 5% for 2020. The membership committee is discussing ways to engage with members who have joined within the last year. One of the ideas is to hold a Zoom new member meeting to answer any questions they may have about League (national, state, or local).

We welcome any suggestions or questions you may have...you can email devita467@gmail.com.

If you haven't signed up to receive weekly updates from LWVUS, I encourage you to do so! Go to LWV.org, scroll down to the bottom of the page and enter you email address. The updates keep us in the loop not only with what LWVUS is doing, but also the great work other Leagues are doing across the country.

If you would like to join the membership committee please send an email to lwvpc@lwvpc.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Stay healthy.

Leaguer's Lives

Submitted by members of Ruth Bell

Nell Mathews Letter to the Editor regarding issues placed on the ballot through petition was published in a recent Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

LWVPC Interest Inventory

by Jogee Detchemendy

We would like to remind everyone about the Interest Inventory. We hope to give each member an opportunity to be active in the League. The interest inventory will allow us to better coordinate League participation and volunteering. It takes tops 5 minutes to complete. Clicking the following link will take you directly to the survey: <https://forms.gle/iHQVva7cw6eYnhxj6>. When you finish, all you have to do is click submit.

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Observer's Corps

by Ruth Bell

HOW CAN WE HAVE MORE WOMEN ON CITY OR COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS?

When we asked mayors and county judges why women are not on city and county boards and commissions we are told: to be appointed women need to apply. If there is a board or commission upon which you would like to serve, check with the city or county about the application process and apply! The more women who apply for such positions, the more women will be appointed.

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LITTLE ROCK CITY HALL NOTES

As this VOTER goes to press, the four positions on Little Rock City Board up for election on November 3 all have candidates. To be voted on in November are the three At Large Board positions and Position 4. At this time Position 4 incumbent Capi Peck and At Large Director Dean Kumpuris do not have opposition. At Large Director Joan Adcock has one opponent. At Large Director Gene Fortson is not running for reelection and three candidates are running to replace him on the Board. The period to file for any of these positions ends August 14.

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

On November 3 the Little Rock School Board will hold their first election since the District was taken over by the State more than five years ago. The Board has been reconstituted with nine members, and as of this date, most districts have at least one candidate. Check online with LRSD or Pulaski County Clerk web pages to determine what district you are in, and when thinking about the races on the November 3 ballot remember there are school board candidates as well as national, state, and city races.

BLACK WHITE EQUITY IN LITTLE ROCK

The following information is from the Metro Trends - Demographic Review and Outlook August 2020 publication. Put out by Metroplan, it provides statistics on population change, housing trends, and impact of Covid-19 on Housing. One set of statistics in this issue deals with housing inequity between white and black residents of Little Rock. The white households for these statistics are defined as white/non-Hispanic. That definition is used because the Hispanic population of Little Rock is not considered statistically significant by US Census standards.

In the Little Rock area 65.1 percent of all households own their home. Among black Little Rock households 43.7 percent own their home. Among white households in Little Rock 73.0 percent own their home. Part of this difference is due to another statistic – black household income in Little Rock is 59.6 percent of white household income. In another section of the publication dealing with housing costs in Little Rock it was pointed out that income levels in Arkansas and Little Rock is less than in many states, and results in a considerable number of residents paying more than 30% of their monthly income for housing.

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KNOW YOUR BALLOT

On August 18th, the WFA will be celebrating 100 years of the ratification of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote, by encouraging Arkansans to get out and vote!

Our 'Know Your Ballot' Webinar will explain what is going to be on the Arkansas ballot come November!

AUGUST 18 | 12PM-1:00PM



Know Your Ballot Event by Women's Foundation Arkansas

The WFA is celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage! On August 18th, 1918, a number of American women won the right to vote, and in 1920, the 19th amendment was ratified. Today, every American citizen is welcome at the polls, but US voter turnout trails behind that of other developed countries. The WFA encourages ALL Arkansans to get to the polls and honor the work our ancestors did to secure our right to vote.

JOIN US AUGUST 18th for our "Know Your Ballot" webinar. We will discuss what will be on the Arkansas ballot come November and everything YOU need to know to USE YOUR VOICE.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/KYBallotWebinar>

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Leadership Team 2020-2021

Danielle Butler- Records

Jogee Detchemendy- Communications. 662.312.9277 or jogeeduzzi@gmail.com

Devita Harden- Treasurer, Voter Services, Membership 770.617.3096 or devita467@gmail.com

Pamela Whitaker

Chairs for Committees to Work with Leadership Team 2020-2021:

Audit Committee- Susan Leon

Communication Committee- Jogee Detchemendy

Finance and Membership Committees-Devita Hardin

Issues and Policy Development Committee- Corinne Kwapis and Becky Jackson

Observers Corps-Ruth Bell

Program Committee-Pam Whitaker, Carol Silverstrom, Nell Matthews, and Pat Landes

Records Committee- Danielle Butler and Carol Young

Voter Registration -Katherine Pope

Vote 411- Carol Young

League Links:

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

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

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