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The VOTER

Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County, KS
 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

Please Note:
 There are many voter registration days coming up before the General Election - see article on page 3 and choose one you'd like to volunteer for!

Saturday, Sept. 22nd	7:00 PM	LWV L/DC Land Use Committee Meeting. <i>Community Mercantile, 901 Iowa St.</i>
Tuesday, Sept. 25th	6:30 PM	Proclamation for National Voter Registration Day. <i>City Commission Chambers, City Hall, 6 E. 6th St.</i>
Saturday, Sept. 29th	10:00 AM	Voter Education Coalition Candidate Fair. <i>Visitors Center, 402 N. 2nd Street.</i>
Monday, Oct. 8th		VOTER submission deadline. Please send submissions to emily.pabst@gmail.com .
Thursday, Oct. 11th	7:00 PM	LWV L/DC Board Meeting. <i>Plymouth Congregational Church, 945 Vermont St.</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Saturday, Oct. 13th	11:00 AM	LWV L/DC Brown Bag Lunch. Speaker Mary Lindsey presents, "Corporate Personhood: Is Democracy for Sale?" Bring your own lunch. Drinks and dessert provided. <i>LDCFD Fire Station, 1911 Stewart Ave.</i>
Monday, Oct. 15th	6:30 PM	Voter Education Coalition Candidate Forum. <i>County Commission Chambers, 1100 Mass. St.</i>
Tuesday, Oct. 16th		Last Day to Register to Vote for the General Election.
Monday, Nov. 12th	11:00 AM	LWV L/DC Brown Bag Lunch. Speaker Dave Corliss presents "City Hall Updates." Bring your own lunch. Drinks and dessert provided. <i>Carnegie Building, 200 W. 9th St.</i>

Message From the Outgoing President

Happy Fall! It is with regret that I must resign as President and from the Board due to a family illness. Melinda Henderson has agreed to be President and the board meeting has accepted her into this position. Be assured that this is an excellent board and the organization is in good hands. Thank you for allowing me to lead this fabulous organization.

--Carrie Lindsey, outgoing President

President's Message

First, a big thanks to Carrie for having gotten this League year off to a tremendous start. I'm looking forward to continuing to implement her goals and objectives as I serve as your President through April 2013. This change in leadership happened rather quickly, so I am still getting my bearings, but rest assured I love the League and will strive to make sure that we are visible to the public and support our positions. I have the most awesome Board of Directors to work with, and past-president Kay Hale is willing to mentor me whenever necessary. For those of you who have internet access, please be advised that I will be sending out updates regarding League activities as they occur between Voter publications. One of my goals is to move our League further into using 21st century technology, including Facebook, Twitter, our website and, of course, email. And I'm very lucky that Carrie foresaw the need for our Election Cycle Assistant, Emily Pabst, who has been invaluable scheduling Voter Services activities in this election year that we can strive to make a difference. Space is limited for this Voter, so I'll sign off for now. Please feel free to contact me at either melinlwv@gmail.com or 841-8191. I look forward to hearing from you with suggestions on how to make our League even bigger and better than it is today, and that's a tall order!

--Melinda Henderson, President

Upcoming Events: Brown Bag Lunches

October Brown Bag Lunch

Join LWV members for the next Brown Bag Lunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Fire Station, 19th and Stewart (19th and Iowa).

Kay Hale arranged for Mary Lindsey to speak on "Corporate Personhood: Is Democracy for Sale?" Ms. Lindsey is spokesperson for the "Kansas City Move to Amend," a group that is concerned about "the court precedent that gives corporations constitutional rights intended solely for human beings." LWVUS has testified before Congress about some of the effects of this court decision, including the flood of corporate donations flowing into campaigns.

Bring your lunch and we will provide drinks and dessert. Plan to eat at 11 and Ms. Lindsey will speak at 11:30. The meeting is open to the public, so please bring a friend.

November Brown Bag Lunch

Curious about all those controversial city projects and city priorities? Come to the November Brown Bag Lunch and get the latest information in a "City Hall Update" presented by City Manager Dave Corliss.

Date: Monday, Nov. 12, 2012

Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (speaker at 11:30)

Location: Carnegie Building, 9th and Vermont



Volunteers Needed! for Voter Registration/Outreach Events

Sunday, Sep 23, 2-5pm
Lawrence Public Library

Tuesday, Sep 25, 6:30pm
City Hall: Proclamation for Voter Registration Day

Friday, Sep 28, 5-8pm
Final Friday (downtown)

Saturday, Sep 29, 10am – noon
VEC Candidate Fair
Visitor Center

Saturday, Oct 6, 7am – 4pm
Lawrence Flea (market)
8th and Pennsylvania

Sunday, Oct 7, 2-5pm
Lawrence Public Library

Friday, Oct 12, 6-9pm
Free State High School football game

Monday, Oct 15, 6-10pm
County Commission Chambers

Saturday, Oct 27, 7-11am
Farmers' Market
Voter Outreach with candidates and KLWN

Any Saturday morning in Baldwin at the Baldwin Farmer's Market.

If you want to volunteer for any of these events, please contact Melinda Henderson, Chair of Voter Services Committee at melinlwv@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your support!

VOLUNTEER

Voter Services Update

The Voter Services Committee has been extraordinarily busy this summer. As of this publication date, we've already reached our goal to register over 200 people before October 16th. Emily Pabst, our Election Cycle Assistant, has done an amazing job of finding opportunities for us to register voters this summer. And we're going to continue to do that until October 16th which is the last day for registering voters for the general election on November 6th. I want to shout out a big THANK YOU to the following League members and volunteers who helped to register voters so far:

Bob and Lee Ann Duver, Hilda Enoch, Sue Himes, Marlene Merrill, Kay Hale, Jeanne Mann, Scott Criqui, Eileen Larson, Bev Worster, Patrick Wilbur, Carrie Lindsey, Carladyne Conyers, Bonnie Dunham, Diane Oakes, Margaret & Bill Arnold, James Dunn, Frankie Foster-Davis, Austin Turney, Marilyn Roy, Cille King, CJ Brune, Barbara Twarog, Margo Gordon, Kay & Gary Hale and Carey Maynard-Moody. And thank you to the following non-League volunteers: Bill Getz, Allan & Lousie Hanson and Jeff Miller (grandson of lifetime League member Mary P. Miller...thanks for the referral, Mary!)

We have held Voter Registration events at the following locales: Lecompton Territorial Days, Lawrence's annual Sidewalk Sale, Final Fridays at the Warehouse Arts District, Lawrence Public Library (several times, plus more to come), Douglas County Fair (we were there, but no one registered...perhaps a conflict with the Demolition Derby event?), Lawrence Farmers Market, Kaw Valley Kickball Game of the Week, Checkers Grocery Store, tried for Busker Fest but got rained out, Kansas Fiddling & Picking Championships, tried for Lawrence Flea (market) but got rained out, Fall Arts & Crafts Festival, Pinnacle Career Institute, Lawrence Alliance Festival of Cultures and Naturalization Ceremony at Dole Institute. WHEW! We still have many events scheduled so please consider volunteering if you haven't already.

AND...the Lawrence City Commission is going to issue a proclamation for National Voter Registration Day on September 25th to recognize the work we've done so far this year, along with the Douglas County

Clerk's office's efforts. If you can attend the meeting, the proclamation will be approximately 6:30pm at City Hall. If you can't attend, please watch on Knology Channel 25 if you get that TV channel. We're also in the process of setting up another proclamation for the 100th anniversary of Kansas women obtaining the right to vote in 1912...EIGHT years before the 19th amendment! Stay tuned for that announcement.

--Melinda Henderson, Chair, Voter Services

Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting August 27th, 2012

A monthly meeting of the Lawrence- Douglas County Housing Authority (LDCHA) Board of Commissioners was held on August 27th. A report of the meeting is shown below:

- Brenda O'Keefe was sworn in for another term as a Commissioner.
- Toni Wheeler, City Attorney, highlighted the Open Meetings Law and advised commissioners to be aware of its requirements.
- Comments from a tenant about how rent is calculated were received.

- Executive Director's Report:

1) Congressional leaders plan to draft and adopt a continuing resolution in September, which may result in a decrease in the Public Housing subsidy after March 2013.

2) A Notice of Proposed Changes to the Utility Allowance approved by the Board was sent to tenants for comment.

3) 2013 Moving to Work (MTW) Preliminary Initiatives were provided for the Board's review.

4) A Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) physical inspection is scheduled for Clinton Place on September 26th.

5) Three new LDCHA staff members were introduced including one intern.

6) The agency sponsored a successful ZOMBIE walk on July 28th.

- The Energy Performance Contract Year Guarantee was contained in the agenda packet. This report will be provided to HUD.

- The Board discussed the RFQ evaluation schedule for a potential development project. Background: LDCHA issued a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for a Potential Development Partner and received submissions from two developers on July 2. An evaluation schedule for the RFQ responses was identified. Neighborhood Associations will be notified of the schedule as soon as possible.

--Kay Hale, Observer

Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting July 16, 2012, 4:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Fran Devlin, Joan Golden, Ursula Minor, Deborah Thompson, and Chris Burger

Absent: David Vance and Terry Leibold

Library Staff Present: Brad Allen, Kim Fletcher, Lynn Koenig, and Sherri Turner

Guests: John Wilkins, Gould Evans; Dennis Odgers, BA Green; Tracy Green, BA Green; Elinor Tourtellot, League of Women Voters

Renovation/Expansion Update:

BA Green has studied the schematic design and confirmed the budget and are now working on design development with Gould Evans. The project should be put out to bid in Mid-August. The construction Documents should be done in early January and they will be able to start library construction in February.

John Wilkins, with Gould Evans, discussed the phasing of the project. There should be enough money in the soft costs to cover a move for the library. Dave Corliss is doing the negotiating.

Proposed Schedule from Gould Evans:

Sept. 2012- Last Friends Books sale at current site

Oct. 2012- Start working on Borders to get ready for the library.

Nov. 2012- Start working on half of the parking lot.

Dec. 2012- The library will actually move into borders. There will be no parking lot at the current library site.

Jan. 2013- The library will be operational at Borders.
Feb. 2013- Start construction on the renovation and addition.
Jun. 2013- The garage will be completed for Pool Season.
Mar. 2014- The library will start to move back into the new library.
May 2014 - The project will be completed.

There was mention of using the Hobbs Taylor Lots for staff, or maybe renting modular units and putting them into the Borders Parking Lot. Deborah discussed the transparency of the project, and she asked BA Green and Gould Evans to come to the monthly Board Meetings so that the board can keep the public informed. There is going to be a July 24, 2012 meeting for the Arts Committee. Chris Burger asked how much money/time will it save for the project if the library moves off site? BA Green said that it would save a couple of months at least. It was mentioned that there is room in the Allen Press to store items. If the library moves, it will probably cost around \$150,000. There is room in the soft costs of the budget, and nothing would be lost from the program. Brad Allen mentioned that it might be more costly for the library to move off site, but the move will be better overall for the staff. A survey of the staff revealed that more than 60% said that they were in favor of moving. John Wilkins talked about the process behind moving. It will all fit into the \$19 million price tag. There is about \$300,000 left over so money could be spent on moving. Chris mentioned that we can give input on this project but ultimately the city makes the final decision. BA Green said that the library should know the answer of whether the library will be moving or not by the next Board Meeting.

Deborah asked if there was any information regarding the soil testing, BA Green said there were no big surprises. BA Green promised that the board would have a more comprehensive cost analysis.

Friends Report:

The Friends made \$1000 at their Mystery Book Sale, and on July 28th they are having their drop-off day so people can bring donations to the library without leaving the car.

Springsted Proposal (for compensation analysis):

Springsted specializes in data gathering and analysis for libraries and cities. They offer a 5 year plan of compensation recommendation. The cost, based on the size of the staff, will be two payments of \$1200 each. Joan moved and Deborah seconded to accept Springsted's compensation study proposal to be paid over 2 years. The board approved the motion.

Library Directors Report:

The design committee is moving into the Design Development phase and they will be meeting every other Friday. Fred Schlipf, library consultant, met with library staff and the group at Gould Evans. His main concern was about direct sunlight disturbing the patrons. Additionally, he and the programming librarian met with the Arts Center and they discussed working together on the Free State Film Festival.

Brad and Kathleen met with Gary Bennett at Laird Noller about helping the library to purchase a van. They came to an arrangement that will allow more branding opportunities. Brad also met with the hospital to talk about joint programming.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

--Elinor Tourtellot, Observer



Highlights of the June Board Meeting June 14, 2012, 7–9 pm First Methodist Church, Rm 305

Present: Carrie Lindsey (Pres), Milton Scott (VP), Marjorie Cole (Treas), Caleb Morse (Secr); Directors: Bonnie Dunham, James Dunn, Sally Hayden, Melinda Henderson, Cille King, Marlene Merrill. Members: Nancy Dunn. Absent: Margaret Arnold, David Burress (Pres Elect), Ruth Lichtwardt.

Carrie introduced Emily Pabst, our new Election Cycle Assistant.

Treasurer's report. total income for May of \$361.00; expenses were \$1142.29. President's Report. Carrie reported that League might be asked to send a representative to the Joint Economic Development Council., which was on the City Commission agenda for the following week. Brown Bag Luncheon. Bonnie reported that Emily will help set up a survey of members about their interest level and preferred times for future Brown Bag Lunches and asked for ideas on relevant topics. Election Assistant pay schedule. After discussion, Melinda (Cille) moved to pay Emily in four equal installment of \$575 each, disbursed on the 15th of each month; carried. Carrie will direct her work, helping her to prioritize tasks. LWV US Convention. James and Cille reported on their experiences at National Convention. National Program for 2012–2014 includes a new policy on sentencing, which advocates for alternatives to imprisonment and opposes mandatory minimums for drug offenses. Delegates approved a study to update our agriculture position. Other successful motions included endorsement of a constitutional amendment which would allow Congress and the States to set regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures and one to increase per member payments from \$30 to \$31. Keynote speaker Kathleen Hall Jamieson spoke on false and misleading political ads by third parties. LWVK Board. The next meeting of the Board will occur on June 23 in Topeka. Voter Services. Melinda reported that the Voter Education Commission (VEC) is planning forums for primary races. Melinda is focusing on voter education and registration.

Highlights of the July Board Meeting July 12, 2012, 7–9 pm First Methodist Church, Rm 305

Present: David Burress, Marjorie Cole, James Dunn, Melinda Henderson, Cille King, Marlene Merrill, Ruth Lichtwardt, Milton Scott. Members: Nancy Dunn. Others: Emily Pabst. Absent: Margaret Arnold, Bonnie Dunham, Sally Hayden, Carrie Lindsey, Caleb Morse.

Milton presided in Carrie's absence; Marlene was appointed to serve as secretary in Caleb's absence.

Treasurer's Report. The League has \$1704.31 in our checking acct, \$4399.35 in money market, \$7117.22 in Stucky, and \$1088.58 in judiciary. President's Report. Carrie praised the efforts of Voter Services and thanked Sally for filling in as guest editor of the Voter. Google Groups. A motion to adopt a policy to add League members to our Google Groups list directly, with the option to opt out, was tabled pending further discussion. LWVK Board. James reported that he attended state board orientation with Marsha Marin from National Voter Services. Melinda reported that League registered five voters at Lecompton's Territorial Days. Melinda participated in a webinar for the website Vote 411. VEC scheduled a candidate forum for primary races for July 16. The Voter. Ruth mentioned that we still need a substitute editor for the September, October, and November issues.

Highlights of the August Board Meeting August 9, 2012, 7–9 pm First Methodist Church, Rm 305

Present: Margaret Arnold, David Burress, Marjorie Cole, Bonnie Dunham, James Dunn, Melinda Henderson, Cille King, Carrie Lindsey, Caleb Morse. Members: Nancy Dunn. Others: Alan Cowles; Emily Pabst. Absent: Sally Hayden, Ruth Lichtwardt, Marlene Merrill, Milton Scott.

The board accepted a letter and draft of a City ordinance on the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA)

from Alan Cowles. Mr. Cowles believes members of some local boards do not understand KOMA, and hopes that the city will adopt an ordinance requiring instruction about the requirements of the act.

Treasurer's report. Income for July of was \$1200; expenses were \$804.68. President's report. Carrie reported the League's letter on sustainability was published in the Lawrence Journal-World. Voter Services. Melinda reported that Voter Services had registered 61 voters over the past month. Membership and Leadership Development. Bonnie announced that Margaret had joined the committee. Planning Commission Orientation. Commissioners were pleased that League was involved and some members expressed their gratitude for Land Use Committee participation in the planning process. Board responsibilities and portfolios. As part of a discussion of a series of proposals regarding Board member responsibilities, David (Carrie) moved to make policy of the first of these, that Board members make a "personally meaningful monetary contribution" to the organization; motion failed. Carrie (Caleb) moved to table the remaining proposals until the whole Board has had a chance to examine the proposals; carried. Voter Mailing Committee. An ad-hoc "Voter Mailing Committee" will discuss the cost of mailing the Voter and bring a recommendation to the Board. Social Media. Melinda reported on using our Facebook and Twitter accounts, and suggested the appointment of a Social Media Chair. New Co-President. Melinda had offered to help Carrie in her duties as president by serving as Co-President, allowed by Section 7 of our bylaws. Carrie (Margaret) moved that Melinda be appointed to preside as Co-President; carried.



Minutes of the LWV L-DC Annual Meeting April 21, 2012 Smith Center at Brandon Woods

Note: Participants' first and last names are given the first time they are mentioned in these minutes. Thereafter, they are referred to only by their first names.

Call to order. After the luncheon and presentation by speaker Camille Nohe ("What's up with the LWV US privatization study?"), President Kay Hale called the business meeting to order, at about 1 pm.

Order of business. Caleb Morse read the order of business as printed in the Annual Meeting program. Caleb (Hilda Enoch) moved adoption of the order of business, with "Report of 2009 Minutes Committee" corrected to "Report of 2011 Minutes Committee"; carried.

Quorum present. Caleb reported 44 members in good standing (including new members Sally Hayden and Ginny Weston and returning member Jinny Ashlock) and one guest (Linda O'Donnell) were present.

Meeting guidelines adopted. David Burress read the proposed meeting guidelines. David (Margaret Arnold) moved to adopt the guidelines; carried.

Annual Meeting minutes. Kay reported that the minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting have been read and approved by the Committee to Read the Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting, and are on file in the Secretary's minutes book. Since there was no objection, Kay referred the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting to the Committee to Read the Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting, comprised of Jeanne Mann and Arline Seely-Bensch, for approval.

President's report. Kay reported on activities of the LWV L-DC during the past year in the areas of Action and Public Education, Land Use, League Study, Voter Service, Observer Corps, Special Honors/Events, Organizational Development, Membership Recruitment and Leadership Development (MLD), Events Sponsored by LWV US and LWV K in which we participated, and Community Collaborations. In-

cluded among our accomplishments were: convening meetings and forums regarding the planned closure of the Lawrence SRS Office; convening meetings and offering testimony on the redistricting process; convening a forum on the governor's tax plan; carrying out a local study of the LWV US study topic "Federal Role in Education"; submitting 32 letters on planning issues to the Planning Commission and/or City Commission; selecting Scott Criqui as recipient of the 2012 Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award; and growing by a total of six members. Kay singled out for praise Carol Jacobsen, who co-chaired the LWVK study "Kansas Taxes: Who Pays?", Melinda Henderson for her work as the Voter Service Chair, Elinor Tourtelot and Peggy Baker for their work on our Observer Corps, the flexible members of the Board of Directors, and especially Bonnie Dunham, Marjorie Cole and Gary Hale for all their help.

Review of 2011–2012 financial statements. Treasurer Marjorie presented the review of financial statements as submitted by auditor Diane Oakes, who was not present. Diane had found the accounts to be in good order and commended the Treasurer "for her outstanding work in documenting and tracking League accounts." As of March 31, 2012, balances in LWV L-DC accounts were as follows:

Checking Account (fungible, includes bulk mail account and Dues Scholarship Fund [next]) = \$2481.65.
Dues Scholarship Fund (a subset of the Checking Account) = \$255; 7 dues scholarships were awarded for the 2011–2012 year.

Money Market Fund (fungible) = \$4397.69

Stucky Account (restricted) = \$7114.55

Judiciary = \$1088.58

LWV Education Fund (partially fungible: may be used for one quarterly PMP) = \$375.48

Carrie Lindsey (Gary Hale) moved to accept the auditor's report; carried. Hilda thanked Marjorie for her fine work.

Treasurer's report. Marjorie presented the 2012–2013 proposed budget on behalf of the Budget Committee (Marjorie, Kay, and Carrie), with the following four items highlighted in the budget narrative:

1. Proposal to increase dues after April 23, 2012, from \$50 to \$55 per individual and \$75 to \$85 per household. The proposed increase would mean that, after PMP payments to LWV US and LWV K, LWV L-DC would retain \$7 annually per full membership for local

operations. At present, we are able to retain only \$2 of each full membership, so essentially all of our operations are funded by contributions.

2. Proposal to allocate \$2300 to hire an assistant. The Board of Directors has recommended funding this position to help with voter education for about three months during what is anticipated to be an exceptionally busy year for voter education.

3. Planned budget deficit. This year, we faced an unplanned deficit of \$172.66. Even with reduced expenses (see below), the Board expects a planned deficit of \$948.50 during the coming year.

4. Reduced expenses. In order to keep the planned deficit at a minimum, the Board has recommended reducing print publication of the Voter by 50% in the coming year, and sending only one delegate to National Convention.

Lee Ketzler asked how the Board planned to reduce the printing costs associated with the Voter. Carrie suggested increasing the subscription rate for electronic copies. Bill Arnold asked what the assistant would do. Carrie responded that the assistant would help to carry out some of the daily work of the organization: maintaining the website, help with voter registration events, produce voter guides, and all in a timely manner. Hilda remarked that it's shocking that so much of the dues payment goes to LWV US and LWV K; \$50 is already high and makes it hard to attract new members. Marjorie (Hilda) moved to approve the budget. However, it quickly became clear that we needed to decide the dues issue before adopting the budget. David (Sharon Brown) moved to request unanimous consent to revise the order to deal with the dues issue first; carried. Hilda (Gary) moved to increase the dues as proposed in the published budget. Lee Ann asked for clarification on the status of student dues levels; there will be no change to these. Kay called the question; motion carried.

Marjorie (Carrie) moved to adopt the budget as published. Jinny Ashlock asked about whether separate approval was required for "program", by which she meant hiring an assistant. Carrie clarified that the assistant is not to help with program, but with the educational effort of the League. David clarified that the \$2300 allocated for the assistant is part of the budget as moved. So, if anyone wanted to discuss the issue, the time to do it would be before voting on the motion. Further, David noted, you can also just complain! Marci Francisco cautioned that, although it's important to increase our visibility during this election year, we

may not benefit from increased membership (due to high PMP) and we probably won't be able to keep it up next year. David noted that it's a little risky, but not too risky, since a good part of the budget comes from member contributions, so new members may well generate new contributions, as well. Melinda asked about how much we've sought contributions from sources outside League. Kay noted that we've received some money, but always from the same few sources. Bonnie noted that she was initially opposed to the idea of hiring an assistant, but, every time we have run an advertisement in the Voter, no one has volunteered. Kay added that we seem to have had difficulty encouraging people to take leadership roles in the organization. Lynn Bodle added that this is an exceedingly important election year! Kay called the question; motion carried.

Nominating Committee report and election of officers. Sharon presented the slate of candidates on behalf of the Nominating Committee (Sharon, Marjorie, Melinda, Carol Nalbandian, and Mary Lou Wright).
Officers

President: Carrie Lindsey (second year of a two-year term, the first year served as President-Elect)

President-Elect: David Burruss (first year of a two-year term, the second to be served as President)

Vice President: Milton Scott (second year of a two-year term)

Secretary: Caleb Morse (second year of a two-year term)

Treasurer: Marjorie Cole (first year of two-year term)

Directors (two-year term): Margaret Arnold, Sally Hayden, Cille King, Marlene Merrill

[continuing on in the second year of their two-year terms are: Bonnie Dunham, James Dunn, Melinda Henderson, and Ruth Lichtwardt]

Nominating Committee for 2012–2013

Sharon Brown, Chair (non-Board member)

Kay Hale (non-Board member)

Mary Lou Wright (non-Board member)

Plus 2 members of the Board of Directors, to be appointed

Kay solicited nominations from the floor, but there were none. Sharon (Hilda) moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees; carried.

Changing of the guard. Kay surrendered the gavel to new president Carrie. Carrie presented Kay and outgoing Board member Bob Duver with gifts. There was a round of applause for both, and Kay informally swore in the new Board. Carrie took over the meeting.

Adoption of 2012–2013 Program. James Dunn presented the proposed review II. Social Policy: Housing for Low-Income Groups (approved in 1975); Carrie presented the proposed review of our position IV. Local Government (approved in 1979), with an eye towards expanding the position to include county government, school districts, and task forces. Caleb asked whether it was possible to carry out two concurrent studies. Carrie opined that yes, and furthermore both are reviews and may not result in full studies. Melinda noted that the primary school district in the county is USD 497, but there are also others. Kay added that any position we adopt should apply to the entire county. Hilda thought that we need to concentrate on Lawrence and USD 497. Marci suggested removing "County" from before "School Board" in the statement of question. Marci (Margaret) moved to change the wording of the question to "Should school boards and task forces be included in this statement?"; carried. Forrest Swall noted that several members of the Older Women's League present were involved with a movement to enact Death with Dignity legislation in Kansas, and asked if this would be an appropriate topic of study by LWV L-DC. Marci thought it would be a good subject for study, but at the state level, and suggested it be put forward for adoption as part of LWV K program in 2013. To this, David noted that, technically, our bylaws do not allow introduction of subjects of study from the floor at Annual Meeting (although he was quick to add that anything can be done, if it's done by unanimous decision). Marci (Sally) moved to accept the proposed programs; carried.

Directions to the Board of Directors for 2012–2013: Address Forrest's question about taking up a study of Death with Dignity legislation at the state level. [None other.]

Announcements.

There were several announcements, including solicitations for questions for candidates in upcoming elections and help with voter registration efforts, and notification of upcoming meetings.

Adjournment. Hilda (Bob Duver) moved to adjourn; carried. Meeting ended at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, 11 May 2012, by Caleb Morse; revised 29 May 2012, 14 August 2012.

Read and approved with modification on 29 May 2012 by the Committee to Read the Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting, Jeanne Mann and Arline Seely-Bensch, members.

Highlights of the August 2012 Land Use Committee Meeting August 18, 2012

The Land Use Committee (LUC) met August 18th to discuss six items on the August 20th Planning Commission (PC) Agenda, plus one issue on the August 21st City Commission (CC) Consent Agenda. After discussion, we decided to write two letters to the PC and one to the CC. To review our report in full, please visit our website (lawrenceleague.com) and select the Reports and Minutes section.

Our first letter to the PC was regarding Item No. 4, The Preliminary Plat for Gateway Addition. This site is better known as the "Sports Village," which would be located at the northwest corner of Sixth Street and the SLT (K-10). The tract of land is 146 acres, approximately 100 of which are planned to be a private commercial development with CC600 Zoning (Community Commercial having a limit of 600,000 square feet of commercial retail development). The remainder to the north is planned to be the Sports Village. A Baldwin Creek tributary runs through the 46-acre site, which is planned to be diverted and partly channeled underground with the remainder above ground. The main exit point to Highway 40 will be directed to right-turn only, which will require, at least temporarily, traffic to travel to an intersection and then make a U-turn back to Lawrence.

Because of that and other problems, some noted in the Staff Report, we wrote a letter citing four points: (1) concerns that the buffer area between the proposed development and the residential area to the north isn't large enough, (2) the proposed stream

treatment is contrary to our League Environmental Position, (3) commended staff for acknowledging the traffic problems and objected to the forced U-turn access route, and (4) pointed out that the preliminary plat is being approved too early and should be deferred until the other decisions about the property and use have been made. OUTCOME: the preliminary plat was approved.

The second LUC letter to the PC was in regard to Item No. 6, Comprehensive Plan Review of the Tax Increment Financing Proposal for the Ninth and New Hampshire Project. This review by the PC is required by State Law to determine if the redevelopment plan is consistent with the comprehensive general plan. The Staff Report is very inclusive. The initial project is an extended stay hotel to be located on the southeast side of New Hampshire and Ninth Street, downtown. Eligible project costs include construction of the underground parking garage, infrastructure expenses, possible acquisition and site preparation of the Salvation Army property, and interest costs. The following is taken from the "Redevelopment Project Financial Feasibility Study" and describes how the development would be subsidized. In addition to the TIF, the project would also be paid for by sales taxes collected on site.

Tax increment funds may only be used to pay for specified eligible project costs, including principal and interest on debt used, in whole or in part, to finance projects within a redevelopment district. Such debt includes notes, special obligation bonds, full faith and credit tax increment bonds, and other debt instruments. Tax increment also may be paid to a developer/owner over time as reimbursement for eligible costs incurred up-front. This payment mechanism is commonly referred to as pay-as-you-go financing and may include not only the principal amount of such costs but also all or a portion of the interest accrued thereon.

The LUC letter stated our position on city subsidization of private development (we oppose it), and indicated that we could not support the financing of the project. OUTCOME: the PC reviewed the report and sent it on to the City Commission for approval.

Our third letter was addressed to the City Commission regarding the initiation of seven text amendments to the Land Development Code that would be sent to the Planning Commission for formal wording

by staff and then given public hearing at a scheduled PC meeting sometime in the future before being sent to the CC for final approval. These text amendments were requested by the Planning Director with the purpose of making the development procedure more business friendly and to "streamline the application process." We believe that two of the text amendments could pose a threat to our entire planning system: 1) eliminate the requirement that a rezoning conform to our Comprehensive Plan and 2) eliminate the requirement for a separate, unbiased consultant to assess the impact of additional retail commercial zoning triggered by a certain percentage of vacancies, for zoning requests greater than 50,000 square feet of retail space.

Our letter asked that this Consent Agenda Item be opened for public comment and requested that these two proposed text amendments not be initiated at all. Because all seven proposed text amendments had been grouped together as one Consent Agenda item,

we referenced all of them in our letter; however, we felt that each of these issues should have been approached separately because they were so different in their impact and importance. We hoped that any text amendment initiations would not include the two mentioned above. **OUTCOME:** The item was pulled from the Consent Agenda and discussed and was sent on to the PC for public hearing. We'll follow these seven text amendment requests closely throughout the planning process.



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