



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

July/August 2023

President: Cynthia Peterson
Vice-President: Kat Waters
Secretary: Terri Rittenburg
Treasurer: Dorothy Ramsey
Lunch & Learn Chair: Tari Hendrickson
Membership Chair: Sandy Blankenship
Voter Editor: Jim Johnson
Facebook Manager: Kristen Anderson

Calendar of Events

Jul 22 (Saturday): 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Voter Registration Opportunity

Disability Pride Celebration
Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park
voterservices@lincolnleague.org

Aug 3 (Thursday): 4 – 7 pm

Garden Party
Susan Scott's home,
5300 Cooper Ave

Aug 5&6 (Sat/Sun): Time TBA

Voter Registration Opportunity
Nebraska Crossroads
Music Festival
Details TBA
voterservices@lincolnleague.org

Aug 10 (Thursday): 6:00 pm

LWVLL Board Meeting
Hopper Room, Turbine Flats

Sept 7 (Thursday): Noon – 1:00 pm

Lunch & Learn
Rev. Beth Graverholt
Justice in Action

Sept 7 (Thursday): 6:00 pm

LWVLL Board Meeting
Hopper Room, Turbine Flats

Sept 16 (Saturday): Time TBA

Voter Registration Opportunity
Latino Festival
Bandshell, Antelope Park
voterservices@lincolnleague.org

Oct 5 (Thursday): Noon – 1:00 pm

Lunch & Learn
David Wren (*Workforce Administrator, City of Lincoln*)
Kelly Ross (*ECHO Collective*)
Bryan Seck (*Lincoln Literacy*)

The following letter was submitted by the co-presidents of LWVNE and the president of LWVLL to the Lincoln Journal Star and several other Nebraska newspapers. Letter appeared in the July 12 edition of the Journal Star.

LWVNE Letter of Support for Referendum to Repeal LB753 (Opportunity Scholarship Act)

In a legislative session dominated by multi-bill packages, LB753 (Opportunity Scholarship Act) was one of the few single topic bills passed. The bill does one thing and one thing only: diverts public dollars to private and parochial schools through tax credits.

Public schools serve roughly 90% of Nebraska children and ultimately drive our state's growth. A program that withholds tax dollars from public schools, including many already underfunded, is bad for Nebraska. Private schools are not held to the same requirements as public schools. School districts in small or rural communities – many without private school alternatives – will be particularly susceptible to these cuts.

The League of Women Voters supports public education and believes that public dollars must have public oversight, ensuring transparency and use in accordance with state and federal laws. Consistent with our position in past legislative sessions, we oppose this tax-credit-voucher program and support the current referendum to repeal LB753.

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska is proud to join the Support Our Schools Nebraska coalition, a group of educators, parents and other Nebraskans collecting signatures to add this issue to the 2024 ballot. We encourage voters to sign the petition so that all Nebraska voices can be heard on this issue.

*Janelle Stevenson, Lincoln, and MaryLee Moulton, Omaha
Co-presidents, League of Women Voters of Nebraska,
and*

*Cynthia Peterson, Lincoln
President, League of Women Voters of Lincoln/Lancaster County*

Letter from the LWVLL President

Hi, Leaguers!

I'm proud and delighted to be the president of the Lincoln-Lancaster Co. League of Women Voters. Taking on this leadership role was not anywhere on my radar a few months ago, but here I am.



I was born and raised in Holdrege and North Platte, Nebraska; educated in public schools, and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in Political Science and Psychology. The bulk of my career was in Information Technology—mostly as a senior-level project or program manager and business analyst for Inc. 300 or Fortune 100 companies in the US. It's a career that found me when I made the mistake of reading a manual and, suddenly, I knew more about technology than anyone else in the department... After 35+ years in IT, I left my last role (Wells Fargo) in September and am now semi-retired.

I'm also a professional writer, particularly feature articles.

Genealogy is an obsession that I came to in the 1990s. Love those all-to-rare eureka! moments. My father was a first generation Swedish-American, and my mother's family was in this country beginning in the later 1600s.

I also enjoy traveling, spending time with good friends, fine arts, music (esp. jazz and blues), movies on the big screen, reading, gardening and volunteering. I was on the Board of Directors for Fresh Start for over 10 years, and served in all BOD leadership roles except treasurer, plus chaired its fund development committee. I'm also on the board of my HOA.

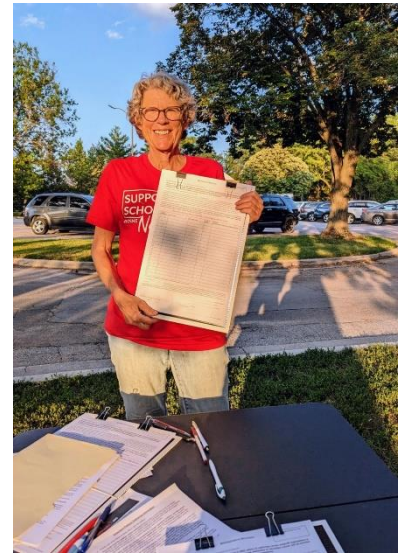
I'm excited to learn more about you all, and your wants and wishes for the Lincoln-Lancaster Co. League. I want us to be even more active and visible in this community than we currently are. While it's cliché to say, it is going to take our whole village to do that.

