



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

VOTER

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July 2005

5 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am
“Taking the Pulse of Health in Shawnee County”
by **Dr. Erik Mitchell, President of the Shawnee County Medical Society**
Our meal is Chicken Salad Croissant, pasta salad, carrot cake, water, tea and coffee.



12 LWVT/SC Board Meeting - Members welcome
Noon, O’Dooley’s, 1930 Westport Dr. (north of Petsmart on Westport Dr.)

August 2005

2 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am
“Planning for the Future of Topeka/Shawnee County” by **Ramon Powers**
Our meal is fruit plate with chicken salad, rolls & butter, pie, water and tea and coffee.

9 LWVT/SC Board Meeting - Members welcome
Noon, O’Dooley’s, 1930 Westport Dr. (north of Petsmart on Westport Dr.)

16 Membership Event - 5:30 pm, Pepper Tree Clubhouse
All members and potential members welcome. See details, p.11



July and August Tuesday Topics

July and August 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. Checks payable to the Millennium Cafe.

If you need a ride to any League event, contact Betsy Rohleder.



PreZ SeZ...

May 2005

Consolidation Questions

This is a very interesting and exciting time in Topeka/Shawnee County. The city is moving forward with finding and hiring a professional city manager, albeit, very slowly to the outside observer. The Governor has appointed the state level commission to study the prospect of unifying the city and the county. Two years ago could any of us have thought that either of these actions would ever take place?

It is my belief that neither of these events would be taking place if the League of Women Voters of Topeka/Shawnee County had not taken an interest in both issues. Having studied the efficacy of both, LWVT/SC had a position formulated upon which we could take a stand. We could advocate for both and did.

In November, 2003, we invited the City Council and the County Commission members to dinner where the speakers were from unified Kansas City/Wyandotte County. We published the information given that night and provided it to all the officials who were absent, as well as other civic leaders who would be interested.

As you may recall, we testified and actively campaigned in cooperation with a Chamber of Commerce Committee for the City Manager/Council form of government for Topeka. It became a ballot issue and passed.

Members of LWVT/SC can be extremely proud of these accomplishments but we must not rest on our laurels. We must continue our interest and involvement in both issues. We must express our continued interest to our Council person and County Commissioner. We are proud to say that Nancy Kindling was chosen to serve on the Advisory Committee to the Consolidation Commission. I testified in behalf of LWVT/SC at

the Consolidation Commission meeting on May 31, 2005. I spoke in support of unification of the city and county governments. Please respond, if you have not already done so, to the questionnaire that the Consolidation Commission has on their web site, www.cctksc.org/public_info_form.shtml, and that Nancy has supplied to League members with e-mail capability.

Remember to stand up and speak out for good government!

—Jan Waide

League of Women Voters T-SC

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Photo by Carol Yoho

Tuesday Topics, May & June

“Moving Toward Concurrence on Annexation” —*May*

Panelists for our discussion on Annexation were **Dr. Allyn Lockner, Jan Waide, and Mary Ann Bradford, and Nancy Kindling**, who took notes. Her report will appear in the September VOTER, to be delivered to members at the end of August, in preparation for our September Tuesday Topics meeting. We hope to reach concurrence on this topic at that time. 🍷



Left: Allyn Lockner
Below: Allyn Lockner, Mary Ann Brandford, Nancy Kindling, Jan Waide



“2005 Legislative Wrap Up” —*June*

Don Moler is Executive director of the Kansas League of Municipalities. **Judy Moler**, in addition to her duties as LWV board member, works with the Kansas Association of Counties, serving as Legislative services Director and General Council. As a team the Molers discussed the 2005 Legislative session at our June Tuesday Topics meeting.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS—

SB 298 amends the Liquor Control Act effective Nov. 15, 2005. This law makes the act uniform to prohibit chartering out of the act after the November date. The bill would prohibit Sunday sales after November 15 unless a resolution is adopted to allow such sales. A protest petition is allowed to cause an election which could reverse the county or city's action. The bill also allows for sale of cereal malt beverage on Sunday as part of the resolution.

