



VOTER

Volume 2009, Issue 1

December 14, 2008

CALENDAR

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DECEMBER 2008

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

JANUARY 2009

- 1 Happy New Year
- 6 **Tuesday Topics—Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 11:30**

Speaker - Paul Johnson, the State League's Consultant for the Legislature at the Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library

13 LWVT/SC Board Meeting—The Pizza Hut, 10th & Topeka Blvd., park at Walgreens, buffet, all members welcome, 11:30-1:00.

15 Voice Meeting, Classic Bean meeting room-Fairlawn Plaza, 5:30-7:30 (they request that we order food), Program Planning (see articles in VOTER)

FEBRUARY 2009

3 Tuesday Topics—Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 11:30.

Speaker—Former Governor, Mike Hayden, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

10 LWVT/SC Board Meeting—Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, upstairs meeting room, all members welcome 11:30-1:00.

13 VOTER DEADLINE
Send articles to Lois Cox (lois5510@hotmail.com) or 910 SE 43rd Street 66609

19 Voice Meeting, Classic Bean meeting room, Fairlawn Plaza, 5:30-7:30 (they request that we order food), LWVUS Study: National Popular Vote Compact

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of public issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Prez Sez



Georgia Sandlin
President LWVT/SC

As the new year begins, the WVTSC committee work begins. Three committees lay the foundation for the year ahead. The budget committee, headed by Betsy Rohleder, will present a budget at the Annual Meeting for the membership to Approve. A

task force of our members has recommended plans for our "undesigned" funds. These funds will be included in our budget and made available for projects that are approved by the board. The nominating committee will also get to work in January to present a slate of officers for 2009-2010. Judy Moler will chair the nominating committee. I urge members to accept the call if asked. Of course it takes time, but it is stimulating and enriching work. The third committee will set the program for the Topeka-Shawnee County League. All members are invited to participate in this committee work by attending the Voice Meeting in January. Marge Ahrens is the chair for this committee. If there is an issue you feel is ready for study and action in Shawnee County attend the Voice meeting on January 15. We will also review the LWVK positions.

We may all be relieved that the

2008 election is over, but no one more relieved than Anita Epps, our Voter Service Chair. We have registered hundreds of voters in a variety of places in Shawnee County. We also participated in Kids Vote. Anita was responsible for calling many people to volunteer and coordinating with, and returning supplies to the election office. In October she mentioned to me that she may hibernate after November 4. Come to think of it, I haven't seen her lately.

Georgia

We have been working to get our data updated. If you have not been receiving email information perhaps the address we are using is incorrect. Please let us know of any changes. You may email me at

gsandlin@cox.net. We want to keep you informed.

If you would like to participate in the decisions made regarding the LWVK positions and are unable to attend the Voice meeting January 15 fill out the form included in this VOTER and mail it to Marge Ahrens, 1238 SW Mulvane, 66604 or Georgia Sandlin, 2706 SW Indian Trail, 66614. You may also bring it to the January Tuesday Topics Meeting.

January Program

The League of Women Voters of Topeka/Shawnee County will host Paul Johnson, the State League's Consultant for the Legislature at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library on January 6. Paul will speak on the challenges and issues of the upcoming legislative session, providing background and options for problems of concern to Leaguers. Paul has deep roots in Kansas as a native of MacPherson and a KU graduate with degrees in political science and social work and as a farmer. He has served as director of the Public Assistance Coalition of Kansas, working on poverty programs such as cash assistance, medical care, energy assistance, food stamps and child support. He presently works with the Kansas Catholic Conference concentrating on low-income support programs, affordable house and family farm issues.

February Program

Come early for a good seat for Tuesday Topics on February 3 when former Governor, Mike Hayden, current Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, will be our guest speaker at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library. Mike is known for his passion for the out-of-doors, and for his long public service career. He is a highly decorated Vietnam War Veteran. He served as Speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, President of the American Sport Fishing Association, Chair of the League of Conservation Voters and has been the winner of numerous prestigious natural resource conservation awards from state and national organizations. The League has invited Secretary Hayden to speak at this time of his role in the Topeka Riverfront Development, an issue tied to League's concerns for water resources, economic development and planning and zoning.

POSITION ON WATER

In December' 08 the Board of the League of Voters of Kansas approved an expansion of the position on water to include the use of water to create energy. This statement has been added: "Water Planning should be coordinated with a comprehensive State Energy Plan which would include the full cost of water used in the production and transportation of energy." Our complete position on water resources can be found on the LWVK website. Our league participated in this year long study and concluded with the proposed statement of position. We had informative and interesting speakers at Tuesday Topics. In February of 2008 Susan Stover, a member of LWVTSC and a hydrologist opened our study with a look at ethanol, biodiesel and other alternative energy sources with information about water use in production and transmission. In March, Carl Nusbaum spoke about water agencies and the history of Kansas water usage. Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson introduced us to information about wind energy in Kansas. In May Jim Ludwig of Westar spoke with us about the coal-fired plants that produce energy locally. (A group of us donned hard hats and safety goggles and toured the Jeffery Energy Center on a beautiful day in August.) David Pope, spoke in July about water resources and energy from his extensive experience in Kansas government on these issues. Green architecture was discussed in August by architect Joe Chang. (*Water continued on page 4*)

(Water continued from page 3)

Now is the time to follow up on water/energy issues there is sure to be more proposed legislation for a coal fired plant. The League of Women Voters of Kansas needs people to help follow meetings and proposals on energy and plant. Since the legislature meets in Topeka it is especially convenient for members of our league to volunteer to monitor and help inform all of us about legislative activity. This will enable the League to act upon our well studied positions.

Please let Georgia Sandlin or anyone on the board know if you are able to contribute sometime to this. Any time you can give is important. There is training, if needed, and you will certainly learn a lot as well as helping preserve Kansas water resources.

BY NANCY SARGENT

**CHRISTMAS GIFT
OR
PRIZES FOR GAMES
AT A NEW YEARS EVE
PARTY**

If you are looking for a Christmas Gift for your spouse or significant other why not give that person the gift of knowledge about our country with a membership in the League of Women Voters of Topeka/Shawnee County.

If you are having a New Years Eve party why not give the winners of any games that are played the gift of knowledge about our country with a membership in the League of Women Voters of Topeka/Shawnee County.

SELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as Announced by National Board, January 1970, Revised March 1982 and Updated June 2004:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

OUR LEAGUE WILL BE STUDYING THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT. THE FIRST VOICE MEETING ON THIS TOPIC WILL BE FEBRUARY 19.

(Selection of the President continued on)

(Page 10)

Board Briefs

Mary Kopp, secretary

November 11, 2008

Nine BODs were present for the Directors meeting. Treasurer, Sybil Weigman report was approved and filed for audit.

President's announcements

Thank you notes were received from Nancy Boyda and Lynn Jenkins for the opportunity to reach the voters through our candidate forum.

On October 22 I was interviewed by Mats Lagerstam (from Finland) and Aida Balganova (from Kazakhstan) from the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe). A division of this organization - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights has opened a limited election observation mission to monitor the Nov. 4 elections in the USA. They had already interviewed Ron Thornburg and Elizabeth Ensley and, since Diane Kuhn was not available, had to settle for me. They were covering Kansas and Oklahoma. I have several pages of literature about the organization, if someone is interested.

We received a thank you note and a \$20 donation from Rachel Fuller, Chapter HX P.E.O. Pat Stinson spoke to their group and evidently made a great impression.

I am sending a copy of the "Needs Assessment" the LWVK is asking us to complete in the hopes that you will give some thought to it before the meeting. I would like to complete it and return it to them after the Tuesday Board Meeting.

Voter Service Committee - Anita Epps chairperson

Voters were registered prior to the registration deadline at Meadows School Open House, Lexington Park Assisted Living facility and at a naturalization ceremony. Another registration effort was made on October 24 following another naturalization ceremony but those new citizens were not able to vote on November 4. Several expressed their disappointment. On election day, the league had volunteers at three different shifts at Countryside United Methodist Church and New Hope United Methodist Church. We were assisting at Kids Voting Kansas. Again, thanks to willing volunteers!

The League of Women Voters of Kansas has agreed to pay for the total cost of printing of the Welcome New Citizen brochures. Because they now are more "neutral" rather than specific to the Johnson Co. League and can be used by any league in northeast and north central Kansas, approximately 500 of the brochures will be stored at the state league office at 618 Kansas Avenue for use by other leagues. Anita will keep a box of the brochures at her home as needed for continued registration of new citizens following the naturalization ceremonies at the Federal Court House in Topeka.

There was discussion regarding the total number of new citizens that were registered with the leagues efforts this fall. Anita to report back next BOD meeting.

LWVTSC undesignated Funds- Nancy Shaughnessy chairperson- Task force in progress.

The task force consists of five members, four of which are Pat Stinson., Diana Siegal, Marge Ahrens, Nancy Shaughnessy and Betsy Rohleder, and Georgia Sandlin.

There is approximately \$2500 one time only, funds available for special project.

Several projects were discussed. A recommendation will be forthcoming at Dec. BOD. No motions were made

Government Issues Dinner- Gwen Elliott and Brenda Galifoye

- o Governor's Issue Dinner on November 19th at 5:30-8:30 PM, McFarland's Restaurant
- o Reservations in advance, dinner is \$ 16.00 (includes tax and gratuity), make checks payable to LWV
- o Some county commissioners and city counselors verified that they are participating
- o Final count needed the Monday before November 17th.

Pat Burton will e-mail all members and Lois Decker will activate the calling tree to encourage attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

Tuesday Topics- Marge Ahrens

January speaker Peter Hancock is not able to present. Therefore, Paul Johnson, consultant to the state LWV will be January's featured speaker.

Briefs continued on page 6

Board continued from page 5

Feb speaker Mike Hayden, Director of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Need speakers for March and May

Underwriting **GHW** Bush at Dole Institute – Maryanna Quilty chairperson

KTWU asked if TSCLWV would be interested in co-sponsoring/underwriting.

Discussion followed that it would be of interest to TSC LWV but there was not adequate timeframe to respond.

It was also mentioned that the state LWVK has grant monies available for future underwriting.

Community Resources Council, endorsement requested- Georgia Sandlin

Candidate School- purpose to inform and train citizens in increasing civic engagement and constructive political discourse.

Georgia replied yes we are interested in endorsing this project, from a request from Nancy Johnson of Community Resources Council for the LWV to participate in a Candidate School to prepare citizens to run for Topeka City Council.

Joe Sargent was asked if he wanted to represent the chapter since he has been observing the city council for some time. Joe declined because of current commitments. Georgia will be presenting the opportunity to all

other Board members.

It was discussed that any way we can help the community build a more effective government seems a plus for us.

Training dates are Jan 15th, topic, "So you want to run for the council?"

and Feb 7th, topic, "I'm running for council, now what?" 2-5 PM at the TSCPL.

Needs Assessment from LWVK-Gwen Elliott

In response to the LWVK the TSCLWV BOD completed a Local League needs assessment.

Training topics selected were- "Nominating League Leaders" ranked #1 and "Concepts of Effective Leadership" ranked # 2

Preferred training dates are Saturday, Feb 7th and March 7th.

Georgia Sandlin will submit to LWVK

Board Briefs

December 9, 2008

Mary Kopp, secretary

Ten BODs were present for the Directors meeting. Treasurer, Sybil Weigman report was approved and filed for audit.

President's announcements

A LWV directory was sent to all county commissioners and city council persons.

Be aware that February Board meeting action will be taken on a

local study (if proposed), the updates on the local positions, the budget for 2009-2010, and the officer slate. All of those things need to be published in the February VOTER so they can be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting.

Georgia has been working with Christy Caldwell of the Topeka Chamber of Commerce, Nancy Johnson of Community Resources Council, Diana Friend and Nancy Overmyer of the TSCP Library, plus others not at the meeting, to present a Candidate School. My task is to recruit former school board members for a panel February 17. They will have a different panel for people interested in running for the City Council. The purpose is to train people how to run for office. Then, at a second meeting in February, how to serve in public office. This is a good opportunity to participate and be visible.

Sometimes engaging people in a study is the best way to keep people involved in League. It is something only the LWV does.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING A STUDY ITEM

FOR LOCAL PROGRAM OR A SPECIAL REPORT

1. TIMING

Is this the time for it? Is it a long or short-term project?

2. POLITICAL CLIMATE

Is the government giving priority to this issue? Should it be given a higher priority?

3. COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE

Board continued on page 7

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How aware is the community of the issue? How aware can the League make the community? What is the community attitude toward the issue?

4. LEAGUE MEMBERS

How aware are members of the issue? Do they care? Does the LWV have member capability to carry out action?

5. LEAGUE CIRCUMSTANCES

Does our LWV have the people and time to work on this issue? Where does this study or project fit with our other goals and priorities? Can our LWV be effective?

6. ALLIES

Who else is doing something about this issue? Who could join with us? If the League does not take it on, who will?

7. CONTROVERSY

How controversial is the issue? Is the LWV willing and able to deal with controversy?

8. COST

Is there enough money in the budget? What other funding sources are available?

9. PUBLIC RELATIONS

What will this study or project do to the LWV's prestige and effectiveness in the community? Is media coverage possible?

Adapted from LWVUS Leadership Training and LWVK Board Orientation material

TREASURES REPORT- Sybil Wiegman

Several membership dues remain outstanding from March 2008. If dues not paid by January those memberships will be deleted. Nancy S. will call them personally

LWVTSC undesignated Funds- Nancy Shaughnessy chairperson

Task force meet with the goal of enhancing the image of LWV.

Several projects were discussed

Sybil W. reported that TSCLWV monthly cash flow needed to be taken into account as it relates to the special project timeline.

The taskforce recommended that \$2500 be set aside in the 2009-2010 budget for a special project was approved on motion.

Government Issues Dinner- Gwen Elliott and Brenda Galifoye

Governor's Issue Dinner held on November 19th at 5:30- 8:30 PM, McFarland's Restaurant, 20 attended of which 17 were LWV members

1 county commissioner and 2 city counselors participated

Government Issues Dinner was \$8.50 in negative balance.

The possibility of hosting next year's Issues Dinner at a Tuesday Topic was discussed

NEW BUSINES

Nominating Committee

Will meet after the holidays

Committee will consist of 3 elected members and 2 appointed

Chair is Judy Mohler appointed are Nancy S. and Gwen E.

Budget Committee will meet after the holidays

Georgia will appoint

Guidelines for Providing Finan-

cial Support

Guidelines were reviewed, a motion was made to delete line #5 "A suggested maximum amount", motion carried.

Tuesday Topics- Marge Ahrens

Speaker for March is Professor Jeffrey Jackson on Constitutional Law

May speaker TBA

Underwriting GHW Bush at Dole Institute – Maryanna Quilty chairperson

KTWU asked if TSCLWV would be interested in co-sponsoring/underwriting.

TSCLWV discussed collaborating with KTWU as a sponsor for next year's local elections Candidate Forum.

"Mind over Matters" at the Dole Institute was considered not locally focused and not within budget parameters

Community Resources Council, endorsement requested- Georgia Sandlin

Candidate School- purpose to inform and train citizens in increasing civic engagement and constructive political discourse.

Georgia continues to work with Nancy Johnson from CRC

Georgia has provided four names of former school board members who were interested in participating in the candidate school. They are Tim Clothier, Joyce Martin, Steve Angel and Bob Meissiner.

County Commission Meetings

By Georgia Sandlin

October 20, 2008

This meeting moved along quickly with approvals for Winter Wonderland Celebration of Lights, routine business relating to a sewer district and right-of-way acquisitions. Elizabeth Ensley appeared before the commission to request funds to hire addition security because advanced voting in the county has increased substantially.

During the Administrative Communications part of the agenda Commissioner Miller expressed concern about the reported "shorted tax revenues" to Shawnee County. He will request a meeting with a group which would include the Kansas Secretary of Revenue and Kansas State Treasurer to seek a remedy for this shortfall.

October 23, 2008

District Attorney Robert Hecht appeared before the commission to request a process that would require pawn shops and salvage yards to collect information about each seller. Mr. Hecht's goal is to reduce property crime in the county, which is the biggest problem at this time. Commissioners Miller reported that their jurisdiction at this time covered

only the area outside the city of Topeka. There are no pawn shops, and perhaps no salvage yards, outside Topeka at this time.

October 27, 2008

H. R. Cook requested funds for equipment at the Expocentre that included: compliant louver for boiler make-up air and capacitors and contactors. These requests were approved. This observer has no idea what that equipment does. Mark Hixon, Shawnee County Appraiser, requested money for digital aerial "ortho photography." Funds would be matched with the city and US Geological Survey.

Marsha Shehan brought the current draft of the Topeka/Shawnee County Visioning project. Commissioner Miller disputed some assumptions made in the draft. He was requesting evidence for : "We are in a downward spiral, the tax base is shrinking, those left are paying more, yet services are decreasing, and, our quality of life is diminishing." Marsha Shehan thanked Commissioner Miller for the input and assured him the final draft would be different.

October 30, 2008

Some time was spent

on the Health Plan for Shawnee County employees. After some questions the commissioners changed the plan as proposed and agreed to pay 100 % of health care for employees and their families.

Other business of interest to tax payers concerns the settlement of the Target litigation. The disagreement revolved around the requirement of Target to employ a certain number of employees to maintain tax exempt status. Both sides reported the agreement reached was amicable. In the agreement Target will not claim \$5 million already paid and there will be no requirement for number of workers.

November 3, 2008

This meeting lasted a little over 4 minutes. The consent agenda was approved and two contracts for the health agency were approved quickly.

November 6, 2008

Two contracts were approved. One for noxious weed control and one with Gianfranco Pezzino as Health Officer of Shawnee County.

(County continued on page 9)

County continued from page 8
weed control and one with Gianfranco Pezzino as Health Officer of Shawnee County.

When bids for a janitorial contract was discussed Commissioner Miller requested having bids cover all facilities in an attempt to keep down costs. Dick Kline, Shawnee County Corrections, asked for approval to submit bids for furnishings for the new Corrections Annex.

November 13, 2008

Business moved swiftly with little discussion this morning. Many requests were approved ranging from software equipment to a bid on painting golf course buildings. Discussion of a wage scale increase for county employees was deferred for one week. A resolution regarding the tax foreclosure that is related to a suit against the City of Topeka by Gene Jani was passed with no discussion.

Mike Hayden was at the meeting to present an update on Riverfront Development. However, the power point was delayed so the presentation was deferred.

November 20, 2008

The commissioners made decisions regarding county funds this morning, perhaps more visible to residents

of Shawnee County than maintenance agreement or replacements of computer parts.

The non-union Shawnee County employees will receive a 2 percent raise. Customers of the Shawnee County Refuse Department will pay 3 percent more, but this rate may increase if gasoline prices raise again.

Also related to fuel prices, the commissioners granted Tom Vlach permission to seek a locked-in diesel fuel price not greater than \$3. This diesel would be used in other county departments as well as public works. Commissioner Miller noted it was fortunate they didn't lock in a higher price earlier this year as discussed.

A committee was assigned to review applications from social service agencies for a share of money in the county budget for social service funding. The recommendations were approved. Of interest, was a young man who appeared before the commission with a request to include the Youth Court which had received no funding in the recommendation. The Commissioners seemed familiar with the Youth Court and made some effort to find \$5,000 from the general fund.

Christy Caldwell presented a list of 12 transportation projects for the endorsement of the commission. Included in the list is the notori-

ous Polk Quincy Viaduct and the US-24 corridor. Most familiar to this observer was the Willard Bridge, which I zipped over twice a day for twenty years. Apparently, if one pin goes, the bridge goes. The engineers say not to worry, they are checking the pins regularly.

November 24, 2008

Some time was spent explaining the improvements made by Bailey and Bailey, Inc., a recycling salvage business. The commissioners were satisfied and approved the provisional use permit with the understanding that it would be reviewed in one year.

Good news for the county workers is that the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas 2009 health plan is the same and the fee has gone down. From this chair it appears that the Shawnee County Commissioners try hard to see county workers are compensated well considering the budget restraints.

Mike Hayden and Neil Dobler presented a power point on the plans for the Riverfront Development.

The plan includes many green spaces, an amphitheater, walking/biking trail, and retail businesses to name a few. The whole plan includes land from Urish to Seward. Mike Hayden is scheduled to present the plan to LWVTSC in February

County continued on page 10

(County continued from page)9

December 1, 2008

Our stressed economy is having an impact on decisions at the Shawnee County Commission meetings.

The commissioners agreed to increase the reimbursement for parking garage fees to corrections employees. The mileage rate for traveling on official business was reduced to \$.47 from \$.51 since the gas prices have gone down. Tom Vlach of public works reports that some bids have come in under the amount budgeted because people need work.

All resolutions and requests were approved 3-0 following questions regarding the cost to the county. There was some discussion about the proposed roundabout on NW 45th St. and NW Fielding Rd. Tom Vlach reported that the business owners in the area would be consulted and access would be available throughout the construction. Judging from comments made, the word roundabout is obviously a red flag to elected officials

December 4, 2008

The department of corrections asked the commissioners for permission to so-

licit bids for damaged skylight. The skylights were damaged by hail and have been covered by tarps since September. After some discussion that included the age of the skylights, whether they are needed, and replacement options the commissioners agreed to accept bids.

John Knight proposed a contract with the Shawnee County Girl's Softball Association so the association would be responsible for running the program while the county would have control over the property. Previously, the association leased the site from the county for its program. The commissioners approved the contract.

December 8, 2008

There were no comments on the resolution on the tax exemption for Target Corporation. There were few comments before the approval of funds and contracts for court services and the health agency.

There was some discussion on the advantages of the county owning a mobile restroom trailer as apposed to renting porta potties. Apparently, the county can lease the restroom trailers and so they pay for themselves over time.

The next morning a 3/4" headline in the Topeka Capital-Journal reported the

commissioners' pay raise. Commissioner Buhler was reluctant to vote for a raise in salary that was included with the raise for the classified employees and the department heads. Ted Ensley pointed out that she could always give the money back, as he had done in the past. Vic Miller pointed out that their salaries had not been keeping up with inflation and being a commissioner was a full time job. The resolution passed 3-0.

SELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

*(Selection of the president)
(continued from page 4)*

As stated in the Nov/Dec. VOTER, under the NPV Compact all of the electoral votes of each member state would go to the presidential candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This interstate compact would not go into effect until enough states have joined to guarantee the 270 electoral vote required to elect a president. It would be quite a change to our system but many feel it is more likely to happen than a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS 2009 – 2011 PROGRAM PLANNING REPORT FORM

Part I. Recommendations to retain or drop current state positions.

Put a check mark on the line that expresses your choice for each position.

RETAIN

DROP

Government

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | County Government (1967)* |
| _____ | _____ | Criminal Justice: Adult Corrections (1976) |
| _____ | _____ | Criminal Justice: Juvenile Corrections and Services (2005) |
| _____ | _____ | Criminal Justice: Court System (1975) |
| _____ | _____ | Criminal Justice: Sentencing (1982) |
| _____ | _____ | Education Governance (1998) |
| _____ | _____ | Legislative Apportionment (1975) |
| _____ | _____ | State Finance (1993) |
| _____ | _____ | Election Administration (2003) |

Natural Resources

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | Environmental Quality: Hazardous Waste Management (1983) |
| _____ | _____ | Environmental Quality: Solid Waste Management ((1973) |
| _____ | _____ | Environmental Quality: Water Resources Management (2008) |
| _____ | _____ | Land Use (1974) |
| _____ | _____ | Prairie Park (1974) |

Social Policy

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | Equality of Opportunity (1981) |
| _____ | _____ | Health: Medical Indigence (1987) |
| _____ | _____ | Meeting Basic Human Needs – SRS (1995) |
| _____ | _____ | Children at Risk (1997) |
| _____ | _____ | Living Wage (2000) |
| _____ | _____ | Privatization of Child Welfare Services by SRS (1999) |

* Indicates the date the position was adopted, or last updated

Part II. If you wish to propose an expansion or an update of an existing statement of position, please submit a proposal with the following information:

Scope of Study:

Time for Completion:

Method for Member Agreement: ____ Consensus ____ Concurrence

Part III. If you wish to propose a study of a new issue and development of a statement of position, please submit a proposal with the following information:

Scope of Study:

League's Effect on Public Policy on this Issue:

Time for Completion:

Method for Member Agreement: ____ Consensus ____ Concurrence

League of Women Voters of: _____

Person Submitting Report: _____

Date: _____

Reflections on the Proceedings of the Topeka City Council for October, November, And December 2nd

Submitted by Joe Sargent

The council did not meet on November 4th because of the elections nor November 11th, Veterans Day.

On October 7th the council considered a real estate report requesting that Sumner School, previously declared as surplus property, be disposed of by public auction. An amendment to this report, passed by the council, stated that each potential purchaser needed to provide two weeks prior to the auction a financial plan showing their capability of implementing that plan. The amended real estate report was then accepted by the council. The Topeka Capital-Journal reported on December 9th that Sumner School would be auctioned off on January 22nd.

During a radio show in October Mayor Buntin proposed an overhaul of city governance. This proposal would create a new charter ordinance that would then need to be placed on the ballot. In order to do this seven favorable votes by the ten member governing body are required. Another major change in the

mayoral proposal would decrease the council to seven members with two being at-large. Further in this proposal, there is a change that would allow the council to override a mayoral veto; presently there is a lawsuit under judicial consideration to determine this very matter.

On October 21st the council passed an ordinance that allowed municipal judges to recover the costs from anyone spending in jail and attorney fees connected with the incarceration.

At the same meeting [October 21st] Topeka Fire Chief Giles received recognition from the council for being named Fire Chief of the Year by the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs. He neglected to mention a Topeka firefighter who had been given the highest award in the state for heroism by a firefighter in the line of duty. At the next council meeting this firefighter was recognized and he then launched into a speech against the Fire Chief. This once again showed the strained relationship between the firefighters and the

Fire Chief. Giles wanted to get rid of the fire department promotion board that recommends personnel to the Fire Chief for advancement. With this move, the firefighters contend that promotion within the ranks would be jeopardized.

The city filed a lawsuit against Shawnee County because of a resolution passed by them that would exempt under certain conditions compliance with the city's platting power within the surrounding three mile area beyond the city limits. The reason behind the county's decision was to end duplication of regulation.

Two projects involving tax-increment financing [TIF] have recently been under consideration. TIF bonds are paid off using the difference in receipts from property and sales taxes generated before and after improvements. The council on November 18th voted to postpone a decision to January 27th regarding development in the area of Southwest 37th and Topeka

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
LOIS COX, VOTER EDITOR
910 SE 43RD STREET
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66609-1620**

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

_____ \$53 for a 1 year Individual Membership.

_____ \$75 for a 1 year Household Membership.

_____ \$85 for a 1 year Sustaining Membership.

_____ \$25 for a 1 year Student (age 18) Membership.

_____ I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclosed is a tax-deductible
Contribution in the amount of \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Please make check payable to league of Women Voters Topeka Shawnee County and

Send to Sybil Wiegand, Treasurer, 2805 SW Tall Grass DR., Topeka, KS 66614-6206.

(785) 478-1679