



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEBRASKA

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LWVNE 8th ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, April 24, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m. -- 1 p.m.

PUTTING OUR VOTE ON THE MAP



The 8th Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Nebraska will be held on Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Celina Stewart – chief counsel and senior director of advocacy and litigation for the national League of Women Voters – is the guest speaker. She will present “Protecting the Vote and Expanding Access for All: A Review of LWV Advocacy, Litigation and Redistricting” at 12:15 p.m.

The Annual Meeting agenda will include the election of officers and Board directors and voting on bylaws amendments, program changes and the 2021-2022 budget. Please add the date and time of the 2021 Annual Meeting to your calendars now; details will be available closer to the meeting date. You can register for the meeting via the LWVNE website [here](#).

LWVNE Co-Presidents Linda Duckworth and Dianne Bystrom asked Stewart to speak at the 2021 annual meeting due to her expertise and experience with these year’s theme: “Putting Our Vote on the Map.” As the LWVUS’ chief counsel and senior director of advocacy and litigation, Stewart develops and implements League political strategies and policy positions around election reform and voting rights issues, oversees prospective litigation for the national and state leagues in federal court, works closely with League grassroots staff in implementing national agenda, and serves as the lead lobbyist and liaison with Congress and the Administration for the League.

One of her proudest moments was authoring the People Powered Fair Maps plan following the disappointing *Rucho v. League of Women Voters of North Carolina* decision, where the federal court ruled that partisan gerrymandering was a political issue and not under the purview of federal courts. “The loss led to establishing a national redistricting initiative with all 50 states plus the District of Columbia doing civic engagement and education, ballot initiatives, protecting state constitutions and pushing for national reform on Capitol Hill,” Stewart said. “The program has produced enormous success and raised visibility for Leagues across the country.”

In the lead-up to the 2020 election, the League carried its heaviest caseload ever with more than 75 cases, Stewart said. “These cases aimed at expanding voter access and participation for all voters, with a heightened focus on communities of color. In 2020, the result of the League’s cases led to protecting more than 24 million voters.”

Stewart earned a Juris Doctorate from Western Michigan University Law School and a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Spelman College. She has served on the boards of the Bar Association of D.C., the Women’s Bar Association of D.C., and the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People. Stewart was an American Bar Foundation Law Practice Fellow.

According to the LWFVNE Bylaws: **ARTICLE X: Section 2. Voting Body.**

- a) The voting body shall consist of members from local Leagues who are current in Per Member Payment (PMP) to LWFVNE and members-at-large whose LWFVNE 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.

All local Leagues are current in their Per Member Payments to LWFVNE as are the Members-at-Large with their dues. Therefore, any LWFVNE member may attend and vote. Non-members are welcome to attend and observe.

LWFVNE CONTINUES EFFORTS TO INCORPORATE DEI

By Linda Duckworth, Co-President

I could report on any number of proud moments from the past couple of months, but my hope is you're aware of them through our MailChimp messages, our social media, or our virtual meetings of one type or another. I do encourage you to continue and even expand your involvement in League-led projects and activism if possible. Nebraska needs as many smart, watchful, sensible citizens as possible acting as the "second house." We Leaguers were born to do this!

Instead, I'd like to fill you in on our continuing efforts to incorporate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in every aspect of the work we produce, the view that others see and our internal relationships.

After many months of planning, we held a well-attended and much appreciated anti-bias training led by Dr. Erika Kirby of Creighton University and Earl Redrick of the Anti-Defamation League. Twenty-four members, most of us officers or directors on the LWFVNE board, were in attendance for the two-part session held December 5 and December 7, 2020. We covered such topics as ethnocentrism, microaggressions (and yes, one can make an argument that there is nothing “micro” about them) and equity. We practiced skills to challenge explicit and implicit bias in our everyday lives and talked about how to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in the League of Women Voters of Nebraska.

The DEI lens from LWFVUS is helpful in that regard. A DEI lens is a way of examining a program, a process, a product, etc. with regards to how it is perceived by a variety of communities, voices, and perspectives and what, if any, barriers may exist that is preventing it from being equitable or inclusive of everyone. You can find more information about the DEI lens [here](#).

