

# The VOTER

## The Bulletin of the LWV of Lawrence-Douglas County *Volume 54, No. 1*

*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**

Jul 17

Mon

12-1:00 pm

**July Brown Bag Lunch** featuring speaker Joel Stottlemire, President of the Topeka Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. *Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St.* (See announcement on page 2.)

Jul 17

Mon 6-7:30 pm **LWV L-DC Board Meeting.** *Lawrence High School Library, 1901 Louisiana St.* LWV L-DC members are welcome to attend!

Aug 24

Thurs

7-8:30 pm

**Community Meeting** featuring speaker Dr. Roy Menninger, M.D., Chair of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition. *Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St.* (See announcement on page 2.)

## **A Word from President Rusty Thomas**

Back in April at our Annual Meeting, I was quietly reflecting on my time in League and on the Board. I joined the League back in the mid 1980s but did not become active until about twelve years ago. I joined when two LWV Lawrence-Douglas County members came as speakers to another organization to which I belong. Their enthusiasm in their organization sparked my interest sufficiently so that I requested more information and joined shortly thereafter. I joined the Board ten years ago, when Ruth Lichtwardt was President. The next year I was asked to serve as Treasurer, a position I held for eight years. About three years ago I was asked to consider moving to the President-Elect position. I declined, feeling that I wanted to remain as Treasurer, a position I considered less demanding. So, here I was at the Annual Meeting, ruminating on all of this. When, during the nominating committees report, I found my very surprised self agreeing to become President for the coming year.

This is going to be a very busy year with elections on both the local and national levels, Brown Bag lunches and two membership meetings already being planned. And, this past April, thanks to Milton Scott, Carrie Lindsey, Arla Jones, and others we hosted a very interesting and well-done State Council.

Our League, the LWV Lawrence-Douglas County, has always had a membership willing to be

active. I don't see that changing. We have several newer members who have agreed to serve on the Board and with them they bring energy and a new perspective. This is exciting. This is what makes an organization like ours strong and viable. Working together, we can accomplish much.

***Have you paid your annual dues for 2006–2007? If not, it's time to renew!*** The new League year began April 1st. If you need to renew, see page 9. Our 2006–2007 roster will be coming out in July. To be sure your membership is listed as current through this membership year, send in your dues by July 7th! (Don't remember whether you've paid your '06–'07 dues? Check your address label: your membership expiration date is printed above your name.)

### ***Upcoming LWV L-DC Meetings to Focus on Mental Health Care***

As a part of the LWV of Kansas's two-year statewide study on Mental Health Care in Kansas, LWV L-DC is offering three educational programs designed to inform participants about mental health. League members are strongly encouraged to attend these events.

#### ***Brown Bag Lunch on the Consumer Perspective on Mental Health Care Monday, July 17, 12–1:00 pm, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St***

Our featured speaker will be Joel Stottlemire, President of the Topeka Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Mr. Stottlemire has been asked to address these questions: *How well do mental health services meet the needs of consumers in the current system? Which consumers are the most underserved, poorly served or neglected in the current system? What needs to be done to improve the mental health system in Kansas?*

#### ***Community Meeting on the Evolution of Mental Health Care in Kansas Thursday, August 24, 7–8:30 pm, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St***

Our featured speaker will be Dr. Roy Menninger, M.D., Chair of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition.

Dr. Menninger has been asked to address these questions: *What is the history of the mental health system in Kansas? How did the Mental Health Reform Act change the flow of funds and accountability for mental health services in Kansas? What are the social consequences of deinstitutionalization? What steps are needed to improve the mental health care system?*

#### ***Community Meeting on Critical Issues and Policy Directions September 2006 (date TBA), Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St***

Speaker TBA.

Our speaker will be asked to address these questions: *What are critical policy issues in the Kansas mental health system? Is there competition for funds between the State hospitals and community mental health centers? Are there adequate measures in place to ensure that patients receive the kinds and levels of services they need? Can patients who need hospitalization receive it when they need it? Are State hospitals ever over-used? Are plans already in place for*

*improvement of the system? What are the priority policy issues to be addressed?*

Please mark your calendar now and plan to participate in these important programs.

— Kay Hale, LWVK State Study Committee

## **Summary of LWV L-DC Annual Meeting**

About 25 members attended the LWV L-DC Annual Meeting at Pachamama's Restaurant on April 15. Marci Francisco and Milton Scott were appointed as the Budget Adjustment Committee; Caleb Morse and Kay Hale were appointed as the Committee to Read and Approve the Minutes; and David Burress was appointed Parliamentarian. Kim Kreicker announced that the Minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting had been read and approved. Carrie Lindsey announced that Carrie Moore, auditor of this year's books, had reported them to be in good order. The treasurer's report and a budget for next year were accepted unanimously. New officers were elected unanimously: Rusty Thomas, President; Paula Schumacher, President-Elect; Carolyn Coleman, Treasurer; Elinor Tourtellot, James Dunn, and Lydia Leon, Board members; Wilma Rife, Rita Spradlin, and Donna Swall, Nominating Committee.

The League's position on Public Transportation and Bikeways (from 1971) was changed to acknowledge changes in city bus service. After much discussion, the position was approved to read:

*The League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County supports public transportation for the City of Lawrence. Local and federal governments should share responsibility for meeting local transportation needs. The City should see that comprehensive bus service is provided, either as a city-owned or as a private, subsidized service.*

*A reduction in the number of cars driven to high schools is desirable.*

*Bus routes should be planned to provide adequate service to those persons needing it most, while trying to maximize the number of riders.*

*Transportation needs should be an important consideration in city planning in the future. A comprehensive bus system would reduce air pollution and traffic congestion, thereby providing greater safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.*

Marci Francisco moved to adopt a study of *Horizon 2020* that would begin in April 2007. The motion passed. A motion to recommend to LWVUS and LWVK *not* to change the name of the League of Women Voters passed unanimously. There were no directions to the Board.

Following the business meeting, Chad Lawhorn, of the *Lawrence Journal-World*, spoke about journalism's role in a democracy. Arla Jones presented appreciation presents to Carrie Lindsey, outgoing President, and Rusty Thomas, outgoing Treasurer. — Marjorie Cole, Secretary

## **LWV L-DC May and June Board Meetings in Brief**

**May 20, Lawrence High School Library.** Present: President Rusty Thomas, Secretary Marjorie Cole, Treasurer Carolyn Coleman, James Dunn, Kay Hale, Melinda Henderson, Lydia

Leon, Paula Schumacher, Elinor Tourtellot.

Rusty presented a letter from the League to the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission suggesting the Commission consider requiring modification of the Aberdeen on 6th development to comply with the comprehensive plan, *Horizon 2020*. The Land Use Committee believes the current plan will have an adverse effect on adjacent property that would deter its development for single family use.

Carolyn distributed a balance sheet (retained earnings \$11,352.83), an income statement for the month of April (net income \$517.14) and a Budget for the Fiscal Year 1 April 2006 to 20 May 2007. The statement was accepted and filed for audit.

A new fund-raising chair is needed. Paula gave a brief summary of what is involved and some techniques she has learned are effective.

A new *Voter* editor is needed. Caleb Morse will do one last issue this summer and then pass on the position to someone new.

Summer brown bag meetings will focus on mental health issues. Kay volunteered to find speakers for these sessions.

Carolyn announced Civics for Everyone, a planned series of informational presentations on different aspects of government and other public institutions, open to the public, will begin September 7 with a presentation on Voting and Elections by Jamie Shew in the Lawrence Public Library.

The Stucky Scholarship was awarded to Mason Heilman May 15 at the Free State High School Awards Assembly.

Paula and Marjorie were appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee along with Wilma Rife, Rita Spradlin, and Donna Swall, who were elected at the Annual Meeting.

The Lawrence Public Library has invited the League to co-sponsor the September Project, a national program through libraries encouraging people to engage in discussions about freedom, democracy and citizenship. After examining the by-laws and looking in detail at the proposed programs, the board voted to co-sponsor the event.

There was discussion of developing a policy for use of the local Listserv. Melinda, David Burress, and Marjorie will meet as a subcommittee to do this.

Paula volunteered to be the Board Representative to the Land Use Committee.

**June 19, Lawrence High School Library.** Present: President Rusty Thomas, Kathy Branson, Secretary Marjorie Cole, Treasurer Carolyn Coleman, Kay Hale, Melinda Henderson, Aline Hoey, Arla Jones, Elinor Tourtellot.

Carolyn distributed a report covering the months of April and May. She had discovered that an asset has inadvertently omitted in the April report. As of May 31, the retained earnings are \$16,172.23 and the net income for May is \$617.27. A final report on the State Council hasn't been received yet.

Aline reported on the Housing Needs Conference held June 17. Responses to the conference were positive, particularly to the opening remarks by Rod Bremby, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Breakout sessions on housing needs produced pages of ideas, which will be summarized and distributed to conference participants.

Kay presented a grant request for funding for mental health speakers at one Brown Bag Lunch

and two Community Meetings. These meetings will address the LWVK two-year study on Mental Health Care in Kansas. The Board voted approval form requesting travel expenses for the speakers from LWVK Education Fund and for funding speaker meal costs locally.

Kathy volunteered to monitor the League e-mail and report information to local members via the local Listserv. Kathy also volunteered to chair the Voter Service Committee.

Plans are in the works for a new Board member orientation meeting in August as well as an orientation for new League members.

— *Marjorie Cole, Secretary*

## **Report on Community Housing Needs Conference**

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 17, about 75 people gathered at Lawrence High School to discuss housing needs of Lawrence. This event was organized by the Lawrence Joint Housing Committee (JHC) and endorsed by the City of Lawrence Housing Needs Task Force (HNTF). The JHC is an *ad hoc* group that has been meeting since late 2004 and includes representatives from the LWV L-DC, the Kaw Valley Living Wage Alliance, and the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods. The HNTF was created in 2005 by former mayor Dennis “Boog” Highberger, who was one of the workshop’s opening speakers. Commissioner Highberger spoke about the phenomenon of being precariously housed. He pointed out that housing affordability is relative and that Lawrence housing costs are high for the region, whereas wages are below the state average. He offered as an achievable community goal the idea that “everyone who works in Lawrence should be able to afford to live in Lawrence.” The other opening speaker was Rod Bremby, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Secretary Bremby asserted that two of our biggest problems as a society are loss of connectedness and loss of belief in collective action. From his perspective as a state health leader, he noted that social determinants—including housing status—have a dramatic impact on wellness and that it is in our best interest to view such challenges in the context of community. As a Lawrencian, he commended all the attendees for making a commitment to action to improve living conditions for themselves and their fellow citizens. The body of the workshop comprised two rounds of break-out sessions on six populations: People with Special Needs, Women and Children, Low-Income Renters, Individuals Experiencing Homeless, Seniors, and First-time Home Buyers. Each discussion-format session was guided by a facilitator from the JHC or HNTF and two moderators from community organizations. The discussion, driven by participants, focused on identifying unmet needs, prioritizing issues, and generating ideas to solve problems and strengthen and connect existing programs. There was also an opportunity for individuals to record interviews and relate their own experiences of housing in Lawrence. The recorded personal interviews and written proceedings from the workshop will be compiled and presented to the HNTF. One of our LWV L-DC Board members, Aline Hoey, is a member of that task force and served as a session facilitator and Board member Arla Jones secured the location and helped with logistics. The entire workshop was convened and closed by two additional League members, Carrie Lindsey and David Smith. Those who had other obligations on June 17 missed not only an excellent workshop, but also the sight of Ms. Lindsey in ruby slippers and a silver wand, leading participants in the invocation, “There’s no place like home... there’s no place like home... there’s no place like home.” —*Elizabeth Smith*

**LWVK News. June 4.** Our State Council was held in Lawrence at the end of April and there were 41 persons in attendance—a terrific turnout. The Lawrence-Douglas County League did a great job as hosts. The speakers left us with new information and much to think about. As usual, the time for Action Resolutions was one of the more “fun” parts of Council. The following Resolutions were passed:

- Encourage legislators to pass legislation limiting the use of taser guns by officials in public schools.
- Encourage legislators to institute an “abstinence PLUS” curriculum in public schools that maintains the current “opt out” policy.
- Strongly endorse the State Board of Education to institute a comprehensive sex education program that includes “abstinence PLUS,” which maintains the current “opt out” policy in Kansas public schools.
- Enthusiastically commend the legislature for supporting the pre-K school readiness pilot program initiated by Governor Sebelius.
- Ask state legislators to use taxing power to encourage alternative energy development.
- Encourage lawmakers to enact legislation that changes Kansas No Child Left Behind standards to incorporate the individual “growth model” with an at-risk index.

In addition to these Action Resolutions, participants encouraged the LWVUS Board to develop national public service announcements and other national efforts for “Civics 101” for education of the general public. This will be presented as a “Direction to the LWVUS Board” at Convention.

Congratulations to the Wichita Metro League, which was recently announced as the winner of the 2006 LWVUS Diversity award! Wichita League members will receive a certificate at Convention. Extending certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is working its way through Congress right now. The League supports these extensions. State Representative Delia Garcia, Wichita, and a member of the Wichita Metro League, introduced a resolution into the Kansas House (HCR 5037) memorializing the Congress of the United States to extend certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Resolution was formally acted on by the House near the end of the legislative session. Thanks to Carol Yoho, Topeka-Shawnee County League member, who represented all Kansas Leaguers by attending the House Session that morning (in one of our more heavy spring rains, I might add) to be there when Representative Garcia acknowledged the League’s support.

*Voter Service:* Janice Norlin, Board member from Salina, has agreed to be Voter Service Chair. She will be developing questions, along with Bob Kruh and me, to be posed to candidates for the upcoming elections. This year, we will not have DNET available for our use, but Carol Yoho, our new webmaster for the state League, will be working on the possibility of posting questions and answers on our website. At minimum, we will provide questions to every League, in case you end up printing a Voter’s Guide.

—Janis McMillen, LWVK President

**In memoriam: Ann Heberger.** Long-time Johnson County League member Ann Heberger passed away in late May. Ann participated in LWVK’s state study of Kansas juvenile justice,

which educated many and produced much of our excellent state position. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105.

### ***LWV L-DC Observer Reports***

**Willow Springs Township Regular Meetings. April 5, 7:30 pm.** Present: Charles Wintermantle, Trustee; Jerry Smith, Clerk; Suzanne Evinger, Treasurer; Tim Kohler, Road Maintenance; Lyle Bowlin, Volunteer Fire Department Chief; and Peggy Baker, League Observer. Jerry Smith read the minutes of the March meeting, which were accepted as read. Charles Wintermantle moved that the April bills be paid (mandated by state statute). Seconded by Smith, passed unanimously.

Suzanne gave the treasurer's report. The balance is \$164,550.36. The balance includes a partial reimbursement of \$30,000 from the family of Shelley Aucherman, beginning repayment embezzlement. Shelley reports to prison April 10. What the money was used for has never been made public, a matter of concern for the Board.

Suzanne would like to change the Workman's Comp agent to one in Baldwin as the present agent, not a local resident, has twice lost the papers. Also of concern to the treasurer is that her bond papers have not yet been returned.

Charles Wintermantle gave Tim Kohler the list of property owners who have requested that roadway herbicides be sprayed on the section of the roadway next to their property.

Tim Kohler reported on road conditions: Rock purchases were made. Costs from the area quarries were discussed. Two residents need their culverts cleaned out and replaced. A washout of 1170 N 800 Rd was reported. Dan Flory reported rain washes out his driveway entrance. Willow Springs will cut out a bit of his bank to divert rainwater into new ditch.

Lyle Bowlin reported for the fire department: Fund raiser pancake breakfast (April 1) was a success. \$2,296 was raised. Expenses have not been totaled yet. St. John's Church of Christ donated a used, working-condition copier. Willow Springs Fire Department (WSFD) has applied for a 50/50 grant from Kansas Forestry to be used for specialized gear for fighting grass fires. The truck WSFD has recently purchased needs an inspection before titling as it was a farm vehicle (a different category because it is used off-road) previously. Discovered that the title was never actually transferred to past user, so if we titled it directly we would be guilty of "title jumping." Board decided to ask previous owner to make necessary legal arrangement.

Fires this month: "grass" fires, usually from trash fires getting out of control. Doug Compton's fire threatened his tractor, but the WSFD got it out in time. Reminded Compton that there is a ban on fires in the county.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

**May 3, 7:30 pm.** Present: Charles Wintermantle, Trustee; Jerry Smith, Clerk; Suzanne Evinger, Treasurer; Lyle Bowlin, Volunteer Fire Department Chief; Ron Kohler, Road Maintenance; and Peggy Baker, League Observer.

The minutes of the April meeting were read and accepted.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Fire Department. Now that the treasury has been stabilized, the board asked Lyle Bowlin to choose between purchasing a new pumper truck or a second fire station. Lyle felt that a pumper truck would be of more use immediately, especially as we start into the grass fire season. The

board voted to have him select a truck (up to \$155,000). The Fire Department will trade in the 1980 pumper and use their existing \$39,000 certificate of deposit. The Township Board will budget the remainder.

Road Maintenance. The board voted to purchase two new tires for the dump truck. Ron Kohler feels that the existing maintenance machinery is adequate, although the mower is undergoing engine repair at present. The Board moved to hire a part-time mower, Doug Brida, for the summer, at \$10.50 an hour.

Jerry Smith and Charles Wintermantle brought up adding 2–4 mill on a four year plan (as set by state statute) to “chip and seal” gravel roads. That will cover one mile each of the four years. After discussion, the Board will check with the County Engineer to determine which road(s) carries the most traffic, and the cost of preparing the road bed for the process.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

*Peggy Baker, League Observer*

**Lawrence Public Library Board, April 17.** Director Bruce Flanders reported that the Library has received its three-year accreditation as a major resource library from NEKLS and will receive the anticipated grant and a plaque.

Staff is reviewing library policies as to travel funds to meetings (considering necessity, relevance to job, frequency, and cost), use of meeting rooms (not earlier or later than library hours), unattended belongings (if used to hold chairs, will be picked up and locked away), no free printer copies at computers (some patrons were spacing printings to get those first free copies over and over), and other issues. Staff is training to transfer catalog, personnel, policies, and other information to a new Sun server with Unix system. The new online catalog and circulation info should be ready in August.

Ron Schorr reported that Friends of the Library had made \$34,000 from the spring book sale. Craig Penzler of the New Directions Task Force reported that proposals from developers or property owners for expansion of the Library from its present site are due May 4. Illustrated charts will be posted in the Library for public examination and comment, and the City Commission will evaluate them in study sessions in June and recommend one of them. The public is welcome to attend study sessions.

Jill Fincher and Craig Penzler are retiring from the Board. Jill Fincher will serve on the board of the Library Foundation. New Library Board member Kathleen Morgan was introduced.

**June 19.** The Board discussed library usage and needs. Chairman John Nalbandian would like to see year by year figures of growth in circulation, borrowers, visitors, staff, room use, etc. The Board is concerned that proposals by developers for possible town centers, including the library, as illustrated in the *Lawrence Journal-World*, have shifted attention from the basic need for a first class library. The proposals each show a library site but do not consider full library services or even efficient library building shape.

Thanks to legislation sponsored by Representative Paul Davis, sales made at the Friends book sales will hereafter be exempt from sales tax. This will save hundreds of dollars for the Friends, who have been paying it for all of us buyers.

Use of the library website has increased dramatically with no reduction in number of visitors.

—*Mary Michener, League Observer*

**Lawrence Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees Meeting, June 21.** All trustees were present: Donna Osness, Joe Flannery, Lindy Eakin, Verdell Taylor, Mark Praeger, Sheryl Jacobs, Judy Keller, Allen Belot, Chuck Heath, and Chris Penn. Also present were CEO Gene Meyer, CFO Simon Scholtz, Board Attorney Andy Ramirez, several other hospital staff members, and Chad Lawhorn, *Lawrence Journal-World* reporter.

The Board voted unanimously for staff to proceed with two long-term projects. The larger, a \$56-million bond issue, will fund a big building project, refinance \$15 million in old debt, and pay the costs of the bond issue itself. The hospital staff plans to build a new energy center, a three-story patient tower, six birthing rooms, a new emergency department, and a new surgery facility. The contractor, JE Dunn, has proposed a guaranteed maximum price for the project of \$38 million. This is still being negotiated. Two years ago, officials at Moody's indicated that a hospital in our financial position could fund a \$31 million building project without much risk. That is, bonds funding such a project would probably be rated AAA. Gene Meyer expressed the hope that a decrease in JE Dunn's guaranteed maximum price along with the hospital's improved financial performance would be enough to secure this best possible rating. Projects taken on in 1997 and 1999 were considered riskier at the time, and those bonds were rated BAA1. Simon Scholtz estimated that the hospital would have to pay \$250,000 more in interest if the new bonds are rated BAA1 instead of AAA.

The Board also voted to let the staff proceed at its discretion with the purchase of a \$900,000 land purchase along K-10 at Eudora. Land Plan is working with the city to address sewer and access issues relating to the property.

Gene Meyer reported that LMH's plan to gain 130 parking spaces by closing Arkansas St between 3rd and 4th Sts will go before the Planning Commission June 26 at 7 pm. This plan would cost the hospital \$1.7 million less than building a parking deck, but he added that the Hospital still might have to build a parking deck in the future.

Gene Meyer said the Mental Health Task Force of the Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP) will report the results of its 6-month study of mental health care in Douglas County to the CHIP board June 30. He did not know when the results would be released to the public.

The group that handles radiology for the Hospital is hiring Virtual Radiologic Professionals of Minnetonka, MN, to read images from patients who need emergency help after 11 pm. They will read any type of medical image that can be digitized and send back a written report in 30 minutes. The Board approved the Medical Executive Committee's recommendation that the firm's six doctors be appointed to LMH as consulting staff in Radiology/Telemedicine.

—Carolyn Coleman, *League Observer*

## **LWV L-DC Land Use Committee Report**

The Land Use Committee (LUC) meets at the Community Mercantile on the Saturday before the scheduled monthly Planning Commission meetings, which are now held twice each month in the 4th week, except when holidays interfere.

**March 11.** The most important issue this month, and probably for years to come, was the Draft

Rural Development Regulations. This Draft of rural development regulations, submitted by the County Commission (CC), proposed changes to *Horizon 2020*, our comprehensive plan, contrary to those adopted earlier by the Planning Commission (PC). The PC version supports preserving the Rural Area for open space and agricultural and related uses. The CC version, in conjunction with proposed changes to the County Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, would have allowed suburban-type subdivisions on 80-acre tracts throughout the Rural Area without any locational controls, not even rezoning. The League spent three years studying rural development issues, and this proposal was totally contrary to our Land Use Position on this issue. We submitted to the PC a forwarding letter with attached comments, maps, and a CD of the annotated draft Subdivision Regulations. The PC is studying this issue very carefully and has forwarded their recommendations to an *ad hoc* committee to rewrite.

**April 15.** In April, the PC studied proposed revisions to the newly adopted Land Development Code that the original version had not included. The PC and City Commission had approved the November 11, 2005, version of the code with the provision that its effective date would be postponed to July 1, 2006, in order to allow time for further additions and corrections. We submitted a letter to the PC asking for certain specific revisions and at the April PC meeting we verbally presented our requests for changes. One important provision in our current code that was accepted to include in the new Planned Development Overlay District is the ability to condition structures and building types, as well as uses, in planned developments. However, according to staff, this will need a public hearing before it is incorporated into the new Code. At the April meeting we also submitted two other letters: one regarding the Mercato development on the northeast corner of 6th St and the SLT and the other concerning the text amendment to the 50' setback requirement between Folks Rd and Wakarusa Dr. In our letter on the Mercato development, we voiced concerns that the adopted Nodal Plan for the area was not being followed and that the development plan lacked a method to provide a compatible transitional area between the proposed RM and RS zoning districts. Regarding the letter on the 50' setback, we voiced two objections: (1) the City Commission was granting a special privilege to the developer of Bauer Farms; and (2) the concepts of New Urbanism were misinterpreted by allowing residential development too close to the hazardous environment of 6th St.

**May 20.** We sent one letter to the PC concerning the revised preliminary plan for Aberdeen on 6th, an apartment complex south of 6th St and north of the developing single family areas on the west edge of Lawrence, northeast of Langston Hughes Elementary School. The proposed apartment area has a higher elevation than the rest of the neighborhood and can't easily be screened. We asked that the areas abutting the single family zoning district provide a transition of buildings having lesser scale and height that would be more compatible with the lower density areas than the proposed apartments.

*General Comment.* The past few months have seen some critical planning issues and regulations considered by the PC. The new Land Development Code zoning provisions, passed by the City Commission, is now undergoing revision before the July 1 effective date. The county development regulations are undergoing review by the PC. Important revisions have been made to *Horizon 2020*. In addition, the pace of development projects submitted to the PC has increased to a point that the commissioners are obliged to hold two regular meetings each month and recently have had to hold more than one study session per month. There are also sub-committee

meetings on special topics. We are mentioning this because the PC is such an important advisory group for Lawrence and Douglas County, and they are working hard in our interest. We owe them our appreciation and gratitude.

**to supporters who have contributed to our Finance Drive:**

- Jinny Ashlock*
- Capitol Federal Savings*
- Lois Clark*
- Carroll & Virginia B. Edwards*
- Bob Fluker*
- Margaret Gordon*
- William & Nancy Hambleton*
- Jeanne Klein*
- Robert O. Lewis*
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- Janet Roth*
- Jane & Al Sellen*
- Marian Warriner*
- Eleanor Woodyard*

**Thanks** also to Senator Marci Francisco, who provided us with the copies of the Kansas Legislative Research Department's 2006 Legislative Highlights enclosed in this mailing of The Voter.

**League Membership Info: Join or Renew Today!**

Dues for LWV L-DC 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 LWVK and LWV US. 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 page. The date listed above your name is the date through which your membership dues have been paid.

**PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO:**

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

▽ -----  
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**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)

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City/Zip

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**July 2006**

League Calendar	1
A Word from President Rusty Thomas	1
Have you paid your annual dues for 2006–2007?	1
LWV L-DC Meetings to Focus on Mental Health Care	2
Summary of LWV L-DC Annual Mtg	2
LWV L-DC May and June Board Mtgs in Brief	3
Report on Community Housing Needs Conference	4
LWVK News	5
In Memoriam: Ann Habberger	5
LWV L-DC Observer Reports	6
LWV L-DC Land Use Committee Report	8
Thanks	9
Membership Form	9

***Are you subscribed to the League's listserv, DCVoter?***

*The listserv facilitates rapid exchange of ideas and information about upcoming events. If you would like to subscribe, send a message with your email address to Rusty Thomas (RustyBetcha@aol.com).*

**Is it time to renew your membership?**

*League year begins April 1 and ends March 31. The expiration date for your membership is listed above your name on the mailing label below. If you need to renew, see previous page.*

League of Women Voters  
P.O. Box 1072

Lawrence, KS 66044-1072

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