

Voter January/February 2013

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

Peg's Pen

Our Holiday lunch was well attended with members as well as several guests. In addition to great fellowship during this festive time of year we had a wonderful speaker, Stephanie Kelton a Professor at UMKC, who shared her insights on the Fiscal Cliff and the Federal Budgeting Process. I heard from several members that they really enjoyed the program. I'm going to try and video tape the presentation so we can show in a future meeting.

As always, thanks to the Board for planning such a worthwhile program. Speaking of Programs, our January meeting is set aside for just that; program planning at State and Local Levels. Please plan on attending our January 19, 2013 meeting and participate in State and Local Program planning.

Every two years the local leagues participate in planning the State program for the next two years. The program planning is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members a chance to balance the pros and cons, and consider viability of the issues. This will be your time to share a burning issue that the state does not have a position on or propose a new program. Also, this is our opportunity to suggest changes or updates to current state positions or program items. State laws and policies affect our lives in many ways. Don't wait until the legislature is in session and ask, "Why doesn't the League take a stand on that issue?" Now is the time to make sure the League has a position or is studying to have one.

Enclosed in THIS VOTER are 2 documents: current state program in brief and current positions for local league (KC/J/C/P) in brief. We will NOT go over every item on the Current State or Local Program but rather we will:

- Brain storm about state-wide issues which are important to you on which you want the League to take action.
- Discuss how the state legislature impacts your life?
- What has the Legislature has done that has made you happy?
- What has the Legislature done or not done that has made you unhappy?

We will record our responses and give to our Local Board for approval and our Local League Board is responsible for returning League responses to the State Board. The state board will process the forms and determine a recommended state program that will be voted on at State Convention May 4, 2013.

As always, I look forward to seeing each of you at future LWV events. The Holiday's are upon us and I want to wish each of you a very Merry/Happy/Blessed Holiday season. As you gather with family and friends during these days I hope you take time to enjoy the things that bring you together. I also hope you will take time to reflect on the work the League has accomplished during the past year and take time to regenerate your batteries for a busy 2013.

Membership Report:

We have had very interesting and well attended general League meetings in Nov. and Dec. It is so good to see members inviting friends. Please keep up the good work.

For all new members and prospective members you may find:

- The **January 19th meeting** of interest as we review our current State & Local positions. It is a good way to learn about the results of the many studies and positions that have been established by the grassroots membership.
- On **Feb. 16** we will have the first informational meeting from our Local Water Study Committee

The **League of Women Voters' birthday is Feb. 14**. We organized 6 months before the 19th amendment was ratified in Aug. 1920. We will be celebrating 93 years of educating the public on issues, advocating for positions determined by members, and encouraging everyone's participation in the democracy by registering voters. Happy Birthday LWV!

I want to thank Joanne Babich, Erma Berry, Ellie Dawson, Kathryn Dixon, and Linda McCurry for renewing their membership. I am saddened to report that Dee Pallas a member of League for 40 years died Oct. 17 (There is an article elsewhere in the Voter about Dee.) Also, Margie Richcreek's husband of 25 years, Ken Richcreek, died Dec. 12. Ken had been a member of League in the past and had typed and edited our Voter newsletter. We extend our sympathy to the family of these wonderful people.

If you have a friend who is interested in joining the LWV, please give them the membership form you will find here in the Voter. If you would like me to send them some material about the League just give me their address. The most important thing about expanding our membership is the asking someone to join. It is an easy sell because of the interesting information meetings and the wonderful, intelligent and interesting women & men that you meet when participating in the League.

Donna Hoch Membership Chair

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From our National President Elisabeth MacNamara

We are all deeply distressed by the shootings in Newtown, Connecticut and share in the country's grief. Since 1990, the League of Women Voters has had [a position](#) to protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons, and we supported the original ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines when it was passed in 1994. The League's [health care position](#) also states that every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of quality care that includes, among other things, mental health care. As the League has done throughout our history, we know that real solutions to serious problems are not easily achieved, but the combination of our thoughtful understanding of these issues combined with our respected reputation to facilitate challenging discussions among people in our communities and with policy makers, puts us in a place of offering the best of what we are to a nation yearning for solutions. We will be looking for opportunities to share the League's views as this very complex debate progresses. In the meantime, you can reach out to your representatives when they are home to express the League's view that there is no role for assault weapons or high-capacity magazines in civilized society.

REMEMBRANCE DEE PALLAS

Members of the League of Women Voters of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties were shocked and saddened when we learned of the death of Dee Pallas on October 17, 2012 at North Kansas City Hospital. Dee was our voice to the community for many years. We did not realize that our meeting on September 15, 2012 would be her last.

She will be missed by Leaguers and also by the public who called in with questions about elections, voting procedures, candidate forums, and speakers on all sorts of topics. She also served on our Board of Directors and served as the time keeper at most of our candidates forums.

She will be missed by Leaguers without internet access. Dee would send copies of her emails or call to keep us informed. She also offered transportation whenever it was needed.

She will be missed by her twin sons, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, and many friends.

Dee was a quiet, soft-spoken, reliable friend. She was a no-nonsense type person who always followed through on anything to which she had committed whether it was in League, her church, or her community. We will find other Leaguers to fill her position, but Dee will never be replaced. We will always remember Dee. Submitted by: Frances Foerschler, Margie Richcreek, and Toni Voss

Transit Report

Transit Action Network shares Kansas City's excitement over the success of the streetcar election. It has taken a long time and a lot of work but Kansas City will finally get rail and the return of streetcars. Receiving 63% of the vote for the sales tax and 62% for the property tax is a huge victory. This election is a major historic event for Kansas City. Congratulations to everyone who worked on this project and voted for the streetcar!

Do you know that The JO serves the "Universities" MAX stop on Troost? Yes, and it has for a couple of years. What's more, service on The JO's Route 556/856 will be upgraded beginning January 2, 2013. The new schedule will have 17 round trips per day compared to 13 at present.

For more transit news check <http://transactionkc.com/>

From Elaine Blodgett— Director- Board of the League of Women Voters of Missouri (LWVMO)

I think sometimes we forget that Leagues train men and women in leadership and effective communication.

We had a league winter luncheon recently and honored a 'woman of the year' who happened to be the wife of MU Chancellor Brady Deaton, her name is Anne. Oh my, what she has accomplished in leadership in teaching, mental health, community action on issues and on and on. She definitely has a lot of energy! We had read her biography and learned that she had been a member of the Blacksburg, VA LWV years ago.

What did take us by surprise is when she talked in her acceptance about how much as a young mother of four, she joined and learned what leadership meant, how it worked, how league 'trained her' to go out and be organized, educated and accurate in her defense or presentation of an issue. She learned how to lobby effectively and learned the real discipline from League that it takes to be effective.

She said that while she had chosen years ago to join AAUW in Columbia because of their emphasis on women and young women's issues, she also wanted to join the League again.

This December, we need to remember who we are and what we have given to the community and many women for over 90 years: the power to act and act with knowledge.

Let's keep those thoughts in mind as we work to build our leagues. Peace to all of you this coming season and in the New Year.

LWV KC/J/C/P – CALENDAR – 2013

January - 2013

14 – BOD Meeting – 7:00 – 8:30

19 – **GENERAL MEETING** – Program Planning – Community Christian Church

February

11- BOD Meeting – 7:00 – 8:30

16 – **GENERAL MEETING** – Water Use – Cheryl Barnes Community Christian Church

March

9 - Pre-St. Patrick's Day Parade – Brookside

Additional Opportunity in May*****

May 4 & 5

Columbia, Missouri

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTER'S STATE CONVENTION

Meet new and old friends, help plan the next 2 years of your LEAGUE life,

Have fun, learn new stuff, change the world, bring a friend

LWV KC/J/C/P Officers

President: Peg Prendergast

Vice President: Joan Mills

Secretary: Pauline Testerman

Treasurer: Elaine Lenz

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