



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

VOTER

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**May 2004**

**1** **Annual Garage Sale** - at the home of **Mary Ann Bradford**. (Setup is Friday, April 30) We need you all to participate in this important fundraising event. More information will be included in the next VOTER.

**4** **Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am**  
Speaker: **Dick Barta**, Shawnee County Sheriff  
**Sheriff s View: City/County Consolidation**



**11** **LWVT/SC Board Meeting - Members welcome**  
5:30 pm, "Ian Grill, Gage Center (was The Vintage).

**18/20** **VOICE Meetings** - Tuesday, May 18, 11:30 AM, at Jan Waide s home, 1618 SW 28<sup>th</sup> St.(Wheelchair accessible. Bring brown bag lunch. Beverages provided. Call Jan for directions @ 233-7008) and Thursday, May 20, 5:30 PM, McFarland s (Dutch treat; meeting begins at 6 PM). **Subject is Annexation.**

**June 2004**

**1** **Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am** **Legislative Update, 2004**  
Speakers: **Don & Judy Moler**, Kansas League of Municipalities

**15** **LWVT/SC Board Meeting - Members welcome**  
5:30 pm, "Ian Grill, Gage Center (was The Vintage).

(VOTER information is due for **July-August VOTER**. Send materials to **Carol Yoho:cyoho@cox.net**)

*-There will be no VOICE meetings June through August-*

**May & June  
Tuesday  
Topics**

**May Tuesday Topics** will be **May 4** in room **JCM 101B**, across from the Millennium Cafe at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library. The menu will be Mexican Salad with choice of toppings, brownie, with iced tea or water. **June Tuesday Topics** will be **June 1**, also in room **JCM 101B**. June lunch will be Fruit Plate with Chicken Salad, rolls & butter, pie, with iced tea or water. Meals available to the first 25 arriving, @ \$8.25/ea.



## PreZ SeZ...

May/June 2004:

As this goes to press Spring has arrived and I love it! Looking at the trees and flowers this season makes me happy to be in a community where walking and driving is wonderful and satisfying to our senses. I have especially enjoyed driving through the Monroe neighborhoods on my way to work recently. I see something new and different every day. With the coming of the Brown VS Board of Education opening on May 17th, I think we can all be proud of all of the volunteers working to make our City shine.

It isn't everyday that the Federal government opens a National Historic Park! We are about to embark, in my humble opinion, on a new era in our city - one with a stream of visitors for many years to come. We have wonderful history and Topeka, for most of us, has been a chosen home so, remember to smile and welcome the folks starting to visit us in May!

**Per Member Payments (PMP)** LWVUS Board Recommends \$.80 PMP Increase Our Board has looked at our newly approved Budget and the net impact will be less than \$50 for this year. We feel we can handle the increase, even though we didn't know about it prior to our Budget meetings and recommendations. We have included the memo from National later in the VOTER.

**Help!** Two people (or more!) needed from general membership one to help Board with Publicity and Publications and one to help Action and Studies chair, Nancy Kindling. I have been so pleased at the membership's ability to step up when we need help in our League. Check your schedules and commitments and consider helping us in these areas. How? Call Betsy or Nancy. Thanks!

**Five members** of your League (**Jan Waide, Gwen Elliott, Nancy Garfield, Gloria Phenix and Betsy Rohleder**) will be attending State Council on April 24th in Overland Park please contact any of them

if you have concerns, questions or thoughts for our State Board members.

If you are interested in attending the **LWVUS convention in Washington DC on June 11-13, 2004** please call Betsy (233.9262) ASAP.

**Annual meeting was very nice** and we had a great speaker in Lloyd Olivia Davis. Members were very complimentary to the Board when giving directions. We will take seriously the recommendations for spending League monies, for lunches at the library, and for Tuesday Topics. We are having great attendance at our Tuesday Topics and much of it is attributable to all of you who suggest topics and speakers. We all make this happen - thanks!

**Please note:** Set-up Day for the LWVTSC annual Garage Sale is Friday, April 30. Actual sale is May 1. Location: Bradford's, 1809 SW Webster Ave. Some members have signed up for Sale Day. BUT at press time we only have 3 helping on Friday. We need many more helpers on Friday if we are to be ready for the onslaught of buyers on Saturday morning! The Bradford's are very graciously offering their "garage and driveway" once again this year. PLEASE call Mary Ann and assure her that you will be there to help.

*Betsy Rohleder*

### League of Women Voters T-SC

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**US** The Board of Directors voted at their April 3 and 4, 2004 meeting to recommend an \$.80 increase in PMP, effective with the next fiscal year, July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. The increase would bring PMP to \$23.80. Delegates to the June 2004 Convention will have the opportunity to vote on this recommendation.

Locally recruited membership declines of about 3% this past year necessitated \$.72 out of the proposed \$.80 increase to sustain functions currently performed at the League's national office. This means that each remaining member must now pay an extra \$.72 of PMP simply to continue receiving the same benefits provided by the LWVUS benefits such as our advocacy effectiveness on Capitol Hill, our media visibility resulting from our PR efforts, our electronic dialogue opportunities provided through our listserves, our online database accessibility, and our DNet voter services. Most costs incurred at the League's national office, particularly office infrastructure costs, do not fluctuate in direct proportion to membership levels.

The remaining \$.08 of proposed PMP increase, coupled with the \$180,000 of annual savings from our renegotiated office lease, and unique fundraising potential in a presidential election year, will enable us to provide 3% percent raises to our staff, to expand our voter outreach efforts, to capitalize upon global democracy opportunities, and to continue to seed our donor acquisition database for long term donation stability.

The proposed PMP increase does not include funding for a study. The Board did not feel it had received a clear mandate from the membership regarding a study or update, and accordingly, the Board did not feel it was fiscally responsible to increase PMP to fund a study. The current economic and philosophical climate at foundations make outside funding of an unbiased study unlikely.

In developing the budget approved by the Board, the Budget Committee focused on the most cost-effective efforts that could be provided at the national level to enable local Leagues to increase their membership. They concluded that, while there are many ways the League's national office can help Leagues recruit members, the most cost-effective efforts involve

strengthening the League's visibility and impact at the national level.

Details of the entire budget will be available very shortly on the members' section of the LWV website (user name: lwv; password: carriecatt)

The Budget Committee consisted of:

**Linda D. Lalley**, Chair, [ldlalley@aol.com](mailto:ldlalley@aol.com)

**Kay J. Maxwell**, LWVUS President, ex-officio member

**Shirley Eberly**, LWVUS Secretary/Treasurer & board appointee

**Olivia Thorne**, LWVUS board appointee

**Judy Duffy**, off-board member LWV-Minnesota

**Stephanie Johnson**, off-board member, LWV-Arkansas



### *Introducing New Members*

Sue Gaither

**Welcome to our new members!**

**Evelyn Ediger**

5957 SW Clarion Ln

Topeka, KS 66610

272-5819

[bediger@cox.net](mailto:bediger@cox.net)

**Phyllis Kelly**

4515 SW 33 Terrace

Topeka. LS 66614

272-6609

[LTICE88465@aol.com](mailto:LTICE88465@aol.com)

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**Mary Ann Bradford** (354-1646 or [ciao1@cox.net](mailto:ciao1@cox.net)) is looking for helpers for the garage sale on May 1 at her home. She needs women and men power to **help set up, mark items for sale on April 30 afternoon. And workers for May 1 to take in all the money from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.** This is our big fundraiser for the year so we hope everyone can participate. **Contributions can be taken to Mary Ann's home, 1809 SW Webster Ave., on April 30 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM.** *See details, p. 8.*



photo by Carol Yoho

**M**ayor James McClinton shared his vision for the future of the city of Topeka with League members at the April Tuesday Topics meeting. His wife, Martha Lee, attended the luncheon with her husband.

McClinton is familiar with the League and has helped Robert Harder with Scott Magnet School elections for several years.

The mayor summarized recent developments in city government as follows:

- ✘ U.S. Congress has allocated another \$7 million for reconstruction of the Topeka Boulevard Bridge. This is in addition to \$17.3 million already allocated and equals nearly half of the \$40 million needed for the project.
- ✘ A Sesquicentennial Celebration is being planned, honoring the founding of Topeka. It will include fireworks and family activities.
- ✘ May 17 will mark the opening of the Monroe School Museum and honor the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka desegregation decision of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Congressional Black Caucus is to be invited. Topeka is expecting national dignitaries to attend, and a national convention of NAACP will coincide with the event, filling Topeka's inns and motels.
- ✘ The Great Overland Station is to open in June. This stop as a tourist destination should help urban development north of the Kansas River. Construction of a fly-off exit to the site from the Kansas Ave. Bridge will begin this summer.
- ✘ McClinton wants to focus on the riverfront for development, returning to our founders' roots. He would like to see a riverfront park, with boating and other water-focused activities.
- ✘ Soon Topeka will have year-around indoor ice skating. A rink is planned for the north side of 8th St., facing the city jail. No longer will amateur area skaters vie with professional hockey for on-ice time at the Expo Center. Topeka will also soon have professional hockey as well, having

purchased the Wichita hockey team. We will soon again have indoor football. These types of activities are attractive to people of employment age and help attract businesses to Topeka.

- ✘ City leaders appreciate receipts of the 1/4-cent sales tax and use them to help in economic development, such as attracting businesses and creating jobs for Topekans. Whereas some jobs may be lost over economic cycles, McClinton's goal is to nurture continuing job growth by improving Quality of Life in Topeka.
- ✘ McClinton sees Topekans as compassionate people who meet the needs of citizens. He looks to citizens for help, for opinions, for new ideas.

In the question-and-answer period of the meeting McClinton also reinforced these concepts:

- ✘ Topekans have access to exceptional health care.
- ✘ City planners are working toward creating an Office of the Arts.
- ✘ Reported high crime numbers in Topeka come from discrepancies in the way crimes are reported here v. other cities.
- ✘ Real estate revenues are lost in Topeka because of many state and national offices that are tax-exempt. Tax-paying citizens feel this added burden—a situation unique to capitol cities—and McClinton anticipates a national meeting of capitol-city mayors to discuss revenue challenges.
- ✘ Our central geographical location makes Topeka an attractive location for national distribution centers like the new Target distribution center, which will employ over 1000 workers.
- ✘ The mayor is in favor of city/county government consolidation as is our League.
- ✘ McClinton sees the office of the mayor as one of vision and administration. He is aided by the Chief Administrative Officer and over 1400 city employees. He sees the City Council's responsibilities as those of setting policy, based on facts that the mayor and his staff may provide. 🍀

## **"Now Let Me Fly," Brown v Board Celebration, May 17, 2004— Nancy Garfield**

**Now Let Me Fly** was written by Topeka playwright Marcia Cebulsky and commissioned as a cooperative effort of the Brown Foundation and Washburn University.

Information below is from the website for the national readings of this play and information about the actors, etc.: <http://anationacts.brownvboard.org> From the home page, click on "Topeka Reading and Tickets"

### **Here's what the site says about obtaining tickets:**

Visit the Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC) ticket window (214 SE 8th St.), Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. The earliest tickets will be available is Monday, April 12, 2004 (date subject to change).

Groups of 10 or more may contact the TPAC business office at 234-2787. Tickets can be picked up any day

before the reading or the day of the reading at the will call window. Group tickets will not be mailed.

Tickets obtained through TicketMaster, 234-4545, are subject to handling fees. If still available, tickets may be obtained the day of the reading until the time the performance begins. Entry must be made at the south box office door.

If you acquire tickets and later find you are unable to attend, please return un-used tickets to TPAC (214 SE 8th St., Topeka, KS 66603) so they are available for others.

*NOTE: Because of security concerns, unnecessary items are best left at home. No cameras or other recording devices of any type will be allowed. No backpacks will be allowed. Handbags are subject to search.*

## *News from National League*

### **Excerpt, Open Letter to Congress opposing the Federal Marriage Amendment," as signed by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR). The League of Women Voters of the United States is a member of LCCR:**

...The proposed amendment is antithetical to one of the Constitution's most fundamental guiding principles, that of the guarantee of equal protection for all. For the first time in history, it would use the Constitution as a tool of exclusion, restricting the rights of a group of Americans. It is so far-reaching that it would not only prohibit states from granting equal marriage rights to same-sex couples, but also may deprive same-sex couples and their families of

fundamental protections such as hospital visitation, inheritance rights, and health care benefits, whether conveyed through marriage or other legally recognized relationships. Such a proposal runs afoul of basic principles of fairness and will do little but harm real children and real families in the process.

Constitutional amendments are extremely rare, and are only done to address great public policy needs. Since the Bill of Rights' adoption in 1791, the Constitution has only been amended seventeen times. LCCR believes that the Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments, were designed largely to protect and expand individual liberties, and certainly not to deliberately take away or restrict them....

**Members of other Kansas Leagues** are invited and encouraged to attend meetings of The League of Women Voters of Topeka/Shawnee County. Our League is eager to share the wonderful speaker resources in the Capitol city with our sister Leagues.



**VOTE pins** :\$10.00 each  
We need every member to sell their fair share(3-5 pins).

*Voice Meetings on held in March on*  
***Juvenile Justice Study***

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## ***Observer Reports***

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### **City Council Meeting - Apr. 13, 2004**

*by Carol Rousey, Observer*

The first item on the agenda was approval on a 9-0 vote for issuance of bonds worth \$12,000,000 to finance improvements at Brewster Place. An ordinance introduced by Councilwoman Lisa Stubbs concerning City Council approval of employment and severance agreements with city employees passed also on a 9-0 vote. Two items were referred to the Policy Committee: 1) an ordinance dealing with council members' conflict of interest and 2) an ordinance dealing with full accounting of city funds and property. Council members were mostly in agreement with the general idea of both but decided the wording and details needed extra attention. The council passed a number of zoning petitions and ordinances.

### **City Council Meeting - Mar. 3, 2004**

*by Audrey Frenzel, Observer*

A contract between the City of Topeka and General Security Services Corporation providing for a house-arrest program in accordance with state statute and City ordinance requirements was up for a decision. House arrest rather than jail time could be in the future for offenders. In hopes of reducing the cost of housing city prisoners in the county jail, the council will consider the house arrest contract.

Topeka Municipal Court Administrative Judge Elsbeth Schafer was called on during the meeting to defend a recent decision to buy a bus ticket for a person who went through the city court system. Councilman John Alcala questioned Judge Schafer about using a city purchasing card to buy a bus ticket to Dallas for a person within the past month. Judge Schafer explained, "This is not their home, and they need support they cannot get here. They need to go home." She also stated she makes each defendant meet with her twice before she will buy a ticket. Alcala still disagreed with using taxpayers dollars to buy tickets. Mayor McClinton noted it usually costs more if a person is incarcerated. The contract decision to provide house arrest was approved by the council 7-2.

An Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Clark Duffy relating to parking meter zones in downtown Topeka. There was discussion on the need for more downtown parking spaces. The possibility of a new parking garage was also considered. Neil Dobler, City Public Works Director, provided the council with the project budget for the garage. The possibility of installing parking meters from 4th to 10th along South Kansas Avenue would generate about \$218,289 annually. This Ordinance being a first reading no action was taken.

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**Cora Catt** of Topeka died in February, 2004. She was well-known for her volunteer work at the ERC in Topeka. She had retired from the Department of Social Welfare for the state of Kansas where she worked as regional office director. Cora was a member of our League in the 80's, and League members will remember her fondly. She was remembered in tribute in the *HersKansas*, a magazine of the *Topeka Capital-Journal*, on Sunday, April 18, 2004. League members can also see her photo and read about her contributions to ERC online at [http://herskansas.com/stories/041804/new\\_volunteering.shtml](http://herskansas.com/stories/041804/new_volunteering.shtml)

*This material was hand-pasted into the layout and no longer exists.*

**LWV Garage Sale 2004:**  
 Saturday, May 1, 7 am - 4 pm  
 Bradford home

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**April 2004**  
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*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*