

Member Spotlight BETH SEBERGER

Where she's from

Beth grew up on a farm near Lexington, Nebraska. Her father was a farmer and her mother a writer. She moved to Kansas City in 1969 to work as a volunteer with Cross-Lines Community Outreach in Kansas City, Kansas (KCK). She has a sister and a brother, who both live in the area, and a son and two grandchildren, ages 18 and 14. Her son is an IT project manager and lives in a suburb of Chicago.

Why she joined League

While living in Wyandotte County and working with several social service agencies, Beth became aware of the widespread poverty in KCK. She wanted to help these citizens have a stronger voice in public policy. Living near Wyandotte High School, she also wanted to make sure students there were given an opportunity to register to vote. She thought the League—with its nonpartisan stance and good reputation—could help solve voting problems for many individuals.

What the League does well

Beth thinks the League does everything well! The organization is well organized, provides excellent programs and speakers and has developed an effective network regarding relevant legislation and advocacy. Its online offerings are accessible, and www.Vote411.org is a great resource for all citizens.

Where would you like to see the LWVJoCo focus

The focus for the future should be on enacting same-day voter registration in Kansas. Also, Hispanic and other immigrant and underrepresented citizens get hit-or-miss information about registration and voting. The result is that they are less likely to participate in elections.

Fun fact

During this last election season, Beth became a roving voting advocate in her neighborhood. First, she registered voters at a card table outside of the El Rio Bravo Supermarket in KCK for three days. Then, she provided information and rides to the polls for several neighbors. Her favorite was a woman with literacy issues who, although registered, had never voted before, but knew what she was against!