



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

**VOTER**

**President: Jan Waide**  
1618 SW 28th St.  
785-233-7008 (h)

**Membership: Nancy Whiffen**  
215 N Broadmoor  
785-235-2104 (h)

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

## October 2005

**4 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am**  
“Establishment and Operation of the the Flint Hills Health Center as a 501 (c) (3)” by Jack Havenhill  
*Our meal is Meat Loaf sandwich, chips, brownie, water, tea and coffee.*



**11 LWVT/SC Board Meeting - Members welcome**  
Noon, O’Dooley’s, 1930 Westport Dr. (north of Petsmart on Westport Dr.)  
(VOTER information is due for Nov. VOTER. Send materials to **Carol Yoho:cyoho@cox.net**)

## November 2005

**1 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am**  
“An Impartial, Accountable Judiciary” by Patrick McAnany, Court of Appeals Judge  
*Our meal is Soup, deli meats, condiments, homemade buns, cookie, water, coffee & tea.*

**8 LWVT/SC Board Meeting - Members welcome**  
Noon, O’Dooley’s, 1930 Westport Dr. (north of Petsmart on Westport Dr.)  
(VOTER information is due for Nov. VOTER. Send materials to **Carol Yoho:cyoho@cox.net**)



The **2005 Governmental Issues Dinner** will be held in November. Our guests will be both the Topeka City Council members and Shawnee County Commissioners. Watch this calendar in the November **VOTER** for details.

### October Tuesday Topics

October 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.*



## PreZ SeZ...

October 2005

### Consolidation Question

**A**t the September Tuesday Topics meeting, the question was raised regarding the League's position on the current plan for the consolidation of the city and county governments. As the long term members know, the League does not take a position on an issue until we have researched, studied and come to a consensus/concurrence on that issue. Since we still do not have the final, final plan from the Consolidation Commission, the League of Topeka/Shawnee County has not had an opportunity to take that course of action. Therefore, as a League we have no position on the Consolidation Plan. However, we do have established positions on many of the issues pertinent to the Plan.

We have had a City of Topeka governance position since 1971, with updates in 1987 and revisions in 1989 and 1995. Our position on Shawnee County government was adopted in 1989 and revised in 1995 and 1999. The positions on both city and county government are very consistent. They support as follows:

- Separating policy making and strategic planning from administration
- Administration by a non-political professional administrator
- Election of policy makers by districts
- More than 3 governing members with staggered terms
- Elimination of certain elected positions, including the sheriff, with the appointment of qualified professionals
- Appointment of advisory groups, broadly representative of the city/county, to address specific policy issues
- Reinstitution of the Inter-Governmental Council if the city and county remain separate
- Cooperation and consolidation between city and county departments and agencies whenever possible, including Topeka Police and the Shawnee

County Sheriffs Departments and both Parks and Recreation departments

Our 2002 position on economic development states: "The League of Women Voters reaffirms its position of support for a single metropolitan government in Shawnee County, which should encourage and support economic development." This would appear to warrant unqualified support of the Consolidation Plan, however, as someone once noted "the devil is in the details". The House Bill that established the Consolidation Commission was seriously flawed which hampered the commission from forming a perfect (to our way of thinking) plan. For instance, it tossed away a basic principal of democracy by separating the citizens in the unincorporated areas from the citizens of the City of Topeka to vote on the plan and both separate populations must approve the plan in order for it to be adopted. Thus the minority rural population could end up vetoing the will of the majority.

Please, as League members, study the plan and vote your conscience. And by all means **VOTE!** For it is our responsibility to **stand up and speak out for good government!**

—Jan Waide

### PLEASE NOTE!

*"I am a long white plastic banner that says 'League of Women Voters.' I am normally stored rolled up in a cardboard tube. Please search your closets, basements and attics. (Does anyone have an attic any more?) I need to be put back into use."*

—Contact Jan Waide @ 233-7008 or  
jswaide@aol.com

# Tuesday Topics, September

## “Annexation: Taking a Position”

This statement was passed by members after a final discussion of the issues involved by the LWVT-SC Annexation Committee:

### A Public Policy Position on Annexation in Topeka and Shawnee County —September 6, 2005



**Annexation Committee:**  
Mary Ann Bradford, Allyn Locker,  
Jan Waide, Ruth Wilkerson



### Background

Annexation is an essential consideration in the development and implementation of land use, growth management, transportation and economic development plans for Topeka and Shawnee County. Annexation is one of several tools to guide a city in implementing economic, geographic and environmental plans while responding to cultural and social concerns.

Annexation is a legal process that enables a city to add tracts of land and usually population to its boundaries. Annexation may allow a city to provide entirely new services to the annexed area and the people who reside there or to provide higher levels of already existing services to them. In still other cases, the level and mix of public services do not change, but the responsibility for providing these services is transferred from one local government, such as county, township or special district government, to a municipal government.

The expansion of a municipal boundary may result in the acquiring of another government's revenue base. The service-taxation impacts of annexation are critical to the city, suburban property owners and the revenue base of involved governments. Often these impacts are the basis of conflict in annexation.

### Definitions

An **annexation agreement** is an accord or contract, written and signed by all stakeholders in the annexation, that specifies what actions stakeholders agree to perform and what conditions they agree to comply with in order for a city, one of the stakeholders, to annex one or more tracts of land in the unincorporated area surrounding the city. Two methods for arriving at agreement are principled negotiation and certified mediation, both of which should be initiated early in the process.

**Principled negotiation** is the practice of people conferring with one another so as to arrive at agreement. It involves arranging for or bringing about a solution through conference, dialogue, discussion, and consensus or compromise. Principled negotiation:

- separates the people from the problem;
- focuses on interests, not positions;
- generates a variety of possibilities before deciding what to do; and
- insists that results be based on some objective standard.

**Certified mediation** is a practice that involves one or more outside and neutral persons helping the disputants to resolve their conflict. The mediator facilitates the discussion in a neutral fashion so that the parties find their own best interests and make decisions. The mediator protects the integrity of the proceedings.

### ANNEXATION IN TOPEKA-SHAWNEE COUNTY—Public Policy Position

Kansas Statutes Annotated (KSA) 12-520 et seq permit the City of Topeka to annex tracts of land through three types of annexation procedures: unilateral, island and county-approved. The League of Women Voters of Topeka-Shawnee County (LWV) endorses these procedures as stated in current statutes.

Because of possible conflicts the LWV believes that city and county officials should add the following elements to the annexation procedures:


1. All potential stakeholders should share with one another specific information about the proposed tracts of land to be annexed as soon as they are identified, so that the effects of

—continued on p. 4

annexation may be considered very early in the negotiation of an annexation agreement. The stakeholders will write and sign an annexation agreement during a unilateral, island and county-approved annexation procedure, particularly during a unilateral procedure.

2. The annexation stakeholders should obtain knowledge about and skills in principled negotiation so as to manage the negotiations among themselves and help reach consensus on the contents of each annexation agreement.
3. The annexation stakeholders, if deemed unable to

reach an agreement through principled negotiation, should use an outside person(s) who has knowledge, skills and experience in certified mediation to manage the conflict and achieve a consensus among stakeholders on the contents of each annexation agreement.

This public policy position of the LWV on annexation should minimize the time, energy, litigation and cost of annexation for all stakeholders. This would better enable Topeka and Shawnee County to practice orderly and smart growth. 

## September 13, 2005 Board Briefs

**P**resident Jan Waide called the meeting to order with all nine members present. The Consent Agenda, including the August minutes and September committee reports, was approved.

Net Worth is \$9,736.25 after the addition of \$1,169 from the Membership Event auction.

Six persons have joined the League in the last month bringing total membership to 120.

Jan and Judy Moler will write a resolution addressing the federal Voting Rights Act which will sunset in 2007.

National study information has not arrived.

### *Committee questions raised:*

- How can member involvement be encouraged?
- When should Governmental Issues dinner be held?
- What should happen to June Tuesday Topics since the Library is not available?
- Should members of declining AAUW be recruited?

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



## Membership Auction Wrap-up

What a great membership dinner and auction!!  
Following are the amounts for the \$\$\$ we took in.

**\$218 Memberships**

**\$60 Notes**

**\$17 Chicken Salad**

**\$1149 Auction proceeds**

—Reported by **Sue Gaither, event chair**

*Special thanks to **Betsy Rohleder**, who managed the auction event and to **members who donated items** for the auction.*

## League of Women Voters T-SC

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

Edith Bronson, Secretary  
ebronson@kspress.com  
228-9773

Currently Vacant,  
President-Elect

Carol Yoho, *Voter* Editor  
cyoho@cox.net  
3013 SW Quail Creek Dr.  
66614-4131  
273-3089

Gwen Elliott,  
Vice-President  
3469 SE Crestwater Dr.  
267-4037

Nominating Committee  
Charlotte Adair, Chair  
cadair@wea.org  
231-1020 (w)  
354-7174 (h)

Nancy Whiffen, Director,  
Membership  
twowhiffs@cox.net  
235-2104

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

Aaron Douglas Mural  
Photo by Carol Yoho



# Citizens Want More Information from Government

*“Local Voices” Report Examines Public Views on Civil Liberties & Homeland Security*

The League of Women Voters (LWV) today released the findings and recommendations from its Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities project. Local Voices is a multi-faceted initiative to foster a public dialogue about the balance between civil liberties and homeland security, and share the results with decision-makers.

“When it comes to the critically important relationship between our civil liberties and our nation’s security, public input and involvement are not just desirable – they are essential,” said Kay J. Maxwell, president of the League of Women Voters. “For too long, the citizen’s voice has been missing from the debate over these issues. The Local Voices project examines the public’s views and argues that they should be a vital part of our national conversation,” Maxwell stated.

“According to our findings, Americans struggle with the relationship between homeland security and civil liberties because they don’t have a full understanding of the issues and how they relate to each other,” stated Maxwell. “This is not an easy set of issues to understand and the public wants and needs more information from their government officials, the media and others,” Maxwell said.

Richard Ben-Veniste, 9-11 Commissioner and a panelist at the League’s Capitol Hill release event said, “The League of Women Voters has produced an important study of public perception and

opinion that underscores the importance of balancing the need to protect the homeland with adequate safeguards to ensure that our civil rights and liberties are not sacrificed. The League presents persuasive data noting public concern about the “slippery slope” posed by unchecked and unreviewed powers granted to law enforcement agencies. The 9-11 Commission concluded that the shift of greater authority to the government in its efforts to detect

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## **“Americans struggle with the relationship between homeland security and civil liberties...”**

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and combat terrorism requires enhanced oversight to ensure protection of privacy rights and civil liberties that are vital to America’s way of life.”

“As the Local Voices report reveals, Americans feel that more openness in government is a key to striking the proper balance between security and individual liberty. It’s a finding that underscores an important point: Our nation is demonstrably more secure when government is more transparent,” said Andy Alexander, Washington Bureau Chief for Cox Newspapers and Chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Alexander was also a participant at the League’s event.

Additional key findings announced are that people deeply value the system of checks and balances and are concerned about a “slippery slope” toward policies favoring greater security at the expense of our basic freedoms and rights. The League also discovered that public deliberation has a major impact on people’s views and thinking in these areas. The League’s findings are drawn from a combination of methodologies, including recent public opinion polls, focus groups and public dialogues in 10 communities.

“The League of Women Voters is the right organization, at the right time, to call for a conversation that is open to all Americans. This report does that by offering recommendations for action,” said Maxwell. “Government needs to share information with and listen to the public. The public needs to make efforts to keep informed and to make their voices known. And the media and other organizations need to facilitate and monitor activities that achieve these ends,” concluded Maxwell.

Local Voices is a League of Women Voters Education Fund project made possible by the generous support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Other partners in the project were Lake Snell Perry Mermin/Decision Research, the Study Circles Resource Center and The Constitution Project.

Copies of the report are available online at the League’s Web site: Local Voices report. 

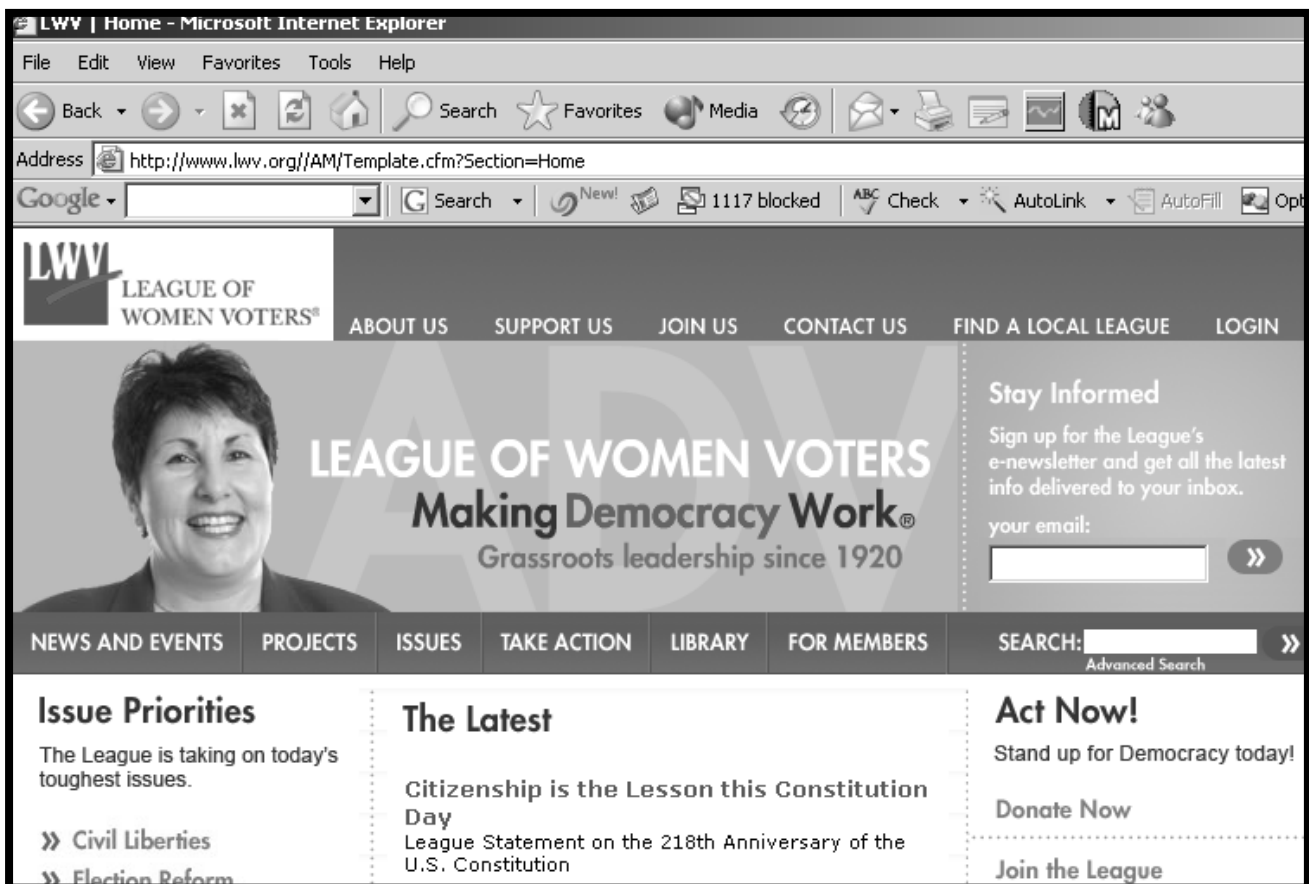


**June Windscheffel and Larry Wilson** enjoy birthday cake, at September's Tuesday Topics meeting. Cake was served in honor of the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters in 1920.

# Welcome New Members



- \* **Mary Ann Breitbach**
- \* **Alyce Gannaway**
- \* **Bill Gannaway**
- \* **Sen. Vicki Schmidt**
- \* **Diana L. Siegal**
- \* **Barbara Waters**



↑ [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

In August the national League introduced its newly designed and more user-friendly Web site, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Please take some time to explore the new site. The national staff hopes you will like their new look!

One article you can read on-line concerns the “Positive Impact” of new federal guidance for statewide voter registration databases as written by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

## **City Council**

**August 9, 2005, by Joe D. Sargent**

The big surprise of this meeting was a motion by councilman Preisner to cut off public testimony on the sale of alcohol on Sunday. That motion passed 7 to 2 with Duffy and Haynie voting no. There were a number of dismayed persons in the audience since they were there to testify on the issue. The mayor was not able to use his previously announced veto of the ordinance allowing expansion of Sunday sale of alcohol since this ordinance passed 9 to 0. The mayor's veto needed only six votes to be overridden. This ordinance allows the sale of alcohol within the city limits from noon to 8:00 p.m. on Sundays in liquor stores as well as grocery and convenience stores.

The council chambers were crowded with people from the College Hill area. They were there in support of an appropriation of funds for new development in the area which would not only benefit the area residents, but also Washburn students. President Farley of Washburn testified in favor of this appropriation. This public testimony was only a part of the public hearing on the proposed 2006 city budget.

An Agreement requesting approval by the council to allow consolidation of the city and county Parks and Recreation Departments was voted down 5 to 4. The consensus of the Council was to wait for the county-wide election later this year on the plan for consolidation being developed by the Consolidation Commission of Topeka and Shawnee County.

The City Council approved a communication that the city staff and the Council's Policy and Finance Committee will have regular monthly meetings to consider financial and budgetary issues.

## **Shawnee County Commission**

**June 30, 2005, by Carol Jory**

A retirement plaque was presented to Galen Unscheid.

No Unfinished Business.

All consent agenda approved.

Among new business items, a hearing was approved 3-0 on July 11 for Indian Hills subdivision for a leash law. A counter replacement and gear box were approved for the ExpoCenter.

The Tecumseh Rd. speed limit was discussed at length. Mr. Peck, Tecumseh Township Treasurer, pointed out the road wasn't designed for 45 mph speeds; the township wants it reduced to 30 mph. Residents don't agree with county engineers' study and want the speed limit reduced. Petition from residents presented to commissioners. It was also pointed out roads on either side are 30 mph. Commissioners pointed out that traffic engineers' standard must be used to avoid liability; anyone disagreeing must have a certified traffic engineer contest the County study. No motion made.

The haunted house regulations were to have readings in July.

An education grant with application deadline of July 1 was approved 2-1; Kane against. Grant was to fund computers and teachers. Kane felt that Parks and Recreation shouldn't get into education. Health inspections at \$150 per inspection were approved 3-0. A plan for Parks and Recreation consolidation will be released July 8.

The meeting went into a 40-minute executive session to discuss the budget, after which Valeo Health Center issues and business regarding the Humane Society were to be discussed.

## **Shawnee County Commission**

**September 15, 2005, by Jan Waide**

Two retirements were celebrated and honored.

They approved a contract with SRS for funding the head lice eradication program.

They approved a contract to continue to provide in-home services to developmentally delayed infants and toddlers.

The Community Health Center received approval to fill 5 patient services specialist positions necessitated by 3 promotions and 2 resignations.

The September 22 Commission meeting was canceled.

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## **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"Everyone counts in applying democracy. ."

—*Carrie Chapman Catt*

## PRODUCTS AND PUBLICATIONS

### Civil Liberties Panel Discussion

*–Available on DVD*

In June, the LWVUS hosted a panel discussion on Civil Liberties: Balancing Liberty and Security. This educational 1.5-hour program features Washington insiders discussing the intricacies of balancing civil liberties and homeland security and how these issues impact communities across the country. This DVD (publication #2075) is available for only \$5.00 (including shipping & handling) by contacting [pub-sales@lwv.org](mailto:pub-sales@lwv.org).

### Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement

This new book is a photographic and documentary history of the fight for women's suffrage, including over 960 illustrations in color and black and white. It

is available for \$85 through the National Women's History Project. To order, email [nwhp@aol.com](mailto:nwhp@aol.com) or call 707-636-2888. 🍷

### Safeguarding the U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary by Defending the U.S. Constitution

The LWVEF, with generous funding from the Open Society Institute, will undertake a large-scale, multi-year public education effort to increase understanding of our nation's system of separation of powers and checks and balances. The project will cover a range of topics including the role that judges play in interpreting the law, the rights of citizens that are jeopardized by a weakened judiciary system, and the differences between the roles played by state and federal courts.

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## LWVT-SC Membership Event & Auction: August 16, 2005



**Candid photos** of the festivities and highly successful fundraising auction.



## Lillian Gooden Remembered

—by *Nancy Sargent*

**Lillian Gooden** was a member of our League for quite a few years -- in the 90s and late 80s. She attended often while her health was good. Lillian was active on our Housing Committee and contributed much from the perspectives of a landlord and a person of color.

many of the longer attending members knew her (Dottie Harder, Mary Ella Simon, Winnie Crapson) but Lillian had to drop out of LWV with serious health problems.

## In Memorium

Mrs. Lillian Beatrice Gooden was born Sept. 28, 1914 in Boley, Oklahoma. Lillian was the only child to Rufus L. Fountain and Mary Elizabeth Dukes-Fountain.

Mrs. Gooden was a member of St. John A.M.E. Church where she had served in several capacities: women's chorus, past president of Grant Missionary Society, past worship direct of Fifth District, chairperson of Topeka Area W.M.S. and president of the local layman. She was also a member of the AARP #37, Rescue Mission Auxiliary and the Fleur Delis Art Club. She was a stewardess and consecrated deaconess of the A.M.E. Church.

Mrs. Gooden died May 22, 2005. Her husband, Edward N. Gooden preceded her in death.

## In Celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters

Women's Equality Day, August 26th, marked the 85th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote. Leagues around the country celebrated this occasion, while remembering the work that is still to be done in the fight to secure every citizen's right to vote.

As our founder Carrie Chapman Catt said: "The women of today only enjoy liberties unknown to their grandmothers because brave women of yesterday gave hard work and devoted, courageous service to the task of bringing them about. If women of tomorrow shall enjoy a still completer freedom, a juster status, the women of today must not shirk. Their movement must move on. Arise, women of America! March on! Duty still calls."

*Kay J. Maxwell*  
President, LWVUS

As part of the **Wichita Metro League** festivities celebrating the 85th Anniversary of the League, **Ernestine Krehbiel** wrote a skit entitled "HERStory"; she presented an excerpt at State Convention. A member of the Pennsylvania League put together a set of slides to go with the skit. Its really terrific. Access is: <http://www.palwv.org/downloadHERStoryAlive.ppt>

## Suffrage Celebrations

Wichita en-actors



### Senator Nancy Kassebaum

**Baker** spoke at the Wichita celebration. She said that if she had been in the Senate at the time of the vote for the No

Child Left Behind Law she would have voted against it. She said we needed to know who should be in charge of what. Education is the foundation of all and we all must be involved, that it is our future. It must be supported. The Senator lamented the lack of positive dialog between those with different views. She said the decibel of the public discourse is too loud and rancorous and that groups such at the League are needed to help out in this vacuum of calm study, discussion and evaluation of real issues.



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

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**VOTER, October 2005:**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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



**Announcing: LWV-Johnson County Fifth Annual Luncheon  
 "Celebrating the Right to Vote"**

Thursday, October 20, Ritz-Charles, 9000 W. 137th St., Overland Park

featuring **Susan Stamberg**, NPR Special Correspondent

Lunch 11:30 am-1:30 pm

Lecture 7:30 pm

Registration deadline: Oct. 10. For further info, call 913.341.3072

**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*