PRESIDENT’S REPORT (May - August, 2017)
Sherry Miller, President

A recent Facebook post declared August 16th as National Roller Coaster Day. My response was to re-post with the statement that lately EVERY day seems to be National Roller Coaster Day.

I have been representing LWVNE in conference calls hosted by Nebraska Appleseed regarding the failure of Heritage Health Management to make payments to providers of Medicaid services across Nebraska since the beginning of the year. A formal stakeholders group of 18 health related associations has been formed to urge the director of Medicaid at NDHHS to correct this failure which has forced some care providers to lay off workers, borrow a line of credit or consider bankruptcy. If you know of someone who has been personally impacted by this and is in danger of losing Medicaid care services, please contact Janet Seelhoff, Executive Director, Nebraska Home Care Association, 402 423-0718.

On August 19th, an Orientation for returning and new board members was held. Attendees learned more about the Transformation Vision of the National League to meet the challenges of a highly partisan political scene while becoming stronger and more influential than ever before.

The Transformation Vision adopted in 2016 proclaims these goals:
- To unabashedly reclaim the League of Women Voters’ role in the American elections process by 2020. So that...
- We are known as the organization to register and turn out new citizens and the next generation of women to vote.
- We are the authoritative voice on election reform.
- We create an electorate that is representative of the diversity of the U.S. population.

With that vision in mind LWVUS is working to make the necessary changes in its structure and mission to enter our next century having met the goals stated above.

I urge you to read the report submitted by Caroline Sedlacek, LWVNE Parliamentarian, about her experiences at LWVUS Council meeting in June.

I am very pleased to report that following Orientation, Kate Speicher agreed to serve as our on-Board Mental Health Director. And just a few days prior to Orientation, Eileen Durgin-Clinchard agreed to serve as off-Board Government Director. Both women will be valuable additions to our leadership team.

CALLING ALL NEW MEMBERS
Linda Duckworth
Vice-President of Membership
League of Women Voters of Nebraska

A warm welcome to all our new members! Whether you have recently joined one of our local Leagues or have At-large status, we are glad you have chosen the League of Women Voters.

Have you noticed there’s more to League than you may have realized when you first joined?

When I first joined, because a member I respected asked me to, I knew very little about League. But once becoming a "Leaguer" I learned there were many ways to participate in our democracy through League, which I am eager to share with you.

So let's give phone conferencing a whirl, shall we? You'll be invited to tell us about yourself and what you are hoping to get out of your membership in League. I and at least one other seasoned League member will be on hand to listen and respond to your questions and concerns.

Here are the details:
Wednesday, September 20
8:00 to 9:00 p.m.
712-775-7031
access code: 874-022-658 #

I hope to hear your voice on September 20!
ANNUAL MEETING, 2017
SUMMARY OF MEETING

The 4th Annual Meeting of LWVNE was held April 29, 2017, with the Lincoln League hosting. Business included reports from the president and directors, minutes of the 3rd Annual Meeting, end of fiscal year financial report, adoption of the 2017-18 operating budget, and election and installation of officers and directors. A special word of thanks to League volunteers who donated more than $4,000.00 in time, money, and mileage.

Nominees for election were:
Officers - Sherry Miller (President); Darci Garcia (VP Action); Linda Duckworth (VP Membership); Tina Miller (Secretary); and Kate High (Treasurer)
Directors - Mary Ann Sturek (Education); Phyllis Salyards (Health Care); Janece Mohlhoff (Natural Resources); and John Else (Social Policy)
Nominating Committee - Katie Wadas Thalken (Chair); Linda Duckworth (Member); Amy McGaha (Member).

All were elected by voice vote.

The luncheon speaker was Jack Gould, Director of Common Cause Nebraska, who spoke on the impact of money in politics, particularly the outsized influence of dark money on election of state government officials.

The 2017-18 Program (League positions) included an update of the Water Study to include Water Quality and was adopted by a 2/3 vote.

Based on an existing National League position on Money in Politics, a motion to adopt Money in Politics as a project of LWVNE was made and approved. Kate High volunteered to chair the project.

Special gifts were presented to Lois Poppe, Sheryl Wright, Katie Wadas Thalken, and Sharon Nemeth in recognition of their past service to the League board.

The 2018 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Hastings League.

LWVUS 2017 Council Report
Mission Impact, Engagement & Sustainability
Transformation of the League—National, State and Local
Defend Democracy
By Caroline Sedlacek
LWVNE Board Parliamentarian

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) biennial National Council was held at the National Conference Center June 22-25, 2017 in Leesburg, VA. The national board of directors, national office staff, one or two leaders from each of 43 states and the District of Columbia, and the LWVUS Nominating Committee attended for a total of 110 participants. League leaders discussed the important role and impact of the League, as well as how LWV will evolve to be the most effective organization on voting rights and election services.

“As the League approaches our first centennial, we want to become the most powerful organization we can be,” said LWVUS president Chris Carson. “It is a critical time in our democracy, and an amazing time of opportunity for the League as we expand and attract new members.”

“We know there are going to be challenges, but we are going to get there together because we are a stronger League when we speak with one voice,” said LWVUS CEO Wycleia Wiggs Harris. “We all want to see this organization be as influential as it can be because our democracy needs us.”

The goals and objectives for Council were the following:

- Ensuring all Council participants are grounded in the underlying assumptions for why we have engaged on this transformation journey.
- Clarifying and confirming the process and the guiding principles that have informed our work to date, including the proposed next steps to validate the “what” and “how” to best strengthen the collective League. These next steps include:
  1. Examining how to retain and expand engagement of new individuals.
  2. Increasing the external perception of “one League” by exploring shared data and joint fundraising opportunities.
  3. Dialoguing about the engagement continuum and how we increase our outreach and impact by supporting multiple ways into the organization and assuming an “outside in” perspective.
4. Leveraging the new local League recognition guidelines to more quickly onboard new Leagues and when appropriate shift administrative responsibilities to the state level.
5. Evaluating the proposed framework for national and state opportunities to test new approaches.
   - Enhancing our skills as transformative leaders to facilitate and guide the organization.

   The following information is taken from the Blueprint for Mission, Impact Engagement Sustainability, a document that was sent out before the Council to those registered to attend and to state presidents.

   New social movements have emerged that often demonstrate greater fluidity, inclusiveness and focus moving our core or competing issues forward at a pace different from the League’s deliberative, consensus-driven processes.

   Likewise, other more established organizations, who often serve as LWV partners, have arguably more quickly embraced 21st century approaches, including technological advancements, social media, streamlined governance processes, and learning how to most effectively leverage human resources (members, volunteers and staff where applicable) that enable these organizations to be more agile, secure deeper funding, and address infrastructure challenges more rapidly than the League.

   The Membership, Engagement and Structure (MES) Steering Committee has discussed structure, people and process-related issues and has outlined three potential broad goals to drive greater impact, relevance, visibility, and sustainability for the entire organization:
   1. Lessen the administrative burden on Leagues;
   2. Enhance engagement by offering and embracing multiple paths to affiliation with the League; and,
   3. Strengthen our overall structure by reimagining our financial structure. The preliminary thinking is to lessen the administrative burden for local Leagues with improvements such as:
      - Shift the current local legal administrative burden to the state and/or national levels of the organization;
      - Strengthen the state and national infrastructure, and where it may make sense, create regional administrative hubs to absorb the increased administrative responsibilities;
      - Increase standardization of core administrative responsibilities across the entire organization;
      - Design systems and business practices that support data sharing and transparency across all levels of League; and
      - More clearly define the core responsibilities and work portfolio of the local, state, and national components of the League to create a seamless organizational structure for those who wish to engage with the League.

LWV Transformation Vision (adopted by LWVUS Board in 2016)
To unabashedly reclaim the League of Women Voter's role in the American elections process by 2020.

So that...
   - We are known as the organization to register and turn out new citizens and the next generation of women to vote
   - We are the authoritative voice on election reform
   - We create an electorate that is representative of the diversity of the U.S. population
   1. In order to make impact in our communities need more people power. Avoid reinventing the wheel. Need continuity of members and programs to stay alive.
   2. Collaborate with other groups. Need money to carry out projects and programs to educate. Need better communication among state and local leagues.
   3. Visibility—to demonstrate our expertise in communication and disseminating information using all social media.
   4. Involve more diversity, take action early, support administrative details.
   5. Need to know what works—change, tweak, redo.

2017-2018 LWVNE CALENDAR
Following are meeting dates the LWVNE Board set for the year. Any member is welcome to attend the Board meetings and are especially encouraged to participate in the Annual Meeting.
October 28, 2017: Board meeting
January 13, 2018: Board meeting (snow date January 20, 2018)
January 27, 2018: Board meeting to set priority bills (snow date February 3, 2018)
March 10, 2018: Board meeting
April 28, 2018: Annual Meeting (Hosted by Hastings League)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF JULY 8TH BOARD MEETING

With a quorum in attendance, the following motions were approved.

LWVNE may sign on to any lawsuit initiated by the Nebraska Chapter of the ACLU and/or Nebraskans for Civic Reform to prevent the Secretary of State from providing voter registration lists to the Election Integrity Commission, with the advice and consent of the LWVUS. (Kate High, Introducer; Linda Duckworth seconder) Motion carried

Approval of revised Articles of Incorporation to read “The purpose of the LWVNE is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected government issues,” and to remove the word “religious” in the purpose statement. (John Else, introducer; Mary Ann Sturek, seconder). Carried.

John Else, Social Policy Director, and President Sherry Miller will proceed with submitting amended Articles of Incorporation to the Nebraska Secretary of State followed by submitting request to the IRS for a change to tax exempt status for LWVNE.

Caroline Sedlacek provided a written report on National Council which was held in June. Her report appears in this Voter.

MONEY IN POLITICS PROJECT
Kate High, Chair

TOPIC: Financing Political Campaigns in Nebraska - “Money and Politics in Nebraska”

FOCUS: Review financing of political campaigns in Nebraska for the past two statewide election cycles for a select group of offices.

SCOPE: Research Accountability and Disclosure records to determine donors, amounts of donations, reporting by candidates and/or campaign managers, penalties assigned for failure to report.

Compare Accountability and Disclosure records to outcomes of election races to determine to what extent the amount of money a candidate receives and spends determines the outcome of the election.

GOALS:

1. The LWVUS has a well-developed position on money and politics. This study would provide data specific to Nebraska elections and could be used to develop testimony at state and local levels in support of campaign finance reform.
2. The study could be shared across the state with other organizations through LWV speakers as well as a media campaign including public opinion pieces, letters to the editor and press releases.

LWVUS POSITION: MONEY IN POLITICS

Money in Politics - Campaign Finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs and creating an effective enforcement agency.

The details of this position can be found in Impact on Issues, pp. 22-23. A link to Impact on Issues can be found on the LWVNE website at www.lwv-ne.org.
LEAGUE PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

National Voter Registration Day is the largest one-day effort of the year to register voters, with hundreds of thousands of voters registering to vote online and offline in a single day.

It's celebrated on the fourth Tuesday of every September by thousands of volunteers from organizations like the League of Women Voters. Last year more than 5,000,000 Americans didn’t vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn’t know how to register. NVRD presents an opportunity to make sure every eligible person is registered to vote.

NVRD is the “Earth Day” of democracy; in 2016 more than 700,000 voters were registered in all 50 states; most of these new voters were under the age of 35.

Plan to participate in your League’s event and celebrate your own League NVRD success story!!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LUNCH AND LEARN SCHEDULE FOR YEAR 2017 - 2018

GRADUATE HOTEL
141 N. 9th St, Lincoln, NE

For reservations please contact lwv-ne.org or phone 402-475-1411 reservations should be made on the Monday prior to the meeting

Meetings will take place on the First Thursday of each month from noon to 1 pm, September through May, except for the April meeting

Reservations are binding

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<th>DATE</th>
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<td>Low Income Housing Needs as it Relates to CIP Funds</td>
<td>City Councilman Roy Christensen</td>
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<td>Nonpartisan Legislature and Term Limits</td>
<td>Sen. Bob Krist</td>
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<td>Nov. 2nd</td>
<td>Press Freedom in Today's Society</td>
<td>Prof. of Journalism</td>
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<td>John Bender</td>
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<td>Dec. 7th</td>
<td>Camp Summergold – Creativity, Knowledge and</td>
<td>Judy Hart, Director</td>
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<td>Ronda Lake, Director</td>
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<td>Jan. 4th</td>
<td>Environmental Impact of Water Policies</td>
<td>Chelsea Johnson, Nebraska League</td>
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<td>of Conservation Voters</td>
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<td>Feb. 1st</td>
<td>Title X and Women’s Healthcare in Nebraska</td>
<td>Megan Mikolajczyk</td>
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<td>Legislative Lobbyist for Planned Parenthood</td>
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<td>March 1st</td>
<td>Civil Rights as They Are Today</td>
<td>Speaker to be announced</td>
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<td>April 12th</td>
<td>Project Restore-Mediation Program for Youth</td>
<td>Clare Nelson Professional Mediator</td>
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<td>May 3rd</td>
<td>White Clay Follow-up</td>
<td>State Senator Patty Pansing Brooks</td>
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PROPOSED LWVNE BYLAWS AMENDMENTS
(to be voted on at the October 28, 2017, Board meeting)

The following bylaws amendments will be on the LWVNE Board agenda for adoption at its October 28, 2017, meeting, after receiving membership comments as required in ARTICLE XIV, Section 1(b) of the Bylaws: [These Bylaws may be amended by:] A two-thirds vote of the voting members of the board of directors present and voting at a regularly scheduled board meeting, provided the amendment(s) was (were) reviewed and recommended by the board and submitted to the local League presidents and the members-at-large at least two months in advance of the meeting for comment. If a bylaw amendment is not approved by the board, it may be directly submitted at the next Annual Meeting for consideration by the general membership.

Comments should be sent, preferably by October 21, to any member of the Bylaws Committee: Caroline Sedlacek, Chair (csedlacek@cox.net), John Else (elsejf@gmail.com), Sharon Nemeth (lhwv-ne@nebraska.com), or Sherry Miller [ex officio] (kitty66hawk@aol.com).

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND POLICY

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of the LWVNE is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. LWVNE is a public benefit organization. It is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to League of Women Voters organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Change: Remove “religious,” from list of purposes.
Rationale: We are not organized for religious purposes.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES/ACTION TEAMS

Section 1. There shall be a Budget-Finance Committee as described in Article VIII, Section 2.
Section 2. There shall be an Endowment Fund/Investment Committee as described in Article VIII, Section 3.
Section 3. The vice presidents, on-board directors and off-board directors may create committees to carry out their duties.
Section 4. Other committees/action teams may be appointed by the board as deemed necessary.

Change: Add action teams as an option to committees.
Rationale: LWV has a history of careful and thorough studies to guide us. More emphasis now needs to be made on taking action and doing. So, while we have a legislative day planning committee, we might want a legislative action team working under the Action Vice President, an action team working under the Education Director, one under the Social Policy Director and a Money in Politics action team, and so forth, in addition to other action teams appointed as needed.

ARTICLE X NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 4. Election. The election shall be in the charge of an Election Committee appointed by the President. The election shall be by ballot, except that when there is but one nominee for each office, the vote may be by voice. A majority vote shall constitute an election.

Change: Removal of the Election Committee at Annual Meeting.
Rationale: This is an old, old bylaw going back to the years when there might have been more than one candidate for an office. Now, if there is more than one candidate for an office, voting is by ballot and tellers are appointed to count the ballots.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEBRASKA  
2017–2019
4600 Valley Road, Suite 306, Lincoln, NE 68510, 402-475-1411
lwv-ne@inebraska.com; http://www.lwv-ne.org
Sharon R. Nemeth, Office Administrator

President:  Sherry Miller, 341 South 52nd Street, Lincoln, NE 68510, 402-488-2568 .............kitty66hawk@aol.com

Vice Presidents:
[Action]*  Darci Garcia, 15617 Rosewood Street, Apt #23, Omaha, NE 68139, 801-636-6476   ...........................................darci_m_garcia@yahoo.com
[Membership]  Linda Duckworth, 16318 Valley Street, Omaha, NE 68130-2078, 402-932-4174 (h); 402-850-9804 (c) ..........................................lindabduckworth@gmail.com

Secretary:  Tina Miller, 5330 Wilshire Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68504, 402-890-1039 .................tinajmiller@yahoo.com

Treasurer:  Kate High, 5111 Lenox Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68510, 402-499-9283 ..........................kateonlenox@gmail.com

Directors (on Board):
[Education]  Mary Ann Sturek, 6379 South 95th Street, Omaha, NE 68127-4023, 402-592-8869 ......masturek@q.com
[Health Care]  Phyllis Salyards, 1003 West 11th Street, Hastings, NE 68901-3830, 402-463-6395 ..........................hpsalyar@inebraska.com
[Mental Health]  Kate Speicher, 1800 South 41st Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, 402-489-7836.......knspeicher@hotmail.com
[Natural Resources]  Janece Mollhoff, 2354 Euclid Street, Ashland, NE 68003, 402-871-8260......wjmolhoff@windstream.net
[Social Policy]*  John Else, 835 Parkwood Lane, Omaha, NE 68132, 402-393-2050 (h); 402-218-6910 (c) ...............elsejf@gmail.com

[Voters Service]  Vacant
[Water Study Chair]*  Janece Mollhoff, 2354 Euclid Street, Ashland, NE 68003, 402-871-8260......wjmolhoff@windstream.net

