



The League of Women Voters of Washington County

October 2017 Vol. 65. No. 3 www.lwvarwc.org P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, October 18, 2017 – Member Activity: Drinks & Dialogue topic - *Where Do We Stand?* 5:30 to 6:30 at Fresco Restaurant, 112 West Center Street, #100.
- Wednesday, October 25, 2017 – Public Program: Lifelong Housing: Learn from the Builders, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Washington Regional Pat Walker Senior Center Auditorium, 12 E. Appleby, Fayetteville
- Thursday, November 2, 2017 – Education Discussion Committee; 6:00 to 7:00, Contact Michelle Molchok at michellewolchok@gmail.com for meeting location.
- Thursday, November 9, 2017 – Public Program: Stop Gun Violence, Help Save Lives; 5:30 to 7:30, Fayetteville Public Library
- Tuesday, November 14, 2017 – Voter Issues Committee; 6:00 to 7:30, Contact Angela Danovi at Adanovi@gmail.com for meeting location.

A Comment from the LWVWC President

My recent return to the LWVWC board is coming after stepping away to take on other challenges for a couple of years. The results are that I have not kept current in hearing about League members who I have worked with in the past. At last night's board meeting, I learned for the first time of the death of Dr. Stephen Neuse last May. I want to express my sadness and appreciation for his service by acknowledging his contributions to the League.

Stephen Neuse was not just a rare male member of the League of Women Voters; he was unique by serving as an active board member. He and his wife, Jeanine, were a board team. They organized the preparation and distribution of our *Guide to Elected Officials* so that the county received a wide distribution of pamphlets to help voters go directly to their representatives. He also helped me as a first time president to work on the budget and was always available to assist when called. As a professor of political science and department administrator at the University of Arkansas, he carried his expertise into an organization fundamentally designed to reflect his interests. We were the benefactors from it.

In returning to the board, I am delighted to see the renewals of many of our members along with new ones joining. I hope that those whose memberships have lapsed will return with their support. 2017-2018 has become the year to revitalize the LWVWC and increase our visibility in community affairs. As we approach the LWV's 100th anniversary in 2020, our need to educate and increase voter access has never been greater. If you have not renewed yet, remember our influence grows as membership increases.

Joyce Hale



Here is your chance to join an informal conversation about issues and League of Women Voters interests. Topics will change with each organizer. Discussions will be limited to one hour.

Who: All persons, members and non-members are welcome.

What: Drinks & Dialogue topic - *Where Do We Stand?* Learn about the advocacy positions the LWV of Washington County has taken on.

Where: Fresco Restaurant, 112 W. Center St. #100 (Management Special: ½ price per bottle for those who want to share)

When: Wednesday, October 18, 5:30-6:30

Contact: Please call or text Angela Danovi 479-295-7717 if interested so that seating can be arranged in advance.

Lifelong Housing: Learn from the Builders Panel Event

Housing design that more easily accommodates people as they age – rather than forcing them to move out of their homes as they grow older – will be the subject of an upcoming League of Women Voters forum. The panel discussion and public discussion, “**Lifelong Housing: Learn from the Builders,**” will be held from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 25th at the at the Pat Walker Senior Center Clinic auditorium, 12 E Appleby Rd in Fayetteville. The panel will explore dwelling features that support safe and independent aging at home.

By 2030, 21 percent of America's population will be 65 or older. The shift is expected to be permanent, as people are living longer and healthier lives than ever before. Home care will be the reality for most of our older population, as the need simply cannot be met by subsidized elder housing.

The League forum will answer questions such as: What are the critical elements of a dwelling that support aging in place? Where do you begin with your own home? What professionals should you call on? And how can you handle the costs? These are not just personal questions, but societal ones that will affect the future allocation of local, state and federal funds.

Panelists include state Sen. Uvalde Lindsey of Fayetteville; Suzanne Lantz, a design expert with the Stitt Group; Tim Janacek, president of Janacek Remodeling; and Bret Park of Park Co. Architects. All of the panelists will participate in the Q&A session. Take away literature will also be available to guide your choices on the housing you want for your future.

For more information contact: Beth Barham 479-445-4116 or <mailto:lwvarwc@gmail.com>

Stop Gun Violence, Help Save Lives

Out of frustration following the passage of a ludicrous law forcing our institutions of higher education all across Arkansas to allow concealed carry weapons on their campuses, the League of Women Voters decided that it was time for ACTION. Current events demand it as we mourn again the needless deaths from gun violence. It became obvious when a committee on gun violence started studying that the dangers from guns are well documented and not only in Arkansas but all across the country. The problems stemming from expanded concealed carry guns have no place in a civilized society.

A LWVWC panel of experts on gun violence will try to educate the public on the impact recent legislation will have in our state. Together we can hopefully find creative ways to stop the insanity and help save lives.

Please join us at the Fayetteville Public Library on November 9th at 5:30 - 7:30 to discuss this growing conflict in our society. Come away armed with information about the continuing proliferation and expanded permitting of fire arms that contaminate our public spaces.

The panel on Stop Gun Violence, Help Save Lives will be moderated by League member Ann Rosso. Panel members include Greg Leding, House of Representatives, District 86; Nicole Clowney, Advocate for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America; Stephen Boss, Founding Member of Arkansans Against Guns on Campus; Steven Gahagans, Chief of the University of Arkansas Police Department.

Expanded LWVWC Support to Student Sponsorships

The LWVWC's new/renewal membership form now provides an opportunity to help sponsor a student with a one-year membership. We hope that an early introduction to the League will start a young person on a life-long path of civic engagement. Do you know a student interested in government who is excited about voting? Contact Beth Barham-Roe for details. beth.barham5@gmail.com

Discussion Groups Need YOU to JOIN.

Education Discussion Committee

The movement toward school privatization demands attention. Individuals who are concerned are invited to be part of a conversation **Thursday, November 2, 6:00 p.m.** Members and visiting guests are welcome. To learn more contact Michelle Molchok at michellewolchok@gmail.com.

Voter Issues Committee

Supporting voter accessibility and opposing voter suppression are central to the League's mission. This committee is taking a closer look at the League of Women Voters of Arkansas's stands on Election Laws and Procedures. Staying current with Voter ID laws, changes in the National Voter Registration Act and political redistricting are important topics for this group to discuss. All are welcome to attend the next meeting **Tuesday, November 14, 6:00 p.m.** To learn more contact Angela Danovi at Adanovi@gmail.com.

Volunteers are Needed

Some supporting activities in the League need volunteers to occasionally coordinate other volunteers when they are needed. As people join or renew, they are asked to check their willingness to help with certain tasks. When activities are scheduled that need assistance to help the program committee and board, a volunteer coordinator in one of the areas listed below can be a tremendous help! Please volunteer to help work with other members who have also agreed to help in these areas:

Voter Registration – Help schedule activities in the area and contact other volunteers to assist at registration tables and provide voter information.

Hospitality – We need greeters to see that new people attending every meeting are welcomed and introduced to others

Drinks & Dialogue – This new activity shows a lot of promise to provide members and guests with the opportunity to informally discuss a wide variety of topics. One person is needed to see that someone has a topic, coverage by social media, and maintains a contact list of those attending.

Refreshments – Lots of people are willing to help with food but a coordinator in charge of lining up volunteers is needed from time to time.

Photography/ Video – Social media blossoms when pictures help tell the story. A person always ready to record activities can contribute a great deal.

Telephoning – We need to make all new members and visitors know we appreciate their attendance. A group of callers given information by a coordinator about who to call can go a long way to make that individual want to come again. It is also the opportunity to let people know what other calendar items might interest them.

Fundraising – Whether it is a special activity or simply a letter requesting support, help is needed to see that funding for operations and activities is available.

If you are willing to consider any of these areas, please contact Joyce Hale joycehale43@gmail.com



Citizens First Congress Hosts a Social Justice and Racial Equity Workshop

Glen Harris, President of The Center for Social Inclusion, provide information and activities demonstrating inequality which has influenced policy decisions for decades. He pointed out that individual bias is harmful to our society, but structural bias written into our laws and policies is having a profound impact on who has a fair chance to succeed and who has to jump extra hurdles to seize opportunities. Attending this event on October 7th in

Little Rock were Rita Officer, Nancy Denn, Angela Danovi and Joyce Hale.

Pat Landes Lays Out a Path to Building Membership



A new member with the LWV of Pulaski County, Pat Landes, recently moved to Arkansas with extensive LWVUS training and experience in building membership. Her suggestions were a mixture of common sense and creativity. Members attending the September 27th program at the Washington County Cooperative Extension Service auditorium received a combination orientation, growth recipe and pep talk. Presented in three sections to respond to our request, she spoke on the importance of the LWV's non-partisan policy, how to build membership, and how to develop a topic into a League position. Members were asked for their reactions and reported the following:

- 1) How the non-partisan position of the LWVWC works in action
The LWVWC never supports or opposes a candidate, rather we are issue oriented.
We take action on issues LWVWC has researched and developed a position.
- 2) Ideas for recruiting new members and building the chapter's outreach
We need to increase our visibility on social media, Facebook, Twitter,
Drinks and Dialogue – social event where we discuss issues
Welcoming committee at all meetings. Get visitors emails and contact them immediately after the meeting, thank them for coming and share upcoming events.
Simply ask people to join the LWVWC.
- 3) The process for moving a topic forward through a study and on to taking a position
Familiarizing people with the process – identify the issue, conduct a study, come to consensus, develop a position, and finally take action.
We need to keep the documents *Where We Stand* and *Program for Action* before us at all times.
We should be referencing these documents regularly.