



The VOTER

January-February 2015 VOL. 62, ISSUE 1

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League of Women Voters of Washington County, AR

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CALENDAR

Monday, January 12, 2015 • Arkansas General Assembly Convenes

Tuesday, January 20, 4-7p.m. • Public Input Sessions for Open Space Planning at Fayetteville Public Library

Wednesday, January 21, 5:30 p.m. • “LWVWC Program Topic Planning” at the home of **Libby Wheeler**, 1635 Shadowridge, Fayetteville. Bring a snack if you like. glwheel@prodigy.net

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 6:00 p.m. • “Immigration and the President’s Initiatives,” Elizabeth Young, Immigration Attorney, University of Arkansas School of Law at the First United Presbyterian Church, 695 Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703. League is a co-sponsor with Wonderful Wednesday, **First United** Presbyterian Church and AAUW.

Wednesday, February 11, 6:00 p.m. • Documentary Screening, “No Sanctuary: Big Business and Family Detention,” at the First United Presbyterian Church.

Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10:30 a.m. • “Forum with NWA Legislators” at the **Fayetteville Senior Center**, 945 South College Avenue, Fayetteville. This will be during the legislative session and an important time to bring constituent concerns to your representatives. Food will be served but **there will not be a charge to attend**. RSVPs to Joyce Hale joycehale43@gmail.com or 479-527-2777 will help to assure ample seating.

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Message from LWVWC President

Mary Alice Serafini



With the Arkansas General Assembly convened in 2015, the League of Women Voters of Washington County is prepared to enact the advocacy training we have experienced in 2014. We will keep our focus on League priorities which include the Affordable Care Act, children and families, mental health support, prisons and jails, immigration, the environment, ethics reform and many others. With our engagement with Citizens First Congress, we have avenues to stay abreast of legislation and to have meaningful contact with our legislators.

January also brings the opportunity to look forward to the next League year and to discuss and prioritize program topics and interests. This is a lively meeting with everyone’s input in a relaxed environment. Everybody’s ideas are shared and then prioritized at our annual meeting in May. So be sure to join us on January 21 at Libby Wheeler’s home.

We are pleased to be able to co-sponsor two sessions on immigration in February with First United Presbyterian Church and the American Association of University Women. In particular, it is heartening to meet with other members of the community who not only want to be better informed but are ready to act on their concerns and priorities.

On February 28, we have the opportunity to interact with our NWA Legislators who will have been in the legislative sessions for about 6 weeks. Come talk with them and learn more about the 2015 legislative priorities and actions. You can influence them at this meeting so come and speak up!

And, in case you haven’t heard, we still need membership renewals by January 23!

THEODORA (THEO) EMILY DECKER COLBORN

1927 – 2014

A Tribute, by Joyce Hale

Some scientists make their mark by discovering a new process, material, cure or convenience. Great scientists rise to a higher level and permanently turn conventional thinking on its head. This requires a life time of seeking truth and when necessary speaking that truth to power.

Revolutionary thinking is seldom accepted at first, since those benefitting from the status quo will do all they can to discredit and make light of the findings. Dr. Theo Colborn's intelligence, persistence, empathy for suffering, personal integrity and bravery to challenge accepted "facts" are now molded into her legacy.

Researchers, organizations and many around the world who have learned from her consider her to be "the Rachel Carson of Our Time." As a friend and admirer, it is impossible for me to adequately summarize the significance of Dr. Colborn's work, but these excerpts from her obituary gives some insight:

"Dr. Colborn's seminal contribution to the world was driving scientific and public awareness of "endocrine disruptors." These are chemicals that in even the most minute doses can compromise health by interfering with the development and functioning of reproductive, immune, neurological, metabolic and other bodily systems, especially when encountered in the womb or early in childhood. Her initial stitching together of this story was chronicled in her 1996 book "Our Stolen Future" characterized as a scientific detective story, the book captivated the public and has now been translated into over 18 languages.



Dr. Colborn saw the need for a program to address chemicals that can interfere with the delicate endocrine system and lead to adverse outcomes such as infertility, male birth defects, various cancers, autism, ADHD, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, diabetes, obesity and a variety of immune system disorders."

Read more at <http://endocrinedisruption.org/about-tedx/theo-colborn>

Dr. Colborn's career was remarkable in so many ways. While her sixteen page CV lists the honors, degrees, appointments, peer reviewed papers, books, and organizations she led, it is all the more remarkable when you know that she started this after first having a full career as a pharmacist and raising four children on a Colorado ranch. After her marriage ended in 1970, she decided to spend her life studying science. For the next 15 years she earned degrees in fresh water ecology, epidemiology, toxicology, water chemistry and a PhD in zoology at age 58. Her field work in Colorado's polluted mining streams and studies of accumulated toxins in the food chain of Great Lakes' aquatic life demonstrated her capacity for important research beyond solely academic accomplishments.

