



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

VOTER

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January 2005

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

Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards, speaking on "Future of School Finance"
Our meal is Quiche, salad, rolls, cookies, water or iced tea.

11 **LWVT/SC Board Meeting - Members welcome**

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

20 **VOICE Meeting** - Joint meeting at MacFarland's, 5:30 PM for dinner followed by a discussion of Juvenile Justice consensus questions.

29 **ORIENTATION for new members - 9:30 to 11:30 AM**, held at the home of Mary Ann Bradford, 1809 Webster. Long-time members who have not attended an orientation are also welcome.

Mark Your Calendar:

The Kansas Choice Alliance, of which the state League is a member, is sponsoring the **32nd anniversary celebration of Roe v. Wade** on **Thursday, January 20, 2005**. Spaces in the state Capitol have been reserved for our activities! Mark your calendars, and please share this date with others, as we want to have a *very* big crowd this year. The Governor has been invited to speak. *Watch for details.*

Our **Annual Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, April 2**. Mark your calendar now! We will have election of officers, budget discussion and vote, and agree on studies for future study at that time.
Details will be included in your March VOTER.



Tuesday Topics

January 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...

January 2004

This month's Prez Sez is devoted to making another stab at letting members know more about the Inter City trip to Omaha and Lincoln Sept 30 and Oct 1, 2004...with a focus on annexation this month. Much of the content has been lifted or borrowed from Christy Caldwell of the Chamber who gave all participants an excellent Final Report—Christy gave me permission to plagiarize her work. Thanks, Christy.

In Lincoln the planning process began in the 1950's and has continued to date with the comprehensive plan being continually amended to include new projects. Constant planning and re-planning, however, has resulted in high development costs. Lincoln has no suburbs because they have not allowed development outside the city's corporate borders. They have also not allowed water or sewer development outside the borders. Their local school district grows with the city's borders, resulting in one high quality school district which has staved off the creation of private schools, other than parochial.

In the final report of this trip, the point was emphasized that one of Lincoln's local land use attorney believes there is a "disconnect" among the public on the importance of infrastructure, and citizen do not understand how to have a "vision" for the future. His description of the stalemate in Lincoln was perceived as a "heads up" to the Topeka community leaders.

In Omaha we learned that 85% of the population of Douglas County currently lives inside the city limits of Omaha with another 10% living within the 3 mile radius around the city. The city controls the zoning in the three mile area. This area will be annexed in the near future. In order to build commercial and/or residential projects, developers create sanitary improvement districts.

The district then sells bonds to provide the funding for the infrastructure. Taxes are then levied within the district to pay off the bonds. Once the bonds are paid off the City can annex the property. The City is also allowed to annex small towns if the population is less than 7500 but cannot cross county lines. Areas outside the city limits sometimes object to annexation. However, it is clearly understood from the outset of the development that when the bonds are paid off the area will be annexed, thus allowing for people to plan where they really want to live! Sanitary improvement districts build infrastructure to City standards. Omaha has a smart growth plan that has been in place for a long time and annexation is very orderly and much **planned**. In the next five years, due to the annexation of zoning jurisdictions, another 10% of the population will be a part of Omaha. Developers know the rules and people wanting to live in the county can plan where they want to live based on orderly growth that they can see and predict.

An interesting rule of thumb emerged during some of the discussions these two days as it relates to annexation and unification of government (intertwined but not the same issues)...***if it looks urban it needs to be annexed; if it looks rural it needs to NOT be annexed.*** I have been driving around "the country," if you will, the last few weeks and it has been incredibly obvious to me that we have urban parts of our county and rural parts of our county. I wonder if that may be the simple answer to how we determine annexation. Maybe we make it too hard!

— Betsy Rahleder

Tuesday Topics for Nov.

Mike Heim, Kansas State Legislative Research Department, and **Dave Thurbon**, City of Topeka Planning Commission

“Topeka Annexation”

Mr. Heim reminded us of the potential for conflict in city annexation laws—typical in growth areas.

There are three ways for our city to annex:

1. KSA 12-520 makes legal the city's unilateral annexation rights. The only “out” is to prove racial bias or prove that the city failed to follow the letter of the law.

2. A landowner can request annexation.

3. The city can petition consideration by the Board of County Commissioners, who act in judgement. The procedure is quasi-judicial. There must be substantial evidence of a need to annex without manifest injury to the owners of any land proposed for annexation.

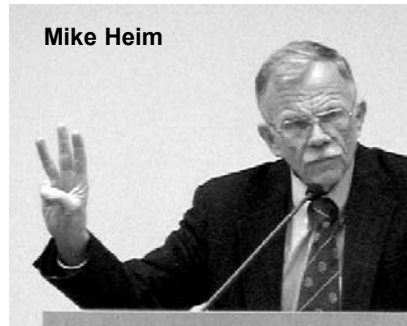
4. “Island Annexation” combines procedures of pts. 2 & 3, whereby an island away from city borders can be judged appropriate for annexation by the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Thurbon summarized annexation activity of the past two years. Landowners of property considered for annexation wanted written justification of the move and wanted to see a plan for how the city proposed to provide services to the entire considered area. A consultant was hired in the middle of this process.

Should the city provide water and sewer to the area without concurrent annexation? Nebraska cities did not handle the process in that manor. In Lincoln and Omaha, cities refused to extend services without annexation.

Mr. Thurbon showed a map of the city and outlying areas. To the east the owners want “Island Annexation.” Within 15 square miles of the city's borders there are 58 existing populated areas and

the homes of 21,000 people. Property values are in excess of \$1 billion. Residents of these areas, in general, prefer not to be annexed. An estimated \$4 million could be added to city taxes if these primarily residential areas (plus Goodyear and Forbes Field) were annexed.



In the future Topeka will be playing “catch-up” if they annex many areas at once. The city would need detailed plans, with specific steps carried out month-to-month for up to three years if annexing unilaterally

Suburban landowners should ask themselves two questions.

1. Are they living where they do because of their proximity to the city of Topeka and its urban environment?

2. Does their neighborhood function as part of the city?

If either answer is “yes,” their neighborhood should be annexed because it is part of an urban area.

There is a current Growth Management Plan, planning city expansion until 2025, based on a population growth rate of 1.5%.

Currently, outlying townships are more efficient at snow removal than the city. They will not be able to keep up if the urban area grows outside of a three-mile perimeter to township jurisdiction.

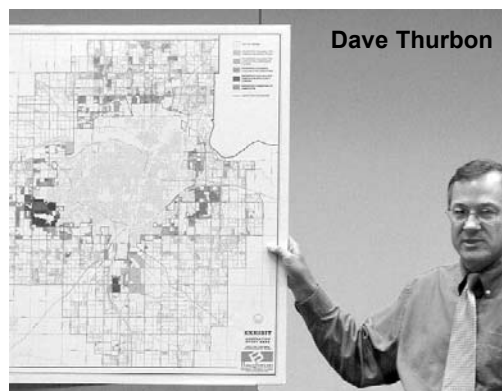
Annexing the Lake Sherwood area would need County Commission approval. Dillions near 29th St. and Urish Rd. is suing the city for annexing their area. The case will become a test case for possible further annexation steps.

White flight to the suburbs has left problems for the center core of the city. Annexation is a sign of a healthy, growing city. Fringe areas do not cost as much to maintain as the inner city, yet new tax dollars from annexations can be used on core city maintenance. The only other option for helping city's core is to give tax incentives as encouragement for business development.

Seventy-two cents of each county tax dollar is paid by city residents. City residents must also pay city taxes, a double hit when services such as parks are duplicated.

The new ex-Menninger property owners recently consented to annexation. The

—continued on p. 4



land will be developed primarily as residential, with some additional services and small businesses in the area.

Betsy Rohleder, who traveled to study annexation procedures in Lincoln and Omaha (see *Pres Sez*, p. 2), said that "smart growth" occurs when developers and property owners all know that land in a 3-to-5-mile perimeter of the current city limits WILL be annexed. Such a situation is looked upon there as a win-win situation.

Topeka currently fills 58-square-miles: 10% of the county. The county sees no benefits in consolidation with city government.

In Johnson County, the city was 95% of the county when the governments consolidated. Johnson County was much busier than Topeka annexing during the 1970s and 80s.

Entitlements and federal grants are based on core population. Our area, both city and un-annexed suburbs, can attract money for development based on total area population.

—reported by Carol Yoho

Tuesday Topics for Dec.

New members in the last 6 months were recognized: **Jane Wisdom** and **Joyce Black**.

