LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA VOTER

Volume 95, Issue 3

Spring 2018

LOBBING ACTION FOR 2018 SESSION OF LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT RELATED BILLS

By Sherry Miller

PLEASE BE READY TO TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING WHEN NOTIFIED!!

LR1CA is yet another attempt to put voter photo ID into state statute, this time as an amendment to the constitution. Senator Murante introduced LR1CA. It timed out in floor debate in 2017, and that needs to happen again this year. LR1CA would put language in the Constitution in direct contradiction to long-standing language that guarantees there shall be no hindrance or impediment to voting. LR1CA is Senator Larson’s priority bill and should come to the floor for debate.

LB 1115, introduced this year by Senator Murante, would exclude non-citizen populations in the count for the 2020 Census, for purposes of redrawing political districts in Nebraska. This would directly impact many counties. It is his priority bill for 2018.

REMAINING BILLS AND THEIR STATUS:

LB 216, the Redistricting Reform Act introduced by Senator Burke Harr in 2017, died in committee, along with LB 975, the Redistricting Reform Act introduced by Sara Howard this year. President Sherry Miller testified in favor of LB 975 on January 10th. Senator Harr encouraged us to work with Senator Howard in 2019 as she plans to reintroduce her bill. To paraphrase Burke, Sara is ready to take the torch and press on to pass this important legislation before the 2020 Census. A CHALLENGE FOR 2019!!

LB 1065 to permit the use of electronic poll books and use of digital images for confirming a voter’s identity is another verse in the same old song of voter suppression. While the League does not oppose the idea of electronic poll books (computers at the polling place), it does oppose the use of digital images (probably taken from driver’s license photos) in the electronic poll books. President Sherry Miller testified against the bill on February 5th. STATUS as of March 9: Died in Government Committee. WIN!!

LB 1066 to require photographic ID for voting was heard February 5th. This bill would expand the type of photo ID accepted at polling places without requiring matching address information as in previous attempts to impose photo IDs. Voter photo IDs address voter impersonation fraud only, which simply doesn’t exist in Nebraska. President Sherry Miller testified against the bill, which died in committee. WIN!!

LB 839 is Senator Crawford’s bill to require reporting of electioneering communications, an attempt to identify outside providers of money contributing to ads which misrepresent or defame a candidate just before an election. President Sherry Miller wrote and spoke in support of LB 839 which was heard February 22nd. STATUS: LB 839 died in committee. LOSS!! BIG LOSS!!

LEGISLATIVE DAY 2018 A SUCCESS

Despite dangerous weather conditions, about 25 hardy League members and friends turned out for Legislative Day on February 20th. Their enthusiasm for lobbying senators, following debate in the Chamber, enjoying lunch in the Governor’s Mansion while listening to Senator Burke Harr talk about redistricting, and, above all, talking to one another lasted throughout the day.

There were more priority bills than usual this year, ranging from paid family medical leave to redistricting to charter schools to voter suppression attempts. But attendees did yeoman’s work on sharing information on League positions on each bill with as many senators or their staff as possible.

Evaluations were reviewed and suggestions for improvement will be incorporated in future Legislative Day events. Thanks to the Legislative Day Committee (Peggy Adair, Darci Garcia, Sheryl Wright, and Phyllis Salyards) for their input and assistance. If you were in attendance and picked up a yellow rose, save it, and we’ll see you wearing it next year!
The Social Policy Team prioritized 145 bills for 2018, and it opposed many bills. The LWVNE Board required that we reduce the number of prioritized bills—by identifying those we thought were critical to prioritize, those we could “monitor,” and those we oppose. The bills are listed by category and divided between those that were prioritized (92), monitored (58) and opposed (23). The total number of bills identified (173) were also identified within the parentheses following each total—number introduced in 2017 (63) and number introduced in 2018 (110).

We ended with the following bills: 92 prioritized, 58 monitored, & 23 opposed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category/Issues</th>
<th>Prioritized</th>
<th>Monitored</th>
<th>Opposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Family</td>
<td>12 (3-9)</td>
<td>15 (1-14)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime/Courts/Correction</td>
<td>41 (14-27)</td>
<td>7 (0-7)</td>
<td>1 (1-0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabilities</td>
<td>2 (1-1)</td>
<td>3 (1-2)</td>
<td>1 (0-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>3 (1-2)</td>
<td>3 (3-0)</td>
<td>8 (7-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garnishments</td>
<td>4 (3-1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (1-0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>6 (2-4)</td>
<td>2 (2-0)</td>
<td>1 (1-0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>4 (2-2)</td>
<td>11 (0-11)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>10 (7-3)</td>
<td>6 (2-4)</td>
<td>6 (5-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payday Lending/Taxes</td>
<td>2 (1-1)</td>
<td>6 (2-4)</td>
<td>2 (0-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>2 (0-2)</td>
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<td>2 (0-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>6 (1-5)</td>
<td>5 (2-3)</td>
<td>1 (0-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>92 (35-57)</td>
<td>58 (13-45)</td>
<td>23 (15-8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members should understand that the 2018 session is the short session, so few of the bills introduced in this session are expected to pass the Legislature. All committee hearings have been completed. Sherry Miller and I sent letters to committees hearing testimony related to 13 of the bills introduced in 2018 that were listed as LWVNE priority bills. Though this is a small number of the total bills heard by committees, they are the ones that we found it possible to draft letters and submit in time to be received.

**Judiciary Committee**

LB982 Provide for persons 18 years or older to consent to certain behavior health services (Morfeld)

LB1126 Adopt the Sexual Assault Survivors’ Bill of Rights Act (Bolz)

LB1132 Provide a procedure to set aside convictions of victims of sex trafficking and to expunge related records (Pansing Brooks)

LB869 Change provisions re sealing of juvenile records (Pansing Brooks)

**Human Services Committee**

LB770 Change provisions relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Act (McCollister)

LB866 Change provisions re rules, regulations & waivers under Medical Assistance Act (Crawford)

LB891 Prohibit discrimination in provision of services as prescribed under the Psychology Practice Act (Pansing Brooks)

**Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee**

LB844 Adopt the Healthy & Safe Families & Workplace Act (Crawford)

LB916 Change prohibitions under NE Wage Payment Collection Act and Wage & Hour Act (Hansen)

LB1014 Name the Discriminatory Wage Practices Act, change provisions relating to wage discrimination on the basis of sex, and provide protections for employees relating to wage disclosure (Pansing Brooks)

**Executive Board**

LB973 Require redistricting maps drawn using state-issued computer software (Crawford)

LB974 Prohibit consideration of political affiliation, demographic information & previous election results in drawing legislative districts (Vargas)

LB975 Adopt Redistricting Act (Howard)

The following is a chart of the current status of all the bills Prioritized, Monitored, and Opposed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BILLS PRIORITIZED</th>
<th>Passed</th>
<th>On Floor In Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Family</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 (2 priority)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crime/Courts/Corrections</td>
<td>1 (LB160)</td>
<td>14 (1 priority)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disabilities</td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garnishments</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Juvenile Justice 0 1 3
Labor 0 3 7
Payday Lending/Taxes 0 1 (1 priority) 1
Poverty 0 0 2
Miscellaneous 0 0 6

Subtotal 2 25 65

BILLS MONITORED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Passed</th>
<th>On Floor</th>
<th>In Committee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Family 0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime/Courts/Corrections</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabilities</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*(LB100, 520,556)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payday Lending/Taxes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*(LB757)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal 4 25 29

BILLS OPPOSED

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Passed</th>
<th>On Floor</th>
<th>In Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime/Courts/Corrections</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabilities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (Comm priority)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 (1 priority)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
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<td>Payday Lending/Taxes</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal 0 6 17

TOTAL

|               | 6      | 56     | 111   |

Clearly, most bills end with no committee actions—in this case 111 bills. Of the 56 bills approved by committees for General File (which means they are sent to the Legislative Floor for scheduling and debate), many are never debated on the Floor. For many bills, this is because of the limited time limits of the sessions, but other bills are blocked by filibuster or other actions on the Floor.

Note that of the 173 bills approved by LWVNE for action by the Social Policy Action Team, only 6 have been passed—two of those in the Prioritized group and 4 in the Monitored group.

Fifty-six (56) of the bills have been approved for Floor debate, but since only 6 have been listed as priorities, those are likely the only bills that will be debated. One hundred eleven (111) bills are still in Committees, and two of those have been listed as priorities—which has no meaning unless the bill is approved by the committee and sent for General File.

In short, not many of the Social Policy-related bills that were important to LWVNE have been acted upon by the Unicameral, and most will likely not move much further along.

NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR REPORT

By Janece Mollhoff

Legislative update:

I testified at the hearing for LB 1054 – Senator Brewer’s anti-wind bill. It is his priority bill for this session, but still in committee at this time.

I presented with others who support the Husker Power Plan (HPP) at a press conference at the Capitol, at the LES Board meeting, and also met with the Lincoln Journal Star. LES gave a written response showing that they are already doing some of the actions that the HPP promotes.
I met with Jessica Kolterman who is the Chief Operating Officer at Lincoln Premium Poultry in Fremont. She outlined the company’s policy and some of the initiatives that they are doing that are “best practices” to protect water, and they are not routinely using antibiotics or hormones, using air cooling rather than water cooling to conserve water, and using veterinarian techs to monitor health of their flocks. I asked that they consider baseline testing of water near the areas where the barns will be sited. I also testified at the Saunders County Board of Supervisors when they were considering a permit for a poultry barn and asked that they would always consider density, scale, and location of any new livestock operations.

I presented the Water Quality Study to the United Methodist Women Legislative Day and got a good response. I also presented it to Hastings League of Women Voters and have a power point available for future presentations if requested.

I testified at the EPA’s listening session in Kansas City. Transportation was provided by Sierra Club of Nebraska. Ninety six percent of those testifying were in favor of keeping the Clean Power Plan.

http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article201449604.html

OMAHA LIAISON REPORT
By Ann Chalson
Met with OTOC on payday lending to raise awareness of the issue
GOTV met with the Table to examine how/whether to use VAN
Meet the League meeting with new and prospective members
Voter registrar training for 35 new registrars
Planned for International Women’s Day celebration for 3/10/2018
Omaha Historical Society will honor the League at a 4/21/2018 luncheon and style show
Nominating Committee has a complete slate of 2018/2019 Board
Annual meeting scheduled for 4/14/2018
League honored in Today’s Woman periodical
Questions developed for vote411.org and the printed guide

LWVUS CONVENTION
Explore Chicago with the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF)
Visit Chicago’s celebrated architecture, both old and new. The League of Women Voters of Illinois has arranged discounted rates for League members and their friends for the famous Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady Cruises and the Foundation’s most popular walking tour: Historic Skyscrapers.
The Early Bird Convention fee of $450 includes pre-convention webinars and participation from Thursday afternoon, June 28 through noon on Sunday, July 1 in all trainings, workshops, briefings, caucuses and general sessions. This fee also includes the LWVUS-hosted reception on Thursday evening and banquet and program on Saturday evening.

DELEGATE REPRESENTATION
LWVUS Bylaws Article IX, Section 2 provides the following:
Sec. 2. Composition. Official membership counts shall be determined by national office records of voting members as reported to the national office in the membership count in January of the year in which the convention is held. The convention shall consist of:
A. Delegates chosen by the members of local Leagues; each local League shall be entitled to at least one delegate; when local League membership reaches 50 voting members, the local League shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional 50 voting members. If interested in being a delegate, contact your local League president or the State office.
For example:
1–49 members = 1 delegate
50–99 members = 2 delegates
100–149 members = 3 delegates
B. Three delegates chosen by the board of each state League; when state member-at-large membership reaches 50 voting members, the state League shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional 50 voting members-at-large;
C. One delegate chosen by the board of each recognized ILO; and
D. The members of the national board.
**VOTE 411 OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY**

VOTE 411, the online voters’ guide provided by LWVUS and underwritten for Nebraska elections by League of Voters of Nebraska, has kicked off for the 2018 election cycle.

Letters have been sent to 119 candidates running for state and federal level offices, including state legislature, secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, board of education, regents, public service commission, governor, US Senate and House of Representatives. The letter invites the candidates to use VOTE 411, a free nonpartisan campaign tool.

Many thanks to LWGO’s committee members who have researched and written questions for each office seeker to answer. VOTE 411 has been growing in usage by Nebraska voters over the past four election cycles. It is shared with all media in the state for both primary and general elections.

League members are encouraged to access VOTE 411 for their candidates’ responses to questions that are important to the League. Please encourage your neighbors, relatives, colleagues, and friends to use this valuable resource before voting.

**GO VOTE 411!!!**

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NE OPPOSES LB 295

By Mary Ann Sturek, Education Director

LB 295 is LWVNE’s only priority bill on education this 2018 legislative session. It is the priority bill of Senator Linehan that, at the end of the 2017 Unicameral, being introduced by Jim Smith, moved to General File.

LB 295, Tax Credit/Voucher, is aimed to divert public taxes to private schools by providing credits for private school donations. Its actual wording:

**LB 295 would allow for the adoption of the Opportunity Scholarships Act.**

Under the Act, individual and corporate taxpayers would qualify for a non-refundable tax credit equal to the amount the taxpayer contributed to a scholarship-granting organization. Each nonprofit, scholarship-granting organization certified by the Nebraska Department of Revenue shall provide education scholarships to assist eligible students to attend a qualified, nonprofit, private elementary or secondary school. The Act defines an eligible student as a dependent member of a household that has a gross income that does not exceed two times the required level for the federal reduced-price lunch program. This is 370% of the poverty level, which is far higher than allowed for breakfast and lunch programs for students in poverty.

**The League opposes LB 295 for these reasons:**

- The League supports a free public school education through 12th grade, age not a limiting actor. The League opposes any attempts to legislate the funneling of public tax funds toward charter schools and private school whether religious based or not.
- Loss of funds for support of public schools will be significant, estimated to be $10 million the first year and rising to $15.6 million by 202-21. This at a time when the state is struggling to maintain a healthy General Fund.
- Loss of support from the General Fund will put pressure on local taxing bodies to increase levies (on property taxes) or lose vital services offered by public schools.
- These tax credit scholarships are not targeted to low-income students. LB 295 would benefit wealthier families the most, who could already afford private school tuition. The 370% poverty level is a distinct gift to 40% of families earning more in income compared to all other Nebraskans.
- It is important to note that private school donors receive partial reduction of federal and state income tax for each dollar donated. Under LB 295, if state liability is $1,000, the donor could give $1,000 to a private school, pay no state income tax, and take federal deductions. This would redirect $1,000 from the state to a private school.

Our allies in this effort include Open Sky Policy Institute, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, Greater Nebraska Schools Association, Nebraska State Education Association, and Stand for Schools. Those who favor this bill include the Platte Institute, the Archdiocese of Omaha, the Nebraska Catholic Conference, Bryant Center Association, and Educate Nebraska (Katie Linehan, daughter of Senator Linehan, is the Executive Director of Educate Nebraska).

It is assumed LB 295 will be debated shortly. An ACTION ALERT was sent to the membership. Being in opposition, we ask the membership to contact their senators. Information on our opposition was also distributed to the senators on our February 20, 2018 public education bill and must be defeated.
The Kim Culp Juvenile Justice Forum
The State of Juvenile Justice in Nebraska
THURSDAY MARCH 22, 2018, 7–9 PM UNO BARBARA WEITZ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

Sponsored by: The League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha, League of Women Voters of Nebraska and Partnership for Kids

PURPOSE
To honor the work of Kim Culp founding Director of the Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) by engaging and informing the community on important issues affecting youth in the juvenile justice system.