Perhaps her greatest single contribution was organizing scientists from many different disciplines to begin overlaying studies comparing findings and beginning activity between researchers who typically did not work together or share research. The success of this networking led Dr. Colborn to establish the organization, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, at 73! For the next fourteen years until her death, she continued to bring researchers together to strengthen their findings and report to government agencies and the media. Her organization's work exposing the chemical dangers of fracking still stand as the most extensive body of work available concerning this risky practice. She will be greatly missed.

LWVWC PROGRAMING FOR FEBRUARY

IMMIGRATION - The LWVWC is again partnering with AAUW and the Wonderful Wednesdays programs at the First United Presbyterian Church. The two February programs will take place at FUPC located at 695 Calvin Street, Fayetteville. Expand your learning about immigration. Dinners are available at 5:30 before each program but are not required to attend the program. To reserve a meal, call the church office for reservations at 442-4411 or email by Tuesday at noon the day before the program at hnash@fupcfay.org. All LWVWC members are encouraged to attend to better understand this hot button issue. Guests are welcome.



Wednesday, February 4, 6:00 pm, First United Presbyterian Church.

Returning to update everyone on federal immigration policy is **Elizabeth Young**, Immigration Attorney, University of Arkansas School of Law. She will be discussing the President's new immigration initiatives.

Wednesday, February 11, 6:00 pm, First United Presbyterian Church.



This Texas-made film follows our government's response to refugees and migrants in the creation and expansion of new private prisons for these families in remote and isolated areas of the Southwest. Reversing the progress of the immigrant rights movement and his own previous decisions, President Obama has surpassed the Bush administration in expanding the use of detention centers for refugee families. This history is portrayed and told by the people who live it and shines light on the growing grassroots movement fighting to close these family prisons and welcoming our neighbors with compassion.



LWVWC LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Saturday, February 28, 11:30 – 1:00

After having to cancel meeting with Washington County legislators twice, another forum is scheduled to take place at the Fayetteville Senior Center, 945 South College Avenue, Fayetteville. This will be during the legislative session and an important time to bring constituent concerns to your representatives. While not our traditional Legislative Luncheon, refreshments will be available for all at no charge. RSVPs to Joyce Hale joycehale43@gmail.com or 479-527-2777 will help to assure ample seating.

NEW & RENEWING LWVWC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

By Susan Rausch

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED,
PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO DO SO TODAY.**

LWVUS Membership Deadline January 31!!



Be Part of a loooooooooong tradition!

Hopefully the dust has settled and you have caught up after the holiday.

LWVWC is in the process of finalizing our membership roster, which must be submitted to National by January 31. We are facing a challenging year in which many issues impacting the future of our state will be decided. It is imperative that our membership base continues to be strong.

If you have not renewed your membership for the 2014-2015 year, please take a moment to complete the Membership Form on the final page. We are only able to continue our work with your support.

Local LWVWC Program Guidelines

Programs are the glue that hold the League of Women Voters together. There is an ongoing interest in voting and elections, but the reasons to vote are made personal because of one's interest in issues and candidates' positions on those issues.

Local Leagues may include programs that originate and are passed down from LWVUS (national) and LWVAR (state), but local topics have greatest appeal for attracting members within the community. Topics are discussed and selected by the members at the Annual Meeting in May, but the following points should be considered in making those first topic suggestions our January planning activity.

Selection and development of local programming should address the following criteria:

1. Subject should be of importance and of general interest in our local community.
2. Subject should not be a problem that requires state or national action.
3. Subject should be capable of being solved by governmental action, for example: by ordinance or council or quorum court attention. Or it might be addressed by community education, for example by publishing a booklet, pamphlet, etc.
4. Subject should not be one which is already being solved by some other organization, but it could be a program where the League's particular talents would be complimented through a cooperative effort with another group. When working with this group, care must be taken to see that we are promoting League philosophies without taking on the philosophy of the cooperating organization.

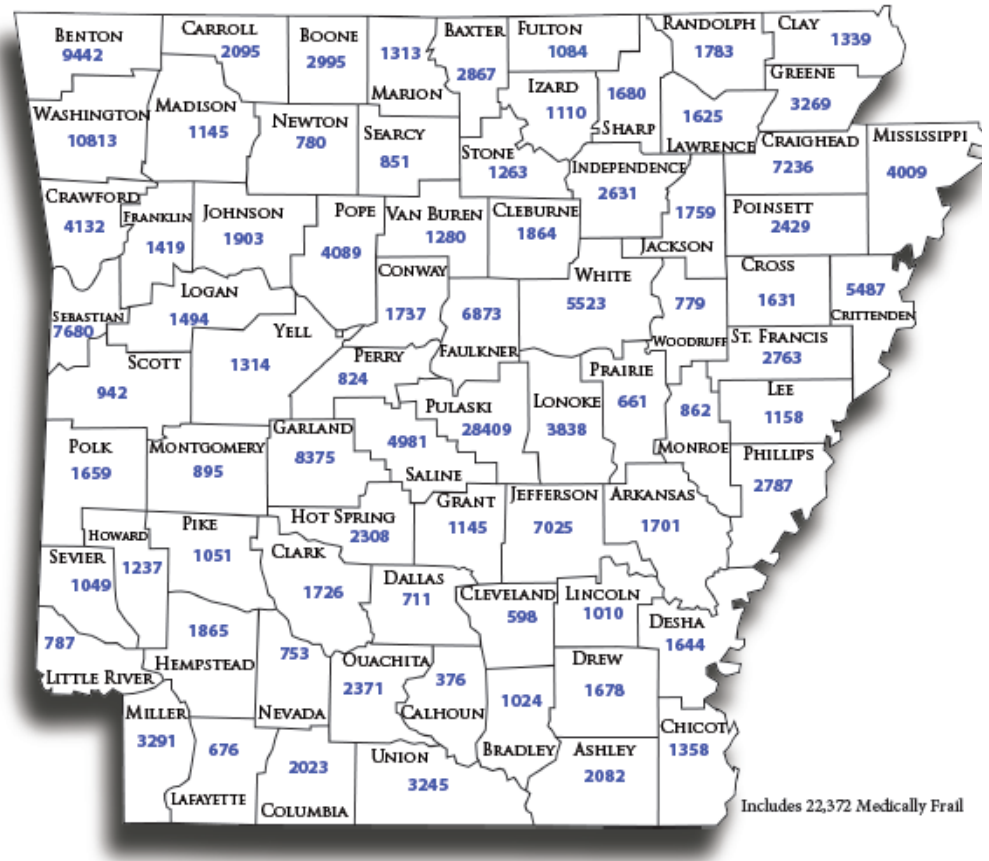
Volunteers are essential to help with the programs once the topic has shown interest. Unless a working committee will take responsibility for program development, even the best topics will not be selected.

ARKANSAS' PRIVATE OPTION DEMONSTRATION

By J. P. Peters

Since the November election, there has been much discussion and speculation as to the future of the state's Private Option. With a new administration and the convening of the 90th General Assembly, it is understandable that Arkansans have questions. Questions like: "Will the new leadership vote to terminate the program? If so, what will happen to those currently enrolled in the program?" - "If the program is continued, what changes, if any, can we expect?" While some of these questions have been addressed by various news media and other knowledgeable sources, there are some facts that we should keep in mind.

First, the Private Option is an approved 1115 Research and Demonstration waiver with an approval period of September 27, 2013 through December 31, 2016. This means the waiver will automatically terminate December 31, 2016 if the state does not take action to extend the life of the waiver. If during the 2015 regular session, it is decided to terminate the Private Option, the state is required to give the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)



Private Option Enrollment as of September 2014 by County, courtesy Department of Human Services

120 days notice as specified and agreed upon in the Special Terms and Conditions. Even though the Private Option is Federally funded (currently), the legislature has to annually reauthorize funding with 75 percent supermajorities in both the House and Senate before funds can be utilized. Currently, funding for the demonstration is approved through June 30, 2015. In case of termination, legislation may be necessary to cover any days beyond June 30, 2015, in order to comply with the 120 day rule. Most agree, however, that the chance of the Private Option being terminated is small, if any.

As far as changes to the Private Option, that has already occurred and it is safe to say that there will be future changes. Last September, Arkansas submitted an amendment to the waiver proposing changes required by Act 257, which was passed during the last fiscal session. The changes include: establishing health savings or Independence Accounts for non-disabled beneficiaries; imposing cost-sharing for beneficiaries above 50 percent of FPL; and limiting non-emergency medical transportation services. CMS approved the changes, which will take effect this February.

What will happen to those currently enrolled? I cannot speak for CMS; however, in my opinion, based on years of experience as a Federal official with CMS, enrollees will be "rolled over" into the Federal Exchange. The spirit of the ACA is to get uninsured individuals insured - not to put them at risk.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL APPLICATION & INTEREST SURVEY FORM**

Name _____ Date _____ New/Renewal _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail (Please print carefully) _____

DUES: Individual Membership - \$40 Family Membership - \$60 Student - \$20

Checks should be made payable to "LWVWC" & mailed to: LWVWC/PO Box 4/Fayetteville AR 72702

Please indicate LWVWC activities of interest to you or with which you would like to assist:

- Attend City Council, Planning Commission, Task Force, Quorum Court, etc. Meetings when needed
- Help with Publicity, Displays, or Posters Assist with Mailings Newsletter Writing
- Provide a Facility/Home for Meetings Assist with Telephoning Provide Food for Events
- Provide Transportation to Meetings Help with TV Candidate Forums Voter Registration
- Video Record or Photograph Activities Lobby State Legislature Other

I wish to receive calls to action on specific issues of interest: Education Environment Governance & Voting
 Social Policies All League Concerns

I wish to limit my membership to receiving the newsletter. _____

I do not wish to join, but would like to make a contribution (any amount appreciated). _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: www.lwvarwc.org

Thank You!

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OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
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