



Call to Annual Meeting

“Diversity in the 21st Century: A Challenge for Our Time”

Saturday, May 11, 2019

9:30 – 1:45

9:30 Hospitality - 10:00 Program - 11:00 Lunch – 11:45 Business



Josephine Njoroge received her Bachelors and Master's degrees in American History from Southern University and North Carolina College, respectively. In addition to stints as an instructor and Assistant Professor at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, she pursued further post-graduate studies in British history at Fort Hays State College and Chinese history at Kansas University.

She was employed by the Missouri Division of Family Services from 1969-1996 as a case worker and supervisor. Following her time with the State of Missouri, she worked with Parents as Teachers as an educator, trainer and manager for 11 years. From 2007 to 2018 Josephine served as a parent liaison at the Banneker Charter Academy of Technology. Josephine has been deeply involved in a variety of community organizations focusing on education, children and families, mental health, African-American studies and community organizing.

Annual Meeting Luncheon

Join LWV friends and guests for a “Spring Luncheon” with scrumptious desserts. **\$15 per person, payable by credit card online or by check to Caroline Arnold 1912A NW Cherry St., Lee’s Summit, MO 64081. RSVP by May 3.** Luncheon attendance is not required; the business meeting will resume after lunch.

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

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

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

2018-2019

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Rosemary Durkin**

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Co-Presidents' Message

Our Annual Meeting on May 11 is an important component of LWV's grassroots movement throughout the country. Each local League is to be a model of good governance and our local Annual Meeting is a reflection of our local democratic governance. We expect our business session to resume after lunch and adjourn at 1:45. (Have you RSVP'd for lunch?)

The Annual Meeting is when LWV members

- **vote to continue or change our local public policy positions,**
- **approve the proposed annual budget,**
- **elect Board Directors, Officers, and the Nominating Committee,**
- **amend our bylaws as needed,**
- **give directions to the Board for the next year, and**
- **enjoy a group lunch for networking and fellowship**

The materials you need to prepare to be an informed voter are in this Call to Annual Meeting .

This *Call* also reflects the good work done by members of our committees in the past year. Our members who worked for LWV in the community and provided support behind the scenes made this year's progress possible. We appreciate the ways members made our leadership job easier and more enjoyable.

The work is not done, however, and the next year will have its challenges which we will meet together. We look forward to working together to continue the League's work that has made our 99 years of *Making Democracy Work* so rewarding.

Evelyn Maddox and Rosemary Durkin

1. Program Announcement	5. Co-President's Progress Report	13. Proposed Study on TIF	26-33. Proposed Amendments to Bylaws
2. Co-Presidents' Message	6-8 Proposed Budget	14-21. Annual Committee Reports	34. ADDENDUM: Due Increase
3. Contents of <i>The Call</i>	9-12. Nominees	22-25. Public Policy Positions	

The Call to Annual Meeting

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LWV KC/JCP ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 11, 2019

AGENDA

10:00 A.M. – 1:45 P.M.

Welcome, Evelyn Maddox

- Introduction of newcomers and guests
- Speaker Introduction, Sandy Eeds
Josephine Njoroge
Questions

Call to Order, Rosemary Durkin

- Confirmation of Quorum
- Appointments
 - Parliamentarian
 - Minutes Reviewers
- Minutes Accepted for Annual Meeting May, 2018
- Proposed Annual Budget, Caroline Arnold
- Motion to Increase Annual Dues, Diann Spencer

Luncheon

Business Meeting Resumes

- Adoption of Public Policy Positions, Evelyn Maddox
- Proposed Amendments to By-Laws, Anitra Steel
- Proposal for Study on Tax Abatements/ TIFS, Cheryl Barnes, Alice Kitchen
- Nominating Committee Report, MJ McCall
- Election of Board Directors & Officers, Rosemary Durkin
- Directions to Board

Adjournment

Co-Presidents' Annual Progress Report

During the program year, May 2018 – May 2019, we continued developing our *Campaign to Make Democracy Work*.

- Registered a record 1525 voters at 171 registration drives, and staffed by 57 members
- Initiated regular voter registration at Naturalization Ceremonies and on college campuses
- Established three new teams to conduct Voter Registration dedicated to each of these segments of voters: High Schools, Young Adults, and the Public.
- Initiated a “Get Out the Vote” service to provide reminders to vote to voters.
- Acquired two iPads for online voter registration using funds from two LWVUS grants
- Established the Observer Corp to monitor the Kansas City Election Board’s meetings
- Widened our collaboration for forums with other community organizations; sponsored 16 candidate forums; aired a live radio broadcast and live-streamed a forum
- Developed our online Vote411.org for all three elections and printed (via the KC Star) and distributed to a record number of 11,000 printed Voters Guides for two elections
- Participated in the LWVMO Legislative Alert program to support or oppose key legislative issues
- Attended court hearings for two LWV lawsuits seeking remedies for voters; continued participation in Missouri Coalition for Voter Protection; served as poll monitors on two of our three election days to educate voters about their rights
- Organized two press conferences, three press interviews, public appearances, and three public presentations to inform Missourians about the Clean Missouri/Amendment 1 ballot issue – which passed in the November 2018 election
- Innovated a unique “Courageous Conversations” collaborative event with the Women in NAACP and the KC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. for members and other women
- Developed a standardized New Member Orientation and delivered it three times
- Provided two free Useful Technology classes per month for all members for eight months.
- Provided a year’s free enrollment in Nonprofit Connect to members, to participate in its local nonprofit leadership sessions.
- Sent 15 local members to the LWVMO Fall Conference in 2018 in Sedalia and will send a full complement of 12 delegates to the LWVMO Convention in St. Louis on May 3-4, 2019.

**League of Women Voters Kansas City Jackson,
Clay and Platte Counties**

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

April 1, 2019 – Submitted by Caroline Arnold, Treasurer

Page 1 of 3 pages

	Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020
Income	
Conference prepayments	
Fall Conference	0
Spring Conference	2,500
Donations	
General Meeting (Hospitality)	200
In Kind	500
Members	2,430
Non-Members	100
Voter Guide	0
Voter Education	0
Vote 411	
Fundraising	
Grant HSVR 1.19	250
Grant NCVR 2.19	250
Voter Girl Grant	1,000
Other Funding	3,205
Member Dues	
Additional Member	1,050
Members	14,770
Scholarship	35
Student	40
Promotional Products	
Printed materials	250
Promotional Items (Pins)	0
Other	
Special Events	
Annual meeting	1,000
Holiday Lunch	1,000
Other	
Program Income	
Forums	0
Lobbying	0
Women's Equality Week	0
Total Income	28,580

Page 2 of 3**Expenses**

Administration		
	Community Christian Church	200
	Financial Compilation	100
	Insurance-Liability	1,400
Assessment and Pledges		
	National	5,632
	State	3,520
Conferences		
	Spring	2,500
	Fall	0
Credit Card Fees- PayPal		250
Donation Expense		0
Fundraising		3,000
Honorariums		250
Hospitality		200
Licenses and Permits		12
Membership Survey		100
Miscellaneous		0
Postage		349
Printing		1,140
Programs		
	Forums	1,000
	Lobbying	0
	Vote 411	600
	Voter Education	0
	Voter Girl	555
	Voter Guide	0
	Women's Equality Week	200
Promotional Products		
	Promotional Items	260
	Promotional Materials	209
Repairs and Maintenance		
	Custodial Support	0
Social Media		
	Domain Name	30
	League Easy Web (LWVCA)	400
	Social Media Other	500
Special Events		
	Annual Meeting	750
	Holiday Lunch	750
Sponsorship		100
Supplies		
	Office	500
	Other	0

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Technical Support	320
Telephone	153
Travel and Conferences	
Hotel - National	0
National	2,700
State	0
Travel (Board Meetings)	100
In Kind Travel	500
Venue	300
Total Expenses	28,580

April 1, 2019**Caroline Arnold, Treasurer**

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEES

Sandy Eeds

President (2019-2021)

Sandy Eeds has served as 1st Vice President for the past year. Sandy 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 and 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.

