



The VOTER

The Bulletin of the LWV of Lawrence-Douglas County *Volume 52, 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.

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League Calendar

Jan 12 Wed	7–8:30 p.m.	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>Community Mercantile Meeting Room, 901 Iowa Street. All members are welcome!</i>
Jan 22 Sat	12–2:00 p.m.	LWVK State Position Review and Discussion Meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont Street.</i>
Jan 22 Sat	7–9:00 p.m.	LWVL-DC Land Use Committee Meeting. <i>Community Mercantile Meeting Room, 901 Iowa Street.</i>
Feb 6 Sun	2–4:00 p.m.	Juvenile Justice Study questions discussion. <i>Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont Street.</i>
Feb 9 Wed	7–8:30 p.m.	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library Gallery, 707 Vermont Street. All members are welcome!</i>

A Note from Caleb Morse, President

We had another great turnout for our annual Afternoon with Our Legislators event. League members exchanged ideas with Representatives Barbara Ballard, Anthony Brown, Ann Mah, and Tom Holland and Senators Marci Francisco and Roger Pine. We discussed Governor Sebelius’s Healthy Kansas plan, taxation, transportation needs, and wind energy, among other topics. Thanks to Marlys Harder for graciously opening her home to us again this year and to Carrie Lindsey and Rusty Thomas for organizing the event.

We’ll have a chance to review the LWV Kansas program on January 22, making recommendations to the State Board on retention or revision of previously adopted positions and forwarding suggestions for additional subjects for study at the state level. In addition, we’ll have an opportunity to discuss the questions provided by LWVK’s Juvenile Justice Study Committee on February 6. A brief version of the LWVK positions and Juvenile Justice Study questions are printed elsewhere in this issue of the *Voter*, so you can review them before we meet.

Happy New Year!
—Caleb Morse

State Program in Brief 2003-2005

The State Board is soliciting our input on LWVK positions. We have been asked to indicate our preferences to retain or drop previously adopted positions, submit suggestions for expanding or updating these positions, and offer proposals for the study of new issues. LWV L-DC will meet on Saturday, January 22, 12–2:00 p.m. in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium to discuss the State Program and decide on our recommendations. Summaries of the current positions are printed below. You can download positions in full from our website (<http://community.lawrence.com/LeagueWomenVoters/>). If you do not have access to the web, call Caleb and he'll happily to bring you a copy!

GOVERNMENT

County Government	Promote the flexibility and efficiency of county government in Kansas.
Criminal Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adult Corrections ▪ Juvenile Corrections ▪ Court System ▪ Sentencing 	Promote a human correctional system for adults and juveniles, promote a unified court system and the establishment of a division of the trial court of general jurisdiction to deal with legal matters relating to family and promote sentencing policies with death penalty provisions.
Education Governance	Support of an education governance structure that is efficient and accountable, that provides opportunity for public input, in which there is increased cooperation and coordination among its various components.
Election Administration	Support a state-wide standard for training poll workers and supervising judges; mandatory training requirements for all first time workers and all supervisory judges; base compensation set by each county for poll workers; training on the use of provisional ballots, with the Secretary of State educating voters statewide on provisional ballots, criteria for discarding and providing information, by county, of reasons for discarding provisional ballots.
Legislative Apportionment	Promote reapportionment of the Kansas Legislature on the basis of population at regular intervals.
State Finance	Support a broad-based state tax system with diverse sources of revenue that is effectively and economically administered. Support a school finance plan that makes equivalent resources available to each pupil regardless of the wealth of any particular district.

SOCIAL POLICY

Equality of Opportunity	Support action to combat discrimination and poverty, and to provide equal access to education, employment, housing and policy-making government meetings. Support action to bring laws into compliance with the ERA.
Health: Medical Indigence	Support health care for all through joint cooperation of individuals, when feasible, employers and federal, state and county government.
Meeting Basic Human Needs – SRS	Encourage cooperation and continuity between agencies and programs that affect children and families to assure the basic needs of low-income families.
Children at Risk	Endorse the development and implementation of policies and programs that address the physical, psychosocial, and educational needs of children at risk, especially those at or near the poverty level.
Living Wage	Encourage establishment of a living wage policy by government for-profit businesses that receive tax incentives and/or other public funds.
Privatization of Child Welfare Services by SRS	Endorse the goals of the Kansas Child Welfare Services – safety, permanency, and functional development of all children for whom it is responsible. Promote greater involvement of all major stakeholders; efforts to have health, education and psychological records current and following a child, and well-trained and supervised staff. Develop baseline data and interfacing MIS for comparison purposes. Hold annual external and internal financial compliance audits of all contractors.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hazardous Waste ▪ Solid Waste ▪ Water Resources 	Promote the wise management of resources in the public interest and an environment beneficial to life, policies to reduce the hazardous waste stream and to ensure safe management and disposal of wastes that cannot be detoxified, government regulation of solid waste management and limits on use of non-renewable resources, and support action to maintain the supply and quality of water appropriate to various users through prudent planning and management of water resources. Support consolidation of natural resources and environmental agencies.
Land Use	Promote a system of land management that integrates our ecological needs with our social and economic needs.
Prairie Park	Support the development and maintenance of a national tall grass prairie park.

LWVK Juvenile Justice Study Committee Questions

The League of women Voters of Kansas Adopted a position on Juvenile Corrections and Services in 1993. At that time, juvenile justice issues were under the purview of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. In 1997, through legislative action, the Juvenile Justice Authority was formed, and this agency assumed responsibility for all programs and funding associated with juveniles who, through their actions, come in contact with law enforcement. The purpose of the 2003/4 LWVK study is to determine if JJA is meeting the needs of juveniles, seven years after assuming responsibility for such juveniles. The Study Committee has compiled the following questions, which LWV L-DC will consider during our meeting on Sunday, February 6, 2–4:00 p.m. in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium.

As stated by the Commissioner of the JJA, the mission of this agency is to: 1) promote public safety, by 2) holding juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, and 3) to improve the ability of youth to live productively and responsibly in their communities.

1. The "gate-keeper" to accessing the juvenile justice system is the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC), via law enforcement.
 - a. How well is JIAC operating at the community level?
 - b. What indicators are in place to assure that all children, regardless of background, ethnicity, etc. are or are not being processed in a fair and equitable manner?
 - c. What programs are available at the community level to assure the processing of juveniles leads to the desired outcomes?

2. Once juveniles are in the "system" that is, have been referred by JIAC to the courts (D.A., judges, court services, prevention programs), do these groups have the options and effective sentencing matrix to meet the mission of JJA?

3. It is imperative that JJA communicate formally and electronically with all judicial districts, and all judicial districts need to have the means of communicating among themselves. Are the appropriate hardware/software systems in place statewide to assure this communication? (If not, what is needed to assure that the Kansas JJA system can track juveniles within its system?)

4. Community-based programs for both prevention and intervention are critical to the mission of JJA. Are adequate funds available from JJA grants for these programs, including the flexibility of utilizing JJA grant dollars between intervention and prevention, as needed to meet local needs?

LWVUS News

November 18

Post-Board Summary Of October 2004 Meeting. The Post-Board Summary of the October 2004 Board meeting is now up on the LWVUS Web site. Read it
<http://interactive.lwv.org/NewsforYou/NewsforYou.cfm?ID=1304&c=47>.



Statement on Voting Problems by LWVUS President Kay J. Maxwell.

Washington, D.C. - "The League of Women Voters is deeply concerned about voting irregularities in the 2004 election. The appropriate officials must fully investigate these concerns through open and public processes. Election officials should look into problems quickly and thoroughly and fix what proves to be wrong. Transparency and a willingness to look into potential problems will strengthen voter confidence and ultimately improve our electoral system.

"It is important to ensure that every properly cast ballot is counted and to make improvements for future elections. Attention must be given to inadequate polling place procedures, problematic voting machines, voter registration system failures, casting and counting of provisional ballots, and absentee voting issues.

"This was far from a perfect election. Although voter turnout reached record levels, the election system showed signs of stress and voters faced real problems. Two key areas deserve special inquiry. First, voter registration problems plague the system. These problems—from failures to fully process registration applications in time to bureaucratic requirements that blocked voter registration—must still be resolved by election officials. Second, the reasons for the very long lines that voters faced in too many states and localities must be thoroughly examined. Having to wait several hours to vote is an unacceptable barrier to citizen participation. What were the reasons? Were there not enough voting machines? Were these polling places poorly organized? Were long lines a greater problem in minority or student precincts than in rural or suburban precincts? Changes clearly need to be made in polling place operations to address these concerns.

"Finally, the League calls on every voter who cast a provisional ballot to find out whether their ballot was counted. The provisional ballot counting process is still ongoing and must be monitored. But every voter who cast a provisional ballot has the right, under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), to know whether it is counted, and, if it is not counted, why it is not counted. States are required to have a toll-free hotline or Internet system so voters can get this information about their ballot.

The League's nationwide network of state and local Leagues will continue to work closely with election officials to identify and correct all voting problems."

Contact: Kelly Ceballos, 202-263-1331; Sara Conrath, 202-263-1332

League's Post-Election Forum Summary. (http://www.lwv.org/join/elections/news_events.html for complete story). This is an executive summary.

The League of Women Voters held a post-election symposium on Thursday, November 4, 2004, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. to obtain initial observations of election activists, officials and analysts. The League's event took a hard look at what worked and what didn't in get-out-the-vote efforts, campaign financing and election administration....

Participants on the first panel attributed the 2004 increase in voter turnout compared to the 2000 percentages in good part to the high levels of outreach and communications via the media and personal contacts. The changes in campaign finance regulations were seen as a key factor this year, with Republicans spending more money on early voter education efforts and Democrats focusing on GOTV

work, according to some of the panelists. The panelists agreed that the future momentum of these mobilization efforts would depend upon the level of continuing commitment by both the parties and the independent groups that were active during the campaign.

Participants in the second panel were: R. Michael Alvarez, CalTech/MIT; Jim Drinkard, USA Today; Linda H. Lamone, Maryland State Board of Elections; Clarissa Martinez-De-Castro, National Council of La Raza; Carol Paquette, Election Assistance Commission; and Hilary O. Shelton, NAACP Washington Bureau. This panel focused on voters' experiences on Election Day.

The panelists discussed the lack of meltdown on Election Day itself. While both the new voting technologies and the polling place operations were seen as doing well in general, panelists highlighted some key areas for improvement. Provisional ballots and related problems were a major issue. Another issue was the future of the statewide voter registration system. Concerns ranged from the logistical and operational difficulties of creating such a system to the potential for abuse of the voter information contained in these lists, particularly the potential to use the information to intimidate minority voters. Another topic of discussion was the partisan status of some election officials.

This symposium, coming just two days after the election, provided a first post-election opportunity for academics, activists and election officials to come together and discuss the 2004 election in a nonpartisan framework.

LWVUS Internet Searches Spike During Election Week. The League has always been a top source for election information. This year, on two major Web search engines, the LWVUS showed one of the largest increases in number of searches during Election Week, proving that our information is invaluable to voters. On MSN.com, on November 4, the LWVUS was the No. 2 "search mover," and on Lycos, for the week ending November 6, League searches were up 140%, making the LWVUS the No. 7 mover. To read about the Lycos search results, visit this URL: <http://50.lycos.com/111004.asp>.

San Diego League Files Lawsuit in Mayoral Contest. The LWV of San Diego filed a lawsuit November 17, asking a judge to require that all votes cast for the mayoral write-in candidate be counted, including ballots on which voters failed to fill in the bubble next to the candidate's name. Read about it at <http://50.lycos.com/111004.asp> and <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/politics/cities/20041117-1819-ca-sandiegomayor.html>.

Civil Liberties Task Force. The Civil Liberties Advisory Task Force held its first meeting in Washington, D.C. this week and spent a productive day and a half discussing the possible recommendations to be made to the LWVUS Board at their next meeting in January 2005. To get involved in the civil liberties discussion, join the League Liberty discussion list.

Women Engaging Globally Forums. The League of Women Voters will help host a series of five forums in Winter 2004/Spring 2005 to broaden women's involvement in foreign policy discussions. The first will be held by the LWV of Minnesota on "U.S. Foreign Policy and its Impact on Women: The Case of Afghanistan and Iraq." For more about the event, visit our website at (<http://interactive.lwv.org/Events/Events.cfm?ID=1303&c=80&date=12-2-2004>). In Spring 2005, the LWV of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the LWV of Cuyahoga Regional Area, Ohio are organizing forums on "U.S. Foreign Policy and its Impact on Women: HIV/AIDS."

Host Visitors from Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The League will present a proposal early next year to host visitors from Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. If your League wants to be a host you will

need to submit specific information. For details, contact Zaida Arguedas (zarguedas@lww.org), Director of Global Democracy Programs. A two-page information packet will be sent to you upon request.

December 2

Winter Publications Sale. LWWUS is holding a sale on all publications, so be sure to stock up on all your League's needs. Quantity discounts available. Visit the LWWUS website for prices and order information (<http://interactive.lww.org/MembersOnly/MembersOnly.cfm?ID=1327>).

Our Democracy, Our Airwaves. In the 2004 election, a staggering \$1.6 billion was spent on advertising, primarily on television spots - yet another reminder of how skyrocketing campaign costs drive out potential candidates and elevate the importance of political fundraising. With the Alliance for Better Campaigns, the League continues its leadership role in the "Our Democracy, Our Airwaves" project. For more information on how your League can help, click visit our website at <http://interactive.lww.org/Resources/Resources.cfm?ID=1328&c=48>.

December 10

Election Assistance Commission Election Day Survey. The Federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC) has distributed a survey to all State Election Directors and Secretaries of State to collect data on a variety of topics, including voter registration, provisional and absentee balloting, election results, voting equipment and poll workers for the November 2004 Federal election. The survey is intended to be completed at the state level with input from the local election jurisdictions. The data collected will assist the EAC and interested organizations in evaluating the administration of Election 2004. With your help, this will be the most comprehensive data available and will provide a solid, fact-based foundation for future election reform work. Please contact the election officials in your area and encourage them to provide your state with the necessary information. The survey is available at <http://www.eac.gov/docs/Election%20Day%20Survey.pdf>.

Final Update: Election Protection Coalition. LWWUS would like to thank those Leagues that participated in the Election Protection Coalition activities in 2004. Our participation in the 2004 Coalition has come to an end, but our efforts were enormously successful! Overall, the hotline provided assistance to approximately 205,000 callers across the country, with nearly 140,000 calls coming in on Election Day. Callers reported registration mistakes or omissions, absentee and provisional ballot problems, polls opening late and closing early, voting rights abuses, problems with voting machines of all types, and voter suppression tactics in predominantly minority neighborhoods. Additionally, the Coalition distributed approximately five million Voters' Bills of Rights across the country.

Basketball Raffle Results

Our experiment with raffles was a success! We raised \$470. A big thanks and round of applause for everyone who helped! The winner—Matt Behrens of Topeka—is a big KU fan who had never gotten to see a game at Allen Field house. As soon as he heard he had won, he went out and got a display case for his basketball signed by the KU men's 2004-2005 basketball team. Although the weather was poor on game night, he braved the ice and snow to watch KU triumph over Texas A&M.

LWVK News

November 14

LWVUS President Kay Maxwell spent a day and a half in the Kansas City metro area, meeting with various media outlets to promote the "5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day" message. The Kansas City-Jackson-Clay-Platte County League hosted a wonderful reception for her. It was a great opportunity for her to become better acquainted with our local Leagues and our issues. Thanks to the Jo Co League members who were able to attend the reception.

Post-election observations: From reading your Voters and/or visiting your Leagues this past month, I know how involved all of you were in registering voters, holding campaign forums, providing Voter's guides, helping get candidates signed on to DNet, and just generally doing everything you could to educate the voting public. Thanks ever so much for your continued commitment. The public looks to the League to be involved in all of these election-related activities - and you definitely came through!

Speaking of DNet - this was the first election cycle that, on a state-wide basis, we opted to put our efforts into DNet and not print a Voter's Guide to distribute state-wide. Please - provide your feedback to the State Board on whether you want to continue in this direction in 2006 (assuming Capitol Advantage will continue to support LWVUS in this effort).

You will recall that those of us who attended the LWVUS Convention in June came back raving about banquet speaker, Helen Thomas! Her presentation was videotaped, and Marlys Robertson has loaned me her copy of the tape, so it could be shared with local Leagues. If any of you would like to borrow the tape, please let me know and I will mail it to you. It's a 60-minute video, full of her delightful and insightful commentary on past presidents, as well as the current administration.

The State committee conducting the Juvenile Justice study developed consensus questions this weekend, and local Leagues

should receive them within the next couple of weeks.

Once again, I am asking for members to join Lobby Corps for the 2005 Legislative Session. We need your help - please consider it!

December 22

The Legislature opens its 2005 session on Monday, January 10. LWVK is already planning to participate in two significant rallies during the month of January. I hope you will put each of these on your calendar and pass the information on to your members. We would like to have a big turnout at each event!

The Kansas Choice Alliance, of which the state League is a member, is sponsoring the 32nd anniversary celebration of *Roe v. Wade* on Thursday, January 20, 2005. Barbara Holzmark has reserved the first floor rotunda, first floor south and north wings and the south steps for our activities! Member organizations may each have a table with information relevant to their organization. Mark your calendars, as we want to have a VERY big crowd this year. In particular, we need young people to participate, as many young women are not aware of the potential threat to *Roe v. Wade*. Barbara has arranged a bus to transport members from Johnson County and Lawrence to Topeka. The Governor has been invited to speak. We will need a couple of volunteers to sit at the League table from about 9:30 am until lunchtime - let me know if you can help. [If you would like to attend this event, but do not know Janice, please contact Caleb Morse.]

Mary Ann Bradford has graciously agreed to serve as Secretary on the State Board for the remainder of this League year. Mary Ann has been State President, as well as president of her local League (Topeka-Shawnee County) more than once! Thanks, Mary Ann!

The State committee has sent out the Juvenile Justice consensus questions. The study committee will convene on Feb. 19 to draft the final consensus statements. Please return your League's consensus recommendations to Ellen Estes (efestes@cox.net; 125 Chelmsford, Wichita, KS 67230) by February 14.

It's not too early to mark your calendars for Day at the Capitol, which is scheduled for Thursday, March 10. Details about the day will follow in January. And there is still time to join the Lobby Corps for the 2005 Legislative Session. We need your help - please consider it!

Election administration legislation - I have had a conversation with Secretary of State Thornburgh, and asked his support for changing our statute to allow each county the option of split shifts for poll workers. This request is based on the position we developed following our state study on Election Administration. Currently, the statute requires poll workers to

spend the entire day at the poll; yet, during our study we found that 3 counties acknowledged using split shifts. Sec. Thornburgh agreed to discuss with his staff then follow up with me. Hopefully, he will be supportive of this initiative.

Cristy Oller, the administrative assistant we have been sharing with Betsy Rohleder, has resigned her position. Betsy has hired a new assistant who will begin in early January.

I hope this finds all of you experiencing the holiday joys of this month, and I wish all of you a New Year filled with happiness and peace!

—Janis McMillen, LWVK President



Welcome New Member

We have one new member to welcome to the League.
Please add her name to your roster:

Gwendolyn Klingenberg
4900 Colonial Way
Lawrence, KS 66049.

Thanks for your contribution!

Marilyn Chamberlin
Hilda Enoch
Cornelia Fields

Tensie Oldfather
Marian Warriner

Of interest to League Members...

The Older Women's League February Panel (*Wednesday, February 2 at 2:00 p.m. in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont Street*) will be "Framing the Debate about Social Security." Jeanne Sahadi, CNN/Money senior writer, said about the upcoming debate about Social Security reform "There will be wrangling, consternation and spin, not to mention multimillion-dollar PR campaigns reducing complex issues into sound bites. The words *crisis* and *trillions of dollars* will be used ... a lot." The situation can be summarized in the question *What changes are needed to make Social Security solvent and when should we make them?* Our panel will provide an outline to the debate and help us to be good advocates for a Social Security system that will serve generations to come. Norm Franker, Distr. Mgr. for the Lawrence Social Security office will outline the current system, review changes made in 1983 and explain options now being considered and how privatization fits in. Becky Fast, Constituent Services Dir. from Rep. Moore's office, and Justin Pike, Constituent Services Case Worker from Rep. Ryun's office, will present talking points regarding Social Security. (They will not be able to speak to specific legislation, as none has been drafted or addressed by committee.) Following the presentation, Mr. Pike has offered to meet with members and assist with individual issues regarding Social Security benefits. *The event is open to the public. For more information, contact Gayle Sigurdson(832-1692).*

LWVL-DC November and December Board Meetings in Brief

November 10

Janis McMillen, LWVK President, was in attendance to share information on what's going on with other Leagues and to ask for volunteers to apply for the LWVK position currently held by Marci Francisco. Marci must resign her state position now that she has been elected to the Kansas State Senate; however, she may remain on the LWVL-DC Board. Paula volunteered to help fill Marci's role as LWVK finance chair during this transition.

Caleb Morse reported on two political forums held in October and co-sponsored by the League. Both were covered in the press, and each drew a pretty good crowd. There were 60 in the audience for the first forum on the State Board of Education; 40 at the second, a forum for candidates for Douglas County offices.

The League's Garage Sale was huge success, earning us \$457. Paula Schumacher presented ideas for raising additional funds and asked that we obtain a list of attendees for each upcoming League event.

Caleb and Donna Swall will work on pulling together a member orientation for sometime in middle to late February,

We decided to seek other venues for future Board meetings in order to make them fully accessible to all Board members. The January 2005 meeting will take place in the Community Mercantile meeting room.

After some discussion, we decided to post recent issues of *The Voter* on the League's website. In the future, we may investigate sending pdf files of the newsletter directly to those members who would prefer to receive an electronic copy, rather than a paper one.

December 8

Caleb Morse reported that the turnout for the League's showing of *El Jardin* was about 35 people. Caleb will explore sponsoring another movie by Ranjit Arab and Aaron Paden.

David Smith reported on meetings of the Housing Needs Assessment Study Committee,

which took place on Oct 25 and Nov 23. Smith noted that the problem of housing in Lawrence is being discussed on different and not always compatible planes, at both the client and planning levels. David felt there was room for potential League involvement in several areas: (1) by participating in a task force organized by the City, (2) by sponsoring or co-sponsoring a citywide forum, and/or (3) by carrying out an independent League study. Discussion followed in which it was noted that, while it is unclear that a housing needs assessment would lead to an actionable item and that such a study might be redundant if a task force is appointed, the League has a unique vantage point because it is not a stakeholder and might be able to help facilitate communication between interest groups. In the end, we agreed that the League should not pursue independent study of this issue but should seek have representation on a City task force and, through the efforts of its members and perhaps by cosponsoring a forum on the issue, to supply information to the City on the issue.

Caleb and Melinda Henderson will write a letter to the editor of the *Lawrence Journal-World* about the representativeness of the current Planning Commission.

Hilda Enoch has asked that the League take a stand in favor of Governor Sebelius's Healthy Kansas Initiative. There was discussion of whether the proposal to fund the initiative through additional cigarette taxes was regressive or not. Paula and David will form a subcommittee to discuss whether taking a stand would be inconsistent with League policy.



LWV L-DC Observer Reports

Lawrence Public Library Board November 15

The board discussed the relation of projected library expansion to city improvement projects: Should the New Directions taskforce and the future consultants consider just a destination library within the city or the incorporation of the library as part of a larger public/private development? Board member John Nalbandian suggested talking with city commissioners and sending a formal letter to the commission, which will put the question on the agenda.

Director Bruce Flanders reported that expenses are well within budget and probably will leave a little for the capital improvement fund. The Friends of the Library gave a grant of \$16,500. NCS Pearson gave a grant of \$1100 for juvenile movies and DVD's. The Library Foundation gave a grant of \$3000 for Readers Across America, to bring Lucy Tapahonso to speak, and for a few new chairs, signs, and cleaning materials.

—*Mary Michener, League Observer*

Douglas County Community Corrections and Youth Services Advisory Board

Your observer was not able to attend the meetings held in April or July 2004. At these meetings, the FY 2006 budget for "core programs," meaning mainly staff, was approved, and the preliminary versions of the FY 2006 "grant budget" and the 2005 "reimbursement fund budget" were passed. The grant budget provides for funds to be given to agencies engaged in crime and delinquency prevention and intervention activities, and the reimbursement budget specifies how monies collected from offenders for supervision, tests, and classes are to be spent. The Community Corrections Evaluation Summary for FY 2004 was adopted by electronic vote, approved by the county commission, and submitted to the Department of Corrections in September.



Your observer did attend the meeting of November 16, 2004, called for 4:00 p.m. in the community corrections conference room. In the absence of board chair Michelle Roberts, Ron Stegall, Chief Executive Probation Officer, presided. Matters were handled informally until a quorum was in attendance. Final approval was then given to the application for Juvenile Justice Authority funds for FY 2006 and the carryover reimbursement fund budget for 2005. The latter provides added adult intensive supervision expenses, mainly salary. Each year district programs are expected to return unused funds to the Department of Corrections, and other districts may apply for portions of these unused funds. This year the District 7 office applied for a new or newer car equipped for a surveillance officer and for funds to cover substance abuse evaluations for offenders whose need for such evaluations arises relatively late in their supervision periods.

Ron announced that parity had been achieved between the salaries of probation officers and community corrections officers. With the appointment of Shannon Murphy as a community corrections officer III and as deputy director for community corrections, the consolidation of the two departments has been completed, a process which began four years ago.

Willie Amison was elected new board chair, and note was taken that this would be the last meeting attended by Sheriff Rick Trapp.

There is a very cordial relationship among board members.

—*Bill Arnold, League Observer*

Observers still needed...

Informed participation in government is the goal of the League. Observers attend meetings of local governmental agencies, listen and observe (but do not participate), and inform League membership of local government activities. If you would like to learn more, call Marjorie Cole at 842-6085 or send an email to nobledog@aol.com.

LWV L-DC Land Use Committee Report

The Land Use Committee met on November 13 and December 11 to review discuss items on upcoming Planning and City Commission agendas. Our discussions resulted in four letters, highlights of which follow.

Though we had no objections to a project called the Village Meadows Retirement Community, proposed for the area north of the intersection of 6th St and Congressional Dr, we argued that the accompanying requested rezoning from office (O-1) to residential-office (RO-1b) would be inappropriate. We expressed our concern that, in the event that the project not be completed as proposed, such a rezoning would still in place, allowing much less desirable kinds of high-density development at that corner. Because the character and traffic-generating intensity of a retirement community is very dissimilar from other kinds of multiple-family uses, we suggested instead that the Planning Commission recommend approval of the retirement community as a Planned Unit Development, with the zoning conditioned on the special aspects of the development.

Letters to the Planning and City Commissions about the draft zoning code drew attention to flaws we saw in four areas. These included the need to make redevelopment in residential districts more predictable, clarify text with respect to where Accessory Dwelling Units are allowed, make adequate the definition of some regulations, and add missing regulations, with additional language on requirements for

building and/or occupancy permits. Because duplexes (technically, two attached dwelling on one lot) are frequently developed as *de facto* townhouses (attached dwellings on two, separately owned lots) and because the duplex (RMD) zoning category will not exist in the new code, we recommended conversion of existing duplex zoned districts to high-density single-family districts, rather than low-density multi-family districts, as proposed in the draft. We also argued that cluster-housing projects, a new kind of dense, single-family development, be allowed in multi-family districts only with a special use permit, in order to ensure that homebuyers in these developments know that future uses in their district may be even higher in density. We suggested amending language in the Code to make it clear that accessory dwelling units (sometimes called 'granny flats'), which are allowed by right in lower-density (7000+ sq ft) single-family districts, would be allowed in higher-density (5000 and 3000 sq ft) districts as part of an Urban Conservation District, a set of zoning regulations tailored to a particular neighborhood and approved by residents of that neighborhood.

In preparation for problems that might be created by conversion of duplex-zoned districts to a new zoning category, we recommended that the Planning Commission deny a rezoning request from agricultural (A-1) to duplex nearly 10 acres northeast of 22nd Terr.

Helen Fluker Award Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award and are due February 16, 2005. The nomination form is included in this issue of the *Voter*. Criteria are stated on the nomination form. The nominee's sphere of activity may be local, statewide, or national. - Nominees may be awarded for their long-time, broad-based contributions or for special projects of shorter duration that have had significant impact. If you have nominated someone in the past who has not received the award, please send an updated nomination if you would like your nominee to be considered again this year. Nominations are held from year to year, but the committee is attempting to update the submissions.

The award committee needs two more members to join Donna Swall, Chair, and Sara Taliaferro in the selection process. Please contact Caleb Morse if you are interested.

**League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County
Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award Nomination Form**

Name of nominee _____

Title/Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Criteria:

The nominee must be a Douglas County resident over age 18, and their volunteer efforts must have promoted improvement in government. They could have accomplished this in a variety of ways, such as attempting to increase citizen participation in government; educating the public about an issue; working toward more "open" government; or otherwise being involved in ways which represent the principles that lead to better political decision-making.

Please indicate below or attach a statement explaining why you feel this nominee should be considered for the Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award:

Your Name: _____

Title/Organization (if applicable): _____

Address _____ **Telephone:** _____

This form may be copied if you wish to make more than one nomination. Please send completed forms by February 16, 2005 to:
Helen Fluker Award Selection Committee
LWVL-DC, P.O. Box 1072, Lawrence KS 66044-1072

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 1st and ends March 31st. 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.

This year, we have established a fund to help defray the cost of membership dues for League members who are unable to afford them. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please indicate the amount of your contribution the on the membership form below.

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) _____

✂ INTERESTS ✂ INTERESTS ✂ INTERESTS ✂

I am interested in the following:

- Study on the role of city commission task forces
- Study on Housing Needs Assessment
- Action to televise Planning Commission meetings
- Review and update of Land Use Position
- Helping with voter registration
- Action related to League position(s) on:

I would like to serve on the following committee(s):

- Awards and Scholarships
- Calling Members
- Events Planning
- Fund Development
- Land Use
- Membership
- Observer Corps
- Speakers Bureau
- Voter Service

January 2005

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**Have You
 Seen Our
 Website
 Lately?**

With our updated positions, LWVK positions in brief and in full, and pdf files of this year's *Voters*, it's much improved. Take a look!
 (<http://community.lawrence.com/LeagueWomenVoters/>)

MEMBERS: CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL
Is your membership expiration date correct?
(It's listed above your name)
If you need to renew, see previous page.
We update our records as dues come in.

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



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