



June/July 2021

President:	Inonge Kasaji
Vice-President:	Terri Rittenburg
Secretary:	Jane Witte
Treasurer:	Susan Scott
Lunch & Learn Chair:	Tari Hendrickson
Membership Chair:	Sandy Blankenship
<i>Voter</i> Editor:	Jim Johnson
Facebook Manager:	Kristen Anderson
Webmaster:	Maureen Ose

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Letter from new LWVLL President Inonge Kasaji

Dear Members of the Lincoln/Lancaster League of Women Voters,

I would like to begin this letter with my sincerest gratitude for electing me to be your president. I am deeply honored by the trust you have put in me, and am eager to get to work on your behalf for a cause that is near and dear to all of us. I know that I have big shoes to fill, and I promise to dedicate myself to be the best I can in this position. It's exciting to be working with such a wonderful group of board members and I am inspired by their tireless efforts for the League.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead once wrote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has". As I step into a leadership role as part of this historic organization, these words continue to ignite my passion for civic engagement and serve as a reminder that the work we do matters. My aim during my time is to continue the legacy of creating a civically engaged community within Lincoln and Lancaster. I also hope to expand on the diversity and equity work that the League is embracing. Of course, none of this would be possible without the continued support of you, our members. The time and effort that you continue to provide ensures that Lincoln and Lancaster remain places where the basic building block of our country--voting--continues to thrive. During this challenging time as this fundamental right is tested, I know we will rise to the challenge, together.

I look forward to serving with you.

Thank you,

Inonge Kasaji
she/her/hers
Lincoln/Lancaster LWV - President
(402) 979-3561



2021 Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting

The AGM was held via ZOOM on May 8, 2021. Twenty-four members attended. There were no changes recommended for the current bylaws. There were no changes recommended for the Impact on Issues. The bylaws and the Impact on Issues are accessible on our website www.lincolnleague.org

Reports on Program and Committee activities were reviewed. Full reports are available in the packet for the meeting sent to all members.

There are many policy opportunities for advocacy and mobilization. To recognize limited time and resources, the Board had continued these priorities:

Voting/Voting Rights	Equal Rights/Discrimination
Immigration Reform	Women's Health/Reproductive Health
Campaign Finance	Mayor Term Limits

and also these 5 action areas:

Access to Health Care	Poverty for Women and Families
Death Penalty	Immigration Reform esp. Dreamer Licenses
Gun Control	

The amended budget developed by President Boschult was sent to all members prior to the AGM. The original budget relied on an incorrect income projection given to the budget committee. Committee input was retained where appropriate in the amended budget and it was adopted by the members without objection.

Election: A motion to approve the slate recommended by the Nominating Committee was made and seconded and passed without opposition. Effective May 25, 2021, the board members, officers and trustees for 2021-2022 are:

Two-year terms from 2021 through 2023

President	Inonge Kasaji
Vice President	Terri Rittenburg
Director	Selina Martinez
Director (Lunch and Learn)	Tari Hendrickson
Director	Clar Nelson
Director	Kate High
Ed Fund Trustee	Sheryl Wright
Ed Fund Trustee	Liz Zeff

One-year term from 2021-2022

Nominating Committee Chair	Sharon Nemeth
Nominating Committee Member	Shelly Stall
Nominating Committee Member	Meg Mikolajczyk

There will also be two LWVLL Board members appointed to the Nominating Committee. In addition, these members were recommended to be appointed to the Board:

Director	Nancy Comer
Director	Karen Dienstbier
Off-Board Webmaster	Maureen Ose

The following officers and directors are on **terms that continue into 2022**, so did not need to be voted on at this year's annual general meeting:

Treasurer	Susan Scott
Secretary	Jane Witte
Director (VOTER Editor)	Jim Johnson
Director (Membership)	Sandy Blankenship
Director (Facebook)	Kristen Anderson
Director	Peggy Weber
Ed Fund Trustee	Pat Cole
Ed Fund Trustee	Marcia Kushner
Ed Fund Trustee	Judy Koepke

The new board members and new members of the Ed Fund Trustees Board were welcomed . Outgoing members were thanked. President Boschult said she appreciated that each member brings a strength and viewpoint to the Board that makes our work better and our organization stronger. Balancing views and priorities is sometimes challenging but it is important. The understanding and respect of the founding vision and values of the League of Women Voters is also important to our continued success.