Anne Calvert

Secretary (2019-2021)

Anne Calvert has a B.S. in Education and M.A. in School Administration. She has worked as a teacher in a French Immersion Charter school and has worked as an administrator for several area non-profit arts organizations. She currently works as teacher and director of Kansas City Urban Strings, a music studio serving students from all over the Kansas City area. Anne grew up in the LWV, having parents who were both involved in the Emporia, Kansas league. She is interested in protecting every citizen's right to vote and increasing voter participation. She has worked with the League in the last several years registering voters and will be part of the Membership Committee this year.

Pauline Testerman

Director (2019-2021)

Pauline Testerman joined the League of Women Voters in 1976 and is now a member of the Kansas City LWV/Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. She is a retired archivist who worked at the Harry S. Truman Library for 39 years. Pauline served as Secretary for many years in the Independence and Kansas City Leagues, and has worked on several national studies. She is currently Co-Chair of the Environmental Committee and on LWVMO's nominating committee.

Becky Yockey**Director (2019-2021)**

Becky Yockey is originally from Iowa, and her Mom was active in the Des Moines LWV as well as the state group. She recalls, as a child, stuffing envelopes and gluing stamps at the modest LWV office downtown. Becky worked as a professional copy editor at Vance Publishing, McGraw-Hill and Commodity News Service before staying home with her kids in the 90s and early 2000s. She volunteered at St. Peter's Church and school frequently. After the 2016 elections, Becky joined LWV/KCJCP and has enjoyed making new friends and registering voters. She knows some KCEB staffers and often recruits registrars, mostly by email or phone, for different Voter Registration events. Watch your email for a registrar training notice! (Becky's love for horses grew as she helped her autistic son find riding lessons. She shows her American Saddlebred mare locally.)

Stacey Webb**Director (2019-2021)**

Stacey Webb earned a BA from Southwest Missouri State University (now, MSU) in Communication, with minors in Political Science and Education and a MA in Communication from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Stacey began her career as a College Relations Coordinator at the Metropolitan Community Colleges (Maple Woods Campus), she then taught Communication courses at Johnson County Community College and lastly, spent 17 years with Girl Scouts.

She gathered signatures for Amendment 1 (Clean MO) and Proposition B (minimum wage) to be on the ballot, the Clay county audit and for Move to Amend/American Promise to get money out of politics (which is an ongoing endeavor). She canvassed against Proposition A (Right to Work) and for Amendment 1. She organized a voter registration booth for Parkville Days and was a spokesperson for Amendment 1 there.

Since August 2018, when Stacey was formally introduced to the League of Women Voters, she registered students at Maple Woods Community College, assisted with voter protection on (a soggy & chilly) November 6 and helped at the recent LWV forums. She helping to develop the Voter Girl Project and is one of the LWV representatives for the Women's Equality Coalition.

MJ McCall**Chair, Nominating Committee (2019-2020)**

MJ McCall has a degree in American Studies from the University of Minnesota and a Master's Degree of Learning Disabilities from UCM. She's a retired teacher of ESL, Special Education as well as Adult Education and Literacy. MJ has been an active member of the League of Women Voters since the 1970's in Minnesota, Texas, California, and Missouri. MJ. believes in the power of 1 person 1 vote, and feels the League of Women Voters is instrumental in pursuit of this goal. M.J. is deeply concerned about gun violence and has stood witness along with others, including some League members, outside of gun shows.

Rita Gulden**Nominating Committee (2019-2020)**

Rita has been an active member since March, 2018. She arrived from New Jersey where she was the Executive Director of the CASA program for the state for over 15 years. Rita is well acquainted with the nonprofit sector and has much experience with working and soliciting board members. She has been a member of our Membership Committee since she joined the League.

Rose Stuckey**Nominating Committee (2019-2020)**

After completing a liberal arts associate degree in the early 80's, Rose Stuckey accepted a job offer in drafting and moved to Kansas City. Thirty-four years later she retired from that company. Last year (2018), Rose joined the LWV and has helped with forums, distributing voter guides and registering voters.

Terminating Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee

Co-presidents:	Evelyn Maddox (2017-2019) and Rosemary Durkin (2019-2020)
1 st Vice President:	Sandy Eeds, position eliminated
Secretary:	Pat Goodwin (2017-2019)
Directors:	Cheryl Barnes, Pauline Testerman, Becky Yockey (2017-2019)
Nominating Committee:	Margie Richcreek, Jean Ann Kouns, Sheryl Eufinger (2018-2019)

Continuing Board Members, 2019-2020

Anitra Steele, Vice President, Caroline Arnold, Secretary
Dawn Wade, Josh Williams, Sheryl Eufinger, Directors

NOMINEES
PROGRAM YEARS 2019 - 2021

PRESIDENT
Sandy Eeds



SECRETARY
Anne Calvert



DIRECTORS

Pauline Testerman



Becky Yockey



Stacey Webb



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

MJ McCall, Chair



Rita Gulden



Rose Stuckey



PROPOSED TAX INCENTIVE FINANCING STUDY

Members will be asked to vote on a proposed TIF (Tax Abatement) study at the annual meeting. If approved, members will be encouraged to take an active role in the study.

The scope of the study is:

1. Definition
2. History of TIF use in Kansas City – chronological, state of the economy
3. Groups reviewing TIF in Kansas City – their research to date
4. Overview of TIF use in other cities
5. Groups that support TIF, such as Chamber of Commerce, developer organizations
 - Their perspective on TIF projects
 - Building unions
6. Builders / Developers who use, have used TIF and their perspective
 - Their financial status over time
 - Annual reports if available
 - CEO pay
7. Political perspective – historical and current – about the need for TIF in KC
8. Location of TIF projects in Kansas City
 - Census tracts
 - Demographic data
 - Sales tax
 - Property values
 - Who owned the land that was developed?
9. Losses to Kansas City
 - School district, others
10. Gains to developers – their financial status – perhaps 2000 – present
11. Political contributions to current and past city leaders

Members will review the body of knowledge and determine the value of using TIF in the metro area.

Once the League has a position the tax program, the organization will be able to support or oppose the tax program.

Cheryl Barnes and Alice Kitchen

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Voter Registration

During this year, our voter registration team has been very active. Since May, 2018, we have registered 1,525 people. Twenty-two percent were new citizen registrations, 14% were high school registrations, 35% were college or technical school and the remaining were events in the community. This included 171 sites for registration. The preceding year, we had 27 registration events and registered approximately 300 people. We did not participate in naturalization or college registration events until this year. We have 57 trained registrars and 9 non-registrars who participated in our events. We also had a recognition event to honor people who helped in these registrations on National Voter Registration Day on September 25th.

We are grateful for all the people who participated in these events and we are proud of our results. This year we also received two grants from the US League, one for new citizens and the other for young voters. The success in our registrations enabled us to receive these grants.

A final note, we were saddened by the loss of Sue Scholl who was a key person for many years in voter registration in the league.

Rosemary Durkin

Forums Committee

There has been an up surge of activity this year on the forum front starting with the July 2018 State Primary and County Legislature elections. Six forums were held for candidates of Missouri Senate District 8, Missouri Representative Districts 30 and 35, Jackson County Executive, Jackson County Legislature District 3 & 3 at large, and Jackson County Sheriff.

In September, the League worked with the Parkville Area Chamber of Commerce to moderate and time their annual Political Panel.

October was busy with informational events promoting CLEAN MISSOURI [Amendment 1], changes in the Jackson County Charter, and a forum for MO Rep. Districts 14 & 15. A forum for State Auditor was arranged but only two of the minor candidates RSVP'd they would attend so that was cancelled. A US Senate forum was attempted without any candidate response. Additionally, a candidate questionnaire was developed and their answers published for Sugar Creek Alderman candidates.

For the Spring elections, the League held six forums for seven races—Kansas City Mayor, KC Council District 4, Raytown Mayor and Alderman candidates, Kansas City Public Schools School Board, Hickman Mills School Board and Center School Board. The League's Education Committee also prepared and distributed information about the KC Mayor's Pre-K, supporting our stand on regressive sales taxes and the illegality of tax funds going to private and religious schools. Three forums are already scheduled before the June KC Municipal elections.

Notable this year has been the number of co-sponsors we have worked with and the number of voters we have reached [several co-sponsors streamed via Facebook the forums reaching over 1000 more than were able to attend]. Thank you to all the members that helped coordinate these events: Caroline Arnold, Delores Blaser, Donna Hoch, Margie Richcreek, Cheryl Barnes and Dawn Wade.

Anitra Steele

Vote411 /Voter Guide Committee

The Vote411/Voter Guide Committee provided voter guides through www.vote411.org for three elections during the past year. Voters in Kansas City and the surrounding four counties could view their personalized sample ballot, learn about candidates, and compare candidates side-by-side. for every election in their community.

In August, 2018, primary elections were held in preparation for the general election in November when seats in the Missouri General Assembly as well as the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate were filled. Also, on the ballot in August were races for political party committee members as well as statewide and local ballot issues.

Soon after the August 7 primary, the committee began work on preparing for the November 6 general election. In addition to providing an online voter guide for the November general election, members distributed 11,000 hard-copy voter guides throughout the four-county area prior to the election. Sites included libraries, schools, community centers, churches, retirement centers, businesses, and other organizations. Twenty-four members contributed over \$3000 in in-kind donations by delivering these guides throughout the four-county area.

Funding for the printed voter guides came from a variety of sources including non-profit organizations, businesses, and individual members. Additionally, several League members served as volunteer poll workers with the Kansas City Election Board through the Adopt-a-Poll program. All earnings were paid directly to LWVKC/JCP for voter guide and other League expenses. Many members also adopted the poll workers and matched their earnings with donations to the League.

On April 2, 2019, local elections were held with over 260 races and ballot items for voters to decide. Over 400 candidates were identified and loaded onto vote411.org. Of the 289 candidates for whom an email address was available, one-half responded and provided information on their candidacy for voters to consider.

League members spent 167 hours and drove 329 miles in order to produce the online voter guide for this election. This amounted to \$3925.43 in in-kind contributions.

Pat Goodwin

Public Relations and Communications Committee

It used to be that the League of Women Voters would have a measure of ebb and flow with legislative sessions and elections. There would be a flurry of activity and we'd be either grateful when the Missouri legislature went home in May or disappointed, they didn't take up an important piece of legislation. Those days seem to have passed as we find we need to work year around to keep up with think tanks giving model legislation to legislators and bypassing their constituents.

The League was heavily involved with getting Clean Missouri passed, and for public relations and communications that included press tours and press conferences in Kansas City and assisting with press conferences in several outlying communities. Clean Missouri had a great organization and it was good to be a part of the effort and to help get press for both the issue and the League. We were pleased when the issue passed overwhelmingly.

We were not happy to see legislators working to dismantle Clean Missouri's Amendment 1 which would eliminate almost all lobbyist gifts in the General Assembly, require that legislative records be open to the public and lower campaign contribution limits for state legislative candidates.

After working on Clean Missouri, the League geared up to work against the mayor's Pre-K proposal, a 1/8 cent sales tax which would disproportionately harm lower income families. In addition, the program would, for the first few years, spend millions focusing on training and buildings for Pre-K children and serve only 700 of the 6,500 Pre-K children. With help from a number of like-minded organizations the issue failed, but proponents are promising to be back.

Vote 411 continues to be an important voter resource and well received by area voters.

The National League of Women Voters has been doing some soul-searching and reorganized in a way to be more efficient and effective. As a result, the Media and Communications group now will include the League Calendar, which will involve working with all committees to get the dates and information on their activities; the Voter, our newsletter; social media and outside media. As in the past, the group will continue to send out press releases and social media posts on League positions and activities.

These are exciting times to be a part of the League and with the League's 100th anniversary coming up in 2020, we'll have an interesting and full plate.

Cheryl Barnes

Observer Corps

This year the League continued its strong relationship with the Kansas City Board of Elections in a variety of ways. We attended monthly Board of Election commissioners' meetings as observers which was a new initiative this year. Our attendance brought us much closer to the process and provided insight to the operations and challenges the Board faces when they mount an election. Because of this deeper knowledge, we will be able to expand our relationship and discover new ways of educating voters and extending our assistance to the Board.

First, several of our members participated in numerous public demonstrations of electronic voting machines, assisting Election Board staff in helping voters not only to become familiar with this new technology but to feel confident in the security of their ballot. Second, about a half dozen of us trained as poll judges in primary, mid-term and local elections. The long days gave us a chance to see the voting process from an inside perspective, meet some old hands at poll work and celebrate first time voters as they participated in their first election. A number of League members were poll watchers.

Sandy Eeds

Education Committee

The LWV KC/JCP education committee began studying Pre-K education in 2017-2019 when KC's Pre-K was evolving as a ballot issue. The committee met with different sectors of Pre-K education. Two LWV general meetings were held with different panels representing pieces of Pre-K education.

Committee focus shifted to a 70-page KC Pre-K proposal when it was made public. Later a revised 61-page KC Pre-K proposal became an April 2, 2019 ballot issue. LWV's concerns were sales tax financing, inclusion of private secular and parochial Pre-K programs, appointed boards and additional concerns. After the board of LWV KC/JCP approved opposition to the ballot issue, LWV joined area school districts, education and civic organizations with voter education opposing the ballot issue. LWV had flyers, speakers, Letter to the Editor, question at Kansas City candidate forums etc. The ballot issue failed April 2, 2019. Hopefully, a better proposal will evolve as LWV is a strong supporter of public education. Special appreciation to LWV members Kathy Whited, Luann Miller, Karen Brown, Cheryl Barnes, Margie Richcreek, Sandra Jiles, Rosemary Durkin and LWV members who shared KC Pre-K ballot information.

