



VOTER

Emporia, Kansas
www.emporia.com/lwve

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Calendar

- October 13 State Study Introduction (Juvenile Justice)**
Wed., 7:30 pm, St Mark's Lutheran Church, 1508 W. 12th
- October 20 Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West
- October 27 State Study Discussion and Consensus**
Wed., 7:30 pm, St Mark's Lutheran Church, 1508 W. 12th
- November 10 USD 253/Technical College**
Wed., 7:30 pm, FHTC, 3301 W 18th
- November 17 Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West
- December 4 Legislator Brunch**
Sat., 9:30 am, Skyline Room, Emporia State University Memorial Union
- December 8 Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understand of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Local Study

Please get any questions/concerns you have regarding our local study on Recreation to Bill Jensen ASAP so the local study committee can establish an agenda. Bill can be reached at: bjensen44@osprey.net, 343-1583, or 2311 West Bayfront Ct, Emporia, KS 66801.

Important Dates-Election 2004:

- October 13th: Advance Voting begins at the County Clerk's office in the Court House
- October 18th: Voter Registration ends for the General Election
- November 1st: Advance Voting ends at 12 noon for the General Election
- November 2nd: General Election Day

An election is coming. Universal peace is declared and the foxes have a sincere interest in prolonging the lives of the poultry.

T.S. Eliot

Kay's Comments

The Emporia League Board had a special guest at our September Board Meeting. Janis McMillan, LWVK Board President, joined us for dinner, some visiting, and the Board meeting. One of the interesting things she had to share was that 50 women in the Wakeeney area contacted the State office because they are interested in forming a League. They want to be able to make an impact on this election. We are excited to have a group interested in forming a new League, but this does give me an opportunity to describe how the Emporia League and every other League except the very first ones got their start. The group must first organize to the point of electing officers and then petition LWVK for recognition as a Provisional League. To gain recognition from LWVUS and to maintain League status the following steps must be followed:

The League must have bylaws, the first three articles of which must be consistent with those of the LWVUS. The remaining articles must provide for democratic procedures.

The League must hold annual business meetings of the membership.

The League must hold regular board meetings.

The League must contribute to the financial support of the League as a whole. (That is the Per Member Payment, PMP.)

Any advocacy pursued by the League must be consistent with League Principles, positions and policies.

When this is all completed the local League embarks on its first local study which is a Know Your County study. The non-partisan stance of the League as an organization is very hard for people to really understand. This is because over the years, through study and consensus, the League at every level has reached many positions that could be labeled "liberal". That often earns us the label of a Democratic "women's club". The last time I saw a demographic study of the average League member it was a white woman, upper middle class, and registered as a Republican. We will all wish the organizers in Wakeeney well it would be nice to welcome another League to the state. One last comment, if you want to see our Know Your County Study we have it in the file.

We had a very interesting first meeting at the Beran Recreation center. Bill and his committee will be working to bring us more information about how the system works and what changes are being considered. If you have any specific questions you would like the committee to address let Bill know. (343 1583) or at bjensen44@osprey.net

Remember to Vote and encourage all your friends to make their choices known at the polls in November.

Kay Calvert, President

Sad News

Catherine Martin of the Kansas City, KS League passed away recently. Some of you may remember her as the parliamentarian for LWVK conventions and council meetings. Her daughter, Pat Martin, suggests gifts to the LWVK Endowment Fund.

Kay Calvert

DNet Update

DNet, Democracy Net, is the premier website for non-partisan voter information to “Make Democracy Work.” That is what I tell everyone who asks about it. How does all that stuff get onto that website? That takes a little longer to tell. I volunteered to engineer the first statewide launching of DNet and it has been quite a challenge. I have had lots of help. The first thing that needed to be done was to update the primary and general election dates on all federal and state congressional offices, that’s 169 offices. I sat at my computer many hours putting August 3, 2004 and November 2, 2004 into little boxes and all the offices were ready for election 2004. Not quite!!!! While I was putting in those dates I realized that the next assignment would be to put in the four questions asked by the League into every office so that when the candidate goes online to enter data, he/she will respond to our questions. That would get them started on the road to “participating.”

The next assignment would be to enter all the candidates. The secretary of state, Ron Thornburgh, was kind enough to list all the candidates and the number blossomed to about 430!!!! Now, we are talking lots of data, lots of time, lots of waiting for the next screen to pop up so that you can enter the data and don’t forget the down time while thunderstorms are crashing all around us. I needed help!!! I called on my local friends in the league. I would go to their house and sit with them until they were ready to cut/paste/copy those questions or add the candidate name to the right district and the email address and party. It was a huge task. We were done.

“Not so fast,” I said to myself. All the candidates needed to be informed that DNet exists and how to go about participating. I asked the state Voter service people to help send out the letters and they were so very eager to help. They also did this again after the primary to enlist the third party candidates. All candidates with an email address electronically received a username and password. All the others were sent theirs via snail mail. Then, two weeks later, with the help of great League members, we sent out a Guide to the Internet and a reminder to participate. Now, what was left? No one seemed to be participating.

I called on the League to help. I sent out an email with the subject: “I NEED HELP!!!”. Many of the Leagues across the state responded. We started the DNet squad and contacted all those not participating. If the candidate had an email address, we sent them another reminder. If the candidate had no email address, we called them. Many of the candidates seemed to have misplaced their username and password and so I issued them another. I felt very powerful making up usernames and passwords. I just received a message from a candidate who lost her username and password again. That annoyed me, but she was the only one who needed that much help. Starting Sept. 21, the DNet squad will monitor the candidates once again and hope to get more participation before the general election. That will be our last effort on this front. I urge all of you to speak to your candidates about participating. I encourage you to tell all your friends and family about dnet at www.dnet.org. I hope this gives you a picture of the process. I am happy to know that 2008 is more than four years away. This much excitement needs to be spread out.

Special thanks to all who helped with contacting candidates: Sharon Ailslegger, Kay Calvert, Ellen Estes, Tracey Graham, Cathy Hoy, Barb Jensen, Diane Kuhn, Donna Lauffer, Mary Lou, Janis McMillen, Marjory Medvedt, Christina Peterson, Carol Rousey, Grace Wilson, and Sarah Wyrick; and to those who have been helpful to me on other projects: Susie Aber, Barbara Blaufuss, Sue Blechl, Kay Calvert, Tracey Graham, Ann Havenhill, Cathy Hoy, Barbara Jensen, and Sarah Wyrick.

Doris Slocombe, DNet mgr.

Voter Service Information

Thank you to Sherri Backhus and all who are delivering information to the business in town that have marquees. The League is asking that these businesses post information about the election and reminding voters to go to the polls. Be sure and thank the businesses as you visit them and notice that they do have "voting" reminders on their marquee.

We are about to wind down our voter registration efforts. The League and the Sunrise Rotary Club have quite a list of places we've been this election season. Not only have we registered voters, but we have done a lot of voter education about Advance Voting, Provisional Ballots, and where possible the new electronic voting machines.

One event yet to come:

October 15th: Register Voters & demonstrate voting machines, Village School Chili Supper, 5:30-7:30pm

Kay Calvert, Lois Schrock, Betty Campbell, Margaret Davidson

Since the last VOTER we have registered voters at the following events:

Sept. 11th: Main Street Flea Market Thanks to Sarah Wyrick, Sally Roglin, Tracey Graham, Dee Ann Knaak, Twila Smith, Betty Campbell, Karen Nordgren, Jerry Fair, Margaret Davidson

Sept. 13th: ESU Main Street with Associated Student Government Thanks to Betty Edwards, Sarah Wyrick, Bruce Viewig, Ann Havenhill

Sept. 17th: Sacred Heart Mexican Supper Thanks to Cynthia Patton, Kay Calvert, Doris Slocombe, Marilyn Krueger and 4 members of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority

Oct. 2nd: Americus Days Thanks to Ann Havenhill

Oct. 4th: Associated Student Government Forum at E.S.U. Thanks to Ann Havenhill

Oct. 5th: Parliament Study Club Thanks to Julie Johnson

Oct. 5th: Morse Hall(dorm), E.S.U. Thanks to Ann Havenhill

Thank you, too, to Tracey Graham who is preparing the information for the printed Voters Guide which will appear in the *Emporia Gazette* in the near future.

Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. Franklin D. Roosevelt

The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all. John F. Kennedy

Student Vote

Again LWVE is planning to assist in the student voting procedure in Lyon County. Betty Campbell is on the planning committee. The League will be responsible for setting up the polling places and preparing the ballot boxes for the polling sites. Betty needs about three more people to help the week before the election, and at least one person on Election Day, November 2. PLEASE call Betty at 342-2928 or email at campbelb@emporia.edu if you can help. Thanks!

Betty Campbell

American youth attributes much more importance to arriving at driver's-license age than at voting age. Marshall McLuhan

Member News

As most of you know, **Ellie Hazelrigg** broke her hip in a fall two weeks ago. She is recovering after surgery. She has been in the rehab center at Newman Regional Health Center and very much hopes she will be home by the time you get this Voter.

Carol Mlynar has suffered a stroke and at present is living at Holiday Resort. She would like company and cards.

We send many get well wishes to both of these League members.

Betty Campbell

Sgt. First Class **Steve Harmon** will be going to Kosovo for Operation Enduring Freedom with the recently activated Emporia unit of the Kansas Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 635th Armor. Steve has been a League member for about a year. His wife and children will remain in Emporia. We look forward to his return to Emporia and the League in about 17 months.

Ann Havenhill

New Member **Linda Bell** (see August, 2004 issue for a short bio) can be contacted at: 2701 Monterey Dr, Emporia; at 342-6403; and at lindab@the-farm.org. Please update your membership lists!

Contact Your Representatives

There have been recent changes made to some of our representatives' contact information.

Email for Senator Brownback should now be submitted via his web page at:

<http://brownback.senate.gov/CMEmailMe.htm>

Email for Senator Roberts is submitted through the "quick form" at:

http://roberts.senate.gov/e-mail_pat.html

Congressman Jerry Moran can be reached through his web page at:

<http://www.house.gov/moranks01/hearingfromyou.htm>

For easy "one-stop shopping" all three websites can be accessed from the LWVE web page at <http://www.emporia.com/lwve/>; click on Guide to Government, the National Officials and the links are right there. On each site, look for a "contact me", or "email me" button.

Sarah Wyrick/Tracey Graham

It might be more worthwhile if we stopped wringing our hands and started ringing our congressmen.

Author Unknown

Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country. Franklin D. Roosevelt

People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote - a very different thing. Walter H. Judd

Voting is one of the few things where boycotting in protest clearly makes the problem worse rather than better. Jane Auer

Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good: 'Tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm. Ralph Waldo Emerson

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote. George Jean Nathan

To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain. Louis L'Amour

It is the duty of every citizen according to his best capacities to give validity to his convictions in political affairs. Albert Einstein

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men. Lyndon B. Johnson

Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half have never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half. Gore Vidal

Please return to:
Sarah Wyrick
1600 East Wilman Court
Emporia, KS 66801