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## The Voter August 2019

Edited by Jogee Detchemendy

### Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday, August 20, 2019 the League will host Drinks and Dialogue at South on Main, 1304 Main Street, Little Rock. “All About Human Trafficking” will be the discussion topic for Drinks & Dialogue. League members and the public are invited to participate in the dialogue. Sign in and networking 5:30 pm, dialogue at 6 pm. There is not a cost to attend; however, refreshments are available for purchase. Attendees are encouraged to stay after we adjourn for a meal to continue the discussion.

The dialogue will be opened with comments by Casonia Vinson from PATH (Partners Against Human Trafficking), and be facilitated by League members. Drinks & Dialogue provides an opportunity for people to share opinions and ideas, ask questions, and become more aware of local, state, and national issues and the options for making change.

Inquires may be directed to Pat Landes, 309-648-3504 or [landes.pat@gmail.com](mailto:landes.pat@gmail.com).

- Thursday, August 22, at the Dee Brown Library, 6325 Baseline Road, Little Rock, AR 72209, from 6-7 pm the League will co-host Issues that Matter Public Forum on Local Education. The other sponsors are the Central Arkansas Library System and UALR Public Radio.

Panelists will include: Stacey McAdoo, Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Dr. Ginny Blankenship, Education Policy Director for Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, and Dr. Michael Mills, the Education Department Chair at University of Central Arkansas. We are looking for a staff member or a board member of the Arkansas Dept of Education to round out the panel.

The format is the same as previous forums. The League supplies some of the questions for the panelists ahead of time, and the night of the event the League hands out and collects index cards and pens for questions from the audience. The League also reviews the questions and gives them to the moderator. The League provides the timekeeper, and sets up a League membership table.

If you can be a volunteer, please contact Carol at [cyoung8151@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cyoung8151@sbcglobal.net).

*Upcoming Events continued on next page.*

- Saturday, August 24: Suffrage Sprint and Stroll- Join Team League of Women Voters AR (LWVAR) at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AR/LittleRock/SuffrageSprintStroll>
- Monday, September 16: General Meeting, Fletcher Library. Little Rock Police Chief, Keith Humphrey will speak on Crime
- Tuesday, September 24: National Voter Registration Day. The Leadership Team is working on plans for this very important day. If you have ideas please contact the Leadership Team.
- Monday, October 21: General Meeting, Fletcher Library, 5:30, Program TBA- Possibly Tenant Habitability or Redistricting Amendments
- Tuesday, November 5: ELECTION DAY
- Thursday, November 14: Issues That Matter Forum. Topic: 2020 Census. Sponsored by CALs, KUAR and LWVPC. Nixon Library, 703 W. Main St., Jacksonville. Volunteers needed.
- Tuesday, November 19: Membership Join, Renew, Donate Party at Jay Barth and Chuck Cliett's Home. Details to Follow, but mark your calendars! (There will be no general meeting this month.)

## Welcome New and Returning Members:



**Katie Clark**



**Sharon Dumas**

- A graduate of St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Katie Clark has always been at the forefront of social justice engagement. She was a Volunteer Coordinator for Planned Parenthood, a Campus Ambassador for Half the Sky, and an Intern for the Peace Corps during her undergraduate

career. After graduation, Clark completed a year of service as a Donor Liaison AmeriCorps VISTA at Our House in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Clark is currently pursuing her Master of Public Service from the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service as well as her Master of Public Health from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Currently, Clark is the Program Coordinator for Kids Cook/Spork which teaches children how to cook and lead healthy lives. Additionally, she is working with the organization Period. to bring awareness to period poverty in Little Rock and Arkansas. Clark plans to continue engaging in social awareness activities related to women's health issues in the overarching areas of public health and public policy.

- Sharon Dumas grew up in Detroit, Michigan and received a BFA from Wayne State University. After graduation, she moved to San Francisco where she met and married, Charles Dumas. In 1996 the couple moved to Arkansas where they established a home near Mount Ida. They live on five acres of land with their dog, Dandy, and three house rabbits.

