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The Voter June 2019

Edited by Jogee Detchemendy

Upcoming Events/Announcements:

- LWVPC Annual Meeting will be held Monday June 17th at 5:30 at Fletcher Library, 823 N. Buchanan, Little Rock. This will be an hors d'oeuvres potluck. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a savory appetizer, and if your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a sweet. Carol will provide plates, silverware and drinks. Please bring your own serving utensils.
- The City of Little Rock Governance Committee created by the Little Rock City Board to study and make recommendations to the Board in regards to our City's structure is holding public meetings seeking input from citizens on possible changes in the City's form of governance. Members of the Committee will share possible changes being considered and ask for citizen comment. The Committee wants feedback from the public and will listen to your comments. Do attend one of these meetings, listen, ask questions and comment on what is presented. There are some changes and additions to the Committee's schedule of public meetings. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming meetings:

Thursday, June 13: Willie Hinton Resource Center 3805 W. 12th Street

Monday, June 17: Christ Lutheran Church 315 S. Hughes Street

Monday, June 24: Immanuel Baptist Church 501 N. Shackleford Road

- If you would like to contribute to the suffragette sculpture *Every Word We Utter* to be placed in the [Vogel Schwartz Sculpture Garden](#) in the River Market area of Little Rock, please give your tax deductible donations through the non-profit:
"Sculpture at the River Market."
C/O Jane Rogers, 5409 Hawthorne Road, Little Rock, AR 72207

Please indicate that your donation is through the LWVPC. Jane will keep a list of our donors. If your donation is or a Memorial or Honorarium, please also include: Whether donation is a memorial or honorarium, name of individual being remembered or honored, name and mailing address where gift notification should be sent.

Voter continued on next page.

Annual Meeting Information:

As stated above the annual meeting is upon us. In an effort to be as zero waste as possible we will not be printing paper copies of the information discussed. There will be a power point, and we are listing information below. Huge thanks to Carol for the following copy.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULASKI COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

JUNE 17, 2019

Call to Order

Establishment of a Quorum

Appoint a Recorder

Observer Reports

2019-20 Budget Presentation

Election of Leadership Team

Adoption of the Program of Work

Announcements

Adjournment

REPORT OF THE LWVPC 2018-2019

Since our Annual Meeting in June of 2018, The LWVPC had monthly meetings on the Minimum Wage proposed amendment with David Couch, and hosted Brian Poe, the director of elections for Pulaski County. We had an excellent meeting on the Abolishment of the Electoral College, by two of our members, Becky Jackson and Corinne Kwapis. We had retired state Supreme Court Justice, Annabelle Tuck, speak on the Tort reform amendment, which fortunately was struck down prior the election, so we saved some advocacy work hours.

In July, we had a Drinks and Dialogue at South on Main, entitled, "Is Civility Really important", and we plan to have more D and D's in the coming year.

We also had monthly programs on FOIA, a legislative update on Education by Cathy Koehler, the president of the AEA, and a fantastic turnout for our 2019-20 program planning session. We now have a 3-person program committee, Pat Landes, Devita Harden and Carol Silverstrom. In April 2019, we had a speaker on the 2020 Census, and we had LR Mayor Frank Scott Jr. at our May meeting, who spoke about his plans to reorganize city departments and his views on reorganizing the composition of the LR City Board.

We participated in several voter registration drives, focusing on high school seniors, and we also tabled at other events. We worked on Vote411, having 43 races with 95 candidates. Getting that many busy people to reply to our questions took a village!

We joined a coalition led by Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, called Arkansans for Responsible Spending. We had a press conference at the capitol, soon after Gov. Hutchison released his budget. Unfortunately, we were not very successful in getting increased funding for the programs for those who need it the most.

We have had an active Observer Corps, led by longtime member, Ruth Bell. We have observers for 10 boards and commissions, covering both city and county-wide bodies.

Annual Meeting Info continued on next page.

Several of us have followed the 30-Crossing project. We have also lent our support to other environmental concerns, such as protecting the Buffalo River and our drinking water, the Lake Maumelle watershed.

We have had some major accomplishments this year. We teamed up with CALS System, KUAR public radio, and our sister organization, AAUW, to put on five different public forums for the five candidates for the Mayor of Little Rock. They were held over a six-week period. The first four were on specific topics: Crime, Infrastructure, Economic Opportunities, and Education. The fifth was on all topics and also had some time for candidates to rebut each others' answers. They were held in local libraries, in different parts of the city. KUAR recorded them for radio broadcast, and provided the moderators. We helped develop the questions asked, and also passed out cards and pens for the audience questions. Members collected the cards, selected the most relevant, and sent questions up to the moderator. We had members act as timekeepers at each forum. Nate Coulter, director of CALS, was so impressed with our success, that he has asked the groups to continue to host forums once a quarter, entitled "Issues that Matter". We had the first one in May, on the Environment, and plans are underway to have one in August on Education and one in January or February on the 2020 Census.

After the forums in the Fall, we coasted until January, when we had a wonderful party at a Deborah Baldwin and Jim Metzger's new home. We had local state representative Tippi McCollugh, a County JP Julie Blackwood, and LR City Board member Kathy Webb speak on how we could better communicate with them and help them get information out to the community.

We have a great Leadership Team. Denise Ennett does our Facebook updates and Voter Registration, Marcy Taylor and Devita Harden work with the money and membership, and Ruth Bell, works with the Observer Corps. We are very lucky to have our new Newsletter Editor, Jogee Detchemendy, and our new Website Manager, Michelle Rhoden.

Many members have brought snacks for general meetings, worked the forums and tabled at other events. I think we can all agree that 2018-19 was a very busy, yet productive year, and 2019-20 will present many more opportunities for the League to serve our members and our county.

LWVPC PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 2019-2020

I. Voter Service

- a. Voter Registration Committee: Develop a plan by September 1 and partner with other groups to participate in National Voter Registration Day.
 - i. Register additional 100 persons from an under registered population
 - ii. Host or co-host 1 training session for registrars
- b. Vote 411
 - i. Publish all races in Pulaski County
 - ii. Solicit sponsorship
- c. Candidate forums in cooperation with other groups
- d. Conduct public forums in conjunction with UALR Public Radio and CALS

II. Membership

- a. Membership Committee: Develop a plan to grow membership by end of fiscal year
 - i. Increase diversity by 3%
 - ii. Increase total membership by 5%
- b. Have stronger engagement of members by offering programs of interest *

III. Good government opportunities

- a. Continue to increase the Observer Corps Committee
- b. Take action on LWV public policy positions when appropriate, engage with governmental bodies, elected officials, and other stakeholders in the public interest on the issues and topics affecting Pulaski County”
 - i. Re-study Little Rock form of government*
 - ii. Actively pursue the return of LRSD to local control
 - iii. Continue to monitor and comment on 30 Crossing
 - iv. Support efforts to protect the Environment

IV. Strengthening the organization to make democracy work

- a. Develop a three-year plan by May (for presentation at Annual Meeting) to increase membership, leadership, and development (outreach and visibility)
 - i. May use LWVUS MLD (Membership, Leadership, Development) Guide
- b. Implement plan incrementally to strengthen our impact



2019/20 PROGRAM TOPICS

For Study, Consensus and Action:

1. Changes in LR Board composition, and type and organization of government-*new study needed*
2. Tenant habitability – *study item from state*
3. Redistricting – *action item from state*
4. 2020 Census

For Information and Action if appropriate:

5. LR Crime (*Police Chief scheduled for Sept.*)
6. Pulaski County Election Commission – what is it, how do they function
The election process – who works, the schedule, what are the barriers to voter participation, who trains – staff or commission
7. How to build better cities, good urban planning
8. HR1@Congress, LWVUS supports
9. Human trafficking
10. Better consumer of news
11. Metroplan
12. Immigration/naturalization process
13. Inequality of taxation
14. Ballot initiatives

Annual Meeting Info continued on next page.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2018-2019

Carol Young: 501.680.3947 or cyoung8151@sbcglobal.net

Denise Ennett: 817.894.4628 or ennettdenise@gmail.com

Ruth Bell: 501.225.2538 or rfbell@aristotle.net

Marcy Taylor: 501.951.3744 or lm_taylor@att.net

LEADERSHIP TEAM SLATE FOR 2019-2020

Ruth Bell- one year remaining

Jogee Detchemendy - new term

Devita Harden- new term

Norma Johnson-new term

Carol Young- one year term

BUDGET JULY-JUNE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2010

RECEIPTS		
Dues:		
Regular Members	70 @ \$50	\$3,500.00
Household	10 @ \$70	\$350.00
Lifetime	7	\$0.00
Development		
	Operating/General Fund from Donations	\$2,000.00
	LWVUS-Education Fund	\$1,500.00
	ARCF (LWV Endowment)	\$3,745.00
Grants from LWVEF		
	Educational printing	\$0.00
	Girls State	\$0.00
	Arkansas Women Leadership Training	\$200.00
	Voter Service Projects	\$1,000.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$12,295.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
LWVUS Dues		\$2,900.00
LWVAR Dues		\$500.00
Donations		
	ACF Endowment	\$0.00

	LWV Education Fund	\$500.00
Operations		
	Web page/ Facebook	\$100.00
	Pay Pal	\$100.00
	PO Box	\$150.00
	Board Expenses	\$100.00
	Go Daddy Security	\$120.00

Member Communication		
	Printing & Postage	\$325.00
Development		
	Finance Drive(printing/postage)	\$600.00
Voter Services		
	Educational Printing-Guides	\$500.00
	Vote 411	\$1,000.00
	Other Voter Service Projects	\$1,500.00
	Amer.Legion (Girls State)	\$500.00

Meetings	local conferences	\$100.00
	State & National Convention/Council	\$3,000.00
	Local (Holiday, Annual)	\$300.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$12,295.00

Observing:

A detailed report of our observation of boards and commissions will be made at our Annual Meeting next Monday, June 17. The following items are included here because of their timeliness.

Election Commission: The Commission has determined that the current election equipment is in need of replacement. Part of the replacement costs will be covered by grant from the federal government. The Commission plans to ask Pulaski County Quorum Court for the rest of the funds – about 1.6 million dollars. Arkansas Constitution gives responsibility for the conduct of elections to the counties. Quorum Court Budget Committee has said – informally—that the County has no money available for voting equipment.

Observing continued on next page:

Please click links for calendar of each committee's meetings. I am also putting names of current League members who observe these meeting. 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.

[Volunteers in Public Schools](#)

Meets September to May on second Mondays at noon in the Fair Park Early Childhood Center on Harrison St. Contact Denise Ennett at 817.894.4628 or ennettdenise@gmail.com.

[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. 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!!!!

[Pulaski County Election Committee](#)

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 meeting is May 16th. Contact Norma Johnson at norma_johnson58@yahoo.com

Observing continued on next page:

[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 . Board meets last Wednesday of every other month from 10 am to 12 pm. 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.

[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!