



The VOTER: March 2020

High Achievers Awarded Scholarships

Our League put out the call in December that we had two merit-based scholarships available to further the educational opportunities of post-secondary students interested in the League's principles. The scholarship committee spent a couple of hours on a beautiful Saturday morning thoughtfully considering the applications we received. We were impressed by the caliber of the students who applied. Many thanks to the League members who participated in the establishment of the program and the assessment of the applications.



Nidia Lazos



Alondra Lerma

We're proud to announce that **Nidia Lazos** will be awarded our scholarship of \$1,000. Currently a senior at Wichita North High School, Nidia plans to enroll at The University of Kansas this coming fall. A top student taking advanced coursework, Nidia works as an intern with The Seed House-La Casa de la Semilla and Root The Power, plays the cello, is a certified phlebotomist technician and nurse assistant, volunteers extensively, and has held leadership roles in numerous clubs & programs at her school.

Alondra Lerma is the recipient of a \$500 scholarship this year. Currently a senior at Wichita North High School, Alondra plans to enroll at Wichita State University this coming fall. As a student in the biomed program, Alondra maintains a solid GPA in rigorous scientific coursework while serving as a volunteer for Upward Bound and other programs, participating in GEAR UP and AVID, and working part-time.

Upcoming Events

Diverse Women's Summit 2020: "Expanding Equality"

March 10-11, Tuesday-Wednesday, WSU Rhatigan Student Center, Beggs Ballroom - 3rd Floor
WSU's Department of Women, Gender, and Diversity Studies, in sponsorship with WSU Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and LWV of Kansas convenes the annual Diverse Women's Summit of individuals and groups from different backgrounds on local, regional, and global diversity issues. The summit is free and open to the public.

Note that the International Women's Day Keynote Speech - "Citizenship before the Women's Suffrage Amendment: African American and Native American, Rights, and Resistance" by Professor Kim Warren of the University of Kansas History Department - takes place March 10 at 7 p.m.

LWV New Members Reception

March 22, Sunday, 2-4 p.m., Clubhouse Villas - Wilson Estates, 9400 E. Wilson Estates Pkwy
This informal gathering hosted by the Voter Services Committee is an opportunity for new members to introduce themselves and learn about our shared objectives and goals. Light refreshments will be served. ALL members are welcome & encouraged to attend, not just new members. Please RSVP no later than March 15th to wichitametrolwv@gmail.com or by calling/texting Barbara Bell at 316-299-1108.

Tuesday Topics: Renewable Energy

March 24, Tuesday, noon-1 p.m., Advanced Learning Library

Renewable energy and land use — how can they exist together within the confines of a public policy? Should they both be considered together? How does that impact public policy and protecting the environment? Where does citizen input and expert advice enter the picture? Come and hear both sides of the story from the Sierra Club and a Sedgwick County representative. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Monthly League Meeting

April 7, Tuesday, 5-7:30 p.m., Advanced Learning Library

The first Power Hour gathering in February was a success. We had a great time getting to know many new members. The Membership Committee will host another Power Hour from 5-6 p.m. before our regular meeting. The time will begin with a social mixer activity. We are happy to have Carole Neal, representing the Speaker's Bureau, give a short presentation about the League, and new members will have a chance to ask her questions.

The presentation will begin at 6 p.m. The speaker will be announced on Facebook. Attendees are welcome to bring a brown bag meal if they wish. Our meeting is open to all.

Suffrage Book Club

April 22, Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m., Advanced Learning Library, Boardroom

The second session in our Suffrage Book Club series as Dr. Sharon Cranford hosts a discussion of “African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850 – 1920” (1998) by Rosalyn Terborg-Penn. Free & open to the public. Plan to read the book and come prepared to discuss it. Books will be available through the Wichita Public Library approximately 1 month prior to the event.

Tuesday Topics: Where Do You Get Your News?

April 28, Tuesday, noon-1 p.m., Advanced Learning Library

The world of news reporting has undergone drastic changes in the past 20 years, and even more so in recent years. When you are looking for news, what sources are you using? Learn more about how media outlets have adapted to the changing environment from a panel of experts.

LWV Wichita-Metro Annual Meeting

May 5, Tuesday, 5:30-8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 330 N. Broadway

Members will vote on a new slate of officers and board members, 2020-21 Budget, and bylaw changes. All members will receive detailed Annual Meeting Packets by email in April.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck supper provided by the LWV Board. Our speaker will be Tabitha Lehman, Sedgwick County Election Commissioner. She will share an update on the election process for 2020.

[Click here to download the list of Centennial events updated March 7, 2020](#)

Other Upcoming League Events

LWV Kansas Council in Emporia

April 25, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to network with other Leagues. Discounted advance registration (\$60) is available until April 18. Your registration includes continental breakfast and lunch, in addition to all programs on the agenda. Registration is \$65 after April 18. [Register online today!](#)

LWV National Convention in Washington, DC.

June 25-28, Thursday-Sunday

We will have 4-5 delegates attend. Any Leaguer is welcome to join the group. For more information, email info@lwvwichita.org or go to lwv.org/registration2020convention

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!

Our League in Action!



Our [LWV Day of Action in Topeka](#) on **February 13** was an awesome day. Standing on the floor of the Senate and being recognized for all the work done by the women who come before us for the last 100 years was a heady experience for Martha Pint.

Many thanks to Senator Mary Ware for this recognition and to all the Leaguers from across the state who came to Topeka for the day.

Our League had the honor of registering 70 voters at [The Women's Fair 2020](#) and providing information to many other people **February 21-23**. We were thrilled to see so many attendees excited about the Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment and eager to see our traveling exhibit. We are grateful to our volunteers who spent part of their weekend with us.



The [Tuesday Topics: Educating Homeless Students in Wichita](#) presentation given by Denise Fuoco of the USD 259 McKinney Vento Program on **February 25** provided an abundance of information on a helpful program. For the 2019-2020 school year, the program has served about 1269 students, including those ages 0-5. During the 2018-2019 school year, the program served 1801 students.



For our League's **March 3** meeting, [Slaying the Gerrymander](#), we visited the Ulrich Museum of Art for a presentation by Dr. Brian Amos, assistant professor in political science at Wichita State. After we viewed Dr. Amos' exhibition, "Solving for X = Representation: Slaying the Gerrymander," Dr. Amos spoke to our group of almost 40 people about redistricting and gerrymandering.





At [Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote](#) on **February 29**, we took a leap into the past, present and future of women's suffrage. Carole Neal presented the unique history of women's suffrage in the US and Kansas. Nearly 30 attendees participated in a riveting discussion to discuss ways we can be active in ensuring everyone exercises their right to vote.

Almost 40 people came out **March 5** to hear Vice Mayor Cindy Claycomb, 18th Judicial District Court Judge Monique Centeno, and Sedgwick County Commissioner Lacey Cruse discuss their experiences as elected women in government. Dr. Robin Henry, Associate Professor of History at WSU, moderated the [Women and Civic Engagement Panel Discussion](#).



Our League participated in [We Were There](#), a fantastic program March 7 at The Kansas African American Museum that took attendees on a journey to learn about the important women, events and outcomes related to the 19th Amendment, particularly the rich and robust legacy of the relentless efforts of African American women who were on the forefront of the movement.

Tuesday Topics Team Seeks Input

Our Tuesday Topics events serve to empower voters. What topics would you like to hear about? LWV partners with the Wichita Library for stimulating noontime programs, usually featuring two sides of an issue. Your ideas for programs for next fall are welcome - and needed now! We need your input by April 1st. Send suggestions to info@lwvwichita.org.

March 2020 Voter Service Report

February has been a very productive month. We registered 87 new citizens at the Naturalization Ceremony, 70 at the Women's Fair, and 1 at our first Coalition meeting, for a grand total of 158.

LWV Wichita-Metro has received two grants from LWV Education Fund to make it possible to continue our work in the local High Schools and the Naturalization Ceremony. In an attempt to complete all of our work for 2020 we have reached out to other organizations that are working on Voter Registration, Voter Education and Civics in general to form a coalition to work towards reaching out to communities to get all involved. We have held our first meeting to get to know one another and it is exciting to meet all of these wonderful people in our community. We will keep you posted as the project evolves.

In March we are already scheduled to be in Derby, Northwest and Chester I Lewis High Schools. We are committed to be at the [Diverse Women's Summit](#) at Wichita State March 10-11, a Centennial event hosted by WSU's Department of Women, Gender and Diversity Studies, the [Women's Empowered Market](#) on March 21, and [Girl's United Leadership Conference](#) on March 28.

On the 22nd everyone is invited to the New Members afternoon event to get acquainted and ask any questions you may have of Voter Service and what we do. Details are listed under upcoming events.

Carole Neal, Voter Service Chair

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316-259-7575



Safe walkability in Wichita?

Healthful, safe walking and bicycling has been discussed for about ten years in Wichita, but progress has been severely underfunded. To compensate, last summer volunteers from both KU School of Medicine and Bike Walk Wichita teamed up to repaint faded crosswalks around the Wichita Public School headquarters and eight of 100 schools.

Of the \$170 million dollars each year spent within Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO is an area slightly larger than Sedgwick County), 94% has been limited to truck and car travel such as never-ending Kellogg expansion. 2013 to 2017, less than 1% of federal, state and local funds went to "active transportation."



Statewide, the transportation program has been inaccurately called the “highway” program. It is widely believed that this funding comes from gas taxes. However, the gas tax in Kansas has not increased since 2003 and in the U.S., not since 1993—so that in recent years more sales tax money than from gas tax money supported those costly highways and interchanges.

Is 2020 the time for the 1/3 of Wichitans who do not drive, to safely benefit from those immense expenses, instead of just trucks and cars?

Jane Byrnes, Observer Team

Member News

Welcome to new members Diana Dubose, Justin Shore, Janice Rich, John Harrison, Stephanie Oakes, Lalanea Chastain, Emily Knorp-Brown Stone, Karen Knorp-Brown, Ramona Becker, and April Lemon!

LWV Wichita-Metro is in good shape financially. We have had some members choose to make monthly donations to our League in addition to their dues and some have made generous one-time donations.

Making monthly donations is an option using PayPal available [through our website](#). Donations to LWV Wichita-Metro and annual dues are not tax-deductible; they support our operating fund and are essential to carry out our mission. Donations to our "LWV Wichita-Metro Education and Scholarship Fund" are tax-deductible if you write "Education Fund" on your check. Thank you all for your support.

Send donations and dues to Elaine Harvey, LWV Wichita-Metro Treasurer, P.O. Box 2411, Wichita, KS 67201 or [renew online](#). Dues are \$65 a year for an individual, \$97.50 a year for two members from the same household, and \$10 a year for students.

Elaine Harvey, Treasurer

treasurer@lwvwichita.org

For updates on what the League of Women Voters of Kansas is doing across the state, check out the [March edition of VOTER Notes](#).

LWV Wichita-Metro Board of Directors

Co-Presidents:

Pat Reinhold president@lwwichita.org

Laura Thompson info@lwwichita.org

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

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Centennial Event Chair: Sharon Cranford

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Observer Corp Chair: Barbara Moore

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

Tuesday Topics: Megan Wright-Hagan

Members at Large: Barbara Bell, Jane Byrnes, Kate Hamm,
Krista Lovett, Nancy McCarthy-Snyder, Bridgette West-Williams

Our League phone number is 316-573-5583.

Our League website is lwwichita.org.