Directors (off-Board):
[Energy]  Vacant
[Government]  Jean Eileen Durgin-Clinchard, 638 North 25th Street, Lincoln, NE 68503, 402-435-3317 ..........................jeaneileen@gmail.com
[Voter Editor]  Annette Conser, 12410 Rose Lane, Omaha, NE 68154, 402-493-4810 ....................annetteconser@cox.net

Nominating Committee:
Elected Chair:  Katie Wadas Thalken, 1318 North 53rd Street, Omaha, NE 68132, 402-305-6705 (h); 402-280-5677 (w) ........................................kwadas@gmail.com

Elected Member  Amy McGaha, 1622 North 174th Street, Omaha, NE 68118, 417-592-0233....dramymcgaha@yahoo.com
Elected Member  Vacant

Board appointee:  John Else, 835 Parkwood Lane, Omaha, NE 68132, 402-393-2050 (h); 402-218-6910 (c) .............................................elsejf@gmail.com
Board appointee:  Janece Mollhoff, 2354 Euclid Street, Ashland, NE 68003, 402-871-8260......wjmolhoff@windstream.net

Liaisons:
[Hastings]  Phyllis Salyards, 1003 West 11th Street, Hastings, NE 68901-3830, 402-463-6395 ..........................hpsalyar@inebraska.com
[Lincoln]  Mary Boschult, 950 South 49th Street, Lincoln, NE, 68510-3807, 402-483-0415........mary4now@aol.com
[Omaha]  Ann Chalson, 2706 South 107th Street, Omaha NE 68124, 402-392-0318 ..........................aschalon@cox.net
[Seward]  Ellen Beck**, 2325 Star Street, Seward, NE 68434, 402-646-9112...........................Ellen.Beck77@gmail.com

Local League Presidents:
[Hastings]  Laura Schneider, 2519 West 10th Street, Hastings, NE 68901, 402-463-7182 ............................lauraschneideragency.com
[Lincoln]  Mary Boschult, 950 South 49th Street, Lincoln, NE 68510-3807, 402-483-0415........mary4now@aol.com
[Omaha]  Ann Chalson, 2706 South 107th Street, Omaha NE 68124, 402-392-0318 ..........................aschalon@cox.net
[Seward]  Ellen Beck**, 2325 Star Street, Seward, NE 68434, 402-646-9112...........................Ellen.Beck77@gmail.com

Education Fund Board:
Sherry Miller, Chair; Tina Miller, Secretary; Kate High, Treasurer, Ellen Beck, Linda Duckworth (contact information above)

LWVUS Liaison to Nebraska:  Deborah Turner .................................................................dturner@lwv.org
Parliamentarian:  Caroline Sedlacek**, 14839 Camden Court Omaha, NE 68116, 402-451-5770 (h), 402-493-4444 Ext 109 (w) ..........................................................csedlacek@cox.net

*Committee included; **Chair, Budget-Finance and Endowment Fund Committees; ***Chair, Bylaws Committee 08/23/17
WATER STUDY UPDATE
By Janece Mollhoff

The Committee took a break in July to have an outing to enjoy water instead of study it. Some of the members met at Larry and Joanna Lindberg’s cabin at Thomas Lake on the Platte River. We were reminded that water has many uses and how important water quality is for both life-sustaining as well as life-enhancing uses.

In August we will meet to review a draft summary of our findings from the many State regulatory and enforcement agencies in Nebraska who are responsible for water quality in Nebraska. In current form, our document will contain a summary of our findings from the Natural Resource Districts, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, primarily. We have tentatively identified five areas of concern for position statements: 1) emerging threats to human health from new chemicals, pathogens, steroids, antibiotics, hormones, and other nutrient contaminants to drinking water. 2) pipeline siting in areas around municipal and private household wells. 3) non-point source contamination, specifically for nutrients such as nitrates, as well as veterinary pharmaceuticals and hormones, 4) adequate funding of regulatory agencies at a level that adequately allows for staffing and programming to investigate complaints, thoroughly assess permitting requests, and follow-up on violations to protect Nebraskans from contamination of both surface and groundwater, and 5) lead in water supply pipes, which may be a topic for further study.

Since we have representation on our committee from each of the local Leagues, we would like to get a draft of the study out for review and input well ahead of the next Annual meeting. Members of the Legislature and other organizations have expressed interest in the final results, but we will be careful not to release it until it is approved by the membership.