



# Call to Annual Meeting

*The League of Women Voters of Kansas City/Jackson/Clay/Platte Counties*

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, May 19, 2018**  
**Community Christian Church**

**9:30 Continental Breakfast**  
**10:00 Rachel Sweet, Speaker**  
**Regional Director**  
**Public Policy and Organizing**  
**Planned Parenthood Great Plains**  
**11:00 Business Meeting**  
**Election of Officers, Directors**  
**Approval of Annual Budget**  
**Selected Committee Reports**  
**Members' Directions to Board**  
**12:30 Adjournment**



*You're invited to be the guest of the Board of Directors for a Continental Breakfast from 9:30 to 10:00. Please be prompt. The program will start at 10:00.*



**Community Christian Church, 4601 Main, Kansas City MO**

Park free in multi-level garage south of church.

Enter on south side of church; take steps to lower level Centennial Room.

Handicapped entrance/parking is on north side of church with elevator access to lower level.

<b>May 5, Saturday:</b>	<b>LWV MO Spring Conference, LWVKCJCP Hosting</b>
<b>May 10, Thursday:</b>	<b>MO Senate District 17 Forum</b>
<b>May 15 Tues, 17 Thurs:</b>	<b>Rollout of Campaign to Register Young Voters</b>
<b>June 12, Tuesday:</b>	<b>Best Democracy Money Can Buy Movie</b>
<b>June 16, Saturday:</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting, Community Christian Church</b>
<b>June 28 – July 1:</b>	<b>LWV US National Convention, Chicago</b>

LWV/KC/J/C/P – P. O. Box 10416, KCMO 64174-0416 – [www.lwvkc.org](http://www.lwvkc.org) – 816.464.1800-[lwvkcjcp@gmail.com](mailto:lwvkcjcp@gmail.com)

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**LWV/KC/J/C/P  
BOARD**

**2017-2018**

**OFFICERS**

Co-Presidents

Donna Hoch

Evelyn Maddox

Vice President

Linda Smith

Secretary

Anitra Steele

Treasurer

Caroline Arnold

**DIRECTORS**

Becky Yockey

Cheryl Barnes

Dixie Brown

Pat Goodwin

Pauli Kendrick

Pauline Testerman

Sue Scholl

## Co-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Please read the full reports from our Directors and Committees elsewhere in *The Call*, to see how much our KC League has accomplished this past year. Here are just some of the initiatives that our members have accomplished, thanks to the foundation laid in other years.

- ✓ Our League's proposal to LWVMO to conduct statewide forums for MO Auditor and US Senator, resulted in our leading a partnership with Springfield and St Louis LWVs to plan forums. Our partnership will maximize relationships with local media to promote and possible air the forums.
- ✓ An ongoing partnership for jointly sponsoring candidate forums was established with public radio station KCUR. Its advertising of our first joint forum, for MO Senate District 8, resulted in standing room only turnout. We expect our joint sponsorships will continue to promote forum attendance.
- ✓ We expanded our Voter Services/Registration efforts to include affidavit registration at charter schools and private schools. We also plan to rollout efforts for "Registering Young People" into community colleges, universities, technical schools and places where young people are likely to be. We now have 47 trained registrars to reach out to young people.
- ✓ An Observer Corp was initiated particularly to observe Election Board meetings for Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties whenever possible--due to the increasing need to be informed about the management of elections. It's an initiative driven the need to sustain the public's trust in LWV for voter protection. Jackson County Legislative meetings has been in the schedule also.
- ✓ We established a new relationship with the UMKC Aging Consortium to plan public programs on Medicare and Medicaid.

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Co-Presidents' Report continued from page 2 –

- ✓ FACEBOOK is finally “live” which gives us a platform to reflect the immediacy of our work: what we’ve done, what we’ll be doing, all while expanding our presence on the Internet.
- ✓ Members can now pay dues and make donations online via Pay Pal or credit or debit card through our continually updated web page—www.lwvkc.org
- ✓ QuickBooks was purchased and is now installed, which enables our Treasurer to more easily issue timely membership renewal invoices, thank you letters for donations, and year-end letters identifying tax deductible donations.
- ✓ We can produce an up-to-date roster of members “on demand” through timely data entry of new members and instant download from the national database. (Membership is up by one-third and still growing!)
- ✓ LWV merchandise, including the *Impact on Issues*, is for sale by the Treasurer at every meeting—giving us more revenue and more promotion of the LWV brand.
- ✓ Our new Hospitality Committee has organized our monthly hospitality so its costs are funded by donations at meetings and the Committee instituted self-catering at the Annual Meeting, Holiday Luncheon and the Spring Conference.
- ✓ We hosted the LWV MO Spring Conference for the first time of hosting an LWVMO event since 2011. 75 members registered to attend on May 5.

As we worked to compile the initiatives that members accomplished this year, we discovered there were too many names to mention in this article. We can only say, “To all members, we want to say Thank you!” It has taken all of us to move forward, building on the foundation of others’ past accomplishments. Your continued involvement and support are needed, as they have always been needed, to educate voters, register voters, and advocate for voters’ rights. It takes all of us to *Make Democracy Work!*

It’s our pleasure to announce that we have three delegates attending the National Convention Chicago on June 28: Cheryl Barnes, Donna Hoch, and Evelyn Maddox while Pauline Testerman will serve as alternate. Our thoughts are with Rosemary Durkin who experienced a serious concussion from a fall on the steps of the St. Louis Museum of Art. She is recuperating at home.

We’ll see you at the Annual Meeting where we will elect a new Co-President, three Board Members, and a Nominating Committee. Plus, we’ll approve the continued local program positions, and members will have an opportunity to provide direction to the Board about how we can best accomplish our mission to *Make Democracy Work* in 2018-2019.

Donna and Evelyn

1. Annual Meeting Announcement  
2-3. Co-Presidents’ Message

4-7. Slate of Candidates  
8-9. Proposed Budget

10. Index to Annual Reports  
11-19. Annual Reports

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**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FOR SLATE OF CANDIDATES  
MAY 19, 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LWVKC/J/C/P**

**Co-President. Would be Co-President with Evelyn Maddox. Would serve May 2018-May 2019, finishing term of Donna Hoch.**

**Rosemary Durkin**

Rosemary Durkin worked in business for over 25 years in a management capacity in financial services, insurance claims, and customer account management. She began her career in social services in casework for the Department of Social services and Probation and Parole as a parole officer. Both jobs were on the frontline of poverty and criminal justice issues. Her education includes a BA in Sociology, Anthropology and an M.B.A. and M.S.in Human Resources. She currently volunteers at the Nelson Atkins Museum as a docent where she leads tours with children and adults. She also works with the Family Courts as a court-appointed special advocate and monitors the needs of foster children under the court's care.

Rosemary was worked on the Missouri Voter Protection Group with the LWV. She has made presentations to community groups on the new voter ID law, has attended meetings of the Boards of Election Commissions as an observer and participant in voter registration events. Rosemary is interested in continuing our League's goal of defending voter rights, educating voters and our members for effective political action. She would also like to explore topics of interest to the membership and continue to promote the League's positions.

**Vice President. Two-year term, replacing Linda Smith whose term ends May 2018**

**Sandy Eeds**

Sandy Eeds is a retired architect and community advocate. His professional career spanned more than 40 years as an architect for a wide variety of public, institutional and industrial projects in all aspects of architectural design, project delivery and management. His responsibilities covered a broad spectrum of issues within project management and design including client liaison, project term leadership, design, document production, consultant coordination, master plans and studies. Since retiring at the end of 2013, Sandy has undertaken a few volunteer endeavors. This includes Literacy KC in which he has tutored low literacy adults. In 2016 he joined the board of directors. I assisted LKC in the design and construction of new headquarters opening later in 2018. Sandy joined the LWVKC/J/C/P soon after retiring to promote voter turnout and registration. His work with the League has included candidate forums and various activities around voter education and community advocacy. Sandy's wife, Susan, is also a member of our League.

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***Slate of candidates continued -*****Vice President - Two-year term (2018-2020)****Anitra Steele**

Anitra is a retired children's librarian from Mid-Continental Public Library and is a puppeteer with the Two Frogs and a Turtle Puppet Company, specializing in puppet shows from ages 3-8. She has been a member of the League for over 20 years. She has served on the Board for many years, including as President. She has served as secretary of the Board for the past 6 years and, along with her husband, Charles, she arranges candidate forum. Going forward, she will be playing a leading role in planning and implementing, in cooperation with the Leagues in St. Louis and Springfield forums prior to the November 2018 election of candidates for State-wide elected position. Anitra's husband Charles is a member of the League. He has served as Vice President and works on forums with Anitra.

**Secretary. one-year term (2018-2019), replacing Anitra Steele.****Pat Goodwin**

Over the past two years, Pat Goodwin has provided leadership and a great deal of hard work to establish our area on VOTE411.org and the printed election guides for 2016, 2017 and now for 2018. This has involved the recruitment and organization of a team of League volunteers, seeking information from Boards of Election, and from many candidates. She has been a strong member of the Board since 2016.

During her professional career, Pat taught students with disabilities in kindergarten through post-secondary. In 2010, she retired from Metropolitan Community College where she directed a program for students with learning disabilities and other neurological disorders in the Penn Valley campus.

Pat is particularly interested in voter registration and voting rights.

**Treasurer. Two-year term, 2018-2020****Caroline Arnold**

Caroline has a B.S. in nursing, and M.A. in Adult Education, and an M.S. in Social Gerontology. Her professional life was spent in clinical, administrative, and educational areas of nursing. She has worked in Longview, Washington; Saudi Arabia; and Kansas City. Caroline joined the League of Women Voters to help protect the right to vote. She has served on the Board since 2015 and as treasurer for four years. More recently, she played a key role in organizing a major forum at Unity Village. And, she played an important role dealing with financial aspects of our League's transition to a 501(c)(3) organization.

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***Slate of candidates continued -***

**Directors proposed for election: (Two-year terms 2018-2020) Per the By-laws, members of the LWVKC/J/C/P may elect three Directors for two-year terms every year for a total of six Directors elected by the membership in a two-year period.**

**Sheryl Eufinger**- Sheryl was born and grew up in Pratt, Kansas. She earned a BA and part of an MA at Emporia State University. She moved to Kansas City in January 1969. She has a 40-year career with the Social Security Administration, mostly as an analyst and reviewed. She has been an active volunteer with a variety of groups including Girl Scouts, her church and the League of Women Voters. Over the past year, she has organized and coordinated hospitality requirements for our League and regularly attended League board meeting as an off-board participant. She is assisting with the establishment of a League Northland unit.

**Josh Williams** – Josh is a native of Missouri. Raised in the military and having traveled the world, he then served a tour of duty in the U.S. Navy. After 23 years in the food and beverage industry, Josh has embarked on a career in the health and wellness industry, understanding full-well the mind/body connection.

He believes that democracy is fragile. Josh feels honored to be an active member of our League, helping to promote the education and registration of citizens to help protect our right to vote. He has gone out of his way to be helpful at meetings and at the LWV State meeting which our League hosted.

**Dawn Wade** – Dawn received her bachelor's degree in biology, a Master's degree in Marine biology, and a law degree from William and Mary University in 1985. She practiced law for 27 years, including 22 years doing environmental and contract work for the Federal Government. She is currently a board member of Oak Hall Condominiums, a shelter for battered women with children and does fundraising for the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk Virginia. She would bring her legal expertise and her expertise on law related to environmental issues to the LWV board.

**Nominating Committee Chairperson for 2019 Annual Meeting Election – one-year term (2018-2019)**

**Margie Richcreek** - Margie has been a member of the League for over 40 years. She served as President of the League for years and as a member of the Board for 12 years. She knows the functions of the officers and of Board members. She has previously served as chair of the Nominations Committee. She has a strong knowledge of the ongoing activities of the League and which members of the League are contributing on a continuing basis.

**MJ McCall** – MJ has been an active member since arriving in Kansas City several years ago from Alaska. She has been on the Environment and Nominating Committees and is Voter Registrar.

**Jean Ann Kouns** - Jean Ann has helped with Hospitality, is a Voter Registrar and now assists Membership and the Treasurer in a variety of duties including all national data base entries.

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***Slate of candidates continued -***

**List of officers and directors continuing on the Board up to May 2019 as of 2018 Annual Meeting**

Evelyn Maddox, Co-President – term ends May 2019

Cheryl Barnes, Director – term ends May 2019

Pauline Testerman, Director – term ends May 2019

Becky Yockey, Appointed Director – term ends May 2019

Paula Zaiss (Resigned), Director’s position has one year remaining, which will be appointed by Board.

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**Directors leaving Board May 2018 unless otherwise elected by the Board itself pursuant to its authority to appoint up to 6 Board Members:**

Linda Smith term expires May 2018

Pauli Kendrick term expires May 2018

Dixie Brown term expires May 2018

Sue Scholl – term expires May 2018

Anitra Steele – term expires May 2018

Caroline Arnold – term expires May 2018

Pat Goodwin – term expires May 2018

Donna Hoch (resignation from Co-President position beginning May 2018) – term ends May 2019

**- Continue to page 8 -**

**League of Women Voters KCJCP**  
**Budget for Fiscal Year 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget 2018-2019</b>
<b>Membership Dues</b>	
Additional Member	\$480.00
Members	\$6,300.00
Student, scholarship	\$64.00
Membership Dues - Other -Scholarship	\$30.00
<b>Conference Prepayments</b>	
MO Fall Conference	\$375.00
MO Spring Convention	\$500.00
LWV US Convention	\$275.00
<b>Donations</b>	
General Meeting Donations	\$100.00
In-Kind Donations	\$250.00
Member Donations	\$500.00
Voters Guide/ Vote 411	\$3,800.00
<b>Promotional Products</b>	
Printed Materials	\$120.00
Promotional Items	\$100.00
<b>Fundraising</b>	
Fundraising to Balance the Budget	\$2,140.00
<b>Special Events</b>	
Holiday Luncheon	\$600.00
Annual Meeting	\$600.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$16,234.00</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Administration</b>	
Postage	\$75.00
Telephone	\$160.00
PO Box	\$125.00
Printing Members handbook	
<b>Assessment and Pledges</b>	
LWV MO PMP	\$2,120.00
LWV US PMP	\$3,392.00
<b>Board</b>	
Meeting Costs, i.e., honorarium	\$150.00
Co-President	\$100.00
Membership Committee (Scholarship)	\$60.00
Travel to LWV MO Board Meetings	\$100.00
Community Christian Church Donation	\$200.00
Credit Card fees	(Pay Pal/Eventbrite) \$100.00
<b>Fundraising Expense</b>	



<b>Fundraising</b>	\$600.00
<b>Hospitality Costs</b>	\$100.00
<b>Licenses and Permits</b>	\$12.00
<b>Printing</b>	\$50.00
<b>Promotional Products Costs</b>	
Promotional Item (Pins, etc.)	\$50.00
Promotional Material ( LWV publications)	\$90.00
<b>Program Expense</b>	
<b>Women's Equality Week</b>	
Sponsorship	\$100.00
Refreshments	\$70.00
Printing	\$80.00
<b>Grandmothers Against Gun Violence</b>	\$100.00
<b>Forums</b>	
Postage	\$75.00
Supplies	\$10.00
Venue	\$200.00
Technical Support	\$170.00
Custodial Support	\$130.00
<b>Vote 411</b>	
Vote 411 - LWV US	\$400.00
Printing, promotional materials	\$50.00
<b>Voter Guide</b>	
Printing and postage	\$3,400.00
Transportation	\$80.00
<b>Voter Protection &amp; Education</b>	
Printing	\$100.00
<b>Legislative Interviews</b>	
Printing	\$15.00
Postage	\$75.00
<b>Observer Corps</b>	\$25.00
<b>Lobbying</b>	\$500.00
<b>Special Events</b>	
<b>Holiday Luncheon</b>	\$600.00
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	\$600.00
<b>Social Media</b>	
League Easy Web - LWV CA	\$400.00
Domain Name - Web Name	\$30.00
Social Media - Other	\$140.00
<b>Travel &amp; Accommodations</b>	
LWV US Convention, June - July 2018	\$275.00
MO Fall Conference	\$375.00
MO Spring Convention	\$500.00
<b>In-Kind Donations</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,234.00</b>

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Approved by Board 3/12/18

## **INDEX TO ANNUAL REPORTS**

<b>Co-Presidents</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>FACEBOOK</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Forums</b>	<b>13 - 14</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>LWV KCJCP Activities</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Missouri Voter Photo ID Education</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Observer Corps</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Public Relations</b>	<b>16 - 17</b>
<b>The Environment</b>	<b>17- 18</b>
<b>The Voter</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Voter Guide</b>	<b>15 - 16</b>
<b>Voter Protection/Legal Action</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Voter Services/Registration</b>	<b>11 - 12</b>
<b>Women's Equality Week, 2017</b>	<b>19</b>

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## ANNUAL REPORTS, 2017-2018

### Membership

“Membership” has experienced exceptional growth this program year. We have added 40 members since last May. With this growth we can strengthen our committees and the actions we take in our communities. We are sending three delegates to the National LWV Convention on June 28 which is reflection of our growth.

Remember, there are many ways to participate in the League. You can take an active role on committees, you can do one-off projects; you may simply pay your dues or give an LWV membership as a gift to a friend. Whatever way you choose to be connected to the LWV we appreciate your support. Every member strengthens the voice of the League – and increases our impact.

I know that Voter Service brought me to the League. A variety of programs and committees keep me interested. Working with other League members makes it fun. The League has certainly enriched my life. Please help the membership committee by inviting friends to our meetings and sharing the benefits of League membership. Our new League year starts on July 1 and attending the Annual Meeting on May 19 would be a good time to help set goals for our work in the next year. Let’s work together to grow the League and “Make Democracy Work”!

Donna Hoch  
Co-President/Membership

### Voter Services/Voter Registration

We conducted **33 presentations** or appearances to explain photo ID and other voting issues, to audiences in senior housing, students in high schools, and libraries, and wherever a nonpartisan organization welcomed us. We spoke to seniors in high schools and to senior citizens living in senior housing or attending a senior center.

We conducted **27 registration events** and have four more in the process of scheduling at local public, private and charter high schools. Approximately 300 people have been registered. We had events at nine schools including St. Theresa and Notre Dame de Zion, and four Back to School events in Center School District and Hickman Mills School District. We collected 115 affidavit registrations in addition to the affidavits collected at the private schools. We have a strong working relationship with KCEB and fill in for them at Naturalization Ceremonies when their staff is unable to attend. There were five Naturalization Ceremonies in 2017. In the Eastern Jackson County Election Board District, Becky Yockey spent three days at Blue Springs High School pre-registering 60 new voters.