We also talked about next steps, understanding that we have barely begun our process, and decided to offer an opportunity for book discussion. The book we chose is “How to be an Anti-Racist” by Ibrim X. Kendi. We found an [online discussion guide](#), which provides questions for eight meetings. We are a group of about 15

members from across the state who meet via Zoom for robust discussions. At this writing we have met three times, so please consider joining us for any subsequent discussions on April 5, April 19, May 3, May 17 and June 7. Please contact me at lindabduckworth@gmail.com to be added to the group, or find the information on social media.

Finally, I want to let you know that Rebecca Gonzales, a member-at-large and member of our Social Policy Committee, has been developing and continuing outreach to women of color in greater Nebraska. Her most recent effort is finding more participants for our Fair Maps project. When it comes to redistricting, we need all corners of the state represented. Thank you, Rebecca!

DONATIONS CONTINUE FOR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Thanks to the generosity of its members, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska now has more than \$5,000 to support its efforts to register voters, provide voter education programs and nonpartisan voters' guides, and expand get-out-the-vote efforts in 2021.

A total of \$5,065 has been raised to date in response to the December 1, 2020, letter from Co-Presidents Dianne Bystrom and Linda Duckworth: \$3,745 to the General Fund and \$1,320 to the Education Fund. All contributions, no matter their specific designation, are tax-deductible.

In addition to those donors listed in the Winter 2021 Nebraska Voter, Sylvia Cohn, Dorris Heaston, and Barbara and Ryan Soderlin have contributed to the Education Fund. Heaston also donated to the General Fund.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LWFVNE THANKS CARYL GUISINGER

By Katie Wadas Thalken, Vice President of Membership



For the past two years, Caryl Guisinger has served as one of the directors of Voter Services for the League of Women Voters of Nebraska. She was a new League member, but stepped up to the task of helping lead efforts to expand Vote411 across the state. She was also an instrumental member of the LWFVNE Communications Committee and led the revamp of our [website](#).

Her leadership truly was influential in the success of the 2019-2021 LWFVNE board.

Caryl provided this tremendous leadership all while managing major health issues, surgeries, and driving back and forth to Omaha from her home in Belgrade, NE. She now faces a terminal diagnosis and her League friends are saddened by this news. Her contributions to the success of the League's coverage of the 2020 election will forever be felt and her legacy of improving the technology for the state League will have lasting impacts, particularly as we seek to improve our presence in more rural areas of Nebraska. The League wishes Caryl well as she manages her diagnosis. We thank Caryl and her husband Roy for their contributions to our organization. Best wishes and God speed.

ACTION REPORT

By Sherry Miller, Vice President for Action

LEGISLATIVE DAY 2021

The first virtual League of Women Voters Legislative Day was a success! Fifty League members registered and attended the February 20 training session and 25 returned for virtual lobbying instructions on Legislative Day, February 24.

LWVNE Board directors selected eight priority bills, twice as many as in previous years, and presented their rationale for their choices at the February 20 meeting. After their lobbying by emails and phone calls, participants were invited to return an evaluation, and 10 did so. These were positive, appreciating the virtual format that allowed for more participation while avoiding car travel. Many participants show interest in continuing Legislative Day training by Zoom, followed up by possible visits to the Legislature in person.

STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE DAY PRIORITY DAY BILLS

LB 364 (Education) is still in committee. It is Senator Lou Ann Linehan's priority bill and may be pulled from committee for floor debate. The LWVNE opposed this bill, which gives a tax credit to individuals and corporations for donations to scholarships for private schools.

LB 8 (Government), Senator Carol Blood's bill to require electioneering reporting, remains in committee. The LWVNE supported her efforts to identify dark money in campaigns.

LB 11 (Government), Senator Blood's bill to allow registered voters to request permanent early ballots, remains in committee. The LWVNE supported this bill.

LB 20 (Health), Senator Blood's bill to provide insurance coverage for prescribed contraceptives, was advanced to General File. However, it was substantially gutted by reducing prescriptions from 12 months to 3 months by a committee amendment. The LWVNE supported the original bill.

LB 383 (Mental and Behavioral Health), Senator Mike Hilgers' bill to appropriate funds to plan, design and construct two new correctional centers is opposed by the LWVNE. This was a win for us as the Appropriation Committee members also opposed the request.

LB 266 (Natural Resources) was introduced by Senator John McCollister as the Adopt the Renewable Energy Standards Act. Nebraska may be the only state without such standards. The bill remains in the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee.

