



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

VOTER

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April 2005

2 Annual Meeting - 9:30 am, Bill Lucero,
“The Death Penalty in Kansas”

At TSCPL, with Continental Breakfast, \$5.00 per person.

5 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am

Speaker: **Susan Stover**, the Kansas Water Office,
“Water Issues in Kansas: Quality and Quantity”

*Our meal is Meatloaf sandwiches, chips, brownie,
water and tea.*

&

Spring General Elections - please remember to VOTE!

12 LWVT/SC Board Meeting - Members welcome

5:30 pm, O’Dooley’s, 1930 Westport Dr. (north of Petsmart on Westport Dr.)

23 State Convention - “Action for Change”

Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina - *details p. 7*



May 2005

3 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am - details in May VOTER

7 LWV-TSC Garage Sale - details p. 9

10 LWVT/SC Board Meeting - 5:30 pm, O’Dooley’s

Tuesday
Topics

April Tuesday Topics will be held in room **JCM 101B**,
across from the Millennium Cafe at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library.
Meals are available to the first twenty-five arriving, @ \$8.25/ea.
If you need a ride to any League event, contact Betsy Rohleder.

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...

April 2005

An Open Letter to All of Our Members...

Good-byes are always hard to write or say. The nice thing about this goodbye is that I get to stay in League!

The past two years have gone by faster than I expected. Many of you know of my apprehensions when I began this job—health issues, running a business, being able to be a League spokesperson, and remembering all of the dates and “league stuff” that some of our veterans can do in their sleep! Well...I made it, but only because of all of you!

We are in an improved financial position and we have not had to raise dues. Fundraisers are a lot of work, but the VOTE pins were fun, the member auctions had interesting items, and the garage sales helped us clean our homes in the Spring! Thank you for all of your work and financial support. We found some new League salespersons, too!

We have begun to elevate our visibility in our community again—especially this past month, but certainly over the past two years with a national election in 2004 and the city elections this year. Voter service activities, Study Committee activities, and Action activities often overlap. It’s not always easy to be “on the spot” when issues evolve. We often wish more members would step forward (every job is easier with a few more minds working on it!), but I am pleased to say that more of our members are getting involved every month! We’ve found some new and passionate “advocates” in the process.

There are many special thanks that I could give in this space but I feel that I must give kudos to two of our veteran members!

First—the one person over the past 2 years that has been the backbone of my term as your

President is Mary Ann Bradford. If she had not been reminding me, teaching me, and positively reinforcing me we’d have not done most of what we managed to do. LWVTSC not only has a veteran member who knows “almost everything about League without looking it up” but she truly loves and believes in the continuance of League and all it stands for. I couldn’t have asked for a better mentor or helper, Mary Ann. THANK YOU!

Second—the person that brought me into the League. Thank you again Ruth Wilkin for continuing to ask me and ask me and ask me to join League! Finally I did, and I have never regretted it. Ruth is epitome of a woman leader—cultivating prospects for membership in our organization and being available to train others in the League ways. Our organization will only survive if we continue to replace ourselves!

I cannot tell you how proud I am to belong to the League—we are a committed group of individuals who roll up our sleeves and get the things done that make us so credible. Each of you, in your own way, was so helpful to me over the past two years. Thank you and I look forward to being a veteran, too, some day!

Keep up the good work!!

— *Betsy Rohleder*

LLeague members would like to thank **Betsy** for her outstanding service to our organization in her two years as chapter president!



“The Role of County Administrator and City Manager”

Craig Weinaug, Douglas County Administrator

Mr. Weinaug's presentation provided League members with information about the differences between our current strong mayor-city council government and the new city manager-council government. The council-manager combines the strong political leadership of elected officials, in the form of the council, with the strong professional experience of an appointed local government administrator.

Under the council-manager form, power is concentrated in the elected council, which hires a professional administrator to implement its policies. The city manager serves at the pleasure of the council and is responsible for preparing the budget, directing day-to-day operations, hiring and firing personnel, and serving as the council's chief policy advisor (www.icma.org). The city manager, unlike a mayor, is not an elected official, rather, the city manager is an administrator who works with the elected officials to

advise about and facilitate the enactment of decisions made by the city council. Rather, the city manager reports to the elected officials and is responsible for assuring that the council's decisions are implemented in a cost effective manner. He described the manager's role as a tool to getting things done within the city, assessing the city's organization to find inefficiencies, developing ways that the budget may be stretched, and providing candid and truthful information to allow the council members to make informed choices.

The speaker also responded to questions about what changes residents of Topeka and Shawnee County might expect should the proposed integration of governments take place. This excellent presentation by Mr. Weinaug provided clarification about some of the changes city residents might expect when the new city manager is in place.



A Message from Our LWVK President:

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On page 4 of this VOTER you will find a copy of the statement, approved by the State Board, expressing LWVK's opposition to the gay marriage constitutional amendment. All League members should feel free to use this in educating the public about some fundamental principles of democracy that are being eroded by this amendment that will be on the April 5 ballot. I encourage each of you to try, in this very short time, to distribute this document to your local press. I will also be sending this to various newspapers, but I encourage you to do so as well, as most papers prefer to be responsive to local people. Also see if you can collaborate with other groups in your community to hold a forum on the amendment. The Kansans for Fairness, a coalition of groups working to defeat the

amendment, has offered one of their board members to speak to any group across the state. The person who would speak is senior counsel for SBC Communications, a very articulate speaker whom I heard testify on this amendment relative to its negative effects on employment benefits and hiring of employees. Please let me know if you would like to be put in contact with a speaker.

If you would like one or more hard copies of this on LWVK letterhead, please let me know and I will mail to you.

Janis McMillen
jkmcmillen@kc.rr.com

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened nor abridged.

“...WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.”

Words contained in the Pledge of Allegiance...words we learned as school children, words recited daily in classrooms, in the opening of business meetings of local, state and national elected officials and in meetings hosted by organizations throughout our nation. In reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, we are declaring our support for the values of liberty and justice. We are affirming that all of our citizens deserve to enjoy these values. Our country has fought wars, and lost many American lives, to protect these values. The values of liberty and justice must apply to all Americans.

On April 5, 2005, voters will be asked to decide whether to amend the Kansas Constitution. In essence, voters must decide if they want to enshrine in our Constitution a statement that will deny liberty and justice to a minority group of citizens.

Part “a” of the proposed amendment states: **“The marriage contract is to be considered in law as a civil contract. Marriage shall be constituted by one man and one woman only. All other marriages are declared to be contrary to the public policy of this state and are void.”** Over a century ago, the Kansas legislature enacted the first law on marriage. Subsequent legislatures have further defined marriage through several changes to the law. This proposed amendment is not only redundant to Kansas law but, by transposing the existing state law into a constitutional amendment, the consequences of the 2005 Kansas legislature's actions include:

1. giving up their important and responsible role of addressing issues through statutory law
2. abandoning their oath of office to uphold the Kansas and the U.S. Constitutions, which includes assuring the protection of the rights of minorities
3. inviting judicial directives to future legislators to correct the failure of the Kansas Constitution to protect minorities
4. imposing the need for future legislators to amend the Kansas Constitution to restore protection of minorities
5. declaring their willingness to **carve** into the Kansas Constitution actions that erode the history in Kansas of supporting freedom, fairness and tolerance in our state
6. deciding to put the Kansas constitution in conflict with the U.S. constitution, leading to legal challenges at the expense of Kansas taxpayers.

Part “b” of the proposed amendment states: **“No relationship, other than a marriage, shall be recognized by the state as entitling the parties to the rights or incidents of marriage.”**

To amend the Kansas constitution to deny adults “the rights or incidents of marriage” is to deny their legal right to liberty, to justice and to the pursuit of happiness. This is in direct conflict with the Bill of Rights to the Kansas Constitution, which states:

“Equal rights. All men are possessed of equal and inalienable natural rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

What are the consequences of part “b” of the amendment?

1. Not all citizens will be able to receive through the courts and/or through the legislature fair and equal treatment
2. It will raise many legal questions regarding agreements entered into between any two persons whose relationship does not fall within the narrow definition of marriage

The debate is also about freedom, the freedom for individuals, regardless of gender, to make a commitment that is protected by law. Freedom by its nature is sustained by the rule of law. Freedom by its nature protects minorities and how better to do so than to treat all citizens as equals under the law.

The bottom line: Denying the rights of some citizens but not all citizens is innately discriminatory. Discrimination challenges justice and challenges our democracy. Democracy, NOT MARRIAGE, will be threatened if this amendment is added to our Constitution.

If you believe the words “WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL,” because you believe in the Pledge of Allegiance, because you believe in the Kansas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution, because you believe in fairness and equality, you must work to oppose this movement to amend the Kansas Constitution. You must vote NO on April 5, 2005. To do so is to be for uniting rather than dividing. To do so is to be among the brave who defend freedom. To do so is to uphold the promise of America, past and future.

Spring Election Issue:

Right: Bumper sticker made available to League members statewide.



On April 5th, you will be asked to add the following amendment to the Kansas Constitution:

- (a) The marriage contract is to be considered in law as a civil contract. Marriage shall be constituted by one man and one woman only. All other marriages are declared to be contrary to the public policy of this state and are void.
- (b) No relationship, other than a marriage, shall be recognized by the state as entitling the parties to the rights or incidents of marriage.

We are pleased to report that **Nancy Kindling** (Action Chair) worked with her committee, the LWV State Education Fund, and the *Topeka Capital-Journal* recently. Her work resulted in a VOTE NO! educational advertisement that will run in the TCJ Voters Guide. Please read it carefully. Encourage others to understand the importance of the ballot issue on April 5th. Many of our members worked to educate our Topeka citizens on the ballot issue March 1st. *Our work is not done!*



State Juvenile Justice Study Nears Completion

- by Gwen Elliott

The State Study Committee on Juvenile Justice met in the home of Chairperson, Ellen Estes on February 19, 2005, and completed a statement of position on the Juvenile Justice Authority arrived at through consensus.

The local committee has found partial answers to questions that arose in local VOICE meetings. First, Intensive Supervised Probation is separate and distinct from Standard Probation and is part of the Graduated Sanctions program administrated by Dina Pennington in the Shawnee County Department of Community Corrections. See the Third Judicial District Juvenile Justice Flow Chart in which both forms of probation are listed as sentencing options. Second, to answer one of many questions regarding statistics, Judette Padilla of Shawnee County Juvenile Intake estimated at the February, 2005 JCAB meeting that Intake processes 150 youths per month and has the capacity to see more. Of these, approximately 75% are sent home, and Intake never sees them again. Of the remaining 25%, about 240 youths are responsible for 790 intakes (most of them repeat intakes). Of these 25%, only 2% actually enter the system.

FY06 Prevention Programs

Review Committee Recommendations to the JCAB, November 17, 2004

Program #	Program Name	Amount Requested	Amount Granted (Recommended)
PO63-1	Shawnee County Mentor Recruitment Program (Big Brothers & Big Sisters)	\$ 22,750	\$ 20,000
PO63-2	Comprehensive Youth development (Boys & Girls Club)	\$ 20,850	\$ 20,050
PO63-3	Count on Me Kids (Boys & Girls Club)	\$ 17,707	\$ 14,858
PO63-4	Truancy case Manager (CASA)	\$ 39,456	\$ 38,134
PO63-5	Success By 6 (FRC)	\$ 62,666	\$ 56,909
PO63-6	Project Attention (Community action)	\$ 33,750	\$ 33,750
PO63-7	Healthy Families Topeka (KCSL)	\$ 42,058	\$ 38,024
PO63-8	Coordination Services (Mainstream, Inc.)	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000
PO63-9	Life Skills Training (PARS)	\$ 39,020	\$ 39,020
PO63-10	Developing Champions (TDC Learning centers)	\$ 37,924	\$ 35,770
PO63-11	Success Academy (Topeka Housing Authority)	\$ 25,313	\$ 22,813
PO63-12 & 13	Violence Prevention Groups (Villages)	\$ 8,994	\$ 4,803
PO63-14	USD #345 Mentoring (YMCA)	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000
PO63-15	USD #450 Mentoring (YMCA)	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000
PO63-16	Prevention services (Topeka Center for Peace & Justice)	\$ 10,074	\$ 7,574
PO63-17	Stay in School/Pregnancy Prevention for Teens (Catholic Community Srvcs)	\$ 15,538	\$ 12,531

Urgent! Deadline is approaching!

Call to Convention

“Action for Change”

Sat. Apr. 23 • 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Kansas Wesleyan University
Student Union, 100 Claflin, Salina, Kansas



League of Women Voters Topeka-Shawnee County has six openings for voting delegates for the LWVK 2005 Convention in Salina. Non-voting visitors are also welcome. (Members attending from Topeka are likely to car pool.)

Registration of \$35. for the day includes breakfast, lunch, refreshments, and a convention book. We are also allowed exhibit space at the convention. Our local League is willing to pay the registration fee for voting delegates.

Registration deadline is Friday, April 9th. Registration is being handled by Rev. Christi Peterson, P.O. Box 502, Salina, KS, 67401. Phone: 785-823-3816. You may get a registration form from Betsy Rohleder or Jan Waide.

To represent LWVTSC as a delegate at the convention, please contact **Jan Waide**, 233-7008, jswaide@aol.com, as soon as possible.

If you'd like travel Friday and stay in Salina overnight before the Saturday convention, a room rate of \$72/per night for 1 to 4 persons is available. Make your own reservation by calling the Holiday Inn-Salina, 1616 W. Crawford St., 785-823-1739. Mention the LWVK convention. Call soon, for rooms will be released by Holiday Inn after Friday, April 8th.

Questions? Contact:
Mary Anne Powell, Convention Coordinator
785-823-8041 or wbpowell@ksu.edu



Newer League Members--

Please seriously consider becoming a delegate for this convention. Attending the State Convention is an excellent way to get a feeling for the work of both LWVK and LWVTSC Leagues!
Call Jan Waide and volunteer!

Shawnee County Commission

February 24, 2005, by *Jan Waide*

Discussion of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the Statement of Intention to use the Election Voter Information System (ELVIS) and Election Management System. HAVA requires every state to have a centralized voter registration system at the state level. The Management System is on soft ware which can be purchased but is not required by HAVA. The cost for the information system is \$25,000/yr. but will not begin until 2007.

Shawnee County is the only county left in the state that has not signed the federal agreement. Comm. Miller would not sign it until the County Counselor changes the wording from “agree” to using the system to “intend.” (Whether that will pass muster is yet to be seen. Editorial comment)

Also, the county leased the fishing rights at Lake Shawnee to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. This would eliminate fees for fishing and boating in the hopes of increasing activity at the lakes. It is revenue neutral for the county.

March 3, 2005, by *Jan Waide*

Comm. Miller asked for approval from the Commission for him to testify at the Legislature on HB.2265 in the House State Affairs Comm. He stated that he has been requested to testify. His request was approved.

An Osage County township official appeared airing a complaint about detour (caused by a bridge repair in Shawnee Co.) that uses an Osage Co. road. The contractor’s sand and gravel trucks are already using the detour and tearing up the road. They were given no warning by Shawnee Co. When this man contacted the County Engineer in Shawnee Co., he quoted Mr. Flanagan as saying, "We don't have to tell you anything and we can do anything we want to." He then contacted our County Counselor to ask that Shawnee County assist with the expense of repairing the Osage Co. road. The County Counselor allegedly said, "We don't stand for extortion."

Comm. Miller moved that Osage Co. file a claim for their loss and assured them that Shawnee Co. would make it good.

Dear Friends,

On February 14, the League celebrated our 85th Anniversary. Since our founding, we have been an important advocate for political reform and citizen engagement, and we continue today to push for changes that make our democracy stronger. Thanks to each of you for your help and support throughout the past 85 years and into the future!



