



The VOTER

The Bulletin of the LWV of Lawrence-Douglas County *Volume 53, No. 5*

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

President:	Carrie Lindsey	766-8561; carriblindsey@yahoo.com
Membership	Arla Jones	838-4206; arlajones@sunflower.com
Voter Editor	Caleb Morse	842-7927; cmorse@ku.edu
Websites:	Local League	http://community.lawrence.com/LeagueWomenVoters/
	State League	http://www.lwvk.org ; lwvks@aol.com
	National League	http://www.lwv.org

League Calendar

Jan 21 Sat	7:00 pm	Land Use Committee meeting. <i>Lawrence Community Mercantile meeting room, 901 Iowa St.</i>
Jan 26 Thurs	12-1:00 pm	January Brown Bag Lunch featuring speaker Eric Haar, from Congressman Jim Ryun's office. <i>Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St.</i> (See announcement on page 2.)
Feb 4 Sat	9-11:00 am	National and Local Program planning meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St.</i> (See information on pages 3-6.)
Feb 8 Wed	7-8:30 pm	LWV-L-DC Board Meeting. <i>Lawrence High School Library, 1901 Louisiana St.</i> LWV L-DC members are welcome to attend!

A Note from President Carrie Lindsey

I recently discovered that if you do a search for "League of Women Voters" on one of the information kiosks at Borders, it will return 135 titles. Actually, very few of the titles are books about the League. In fact, most of the titles are of studies undertaken by the League. The titles include *The Growth of Judicial Power: Perspectives on "The Least Dangerous Branch"*, *Federalist Papers Reexamined Series #5* and *Instructions for Monitoring the Impact of General Revenue Sharing at the Local Level*, by the LWV Education Fund Staff. In addition, there are several studies and guide books published by local Leagues, such as *Massachusetts State Government*; *Child Care in Minnesota: Public Issues*; and *Newtown, Connecticut: Directions and Images*. Many of these books are out of print, but not all.

Which brings me to Program Planning. I would like to be announcing that your local League has a book deal in the works, but we don't. Nonetheless, member participation in Program Planning is very important. Our Program Planning meeting will take place on February 4th in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium. We are charged with reviewing both National and Local Programs. You will find our positions in brief on pages 3-6. If you would like to see the full positions, you can find the local positions on our website and a link to the National positions. And I would be happy to provide paper copies, even in large print, to anyone who requests them.

I also wish to remind members that action on our Program does not end after the meeting. As League members, you have valuable opinions and your participation in studies and other League activities is the key to the organization's success. If you are interested in becoming a more active League member, but are not sure where you are needed, please contact me (766-8561; carriblindsey@yahoo.com). We can meet for coffee to discuss your interests and how we need your input and time. And I hope to see you all on February 4th!

Volunteers needed!!!

LWV L-DC will host the LWV of Kansas State Council meeting on Saturday, April 29, at Lawrence High. We are looking for volunteers for a *short-term time commitment* to assist with this event. It is a good opportunity for new, as well as seasoned, members to get involved and to learn more about the League. **Our Committee will meet once a month leading up to the Council meeting.** That is only four meetings. To volunteer, please contact Milton Scott (842-9819; miltons123@aol.com). We need volunteers in the following areas:



- Registration (volunteers will help on the day of the event)
- Publicity (work with local news outlets)
- Exhibits Coordinator
- Hospitality
- Meals and refreshments
- Miscellaneous other tasks

JANUARY BROWN BAG LUNCH. Thursday, January 26, from 12–1:00 pm in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St. Our guest speaker will be Eric Haar, Outreach Coordinator for Congressman Jim Ryun. He will speak for a few minutes and then take questions from the audience.



About our speaker: As Outreach Coordinator, Mr. Haar travels the 2nd Congressional District, speaking to groups, answering questions, and listening to constituent concerns on behalf of Congressman Ryun. Prior to serving on the Congressman's federal staff, Eric Haar served on Jim Ryun's campaign staff. In addition, he has served on Attorney General Phill Kline's campaign and state staff. Mr. Haar has lived in Lawrence since 2002.

There's still time to submit nominations for the 2006 Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award! The League encourages you to nominate someone for this award whom you believe should be recognized for her or his contributions in improving government in our community. Nominations for those who are not selected to receive the Fluker Award in the year they are nominated are considered current for two years. However, we encourage submission of updated nomination forms. **The deadline for nominations is January 31.** The winner will be announced in February, and a dinner will be held in her or his honor in March. Nomination forms were published as page 8 of the December 2005 *VOTER*. If you would like to receive another form, please contact Carrie Lindsey (766-8561; carriebindsey@yahoo.com). Other questions? Please contact Sara Taliaferro (842-9754; sara@happybeetle.com).

Of interest to Lawrence–Douglas County League members...

Public forum on education issues before the Legislature 2006, sponsored by Wichita Metro League of Women Voters and the Wichita State University chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. *Saturday, January 21, at 1:00 pm, Wichita State University Rhatigan Student Center Great Plains Room.* Panelists include Jean Schodorf, Kansas Senate, Jim Ward, Kansas House of Representative, and Kathy Cook, Kansas Families United for Public Education.

National and Local Program Planning on February 4th

Every other year, we have the opportunity to review our National and Local positions, making recommendations to retain or drop previously adopted positions, submitting suggestions for expanding or updating these positions, and offering proposals for the study of new issues. Our recommendations on LWVUS positions will be submitted for consideration at the National Convention in June. Suggestions for local program will be considered at Annual Meeting in April. Summaries of the current positions are printed below. You can download LWVUS and LWV L-DC positions in full at from our websites (lww.org and <http://community.lawrence.com/LeagueWomenVoters/>, respectively). Our program planning meeting will take place on *Saturday, February 4, from 9–11:00 am in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St.* See you there!

Public Policy Positions of LWVUS in brief

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers and expand international trade and that advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES. Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agricultural Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY. Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment, Housing. Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services. Provide for essential support services.

Housing Supply. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

Positions of LWV L-DC in brief

HEALTH.

Health Care. Support for: (1) medical care for all persons regardless of ability to pay; (2) an information and referral system of local medical services; (3) a clinic with a sliding scale of charges, and other auxiliary services; and (4) health education both in the schools and in the community. (Approved 1976; edited 2004)

Nursing Homes. Support for: (1) Medicaid reimbursements that are sufficient to cover the cost of care; (2) continued development of suitable community alternatives to nursing home care; (3) professional development to upgrade the staffing of nursing homes, in particular, training for aides in community education facilities; and (4) other specific changes in state licensing requirements. (Approved 1976; edited 2004)

SOCIAL POLICY.

Housing for Low-Income Groups. Support for (1) housing for low-income households in Lawrence and Douglas County; (2) a representative Housing Authority to analyze low- and moderate-income

housing needs and plans to meet them; (3) city conservation policies and housing rehabilitation assistance in older neighborhoods; (4) compulsory periodic inspection of all rental units; (5) a truly minimum housing code that is periodically reviewed; and (6) some method of inspection to insure that all residential properties, when ownership is transferred, are in conformance with the minimum housing code. (Approved 1975)

Needs of People with Disabilities. Support for protection of the civil and human rights of people with disabilities by promoting: (1) the elimination or minimizing of attitudinal and architectural barriers and (2) continue to support local agencies that promote independent living, including support for a county tax levy to help finance such an agency. (Approved 1982, 2000)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY.

Local Land Use. Support for: (1) positions adopted regarding planning principles and financing; (2) the controlled development of the Clinton Lake area; (3) implementation of comprehensive planning guides for Lawrence and Douglas County; and (4) recommendations for changes in the role of the planning staff and planning commission. (Approved 1973, 1984, 1999, 2000)

Public Transportation and Bikeways. Support for a comprehensive public transportation system for Lawrence Positions of the LWVL-DC, May 2004 Page and measures to achieve that end: local subsidies, federal grants, innovative operations, and city planning that considers transportation and environmental problems. Support for adoption and implementation of a plan for a comprehensive bikeway system for Lawrence to provide for and to encourage the safe and efficient use of bicycles as a means of transportation and recreation. (Combined 1980)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Local Boards and Commissions. Each citizen board or commission that is created by the City or County Commission to share in the rights and responsibilities of local government should: (1) have a clear statement of the purpose and responsibilities of the board or commission, officers, bylaws, minutes, and new member orientation; (2) base decisions on information actively gathered from all sources whether lay or professional, staff or public; (3) work with other boards or commissions on issues of mutual interest; and (4) provide the City or County Commission with recommendations on issues within its province as it wishes. (Approved 1979)

Douglas County Government. Supports measures that promote an efficient and responsive county government; (1) Meetings of the Board of County Commissioners at established times with published agendas; (2) The appointment of a county administrator who is responsible to the Board of County Commissioners; and (3) Election of policy-making county officials only. (Approved April 1998, 2000)

City Government. The League of Women Voters of Lawrence–Douglas County believes that the structure and operation of Lawrence city government must be representative, accountable, accessible, provide good municipal services, provide adequate balanced information, and cooperate with other governments. (Approved 1991)

Tax Abatements. The League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County believes that the City of Lawrence should modify its current tax abatement policy to include the following: (1) The local school board must approve abatement of that portion of the property tax which would be collected for public education. (2) The in-lieu taxes should be adjusted annually to reflect changes in property values, using an average rate of inflation in property values in the county. The county appraiser should devise an appropriate average for this purpose. (3) The cost-benefit model, used to determine the worthiness of tax abatement applications, contains many variables, both from data provided by the business and data from the city and other sources. An independent contractor should review data from the city and other sources for accuracy, reliability, and completeness at the time of the initial application and then at three-year intervals. (Approved 1999)

League to monitor civil liberties issues

Recently, the LWV proposed that someone in each state monitor civil liberties concerns. I agreed to monitor in Kansas. If 20 states choose monitors, monitoring will become a national policy.

On civil liberties grounds, several groups are opposing Judge Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court. The civil liberties issue currently in the news is that President Bush has authorized spying by the National Security Administration on American citizens without a warrant, even though warrants are very easily and quickly obtainable from a special court. Alito's record as a judge shows that he supports a very strong executive with few limits. For example, "a president's intent in signing a bill trumps the intent of Congress in writing it, and ... a president can claim power without restriction or supervision by the courts or Congress" (*New York Times* editorial, 1-15-06). Several witnesses at his hearings were concerned that Alito's views would jeopardize the constitutional balance of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

I receive civil liberties messages from the ACLU, People for the American Way, MoveON, the Village Voice, the Democratic Party, and other groups. I can provide contacts with such groups for anyone who wants to monitor on their own.

Local note: A letter to retired history professor, Grant Goodman, from a retired history professor in the Philippines was opened by the Department of Homeland Security. This was not a secret act but seems of doubtful use to our security.

— Mary Davidson, LWV L-DC member

LWV L-DC January Board Meeting in Brief

January 11, Lawrence High School Library. Present were President Carrie Lindsey, Marjorie Cole, Melinda Henderson, Arla Jones, Caleb Morse, Rusty Thomas, and Paula Schumacher.

Carrie announced she will attend the State Board Meeting in Topeka Saturday, January 14. She also announced Mary Davidson will represent the Kansas League on civil liberty issues, along with a League member from Wichita. The *Roe v. Wade* Annual Celebration will be held Thursday, January 19 at the Topeka Capital, sponsored by the Kansas Choice Alliance.

Paula reported on the *HoopsMania* fundraising drive. \$262.50 has been earned for the League (after the Hoops portion has been paid) so far, with another \$75 still to come. Paula still has tickets to sell if any one is interested.

The next Brown Bag Lunch is scheduled for January 26 from 12-1:00 in the Lawrence Public

Library Auditorium. The guest will be Eric Haar from Congressman Jim Ryun's office.

Two nominations for the Fluker Award have been received so far. The deadline for nominations is January 31.

A motion passed to move a CD belonging to the League valued at \$1,900.20, be moved to the Stucky Money Market Fund, where it might earn more and be more useful.

Saturday, April 15, was established as a date for the Annual Meeting.

A suggestion from Carolyn Coleman and Caleb to develop a short series of informational meetings for League members and others on government was enthusiastically received by the Board. Fran Bartlett, a new government teacher at Lawrence High School has been approached about helping with this project.

— Marjorie Cole, Secretary

LWV L-DC Observer Report

Willow Springs Township Board. January 3, 7:30 pm. Present: Charles Wintermantle, Trustee; Jerry Smith, Clerk; Suzanne Evinger, Treasurer; Tim Kohler, Road maintenance; Lyle Bowlin, Volunteer Fire Chief; Kyle Baumer, Sheriff's Deputy; Peggy Baker, LWVL-DC Observer.

Before official start, for my information (I'd been snowbound for the December meeting) an update on the embezzlement case against the wife of the former treasurer: She pled guilty to the theft of \$114,000 and was ordered to pay restitution. That may take her a while. The treasurer (Bruce Auchermann) was bonded but his wife was not, so the bonding institution is not liable.

The clerk read the minutes of the December meeting, which were approved as read.

The treasurer gave the treasurer's report. The balance is \$96,095.07, separate from the CD. This figure includes payments of about \$30,000 for a used vehicle being outfitted to serve as a sand and gravel spreader. This will be especially useful during ice storms.

Charles read the road rock prices for 2006, which have escalated to \$450 and \$480 for the two quarries (Ottawa and Globe). He read a letter from the County offering to sell road signs, which the board respectfully refused, saying they had another source.

Dust Pallative. The County is handling requests for dust pallatives. The price has risen to \$1.00 per linear foot. The county reimburses the township \$.38 per foot for scraping and preparing the road bed. Deadline for township residents to request this service is in March.

Work will be done between May 1 and May 26. Residents requesting this pay their own footage. The township will have the road in front of township hall and fire department treated.



A registered letter from a resident's attorney was read, demanding \$300 to replace a lilac bush cut down on resident's land. A survey indicated the lilac bush was on the road right of way and so no payment will be made.

Fire Department. The Fire Department responded to two calls in December: a car accident and a trash fire.

Lyle Bowlin was re-elected Chief. Because of time complications from work, the training officer was replaced with two officers: Brandon Mauser and Chris Ferguson. M/S/P to give them the stipend (presently \$50 a month) for each month they are able to provide training. .

Deputy Sheriff Officer Baumer said he would be patrolling the township roads in his official capacity, and asked about any problems. Deer spotlighting, speeding, and trash dumping were the main concerns.

2006 Budget. The Board proposed a \$340,000 budget, the amount the County anticipates being raised.

M/S/P to give the Volunteer Fire Department a separate budget of \$40,000. As with the road maintenance supervisor, all single expenditures over \$1,500 require Board approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

—Peggy Baker, League Observer

Welcome new members. Please add the names of our new members to your roster!

Lori Messinger & Boo Tyson
624 Arrowhead Dr
Lawrence KS 66049

Welcome

LWV L-DC Land Use Committee Report



December 4. On the first Sunday afternoon in December, the Land Use Committee (LUC) reported to the League membership on the wording of the Local Land Use position of the LWV L-DC Environmental Policy, and how the LUC interprets and takes action on the position. Marci Francisco acted as moderator and also reported on our position on economic planning; Alan Black, Chairman, reported on our position on transportation planning; Eleanor Wenger reported on our position on rural development; Caleb Morse reported on our position on neighborhood planning; and Betty Lichtwardt reported on our position on environmental planning. (LUC member reports have been posted on the LWV L-DC website.)

December 10. The LUC met at the Community Mercantile on Saturday evening to discuss actions to take on the Planning Commission (PC) Agenda for their December 12 and 14 meetings. The Committee decided to send four letters:

The first letter was on the Final Plat for the Doolittle Subdivision. This is in a high, but particularly flat, location north of the commercial center in the center of Section 27. When this item first was considered as a preliminary plat, we asked that Section 27 be pre-planned before any more subdivisions are accepted, because of the lack of recreational open space and other non-residential uses needed by the neighborhood. In this Final Plat, we asked, because of the potential lack of efficient natural drainage, that grading around foundations be required for stormwater protection and that there be a guaranteed method for maintaining the detention storage and drainageways.

The second letter was on the Cypress Park Addition Preliminary Plat. This subdivision is located in the Barker Neighborhood and involves resubdividing a large residential lot into five flag-shaped lots, utilizing shared driveways for access. The PC originally denied this preliminary plat, but the City Commission gave it a *de novo* hearing, and it was returned to the PC in December. Our concern at this stage was that the “shared driveways” actually functioned as private streets and are not legal in conventional districts. Of particular concern was one driveway shown under single ownership (the “pole” of the flag lot) that would provide access to two other lots, one of which was functionally landlocked. Unless some provision was made to share maintenance cost, the owner of this “private street” would bear it all, even though the most intensive use would be from the other lots. We asked that a recorded maintenance agreement be referenced on the Final Plat and that the term “shared driveway” be better defined in the ordinances.

The third letter regarded the Bauer Farm planned development north of Sixth between Folks Rd and Wakarusa Dr. This PUD needed conditions on the rezonings to guarantee the plan, required many waivers, some of which allowed minimal set-backs from Sixth St, had a large undesignated lot in one portion (large enough for a “big box” use), and other uncertainties. We had sent a detailed letter on the issues in October. The developers returned in December with a modified plan but without most of our concerns addressed. We sent a forwarding letter with a copy of the letter that we had sent on this issue to the PC in October, most of which was ignored by the PC in December.

The fourth letter was concerned with the “Fairfield Farms” development in the southeast area of the city, included in the pending Southeast Area Plan. This Southeast Area Plan has been under study and has not been adopted yet. We urged the PC not to rezone or plat land within this area until it had an approved plan. The PC approved the preliminary plat and some rezonings for the Fairfield Farms items, but deferred others.

HoopsMania!!! LWV-LDC Fundraiser Information

THE LEAGUE GETS A \$10 DONATION FOR EACH TICKET. We pay 15 cents for each ticket. We get to keep \$7.50 as profit for each ticket. The remaining \$2.50 is sent to *HoopsMania* to be used for prize money.

HOW TICKETS WORK. Each ticket has 16 "teams" listed on it. Not the teams, really, but the seeds (in the regions). Each ticket is comparable: all tickets have the same chance of winning (there are none with all the worst seeds, none with all the best—each has a comparable mix). When the NCAA announces the teams in the tournament, you determine your teams by looking at the seeds in the regions that match the seeds on your ticket.

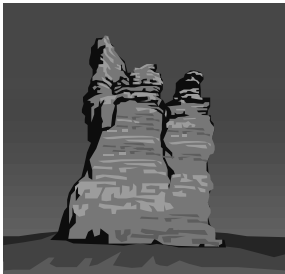
Ticket value is the sum of the points scored by all your teams. So, a low seed team that scores 100 points is more valuable to you than a high seed team that scores 50 points.

You don't want your teams to lose. Higher ranked teams have a greater chance of winning, BUT REMEMBER: 1) there are upsets, 2) all tickets are comparable, 3) how much they score is important, and 4) there are prizes for lowest team totals as well as for highest team totals.

There are 1,820 tickets and 37 prizes. Chances of winning are 1:49.2. Prizes range from \$10 to \$500.

DURING THE TOURNAMENT, TICKET HOLDERS CAN GO ONLINE TO SEE HOW THEIR TICKET IS DOING (WWW.CHARITYMANIA.COM).

TO GET TICKETS, contact Paula Schumacher at (550-2109; paulaschumacher@gmail.com)



LWK News

December 20. The LWVUS Convention is being held in Minneapolis this year, June 10–13. Information is beginning to appear on the LWVUS website, and I suggest you check that out from time to time as new information is added. For purposes of your budget planning for the 2006–2007 League year, the registration fee this year is \$285 and hotel rooms at the Hilton are approximately \$176 (tax included) for a double room. Consider driving to Minneapolis and carpooling with other Leaguers from Kansas. From the Kansas City area, Minneapolis is a little over 400 miles. I hope many of you plan on sending delegates. These are very informational meetings and a wonderful opportunity to get ideas from what is working well in other Leagues. A featured speaker will be Garrison Keillor—not to be missed!

I've mentioned in earlier notes to you that LWV Illinois would like to adopt by concurrence at Convention a national position on abolition of the death penalty. This is consistent with our state position. When you do program planning, I hope you will support this position. I have sent local presidents an easy set of instructions that will in this effort. If adopted, the position would read "The League of Women Voters of the United States supports the abolition of the death penalty." Please note we will be asking for Concurrence on the Floor of the Convention. If the position is adopted on the Convention Floor, no PMP increase will be required.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Marge Mintun of Salina, is currently recruiting new state Board members for the 2006–2008 League years. If you are willing to serve, know someone in your League you would like to recommend, please contact Marge (margted@aol.com) [*Editor's note*: I am also serving on this committee, so please feel free to contact me (Caleb Morse), as well (842–7929; cmorse@ku.edu).]

The State Mental Health committee has put forward a tentative schedule for distributing information to local Leagues. Expect study packets to arrive at the end of 2005, in February, and in May 2006; consensus questions will be sent in early September 2006. Some other dates to put on your calendars: Roe v. Wade Day in Topeka will be held Thursday, January 19. Day at the Capitol is set for Thursday, March 9; details on the program will follow in January.

My wish for each of you is that the upcoming holidays fulfill your expectations and that 2006 becomes a year of peace—personally, nationally, and for the world!

—Janis McMillen, LWK President

League Membership Info: Join or Renew Today!

Dues for LWV Lawrence-Douglas County are \$40 for a single membership and \$60 for a household membership (two members sharing one mailing address). Joining at the local level automatically makes you a member of State and National Leagues. Dues are used to cover our per-member-payments to LWV Kansas and LWV United States. Money we raise ourselves covers all local expenses. The League year begins April 1 and ends March 31. To make sure your membership is up to date, check the address label on the back of *The Voter*. The date listed above your name is the date through which your membership dues have been paid. (If you have recently renewed, but your label does not show it, don't worry! We are in the process of updating all memberships prior to publication of the annual roster and will correct any errors within a couple of weeks.)

PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO:

Membership Chair, LWV L-DC, P.O. Box 1072, Lawrence KS 66044

✂ —————

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE PRINT

Date _____ Join Renew

Individual membership (\$40) Household membership (\$60)

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ _____ to help sponsor a League membership.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email address(es) _____

January 2006

Calendar	1
A Note from Carrie Lindsey, President	1
Volunteers Needed!	2
January Brown Bag Lunch	2
2006 Helen Fluker Award reminder	2
Of Interest to LWV L-DC Members	2
Public Policy Positions of LWVUS in brief	3
Positions of LWV L-DC in brief	5
League to Monitor Civil Liberties Issues	7
LWV L-DC January Board Mtg in Brief	7
LWV L-DC Observer Report	8
Welcome new members	8
LWV L-DC Land Use Committee Report	9
HoopsMania Fundraiser Information	10
LWVK News	10
Membership Form	11

Don't miss these events!

January Brown Bag Lunch. Thursday, January 26, from 12–1:00 pm in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St, with speaker Eric Haar, Outreach Coordinator for Congressman Jim Ryun. (See details on page 2.)

National and Local Program Planning. Saturday, February 4, from 9–11:00 am in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium. (See details on pages 3–6.)

LAST CHANCE TO RENEW YOUR 2005 MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERS: CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL

The expiration date for your membership is listed above your name on the mailing label below. Memberships that are current will show an expiration date of 3/31/06 or later. Our membership report is due to LWVUS on January 31. Only members who have paid their 2005–2006 League year dues by then will be reported as current. If you need to renew, see previous page.

League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 1072
Lawrence, KS 66044-1072



Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Lawrence, KS
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