



February 2022

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Calendar of Events

Mar. 3 (Thursday): Noon
LWVLL Lunch & Learn
via Zoom:
Ballot Initiatives,
with guest speakers Senators
Megan Hunt and Anna Wishart

*See article at upper right, and
check out the recordings of
previous programs on page 3.*

Mar. 3 (Thursday): 5:30 pm
LWVLL Board Meeting

March and April: Various dates.
Voter Registration Events
*See Voter Registration Article on
page 3.*

April 1: Annual LWVLL Membership
Dues expire; please renew your
membership!
*See Membership Renewal article on
page 2.*

May 10: Primary Election Day

Popular Lunch and Learn Series Continues March 3 With focus on Medical Marijuana and Minimum Wage Increase

Two ballot initiatives in Nebraska will be the topic of a free March 3 webinar sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lincoln/Lancaster County.

Featured speakers will be Senator Megan Hunt and Senator Anna Wishart. These Nebraska lawmakers will focus on two Nebraska ballot initiatives, both of which may appear on the ballot in Nebraska on November 8, 2022.

The Medical Marijuana Initiative would amend the Nebraska Constitution to legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

The Minimum Wage Increase would incrementally increase the state's minimum wage.

The March 3 program will be held from noon to 1 P.M. It is one of a series of informational webinars covering current topics sponsored by the League on the first Thursday of each month from September through May. The pandemic spurred the move from in-person to Zoom programs, which are open to the public at no charge.

If you are a member of LWVLL, or if you had registered for Lunch and Learn meetings last year, you should receive a Zoom link a few days before the event, and a reminder notice the evening before the meeting. Others wishing to register should email lwvlunchandlearn@gmail.com. They will receive the Zoom link via return email and will automatically be registered to receive notice of future League programs.

For over 100 years, the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has encouraged informed and active participation in government, worked to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influenced public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all.

Go to www.lincolnleague.org for more information or to join the League.

League of Women Voters Membership Renewal

Sandy Blankenship, Membership Chair

It's that time of year—to renew your membership in the League of Women Voters Lincoln and Lancaster County! Our membership year runs from April 1 to March 31, with this year's memberships expiring March 31st.

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 with the public invited to attend, keeping community members updated on important issues through our web site, assistance in getting citizens’ absentee ballots collected at city libraries and city offices in Hickman and Waverly, voter registration, and letters or testimony to the Legislature. 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 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 Complete the form below and return it to the address listed.

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

Membership Renewal. *(If renewing by check, please include this form and send it to the office.)*

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am volunteering for _____

(possible examples: helping with voter registration, organizing candidate forums, serving on the League’s board, serving on a committee)

_____ Membership is \$50 year, \$10 for high school or university students.

_____ Same in Household (if one member of household is member, with same address, 2nd one can join for \$25)

_____ Donation to LWVLL

_____ Friend of LWVLL (I don’t want to join, but want to be a friend and donate to LWVLL)

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

Please renew as soon as possible so we don’t have to send reminders. Thanks!

Exciting Voter Registration Action Coming!!!

We the League will be holding New Voter Registration Events in March and April, 2022. The events will be held in Lincoln Public High Schools (dates to be announced), Pius High School, Norris High School and Lincoln Public Libraries. The League will require we all wear masks until Lincoln's Mask Mandate is reduced or eliminated, which is expected soon.

Below is the list of events, dates and times:

3/5/2022	2:00-4:00	Gere Library
3/8/2022	2:00-4:00	Bennett Martin Library
3/13/2022	2:00-4:00	Anderson Library
3/19/2022	2:00-4:00	Walt Library
3/22/2022	2:00-4:00	Gere Library
3/26/2022	2:00-4:00	Eiseley Library
3/23/2022	10:15-10:30	Norris Public School
4/12/2022	11:00-1:00	Pius High School

All Trained Deputy Registrars, please contact Jane Witte for your ability to help and to volunteer your services and your leadership. We must all be trained and approved as Deputy Registrars by the Election Commission to assist in Voter Registration to protect the rights of the public and to comply with the rules.

Training by the Lancaster Election Commission usually requires about 30 minutes. We have the option for in-person training in the afternoon or evening or by ZOOM. Contact Jane Witte at jgwitte@gmail.com as soon as possible. She will help you arrange the required training.

