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The Voter April 2019

Editor: Jogee Detchemendy

Upcoming Events:

- League of Women Voters of Pulaski County monthly meeting will be held Monday April 15th at 6 pm at the Fletcher Library, 823 N. Buchanan, Little Rock. This meeting is open to all League members, as well as the public. The topic will be “All About the 2020 Census.” Dr. Pamela Willrodt, Senior Demographer at the Arkansas Economic Development Institute, will speak about the process, importance, and challenges associated with the 2020 Census.

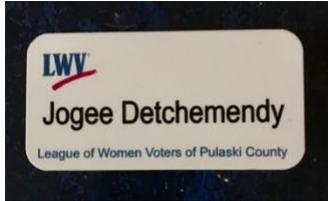
The League of Women Voters supports apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population. Throughout the country the League is traditionally involved on Complete Count Committees to encourage the widest possible participation in the census to ensure the most accurate population base for apportionment and redistricting.

- Saturday April 27th from 9 am to 4 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 2400 Prince St., Conway, AR 72304 [The League of Women Voters of Arkansas](#) will hold State Convention to pass our budget, elect Leadership Team members and establish our program for 2019-2020. We still need 8-10 people to attend this important meeting! This is a great opportunity to meet leaguers from the other two leagues in the state, and hear from our national board liaison, Catherine Cotton. The breakout sessions have been planned by our member Pat Landes, so we know they will be great. The cost is \$10 per person, to pay for lunch and other materials. Carpooling will be discussed at the LWVPC monthly meeting. Register on the [LWVAR Facebook page](#). Look under Upcoming Events, and click see all to get to the PayPal link. If you want to send a check, mail to Carol Young, LWVAR Treasurer, 712 Ash, Little Rock, AR 72205.
- Public Form series hosted by the LWVPC, CALS & KUAR will kick off soon at the Ron Robinson Theater at 100 River Market Ave., Little Rock. The first forum will be “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. What is working and what citizens can do?” Forums will be recorded for broadcast on KUAR and the station will provide the moderators. Forums will follow the format used for the last Mayoral Forum. League volunteers are needed to hand out and collect question cards from the audience, greet customers, etc. Carol will be emailing about volunteering and to let League members know once a date is set.

Upcoming Events continued on the next page

- LWVPC May meeting will be on the topic of possible changes to the city's organization & board composition. We are happy to announce Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott will speak on this important topic.

Announcements:



- Carol would like to put in a second order for name tags. To receive a set price of \$10 per tag, she will need to order 15 or 20 people. So far only four people have responded. Please contact Carol if interested in purchasing a name tag. The fewer people ordering, the higher the price goes. Pictured left is an example of the name tags.

- Many of our members come straight from work to our meetings at 5:30. We like to provide refreshments to tide folks over during the meetings. We usually serve finger foods. LWV has plates, napkins and cups but we need help with these snacks/drinks. We usually have about 20 people at a meeting. Please see following dates and contact the League's email to volunteer.

Monday, April 15: Ruth Bell and Michelle Rhoden (full)

Monday, May 20: Devita Harden - need one more volunteer

Monday June 17: Maybe a potluck for the Annual Meeting, or will need two people. Voice your opinions on this!

- The Voter will start publishing every 2nd Monday of the month. In an effort to meet this deadline, we ask that anyone contributing to the Voter send your information to Jogee Detchemendy at jogeeduzzi@gmail.com by the first Wednesday of each month.



- At the March LWVPC meeting Robert Steinbuch spoke on Freedom of Information Act Arkansas. Simply put he stated if a person wants information from any of Arkansas government agency, the person should send an email or letter requesting whatever information he or she wants. There is no formal "Freedom of Information request." If any issues arise, as in the government agency states that it is a burden for them to supply said information, Steinbuch suggested breaking requests down into smaller time frames, but sending multiple requests at different times. During the meeting a recent article was mentioned about Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott's office wanting all media inquiries routed to the Mayor's office. Please see the [linked article](#) in which Robert Steinbuch comments. Photo by Alfreda Brown of Robert Steinbuch speaking at LWVPC meeting.

Education Update:

Norma Johnson is our Education Committee chair. She has been observing the Citizens Advisory Board for the LRSD. She would like to meet with some or all of the CAB members, and any League members who are interested in the LRSD. Details for this meeting, or meetings, will be coming soon. Please watch you emails.

What's Happening at the Public Meetings LWVPC Observe begins on next page.

What's Happening at the Public Meetings LWVPC Observe?

Central Arkansas Water observed by Ruth Bell and Kathleen Olson

SB550 in the current legislative session was designed to lessen state oversight of large hog farms, but as presented would have removed oversight of drinking water sources in the State. In Central Arkansas it had the potential to do away with Pulaski County's Maumelle Watershed ordinances, designed to protect Lake Maumelle from polluting influences. CAW's executive director testified against SB550 at the Legislature, as did representative of Beaver Lake Water District, and the federal EPA staff person with oversight of Arkansas water quality wrote suggesting SB550 was questionable legislation. SB550 was sent to be studied in the period between this legislative session and the next regular session in 2021. Many bills sent to be studied between legislative sessions do not surface again.

LWVPC continues to follow CAW's on-going study of pollution impact of mountain biking abutting Lake Maumelle. CAW undertook this study in response to request to allow mountain biking on CAW's property around the Lake. Studies of polluting sources for drinking water sources identify frequent use of dirt roads and trails as a meaningful source of silt in lakes.

Little Rock City Government observe by Ruth Bell and Kathleen Olson

Mayor Frank Scott, Jr. is still settling into his role as Mayor. His informal advisory sub-committees have reported to him and a complete copy of the sub-committee reports is expected to be available within a few weeks. In his recent Report on the City speech the Mayor referred to his advisory committee's report recommendations several times, without going into details. One of the advisory sub-committees dealt with city governance.

In late spring of 2018 the LR City Board resolved to set up a group to study forms of city governance. In December 2018 the City Board set up an eleven-member group tasked with recommending the best form of governance for Little Rock. Each Board member and the Mayor appointed one member to the group and it has begun meeting. Its third meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday April 10 at City Hall. Governance concerns mentioned in the recent past include role of at large board members, and role of City Manager in Little Rock governance. After Mayor Scott took office, he made some changes set out in existing law regarding our form of City Manager governance that had not been implemented under the previous administration.

LWVPC publicly supported the change to city manager government in 1957 and members participated in FUTURE LR and VISION LR citizen groups studying aspects of the City including its governance, and voted for the FUTURE LR and VISION LR recommendations presented to the City Boards of those times. Further changes in our form of governance dealing with the role of mayor and his direct election, salaries paid to the mayor and board members have been passed by either local election or enacted as state law.

Metroplan observed by Mindy Morrell

Metroplan, the planning body for Central Arkansas, is in the process of restructuring its citizen advisory committees with the goal of being more representative of the diverse areas in Central Arkansas. Tab Townsell, Metroplan's Executive Director, hopes to announce membership of the committees very soon. Previous advisory committees felt their recommendations on issues like I-30 Crossing were not heeded, and that there was little dialogue between the advisory groups and members of the Metroplan Board who are mayors, county judges of the cities, villages and counties that make up Central Arkansas. FYI: Metroplan is required by the federal government to have advisory committees since Metroplan makes recommendations re use of federal funds.

What's Happening at the Public Meetings LWVPC Observe begins on next page.

Pulaski County Election Commission observed by Mary Wildgen

The Election Commission is planning toward the 2020 elections, focusing on recruitment of more election officials and improving election official training and written instructions. Obtaining state and federal funds to purchase state of the art voting devices includes commitment from County Judge and Quorum Court to include county matching funds in the County budget.

Special thank you to Ruth Bell, Kathleen Oleson, Mindy Morrell, Mary Wildgen and Norma Johnson for continuing to volunteer as observers every month. Additionally we'd like to welcome one of our newest League members, Rachel Howell to the observers. She has taken over observing the Jacksonville Board. We greatly appreciate you.

Observing Opportunities:

Please click links for calendar of each committee's meetings. I am also putting names of current League members who observe these meetings. If you have any interest in observing these ladies would love your help! If there are any other committees/observation opportunities you would like to suggest to the League, please let us know and we will add it to the next newsletter.

[Little Rock Planning Commission](#)

Meets every other Thursday at 3:30 for agenda meeting and the commission public meeting meets same day at 4 at Little Rock City Hall in the City Board Room. Contact Ruth Bell at 501.225.2538 or rfbell@aristotle.net.

[Little Rock Board of Directors:](#)

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 pm. Agenda Board (to look at the items that will be discussed at the next board meeting) meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 4 pm (so the next agenda meeting will be Jan 29th). Both meet at Little Rock City Hall, 500 West Markham Street, Board of Directors Chambers, 2nd floor, Little Rock. Contact Kathleen Oleson at 501.664.2351.

[County Planning Board](#)

Meets the 4th Tuesday of every month. Agenda discussion starts at 2:30 pm and actual meeting follows at 3pm. Held at Jeffery Hawkins Conference Room – Pulaski County Regional Center. 501 W. Markham Street, Little Rock. Contact Kathleen Oleson at 501.664.2351.

[Quorum Court](#)

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month for agenda and then the full court meets 4th Tuesday. Both meetings start at 6 pm at 201 S. Broadway 4th Floor Quorum Court Room. Contact Kathleen Oleson at 501.664.2351 or Ruth Bell at 501.225.2538 or rfbell@aristotle.net

[Central Arkansas Water Board](#)

Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2 pm at the 221 East Capitol, Little Rock. Contact Kathleen Oleson at 501.664.2351 or Ruth Bell at 501.225.2538 or rfbell@aristotle.net

[Water Reclamation Commission](#)

Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 4 pm in Little Rock Wastewater Offices, 11 Clearwater Drive. Currently no one is observing so we need someone to volunteer!!!!

Observing Opportunities continued on next page.

Meets at Pulaski County Election Commission, 501 West Markham St., Suite A, Little Rock. Contact Mary Wildgen at mzwildgen@ualr.edu

Little Rock School District

Meet 5:30-6:30 at 810 Markham, Little Rock. Next Feb.28, March 28, April 28th and then May 16th. Contact Norma Johnson at norma_johnson58@yahoo.com

[MetroPlan](#)

Executive Committee meets at 501 West Markham St., Suite B, Little Rock on the 3rd Thursday of every other month from 10 am-12 pm (next meeting is March. 21st). Board meets last Wednesday of every other month from 10 am to 12 pm (so next meeting is Feb 27). Contact Mindy Morrell at 501 951 7773 or mindymorrell@hotmail.com

[North Little Rock Planning Commission:](#)

Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 4 pm at North Little Rock City Hall. Next meeting is Feb.12.

[North Little Rock City Council](#)

Meets every other Monday at 6 pm at City Council Chambers at City Hall. 300 Main Street, North Little Rock. Not certain if anyone is observing this meeting.

[North Little Rock School District:](#)

Meets the 3rd Thursday of every month from 5:30 to 7 pm at 2700 North Poplar St., North Little Rock Administration Board Room. Not certain if anyone is observing this meeting. Not certain if anyone is observing this meeting.

[All Boards and Commissions for North Little Rock Government](#) are broken down at this link.

League Links:

[League of Women Voters \(National\)](#)

[League of Women Voters \(State of Arkansas\)](#)

[League of Women Voters of Pulaski County](#)

*Special thanks to Michelle Rhoden for managing the LWVPC website. Please take a few minutes to visit the LWVPC's [updated site](#). From now on you will be able to find this monthly newsletter and an active calendar of our events on the website!

Leadership Team

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