Members asked if it was possible to have contact information for elected officials in the VOTER newsletter, especially of they are being requested to contact them on a policy issue.

Members also recommended that the League recognize the excellent work of Dave Shively, Election Commissioner and Maura Kelly, Chief Deputy Election Commissioner.

Before adjourning the meeting, President Boschult thanked the board members and Ed Fund trustees for the yellow roses and gift card delivered to her home prior to the meeting and for the addition of her name to the Long-Term Service plaque in the office. She also thanked the members for their support during the past 10 years as President and 12 years doing Voter Services.

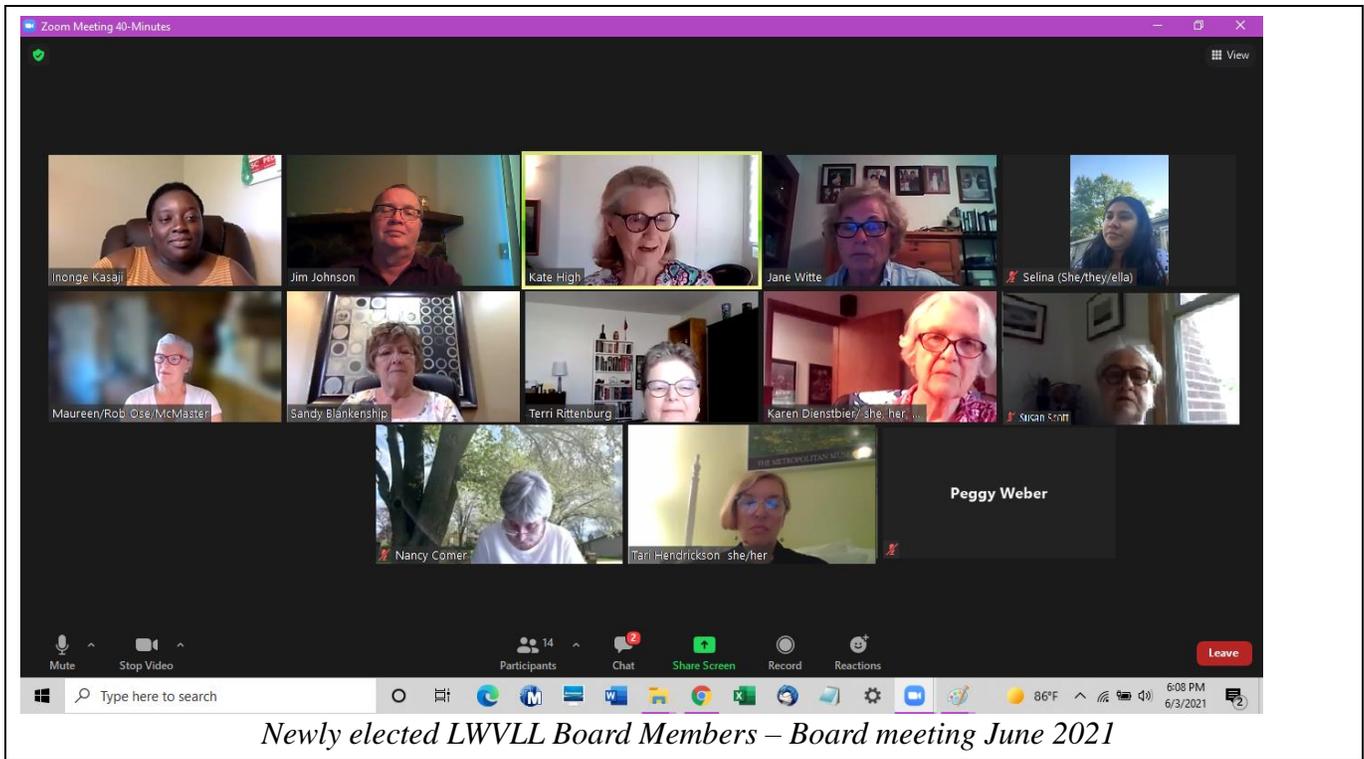
Summary of AGM submitted by Mary Boschult, incorporating minutes from AGM prepared by Jane Witte, Secretary



Longtime LWVLL President Mary Boschult's name is added to the plaque of honor in League office.