We developed a “Why Vote?” Power Point presentation to guide League volunteers in delivering a presentation when we are onsite at a school to do voter registration and conducted training for the presenters. We have met with Reconciliation Services an agency that provides emergency, therapeutic and self-sufficiency services to families around 31st & Troost to arrange for us to be regularly scheduled at its site to register their clients to vote. *Continued -*

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*Voter Services/Registration continued -*

We currently have **47 trained registrars in Kansas City proper** that the KCEB has authorized to complete affidavits to register voters. We have other members, who live outside KC city limits, that are willing to hand out registration cards. The Kansas City Election Board (KCEB) has asked us to demonstrate the new voting machines which is an ongoing project.

Our goal is to expand our voter registration and education efforts to high schools, community colleges, universities and technical schools inside and outside the city limits of Kansas City.

Sue Scholl  
Delores Blaser

## FACEBOOK

In 2017, I started a Facebook page for LWVKCJCP. I do not have complete data from usage for this period of time, but I can point to a few trends and events that seem significant to our group.

On September 1, 2017, our page had 72 "likes". As of yesterday, we had 163 likes.

A "like" is an indication of support from an individual or group that has visited our page. These people or groups then receive notifications when we put a fresh "post" on our LWV page. More likes of the page help 'spread the word' about our meetings, activities and other events and increase public awareness.

**During that same span of time, we have reached between 10 and 290 viewers on Facebook per week.** When we paid to promote our October fundraiser, our page reached 1,272 viewers one week, and 2,019 the next. When we paid to promote the first two Medicare/Medicaid events we co-sponsored, we reached 500 viewers.

The posts that seemed to draw the most engagement (views, likes) included posts about the March for our Lives, the Gun Violence meeting in March, the "Voting Matters" editorial from the NYT, and a pre-election post in early November. All these posts (except NYT) included photos, which are critical for drawing viewers in.

**Looking at the demographics of our "followers" (those who receive notification when we post), 84% are women, 14% men; 5% are 18-24; 15% are 25-34; 16% are 35-44; 15% are 45-54; 18% are 55-64; and 16% are 65+.**

Also, we have 91 followers in KC; 16 in Lee's Summit; 6 in Overland Park, 4 in KCK; 3 in Liberty, 3 in Parkville; and singles in Sacramento, Denver, Whittier, Killingworth (CT), Omaha, Memphis & Reston VA.

I hope this provides some insight into Facebook activity. By attracting likes and viewers, people and groups can see what we are doing and enjoy the photos of our activities. The photos are archived on the page as well. I have tried to post no more than 2 or 3 times a week on the page; sometimes followers are irritated by too many posts.

Becky Yockey

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## LWV KCJCP Activities

LWV KC-J/C/P members work hard! They generously give their time to League activities. But last year when we decided to collect this information, we were unaware of how active we are.

Since May of 2017, LWV KC-J/C/P members have participated in 79 events and logged 573 hours of work. Here is a glimpse of what members reported.

- League registrars gave 190 hours during 28 voter registration events. These events were held in schools, churches, libraries, and parks. Furthermore, registrar teams are now visiting high schools to register seniors and discuss the importance of voting.
- Members spent over 100 hours helping to educate voters about voting in general and Missouri's new photo id law specifically.
- The League sponsored or participated in seven forums this year. Members gave 113 hours to make sure these events were successful.
- Although the League held only two fundraising events, they demonstrated the commitment that members have to keeping the League viable. On October 12, 2017, 19 members attended *The Life and Times of Barbara Jordan*, not just to enjoy this astonishing performance, but to prepare the venue, sell and take tickets, help visitors find their seats, sell refreshments, and, yes, bring Ms. Jordan to life. (Thank you, Jacqee Gafford!) The 60 hours logged does not remotely approach how many hours it took prior to the event to make this night such a success. Our second Quality Hill fundraiser was smaller but no less successful, 40 tickets were sold by members.

Remember. This is just a fraction of the time members spend on League-related work and some activities were not logged or recognized because they weren't reported to me. Writing reports and articles, researching positions and policy, making phone calls, preparing food, making a budget and paying bills, planning programs and forums, and distributing informational materials are *just a few* of the tasks members do behind the scenes to ensure the League can successfully accomplish its mission. So, thanks to all members - those who worked on these public events as well as those who work quietly and persistently to make sure the League accomplishes its goals.

Pat Goodwin

### Forums

The forum year started with the Platte County Political Panel sponsored by the Parkville Area Chamber of Commerce. Cheryl Barnes moderated and Peg Marland was timer for this annual event.

Sandy Eeds organized an Airport Listening session on July 20 at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. Members of the KC Airport Commission made the case for our need for a new airport.

For October 25, Caroline Arnold set up a candidate forum for MO Senate District 8's vacant seat at John Knox Village Ambassador Hall. KCUR co-sponsored, providing publicity and Brian Ellison [State House Blend] moderated the double the capacity crowd gathered to hear the three candidates. A House District 23 forum was also planned with co-sponsors NAACP and the A. Philip Randolph

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*Forums continued –*

Institute in March, but it was cancelled when one candidate withdrew and one candidate did not agree to attend.

Moderator Training was held in November and December by Delores Blaser and Margie Richcreek, for eight new and experienced moderators. During March, Donna Hoch and Delores Blaser set up school board candidate forums for the Hickman Mills [March 13] and Center School Districts [March 29] respectively. The South Kansas City Alliance co-sponsored the forum for Hickman Mills. Sandy Eeds and Tommye Sexton were the moderators.

Also, for the April 3<sup>rd</sup> election, Anitra Steele worked with the Sugar Creek Business and Civic Club to create, get responses for and distribute a candidate questionnaire for the two Sugar Creek Alderman seats. To educate voters in Missouri Senate District 17, a candidate forum has been scheduled for May 10. Brian Ellison will again moderate and the location at Eastgate Middle School should be able to hold the expected audience. North Kansas City School District has been very gracious in making its space available.

In addition to the organizers and moderators, many other Leaguers have been involved in the forums this year, as timers, card sorters, distributors and collectors, staffing the League table, and promoting the forums and attending them with good questions and inquiring minds. Like raising a child, it takes a village to keep democracy moving forward.

Anitra Steele

### **Voter Protection/Legal Action**

In November 2016, Missouri voters passed Amendment 6 which set the requirement to produce a valid photo ID to vote. After the implementation of the law in June, 2017, the ACLU and Advancement Project jointly filed a law suit in Circuit Court in Cole County, on behalf of the MO LWV, A. Phillip Randolph Institute, and NAACP, against the Secretary of State. The allegations were that insufficient money had been allocated to educate voters about the requirement for photo ID to vote. A hearing was held in October and the judge ruled against proceeding to trial. The case is currently in the Missouri Court of Appeals.

In April 2018, the ACLU filed a law suit on behalf of the MO LWV and A. Phillip Randolph Institute in Kansas City against the Missouri Division of Motor Vehicles and Secretary of State for violations of the National Voter Registration Act. The allegations are that the DMV has failed to properly register voters and update their voter registration change of address. Over 500,000 people move within Missouri annually. In Kansas City and St. Louis changing residence address can result in a need to re-register in a different election board jurisdiction.

We will continue to monitor these law suits by continuing our relationship with the Missouri Coalition for Voter Projection and may appear at any hearing that take place this year.

Rosemary Durkin

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## Missouri Voter Photo ID Education

When the Voter ID was implemented in June 2017, our local league decided to educate the voters on these changes. The Secretary of State did not aggressively educate the voters so we assumed this role. We worked with a small group that included, Evelyn Maddox, Donna Hoch, Karen Brown, Rosemary Durkin and Diane Stewart to create a power point presentation to present to the community. We also reached the public by appearing on Fox 4 Morning News, on the radio on KCUR with Steve Kraske in a joint discussion with Secretary of State Ashcroft and on a community program with KKFI. We appeared again with Secretary Ashcroft at a Community Forum sponsored by Missouri Representative Burdett.

We reached out to general public at Kansas City Library presentations. We worked with Northland Progress by conducting presentations at senior living centers in Clay and Platte County and helped seniors change their address and complete absentee ballot applications. We spoke with new citizens at Don Bosco and to services providers at Jewish Family Services. We worked with Phoenix Center to reach people in low income housing.

We gave presentations to the Sierra Club, What You Can Do, Hope Resistance, Renewal, the Greater Kansas City Justice Coalition, Community Together, West Plaza Neighborhood Assoc., and SPARK.

We have done 30 presentations and are always open for more requests. In addition, we have been poll monitors at three local elections and distributed information to voter at the polls. These were low turnout elections recently and we are concerned as we head into the August primary and November State and Congressional election. For many voters, this will be their first encounter with the new law.

Rosemary Durkin

## Voter Guide

The members of the LWVKC/J/C/P's Voter Guide Project continue to make [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) available to voters in Kansas City, Jackson, Clay, Cass, and Platte counties for all elections. Most recently the team loaded ballot information for 193 races and 34 referenda onto the website for the April 3 local elections. Sandy Eeds, Carol Jacobson, Peg Prendergast, and Diann Spencer gathered, organized, and entered this large amount of election information, and [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) was up and running on March 16.

To ensure voters in the Kansas City area were alerted to this valuable resource, a separate team created, organized, and distributed flyers, posters, press releases, and more to churches, community centers, businesses, colleges, and universities. Many thanks to Cheryl Barnes, Gwen Cooke, Dana DeMasters, Symie Menitove, Peg Prendergast, and Margie Richcreek and thanks to all members who helped spread the word that [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) was active. *Continued -*

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*Voter Guide continued –*

Preparation for the August 7 primary and the November 6 mid-term elections has begun. [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) will be activated for both elections. Additionally, we have begun a fundraising effort to pay for printing 12,000 copies of the *Voter Guide* for the general, mid-term election in November.

**Did you know that voter turnout on April 3 was only 7.99%? Our League has a tool that reminds folks that an election is coming up AND provides nonpartisan information about exactly what is on each voter's ballot - [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). But they will only know about it if we tell them - if we advertise it. Did you print out, cut up, and distribute the mini-fliers sent to all members? If not us, who? If not now (at every election), when?**

Pat Goodwin

### **Observer Corps**

Our Kansas City League began its first version of an Observer Corps in 2018 with oversight of the Kansas City and Jackson County Election Boards. Rosemary Durkin is covering Jackson County and Sandy Eeds represents the League in Kansas City. Our presence at the past three monthly meetings has been cordially accommodated with the League enjoying a respected and friendly status with the Boards. In the case of Kansas City, the League also volunteers to assist in the demonstration of new voter equipment as well as providing a robust number of trained voter registrars working throughout the City. In our role as observers, we are gaining insights into the workings of the voting process and strengthening our relationships with the city's and the county's Election Commissioners. We hope to expand our scope to address turnout, increase endorsement of VOTE411, and continued voter education. The Commissioners can also help build additional relationships with other organizations concerned with increasing civic engagement.

The role of the Observer Corps should cover much more than Election Boards. The challenge will be recruiting and training more volunteers while identifying the most important organizations and institutions that require oversight. Increasing the reach of the Observer Corps and gaining additional members will likely be one of the new LWV Board's agenda items for the coming year.

Sandy Eeds

### **Public Relations**

Members of the League of Women Voters have been moving at a near frantic pace over the past year. Who knew that our own state would try to find ways to try to prevent us from voting?

Fortunately, by working with like-minded organizations we were, and are, able to leverage our activities and influence to encourage voting.

*Continued -*

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*Public Relations continued –*

From a public relations standpoint, the League tends to get excellent coverage for issues and candidate forums. This position supports League activities and worked with area media on forums, voter registration, fund raising and other public events.

A first for the League, we worked with KCUR, the Kansas City public radio station co-hosting a forum for a hotly-contested race. With the station's promotion, the forum was standing-room only and set the stage for future projects.

The next couple of years promises to be full of challenges and opportunities, as we are looking forward to our 100th year of voting in 2020.

Cheryl Barnes

## **The Environment**

Then President Richard M. Nixon established the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Dec. 2, 1970, by executive order. The agency's purpose was and remains to protect human and environmental health.

Most of us who remember the late President give him mixed reviews. This, the EPA, is one of the highlights of his presidency, and for that we remain grateful nearly 40 years later.

To find out that one of the important agencies that touches our lives in so many important ways is headed by the former Oklahoma attorney general who is committed to dismantling the agency is disheartening.

The fact that he says climate change is a debate "far from settled" is distressing. To find out that he has any number of ethics concerns and that his two top aides resigned after being blamed for his lapses in good judgment is a concern.

So, here's the good news. We aren't the only ones concerned about the environment and dismantling the regulations designed to protect us and to make business and industries responsible for their actions. The Public Employees for Environmental Responsible is suing the EPA alleging the Pruitt administration is "deliberately avoiding creating written records of meetings and decisions (so that there are no documents subject to leaking or FOIA) and that Pruitt uses phones other than his own to deal with important EPA-related matters so the calls do not show up on his call logs."

The fact is the Clean Power Plan still stands and power companies won't build multi-billion power plants at the whim of changing administrations. They have a five-year rolling and declining commitment to reducing emissions. That ship turns slowly, and it's headed toward cleaner energy. Automobile manufacturers have the same type of regulation, and though the administration is threatening to do away with the vehicle standards, they are moving to building clean electric vehicles.

Wind energy generates 6.3 percent of the electrical energy produced, behind China and the European Union. Oil-rich Texas has seen the writing on the wall and leads the U.S. in wind energy. The Des Moines Register just reported there's a shortage of techs to work on wind generators. Solar continues to grow.

*Continued -*

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*The Environment continued -*

And the rest of the world, the U.S. notwithstanding, is concerned about climate change and remains a part of the Paris Accord.

As League members we have positions on these issues and can continue to follow them, to stay informed via various organizations and newsletters and to write when the policies cross the line.

It's amazing that we have to lobby for clean air and clean water: Flint still doesn't have clean water and Nestle says that water isn't right. But taking a common-sense approach and reminding our legislators at all levels of our concerns is one way we will eventually effect change.

Cheryl Barnes

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## **HOSPITALITY**

I have been Chair of the Hospitality Committee since its inception in 2017 as a separate entity apart from the membership committee. The time had come for the hospitality function to be done specifically by a hospitality committee and not just be a side effort of the membership committee. One person cannot do everything in the world of hospitality and I gratefully thank the many people who have helped this past year. A special mention must be made of Jean Ann Kouns who has contributed above and beyond in terms of her time, effort and knowledge.

Last year I drafted a mission statement and set of rules for hospitality which provides that our League should have attractive self-funding refreshments at the monthly Saturday morning meetings; the presentation of the food should be pleasing; the donations should be enough for providing a fair variety of items; a system should be used so there is a fair rotation of all members donating food; and, a roster of people should be established who on some kind of regular schedule help set up/serve/clean up. The mission and function of the hospitality committee have been enlarged this past year to include our League's ability to offer hospitality at our events other than the regular monthly meetings. Except for our December 2017 holiday luncheon, where we partially self-catered the event, we have self-catered all of our other special events this past year. Our most recent effort is to host and self-cater LWV Missouri's Spring Conference on May 5, 2018 in Kansas City.

It is the goal of the Hospitality Committee to make at least the form, if not the content of our Hospitality pleasing and memorable. This League is full of team players doing a variety of functions, so it is hard to determine the exact reasons for our League's growth this past year, but I hope the hospitality committee's accomplishments this past year have contributed to an increase in attendance at our meetings and in our membership.

Sheryl Eufinger

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## Women's Equality Week, 2017

The Women's Equality Week program in 2017 which was sponsored by the League of Women Voters, "Working Together for Equality and Justice," was a rousing success. Faced with competition from a solar eclipse and bad weather, more than 80 women and a few brave men attended the event at Community Christian Church on August 21, 1917.

Lawyer Barbara Anne Washington moderated the inter-racial panel of Sharon Sanders Brooks, former Kansas City Council Woman; Theresa Garza, former Jackson County legislator, and Rev. Shanna Steitz, senior pastor at Community Christian Church, shared their experiences and insights on how women of varied races can work together to address the many challenges that we face as we strive towards full equality. The final act of the event was for the participants to write on things they were personally going to do to work across racial lines for equality and justice. We will ask them what they did come August 2018.

The panel received many favorable comments on their candor and insightfulness by people attending and encouragement to continue the Women's Equality and Race series both during Women's Equality Week and in between. Someone suggested that the moderator and panelists should "take their show on the road!"

The League partnered with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority both Mu Omega and Beta Omega Chapters, Women in the NAACP (WIN), the Kansas City, MO Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and A. Philip Randolph Institute. This was the third program in the series of Women's Equality and Race that the League co-sponsored with these organizations.

Jane McClain

## The Voter

This year's *Voter*, which was published monthly, was a labor of love because everything in it was simply a compilation of the good work accomplished by KCJCP and the members who did it. It required a significant learning curve to insert pictures but thanks to the patience of members who contributed them, many of the pictures actually appeared in the *Voter*. Potential content was plentiful and often the final *Voter* was much longer than I ever anticipated or intended—leaving little room for graphic enhancements. Readers' encouragement kept me focused on why I've chosen to edit the *Voter*: Our League deserves the best representation possible and the League mission deserves the best presentation possible. Hopefully, we'll have a cadre of reporters to help prepare *The Voter* in 2018-2019. Thanks go to Donna Hoch for her contributions of content and faithful "quality review," and to all those members who sent information and pictures throughout the year.

Evelyn Maddox

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## Co-Presidents

**In addition to the initiatives we mentioned in our *Co-Presidents' Message*, we want to bring more efforts to your attention that weren't particularly new initiatives but were significant contributions to the mission of the League of Women Voters:**

- Our Vote411.org Committee has worked continuously to fulfill its commitment to offer an online Voter Guide at every election in 2017 and 2018.
- Our Speakers Bureau has trained members to speak on the new Photo ID law, the National Voter Registration Act, the importance of voting to young people, and other issues. We developed several Power Point presentations to assist trained speakers.
- We had five members participate in surveying eight Dept of Motor Vehicle offices to support the MO Coalition for Voter Protection's efforts to get Missouri to comply with the Nat'l Voter Registration Act's "Motor Voter" provisions.
- We continue to be actively involved with the KC Area Voter Protection Coalition which participates in bi-weekly statewide conference calls to keep us informed on legal actions and legislative actions. We have organized two press conferences concerning implementation of Amendment 6 (Voter Photo ID Law since our last Annual Meeting.
- Members have appeared on the Fox 4 Morning Show, MC Richardson's "Guess Who Is Coming to KC" and Sharon Lockhart's "Every Woman Show" on KKFI, the "Alex Thomas Show" on KPRT, and "Up to Date on KCUR." We also have had numerous letters from LWV members published in "Letters to the Editor."
- We responded to requests from local Alpha Kappa Alpha Sororities Inc., Mu Omega and Beta Omega Chapters, and AAUW to collaborate on a second viewing of "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy" to be on June 12 at the Kauffman Conference Center.

Each of these efforts took a lot of coordination by members. It's been a pleasure to work with such pleasant and capable members!

Donna Hoch and Evelyn Maddox

June 28 – Sun., July 1, 2018 at Hilton Chicago - 720 S. Michigan Ave.



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