LR 22CA (Social Policy) is Senator Linehan's proposal for a constitutional amendment to limit the total amount of property tax revenue that may be raised by political subdivisions, including public school districts, to 3% with the inclusion of a vote to override a limit by the political subdivision's registered voters. The LWVNE is opposed to this resolution, which remains in committee.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION 2021

League directors and their committee members submitted 60 letters of written testimony regarding support for or opposition to bills introduced in the long session of the 107th Legislature. These letters can be read on the LWVNE website. Directors and committee members are to be congratulated on well-written, in-depth, researched letters, while keeping up with the breakneck pace of legislative committee hearings.

The letter format was developed by LWVNE Co-Presidents Dianne Bystrom and Linda Duckworth, resulting in a standardized example for use in lobbying senators with written testimonies based on League positions before and after hearings were held.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERTS

The LWVNE Action Alert group responded to alerts regarding HR1/S1, the For the People Act in Congress; and HR 2694, the bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in September 2020 regarding pregnant worker's rights.

State-level action was taken to oppose LR 3CA to require voter ID; to oppose LB 383 to fund a new corrections facility; and to oppose Amendment 2870 to LB 1106, which affected funding to schools in August 2020. State-level action included support for LB 11 to provide for permanent early ballot requests; to keep the seven-day notice requirement for public hearings set by the Rules Committee; and to support LR 390, a resolution regarding the economic impact of COVID 19 on the early childhood workforce. Action Alert volunteers were asked to contact Governor Pete Ricketts about the lack of action by the Department of Environment and Energy regarding the environmental catastrophe in Mead, NE, on AltEn, a company making ethanol with contaminated seed corn.

The LWVNE Action Alert group has grown to 45 members and more are always welcome! If you would like to receive action alerts, please email me at kitty66hawk@aol.com.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY REPORT

By Janelle Stevenson and Megan Lyons, Co-Directors

In 2021, we have countless options throughout the month of April to celebrate the meaning of Earth Day. Be sure to check out special events in your corner of the state or feel welcome to join in some of the creative, innovative virtual programs available. At <https://lincolnearthday.org/> you can access a Community Calendar and interactive map featuring fantastic environmental resources. Omaha Earth Day offers a virtual Nebraska Earth Day passport option: <http://earthdayomaha.org/>.

As you may be aware from media coverage, AltEn Ethanol in Mead, NE, accepts more than 90% of the nation's unwanted pesticide coated seeds. Unfortunately, they process the material into ethanol and sell by-products to local farmers as a "soil conditioner." Due to the poisonous materials involved, the residents of Mead have experienced sickness, animal health problems, and pollinators die off for the past two years. Environmental monitoring, including by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), has detected levels of neonicotinoids, which are banned in some nations, in the surrounding soil. In early February, the NDEE ordered the plant to shut down operations to clean up their dilapidated wastewater lagoons. AltEn was unable to comply, and as of March 1, the state of Nebraska is suing AltEn for its pollution. Consequently, their irresponsible business practices and untimely help from state officials has left an environmental disaster.

Please continue to follow this story and keep pressure on the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee, NDEE and the governor to ensure that this private company remediates the damage instead of taxpayers.

On Tuesday, March 16, 2021, various environmental coalitions hosted the Lincoln City Council Environmental Candidate Forum. This forum provided an important opportunity for voters to get to know the Lincoln City Council candidates and their positions on environmental issues facing the community. This forum focused on questions regarding a wide range of important environmental issues, such as climate change, water, food policy, and more.

Earlier this year, the Sierra Club put out a report, “The Dirty Truth About Utility Climate Pledges,” analyzing 50 parent companies, comprised of 79 operating companies, which own half of all remaining coal and gas generations in the United States. The three necessary actions they scored on were (1) retiring coal, (2) stop building new gas plants, and (3) build clean energy in this next crucial decade. Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) and Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) received an “F” grade based on their continued use of gas plants and not meeting the 2030 goal to decarbonize, a year that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change deemed crucial for reducing greenhouse gases. We must continue to communicate to the energy sector the citizens’ demand for the best public and environmental health possible.

This year, the LWVNE Natural Resources Committee will be taking a closer look at soil health and what that means in Nebraska. Soil health is inherent in agriculture, but a re-emergent attention explores practices for combating climate change. Stay tuned for learning opportunities as we explore the ground beneath our feet.

GOVERNMENT REPORT

By Sheri St. Clair, Director

Legislation related to issues of redistricting, voter suppression and election safeguards are being monitored in the 107th session of the Legislature. Position letters were submitted regarding 16 proposed bills or resolutions. In-person testimony was provided regarding amending the Rules of the Legislature as well as on four pieces of legislation. Of the 16, four received priority designation, as shown in the table below. Proposals that would require voter identification or impact provisions related to early voting failed to advance.

SUPPORT	
LB 83	Change the Open Meetings Act to provide for virtual conferencing
LR 18 CA	Constitutional amendment to change legislative term limits to three consecutive terms
OPPOSE	
LR 14	Resolution to Congress for convention of the states to propose amendments to the United States Constitution
NEUTRAL	
LB 285	Change provisions relating to elections conducted pursuant to the Election Act: registration list maintenance; receipt of information from nongovernmental agency <i>Per Civic Nebraska: LB 285 is meant to answer the Department of Motor Vehicles concerns so that Nebraska can move forward with plans to join the Electronic Registration Center (https://ericstates.org/)</i> <i>Neutral because name of agency not specified in the bill</i>

LB 8 was designated a priority bill by the LWVNE at its Legislative Day in February 2021. This legislation would change independent expenditure reporting requirements and require electioneering reporting. Unfortunately, it did not secure the five votes needed to advance from the Government Committee.

The coalition of nonprofit organizations working to coordinate activity on redistricting efforts continues to meet via Zoom. The LWVNE is an active participant in this group, which includes Common Cause Nebraska, Nebraska Appleseed, ACLU Nebraska, and RepresentUS Omaha, among others. The group closely reviewed the more recent proposed legislation regarding redistricting (LB 107) and identified positive and negative aspects. In conjunction with Common Cause Nebraska, the League participated in a week of action regarding redistricting in September 2020. Several coalition members, including the LWVNE, testified in support of LB 107, the Redistricting Act, at the Executive Council meeting on February 17, 2021. Letters to the editor and

supporting opinion pieces were submitted to local media. Nonetheless, LB 107 failed to advance from the Government Committee.

The LWVUS is planning a national day of action focused on redistricting to take place on April 29, 2021. Several potential activities have been identified, such as contacting legislators to support the creation of fair maps, hosting map drawing events and participation in a social media campaign. The winning entry to the LWVNE's sponsored poetry contest will be announced that day. Other proposed actions include contacting legislators assigned to the Redistricting Committee and hosting a virtual event to discuss how redistricting impacts Nebraska.

SOCIAL POLICY REPORT

January 12 through March 23, 2021

By Carol Dennison, Director

At the time of this report, 12 of the bills supported by the Social Policy Committee advanced, two of the bills we opposed failed to advance, and one bill we opposed advanced. To date none of the taxation, basic needs legislation, childcare, gun-related, corrections, juvenile justice, or equal rights bills have been heard, so many of our issues remain for debate. Please follow the bills for further support or opposition on the floor.

LWVNE's social policy portfolio addresses a wide range of issues including equality of opportunity, fiscal policy, meeting basic human needs, childcare, violence prevention, sentencing, human trafficking and more. Thanks to the tenacious volunteers of the Social Policy Committee, 41 position letters have been sent to Nebraska legislators on these issues. Many thanks to Joanna Lindberg, Rachel Gibson, Sara Lee, Gerry Sullivan, Carmala Aderman, and Carolyn Thiele from the Omaha area; Belva Junker from the Hastings area; and Rebecca Gonzales from Wilbur. Special thanks to the many who helped us with perspective and research. Please read our position letters on the [LWVNE website](#).

Key: (Introducing Senator) S/P/N- Support/Oppose/Neutral, LWVNE Social Policy Researcher/Writer Volunteer (Name) Green=Advanced Pink=Failed to Advance

Violence Prevention

- LB 7 (Blood) **S** (Lee) Provide immunity for witnesses and victims of violent crimes
- **LB 51 (Lathrop) S (Dennison) Change and provide qualifications for and duties relating to certification of law enforcement officers, require accreditation of law enforcement agencies, prohibit chokeholds in law enforcement, and require policies on excessive force Judiciary Priority Bill on March 12**
- **LB 300 (Slama) O (Lee) Change provisions relating to justification for the use of force (Stand Your Ground Expansion) Failed to Advance from Judiciary Committee**
- LB 116 (McCollister) **S** (Lee) Change provisions relating to handgun transfer certificates and require suicide prevention training and informational materials

Fiscal Policy – Taxation

- LR 22CA (Linehan) **O** (Gibson, Dennison) Constitutional amendment to limit the total amount of property tax revenue that may be raised by political subdivisions
- LB 680 (Linehan) **O** (Dennison) Change the corporate income tax rate
- LB 681 (Linehan) **O** (Dennison) Include elementary and secondary schools in the Nebraska educational savings plan trust and change tax benefits

Basic Human Needs

- **LB 26 (Wayne) S (Dennison) Provide a sales tax exemption for residential water service Advanced to General File, Senator Pahls' Priority Bill**
- LB45 (Hansen, M.) S (Dennison, Sullivan) Repeals anti-continuance statute, which gives a tenant opportunity to defend themselves
- LB205 (Hunt) S (Dennison, Sullivan) Change provisions relating to unpaid periodic rent under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
- LB 290 (M. Cavanaugh) S (Gibson) Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act
- LB 230 (Hunt) S (Lee) Prohibit discrimination in public accommodations and under the Nebraska Fair Housing Act on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity
- LB 358 (Hunt) S (Sullivan, Lindberg, Dennison) Change provisions relating to retaliatory conduct by a landlord under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act

Nutrition (SNAP)

- **LB 108 (McCollister) S (Dennison) Change provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Senator McCollister's Priority Bill, Placed on General File on March 9**

Child Care

- LB 68 (Day) S (Lee) Change provisions relating to reimbursement for services provided by the federal Child Care Subsidy program
- **LB 485 (DeBoer) S (Lee) Change provisions relating to childcare assistance (cliff effect) Senator DeBoer's Priority Bill March 12**
- LB 677 (Linehan) S (Lee) Change provisions relating to eligibility for transitional childcare assistance (cliff effect)

Child Welfare

- **LB186 (Hilkemann) S (Dennison) Change provisions relating to the offense of criminal child enticement**
- **LR 29 (M. Cavanaugh) S (Lindberg) Provide for appointment by the Executive Board of a special committee known as the Eastern Service Area Child Welfare Contract Special Investigative and Oversight Committee of the Legislature. Senator M. Cavanaugh's Priority Bill (Amendments March 23)**

Juvenile Justice and Protections

- **LB 307 (Pansing-Brooks) S (Lindberg, Dennison) Set provisions for Waiver of Counsel (prevents out-of-home placement for juveniles without legal representation.) Senator Pansing-Brooks' Priority Bill, General File**
- LB 308 (Pansing-Brooks) S Create the Juvenile Indigent Defense Fund, a way for counties to cover the costs of defense for indigent juveniles

Equal Rights/Equality of Opportunity

- LB 120 (Hunt) S (Lee) Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity
- LB 517 (Hunt) S (Lee) Provide for a gender-neutral designation on operator's licenses and state identification cards and provide for amendment of a birth certificate.
- LB 249 (Pansing-Brooks) S (Dennison) Prohibit employers from inquiring about wage rate history under the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act
- **LB 451 (McKinney) S (Dennison) Include characteristics associated with race, culture, and personhood within definition of race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles under the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act Senator McKinney's Priority Bill, General File**

- LB 493 (M. Cavanaugh) **S** (Dennison) Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services. Fund almost 3,000 Nebraskans with developmental disabilities on a waiting list for services
- Broadband Internet Bills **S** (Gibson) Remaining in committee are all other Broadband bills: LB 398 (Bostelman), LB 455, LB 456, (Friesen) LB 460, LB 600, (Brandt) LB 498 (DeBoer), LB 604 (Geist)
- LB 656 (Wayne) **Indefinitely Postponed**
- **LB 338**, Senator Bostelman's Priority Bill, on General File March 17
- **LB 388** Senator Hilgers' Priority Bill, on General File March 11
- **LB 498** (DeBoer), on General File March 1

Voting Rights (Corrections)

- LB 158 (Wayne) **S** (Dennison) Provide for restoration of voting rights upon completion of a felony sentence or probation for a felony

Corrections, Sentencing

- LB 334 (Wayne) **S** (Gonzales) Adopt the Community Work Release Treatment Centers Act
- LB 335 (Flood) **S** (Gonzales) Require announcement of the average cost of incarceration at sentencing for sentences served at the Department of Correctional Services
- **LB 383 (Hilgers) O (Lindberg, Dennison) Appropriation of Funds for Capital Construction, Agency 46 prison construction funds on hold until the completion of year-long planned study of criminal justice reforms. The money will be held in the state's capital construction fund.**
- **LB 444 (Hansen) S (Gonzales) Change provisions relating to credit against jail terms Advanced to General File March 4**
- LB 548 (Wayne) **S** (Gibson) Adopt the Nebraska Racial Justice Act and provide grounds for postconviction relief
- LB 525 (Wishart) **S** (Gonzales) Provide duties and requirements for transitional housing facilities and change powers of the Office of Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional System
- LB 601 (McKinney) **S** (Dennison) Require law enforcement agencies to maintain records regarding officer discipline and create a public database of law enforcement officer misconduct
- LB 624 (McCollister) **S** (Lee) Provide for earned time credit reductions to the minimum terms of sentences of offenders at facilities of the Department of Correctional Services

Guns, Violence Prevention

- **LB 13 (Blood) S (Lee) Prohibit possession of a deadly weapon by the subject of a foreign protection order (domestic abuse and protection orders across state lines) Advanced to General File March 11**
- LB 116 (McCollister) **S** (Lee) Change provisions relating to handgun transfer certificates and require suicide prevention training and informational materials
- LB 404 (Lowe) **O** (Lee) Change permit and renewal time periods under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act
- LB 188 (Halloran) **O** (Lee) Adopt the Second Amendment Preservation Act
- **LB 236 (Brewer) O (Lee) Permit counties to authorize carrying concealed weapons as prescribed Senator Clements' Priority Bill**



CENTENNIAL REPORT

By MaryLee Moulton, Director

As the Centennial director position rolls off the LWFNE board, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters.

Our commemoration kicked off in August 2019 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Nebraska's ratification of the 19th Amendment on August 2, 1919. We were able to gather – in person – to hear from Judge Laurie Smith Camp and were joined by Nebraska First Lady Susanne Shore, Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert, and state Senator Lynne Walz of Fremont. Walz led the effort in the Legislature to pass a resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of Nebraska becoming the 14th state to ratify the 19th Amendment and recognizing August 2019 as Woman's Suffrage Month.

Members of the LWFNE also participated in the August 16, 2019, opening of History Nebraska's "Votes for Women: Nebraska's Suffrage Story" exhibit at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. The League created seven banners to illustrate the history of the suffrage movement in Nebraska. The banners were first displayed in February 2020 at the Nebraska Capitol Rotunda. They also have been displayed at the Women Lead Conference at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in March 2020 and at the Union Pacific, College of Saint Mary, and four Omaha Catholic high schools in August and September 2020.

We had many plans for 2020, including the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the Seward 4th of July Parade, a Film Streams suffrage movie event, the John C. Fremont Days parade and tea in Fremont, and many other community events. Then the coronavirus hit and our plans were upended. Tragedy then struck with the untimely passing of Judge Smith Camp, our partner in the commemoration. I can't help but remember her boundless enthusiasm and grace. Her passing was a loss to the Nebraska community.

We soldiered on with LWFNE Co-President, Dr. Dianne Bystrom, conducting many talks about the Centennial on Zoom. You can view her videos with Humanities Nebraska at <https://lwfnebraska.org/league-history/>. We are so lucky to have a suffrage expert like Dianne – many thanks.

The banners will continue to be available for display and are a great teaching tool. Please let the LWFNE Board know if you would like to use them for a community event. On October 12, 2021, the LWFNE will participate in a commemoration of the 19th Amendment at the annual meeting of the Nebraska State Bar Association at the La Vista Embassy Suites. The commemoration will include a display of the LWFNE's suffrage banners.

Perhaps the biggest takeaway from the Centennial is a commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and a renewed spirit to our motto – Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy. This was evident in the many hours our members put into the 2020 election. As we look forward to the next 100 years of the League of Women Voters, we are committed to a more inclusive League that is present in all Nebraska communities working with our partners to make sure that all Nebraskans are informed and are able to exercise their fundamental right to vote. Thank you for the privilege of serving as Centennial Director.