Panel members were **Janis McMillan**, State League President; **Doris Slocum**, State Board Director; and **Mary Ann Bradford**, **Nancy Kindling** and **Jan Waide** of the Topeka-Shawnee County chapter.

Topic: **Program Planning at the State and Local Level**

Janis said that school finance and health care are issues which might be coming up in the 2005 Kansas Legislative session. She also said that immigration is becoming an issue at the national level and may be an issue in the state. Energy issues and keeping Kansas air clean will also be discussed. There is interest in wind energy, water issues, economic development and eminent domain. Since the Kansas Opening Meetings/Records Act sunsets in June 2005 it will be an issue in the legislature. A health plan by Governor Sebelius and Commissioner Sandy Prager,

Kansas Insurance Department, will also be an issue. Children's issues may also be a subject for legislative action.

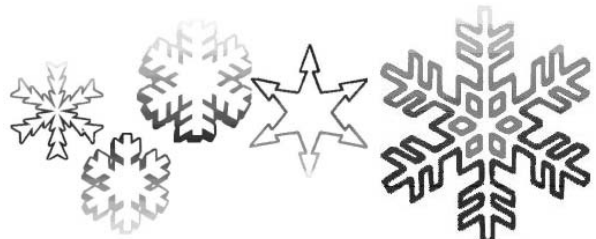
Doris Slocum said the wedge issues of reproductive choice and gay marriage will be coming up in the legislature. She also said the death penalty will be another possible issue for this legislative session. She said that there have been three updates on Government, one update on Natural Resources and four updates on Social Policy.

Jan Waide said that the League does not take a position on an issue without study. The League is currently studying Juvenile Justice and Annexation.

Nancy Kindling spoke on the role of Study and Action at the local League level. She said there are two reasons to study an issue - for education and to take action. All members should be familiar with the League positions and be able to discuss in conversations. Action can take many forms—personal visit of an official, write letters to the editor, e-mail or fax. Nancy said that currently the local League is dealing with consolidation, the health agency, the city manager and annexation at the city and county level. She also stated that for a general member to be a representative of the League on an issue it is necessary to receive permission from the Board. She said that she e-mails alerts to the local members on current legislative issues. Nancy also reported that form letters and petitions have little effect on issues. If a member visits a representative or senator in person you should be knowledgeable about the contents of the bill. It is also good to have a copy of the League's position on an issue to leave with the legislator. She also suggested that a thank you note be written after the visit.

Janis said that there is a need for more people to lobby in Topeka. She also requested names of members who are interested in becoming members of the State Board. If you have suggestions for the Nominating Committee please let Betsy Rohleder know. The Nominating Committee is meeting in Salina on April 23, 2005. She also said she would like to have representation from each League.

—reported by Judy Seitz



League Memembers Identify Issues of Importance to Them

The December Tuesday Topics addressed program planning for the LWVK for 2005-2007 and the LWVTSC for the next League year. Janis McMillen, state President, and Doris Slocomb, state board director (better known for organizing our state DNET program) presented issues that they anticipate will return to the 2005 Kansas Legislative Session.

Janis mentioned education financing and services for children. Doris suggested health care and the perennial “picking” at reproductive choice. All the statements of position in the areas of government, natural resources, and social policy were identified for retention.

A position for update was adult corrections especially the preparation of inmates for life and employment after release. There was some support for a new study of Kansas immigration problems such as driver's license and employment of illegal immigrants and tuition for those graduating from a Kansas high school.

Assisting members' thinking about local issues were Jan Waide, study and action coordinator, and Nancy Kindling, advocacy director. Twenty-three members submitted the checkoff sheet which indicated retention of all our current statements of position. Public health care and the Shawnee County Health Agency received the highest number as issues of concern. Fourteen members voted to retain while 9 voted to update our position by further study. The Board, therefore, will be proposing health care as an update item for next year at our Annual Meeting on April 2. Members make the final decision then.

On the Action side, there was an equal number of members who selected the League to continue its advocacy for the council/city manager form of government, for consolidation of specific departments, i.e. parks and rec and consolidation of city and county governments.

—summary by *Mary Ann Bradford*

Governmental Issues Dinner 2004 *November 17, 2004*

Thirty-eight members and seven guests from the Shawnee County delegation gathered at the Ramada Inn at 6:00 pm for dinner and getting acquainted. Dinner was served at 6:30 and the program started at 7:10. **Judge Dan Mitchell** was the featured speaker, talking about **Juvenile Justice issues** from the judicial perspective. After speaking for approximately 20 minutes, he answered questions from the audience, with our guest legislators being allowed to ask their questions first. The program concluded at 8:15 pm.

Each member was charged \$20.00 per person which covered the cost of their meal, including tax and gratuity. The speaker and the legislators' meals were paid for out of the treasury.

Evaluations completed by members who attended reflected that they like the speaker format (and the

food). They like members being assigned to each guest and the ability to get acquainted with them at the tables. The major suggestion to improve was that **more members need to attend.**

—summary by *Jan Waide, event organizer*



Thank You to our League

My thanks to the members of the Topeka-Shawnee County League of Women Voters for their voter education work at the Scott School. The voter registration, election training, and monitoring of the primary and general elections at Scott school is greatly appreciated. The staff and I at Scott recognize the many volunteer hours put forth by the League. The work you are doing is voter education at its very best. Thanks!

—**Dr. Jennifer Gordon, Principal, Scott School**

October 14, 2004

They approved an expenditure from the Risk Management Reserve Fund for damage repair to a Sheriff's Office vehicle. A Sheriff's car rear-ended another car. (It obviously happens to all of us!) There was approximately \$1000 damage.

First reading of Home Rule Resolution No. HR-2001-4 to permit xeriscaping (natural landscaping). One homeowner testified against it due to "rodents and snakes" living in it and coming to his property. This Resolution will be on next week's agenda also.

Presentation of a project design by an architect for a 2004 Expocentre improvement project. Grants may be available through Kansas Corporation Commission related to energy conservation to help pay for this project. The City currently uses the grants for work at TPAC.

October 21, 2004

Major discussion today of the Home Rule regarding xeriscaping. Five residents of Tecumseh @ 45th and Croco Rd. testified. Four supported and one was against the exemption of xeriscaping from the noxious weed and neglected property rules. The proponents stated that their properties are "managed" and not just allowed to grow wild. They encourage native species of plants and trees which are ecologically friendly and survive on the average rainfall of Kansas. They say these plants and trees encourage birds, butterflies and other flying species. One man has an acre of native grass that "has been there since before early man walked on the earth". He says that the rodents disappear after one or two "burns" done every two years, weather permitting.

The subjectivity of what is xeriscaping and what is an overgrown field causes problems for the enforcement officers. An assistant County Counselor suggested they require people who wish to xeriscape request an exemption for xeriscaping before they begin doing it and before there is a complaint.

The Commission requested the Health Dept. enforcer and the County Counselor draft language that would make enforcement easier. No decision today. Issue postponed indefinitely.

Discussion of a safety issue relating to the contamination of the Law Enforcement Center from Morgue air. Dr. Erik Mitchell, County Coroner, testi-

fied that the air transfer system in the Morgue is not sufficiently sealed to prevent leakage of foul air from seeping into the rest of the LEC. He testified that there has been no response from the City to his many phone calls and letters asking them to solve the problem as they are the owners of the facility. A letter will go to Mayor McClinton asking the City to appear here next Thursday for help in this discussion.

October 28, 2004

First reading of Resolution No. 2004-197 designating a "Native Stone Scenic Byway". Advocates for this issue from Dover appeared. Debra Stufflebean, consultant on the project, testified. In the 1850's this Byway route was a stage route and known as the Southwest Trail. Some of the route is along highway K-4. This group hopes to get an historical marker, noting same, at the corner of Glick Rd. and K-4. Some of highway 99 is also in the proposed Byway.

The Kansas Scenic Byway Commission asked the Dover group and the Alma group to join forces and create one Scenic Byway. They need the backing of both County Commissions involved. Debra reported that the Wabaunsee Commission is supportive. Now they are asking for the blessing of the Shawnee Commission.

Questions were raised regarding funding available for the project. No federal dollars are available for Valencia or Glick Rds, due to them not being classified as County secondary roads. Some funding may be available for K-4 and US 99. Questions were also raised regarding the impact on Shawnee County and land owners adjacent to this Byway. Comm. Miller wants notices to land owners and legal requirements on the county spelled out, e.g. preservation of all native stone bridges, no wind tunnels allowed, and/or prevention of new crowding housing developments.

This project also involves Alma and Eskridge in Wabaunsee county. The commission recognizes that this would give Dover significant identity for economic development.

The commission asked that representatives from the Kansas Scenic Byways Commission and Wabaunsee County Commission be invited to come to the second reading of this proposed resolution which will be scheduled when those representatives are available.

November 4, 2004

Further discussion of the safety issue related to the isolation of the Law Enforcement Center from the Morgue air contamination was held. Dr. Erik Mitchell, Coroner, stated that he has written the city twice regarding the problem after repeated phone calls had no results. No one from the City was present as requested earlier. The County has a 20 year lease on the city owned building. Dr. Mitchell said that Mike McGee, Topeka Public Works, is the only one that has shown some interest in solving the problem. The County Commission sees it as a public health problem. It is believed that any liability for any illness resulting from this problem would now fall back on the City since they refuse to deal with it.

Since it is thought to be a public health problem it is hoped that Kansas Department of Health and Environment may be able to help the county.

Approved a grant application for Smart Start funding. The hoped for grant would fund a home visitation program that would see 25-30 families not currently being seen.

Next Thursday's meeting will be rearranged to Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2004 due to Veteran's Day falling on Thursday.

November 18, 2004

Approved an interlocal Agreement with the City of Topeka relating to financing countywide infrastructure development and economic development to be funded by the one-half cent sales tax. The city needs to approve it as a next step.

Heard testimony on first reading of a proposed resolution authorizing Shawnee County to join Douglas County in forming an extension district combining the extension councils into one organization. This would create a new taxing entity. Authority would transfer from the County Commissions in question to a District Board composed of 4 people from each county appointed by each county commission. A common mill levy across the districts would increase the mill levy for extension. The Shawnee County mill levy would increase from .37 to .42. Both county commissions must meet together before each will vote. Then the Attorney General must approve the forming of a new taxing entity. Ottawa and Saline counties have already done this.

December 2, 2004

Approved the annexation of the Rockfire at the Lake Subdivision into the City of Topeka. This subdivision will encompass 169 acres, 35 acres of which will be office complex. The balance of land will have multi-family dwellings and single family homes.

Approved a request from the Public Works Dept. to solicit proposals for on-call construction administration and inspection services for various Public Works infrastructure projects to increase consistency and uniformity. Individual contractors have been doing this.

Considered a request to hire a full time Medical Director for the Community Health Center/Primary Care Services. Debbie McCordell will oversee this position. The job description requires 4 years experience in community health with sensitivity to the "unserved and under-served" populations.

Approved the allocation of 2005 funds for social services, service programs for the elderly and special alcohol-drug programs, with funding for Valeo Mental Health Services withheld. Comm. Miller wanted the funds withheld until Valeo provided him with a satisfactory reason why they took the in-home services program away from Breakthrough House, which negatively impacted Breakthrough House. He related that Valeo ignored a requested meeting with him, Rep. Kirk and Sen. Hensley shortly after Valeo took the action against Breakthrough House. Comm. Miller's wife is on the Breakthrough House Board.

The County Commissioners will meet with the Shawnee County legislative delegation on 12-16-04 at 1:00. Prior to that time, department heads will be assessed regarding needs and concerns regarding the coming legislative session in 2005.

December 9, 2004

Mostly administrative details handled today, i.e. soliciting and awarding bids.

Approved an amended interlocal agreement with the City re: the ½ cent sales tax. The City amended it to deal with any monies remaining after all projects are completed. One-half of the remaining funds will go to Economic Development and then \$1.5 million to county bridges. Comm. Miller considered this a most magnanimous gesture on the part of the City Council.

October 26, 2004

Board of the Federally Qualified Health Center of the Shawnee County Health Agency:

There was a report of the Governance Committee, noting the mandate from the Strategic Plan to expand services. Funding is needed especially for mental health, oral care, and prescriptions. User members of the board are especially needed; to represent the user population the need is for female (4 of 6 users); persons aged 15-44 (majority of users) and cultural (1/5 of users are African-American and 1/4 are Latino). A three year plan for mentoring, recruiting, training, speaking to the legislature and Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved was outlined. Board

members are the Health Center's representatives to the community. The financial report showed a good financial condition for the clinic with a positive carry-over of funds anticipated. It was noted that there are about 20,000 people in the county who are uninsured or underinsured. Possibly 55% of these have no health care. Plans to work with various insurers to work for catastrophic coverage are a possibility. The board seems very organized and active but there is still the usual difficulty in finding consumer members.

LWVUS Updates

LWVUS plans to handle the member database online. Local Leagues will be encouraged to submit membership lists electronically. LWVUS will be pulling official membership counts (the number used for determining voting representation at conventions and for assessing per member payment obligations for fiscal 2005-06) from the "live" information in the database. On February 1, 2005, the LWVUS will freeze the report, which then becomes the official summary sheet for our League for the fiscal year.

LWVUS President Kay Maxwell spent a day and a half in the Kansas City metro area, meeting with various media outlets to promote the "5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day" message. The Kansas City-Jackson-Clay-Platte County League hosted a wonderful reception for her. It was a great opportunity for her to become better acquainted with our local Leagues and our issues.

LWVK Update

This was the first election cycle that DNet was used on a statewide basis. We opted to put our efforts into DNet and not print a paper Voter's Guide. Please provide your feedback to the State Board on whether you want to continue in this direction in 2006 (assuming Capitol Advantage will continue to support LWVUS in this effort.

—**Janis McMillen**, LWVK President

Updating Local Chapter Records

Carol Yoho is working to update our chapter's computerized membership file in preparation for printing a new membership directory.

One step in the process is to add current e-mail addresses to the member database. We have e-mail addresses for approximately one-half of our members. Carol will add these e-mails and then test them during the last few days of December 2004.

If you use e-mail and did NOT receive a verify e-mail from Carol before early January, please consider sending her a brief e-mail. This will provide her with your current e-mail address and help in our record-keeping. You can e-mail Carol at cyoho@cox.net

NOTE: LWV does not sell or share our membership information with businesses or other organizations.



The two main reasons League develops positions is so that we can educate the public and to take action in support of, and sometimes in opposition to, issues and legislation as they come before elected officials.

Action can be in many forms: visiting, writing, calling, faxing or emailing elected officials, testifying before them, and interviewing them on their ideas on specific issues. Letters to the editor are also an effective way of educating the public as well as lobbying the elected officials. It is important to remember that unless you have the approval of the board of League at any level (local, state or national) taking action must be a personal appeal rather than as a representative of League.

Local League has an action chair, State League has a lobby corp, and National has paid lobbyists. All three levels of League try to be diligent about recognizing issues of interest to League as they arise. In this way League can keep the membership informed and involved when there is a need to take action. Sometimes the timing is difficult because the timing or scheduling of when issues are coming up before elected bodies are hard to determine in advance.

Letters to the editor is a common way for the general League membership to express their views. Some things to remember about newspaper policy at least of the Capital Journal:

- Preference is given to printing letters from members of the readership area.
- Letters containing factual error will not be printed.
- Form letters will not be printed if they are recognized.
- Letters should voice an opinion expressed in your own words.
- Letters should contain specific arguments to support your view.
- It is always good to begin your letter with a statement of what your position is and end with a question to provoke the reader to think about the issue.
- The newspaper may edit out of your letter some points if they think it would make more sense to the readership.

Several weeks ago in the Hers magazine section of the paper, Joan Wagnon wrote an article on how you

can make a difference when legislation comes up. She was referring to the state level but it is applicable at every level. To summarize:

- Step 1 Know who your representative elected officials are, their addresses, office and home when available, phone numbers, fax numbers, etc. You can get the list from the election commissioner or from the Capital Journal on the editorial page.
- Step 2 Get information from elected officials about who might be the best person to contact, who is sponsoring the bill, (ordinance or resolution at the local level) and others involved who will be hearing the bill.
- Step 3 Get a copy of the legislative directory and the committee assignments at the beginning of the state legislative session from the document room at the Capitol.
- Step 4 Call the legislators office to make an appointment, stating what you are calling about, write a personal letter; be persistent.
- Step 5 Remember that form letters, postcards and petitions have little value. Personal contact is valuable. Know your legislator by name and make sure he/she knows yours. That is half the battle to getting an appointment.
- Step 6 Once you have established contact: Find out what can realistically be accomplished, be brief and concise, if you are representing a group let that be known, know the bill # if that is what your contact is about, leave a copy of the League position if that is who you represent, follow up on your visit with a thank you and send more information if it has been requested.
- Step 7 Stay in touch with them so they know of your continued interest.

The League used to publish a guide with all the names and information on the elected official but has discontinued that. However the Chamber of Commerce does provide similar and current information now. National League publishes a "Guide for Citizen Action" with all the names of the elected officials in the House and Senate and the committee members.

Annexation Committee Welcomes One and All —submitted by **Mary Ann Bradford**

With the permission of the Board of Directors to continue our educational activities through next Fall, the Annexation Committee has revised its calendar as follows:

- January 4 Comt. meets after Tuesday Topics at Library to set up program for Feb. VOICE meeting using Part 1 of Voter article, eliciting members reasons for and against annexation; reviewing maps of proposed annexation areas.
- Feb. 17 VOICE meeting at McFarland's Restaurant from 5:30 to 7:30 Order from the menu.
- March 1 Comt. meets after Tuesday Topics to arrange program for VOICE meeting using Part II of Voter articles.

- March 17 VOICE meeting at McFarland's
- May 3 Tuesday Topics: Annex. Comt. panel re Part III Voter article
- June & July Comt. prepares and develops final draft of proposed statement of position
- Aug. 9 Bd. of Directors. accepts proposed position for Sept VOTER
- Sept 6 Tuesday Topics: Concurrence with proposed statement of position and adoption.

This is an excellent time for any member to join the committee as we begin full discussion of information and exploration of needed changes in annexation procedures. Contact Mary Ann Bradford at 354-1646 or ciao1@cox.net.

Important Information from LWVUS:

This came in a recent email from the president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (lww.org):

Follow Up On Your Provisional Ballot

If you cast a provisional ballot on Election Day, check with your election officials to see if your vote was counted. If not, find out why it was not counted, and see if you can solve the problem for future elections. Remind anyone you know who cast a provisional ballot to do the same. Need contact information on your state's election officials? Go to: <http://www.lww.org/voter/deadlines.cfm?pid=contacts>



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Tips On Telephoning:

To find your senators' and representative's phone numbers, you may use our searchable online congressional directory (<http://www.capwiz.com/lwv/dbq/officials/directory/directory.dbq?command=congrid>) or call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202)224-3121 and ask for your senators' and/or representative's office.

Remember that telephone calls are usually taken by a staff member, not the member of Congress. Ask to speak with the aide who handles the issue about which you wish to comment.

After identifying yourself, tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message, such as: "Please tell Senator/Representative (Name) that I support/oppose (S.____/H.R.____)."

You will also want to state reasons for your support or opposition to the bill. Ask for your senators' or representative's position on the bill. You may also request a written response to your telephone call.

Tips On Writing Congress:

The letter is the most popular choice of communication with a congressional office. If you decide to write a letter, this list of helpful suggestions will improve the effectiveness of the letter:

Your purpose for writing should be stated in the first paragraph of the letter. If your letter pertains to a specific piece of legislation, identify it accordingly, e.g., House bill: H. R. _____, Senate bill: S. _____.

Be courteous, to the point, and include key information, using examples to support your position.

Address only one issue in each letter; and, if possible, keep the letter to one page.

Addressing Correspondence:

To a Senator:
The Honorable (full name)
_____(Rm.#)____(name of)Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:
To a Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
_____(Rm.#)____(name of)House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

Note: When writing to the Chair of a Committee or the Speaker of the House, it is proper to address them as: Dear Mr. Chairman or Madam Chairwoman:
or Dear Mr. Speaker:

Mark Your Calendar: Thurs. Jan. 20
Joint VOICE meeting, McFarland's
 5:30 pm, Dinner, discussion to follow.

Calendar	1
Prez Sez	2
Tuesday Topics Reports	3 & 4
Local League Updates	5
Observer Reports	6-8
Other LWV News	8
Taking ACTION	9
Annexation Committee	10

Inside

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

January 2005
 Carol Yoho, Editor
 3013 SW Quail Creek Dr.
 Topeka KS 66614

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY
VOTER



Mark your Calendar: Annual Meeting, Sat., April 2. *Agenda/meeting details to be announced.*

Nominating committee is looking for members willing to serve on next year's Board. Board work is a great way to get to know League better, understand how it works, and make lasting friends with similar interests.
 Contact **Sue Gaither**, 267-0325, with suggestions.

New Year's Resolution:
Share your interests & talents with League.
— Volunteer!

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