



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

VOTER

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Voter Editor: Carol Yoho
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April 2004

3 *LWVT-S Annual Meeting - 9:30 am Saturday*

Guest: **Lloyd Olivia Davis**, Columnist, from Lenexa
Marvin Auditorium, TSCPL. Centennial breakfast,
\$5.00 per person.

6 *Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am*

Speaker: **James McClinton**, Topeka Mayor
A New Mayor's Vision for City Government

13 *Joint Board Meeting - Bring your portfolio materials*

5:30 pm, **Ian Grill**, Gage Center (was The Vintage). Welcoming new board members. *Members welcome*. Choose to eat after, if you'd like. **VOTER information is due for May VOTER**. Send materials to **Carol Yoho:cyoho@cox.net**.

15 *Register Voters - Kansas Fatherhood Summit, Holidome*. If you would like to help, contact **Jan Waide** at 233-7008 or e-mail: jswaide@aol.com.

24 *State League Council Meeting, Overland Park*

Details not yet available. If you plan to attend, please contact **Betsy Rohleder** at 233-9262 or e-mail: brohleder@cjnetworks.com



May 2004

1 *Annual Garage Sale* - at the home of **Mary Ann Bradford**. We need you all to participate in this important fundraising event. More information will be included in the next VOTER.

April Tuesday Topics

April Tuesday Topics will be **Apr. 6** in room **JCM 101B**, across from the Millennium Cafe at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library. To the first 25 arriving, the menu will be Tuna Salad Sandwich, chips, and cookie with iced tea or water. Please check whether LWV meals have been covered before going through the cafe line for a box or tray. **Cost of lunch is \$8.25.**



PreZ SeZ...

April 2004:

LWVTS's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2004

at the Topeka Shawnee County Library. The morning will begin at 9:30 with a continental breakfast and social time. At 10 our speaker will give her program. Then we will follow with our business meeting which includes Budget, Recommended Programs and Nominations (these items are covered later in this VOTER). We have been notified of no other major items or bylaws changes that need to be voted upon during this meeting.

Members and friends taped Katja von Garnier's HBO produced story of the "Iron Jawed Angels." There are two tapes circulating among members please return them to me or pass them to others who have indicated an interest in the movie. This is the little known history of passionate young women (Alice Paul and Lucy Burns) who literally put their lives on the line to fight for American women's rights to vote. I personally found myself thinking that it was perhaps only because of these two very brave women that women were granted the right to vote at all prior to the ending of WWI!

Please note in our Budget this year that we have donations and contributions these are monies that not only come from a Finance Drive to businesses and community friends, but from within our own membership. These dollars help us accomplish our goals studies, voter education and service, and other League activities. Please consider helping our League stay strong financially with your donation.

See you April 3rd! By then the flowers and trees should be in bloom!

Betsy Rohleder

Speaker for Tuesday Topics, March 2, 2004

Sarah Mays

Court Officer with the 3rd Judicial District

Sarah has been with the department for more than 25 years and gave a very nice talk on how the system works for juveniles. She and her staff of 16 essentially work with Juvenile Probation Children In Need of Care (CINC) and Juvenile Offenders. They enforce the orders of the court and have a current case load of around 35. A child could be both. She said that her department gets the children that SRS does not get: CINC, with the most frequent issue being truancy, and Offenders, where the staff is checking on and monitoring the probation order from the court. Their mission is to link kids and families with services in the community. Sarah made it clear that the 16 staff members really care for the kids and often go well beyond the call of duty to make sure that they can help the families. In addition, she made it very clear that they try to help families prioritize. They don't just tell them what to do the families know what needs to be done, but they need help getting there! Small steps lead to good results. Given the opportunity to say what she thought would be a great improvement for her department if money were no object, she stated that treatment beds for kids (drugs and mental health) would be one of her highest priorities!

League of Women Voters T-SC

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gsandlin@cox.net
272-6076
Sue Gaither, Dottie Harder,
Nancy Sargent and Jan Waide

Recent Local League Activities

Mary Ann Bradford

1. Presidential Selection Concurrence.

Thirty (30) members attended the joint evening VOICE meeting to review the proposed public policy position from LWVUS' update on the Selection of the President. Most members strongly favored the elimination of the Electoral College as stated in the position. Response forms were collected and mailed to the national office.

2. February VOICE Meeting.

Thirteen members (13) participated in the LWVUS' and LWVTSC's program planning meeting at the Ramada Inn Gold Room. Five members who had previously signed up did not attend. For the LWVUS, all items were retained. Fiscal policy including deficit and military spending was suggested for an update. No new study item was offered as our League has a state and local study scheduled for the next 8 to 12 months. Results of the discussion were submitted to LWVUS' designated web page. All local positions were retained while the study of Annexation will be continued.

3. Finance and Development.

Letters have been mailed to 20 businesses and 14 individuals (not members) requesting an annual contribution to the League. The letter focuses primarily on achieving our prospective Voter Service goals.

4. Voter Service.

One copy of *Choosing the President 2004* has been mailed to each Shawnee County High School library and Social Studies chair as well as the Public Library of Topeka and Shawnee County and The Mabee Library at Washburn University. Recipients were asked to inform President Rohleder of the interest of students.

Carolyn Weinhold, coordinator of Kansas Headstart, asked that the LWVTSC provide voter registration for attendees at the Children's Advocacy Day at the Maner Conference Center on March 9. **Sybil Wiegman**, **Alta Morris** and **Jan Waide** conducted these activities. These members

will provide the same service to attendees for the Kansas Fatherhood Summit on April 15.

Nancy Garfield, thanks to the encouragement of President Rohleder, will be assisting Bradford and Waide in forming a League task force to carry out our voter services for the primary and general elections. Those members who indicated an interest on the Member Interest Form will be contacted and invitations extended to others.

The Public Library of T-SC has requested the LWVTSC to cosponsor a voter information and registration assembly during the morning of Saturday, October 9th.

Fifty brochures entitled "VOTE (sometimes it takes a four-letter word)" and "VOTE (Es su voz)" have been purchased from LWVUS. These pamphlets encourage voting and review basic voting procedures.



Wine and Cheese Bash was a smash!!!

Sue Gaither

Thank you to **Charlotte Adair**, our hostess, and to all the league members who provided wine and hors d'oeuvres. We had seven guests, aka prospective members, and had a good time getting acquainted. I didn't know we were going to have a white Valentine's Day, but everyone braved the snow and ice.

Welcome to our new members!

Anita Epps

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Topeka, KS 66604
232-4851
repps@cox.net

Sarah Mays

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Topeka, KS 66604
H- 272- 1813
W- 233- 8200 x 4171

Elizabeth Post

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Topeka, Ks
273-8700

79TH
Annual Meeting of the
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOPEKA-SHAWNEE COUNTY, KS
April 3, 2004
Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

- 9:00 AM Continental breakfast and social
9:30 AM Speaker
10:30 AM Order of Business - Call to order and Greetings from the President

Organization of Annual Meeting

- Announcement of the Parliamentarian
- Announcement of Members of the Committee to Approve the Minutes of 4/3/04
- Report of Attendance by the Secretary
- Presentation and Adoption of Order of Business

Reports of Officers, Directors and Standing and Special Committees

- President's Report of Yearly Activities
- Introduction of and Reports from Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs
- Treasurer's Annual Report and Auditor's Report for FY 2003-04

New Business

- Presentation and Adoption of Proposed Budget for FY 2003-04
- Presentation of Recommended Program (see local positions in Yearbook)
- Discussion and Vote on Recommended Program
- Presentation of Non-Recommended Program Items
- Discussion and Vote on Non Recommended Program Items
- Final Adoption of Program: Debate and Vote on Program
- Nomination and Election of Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee
- Recognition of Retiring and New board Members

Directions to the Board

Announcements

- 11:45 AM **Adjournment**
-

Proposed Local League Program 2004-2005

Retain the following program items:

- Child care
- Economic Development
- Local Government/City of Topeka, County, Financing Local Government
- Housing
- Land Use, Planning and Zoning
- Public Health Care in Shawnee County
- Shawnee County Schools
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Management

Continue study of Annexation.

Continue update of Kansas Juvenile Justice and Corrections (LWVK program item)

Nominations 2004

Reported by **Georgia Sandlin**

Members of the Committee: **Sue Gaither, Nancy Sargent, and Dottie Harder**

Treasurer	Vivian McCulley	2004-2006
Elected Directors	Nancy Garfield	2004-2006
	Gwen Elliott	2004-2006
	Judy Moler	2004-2006
Nominating Committee	Sue Gaither, Chair	2004-2005
	Winnie Crapson	2004-2005
	Lucy Demonchaux	2004-2005

Narrative for Proposed 2004-2005 TWCLWV Budget

INCOME

Contributions, are member donations beyond the amount of dues. Community contributions may be from businesses or non-member individuals.

Dues, Household membership is \$72 and includes a regular member and one other person within the same household. Both persons have full League rights. Regular membership is \$48 and Sustaining membership is \$85. NRM is the rebate sent to a local League by National when a new member pays dues to LWVUS.

Interest, interest generated by the LWV checking, Commerce CD's, and the Security Cash Fund. Current interest rates are lower but appear to be increasing slightly.

Special Activities, includes income from an Auction or a Garage Sale. Normally the Auction is held during the August "Member Event" on odd numbered years and the Garage Sale is held annually. Unspecified is for activities unknown at the time of budget development. In the 4/1/2003 budget it is being used to identify profits from sale of the Vote Pins. This project will be carried forward into the 4/1/2004 budget year.

EXPENDITURES:

Advocacy/Action, expression of League positions to governmental officials by the president or his/her authorized representative.

Assessments, payments of PMP(per member payment) to national and state leagues. PMP is assessed on the membership count reported in December of each year. PMP US is \$23 and PMP KS is \$20. Any changes to the current amounts would be voted on at the state/national conventions.

Board Expenses, expenditures of board or committee members needed to fulfill their board responsibilities. Supplies and board tools may include such items as letterhead stationery and envelopes, copying of board materials, out-of-state phone calls, etc. The donation category in 2003 was used as a contribution to the LWVKS Endowment Fund in memory of Mary Ella Simon a former TSC LWV President. The Budget committee this year has allocated \$100 to the donation category suggesting that we could participate in community activities this year such as the Brown Museum opening, and the "Living the Dream" activity to help raise awareness of the Topeka League of Women Voters.

Convention/Council, expenditures for member representative to attend state or national conventions and/or councils.

Convention: State and national League meetings held biannually in which delegates adopt programs, elect officers, adopt a budget for the coming year, and act on proposed bylaws changes. The National Convention is in Washington D.C. and the State Council is in Overland Park.

Council: State and national meetings held in the years between conventions in which a limited delegate body adopts a budget for the coming year and may discuss program. Only state Leagues, and in some years, certain local Leagues, send delegates to national Council.

Education, activities include public meetings or conferences and study/update information in Voters.

Meetings:

- 1) Annual member meeting where nominations are presented and new officers are elected, the audited (year end) budget is presented and the new budget is proposed and narrated, and local program recommendations are reviewed.
- 2) Tuesday Topics has been held at the Library for the past 3 years. Currently lunch is \$8.25 which covers most lunches. League funding includes the cost of beverages and the speaker's meal.
- 3) Governmental Issues Dinner is held annually in November and rotates between city/county officials and state legislators. Members and their friends pay for their own meals. The League will pay for the invited legislator's meal.
- 4) Membership Event is usually held in August and is our main membership drive. Donations of food and beverages by members, especially the food committee, have reduced total event costs in the last two years. Another membership project has been a wine and cheese recruitment social in February. It has been effective in attracting new members. Donations for this second event have been from Board members.

Member Service, costs of correspondence, members meeting expenses, copies, dues and Voter postage, and the printing of the Yearbook which contains names, addresses etc. of each member.

Publications, flyers, books, and videos produced by LWVTSC as well as those purchased from LWVKS and LWVUS.

Voter Services, a public forum for introducing candidates or for learning about and/or discussing current ballot issues. Expenses depend on the type of forum and the degree of coalescing with other organizations. Purchase of voter information books, e.g. "LWVUS Election of a President: A citizen's Guide for 2004" and resale to interested persons or for donation to the library and schools. The LWVTSC may produce or purchase materials about voter registration, ballot schedules, and other appropriate voter materials.

(See Proposed Budget, pages 10-11)

LIVING WAGE LEGISLATION Barbara Withee

In September, 2000 the League of Women Voters of Kansas completed a study on the concept of a living wage and adopted a statement that included the following: The state should establish a minimum wage for all workers that adequately reflects the actual cost of living in the state, at least to the minimum level established by the federal government.

The Kansas minimum wage was established in 1977 at \$1.60 an hour and raised to its current level of \$2.65 per hour in 1988. Last year a bill was filed addressing the minimum wage but it did not get a hearing in committee. This year HB 2526 was introduced by Representative Ted Powers (R-Mulvane); this bill would change the minimum wage language to read "every employer shall pay to each employee wages (A) at a rate of not less than \$2.65 an hour prior to January 1, 2005, (B) at a rate of not less than \$5.50 an hour during the period commencing on January 1, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2005, (C) at a rate of \$6.50 an hour during the period commencing on January 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2006, and (D) at a rate of \$7.50 an hour on and after January 1, 2007." The bill had a hearing in the Commerce and Labor committee on February 4. Since then, no action has been taken and the bill can be presumed dead for this session. Rep. Powers argued that the change would help the working poor move out of poverty. The opponents contended that the marketplace, rather than the state, should determine what a person is paid. They suggested Kansas go the way of seven other states and do away with its minimum wage altogether. The Kansas Chamber of Commerce representative testified against any increase in the minimum wage and would recommend repealing it entirely.

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ISSUES

Doris Slocombe

HB2552, defined as the "unborn victims of violence act", would declare the fertilized egg or the fetus as a "person", giving it separate legal rights from the mother. By giving "personhood" to the fetus, it comes in conflict with a ruling in *Roe v. Wade* and attempts to erode a woman's right to

choose. This bill is scheduled for a hearing in the House Fed & State Affairs Committee on Thurs., Mar. 4, at 1:30, 313S. HB2751, the same (or very close to the same) as the bill that was passed last year and vetoed by the Governor, puts very defined regulations on abortion clinics only and not on all free-standing surgical clinics! It was passed by the House State & Fed Affairs committee and was on General Orders last week, but didn't have a floor debate; however it is still active and will likely be taken up soon by the House, and is expected to pass.

The US House passed the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, same as the bill pending in our state house. But as in 1999 & 2001, it will go to the Senate and it might not pass there. The House vote was 254-163. This bill was sponsored by Rep. Melissa Hart (R-PA), and is supported by Pres. Bush.

DEATH PENALTY Doris Slocombe

SB 355 changes requirements for determining mental retardation for purposes of applying the death penalty. This bill was referred to Ways & Means Committee, which keeps it alive for further action this session. SB 422 would impose life without parole in capital murder cases, if sentence of death is not imposed. Kansas now has the option of a 50-yr. prison term, a 40-yr. prison term, or the death penalty. It has been shown that juries fear the criminal may get out of prison, and thus opt for the death penalty vs. those with a time limit. This bill passed in the Senate and is onto the House. SB 158 had a hearing in the Senate Judiciary committee, but did not advance. It provides for a two year moratorium on death penalty sentencing and executions. Election years are not good years to make these kinds of changes.

The League of Women Voters celebrated its **84th anniversary** on February 14, 2004. For the past eight decades, the League has made a difference by reforming the system and educating voters. The League remains a strong voice for citizens and a force for change by adapting to confront the relevant issues of the day.

Health Agency Board Meeting - Feb. 24, 2004

by Nancy Sargent, Observer

It has been several months since we have had an observer at these meetings; I noticed a streamlined operation of the meeting; structural changes were announced by the Governance Committee which is working on a 5 year plan. When approved, the dental start-up grant from the United Health Ministries will be shared with the Marian Clinic. A federal dental grant will be sought although the government has decreased the funding for these grants. Large increases in food stamp applications from SRS because of the economy have caused longer waiting periods for the applicants. The children of "illegal aliens" are eligible for health care but parents are needlessly fearful of being reported if they apply. There were discussions of bio terrorism, planning for low cost pharmaceuticals, and other public health concerns. Special attention is being focused on quality care for diabetes and asthma at this time.

City Council Meeting - Mar. 9, 2004

by Carol Rousey, Observer

There were thirteen zoning petitions on the agenda for this meeting, most of them passing on a 9-0 vote. A number of them had to do with the Oakland Neighborhood Plan. An ordinance relating to parking meter zones was referred to the Public Health and Safety Committee. The Economic Development Committee was referred two items that deal with a proposed county wide financing of infrastructure and economic development and issuance of industrial revenue bonds. Topeka Ice, Inc. is a group proposing an ice skating rink at 400 SE 8th Steet and the council gave authorization for staff to develop a contract proposal to be presented in 2-3 weeks.



VOTE pins :\$10.00 each

We need every member to sell their fair share(3-5 pins).

News from National League

"In Voto, Tu Vox"

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and Telemundo WZDC-64 recently unveiled a new public service announcement campaign Tu Voto, Tu Voz, created to support and encourage voting among Hispanics and Latinos in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

The League was created 84 years ago to finish the fight that was begun with the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Today, we are here as a vital part of the fight to empower the Hispanic and Latino community, stated Kay J. Maxwell, LWVUS President.

We recognize that the citizens of this community must have the tools they need to become more effective voters and gain a better understanding of voting:

how and where to register, the standing of the basic voting process, and what to expect at the voting booths, Maxwell added.

Through Tu Voto, Tu Voz, and the many other efforts underway this election year, the League is giving voters a simple message: Get Registered, Get Educated and then Get Out and Vote, Maxwell concluded.

Fifty brochures entitled "VOTE (sometimes it takes a four-letter word)" and "VOTE (Es su voz)" have been purchased by the Topeka-Shawnee County League from LWVUS. These pamphlets encourage voting and review basic voting procedures.

Annual Meeting 2004:
Saturday, April 3, 9:30 am
Marvin Auditorium, TSCPL

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April 2004

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY
VOTER



It was July 19, 1848, in Seneca Falls, N.Y. when the movement began to win the Right to Vote for Women! We've come a long way since then, and we need to keep going!

Tell Your Friends About the League !

The League of Women Voters is an activist, grass-roots organization that believes citizens should play a critical role in impacting public policies and working to create a more just society. To help us achieve our goals, we need to continue to reach out to new supporters, **women and men**, and encourage them to unite with us in our efforts.

Please reach out to potential members and supporters through a phone call or e-mail to family, friends and colleagues who are interested in influencing public policy. Suggest they visit the League's web-site at <http://www.lwv.org>

***Remember to invite them to our LWVT-SC Tuesday Topics meetings & to our May 1st Garage Sale!**

YES!

I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters. I enclose:

\$48 for 1-year Individual Membership \$72 for a 1-year Household Membership

\$85 for a 1-year Sustaining Membership Please send more information.

I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (hm) _____ (wk) _____

E-Mail (for Action Alerts) _____

Please send to:

Vivian McCulley

5000 NW 52nd Street

785-246-0546

TOPEKA KS 66618

Make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Topeka-Shawnee County