Delores Blaser

Environment Committee

In July 2018, the Environmental committee met to set an agenda. A mission statement and five goals were established. Environment's mission is to dedicate our resources to ongoing research, education, and advocacy regarding current environmental issues.

Goal #1 was to support legislation related to environmental concerns. The LWV/KCJP has a watch of environmental or energy related bills going through the Missouri legislature. This information is being collated and sent to the state LWV for potential action.

Goal # 2 of positive collaboration with other environmentally friendly groups has been achieved by the Kansas City League acting as a clearing house for information and events.

Goal # 3 of focused letter writing campaigns has not happened with the League as an official author. But individual League members have communicated with public and private entities about environmental issues.

Goal # 4 of sharing information with League members. This goal has been achieved with various environmentally related articles published in the Kansas City League's Voter newsletter. Information has also been shared with the League via email.

Goal # 5 of the committee to host the April membership meeting each year has been met. We are hosting this year's April meeting with Dr. Christopher King being the speaker on water issues.

Overall, more earth friendly methods have been instituted for League's hospitality events. A tote bag project is underway by the Environmental and Fundraising committees. The goal is to reduce the use of one-use plastics, plus raise some money. Depending on the image on the tote bags, this project may also act as advertising for the League. The focus of the committee in the near future is to reduce the use of single-use plastics.

Sheryl Eufinger and Pauline Testerman

Women's Equality Week

Our League sponsored a program on August 20, 2018 at the Delta Athenaeum entitled **#Respect Me Too**. This was the 4th in the series of Bridging the Gap to Sisterhood that was born out of working with leaders in the NAACP, KC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., and Alpha Kappa Alpha sororities. A diverse panel related their personal experiences and engaged in a forum discussion with each other and the audience. More than 70 women attended on a very rainy night to deepen our appreciation of the challenge women face as we demand respect for ourselves and each other.

In addition, we had a program in cooperation with the League of Women Voters of Johnson County at Colonial Church in Prairie Village on August 22. The program titled, "Saving Democracy: It's Our Job " included four speakers. They included: Denise Lieberman, attorney with the Advancement Project; Pat Jones Macklin , president of the Greater Kansas City chapter of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute; Micah Kubic, executive director of the ACLU of Kansas; and Dagny Velasquez, Assistant Professor at Kansas City Community College. The sponsors included: LWV/JoCo, LWV/KCJCP, A. Phillip Randolph Institute and Women in the Kansas City Branch of the NAACP.

We thank the Kansas City Alumnae Branch of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. for making their venue, the Kansas City Athenaeum, available for the event.

Jane McClain

Membership Committee

The following are the highlights and accomplishments of the Membership Committee:

- We continue to see the benefits of being able to join online and pay with a credit card. Membership grew by 75 members from Feb 1, 2018 to Feb 1, 2019. League members Judy Gemmill, Joan Pratt, and Sue Scholl died this year. Kaleen Tiber, 1998-1999 Co-President, also died. They all left their mark on the Kansas City LWV and are missed.
- Retaining and engaging members will continue to be a focus for the Membership Committee. Our Membership Brochure which is given to prospective members at LWV events is kept up to date with a "Report to the Community" which lists our major activities. Retaining members is a high priority by maintaining contact, linking members to their interests, and ensuring each member is provided needed information and guidance. A Welcome Letter is sent to each new member with an online link to the local, state and national websites so a new member can research our history, principles, and positions. A follow-up call to new members is made by our co-presidents, Rosemary Durkin and Evelyn Maddox.
- New members have been invited to three "New Member Orientations," which uses a custom designed Power Point. Orientations were held Sept 8, Sept 11, 2018 and Feb 2, 2019. Thirty-four new members attended these meetings, asked questions, and indicated their interests. We appreciate new members' enthusiasm, willingness to step up and be involved.
- Committee members welcome both visitors and members at each General Meeting. We track attendance and we have seen a healthy increase at our monthly meetings. We email the Voter's program announcement to friends of LWV and prospective members to encourage their attendance at our monthly meetings. These meetings are open to the public and a great way to introduce potential LWV members to the value of joining League.
- Our "Calling Tree" of the Membership Committee has helped us keep in touch with all members. We have 23 callers who make five to 10 calls each when there is reason to contact members. By segmenting the calls according to zip code, we intend that residential proximity will encourage a relationship and more contact between the caller and member, i.e., for carpooling.
- Behind the scenes, we work to ensure prompt notice to members when their membership renewal date comes up. Caroline Arnold, our treasurer, uses Quick Books to send out a renewal invoice at least a month before one's membership expires—which is on the date of joining LWV.
- We keep our LWVUS data base of members up to date almost daily so we can manage our growing roster of members. Jean Ann Kouns works with Caroline Arnold to record all new members' address and contact information, and to remove terminated members. Because our LWVUS database is always up to date we can email an up to date Membership Roster to the Board monthly and to members at least four times a year: Feb, May, Aug and Nov.

The Membership Committee is growing and our goals for this upcoming year will be recruitment, developing a survey to know our members, updating inactive records, and increasing member engagement in our 100th anniversary year. If you are interested in helping out call Donna Hoch **816-868-1083**. The Committee encourages every member to invite someone to join us in our work to protect democracy. Remember there are those who make things happen and those who do not:

- Those who watch things happen
- Those in the majority who have no idea what is happening
- Save a friend from the majority --- ask them to join the League of Women Voters!

Donna Hoch

Fundraising Committee

Fundraising began this past fiscal year with a meeting to assess needs and set goals. Committee chairs and project leaders were each asked for a list of items that members needed and wanted to achieve their LWV goals. By December 2018, a combined list of over 110 items was compiled. This list is being used to focus on raising and spending funds in an efficient manner. By early January 2019, different fundraising projects were under way. These projects include funding the Girl Scout Voter Girl program, the Tote Bag project jointly undertaken by Fundraising and Environmental Committees to reduce volume of single-use plastics. and a joint effort by Fundraising, Hospitality and others to raise funds to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Committee members throughout the year have been Sandy Eds and Josh Williams, Committee Chairs, with help from Stacy Webb, Rose Stuckey, Janelle Sjue, Riva Capellari. Some of the items on the 2018 wish list have been funded. Ongoing efforts are being made to expand funding.

Sheryl Eufinger

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee achieved goals this past year of providing food and drink in a pleasing fashion in an earth friendly mode. A poker chip coffee club was started, with a goal of reducing the amount of paper hot beverage cups that is usually thrown in the trash. Anyone who brought their own coffee container put a poker chip in the green donation bucket. The number of chips is counted and on a regular basis, Melodie Armstrong donates a sum to the League. Hospitality has completely stopped using any kind of foam containers and plastic products that cannot be recycled. Hospitality is already using washable cloth tablecloths for the most part and is moving towards total use of cloth or heavy reusable vinyl tablecloths.

