



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

Website: www.lwvkc.org – **email-** lwvkcjcp@yahoo.com

March/April 2015

PLEASE ATTEND – Upcoming Meeting

Saturday, March 21, 2015

Topic: LIVING WAGE vs. Minimum Wage

SPEAKERS: – Judy Ancel and Peter Eaton

SOCIAL TIME: 9:30 am PROGRAM BEGINS PROMPTLY AT: 10:00 am

Centennial Hall at the Community Christian Church **4601 Main** --- South Building

Parking is in the multi-level parking garage to the south of the Church

President’s Message

Linda Smith

Issues/areas in which we can make a difference – BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN LWV-KC WORK

At the regular Board meeting in January, in addition to reviewing LWVMO positions on issues and deciding on our recommendations for the League of Women Voters of Missouri, LWVMO, for updates, wording changes and/or new studies, we discussed what our own priorities might be for more concentrated work during 2015. The idea was to pick 3-5 issues for which a group of LWVKC/J/C/P members would, in effect, sign-up to carry forward work on that issue at a local level. The group would have a leader who would serve as the convener and work with interested/participating members on whatever they might decide to do to help make a difference in our area.

For example, I have volunteered to lead a group on **Money in Politics**. In thinking about what we might do, the two things that come to my mind are: (1) research locally on what the impact is of money in politics in our area; and, (2) educate the public about what this issue is all about using or drawing upon the very powerful presentation prepared by the LWV of Massachusetts (go to LWVMA to see this presentation). Thus far, I have made three such presentations. Donna Hoch will be making one this week to a women’s group at her church. More members could be trained to make such presentations. Others who might wish to participate in the Money in Politics Action Group would likely have additional ideas of what we might do. We might, for example, have evening “Table Talk” discussions on this topic; promote the writing of letters to the editor and to elected officials.

The fact that we are selecting a few issues to engage more members in what we do best, studying issues so we are involved and well-versed, does not mean that other issues are not important. We have members who are following others, often through the work of particular, dedicated individual members (e.g. Delores Blaser covers education, Margie Richcreek covers transportation locally).

Following is a list of the priority issues identified at the January meeting along with the names of the individual on the Board who have agreed to play a lead role for that issue:

- **Money in Politics** – Lead person Linda Smith
- **Climate Change - Lead** person Pauli Kendrick
- **Voting issues and Processes** – Lead person Dixie Brown
- **Gun Violence** – Lead person Linda Smith
- **Social Policy/Living Wage** – Lead person Peg Prendergast

This is your chance to speak up either to be a leader for a specific issue or to join a LWVKC/JCP Action Group to achieve your goal of making a difference in our area.

Interested? Please contact me or the lead person identified above. Please see back page for contact information. We hope you'll join other interested and interesting League members on these topics.

Conversation with new member

Carolyn Weeks

Eloise Weatherford

After attending a LWVKC/JCP Saturday membership meeting-- which turned out to be the spirited planning session of January 2015, Eloise decided to join up. She had been thinking about the LWV membership for some time.

Her main concern is climate change, and she is an active member of Citizens Climate Lobby and the Sierra Club. She supports "Move To Amend" and 350.org and belongs to two book clubs. She is retired now after employment with National Insurance Company in Galveston, TX and various jobs in Kansas City. Her home town is Independence, Kansas, where she graduated high school in 1944 and owned and operated a flower shop there from 1960 to 1970. Welcome, Eloise!

Pat Lanser

We are delighted to welcome former president of the Kansas League of Women Voters to our group. She brings considerable League experience to our group, including a focus on nonpartisanship and experience with studies on various government issues. One of her current interests is the voting outcome in the last election relative to polling results

Pat grew up in Wisconsin and holds an associate's degree in business. She moved from Wisconsin to New Jersey after marrying. She retired from a variety of positions including sales and as an office manager.

She teaches computer skills to seniors at SenCom, a computer club founded by her late husband. One of her favorite hobbies is bridge. Welcome Pat!

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS Final Report - 2015 LWV KC/JCP Counties

To date we've had 4 of the 7 Senators respond to the interview meetings and answered the questions (57%). One had scheduled a meeting and has since called to decline the meeting and said she did not have time to answer the questions, even via email. The other two would not even schedule meetings.

To date we've had 9 of the 17 Representatives respond to the Interview meetings and answered the questions (52%).

Although we were disappointed that not all Missouri legislators responded, we were thrilled with the 54% over all. The primary purpose is to let them know the League is still around and we are interested in what they do in Jeff City and strengthen communications with our legislators, which we believe we were successful in achieving.

Following is a list of priorities from the Senators who responded:

- Medicaid Reform and eligibility reform (defeat), Kansas City regional priorities and economic development for the State and Kansas City areas, the Border War
- Support Medicaid expansion, tax code reform, Reform campaign finance
- Economic equality, cost transparency for hospital charges , appropriate money for UMKC with a 50/50 match

Following is a list of priorities from the Representatives who responded:

- Equality Issues, economic growth, education, campaign contribution limits, funding for early childhood education, preserve public education, long term job creation with a living wage, health/mental health, Support Medicaid expansion, and Missouri income tax credit.

As you see, we have allies in some areas and have our work cut out for us in others. If anyone wants specific details, please contact Peg Prendergast at shapeshome@yahoo.com

Thanks to each of the League members who reached out to our local legislators: Nancy Wakefield, Annie DeSimone, Dixie Brown, Cheryl Barnes, Charles and Anitra Steele, Carolyn Weeks, Vickie Riddle, Sarah Madrid, Rhoda Ertel, Patricia Keairnes, Caroline Arnold, Mary Lindsay, Margie Richcreek, Joan Pratt, Frances Semler, Delores Blaser, Donna Hoch and Peg Prendergast.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Its election time again! The “big ticket” election is the KCMO Mayoral and City Council election. Other communities within our area will also have elections, consistent with the overall Missouri election calendar. Following are pertinent dates as listed on the KC Election Board site:

March 11, 2015 – Last day for voter registration to vote in the April election

April 7, 2015 – Primary election. KCMO Mayor/Council Winners move to June election

June 23, 2015 – General Election

To find your specific election information, please go to:

Kansas City Board of Elections; Voter in KC Jackson County: <https://www.kceb.org/>


Jackson County Election Board <http://icebmo.org/>

Clay County, Board of Elections <http://www.claycoelections.com/>

Platte County, Board of Elections <http://www.co.platte.mo.us/elections/>

Cass County/Clerk Election Authority <http://www.casscounty.com/2210/County-ClerkElection-Authority>

Our League has worked to identify opportunities to host or co-host candidate forums in the run-up to the elections. Special thanks to Charles Steele, who is leading this effort with assistance from Anitra Steele and Linda Smith. To volunteer, contact Charles at 816 836-4031; or via email anitrastele@yahoo.com

	<p>Following are LWV Kansas City Sponsored Forums</p>
---	---

Kansas City Mayoral Forum
 March 24 - 6:30 to 8:30

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
 450I Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo.
 Onsite parking - handicapped accessible

Mayoral Candidates

- Clay Chastain
- Sly James
- Vincent Lee

<u>KC City Council Districts 1 & 2 & At-large</u>	<u>Raytown Mayor Forum & Alderman Meet and Greet</u>
Wednesday, March 18 7:00-8:30pm Woodneath Library 8900 N Flintlock, KCMO	Tuesday, March 31 6:30-8:30 Raytown City Council Chambers 10000 E 59th St., Raytown MO

FORUMS SPONSORED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

KC 6th District Forum
 Monday, March 9 6:00
 The Crossroads Church 7916 Main St. KCMO
 Sponsored by: South Kansas City Alliance
 & Tower Park Homes Assoc.

5TH District Candidates Forum
 Saturday, March 21 11am-1pm
 New Vision Christian Church 9101 Blue Ridge BLVD
 Nick Haines Moderator
 Sponsored by South & East United Neighborhoods for Change

KC District 4 & At large candidates Forum
 Tuesday, March 31 7:00
 Writer’s Place 3607 Pennsylvania KCMO 64111
 Sponsored by Valentine & Volker Neighborhoods

General Election Forums Scheduled:

KCMO City Council At-large Candidates Forum
 Monday, April 13 6:00
 Location TBA - South Kansas City Alliance

KC City Council Districts 1,2 &4
 Friday, May 1 12 Noon
 Location TBA - Northland Neighborhoods

EDUCATION -

MO Public Schools

Delores Blaser

Missouri has two very different types of public funded schools: traditional and charter. Both traditional and charter students take the annual state MAP (Missouri Assessment Program) test. The MAP scores for charters, school districts and the individual schools within a district are made public on the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website. Additional school data is also included at the DESE website.

Traditional public school MAP scores and data are used for school district accreditation by DESE for classifying schools as accredited, provisional, and unaccredited. Criteria used by DESE for accreditation is the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP5).

Charter schools are not accredited by DESE. A charter school can choose its own accrediting agency or none. Different agencies have different criteria for accreditation, which do not include a classification status.

Missouri parochial and non-secular private schools also choose or not choose, among the many accrediting agencies. Each agency has different criteria. This group of schools is not under any requirements by the state of Missouri except for local fire and building safety ordinances. Public funds are not given to this school group.

The questions then arise: What **are** the criteria for accreditation for charter schools which are taxpayer funded? Does the accreditation include a classification for accredited, provisional, unaccredited?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Donna Hoch

One of the reasons people join the LWV is because they are around women who share like concerns and are role models. We are saddened to share that we have lost 2 members to death Karlynn Landen-Hakan age 65 and Samella Gates age 94. Both of these ladies made contributions to the League and Community.

Karlynn (Karly) Landen-Hakan died Dec 26, 2014—Karly joined the KCJCP LWV in 2002 when she moved to the area. She had become a member of LWV when she turned 40 because she was honoring her grandmother who was a League member. Karly was elected to the Board of Directors and served as our Voter editor for several years as she was a English major and free-lance writer. She was a part of the Whole Person staff until her health caused her to take a break. She then was employed with the US Citizens and Immigration Service before her unexpected death. Her years of service to the local LWV were appreciated.

Samella Myers Gates died Jan 28 at age 94—she was an outstanding public servant and civic leader beginning in the 1960s and worked through the 1990s. She started as a volunteer and moved forward to lead. She advocated for more citizen involvement in local government decisions and joined the League in 1998 because she believed in what the League did.

This is an excerpt from her obituary: Samella retired in 1983 from the City of Kansas City, Mo., where she served as the Model Cities/Urban Affairs Department Head; the first woman to hold the position. During her tenure, Samella was instrumental in establishing organizations such as Kansas City, Mo., Child Care Development, Model Cities Health Care which became the Swope Parkway Health Care Corp. and St. Vincent Family Care Center known today as Operation Breakthrough. Other activities include Assistant Model Cities/Urban Affairs for Community

Development and Citizen Participation; Adult Education Teacher and Administrator in Atlanta, Ga.; Interim Executive Director for Kansas City Area Girls Scouts Council; Director of Personnel and Training Services and District Director; Caseworker Supervisor and Caseworker in Jackson County, Mo. She taught at the Hiram Young School in Independence, Mo., which was founded for Black children by that famous African-American businessman. Samella garnered awards and accolades including the 2010 National Forum of Black Public Administrator Marks of Excellence Award. She was inducted into the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center Hall of Fame.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the LWV Education Fund in memory of a member or a loved one, please make your check out to LWV-Education Fund and send to League Treasurer Caroline Arnold, 416 W. 88th Street KC, MO 64114. Please write KCJCP in the memo section.

What better way to celebrate the League of Women Voter's 95th anniversary than by asking someone you know to come to a meeting and learn how we continue the League legacy of educating, registering and encouraging voters to make democracy work. We are making a difference.

We want thank the following people for their League membership; we appreciate your participation and financial support. These individuals have renewed: Annie DeSimone, Shelley McThomas, Kathryn Dixon, Cindy and Larry Kalwei, Linda McCurry, Cherie Burges-Bonilla, Mary Kay McPhee and Sharon Grosshart and Fred Newman. Dixie Hicks has reactivated her membership.

We want to welcome the following new members: Edward (Sandy) & Susan Eeds, Frances Semler, Sarah Starnes, Mary Glover, Eloise Weatherford, Patricia Goodwin, Sandy Massock, Bridge McCandless, and Pat Russell. An updated roster will be emailed to our membership.

Membership Team: Dixie Brown, Donna Hoch, Carolyn Weeks

PUBLIC TRANSIT REPORT

Margie Richcreek

The possibility of the greater Kansas City area having a regional public transit system is more likely to happen now than ever before in the 50 year history of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority. The KCATA is known for operating the busses in KC, but it was legislated by Congress to have the authority to coordinate all public transit services in our bi-state multi-county area. Due to the efforts of the KCATA Board, primarily Robbie Makinen (Chair) and Steve Klika (co-chair), and the Regional Coordinating Council and transit staff at Mid America Regional Council (MARC) things are changing.

The first breakthrough was in December when Johnson County turning over management of The JO (its busses) to the ATA. Now the ATA is having the same discussions with the operators of the Independence and KC, Kansas bus operators. The next big step was in February when Joe Reardon agreed to become the new president and CEO of the ATA. Reardon is the former mayor of KC, Kansas and a known supporter of public transit, saying, "An integrated transit system is a key component for moving the region forward."

Leaguers Sarah Madrid and Margie Richcreek have been observing meetings of the KCATA Board and MARC's Regional Coordinating Council and feel very encouraged with the progress of cooperation each month. Just last week we learned that the immediate goal is for "one fare" among the cooperating bus systems. Watch for the regional logo and website, **RideKC**, and know

that our League's 1974 position supporting a regional public transit system for the greater KC area is getting closer to being a reality.

In the meantime, Sarah has pointed out a major safety issue affecting bus riders every day, right now - sometimes having to walk into the street between cars parked in the "no parking zone" at bus stops in order to hail on oncoming bus. She has the respect and attention of KCATA administrators and staff who are taking this safety issue very seriously and are taking action.

Transit Committee, Sarah Madrid and Margie Richcreek

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY: Our League will participate in the 35th annual Brookside Warm-up St Patricks' Parade. Won't you join us Saturday March 14 and join the celebration for the League's 95th anniversary? The parade starts at 2 p.m. and all parade participants are asked to be there around 1 p.m.

Sue Scholl is organizing this event so please contact her at 816-444-2623 or usafscholl@aol.com and let her know if you can participate on that day. Sue will provide all details regarding the day's events.

We are trying to get a car (vintage) so a few can ride for those not able to walk. In honor of the Suffragists please wear white skirts or pants and white tops, available at thrift stores if not your closet, and wear a yellow sash-Votes for Women-if you can. The League has a few extra.

REMINDER – Upcoming Meeting

LEAGUE GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 18, 2015

SPEAKERS: JOHN FISH KURMANN & SUSAN BROWN

Topic: GLOBAL WARMING AND SOLAR ENERGY

LWV MISSOURI CALL TO CONVENTION- - May 2 & 3, 2015

Don't miss your opportunity to be part of the action at the League of Women Voters of Missouri State Convention at the Inn at Grand Glaze at the Lake of the Ozarks, 5142 Osage Beach Parkway, Osage Beach, MO 65065. Join League friends on May 2-3, to plan for the next 2 years of Missouri League program and hear exciting speakers, learn new skills and develop your leadership potential. You may bring your family to enjoy a vacation at the lake while you are in session. Make your room reservations now to get a lakeside. Reservations can be made by calling 800-348-4731 or via their website www.innatgrandglaze.com and entering group code of LEAG15. The League of Women Voters State Convention is open to all members and friends of the League. Delegates will be selected by your local League Board of Directors. All other attendees are observers who have the privilege of the floor but no vote. So let your President know that you want to attend and let your voice be heard.

Topics under consideration for speakers include Living Wage, Ethics, The Role Courts Play in Promoting Social Justice Issues and how to make your League visible as a non-profit.

2015 CALENDAR			
1st Mon	Monthly	LWV KC Board Meeting	KC North Library
Saturday	Mar. 14	Brookside Warm up St. Pat Parade	Call Sue Scholl
Saturday	Mar. 21	Topic: Living Wage vs Minimum Wage	Library – Community Christian Church
Saturday	Apr. 18	Program Focus – Global Warming & Solar Energy	Library – Community Christian Church
Sat/Sun	May 2 & 3	LWV MO – State Convention	Lake of the Ozarks
Saturday	May 16	Annual Meeting	TBD

LWV KC OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Linda Vogel Smith 816-741-6110 lindaavogel@me.com
 Vice President: Charles Steele 816-836-4031 forumslwv@yahoo.com
 Secretary: Anitra Steele 816-836-4031 anitrasteel@yahoo.com
 Treasurer: Caroline Arnold 816-333-6059 cmarnold1@att.net

Cheryl Barnes Dixie Brown
 Donna Hoch Pauli Kendrick
 Peg Prendergast Sue Scholl
 Pauline Testerman Carolyn Weeks