



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY
VOTER

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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.

MARCH 2007

- 6 Tuesday Topics - Lunch 11:30 am, TSCPL
Speaker will be Glenn Yancey, Executive Director, Breakthrough House. Menu:
Taco Salad and Brownies.
- 8 League Day at the Capitol, 8:30-1:30 First Presbyterian Church. Brunch and
Lunch, \$20. Reservations to: LWVKS, 618 S. Kansas Ave., Suite B1, Topeka,
- 13 LWVT/SC Board Meeting –All members welcome.
Noon, O’Dooley’s, 1930 Westport Dr. (north of Petsmart on Westport Dr.)

- APRIL 3 Tuesday Topics, 11:30 am TSCPL Speaker: Claudia Larkin, Ex. Dir.,
YWCA Topic: R.A.C.E (Resource and Advocacy, Change for Equity) an
and other programs. Menu: Quiche, Salad, and Cookies
- 7 ANNUAL MEETING @ TSCL, 9:30 am. Speaker: NANCY BOYDA, U.S.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Rolls, Fruit & Coffee. Cost: \$5.00
- 10 LWVTSC Board Meeting, 11:30 O’Dooley’s, 1930 Westport Dr. Combined old and
new board members. All members welcome.



PreZ SeZ...

NEW VOTER SCHEDULE

At the February Board meeting of the Topeka/Shawnee County League, the decision was made that we would move to a bi-monthly schedule for the publication of the Voter. Therefore, every Voter will cover two months and we will only publish 6 Voters per year. We begin that schedule with this March-April Voter.

Since this is the only Voter before the Annual Meeting on April 7, 2007, it contains the proposed budget, with explanatory narrative, for 2007-2008. This budget will be presented to you for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

We are so thrilled to announce that Rep. Nancy Boyda, our newly elected Congresswoman, will be the speaker at Annual Meeting. We would expect some non-members from the Second District to attend also as they will want to hear her speak about her first 90 days in office. Therefore, only coffee, tea and water will be available at 9:30 am that day.

This Annual Meeting will constitute the end of my term as your President and over 10 years of membership on the Board. Thank you for allowing me to serve you and for reading this column regularly. As you have discerned, I have great passion for many social/political issues of the day and this column has given voice to many of them, all of which are consistent with LWV positions. Thank you for your patience and understanding when I “got on my soap box”.

Don't forget to vote in the upcoming city and school board elections!!

Be sure to retain this Voter for the calendar of events it contains. The next Voter will come to you in late April. And, finally, stand up and speak out for good government always!

Jan Waide

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OBSERVER REPORTS

FROM

County Commission by Jan Waide

January 25, 2007

Unfinished Business included the renewal of tax exemption for 2007 for a number of Shawnee county businesses. The exemption of Target, Inc. (distribution center) was denied because they did not maintain 600 FTE positions with benefits to 2007. Target asked that the commission consider that in addition to the 538 FTE positions with benefits they maintained they also filled 60 hourly employees plus 7 seasonal employees who averaged \$16 per hour. The commission ruled that those positions did not meet the definition stipulated in the agreement for an exemption.

Mainline Printing, Inc. was granted two exemptions for 2007 as they exceeded the required number of positions. Goodyear Addition II was approved for their tax exemption for 2007 as they have maintained 1500 employees. They were in a hiring mode after the strike ended as some workers did not return after the strike.

Public works announced that the completion date on the SW Wanamaker Road project (Phase III, Part A, 53rd to 57th St.) could be moved up from 2009 to 2008.

Administrative Communications this date included a request from City Manager Bonaparte to consider consolidation of the city and county planning departments. The Commission voted to respond and ask for more information from the city about what kind of structure they have in mind.

February 8, 2007

Unfinished Business this date included the contract for mental health services for Shawnee County. The room was full of staff and board members from Valeo and Family Service and Guidance Center. After a long explanation by Commissioner Miller, the contract was once again awarded to Valeo ostensibly due to an upcoming change in Medicaid providership.

Bill Singer, Dir. of IT, reported that the change in the timing of the return to Daylight Savings Time (first day of March to first Sunday in November) will cost a great deal of money to change all the IT communication systems.

Observer Reports Joseph Sargent

THE NOTES OF THE TOPEKA CITY COUNCIL

PROCEEDINGS FROM 10/10/06 TO 11/14/06

The council did not meet on Halloween (October 31st) since it was the fifth Tuesday in October. By council rules there is never any meeting on the fifth Tuesday in any month.

The Topeka Capital Journal on October 13th ran a headline saying "Ortiz expressed misgiving about Boneparte." She expressed this opinion, while attending a meeting of the Hi-Crest Neighborhood Improvement Association on September 28th. At that time she stated that if she were forced to vote then, her vote would be for Boneparte's dismissal. However, five other Council members came to his defense; these included Harmon, Duffy, Haynes, Blackburn and Preisher.

On October 10th the council rejected three propositions providing \$6.2 million to assist development in the River Hill area (Menninger West Campus) because they felt it would set a bad precedent in financing development of prime real estate. In the past the city has only financed development in blighted areas. Harmon initially backed a proposal to delay action on this project since St. Francis Hospital had expressed an interest in purchasing land in this area. After Council's deliberation of this matter he later stated it was time to move on.

Also on October 10th an ordinance and budget of approximately \$123,000.00 to \$124,000.00 for design and traffic study for improvement of the intersection at 29th and Fairlawn was approved.

At the same council meeting (October 10th) an ordinance affecting the municipal court was considered and then deferred for one week. This ordinance will allow changes that will bring the municipal court in compliance with Kansas's law. One week later (October 17th) the council passed the ordinance, but added to it a \$5.00 per case increase in court costs to be used for a police department equipment fund. Now tax money will not be used for obtaining police equipment. Earlier that same evening the Council rejected Mayor Buntzen's veto of that ordinance.

In addition, an ordinance and budget of approximately \$123,000.00 to \$124,000.00 for design and traffic study for improvement of the intersection at 29th and Fairlawn was approved.

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Council members passed on October 24th an ordinance that changed City regulations regarding temporary signs advertising such events such as auctions or garage sales on property (with owner's permission) other than the property where the event occurs. Signs posted on property where the event does not take place will be limited to the hours between 5 PM on Thursday and 5 PM on Sunday.

The Council on November 7th defeated a proposal made by Preisher that required full payment in advance with purchases of gasoline or diesel fuel. This ordinance had the support of the police, station owners, and the greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce. At the same meeting Council members rejected a proposal that would have rescinded an earlier council resolution that avoided unilateral annexation. Further, they approved a capital improvement program for 2007 to 2011 and the purchase of an aerial fire truck with general obligation bonds.

The Council on November 14th passed a project budget of \$328 million to complete the third phase to improve California between Interstate 70 and Southeast 45th Street. California will be widened from four to five lanes from Southeast 28th street to Southeast 30th street and from two to three lanes between Southeast 30th and 33rd streets. The improvement of California will occur in five phases. Council members approved five to four the use of eminent domain to provide more open space for Betty Philips Park.

BOARD BRIEFS

FEBRUARY 13 LWVT-SC BOARD BRIEFS

By Edith Bronson, secretary

The Board learned that:

- Martha Lusk and Becky Holmquist have joined;
- May and June Tuesday Topics will be held at the YWCA because the Library is unavailable; and

No materials on the Immigration Study besides the National VOTER articles have been received.

The Board voted:

- To allow the Treasurer to investigate transferring money to the checking account to eliminate the \$9.95 monthly below-\$500 service charge;
- To provide only drinks and not food at the April 7 Annual Meeting because there is no way of knowing how many might attend since Nancy Boyda has agreed to speak; and
- To publish the VOTER every other month beginning with the March-April issue.

BECOME A VOTING PLACE WORKER

Shawnee County Election Commissioner, Elizabeth Ensley, has put out a plea for poll workers for the upcoming elections (2-27 and 4-3) for School Board members and City Council representatives. For more information, call: (785) 266-0285.

Hunger in the Bread Basket of the Nation

The Food Research and Action Center provides the following information on hunger in Kansas.

- Kansas is the 9th hungriest state in the nation.
- 12.3% of Kansas families struggle every day to have enough food.
- In 2001, 2.1% of Kansas families experienced hunger every day.
- In 2006, that figure increased to 4.8%.
- Fifty-one thousand (51,000) Kansas households go hungry on a regular basis.
- Eighty-four thousand (84,000) children in Kansas live below the poverty line.
- Only 83.9% of the schools serving lunch also serve breakfast.
- The over-all poverty rate in Kansas is 10.6% of the state's population.
- The average family on food stamps receives \$80 worth per month but a family of three may be eligible for approximately \$200 of food stamps per month.
- The average food stamp benefit level of \$1 per person per meal nor the \$10 per household monthly minimum benefit is sufficient to help families purchase an adequate diet.

Tuesday Topics, February

Members can find timely LWV-TSC business and study information on the internet. Check early and often.

Besides basic pages of information about our organization which were generated at the national level, our site has timely, topical information about local League events and business.

Can't find your VOTER and know a meeting is coming up? Check our CALENDAR page, which is updated regularly. For example, our April 7th Annual Meeting details and speaker have been announced on the on-line CALENDAR. (Circle Saturday, April 7th on your calendar too!)

PREZ SEZ comments may also show up on-line before you can read them in the VOTER. Look for the PREZ SEZ link on our WELCOME page.

BOARD BRIEFS, also found on the VOTER web page, were published on the same day in February as the board meeting was held. That's fast!

We are wrapping up a state study on Mental Health. You'll find archived study materials about this topic, linked from the site's WELCOME page. Our new Shawnee County Mental Health Study will post materials on-line also.

Tuesday Topics are held in room JCM 101B, across from the Millennium Cafe at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library, unless otherwise indicated. 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](#).

Local Mental Health Study

A VOICE meeting was held February 15 at O'Dooley's to discuss the Local Mental Health Study. About 16 brave souls made it out on this icy, cold night.

The state of Mental Health in the Topeka/Shawnee County was discussed by members of the Local Mental Health Study Committee. Committee members had interviewed community providers, a county commissioner and board members of Valeo. There were several concerns about the state of mental health in our community including lack of a resource director of some kind listing local mental health services, the potential loss of money to the community, and the inability to find out how the local money is being spent at Valeo.

A motion was made that the committee explore putting together a community resource directory that would be sponsored by the Topeka/Shawnee County League. In addition the committee will redefine what the next steps are for the next 14 months with an emphasis on what happens to kids with mental illness; statewide funding for mental health; the availability of regional beds and the impact of loss of the certified match. The committee will also explore the possibility of having a League member on the interview team for the new director of Valeo.

For more information on the study and the meeting, contact Judy Moler, 273-8480.

LWV of Topeka/Shawnee County Budget 4/1/07-3/31/08

Category Description	Budgeted '06-'07	Actual 2/15/07	Proposed Budget 2007-2008
<u>INCOME</u>			
Contributions			
Community	150.00	0.00	500.00
Members	200.00	287.00	300.00
Total Contributions	<u>350.00</u>	<u>287.00</u>	<u>800.00</u>
Dues - Members			
	(2 student)	50.00	
Household (\$72/\$75)	1008.00	585.00	675.00
NRM Rebate (\$5)	30.00	0.00	35.00
Regular (\$48/\$53)	3744.00	3414.00	4452.00
Sustaining (\$85)	510.00	425.00	340.00
Total Dues	<u>5292.00</u>	<u>4474.00</u>	<u>5502.00</u>
Finance & Development			
Auction	900.00	0.00	500.00
Notecards	1300.00	1174.00	500.00
Garage Sale	500.00	473.93	500.00
Pin Sales	0.00	100.00	0.00
Unspecified	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Finance & Development	<u>2700.00</u>	<u>1747.93</u>	<u>1500.00</u>
Interest	35.00	95.99	99.00
Meetings			
Annual Meeting	100.00	5.00	100.00
Governmental Issues Mtg	600.00	600.00	800.00
Tuesday Topics	0.00	0.00	100.00
	<u>700.00</u>	<u>605.00</u>	<u>1000.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$9077.00	\$7209.92	\$8901.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Advocacy and/or action			
Local	50.00	26.46	30.00
National	10.00	0.00	10.00
State	10.00	0.00	10.00
Total Advocacy &/or Action	<u>70.00</u>	<u>26.46</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Assessments (PMP)			
LWVKS (\$20)	2220.00	1782.00	2030.00
LWVUS (\$23/26.35)	2553.00	1886.85	2725.00
Total Assessments	<u>4773.00</u>	<u>3668.85</u>	<u>4755.00</u>
Board			
Budget & Nominations	10.00	0.00	10.00
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Finance & Development	100.00	172.12	100.00
Membership	40.00	0.00	20.00
President	75.00	13.33	55.00
Public Relations	15.00	0.00	10.00

Secretary	15.00	0.00	10.00
Supplies & Tools	70.00	21.65	25.00
Treasurer	50.00	49.47	75.00
	<u>375.00</u>	<u>256.57</u>	<u>300.00</u>
Convention/Council			
LWVKS Council	150.00	150.00	200.00
LWVUS Convention	1400.00	2197.91	800.00
Total Convention/Council	<u>1550.00</u>	<u>2347.91</u>	<u>1000.00</u>
Education			
Local Programs	50.00	0.00	20.00
National Programs	20.00	0.00	20.00
State Programs	20.00	0.00	20.00
Total Education	<u>90.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>
Meetings			
Annual Meeting	100.00	207.27	100.00
Governmental Issues Mtg	600.00	1136.97	800.00
Membership Event	80.00	83.89	100.00
Tuesday Topics	50.00	110.60	100.00
Total Meetings	<u>830.00</u>	<u>1538.73</u>	<u>1100.00</u>
Member Services			
Misc Mailings	0.00	0.00	0.00
Voter - postage	500.00	392.09	575.00
Voter - printing	594.00	686.98	690.00
Yearbook - printing	125.00	212.09	220.00
Total Member Services	<u>1219.00</u>	<u>1291.16</u>	<u>1485.00</u>
Publications			
Local Publications	20.00	0.00	0.00
US & ES Publications	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Publications	<u>20.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Voter Service			
Candidate Forum	50.00	0.00	50.00
Unspecified Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
Voter Service Handouts	100.00	162.71	100.00
Total Voter Service	<u>150.00</u>	<u>162.71</u>	<u>150.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9077.00	\$9292.39	\$8901.00

NARRATIVE FOR THE PROPOSED 2007-2008 BUDGE

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 \$26.85 per member. LWVK is budgeted for \$20 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 dist

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 contribution of printed materials to them.

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NARRATIVE CONT'

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 Board, 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 convention. The LWVUS Council is in Washington, DC, in June 2007.

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 by the League. 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. Excess payments are returned to the treasurer for the general fund. The general fund pays for luncheons for guest speakers by charging each member slightly in excess of the cost of the meal. (Meal charges also cover the room fee for Tuesday Topics.)

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 refers 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 2007-2008 will focus on voter education, registration of voters and developing interest in the elections.

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VOTER, February, 2007

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Topoka, KS 66614
 3371 SW Osborn Rd.
 Patty Dick, Editor



YES!

I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters. I enclose:

- ___\$53 for 1-year Individual Membership ___\$75 for a 1-year Household Membership
- ___\$85 for a 1-year Sustaining Membership ___\$25 for a 1-year Student (ages 18- Membership
- ___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