I know I have much to learn about the League itself and how it functions, etc., so, I beg your indulgence, patience and support.

Respectfully,
Cynthia Peterson, President

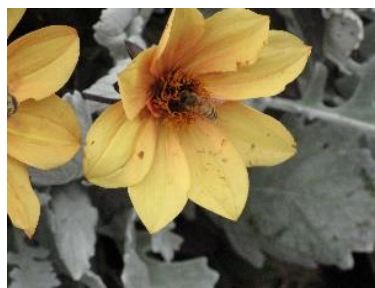
LWVLL Co-Vice President, Jean McGuire

Jean McGuire was nominated and voted into office by the Board of Directors on July 13, 2023. She joins **Kat Waters** as co-vice president. Jean is a Nebraska native who returned to her home state after a long career with McDonald's Corporation at the senior director level. While she was living in Colorado, she had leadership roles with the League of Women Voters in Estes Park and later Boulder Co. Jean's desired LWVLL focus will be action-oriented projects and efforts. Welcome aboard Jean, and thanks so much for volunteering your time and expertise to LWVLL!



Save the date...

August 10, 2023, 4-7PM



Why? Lincoln-Lancaster League member mixer and garden party!

It's time to meet for the first time, or get re-acquainted, and Susan Scott has graciously invited us to enjoy her beautiful garden while we do so. Address 5300 Cooper Ave. Watch your email (or mail) for more details.



FINAL REPORT FOR 2023

Thank you to the following donors to the LWV/LL Education Fund. Through their generosity we received \$3,925.71.

Julie Pearson Anderson, Alison Armstrong, Sandra Blankenship, Mary Boschult, Dori Bush, Rosalind Carr, Ann Cerveney, Mindy Rush Chapman, Pat Cole, Glynnis Collins, Nancy and John Comer, Judith Cook, Al Davis, Judith DeGraff, Anne DeVries, Karen Dienstbier, Dennis Dohner, Jan Gauger, Sarah Gauger, Jennifer Graham, Julie Grives, Laurel Van Ham, David and Michelle Hemsath, Tari Hendrickson, Anne Herman, Susan Kjer Hild, Wynn Hjermstad, Jill Holmquist, Denise Hockamier, Jane Renner Hood, Alex Houchin, James Johnson, Willa Foster Jones and Rich Jones, Susan Kash-Brown, Jacqueline Kehl, Madeline Kettler, Judy Koepke, Alison Krohn, Andrew Kuhn, Joyce Latrom, Carole Levin, Bruce Mellburg, Katrina Murman, Maureen Ose and Rob McMaster, Julie Petersen, Cynthia Peterson, Jackeline Prados, Mark Riley, Terri Rittenburg, Dan and Marge Schlitt, Karen Shoemaker, Mary Sommermeyer, Susan Sehnert Stuart, Jane Witte and 4 Anonymous donors.

These donations will allow us to supply the voter registration booth, enlarge the participation allowed on Zoom Lunch and Learn and publish an updated Directory of Elected Officials.

Voter Services Report

We have new deputy registrars! Please welcome Patty Bohart and Alex Harris volunteered at Juneteenth. It was good to get to know them, introduce them to other volunteers, show them the spinning wheel and the registration process. We had a good time. It is a great opportunity to educate using the spinning wheel as an engagement tool. We registered 15 new voters. Kathryn Borman observed and handed out “I’m registered to vote” stickers. She is planning on taking the training as soon as Becki Gaston-Wise gets back from vacation. Pam Edwards and Leslie Ryan are also planning on taking the training to be a deputy registrar.

Upcoming Voter Registraion Events:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
07/22/23	Disability Pride Celebration Auld Pavilion 10:00 a.am.-2:00 p.m.
08/05/23	The Nebraska Crossroads Music festival Still working out the details.
08/06/23	The Nebraska Crossroads Music festival Still working out the details.
09/16/23	Latino Festival 2023, Bandshell, Antelope Park

Contact us at voterservices@lincolnleague.org to get trained as a registrar, or to volunteer to help at one or more of the above events if you’ve already had the training.

Support Our Schools Petition Drive

As indicated in the letter on page 1 of this newsletter, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska is joining with other organizations in the Support Our Schools Nebraska coalition, an organization dedicated to placing a referendum of LB753, which was passed in the 2023 legislative session, on the ballot in next year's election. Photos on this page are from efforts by the League of Women Voters-Lincoln/Lancaster County to collect signatures for the petition to place the referendum on the ballot.



Cynthia Peterson



Patty Bohart and Carla Larson discussing the petition with some potential voters.



Katie Borchman, Jean McGuire

The Lincoln Lancaster *Voter*
League of Women Voters ®
2124 Y Street #228
Lincoln, NE 68503
<http://www.LincolnLeague.org>



Time Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay