



The League of Women Voters of Washington County

February 2018 Vol. 66. No. 2 www.lwvarwc.org P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

Calendar of Events

- Thursday, February 22, 6:00 to 8:00 pm – It’s Time to Draw the Lines - Redistricting David Couch, speaker. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 224 N East Ave, Fayetteville (Article on Page 4)
Thursday, March 1, 5:30 pm – Drinks & Dialogue – Conversation about DACA – Meet Zessna Garcia and hear her story. Apple Blossom Brewing Co., 1550 Zion Road, Fayetteville (Article on Page 3)
Thursday, March 15, 5: 00 Refreshments and photo exhibit, 6:00 to 7:30 – Panel discussion on NWA’s Homeless Population: Understanding and Addressing Their Complicated Needs – Moderated by Kyle Kellams - Genesis Church, 205 M.L.K. Jr Blvd, Fayetteville (Article on Page 5)
Monday, March 26, 5:00 pm Reception, 6:00 pm Dinner – Mermaids Restaurant, 2217 N. College Avenue, Fayetteville. (Article on Page 6)

A Comment from the LWVWC President – Joyce Hale



Take time to be seen! Not everyone can lead. Not everyone can donate as much as they would like. Not everyone feels capable of speaking out or writing letters to the editor. But everyone can join with others to publicly support or oppose an action. The mere peaceful presence of our body standing with others makes a statement that is noted by politicians, the media, organizations, businesses and our friends. Individuals who feel their voice is not heard find strength and influence in numbers. The Women’s March opened up a conversation that made room for #ME TOO to be heard. We are now hearing the first calls to be seen in the streets demanding action to keep our schools and public places safer from guns.

Thursday, February 22 is an important opportunity to be seen and learn about a petition that could change the Arkansas Constitution and step away from heavily partisan district manipulation. The introduction of a petition to create an independent redistricting commission will have those connected with media and political interests looking to see the public’s interest and response. Gerrymandering has risen to new levels with the refinement of computer systems and data collection. When these tools are in the hands of partisan interests, the temptation to manipulate has a long sad history. For the first time, the courts have acknowledged that partisan influences have overstepped their bounds and need to be reined in just as racial and minority violations are now declared illegal. Thursday’s program will be an excellent time to be seen! Bring a friend! The size of our turnout may be the measure the media considers when deciding what issues they need to be following.



A Celebration of Women

The renewed celebration of the first anniversary of the massive nationwide Women's March of 2017 was attended by an energetic out-pouring in Fayetteville. An especially nice break in the weather on January 21st added to the success.



Many speakers, entertainment, and tabling filled the Town Center and street where clever posters and signs were displayed. The LWVWC had a steady stream of visitors at our voter registration table.



Drinks, Dialogue and DACA!

Meetup at Apple Blossom Brewing Company, 1550 Zion Road #1, Fayetteville at 5:30



Young people caught in the immigration crisis are in the news but have you had a chance to interact with someone caught in this dilemma? Join us in an informal conversation with Zessna Garcia for a better sense of what “DACAdmented” youth are facing. Have some questions in mind and be part of the conversation. The meeting room has a \$100 cover charge so we are hoping for a good turnout. A small donation would be appreciated if you do not plan to order. Any donation received beyond the minimum would be much appreciated for our treasury. **Please RSVP to Sarah Gheen, 479.871.5156**

Looking Ahead with an Emphasis on Voter Issues



Since August, the Voter Issues Committee has met and discussed the many types of voter suppression and how Arkansas ranks with other states on these topics. With limited time and resources, it is important to work on those areas of greatest concern and impact. First the committee filtered the list down to eight items that were then discussed in an open member planning session February 13th at Joyce Hale’s home. Further eliminations and ranking have left the future topics for LWVWC 2018 – 2019 programs.

- Redistricting congressional and legislative districts with an independent commission
- Resist Voter ID laws and the effort to place it in the Arkansas Constitution
- Program explaining pro’s and con’s of 2018 ballot initiatives
- Promote online voter registration for greater participation, accuracy, and cost savings
- Invite new candidates to a coffee to discuss LWV positions

One additional topic of interest was to learn more about judges, their elections and the courts.

New Member to Represent LWVWC at National LWV Convention



In June, Fei Rubinelli will be Chicago bound with other Arkansas LWV members to experience the learning opportunities and excitement of the LWV National Convention as it continues preparations for our 100th Birthday. The energy attendees derive from being part of this national gathering will come back to local Leagues and stimulate membership and programs.

To assist Fei in preparing for this event, she will be appointed to the board to learn more about what convention offerings is of most interest to LWVWC. Here she introduces herself:

“I am Fei Rubinelli, a trained biological scientist. I believe the voting rights of every eligible citizen are the foundation of a government that represents all the people.

I first became involved with the League of Woman Voters in Washington County Arkansas (LWVWC) in 2016 through volunteering for voter registration. In 2017, LWVWC started a campaign to end gun violence. I don't believe more guns in people's hands make us safer. Easy access to guns will only lead to more killings. As a mother and after seeing so many innocent lives in our country lost to gun violence, I want to be one of the voices to stop gun violence. I feel this belief is consistent with what the League stands for. Therefore, I decided to become a member of LWVWC. I would like to continue to work with the League to make the League more visible, to be the force to promote equal voting rights, and to be the force to end gun violence.”

