



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

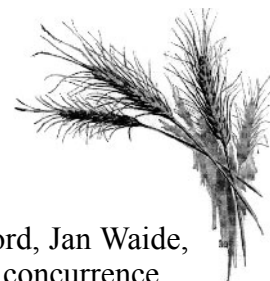
**VOTER**

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## September 2005



**6 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am**  
“Annexation: Taking a Position” presented by Mary Ann Bradford, Jan Waide, Nancy Kindling and Allyn Lockner, immediately followed by a vote on concurrence. Our meal is BBQ beef sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, water, tea and coffee.

**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 Oct. VOTER. Send materials to **Carol Yoho:cyoho@cox.net**)

**24 State League Day at the State Capitol - 8:30 AM to 3:15: PM,**  
Study topic: **Mental Health Care** —see p. 11 for details

## 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, coffee and tea.

**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**)

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### September Tuesday Topics

September Tuesday Topics will be held in room **JCM 101B**, across from the Millennium Cafe at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library. Meals are available to the first twenty-five arriving, @ \$8.25/ea. Checks payable to the Millennium Cafe.  
**If you need a ride to any League event, contact Betsy Rohleder.**



# PreZ SeZ...

September 2005

## Flurry of Activities

**W**hat a busy time of the year! By the time you read this LWVT/SC will have registered voters at the "Back to School Fair" at the Expocentre on 8/13, held a fun and successful Membership Event at Peppertree Club House on 8-16 and **Mary Ann Bradford** and **June Windsheffel** will have represented us in the audience at KTWU for the live broadcast of a public hearing by the Consolidation Commission on 8-18.

The September calendar is even busier! We start with Tuesday Topics on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library. The topic is Annexation. Be sure to be there as this is your opportunity for input as we come to concurrence on our position.

September 7 at 9:00 am will be the beginning of the Scott School Election process. Voter registration will take place at the school on 9-13. The primary election takes place on 9-27 with the general election scheduled for 10-4. All these events begin at 9:00 am.

Also in September on Saturday, the 24th, State League Day will be held at the Capitol. **Gwen Elliott** informs us the topic will be the state study topic: Mental Health Care in Kansas. She reports that many good speakers have already been lined up for that day. Please save the date on your calendars. The room and time will be announced later.

In addition, I am sure you will want to continue watching the developments regarding choosing a professional city manager and the final plan of the Consolidation Commission. Recently we have learned of a move afoot in the State Board of Education to change the policy on participation in Sex Education from "Opt-Out" to "Opt-In." This means that parents wanting their children to receive information about reproduction, pregnancy prevention, and HIV-AIDS will be required to sign a form expressing that desire for education which, since 1987, was available to all except those

whose parents chose to "Opt-Out." This would be a step backward for Kansas and Kansas children.

At the state level, watch for news about four interim committees: Assessment and Taxation; Financial Institutions; Judiciary; and Medicaid Reform. We are most concerned about the Legislature's desire to "reign in" the judiciary and to have more control over judicial appointments. Secondly, we would be opposed to any Medicaid Reform that attempts budget balancing on the backs of the poor, the children, the disabled, and the elderly of this state.

Remember STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT for good government.

—Jan Waide

### League of Women Voters T-SC

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Photo by Carol Yoho

# Tuesday Topics, July & August

Top: Gary Caruthers  
Bottom: Dr. Erik Mitchell

## “Taking the Pulse of Health in Shawnee County” –July

**Gary Caruthers,**  
Kansas Medical Society

**Dr. Erik Mitchell,**  
President, Shawnee County Medical Society

### **Gary Caruthers:**

The Shawnee County Medical Society involves local private practitioners, the Marion Clinic and other Shawnee County Health Agencies. Twelve local optometrists are also participating. Their charity care serves the underinsured. Last year prescription drugs were included with care. Generic drugs are prescribed, with co-payments by patients of between \$4 and \$7.50 per prescription. Participating members offer primary care, and guide patients in need of specialty care. Hospitalization is available when necessary through Stormont-Vail Hospital. The Marion Clinic serves over 700 patients. Another 662 patients are served through the Shawnee County Health Agency.

The partnership is working well and will continue to grow.

### **Dr. Eric Mitchell:**

Mitchell mediates as a county official as well as county coroner. There is increased communication between Medical Society and Health Department leaderships. Recently Mitchell has been helping to obtain a medical director for the department. It is not unusual to have this position vacant. There is difficulty filling this position at county health agencies nationwide.

It is the goal of the Kansas Medical Society to provide physician input and support a new director. Another goal is to retain the person in that position. It is difficult to attract good leadership.

### **Dr. Mitchell responded to questions:**

Facility renovation is proceeding at the coroner's office. There has been trouble with the air handling equipment and with positive and negative pressure



within the system ever since it was installed when the Montgomery Ward building was first transferred to city and county use. The system can work, but must be run exactly as it was designed to work.

Media pressure may have helped in getting these problems resolved. City maintenance may be an important factor in solving this problem.

The morgue has the capacity to store 27 bodies. Before the morgue is used officials try to find the next of kin or other disposal options. University dissection labs are not as interested in accepting bodies as they were at one time. They now have a two-day limit, and will not accept a body that has undergone an autopsy.

Obstetric care is a point of contention with doctors offering charity care through the Kansas Medical Society. Doctors prefer not to offer such services to the underinsured. Also, the indigent mentally ill are not well provided for. There is no direct working relationship with the Topeka Rescue Mission.

At the Shawnee County Health Agency there is clear separation of duties between the physician director and the administrative director. Usually a physician in that role would like input into policy and there is no mechanism to allow that within this agency. Dual leadership positions set up conflict unless the two persons think alike. Also, there is a great disparity in recompense between public and private practice. Often, good doctors choose to go into private practice rather than applying for public health positions.

In this area 327 of the 266 private practitioners have signed on to donate free care to those in need. Others of the remaining doctors may be offering pro bono care outside of the system.

Bio-terrorism is an important issue. That is a separate issue from helping the underinsured. Currently the Medical Reserve Corp is standing by in case of major catastrophe. There is no other Medical Society coordination other than at that level.

Dr. Rumen of the Shawnee County Health Agency is focused and working at local, state and national levels to do what he always does, but do it faster.

Those who respond to emergencies from the local fire department have a policy in place that assigns whomever arrives first at the site of

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—continued from p. 3

an emergency to become an "incident commander." That person is in charge of what happens next.

Caruthers recommends a study of best practices in like organizations, such as the Federal Qualified Health Center. The Kansas Medical Society tries to address problems as they arise, but has no long range plan.

Across the state no one county wants to foot the bill of a morgue. As county coroner Dr. Mitchell works with Frontier Forensics, a private entity that markets morgue services to other counties. This company has

a staff of 14 and serves 51 Kansas counties. The morgue operates on a budget of \$1 million. Much of its funding comes from pooling counties' funds and sharing this resource.

Our forensic office tries to follow national standards in dealing with unattended deaths, in custody issues, public epidemic threats and unnatural deaths. However, there are no enforced standards. The coroner is licensed and must live in Kansas.

Shawnee County has about 1,000 deaths per year. Of those, about 160 involve forensic work, including autopsies. 🍷

Right: Ramon Powers

## “Planning for the Future of Topeka/Shawnee Co.” —August

**Ramon Powers,**  
former Topeka Planning  
Commission Member



Mr. Powers has lived 27 years in the area. He spent three years on the city Planning Commission and is a strong proponent of annexation or consolidation-whichever works.

Powers is particularly interested in heritage issues. There is no plan to protect our historic heritage. He was involved in trying to save the Senate Apartments and the First National Bank building. Both are gone now. He had proposed Historic Districts. The Chamber of Commerce sought to exclude any businesses from such districts, overriding the intent of inclusiveness in Historic Districts. Powers also worked trying to protect the historic district around Monroe School, but businesses protested, thwarting plans.

As a member of the platting subcommittee he lobbied against building the Walgreens at 10th & Gage. The city overruled. Later the city and county parted ways and each has a Planning Commission, greatly complicating the task of planning. At that time Powers and the Planning Commission parted company.

Powers greatly appreciates diversity within a community and considers the goal of protecting diversity as an important aspect of planning. He is a proponent of "smart growth" and voted against allowing Walmart to build at Highway 24 and Rochester Road.

Powers encourages a sense of Place in planning and protecting existing neighborhoods. He believes the real issue in planning is simply that 30,000 people now residing within three miles of the city bound-

aries, using the benefits of city living without paying city taxes.

### Some statistical comparisons:

Number of rural residents—Shawnee 30%, Saline 10.78%, Riley 12.10%, Wyandotte .003%

City growth 1990-2000—Topeka 2.09%, Lawrence 21.9%, Manhattan

18.78%, and Wichita 13.25%

There has been a flight of more affluent taxpayers to outside our city limits. When comparing Topeka with Shawnee County, in 2002 Topeka issued 194 building permits for a total of \$30 million and the county issued 368 permits for a total of \$65.5million. In 2003 Topeka issued 419 building permits for a total of \$69.5 million and the county issued 903 permits for a total of \$164 million.

Sixty percent of Topeka students qualify for the federal lunch program while 10 to 20% of outlying district's students qualify (depending on the district)

Failing to annex will severely damage prospects for growth in Topeka's future.

What went wrong?

Factors include the loss of Forbes Air Force Base, the '66 Topeka tornado, urban renewal and suburbanization of the business district to White Lakes, then West Ridge Mall. Weak planning and weak leadership were also factors. Topeka has been preoccupied with state government issues. Powers proposes that we study post WWII history. It's the historian in him. Cultural factors are involved and an historical assessment would help.

Topeka seems to have an intense desperation, jumping to see jobs by wooing new businesses. Quality of Life is a factor in luring new business. Powers urges a rise in the "Creative Class"-nurturing new ideas and growth from within by encouraging creative problem

solving from within. Some of our major businesses advertise themselves in terms of being close to Lawrence and Kansas City.

Topeka needs to end wrangling between city and county officials and focus on greater efficiencies.

#### **Powers's recommendations:**

1. The 30,000 people living within three miles of Topeka's city limits must be addressed one way or another, through consolidation or annexation.
2. Topeka needs a renaissance in the cultural sphere of the arts and history.
3. Topeka needs cultural and political leadership.
4. Topeka needs to focus on cultural and geographical centers—places for citizens to congregate—while addressing racial and ethnic issues.
5. Topeka needs to develop internal talent and resources rather than being a “victim of desires” to those exerting force from outside the community.

If consolidation is defeated, annexation is back as an issue. In the last election no one talked of the future of the city or its disparities. Topeka is not like other cities in Kansas. City residents pay 70% of the county budget. Why do they pay without pressing their own interests? No politician has said, “Look at the numbers! Do you really want to continue paying for this?”

Civic education disappeared in the 1970s and 1980s. “Interest group politics” now drives politics. It is the long term that counts. Annexation is imminent. Consolidation would “phase in” county residents.

Powers feels that city residents have been electing terrible people at all levels of government. We need to factor in some creative thinkers. Talented people want to locate themselves near where other talent already lives and works, and where exciting things are happening. ♡



### **Board Briefs, July & August 2005**

*by Edith Bronson, LWVT-SC Secretary*

#### **JULY 12, 2005**

**T**he Board met with seven members present from noon to 1:00 PM at O'Dooley's. The consent agenda:

- Reported assets of \$9,098.99;
- Included the President's letter to the Consolidation Commission;
- Had oral report of 47% or 870 VOTE cards sold;
- Listed **Alta Morris, Lois Decker, Sue Gaither, Nancy Sargent, Nancy Kindling, Kathy Prochaska, Carol Yoho** and **Chair Nancy Whiffen** as the Membership Event Committee; and
- Named **June Windscheffel, Kathleen Prohaska** and **Carol Yoho** as additional members of the Mental Health Committee.

The Board:

- Expressed thanks to **Nancy Kindling** for serving on the Advisory Committee of the Consolidation Commission;
- Shared parameters for the Membership Event;
- Noted that this is the 10th Anniversary of the Scott School elections; and
- Encouraged attending the Consolidation hearings.

In an e-mail vote, the Board approved reaching concurrence on the Annexation position at September Tuesday Topics.

#### **AUGUST 9, 2005**

**P**resident **Jan Waide** was able to gavel the August board meeting open and closed in an hour, thanks to the use of the Consent Agenda for minutes and board reports.

Treasurer **Sybil Wiegman** lists assets of \$8,557.30.

The board adopted **Judy Moler's** statement supporting the League's current non-partisan policy.

VOTER Editor **Carol Yoho** keeps the board supplied with up-to-date membership lists.

**Edith Bronson** has been appointed as a trustee of the LWVK Endowment Fund.

"Civil Liberties: Balancing Liberty and Security," a 90-min. DVD will be purchased from National, viewed, and uses proposed.

**Gwen Elliott** reported that the State Mental Health Committee was able to recruit the "heavies" for State League Day on September 24.

**Sue Trast** has sent LWVT-SC member e-mail addresses to National.

**Judy Moler** will monitor the Judicial Legislative Joint Committee; **Pat Stinson** is checking on Medicaid Reform.

LWVT-SC is donating \$85 from the treasury to support the Wichita League-sponsored speeches of Nancy Kassebaum's, August 26, and Eleanor Clift, October 4.

### City Council

**June 21, 2005, by Joe D. Sargent**

It was a pleasant surprise on arriving at TPAC to learn that the City Council Meeting had been moved back to the Council's Chambers. No more voting by a show of hands. A number of employees from the Fire Department were present to receive a proclamation from Mayor Bunten declaring June 22nd to June 24th as a time for the Fire Department to review safety issues pertaining to the firemen. The reason for this review is the number of deaths that have occurred nationally to firemen while on duty.

An ordinance introduced by Council Member Alcalá would allow parking on improved surfaces for community events or activities designated by the Council for periods, not to exceed two weeks. This is an important issue for the upcoming Mexican Fiesta. It passed with no dissenting votes.

Another ordinance introduced by Council Member Blackburn regarding the use and sale of fireworks within the city limits passed 5 to 4. The definition of permitted fireworks was expanded to "consumer fireworks" from "novelties and noisemakers." Persons under eighteen must use fireworks under adult supervision.

An ordinance introduced by Acting City Manager Dobler established a new working relationship between the Council and the City Manager. It passed 6 to 3. From now on, the Mayor and Council members are not allowed to give directions or instructions to City employees other than the City Manager. The Council will meet at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month to consider only items on the consent agenda and first readings of proposed ordinances. On the second and fourth Tuesdays, the Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. to act on proposed ordinances and to receive public comment.

The Council voted only seven members to the revamped nine-member Topeka Planning Commission; they are Mark Boyd, John McGivern, Kimberly Scott, Ralph Skoog, Joselito Enriquez, Fred Sanders, and Michelle Hoferer.

Further, the Council approved the use of \$200,000 of the Transient Guest Tax Funds for the purchase and installation of way finding signs.

**July 7, 2005, by Joe D. Sargent**

An ordinance introduced by acting City Manager Dobler to establish new council meeting times and places was defeated. Under this ordinance, the council would meet on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. and on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. It puzzled me why the Council would vote on this issue again; the new schedule of meetings had passed the first time on 6/21/05. The reason for voting the second time was to make a change in the charter ordinance regarding times and places for council meetings. Public testimony brought out the fact that the rules established in the charter ordinance could not be changed for two years. The charter ordinance referred to was written in the 1980's and the City Attorney Brenden Long explained that this was a strict interpretation of the law since previous administrations have not observed it. After the Council became aware of the rule, the Council, as previously stated, defeated the ordinance introduced by acting city manager Dobler. Now all meetings as originally stated in the charter ordinance will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Council's first meeting under the new procedural rules will be July 19th.

A resolution introduced by Councilmember Preisner dealt with the selection of an executive search firm to assist the City in the employment of a city manager. It passed 7-2. Apparently, it authorizes the acting city manager to hire the firm of Slavin to assist the city in this selection process. Previously, there had been some sentiment within the Council to delay the selection process until the consolidation committee completed its work.

Acting city manager Dobler presented a projected budget of \$1,533,605 and an ordinance providing for aesthetic improvements along the "Capital Parkway" located on 8th Street from I-70 to Kansas Avenue. A motion to send it to the Economic Development Committee for further review passed 8 to 1. This proposal is a scaled-down version of the original proposal for the "Capital Parkway" which would have stretched from I-70 to Topeka Boulevard.

In the near future, a committee of citizen volunteers will issue a report on the Topeka Zoological Park to the Council.

## **Advisory Board of Federally Qualified Health Clinic, Shawnee County**

**July 26, 2005**, by *Nancy Sargent*

The governance committee handed out a brochure on Family Planning services offered and this was approved by the board as required by the federal government. A DVD on the history and present state of Community Health Care was presented. It was well done and concluded with a statement by President G W Bush that he would like to expand community services since they are cost effective and of high quality.

The Finance Committee report predicted a low cash carry over into 2006. Revenues do not cover expenses. County Commissioners are in the process of reviewing the budget. (new paragraph) Executive Director McArdele noted that several grants may be forthcoming to hire staff for mental health services. Another grant is to provide medication for low cost medication for clients. As of August 8,05 an ARNP (registered nurse practitioner) will be hired so that ill persons can be seen the same day they call. (medicaid requires that patients be seen within 72 hours). Our clinic is recognized as a leader in diabetes care, one of the "disparities" on which clinics nationwide are collaborating.

There was a discussion on length of time a patient spends in the clinic per appointment. National average is 65plus minutes. Locally the Hillcrest clinic averages 40 minutes and the main clinic 45 to 50 minutes (15 minute wait,10 minutes with nurse and 25 minutes with physician).

Next Meeting is noon on August 25,05.

## **Consolidation Public Information Meeting**

**July 15, 2005**, by *Pat Stinson*

**Consolidation Public Information Meeting 7-15-05**

This was a meeting to explain the basic consolidation plan and answer any questions. There were 42 people attending. The majority of the audience were representing a group, you could tell by their questions.

Tom Wright went over The Preliminary Plan for

Consolidating the Governments of Topeka, Kansas and Shawnee County. He distributed a copy of the plan dated June 21, 2005. Wright went over each step telling why it was written in that manner. He quoted the Wyandotte County Consolidation plan and said they were all impressed by the results they have had. Their property tax dropped 25% in the last 10 years and they have had a lot of economic growth as a result of their consolidation.

Questions were answered about annexation—cannot have annexation unless the bill fails.

The administrator of the Chamber of Commerce reminded Tom Wright that the Wyandotte group had 12 elected officers.

A superintendent of one of the school districts wanted to be reassured that this consolidation would not change the schools. He was told this had nothing to do with school districts.

The question was asked if it would change bond ratings and they said the ratings would be higher if this passed.

Wright said they had done their work but the committee needed people to work to get it passed. People hate change and he asked to assure citizens that the sheriff would still be elected under this plan. He encouraged groups to work to answer questions for voters because Topeka and Shawnee County need this passed. The Head of the Chamber of Commerce said they thought the committee had done an excellent job.

Tom Wright wanted everyone to tell people this is a preliminary plan and it could be changed. He encouraged them to use the Commission's web site at [www.cctksc.org](http://www.cctksc.org)

Larry Wilson, representing SCORE, read a letter addressed to the Commissioners listing the following recommendations.

1. A nonpartisan election of 7 commissioners representing the proposed 5 districts and 2 at-large commissioners to serve 4 year odd/even terms.
2. The Chairperson be elected by majority vote of the commission to serve a 2 year term as Chairperson.
3. Employ by majority vote of the Commissioners a professional administrator to manage the Unified Government.
4. Require no legal change in the

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election process and functions of the Treasurer, County Clark, Register of Deeds and Sheriff. The Sheriff should be the Unified Government's chief law enforcement officer.

5. The Unified Government should ascertain the mill levy as required therefore no cap is needed

Chamber of Commerce spokesman wanted everyone to know they definitely supported the consolidation of the park system.

Meeting was adjourned 8:30 a.m.

### Shawnee County Commission

#### June 16, 2005, by *Jan Waide*

First reading of proposed resolution to levy a guest tax on all guest rooms in establishments outside the city limits in order to level the playing field for all the city hotels and motels.

The commission authorized the use of the county logo on "Tax Dollars at Work" signs to show how sales tax dollars are being used.

Report from John Knight, Dir. of Shawnee County Parks and Recreation, on the consolidation of parks and rec: Joint committee is working on the transfer of funding as well as staff. Preservation of service level is the guiding concern. No cost efficiencies have come to light yet. In fact the dollars in use now may not be adequate for the consolidated department due to different sources of funding that may or may not flow to the consolidated department, i.e. motor vehicle tax, transient guest tax, etc.

#### June 23, 2005, by *Jan Waide*

Final approval of the guest tax ordinance. This will apply to bed and breakfasts with over two beds for guests. The revenue raised will go toward expenses of the Expo Centre.

Betsy Gillespie, Corrections, reported that she has two crews of prisoners working all the time on community projects.

Report from John Knight, Parks and Rec.: Plan is nearing completion. Neither the city nor the county office currently used for Parks and Rec. business is large enough for the consolidated office. They could build onto the Shawnee Co. office if they need to.

No positions being eliminated at this time but through attrition the staff will be reduced. Fee structure is being discussed. They are trying for uniformity and will try to retain "scholarships" that city currently offers for low income families.

They are compiling lists of property to be included in the single department. They are compiling a list of parks and a list of non-park properties currently maintained by the city.

They are identifying salary inequities. City's bargaining unit is KAPE. The county employees are with the Teamsters. Those contracts expire at different times. Both unions will deal with the salary equity.

The biggest problems for the planning committee are the administrative salaries that are outside the union contracts. Retirement payouts will need to be ironed out. Funding for those will need to follow the employee. Since this consolidation is outside HB 2083, any department debt may need to transfer as well as assets. The consolidated budget will be proposed for 2006. County budget hearings are in August.

#### July 7, 2005, by *Jan Waide*

First reading of a proposed resolution that would fine violators \$100.00 and would authorize removal of temporary signs on property not involved in the event in the unincorporated area of Shawnee County.

They will also be drafting a resolution regarding noise cessation in the county areas, especially around the 4th of July.

Legal actions have been filed against the Westlawn Memorial Cemetery Corporation. If it is dissolved the county will be appointed the receiver. The County will try to cooperate with the heirs of the cemetery. Secretary of State and Attorney General are directing the legal procedure. The County's long term plan would be to straighten out all the problems, sort out the money, put it back in working order and sell it. Only one quarter of the available plots are sold or occupied. Perpetual Care programs already purchased are in jeopardy.

Consolidated Parks and Recreation report: The plan has been put together in 60 days, largely due to the fact that the governing bodies stayed out of the planning. The final plan will include: Organizational

structure; Transfer of property; IT systems; and Funding issues. The plan will NOT suggest or recommend governance.

Neil Dobler recommends county wide governance and taxation with the county simply reporting back to the city. All city personnel would transfer to county employment. City would pay for accrued leave. All equipment and assets would transfer to the county. Internal services would stay with the city but the county could contract with them. Debt would go to the consolidated department.

The planning committee will continue to work on details during the period the governing bodies need to consider their vote on the plan.

**July 14, 2005, by Jan Waide**

Court administration requested that room B-22 be turned into a courtroom and move the Battered Women's Task Force to B-19. This raised questions as to whether or not the BWTF had permission to use the courthouse space in the first place. Comm. Miller thinks outside organizations should not be using courthouse space. All county departments must ask permission to utilize courthouse space.

Further discussion of Westlawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery. There is \$250,000 to \$300,000 in a perpetual care account at the Secretary of State's office that will be turned over to the county when all contracts are finalized and the county takes over the operation. The county has contracted with the current staff to continue the operation of the Cemetery.

The Commission canceled the meetings scheduled for 7-28-2005 and 8-4-2005 and moved approval of the Parks and Rec. plan to 8-1-2005 and the budget hearing to 8-3-2005.

**July 21, 2005, by Jan Waide**

The Commission approved a 2% raise for all classified employees in the 2006 budget. They would also be eligible for a 2.5% step increase.

Neighbors of Lake Edun were in attendance. There was a court order (civil order) prohibiting Lake Edun from participating in any commercial activities this past weekend. They were advertising commercial activities without a commercial license. The neighbors were angry that no arrests were made and people

were not prohibited from entering the property. The Sheriff deputies went out to document the failure to comply with the court order. That information will be given to the County Counselor, who can then ask the court to find Lake Edun in contempt. The presence of the deputies seems to have reduced the crowd from an expected 200 to approximately 20. 🍷

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**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

“Evolution of democracy is not possible if we are not prepared to hear the other side.”

—*Mohatma Gandhi*



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**One Idea for Using Our LWV Notecards:**

Kay O'Connor announced that she is seeking the Republican nomination for Secretary of State next year. O'Connor, 63, is from Olathe.

In 2001, O'Connor decried a society that she said tears families apart, saying: “I think the 19th Amendment, while it's not an evil in and of itself, is a symptom of something I don't approve of.”

She added: “The 19th Amendment is around because men weren't doing their jobs, and I think that's sad. I believe the man should be the head of the family. The woman should be the heart of the family.”

Write your opinions to Kay or other legislators on one of our blank LWV 85th anniversary notecards.

(See p. 12 for purchase details.)

**Contact info:**

Kay O'Connor, State Senator  
1101 North Curtis, Olathe, KS 66061  
(913) 764-7935



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

- We will be publishing our next Voter in early September. We plan to institute a column entitled "Spotlight on Local Leagues." From my visits to your Leagues over the past 2 years, I always learned something and found that each of your Leagues does such interesting things that this is a way to share some of that. So, we will feature three Leagues in the September Voter: **Emporia, Great Bend and Johnson County**. Please send me a one or two paragraph article featuring something your League has recently done, maybe what your local study is going to be for the year, or some other activity you would like us to know about. The January Voter will feature **Lawrence, Manhattan and Salina** and the March Voter will feature **Topeka and Wichita**.
- As a result of a contact I made at Council, the state League and some local Leagues have been invited

to participate in a "Justice at Stake" coalition forming in the state. The effort is to maintain the independence of the courts and the judiciary. An organizational meeting is being held July 15, and Ernestine Krehbiel (Wichita), Carrie Lindsey and Jennifer Dropkin (Lawrence) will represent League at the meeting. On the national scene, there are efforts in many states to become more active in this area, and Kansas is among many states where there are individuals working to restrict the powers of the courts. Based on a teleconference I was involved in earlier this week, I believe we will have support and ideas for our efforts from LWVUS (Zaida Arguedas) and thru the Justice at Stake organization. We will have much work to do between now and the 2006 elections; if you are interested in this topic, please let me know. We need to make this a state-wide effort of voter education! 🍷

### LWVUS News: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Next Steps on Election Reform**

In March 2005, the LWVEF and the McCormick Tribune Foundation sponsored a forum about Next Steps on Election Reform. The gathering convened election experts to discuss the 2004 election and to chart a course for improving our nation's elections. Participants called for a number of improvements, which the League has refined to four key steps: professionalization, a new focus on service, research and development, and federal resources and commitment. Read the report on-line at: [www.lwv.org/elibrary/pub/voting\\_nextsteps\\_color.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/elibrary/pub/voting_nextsteps_color.pdf)

#### **Campaign Finance Reform in The National Voter**

During the 2004 presidential and congressional campaigns, soft money found its way back into the political system, due to a tremendous growth in the number of "527" organizations, their

fundraising and their electioneering activities. Campaign finance reform is one of the cornerstones of the League's Democracy Agenda, and one of the next steps in this battle is the reform of "527" groups. Read the article at [http://www.lwv.org/elibrary/nv/2005/voter\\_June2005\\_2.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/elibrary/nv/2005/voter_June2005_2.pdf)

**LWVUS listened to the membership and will be unveiling a new website** in late August/early September. We saw a preview and it is much more user friendly, with lots of information! I'm sure we will be notified the minute it's up and running

**The LWVUS Convention will be held in Minneapolis from June 10 – 13;** mark your calendars now and consider sending several delegates. If you are a Garrison Keillor fan – he will be one of the featured speakers! 🍷

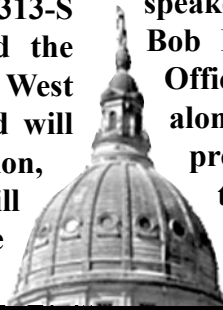
# League Day at the Capitol

*Saturday, September 24, Topeka —*

The meeting will be held in Room 313-S (Old Supreme Court Room) and the public entry into the Capitol is the West door. Registration will be \$20 and will include coffee and rolls at registration, and lunch. The speaker list is still being finalized, but two of the

speakers are Dr. Roy Menninger and Bob Day, Director of the Governor's Office of Health Planning and Finance, along with a number of mental health professionals. Registration is from 8 to 9 a.m. The program starts at 9.

*Mark your calendar and plan to attend!*



Study Topic:  
**Mental Health Care**

**An Invitation from Ernestine Krehbiel,  
Co-President, LWV-Wichita Metro:**

Former U.S. Sen. **Nancy Kassebaum Baker** has accepted an invitation to be the keynote speaker for the Wichita League of Women Voters' yearlong celebration of the 85th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution's 19th amendment, whose passage gave American women full voting rights.

Kassebaum Baker will speak about "The Challenges of Change" at **7 p.m. Friday, August 26**, at Wichita State University's Metropolitan Complex, 5015 E. 29th Street N. (29th and Oliver). The event is free and open to the public.

In an effort to educate and spread the word about the importance of that 19th Amendment we have suffragist re-enactors and a 15 minute skit we provide as programs for groups. I wrote the skit and if you would like a copy for your celebration I will email it to you: [ekrehbiel@cox.net](mailto:ekrehbiel@cox.net)

We are still struggling to cover the expenses of all our big events though we have had many generous donors. If you feel you can help us out, write a tax-deductible check to the LWV Wichita Metro Education Fund. We are suggesting to our members \$85 for the 85th but would be grateful for any help anyone can give.

*The 19th amendment was ratified 8-26-1920!*



## Wichita Suffrage Celebrations

The Kassebaum Baker presentation is part of a series of events sponsored by the League of Women Voters to mark the 85th anniversary year. More than 40 local organizations and businesses have joined in planning events and fund-raising.

**9 a.m.-11 a.m. Friday, August 19:** Rally and 10 a.m. news conference. A fine display of suffragist re-enactors will march and picket outside the historic Lassen Hotel, then join the media and onlookers for coffee and refreshments in the lobby of the Hotel, 155 N. Market, the original home of Wichita's League of Women Voters.

**September-November:** Book Club, Wichita Public Library, Rockwell branch

**7 p.m. Tuesday, October 4:** **Eleanor Clift**, White House correspondent and television commentator, will speak and discuss her book, *Founding Sisters and the 19th Amendment*, at Wichita State University's Hughes Metropolitan Complex, 5015 E. 29th St. N. Free and open to the public.

For more information about events, and volunteer and donor opportunities, call (316) 261-5313, e-mail [womenvoteict@hotmail.com](mailto:womenvoteict@hotmail.com) or visit [www.allaboutwichita.com/lwv](http://www.allaboutwichita.com/lwv).

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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

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

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

**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*