



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sherry Miller, President

What a pleasure it was to see so many members and guests turn out for our 2017 Legislative Day! I hope it was a productive day, from breakfast snack to briefing to visits to senators' offices, to observing debate (Ernie in action), to luncheon in the Mansion. Senator Patty Pansing Brooks is to be applauded for continuing her fight to put human trafficking in Nebraska out of business. Last year's legislation served to de-criminalize victims; this year's legislation will significantly stiffen penalties on providers and users of those victims. I cannot urge you enough to support her bill (LB 289) and to ask others for their support as well. LWVNE will be co-hosting a public information meeting on human trafficking on March 30th. Please see separate article for more information.

It is my privilege as your president to represent the membership at hearings during this 105th Legislature. Kudos to John Else, Mary Ann Sturek, and Phyllis Salyards for helping track and write testimony on social policy, education, and health bills. And many thanks to Janice Walker, Lincoln League member, for providing testimony regarding the horrific situation in Whiteclay, Nebraska. (LB 407, Senator Pansing Brooks). And further applause to Janece Mohlhoff for her excellent work as Natural Resources Director.

I have also testified on several government-related bills, mainly voter and election issues. A review of the status of the bills tracked by the League to date shows good news and bad news. None have been indefinitely postponed. Two we opposed have been advanced out of committee and assigned priority status by the introducer. LR 1CA, Senator Murante's resolution, continues the unnecessary attempt to require a photo ID in order to vote. (Check the League's Facebook page for action alerts.) Senator Murante's LB 644 includes language to give partisan power to the Governor to appoint members to the Judicial Nominating Committee, replacing bipartisan language now in place.

Interestingly, Senator Adam Morfeld introduced LR 15CA which amends state constitution language specifically to prohibit requiring a photo ID in order to vote. It will be heard on March 16th and League will strongly support. Attendees of a workshop on voter suppression presented by LWVNE on Dec. 2nd informally petitioned this change.

Two Redistricting Act bills have been introduced. John Else worked closely with Senator Burke Harr's staff to craft the working of LB216, based on the Iowa model. Senator Murante reintroduced last year's bill under a new number LB653 with the same flaws that caused the governor to veto it last year. Neither have advanced from committee, so this is a good time to contact your senator. SUPPORT LB 216 and OPPOSE LB 653.

LWVNE cooperates with other organizations with common goals, including Nebraska Appleseed, Nebraskans for Civic Reform, Common Cause, Planned Parenthood, the Brennan Center for Justice, and, most importantly, the League of Women Voters of the U.S. Resources provided by these organizations are invaluable to our all-volunteer activist efforts.

## ACTION ALERT ADVOCACY GROUP

By Sherry Miller

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska is looking for a few good women and men to serve as members of an action alert advocacy group. The requirements are simple: Be ready to respond to state League issued alerts regarding legislation at the state level. Be ready to make phone calls, send e-mails, letters, or postcards when legislation supported by or opposed by the League needs quick action. Such action is done by members as individuals only who are willing to use talking points provided by the League in communicating with elected senators. Group members will be asked to know their legislative districts and senators representing those districts. Group members will be provided with phone numbers and e-mail addresses for quick action.

If interested, please contact me at my phone numbers (402 488 2568) or e-mail address ([kitty66hawk@aol.com](mailto:kitty66hawk@aol.com)) as soon as possible. The 1st session of the 105th Legislature is already half over and things are moving quickly.

## VP MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Katie Wadas Thalken

As I wrap up my term as Vice President for Membership, I wanted to share a few quick updates. I am excited to share that our membership among Members at Large has increased from four in March 2016 to ten in March 2017. A big thank you goes to Sharon for helping make sure these members are welcomed and get added to our email distribution list. I am working with Sherry on ways to better engage MALs before I complete my term and definitely have ideas to pass on to the next person in this position.

I am also excited to share that our Facebook page is up to 178 “likes.” We have been trying to post a few updates each week, including some of the testimony or action items related to the state legislature. If you haven’t liked us yet, please do so and consider sharing some of our posts so your family and friends can consider liking us as well. Even if they don’t join the League, this is a great way for the League to get exposure and for us to increase advocacy and awareness on the issues that are important to us.

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVNE>

Finally, I was a part of the committee that organized the Leadership Summit on February 11, 2017. We had 30 people attend and even recruited a few new members. We had great workshops and conversation and hopefully a few of the attendees will consider serving the League in some sort of leadership capacity in the future. Thanks to Joanna Lindberg, Linda Duckworth, Sherry Miller, Kate High, and Ellen Beck for their contributions to the day!

## SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

by John Else

The Social Policy Committee identified many bills that were of interest and concern in the 2017 Nebraska Legislature. Though we identified many more than were accepted by the Board in its priority setting meeting, we ended with 87 bills (to support, oppose, or monitor):

• Children/Families/Juveniles	18
• Crime/Courts/Corrections	24
• Disabilities	3
• Firearms	11
• Garnishments	4
• Housing and Construction	2
• Human Services	5
• Labor	15
• Miscellaneous	3
• Poverty	2

We joined with Sherry Miller to identify 28 Government (and Voting) bills. Sherry Miller agreed that she and some of her colleagues would provide the leadership on tracking and writing letters on these bills.

It has not been feasible to track all of these bills, but we have tracked a high percentage of them. Sherry and I have prepared and submitted letters of support or opposition to the committee hearings on about 20 of the bills. The committees have taken no action yet on many of the bills. Several have been approved for General File (the first of three discussions/votes for the full Legislature), but only a few have been debated and voted forward to the second or third stages).

Members of the 2017 committee are Peggy Adair and Mary Meints (Omaha), Phyllis Salyards (Hastings) and, Sheryl Wright, and new member, Ann Sherer (Lincoln). We lost two valuable former members, Jonah Deppe, who died this winter (Omaha), and David Gottschalk (Lincoln).

## IN MEMORIAM

Jonah Deppe, who passed away earlier this winter, was a member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha, and a much valued director, on-board and off-board, of the state League. She monitored and reported on Mental Health Issues to the board and to the membership at large in the Voter. She went to the Capitol to rally and lobby, despite physical limitations. She was a dedicated advocate with NAMI. Her expertise and friendship will be missed.

# MONEY AND POLITICS

4<sup>TH</sup> LWVNE ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM  
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017, 11:30 AM

*Northern Heights Hy-Vee, 84<sup>th</sup> and Holdrege, Lincoln, NE*

The 4th League of Women Voters of Nebraska Annual Meeting will be held in the 2nd Floor Community Room at the Northern Heights Hy-Vee, 84th and Holdrege Streets, Lincoln, NE. Check-in begins at 11:30 am, followed by a luncheon, then a talk at 12:15 pm by Jack Gould, Issues Chair, Common Cause Nebraska, on “The Lobby and Your Legislature.” The call to order will be at 1:00 pm. Registration is \$12, which helps to cover the cost of coffee, materials for the meeting, and afternoon refreshment. *Please plan to purchase your own lunch* at the Hy-Vee deli after checking in; it is important to inform the cashier that you are a participant in the League of Women Voters meeting so your lunch payment will be credited to the room usage fee.

## LWVNE BYLAWS ARTICLE IX ANNUAL MEETING

### Section 2. Voting Body.

- a) The voting body shall consist of members from local Leagues who are current in Per Member Payment (PMP) to LWVNE and members-at-large whose LWVNE dues are current, who are properly registered, and who are in attendance.
- b) No member shall vote in more than one capacity, and there shall be no proxy voting.

**Section 3. Powers.** The Annual Meeting shall consider and authorize for action a Program, shall elect officers in the odd years, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year, and shall transact such other business as may be presented.

**Section 4. Quorum.** A majority of voting members in attendance shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Annual Meeting provided that at least two local Leagues are represented and, in addition, two elected officers and two on-board directors are present.

If you plan to attend please send **\$12 payable to LWVNE** with the form below **BY Friday, APRIL 21, 8:00 am** to

Sharon Nemeth, LWVNE Office Administrator, 4600 Valley Road, Ste 306, Lincoln, NE 68510



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want an ELECTRONIC copy of the Annual Meeting workbook *instead of* the printed one; my email is provided for delivery on Monday, April 24. I will print it out myself.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$12 enclosed** [you may register online at [www.lwv-ne.org](http://www.lwv-ne.org) beginning in early April instead]



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS Of NEBRASKA

### NEBRASKA VOTER

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### Address Service Requested

**TIME DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY**

### **HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!!!**

Well, not yet, but it is just around the corner in 2020. The U.S. League is already collecting information from the state Leagues about their plans to celebrate and they want it to BE BIG!!!

Please consider volunteering to help research, collect, and produce information to make Nebraska's celebration worthy to stand among its sister Leagues. There are files and boxes in the state office; there are microfiches at the state Historical Society; there are historical archives in newspapers; and there are certainly stashes of history in every local League, not to mention individual members' good memories of League.

For most of us this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to join one of the biggest celebrations ever in the history of America's women and their achievements. Don't put it off, contact the LWVNE office today at 402 475 1411 or [lww-ne@inebraska.com](mailto:lww-ne@inebraska.com). Every hour you can make available will be most appreciated.

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING -- HIDDEN CRIME IN PLAIN SIGHT**

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska and the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Church in Lincoln will host an informational meeting for the public.

WHERE: Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

WHEN: March 30, 2017, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

SPEAKERS: Anna Brewer, Human Trafficking Consultant, Women's Fund of Omaha

Frederico Vicente, Community Outreach Coordinator for Salvation Army

Kathy Kemler with the Notre Dame Sisters and trainer for hotel/motel staff

Come and bring a friend; learn about this horrible blot on society and how to support Senator Patty Pansing Brooks' legislative bill LB 289. Please take a look at the bill before attending.