



*July 2020*

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## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

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### **Annual General Membership meeting – August 8, 2020 via ZOOM**

The Annual General Membership meeting (AGM) for the League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County has been set for August 8, 2020. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM and will be held via ZOOM.

The agenda and meeting packet including slate of officers and annual reports and the ZOOM link will be forwarded at a later date.

Dues for the Lincoln League are \$50/ year and include membership in the Lincoln, state and national organizations. If you are uncertain if your dues are current you can message our membership chair, Sandy Blankenship at [sandy.blankenship@windstream.net](mailto:sandy.blankenship@windstream.net) or me at [mary4now@aol.com](mailto:mary4now@aol.com). You can renew online via our website [www.lincolnleague.org](http://www.lincolnleague.org) or by mail to the office at 4600 Valley Road, Suite 306, Lincoln, NE 68510. The office is closed right now due to the coronavirus pandemic but we are still checking mail and phone messages on a regular basis.

Thanks to all of you for your continued membership in the League. Our work and our vigilance is important to ensure free and fair elections and informed voters.

Mary Boschult, President

League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County (LWVLL)

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### **Vote by Mail**

The Lincoln League is pleased that Dave Shively, our Lancaster County Election Commissioner, has announced that the Election Commission will be mailing early ballot request forms for the November General Election to all registered voters in Lancaster County in late August. He also said that 86% of the 81,375 votes cast in the May primary were done by mail.

Watch for your request form in the mail and stay safe and vote by mail. A downloadable copy of the request form is available at the Election Commissioner's website:

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5601/Early-Vote-Application-for-the-November-3-2020-General-Election>.

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### **PBS/NET Programs on suffrage.**

*"Women weren't given the right to vote. They took it!"*

There have been a number of programs on the suffrage and the passage of the 19th Amendment aired on the PBS/NET network. Most can be streamed if you have streaming services and internet access. These programs were excellent and have hopefully educated more of our citizens on voting and voting rights.

A good starting place for your Internet viewing is the *American Experience* broadcast of *The Vote*, at <https://www.pbs.org/video/the-vote-part-1-3kph5d/>

## **August 7 Luncheon with Elaine Weiss has been CANCELLED**

The luncheon scheduled for August 7, 2020, with Elaine Weiss, author of The Woman's Hour -- The Great Fight to Win the Vote, has been cancelled. The book is a good read and is available from the Lincoln Public Library or from your favorite bookseller.

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## **Unicameral back in session**

The Unicameral resumes the 2020 legislative session on July 20, 2020. We expect most time to be spent on the passing the priority bills, a business incentives bill (LB720) and property tax and school funding (LB974). Two bills we were following are also expected to be on the agenda: LB 627, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity introduced by Senator Pansing Brooks and also LB814, a bill to prevent dismemberment abortion.

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## **Input requested on Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan**

The City of Lincoln is requesting input on the city's 2050 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan through August 31, 2020. To participate go to [planforward2050.com](http://planforward2050.com).

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### FINAL REPORT FOR GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY 2020

Thank you to the following *Give to Lincoln Day* donors to the LWV/LL Education Fund. Through your generosity we raised \$2351. Fees of \$6.97 were subtracted and the matching fund from Lincoln Community Foundation of \$195.42 was added for a total of \$2539.51.

Kristen Anderson	Dennis Dohner	Blane & Kathie Osterman
Carita Baker	Dorene Eisentrager	Patricia Peterson
Karen Bell-Dancy	Jan Gauger	Gerald & Lois Poppe*
Katherine Berndt	Sarah Gauger	Terri Rittenburg
Jane Bieber	Carolyn Harp	Dawn Rockey
Sandra Blankenship	Eleanor Hart	Dan & Marge Schlitt
Cynthia Brammeier	David Hemsath	Becky & Sharad Seth
Mary Boschult	Charles Huber	Donna Shear
Dori Bush	James Johnson	Peggy Struwe
Rosalind & James Carr	Shirley Maly	Katherine Uhrmacher
Pat Cole	Marjorie Manglitz	Margaret Vrana
Nancy Comer	Marilyn McNabb	Sandra Williamson
Carol Connor	Three Anonymous	

