PRESIDENT'S CALENDAR
NOVEMBER 17, 2018 - FEBRUARY 20, 2019

October 17  State Presidents Call with Chris Carson, LWVUS President
October 19  Membership Leadership Development Call with Shur Fellows Mary Wilson and Linda Mahan, and Joanna Lindberg Nebraska MLD Coordinator
October 22  Conference call with new Shur Fellow Melissa Currence
November 7  Webinar with Network for Good, “Marketing for Year End”
November 9  Webinar Wellstone Group re: “Issue Oriented Action”
November 16  Meeting with INSPro representative re: Board liability insurance
December 5  State Presidents Call with Chris Carson, LWVUS President
January 4  Women’s Policy Summit with YWCA, Planned Parenthood, Lincoln Women’s Foundation
January 12  LWVNE Board meeting postponed due to weather
January 19  LWVNE Board meeting canceled due to weather
January 25  Signed subcontract and memorandum of understanding with Nebraska Table for Renewable Energy
February 2  LWVNE Board Priority Bill Meeting
February 4  Attended Legislative Hearing in Business and Labor Committee
February 9  Presented Redistricting Reform workshop with Kate High at Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day
February 14  Recognition of League by Senator Lynn Walz at unicameral
February 14  Hearing by Legislative Executive Board on redistricting bills
February 20  Conference call with Connie Ferguson, new Shur Fellow, and Ann Chalson, LWVG0 President, regarding Diversity Equity Inclusivity Initiative
February 20  State Presidents Call with Chris Carson, LWVUS President

STATE PRESIDENTS CALLS

Monthly calls with LWVUS President Christ Carson and members of the National Staff inform state presidents of League activity, e.g., use of VOTE 411 in the mid-term elections by 5.5 million voters looking for information on 21,000 candidates in 14,000 races nationwide. Other topics included finally ratifying the ERA (one more state needed to meet threshold of 38). An important goal of LWVUS is to raise awareness of the need for DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity) in Leagues across the country. The first step is an assessment to be completed by all local Leagues; the second step is to create a plan to improve DEI. LWVUS has provided the assessment tool and will assist with plans to improve DEI.

LEGISLATIVE DAY 2019

Threatening weather did not keep 45 eager women and men from hitting the Capitol halls, rotunda and senate offices after morning briefing and coffee in the NSEA Building.

League “lobbyists” shared our support for or opposition to Legislative Day priority bills with 47 of 49 senators, either through direct contact with a senator or with a legislative aide or other staff member. We were recognized by Senator Pansing Brooks (District 28 and League member from Lincoln), then trooped over to the Governor’s Mansion for luncheon and an impassioned talk by Danielle Conrad, Executive Director of the Nebraska ACLU. She spelled out clearly the dangers of a severely overcrowded corrections system across the state, the reason for ACLU’s lawsuit on behalf of 11 prisoners. We urge you to follow the progress of this lawsuit through the media.
REDISTRICTING REFORM NOW!!

Four bills for redistricting reform in Nebraska were heard by the Executive Board on February 14th. LB 253 (McCollister) establishes an Independent Citizens Advisory Committee to oversee the drawing of new maps following the 2020 Census. LB 466 (Howard) names a Legislative Commission in lieu of an independent commission. Both specify that all maps be drawn by the Legislative Research Office by computer generated programs. Two adjunct bills, LB 261 (DeBoer) and LB 4687 (Vargas) address the need for non-partisan redistricting maps drawn using state-issued computer software and prohibiting consideration of certain factors in redistricting (e.g., past voting trends).

If a compromise cannot be reached to advance redistricting reform in this session, voter protection organizations are planning an initiative petition effort to go on the 2020 ballot. If your senator sits on the Executive Board, please contact him or her to encourage advancing all of these bills.

Executive Board members: Mike Hilgers (District 21); Kate Bolz (District 29); Ernie Chambers (District 11); Dan Hughes (District 44); Mark Kolterman (District 24); John Lowe (District 37); John McCollister (District 20); Jim Scheer (District 19); and Tony Vargas (District 7).

