



February 2019

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Voter Editor:	Jim Johnson

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Calendar of Events

Feb 7 (Thursday): Noon-1:00 p.m.
LWVLL Lunch & Learn.
Isabel Salas and Jewel Rodgers
*Neighborhood Reinvestment Without
Gentrification – The South
Downtown Project*
Graduate Hotel,
141 North 9th Street, Lincoln
*See article at right; also see complete
schedule for remaining Lunch &
Learn speakers on page 5.*

February 7 Lunch & Learn discusses the South Downtown Project

League of Women Voters Lincoln-Lancaster County Lunch & Learn, noon – 1 pm, Thursday, February 7, 2019 at the Graduate Hotel, 141 N. 9th St. Isabel Salas and Jewel Rodgers “Neighborhood Reinvestment Without Gentrification – The South Downtown Project” \$15 for members. \$17 for nonmembers. Includes speaker and buffet lunch. Binding reservations due by Monday, February 4, 2019. Call 402-475-1411 or email lwv-ne@inebraska.com.

Lincoln League Board Nominations

The Lincoln League is looking for folks who are interested in serving on the Lincoln Board or in assisting with the Board to follow particular policy issues or legislative bodies, such as the city council, county board, or state legislature or one of the Unicameral Committees. If you are interested in serving on the Board contact Sharon Nemeth, LWVLL Nominating Committee chair, at wayova@msn.com.

League of Women Voters – Nebraska seeks nominations to LWVNE State Board

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska is currently seeking recommendations for candidates for the State Board. You may send recommendations by February 27, 2019 to Paula Eurek, member of the LWVNE Nominating Committee. Her email is peurek@windstream.net. Alternatively, nominations can be sent to Katie Wadas Thalken, LWVNE Nominating Committee Chair, at kwadas@gmail.com. To learn more about the State Board, go to <http://www.lwv-ne.org>.

LWVNE Legislative Day – February 19, 2019

The registration deadline for Legislative Day is February 8, and there is still room for about 30 more. If you plan to register and haven't yet, do so NOW. Also, share the information with other League members. Registration can be done online at our Web site, www.lwv-ne.org.

Here is the link to the paper registration form:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/rocoujaleobr5f/2019%20Legislative%20Day%20Registration%20Form%20FINAL%20112918.docx?dl=0>.

If you are mailing your registration and check, you should mail it no later than Monday, February 4, to be sure it arrives in the office on or before Friday.

Thank you.

Sharon Nemeth
Office Administrator
League of Women Voters of Nebraska
4600 Valley Road, Suite 306
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-475-1411
www.lwv-ne.org
lwv-ne@inebraska.com

Message from Mary Lee Moulton on the 2020, 100 year anniversary of the League of Women Voters

I am coordinating 2020 celebration activities for LWVNE. In addition to our NE celebration, I am the point person for the LWVNE for the 2020 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference & Celebration of the Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment. Judge Smith Camp invited the League to coordinate the hall displays for the conference which includes the states of AR, IA, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD. Justice Ginsberg is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

I am going to need lots of help and want to involve you and your members. I would like to talk with you about your ideas and opportunities to be involved. I am happy to talk on the phone (520-990-5944), but would love to speak in person. I would be happy to come out and grab lunch or coffee with you.

I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas.

Regards,
MaryLee G. Moulton
League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha
mmoulton@omahalwv.org

Edgar Pearlstein

We have learned that one of our long time members, Edgar Pearlstein, passed away in January 2019. He was a physics professor at UNL and a critical thinker and commentator on current events. We will miss Edgar's letters to the editor in the Journal Star, his pointed comments on current events, and his thanks to us for the work that we do.

Submitted by Mary Boschult, President

Obituary of Edgar Pearlstein

(from the Journal Star obituary page)

