



Annual Meeting Packet and Annual Report May 15, 2020

This 2020 Annual Meeting Packet Contains:

LWV Wichita-Metro Year in Review 2019-2020

Annual Report Pages 1 - 6

Annual Meeting Ballot Issues and Ballot:

- LWV W-M Operating Budget for 2020-2021 Page 7
- LWV W-M Education and Scholarship Fund Budget for 2020-2021 Page 8
- Nominations for 2020-2022 Page 9
- Ballot and voting instructions for above – Due by June 15, 2020 Page 11

Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting Page 10

Co-Presidents Letter

Words cannot truly capture how many things have changed in our lives in such a short time. It speaks to the resiliency of the League in how quickly we turned face-to-face events into virtual gatherings and continued our important work. Multiple committees came together and figured out how our new coming together looks. We are grateful to our communications team and their skillful support in helping many of us navigate new technology waters.

As our lives are lived closer to home, let us take the opportunity to reflect on our purpose and those things that matter most to us. It's a time to recharge and emerge renewed for the continued focus of "Making Democracy Work". We miss seeing each of you and look forward to the times we can see you in person and work together to meet the challenges of the coming years.

It has been a tremendously busy year with much to celebrate, thanks to our passionate hard-working Board of Directors and especially to all of you, our dedicated League members! Thank you for allowing us to serve as your LWV W-M Co-Presidents for the last two and three years. It has been an honor. Wishing you good health, stay happy and safe.

Laura Thompson and Pat Reinhold, Co-Presidents, president@lwvwichita.org

Treasurer's Report for LWV Wichita Metro for July 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020

This has been a great year for LWV Wichita-Metro financially. As of April 30, we had \$6,222.02 in regular operating funds raised from dues and donations and also we have received grant funds from LWVUS for projects to register high school students and to register new citizens. We expect to make our dues budget goal by June 30 as part of our members normally renew for the following year in May and June. For the first time we had some people donate monthly, an option PayPal offers. At this point in time we have paid all our per member payments to LWVUS and to LWVK. Due to the COVID-19 cancellations and postponements we will not be paying for registrations for LWVK State Council or the 2020 LWVUS Convention.

We also have a LWV Wichita-Metro Education and Scholarship Fund, donations to this fund are tax-exempt. As of April 30, we had \$15,742.44 in this fund which was raised from Centennial sales and fund-raiser events and donations over the last 3 years (including ticket sales and sponsorships for the Centennial Luncheon in August 2019.) We were able to give college scholarships, a \$1,000 and a \$500 scholarship. We look forward to spending some of these funds on Centennial events in our new league year. We paid a portion of our LWVUS per member payment from Education Fund monies.

For the last 2 years we have partnered with the Wichita Women's March and we have a total of \$4,310.77 of Women's March funds held in our accounts.

Elaine Harvey, Treasurer

Voter Service Committee Report – July 2019 to April 2020

Voter Service had a very busy year from July 2019 to March 2020. We received two grants from LWV Education Fund to help us in our registration of High School students and registration at the naturalization ceremonies. These grants have allowed us to provide handouts for Voter Registration and Voter Education as well as to provide flags for our new citizens.

Our League not only registered voters, we co-sponsored candidate forums and the Women's March. We have wonderful opportunities to work with several other organizations that are working towards the same goals as the League in getting people to the polls. We registered approximately 1,700 new voters on paper forms by the end of March. Countless others registered online at Ksvotes.org.

We worked about 418 hours of volunteer time at 51 events representing 209 volunteers. We have a wonderful group of Leaguers who step forward giving their time to accomplish this. Even though our events are on hold at the present time, we are still looking at ways to reach out to the community to continue our work.

In response to COVID-19 shutdowns, Voter Services acted quickly to turn our planned high school presentations into a home-schooling format that has been shared statewide. We developed and sent out a power point to teachers that may be used with their online education to instruct students on how to register using Ksvotes.org and use Vote411.org closer to election time to research candidates. We will also be using media to get out the word to the general public. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have worked so hard to accomplish what we have this year!

Carol A. Neal, Voter Service Chair, wichitametrolwv@gmail.com

Centennial Celebration Committee

The Centennial Celebration Committee and its subcommittees met for over a year to plan a series of events to celebrate and educate citizens on the significance of the Centennial Anniversaries of both the ratification of the 19th Amendment and the founding of the League of Women Voters.

The events were intended to appeal to a diverse audience and we were successful - right up until the Coronavirus **paused** our efforts. Before the pause we acted as ushers in our suffragist finery at the Wichita Symphony's "Women Who Rock" program. We networked and tabled at the 2019 KS Social Studies Conference, *Authentic Learning: Making History Matter* at Newman University. Dr. Gretchen Eick facilitated the first in our Suffragist Book Club series discussing *Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment* by Eleanor Clift. We hosted the LWV Kansas and the Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment's traveling exhibit *Celebrating the Centennial of the 19th Amendment: Women Vote, Learning from the Past; Imagining the Future* at the Women's Fair where it was viewed by approximately 15,000 attendees.