Sharon has been involved with animal welfare for many years. In California she was a member of the House Rabbit Society an international domestic rabbit rescue. In Arkansas, Sharon was one of the founders of the Arkansas Pet Rabbit Network and has worked with groups providing spay and neuter surgeries on pets of low-income caretakers. Sharon is a portrait artist specializing in animal portraiture. She is often called upon to contribute her talent and artwork to help raise funds for various animal groups.

During the 2017 – 2018 political season, Sharon volunteered on the campaign of a candidate running for U.S. Congress. The work on the campaign has motivated her to stay active in political issues. During the years she lived in California, Sharon remembers League of Woman Voters' publications featuring initiatives being presented to the voters as well as candidates' statements. These publications were important tool for the voting public. It is one of the reasons, Sharon decided to join the Pulaski League of Women Voters.

- Sandra Cone- we hope to have more information on Sandra in the upcoming Voter.

## **Announcements:**

- We would like to remind everyone about *Every Word We Utter*. This sculpture is a this tribute to the suffragettes who worked tirelessly to grant us the right to vote and many other rights we enjoy today. It will be placed in the [Vogel Schwartz Sculpture Garden](#) located in the River Market area of Little Rock. Any group that gives over \$1000 gets their name on the plaque. We want to make sure LWVPC is listed! We will be collecting 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.

*A picture of the sculpture can be seen on the next page.*



## **Governance Committee continues work**

**By Ruth Bell**

The Committee on Little Rock governance, set up by the Little Rock City Board, continues its work. Meeting weekly, the group is in the final stages of formulizing their recommendations and plans to make their report to the City Board in mid-September.

Presently discussion centers on the role of and need for at-large directors on the City Board. When at-large directors were made part of the City Board their defined role was to look at the needs of the city as a whole, while ward directors focused on the needs of their particular ward. There are three at large directors are Joan Adcock, Gene Fortson, and Dean Kumpus. During their service on the Board, Director Adcock has focused on encouraging creation of neighborhood associations and structuring their interaction with the City, and in assisting the assimilation of Hispanics into the community. Director Fortson has focused on City financial issues. Director Kumpus, as well as analyzing fiscal issues, identifies other community concerns and recommends steps the Board may take to resolve them. The three current at-large directors live in different parts of the City, but there is no residence requirement for the position.

Expressed concerns about position of at-large director include cost to run for this city-wide office, lack of minority office holders in that position, and lack of residence requirement.

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## Observing Opportunities:

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](mailto:ennettdenise@gmail.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](mailto: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](mailto:rfbell@aristotle.net).

### [Little Rock Board of Directors:](#)

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

### [County Planning Board](#)

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

### [Central Arkansas Water Board](#)

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:mzwildgen@ualr.edu)

*Observing Opportunities continued on next page.*

Little Rock School District

Meet 5:30-6:30 at 810 Markham, Little Rock. Contact Norma Johnson at [norma\\_johnson58@yahoo.com](mailto:norma_johnson58@yahoo.com)

#### [MetroPlan](#)

Executive Committee meets at 501 West Markham St., Suite B, Little Rock on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **Leadership Team For 2019-2020**

Ruth Bell- one year remaining. 501.225.2538 or [rfbell@aristotle.net](mailto:rfbell@aristotle.net)

Jogee Detchemendy - new term. 662.312.9277 or [jogeeduzzi@gmail.com](mailto:jogeeduzzi@gmail.com)

Devita Harden- Treasurer new term. 770.617.3096

Norma Johnson-new term. [norma\\_johnson58@yahoo.com](mailto:norma_johnson58@yahoo.com)

Carol Young- President one year remaining. 501.680.3947 or [cyoung8151@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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. This monthly newsletter and an active calendar of our events on the website!