



## The League of Women Voters of Washington County

### SPECIAL EDITION - SUMMER, 2018

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[www.lwvarwc.org](http://www.lwvarwc.org)

P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

#### LWVWC Calendar of Events

- Monday, **August 13, 6:00 – 8:00 pm** – Community Town Hall on Homelessness and Housing – Genesis Church, 205 W. Martin Luther King Blvd., Fayetteville (See pg. 4)
- Saturday, **August 18, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm** – Beaver Water District's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Secchi Day. Prairie Creek Park on Beaver Lake (See pg. 2)
- Monday, **August 20, 6:15 – 7:30 pm** – LWVWC Board Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> United Presbyterian Church, 695 E. Calvin, Fayetteville.
- Wednesday, **August 29, 5:30 pm** – Drinks & Dialogue – Powerhouse Restaurant – 112 N. University Ave, Fayetteville Topic: Ballot Issue Amendment No. 1 on Tort Reform (See pg. 2)
- Thursday, **September 6, 6:00 – 8:00 pm** – Meet The Candidate Forum: Black Voters Matter. ALLPS School of Innovation, 2350 Old Farmington Road, Fayetteville (See pg. 6)
- Thursday, **September 19, 6:00 – 8:00 pm** – See You at the Castle: 98 years and counting! LWVWC Fundraiser. Dromborg Castle, 2991 South City Lake Road in Fayetteville (See pg. 5)
- Saturday, **September 22, 11:00 am** – Memorial service for Nancy McCartney, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 901 West Cleveland Street, Fayetteville (See pg. 4)
- Thursday, **October 11, 6:00 – 8:00 pm** – November Ballot Issues Explained. Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences auditorium, 1371 West Altheimer Drive, Fayetteville

#### A Comment from the LWVWC President – Sarah Gheen



We are heading into a critical election cycle this fall. The League is working hard to provide you with programming to help you make informed decisions about candidates and issues that will be on the November ballot. Please watch for dates for the candidate forums and for Drinks and Dialogue along with our regular programming.

I had the privilege to participate in the Citizen First Congress Convention as a delegate from The League this summer. I was part of a larger team representing the Washington County League as well as the Arkansas League. It was an educational and enlightening experience. If you are not familiar with CFC and the work they do, I highly encourage you to research them and deepen your knowledge. The League went to the convention to garner support for online voter registration. We left the convention as one of the ten issues that CFC will be working on and providing support in our efforts to move this issue forward. It was energizing to see the engagement around the state for issues such as this and many others that directly affect the lives of the citizens of Arkansas. The convention was just the first step of action. Now we must continue to do the work in moving this issue forward in our state.

## Fact Finding and Fun on Beaver Lake



Data collection to observe the condition of Beaver Lake water and education about water combine during the traditional Secchi Day. This family friendly annual event takes place at Prairie Creek Park near Rogers on Saturday, August 18. A full schedule of events is planned starting at 8:30 am and continue until 1:00 pm.

The Secchi disk test is the simplest and one of the most effective tools for estimating a lake's productivity. The Secchi disk, a metal disk about 8 inches in diameter, has a cord attached to the center and marked at regular intervals to indicate depth when lowered in the water.

The Secchi disk's visibility measures water clarity. Water transparency directly affects the amount of light penetration into a lake. Algae and suspended particles from erosion make the water cloudy and decrease the Secchi transparency in a lake;

therefore, measuring the visibility of the disk at various depths determines the level of algae concentration and lake productivity.

## Drinks, Dialogue on Ballot Issue No. 1 – Tort Reform



Deciding to change the constitution or not is one of the most important decisions the electorate can make. Come join us for an informal discussion about ballot issue No. 1, an amendment involving civil lawsuits and the powers of the General Assembly and Supreme Court to adopt court rules. This activity will take place Wednesday August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Powerhouse Restaurant, 112 N. University Ave, Fayetteville from 5:30 to 6:30. Bring a friend.

## The LWVWC Board Makes New Appointments

The addition of new members has made it possible to fully staff the LWVWC board again. Appointed during the last board meeting for a one year term were Mary Alice Serafini, Bonnie Miller, Ana Phakhin, Chloe Roane, Xochitl Dalgato, and Doris Davis. Board meetings are always open to the membership if interested in attending. To bring an issue before the board, contact Sarah Gheen to have it placed on the agenda.

## Delegates Representing both LWVWC and LWVAR at the Citizens First Congress

As a member of the Citizens First Congress's coalition of organizations in Arkansas, delegates of the League of Women Voters both local and state attended the CFC Convention June 8 in Little Rock to establish legislative priorities. The LWV presented a resolution to Upgrade Arkansas's Voter Registration System to Create Greater Accessibility. Thirty-eight other states have implemented this and seen increased voter rolls, greater accuracy and cost savings.



Doris Davis



Joyce Hale, Carol Young, Angela Danovi, Emily Sledge, Bonnie Miller, Nell Matthews, Maria Jones, Sarah Gheen

The following priorities were selected at the Citizens First Congress Convention to be monitored in the 2019 Legislative Session. The sponsoring organization follows the title.

### Civil Rights

- To Support Fair Residential Landlord-Tenant laws (Arkansans for Fair Landlord-Tenant Laws)
- Juvenile Diversion Program (Gould Organizing Project)
- Make ACT 570 Retroactive (Inmate Justice Project involving harsh drug sentencing)

### Election/Government

- Upgrading Arkansas's Voter Registration System to Create Greater Accessibility (League of Women Voters of Arkansas)

### Economic

- Create a level corporate tax system in Arkansas using combined reporting (Buffalo River Indivisible)
- Creating a State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families)
- Defeat Upper Income Tax (:Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families)
- Deter Wage Theft (Faith Voices Arkansas)

### Education

- Healthy Relationships and Healthy (:Planned Parenthood Voters of Arkansas)
- Educational Equity and Professional Licenseship (Arkansas United Community Coalition)

To learn the details about these resolutions, go to the following link for more information:  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5492f99ce4b0a0509513144d/t/5b17ed7803ce64128658fe5b/1528294776976/Folder+-+Resolutions.pdf>



## Opportunities Continue to Address Northwest Arkansas's Homeless Problem



The Genesis Church, which hosted the LWVWC's homelessness panel in March, is seeking support for a resource fair August 13-17 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Volunteers, money and supplies are needed to assist clients visiting each table to discover what services they qualify for.

To solve homelessness, housing is needed. The church invites the public to a Town Hall meeting, 6:00 – 8:00 pm to discuss as a community what we can do to increase landlord engagement and find other creative ways to house people.

RSVP and find more details on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1418245901610453/>  
Facebook group: [Northwest Arkansas Conversation about homelessness.](#)

### Word Comes about the Loss of a Friend



With great fondness, we remember, Nancy McCartney, who passed away August 3rd. A longtime, loyal, active League member, Nancy served as a faithful "scribe" on the LWVWC Board for many years and always created minutes with flair. We have greatly missed having her on the board for the last few years. She also loved to cook, so we always looked forward to what special dish Nancy would bring to League pot lucks.

A Wisconsin native and University of Wisconsin alumna, Nancy never completely left that state. She spent two months every summer in the Wisconsin lake cottage built by her grandfather, where she managed to read at least 15 novels for her book club, and who knows how many more serious works.

With a Ph.D in Zoology, Nancy served as the University of Arkansas Museum zoology curator. On Open House Days, some of us were privileged to see the exotic birds and eggs collections. She had only officially retired on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Nancy is survived by her sons Erin and Kevin, their wives and 4 grandchildren. A memorial service will be Saturday, September 22, 11:00 am at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 901 West Cleveland Street in Fayetteville.

### League Asked to Judge 4-H Citizenship Competition



4-Hers from across Arkansas met on the U of A campus July 25 to compete in the annual 4-H ORAMA events. The LWVWC was asked to supply a judge for the six contestants who had won at their regional levels. The topics ranged from voter registration to diversity to flag protocol. Joyce Hale, a former 4-Her, assisted and shared LWV voting materials.

## The Rebirth of the Redistricting Petition

The path followed by the Independent Citizens Redistricting Petition has taken some twists and turns but recently there was a rebirth. The original document crafted by Little Rock attorney, David Couch, defined the parameters for a new authority to remap legislative district lines after the 2020 Census. The proposal met several delays when failing to receive approval by Attorney General, Leslie Rutledge. After pressure to allow initiated acts to move forward, permission was granted to four just a few weeks before over 84,000 signatures had to be submitted.



Once the deadline for signatures was not met but the title and wording had been approved, the sponsor was planning to resubmit the approved proposal. When asked for a comment for the *Voter* about future action on redistricting, Couch replied, “tell them that there definitely will be a redistricting proposal on the 2020 ballot.”

It was not a surprise to learn the redistricting proposal was submitted and approved for a second time on July 25 by the AG. But instead of David Couch doing the submission, it was a person from North Little Rock, Skip Cook and a group, Arkansas for Governmental Reform.

Only questions remain: Is there an organized canvassing effort? Who is providing funding? Was the original wording re-submitted? Who are Skip Cook and *Arkansas for Governmental Reform*?

## Meet Us at the Castle for a LWVWC Celebration



The work of the League of Women Voters has special significance this election year. Expanded programs and commitments to update communications require greater support than in the past. To meet local needs, LWVWC is inviting donors to attend a count-down celebration to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and an opportunity to contribute to the League’s voter services.

You will soon learn about a special event being planned for Thursday, September 19, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Dromborg Castle, home of Joan and Bruce Johnson. Reservations and a minimum donation will be requested. Food and drinks will be provided along with entertainment. In preparation for larger public events in 2019 and 2020, we will feature some vignettes of prominent League leaders as entertainment.

As the League of Women Voters of Washington County counts down to the organization's 100th Anniversary and 2020 Celebration of the 19th Amendment, we are working hard to expand voter education and registration, improve outreach, promote minority participation in the U.S. Census and establish an independent citizens' redistricting commission in Arkansas. Donations are critical to carry out these goals.

## Forum Calls on Candidates to Address Minority Issues

Discrimination is being recognized as the root cause of many of the nation's social and economic problems. The League of Women Voters of the US is taking an aggressive stand to promote diversity and inclusion. Minority populations have the most difficulty being represented at the polls and in public policy decisions. In anticipation of the upcoming elections, the LWVWC is joining with the NAACP, Black Lives Matter, and the NWA Delta Sigma Theta Chapter to invite candidates to participate in a *Meet the Candidate Forum: Black Voters Matter*. The forum will be held on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-8:00 PM at the ALLPS School of Innovation located at 2350 Old Farmington Road in Fayetteville, AR 72701.



This nonpartisan forum will focus on issues of high importance to the local African-American communities in Washington and Benton counties. At this forum, candidates will have the opportunity to describe how they, once elected, will exercise the authority of their office to work for the wellbeing of communities of color. Audience participation is welcomed.

## LWVWC Delegates Attend National Convention



CREATING A

**MORE PERFECT DEMOCRACY**

The League of Women Voters of Washington County was represented by Fei Rubinelli and Laura Winburn at the LWVUS 53<sup>rd</sup> National Convention held June 28 – July 1 in Chicago, IL. Over the four-day Convention, delegates voted on the priorities that the national organization should focus on for the next biennium. The Campaign for Making Democracy Work includes ensuring a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on Voting Rights, Improving Elections, and advocacy for the National Popular Vote Compact, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting.

Attendees heard from Elaine Weiss, author of the *Women's Hour*. Weiss recounted how the final push for women's suffrage in this country is a huge reminder of how important the League of Women Voters is to this day. The number of women in elected offices does not reflect the demographic makeup of women in our communities. This is an important midterm election year and the League is committed to making sure the voters in Washington County have the resources they need to participate in November.

There are many battles we need to fight for, such as protecting voting rights, electing governmental officials who represent the will of people, and fostering civility in our society. It is time for us to rise up, to act, and to protect our democracy.