Yellow Roses for retiring LWVLL President Mary Boschult



Newly elected LWVLL Board Members – Board meeting June 2021

League of Women Voters Membership Renewal

Sandy Blankenship, Membership Chair

If you have not renewed your annual membership for League of Women Voters, please consider renewing. Memberships expire each year on March 31.

Here are just a few examples of how our Lincoln/Lancaster County League has provided support to area citizens: “Lunch & Learn” sessions have continued via zoom (without the lunch) with the public invited to attend, keeping community members updated on important issues through our web site and Facebook, assistance in getting citizens’ absentee ballots collected at city libraries and city offices in Hickman and Waverly, and letters or testimony to the Legislature. Normally we would also be holding several voter registration events! The League is non-partisan and does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. We strive to increase understanding of public policy issues and to increase voter participation in elections. Our web site includes links to recordings of our previous Lunch & Learn presentations.

Check our web site for more details: <https://lincolnleague.org>

There are two ways you can renew your membership:

- 1) You can quickly renew your membership online: <https://lincolnleague.org/join-us>.
- 2) OR at this same link, download the form to complete and mail it to us along with your check.
Dues are \$50 / year, \$10 for high school or university students.

Our community needs leaders like you to help ensure that our community is a strong, safe and a vibrant place to live!

Make checks payable to the League of Women Voters Lincoln Lancaster (LWVLL) and mail to:

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



FINAL REPORT FOR GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY 2021

Thank you to the following *Give to Lincoln Day* donors to the LWV/LL Education Fund. Through your generosity we received \$3234.21.

Charlyne Berens	Jan Gauger	Terri Rittenburg
Katheryn Berndt	Sarah Gauger	Marge Schlitt
Sandra Blankenship	Tari Hendrickson	Sara Stephenson
Mary Boschult	David & Michelle Hemsath	Sheila Stratton
Dori Bush	Alex Houchin	Susan Sehnert Stuart
Rosalind Carr	Dwight Johns	Peggy Struwe
Trudy Clark	Jim Johnson	Vicki & Charlie Treat-Huber
Pat Cole	Troy Kash-Brown	Margaret Vrana
Nancy & John Comer	Carole Levin	Janice Walker
Carol Connor	Majorie Manglitz	Sandra Williamson
Danielle Conrad	Megan Mikolajczyk	Sheryl Wright
Albert Davis	Katrina Murman	Elizabeth Zeff
Dennis Dohner	Pat Peterson	One Anonymous
Rebecca Gaston-Wise	Gerald Poppe	

Attacks on Voting, the Most Fundamental American Right

Since its founding, the U.S. has expanded its voter rolls in keeping with social progress and often because of years of campaigning and demonstrating – and even violence. No longer may only male landowners vote; the Constitution was amended to add former slaves to the rolls and then women. The voting age was lowered to 18. But legal and extra-legal attacks on the right to vote have actually increased in the past few years. Historians and activists on the state and national level will help us examine the history of expansion and attempted restrictions on voting rights and will look at what is being done today, both nationally and at state and local levels, to assure all adult citizens maintain the fundamental right to vote. Special guest speaker will be Meghan Browder from the National League of Women Voters where she works on voting rights, redistricting and money in politics.

Instructors: Meghan Browder, law clerk to the advocacy and litigation team, National League of Women Voters; Tyler White, assistant professor, Political Science, UNL; Lloyd Ambrosius, professor emeritus, History, UNL; John Cartier, Civic Nebraska; Brad Christian Sallis, Civic Nebraska; Gavin Geis, Common Cause; John Gale, former Nebraska Secretary of State

Facilitators: Charlyne Berens, Kate High

Day/Dates: Tue, Aug 31, Sep 7, 14

Time: 7-8:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Live Stream

Open to the Public

Enrollment Limit: 200 **Cost:** \$20

Registration begins Aug. 5. To register, go to [OLLI.unl.edu](https://olli.unl.edu) and link to the course catalog. This course is listed on page 18. (Course Number **22135CR**.)

This course is sponsored by OLLI and the League of Women Voters-Lincoln/Lancaster County.

Free OLLI at UNL Showcase Aug. 12

Come and see what OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) has to offer at a free showcase event on Thursday, Aug. 12, from 12:30 and 4 p.m. at Nebraska Innovation Campus, 2021 Transformation Drive.

You'll be able to sample courses taught by OLLI instructors, explore a variety of subjects and learn about travel opportunities and membership. Each of the sample courses will be offered twice, once at 1 p.m. and again at 2:15 p.m. Mini-courses will include:

- Women Novelists of Note.
- A History of Women's Suffrage in Nebraska.
- American Religious Liberties.
- The Power of Flowers.
- Top Ten Mistakes Made in Estate Planning.
- Slavery and Freedom in American History.
- A Political Odyssey.
- Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature.

The afternoon will end with a social hour where you can meet other people interested in continuing to learn.

OLLI at UNL offers non-credit courses on a wide range of topics for people 55 and older. It's all the fun of school without any papers or tests. Attend in person or online via Zoom by registering online at olli.unl.edu or calling the OLLI office: 402-472-6265.



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

May 23, 2021

Dave Shively, Election Commissioner
Lancaster County Election Office
601 N 46th Street
Lincoln, NE 68503

Dear Dave,

At the League's May 8, 2021, Annual General Meeting (AGM) meeting our members requested a letter be sent to express their appreciation for the work of the Lancaster County Election Commission. Members regularly comment on their high regard for the Election Office. Many serve as poll workers or election workers for the Election Office and have remarked on the professionalism and competency of the workers staffing the voting precincts and the high-quality training and support made available to those workers. They also enjoy the voter registrations and voter education sessions that the League does to support informed participation in elections. They are pleased to make this contribution.

Thank you for adding ballot drop boxes for the recent elections and for encouraging early voting. The pickup, delivery, and security processes for the drop boxes were well organized by Maura Kelly. The League and our corps of volunteers and registrars were pleased to be able to serve as couriers for the drop boxes in the Fall 2020 General Election and also in the April and May city elections in 2021. The volunteers have also commented how they felt appreciated by you and by Maura while they were serving as the couriers. The drop boxes were well received and appreciated by the public as well as the library staff.

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County want to extend our appreciation to you and to Maura Kelly, Chief Deputy Election Commissioner, and the staff of the Election Office for all that you do to make elections accessible, efficient and secure in our County.

Thank you for being a leader in election administration in Nebraska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Boschult". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

CC: Maura Kelly, Chief Deputy Election Commissioner, Lancaster County
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners



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Suite 306
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-475-1411
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May 23, 2021

Maura Kelly, Chief Deputy Election Commissioner
Lancaster County Election Office
601 N 46th Street
Lincoln, NE 68503

Dear Maura,

At the League's May 8, 2021, Annual General Meeting (AGM) meeting our members requested a letter be sent to express their appreciation for the work of the Lancaster County Election Commission. Members regularly comment on their high regard for the Election Office. Many serve as poll workers or election workers for the Election Office and have remarked on the professionalism and competency of the workers staffing the voting precincts and the high-quality training and support made available to those workers. They also enjoy the voter registrations and voter education sessions that the League does to support informed participation in elections. They are pleased to make this contribution.

Thank you for encouraging the addition of drop boxes in the recent elections. Your work to organize the pickup, delivery, and security processes for the drop boxes was recognized and appreciated as knowledgeable and competent. The League and our corps of volunteers and registrars were pleased to be able to serve as couriers for the drop boxes in the Fall 2020 General Election and also in the April and May city elections in 2021. The volunteers have also commented how they felt appreciated by you and by Dave while they were serving as the couriers. The drop boxes were well received and appreciated by the public as well as the library staff.

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County want to extend our appreciation to you and the staff in the Election Office for all that you do to make elections accessible, efficient and secure in our County. Free and fair elections are a high priority to the League of Women Voters.

Thank you for encouraging participation of all communities in voting in Lancaster County. Your efforts are appreciated.

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

CC: Dave Shively, Election Commissioner, Lancaster County
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

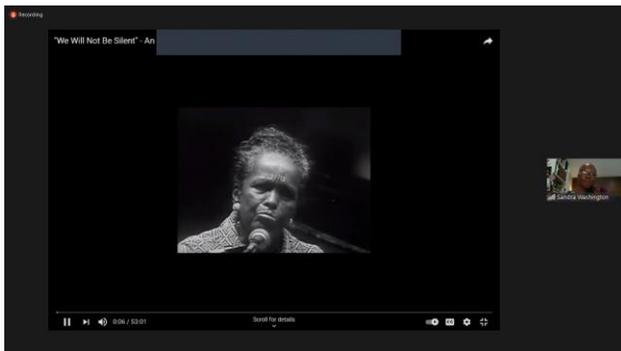
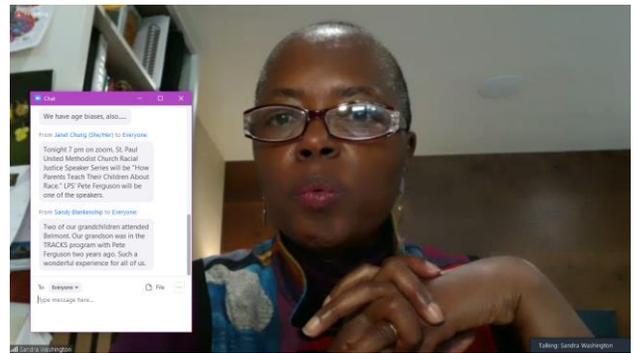
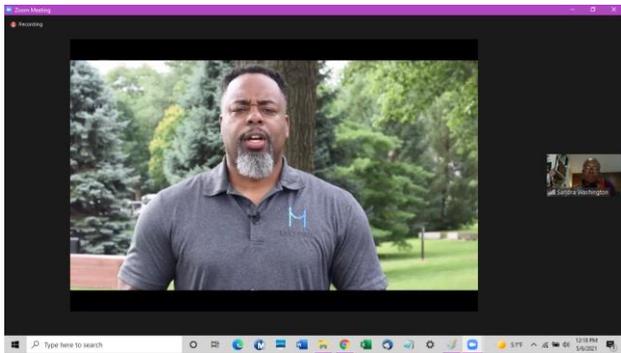
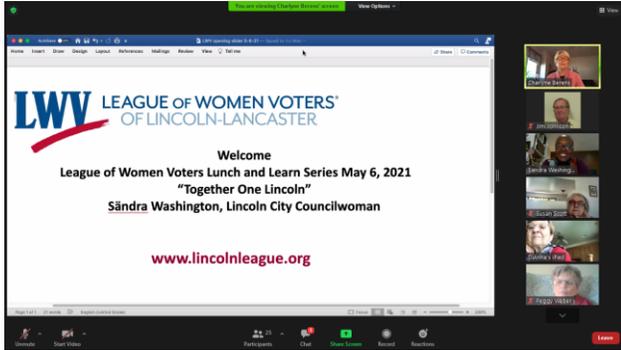
Lunch and Learn: Links to Previous Programs

Following are links to recordings of our 2020/2021 Lunch and Learn speakers. Watch our newsletter for announcements of the 2021/2022 season, which will begin in September.

Videos of previous presentations for the 2020/2021 season
September 3, 2020 <i>Voting Rights, Voting Right Now: Principals and Practicalities of Voting in Lancaster County</i> John Cartier, Director of Voting Rights and Dave Shively, Lancaster County Election Commissioner
October 8, 2020 <i>The Electoral College: Is It Still Relevant?</i> John Comer, Professor Emeritus, UNL Department of Political Science
November 5, 2020 <i>Redistricting and Apportionment</i> Gavin Geis, Executive Director, Common Cause Nebraska
December 3, 2020 <i>Dr. Deborah Turner, President of the National League of Women Voters</i> Due to unforeseen technical difficulties the video of Dr. Turner's 12/3/2020 presentation is unavailable. Please enjoy this video https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters/videos/588949825314829
January 7, 2021 <i>Focus on the Coming Nebraska Legislative Session</i> Analysts Craig Beck and Alex Serrurier, OpenSky Policy Institute
February 4, 2021 <i>The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg</i> Anna Shavers, Associate Dean, NU College of Law; Eric Berger, Professor, NU College of Law
March 4, 2021 <i>Can't Trust it: Race, Policing, the Prison Industrial Complex</i> Dr. Jeanette Jones, Associate Professor of History and Ethnic Studies, UNL
April 1, 2021 <i>Holding Cops Accountable; What is Happening Locally?</i> Ishma Valenti, Director, Community Engagement, Clyde Malone Community Center
May 6, 2021 <i>Together One Lincoln</i> Sandra Washington, Lincoln City Councilwoman

May LWVLL Lunch & Learn

Pictures from the May Lunch & Learn. Guest was City Council member Sandra Washington, speaking on the city's "Together One Lincoln" initiative.



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Time Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay