



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

VOTER

**President: Betsy Rohleder**  
618 Kansas Ave Suite B  
785-233-9262 (w)

**Membership: Sue Gaither**  
34 Pepper Tree Lane 66611  
785-267-0325 (h)

**Voter Editor: Carol Yoho**  
3013 SW Quail Creek Dr.  
785-273-3089 (h)

*February 2004*



**3 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am**

Speaker: **Denise Everhart**, Commissioner, KS Juvenile Justice Authority  
**Juvenile Justice, an Administrative View.**

**15 Wine and Cheese Recruitment Party - 3-5 pm**

Charlotte Adair's home at 1603 Plass. It is free if you bring a guest, \$5 if you don't.  
To make a reservation call SUE GAITHER: 267-0325, OR CHARLOTTE ADAIR:  
354-7174. *Read details on p. 2.*

**19 February Combined Voice Meeting - 5:30 pm**

Discussion is on the **LWVUS and our local League program planning.**  
Thursday, LeFlambeau/Governor's Room at the Ramada Inn Downtown  
Come early and order from the menu, if you wish, by 5:30 pm  
Discussion begins at 6:15 pm, with adjournment by 7:30 pm

Order from the menu at reasonable prices. Sign up at Tuesday Topics or contact Mary Ann Brandford at 354-1646 or ciao1@cox.net. Please review national and local League positions & bring your 2003-2004 Yearbook with you.

Our March VOICE meetings will be Tues., March 16, at Nancy Kindling's and Thurs., May 18, at McFarland's. Both are on Juvenile Justice and Corrections. No VOICE meetings in April, but we'll have combined evening VOICE meeting in May on the topics of Annexation.

February  
Tuesday  
Topics

February Tuesday Topics will be Feb. 3 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 Beef Stew, roll and butter, brownie, and 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.**

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*



# PreZ SeZ...

**FEBRUARY 2004:**

**A** special thank you is in order this month for two people in

League who have stepped forward to help out on the Local and State studies. THANKS Winnie Crapson and Edith Bronson, long time leaguers, who have agreed to co-chair the Annexation and Juvenile Justice studies with Pat Burton and Gwen Elliott. Both studies are huge commitments and we have many able Leaguers on both committees. For a group our size, working on three studies in a year is awesome and I thank everyone involved.

**We have a new Mayor in Topeka** and we wish him well as he starts on his 15 month journey with the City. I have been fascinated with the process

used to select the Mayor. It was a good lesson for me to watch, read, and listen to how local government works. Often we only see it from an election standpoint. Thanks are in order to each of our city council persons and county commissioners. We often don't realize how much work they put into their days!

**This is 2004 the year of another U S Presidential election.** Don't forget to always remind and educate about the great right we all have to vote in this country. Try to challenge yourself this year get one more young person registered to vote AND to the polls on Election Day. It's a worthy effort for all of us to undertake.

*Betsy Rohleder*

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## Mark Your Calendar :

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**WINE AND CHEESE**  
**Sunday, Feb. 15, 2004, 3 TO 5 PM**  
**Charlotte Adair's, 1603 Plass**

This wine and cheese gathering is brought to you by the League of Women Voters board members. It is an opportunity to bring guests to a League event and socialize with League friends. Everyone is welcome. It is free if you bring a guest, \$5 if you don't. Several new members joined last year.

**FOR A RESERVATION CALL**  
**SUE GAITHER 267-0325 OR**  
**CHARLOTTE ADAIR 354-7174.**

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**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, Apr. 3, 2004, 9:30 AM**  
**Sheffel Room, TSCPL**

Guest Speaker: **Olivia Davis**, Uppity Woman columnist. *Details available in March Voter.*

***March Tuesday Topics:***

Our speaker will be Sarah Mays, Officer at Court Services. She will share an Advocate point of view on Juvenile Justice.

### League of Women Voters T-SC

Betsy Rohleder, President  
brohleder@cjnetworks.com  
H: 785-357-1995  
W: 785-233-9262  
Fax: 785-235-9277

Judy Seitz, Secretary  
jseitz@kepc.org  
H: 271-5543  
W: 273-7010

Jan Waide, President-Elect  
jswaide@aol.com  
233-7008

Sue Gaither, Membership  
suebeeg2@aol.com  
267-0325

Patty Pressman, VP Observers  
idapress@aol.com  
478-6836

Corl Yoho, Voter Editor  
cyoho@cox.net  
3013 SW Quail Creek Dr.  
66614, 273-3089

Send address changes to:  
Vivian McCulley, Treasurer  
vmcculley@cox.net  
5000 NW 52nd St 66618  
246-0546

Nominating Committee  
Georgia Sandlin, Chair  
gsandlin@cox.net  
272-6076  
Sue Gaither, Dottie Harder,  
Nancy Sargent and Jan Waide

## Kansas Political parties comment on Presidential Election, State Caucuses, National Conventions and Voting Procedures.