Edgar Pearlstein passed away on January 15, 2019. Edgar was born in Pittsburgh, PA. He was educated in public schools and at Carnegie-Mellon University where he earned his PhD in Physics when he was 23 years old. He held a post doctoral position for two years at the University of Illinois, after which he returned to teach and participate in research at Carnegie. Edgar's research in physics was nationally recognized, and at one time he held the longest-running continuous research grant from the Atomic Energy Commission. Ed was a deep and critical thinker in all aspects of his life, and he earned the respect of his faculty colleagues. He was one of the most active participants in discussions during scientific lectures in the Department, with a well-deserved reputation for keeping speakers on their toes! He regularly gave talks in the Department on the most recent research developments, introducing graduate students to new areas of research, and inspiring some of them to redirect their thesis research. He often gave public lectures to help people distinguish between myth and scientific reality, and he regularly volunteered to judge Science Fairs involving budding young scientists. Ed was an excellent, but demanding, teacher, expecting his students to learn at a high level. He received a Distinguished Teaching Award from UNL in 1981. Edgar was in frequent contact with the community via Letters to the Editor. He was especially interested in human rights and religious freedom issues. Ed became a vegetarian when he was a young teenager, and later in life he became a vegan, reflecting his concern for all living creatures. Memorials, in lieu of flowers, can be sent to Capital Humane Society (6500 S. 70th St., 68502). A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials for Anita Fussell

Anita Fussell, fifty year Life Member of League of Women Voters Lincoln/Lancaster County, passed away in July, 2018.

Anita's daughter stated that Anita loved League of Women Voters and would be pleased to have memorials designated to the League of Women Voters Lincoln-Lancaster County or League of Women Voters Lincoln-Lancaster County Education Fund.

Members who wish to do so, send your check to:

League of Women Voters of Lincoln/Lancaster Co.
4600 Valley Road, Suite 306
Lincoln NE 68510

Note Anita Fussell Memorial in the memo line.

It would be helpful to send your memorial by February 28, 2019.

If you have questions, email Lois Poppe, gerald2@juno.com, or phone (402) 464-4054.

Thank you.

Memorials for Cindy Wiren Bartlett

We are honored to have been designated for memorials by the Cindy Wiren Bartlett family. We have received a number of donations to the League and to the Education Fund. If you are interested, donations can be sent to the League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County at the office address: 4600 Valley Road, Suite 306, Lincoln, NE 68510.

Donations to the Education Fund can be tax deductible and preference for the Education Fund can be noted in the memo line on your check or in accompanying communication. The Education fund is used to support educational activities such as the Directory of Elected Officials. Donations to LWVLL general funds are not tax deductible. These donations can be used for Lunch and Learn activities, membership recruitment activities, new member scholarships, Lunch and Learn scholarships, web page costs, signs or posters or other things that don't fit with the Ed Fund requirements.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LUNCH AND LEARN SCHEDULE FOR Winter/Spring 2019

GRADUATE HOTEL, 141 N. 9TH ST, LINCOLN, NE

For reservations please contact via email: lvv-ne@inebraska.com or phone 402-475-1411. Listen to the prompt on the phone and press 1 to sign up for L&L.

Cost for lunch is \$15 for members, \$17 for non-members.

Reservations must be made by the **Monday** prior to the meeting. Meetings take place on the **First Thursday** of each month from **noon – 1 p.m.**, Sept. – May, except for the April meeting which will be on the Second Thursday.

Reservations are binding.

February 7	Neighborhood Reinvestment Without Gentrification – the South of Downtown Project	Isabel Salas, Community Builder Jewel Rodgers, Community Builder, South of Downtown Community Development Org.
March 7	Stand for Our Schools – Protecting Public Education	Ann Hunter Pirtle Executive Director Stand for Our Schools
April 11 – note this is the 2 nd Thurs.	Farm Bill / Changes to SNAP Affecting Nebraska Families	James Goddard, JD Economic Justice & Health Care Access Program Director, Nebraska Appleseed
May 2	Title X Changes, What it Means for the Clients	Meg Mikolajczyk, JD Associate General Counsel & Sr. Public Affairs Manager Planned Parenthood of the Heartland

Report on January 3, 2019 Lunch & Learn

**The State of Mass Incarceration in Nebraska & Smart Justice Reforms:
With guest Daniel Conrad, Director of the ACLU Nebraska**

She mentioned the 100-year (in 2020) history of the 1.5 million member National, from the Scopes trial, separation of church-state issues, education equality, freedom of speech, and LGBTQ issues to modern work defending refugees on the Southern border.

The Nebraska chapter is 50 years old, and like the national is entirely supported by private funding. Nebraska has 50+ volunteer attorneys and 10,000 donors.

One of the major issues faced by the NE ACLU is mass incarceration in our state. Our prisons are at 160% capacity, the second worst crowding problem in the country (after Alabama). One in 10 kids in NE has a parent somewhere in the criminal justice system, and one in 370 Nebraskans is now behind bars. Reflecting unequal incarceration, one in 67 African American Nebraskans is incarcerated.

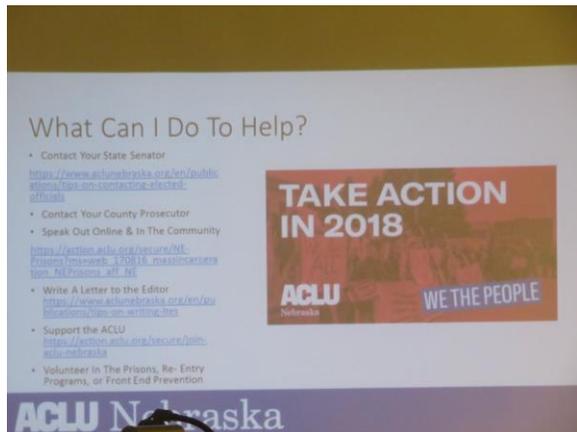
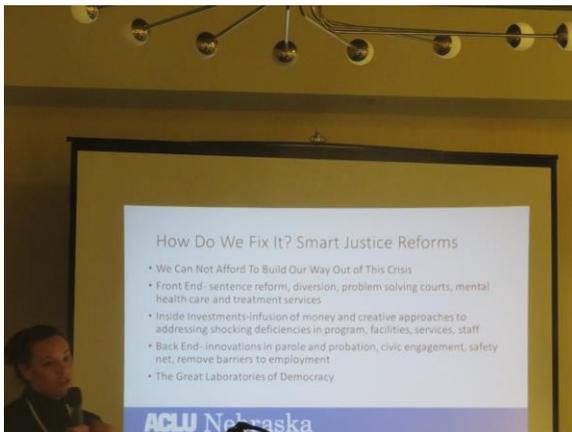
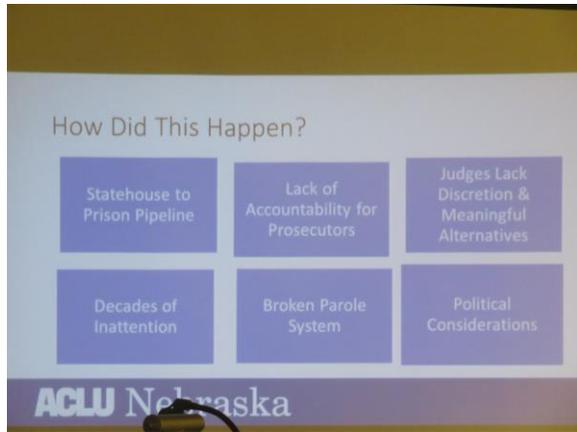
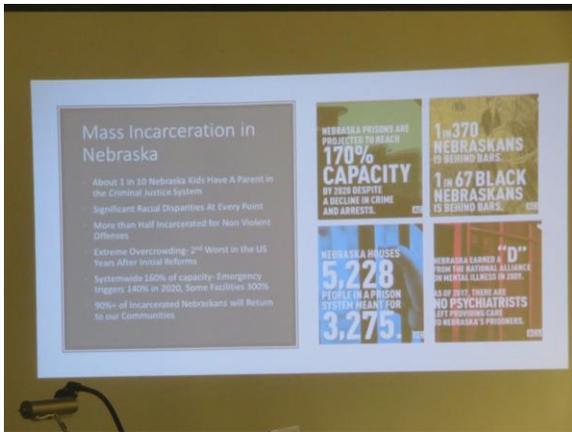
If crowding levels persist at over 140%, in 2020 the release of prisoners will be mandated. Besides over crowding, there is poor training for return to society, which will be the case for 90%, and mental health issues exist for around one in three, with not a single psychiatrist in the NE prison system.

How did NE get here? The legislature continues to define new crimes and to favor longer sentences, with mandatory sentencing allowing little judicial flexibility. Prosecutors are elected often without opposition and wield enormous power, and the parole system is essentially broken.

Pending criminal justice cases for the NE ACLU include: right to marry while in prison, overcrowding, over use of solitary confinement, and death penalty issues. The state legislature has some very concerned members, who are also working on solutions. But the situation calls for imaginative “front end” and “back end” solutions.



More pictures from the January 3, 2019 Lunch & Learn



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Time Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay