

Member Spotlight

MARCIA MANTER



Where she's from

Marcia grew up in the South Side of Chicago, surrounded by people from countries all over the world. At school, she and her peers identified themselves by their family's nationality and religion. She's lived in 11 cities and five states, each distinctive as a result of ethnicity, culture, religion and politics.

Marcia grew up working in her parents' grocery and laundromat. As an only child, her "siblings" were the neighborhood children on the block.

As an adult, her family members are those she "adopted" from her husband's family – three sons, daughters-in-law and five grandchildren with children of their own, as well as his two brothers, sister and all of their offspring as nieces and nephews.

Why she joined LWV

Marcia joined League twice, once in 1964 in Chicago for two years and again a few years ago because someone asked her to. This time, Ann Norbury gets the credit. She credits some of her interest in politics to the time she was born, at the beginning of WWII, and from seeing the Korean War played out on television.

She's worked for three organizations that have political action as a major component of their mission: American Hospital Association, Community Development Institute, a national Head Start consulting organization, and Oral Health Kansas, an advocacy nonprofit in Topeka.

What the League does well

Marcia says the LWV created a distinct brand that many immediately recognize. It has developed well-reasoned positions on issues affecting citizens in the country, states and communities.

Probably because League maintains a nonpartisan position, citizens trust its programming, websites and social media posts for accurate information, she says. So when residents decide they want to learn more about political action, many turn to the League. Marcia thinks the organization has also benefited from members with a commitment to a robust communication system, attracting people with the ability to identify and use new technology that reach more citizens.

Where would you like to see the LWVJoCo focus

Her wish for the League is to increase its visibility as a champion for ethical and responsible government from cities, county, state and federal agencies. The focus on

voter engagement must continue, she says, through education, dialogue and person-to-person recruitment.

In order to stay strong and grow, she thinks the LWV will have to attract members from the wide range of residents – people from communities all over our sprawling county, people representing diverse populations and people wanting a variety of education programs that meet their lifestyle needs.