### Report from Tuesday Topics, January 6, 2004

—Patty Pressman and Mary Ann Bradford

**M**r. **Scott Poor**, Executive Director and Counsel for the Kansas Republican Party (KRP) and **Mr. Patrick Murray**, Executive Director of the Kansas Democratic Party (KDP) presented their parties' plans for delegate selection to national convention, the choice of electors to the Electoral College and the influences on voter turnout.

Scott shared that the main focus of the state Republican Party was the recent changes in election laws. Provisions of The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) of 2002 that prohibit the use of "soft money" (corporate) for election activities at the federal level were recently upheld by the Supreme Court. The KRP is raising individual contributions (hard money) by direct mail and telemarketing.

A second focus is on the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) that was passed in response to the Florida 2000 presidential election. To be in compliance with HAVA every polling place must have one (1) touch-screen voting machine by the year 2006. As a result of this increased cost, Poor believes that consolidation of precincts especially in rural counties will occur. Such changes will bring about voter confusion and perhaps discourage voter turnout. For the third time, the state cancelled the presidential preference primary election.

Neither the National nor Kansas Republican Party has a position on the Electoral College. Personally, Poor is opposed to the abolition of the electoral college as that would diminish the clout of small rural states such as Kansas from a current 2% to % level. Due to their large population base, California, Texas and New York have the greatest effect on election of the president. Republicans interested in serving as an elector can fill out a self-registration form.

The KRP will have thirty-nine (39) delegates to the Republican National Convention to be held in New York City. Members of the party are able to self nominate and senior party members select from those submitted. In the selection process an equal number of men and women will make up the final delegation.

According to Poor, trends in the electoral process show a 25% decrease in numbers voting in the past 10 years. Reasons given were the depopulation in rural areas, a transient population which has fewer ties to a community, and less active participation in politic party organizations. Eight percent of the population moves every year. In 1975, twelve percent of all voters participated in a political party; today, less than 4% do. Special efforts are being made by the Republicans to encourage college and other young people to participate in a campaign and the election process to develop future leaders and candidates.

Murray indicated that the KDP is working with 9 candidates vying for the 2004 democratic nomination for president. To date, two candidates, Senators John Kerry and Joe Lieberman have filed in Kansas by paying a \$1,000 fee. Howard Dean is filing by petition with 1,000 signatures.

Murray predicted that the field will lessen to 3 or 4 candidates by the first week in March.

Because the Kansas Presidential Preference Primary election was cancelled, it became the responsibility of the KDP to organize caucuses in each State Senate district. If a senate district is split between two congressional districts, two caucuses will be held. All registered Democrats are eligible to participate in their local caucus on March 13, 2004. Participants will cast their ballot for one of the presidential candidates, will be grouped according to their preference and then will elect delegates to the congressional district convention.

On April 3, 2004, four separate congressional district conventions will convene to elect twenty-two (22) delegates and four (4) alternatives to the Democratic National Convention in Boston. Also in April the State Democratic Committee will convene to elect the remaining twelve (12) delegates and two (2) alternatives to the Convention.

Murray stated that the Electoral College is not an issue discussed in the National or State Democratic Party. The status quo is accepted.

In Kansas, the Democratic Party is strongly focused on encouraging Democrats to participate in

...continued, p. 4

## **Kansas Political parties comment ...continued.**

the upcoming local and district caucuses. They are concentrating on candidates for Congressional seats and State Senate and House seats. In addition, infrastructure, voter lists, training workers and appealing to independent and moderate Republicans for candidate support are being addressed.

Both Mr Poor and Mr. Murray stressed the importance of engaging people in local government and elections, as it is the community interests, not the political parties, that will increase voter turnout. ■

### ***Legislative Issues, January 2004, Issue No. 1*** *by Janis McMillen, President & Editor*

Welcome to the second year of the Legislative E-Report. At the 2003 Convention, the comments on this method of communicating legislative news were quite positive. If you believe there are more effective ways to disseminate the information in a timely way, please suggest them!

Our lobbyists this year are as follows: Barbara Withee, Manhattan (bwithee@yahoo.com; 785-539-9440), will be following Living Wage and some Health Care issues, particularly those affecting seniors. Darlene Greer Stearns, Topeka, (785-235-3757) will be following abortion issues and gun control. Doris Slocombe, Emporia, (partying@osprey.net; 620-342-5181) will cover all women's health issues and the death penalty. Ed and Lee Rowe, Johnson County, will cover Natural Resources and State Finance, respectively. Their contact information is: roweed@prodigy.net and 913-642-1371. Ernestine Krehbiel, Wichita (ekrehbiel@cox.net; 316-652-9229) is new to our Lobby Corps this year; her area is Juvenile Justice and Children's issues. I will follow Education (K-12, primarily) again this year. You can contact me at jkcmillen@kc.rr.com or 913-341-3072. If you want additional information about any of the areas or bills covered by our lobbyists, please contact them.

Higher Education, the State Board of Education and Adult Corrections are likely to be topics of

increased interest this year. If you are interested in joining our group to follow either of these topics, or any other areas of interest to the League, please let me know. Your contributions can be accomplished in a couple of ways: following legislation on the Internet, or attending committee meetings in Topeka from time to time. We would welcome your involvement! As always, we rely on all members to augment our efforts by remaining in contact with their respective legislators

A complete listing of all committee members can be found at <http://www.kslegislature.org>; on this web page, click on Committees and then look for the committee of interest.

### **SENATE COMMITTEES**

Agriculture Tu, Wed 8:30 - 9:30  
Assessment and Taxation M-F 10:30-11:30  
Commerce M-F 8:30-9:30  
Education M-F 1:30-2:30  
Elections and Local Government M-F 1:30-2:30  
Federal and State Affairs M-F 10:30-11:30  
Financial Institutions and Insurance M-F 9:30-10:30  
Judiciary M-F 9:30-10:30  
Natural Resources Th, F 8:30-9:30  
Public Health & Welfare M-F 1:30-2:30  
Transportation Tu-F 8:30-9:30  
Utilities M-F 10:30-11:30  
Ways and Means M-F 10:30-11:30

### **HOUSE COMMITTEES:**

Agriculture M,W 3:30-5  
Appropriations M-F 9-10:30  
Commerce and Labor M-F 9-10:30  
Corrections and Juvenile Justice M-F 1:30-3  
Economic Development Tu,Th 3:30-5 C  
Education M-F 9-10:30  
Environment Tu,Th 3:30-5  
Ethics and Election M,W 3:30-5  
Federal and State Affairs M-F 1:30-3  
Financial Institutions M,W 3:30-5  
Health and Human Services M-F 1:30-3  
Higher Education M,W 3:30-5  
Insurance Tu,Th 3:30 - 5  
Judiciary M-F 3:30-5  
Local Government Tu,Th 3:30-5  
Taxation M-F 9-10:30  
Tourism and Parks M,W 3:30-5  
Transportation M-F 1:30-3  
Utilities M-F 9-10:30

## **LWVUS Updates**

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**W**e are fast approaching taking concurrence on Selection of the President, to culminate the LWVUS 2-year study on this topic. There is a considerable amount of information available on the LWVUS website; the January/February 2004 National Voter will provide more information along with the concurrence statements. A recently published concurrence kit, to guide Leagues in holding member discussions prior to individual members completing the concurrence form, is available on the LWVUS website. Enter the Member Site, then click on Position Update and then on Concurrence Kit. LWVUS tallies the total number of members who submit concurrence statements, by state; let's make Kansas one of the highest responding states!!

**I**ssues surrounding the use of Direct Record Electronic voting machines (DREs) continue to generate questions and controversy. DREs are basically touch-screen voting machines that can be equipped with audio and other devices to facilitate use by persons with a variety of disabilities. In Kansas, Lyon and Johnson counties are the only two counties who have begun using these machines. One of the mandates of HAVA is to have at least one DRE machine in each polling place by 2006. One of the key controversial issues is having a Voter Verified Paper Trail (VVPT), which would provide each voter a paper copy of the ballot he or she cast, to verify accuracy of the voted ballot. LWVUS has taken a position against the VVPT, for a variety of reasons. You will want to become more informed about this topic, then consider holding community discussions to help educate the voting public on the topic! There are a number of resources available on the LWVUS website; go to [http://www.lwv.org/join/elections/hava\\_resources.html](http://www.lwv.org/join/elections/hava_resources.html), where you will find a 10-page Q&A by LWVUS, an article by ACLU specifically on their findings of using a VVPT, and a very lengthy research article by the Congressional Research Services on Security Issues surrounding the use of these machines.

**LWVUS** recently published "Choosing the President 2004, A Citizen's Guide to the Electoral Process". The book will be a useful resource in

helping to educate the public. Individual copies may be ordered directly from LWVUS, at \$11/copy plus \$3.95 postage.

**F**ebruary 14, 2004 is the League's 84th birthday. March is Women's History Month and Young Voter Month. LWVUS has offered several suggestions for fundraising and membership activities centered around the League's birthday:

- Host a movie viewing and birthday party! On Feb. 15, HBO will premier an original film, Iron Jawed Angels, which highlights the drama around final passage of the 19th Amendment.
- Honor past or current League leaders who are making a difference! Some Leagues host luncheons and invite community members and leaders to share in the recognition of the League leaders being honored.
- Send out a fundraising letter, suggesting a gift of \$84 for the 84th birthday.
- Get some free media for your League, by courting a local journalist to write an in-depth piece about the League.
- Be visible in the community on February 14. Hold a community forum, or organize a voter registration drive.

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Call your U.S. senators and representatives at 202-224-3121. See [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) for key votes.

**Senator Pat Roberts:** 1-202-224-4774,  
[pat\\_roberts@roberts.senate.gov](mailto:pat_roberts@roberts.senate.gov)

**Senator Sam Brownback:** 1-202-224-6521,  
[sam\\_brownback@brownback.senate.gov](mailto:sam_brownback@brownback.senate.gov)

# Action Alert

**January 22, 2004** marks the 31st anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* the Supreme Court's landmark decision that constitutionally guarantees a woman's reproductive freedom. The League of Women Voters celebrates the anniversary of this decision, as it has led to enormous advances in women's rights, health, and safety.

As we celebrate the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, it has become more crucial than ever that we act to ensure this right is neither weakened nor taken away. Now is the time to demonstrate wide-spread support for the right to make reproductive choices! The League of Women Voters of the United States is proud to join with nearly 700 other organizations as a cosponsor of the March for Women's Lives to take place in Washington, DC on Sunday, April 25, 2004. **March with the League!**

Over three decades after *Roe v. Wade*, reproductive choice continues to be threatened at all levels of government. Currently, a bill facing Congress would strike at the very core of *Roe*. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act (S. 1019/H.R. 1997) would convey legal status to a fertilized egg, embryo and fetus. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act (UVVA) is a back-door attempt to undermine *Roe* while doing nothing to address the problem of violence against pregnant women. On January 21, 2004, the House Judiciary Committee approved UVVA by a vote of 20 to 13 and could be considered by the full House in February. Enter your zip code in the box above to contact your members of Congress urging them to oppose UVVA!

## ACTION NEEDED

1. Contact your Senators and Representative now, by phone and by e-mail, urging them to oppose the Unborn Victims of Violence Act (S. 1019/H.R. 1997). Phone calls can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-225-3121 or 202-224-3121. Enter your zip

code in the box above to send e-mails to your members of Congress.

2. Participate in the March for Women's Lives!
3. Forward this alert to your other concerned citizens your grassroots network, your friends and co-workers. Ask them to take action today to protect reproductive choice.

## BACKGROUND ON THE UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT (UVVA)

The Unborn Victims of Violence Act (S. 1019/H.R. 1997) would amend the federal criminal code and Uniform Code of Military Justice to create a separate offense for harm done to a fertilized egg, embryo or fetus during the commission of certain federal crimes.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. The League opposes UVVA because it would undermine *Roe v. Wade* by providing legal rights to fetuses at all stages of development.

Bill sponsors have publicly stated that UVVA threatens reproductive choice. In fact, Senator Orrin Hatch (R UT) in a May 7, 2003 CNN news article was quoted as saying they say it undermines abortion rights. It does.

The League of Women Voters is concerned about violence against women. The League worked for passage of Violence Against Women Act which passed Congress and was signed by President Clinton in September 1994 as part of a comprehensive crime bill. The League urges members of Congress to oppose UVVA and instead focus on supporting legislation that effectively addresses violence against women.

**City Council - Dec. 30, 2003**

*by Audrey Frentzel, Observer*

The process of selecting a new mayor for Topeka was the main event of this meeting. Prior to voting for a new mayor, a project budget providing installation of a new traffic signal at 17th and Kansas was approved. Also, funding for a water main along 6th Street from Oakley Avenue to Gage was approved.

Six proposals were introduced as the result of a Topeka City Council Resolution that forwarded the proposed down-zoning of ten Topeka neighborhoods, including Monroe, to the Metropolitan Planning Department and Planning Commission for study, public hearing, and recommendation in accordance with City of Topeka Code. These re-zonings implement the policies of the Monroe East Neighborhood Plan as recommended by the Topeka Planning Commission. These proposals were referred to the Committee as a whole, with 60 days to act.

The big event of the evening was selection of a Mayor. For those of you who haven't read the paper, it took just two rounds of balloting to select a mayor. James McClinton was the first to receive five votes. James McClinton and wife were present to hear the voting results. Councilman Duffy thanked Deputy Mayor Pomeroy for the excellent job he has done on behalf of the Council.

**City Council - Jan. 6, 2004**

*by Audrey Frentzel, Observer*

The Swearing In Ceremony for Mayor James McClinton was first on the Agenda. The Council chose McClinton last week to be Mayor of Topeka to finish the term of Mayor Butch Felker. After being sworn in he spoke to a standing-room-only audience. He said he will do his best to make sure Topeka stands tall in the state of Kansas. He asked residents to help him by getting involved and thanked the City Council for trusting him with the job. McClinton did not stay to preside over the meeting and left with his family and friends to celebrate his new position. Duane Pomeroy was also honored for stepping into the role temporarily.

An Ordinance was introduced pertaining to the Monroe East Neighborhood Plan. Larry Hill, has a business, Hill & Co., 1424 SE Monroe, in this area. He has attended several council meetings to speak in opposition of down zoning the East Monroe neighborhood. The council was scheduled to discuss and vote on proposed amendments to the Monroe East Neighborhood Plan, designed to open a path to redevelopment that includes the old Monroe School, now the home of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site. The changes would include down-zoning of some property and create more residential development, park area and open spaces. The council decided to defer discussion and action on the issue until the Feb. 10 meeting. This was frustrating for the many people attending the meeting who didn't get to speak. These people were not alone and disappointed. The Woodland Park development was delayed and put on the agenda next week. This area is located at the southeast corner of NW Topeka Boulevard and NW Menninger Road. This development is a planned residential development consisting of apartments, and an independent living facility.

**City Council - Jan. 13, 2004**

*by Carol Rousey, Observer*

This was the first meeting with Mayor McJames McClinton presiding but there was a vacant council seat because member Harold Lane has resigned because of his selection to represent his district in the Kansas House. His successor will be chosen in the near future. Several land vacation requests were granted prior to the longest item on the agenda. This had to do with a proposed Northland Shopping Center and residential housing development. Many of the neighbors spoke in opposition but it was finally approved on a 5-2 vote after more than an hour of discussion. Other items on the agenda had to do with zoning changes and claims against the city for various damages. Another proposal that generated council discussion had to do the establishment of a city Office of the Arts. Although the item passed, no money will be available to fund the office until the year 2005. This idea has been around since 2002 when a similar resolution was adopted but we'll have to wait for its implementation.

Invite a prospective member and attend  
the **Recruitment Wine & Cheese Party**  
in February. Details on page 3...

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**February 2003**  
Carol Yoho, Editor  
3013 SW QuailCreek Dr.  
Topeka KS 66614

**VOTER**  
**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY**



*News from National League*

**ENERGY BILL OPPOSED BY LEAGUE**

After months of secret negotiations, the final energy bill that emerged contains many provisions that are harmful to public health and the environment. Chief among these is a provision that guts Clean Air Act protections. This energy bill will delay relief to those living with dirty air and compromise the health of the elderly, people with lung disorders and children.

**LEAGUE TARGETS YOUNG VOTERS WITH SMACKDOWN YOUR VOTE!**

The League, in partnership with World Wrestling Entertainment’s (WWE) and others, aims to get 2,000,000 more 18-to-30-year-olds to vote in 2004 through the Smackdown Your Vote! (SYV!) Two Million More in 2004 campaign.

**LEAGUE JOINS NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MUSEUM COALITION**

The League has joined forces with other national organizations in support of the mission of the National Women’s History Museum (NWHM). The NWHM coalition members are comprised of leading women’s service and professional organizations and represent constituencies reaching over 8 million members.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** *“Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country.”* President Franklin D. Roosevelt