Ray A. Maple

President, LWVUS

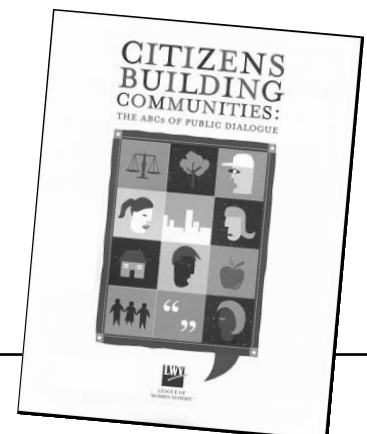


Publication:
Citizens Building Communities: The ABCs of Public Dialogue

This new LWVEF publication has already won praise. “As the first accessible, affordable primer on the variety of successful methods out there for engaging the public in dialogue, Citizens Building Communities is a landmark resource for the rapidly growing field of public dialogue and deliberation.”

- Sandy Heierbacher, National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation.

Copies may be purchased for just \$4.95. Contact pubsales@lww.org or check the web at lww.org.



Set-up
Friday, May 6, 2005
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM



Sales Day
Saturday, May 7, 2005
7:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Garage Sale for the League of Women Voters

Mary Ann & Larry Bradford's at 1809 SW Webster Av

Mark Prices on Each of Your Items

Please bring clothing on hangers

Good sellers:

Small-to-medium-sized furniture:
bookcase, end table, desk, chair,
chest of drawers

Children's books, board games,
videos, computer games

Cosmetics (unused), nail polish, bath
oil, lipstick, rouge, eyeshadow

clean jewelry: necklace, earrings,
bracelets, rings, pins, watches

Clean floral arrangements, baskets

Clean clothing, spring & summer
weight, men sizes of 38-44 miss-
es/women's sizes of 10-22, infants
and children

Glass and ceramic casseroles and
serving dishes

Greeting cards: plain or with verses
Paperback or hardcover books for
adults

Posters, framed pictures, empty pic-
ture frames

Almost new purses, wallets, portfo-
lios, briefcases

2-to-8 person set of dishes, mugs (not
checked or chipped)

Sets of glasses (no etched by dish-
washer)

Usable bedding and linens (bag
matching sets)

Unchipped vases, knick knacks

Working phones, TVs, computers,
CD or DVD players

Any items not sold are donated to a charitable organization. Please offer clothing racks and picnic tables to display wares. Bring clean bags or boxes for customer's merchandise. Bring your

items to Bradfords on Friday, May 6th. If necessary, they will take them earlier. **Sign up with Mary Ann to work on Fri., May 6, and/or Saturday, May 7: ciao1@cox.net, 354-1646.**

Failed Attempts at Being You?

"The world in which you were born is just one model of reality. Other cultures are not failed attempts at being you. They are unique manifestations of the human spirit."

Dalton Roberts, Tennessee newspaper columnist, urges us to "travel one mental step forward to an affirmation of our willingness to see the good in all people and places."

—www.daltonroberts.com

Methamphetamine Abuse Documented

League member **Gwen Elliott**, while working with the State Study Committee on Juvenile Justice, met a social photojournalist, Regina Monfort, who has written a documentary on the effects of methamphetamine use in Topeka. She focused on a family whose son ended up in the juvenile justice system. Regina is applying for a grant to bring her exhibition of photos back to Topeka for public display.

League of Women Voters T-SC

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Calendar	1
Prez Sez	2
Tuesday Topics Reports	3
From State League	3-5
Juvenile Justice Report	6
Annual Convention, Salina, <i>details</i>	7
Observer Reports & Nat'l News	8
Garage Sale Planned, May 7	9

VOTER, April 2005:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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Annexation Issue: *Panel Discussion at May Tuesday Topics*



LWVK Annual Convention: "Action for Change"

Saturday, April 23, 2005
Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina - *details p. 7*

**Mark Your
Calendar:** Sat., May 7
Annual LWV Garage Sale
7am to 4pm @ Bradford s - *details p. 9*

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:
Sybil Wiegman, Treasurer
2805 SW Tall Grass Dr.
TOPEKA, KS 66614-6026
785-478-1679

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