Redistricting Program to Be Video Recorded with Live Streaming in Real Time at 6:30 PM

Feb. 22 will be an especially big program for the LWVWC. David Couch, a Little Rock attorney, will introduce an independent redistricting commission petition. The importance of this effort is so important that the League has gone beyond our usual educational efforts. The program will be at St. Paul's in the Parish Hall where we will have professional video filming. It will be streamed live by going to St. Paul's website and following the link <http://stpaulsfay.org/> to their *Church On-Line* location. It will also be available on Youtube. We hope to have a large crowd, but thousands are needed to place the petition on the November ballot. Then the work really begins. Social media and providing DVD's to the Pulaski County LWV, Sierra Club, and Citizens First Congress have the potential of covering the state, but education is needed to inform voters why this is important.

The budget for this is high and room fees for facilities have become a major problem for small organizations. With a large facility and professional video work it is costing us \$800.00! We have a few very generous donations to help from people who want to invest in this issue and we hope others, especially those attending, will want to help as well.

In addition we are preparing a couple of displays for public libraries, senior centers and our voter registration tabling that graphically show the examples of Arkansas's political district boundary lines. Your support of the League is important to allow extensive outreach on important issues!

NWA's Homeless Population: Understanding and Addressing Their Complicated Needs

Join us to hear a panel of local experts talk about what each of them (or their organizations) are doing to address the enormity and complexity of the homelessness and housing problem in NWA. There will be a special photography exhibit by Andrew Kilgore. His subjects are local residents who have been impacted by the issues that surround homelessness. Kilgore is a Fayetteville photographer best known for his arresting black-and-white portraits, primarily of fellow Arkansans set against a plain backdrop. By his own estimation, Kilgore photographed more than 30,000 people in Arkansas Between early 1971 and late 2011.

Come ready to learn about the issues and what you can do to advocate for solutions.

Date: March 15, 2018

Location: Genesis Church, 205 M.L.K. Jr Blvd, Fayetteville, AR 72701 ([\(479\) 442-1827](tel:4794421827))

Time: 5:00 - refreshments and mingling - photos on display by Andrew Kilgore
6:00 - 7:30 - panel, followed by Q&A moderated by Kyle Kellams

Panel Participants:

Kevin M. Fitzpatrick, PhD
University Professor & Jones Chair in Community, Department of Sociology, University of Arkansas

Joy Shirley
Director of Student Services, Fayetteville City School District

Solomon Burchfield
Operations Director (Day Center and Walker Housing), 7 Hills Homeless Center , Fayetteville

Captain Josh Robinett
CEO & Director, NWA Salvation Army, Fayetteville

LWVWC Continues Interest in Gun Safety with Eye on Legislative Action

In Arkansas the legislature focused on the enhanced gun carry law and issues involving guns on campus. But with this being a fiscal session requiring a 2/3rd vote to bring other measures, reforming existing bills is not likely.

More likely will be ongoing activities like a public protest being planned nationwide for March 14. The idea is to hold a 17 minute walk-out of school and college classes.

<https://offspring.lifehacker.com/walk-out-of-school-to-demand-safer-gun-laws-1823053578>

Organizers of the Women's March are beginning efforts to take this nationwide. If you are interested in helping promote this, contact Patsy Ferritor for more information patsy50@cox.net.



Women In History Banquet

Congress designated March as National Women's History Month in 1987. Locally the Women in History Banquet celebrates the efforts of Women in the Community who have worked diligently on the issues important in improving the health and welfare of Women.

The Annual banquet this year is on **March 26, 2018 at Mermaids Restaurant, 2217 N. College Avenue, Fayetteville. Dinner served at 6PM; reception prior at 5:30PM.**

Below are the guidelines to nominate a woman. Tickets are \$30.00 and may be obtained from Glenda Patterson, email- glpatterson01@gmail.com.

Guidelines for Nomination

As nominator, please keep this nomination confidential from the nominee.

The nominee:

1. Must live in Washington County;
2. Has made a difference in the lives of women and children in Washington County with her activities in the community;
3. Has been a leader in the community;
4. Has made contributions beyond her employment;
5. Has rendered service over a period of time;
6. Is a role model to all ages (young and old); and
7. Is able to attend the Women In History banquet and speak for approximately five minutes.

Additional Considerations for Committee:

Each year, honorees will be chosen from varied fields of endeavors – civic organizations, health, religion, social services, education, etc. Diversity is encouraged in the selection of the honorees.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: February 21, 2018

Nominations forms may be mailed to:

Felisha Perrodin
5672 W. Chattel St.
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Nomination forms may also be submitted electronically. Please e-mail nomination forms to the Washington County Women In History committee at washcowhm@gmail.com.

If you have any questions about the nominating process or wish to submit a nomination, contact Glenda Patterson, email- glpatterson01@gmail.com.

FACT: On August 18, 1920, Tennessee passed the proposed 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by a one-vote margin, becoming the 36th state to ratify the measure and clearing the way for its official adoption eight days later. **REMEMBER THE POWER OF ONE VOTE!**