



March 2020

President:	Mary Boschult
President-Elect:	Vacant
Secretary:	Jim Johnson
Treasurer:	Sue Howe
Lunch & Learn Chair:	Karen Dienstbier
Voter Editor:	Jim Johnson

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Calendar of Events

Mar 5 (Thursday): Noon-1:00 p.m.

LWVLL Lunch & Learn.

YWCA New Programs for Girls & Young Women.

Karen Bell-Dancy, Director,
Lincoln YWCA.

**Graduate Hotel,
141 North 9th Street, Lincoln**

*See article at right, and see
schedule for remaining L&L
luncheons on page 2.*

Mar 19 (Thursday): Noon-1:00 p.m.

Nebraska History

Brown Bag Learning Series:
Clara Bewick Colby

**Nebraska History Museum,
Centennial Mall & P Street,
Lincoln NE**

See article on page 4.

Mar 23-Apr 13 (Mondays): 7 p.m.

OLLI Dark Money class

See article on page 2.

Apr 9 (Thursday): Noon-1:00 p.m.

LWVLL Lunch & Learn.

Ballot Initiatives.

Angie Remington,

NE Civic Engagement Table.

**Graduate Hotel,
141 North 9th Street, Lincoln**

*Followed by a celebration of the
League's 100th Anniversary: See
article at right.*

March 5 Lunch & Learn to discuss YWCA programs

League of Women Voters Lincoln-Lancaster County

Lunch & Learn Meeting, noon – 1 pm, Thursday, March 5th,
2020 at the Graduate Hotel, 141 N. 9th St.

Speaker: Karen Bell-Dancy, Director, Lincoln YWCA;

Topic: “YWCA New Programs for Girls & Young Women”;

Luncheon costs \$15 for members \$17 for nonmembers,
includes speaker, buffet lunch and gratuities. Binding

reservations due by Monday, March 2nd, 2020. Call

402-475-1411 or email lwv-ne@inebraska.com.

Lunch and Learn events are scheduled each month from
September through May; normally the first Thursday of each
month however the April luncheon will be held on the second
Thursday due to scheduling issues.

Celebration of the League's 100th Anniversary – Next Month following the April 9 Lunch & Learn

Please mark your calendars to join us on April 9th from 1 to 2
PM at the Graduate for a 100th Anniversary for the League of
Women Voters. We will celebrate the ratification of the
Nineteenth Amendment and the founding of the League of
Women Voters. (This event has been rescheduled to April 9th
from a previously announced date of March 5th.)

Membership Committee Seeking Volunteers

The LWVLL Membership Committee is looking for people
who would like to help grow the organization. If you would
like to serve on the Membership Committee, contact Sandy
Blankenship at 402-560-7920.

Voter Registration Volunteers Needed

With the 2020 elections on the horizon, Lancaster County and
the League of Women Voters-Lincoln/Lancaster County are in
need of volunteer voter registrars. Prior to registering voters, a
registrar must go through a short training session
(approximately one hour); to schedule a session, contact
Deputy Election Commissioner Maura Kelly at 402-441-6500.
Training certificate must be renewed every three years.

OLLI Dark Money Class

If you missed the Dark Money OLLI class sponsored by LWVLL and Common Cause Nebraska last fall, an update is being offered in Term 4.

Kate High and Jack Gould are the presenters. It will be held on four Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning March 23.

More details about registration at OLLI@unl.edu.

**2019 – 2020 LUNCH AND LEARN SCHEDULE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LINCOLN – LANCASTER COUNTY**

LUNCH AND LEARN SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER of 2019 – 2020 SEASON

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 should 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 meet on the second Thursday.**

Reservations are binding

Date	Topic	Speaker
March 5 th	YWCA new programs for girls & young women	Karen Bell-Dancy, Director Lincoln YWCA
April 9 th <u>Note: This is the second Thursday</u>	Ballot Initiatives	Angie Remington, with the NE Civic Engagement Table
May 7 th	Open Sky: an Update on Nebraska’s Fiscal Debate	Open Sky: an Update on Nebraska’s Fiscal Debate

NOMINATIONS AS OF FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Below are the nominations we have been able to secure to date. Thank you to those who have agreed to serve.

VP (for 2nd year of a two-year term) *Still looking*

Two-year terms from 2020 through 2022

Treasurer	<i>Still looking</i>
Secretary	Jane Witte
Director (VOTER Editor)	Jim Johnson
Director (Membership)	Sandy Blankenship
Director (Facebook)	Kristen Anderson
Ed Fund Trustee	Pat Cole
Ed Fund Trustee	Marcia Kushner
Ed Fund Trustee	Judy Koepke

One-year term from 2020 through 2021

Nominating Committee Chair	Sharon Nemeth
Nominating Committee Member	<i>Still looking</i>
Nominating Committee Member	<i>Still looking</i>

If you are interested in perhaps being VP, Treasurer, or on the Nominating Committee, please contact one of us: Sharon Nemeth, Nominating Committee Chair (wayova@msn.com), Judy Koepke (judykoepke@aol.com), Sandy Blankenship (sandy.blankenship@windstream.net), or Karen Dienstbier (kdien@allophone.com).

Here is a description of Treasurer's position provided by Sue Howe, current Treasurer: "The treasurer collects annual dues, prepares a monthly budget report for the Board, and makes a few deposits and pays a few bills each month. The job takes only a few hours each month, and requires only the ability to balance your checkbook."

Please note that Sue plans to continue as the Lunch and Learn registrar; that work is not part of the Treasurer's responsibilities.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS' TERMS END IN 2021

(These members retain their positions for another year)

President	Mary Boschult
Vice President	<i>Vacant</i>
Director (Lunch & Learn)	Karen Dienstbier
Director (Webmaster)	Maureen Ose
Director	Nancy Comer
Director	Maura Kelly
Ed Fund Trustee	Terri Rittenburg
Ed Fund Trustee	Sheryl Wright

From Beatrice, Nebraska, to the World:

The Activist Journey of Suffragist

Clara Bewick Colby

Presented by:

Kristin Mapel Bloomberg, PhD

Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota

**brown
bag**
learning series



Clara Bewick Colby's personal devotion to Nebraska's state motto "Equality Before the Law," caused her to break out of the ranks of socially engaged local leaders to become an influential voice in the woman suffrage movement – and help women connect with other women, so they could be nurtured into women's rights activism as she had during her early years in Nebraska.

Brown Bag Learning Series
March 19, 2020 noon-1 pm

 **NEBRASKA
HISTORY
MUSEUM**
history.nebraska.gov

League testimony delivered February 27, 2020, to the Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, regarding proposed constitutional amendment LB1022.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY

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

January 28, 2020

The Honorable Tom Brewer, Chair
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
P.O. Box 94606
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: LB1022

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

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County is writing to oppose LB1022, a bill to provide for election of election commissioners, and eliminate chief deputy election commissioners. Neither the bill nor the intent statement identify a problem that is to be solved by this legislation.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose candidates. We work to increase understanding of public policy issues and to increase voter participation in elections.

The League supports free, fair and secure elections. We work closely with the Election Commissioner and Chief Deputy Election Commissioner in Lancaster County. Our relationship has been positive and productive. In the 10 years I have served as president of the Lincoln League, there have been no significant problems identified by the community or by our membership. In fact, at our annual membership meeting, there is usually a motion with unanimous support to communicate our praise to the Election Commission for their performance.

Our Lincoln League is an all volunteer organization. We do 30-50 voter registrations each year. Some are done for the Election Commission and some are done for League events or at the request of community groups.

In times of eroding confidence in government, it is still our experience that our Election Commission is a respected and trusted government agency in Lincoln and Lancaster County. The League provides voter education for community groups, schools, and businesses. When those attending these sessions learn that both Republican and Democratic political affiliations are represented in the commissioner and chief deputy commissioner positions, they remark that it is a good idea. They think it is fair and they feel represented regardless of their personal political affiliation.

League members have questioned why change these election commissioners from appointed to elected? Why now? Why subject the people running the elections to campaigning for office, and fund raising for a campaign? What risks and problems does it present to the administration of free, fair and secure elections? What individuals or companies would be interested in contributing to an election commissioner's campaign and what might the donors expect for that contribution? Who will win?

Campaign finance is a problematic issue in our country's government and elections today. The Lincoln League recently co-sponsored a seminar on money in politics, "Dark Money". It was well attended, well received and another session is being planned.

Organizing voter services and voter registration for our League for 12 years has been a learning and rewarding experience for me. Prior to this volunteer work I worked in county and state government for 33 years and taught graduate classes for the university for 5 years. In public human services I worked on a number of mergers and reorganizations including the transfer of county welfare offices to the state welfare department in 1983 and the merger of 5 human service agencies to become the Health and Human Service System in 1997. What I witnessed and what I know from my graduate school and doctoral studies, is that organizations are destabilized when these significant reorganizations occur. It can take 2-5 years or even longer to reestablish and perform effectively.

Our elections and government institutions are under attack from internal and external efforts in the current increasingly partisan and divisive political environment.

Our current election structure and system works. Our Lancaster County Election Commission is a key element in this structure working. We should be strengthening and stabilizing this structure and not making it more vulnerable to attack.

Our questions remain: Why? Why now? Who will win?

We urge you to vote to indefinitely postpone L81022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Boschult". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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

February Lunch & Learn Discussion: Census 2020

The February 6, 2020 Lunch and Learn featured two speakers on the topic “The 2020 Census in Nebraska.” The first speaker was Josie Schafer, Director, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Center for Public Affairs Research. Dr. Schafer provided an overview of the importance of the Census, including its use in the allocation of federal funds, determining numbers of Congressional representatives, and redistricting at the state and local level. For each person not counted, \$2000 in federal funds are lost. Nebraska’s Congressional representation was reduced by one district after each of the 1930, 1940, and 1960 Censuses, dropping from 6 to the current 3. It is projected that Nebraska will continue to have 3 Congressional districts following the 2020 Census. The requirement for a decennial census was established in the Constitution and codified in 1954.

Dr. Schafer shared information on self response rates during the last Census, and pointed out that lower self response rates results in higher costs for conducting the Census. She pointed out that US Census Bureau letters will be mailed to households in mid-March, with instructions on responding on-line, by phone or by mail., with in-person interviews for those who do not self respond. Questions to be asked of persons in the household as of April 1 include: name, sex, age/date of birth, ethnicity, race, whether he/she lives somewhere else, and relationship. The Census does NOT ask for Social Security numbers, bank account or credit card numbers, or donations. Persons need to beware of scams that may ask for such information.

The second speaker was Diana Buchanan, Partnership Specialist, Lincoln Office of the Dallas Regional Census Center. Ms. Buchanan provided an overview of the phases that the Census Bureau is using to conduct the Census:

1. Awareness/Education Phase (Jan. 14 – March 12);
2. Motivation/Participation Phase (march 13 – May 20); and
3. Reminder/Non-response follow-up (May 20 – June 28).

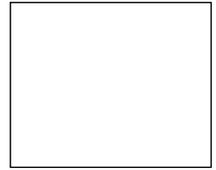
She pointed out various strategies that the Census bureau will utilize to increase participation, including establishing mobile sites in low response areas. Ms. Buchanan encouraged the audience to help inform the public on the importance of the Census. She also mentioned how some populations have been undercounted in the past, such as young children under the age of five.

Ms. Buchanan shared printed materials, which are also available at [2020CENSUS.GOV](https://2020census.gov). There were several questions from the audience, including how incarcerated persons are counted. They, like others in group housing, are counted in the group housing site where they live. Following the presentation, audience members continued the conversations with the presenters, and made follow-up arrangements for Ms. Buchanan to visit their organizations.

Ms. Buchanan may be reached at diana.l.buchanan@2020census.gov or 402-937-6543.



The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*
League of Women Voters ®
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Lincoln NE 68510
402-475-1411
<http://www.LincolnLeague.org>



Time Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay