



April 2019

President:	Mary Boschult
President-Elect:	Paula Eurek
Secretary:	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer:	Sue Howe
Lunch & Learn Chair:	Karen Dienstbier
<i>Voter</i> Editor:	Jim Johnson

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Calendar of Events

Apr 9 (Tuesday): 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Primary Election Day,
City of Lincoln**

Apr 11 (Thursday): Noon-1:00 p.m.

LWVLL Lunch & Learn.
James Goddard, JD
*Farm Bill / Changes to SNAP
Affecting Nebraska Families*
**Graduate Hotel,
141 North 9th Street, Lincoln**
See article at right.

May 2 (Thursday): Noon-1:00 p.m.

LWVLL Lunch & Learn.
Meg Mikolajczyk, JD
*Changes to Title X – What It
Means for the Clients*
**Graduate Hotel,
141 North 9th Street, Lincoln**

May 7 (Tuesday): 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

**General Election Day,
City of Lincoln**

May 11 (Saturday): 10 a.m.-noon

LWVLL Annual General
Membership Meeting
**League office,
4600 Valley Rd Ste 306,
Lincoln**
See article at bottom of page.

April 11 Lunch & Learn discusses Farm Bill and SNAP

League of Women Voters Lincoln-Lancaster County Lunch & Learn, noon – 1 pm, Thursday, April 11, 2019 at the Graduate Hotel, 141 N. 9th St. in Lincoln

James Goddard JD will speak on “Farm Bill – Changes to SNAP Affecting Nebraska Families”

Cost is \$15 for members. \$17 for nonmembers. Includes speaker and buffet lunch. Binding reservations due by Monday, April 8, 2019. Call 402-475-1411 or email

lwv-ne@inebraska.com.

Note that for this month only, our luncheon will be on the **second** Thursday, April 11, instead of our usual **first** Thursday. In May we will return to the first Thursday (May 2) for the final luncheon of our 2018-2019 Lunch & Learn series, with special guest Meg Mikolajczyk, JD.

Annual League Dues Payable in April

REMINDER: LWVLL Dues are payable in April. You can send you check for \$50 to the Office at 4600 Valley Road, Suite 306, Lincoln, NE 68510, or bring it to Lunch and Learn or to the Annual General Meeting on May 11th.

2019 AGM Set for May 11, 2019

The Annual General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 11 at the League Office. Following the long-standing traditions of the League, the meeting will include reports on activities for the past year, discussion of priority policy action areas, LWVLL Impact on Issues, voting on Nominating Committee slate, voting on bylaws changes, and input to the Board for future consideration.

LWVLL Project Opportunities

Want to get more involved with the League? Want to apply your creativity and resourcefulness? This spring, the League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County is updating a couple of its popular resources and is seeking volunteers to assist with the updates. The resources are:

- “Directory of Elected Officials of Lincoln and Lancaster County Nebraska,” last updated in 2014. A resource available to the public, plans are to finish an update of content, format, and production methods this summer, following the city spring elections.
- The League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County Yearbook,” last updated 2015-2016. The Yearbook is a resource for LLWVLL members, which provides a range of information about the LWVLL such as bylaws, officers and board members, and local, state and national League program positions.

To learn more or to volunteer, contact LWVLL member Paula Eurek, peurek@windstream.net.

LWVLL Legislative Lobbying Activity

In March the LWVLL provided testimony on LB 83, a bill to restore voting rights after completion of a sentence for a felony. As of 3/28/19 the bill remains in the Government Committee.

We also sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee supporting the removal of language limiting payments from Title X to Planned Parenthood.

The letters used as testimony are included in this newsletter.

Additional position statements were made on LB 238, Openness in Execution Procedures and LB 44, to Abolish the Death Penalty. These statements can be found posted on the LWVNE web site with other letters sent by LWVNE on other legislative bills this session. The site is www.lwv-ne.org

Submitted by Mary Boschult

Voter Registration

Our March voter registrations included Anderson, Bennett Martin, Gere, and Williams Libraries; Pius High School and Parkview Christian school; the Naturalization Ceremony; and the Islamic Foundation. Thanks to Pat Stephen, Maureen Ose, Annette Campbell, Pam Makovicka, Amy Birky, Jackie Kehl, Sheryl Wright, Joyce Latrom, and Norma and George Sturgeon for helping with these registrations. Our next registration will be on April 13 and will include all 5 Hy-Vee stores.

Primary election set for April 9, 2019. Sample ballots are available at the Election Office or on their web site.

Submitted by Mary Boschult

NOMINEES LIST AS OF MARCH 2019

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominees for President-Elect and Secretary. The President-Elect position may be retitled Vice President if a bylaws amendment to this effect is passed at the Annual Meeting; it is a 2-year term ending in 2021. Regarding the Secretary, this is to fill the second year of a 2-year term (currently vacant) until the Annual Meeting in 2020. Duties include recording decisions made at the monthly Board meetings and also chairing the Bylaws Committee, which does not meet regularly. Please contact Sharon Nemeth, Nominating Committee Chair, at wayova@msn.com or 402-489-3571 if you are interested in either position or would like to learn more details about them. Also, contact her if you are interested in serving as a Board Director (the bylaws allow a maximum of 8 elected directors) or on the next Nominating Committee.

Voting at the 2019 LWVLL Annual Meeting will be on those who are listed in bold.

LWVLL OFFICERS

		ELECTED TERM OF OFFICE
President:	Mary Boschult	2019–2021
*President-Elect:	_____	2019–2021
Secretary:	Jim Johnson	2019–2020 (partial term)
Treasurer:	Sue Howe	2018–2020 (continued term)

**LWVLL DIRECTORS

Nancy Comer	2019–2021
Karen Dienstbier	2019–2021
Maura Kelly	2019–2021
Maureen Ose	2019–2021
Kristen Anderson	2018–2020 (continued term)
Sandy Blankenship	2018–2020 (continued term)
Jim Johnson	2018–2020 (continued term)

LWVLL EDUCATION FUND DIRECTORS

Ann Sherer-Simpson	2019–2021
Sheryl Wright	2019–2021
Pat Cole	2018–2020 (continued term)
Marcia Kushner	2018–2020 (continued term)
Shirley Maly	2018–2020 (continued term)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1-year term)

Chair:	Sharon Nemeth	2019–2020
	???	2019–2020
	???	2019–2020

**In addition, Kristen Anderson is our Facebook manager, Sandy Blankenship will be Membership Chair, Karen Dienstbier is the Lunch and Learn Chair, Jim Johnson is the *Voter* Editor, and Maureen Ose is our Webmaster.

Lunch and Learn Committee Survey

Dear Friends,

Every once and a while the Lunch and Learn Committee checks in with our membership to gauge the pulse of our organization. Are we giving you what you would like in the way of speakers; what ideas do you suggest to improve upon what we offer at Lunch and Learn? A suggestion this year was to have a “meet and greet” so that our members can get to know our newer members and to chat with old friends as well. Please fill out the survey on the following page, and give us your feedback and any ideas that you have to improve upon what we are already doing.

Nebraska ratified the 14th Amendment to the Constitution on August 2nd, 1919. The US ratified on August 18th, 1920 after the 36th state ratified.

Sometime next year we will celebrate this momentous event. We would welcome any and all suggestions to make this a memorable event. I have attached my email address to the bottom of the survey and I hope that you will email me with your suggestions and your comments.

I look forward to seeing you at Lunch and Learn and to your help with the celebrations for next year.

Best Wishes,

Karen Dienstbier Chair,
Lunch and Learn Committee

Lunch and Learn Survey 2019

1. How did you learn about Lunch and Learn? Member_____, Lincoln Journal Star calendar_____, Neighborhood Extra_____, a friend_____
2. Do you regularly attend Lunch and Learn? yes _____, no_____
3. Are you satisfied with the cost of the lunch? yes_____, no_____, If no please offer other suggestions._____
4. Are you satisfied with the current location? yes_____, no_____ If no please offer other suggestions._____
5. We are currently meeting at noon on the 1st Thursday of each month Sept. – May; do these months and time work for you? yes_____, no_____. Offer other suggestions_____
6. If we were to hold a “Meet and Greet” luncheon with no specific purpose other than to get to know new members, to have lunch and chat with friends and newcomers would you attend? Yes_____, no_____
7. If we were to offer a special event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters with speakers would you attend? Yes_____, no_____
8. Referring back to #7 if we were to hold such an event would it work best for a weekday_____, or weekend day? _____. If weekday what hour?_____. What day of the week?_____

Would you prefer to have the celebratory event take place as a regular monthly meeting?

Yes_____, Or in addition to our monthly meeting? yes_____, no_____

9. Referring to #7 would you like to help plan such an event? Yes_____, no_____

Name and contact information if you would like to help plan the event.