We partnered with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and The Kansas African American Museum to host *We Were There! African American Women in the Suffrage Movement* featuring music, spoken word and a distinguished panel as they discussed the contributions and relentless efforts of African American women to the suffrage movement. And finally, before hitting the "pause button," we were able to work in partnership with WSU's Department of Women, Gender, and Diversity Studies, along with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to celebrate International Women's Day by sponsoring the Diverse Women's Summit featuring keynote speaker,

Professor Kim Warren, Ph.D. and her presentation on the contributions of Native American and African American women to the suffrage movement.

As our Committee continues to meet virtually we feel strongly that, as soon as it is safe to do so, we will pick up our planning efforts, continuing where we left off and rescheduling where possible..... even if it means celebrating the accomplishments of awesome Kansas women and voting rights into 2021! Please feel free to contact martha_pint@hotmail.com if you'd like to join our committee.

Martha Pint, Centennial Committee Chair

Year-end Report of Centennial Parade and Luncheon

With the theme, "Past, Present and Future: Our Voices United", LWV W-M began to create a fitting dual celebration of our league and national league in 2018. As the first local league in the United States, established in 1919, Wichita elected to spearhead the first centennial celebration on May 31, 2019, by participating in the Wichita River Festival's Parade. Fifty women and girls, adorned in black and white 19th century attire, paraded through the city of Wichita on foot and in vintage vehicles to great acclaim.

Continuing with the theme, the banquet hall of the Wichita State University Metropolitan Complex was at full capacity as WMLWV rolled out the proverbial purple and gold carpet for the Centennial Luncheon on August 24, 2019. Featuring National president Chris Carson, Senator Nancy Kassebaum, and the ARISE Spirituals Ensemble, league members and guests enjoyed an unforgettable afternoon celebrating past accomplishments, present endeavors, and future plans. Other local and state dignitaries were on hand to acknowledge the massive work of Kansas women over the past 100 years. In that vein, the Kansas Centennial exhibit, featuring outstanding past and present Kansans debuted at the luncheon, as well as vintage quilts for auction and other historical pictures and artifacts. Highlighting the event were all local television stations, national public radio as well as a special, recurring program on Kansas public television.

Due to COVID 19, plans for the 2020 River Festival parade and follow up reception at the Wichita Art Museum had to be cancelled.

Sharon Cranford, Chairperson

Membership Committee Report 2019-2020

The Membership Committee hosted its first Membership Rally at the Advanced Learning Library on November 21, 2019. It was well attended and members, old and new, were able to hear from committee chairpersons and find out more about each committee. Tabitha Lehman, Sedgwick County Elections Commissioner, gave a presentation. A survey regarding membership interest in creating smaller group social meetings was distributed and completed.

Membership has grown significantly this year and there is a need to have an opportunity to get to know each other better in smaller-similar interest groups. We will continue to explore this.

One idea generated by a member of the committee was to establish a Power Hour, the first hour prior to our regular meeting. The first Power Hour was held in January. Many new members attended and were given a list of questions to find the answers to. This required questioning others in attendance. It was a good conversation mixer and way to find out information about the League. Future Power Hours will include mixers and education from League Board members.

The February Unit meeting was planned by the Membership Committee and held at the Ulrich Museum of Contemporary Art on the WSU campus. We had the opportunity to hear a presentation by Dr. Brian Amos, Professor of Political Science, on his research on Gerrymandering and view the exhibit featuring his work.

Routinely, welcoming letters are sent to new members including information about the LWV Wichita-Metro Website, Facebook, and Twitter accounts. A paper copy of the Voter is mailed to 8-10 members who request it each month. Work has begun on updating the Membership Flyer and Membership Handbook.

Pat Purvis, Membership Chair, member@wichitalwv.org

Wichita Community Voting Coalition

Earlier this year the Wichita-Metro League reached out to other organizations working on similar issues that we hold dear to our hearts. We felt that by working together we can make our community not only better but more involved in issues that we have positions on and can support.

The League of Women Voters is embarking on a statewide *March to the Polls 2020*. Our goals are to educate & empower voters; we will not only be registering voters but also working with our partners to get out the vote in low turnout areas.

Here are some of the organizations that have agreed to work with us and others: ACLU, Bag Free Wichita, Black Women Empowered, Census Bureau, Center for Combating Human Trafficking, Harvester Arts, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Moms Demand Action, NAACP, Progeny, Root the Power, Society of Alternative Resources, Southwind Group Sierra Club, Sunflower Action, The Seed House, Trust Women, VFW, Wichita Family Crisis Center, Wichita Hispanic Business Community, Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Wichita Pride, Women for Kansas, Women's March Air Capital.

Check out our Facebook page, [Wichita Community Voting Coalition](#) (@ICTCommunityVotes) and if you have questions or want to join us, email ictvotes@gmail.com.

Carole Neal and Jennifer Byers Heminway, Chairs

Communications Committee Report

The communications committee connects our members with each other and our league with our broader community. By sharing our upcoming events and past activities, we facilitate access for members, collaborators, and others to engage with us.

By helping our community understand who we are, what we do, and the vision we share, our chapter maintains a positive status that attracts new members and partners while sustaining our own mission to defend democracy.

The communications committee started this year with Jennifer Lane as chair. After Jennifer relocated to Lawrence, Cindy Kelly was appointed as chair in September. The team has streamlined the communications process for our League to accommodate our current needs with available resources. Our focus on sharing upcoming events and past activities has enhanced the perception of our League as an active, engaged group. This reputation is important to maintain the interest of our members and attract the attention of the broader community.

Moving forward, our goals to inform, educate and empower voters continue. We now have a small team of five that we want to grow so we can accomplish more. We need committee members who can do any of the following:

- Attend events to take photos & provide brief accounts
- Collect photos & short reports of LWV activities
- Draft posts for Facebook, Instagram or Twitter
- Engage with people on our Facebook page & in our groups (react, comment, share)
- Collect & edit articles for our monthly newsletter
- Collect info for upcoming events
- Manage our Google calendar
- Help with media relations
- Create brochures & flyers
- Research & write "spotlight" articles on LWV people, roles, history, positions, etc.

Anyone interested in joining the communications committee can email LWV.wm.comm@gmail.com.

Cindy Kelly, Communications Committee Chair

Tuesday Topics Report: Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

Tuesday Topics is a joint program between the Wichita Public Library and the League of Women Voters – Wichita Metro. Tuesday Topics has been very successful, however it was impacted by COVID-19 this year. Tuesday Topics presents both sides of an issue as well as information about topics that affect citizens in the Wichita area. It is open to the public and meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Downtown Wichita Library. Guests are invited to bring their lunch and socialize at 11:30. The program runs from noon to 1:00 pm.

Subjects for Tuesday Topics were:

- September: Are Our Children Falling Behind in Reading?
- October: GMO vs Non-GMO
- November: Vaccination: Where Does Freedom of Choice End
- January: A Kansas Legislative Preview
- February: Homeless Program in the Wichita School System
- March: Renewable energy and land use (cancelled)
- April: How do you get your news? (cancelled)

Thank you to the team of Julie Sherwood, Wichita Public Library; and Paul Babich, Sharon Ailsieger, and Megan Wright-Hagan, League of Women Voters.

Megan Wright-Hagan, Chair

Scholarship Committee After Action Report

The Scholarship Committee convened on November 23, 2019 to establish parameters and determine application criteria for this year's scholarship awards. An application, essay questions and evaluation rubric were created. The LWVW-M board approved the proposed scholarship process and applications were disseminated to all public and private universities in Kansas as well as community and technical colleges. Additionally, all high school counseling offices in Wichita and surrounding counties were informed as well as the contact lists we utilize for Voter Services for schools and community groups.

On February 22, 2020, the committee met to determine recipients. Our committee was fantastic and brought to the selection process the benefits of their combined life experiences, diverse outlooks, career and academic backgrounds and willingness to remain fair and consistent.

\$1,000 was awarded to Nidia Lazos, a senior at Wichita North High School, planning to attend the University of Kansas this coming fall. \$500 was awarded to Alondra Lerma who is also currently a senior at Wichita North High School and plans to enroll at Wichita State University in the fall. The League also awarded a student membership to each recipient as well as to Nolan Streit of Clearwater. The intention had been to honor all recipients at our annual meeting, however, due to COVID-19 concerns the funds and memberships were distributed the week of April 20th.

Ongoing: The committee determined they would like the scholarships to become an annual award rather than one limited to the Centennial Celebration. As such, a continuous effort should be made to obtain contributions from any and all sources available to increase scholarship funds. The scholarship committee should have responsibility for ongoing contribution solicitation programs. New ideas for fundraising projects would be subject to approval by the board.

The committee members were Martha Pint, Kiana Knolland, Vernetta Chance, Paul Babich, Laura Lombard, Ashley Watkins, Lisa Vayda, Beckie Jenek, Cindy Kelly. Jennifer Heminway chaired the committee and as such was not a voting member.

Jennifer Heminway, Committee Chair

In Memorium

We are saddened by the loss this year of long time members [Ann Starch](#), [Joyce Cavarozzi](#), [Nan Porter](#), and [Coleen Atherton-Wiley](#). Their efforts helped our League become what it is today and they are missed.



Voter Registration



Some of your Board Members



Senator Nancy Kassebaum



LWV US President Chris Carson



Riverfest Centennial Parade 2019