



VOTER

Emporia, Kansas
www.emporia.com/lwve

PRESIDENT: Kay Calvert 342-7104
EDITOR: Tracey Graham tgraham@birch.net 343-2881

Volume 50, Number 4
November 2004

Calendar

- 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
- January 12** **Tall Grass Prairie Speaker**
Wed., 7:30 pm, St Mark's Lutheran Church, 1508 W. 12th
- January 19** **Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West
- January 26** **Local Study**
Wed., NOON, ESU Memorial Union
- January 29** **Eggs and Issues**
Sat., 8:30 am, Location TBA
- February 9** **State Study Consensus**
Wed., 7:30 pm, St Mark's Lutheran Church, 1508 W. 12th
- February 16** **Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West
- February 19** **Eggs and Issues**
Sat., 8:30 am, Location TBA
- February 23** **Local Study; Possible Consensus**
Wed., 7:30 pm, St Mark's Lutheran Church, 1508 W. 12th
- March 9** **National Study**
Wed., 7:30 pm, St Mark's Lutheran Church, 1508 W. 12th
- March 16** **Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West
- March 23** **Annual Meeting**
Wed., 6 pm, Location TBA

*See next page for details

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.

December Legislator Brunch

LWVE will again host a brunch for legislators in the Skyline Room of the ESU Memorial Union on Saturday, December 4 at 9:30 AM. The price is \$9.00 per person, with first-time prospective members and legislators and spouses as guests. Be sure to bring a guest with you! **We do need reservations for this event by Tuesday, November 30.** Please call Kay Cavert at 342-7104 or email Betty Campbell campbelb@emporia.edu so that we can get an accurate count.

This will be our opportunity to get a feel for what might be the most important issues on the legislative agenda for the coming session. Please make every effort to attend.

Betty Campbell

Kay's Comments

At last the election is over. We regret that the local Voter's Guide didn't get published. It was a foul up on the Gazette's part and by now you have read their explanation in the paper. Chris Walker's advice to us is to keep calling them until it is printed. Thanks to Tracey Graham and all the candidates who went to the trouble to answer our questions. We will be more persistent next time.

We have had two very informative meetings about out state study of the Juvenile Justice Authority. Even at this early stage adequate funding is going to be a problem. Dr. Alderman of the Tech College spoke of the efforts underway by the Tech Colleges in Kansas to persuade the Legislature to increase their level of funding. We will have lots to talk to Don Hill about when he meets with us for brunch on **December 4**. We know he will be there and Senator Barnett will not. No word from Representative Mast yet.

I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

Kay Calvert

DNet Update

I just wanted to say "thank you" to all those who put so much effort into DNet! We had great nationwide coverage - over 80% candidates in Congressional and Gubernatorial races had DNet content. This wouldn't have been possible without your help. I'm glad I had the opportunity to work with you!

Doris Slocombe, DNet mgr.

LWVK Update

The Kansas Choice Alliance, of which the state League is a member, is sponsoring the 32nd anniversary celebration of Roe v. Wade on **Thursday, January 20, 2005**. Barbara Holzmark has reserved the first floor rotunda, first floor south and north wings and the south steps for our activities! Mark your calendars as we want to have a VERY big crowd this year. In particular, we need young people to participate, as many young women are not aware of the potential threat to Roe v. Wade. The Governor has been invited to speak. More details will follow as the date gets closer.

Video Available

You will recall that those who attended the LWVUS Convention in June came back raving about banquet speaker, Helen Thomas! Her presentation was full of delightful and insightful commentary on past presidents, as well as the current administration. Doris Slocombe has a copy of the 60-minute video tape. Give her a call (342-5181) or email (partying@osprey.net) her if you=d like to borrow it.

State Study Discussion: Juvenile Justice -- October 27, 2004

At the October 27 meeting the LWVE Juvenile Justice Committee members presented information relevant to the state study. The state Juvenile Justice committee will be meeting soon to formulate consensus questions. Mary Everhart reviewed information found on the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) website. (National Center for Juvenile Justice: <http://ncjj.servehttp.com/NCJJWebsite/main.htm>; Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority: <http://jja.state.ks.us/>) Cathy Hoy and Jesse Solis presented information from their interview with Gary Marsh (see below). Joanne McBane reviewed the progress of the state study committee and led a discussion of issues that LWVE members think should be included in the state study, such as continuing the emphasis and funding for prevention

Interview with Gary Marsh, Director of Community Corrections

(These notes were taken by Cathy Hoy and have not been reviewed by Gary Marsh. Any incorrect or incomplete information reflects my misinterpretation of his remarks. ch)

21 June 2004

Joanne McBane, Jesse Solis, Cathy Hoy

We asked for information about what we should take to the state League committee on juvenile justice in the way of supporting and improving the juvenile justice system.

According to Mr. Marsh the juvenile justice system has always been the stepchild in the justice system. Money for this program seems to come last, regardless of needs. In 1997 Kansas pulled the JJA from SRS, which still deals with the child-in-need-of-care part of the system. Criminal offenders were put under JJA. This change brought in more money (including the tobacco money). It gave the communities, according to judicial district, a chance to look at their needs and to come up with flexible programming. Gary thinks this was a good thing at that time. The continuation of the money, however, is becoming more of a problem and the tobacco money will run out. Money for prevention has already decreased.

Because of some of the changes in JJA Mr. Marsh thinks that treatment of juveniles has improved. When juveniles are first picked up they go into IIP (Immediate Intervention Program). This program has resulted in fewer juveniles being prosecuted. Locally, IIP is authorized by statute, but the local prosecutor must agree to use it. When a low-level offender is apprehended, he or she can be put into IIP. The offender and the offender=s family agree to attend a program, pay fees, and agree not to break the law again. If the offender and his/her family meet the terms of this agreement for 6 months, the offender is never prosecuted. 90% of these offenders follow through with the agreement and never come back. It also means they never have a record of conviction. Usually these are not felons and they are definitely not offenders who have committed a felony against a person. They also are not entitled to be in this program if they have prior convictions.

Because of IIP the number of kids on probation has decreased. A probation staff of four in 1998 did what a staff of two do today, and they were also able to cut the deputy director position. Because of the increased funding high school counselors have been funded to work with juvenile offenders. The people in these positions are intermediating between the schools and the juvenile justice system. Truancy diversion and prevention have been important in this system.

.What League can support.

There is a need to come up with a fair and equitable way to consistently determine funding for JJA.

Because of IIP=s success in prevention, statistics are not available to indicate the true need for juveniles. Mr. Marsh suggests that LWV could recommend that we Akeep money flowing to prevention.@ He believes that success in prevention should not result in cutting funding. Or, he says, we will begin spending it on the other side again B in convictions, prisons, probation officers, etc.

Cathy Hoy



We are grateful to Doris Slocombe for maintaining the LWVE website, brilliantly designed by Susie Aber, for the past several years. Doris' duties as the new LWVK statewide website coordinator have led her to pass the torch to another. If you have any interest in taking over as local website coordinator, please contact Doris at 342-5181 or party@osprey.net.

Clarifying a 'clarification'

As a third-generation LWV member, it has been my pleasure to serve on the LWVE board and to edit the Voter since last Spring. This year also marked my first opportunity to participate in what I personally consider to be the MOST important service provided by the LWV: The Voters' Guide. In three other states prior to moving here five years ago, my husband and I have always relied on the nonbiased, nonpartisan information in LWV Voters' Guides, with information provided by local Leagues and published in local newspapers wherever I have lived at election time.

In June, I sent letters to all Lyon County candidates, asking that they respond to the questions formulated by the LWVE board. Most of the candidates responded and I formatted their responses to be placed on the LWVE website by Doris Slocombe in plenty of time for the primary. In mid-September, I contacted Jon Lechliter at the Emporia Gazette, to ask when the Gazette would need our text in time for publication prior to or coincident with the beginning of advance voting on 10/13, and in what format. He said to email it to the newsroom about a week in advance of the publication date. I sent my email, with responses from the Lyon County candidates and with information I downloaded from DNet for the state senator and representative positions, on 10/1. I received no response and followed up with an email on 10/5, then another on 10/7, both explaining that I would be out of town on 10/11&12, and that if there were any questions for me AND they wanted to publish before advance voting began, they needed to get back to me quickly. Still receiving no responses, I called the newsroom on 10/8, talked to Pat Kelly, who asked Jon Lechliter if the messages had been received. He said they had.

On 10/27, Kay called to ask me to re-send the email to the Gazette. Apparently it had been deleted 'somehow'. I complied, and never got an acknowledgement of the receipt of that message either. It certainly never got published. On 11/19, the Gazette published a 'clarification' referring to a 'problem with email' which does not clearly take responsibility for the Gazette's failure to publish the Guide. I want to make it perfectly clear to all LWVE members that the 'problem' was not on our end. If there *had* been a problem with formatting or with transferability of information, there would have been plenty of time to fix it. The Gazette simply dropped the ball and has refused to take responsibility for having done so. I doubt it will make much difference to them, but they have lost me as a subscriber permanently.

Tracey Graham

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

