

LWVUS Membership and Leadership Growth Program Kicks off in Kansas

“Imagine if EVERY League was as welcoming as it was respected? EVERY League had its own coach for support? EVERY League leader had training/mentoring before leading?” These were the questions that opened up the kick-off of the membership and leadership growth program in 12 new states, including Kansas. Over the course of the 3-day training, which was held in Warwick, RI, LWVUS Board members and staff laid out the long-term vision for the League, to turn these “dreams” into a reality. And, soon, League leaders in Kansas will have an opportunity to experience this first-hand.

Kansas’s representatives or coaches, (Linda Johnson, Leavenworth; Ellen Miller, Johnson Co.; Dena Lyons, Wichita; and Kay Hale, Lawrence) were joined by some 30 other coaches from the 12 states at the training, where they were introduced to the components of the membership and leadership growth program. These include best practices in marketing and visibility, ideas and resources for working with the media and allied groups, and planned leadership development.

One of the critical components of the program, which is resulting in net membership growth in the 21 states already involved, is the establishment of a coaching or mentoring program among the levels of League. This provides League leaders with a support network, and it has strengthened the ties among the levels of the organization. As such, the training in Warwick also included sessions on the best practices of coaching, team building and more.

The Kansas coaches networked with League leaders from across the region and met Penney Van Vleet, WA state, who is an LWVUS Ruth S. Shur Fellow and will be Kansas’s national coach. On Saturday, LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara joined the group for training sessions in the afternoon and gave an inspiring speech about the upcoming 2012 election season to participants at the evening banquet.

The next phase of the program is now all about *YOU* – local League members and leaders. The Kansas State Board will co-host (with LWVUS) an In-state Training for local Leagues. At this training, 2-3 representatives from each participating local League (including your local League president) will have an opportunity to gather for an expense-paid, 2-day training in Manhattan to meet Kansas’ state and national coaching team, learn best practices to grow the League, and develop a plan for the upcoming year.

To have your League participate in this program, please contact State President Ernestine Krehbeil.

This program is supported by the LWV’s Leaders for Leadership Fund. For more information about the fund or to learn more about the program, please visit www.lwv.org