Other steps are being taken to further reduce the effect on the earth by Hospitality's practices. Money collected in the green donation bucket set out at the Saturday morning monthly membership meetings is used to fund the ongoing purchase of beverage and serving supplies. This money is rarely used to buy food for the membership meetings. The green bucket money is also used for one-time purchases of items used by the League.

Large ticket items this past year have been two large industrial sized rolling carts used to store League items at Community Christian Church and a Mr. Coffee pot. The January 2019 membership meeting was cancelled and the green bucket was not out in December 2018. \$177.95 has been collected, along with in-kind donations, through March 2019.

Hospitality is also responsible for the pricing, menu, food, decor and serving of food at the May annual meeting lunch and December Holiday Celebration. This past year has seen an increase in attendance at the monthly membership meetings. About 40 to 45 have been at most of the membership meetings. About 40 paid to attend last years' May meeting, with the number attending the May 2019 Annual meeting not yet known. About 50 paid to attend the December 2018 Holiday Luncheon. Members have expressed appreciation for what the Hospitality Committee does to provide an attractive and appealing hospitality table for our monthly meetings and for our self-catered lunches. The time spent on setting up, serving, and cleanup can be a time for fellowship as well as a meaningful contribution to a pleasant experience for members at our events.

Sheryl Eufinger

The Voter

The Voter has continued the League tradition of former years to be an historical record of LWV/KCJCP which is retained on LWVKC.org. *The Voter* was published each month for the past year and distributed to most members via e-mail and mailed to a few members who have specified mail delivery. *The Voter* has also been regularly mailed to visitors and others who specify interest in the League. We have regularly emailed the program announcement page of *The Voter* to over 75 individuals who have ongoing interest in our monthly programs.

The mission of *The Voter* has been 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. It has also served as a marketing feature to interest prospective members and the public in our work.

It's been the goal of *The Voter* to reflect the dedicated members and the organization that are LWV, and, to picture and recognize individual members working to *Make Democracy Work*.

Evelyn Maddox

Monthly Programs – General Meetings

During the May 2018 to May 2019 program year, we provided a wide variety of speakers.

- In May, Rachel Sweet, Planned Parenthood Great Plains, spoke about legislative threats to reproductive rights.
- In June, Lauri Ealom, Director of the Kansas City Election Board shared her personal journey and the current processes on the preparation for elections.
- In July, we featured speakers on ballot issues for the August elections. They included: Kevin Corlew, Mo. Representative District 14 who presented a power point on the gasoline tax. Michael Duffy, Public attorney discussed the Healthy Homes City Ordinance Proposal, and Judy Ancel discussed the Right to Work proposal which she opposed.
- In August, we focused on immigration with presentations by Angela Allard, immigration attorney and Judy Ancel, Cross Borders for Justice and Solidarity. We also heard from an immigrant from San Salvador who relayed her experience in the immigration process.
- In September, we discussed the amendment 1, or Clean Missouri. Alejo Gonzales discussed the complexity of this topic. The MO LWV supported this amendment.
- In October, Crosby Kemper discussed the tax for the KC Public Library. Gregory Grounds, Jackson County Legislator for the 5th district discussed the revision proposed to the Jackson County Charter. Jamie Katz, KC Chapter National Organization Marijuana Laws of discussed the multiple proposals for legalization of medical marijuana.
- In November, we had a presentation by Anitra Steele and Sue Scholl on books on voting, general civic education for adults and children.
- In December, Nancy Powell and Annette Thomas, Historic Kansas City Foundation provided a presentation of Kansas City Neighborhoods and their development across the city.
- In January, we did not have a meeting because of bad weather.
- In February, the KC League education committee coordinated a presentation on the Pre-K Sales tax Initiative. Sandra Jiles moderated a discussion with Dr. Maggie Holley, Professor of Early Childhood Education at UMKC and Dr. Daniel Clemons, Superintendent of NKC Scholl District.

- In March, Sandy Eeds, Cheryl Barnes and Rita Gulden provided information on the National League initiative on a Transformative Journey. We also had an opportunity to sign up for ongoing committee.
- Later in March, we also had a joint meeting at the Delta Athenaeum, "Courageous Conversations," with the Women in the NAACP, and the KCMO Alumnae Chapter of Delta, Sigma, Theta Sorority. Guest speakers were Melissa Patterson- Hazley, Ph.D., moderator, Gwen Grant, Urban League, CEO and Kristy Lambert, Missouri Human Rights Commission.
- In April, the Environmental Committee sponsored a talk by Chris King, Ph.D.
- In May, Josephine Njoroge will speak on "Diversity in the 21st Century: A Challenge for Our Time"

Rosemary Durkin

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KC/J/C/P COUNTIES POSITIONS IN BRIEF (adopted April 2004)

Local public policy positions constitute the ongoing “program” of our local league, along with the public policy positions of LWVMO and LWVUS. Positions are the basis for local actions. Local members will vote on each local position, individually, at the Annual Meeting, although each position will not be read from the podium during the meeting. Members are to read all positions prior to the meeting to ensure informed voting.

EDUCATION

Kansas City: Support of adequate local tax levies to provide optimum education systems for the school districts within the Kansas City limits. The following criteria should be used to evaluate the adequacy of proposed tax levels:

1. Retention or improvement of the districts state classification.
2. Competitive teacher’s salaries among the twelve Kansas City, MO districts

Independence:

1. Support open meetings of the school board for the purpose of informing and soliciting public opinion, and encouraging the public to attend these meetings. (1971)
2. Support a quality education that prepares students for their role as contributors in the changing cultural, social and economic world. (1-1972)
3. Support of the school system in Independence with the objective of providing optimum education for all. (9-1975)

CITY POSITIONS

Kansas City:

Human Resources – (Currently (3-1-04) the functions delineated below are performed or monitored by the City’s Human Relations Department. There is no Human Relations Commission now; however, a Human Rights Commission (HRC) has the task of responding to all issues of bias although it has no enforcement power.) (Consensus 1966)

Support of equality of opportunity in public accommodations and housing. The Kansas City fair housing ordinance should include these provisions:

1. Coverage of all dwellings except rental units in one-family or two-family owner-occupied structures
2. Actions of real estate brokers, lending institutions and builders should be covered.
3. An anti-blockbusting clause should be included.
4. The Human Relations Commission should enforce the ordinance with recourse to the courts.
5. Complaint investigation procedures should be in the following order:
 - a) Voluntary compliance, b) efforts at mediation, c) subpoena of witnesses at all stages, d) public hearings and e) court action
6. The enforcing agency should be allowed to initiate complaints
7. The principle of ascending fines for second violations should be part of the housing ordinance.

8. A program of public education should be instituted by the Human Relations Commission, with a sufficient budget.

City Government

Support of Council-Manager form of government. The following points were emphasized:

1. The six district and the six at-large council members create a representative government that can be responsive to the will of the majority.
2. More emphasis should be placed on the policy-making capabilities of the council
3. Consideration should be given to transfer of some of the detail of the charter to the administrative code.
4. Consideration should be given to methods for strengthening the policy making leadership role of the mayor.

Support of the following City Charter Changes: (Consensus 1972)

1. A considerable increase in the number of signatures required to declare intent to cause referendum petitions to be circulated.
2. Raising the number of signatures required to bring an issue to referendum to about 10% of the registered voters.
3. Charter revision should be done by an appointed non-partisan committee rather than a 13-member elected commission.
4. Charter review body should make proposals to city council every 10 years to be taken as amendment to propositions to the voters.

Support of Planning and Zoning: (Consensus 1977)

1. Applicants for rezoning, opponents, and citizen groups should have equal opportunities to present their information and opinions.
2. Persons appointed to the City Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment should have a balance of interest among them.
3. Notification of rezoning hearing should be published in a paper of general circulation other than the Daily record. Written notification of hearings and rehearing's to all owners of record and residents of adjoining property should be a requirement. . . .not a courtesy. The notification procedure might include prominently posting a sign at the property, easily recognizable from a distance, at least two weeks before the first hearing.
4. In the planning process, a set of goals should take priority over a map showing proposed uses, although it is understood both are important.

Housing: (Consensus 1981)

1. Support of a written housing policy to preserve a healthy environment and conserve decent and safe housing stock.
2. Support the conservation of the city core and older housing stock.
3. Support the Mayor and City Council formulating this policy.
4. Support and adequately funded Housing Department.
5. Support property maintenance and code enforcement.
6. Support private investment in housing.

Finance: (Consensus 1984) Support for adequate financing of city services. Support of budgeting procedures that facilitate citizen comprehension and City Council participation. Support for reliance upon progressive taxes. The following points were emphasized:

1. **Expenditures:** Among the categories used in the Budget by objectives, the League gives highest priority for support of two, "Public Safety and Protection" and "Maintenance and Utility".

2. **Procedures:** The League would like to see the format of the Proposed Budget and the Financial Report coordinated to facilitate citizen comparison and comprehension as well as meeting accounting and city finance principles. The League would also like to have significant changes in the budget from the preceding year noted and fully described in the proposed budget.
3. **Revenue:** The League supports a reduction of the utility tax. When taxes are justified to the public, based on an emergency and earmarked for a specific use, the League supports a sunset clause tied to their adoption. The League supports bond issues for needed capital improvements.

Independence City Positions

1. Support of Independence City Charter (including our position opposing formation of a board of police commissioners with the exception and conditions state in the position paper) and evaluation of any proposed amendments or revisions. (1961)
2. Support having a functioning Human Relations Commission. (3-1964)
3. The LWV of Independence supports a sound system to finance Independence municipal services and capital improvements. (1971)
4. Annexation (12-1972)
5. Oppose formation of a Board of Police Commissioners. (10-1974)
6. Support recreation programs designed and available to meet the needs of all ages. (10-1977)
7. Support services to be accessible to every citizen by means of an efficient and economical delivery system from the Fire, Health, Police and Public Works/Maintenance Departments and any other departments appropriately assigned to these services. (1993)
8. Support of comprehensive planning as a general guide for the development of Independence. (1994)
9. Support of tax increment financing as first implemented by the City of Independence, MO. (1996)

COUNTY POSITIONS

Clay County: Study of the home rule charter government for Clay County. Support of criteria for a new jail facility in Clay County.

1. The Plans for the jail must take into consideration the current as well as the long range uses and needs of the entire County.
2. All federal minimum standards should be met.
3. Adequate parking facilities should be included in the total jail plan.
4. The future expansion of all county governmental facilities should be an integral part of the overall planning for a new jail.

5/7/2019 JACKSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT: The following positions were established by the now defunct Tri-County League, an inter league organization (ILO), after study and consensus all the participating Leagues:

1. Support of the charter form of government in Jackson County (1967-1970)
2. Support of the authorization for home rule charter counties to provide services approved by the voters on a county-wide basis. (1967-1970)
3. Support of authority of Jackson County to enter into inter-governmental contracts. (1967-1970)
4. Support of a merit system applying to all county employees below the level of department head. (1967-1970)
5. Support of improved administration of institutions and services for juvenile wards of Jackson County, with chief emphasis on treatment. (1967-1970)
6. Support of increased accountability for administration of Jackson County finances. (1974-75)

7. Support of a continuing re-evaluation of property tax assessment. (1974-75)
8. Support of a sound county tax system. (1974-75)
9. Support the minimum standards in the Jackson County Jail position for the housing of jail inmates. (1974-75)
10. Support continuance of Jackson County Anti-Drug Tax for an additional seven years. (1995 position of Independence only as the Tri-County ILO had dissolved.)

REGIONAL POSITIONS (Tri-County)

1. Support of an adequate welfare program for residents of Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties. (1970)
2. Support of a regional plan for management and disposal of solid waste in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. (2-1973)
3. Support of the expansion of a public mass transit system and the need to develop a mass transit metro in the Kansas City area. Locally, we support the concept of one regional authority governing mass transit in the Kansas City statistical metropolitan area. The League support provisions, which take into consideration convenience, accessibility, reliability and speed. Also importance is reasonable fares, minimal comfort and personal safety. The League supports those measures, which reduce to a minimum the disruption of existing communities and ecological balance. The League also favors the use of existing facilities and rights of way where possible.

LWV of KC, Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties:

Metropolitan Water Position (Consensus April 2014)

We support maintenance of best practices for water standards throughout the Missouri River Basin, with particular emphasis on quality and quantity as it affects metropolitan Kansas City.

I. Quality

LWV/KC/J/C/P supports activities, legislation and regulations that:

- A. Ensures safe drinking water
- B. Minimizes contaminants in the water supply by monitoring and reviewing residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial discharges.
- C. Holds residents, commercial entities and industry accountable for actions that can affect the water supply.
- D. Coordinates intergovernmental agencies charged with managing the water supply.
- E. Uses region-wide coordinated management plans and techniques in solving the Missouri River Basin problems.
- F. Protects the water in the ecosystem by strict adherence to agricultural, industrial, residential, environmental and commercial zoning regulations that prohibit the introduction of toxic or polluting discharges or detrimental land use techniques within the Missouri River Basin, which ultimately affects the metropolitan water supply.
- G. Continual testing of the Missouri River Basin water quality for impact from pesticides and fertilizers, resistant bacteria, persistent pharmaceuticals and other chemicals.

II. Quantity

LWV/KC/J/C/P supports activities, legislation and regulations that:

- A. Encourages water conservation
- B. Discourages inefficient water practices; restrict requests for large withdrawals with the potential for or actual damage to the ecosystem.
- C. Supports reclaiming wetlands and marshes for native species, recharging aquifers and minimizing flood damage.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BYLAWS
DELETIONS ARE STRUCK OUT. ADDITIONS ARE IN RED.

BYLAWS

League of Women Voters of Kansas City/Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties

As adopted by the organization 2004, April 2007, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016, **2019**

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1 **Name:** The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Kansas City/Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties hereafter referred to in these bylaws as League. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (herein referred to as LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Missouri (herein referred to as LWVMO).

Section 2 **Form:** The League shall be a nonprofit public benefit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri.

ARTICLE II

Purposes & Political Policy

Section 1 **Purposes:** The Purposes of the League are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. LEAGUE is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501 c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, League shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of League shall be the carrying on of attempting to influence legislation.

Section 2 **Political Policy:** The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1 **Eligibility:** Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2 **Types of Membership:** This Corporation shall have the following two ~~classes~~ **types** of members who together shall be referred to herein as "Members": **voting Members and nonvoting Associate-Members. Individuals at least 16 years of age may join the League as voting Members of League, LWVMO and LWVUS;** ~~those who have been members for 50 years or more shall be life members and excused from payment of dues.~~ All others who join shall be Associate Members **of League, LWVMO and LWVUS. Any Member or Associate Member of 50 years shall be referred to as a "Life Member" and excused from payment of dues.**

Section 3 **Termination of Membership:** A member may resign at any time ~~by delivering a written notice to the president or secretary.~~ **by providing notice to the Membership Chair.** The resignation shall be effective upon receipt of such notice, **unless a different resignation**

date is specified. Membership shall terminate upon the death of a member. The board may terminate a member for nonpayment **of dues.**

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 1 **Election, Qualification and Terms:** ~~The officers of League shall be president or co-presidents, a vice president or a president, first and second vice president, each of whom shall be in charge of a major portfolio, a secretary and a treasurer.~~ **The officers of League shall be president or co-presidents; a vice president, or, first and second vice presidents; and a secretary and a treasurer.** They shall be voting members of the League and shall be elected for terms of 2 years by the general membership at the annual meeting. Except for the Treasurer, they take office immediately. The Treasurer shall take office at the beginning of the fiscal year. The President(s) and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The vice president or first and second vice president and the treasurer shall be elected in the even numbered years.

Section 2 **The President or Co-Presidents:** The President, **or Co-President**, shall preside at all meetings of the corporation and of the Board of Directors unless the President ~~designated~~ **designates** another person to do so. The office of the President may be held concurrently ~~by more than one person~~ **by-Co-Presidents**. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee and the audit/budget committee; may sign or endorse checks in the absence of the Treasurer. The President shall perform such other duties as the Board may direct **and shall sign all contracts, agreements, and other such instruments when so authorized by the Board.**

In event of the absence, disability, resignation or refusal to act or death of the president or co-presidents, the Vice President(s) in order of their rank shall assume the office. If no vice-president is able to serve as president, the Board shall fill the vacancy from among the elected directors to serve **until the next Annual Meeting.**

Section 3 **The Vice President(s):** The Vice-President(s) shall perform such duties as the President(s) and the Board shall direct. In the event of the death, absence, disability, resignation or refusal to act as the President(s), the Vice President(s) in order shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the President(s) and shall do and perform such other duties and exercise such other authority as may be from time to time imposed upon or assigned to the Vice Presidents by the Board of Directors.

Section 4 **The Secretary:** The secretary or designee shall keep at the principal office or such other place as the Board may order, a book of minutes of all meetings of the Board ~~and its committees,~~ **and a monthly report from each committee**, with the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given, the names of those present at the Board and **all** committee meetings, and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall also keep minutes of the Annual Meeting and shall sign with the President all contracts and such instruments when so authorized by the Board.

The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, at the principal office or such place as designated by the Board, the original or copy of the corporation's Articles and Bylaws, as amended to date. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board and any committees thereof required by these Bylaws or by law to be given, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

Section 5 **The Treasurer:** The Treasurer is the chief financial officer of the corporation and shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transaction of the corporation. The books of account shall at all times be open to inspection by any director.

The Treasurer shall deposit all money and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the corporation with such depositaries as may be designated by the Board. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the corporation as may be ordered by the Board, shall render to the President and the directors, whenever they request it, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board. In the absence or disability of the Treasurer, the President, the Vice President or the Secretary may sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes.

The Treasurer shall present **financial** statements to the Board at its regular meeting, the **program's year-to-date financial report** to the members at the Annual Meeting, and a year-end financial report to the Board within **60** days of the close of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

Section 1 **Selection, Qualifications, Term and Vacancy:** The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of LEAGUE, up to 6 directors elected by the annual meeting and not more than 6 directors **who are** appointed by the elected members of the Board. All Directors must be voting members of LEAGUE. **Vacancies other than the Presidency may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Board. An appointment to a board vacancy will expire at the next annual meeting.**

Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting to serve **beginning at the close of the annual meeting** for a term of two program years. ~~and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting. Vacancies other than the Presidency may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Board.~~ One half of the directors shall be elected or appointed in odd numbered years and the remaining one half in the even numbered years. **An appointed director, other than by appointment to fill a vacancy, shall hold office concurrently with the directors elected in the same year in which the appointment occurs. Each director shall have responsibility for a portfolio which is one of the program year's main areas of program and action.** ~~Vacancies other than the Presidency may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Board.~~

Section 2 **Powers:** The Board shall manage and supervise the **business** affairs and activities of LEAGUE subject to the instructions of the annual meeting. It shall select delegates to state convention and council and to national convention. It shall accept responsibility for such other matters as the national or state Board may from time to time delegate to it. It shall have the power to create such special committees, as it deems necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws. The Board shall be responsible for supervising all development activities and insuring that the necessary resources for the operation of LEAGUE will be secured. The Board shall be responsible for overseeing all compliance requirements.

Section 3 **Meetings:** At least 5 regular meetings of the Board shall be held annually. The President may call special meetings and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of 5 members of the Board. Members of the Board shall be notified of the time, place, and purpose of the special Board meeting at least 48 hours in advance electronically or by phone.

Section 4 Electronic Meetings: Meetings may be conducted by telephone or other communication technology. When the meeting is called, all Board members shall be informed that official business may be transacted and that a member who is participating by electronic means is deemed present in person at the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting and again at the time any vote is conducted, each member shall verify their identity and their ability to simultaneously hear each other.

Section 5 Action Without Meeting: The directors may take action between meetings by mail or an e-mail ballot, when necessary, provided that notice of the proposed action sets forth the proposed action, provides the opportunity to specify approval or disapproval of the proposal, and a reasonable time in which to return the ballot is allowed. Notice, quorum, and other requirements for the conduct of meetings shall apply. Ballots shall be filed with a report of the action and shall be part of the minutes of the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 6 Executive Committee: The President or Co-presidents, the Vice-president(s), the Secretary and the Treasurer shall constitute the Executive committee. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the Board and shall report to the Board on all actions taken by it at the next Board meeting.

Section 7 Quorum: A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum and a majority of those present shall have power to act in all matters except as specified elsewhere in these bylaws.

Section 8 Removal from Office: Three unexcused absences within a **program** year from regular Board meetings shall constitute ~~resignation.~~ **reason for removal from the board.** A 2/3 vote of the Board quorum is required to remove a Board member **for three unexcused absences** or failure to perform duties.

Section 9 Compensation: No person shall receive compensation for serving on the Board. A member of the Board may be reimbursed for reasonable out of pocket expenses as the Board determines.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1 Membership Meetings: There shall be no fewer than four meetings of the General Membership each year. The Board shall determine the time and place.