Comments or helpful suggestions about future programming:

Comments and questions may be directed to Karen Dienstbier at kdien@allophone.com



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY

4600 Valley Road
Suite 306
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-475-1411
www.lincolnleague.org

March 5, 2019

Senator Tom Brewer, Chair
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Nebraska Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: LB 83 on Restoring Voting Rights for Former Felons

Senator Brewer and members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We do not support or oppose candidates or political parties. We work to increase understanding of major policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

We want to express our support for LB 83 , the bill to restore the voting rights for felons upon completion of their sentence including parole rather than waiting 2 years.

The League of Women Voters believes that the right of every citizen to vote should be protected. Excessive disenfranchisement undermines voting rights as well as the reintegration into the community for those who have completed their sentences.

Voting links people to their local and national communities. Being able to vote creates political participation and a vested interest in their community. It increases the success of their reintegration into the community after fulfilling their sentence.

We urge you to advance LB 83 to general file .

Sincerely,

Mary Boschult, President
League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County

CC: Senator Justin Wayne



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY

4600 Valley Road
Suite 306
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February 25, 2019

The Honorable Senator John Stinner, Chair
Appropriations Committee
Nebraska Legislature
P.O. Box 94606
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: LB294, Section 99

Dear Chairman Stinner and members of the Appropriations Committee

This letter is to support the Committee's action to remove the language in Section 99 of LB 294 prohibiting Title X federal funding from paying for any services provided by Planned Parenthood.

Existing law already prohibits spending of any these Title X funds on abortion.

The League is dedicated to ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans. We believe that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care, including disease prevention, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute long-term care, mental health care and health promotion and education.

The League supports the 1973 landmark decision of the US Supreme Court in *Roe v Wade*. Reproductive health decisions should be a private matter between the patient and their doctor. We are opposed to conditions that would limit access to reproductive health care and health screenings for men and women across Nebraska as this language would have done.

We thank Chairman Stinner and the Committee for noting this issue was included in the original budget bill. Nebraska is known for having an open and accessible legislative process. The Unicameral was designed and structured to **not** be ruled or controlled by a partisan political party. We were disappointed to see that this policy proposal to limit access to health care was again buried in a budget bill as was done in the past.

The League believes open democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. the League further believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

In my personal experience in over 30 years in public service, I learned how to do county budgeting in the 70's. I learned how to do state budgeting in the 80's. I read countless books, articles and essays on public budgeting in graduate school and in the 90's taught Public Administration Classes for the University. I learned in both the on the job and academic settings that we do not put policy issues in

budget proposals as it is not expected there and it will limit the public awareness and discussion. Budgets are not the vehicle for the fair and open discussion of public policy. Budgets should follow policy.

The League of Women Voters was officially founded in 1920. The seeds were planted in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York. We are a nonpartisan organization that is engaged in the informed participation of citizens in their government. We advocate for public policy but we do not support or oppose political parties or candidates for office.

We know that women vote. We have recently witnessed an increased awareness and participation by women in the public policy process in the Women's Marches, in filing to run for office and in the recent elections.

Sincerely,

Mary Boschult, President
League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County

Report on March Lunch & Learn – Public Education Funding

On 3/7/19 Ann Hunter-Pirtle of Stand for Schools discussed education funding issues immediately before going off to the NE legislature to testify in opposition to LB #670. If passed (she doubted that it would be) that bill would allow an income tax credit on NE Income tax of one dollar for every dollar donated to fund scholarships for non-public schools (up to ½ of one’s total income tax liability).

She noted that Charter schools are privately run but publically funded and that they exist in all states except NE and two others. Being privately run means oversight of education is in the hands of a board of directors rather than a school board, etc. Such schools can be run for profit or not, but because public funding depends on the numbers of students enrolled, some cheating (as in Ohio) in student counts results when profit is possible. Furthermore, when voucher systems are introduced for education, new schools are often quickly established, usually with poor education outcomes and students falling one to two school years behind the students in public schools.

There are no Charter School bills before the legislature this year.

Noting the recent teacher strikes in (mostly) red states, Ann noted that the US seems to have turned away from experimental approaches to education, which have largely worked poorly, and toward improving public education. There is a need for more attention in public education toward meeting needs beyond education itself and toward mental health care, nutrition, career preparation, etc. These programs require an empathic and non-judgmental approach.

One of the positive bills coming up is #160. It includes a mandate that when strategic plans are developed, there must be some planning included for early childhood education.

Groups that would weaken the public schools by supporting tax-dollar-consuming alternatives include “Educate Nebraska” (with support from our Governor) and at the National level ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council—a group that writes model laws (like “stand your ground”) for conservative groups.

Ann noted the many problems with the “Americanism” proposal (LB #399) that requires kids in grades 8 and 11 to take the naturalization citizenship exam that will most certainly be online and readily available to the kids.



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**Time Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay**