



# THE VOTER

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

Box 10416, KCMO 64174-0416 --816.464.1800

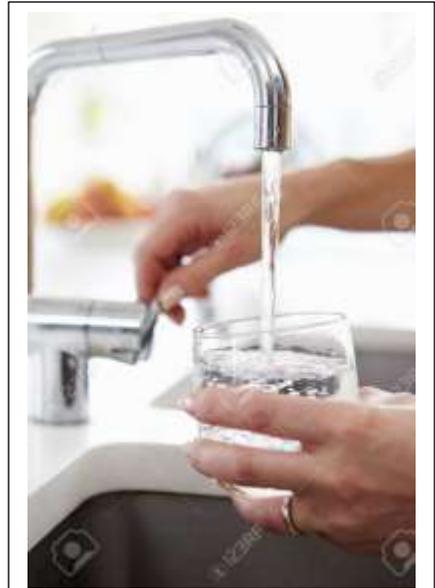
[www.lwvkc.org](http://www.lwvkc.org) [lwvkjcp@gmail.com](mailto:lwvkjcp@gmail.com) [facebook.com/lwvkcmo](https://www.facebook.com/lwvkcmo)

## WATER SECURITY LOCAL, NATIONAL, GLOBAL

**Community Christian Church  
Saturday, April 13, 9:30 Hospitality, 10:00 Program**

**Brigadier General (Ret) W. Christopher, PhD, the very popular speaker at our 2018 Spring Conference, returns to speak about water issues that have enormous implications locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.**

From the failure to control too much water, to having too little water, Dr. King can address why we have the national security situations we have and what might be done about them. Dr. King served as the chief academic officer for the United States Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, a M.S. in Civil Engineering (environmental), and a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering. His active service in the U.S. Army included providing worldwide public health and engineering services, engineering design of chemical weapons disposal systems, deployments in Southwest Asia and Afghanistan, and culminated as Professor and Head of the Dept. of Geography and Environmental Engineering at the United States Military Academy at West Point.



Water: The Magic Potion for daily survival, and critical to global peace and national security.

### 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.

#### Looking Ahead

**May 3-4 LWVMO State Convention: Celebration of LWVMO 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**May 11 LWV Annual Meeting & Lunch: Election, Budget Approval, 2019-2021 Program Year**

**May 17 ---MO General Assembly Spring Session Adjourns**

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

**2018-2019**

**OFFICERS**

**Co-Presidents  
Evelyn Maddox  
Rosemary Durkin**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Sandy Eeds**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Anitra Steele**

**Secretary  
Pat Goodwin**

**Treasurer  
Caroline Arnold**

**DIRECTORS**

**Becky Yockey**

**Cheryl Barnes**

**Dawn Wade**

**Josh Williams**

**Pauline Testerman**

**Sheryl Eufinger**

**Co-Presidents' Message**

We are nearing the end of the program year, 2018-2019, and there is much to do to prepare for our next program year and LWVMO's next biennium. Our local annual meeting will be dedicated to determining our local public policy positions, approving a new annual budget, electing new board members, giving directions to the new board, and enjoying some fellowship time over lunch. Watch for announcement of the lunch.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, all Missouri leagues will meet in St. Louis for our 64<sup>th</sup> Missouri Convention, and to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of LWVMO and LWV/STL Metro. The following members have been appointed to serve as delegates from KC/JCP:

Annette LePique	Evelyn Maddox	Rosemary Durkin
Carol Clopton	Jean Ann Kouns	Sandy Eeds
Cheryl Barnes	Melodie Armstrong	Sheryl Eufinger
Donna Hoch	Pauline Testerman	Stacey Webb

There's still time to register by contacting Evelyn at 913.634.3976.

There's exciting news about two new leagues being formed in southwest Missouri. LWV/Southwest members Marge Bramer and Joan Gentry met recently with two groups of potential members to discuss forming new local Leagues. One group hoping to form is in Branson and the second group is located in Joplin.

Evelyn Maddox and Rosemary Durkin

Thank You!

It's been my pleasure to serve as Editor of *The Voter* for the years 2017-2019, but this issue is the last of my term. During the past two years I have tried to inform, educate, engage and inspire members about the work of the League and its many principles as carried out by the local, state and national levels. Simply put, *The Voter* has been a reflection of the dedicated members and the organization that are LWV. Thank you to the many people who submitted content and pictures, did proof reading, and generally served as quality control oversight. Thanks to Co-Presidents, Rosemary Durkin and Donna Hoch, who provided invaluable support.

Evelyn Maddox

(May's monthly issue is "*The Call to Annual Meeting*" rather than *The Voter*.)

1. Water Security	5. HB 1026/Grain Belt Express	7. Slate of Candidates
2. Presidents' Message	6. Advocacy	8-10. Committee Reports
3-4. Courageous Conversations	7. vote411.org	12. Earth Day, Arbor Day

## **Courageous Conversations A Full House for Unique Event**

121 women attended the March 28 event at the Delta Athenaeum. The event was Jointly planned and sponsored by LWV/KCJCP, KC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sororities, Inc., and Women in the NAACP. It is the most recent of a series of events planned by the three organizations to improve understanding and communication between races.



Melissa Hazley Patterson (Delta), left, facilitated the remarks of guest panelists Gwen Grant, CEO of the Urban League, and Kristy Lambert, KC Unit Supervisor of MO Commission on Human Rights. (L-R)



## **Courageous Conversations Planners and Volunteers**

Pat Jones of KC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sororities, Inc., Anita Russell of Women in the NAACP, and Evelyn Maddox, Rosemary Durkin, Alice Kitchen, and Jane McClain of LWV/KCJCP met regularly to plan Courageous Conversations. The objective was to further the relationship between all black women and white women, and especially that of the members of the three organizations. It was decided to set the stage for one-on-one conversations at tables of eight where individuals could talk about problematic words, phrases, and conversations, and their individual perceptions. Guest panelists would be there to provide professional insights into the challenges of cross-cultural communications. At the end of the evening, guests agreed that it was a very positive experience which could be just the beginning of similar events for conversations.

Tonja Shobe, (WIN), below, and Rosemary Durkin (KCJCP) greeted guests.



Kenya Shobe, right, was photographer.



Sheryl Eufinger, left (KCJCP) and Jane McClain (KCJCP) served beverages all evening.



Guests were served a light supper, with a choice of wine, tea, and lemonade. The Delta Athenaeum is the property of the local Delta Alumnae Sorority and was made available to the event without charge.

## MO HB 1062/ Grain Belt Express Update

The Grain Belt Express, a major project in which energy from Kansas wind farms will be transported by high power lines across Missouri and Kansas to hook up with the eastern energy grid in Indiana, has been approved by Missouri *regulators*. For a time, Missouri was the only state stopping this project, but approval by the Missouri Supreme Court has now led to this big step. There are more final steps before construction can begin.

In November, Chicago-based Invenergy announced it was buying the project from Houston-based Clean Energy Partners. Invenergy says the deal still needs regulatory approval in Missouri, Kansas, and Illinois, a state that previously approved the project, but where a state appeals court last year overturned the approval.

I have been following the ups and downs of this renewable energy project for some time. It is a problem getting the energy from rural areas where wind farms are located to populated areas where the energy is needed. Many local residents do not like the high voltage power lines which is needed across states. This updated information is from an article in the Examiner, Wednesday, March 21.

I have learned that House Bill 1062 was introduced to the Missouri legislature on April 4, which would eliminate eminent domain for purposes of acquiring land for high power lines to cross Missouri. This would effectively allow the landowners to stop the Grain Belt Express, which they have been trying to do for some time. It was reported out as Do Pass.

### ABOUT HB 1062

HB 1062 has been introduced to block the Grain Belt Express, a project in which wind power from Kansas would be carried across several states to Indiana and the eastern power grid. Wind power from Kansas turbines could be transported to Indiana and then to the eastern power grid. The Grain Belt Express had recently won regulatory approval from Missouri's utility regulatory commission.

Our state league supports renewable energy and has no opposition to the use of eminent domain. (We supported Missouri seizing the land for the Katy trail.) This is a bill we could take action to oppose the bill. HB 1062 would stop eminent domain seizure of the land needed for the high-power lines because of the high-power lines that have to cross farms and people's property.

Missouri has been blocking this bill for some time, but things were progressing after the Missouri Supreme Court found the for project and the regulatory commission did likewise.  
Environmental Bill:

HB1062, sponsored by Jim Hansen, Chris Dinkins, Chuck Basye, Rusty Block, Cheri Toalson-Reisch. Introduced, and on -4-2019 House reported Do Pass.

Pauline Testerman

## Members Worked 167 Hours for Vote411.org: April 2 Election

On March 15, the League launched [vote411.org](http://vote411.org), its online voter guide, for the April 2 election. Over 250 local races and ballot questions were identified and loaded onto the vote411 website, so voters in Kansas City and the four surrounding counties could create and review their personalized sample ballot.

Vote411 is a ‘one-stop shop’ for elections. By simply entering their address, voters can access their personalized sample ballot along with information about the candidates. Candidates can be compared side-by-side, and after making their choices, the visitors can save, print, or share their ballots through social media or email. Vote411 also provides important information on how to register to vote, voter identification requirements, and more.

Since vote411 relies on email to provide candidates with access to vote411, the first step is finding their email addresses. Every effort was made to contact candidates using email, phone calls, regular mail, and outreach to election authorities, and municipalities and school districts where candidates file for office. Of the 440 candidates who filed for office, the Vote411 team identified email addresses for 289, or approximately 2/3 of all candidates. Of those, 144, about half, responded with information on their background, qualifications, and priorities.

The March 9 membership meeting served as the kickoff event for the launch. League members volunteered to deliver 1,200 mini-flyers to libraries, community centers, and YMCAs all over the four-county area. Flyers were also emailed to all members who were encouraged to copy and distribute them to family, friends, and organizations in their communities. The League’s Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/LWVKCMO](http://www.facebook.com/LWVKCMO), promoted vote411, and members were asked to share the link on other social media sites. A press release was sent to local media outlets.

In addition to this, several local organizations publicized vote411 through emails and blogs. These organizations included Mid-Continent Library, Kansas City Library, the Local Investment Commission (LINC), the Center for Neighborhoods, Grandparents Against Gun Violence, the Greater Kansas City Building Trades Council, and the Raytown Chamber of Commerce.

Vote411 will be activated in early June for Kansas City’s mayoral and city council elections on June 18.

**Pat Goodwin**

**Candidate races – 228**

**Ballot issues - 41**

**Total 269 ballot items**

### Value of Members’ Contributions – vote411.org

	Hours	\$ amt (\$23.21 per hour)	miles	\$ amt (\$.15 per mile)	Total
thru 3/1	64.5	\$1497.05	68	\$10.20	\$1507.25
3/2-3/24	102.5	\$2379.03	261	\$39.15	\$2418.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>\$3876.08</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>\$49.35</b>	<b>\$3925.43</b>

## Candidate Responses to vote411.org (as of 3/22/18)

Election Board	Candidates	Emails	Percent w/emails	Responded	% Responded w/emails	% responded
KCEB	62	61	98%	47	77%	76%
Cass	117	75	64%	24	32%	21%
Clay	96	46	48%	13	28%	14%
Jackson	92	70	76%	33	47%	36%
Platte	73	37	51%	26	70%	36%
Total	440	289	66%	143	49%	33%

## Nominating Committee Submits Slate for Election

### 2019 Nominating Committee

Submitted by Margie Richcreek, Chair, on behalf of the Committee - MJ McCall, Jean Ann Kouns, Carolyn Weeks, Patricia Keairnes, Sheryl Eufinger, Caroline Arnold

The following members have accepted nomination to the board to serve a two-year term, 2019-2021.

The biography of each nominee will be published in The Call to Annual Meeting to be distributed two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting on May 11.

**President – Sandy Eeds**

**Secretary - Anne Calvert**

**Directors: Pauline Testerman, Becky Yockey, Stacey Webb**

**Nominating Committee, 2019-2020: MJ McCall, Chair, Rose Stuckey and Rita Gulden, Members.**



[Facebook.com/lwvkcmo](https://www.facebook.com/lwvkcmo)

[Facebook.com /lwvmo](https://www.facebook.com/lwvmo)

## Committee Reports

### Forums Committee

#### Submitted by Anitra Steele

All LEAGUE members are encouraged to attend our forums. Our non-partisan stand requires us to staff the forums [moderator, timers, question sorters] with folks who don't vote in those particular races and a larger pool to draw from makes that easier to achieve. They are also fascinating, seeing how the candidates think on their feet, have prepared, and comport themselves. Several members signed up during our March Transformation meeting for moderator/timer training but there is room for more. The number of forums beyond the 6 we did this spring was impressive and we already have 3 scheduled before the June elections.

The run up to the 2019 Spring elections were uncommonly busy with forums. Six forums were scheduled between February 26 and March 26, with multiple co-sponsors and jurisdictions covered. Three school districts' [Center, Hickman Mills and Kansas City Public Schools] school board candidates responded to audience questions displaying a fine knowledge of the challenges facing urban and inner circle suburban districts with stagnant or diminishing enrollments and an earnest desire to help.

Ten of the 11 Kansas City Mayoral candidates took center stage at All Souls UU Church in a forum that was simulcast on co-sponsor KKFI radio and live streamed on the Climate Council's Facebook page. All Souls UUC and the Deportation Defense League also co-sponsored this event.

The District 4 City Council forum was also live streamed on the West Plaza Neighborhood Associations Facebook page at that event co-sponsored with 8 other neighborhood associations. Since this was simply done with someone's smartphone, it is something we might want to plan for in the future. Becky Yockey photographed and posted many pictures of the forums she was able to attend.

The final forum was the Raytown Mayoral and Alderman races with long time co-sponsor Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

### KCEKCEB Observer Corps

#### Submitted by Sandy Eeds

#### KCEB Directors Report of March 21, 2019

##### April 2<sup>nd</sup> Election Preparation

- Based on early voting and other info, turnout was projected to be an 8-10% turnout.
  - Early / Absentee voting
    - ▪ 183 voters at this date
    - ▪ 2161 absentee ballots mailed with 882 returned
    - ▪ 1220 permanent absentee ballots mailed with 645 returned
  - The shortage in election judges was filled through outreach via social media including Next Door.
- A new data base to support VAS has been developed that will backstop poll pad data. This will enable quicker look-up of hard to find voters. This data base is not internet-connected.
- KCEB has developed a new feature through their website that will provide voters their specific sample ballots. Voters can enter their name which will provide their ward/precinct numbers which then shows their sample ballot. This feature will be active for the April 2<sup>nd</sup> election.
- KCEB will host the Urban Boards of Elections convention, tentatively scheduled for May 8 -10. Location is the Embassy Suites at the Plaza. 32 counties have registered as of this date.

### **KCEB 2020 Election Planning**

A draft of a new initiative was proposed by the directors and Commissioner Buie to address a variety of issues for the 2020 primary and general elections.

- Outreach to KC to provide volunteers for poll managers, a new position. Total number of polls for 2020 is 115.
- Address the issue of 'moved' voters. In order to take care of these voters ahead of voting day where they tend to slow down the overall voting process, a public outreach campaign is proposed to update these registrations in advance of election day. A variety of PR, PSA's, social media, newspaper and other publicity means will be employed. Partnership with the LWV is seen as important.
- Giving voters early access to their sample ballots as outlined above.
- Involvement of KCPD and attorneys as liaisons with voter protection reps on election day.

### **Hospitality Committee**

#### **Submitted by Sheryl Eufinger**

The Hospitality Committee continues to make progress in developing the hospitality function, to make our regular meeting a pleasant and hospitable event.

- Future monies collected in the green can on the hospitality table at meetings are destined to buy permanent easy care and environmentally friendly table cloths for food and dining tables; and, a second coffee pot, environmentally friendly serving pieces and cold beverage dispensers.
- A recent new member offered to provide washable reusable plates for special lunches, to reduce the use of paper products.
- Thanks to the members who generously provide pastry, fruit, etc., and those who help serve and cleanup.

### **Environmental Committee**

#### **Submitted by: Sheryl Eufinger and Pauline Testerman**

The Environmental Committee has several projects, including the April 13 program to highlight April's Earth Day. Dr. Christopher King will speak about issues related to water.

- As noted in the report for Fundraising, **Rose Stuckey** and **Sheryl Eufinger** are pursuing research and development of tote bags. The plan is to buy tote bags at wholesale prices and sell them for a profit. Sheryl Eufinger attended a Non-Profit Connect session on March 21, 2019 and made a contact with a representative from a sewing concern.
- **Pauline Testerman** has been tracking state energy and environmental legislation. She is doing this primarily via Fast Democracy, Sierra Club, Legiscan and legislative bulletins. Pauline is forwarding the results to Nancy Copenhaver, a member of the LWVMO's legislative team.
- Don't forget to bring your own reusable beverage cup to our regular meetings—to save the planet, and to garner 25 cents for LWV from a benefactor for each paper cup saved.

**Fundraising Committee****Submitted by Sheryl Eufinger**

Three main developments are in progress.

- Funding for the startup of the Voter Girl is being pursued.
- A tote bag project is being actively developed as a joint effort by fundraising and environmental committees. Detailed research is being done, primarily by **Rose Stuckey**, but also by **Sheryl Eufinger** regarding tote bags to be offered this year. Rose has found a fair trade and environmentally friendly US company that appears to be a good wholesale source for bags. Sheryl made a contact with a local non-profit company which might be a source for a future bag project in 2020.
- Effort is being made to develop an event this year to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Missouri ratifying the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. This project will be a joint project by fundraising, hospitality, and possibly membership and Women's Equality Coalition, committees.

**Membership Committee****Submitted by Donna Hoch**

A meeting was held on March 31, to plan the Committee's work. The routine work of the committee involves greeting members and guests, data keeping for our membership roster and dues renewals, developing our recruitment brochure, managing the calling tree, and promoting our league at public events and wherever our league works. Our immediate challenges include developing a way to mentor members in the most efficient and productive way possible.

**Hospitality Committee****Submitted by Sheryl Eufinger**

The Hospitality Committee continues to make progress in developing the hospitality function, to make our regular meeting a pleasant and hospitable event.

- Future monies collected in the green can on the hospitality table at meetings are destined to buy permanent easy care and environmentally friendly table cloths for food and dining tables; and, a second coffee pot, environmentally friendly serving pieces and cold beverage dispensers.
- A recent new member offered to provide washable reusable plates for special lunches, to reduce the use of paper products.
- Thanks to the members who generously provide pastry, fruit, etc., and those who help serve and cleanup.



## LWVUS Grant Funds Purchase iPads



**Symie Menitove** (LWV/KCJCP) demonstrates one of the two new iPads purchased for use at Young Voters events, using grant funds from LWVUS. **Mary Fran Zellar** (left) and **Susan Tiffany** (right) of LWV/JoCo look on. The trio worked together to register voters at Hadassah's Human Trafficking presentation on March 10. The grant will fund much needed materials and supplies KC/JCP registrars.

## Equal Pay Days – Pay Not Really Equal For, Or, Among Women

“Despite the Equal Pay Act, the gender pay gap persists; women are typically paid just 80 cents for every dollar paid to men — and that number has barely budged in a decade. Although enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and other civil rights laws has helped to narrow the gender pay gap, these actions only cover segments of the American working population, and many important protections are not yet codified in law. Moreover, there are numerous other reasons for discrimination and pay disparity that must be addressed.” – Source: <https://www.aauw.org/resource/how-to-equal-pay-day/>

### 2019 Equal Pay Days

#### The Day Women's 12+ Months' Earnings Equal Men's 12 Months' Earnings

The date in 2019 when women have earned as much as what men earned in the 12 months of 2018.

March 5, 2019 – Equal Pay Day for Asian American Women

April 2, 2019 – Equal Pay Day for All Women

April 19, 2019 – Equal Pay Day for White Women

June 10, 2019 – Equal Pay Day for Mom's

August 22, 2019 – Equal Pay Day for Black Women

September 23, 2019 -Equal Pay Day for Native American Women

# Earth Day – April 20/21, 2019

## Arbor Day – April 26, 2019



Source: *The Old Farmers Almanac*, <https://www.almanac.com/>