



The League of Women Voters of Washington County

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www.lwvarwc.org

P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

LWVWC Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, **March 28, 6:00 pm** – Ad Hoc Independent Redistricting Committee – Joyce Hale’s home, 285 W. Cleburn St, Fayetteville (See President’s comments below)
- Saturday, **April 7, 9:00 am** – LWVAR Council Meeting - Joyce Hale’s home, 285 W. Cleburn St, Fayetteville (Article page 3)
- Tuesday, **April 10, 6:30-8:00 pm** – Equal Pay Day, Ozark Literacy Council hosting at [2596 N. Keystone Crossing](#) from 5:30 to 7:00. Study report, *Economic Indicators for Women in Arkansas: State, Region, and County*, by Maddie Spickard, Women's Foundation of Arkansas (Article page 2)
- Thursday, **April 19, 5:30 pm** – Drinks & Dialogue – Whole Hog Café, Fiesta Square 3009 North College, Fayetteville – Topic: Student Loans and Debt Constraints (Article page 3)
- Thursday, **May 17, 5:30 – 8:00 pm** – LWVWC Annual Meeting – The Lodge, Butterfield Trail Village, 1923 E. Joyce Blvd., Fayetteville, Guest Speaker – Lisa Corrigan, Topic: Voter Suppression, Members are asked to share a pot luck item. (Article page 4)

A Comment from the LWVWC President – Joyce Hale



With three quarters of the League year calendar completed, the LWVWC is proud to claim an impressive increase in new members and renewals, record attendance for hot issue programs and the successful introduction of Drinks and Dialogue topics. In the last quarter, our focus will change to internal management of the League at all three levels: local Annual Meeting, LWVAR Council, LWVUS National Convention, and participation in the Citizens First Congress Convention.

At each of these activities members see first hand the potential the League of Women Voters brings to education on public policy. New members particularly benefit when gaining a better understanding of where they can fit into the organization.

LWVWC will continue to focus on voter registration and suppression concerns. If the petition for independent redistricting is approved, we will support signature gathering. Whether there is a change in how 2021’s district map lines are drawn or not, an informed public will be needed to act as watch dogs of the process.

We invite individuals and other organizations concerned about the integrity of our elections and increased voter participation to join with us. I will host an ad hoc committee to begin this conversation at my home on Wednesday, March 28 at 6:00, 285 W. Cleburn. If you are interested in attending, please let me know. joycehale43@gmail.com

FACT – At least 51 million or nearly one in four eligible citizens is not registered to vote. That’s more than 24% of the eligible population.

EQUAL PAY DAY – Co-Sponsored by AAUW and LWVWC

2018 Equal Pay Day Observances



Equal Pay Day (Women v Men)	80 cents	April 10
Asian Women v. White, non-Hispanic Men	87 cents	February 22
White, non-Hispanic Women v. White, non-Hispanic Men	79 cents	April 17
Moms v Dads	70 cents	May 30
Black Women v. White, non-Hispanic Men	63 cents	August 7
Native Women v. White, non-Hispanic Men	57 cents	September 27
Latinas v. White, non-Hispanic Men	54 cents	November 1
Numbers provided by National Women's Law Center.		

www.equalpaydayforall.org

You are invited to hear guest speaker, Maddie Spickard, Executive Assistant & Communication Specialist from the Women's Foundation of Arkansas. She will give an overview of the study, "Economic Indicators for Women in Arkansas: State, Region, and County". To be publicly released on March 30, 2018, the WFA's new benchmark study highlights the status of women across our State. It focuses on economic indicators such as poverty level, health insurance, education, earnings, wealth attainment, and more.

Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day when women's earnings "catch up" to men's earnings from the previous year. It's also a powerful occasion to raise awareness about and organize action around the gender pay gap in your community.

The gender pay gap is the difference between what men and women typically are paid. Research shows that across demographics and workplaces women are consistently paid less than men in the United States and around the world.

Hosting this event is the Ozark Literacy Council at [2596 N. Keystone Crossing](#) from 6:00 - 7:00 with socializing starting at 5:30.



League of Women Voters of Arkansas Meet for Annual Council

A group of LWV members from Washington and Pulaski Counties make up the leadership governing the LWVAR. Washington County members on the Leadership Team are Beth Barham and Angela Danovi. Local Leagues are to limit their projects to local issues and remedies. However the LWVAR has the authority to promote statewide issues that generally involve state agencies, departments and the legislature. That is why voter issues involving procedures or laws are proposed at the state level of the League.

Members are invited to sit in on the business of the state League to hear an update on projects and learn about the budget and what local Leagues have been doing. The Team Leaders will be meeting for an all day session at the home of Joyce Hale, 285 W. Cleburn St., Fayetteville on Saturday, April 7, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. If you would be interested in learning more about state League activities, contact Joyce Hale at joycehale43@gmail.com.

Drinks, Dialogue and Debt (Student, that is)



The \$1.3 trillion American loan pile of student debt is nearly incomprehensible in size and it is getting worse. Beyond the financial worries that come with it, careers can be negatively impacted and leave the whole economy poorer. Come discuss where many young adults find themselves and what it will take to turn this around. Angela Danovi will share the constraints student loans have had on her future and what she has learned in researching this complex issue. **Meetup at Whole Hog Café in Fiesta Square, 3009 North College Ave., Fayetteville at 5:30, Thursday, April 19. Food and drinks are self-serve, so place your order when you come in, if you are interested. Discussion will start soon after orders are placed.**

Laura Winburn to Represent LWVWC at the National LWV Convention in Chicago

New member, Laura Winburn quickly stepped forward to offer her services helping maintain data entry of LWVWC records, and now she and Fei Rubinelli will attend the national LWV Convention, June 28 – July 1. We look forward to all the new information they will bring back from Chicago.

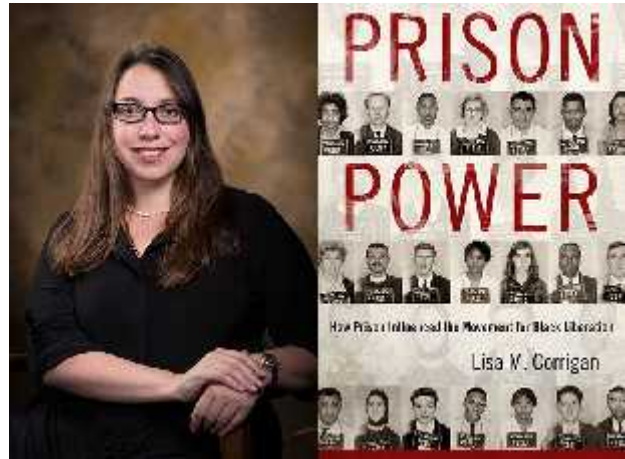
Laura is a 1994 graduate of the University of Arkansas with a degree in accounting and received her license as a Certified Public Accountant. After graduation, Laura was a staff accountant for Baird, Kurtz, and Dobson. Since that time, she has served as an accountant for Fayetteville Community Foundation, and now serves as the Financial Administrator of First United Presbyterian Church, in Fayetteville. She is currently treasurer for Chapter DG of Philanthropic Educational Organization, an organization that raises money for women's education, and is on the board of First School, a preschool program in Fayetteville. Laura is married to Russell Winburn, also a League member.



LWVWC Annual Meeting

LWVWC members will gather at The Lodge at Butterfield Trail Village for their Annual Meeting and traditional pot luck on May 17, 5:30 to 8:00 pm.

Special guest and speaker is Dr. Lisa Corrigan. Sharing time from her book tour featuring her award winning book, *Prison Power*, Lisa is recognized for her work in gender studies and African American and Latino studies. She is an associate professor of communications at the University of Arkansas. Her interest in politics has made her an observer of voter issues and related suppression problems.



With many new members in the League, the Annual Meeting gives the membership a voice to direct the new year. Elections, budgets, programs and changes to the bylaws are approved by members. Individuals interested in joining are invited to see the workings of the League in preparing for 2018-2019. Those attending are asked to bring a potluck dish to share.

Does Your Candidate for the Arkansas Legislature Have Children's Interests at Heart?



We all want to be the most informed voters we can be, but what will you be thinking about when you go to vote this year? Will you be wondering how a candidate will vote on funding for early childhood education, or if he or she supports a state Earned Income Tax Credit? What about if a candidate will protect health care for all Arkansans?

Join Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families and the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition for an overview of their 2018 Voters' Guide and a discussion of policy issues affecting our children and families. Talk with policy experts, share ideas. Learn more about how you can influence policy in Arkansas. Check-in and networking begins at 10:10 a.m., and the "café" discussion is from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. **Register [here](#).**

Families with children welcome. For more information, contact Laura Kellams, AACF Northwest Arkansas director, at [\(479\) 927-9800](tel:479-927-9800) or email lkellams@aradvocates.org.

Update on Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission



Interest in redistricting was evident when over one hundred people came out on a rainy night February 22nd to hear Little Rock Attorney, David Couch. The meeting took place at St. Paul's Parish Hall where Couch described the petition he has prepared to establish a citizens' independent redistricting commission. If you missed attending the program, it is available on the LWVWC website in the section describing the redistricting program.

If the petition passes, it will create a constitutional change replacing the partisan controlled system by elected officials who now determine the district boundaries for congressional and legislative seats. The petition has been filed twice for approval by Attorney General Leslie Rutledge who has ruled against it both times.

Even if approved in the near future, there will be little time to secure the 85,000+ signatures needed before the July 6 deadline to appear on the November ballot. But this does not need to be the end of the story. Change sometimes comes slowly until there is a critical mass of voters who understand the importance of an issue. Other states have just begun working on this issue as well. There are collaborative efforts to bring national attention to making apportionment fairer. Most important is for voters to understand whatever system is in control the public must watchdog the process to see that maps promote fair representation and not the partisan manipulations of the past. Both parties are guilty of gerrymandering. Stay tuned and watch as the census and reapportionment bring their decennial changes.

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

Thanks to Paulina Sobczak, journalism and film student with the University of Arkansas you can see an excellent video of the homeless program and the expert panel, if you missed attending. The program took place at Genesis Church on Thursday, March 15 where the issue of homelessness was shown to be a growing problem nationally as well as in Fayetteville. A pre-program of Andrew Kilgore's impressive portrait photos were on display. To see the video it will soon be posted on our webpage or request a copy by emailing joycehale43@gmail.com.



Dr. Kevin Fitzpatrick
University of Arkansas

Solomon Burchfield
7Hills Homeless Center

Capt. Josh Robinett
NWA Salvation Army

Joy Shirley
Fayetteville School District

More Photos from the Homeless Program

