



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

VOTER

President: Jan Waide
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215 N Broadmoor
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Voter Editor: Carol Yoho
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785-273-3089 (h)

March 2006

Special farewell to
Carol & Clyde Rousey
See p. 10

7 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am,
“Those Who Know: Consumers of Mental Health Services in Kansas.”
Panel discussion of service consumers moderated by Gwen Elliott.
Our meal is Chicken a la King on Pastry Shell, fruit cup, cake, & tea/coffee/water.

9 LWVK Day at the Capitol - Begins 8:30 am
First Presbyterian Church, 817 SW Harrison, Willard Hall, lower level. *Details, p. 8.*
Cost \$20. Registration to State League office or phone 785-234-5152 by **Mon., March 6**

12-18 Sunshine Week - “Openness in Government” ←



LWVUS partners in this project. Visit www.SunshineWeek.org for details

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

23 VOICE Meeting - McFarland’s Restaraunt, Dinner 6:00 pm,
Meeting 7:00 pm, “Mental Health in Kansas”
Overview of the topic and discussion of possible study questions. Join us for dinner and stay for the meeting.

April 2006

1 Annual Meeting - 9:00 am, YWCA —Maggie Kelly: “Humor in our Lives.”
\$5 for light brunch and coffee. Please park south and use the south door off of 13th & VanBuren.

4 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am,
“The History of Mental Health in Kansas ” by Dr. Roy Menninger
— For more April events, see April VOTER

March Tuesday Topics

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



PreZ SeZ...

— by *Jan Waide*

ADVOCACY - A Right. A Duty?

In an open and free democratic society, advocacy is the right of every citizen. For members of the League of Women Voters (LWV) it should be considered a duty.

Why would I make such an outrageous statement? A good advocate should be well informed and be able to take a well-reasoned position on the issues of the day. That pretty well defines the capabilities of a Leaguer!

You, through League, constantly receive information from the national, state and local levels regarding the “hot” issues of the day. You can be confident that our leaders at the state and national levels will not advise you to advocate on a position that has not been researched, studied and adopted through consensus or concurrence. You have those adopted policy positions at your fingertips as they are contained in the “Statements of Position: LWVUS, LWVK, or LWVT/SC” provided to you each year at our Annual Meeting.

From time to time we receive “Action Alerts” or “Legislative E-Reports” from national (LWVUS) or state (LWVK) league. These ask each of us to contact our congressmen or state legislators to advocate the League position of a particular bill or piece of legislation currently up for consideration. Most of these communications come to me as the president of the local league. I send them to Pat Stinson, Study and Action Director of LWVT/SC, for distribution to our membership via e-mail. We believe it is consistent with the mission of the League of Women Voters to keep you informed and to request your assistance in communicating our public policy positions to your governmental representatives when needed. (We apologize to those of you who do not have e-mail capability as we have no way to instantly inform you.)

Many of you may feel that your one letter/e-mail/call will not make a difference. Hubert Humphrey, Sen. and Vice-President from Minnesota, once explained that most politicians

have a formula for determining public opinion on an issue, without taking a poll! That formula involved an “x factor.” The “x factor” varied, determined by the size of the constituency in the politician's district. The formula was simply to multiply each letter/e-mail/call by “x.” This was based on the belief that for each person who took the time to communicate their position on an issue there were “x number” who agreed with that opinion but did not take the time to communicate it to their representative. Thus, each communiqué was multiplied by an “x factor”.

If you do not know how to contact your state representative, you can go to the LWVK website—www.lwvk.org and link to the Kansas Legislature website. Watch the Capital-Journal editorial page for lists of various governmental representatives with their contact information.

Please read the information we send you and stand up and speak out for good government!

League of Women Voters T-SC

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Celebrating 86 years!

Tuesday Topics, February

“Preparing for Pandemic Flu”

by **Dr. Howard Rodenberg**

Director of Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment



Dr. Howard Rodenberg

Respiratory viruses cause flu. Symptoms include sudden onset, fever, body aches, headache, cough and excessive tiredness. Flu strains change rapidly and antibiotics don't help. In Kansas, about one thousand people die each year after catching flu. Often they die of pneumonia, a rare complication of the flu. The young and the old are most vulnerable.

Flu can be prevented through basic hygiene (hand-washing, covering the cough, staying home while sick) and by vaccination. Those with flu should treat the symptoms: drink fluids, rest, and medicate to reduce fever and body aches (avoid aspirin!).

Flu vaccine is updated yearly. A cluster of viruses has popped up in recent years. Concern lays in situations where novel viruses surface for which NO ONE has resistance. Such situations are called "pandemic" and the last big pandemic in the United States was in 1918.

Statistics show that we are overdue for another flu pandemic. In 1918 the world's population was one billion. Current world population is seven billion, and viruses travels fast. Virus H5M1, "Bird Flu" is one of many viruses. Humans have caught this strain from poultry, but no case as yet has been transferred from human to human. Human victims in Asia, Africa and Europe have been "dirt poor," living in close physical contact with bird bodies, bird droppings, and bird blood.

It is estimated that, should a pandemic break out in Kansas, twenty-five percent (700,000) of the population will catch the virus. One-half million of the sick will seek medical attention. Ten thousand are likely to be hospitalized with flu, and 2,500 excess deaths may result. As the virus becomes more common it becomes less lethal. Viruses like to prey on their hosts, but not kill them--a dead host is of no use to the virus.

The state of Kansas has a flu plan with three areas of focus. **1. Surveillance** (tracking the disease), **2. Emergency Response** (community health partner

ships, vaccines/antivirals, isolation/quarantine), and **3. Communications** (informing the public at the right time with the right information, and always being truthful).

Dr. Rosenberg feels there will be another flu pandemic but has no idea when it will occur or what strain of flu will hit. His advice is, ***“Be concerned, but be confident.”***

In response to questions from the audience, Dr. Rosenberg made the following points:

- The U.S. has no where near enough vaccine for everyone. Tamiflu must be administered to the stricken 24-to-48 hours after exposure, and usually the victim does not know within that time frame that he/she has been exposed.
- Pneumonia shots are critical for older populations in avoiding complications from flu. Shots are recommended every 5 to 10 years and usually two shots will make a person as immune from pneumonia as they are likely to become.
- Cooking foods kills viruses, so people are not likely to catch bird flu by eating chicken.
- **Goals of a Pandemic Plan** include limiting the burden of the disease, minimizing social disruption, and minimizing economic impact of the virus. Who runs society? Those who need immediate protection from the virus include medical personnel, police and firefighters, health care workers, and our nation's truck drivers (to deliver essential goods). We also need to protect persons who distribute gas and electricity, and those who manage waste.
- Isolation and quarantine might have worked in the 1918 flu pandemic, but people are too mobile now for such tactics to be very effective.
- Each person should remember simple precautions like washing their hands thoroughly, covering their mouths when they cough, and staying home when sick.

Resignation of Long Time Worker

—THANKS, ALICE!

It was with a heavy heart that I accepted the resignation of Alice Stoland, our long time telephone chairperson. Alice lost her husband, Bob, at the end of January. He had been very ill and bedridden for a long time. As I expressed my sympathy at her loss and discussed plans for the future with her, she stated a desire to be relieved of her duties as telephone chair. She does not even remember how long she has carried out that duty and I do not remember a time when she was not the "Head Caller." We both know it has been a long time!

Therefore, she certainly has earned the right to be relieved. We will miss her attention to duty and we cannot thank her enough for her many years of service. I know that she will continue in her interest in all things League. She will welcome your calls to chat about the current issues of the day.

— by *Jan Waide*

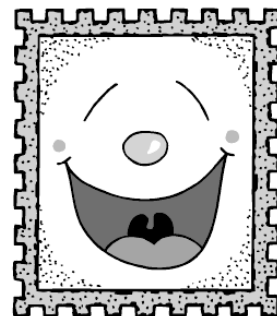


Mark Your Calendar!

ANNUAL MEETING

Speaker:

Maggie Kelly,
"Humor,"
in Our Lives"



- Cost is \$5.
- A light continental breakfast will be served.
- The meeting will be at the YWCA.
- Please park and come in the door off of 13th and VanBuren.
- See proposed budget and position nominees, p. 6-8 of March VOTER.

February 14, 2006 Board Briefs

At the Valentine's Day meeting of the Board of Directors, members learned that:

Nancy Shaughnessy and **Mary Ann Breitbach** are new observers of the County Commission;

Lois Decker is Telephone Committee Chair following **Alice Stoland's** resignation after her husband's death;

Our position on annexation has been sent to Shawnee Co. legislators, County Commission, City Council, Acting City Manager, Shawnee Co. and Topeka Planning Directors;

The domain name LWVTSC.org has been registered and **Carol Yoho** is preparing a LWVTSC web site,

Grace Wilson will be Annual Meeting parliamentarian;

Nancy Whiffen, Judy Moler and **Ruth Wilkin** were added to the Nominating Committee; **Dottie Harder, Anne Baker** and **Dolores Field** were appointed to the Budget Committee;

Georgia Sandlin, Chair, **Nancy Jehl** and **Patty Dick** will read/approve Annual Meeting minutes; and

Susan Farley and **Barbara Livergood** will audit the treasurer's books.

The board voted:

- To recommend using unit/VOICE meetings to review and act on timely local positions;
- To amend and approve the new budget; and
- To honor **Carol** and **Clyde Rousey**, who are moving to North Carolina, at March 7 Tuesday Topics.

by *Edith Bronson,*
LWVT-SC Secretary



1. Letter to the U.S. House on Lobby Reform Legislation

The LWVUS sent a letter to members of the U.S. House of Representatives strongly urging them to support effective legislation to reform the lobbying process and to begin to rebuild public confidence in Congress. The LWVUS Lobby Corps will be delivering this message to the Hill in visits over the next month.



2. Don't Compromise Civil Liberties

Congress is nearing a final vote on the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act. On February 9, a proposed compromise on the reauthorization was announced. Urgent action is needed to oppose this compromise, which does not provide critical protections for civil liberties. Now is the time for you to contact your Members of Congress!

3. League's 86th Birthday

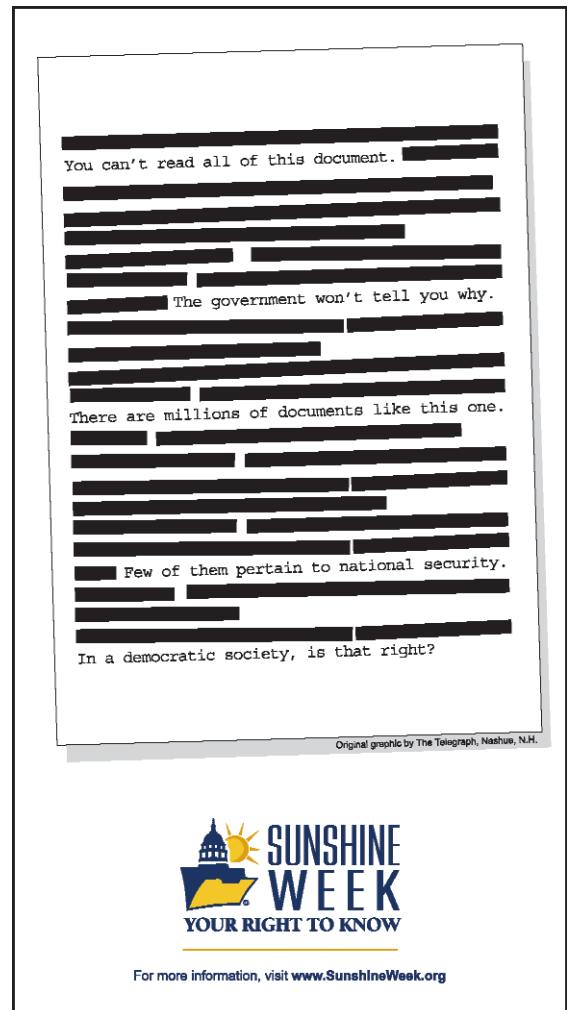
On February 14, the LWVUS celebrated its 86th birthday.

4. Promote Your Debates on the LWVUS Web Site

As the 2006 election primary season begins, we wanted to give you the opportunity to promote your local debates and candidate information forums on the Events Calendar of the Web site,

5. LWVUS President's Democracy Agenda Speech

LWVUS President Kay J. Maxwell recently returned from a trip promoting the League's Democracy Agenda in several western states. She delivered a speech detailing the Democracy Agenda. President Maxwell's trip received positive coverage in the *Salt Lake Tribune*.



LWV of Topeka/Shawnee County Budget 4/1/06-3/31/07

Category Description	Budgeted '05-'06	Actual 2/5/06	Proposed Budget 2006-2007
<u>INCOME</u>			
Contributions			
Community	750.00	345.00	150.00
Members	340.00	501.00	200.00
Total Contributions	1090.00	846.00	350.00
Dues - Members			
Household (\$72) 14	1152.00	936.00	1008.00
NRM Rebate (\$5) 6	10.00	0.00	30.00
Regular (\$48) (78)	4128.00	2832.00	3744.00
Sustaining (\$85) (6)	680.00	425.00	510.00
Total Dues	5970.00	4193.00	5292.00
Finance & Development			
Auction	500.00	1204.00	900.00
Notecards	500.00	1225.17	1300.00
Garage Sale	500.00	738.75	500.00
Pin Sales	225.00	215.00	0.00
Unspecified	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Finance & Development	1775.00	3399.92	2700.00
Interest	20.00	33.41	35.00
Meetings			
Annual Meeting	100.00	0.00	100.00
Governmental Issues Mtg	575.00	840.00	600.00
	675.00	840.00	700.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$9530.00	\$9312.33	\$9077.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Advocacy and/or action			
Local	100.00	0.00	50.00
National	10.00	0.00	10.00
State	10.00	0.00	10.00
Total Advocacy &/or Action	120.00	0.00	70.00
Assessments (PMP)			
LWVKS (\$20) 111	2310.00	1222.50	2220.00
LWVUS (\$23) 111	2415.00	1584.00	2553.00
Total Assessments	4725.00	2806.50	4773.00

LWV of Topeka/Shawnee County Budget 4/1/06-3/31/07

Category Description	Budgeted '05-'06	Actual 2/5/06	Proposed Budget 2006-2007
Board			
Budget & Nominations	10.00	0.00	10.00
Donations	0.00	40.00	0.00
Finance & Development	100.00	650.88	100.00
Membership	40.00	44.48	40.00
President	120.00	23.79	75.00
Public Relations	15.00	0.00	15.00
Secretary	15.00	0.00	15.00
Supplies & Tools	70.00	161.03	70.00
Treasurer	50.00	40.75	50.00
	<u>420.00</u>	<u>960.93</u>	<u>375.00</u>
Convention/Council			
LWVKS Council	350.00	375.00	150.00
LWVUS Convention	1400.00	597.73	1400.00
Total Convention/Council	<u>1750.00</u>	<u>972.73</u>	<u>1550.00</u>
Education			
Local Programs	50.00	0.00	50.00
National Programs	20.00	0.00	20.00
State Programs	20.00	85.00	20.00
Total Education	<u>90.00</u>	<u>85.00</u>	<u>90.00</u>
Meetings			
Annual Meeting	100.00	45.98	100.00
Governmental Issues Mtg	575.00	1044.98	600.00
Membership Event	110.00	35.00	80.00
Tuesday Topics	50.00	21.48	50.00
Total Meetings	<u>835.00</u>	<u>1147.44</u>	<u>830.00</u>
Member Services			
Misc Mailings	0.00	0.00	0.00
Voter - postage	530.00	371.15	500.00
Voter - printing	570.00	575.95	594.00
Yearbook - printing	300.00	123.58	125.00
Total Member Services	<u>1400.00</u>	<u>1070.68</u>	<u>1219.00</u>
Publications			
Local Publications	40.00	0.00	20.00
US & KS Publications	0.00	5.00	0.00
Total Publications	<u>40.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>20.00</u>
Voter Service			
Candidate Forum	100.00	0.00	50.00
Unspecified Projects	0.00	60.00	0.00
Voter Service Handouts	50.00	0.00	100.00
Total Voter Service	<u>150.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9530.00	\$7108.28	\$9077.00

NARRATIVE FOR THE PROPOSED 2006-2007 BUDGET

League of Women Voters of Topeka-Shawnee County, KS

INCOME

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

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

Finance & Development refers to any activity or project that brings income for the general operations of the League. These include auctions/fundraisers, garage sale and/or sale of items.

Interest Income is derived from savings or CD accounts.

Meetings includes any income from planned or regular meetings of the LWVTSC. These are Annual Meeting, Governmental Issues Dinner, Membership Event and the monthly Tuesday Topics.

EXPENSES

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

Assessments means the annual Per Member Payments (PMP) paid by the LWVTSC to both the national and state Leagues. The LWVUS PMP is \$23 per member. LWVK is budgeted for \$22 per member.

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

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

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

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

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

NARRATIVE FOR THE PROPOSED 2006-2007 BUDGET —cont.
League of Women Voters of Topeka-Shawnee County, KS

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

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

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

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

Convention & Council represents figures for the LWVK Council meeting in Lawrence, April 29, 2006. State Council allows three (3) delegates. The LWVUS Convention is in Minneapolis, MN, in June 2006. The amount for LWVUS Convention includes registration, hotel, meals and car expense for two (2) delegates.

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

Meetings comprise Annual Meeting with payment of speaker and the annual meeting booklet containing business and board member reports; Governmental Issues Dinner wherein each member pays for own individual meal/s, and guest speakers' and invited guests' meals are paid from the League's general fund. The annual Membership Event is offered free of charge to members and prospective members. Payments for the luncheon at Tuesday Topics are paid by the members and their guests to the Millennium Café. An advance of \$50 for change making is provided each April. The general fund pays for luncheons for guest speakers.

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

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

Voter Service in FY 2006-2007 will focus primarily on voter education and registration of voters.

PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR 2006-2007
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOPEKA-SHAWNEE COUNTY, KS

We only received 4 responses to the survey document sent to you in the February Voter. The Board of Directors were not confident that those 4 responses were entirely representative of our 111 members.

Those 4 responses also failed to suggest any new topic for our local league to study. They did indicate some interest in reviewing or updating some of the former local study topics as embodied in our current local positions.

Therefore, the Board of Directors proposes that we use unit meetings to review targeted local positions to determine further action needed.

Slate of Officers Nominations 2006
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOPEKA-SHAWNEE COUNTY, KS

Reported by Nominating Committee—

Committee Members 2005-2006:

Charlotte Adair, Chair, Sue Gaither, Ruth Wilkin (fills vacancy left when Jan Jaquith moved away, Board Member Nancy Whiffin and board member Judy Moler

Director, 2 yrs	Georgia Sandlin	2006-2008
Director, 2 yrs	Chelsey Smith	2006-2008
Director, 2 yrs	Nancy Shaughnessy	2006-2008
Nominating Chair	Betsy Rohleder, chair	2006-2007
Committee Members	Nancy Sargent	2006-2007
	Dorothy Harder	2006-2007

JOIN US at MARCH 2006 TUES. TOPICS
 in bidding fond farewell to
Carol & Clyde Rousey

Bring cards, memorabilia and good wishes for a scrapbook to be compiled in their honor. This is an opportunity to honor long-time Leaguer Carol Rousey prior to the Rousey's departure from Topeka.



LWVK Day at the Capitol, March 9, 2006

Schedule

- 8:30 - 9:15am Coffee and registration, Willard Hall
- 9:15 - 9:45 Review key bills and talking points to support or oppose the legislation
- 9:45 - noon Go to the Capitol to visit committ meetings, view the House in session (begins at 11 a.m.) and visit with your legislators — be certain to make an appointment before you go
- 12 - 1:30 pm Lunch and speaker, followed by Q&A, Willard Hall
- 1:30 pm Return to Capitol to visit committees, visit legislators, view the Senate in session (begins at 2:30 pm)

We are very fortunate to have as our lunch speaker Lougene Marsh, Director of the Flint Hills Community Health Center, and an Emporia League member. Lougene's talk is entitled "Health Choice: Yours, Mine and Theirs." She is well-qualified to address this topic, both in her professional role and having attended "Citizens Hearing Meeting on Health Care," a recent program in the Kansas City area. The Kansas City program is one of many occurring across the country and supported by recent federal legislation to engage citizens around the country in a dialogue on health care.



Please consider inviting your legislator(s) to join us for lunch; they would benefit from hearing Lougene.

Cost

\$20 - to include the morning coffee and rolls and lunch.

Location

We will begin the day, and have lunch, at the First Presbyterian Church, 817 SW Harrison (on the southwest corner of Harrison and 8th streets, and immediately west of the Capitol), in Willard Hall on the lower level. You may park in the lot on the north side of the church. After entering the vestibule on the north part of the church, take the elevator to the basement level. Turn right off the elevator and watch for signs to Willard Hall. If you park elsewhere and enter the south side of the church, go right down the stairs just inside that door. Please don't park in the small parking lot on the south end of the church.

Reservations

Mail your checks, made payable to League of Women Voters of Kansas, to the League office at 618 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite B1, Topeka 66603. You may also call the League office (785-234-5152) to make a reservation with Sara Miles, the office assistant. Deadline is **Monday, March 6.**

City Council

January 17, 2006, by *Joe D. Sargent*
...and the Council's subsequent activities

An ordinance and resolution introduced by Council Member Harmon got the meeting rolling after completion of the opening order of usual agenda activities. His motion changed the Council's starting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the time of adjournment from 11:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the first four Tuesdays of each month. Council Member Ortiz expressed opposition to this measure since her constituents would have difficulty making Council meetings scheduled at 6:00 p.m. after getting off work at 5:00 p.m. When to hold the Council's work sessions came up for discussion. Eventually, the ordinance and resolution passed by a 7 to 2 margin with Ortiz dissenting.

An ordinance was introduced by Council Member Kennedy placing prohibitions on activities and the residency of registered sex offenders. She wanted to send a clear message that sex offenders were not welcome in Topeka. Robin Block, a member of the National Legislative Committee to Protect Children, testified in favor of the ordinance. Considerable discussion occurred around this issue. Council Member Duffy stated that the matter was more complex than originally anticipated and would support sending the ordinance to the Public, Health, and Safety Committee. A motion to do this passed by a 6 to 3 vote.

There was a first reading of an ordinance introduced by Council Member Duffy that authorized the College Hill Redevelopment Plan Public Improvement Project and provided for certain infrastructure improvements and the acquisition of property for economic development within the City.

Undoubtedly, those who have read the Capital Journal realize that the College Hill Project presents the Council members with a great dilemma. Two of the area property owners want more money for their properties than has been offered by the developers. It is possible that the Council may obtain these properties through the process of eminent domain. Council P

ersons Haynes, Kennedy, Alcala, and Ortiz have expressed their opposition to the use of eminent domain. A supermajority of the Council favoring eminent domain may be needed for the measure to pass. A supermajority is defined as six Council members.

Bonaparte ended up as the final candidate for permanent City Manager, but negotiations with him have stalled. Thus, the Council appointed Haynes and Harmon, both of whom are lawyers, to carry on further deliberations with Bonaparte. As of this writing, negotiations continue.

The Council meeting on 1/31/06 concerned itself mainly with the College Hill Project. By the time of my late arrival, the crowd that had assembled for testimony on the project had left, but the Council members and the Mayor were engaged in a serious discussion about the Mayor's role in the new form of City governance.

Shawnee County Commission

January 26, 2006, by *Jan Waide*

Consideration of a final plat of P&D Patterson Subdivision located at 4921 SE 53rd St pointed up the need for a new standard addressing system needed by fire trucks, ambulances and other emergency responders. The owners of the property want to create a second 8 acre lot for another residence which will also front on 53rd St. but use the same entrance to 53rd St. as the original residence. Currently, addressing is based on the access to the street and thus there is one address already assigned to the one entrance to 53rd St.

Anne Freeze, Shawnee County Health Agency Director, requested one new permanent position of Patient Services Specialist in Medical Records and one to two temporary staff until June 1, 2006 to relieve direct care staff on bringing up to date and maintaining the medical records. Currently, direct care staff are trying to maintain the records but have fallen behind.

Commissioner Miller will testify next week in behalf of Shawnee County on Sen. Vratil's bill regarding who receives the money from reimbursement for court records.

January 31, 2006, by Mary Ann Breitbart

The meeting was at 11:00 a.m. instead of the usual 9:00 a.m. because of a previous Commission meeting that was canceled.

The first part of the agenda was dealt with swiftly. There were various contracts with maintenance and support vendors. All were approved.

There was a full room. Most of whom were Building Contractors and Developers. They were concerned with the County's position on site run-off and erosion control in new developments near Lake Sherwood. Jerry Kingsley, Lake Sherwood Club Manager, asserted that the developers were violating County rules & regulations on soil erosion. Lynn Couch, Public Works Director, said that when a complaint letter is received his department inspects the site to see if they are out of compliance. Building permits can be pulled to halt construction along with \$500 per day fines. The Shawnee County Conservation District turned in a letter of recommendation from a previous study and assessment of the area.

The three commissioners voted to defer this topic for three weeks to give all concerned time to digest the letter and study.

February 2, 2006, by Jan Waide

The Recycling Department asked to be allowed to solicit bids for some new containers. The need for additional containers is caused by USD 501 switching from cardboard milk containers in the school lunch program to small glass bottles and they want to be able to recycle the glass bottles. There was discussion of whether milk in glass bottles tastes better or not.

The Health Agency requested permission to contact Sen. Brownback and Congressman Ryun for funding to expand SCHA-CHC to include dental services to existing primary care patients. The agency is eligible to apply for this funding. There are faith-based services in the community interested in these dollars also. The agency would use the funds to expand dental services at the clinic, which are already part of the agency business plan previously approved.

February 9, 2006 Commission meeting is canceled.



LWVK NEWS *reprinted from E-Report Issue No. 3, Feb. 19, 2006*

State Finance by Lee Rowe

Final decisions on funding the Kansas budget always come towards the end of the legislative session. But there are concerns about what the legislature will be considering as the session progresses. The good news is that revenue projections for the state have come in above expectations. Now is a good time to let your legislators know about your concerns. **You can make a difference.**

As always decisions that are made at the federal level affect state funding problems. We all remember Congress's promise of 40 percent funding for special education funding that has never

reached even the 20 percent level. Now the "unfunded mandate" expenses of NCLB (No Child Left Behind) have added even more to state's burdens. The "trickle down" effect is evident in the budget bill working its way through Congress at this point. Medicaid funds flowing through to the states will undoubtedly be reduced. This will mean that the Kansas legislature will have to fund an ever larger percentage of Medicaid expenses. Since the federal government will not increase taxes, it has now become state and local governments' responsibility to fund essential services.

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VOTER, March 2006:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



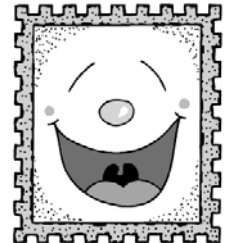
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Mark your calendar:

**Topeka Chapter
 Annual Meeting**



9:00 a.m. Sat., Apr. 1, 2006

Maggie Kelly, "Humor in Our Lives" — *Read details, p. 4*

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