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The Voter February 2020

Edited by Jogee Detchemendy

Representation Needed

By Ruth Bell

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD MAKE A GREAT MEMBER OF A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION? DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN OR CONCERN ABOUT A PARTICULAR CITY SERVICE???

If so, you may be interested applying for positions on Little Rock's boards and commissions, or encouraging other women to apply. When LWVPC met with Mayor Scott, we expressed concern about lack of women on a city commission. The response was that out of many applications for position on that commission only one application was from a woman. To have women on city boards and commissions, women have to apply.

For more information go to the City of Little Rock web page at LittleRock.gov, click on City Hall, then on [City Boards and Commissions](#), and then on Vacancies, and then on Complete Application or click the hyperlink which will take you to all the application forms.

Disappointed because there is no vacancy posted on a board in which you are interested? Go ahead and apply anyway, as all applications are kept and considered when vacancies occur. Not interested in serving on a board or commission yourself? Keep mentioning the possibility of service on a board or commission to other women.

Convener's Corner

By Carol Young

Registering at The Rep

They loved us at the Rep! We didn't register a whole lot of people, but everyone was glad to see us there, asked good questions and thanked us for the work we do. Many thanks to our volunteers: Katherine Pope, Germaine Swinton, Vicki Westerfield, Maria Jones, Pam Whitaker, Candy Roman, Nell Matthews, Jean Pennucci, Rebecca Zimmerman, and Jogee Detchemendy. We will see if we can set up again during the run of the show. And if you haven't seen *Ann*, you should definitely catch it before February 23rd.

Working with the Latinx Community

Member Janna Knight and Carol Young met with Lupita Chavarria-Garcia, a United Methodist Minister and community advocate for the Latinx community in Little Rock. She will help us figure out how to reach out to that community to register voters. We didn't have time to organize before the primary, but we can certainly get them ready for the general election in November. Lupita suggested we meet with the Catholic bishop, and see if he can help us contact the churches in the area. Do we have catholic members and Spanish speakers that could help with this effort? Contact lwvpc@lwvpc.org.

Upcoming Events

HALL HIGH SCHOOL

VOTER POP UP! REGISTRATION

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULASKI COUNTY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

10:25 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
12:00 P.M. - 12:45 P.M.

TERRI HOLLINGSWORTH
Pulaski County
Circuit and County Clerk

PULASKICLERK.COM

born on or before 11/3/2002

TIME TO REGISTER!

- Friday, February 14 Hall High Voter Registration As part of the Pulaski County Clerk's High School Senior's Voter Registration Drive. This is a special treat, because February 14th is the 100th Birthday of the LWVUS. Being given a chance to do what we were created to do, on this historic day is just wonderful.

There are two lunch periods: 10:25-11am and 12-12:35pm. We only need two people per shift. Please email lwvpc@lwvpc.org if you are interested for a shift. We will also have a registration at the Episcopal high School later on in the year. Katherine Pope is heading that up.

- Tuesday, February 18 EARLY VOTING BEGINS!!!

- Tuesday, February 18 100th Birthday Party of the League of Women Voters US 5:30 pm registration, refreshments, networking, 6 pm special program. At Hillcrest Hall, 5101 Kavanaugh, Lower Level. Come celebrate with us, bring a guest! For formal invite and map please see attachment provided by Pat Landes.

- Wednesday, March 4 LWVPC is partnering with First Person Plural and several other organizations to bring Dr. Rachel Seidman, director of the Southern Oral History Program, University of North Carolina and author of *Speaking of Feminism* (2019) to Central Arkansas. Please see below for more information on First Person Plural and this event!
- Thursday March 12- We are proud to continue our partnership with the Central Arkansas Library System and UALR Public Radio to bring four new forums to the community in 2020. **Issues That Matter 2020**. The Need to Read; Literacy in Arkansas, at the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library 6pm

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Little Rock School District Information

By Norma Johnson

Per the Little Rock School District website: “As part of the District’s commitment to seek your input regarding the establishment of new school board zones in the Little Rock School District, we are requesting that you review the options presented in the link below and provide your comments/recommendations. The deadline for submitting feedback is February 19, 2020. Additionally, please mark your calendars for a public meeting regarding the zones, 5:30 p.m., February 13, 2020”. You can also view the new proposed boundaries on the LRSD website. Here is the link: <https://arcg.is/1TrbTO>

Treasurer’s News

by Devita Hardin

Dear Leaguers,

Thank you for renewing your membership for 2020. Thus far, \$2920.00 in renewal dues have been collected. A special thank you to our donors who have generously contributed \$1800.00. Through your continued financial support the important work of the LWV of Pulaski County will continue.

Information from Our Observers Corp

By Ruth Bell

LWVPC Meeting With Mayor Frank Scott Jr.

Carol Young, Linda Bell, Lynn Parker, Alfreda Brown and Ruth Bell met with Mayor Scott to express our concerns and gather information.

A most immediate issue was raised by a member who looked for handicapped access to City Hall when she came to our meeting, and could not find it. (there is access but signage to find it was lacking) The Mayor and staff began dealing with that issue immediately.

LWVPC had concern about a requirement that anyone who wished to speak at City Board meeting must fill out a request to speak and turn it in before the meeting began. Our concern dealt with difficulty some citizens might have in getting to a meeting when it began, then waiting throughout the meeting to speak near its end. For some citizens that might mean missing work or arranging child care. We were told cards to speak could be filled in and left with city staff any time before the meeting or staff would take request over the phone and turn in a card for that person. When our concern about citizens who are unaware of those options was expressed, we were told city staff would make sure all knew of those options.

LWVPC had concern about the decline in female representation on the Planning Commission. Over two years female membership on that Commission has shrunk from three women to one woman. We were told that when vacancies were filled several months ago, only one woman had applied. For women to be appointed, they must apply! (See related article in this Voter)

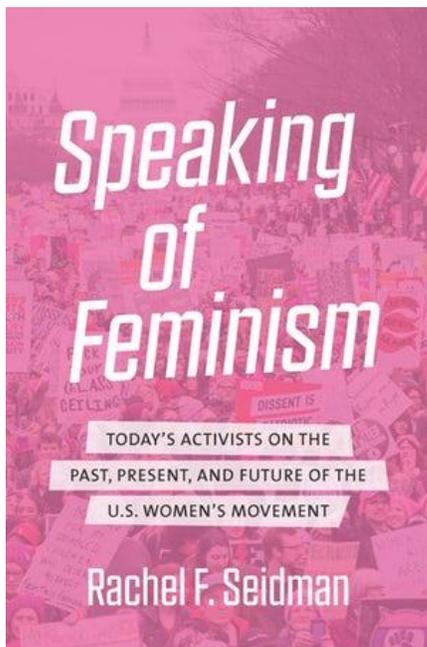
Information from Our Observers Corp continued on next page.

The Mayor stated the proposed 1 cent sales tax increase would be a permanent levy and that his staff was still at work developing the specifics of the proposal

Regards the Mayor's proposals for changes in the City's governance, the proposals will be on the City Board's February 18 agenda, and the proposed ordinances are to be posted on the City's web page. One of the two ordinances, dealing with hiring and firing of City Manager and City Attorney, can be approved by the City Board. The other ordinance, making changes in the At Large positions on the City Board, will require a vote of the people.

On recycling issues we expressed regret that glass was no longer recycled and deplored contamination of recycled materials due to deposit of contaminants in recycling carts.

The question of how to contact the Mayor with city related concerns was raised. We were directed to



First Person Plural Brings Visiting Scholar Rachel Seidman To Three Central Arkansas Venues

First Person Plural, an oral history and public programs project focusing on the experiences and reflections of diverse mid-20th century Arkansas women, is bringing Dr. Rachel Seidman, director of the Southern Oral History Program, University of North Carolina and author of *Speaking of Feminism* (2019) to the area in early March with collaborators at the Clinton School of Public Service, Esse Purse Museum, and the History Department at UCA.

Dr. Seidman will speak at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at Sturgis Hall, Clinton School, Little Rock. The following day Thursday, March 5th also in Little Rock, there will be an informal visit and behind the scenes tour at Esse Purse Museum (1510 Main Street), at 8:30 a.m. Seidman's third appearance is scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2020, at the Business School Auditorium, UCA in Conway. All programs are free and open to the general public. Please note that the Clinton School asks advance registration (publicprograms@clintonschool.uasy.edu or 501.683.5239).

Look for additional publicity from our collaborators and join us at one or more of these events.

In this centennial year of the Nineteenth Amendment, Dr. Seidman will speak about the work of the Southern Oral History Program (SOHP), one of the oldest collections in the country, which has a distinguished record in documenting the perspectives of women throughout the region and also her recent book, which explores formative experiences and ideas reported by late 20th century activists in six urban communities across the nation, including Raleigh-Durham, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. How does a new generation understand the work of the women's movement today? How do they describe their collective sense(s) of past, present and future? What are their strategies and goals? This research and subsequent reports have their origins in a 2012 class project with Seidman's students.

Article continued on next page.

Additional partners in presenting Dr. Seidman's visit include the UA Center for Arkansas History and Culture, the League of Women Voters, the AAUW, the Women's Foundation of Arkansas, the Central Arkansas Library System, and Just Communities of Arkansas. More information about First Person Plural is available online at <https://1stpersonplural.org/>.

RACHEL SEIDMAN is director of the Southern Oral History Program, UNC and adjunct professor of History, American Studies, and Gender Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She was a 2019 Fulbright Scholar to Finland, focusing on the U.S. women's movement and oral history as related to medical humanities. She received the Ph.D. from Yale University. An award-winning scholar, Seidman is a widely published author in areas of oral history and women's studies.

Observing Opportunities:

Please click links for calendar of each committee's meetings. Names of current League members who observe these meetings are also listed. 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 Pamela Whitaker at pamela@ecawake.com.

[Jacksonville City Board](#)

Meets first and third Thursday at 6 pm. In the City Hall Council Chambers at 1 Municipal Drive, Jacksonville. Contact Rachel Howell at 501.942.3086 (H) 501.580.2782 (C) or rachel_howell@yahoo.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.

Observing Opportunities continued on next page.

[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. 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. Board meets last Wednesday of every other month from 10 am to 12 pm. Mindy Morrell resigned from observing due to pressure of other activities. We need a volunteer to take her place.

[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.

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Leadership Team 2019-2020

Ruth Bell- one year remaining. 501.225.2538 or rfbell@aristotle.net

Jogee Detchemendy - new term. 662.312.9277 or jogeeduzzi@gmail.com

Devita Harden- Treasurer new term. 770.617.3096 or devita467@gmail.com

Norma Johnson-new term. norma_johnson58@yahoo.com

Carol Young- President one year remaining. 501.680.3947 or cyoung8151@sbcglobal.net

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.