Kim developed a myriad of programs through the JAC and nonprofits in Omaha, always with an emphasis on relationship building, cultural competence and understanding the impact of the child welfare system on children’s lives.

After retirement, Kim was active in the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha, serving as Vice-President at the time of her May 2017 death.

There will be a panel presentation by these key individuals working in the juvenile justice field:

DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT (DMC)
Chris Rodgers, Douglas County Commissioner

NEBRASKA JUVENILE PROBATION, OVERVIEW AND PRIORITIES
Jeanné Brandner, Deputy, Probation Administrator-Juvenile Services Division

PROGRAMS THAT WORK IN NEBRASKA
Anne Hobbs, PhD, Director, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRESS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS/UPCOMING LEGISLATION
Juliet Summers, JD, Juvenile Justice Policy Coordinator, Voices for Children

INSPECTOR GENERAL’S REPORT ON JUVENILE JUSTICE
Julie Rogers, Inspector General, Child Welfare &

Free, no reservation required: Contact information—Elaine Johnson, elaineomaha@gmail.com, 402-630-5199
The 5th League of Women Voters of Nebraska Annual Meeting will be held at the Prairie Loft Center for Outdoor Education, 4705 DLD Road, Hastings, Nebraska 68902. See the Prairie Loft Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/prairieloft/) for map and directions.

Check-in begins at 10:30 am; call to order at 11:00 am and adjournment no later than 3:00 pm. The meeting will break for a salad luncheon with choice of 3 sandwiches and dessert, with a brief musical program during the mealtime. Registration is $25, which helps to cover the cost of the luncheon, entertainment, and materials for the meeting.

If you plan to attend please send $25 payable to LWVNE with the form below BY Friday, APRIL 20, 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 23. I will print it out myself.

_____ $25 enclosed [you may register online at www.lwv-ne.org beginning on March 19 instead]

To ensure that your registration is received on time, it is best to mail it no later than Monday, April 16. The number of printed workbooks will be equal to the number of registrants requesting them.
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
By Linda Duckworth

Thank you to the members who participated in our conference call on February 26. We were a small group - less than ten - and for most it was a listening session, hearing news from the Unicameral and more. President Sherry Miller reported on our annual Legislative Day, held on February 20, invited all to our LWV-NE Annual Meeting on April 28 in Hastings, and encouraged us to consider attending the LWV National Convention in Chicago June 28 to July 1.

Sherry and John Else, LWV-NE Social Policy Director, talked about bills of concern that will soon be debated in the Legislature and asked members to contact Senators or their Legislative Aides about our priority bills.

Our next call will be Wednesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. Central time; our agenda will feature news from the Legislature and bills of concern in this session. We will end at 8:30 p.m. or very likely a few minutes earlier. Here's how to participate:

Call-in number: 712-775-7031, access code: 874-022-658 #

Note: if for any reason you have trouble getting through to FreeConferenceCall.com using the above, the "back door" to access it is: Dia 559-546-1400. You will be prompted to enter the 10-digit phone number for your conference line (712-775-7031) and then the pin.

MEMBERSHIPS FOR STUDENTS, YOUNG AND OLD
Sherry Miller, President

It is quite apparent that student activists, especially high schoolers, are eager to engage in the political process, presenting a unique opportunity for the League to develop a new, skilled pool of volunteer members who are necessary to ensure the long term success of our organization. As LWV approaches its 100th birthday, we all want to enter its second century well fortified with fresh ideas and energy that young people bring.

Linda Duckworth, VP for Membership, and I encourage you to help this effort in the following ways: 1) give League memberships to your 16 or older teens, both sons and daughters; 2) celebrate high school graduations with a League membership; 3) give your college age students memberships to keep them in touch with their community through League newsletters; 4) offer League member scholarships, along with financial support for League activities, such as Legislative Day.

Remember that student memberships are only $20.00 at the state level. Check with your local League for their recommended dues. By example, I am giving my granddaughter a membership in the Lincoln League today!