CORRECTIONS/JUVENILE JUSTICE—

HB 2387 changes the investigation required when an inmate dies. Formerly a KBI investigation was required when a death of a prisoner was reported. This law does not require KBI investigation when the death is natural, as determined by an autopsy.

In addition, HB 2387 requires the State to pay for the cost of medical care and treatment of a prisoner who



Left: Don & Judy Moler

is injured while in the custody of a law enforcement officer of the state and the prisoner is determined to have no other resources.

FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS—

House Sub for SB 77 makes racial profiling unlawful. Racial profiling is defined as the practice of a law enforcement officer relying on race, ethnicity, natural origin, gender or religious dress as the sole factor in an investigation.

House Sub for SB 195 restricts cities and counties from adopting ordinance/resolutions or regulations which would govern the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, storage or transporting of a firearm other than those authorized by state statute.

HEALTH—

HB 2264, supported by the KAC, updates quarantine and isolations laws. It lays out the responsibilities of local health officers and the

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Secretary of Health and Environment during an event requiring quarantine or isolation. In addition, the law provides due process protections for individuals who are ordered into quarantine or isolation.

House Sub for SB 272 creates the Kansas Health Policy Authority, transfers responsibilities from SRS and H & E to the new Authority and transfers certain powers and duties from the Sec. of SRS to a new Division of Health Care Policy and Finance within DOA for an interim. Creates position of the Director of Health Policy and Finance.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT—

SB 24 adds to unilateral annexation statutes additional factors to be considered by court when reviewing annexation decisions.

SB 78 extends for five years the 240-plus exemptions that were scheduled to sunset July 1, 2005. The bill clarifies that the personal records open to examination include public agency contracts and agreements. The bill requires county/district attorneys to report to the Attorney General all open records and complaints received by his/her office in the preceding year. The bill also defines “clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” In addition, this bill amends the Kansas Open Records Act, the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and exemptions for security reasons.

HB 2026 requires VoIP service providers to direct 9-1-1 calls to the appropriate PSAP when an emergency call is received from a customer. The bill prohibits distribution of revenue collected under the Wireless E 9-1-1 legislation to PSAPs that are not

subdivisions of the state.

HB 2083 creates a consolidation commission for Topeka/Shawnee County. Of statewide interest, the bill amends the city unilateral annexation law dealing with the annexation of rights of way of any highways or land abutting the rights of way.

HB 2139 allows the Board of County Commissioners to appoint designees as fence viewers in order to settle disputes over placement, repair and maintenance of fences. However, the county commissioners will still have the final vote over the issue of fence viewing. The law also clarifies that a majority vote of the BOCC is necessary. The bill also creates a process for tie breaking when a fence is on a boundary.

HB 2309 allows for code courts in Crawford, Douglas, Franklin, Jefferson, Miami and Riley County. Heretofore, the law had allowed them only in counties with over 150,000 in population. Those four, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte, continue to retain the special court docket.

WORKERS COMPENSATION—

HB 2141 amends the Workers Compensation Act by establishing guidelines for the determination of whether the burden of proof needed to show that an employee had used, had possession of or was impaired by alcohol or drugs during work is met.

OTHER—

Judy stated that the streamlined sales tax is working to provide extra income for the state. Don made some brief comments concerning Eminent Domain.

Garage Sale 2005 Review *by Mary Ann Bradford*

Thanks to the help of twenty-four members, three of whom worked both Friday, the set up day, and Saturday, the sales day, the Garage Sale was a success. We are very thankful too for the other members who brought items to sell. For the most part, items were clean, appropriately priced and on hangers. Leftovers were given to the Goodwill Store this year where they had workers on Saturday to help unload our truck and SUV. The Sale netted **\$738.75**, an increase of \$93.95 over the amount of the 2004 sale.

The Bradford garage is available for another sale in 2006 but Larry and Mary Ann ask to be contributors and buyers of items rather than facilitators of the whole project. ***Start saving for May 2006.***



Board Briefs, May & June 2005

by Edith Bronson, LWVT-SC Secretary



May 2005

Seven board members met at noon at O'Dooley's, May 10. A consent agenda (approving in one motion minutes and written reports requiring no discussion) was put into practice.

Reports included a new MEMBER INFORMATION RECORD form, card sales of \$525, net worth of \$8165, and that coffee will be available at no extra charge at Tuesday Topics luncheons.

Sue Gaither will attend board meetings during Treasurer Sybil Weigman's summer absence.

Judy Moler will chair a committee to consider whether local nonpartisan policies need revision.

The board agreed that an auction at the August 16 membership event is an easy moneymaker.

Jan delegated Observer Corps recruitment to Gwen Elliott.

Jan will see if LWVUS and LWVK can e-mail their information directly to board members.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:58—after 53 minutes!



JUNE 2005

The board met during the noon hour at O'Dooleys with nine members present. The con-

sent agenda included the treasurer's report of \$8,747.50 in assets.

Betsy Rohleder will be in charge of the auction at the August 16 membership event at Pepper Tree Clubhouse. Auction items are requested.

Carol Yoho volunteered to design a website for LWVT-SC, citing need for electronic communication.

Observers are wanted for meetings of the County Commission, City Council and Topeka Public Schools. Call Gwen Elliott, 267-4037.

Gwen, co-chair of the LWVK Mental Health Committee, volunteered to chair the local study on Mental Health. Other members are Carol Jory, Joan Gabel and Dr. Lois Scibetta.

Copies of Public Record and Women in Action will be placed in the Library.

LWVT-SC is requesting that the bylaws for the LWVK Endowment Fund be made available to all Kansas Leagues.

After a lengthy discussion of meetings attended, documents read, and testimony heard, consensus was that some less-publicized consolidation issues are incompatible with the League position. Jan Waide, Betsy Rohleder and Mary Ann Bradford will draft questions to be presented to the Consolidation Committee.



\$5.00 for 5 packed and ready to give cards.

Reminder: We have printed notecards, blank inside, to sell as a fundraiser to keep our League's treasury healthy. **Betsy Rohleder** is keeping the inventory in her office so that anyone can stop in during regular hours to buy them. Call Betsy at 233-9262 or stop by her office at 618 S Kansas Ave. Betsy or Sara will be happy to get the cards for you. They can also be persuaded to deliver orders. So, get together with friends and call in your orders!

BUY YOURS NOW! Don't forget special occasions and thank you gifts to your friends and family.

Shawnee County Commission

April 6, 2005, by Jan Waide

Major discussion items all involved the City Council. The first revolved around the County's interest in taking over the management of the Cypress Ridge Golf Course, which has been a Topeka public golf course. The City is now proposing to turn it over to a private management company. Mr. John Knight, the County Parks and Recreation Director, believes that the citizens' interest is best served when it remains a public golf course. The County Commission will need to approve that idea before a letter can be sent to the City Council with the County's proposal.

The second issue was to reconsider the consolidation of Parks and Recreation with the city. They stated that the County Commission passed a resolution in favor of that consolidation 2 years ago. Vic Miller stated that he understood that there is "a move afoot" at the City Council to reconsider approving such a move.

April 21, 2005, by Jan Waide

Very little business was on the agenda this date. Marice Kane was absent.

They did discuss a zoning variance on S. Topeka Blvd. to accommodate a 2005 fireworks stand. The stand owner needed to get releases from affected neighbors before it could be granted.

May 5, 2005, by Jan Waide

The Commission approved the Consolidation of Parks and Recreation with the City's department.

Many residents testified against a proposal to vacate a portion of NW Valencia Rd. It is their belief that emergency vehicles will take extra time to respond to emergencies in the neighborhood and residents will be very inconvenienced due to longer routes to exit their locations. The Commission will not act until they actually view the area and road in question. That viewing will take place on 6-14-2005 at 10:00 am. The closure of the road is scheduled for late November or early December, 2005.

Comm. Miller proposed closing the snack bar operation in the basement of the Courthouse and replacing it with a lounge area with vending machines.

May 23, 2005, by Carol Jory

The purchase of an internet software filter device including three-year subscriber services was approved. The cost was over the budgeted amount. The County Treasurer volunteered to pay half of the cost out of his budget. The equipment will monitor and record employee internet activity.

The decorative stone landscape project (at the North Aquatic Center under construction) was rejected as too costly. Fourteen thousand dollars were budgeted and actual cost was going to run \$50,000.

There was a first reading of a use policy for county-owned vehicles. No joy riding allowed!

May 26, 2005, by Jan Waide

The Purchasing Director recommended an upgrade of the county's Sam's Club membership. The upgrade would provide one card on file in Sam's Club at the desk for all County departments to use. The cost would be \$100.00 and the 2% rebate would go to the County Treasury. The District Attorneys office wants their own Sam's card at a cost of \$30.00 and the 2% would be returned to their office. Further discussion will be held with the District Attorney.

Rich Eckert, County Counselor, and Neil Dobler, acting City Manager, are working on a plan for the consolidation of Parks and Rec. departments. There is a report on same from 1994 that can be updated and can then be helpful. Formation of a budget by August is critical. They are also working on an organizational chart combining city and county staffs. They will be inviting a representative of the city to every Thursday meeting when they report on the progress.

June 9, 2005, by Jan Waide

Mr. Flagler of Flagler Construction Co. appeared requesting two variances to County Code to allow construction of a facility for his company on land owned by his family for a very long time at Menoken Rd. and Hiway 24. Mr. Flagler is caught between city and county rules due to the need for the platting of the property. Neither governing body will suspend their rules for platting.

The city won't plat if it cannot be annexed. It would have to be an island annexation. The city water and sewer already exist on the property but the owner

can't hook to it until it is annexed by the city. The owner does not particularly want to be annexed into the city. The Planning Director for the city has agreed to accept county plats if they don't hook up to sewer and water. Mr. Flagler will go to the expense of putting in a septic tank system for minimal use.

The land is already zoned light industrial. The building he wants to erect on the land is already delivered (in pieces) to the land. So Comm. Miller moved and Comm. Ensly seconded that the county grant the two variances needed for Mr. Flagler to move forward. Comm. Kane opposed.

Report on Consolidation of Parks and Recreation Depts.

John Knight reported that talks were moving along well. Currently they have removed all names from the org. charts and are working to eliminate duplicative positions. They are looking at administrative and supervisory positions first which results in reduction of costs.

#1 Issue: Maintenance of vehicles. They do not agree. City uses fleet management on all city vehicles. Mr. Knight believes county shops will be faster, especially on golf course equipment. Comm. Miller likes fleet maintenance. County Parks and Rec. have their own mechanics. The Director (Mr. Knight) wants to keep it that way.

#2 Issue: Use of the forestry dept. The city maintains street parkings as well as the city parks. Thirty percent of their time is spent on street trees. It is hard to break it all out. The city maintains a lot of land that is not in a park. City wants to move it all to the Consolidated Dept.. Comm. Miller says to do only parks as defined by deeds, etc.

#3 Issue: Mr. Singer, Director of Information and Technology for the County, is looking at *IT systems* with his city counterpart. They are trying to take the best from both worlds for the new consolidated department. The Web page for the city is wonderful on sports and other activity schedules and will be retained. The consolidated department may rent from the city until space can be found for all of them in county offices. 🍷

City Council

April 21, 2005, by Cathy Callen

I attended my first City Council meeting this evening. The Mayor and all City Council Members were in attendance. There were about 15 people in the audience. The meeting started promptly at 7:00 and ended around 8:20. Apparently there is now a "pre-meeting" which occurs prior to the actual council meeting. This meeting hammers out the agenda and has the purpose of making the City Council meetings more efficient.

A resolution was passed, after much discussion, to include the Mayor as a non-voting member of the Council budget committee. An agreement was approved defining the terms of the city's employment of Neil Dobler as Acting City Manager. An ordinance was passed without public comment concerning a loan agreement with the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund. Zoning petitions and ordinances were passed in regards to the Misty Harbor Estates and the Monarch Meadows subdivisions making those areas zoned now for Single Family Dwellings. Another zoning petition and ordinance was passed, (6-3) after some disagreement, regarding a piece of property at 2201 Gage; it is now zoned for Planned Unit Development.

In New Business, a resolution was introduced to create a Parks and Open Space Task Force. Another resolution was introduced requesting an amendment to the Parks and Open Space Plan. A community member spoke to this issue, stating there had been very little improvement in this area in the last 20-30 years.

Other business included setting up interviews on May 11, 12 and 13 to begin meeting with city manager companies; the need for developing a set of standard interview questions was discussed. City/County consolidation was discussed; both will share in the costs incurred by a consolidation committee.

Ellen Ross spoke in favor of a tool-lending library; money was needed for a salaried position, as it isn't working to have an all-volunteer library. Tools are in need of repair, new tools are needed, some tools aren't returned. "If we want a clean city, we need to make tools available."

A citizen spoke out against the

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tethering ordinance passed requiring owners to limit the time dogs are tethered. He felt the message was that it was more important to protect dogs than people. He asked for a repeal of the ordinance. The Council recommended he join the local Neighborhood Improvement Association.

April 21, 2005, by Cathy Callen

The weekly meeting of the Topeka City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor and all City Council members were in attendance. Approximately 25 citizens were in the audience.

Following the invocation and pledge of allegiance, the consent agenda was adopted, with the exception of an expenditure ordinance approving city expenses for May 9-15, which was deferred for two weeks.

A major topic of discussion involved a project to provide city water to an area around Lake Shawnee, which is not within the city limits. Although those residents would pay a higher monthly utility fee, the question was whether the city should be making it easy for non-residents to obtain services. The thought was that the city should annex the area before providing water service. Two citizens spoke out against providing the service. However, it passed by an 8-2 vote.

Another topic which provoked lengthy discussion was the future of the City of Topeka Planning Commission. There was disagreement among council members about the number of persons to be on the commission, how they would be appointed, and what qualifications they would need to have. At least seven citizens spoke to the issue. Clark Duffy spoke at length about the restrictions, fearing that virtually no one would be eligible under the new guidelines. It was finally passed (5-4) to change it from a 12-member to a 9-member commission and to require that at least some of the members have qualifications.

A resolution was introduced by City Manager Neil Dobler describing the target areas within Topeka to be considered priorities for improvement and to be considered for funding allocations in the 2006 budget. Only 5 of the 18 neighborhood associations had turned in proposals for city support. Those five were prioritized, with the Hi-Crest neighborhood association being commended for the hard work put into their proposal, and rated as the highest priority for

funding. Twelve citizens spoke in favor of the Hi-Crest proposal for funding allocations in the 2006 budget. There are plans for single family homes (using a private developer and a combination of funding sources), sidewalks and general clean-up and repair.

I left the meeting at 9:45 p.m. At that time, reports of committees, a report from the city manager, presentations by members of the council, and public communications remained on the agenda.

June 7, 2005, by Joe D. Sargent

The Topeka City Council meeting on 6/7/05 had to be moved from the council's chambers because of the lack of air-conditioning. The council met in an air-conditioned room in the basement of the Topeka Performing Arts Center. Instead of the council's usual configuration for conducting business, the council members, the mayor, and the city staff sat behind a single line of tables, probably 30 to 40 feet in length. There was only one microphone in use and that was reserved for Mayor Bunten. Consequently, communication was difficult from one end to the other end of the tables. Voting was done by a show of hands and at times this led to confusion in tallying the vote. In fact, two votes taken on one motion had two different counts.

Much debate occurred around four measures proposed by Councilman Blackburn. One of these created a municipal service area within Topeka's three-mile extra territorial jurisdiction and passed seven to two. Another proposal limiting the extension of Topeka's building code and permit process to the municipal service area passed seven to two. An ordinance regarding water service to property owners outside Topeka passed five to four; it repealed the need for an area to be annexed before receiving water services and changed the wording to consent to annexation. Another ordinance that would rescind the need to agree to annexation before receiving sewer service and changed to consent to annexation failed five to four. Blackburn's reasons for these four changes in ordinances agreed upon by a previous city council was that potential growth on the city's edges was thwarted by the need for annexation to occur prior to the provision of city services. 🍷

LWV National Council Meeting Report, by Carol Yoho

I would like to thank our local League for sending me to the National Council meeting in Washington D.C., June 11-13. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet other local and national League members, network, learn about the inner operations of League, hear fantastic speakers, and to pick up some tips on "Engaging Your Community," this year's theme.

State president Janis McMillan and Doris Slocombe of Emporia also attended from Kansas.

Sunday evening's speaker was **David Gergen**, a professor of public service at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. In earlier years, he served as a White House advisor to Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton. At Council he autographed copies of his current book, *Eyewitness to Power*.

Gergen felt the power of the judicial branch of our government must be preserved as a balance to the legislative and administrative branches. He said no president since William McKinley (1897-1901) has accumulated as much partisan power as George W. Bush. Legislators once argued within the halls of Congress, but could still socialize together in the evenings. Now politicians are completely polarized. He reminded listeners that the political pendulum swings between liberalism to conservatism. He feels that government has swung far right and should start to swing the other direction soon.

A panel of experts on Monday focused on "**Civil Liberties: Balancing Liberty and Security.**" Panelists were **Joseph Onek**, Director, Liberty and Security Initiative, the Constitution Project (moderator); **Rick Blum**, Director, Freedom of Information Project; **Bert Brandenburg**, Executive Director, Justice at Stake; **Kareem Shora**, Director, Legal Policy, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; and **Michele Waslin**, Director, Immigration Policy Research, National Council of La Raza. Comments were directed at the impact of the Patriot Act on civil liberties. All were concerned about loss of individual freedoms, especially to minorities and emigrants (including illegal aliens), including concerns about racial profiling.

Onek, the panel's moderator, like David Gergen on Sunday evening, stressed a *balance* is needed among the three branches of government, with the need for strong judges that will not bow to the will of Congress or the President. All panelists gave excellent real-life examples of ways the Patriot Act has nega-

tively impacted their constituent groups. They would like to see minority and alien rights protected to the degree that such groups feel comfortable working with law enforcement in monitoring their own communities. Rich Blum feels that government secrecy has overwhelmed the public's right to know. All panelist encouraged investigative reporting, and reminded listeners that the constitution was written to protect the rights of the individual. Those rights are worth fighting government to protect.



Monday afternoon's session, "**Election Reform in the States**" consisted of a panel of state League members. Each state treats voter registration and polling differently. Each state chooses its own procedures for enforcing the national Help America Vote Act—differing on how to register voters and which documents constitute proper personal identification when registering or voting. North Dakota does not even register voters, pre-election. Voters just come to the polls show I.D., then vote! Two web sites were recommended as good places to go for voting rights information: National Council of State Legislatures (www.ncsl.org) and the Election Reform Information Project (www.electionline.org).

I also learned a great deal about the inner workings of both national and state Leagues. For example, we previewed a newly re-organized national web site, to be launched soon. Efforts are being made to make the site logical, attractive, and thorough.

I also squeezed in some sightseeing, making a point to visit places new since my last visit to the nation's capital, including the **WWII Memorial** on the Mall and the **National Museum of the American Indian**. I invite League members to view my photos online, linked from www.ksheartland.us.

LWVK President's Notes to Local Leagues *by Janis McMillan*

- It was exciting and gratifying to see so many of our members at State Convention last month! All 8 Leagues were represented, with 55 voting delegates and 13 non-voting members and visitors. We were particularly pleased that Marlys Robertson, LWVUS liaison, was able to join us! Thanks to the Salina League members for a terrific job of organizing the Convention! I feel very honored to be serving a 2nd term as your state president, and I look forward to an exciting and productive next two years.
- Welcome to our new Local League Presidents:
Great Bend - Pam Hyde; **Johnson County** – Pat Lanser; **Lawrence/Douglas County** – Carrie Lindsey; **Salina** – Gina McDonald; **Topeka/Shawnee County** – Jan Waide; **Wichita Metro** – Ernestine Krehbiel and Betty Ladwig
- Thanks to Kay Calvert, **Emporia**, and Karen McCulloh, **Manhattan** for continuing to serve your local Leagues as President for a 2nd year.
- The new State League Directory will be published and distributed in late June.
- The new state League website is up and running now and can be accessed at <http://lwvk.org>.
- Liz Smith of the Lawrence League will be chairing the state study on Mental Health. She will be contacting each League soon asking for representatives from your League to serve on the State committee. I hope all of you will have at least one person interested in participating.
- The first State Board meeting for the 2005-2006 year is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, beginning at 10 am. It will be held at the State League office, 618 S. Kansas Ave. in Topeka. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings. You are also encouraged to contact any of the State Board members if you have issues you would like the Board to consider.
- On Wednesday, May 11, I attended the Supreme Court hearing on the School Finance lawsuit. Attorneys defending the legislative position argued that the provisions of HB 2247 meet the mandates of the Supreme Court's January 05 ruling. After almost three hours of questioning and arguing, it was clear that the Court felt at least one of their mandates, to develop a comprehensive funding plan based on known actual costs, had not been fulfilled by the legislature. It was a very interactive process, one that I found both fascinating and educational!

LWVUS News: _____

Dear Friends,

The protection of our civil liberties is a priority for the League; it is one of the cornerstones of our Democracy Agenda. This month, we have worked to preserve our basic liberties through both education and advocacy. We pushed for support of the SAFE (Security and Freedom Ensured) Act in the U.S. House of Representatives through visits from the Lobby Corps and letters. **Our Local Voices: Citizen conversations on Civil Liberties and**

Secure Communities project continues to move forward—the first forums will take place the first week in June. Civil liberties are vital to our democracy, and we must continue our leadership in protecting them!

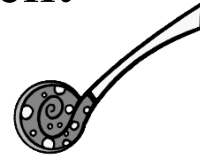
Kay J. Maxwell
President, LWVUS

AN INVITATION



Membership Event

Tuesday Aug. 16, 2005
5:30 PM
Pepper Tree Clubhouse



This is our summer membership event. Please use this event as an opportunity to socialize with other members and to invite guests who are like-minded community members and who may want to become members of the League. We would like all new members to attend. It's a great way to meet the regular and active members of the League.

We will have food, drink, and continuing in the tradition that has been established, we will have an **auction** of quality items that will be donated and prized by those who are fortunate enough to offer the highest bid. Art, jewelry, books by and about women, unique items from members and anything related to League of Women Voters have been good auction items in the past. We always have a

great time and funds that are raised help keep the member dues from being raised. **If you have items** of high quality that you would like to donate for this event, please contact **Betsy Rohleder, (785) 357-1995** or **(785) 233-9262**, e-mail brohleder@cjnet-works.com.

We would like your reservations for this event by **August 12th**, and we would like the names and addresses of any guests that will be attending with you. Reservations can be made by contacting **Nancy Whiffen, (785) 235-2104**, or e-mail twowhiffs@cox.net.

Come prepared to have a wonderful time with old and new League friends.

We will look forward to seeing you there!

The People Speak 2005

The League has partnered for the third year with The People Speak. This year's discussions will focus on "Building a Safer World: Can America and the UN Work Together?" Participants will address this theme in one of four areas: Poverty, Hunger, and Health; War and Conflict; Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism; or the Environment. These forums will run from September 1 to November 30, 2005.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"So long as we have enough people in this country willing to fight for their rights, we'll be called a democracy." -- **Roger Baldwin**



The June 2005 issue of the National Voter has been mailed! Highlights include a cover story on redistricting reform and articles on social security, the role of 527s in campaign finance reform and emerging issues in election reform.

VOTER, July/August 2005:

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CAROL YOHO, EDITOR
 3013 SW QUAIL CREEK DR
 TOPEKA KS 66614-4131

Coming: Annexation Issue:
Concurrence Discussion, Sept. Tuesday Topics

Buy Note cards!
 See p. 5



Membership Event
 Tuesday, August 16, 2005, 5:30 PM

Includes fundraising AUCTION!

Pepper Tree Clubhouse
 R.S.V.P. to Nancy Whiffen, (785) 235-2104, twowhitts@cox.net, by Aug. 12th

Read details on page 11!

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