Section 2 Annual Meeting: An annual meeting shall be held in April or May, the exact date, time and place to be determined by the Board. The annual meeting shall:

- a) Adopt a **local** program for the ensuing year, **by examining each existing local position for retention, modification, or deletion by vote of the annual meeting.**
- b) **Vote on the board's recommended and non-recommended proposed studies**
- c) Elect officers and directors
- d) Elect the chair and two members of the nominating committee
- e) Adopt a budget **for the next fiscal year**
- f) Transact such other business as may properly come before it
- g) **Require a** quorum ~~shall consist~~ of 15% of voting members

Members shall receive all materials for the annual meeting in writing at least two weeks in advance

Section 3 Special meetings: The Board may call a special general membership meeting and shall call such a meeting upon the written request of one percent of the voting members. Members shall be notified in writing at least seven days in advance of the meeting. Notice of such meetings shall state the purpose of the meeting and only business related to that purpose may be considered and acted on, including changes in local program.

Fifteen percent, two of whom shall be officers of the LEAGUE, shall constitute a quorum at special meetings.

ARTICLE VII

Nominations and Elections

~~Section 1 **Nominating Committee:** The nominating committee shall consist of a chairman and two members that shall be elected by the annual meeting to serve for one year. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Board.~~

Section 1 Nominating Committee: The nominating committee shall consist of at least three members: a chairman and two members that shall be elected at the annual meeting to serve until the next annual meeting. Following the election, the board may appoint more Nominating Committee members not already serving on the board to serve with the elected nominating committee members. All appointments are to be made at the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by appointment by the Board.

~~Section 2 Report of Nominating Committee:~~ The report of the nominating committee, **The report of the Nominating Committee shall include the slate** containing its of nominations for officers and directors and a chair and two-members of the next nominating committee, **and shall be sent to the Board no later than its regular meeting prior to the Annual Meeting, and to all members at least two weeks before annual meeting.** The report of the nominating committee shall **be published in The Call** and presented at the annual meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor **immediately after presentation of the slate of candidates** provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

~~Section 3 **Elections:** The election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for the candidate or a voice vote may be taken. A majority vote shall constitute an election.~~

Section 3 Elections: The election shall be by ballot except if there is only one nominee for each position on the ballot, the entire slate of candidates may be elected by vote of acclamation. A majority vote shall constitute election. Sufficient ballots shall be printed by the Nominating Committee for use at the election if needed.

Section 4 Leadership Development: When making nominations, the committee should consider nomination for board service to be an opportunity for League to develop leadership within the organization.

ARTICLE VIII

Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees and Agents

Section 1 Mandatory Indemnification: The Corporation shall to the maximum extent permitted under the General Not-For-Profit Corporate Law of the State of Missouri as amended, indemnify and allow reasonable expenses of any person who was or is a party to or threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of or volunteered services to the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of any committee or of any other Corporation or enterprise. Such right of indemnification shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators and personal representatives of such person.

Section 2 Liberal Construction: In order for League to obtain and retain qualified directors and officers, the foregoing provisions shall be liberally administered in order to afford maximum indemnification of directors and officers and accordingly, the indemnification above provided for shall be granted in all cases unless to do so would clearly contravene applicable law, controlling precedent or public policy.

Section 3 Supplementary Benefits: The League may supplement the right of indemnification under Section 1 of this Article by one or more of the following: purchase of insurance, indemnification agreements, and advances for related expenses of any person indemnified.

ARTICLE IX

Principles and Programs

Section 1 Principles: The principles are concepts of government adopted by the LWVUS National Convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state and local/regional program.

Section 2 Program: The program of the League shall consist **of its public policy positions** and actions to implement the Principles and those local/regional governmental issues chosen by the annual meeting for concerted study and action as follow:

Voting members may make recommendations to the Board **for the annual program** at least ~~two months~~ **six weeks** before the annual meeting, ~~and for actions to carry out the principles of League.~~ **by proposing to modify or delete an existing position, or undertake a new or updated study.**

- a) The Board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program **of public policy positions** which shall be sent to the members at least two weeks before the annual meeting.
- b) The annual meeting shall adopt **by majority vote** a program **of existing positions and proposed additions, deletions, or modifications of positions, and approved studies to be undertaken.** ~~by majority vote.~~
- c) Program recommendations submitted to the Board but not proposed by the Board may be considered by the annual meeting provided that the
 - i. The annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote of the members present

- ii. The annual meeting shall adopt the item by a majority vote of the members present.

Section 3 Change in Program: Changes in the **adopted annual** program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that information concerning the proposed change has been sent to all members at least two weeks before a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed and final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Section 4 Program Action: Members may act in the name of the League only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LEAGUE, the LWVMO or the LWVUS.

Section 5 Program Record: A record shall be kept of the LEAGUE's positions on local governmental issues in the Secretary's permanent file.

ARTICLE X

Financial Administration

Section 1 Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the League shall be from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

Section 2 Dues: Annual dues shall be paid upon becoming a member in accordance with **the Standing Rules** and shall be renewable **annually**, ~~on the first day of the Fiscal year (July 1)~~. The amount of **annual** dues shall be determined by the Board and approved by the membership at the Annual meeting. Membership shall be canceled if dues are not paid in a timely manner and in accordance with the Standing Rules. When two ~~or more~~ members reside at the same address in a common household, the payment determined will be one full membership and one half of that for the 2nd household member.

Section 3 Finance/Audit Committee: A finance/audit committee shall be appointed by the Board to prepare an annual budget, review all financial records (with outside consultants, if needed), provide oversight of the "conflict of interest" policy and of compliance requirements. The proposed budget for the next fiscal year shall be sent to all members at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

Section 4 Distribution of Funds on Dissolution: In the event of the dissolution of LEAGUE all monies and securities or other property of whatsoever nature which may at the time be owned by or under the control of LEAGUE shall be paid to the LWVMO Education Fund which is exempt under section 501 c (3) after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. If this organization is not then in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the board, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501 c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE XI

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of voting members at the annual meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose provided that the proposed amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

THE CALL
Addendum – Finance Committee Report
May 19, 2019

The Bylaws require that the Finance Committee prepare an annual budget and review all financial records. Finances were reviewed in conjunction with the League's expanding activities. The findings were as follows.

To maintain and continue the expansion of activities of the League, we are recommending that the annual dues be increased to \$70 per year beginning on July 1, the first day of fiscal year 2019-2020.

Recognition of the League of Women Voters and its role in voter education in the community has grown considerably in recent years. The League has expanded its activities to co-sponsor, and participate in an increased number of non-partisan organizations.

1. It has increased voter education and registration activities to include: maintaining Vote411.org on line; producing and distributing printed Voter Guides during for the 2016 and 2018 elections; expanding voter registration activities; and sponsoring and/or providing an increased number of candidate forums.
2. In the past year the League has begun to promote programs and activities through social media, which expands our outreach and incurs increased expenses.
3. The League has operated successfully over the years in part because of the In-Kind financial generosity of members. "In-Kind" are those unclaimed expenses borne by members out of their personal resources.
4. The annual dues constitute membership to not only the local league but also the League of Women Voters of Missouri and National League of Women Voters. \$32 from your dues is submitted to National and \$20 from your dues is submitted to the State for those memberships. That leaves only \$8 remaining from the annual membership dues of \$60 for operating funds.
5. Our expenses at the end of fiscal year on June 30, 2015 were \$4935. As of April 30, our current expenses are \$15,421, more than three times what they were when we last increased the dues on July 1, 2015.

Caroline Arnold
Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair