



The VOTER

The Bulletin of the LWV of Lawrence-Douglas County Volume 51, No. 2

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

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	State League	http://www.lwvk.org
	National League	http://www.lwv.org

Upcoming League Calendar

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------|--|
| Jul 31
Thursday | 7-9 p.m. | Planning Commission Listening Session on Revised Zoning Codes
<i>City Commission Chambers</i> |
| Aug 13
Wednesday | 7-9 p.m. | LWVL-DC Board Meeting
<i>Meeting Room G – Lawrence Memorial Hospital - All members are welcome</i> |
| Aug 20
Wednesday | 7:30 p.m. | Lawrence Bill of Rights Defense Committee Meeting
<i>Lawrence Public Library</i>
Discuss resolution to present to City and County Commissions |
| Aug 23
Saturday | 11:00 a.m. | School Funding Rally
<i>Downtown Lawrence</i> |
| Aug 23
Saturday | 7-9 p.m. | LWVL-DC Land Use Committee Meeting
<i>Community Mercantile Meeting Room, 9th and Iowa</i> |
| Sep 10
Wednesday | 7-9 p.m. | LWVL-DC Board Meeting
<i>Meeting Room – Lawrence Memorial Hospital - All members are welcome</i> |
| Sep 20
Saturday | 7-9 p.m. | LWVL-DC Land Use Committee Meeting
<i>Community Mercantile Meeting Room, 9th and Iowa</i> |
| Sep 20
Saturday | | State League Day
<i>More details in September VOTER</i> |
| Sep 29
Monday | 7:00 p.m. | LWVL-DC General Meeting
<i>More details in September VOTER</i>
Discuss Local Boards and Commissions |

Civil Liberties and National Security

July 10, 2003

TO Members of the U.S. Senate
Members of the U.S. House of Representatives
FROM Kay J. Maxwell, President, LWVUS
RE Civil Liberties and National Security

The League of Women Voters strongly believes that basic civil liberties must be preserved and protected as the nation seeks to guard against terrorism and other threats to national security. We are particularly concerned about the impact of provisions of the USA Patriot Act passed by Congress in October 2001, the possible extension of the sunset provisions of that Act and Administration proposals for a new Domestic Security Enhancement Act (DSEA), also known as Patriot Act II.

Members of the League are steadfast in their conviction that the need to protect against security threats to America must be balanced with the need to preserve the very liberties that are the foundation of this country. There are fundamental principles that guard our liberty — from independent judicial review of law enforcement actions to prohibitions on indiscriminate searches — that must be preserved.

These beliefs have been long held by the League of Women Voters. In 1942, during World War II, the League wished “to preserve the greatest degree of civil liberty consistent with national safety.” That concern continued during the “witch hunt” period of the early 1950s when the League conducted a two-year, community education program known as the “Freedom Agenda” that provided opportunities for Americans to discuss and learn about their freedoms under the Bill of Rights. This was followed by a League study on the federal loyalty/security programs, culminating in a policy position that emphasized protection of individual liberties against major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Today, American citizens and their elected representatives must remain vigilant to protect against encroachment on basic civil liberties. The additional powers that would be given to the government under the proposed Domestic Security Enhancement Act being discussed in the Administration would endanger many key rights of individuals. It is our understanding that the proposed DSEA would incorporate and expand on some of the most controversial and threatening aspects of the USA Patriot Act by:

- Including an overly broad definition of terrorism so that government action could be directed against protesters and organizations that voice disagreement with the policies of the leadership of the United States;

- Authorizing government officials to obtain data, such as financial records and library records of individuals, without a warrant or involvement by the courts;
- Providing for indefinite detention of individuals, including American citizens, without disclosure of names or filing of charges;
- Ending existing court-imposed limits on law enforcement spying on political and religious organizations.

In addition to our concerns about the proposed DSEA, the League of Women Voters is concerned about the impact of the USA Patriot Act on the free and open exchange of knowledge by patrons of libraries and bookstores. We support S.1158, the Library and Bookseller Protection Act, sponsored by Senator Barbara Boxer (D CA), which would ensure that libraries and bookstores are subjected to the regular system of court ordered warrants.

When Congress passed the USA Patriot Act, it gave the federal government unprecedented powers, but balanced this by including sunset provisions that limit certain parts of the Act to five years duration. It has only been twenty months since the law was passed. The sunset provisions will give Congress and the country time to determine what the impact of the Act is on individual rights. We are concerned about congressional efforts to make permanent many of the law enforcement provisions before the trial period is complete. We urge you to oppose any efforts to eliminate the sunset provisions in the USA Patriot Act.

In addition to threats to basic individual liberties that are central to our civic life, the League is concerned about the potential impact that the USA Patriot Act and the proposed DSEA could have on the checks and balances of government. We believe that accountability and responsibility to the people require that unnecessary secrecy between the President and Congress be eliminated. It is critical that Congress know of the actions of the Executive and Judiciary branches and that the courts be kept apprised of and have the opportunity to review the actions of law enforcement. In addition, it is important for local and state governments to be able to work in concert with the federal government in the critical balancing of security concerns and individual liberties.

These are challenging times for all Americans. We recognize that there are real and serious terrorist threats. But like the League members of the 1940s, who lived in another time of grave crisis for America and the world, we ask that you work to preserve the greatest degree of civil liberty in the fight against terrorism.

Should Lawrence Oppose the “Patriot” Act?

by Mary Davidson

The League of Women Voters has always worked to protect civil liberties for all and to promote open government. Our League joined the American Civil Liberties Union and the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice to sponsor two meetings on the USA-PATRIOT Act, one in February 2002 on the Act itself, and a debate in February 2003. Parts of the USA-PATRIOT Act and the Homeland Security Act threaten civil liberties by allowing government to:

- monitor political and religious gatherings exercising First Amendment rights
- obtain library and bookstore records
- issue subpoenas without a court’s approval
- eavesdrop on communications between lawyers and their clients
- mount secret searches of households and private computers

The League Board will vote at its August meeting whether or not to join with the Douglas County ACLU and the Lawrence Bill of Rights Defense Committee in presenting a resolution for adoption by the City Commission. This resolution states provisions of the USAPATRIOT Act and the Homeland Security Act in conflict with the Bill of Rights will not be enforced in Lawrence.

To express your opinion on co-sponsoring the resolution for the City Commission, please contact Mary Davidson at 842-1829 or mdavidson@sunflower.com.

Several state Leagues, including Kansas, California, Maryland, Minnesota and Ohio, along with many local Leagues, have passed resolutions opposing the USAPATRIOT Act.

Be it resolved that the League of Women Voters of Kansas at its state convention in Manhattan, Kansas on April 12, 2003, condemns the unconstitutional erosion of civil liberties under USAPATRIOT ACT I and opposes passage of USAPATRIOT ACT II, which would result in further erosion of civil liberties. (Sent to Attorney General John Ashcroft.)

A letter from National League President Kay Maxwell to Congress on Civil Liberties and National Security appears on the preceding page.

The Lawrence Bill of Rights Defense Committee has scheduled a public forum on the resolution on Aug. 20th at 7:30 p.m. in the Lawrence Public Library.

For more information, and for the text of the proposed resolution, visit their website:

www.kansasbordc.org,
the Douglas County ACLU website:

www.acludouglascounty.org
and the national ACLU website: www.aclu.org.

Mary Allen Remembers

Edited and co-written by Sara L. Taliaferro

The Journal-World dubbed them “a little group of willful women.” They were members of the League of Women Voters working to have a new city ordinance passed in Lawrence during the early years of World War II. Hearty Nelson, Pearl Clark, Mervyn Anderson, and Emily Turney wanted a city ordinance requiring that milk be pasteurized before it was sold in stores in Lawrence. They were successful. The “willful women” and their victory were legend when Mary Allen moved to Lawrence in 1945 with her husband, Ethan Putnam Allen, and their two daughters. Mary Allen was no stranger to the League. She joined in 1940 while living in Iowa City, Iowa, and she remained active during her family’s three-year stint in the District of Columbia. Becoming a “willful woman” in Lawrence followed as a matter of course.

By 1948, the population of Lawrence reached 15,000, qualifying it for “City of the first Class” designation. It was a significant milestone. The city government in 1948 consisted of three commissioners, each of whom was responsible for a division of the city’s government. For instance, Mr. C. B. Russell, a K.U. professor of Engineering, was in charge of the city’s water system. The mayoral office rotated amongst all three commissioners. But “there was citizen unrest” because the multiple city services and requirements could not be met. Further, voters disliked the connotation of a city manager/commission form of government and preferred a council. State statutes required that only a “City of the first class” could hold a city manager referendum, so now Lawrence could change its form of government.

Mary remembers this as an exciting time. She chaired a committee in 1948 to conduct “A Study of City-Manager Government for Lawrence.” Virginia Seaver, Mrs. T.J. Edmonds, Cornelia Fields, Mary Paretsky and others met in Mary Allen’s home at 1801 Louisiana Street to define a city manager form of government. They wanted to know what Kansas statutes allowed, where else this had been tried, what the powers of the Mayor

would be, how representation would occur (ward, precinct, or at large), what commissioner term limits would be, why a city manager/commission form of local government might be desired over a city manager/council form—and as the questions mounted, they realized that they needed professional help. Fortunately, they could turn to the newly-formed Bureau of Governmental Research and its director, Ethan P. Allen! Submission of the committee’s questions resulted in answers presented in a mimeographed booklet of some size with copies for each committee member.

The League completed its study and its committee members contacted all the women’s groups in town to ask for a few minutes of speaking time at each group’s next meeting. The Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary, and other groups provided their own speakers as well. On April 4, 1950, the referendum passed. James Wigglesworth became the first City Manager, and five commissioners were elected at large. It is worth noting that Edwin O. Stene and Ethan P. Allen subsequently started a city manager training program at the University of Kansas, and that program developed into the current nationally recognized and successful MPA program.

Mary remained active in the community as her daughters grew. She served as president of the local League from 1952 to 1954. She was legislative chairman on the state board from 1954 to 1957, resigning her position upon being elected to the Lawrence Board of Education in 1958. Mary served on the Board of Education until 1966. She remembers district unification was an issue in the 1960s. India School and Grant School were in separate districts and not part of the Lawrence School district. There were 8,000 school districts in Kansas at one time, but this number was cut substantially by unification. During her service on the school board, Mary grew to appreciate the distinction of a school board that establishes policy and the superintendent and his staff who put policy into effect. She notes that it is a critical decision that a community makes when it hires a school

Mary Allen Remembers (cont.)

district superintendent. Upon her husband's death in 1968, Mary returned to her vocation as an English teacher. She taught one year at the University of Kansas as a lecturer in freshman English. Then Mary taught English at a Gymnasium, the equivalent of a junior college, in Munich, Germany, for one and one-half years. Upon her return, she taught German at Lawrence High School for five and one-half years.

Although life events drew her away from the League, Mary feels proud of the local chapter's accomplishments and its liberal traditions. She remembers the excitement of the city manager referendum and wonders if it might be time to examine Lawrence's local government structure once again. Perhaps representation would be more uniform now if we voted by district or precinct for our commissioners rather than at large, she speculates. Mary's current interests are those of environmental activism. She would like to see stricter floodplain regulations and muses that it would be hard to reach consensus on environmental issues within the community. Mary Allen has witnessed significant events in local politics since arriving in Lawrence after World War II—the last war that Congress itself declared, Mary pointedly notes—and indeed has witnessed some significant changes in national policy. The need for willfulness is still as vital and immediate as Mary Allen herself.

Future VOTERS will profile other lifetime League members.



Cille King, marci francisco, Lynne Crabtree

The President's Message

Lynne Crabtree, Cille King and I honored the suffragettes who worked to get U.S. women the vote by marching in the city's Fourth of July parade. We also honor those women when we participate in politics. Currently discussions are going on about everything from a living wage to the new zoning codes (with commercial development, economic development, floodplain development and the Patriot Act in between). Citizen participation is needed to come up with good solutions to many of these complicated issues. Join us this coming year as we participate in politics through League. And put the Fourth of July on your calendar for next year when we march to celebrate the 150 years Lawrence has been a city and the 83 years women have had the vote!

marci francisco

Did you know?

*Did you know that before the federal amendment was ratified in 1920, the western states led the way to women's political enfranchisement? This year marks the 90th anniversary of three of those states: Arizona, **Kansas**, and Oregon. The November 5, 1912 election made **Kansas** the seventh state in the union where women could vote equally with men, nearly eight years before the nineteenth amendment was ratified guaranteeing women the right to vote nationally.*

Land Use Committee Notes

May Meeting

by Betty Lichtwardt

At its meeting on May 17th, the Land Use Committee decided to send two letters to the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission. Present were Alan Black, Chairman, Betty Banks, marci francisco, Melinda Henderson, Betty Lichtwardt, Caleb Morse, and Eleanor & Byron Wenger.

The first letter requested an addition to the wording on the proposed amendment to our comprehensive plan, *Horizon 2020*, dealing with permitted flood-plain land uses in the Urban Growth Area. We urged them to add “agricultural use” to the already included uses open space and recreation. Outcome: The planning commission agreed to the addition. The extension of the Urban Growth Area as an amendment to *Horizon 2020* must be considered again formally in August because the commission decided to recommend including enough additional land in North Lawrence to the Urban Growth Area as to constitute a substantial change to the original amendment.

The second letter requested that they do not recommend to the county commission that “extra-territorial customers” of Rural Water District #4 be “annexed” into the district as legal members. Our reason for discouraging legalization of extra-territorial customers is that once they become legal members they can purchase additional water meters and would thereby contribute to the expansion of non-farm residential use in rural Douglas County. Outcome: The commission recommended approval of the annexation with conditions. This issue will be reviewed by the county commission in July.

The Committee also noted that the city commission would review changes to the Commercial Land Use Chapter of *Horizon 2020*, which they will receive from the planning commission.

The Committee watched a video entitled “Save Our Land, Save Our Towns,” and discussed making it available for public viewing.

June Meeting

by Alan Black

Meeting on June 21st at the Community Mercantile to consider items coming before the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission at its June 25th meeting, the Land Use Committee discussed three issues but decided not to send any new letters.

Present were Elizabeth Banks, Alan Black, marci francisco, Melinda Henderson, Caleb Morse, and Byron and Eleanor Wenger.

(1) The preliminary development plan for Oakley Court, a residential development at 6th Street and Folks Road has been changed in response to a previous committee letter, along with objections from neighbors. Outcome: The commission approved the plan with a condition that would preserve some open space until adjacent property is developed.

(2) Unified School District #497 has closed East Heights Elementary School, 1430 Haskell Avenue, and proposes to use the building as an early childhood center. They have applied for a “Use Permitted on Review” permit to make this possible. The committee was concerned that the new use will generate more vehicular traffic than the site is designed to handle. Formerly, most students walked to the school, but younger children will probably be driven to a facility serving the whole city. Outcome: Alan Black spoke about this point at the planning commission meeting. The staff report stated that some improvements are needed but indicated that these improvements may not be made for several years. While some commissioners share our concern, the body voted to grant the permit to the school district.

(3) The committee also discussed the revision to the Commercial Land Use Chapter of *Horizon 2020*. A letter regarding this was sent to the planning commission in April. When the city commission discussed this on June 24th, Betty Banks read the key points in the letter. The city commission held a study session on this on July 9th and will discuss the matter again at its regular meeting on July 22nd.

As we continue reviewing our local positions, next up is **Local Boards and Commissions**. This will be the topic of our September general meeting. In preparation for our program, we'd like to hear from any League member who is, or has been, a member of any of the local boards or commissions. Please review our position and look over the list of all the boards and commissions (next page) that we currently have. Is there one that piques your interest? Would you like to be an Observer for one of these? Let Caleb Morse know: 842-7927 or cmorse@ku.edu.

Statement Of Position On Local Boards and Commissions (Approved 1979)

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.

The lines of communication among the city (or county) boards and commissions, and the public need to be expanded using such methods as (1) published lists of members, meeting times and places, and agendas; (2) insuring that letters, memos, etc., reach their intended destinations; and (3) that useful information be fully provided interested parties.

The League of Women Voters of Lawrence–Douglas County recognizes the City or County Commission's ultimate responsibility for the proper and efficient management of their agencies, and for determining the policies with which the city or county operates. It further recognizes that boards and commissions are created by the City or County Commission to relieve them of some of the many burdens by utilizing community resources in the form of volunteer citizen help. Because League is devoted to the concept of citizen participation in government, it particularly endorses the role boards and commissions play in this sharing of governmental responsibility.

League recommends that boards and commissions organize themselves more effectively by employing the following: (1) a clear statement of the purpose and responsibilities of the board or commission; (2) a fully organized board with officers and, if the board is of sufficient size, subcommittees; (3) a full set of bylaws;

(4) complete and organized minutes as historical records; (5) a trained secretary, not a member of the board, to take minutes; and (6) an orientation for new board members provided by the chairman that includes both a discussion of responsibilities and the presentation of a set of organizational documents.

League views board and commission members as representative of both the City Commission and the public. Members' decisions should be based on their best judgment after gathering information from all sources whether professional or lay, staff or public. A spirit of openness and availability to such input is needed to encourage more dialogue with the public. The decision making process should occur in meetings open to the public.

Communication between the City or County Commission, the public, and boards and commissions needs to be expanded. Attending meetings, reading minutes, offering suggestions, complimenting effective performance, etc., all indicate a community concerned with its institutions. Publication of agendas, meeting times and places, lists of current members, board vacancies, and handouts increase the public's awareness of boards and commissions. The city staff needs to be diligent in passing on all communications intended for a board or commission, in providing useful information, and in keeping files up-to-date in the city offices. Staff reports to the various boards and commissions should be objective and factual.

League believes that boards and commissions should work together on issues of mutual interest. Some public issues might be more easily resolved because of recommendations based on combined evaluations.

Finally, League believes that any board or commission may take the initiative on any issues within its areas of interest to provide the City or County Commission with a recommendation or to make a request.

Lawrence/Douglas County

Douglas County Emergency Management/Local Emergency Planning Committee

Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging

Lawrence-Douglas County Advocacy Council on Aging

Lawrence-Douglas County Economic Development Board

Lawrence-Douglas County Mental Health Board

Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health Board

Douglas County

Board of Zoning Appeals

Building Code Board of Appeals

Douglas County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Douglas County Development, Inc.

Douglas County ECO² Committee

Douglas County Senior Services, Inc. Board of Directors

East Central Kansas Community Action Agency (ECKAN)

East Hills Business Park Board of Trustees

Fair Board

Fire District No. 1 Board of Trustees

Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging Tri-County Advisory Council

Non-Lawyer Members of the District Judicial Nominating Commission for the Seventh Judicial District

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

The Commission also makes appointments to the nine (9) Township Boards when vacancies occur

City of Lawrence

Aviation Advisory Board

Board of Electrical Examiners

Board of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters

Board of Zoning Appeals/Sign Code Board of Appeals

Community Development Grant Review Board

Community Information Advisory Board

Convention And Visitors Bureau Advisory Board

Douglas County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Downtown Parking Advisory Board

Fire Code Board of Appeals

Historic Resources Commission

Hospital Board

Housing Trust Fund Board

Human Relations Commission

Lawrence Alliance

Lawrence Arts Commission

Lawrence Bicycle Advisory Board

Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority

Library Board

Mechanical Code Board of Appeals

Neighborhood Resources Committee

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Practitioners Panel

Public Incentives Review Committee

Public Transit Advisory Committee

Recycling and Resource Conservation Advisory Board

Sesquicentennial Commission

Sister Cities Advisory Board

Special Alcohol Fund Advisory Board

Traffic Safety Commission

Uniform Building Code of Appeals Board

University Student Issues

ROSTER UPDATE

The ID to log on to the national League website's member section was incorrect. The correct ID is LWV. If you have an email address and it is not listed in the roster, please email Betty Banks at bbanks@ku.edu. We want to have as many members as possible subscribed to our email list for notices and action alerts.

Finance Drive Update

Thanks for additional contributions that have come in for the Finance Drive from:

Mary Davidson
Barbara Duke
Robert Friauf
Arla Jones
Diane Oakes
The Raven Bookstore

New Members

Kimberly Kreicker and Arla Jones, residents of Lawrence for six years, recently joined the League.

Kimberly teaches in the Department of Foreign Languages at Emporia State University and will finish her PhD. at KU in December. Arla is Librarian at Lawrence High School.

We welcome them to the League and look forward to their involvement in League activities.

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP INFO

Joining at the local level also makes you a member of State and National Leagues. Dues are used to pay our per-member-payments to the League of Women Voters of Kansas and the League of Women Voters of the United States. LWVL-DC uses money from our annual fund drive for local expenses.

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date _____ Join _____ Renew _____

Dues for the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County are \$40 for a single membership and \$60 for a household membership (two members sharing one mailing address). The League year begins April 1st and ends March 31st.

PLEASE PRINT

Name (s) _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Issue Interests (optional) _____

Mail to: Betty Banks, Membership Chair, LWVL-DC, P.O. Box 1072, Lawrence KS 66044

July/August 2003

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You Get What You Pay For

Caroljean Brune is representing the Lawrence-Douglas County League on School Funders, a new coalition formed to protest inadequate state funding of public education. The group is will stage a rally in Lawrence on August 23rd at 11 a.m. (Caroljean is also a member of the New World Order Peace Choir which may perform at the rally.) The School Funders also plans a postcard drive aimed at the Governor. Please contact Caroljean Brune if you want to get involved: 843-3813 or bacjb@ku.edu.

MEMBERS: CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL
Is your membership expiration date correct?
 (It's listed above your name)
If you need to renew, see page 9.
If you think the date is in error, contact Betty Banks.

League of Women Voters
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