



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

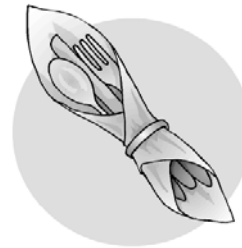
**VOTER**

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## November 2005



**1 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am**  
**“An Impartial, Accountable Judiciary”**

by **Judge Patrick McAnany, Court of Appeals.**

*Our meal is Soup, deli meats, condiments, homemade buns, cookie, water, tea and coffee.*

**4 Register Voters, Head Start Parents' Conference**

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

Noon, O'Dooley's, 1930 Westport Dr. (north of Petsmart on Westport Dr.)

**10 Issues Dinner - 5:30 PM, Ramada Inn.** Read details, p.4

## December 2005

No VOTER mailed in December. *SAVE this VOTER for December dates!*

**6 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am, / 2nd session at 1:00 pm**  
**“HAVA (the Help America Vote Act) Compliance”**

by **Elizabeth Ensley, Election Commissioner**

*Our meal is Quiche, tossed salad, rolls, cookie, water, coffee & tea.*

**- Following, 1-2 pm, Dec. 6: The Consolidation Question: Q&A**

with **Tom Wright, Chair of the Consolidation Committee.**

Bring questions about the Consolidation issue. Save your ballot & vote *after* our discussion.

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

Noon, O'Dooley's, 1930 Westport Dr. (north of Petsmart on Westport Dr.)

(VOTER information is due for Jan./ VOTER. Send materials to **Carol Yoho:cyoho@cox.net**)

### Nov. and Dec. Tuesday Topics

November & December 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.**

*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.*



Larry and Mary Ann Bradford

## A Tribute

**M**s. Topeka/Shawnee County League of Women Voters is leaving us! And taking Mr. Topeka/Shawnee County League of Women Voters with her!

I am, of course, speaking of **Mary Ann** and **Larry Bradford**. They are moving to a retirement home in Iowa City, Iowa to be close to family.

There is not enough space here to list all the roles Mary Ann has filled over her many years as a Leaguer. As most of you know, she has been an active officer at both the state and local levels many, many times. She has continued that level of activity right up to the present time, most recently serving in a training capacity for local league officers. No one knows the "League Way" to do things better than Mary Ann Bradford. Upon assuming the presidency, I immediately appointed her my "Exalted Advisor." I am hoping she will still respond to an occasional e-mail in Iowa as I will probably continue to need her help.

We will not only miss her wisdom and knowledge but also her unflagging willingness to volunteer for any and all jobs that needed to be done: from working on and chairing committees, helping with the Scott School elections, registering voters, etc. to "hosting" our voluminous garage sales.

And that brings us to Larry, her helpmate and ours. He has assisted in so many endeavors! If we had a nickel for every box and bag he has toted for our garage sales, we would be a very wealthy League in monetary terms. But, in non-monetary terms, our League and our community have been enriched to have had the Bradfords among us for these many years. They have worn many hats and contributed greatly to the general betterment of Topeka and Shawnee County.

Now it is time to bid them goodbye and good rest! They certainly have earned a time when they stop giving so much of themselves and allow



others to give to them. That may prove difficult for these two.

Sadly, we say "Goodbye." You will be missed. But we wish you all the very best, Mary Ann and Larry, as you embark on your new adventure in Iowa City. Please keep in touch!

—Jan Waide

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Celebrating 85 years!

## “Governance of Community Health Centers”

by **Jack Havenhill, M.D.**

Treasurer, LWV-Emporia

Ex-board member of the Flint Hills Health Center, Emporia

### Background

Health insurance was unknown until the late 1940s. Early clinics were locally tax supported. Clinics were developed in the 1960s, and a majority of early board members were neighborhood users of facilities. In the early 1970s these clinics became known as "Community Health Centers" (CHCs). In 2001 772 federally qualified community health centers existed nationally. Most CHCs are administered by three levels of government: federal, state, and local. With the monies came conflicting desires to control. Each level of government had its own agenda and its own power plan. Management can develop into a "headless monster." Only 40% of CHCs existing nationally are health entities at this time.

### Governance Theories:

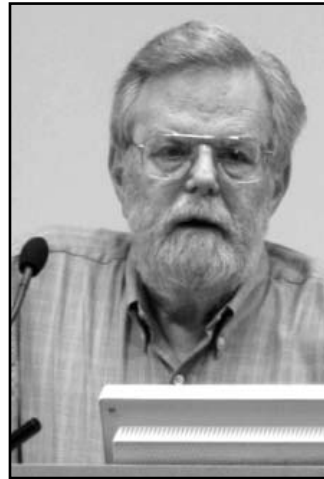
There is no one plan to satisfy all needs. One size does not fit all.

1. Don't discount or embrace a management plan just because the federal government is involved
2. Don't violate the Bert Lance rule, "Don't reinvent the wheel." Keep what works.
3. Remember: there is no system to make people work together if they don't want to, or visa versa. Team players are always an asset.

### Flint Hills CHC Specifics:

The Flint Hills Community Health Center was started in 1997 in Lyon County. The first administrator, Greg Barth, was a Rotary friend of Havenhill's. He wanted a physician on the board and asked Havenhill to serve one year. Eight years later, in 2005, Havenhill has finally retired from the board, but is happy with progress made during his tenure. Lyon County Commissioners control the board and are also the Lyon County Board of Health. The head administrator oversees a large budget of over \$4,000,000.

Barth's strength as administrator was his strong administrative skills. The second director's strength



Jack Havenhill

lay in grant writing, and the current administrator has a nice balance of skills between administrating and grant writing.

The Feds wanted an independent board, not one appointed by the county commission. However, they've allowed the Flint Hills board to continue to be commissioner-appointed because the process has worked in Lyon County.

The racial mix of consumers of the Flint Hills CHC is currently 60% white, 35% Hispanic and 5% black and other minorities.

County commissioners enacted a rule stating that at least 51% of the board must be consumers of the clinics health service. This high number makes it a challenge to both retain board members and find meeting times. Consumers always seem to have conflicts with work, childcare, and with other after-work-hours obligations.

Good evaluation services are needed and those skills are not frequent among consumer board members. However, board committees can contain professional planners and evaluators, and delegating review to such board committees has worked well.

A step forward in 1978 was when the Flint Hills CHC received 501 c (3) status, giving it the financial advantage of seeking and receiving foundations grants-almost \$500,000 over several years. Foundations do not like their money going to established governing bodies. It is also important to make taxpayers understand that federal funds given to the clinic can not reduce the county tax level. Funds are separated, and spent in targeted ways.

For example, foundation grants have helped establish a new dental clinic, employing one full-time dentist and one full-time hygienist. Dental care among the consumer population is atrocious,

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—continued from p. 3

with dentures for the older population as the greatest expense. There would be no dental program without foundation dollars in support.

The board has varied in size over time. There are currently eleven members. At one time there were thirteen, and the board had trouble at times meeting quorum requirements. Some clinic boards have up to seventeen members, too large in Havenhill's opinion.

The Flint Hills CHC has developed a very clean chain of command. The board of directors selects its own members and puts the administration into the

hands of professionals. The mix of individuals comprising county commission weighs heavily in any power plays that, from time to time, affect the clinic. Clinic staff are county employees.

Currently, the Flint Hills CHC is currently running at a \$1,000,000 deficit. Yet the board feels fortunate that \$3,00,000 was raised in grant funds.

Havenhill is a surgeon and, as he says, "surgeons are supposed to surge." Before retiring he grew weary of rehashing old issues. He did find that time and success causes some issues to fade. 🍷

## October 11, 2005 Board Briefs

**T**he LWVT-SC Board met at noon, October 11, 2005 at O'Dooley's with eight members present.

The committee for the League Community Finance Drive will meet October 13.

Superintendents and board chairs of all Shawnee County public schools, including Rossville and Silver Lake, are invited to the November 10 Issues Dinner where WU President Jerry Farley will speak.

The treasurer presented for board direction the names of those whose membership dues are 60 days late.

Membership was requested to organize a new-member orientation for January.

Scheduling a discussion of the consolidation question to immediately follow December Tuesday Topics is being explored.

TABOR will be the issue for January Tuesday Topics.

A proposed resolution in support of renewing the Voting Rights Act was distributed for later comment.

Vote brochures in Spanish will be ordered for distribution through Spanish organizations and the Library.

by **Edith Bronson**,  
LWVT-SC Secretary



## ISSUES DINNER

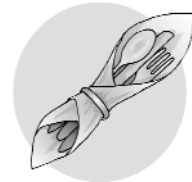
**November 10**

5:30 pm social hour

6:15 pm. dinner

7:15 pm speaker

\$20. for meal



**Speaker: Dr. Jerry Farley**,  
President, Washburn University

**Invited Guests: Shawnee County  
Public School Superintendents & Presidents  
of their School Boards**

This year, for the first time, League has invited the Superintendents of the six Shawnee County Public School Districts and the Presidents of their School Boards as guests to our annual issues dinner. Next year, during the State Legislative Session, education will again be an important and somewhat divisive issue. We have as our guest speaker Dr. Jerry Farley, President of Washburn University. Dr. Farley is always an interesting speaker and I hope you will all be able to attend. If you need a ride you can call me (273-8578) or Jan Waide (233-7008) and we will arrange transportation for you. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact me at 273-8578.

As in the past, we have tried to keep the cost for the dinner at a minimum. We are very fortunate to be able to charge the same as last year. That includes wine, dinner, tip, and tax for \$20.00. Also, as in the past, the League pays the cost for our guests and speaker out of our treasury. I hope to see all of you there.

—**Nancy Kindling**, dinner chair

## Back To School Fair 2005 Report

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The Back To School Fair, sponsored by Community Action, saw over 4000 pre qualified children and their parents meet at the Exhibition Hall of the Kansas Expocentre to obtain school supplies and learn about community resources. **Gwen Elliot, Carol Rousey, Judy Seitz, Pat Stinson, Susan Stover, Jan Waide** and **Carol Yoho** registered 16 voters at the League of Women Voters tables, using forms written in either English or Spanish. Three large bags of school supplies provided by our league were given to students who registered for the three drawings we conducted. This is an activity with widespread community participation that provides valuable resources to families. Though this was not an election year, we registered even more persons than in 2004 when for the Presidential election. Thanks to all who worked on this project and especially to **Mary Ann Bradford** who provided some supplies as well as a structure for our activity and display.

—**Nancy Sargent**, coordinator

## Shawnee County Health Agency Community Health Center Board Meeting

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September 27, 2005 by *Teresa Stambaugh*

Other League members present were  
**Rosemary Williams** and **Nancy Sargent**

**Board Members** were requested to complete a Mentoring Program Needs Assessment form. All 10 Board Members were present at this meeting.

**Announcements:** Penny Silbee received the "Dorothy Wooden Award " which is a statewide honor.

**Minutes** of 7-26 & 8-23 were approved.

**Misc:** The clinic will be closed Sept. 28 for staff development/training and October 19 for immunizations. One board member asked where they were on hiring a medical director and was told that they are still seeking such a person.

**Health Officer Report** was not given as Dr. Rumans was not present.

**Board Education/Grants:** Patty Spencer presented an overview of the grant writing process. This includes research, data collection, custom reports, planning and development, facilitation, written draft. The draft is reviewed by clinical staff prior to being sub-

mitted to the board and county commissioners for approval. Any subsequent contracts must also be approved. A grant file is maintained for up to 5 years internally and 5 years externally.

**Finance Report:** County Commissioners approved \$3.9 million funding for 2006. Budget/Accounts Receivable were reviewed/approved. The financial audit and management letter was distributed to the Board Members. The management letter is the audit companies recommendations for changes in accounting practices. One recommendation was to go from a cash accounting method to the accrual method, which would better recognized the actual financial status of the agency. M. Kane stated she would like to see follow up on the recommendations made by the audit company.

**Directors Report:** There is a new policy for visitors to the Agency. Check in at the front desk when coming into the building. A report was given on attendance at the National Association of Community Health Centers Conference. Approximately 7-9 health centers were destroyed in hurricane Katrina. The Health Agency received their allocation to the medication assistance program. The Board approved the use of the Kansas Charitable Health Care Provider Coverage.

## Scott School Election Wrap-up

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League helped for a tenth year with the Scott School mayorial election. Registration, primary and general elections went smoothly. There was approximately 92% voter turnout and the election winner one by only one vote! (Every vote counts!) Runner up was declared "Deputy Mayor."

Media coverage of the election went well, **Judy Moler**, publicity chair, sent a press release to media outlets and newspaper or television stations covered each of the three events associated with the election.

**Bob Harder**, election chair, thanks all League members who helped with this election.

## Correction

**Nancy Whiffen**, membership chair, also planned and hosted our highly-successful August Membership Event. The September Voter did not properly credit Nancy for her job well done.

*Thanks, Nancy!*

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## **City Council**

### **September 13, 2005, by Joe D. Sargent**

The Council had a full agenda. The meeting started promptly at 7:00 p.m. but was still in full swing shortly before 11:00 p.m. Council Member Lana Kennedy made a motion to extend the meeting beyond the previously agreed on deadline of 11:00 p.m. so that people who were there could testify. The Mayor was ready to end the meeting at 11:00 p.m.; in fact, other Council members were packing up. However, it was determined that Council Member Kennedy had made her motion one minute before 11:00 p.m., and her motion passed. Thus, the remaining Council agenda was up for consideration. Frankly, four hours was enough for me.

One background concern was the funding of projects for which the Topeka residents would be committed without the ability to raise taxes if the City-Council merger passes. A motion to replace currently out-of-date traffic lights for which replacement parts could not be obtained from the manufacturers passed 9-0, but only after a previous motion stating the expenditure of \$102,324 could be approved if the merger did not pass. Interestingly, an ordinance for \$5,500,000 to renovate facilities at Heartland Park was approved 8-0 with one abstainer due to conflict of interest, but only after it was clarified that it would be supported by Star Bonds. In order to have financing by Star Bonds, a special district needs to be created to obtain incremental sales tax revenue. This will be sales tax collected in addition to what the State, County and City had previously collected from the area prior to its becoming a special district. This ordinance was particularly important to Heartland Park so that they could meet the expectations of the Sport Car Association of America who will hold a major event each year over the next two years. Projects supported by user fees passed without difficulty. Funding for the "Capital Parkway" was referred back to the Economic and Community Development Committee.

The issue of eminent domain came up twice during the Council's meeting. The first was the initiation of condemnation proceedings to acquire five properties for the establishment of open space along the Washburn-Lane Parkway, but action was deferred until after the merger vote. A resolution for condemnation proceedings for a sanitary sewer and water service extension provoked considerable public testimony and

Council discussion. Consideration of this resolution was deferred for 2 weeks.

Licensing of taxicab drivers will now include drug and alcohol testing and checking records for criminal activities. A special committee was established to study and consider diversity issues relating to the City's personnel and purchasing practices. Previous regulation regarding portable signs will remain in force.

### **September 27, 2005, by Joe D. Sargent**

Once again it was not possible for the City Council to get through their agenda before 11:00 p.m. A motion to extend the meeting was approved, but I decided to leave. Review of the Council's minutes revealed no striking business after I left at 11:00 p.m.

The reason for the prolonged meeting was because of the lengthy public testimony regarding a resolution to initiate condemnation proceedings to acquire East Topeka High School. This property would then be considered for development into a senior citizen facility. The Economic and Community Development Committee recommended against passage of the resolution. Ross Freeman representing Pioneer (a developer of senior citizen homes) spoke in favor of the resolution. Reverend Sweet, the present owner of the building, gave moving testimony against the resolution, for it had been his intent to develop a Christian school on that site. The resolution was defeated 4 to 5.

An ordinance authorizing improvements to the Zoo's Discovering Apes Building also created lengthy public testimony. The project budget was \$70,000, but there were concerns about who would pay for the project. A motion to defer a decision for two weeks passed unanimously.

Council member Kennedy introduced an ordinance to require owners, keepers, and harborers of pit bull dogs to have a liability policy in the amount of \$50,000. It was deferred back to the Public Health and Safety Committee.

## **Shawnee County Commission**

**September 22 Meeting canceled.**

### **September 29, 2005, by Jan Waide**

Resolution considered authorizing replacement/

repair financing for wiring and air conditioning equipment at the North Recreation Center. The building is 70-80 years old. The electricians found bad wiring which needs to be replaced before new air conditioning equipment is installed. New wiring will increase future capacity (amerpage). Estimated cost: \$515,000.

A water line break in the jail connected to the sprinkler system was the big topic of discussion. The break is thought to have been caused by corrosion over a period of 18 years. It made a huge mess, carpeting, etc. ruined. Fire suppression system is currently out of service. They are reviewing using the plumber called on the emergency basis versus a bid process for the repairs.

### **October 6: Meeting canceled due to the funeral for the father of Commissioner Miller.**

### **October 13, 2005, by Jan Waide**

They appointed one of the Munchkins a special deputy coroner so that he can sign the death certificate for the Wicked Witch of the West in Wamego at the Oztober Fest this weekend. Comm. Miller handed the appointment to a supposed relative, of the Munchkin, Meinhardt Raabe, who turned out to be a 7 foot maintenance man for the county. This was the opening act today!

They denied a claim by Southwestern Bell for damage to a communications pedestal. The county has previously requested that Southwestern Bell flag all their pedestals that are in areas where the county mows, etc. to maintain the property. The pedestal that was damaged was not flagged.

The Mayor of Rossville appeared to thank the county and its employees who assisted the city during the recent flood there, especially the county emergency management staff and the Health Department, which provided needed immunizations to people working in the flooded areas. The Rossville fire chief and the police chief also came to express their thanks.

## **Notes on Kansas League Day**

**September 24, 2005 by Bob Kruh, LWVKS Board**

About 50 attendees—League members, panelists, and guests—assembled at 9 am in the old Supreme

Court chamber in the Kansas State House for a day of learning and discussion about mental health issues. Mental health is slated for a two-year statewide League study.

Among panelists and presenters were Dr. Roy Menninger, Chair, Kansas Mental Health Coalition; Dr. Taylor Porter, Stormont-Vail's medical director; Dr. Jane Adams, Director of Keys for Networking (Topeka) and member of President Bush's Commission on Mental Health; and Dr. Bob Day, Director of Kansas Health Policy and Finance. Panels comprised mental health agency leaders, executives from related agencies and institutions, and recovered patients. The authoritative and informative presentations started with a history and taxonomy of mental health. With an additional wealth of information, League members came away with a better understanding of current operations and future prospects. The full program left no time, however, for reviewing next steps in the LWVKS agenda, and these are to be decided later.

The conference made clear that mental illness is largely ignored by the general public and that much more care and support are needed. Moreover, there is little general awareness of how serious and widespread mental illness is. Speakers emphasized the following: 1) Mental illness is real and should be treated at parity with physical illness, 2) the mentally ill are stigmatized and excluded from much of society, 3) those with mental illness are often in denial and are too frequently deterred by social stigma from seeking treatment, 4) needs for diagnosis and care are growing, but, with more limited funds than ever, services and facilities are being cut, 5) duration and quality of care are increasingly curtailed by lack of funds, 6) special populations regularly overlooked are children, adolescents, and prison inmates, 7) only a fraction of those in need are being treated, 8) Medicare and Medicaid provide the largest proportion of funding for mental health care, 9) the top ten medications in Medicare and Medicaid are for mental health, and 10) there is great disparity in the availability of mental health resources between eastern and western Kansas. Given the likely financial stress in future legislative sessions, the outlook for bettering Kansas' mental health services is grim.



**Fundamental protections to our election process** were put into place by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1974 and the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. Several important reforms, hard-won responses to the Watergate scandals and the fundraising abuses of the 1990s, are now in jeopardy. H.R. 1316, cosponsored by

Reps. Mike Pence (R IN) and Albert Wynn (D MD), would repeal key protections.

## ***What You Can Do:***

**Urge your Representative to protect our election process and oppose H.R. 1316.**

# ***FIRST CALL:***



## **The LWVUS 47th National Convention: "Meeting in the Middle" June 10-13, 2006**

Fri., June 9	Pre-Convention Training	2-5 pm
Sat., June 10	Briefings	10am-Noon
Sat., June 10	Call to Order	1pm
Tues., June 13	Adjourn	Noon

Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis. MN

According to Article IX, Section 4 of the LWVUS Bylaws: "The convention shall adopt a program, elect officers and directors, adopt a budget and transact

such other business as may properly come before it."

Article IX - Convention  
 Article XI - Nominations and Elections  
 Article XII - Principles and Program  
 Article XIII - Financial Administration  
 Article XV - Amendments

We are pleased to announce that **Garrison Keillor** will be our banquet speaker!

## **LWVUS NEWS** *reprinted from The League E-Voice*

### **League Announces Exchange Program with Kenya**

The LWVEF announced a new initiative under its global democracy program, "Kenyans Working Together for Good Governance: Civil Society, Government, and Members of Parliament."

### **Election Reform Letter to the Editor in New York Times (NY)**

LWVUS President Kay J. Maxwell wrote a letter to the editor about the recommendations of the Carter-Baker Commission, which was published in the New York Times on September 30.

### **Law Day – May 1, 2006**

In the past, the League has joined with the American Bar Association (ABA) to celebrate Law Day. Held on May 1, Law Day is a national celebration of the rule of law. For 2006, the ABA selected the theme

"Separate Branches, Balanced Powers." This theme complements the League's new program, "Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary by Defending the U.S. Constitution." The LWVEF is offering \$500 grants to Leagues wishing to organize a forum on this issue for Law Day 2006. .

### **LWVUS NEVER Sells or Exchanges Email Addresses**

We wanted to reassure you that the LWVUS never sells or exchanges any email addresses. Also, we are very prudent about the amount of email we send. Most Presidents only receive the weekly Presidents' Update, our monthly LeagueE-Voice newsletter and an occasional LWVUS Action Alert. Most members only receive the LeagueE-Voice, unless they have specifically signed up to receive LWVUS Action Alerts by email.

# Remembrances

League of Women Voters of Topeka-Shawnee County pays tribute to the passing of two Leaguers.

**Fannie E. Wisman**, 90, of Topeka, died Tuesday October 11, 2005 at her home. She was a life long Topekan, born here in 1915, graduated from Topeka High School in 1933, and attended Washburn University. She began her business career at Einsteins when her father became ill in the late 1930s. She operated the business through World War II, continued to operate the business after she married Sam Wisman in 1948, and up until the year 2000. Sam preceded her in death in 1963. Survivors include her two sons, Jack Wisman and Alan Wisman. She was a longtime member of the Topeka Jewish community and Temple Beth Sholom and was a member of numerous civic organizations including League of Women Voters, Doorstep, Lets Help, The Mayors Council on the Status of Women, Girl Scouts, Downtown Topeka, Inc. and was a Democratic Precinctwoman.

**Dr. James M. Young**, age 85, died Sunday, October 9, 2005, in Topeka. Jim retired in 1989 from his last position at Washburn University, Vice President and Provost, and he served as a Topeka City Councilman for eight years, 1989-97. With a lifelong passion for education, he was a high school principal and superintendent before moving to Topeka and Washburn in 1957. Jim married Mildred Trimble Young in 1949, and she preceded him in death in 1975. He married Alice Adam Young, Dean of the Washburn School of Nursing, in 1977. He has three children. They are James A. Young, M.D. of Colorado Springs, Stephen G. Young, M.D. of Los Angeles, and Amy Young Malone of LaGrange, IL. He has eight grandchildren. Jim served in many volunteer roles and served on the board of many community organizations. He was a member of LWV-TSC and will be greatly missed.

## Death Row Exonerations in the U.S. —from the *Kansas Voter*

Newly published research examining 340 exonerations in the United States between 1989 and 2003 found that a significant number of those who were wrongly convicted had been sentenced to death. Researchers note that this finding appears to reflect two patterns: capital defendants are more likely to be convicted in error and false convictions are more likely to be detected when defendants are on death row.

The paper, authored by Professor Samuel Gross of the University of Michigan Law School along with other assistants, reveals clear patterns associated with false convictions. The leading cause of wrongful convictions is perjury, including perjury by police officers, by jailhouse snitches, by the real killers, and by supposed participants and eyewitnesses to the crime who knew the innocent defendants in advance. The research revealed that false confessions, especially among vulnerable defendants such as juvenile offenders and those with mental retardation, also played a large role in murder convictions that led to exoneration. Almost all of the juvenile exonerees who falsely confessed were African American, and 90% of all exonerated juvenile defendants were African American or Hispanic.

Based on their review of these exonerations, the paper notes that "any plausible guess at the total number of miscarriages of justice in America in the last fifteen years must run to the thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, in **felony cases alone**. ("Exonerations in the United States, 1989 through 2003," *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, Vol. 95, No. 2, 2005)

Two cases have recently been added to the Death Penalty Information Center's (DPIC) innocence list, bringing the total to 121 since 1973. DPIC's innocence list includes those former death row inmates who have been acquitted of all charges related to the crime that placed them on death row, dismissed, or who have been granted a complete pardon based on evidence of innocence.

The new U.S. Supreme Court appointee is likely to make a difference in death penalty decisions. The Court has been closely divided in death row cases, with retiring Justice O'Connor often in the middle. Nominee John Roberts has a limited track records, but has said the high court would reduce its caseload by "abdicating the role of fourth or fifth guesser in death penalty cases."

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**VOTER, Nov.-Dec. 2005:**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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



**STAY in December:**  
 1 to 2 p.m. discussion of  
 Topeka-Shawnee County  
 Consolidation Issue after  
 regular Tuesday Topics  
 meeting. *Calendar, p. 1*

5 blank cards + envelopes for \$5.  
 Contact Betsy Rohleder

Mark your calendar:

**ISSUES DINNER  
 November 10**

5:30 pm social hour  
 6:15 pm. dinner  
 7:15 pm speaker  
 \$20. for meal



*Details, p. 4*

**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*