



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

VOTER

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

Membership: Patty Pressman
4115 SW Eagle Point
785-478-6836 (h)

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

March 2005

1 *Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am*
Speaker: **Craig Weinaug**, Douglas County Administrator,
“**The Role of County Administrator and City Manager**”
Our meal is Beef stew, rolls with butter, carrot cake, water and tea.

9 *LWVT/SC Board Meeting - Members welcome*
5:30 pm, O’Douley’s, 1930 Westport dr. (north of Petsmart on Westport Dr.)
Stay and eat after, if you’d like. Also, VOTER materials are due. Please e-mail
or mail to Carol Yoho. E-mail: cyoho@cox.net

11 *State Day at the Capitol - for information contact Lisa at
the state office, 234-5152.* Register by Friday, March 5.

17 *Joint VOICE Meetings - 5:30 pm, McFarland’s Restaurant, Gage
Center. Dinner from menu - 6:15 pm, Discussion. Subject is Annexation*

April 2005

2 *Annual Meeting - 9:30 am, Bill Lucero, “The Death Penalty
in Kansas”* Centennial Breakfast, \$5.00 per person.

5 *Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am* Details in April VOTER.

Tuesday Topics

March 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...

March 2005

It was with great interest that I read this month's "Out Front" by our LWVUS leader, Kay Maxwell. She outlined the "lessons learned" from the Election Day 2004 efforts and encouraged each member to remember that the work of the League is not over. She said "If we are to continue to make democracy work by serving as a voice for citizens and a force for change, each of us must focus on increasing League membership."

Our local League has a pretty fair record of replacing, in numbers, those who move, transfer or die. Now we must broaden our goals and INCREASE membership and let our long time members train new members. We have great visibility and credibility...we need to grow on those two strengths. As Kay says, "The time is now!"

With that I challenge each of you to bring a new or new-er member with you to Tuesday Topics, to VOICE meetings, and to go out of your way to call them to join you when you are conducting committee meetings or observing our governmental entities. What would you put on your list of personal accomplishments related to your League participation in 2005? Have you made those welcome calls to others, have you studied the Annexation or Juvenile Justice information, have you volunteered to assist the League in some way this year? Small or large, we count on each member to do her/his part in keeping our organization strong and viable.

A special thanks to...

- Janis McMillan, our State President, for keeping us informed and up to date on all State activities. It is not an easy job! It has been a pleasure having the State office sharing space with our company. I have gained a new appreciation of the work that each State board member does.

- Mary Ann Bradford for continuing to keep me on track AND volunteering once again to buoy up and

represent our League at the state level.

- All study committee members. The information that you have gathered and the VOICE meeting preparations are much appreciated, but rarely do we thank you.

- Each person who has re-joined or newly joined the Public Health committee—it has been working hard behind the scenes and your efforts have not gone un-noticed. If you are interested in Public Health, please contact them soon!

And, for each of us a gentle reminder: We have two elections coming up soon! Please stay informed and educate others on not only the candidates running for City positions but for the very important City Question on the ballot on March 1. Remember that our League has a strong history and position against discrimination of any sort, but especially in the arena of jobs, education and housing. The question will be phrased differently on the State ballot, so I encourage each of us to be the best League members possible in educating our friends, relatives and co-workers to be informed and conscientious voters.

— *Betsy Rohleder*

Note:

Betsy wrote a statement of support concerning protecting minorities from discrimination by the city in their hiring practices by defeating a ballot question posed in Topeka's March 1st election. **See p. 4 of this Voter** for one version of Betsy's Op-Ed. She urges members to write letters of their own to the editorial sections of the *Topeka Capital-Journal* and *Metro News* in support of a NO vote on this issue.

Included on p.4 is the exact wording of the issue as it will be presented on the March 1st ballot.

Tuesday Topics Report, February 1, 2005

“The Status of Health in Shawnee County”

Debby McArdle, Community Health Center Director

Alice Weingartner, Community Preparedness and Outreach Director

Debby McArdle reminded us that Shawnee County organized its first health agency in 1866, prior to developing either a police department or fire department, showing an early emphasis placed on public health. Currently there are four Primary Care Centers in four separate areas of the city. Dr. Larry Rumans is their medical consultant. He is an infectious disease doctor.

The mission of the Agency is to provide services to the entire community that promote healthy lifestyles; prevent injury and disability; and protect against environmental hazards, accomplished through a wide spectrum of programs that assure accessible and high quality health services.

The Agency has 182 employees and uses 52% of the county's budget at \$9.6 million. There are seven care providers, three advanced registered nurse practitioners, one nurse in family planning, and one midwife.



The Agency goal in 2005 is to expand mental health services.

Services focus on those with low incomes and the underinsured. Of clients, 16% are Medicaid, 67% uninsured, 5% Medicare, and 12% in other situations.

Debby's PowerPoint presentation shared information about the many programs managed by the Agency. These include: family planning, prenatal care, maternal & child health services, primary care, communicable disease program, administrative services, adult field studies (home health services and services for the frail elderly and chronically ill), and environmental health services (child care, food safety, on-site sewage disposal, water quality control, rabies quarantine, nuisance management, lead prevention program).

Alice Weingartner explained that, after 9-11-2001,



Debbie McGartle & Alice Weingartner

the Agency received emergency planning monies to fight bio-terrorism--\$50,000 in federal funding for three years to organize local volunteers. They have five employees. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Program includes Community Outreach, Surveillance, and Medical

Response Corps. In addition, the program offers outreach: news releases, brochures promoting the program, staff for tables at public gatherings, management of the Medical Response Corps (a group of local health services volunteers), and developing emergency preparedness training.

One project of the Corps was to build Personal Protection Equipment kits for city police officers to carry in the trunks of patrol cars.

A practice emergency is planned for later this month, testing contact and response time in preparation for a hypothetical emergency.

In Northeast Kansas our program has grouped with 15 other county emergency preparedness agencies who pool resources, as necessary.

The Agency goal in 2005 is to expand mental health services.

In 2004 the Agency received \$125,000 toward providing dental services, but returned funds because a) a donation of dental equipment fell through and b) enough space for the new program could not be found. It is their hope to renew efforts in providing dental services in the future, however.

The Agency's medical officer position is currently unfilled. The duties of the medical officer include 80% care and 20% administration. Two officers came and went quickly from the program. The position is not currently filled, but applications are being accepted, with interviews to be scheduled later this month.

The Agency currently needs more space and more participating providers. Currently, a new patient has an approximate three-week wait before being seen for the first time. Staff is looking for grant monies to expand walk-in clinics. The current fail rate (scheduled appointments for which the patient does not show up) is 30%, which is too high a percentage. Effort needs to be focused on lowering the rate.

—continued on p. 4

Topeka's Marion Clinic serves the same population, except Marion Clinic usually does not work with Medicaid patients and they have a dental program. Shawnee County Health Agency tries to work closely with Marion Clinic and not duplicate efforts.

Health Access Program of Topeka seeks the support of local physicians as volunteer providers. Many local physicians participate. The Agency takes 60% of HAP clients and funds from the program help pay for specialists for patients needing advanced care.



OP-ED, by Betsy Rohleder

On the March 1st primary election ballot, Topekans will be asked to vote on an issue that would prohibit the city from protecting minorities in hiring practices for employment in city government.

In November of 2004 the City Council voted 5-4 to pass an ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by the city of Topeka. The ordinance did not apply to hiring practices by other businesses in Topeka. The City Council has chosen not to repeal the ordinance. The Phelps family and the Westboro Baptist Church led a petition drive to put the issue before the public for a vote. A successful petition drive ensued. To be on the ballot a minimum of 3,709 verified signatures were needed. The issue is now on the ballot.

A vote NO would allow the current ordinance to stand as passed by the council, in effect letting our elected council members make the decision for their constituents. In a democracy where the majority is in control, the majority has a responsibility, if not a distinct obligation, to protect the rights of all minority groups.

A vote for the ballot issue would not only repeal the hiring practices within the ordinance but also repeal a hate crimes ordinance that the city council passed in 2002. It would also prohibit the City of Topeka and its various Boards and Commissions (the City Council included) from enacting any ordinance which provides or protects rights based on "homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual orientation or gender identity or expression..." for 10 years in the future.

The League of Women Voters has had a basic nondiscriminatory policy for many years. We live in a diverse society and all citizens should be allowed participation in all aspects of life. Inclusiveness enhances a community's ability to respond more

effectively to changing conditions and needs.

Please read carefully the ballot issue before or when you vote in the March 1st primary. Based upon its principles and position the League of Women Voters of Topeka Shawnee County urges you to VOTE NO.

EXACT Wording: Mar. 1st Topeka Ballot Issue

Be it ordained by the governing body of the City of Topeka:

The City of Topeka and its various Boards and Commissions may not enact, adopt, enforce or administer any ordinance, regulation, rule or policy which provides that homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation or gender identity or expression; status, conduct, quota preference, or other preferential treatment.

This provision of the City Code shall in all respects be self-executing. Any ordinance, regulation, rule or policy enacted before this provision is adopted that violates the foregoing prohibition shall be null and void and of not force or effect.

League of Women Voters T-SC

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

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

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

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

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

Nominating Committee
Sue Gaither, Chair
suebeegee2@aol.com
267-0325

Send address changes to:
Sybil Wiegman, Treasurer
2805 SW Tall Grass Dr.
66614-6026
478-1679



Shawnee County: REGULARLY SCHEDULED ELECTIONS

Feb. 9 th Wed.	Advance Voting ballots will be mailed KSA 25-1123(a)
Feb. 14 th Mon.	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE KSA 25-2311(a)(4)
Feb. 15 th	Tues. Advance Voting in the office begins KSA 25-1123(a)
Feb. 21 st Mon.	Advance Voting hrs. extended, this week only, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Topeka City candidates only - campaign finance reports due G.E.C. KSA 25-4148(a)(1) Affidavit of Exemption due KSA 25-904(a)
Feb. 22 nd Tues.	Public test of Accu-Vote equipment begins at 8:30 a.m. KSA 25-4610(b)
Feb. 25 th	Fri. Last day Advance Voting hours extended, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Last day to mail ballots from the election office KSA 25-1122(b)(3)
Feb. 28 th Mon.	NOON deadline for advance voting in the election office KSA 25-1122(c) Office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Candidates remove signs within 250 ft. of entrance of voting places KSA 25-2430
MARCH 1 st Tues.	PRIMARY ELECTION DAY KSA 25-2102(b) & 2010 7:00 a.m. Polls open - 7:00 p.m. Polls close KSA 25-2111 Advance voted ballots must be returned to the Election Office by 7:00 p.m. KSA 25-1124(c)
Mar. 2 nd Wed.	Registration books re-open KSA 25-2311
Mar. 4 th Fri.	County Board of Canvassers meets at 9:00 a.m. in Election Office KSA 25-3104

GENERAL ELECTION

Mar. 16 th	Wed. Advance Voting ballots will be mailed KSA 25-1123(a)
Mar. 21 st Mon.	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE KSA 25-2311(a)(5)
Mar. 22 nd Tues.	Advance Voting in the office begins KSA 25-1123(a)
Mar. 28 th Mon.	Advance Voting hrs. extended, this week only, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Topeka City candidates only - campaign finance reports due G.E.C. KSA 25-4148(a)(2)
Mar. 29 th Tues.	Public test of Accu-Vote equipment begins 8:30 a.m. KSA 25-4610(b)
Mar. 31 st Thurs.	Primary Election expenditures & receipts report due KSA 25-904(b)
Apr. 1 st Fri.	Last day Advance Voting hours extended, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Last day to mail ballots from the election office KSA 25-1122(b)(4)
Apr. 4 th Mon.	NOON deadline for advance voting in the election office KSA 25-1122(8)c Candidates remove signs within 250 ft. of entrance of voting places KSA 25-2430
APRIL 5 th Tues.	GENERAL ELECTION DAY KSA 25-2107 & 2010 7:00 a.m. Polls open - 7:00 p.m. Polls close KSA 25-2111 Advance voted ballots must be returned to the Election Office by 7:00 p.m. KSA 25-1124(c)
Apr. 6 th Wed.	Registration books re-open KSA 25-2311

—from http://www.co.shawnee.ks.us/Election/Elec_Cal05.shtm

**80th Annual Meeting of the
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOPEKA-SHAWNEE COUNTY, KS
April 2, 2005
Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library**

- 9:00 AM **Continental breakfast and social**
9:30 AM **Speaker - Mr Bill Lucero**
10:30 AM **Order of Business** - Call to order and Greetings from the President

Organization of Annual Meeting

- Announcement of the Parliamentarian
- Announcement of Members of the Committee to Approve the Minutes of 4/2/05
- Report of Attendance by the Secretary
- Presentation and Adoption of Order of Business

Reports of Officers, Directors and Standing and Special Committees

- President's Report of Yearly Activities
- Introduction of and Reports from Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs
- Treasurer's Annual Report and Auditor's Report for FY 2004-05

New Business

- Presentation and Adoption of Proposed Budget for FY 2005-06
- Presentation of Recommended Program (see local positions in Yearbook)
- Discussion and Vote on Recommended Program
- Presentation of Non-Recommended Program Items
- Discussion and Vote on Non Recommended Program Items
- Final Adoption of Program: Debate and Vote on Program
- Nomination and Election of Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee
- Recognition of Retiring and New board Members

Directions to the Board

Announcements

- 11:45 AM **Adjournment**
-

**PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR 2005-2006
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOPEKA-SHAWNEE COUNTY, KS**

Retain the following program items:

- Child care
- Economic Development
- Local Government: City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Financing Local Government
- Housing
- Land Use, Planning & Zoning
- Public Health Care in Shawnee County
- Shawnee County Schools
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Management

Study: Continue Annexation study with concurrence in winter 2005.

Advocacy: Implementation of Council/City Manager form of government in Topeka
Consolidation of Topeka and Shawnee County governments

**Slate of Officers Nominations 2005
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOPEKA-SHAWNEE COUNTY, KS**

Reported by a member of the Nominating Committee

Committee Members 2004-2005:

Sue Gaither, Chair, Winnie Crapson, Lucy Demonchaux

President-Elect	no candidate	2005-2007
Vice President	Gwen Elliott	2005-2007
Secretary	no candidate	2005-2007
Treasurer	Sybil Wiegman	2005-2007
Director, 2 yrs	Edith Bronson	2005-2007
Director, 2 years	Pat Stinson	2005-2007
Director, 2 yrs	Nancy Whiffen	2005-2007
Nominating Chairman	Charlotte Adair	2005-2006
Committee Members	Sue Gaither	2005-2006
	Jan Jaquith	2005-2006

LWV of Topeka/Shawnee County Budget 4/1/05-3/31/06

Category Description	Actual 12/28/04	Budget 4/1/04-3/31/05	Proposed budget 4/1/04-3/31/05
<u>INCOME</u>			
Contributions			
Community	575.00	600.00	750.00
Members	<u>176.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>	<u>340.00</u>
Total Contributions	751.00	1,000.00	1,090.00
Dues-members			
Household (\$72) [16]	1,008.00	1,152.00	1,152.00
NRM Rebate (\$5) [2]	0.00	20.00	10.00
Regular (\$48) [86]	2,112.00	3,688.00	4,128.00
Sustaining (\$85) [8]	<u>425.00</u>	<u>680.00</u>	<u>680.00</u>
Total dues	3,545.00	5,540.00	5,970.00
Finance & Development			
Auction	0.00	0.00	500.00
Fundraiser	0.00	0.00	500.00
Garage Sale	685.80	500.00	550.00
Pins (VOTE)	<u>780.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>225.00</u>
Total finance & development	1465.80	1,500.00	1,775.00
Interest Income			
Interest income	6.98	80.00	20.00
Unrealized gain	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total interest income	6.98	80.00	20.00
Meetings			
Annual Meeting	164.68	60.00	100.00
Governmental Issues Event	<u>770.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>575.00</u>
Total meetings	934.68	560.00	675.00
TOTAL INCOME	7180.46	8680.00	9530.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Advocacy and/or Action			
Local	0.00	10.00	100.00
National	0.00	100.00	10.00
State	<u>20.00</u>	<u>10.00</u>	<u>10.00</u>
Total advocacy and/or Action	20.00	120.00	120.00
Assessments (PMP)			
LWVKS (\$22) [105]	1,335.00	1,780.00	2310.00
LWVUS (\$23) [105]	<u>1,535.60</u>	<u>2,047.00</u>	<u>2415.00</u>
Total Assessments	2,870.60	3,827.00	4725.00

LWV of Topeka/Shawnee County Budget 4/1/05-3/31/06 —cont.

Category Description	Actual 12/28/04	Budget 4/1/04-3/31/05	Proposed budget 4/1/04-3/31/05
Board			
Budget & Nominations	0.00	5.00	10.00
Finance & Development	0.00	50.00	100.00
Membership	0.00	50.00	40.00
President	61.48	50.00	130.00
Public Relations	0.00	10.00	15.00
Secretary	0.00	10.00	15.00
Supplies & Tools	19.25	10.00	70.00
Treasurer	<u>76.02</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total Board	156.75	335.00	420.00
Convention or Council			
LWVKS Convention (7)	577.50	250.00	350.00
LWVUS Council (1-2)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,400.00</u>
Total Convention or Council	577.50	1,250.00	1750.00
Education			
Local Programs	30.00	30.00	50.00
National Programs	0.00	0.00	20.00
State Programs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>20.00</u>
Total Education	30.00	30.00	90.00
Meetings			
Annual Meeting	164.68	60.00	100.00
Government Issues Event	771.51	350.00	575.00
Membership Event	14.06	150.00	110.00
Tuesday Topics & VOICE	<u>-16.50</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total Meetings	905.62	710.00	835.00
Member Service			
Voter postage	351.74	500.00	530.00
Voter printing, folding	414.96	550.00	570.00
Yearbook printing	<u>0.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>
Total Member Service	766.70	1,350.00	1400.00
Publications			
Local publications	0.00	0.00	40.00
US & KS publications	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total publications	0.00	0.00	40.00
Voter Service			
Election Issue Forum	0.00	100.00	100.00
Voter Service Handouts	<u>325.56</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total Voter Service	325.56	468.00	150.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,652.73	8,090.00	9,530.00

NARRATIVE FOR THE PROPOSED 2005-2006 BUDGET League of Women Voter of Topeka-Shawnee County, KS

INCOME

Community contributions are received from businesses, professional groups and individuals who support the LWV's activities. Member contributions are money beyond dues submitted by any member.

Dues for annual membership are paid in one of three categories: household which includes two persons living in the same household, regular which refers to one individual member, sustaining which includes individual members who support the LWV at a high level of dues payment. NRM refers to a person who joins the League through the LWVUS which sends \$5 of the person's annual national dues to the local League.

Finance & Development refers to any activity or project that brings income for the general operations of the League. These include auction/fundraiser, garage sale, and sale of items such as the VOTE pins of 2004-2005.

Interest Income is derived from on our checking account at Commerce Bank & Trust. Unrealized gain comes from savings or CD accounts.

Meetings includes any income from planned or regular meetings of the LWVTSC. These are Annual Meeting in April, Government Issues Dinner in November, Membership Event in August, the monthly Tuesday Topics, and the VOICE meetings from September to May.

EXPENSES

Advocacy and/or Action cover the cost of forums in which the League is supporting one or more of its statements of position, communications with legislators especially Congress and the Kansas Legislature, meetings with Topeka and Shawnee County elected officials and all printed materials used to explain the League's positions.

Assessments means the annual Per Member Payments (PMP) paid by the LWVTSC to both the national and state Leagues. The LWVUS PMP is \$23 per member. LWVK is budgeted for \$22 rather than \$20 assuming an increase is needed. Household members' PMPs are half price.

Board includes the administrative expenses of each Board member or offboard chair who carries out the work of the League.

Budget and Nominations committee members usually meet only one time and, thereafter, carry out their work by e-mail or phone. Costs include reproduction of papers specific to each committee.

Finance & Development refers to any planned money-making activity such as a community finance drive, a fundraising event or sale of items..

Membership covers the cost of communication with new and "lost" members and distribution of printed materials to them.

President expenses are varied of necessity: representing the LWV at meetings with registration and meals, travel to attend conferences, printed materials for distribution to the Board or committees, etc. The president is allowed to use her/his discretion in use of funds.

Refer to Proposed Budget, pages 8 & 9

Public Relations involves announcements of meetings and special activities to the local print and electronic media and development of pamphlets or posters for such events.

Secretary includes notebook for minutes- taking and reproduction of minutes for Bd, if needed, and LWVUS and LWVK Board designees.

Supplies and Tools involve production or purchase of board training materials, portfolio guidelines, and leader's suggestions for study and advocacy.

Treasurer refers to postal card production for dues reminders, computer ink, production of treasurer's reports to board, and general postage.

Convention & Council represents figures for the LWVK Convention in Salina in April 2005 and figures for the LWVUS Council in Washington DC in June 2005. State convention allows six (6) delegates and the local League president to attend at an anticipated cost of \$33 per person for luncheons and registration fees as well as gas. The amount for LWVUS Council may be shared by two persons or can go entirely to the president or one designee. This includes registration, air travel, hotel room for 2 ½ days and 2 planned council meals.

Education pertains to study materials produced for member or community information as separate publications or as part of an issue of the VOTER (mailing and postage). This includes national, state and local League information.

Meetings comprises Annual Meeting with payment for fruit and muffin breakfast and production of the annual meeting booklet containing business and board member reports. Governmental Issues Dinner wherein each member and a guest pay for their individual meals. Guest speakers' and legislators' meals are paid from the League's general fund. The annual Membership Event is offered free of charge to members and prospective members. Payments for the luncheon at Tuesday Topics are paid by the members and their guests to the Millennium Café. An advance of \$50 for change making is provided each April. The general fund pays for luncheons for guest speakers.

Member Services include the printing, folding and labeling of the VOTER as well as first-class postage. Publication of the annual "Yearbook" or portions thereof are covered in this category. Contents include the annual calendar, board list and portfolios, LWV principles, LWVUS and LWVK positions in brief and all local League positions.

Publications refer to both local League, US and KS League publications. Local pubs are the LWVTSC membership flyer and the new member booklet entitled "Welcome to the LWVTSC." National and state pubs would be purchased or obtained from their web sites and printed locally.

Voter Service in FY 2005-2006 will focus primarily on voter education as there are no federal, state or local elections occurring. A special forum on election reform or the electoral college could be held.

January 20, 2005

Homeowners from the Walnut View subdivision sought help from the county for a drainage problem. There was a farm pond there first, then Indel built the development which increased the amount of run off which is causing the flooding of homes. There also may be possible contamination from cess pool laterals in the flood waters entering the houses in the development. The homeowners were informed that 51% of the land owners would need to sign a petition to create a benefit district to solve the problem.

On a different issue and in a different neighborhood, the county commissioners agreed to pay a claim from Tom C. Young for damage caused by sewer back-up. The back up was caused by a basketball being put down a sanitary sewer. His insurance company paid 2/3 of the clean up and repair bill and the county assumed responsibility for the balance. It seems that sewer manhole covers can be pried up with great effort and items can then be deposited in the sewer.

Home Rule Resolution No. HR-2005-3 was approved clearly defining xeriscaping (native/natural landscaping) from neglected properties. The Noxious Weed Dept. will take the lead on enforcement.

The plan failed on a 3-6 vote. Council members voting for the plan were John Alcala, Duane Pomeroy and Lisa Stubbs. In addition to rejecting the plan, the Council also defeated all the zoning changes. No other significant business was on the agenda.

January 27, 2005

Today there was an attempt to amend the zoning regulations so that all county addresses would be specific to the house so that emergency workers can ascertain the correct house when they get an emergency call. The problem ensues when more than 2 houses share a common drive off a public road or street. There is one address for the exit off the road or street. When more than two families share a common driveway it needs to become a street for multiple addresses. The resolution was sent back to staff for a rewrite after much testimony from residents impacted by this and by developers, real estate agents, etc.

They were to review bids for Temporary Notes for financing the cost of certain street and sewer improvements and county parks and recreation improvements.

Discussion of a contingency issue on the bids. The county's Moody rating has always been A 1, but is no longer, so all bids are contingent upon that rating being restored to the county. The commissioners believe that the rating is in error as circumstances have not changed, in their opinion.

February 3, 2005

Award ceremony for Dave Bartels, Park Supervisor for Shawnee County Parks and Recreation, who received a statewide award from the Kansas Parks and Recreation Association. This was awarded for the creation of the Water Garden at Lake Shawnee. Everyone is encouraged to visit this outstanding and beautiful site.

Consideration of a new resolution to create a mental health governing board. The room was packed with mental health professionals. The current Valeo board is a free standing board and the county commissioners do not appoint board members. The commission withheld \$73,000 from Valeo in November due to concern about the cancellation of their contract with Breakthrough House. Reportedly Valeo did not respond to that budget cut and did not attend a meeting set up by Commissioner Miller after that. However, the proposed new resolution seemingly got their attention today.

Comm. Kane moved to withdraw the resolution but was overruled. Comm. Miller clarified that his interest is not personal but rather oversight connected to the funding that the county provides to Valeo. Valeo admitted that the Co. Commission used to appoint their board members but they wanted more diversity on the board and more specific disciplines represented. Commissioners have now discovered that they do not have authority to appoint Valeo's board members. The contract between the county and Valeo was allowed to lapse some time ago. Currently, Valeo receives all the mental health dollars from the county. Breakthrough House and Family Service and Guidance Center subcontract with Valeo to receive any of the county funds.

Chairman Miller made it clear that they would take comments-only today and no action would be taken on this date.

Subject: Fw: RALLY FOR OUR CHILDREN

Please see the message below regarding a rally that is being planned in Topeka on March 4. The rally is to show support to our legislators that we want the state to assume its responsibility for providing appropriate funding for our public schools. This is consistent with our state position on financing education. The LWVK will sign on as a supporter, and I hope each of your leagues will likewise lend your name, and send members to attend.

—**Janis McMillan**, *President*, Kansas LWV

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to host a Rally for Education at the Capitol on Friday, March 4, 2005. We would like your organization to work with us as co-sponsors.

We have reached a critical point in the long-running battle over school funding. I have never seen more education supporters this pessimistic this early in the session, myself included! I think the basic consensus of most of us is that if any plan develops it won't be one which the court will accept.

By March 4th we will either have a plan that education supporters can and will support, or we won't. That will determine the message of the Rally.

Either way we need to be prepared to act, not react when it is too late.

There are days when I'm sure the legislature's sole purpose is to keep us picking at the small differences between us and prevent us from uniting around the larger common issue we all agree on: MORE MONEY for our schools.

We shouldn't let them keep us apart over what weightings to increase or decrease, or what the LOB ceiling should be. If we do, we will find ourselves with ZILCH and a possible Special Master that I don't think any of us want for the children of Kansas.

I welcome input from each and every one of you. Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to participate. KFUPE will take the burden of the work load by handling the logistics and facilitating the rally but look to you for possible speakers and help with publicizing the event to your members. If you know of other organizations that might be a good fit to be a co-sponsor, please let me know that as well.

Now is the time to unite and insure that EVERY child in Kansas is receiving an adequate and equitable opportunity for a public education! Let's leave the rhetoric for the elected officials in Topeka and show them what consensus building really looks like!

—**Kathy Cook**, *Executive Director*
Kansas Families United for Public Education

DEATH PENALTY ACTION ALERT

A bill to abolish the death penalty (Senate Bill 6) has been advanced to general orders on the Senate floor. That means the Kansas Senate will vote on this issue this session. Senator Anthony Hensley (Democrat, Senate District 19) has consistently voted for abolishing the death penalty. Senators Vicki Schmidt (Republican, Senate District 20) and Laura Kelly (Democrat, Senate District 18) have never been confronted with the issue. The KS Coalition Against the Death Penalty believe each of them could vote in favor of abolishing the death penalty, providing they receive substantial constituent support. All 3 need to hear from concerned constituents by phone, visit, e-mail or letter.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH —Doris Slocombe

SB155 would require that abortions be performed only by physicians, and on fetuses age 16 weeks or older only at ambulatory surgical centers or hospitals. This is another bill to restrict abortion clinics from handling women's reproductive health. The bill is in the Senate Public Health and Welfare committee.

HB2088 would make it a severity level 2, person felony to give birth without medical assistance, or to refuse to seek medical assistance from a health care provider immediately following the birth, if the fetus does not survive for 12 hours. It would also be unlawful for an individual to have knowledge of the above stated circumstances and fail to immediately contact a law enforcement agency or emergency medical services. It would not be a defense to say that it was believed that the fetus was dead at birth or died before the defendant sought medical assistance.

Did you know....?

...The League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago on Valentines Day, February 14, 1920?

...The Topeka-Shawnee County League of Women Voters will hold their 80th Annual Meeting in 2005?

Our meeting begins at 9:30 a.m., Sat., April 2, Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library.

—*Details are on March VOTER Calendar, p. 1.*

Inside

Calendar	1
Pres Sez	2
Tuesday Topics Report	3-4
Topeka Ballot Issue	4
Annual Meeting Materials	6-11
Observer Reports	12
From State League	13

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

March 2005

VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY



Mark your Calendar: Annual Meeting, Sat., April 2, 9:30 AM

Bring the Agenda/meeting details/proposed budget (p. 6-11)

with you to Annual Meeting.



Annual Meeting Speaker will be

Bill Lucero, representing Murder Victims

Families for Reconciliation, an anti-death penalty group.

Mar. VOICE meeting:

“Annexation Concurrence”

—A joint meeting at McFarland’s restaurant. See Calendar, p. 1

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

State Day at the Capitol is
Thursday, March 11. Contact Lisa at
the state office, 234-5252 for details.