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

John Else, Social Policy; Lynne Elwood, Government; Mary Ann Sturek, Education; Phyllis Salyards, Health; Sherry Miller, Natural Resources; and Darci Garcia, VP Action

Your LWVNE officers and board directors have been hard at work tracking and providing testimony on a slew of bills in this Unicameral session, dealing with such topics as missing Native American women, paid family and medical insurance leave, support for trafficked survivors, solitary confinement of juvenile offenders, sales tax exemption on feminine hygiene products, keeping very young school children from being suspended, developing a climate change plan, removing two-year wait for ex-felons to vote, along with a few we have opposed, such as arming school personnel and restricting wind power development statewide. These are only a portion of the many bills reviewed and prioritized.

We urge you to follow the Unicameral through news reports, TV coverage, the Unicameral Update and your streaming devices and TO JOIN THE COMMITTEES OF THE DIRECTORS NAMED ABOVE.

HR 1 “FOR THE PEOPLE ACT”

LWVUS is closely following HR 1, Called the "For the People Act," HR 1 is a sweeping bill that contains nearly 600 pages of changes to laws aimed to make it easier to vote, increase election security, and improve campaign finance transparency.

It includes detailed rules about every aspect of voting—for example, requiring that absentee ballots not need postage. The bill includes policy statements vowing to undo the impact of major court rulings such as Citizens United vs. FEC, which allows unlimited political spending by corporations, and Shelby County vs. Holder, which allowed jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to change voting laws without preclearance from the federal government. The new bill would require states to take several steps to make it easier for people to vote. It would require local election officials to do the following:

• Offer online voter registration;
• Establish automatic voter registration;
• Allow voter registration on the day of a federal election;
• Allow voters to correct their registration information at the polls;
• Restore voting rights to felons after they leave prison;
• Offer at least 15 days of early voting; and,
• Follow new rules before purging voters from registration lists.

The bill also has several measures related to campaign finance or ethics:

• Require super PACs to disclose donors who give more than $10,000;
• Require major online platforms to maintain an online public record of people who buy at least $500 worth of political ads; and
• Use public financing to match small dollar donations to House and presidential candidates.

STATUS OF HR 1: Introduced. ACTION NEEDED: Contact your Representative ASAP by phone or letter and urge advancement to debate by the House.

Jeff Fortenberry  Don Bacon  Adrian Smith
1514 Longworth HOB 1516 Longworth HOB 320 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4806 202-225-4155 202-225-0207
402-727-0888 888-221-7452 308-633-6333
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Linda Duckworth
Vice-President, Membership

As you probably know, members can always count on a meaningful experience at the LWV national convention. We invariably come away with new skills, strategies and connections, all for the purpose of Making Democracy Work for All.

Last year, we Nebraska delegates found ourselves seated near members from Sioux City, Iowa and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the result was the beginning of a tri-state collaboration. We met in July and then again on January 17 and are planning an event to bring tri-state residents together around an important issue.

Since our group is still exploring issues that we think are important to residents of Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota, we don't yet have any firm plans in place. Our hope is to get it organized for this summer, and if we are able to do that you'll be hearing from us.

It is the League's mission to educate the public on issues that affect our lives, but most of Nebraska is missing our presence and therefore the chance to join in discussion with other concerned citizens about these issues. Fortunately for residents of South Sioux City, Nebraska, the Sioux City League regularly presents great programs on current issues and also hosts legislative town halls during the legislative session. Check out (and like!) their Facebook page, and maybe even make plans to attend their March 24 event, "What's Killing our Bees?" And if you have friends and acquaintances in the tri-state area, please make sure they know about the League of Women Voters of Sioux City, as well as the League of Women Voters of Southeast South Dakota.

Lastly, if you are interested in helping to organize the tri-state event, or if you want to suggest an issue we should highlight, please get in touch.

Photo from our get-together with tri-state LWV members
Melissa Brown with daughter Iris, Ann Chalson, Caitlan Collier, Dagna Simmons, Kate High, Mary Ellen Ellyson and Katie Colling

READY AND WILLING TO SERVE? NOMINATE YOURSELF!!

Katie Thalken, Chair, and members of her nominating committee are eager to accept suggestions for nominations for the LWVNE. Maybe someone you know, maybe yourself, could be that experienced, ready to assume responsibility in an exciting, impactful, well-respected organization that is just reaching the peak of its power, while nearing 100 years in existence.

Contact Katie (kwadas@gmail.com) 402 305-6705; Paula Eurek (peurek@windstream.net) 402 420-7359; John Else (elsejf@gmail.com) 402-218-6910; Amy McGaha (dramymcgaha@yahoo.com) 417 592-0233.
LEAGUE EXPERTISE SHINES AT WOMEN’S POLICY SUMMIT
January 4, 2019

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Deb Turner, Chair of the National League’s Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity. Her animated, on point speech about the need for DEI was cited on many evaluation forms as inspiring and informative. One memorable quote was that many may be invited to come to the dance, but then are not asked to dance. Many nonprofit organizations face this challenge today.

In two breakout sessions, LWVNE Treasurer Kate High presented her Money in Politics slideshow, a rigorously researched look into the financing of the 2016 state senate race campaigns across Nebraska. Where the money comes from, how it is reported to the Nebraska Disclosure and Accountability Office, and where it is actually hidden in reports raised interesting questions for all in attendance.

LWVNE REPORT
SOCIAL POLICY ACTION TEAM
MARCH 4, 2019

The following are members of the LWVNE Social Policy Action Team: John Else, Chair; Peggy Adair; Lynne Anderson; Kate High; Phyllis Salyards; Aubry Mancuso (Voices for Children, Executive Director); Megan Mikoľajczyk (Planned Parenthood, Vice-President for Nebraska); Tiffany Siebert-Joekel (Omaha Women’s Fund, Research & Policy Director); Darci Garcia (LWVNE Action Chair). Ann Sherer is not available to participate this year.

The Team met on two occasions in January to discuss and set the Social Policy priorities that we would submit to the LWVNE Board on February 2. These 191 Legislative Bills came in the 11 subjects listed below. Behind each is the number of high priority and then monitoring only:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>High Priority</th>
<th>Monitor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children and Families</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime and Corrections</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabilities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and Construction</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payday Lending/Taxes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Issues</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, we identified 6 Legislative Resolutions/Constitutional Amendments of concern: We supported 3, agreed to monitor 1, and opposed 2.

The Legislative session has already spent about one-third of its days. We have written many letters (which are all posted on the LWVNE website) in support and opposition to various bills. We will continue to track the wide range of issues in our agenda and will continue to alert members as they are scheduled for hearings and when they reach the Floor of the Legislature for debate and vote. We hope you will all be tracking the issues and contacting your Legislators.

John Else continues to spend much of his time testifying and tracking progress of the 4 Redistricting bills recently heard by the Legislature’s Executive Board. LWV has been promoting various Redistricting bills for the last 5 years, and it is particularly critical that it be passed this year, in preparation for the 2021 redistricting, especially since the 2020 Legislative session is a short session and difficult to get bills passed. So please contact your Legislator to urge attention the creating a single bill and assuring its passage by the Legislature.
SAVE THE DATE

6TH LWVNE ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019

AIM Exchange Trading Floor, 7th Floor, 1905 Harney Street, Omaha, NE 68131

The 6th League of Women Voters of Nebraska Annual Meeting will be hosted by the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha (LWVGO) and held at their new office location, AIM Exchange Trading Floor, 7th Floor, 1905 Harney Street, Omaha, NE 68131. See map below for parking.

LWVGO will be holding its Annual Meeting in the morning, followed by a luncheon. LWVUS Board member Melissa Currence, who serves as the LWVUS liaison to the Nebraska League will be the luncheon speaker. The LWVNE Annual Meeting will take place in the afternoon, after the luncheon. LWVNE members who are not also LWVGO members may register for the luncheon.

Further details are still being determined, so please be sure to watch for the registration postcard in your U.S. mail.

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.
100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION BEGINS IN 2019!!!

As part of the League's celebration of 100 years of activism, the following resolution was read into the public record by Senator Lynne Walze on February 11, 2019. Many thanks to Dianne Bystrom of LWVGO for writing the resolution.

LR20 2019

WHEREAS, on August 2, 1919, during a special legislative session, Nebraska became the fourteenth state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, granting women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1920, the national League of Women Voters was founded at the annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association; and

WHEREAS, in June of 1920, the Nebraska Woman Suffrage Association reorganized as the Nebraska League of Women Voters to "unite all parties on certain issues" and to "establish a reputation for power as an organization"; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 1920, United States Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby issued a proclamation officially declaring the Nineteenth Amendment to be part of the Constitution of the United States after Tennessee became the thirty-sixth state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska will launch a year-long celebration of woman's suffrage and the right to vote enshrined in the Nineteenth Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes August 2019 as Nebraska Woman's Suffrage Month.