\*Lois Poppe donated in memory of Marge Young



### **Remembering Amy Birky**

Ann Marie (Amy) Eisentrager Birky of Lincoln, Nebraska died on July 10, 2020 in Lincoln. Amy was born in Manhattan, New York City on March 9, 1940 to Emil Henry Eisentrager and Thekla J. Kretzmann. She attended PS 81 in the Bronx, from Kindergarten to 8th grade and graduated in 1957 from Walton High School. She matriculated at Colby College in Waterville, Maine receiving a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Religion. With a teachers' shortage at the time, she acquired a third grade teaching position for two years in Connecticut, and simultaneously earned a Master's Degree in Elementary Education at Central Connecticut State College. She taught English for two years on Saipan in a program proceeding the Peace Corps, followed by a year in upstate New York, and finally teaching students from migrant families in

King City, California. There, she met her husband, H. Gordon Birky of Milford, Nebraska. After two years, the family, including Gordon's two teenage daughters, Kathryn and Lynda, moved to Lincoln, Nebraska where Gordon taught at Prescott School. Amy and Gordon welcomed their daughter, Erica D. Birky, born in 1969. Amy taught English to adult refugees at Southeast Community College. She went on to teach 4th & 5th graders at Meadow Lane School, obtained a Master's Degree in Library Science, and then worked as a librarian until she retired, having been an educator for 35 years.

Gordon, Amy, and Erica had many traveling opportunities and especially enjoyed living in Sale, England in 1978-79, where Amy taught in the Fulbright Teaching Exchange Program. Amy and Gordon were married for 25 years until his death in 1993. Amy cherished her relationship with Gordon's two daughters, Kathryn Penrod (Jim) and Lynda Matthews (Steve) residing in Leawood, KS and Ione, California respectively, as well as with their children and grandchildren. Kathryn's children are Justin (Legh) and daughter, Madison, of Fairfax, VA, and Megan of Austin, TX. Lynda's daughters are Carolyn Aguilar (Jesus), and children, Jordan and Matthew of Las Vegas, NV, and Sarah Lassen (Justin) of Dublin, CA. Erica's children, Gabriel and Maia Rios Birky Pohirieth (Montpellier, France and Lincoln, NE) were the light in her eyes.

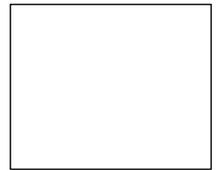
In 1996, Amy married Rich Britton, and they enjoyed fishing trips, and many years as members of the Friendship Force Chapter of Lincoln, travelling and interacting with people and cultures both within the US and abroad. Amy greatly enjoyed her relationship with Rich's sons Kennard (Joyce) and Ronald (LeAnne), both of Dallas-Fort Worth, as well as Kennard's children, Amanda (Chris) of Roeland Park, KS, and Jeremy (Rosa) and son Liam, residing in Lincoln.

Amy was preceded in her death by her parents, and brother Robert Eisentrager. Bob's wife Leoda, and daughter Sara, live in Seattle Washington. Amy's mother's large family of 5 brothers and 2 sisters has given her many cousins living throughout the US.

Amy was always interested in promoting and improving public education. She was actively involved in professional organizations; LEA, where she served as a negotiator, NSEA and NEA, as well as the Lincoln Area Retired Teachers Association. She impacted many fellow teachers and students, and was recognized as a Gold Star Educator. Besides her tireless work with the League of Women Voters-Lincoln Lancaster County and the LWVLL Education Fund, her volunteer work in the community included active advocacy in such groups as the Lancaster County (and Nebraska) Democrats, Planned Parenthood of Lincoln (for which she was awarded Volunteer of the Year), Nebraskans for Peace, PFLAG, AARP, NAACP, the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County, and Nebraska Appleseed. Lobbying at the legislature and other activities to improve life for all Nebraskans became an important goal in the final years of her life. She was a great patron of the arts and enjoyed lifelong memberships in the UNL Repertory Theatre, the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theatre, and many seasons of the Lied Center for Performing Arts. Amy actively nurtured many friendships through her professional, social justice, and community involvement connections, but her membership in the Unitarian Church of Lincoln deeply sustained her, just as she was able to share so much of herself with her church community.

Memorials to the Lincoln Unitarian Church Foundation and Lincoln Literacy.

The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*  
League of Women Voters ®  
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