

The VOTER: February 2020

Officer and Board Nominations Open

The League's volunteer leaders are vital to fulfilling our mission to empower voters and defend democracy. We look to you, our members, to recommend candidates for officer and board member positions. Nominees for Co-Presidents, Secretary, and four or more board members will be presented to our membership in April and elected in May.



Our membership has grown substantially and, because we are faced with so many issues, it takes committed leaders to keep the momentum going. All that is required is that the nominee be a voting member of our League and that you have their permission to nominate. We heartily encourage self-nomination! You know your strengths best and your level of commitment.

You, our members, have skills that can benefit the League. Joining the Leadership Team is a great way to actively contribute to LWV's success in this critically important Centennial and Election year.

To make a nomination or ask questions, contact Pat Reinhold at president@lwvwichita.org and she will get the information to our Nominating Committee. You may also leave a message at 316-573-5583.

Upcoming Events

February 13, Thursday, 8:30-3:30 p.m., Kansas State Capitol in Topeka

[LWV DAY OF ACTION IN TOPEKA](#)

Join Leaguers from across Kansas for "Women Power the Vote Day of Action" with speakers from the Kansas House & Senate, ACLU, Alliance for a Healthy Kansas, & LWV. Attend legislative sessions & committee meetings & visit your representatives. Lunch is included if you RSVP by Feb 9 to info@lwvwichita.org. The program begins at 8:50 a.m. Our carpool will leave around 6 a.m. Email or call 316-573-5583 for more information.

February 15, Saturday, 9-11 a.m., St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 925 N. Waco

LWV WICHITA-METRO BOARD MEETING

Members welcome.

February 21-23, Friday-Sunday, Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center

WOMEN'S FAIR 2020

Our League will be active at the Women's Fair this year! Visit our Centennial traveling exhibit, "Celebrating the Centennial of the 19th Amendment - Women Vote: Learning from the Past, Imagining the Future." We will also be registering voters & still have several time slots during which we need volunteers. If you can help, contact Carole Neal at wichitametrolwv@gmail.com. This is a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about the work we do. The Women's Fair hours are Friday noon-7 p.m., Saturday 9-7 p.m. & Sunday 11-5 p.m.

February 25, Tuesday, noon-1 p.m., Advanced Learning Library

TUESDAY TOPICS: EDUCATING HOMELESS STUDENTS IN WICHITA

Homelessness is difficult & heartbreaking, especially when children are involved. There are children in USD 259 who are homeless but still need to be educated. How does the system handle this? What does the law say? Do they have to have an address? What about lunch if they have no money? Cynthia Martinez of USD 259 will speak on the challenges & rewards of their efforts & how Federal monies are involved. The program will be on February 25, noon-1 p.m. at the Advanced Learning Library. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to bring their own lunch.

February 29, Saturday, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Wichita Public Library, Evergreen Branch

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

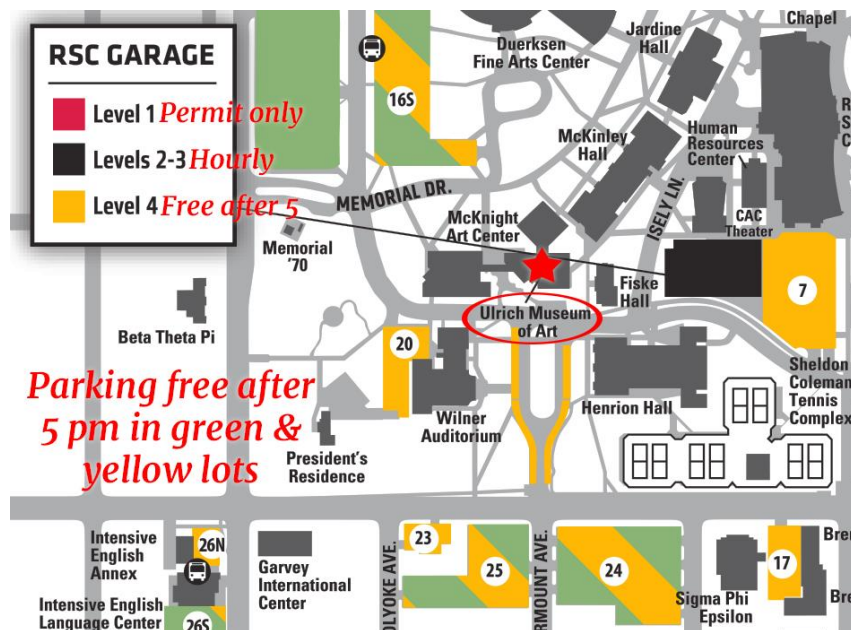
The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote, turns 100 this year. Join the League of Women Voters Wichita-Metro for a presentation on the history of the suffrage movement, and what has followed in the years since. Co-hosted by the Wichita Public Library.

March 3, Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., Wichita State University Ulrich Museum of Art

SLAYING THE GERRYMANDER

Dr. Brian Amos, Professor of Political Science at WSU who specializes in redistricting by combining geography & politics, will discuss his work on gerrymandering, drawing from his current exhibit at Ulrich, entitled, "Solving for X=Representation: Slaying the Gerrymander." Dr. Amos aims to help stop gerrymandering by using software to automate the drawing of districts. His work is dedicated to improving the redistricting algorithms available to researchers & activists.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the program from 6-7 p.m. Parking is free at 5 p.m. in any green or yellow parking space, including the circle in front of the museum. The 2nd & 3rd floors of the garage east of the museum are for visitors & there is a large yellow lot on 17th across from the entrance to Fairmount Street.



Save the Date

- **April 7**, Tuesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., LWV Monthly Meeting
- **April 25**, Saturday, LWV Kansas Council in Emporia, a great opportunity to network with other Leagues.
- **June 25-28**, Thursday-Sunday, LWV National Convention in Washington, DC. We will have 4-5 delegates attend. Any Leaguer is welcome to join the group.

February 2020 Voter Service Report

We started the year off with a roar! At the Naturalization ceremony, we registered 94 of the 153 new citizens & sent the others home with forms. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers that turned out on a very nasty day. On January 25th, we marched in the [Women's March Air Capital 2020](#) (see photo below) & registered eight new voters.

In February, we will register voters for three days at The Women's Fair & another Naturalization Ceremony. We are in the process of setting up times in Sedgwick County high schools to register students & are setting up meetings with other organizations to coordinate our efforts for this busy year. We will all have plenty of opportunities to accomplish our 2020 goals of registering & educating voters.

We still need volunteers for the Naturalization Ceremony on February 21st & the Women's Fair February 21-23. On February 29th, I will be [presenting at Evergreen Library](#) on the Suffrage movement & current voting issues. If you don't have the links to the signup sheets, please contact me at wichitametrolwv@gmail.com or 316-259-7575.

Carole Neal, Voter Service Chair



Be One of "100 Women in White" at the Wichita River Festival!

Riverfest is coming soon. As you may know, the League of Women Voters participated in last year's Riverfest parade with over 40 members. This year we are touting "100 Women in White" & would love for you to join us. Email Krista Lovette at klovet2@yahoo.com for more information. Please let Krista know, too, if you can serve on the committee to organize what will be a powerful & unforgettable sight.

Join our News Team!

Do you have a passion for writing? An eye for photo composition? An ability to draw others in with your stories? If so, our Communications Committee needs you!

We are responsible for putting together The VOTER each month, drafting content for & running our social media accounts & using pictures, videos & words to document what the League does. Our purposes are to connect members with each other & to connect our League with the broader community. By helping our community understand who we are, what we do & the vision we share, our League maintains a positive status that attracts new members & partners while sustaining our own mission to defend democracy.

If you would like to help, please email Communications Chair Cindy Kelly at LWVWVWComm@gmail.com.

ARISE Ensemble's Martin Luther King, Jr. Heroes and Sheroes Breakfast



On Monday, January 20, a group of our League members had the pleasure of attending the ARISE Ensemble's Heroes & Sheroes Breakfast at WSU's Rhatigan Student Center. We were grateful for the opportunity to honor Wichitans who emulate the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr. & celebrate his life. League board member Dr. Sharon Cranford is president of the ARISE Board of Directors & offered final remarks at the event.

A League of Extraordinary Women



"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." ~James Baldwin

The quote above is one of the many powerful ideas that Shana Chivon shared with us last night at our event, [A League of Extraordinary Women](#). As a professional speaker, Shana specializes in providing safe, authentic spaces to discuss systematic racism at the intersection of race, gender, religion & class.

Shana started off the evening by saying, "Your resistance to an idea or statement reveals an opportunity to increase your awareness & education while also offering the potential for immense growth." With that thought in mind, she emphasized the importance of building relationships based on identity, with identity being who we are as individuals, not what we each do or who we serve.

We discussed the distinctions between integration & inclusion. With inclusion, we keep our individual identities & are free to be who we each are while accepted members of the group. Shana pointed out that everyone doesn't come into the group at the same place; she encouraged us to see what we as a League can do to welcome others & aim for equity by accommodating diversity before it arrives.

In embracing diversity, Shana said that we must first start by building relationships with those who are different from us. She emphasized the importance of taking risks & being okay with the correction that will occasionally come from doing so. Committing to the disruption that will come with creating an inclusive group will come at a cost that we must recognize.

Shana finished the evening by urging us to scan for areas in our lives & our groups where we can grow & then do it. Diversity, she said, is the fruit, not the root & relationships are the seed.

We are grateful to Shana for sharing her evening & her insights with us!

Member News

Welcome to new members Annette Hunt, Jackie Volbrecht, Vickie Brandenburg, Diana Palenz, Nannette Hanlin, Abigail Hanlin, Kathryn Schauf, Ron Schauf, Patti Collins, Carolyn Lindsey, Justin Shore, and Diana Dubose!

We have 129 paid members as of today. 37 of our 2018-2019 have not renewed.

If you are a LWV Wichita-Metro member, join our members-only [Facebook group](#) where we post updates on calls to action and information tailored to our members. Once you're in the group, feel free to interact!

LWV Wichita-Metro Board of Directors

Co-Presidents:

Pat Reinhold president@lwvwichita.org

Laura Thompson info@lwvwichita.org

Treasurer: Elaine Harvey treasurer@lwvwichita.org

Secretary & Membership Chair: Pat Purvis member@lwvwichita.org

Past Co-President: Sharon Ailslieger

Voter Service Chair: Carole Neal wichitametrolwv@gmail.com

Centennial Chair: Martha Pint

Centennial Event Chair: Sharon Cranford

Communications Chair: Cindy Kelly lwvwmcomm@gmail.com

Observer Corp Chair: Barbara Moore

Scholarship Committee: Jennifer Byers Heminway lwv.ict.scholarship@gmail.com

Tuesday Topics: Megan Wright-Hagan

Members at Large: Bridgette West-Williams, Jane Byrnes

Our League phone number is 316-573-5583.

Our League website is lwvwichita.org.

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