

Voter Services News

School has started In Shawnee County! Our LWVTSC school programs crew literally crashed out of the gate to educate and register high school seniors as new voters. Leslie, your very grateful Co-Chair and Coordinator of School Programs, is reporting this month's Voter Services news.

On September 8, 2020, Chris Huntsman and Jeanne Vawter went online with Seaman High School seniors to make our first-ever virtual presentations via Zoom. The week before, we delivered materials, including paper Applications for Voter Registration and our handouts, to four Seaman teachers to distribute to their students. Before the first presentations could be completed, school computer systems crashed at Seaman and across the country. Co-Chair Mary Galligan was online for this maiden voyage. Later that day, these three remarkable women managed to resume Zoom meetings when the system was back up. They successfully educated and registered Seaman seniors. The next day, they were back online for a full scheduled day.

On the same day, Jacquie Lightcap and I were at Washburn Rural High School making presentations the old-fashioned, in-person way in Mr. Muff's classrooms. We spoke in masks to classes of 9 to 13 students who were wearing masks and had every other desk empty. All the students seemed happy to be there. We registered three classes of students. We presented in 3 more classes on Thursday.

We are scheduled for presentations in complete virtual mode at Topeka High School on September 28 and 29. Our volunteers, Linda Wiley and Linda Kotich, will present online to students in five to seven classrooms. At THS even our handouts will go to students online (stickers too for posting), and we will guide voter registration online at VoteKS.org. We will save paper and printing costs! We're still striving to set dates for presentations at Topeka West, Highland Park, Silverlake, Rossville and Shawnee Heights high schools.

Meanwhile Co-Chair Mary has been assisting all of us by providing training and setting up a very large number of events. If you expressed your interest in volunteering, you should have received our call for volunteers by email. In connection with school programs, we could use a couple members with computer technical skills to participate in Zoom meetings as a troubleshooter. Please email Leslie at lwvoterservices@gmail.com if you have those skills and could help us out in school Zoom meetings on dates to be determined between now and October 9, 2020.

Leslie Prentice, Co-Chair
Voter Services