



The League of Women Voters of Washington County

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www.lwvarwc.org

Calendar of Events

May 19: LWVWC Annual Banquet, First United Presbyterian Church, 695 E. Calvin, Fayetteville. Potluck dinner at 5:30 PM, p.m. Program at 6 p.m. UA Law School past Dean Cynthia Nance will speak on Justice/Injustice in Arkansas. Members are asked to bring a dish.

August: Arkansas United Community Coalition (AUCC) will host a candidate forum at the Northwest Arkansas Immigrant Resource Center, 1301 E. Robinson Avenue, Suite B6, Springdale, AR in collaboration with LWVWC.

September 22: Voter Accessibility – League members study and report on voter accessibility issues that should be discussed and addressed at the Fayetteville Public Library. Time to be determined.

October: Membership Meeting and Ballot Issues. Date and place to be determined.

November: Legislative Luncheon. Date and place to be determined.

December : Holiday party at Butterfield Trail Village. Date to be determined.

LWVWC Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters will have its annual meeting on May 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the First United Presbyterian Church. Following the potluck (be sure to bring a dish), Dean Cynthia Nance will present:

“The Need for Criminal Justice Reform.”

According to the White House, “ Over the past twenty-five years, the U.S. prison and jail population reached an all-time high and the number of people on probation and parole doubled. Convictions have collateral consequences that last far beyond the term of sentence. In addition, many jurisdictions depend upon a system of fines, and fees and forfeiture that has disparate, and serious consequences for low income and citizens of color.” This presentation will briefly introduce these issues, and suggest what might be done to address them.

Dean Cynthia Nance, Leflar School of Law will lead this informative discussion.

Following this program, League members will choose program topics and venues for the coming year. At the January meeting, Rita Officer identified these interests of League members:

The following programs were suggested by members who had been advised via email as well as during the introduction at the start of the meeting that if they suggested a program they were committing to :”taking part in planning that program”

Ballot Initiatives: Rita Officer
Voter Machines: Joyce Hale

State Surplus Money: Lynne Seymour
Voter Rights Act-Diluting Minority Vote:
Public Transportation in an Area of Urban Sprawl: Sherri Lewis
Water Quality(hog Farm) Update Anita Berkley
Urban Planning with Diverse Aged Population: Beth Barham
Magdalene Follow-up (in 2 years) Georgia Ross
Human Trafficking: Bettie Lou Lancaster
Single Stream Recycling: Adella Gray

Women's Economic Forum

Our League partnered in April with the League of Women Voters of Arkansas, the American Association of University Women and Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families on an informative Women's Economic Forum in Fayetteville. A panel discussion focused on advocacy and ways we can change state policy to advance issues from paid leave and child care to pay equity. The special luncheon took place during AAUW's annual convention, but it was open to the public. More than 60 people attended.

Panelists included state Rep. Clarke Tucker, a Little Rock lawmaker who sponsored paid-leave legislation in 2015 and plans to introduce it again in 2017; Ellie Wheeler, senior policy analyst for Arkansas Advocates working on paid leave and other economic policy initiatives; and Alicia Hetman, vice chair of the national AAUW board, who helped advance equal pay legislation in California. Laura Kellams, a League member and Arkansas Advocates' Northwest Arkansas director, facilitated the lively discussion. All those in attendance were encouraged to watch these issues closely, particularly paid maternity leave for state employees, which Rep. Tucker hopes will pass in 2017 because he can show it has a low cost – or maybe no cost – to the state. Stay tuned!



Women's History Banquet

Laura Kellams served as MC for the Washington County Women's History Banquet. League member Mary Bess Mulholland was honored for her commitment to all the communities in which she has lived as a volunteer extraordinaire. Fayetteville is one of the communities that has been graced by Mary Bess's gifts. In particular, the birds at the Botanical Gardens have fresh water and lovely feeders for their eating pleasure.

From the Board of Directors

We appreciate the work of Peggy Chenault who has stepped down from the Board of Directors. We are now seeking League members who would like to serve on the Board of Directors. We know that some years, the commitment is not possible but other years, it works very well for an individual. Please give this some thought.

The League of Women Voters is a multi-issue organization, whose mission is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in the government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
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