The dates for the Drop Box Collection teams (Couriers) will be April 5 through May 5. The training schedule will be available soon.

All members have an opportunity to make a difference for the good of our locality, state and country.

If questions please contact Jane Witte at jgwitte@gmail.com.

Lunch and Learn: Upcoming, and Links to Previous Programs

Following is our current schedule, and links to recordings of previous Lunch and Learn speakers. Watch our newsletter for announcements of future Spring 2022 speakers.

Upcoming 2022 Lunch and Learn Topics and Speakers		
3/3/2022	Ballot Initiatives: Medical Marijuana and Minimum Wage Increase	State Senators Megan Hunt and Anna Wishart
Videos of previous presentations		
January 6 Update on the AltEn Mead Site Cleanup Al Davis, former state senator and current lobbyist for the Sierra Club; Leesa Zalesky, freelance journalist <i>Follow-up information: A) Q&A Update on the AltEn Mead Site Cleanup B) What You Can Do About AltEn</i>		
December 9 "Lincoln Airport Capital Improvements" Nick Cusick – Airport Director, Zachary Mora James – Board Chair		
November 4, 2021 "Lincoln's Vision for a Climate-Smart Future" Enter Passcode: kF=GC62d Miki Esposito, J.D., Senior Policy Advisor to Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, City of Lincoln, Nebraska		
September 2, 2021 "Redistricting in Nebraska" Nebraska Unicameral Senators Tom Briese and Steve Lathrop, facilitated by Rachel Gibson		
May 6, 2021 Together One Lincoln Sändra Washington, Lincoln City Council		
April 1, 2021 Holding Cops Accountable; What is Happening Locally? Ishma Valenti, Director, Community Engagement, Clyde Malone Community Center		
March 4, 2021 Can't Trust it: Race, Policing, the Prison Industrial Complex Dr. Jeanette Jones, Associate Professor of History and Ethnic Studies, UNL		
February 4, 2021 The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg Anna Shavers, Associate Dean, NU College of Law; Eric Berger, Professor, NU College of Law		
January 7, 2021 Focus on the Coming Nebraska Legislative Session Analysts Craig Beck and Alex Serrurier, OpenSky Policy Institute		
December 3, 2020 Dr. Deborah Turner, President of the National League of Women Voters Video unavailable. Please enjoy this video instead: https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters/videos/588949825314829		
November 5, 2020 Redistricting and Apportionment Gavin Geis, Executive Director, Common Cause Nebraska		
October 8, 2020 The Electoral College: Is It Still Relevant? John Comer, Professor Emeritus, UNL Department of Political Science		
September 3, 2020 Voting Rights, Voting Right Now: Principals and Practicalities of Voting in Lancaster County John Cartier, Director of Voting Rights and Dave Shively, Lancaster County Election		

Commissioner

**Global Perspectives: The Winter Lecture Series, 2022
Mass Atrocities and the Responsibility to Protect**

Access: via Zoom, on four successive Sundays beginning 2/20/2022 If you are not already on the list to receive Winter Lecture Series reminders, go to the WLS website (<https://www.unitarianlincoln.org/winter-lecture-series>) to sign up for that email list to receive reminders. We will be sending emails approximately 48 hours before each lecture with the Zoom link. The Zoom link will be the same for each of the four sessions.

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Format: 45-minute lecture followed by an audience-driven Q&A.

Availability: Recorded lectures and Q & A sessions will be posted by the end of March 2022 on the Unitarian Church YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/unitarianchurchoflincoln

Background:

The UN General Assembly adopted wording in 2005 now referred to as R2P, the responsibility to protect. The language adopted reflects several ideas: that states through their government have a duty to exercise responsible sovereignty by, at a minimum, not allowing mass atrocities; that outside states have a duty to help other states be responsible by acting early through diplomacy to head off trends toward mass atrocity; and that as a last resort the UN Security Council can authorize use of force to stop mass atrocity. Absent this authorization, humanitarian intervention remains illegal. Notably, claiming self-defense for intervention is separate from R2P.

Most observers see the logic of R2P in positive terms. Most observers agree that R2P has not worked well in practice. Our 2022 lecture series examines the evolution of what is called R2P, the reasons for its disappointing impact on world affairs, and whether we can realistically hope for improvements in the future.

Sunday, February 20, 2022, 7:00 PM. *Professor Thomas G Weiss*, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, will present a Zoom lecture on **the history of the Responsibility to Protect** (written R2P) as it was developed by the United Nations and as it was subsequently applied, misapplied, and not applied to various conflicts.

Sunday, February 27, 2022, 7:00 PM. *Professor Joshua Landis*, University of Oklahoma, will pay further attention to the **applicability of the R2P in the current conflicts in Syria and Yemen.**

Sunday, March 6, 2022, 7:00 PM. *Professor Robert Hitchcock*, University of New Mexico, will address **R2P in Darfur and some other African cases.**

Sunday, March 13, 2022, 7:00 PM. *Professor Parks Coble*, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will discuss **R2P in relation to the ongoing conflicts in East Asia including Myanmar and China.**

Speakers' Bios:

Thomas G. Weiss is Distinguished Resident Fellow in global governance at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and Presidential Professor of Political Science at the City University of New York's Graduate Center. Among many professional positions Weiss was president of the International Studies

Association; chair of the Academic Council on the UN System where he was also editor of its journal *Global Governance*; and director of the Ralph Bunche Institute at CUNY. He was the research director for the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, convened by Canada, which was at the origin of the concept of Responsibility to Protect-- a projected way of anticipating and responding to mass atrocities that was eventually endorsed at the United Nations. He has written more than 50 books and 200 articles on international relations mainly on the topics of the United Nations, global governance, and humanitarian affairs. His coauthored textbook on the United Nations appeared in eight editions over a span of 25 years and was referred to as the gold standard for texts on the UN.

Joshua Landis is Professor of Middle Eastern History at the University of Oklahoma in Norman where he holds the Sandra Mackey Chair in Middle East Studies. At OU he is also the Director of the Farzaneh Family Center for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies as well as the Director of the Center of Middle East Studies. Fluent in Arabic and French, he is an internationally recognized scholar on different aspects of Political Islam and the International Relations of the Middle East. He manifests special expertise on Syria, about which he writes a blog that is followed by a large number of readers. He is widely published in respected journals like *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and *Middle East Policy* and has written numerous chapters in scholarly books in his areas of expertise. He is often called on to speak at places like the Brookings Institute, Council on Foreign Relations, and US Institute of Peace. He is a frequent commentator on PBS, Al Jazeera, NPR, and the BBC, among other media sources. Awarded three Fulbright grants, his research has also been supported by the Social Science Research Council and other agencies.

Robert K. Hitchcock is Professor of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico. Hitchcock is a world-renowned expert on the cultural anthropology of indigenous peoples with special emphasis on the peoples of Sub-Saharan Africa, most notably the San in the Kalahari Desert of Botswana. He began his academic career in 1983 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he was promoted to Professor of Anthropology and served as chair of the Department of Anthropology and Geography and Director of International Studies. He also directed the UNL human rights program for a time. In 2006 he became Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Michigan State University, also being associated with African Studies there, before assuming his current position in New Mexico in 2009. He is a prolific author and has earned numerous awards for his field work and scholarship. Hitchcock regularly serves as consultant to international agencies and foundations seeking his expertise in land rights, social displacement, adaptation to drought, mediation and planning. He will address the R2P in Darfur (Sudan and South Sudan) and some other areas of Africa.

Parks Coble is the James S. Sellers Professor of History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he has been on the faculty since 1976. His primary area of research is East Asian history with particular emphasis on 20th century China, although he has taught courses on Japan, Korea and Vietnam as well. He has published six books and more than 50 scholarly articles. He has been a visiting fellow at Harvard, Princeton at several universities in both China and Taiwan. Coble has served on the editorial boards of numerous professional journals and has been awarded grants to conduct research on the political history of China, business developments in China and Chinese-Japanese military involvements. He has received several awards as an outstanding teacher and has generously contributed to the education of the local community on Chinese and other Asian affairs. Coble will speak to R2P as it applies to the Chinese suppression of the Uyghurs and the expulsion of the Rohingya from Myanmar (Burma).

The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*
League of Women Voters ®
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Time Dated Material
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