



VOTER

Emporia, Kansas
www.emporia.com/lwve

PRESIDENT: Kay Calvert 342-7104

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February, 2005

Calendar

- February 23 Local Study; Possible Consensus**
Wed., 7:30 pm, St Mark's Lutheran Church, 1508 W. 12th
- March 1 Primary Election: School Board and City Commission**
- March 9 Tall Grass Prairie Speaker: Eric Patterson**
Wed., 7:30 pm, St Mark's Lutheran Church, 1508 W. 12th
- March 10 Day at the Capitol**
Thurs., see article "Day at the Capital" for details
- March 12 Eggs and Issues**
Sat., 8:00 am, Flint Hills Technical College
- March 15 Candidate Forum: School Board and City Commission**
Tues., 7-9 pm, ESU Visser Hall 330
- March 16 Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West
- March 30 Annual Meeting**
Wed., 6 pm, Emporia Public Library meeting room, 110 E 6th St.
- April 5 General Election: School Board and City Commission**
- April 13 Observer Meeting**
Wed., Location and time TBA
- April 20 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.

Kay's Comments

It is hard to imagine that a whole year has passed, but it is time to think about the Annual Meeting (March 30) again. In this Voter you will find the proposed budget and the proposed local study for the next year. The Nominating Committee report will also be enclosed. Thanks to those League members who served on those committees. In addition to deciding those important matters we will also be voting on a dues increase. As we become more visible in the community it is necessary for us to come closer to having our dues reflect the necessary commitment to support LWVK and LWVUS. We hope every one will make the effort to attend the Annual Meeting. We will have a salad supper first, the Business Meeting and then the program. Remember this is the only "Business Meeting" of the year for the membership but the business is important. We will again be showing the Slide Show. The slides are from old studies and the School Bond campaign of the 70's. It is worth seeing again even if you saw it last summer. An effort is being made to get as many ex-Presidents of the local league there too.

This coming Wednesday (2/26) will be our last meeting about the Recreation study. I hope we will have lots of people at each of these meetings. March 9 we will be having the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve speaker who was postponed in January. March 10 at least three of us will be traveling to Topeka for LWVK's Day at the Legislature. This is always an interesting and informative day. LWVK always has an interesting speaker at the lunch and you get a chance to attend hearings, sit in on a session, and lobby your representatives. If you want to join us let Kay Calvert or any other Board member know. We will leave about 7 a.m. and get back by 5.

Kay Calvert

Local Study – Recreation

The League meeting on the 23rd is our last opportunity to discuss the Parks and Recreation Study recommendations with regard to governance. We will be formulating the league's position on governance options for the Emporia recreation commission. We look forward to seeking everyone.

Bill Jensen

Day At The Capital

This just in from Janis McMillen:

LWVK Day At the Capitol is Thursday, March 10. The schedule includes registration, coffee and rolls at 8:30, discussion on 2 or 3 critical bills (with talking points) at 9:00, talk with legislators from 9:30-11:45, lunch at noon, speaker Dale Dennis (Deputy Commission of Education and school finance "guru" 12:30-1. There should be some pretty serious and more focused finance plans by then, so we can expect to learn a lot from him. The afternoon will be open for further discussion at the church or to return to legislature.

Doris, Kay and I will be going. I went for the first time last year and received quite an education. I can't imagine better Capitol Building tour guides than Kay and Doris! I *strongly* recommend that anyone interested in learning about how things work in Topeka, and how to affect a difference, join us. It would be best to have a headcount by March 3, so please contact me (343-2881 or tgraham@birch.net) if you want to go. If you decide to go at the last minute though, we can certainly squeeze you in. We'll be carpooling from Kay's house, meeting at 7:30 am.

Tracey Graham

Annual Meeting March 30

Our annual meeting will be on Wednesday, March 30, beginning at 6 pm. We will meet in the large meeting room at Emporia Public Library. All members should ring a salad and their own table service. Drinks, rolls and dessert will be provided. The meeting will include election of new officers, budget approval, etc.

Budget Year 2005-2006

Budget Committee members Julie Johnson, Sarah Wyrick, Kay Smalley and Jim Calvert have proposed the following budget:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BUDGET YEAR 2005-2006

INCOME		Budget	Year to Date	Proposed Budget
Code	Item	2004-2005	'2004-2005	2005-2006
1	Memberships	\$1,675.00	\$1,700.00	\$2,120.00
1.1			\$275.00	
1.2	Sustaining	\$1,050.00	\$930.00	\$1,320.00
1.3	Household	\$605.00	\$495.00	\$780.00
1.4	Student	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
2	Contributions	\$2,100.00	\$1,270.00	\$1,800.00
2.1	Members	\$200.00	\$25.00	\$350.00
2.2	Unrestricted	\$1,700.00	\$1,040.00	\$1,500.00
2.3	Ed. Fund	\$200.00	\$205.00	\$2,200.00
3	Misc Income	\$1,044.00	\$611.78	\$712.50
3.1	Interest	\$150.00	\$38.78	\$50.00
3.2	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.3	Meals	\$300.00	\$173.00	\$175.00
3.4	From Reserve	\$594.00	\$400.00	\$487.50
TOTAL INCOME		\$4,819.00	\$3,581.78	\$4,882.50
EXPENDITURES				
6		\$200.00		\$200.00
6.6	LWV US ED FUND	\$200.00		\$200.00
10	Operating Costs	\$410.00	\$499.72	\$290.00
10.1	General Supplies	\$40.00	\$270.00	\$25.00
10.2	Postage	\$20.00	\$37.00	\$40.00
10.3	Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$50.00
10.4	Meals	\$300.00	\$152.72	\$175.00
11	Boards and Committees	\$260.00	\$166.65	\$250.00
11.1	President & Directors	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
11.2	Finance Drive	\$75.00	\$53.33	\$75.00
11.3	Membership/Meetings	\$160.00	\$113.32	\$150.00
11.4	Legislative Action	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	Delegates	\$500.00	\$777.00	\$600.00
12.1	State Council/Conventions	\$300.00	\$165.00	\$200.00
12.2	National Convention/Counc	\$0.00	\$612.00	\$200.00
12.3	Workshop/League Day	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
13	National & State Support	\$2,034.00	\$1,925.66	\$2,257.50
13.1	PMP LWVK	\$940.00	\$1,040.00	\$1,050.00
13.2	PMP LWVUS @ \$21	\$1,094.00	\$680.66	\$1,207.50
13.3	LWVUSEF	\$205.00	\$205.00	
14	Voter	\$340.00	\$150.16	\$240.00
14.1	Voter Printing	\$250.00	\$91.79	\$150.00
14.2	Voter Postage	\$75.00	\$48.84	\$75.00
14.3	Supplies	\$15.00	\$9.53	\$15.00
15	Educational Activities	\$925.00	\$116.35	\$895.00
15.1	Publications	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
15.2	Program - all levels	\$50.00	\$6.50	\$50.00
15.3	Guide to Government	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
15.4	Voter Service	\$25.00	\$109.85	\$25.00
15.5	Ed Fund Grant Servic3	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Action in the Community	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$150.00
16.1	Action in the Community	\$25.00	\$70.00	\$25.00
16.2	To Reserves	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16.3	Web Page	\$125.00	\$130.00	\$125.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$4,819.00	\$3,835.54	\$4,882.50

Proposed Local Study, 2005-6:

The LWVE board recommends an update of the current position on Housing. This was last studied in 1985 and has not been updated since. The Board recommends that all other local positions be retained.

Nominating Committee Report:

Nominees for officers and directors beginning two-year terms on April 1, 2005:

1 st Vice President:	Doris Slocombe	
Secretary:	Tracey Graham	
Treasurer:	Jack Havenhill	
Board of Directors:	Betty Campbell	Mary Everhart
	Jackie Scott	Diana Solis

Submitted by the nominating committee

Cathy Hoy, chair; Lois Schrock, Kay Smalley, Betty Campbell and Doris Slocombe

Continuing one-year positions:

President:	Kay Calvert
2 nd Vice President:	Ann Havenhill
Board of Directors:	Bill Jenson.

Support Our Troops with the Gift of Literature

I am involved in a program with the library which sends books to soldiers overseas. We send two boxes of books each month. There are 40 - 50 books in each box. I need more names and addresses of soldiers. If you know someone, please contact me with his/her name and address and I will put them on the list. We will continue this program for a long time, so we hope to reach many soldiers. We have already sent out 11 boxes since Sept. 2004. Book donations will be gratefully accepted. If you would like to sponsor the postage on a box, checks can be made out to Friends of Emporia Public Library; earmark your check to Books to Iraq. Deliver books, or mail checks and/or soldier names and addresses to Friends of the Library at 110 E. 6th Ave.

Thanks, Doris Slocombe

A Day of Celebration

On January 20, Doris and I joined a terrific crowd for a rally in celebration of the 32nd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. What a great group of people! We listened to a number of speakers in the morning, including a bright young sophomore from Shawnee Mission High, and State Representatives Annie Keuther (Topeka) and Paul Davis (Lawrence). We then pinned our bright, friendly "Trust Women" buttons and delivered packages of information and expressions of support for Pro-choice (provided by the Kansas Choice Alliance) to representatives and senators. We visited with Don Hill, and dropped in at Jim Barnett's office to leave a message. It was great to spend a day with others who value the ability to choose and we were reminded that one of our greatest enemies is complacency. It was heartening to see so many young women there who recognize the seriousness of past struggles and are not taking their rights for granted.

Tracey Graham

Voter Education

Kay Calvert, Tracey Graham, Ann Havenhill and Kay Smalley assisted in a mock voting experience at Emporia High School on February 8. Students checked in, just as they would at a precinct, received a voting card and used the voting machines to vote for King and Queen of Winter Sports. A great time was had by all!

Do my elected officials want to hear from me?

I have been told by many elected officials that they really, really want to hear from their constituents. The League is known to have members that really, really want to make a difference and want to be heard. Now, those two things might not be compatible. You might send many messages and you might be heard or you might be ignored. I have been given much advice as to how to contact your legislator. I really believe that you should focus on getting the message to your elected official. THAT should be your only concern. If you focus on the outcome, you might get depressed, frustrated, even suicidal. (I think I felt that way after the last election.)

So, this is what I do. I believe that when you receive a legislative alert, you should make a phone call. My phone card from Sam's charges me a whopping 3 cents a minute. That is so much cheaper than a letter or fax. The secretaries that answer the phones for Barnett and Hill are wonderful. (I don't call Long-Mast because she is not in my district.) If you are reading your e-reports that come every two weeks from our state President Janis McMillen, you can trust this is the most up-to-date info you can receive. If the advice is to contact your legislator at the state level, just email him/her. Barnett and Hill do read their emails. I receive responses from them so I know they do. The e-reports come every two weeks and so you must try to email soon after the advice is given because the bill may have been voted on by the time you email. They can just delete it, but your voice hasn't been heard. I believe their secretaries read the emails and tally the votes pro or con on the bills. The legislator can then decide if he /she will vote with his constituents or not.

This year I started a new program. I sent Barnett and Hill a "State of My Mind" address on January 1 before the session began. I laid out my opinions on all my "pet" issues, i.e., women's reproductive choice, death penalty, wind farms, education finance, marriage amendment, etc. I included articles from Wall Street Journal, New York Times and other periodicals to back up my position. It was quite a packet. Both of them responded positively when they met me later and I believe they skimmed it but GOT the message. That is the goal. You might not change their minds, but they must know you care enough about your message to send it. They also know that those who bother to send them their message talk to others about how they feel. All of those people VOTE, too.

At the federal level I make a phone call. I don't think they can wade through the tons of emails they receive daily. They get more junk mail than me, and I get tons. U. S. Rep. Moran stated it takes 3 months for letters to get to him if they are mailed to his DC office because of the anthrax scare. I haven't tried to mail to his KC office, but that might work better. In any case, sending a letter will definitely slow down the process of getting your message to your representative. A phone call to the President, US Senator, US Representative is always answered by polite people who take down your message, probably log it under some category, and tally up how the constituents are thinking on a particular issue.

Once again, keep in mind that this phone call from you might not change their opinion or their vote. Your message is important. The goal is to give them YOUR message. Your phone message should state unequivocally YES or NO on bill XYZ or just YES/NO on abortion, privatizing social security, wind farms in the Flint Hills, no new taxes, etc. They will want to know your city and zip code. **Keep it brief.** These people will NOT write down your justification for your opinion. That is why I sent my "State of My Mind" address. It was out of session and maybe at a time when they could really listen to me. I might have been fooling myself but I felt good about it.

Next time, we will talk about how to find out about bills and track their progress through the bowels of justice and then how to find out how your elected officials voted.

Doris Slocombe

DNet Update, a Tough Job Well-Done!

The following are excerpts from a letter sent to Doris by Olivia Thorne, Chair of the Technology Committee for the LWVEF Board of Trustees. We'd like LWVE members to share in our tremendous appreciation for Doris' hard work.

Dear Doris,

I want to thank you for all your work on DemocracyNet (DNet) during the 2004 election cycle. The dedication and energy you devoted to the League's online voter education efforts helped make Capwiz™ Election with DNet one of the most useful and sought-after voter education tools available. Thanks to your efforts, DNet successfully fulfilled its mission of providing comprehensive and unbiased candidate information to voters across the nation. ...

Your work was invaluable to the success of DNet... thank you for making DNet such a success this year.

Included with the letter were the following, very impressive, statistics of accomplishment:

Capwiz™ Election with DNet covered **25,000 candidates** in over **5,800 primary and general elections** in 2004.

Over **90% of all federal candidates**, over **75% of all statewide candidates**, including governors, and almost **20% of all state legislative candidates** had at least one issue statement in DNet.

Over **3,000 candidate issue statements** were available to voters for the general election.

Capwiz™ Election with DNet earned record traffic: **15 million Capwiz™ Election page views on Election Day alone**, and more than **50 million page views between January and November 2, 2004**.

Capwiz™ Election with DNet was available on over **200 web sites** and **media portals**.

DNet was mentioned in **~35 print publications**, and had links in **many association e-newsletters** and **online news sites**.

DNet was promoted through state and local League activities; national partnerships; action coalition partners; and the '5 Things You Need To Know On Election Day' media campaign.

LWV created and distributed nearly **45,000 brochures** to candidates and voters.

LWVEF was responsible for providing candidate and ballot measure content and creating volunteer support materials.

League members in **45 states** logged approximately **50,000 hours** throughout the year, at an estimated value of nearly **\$1 million**, conducting outreach to candidates and others, and promoting DNet in their communities.

Kay Calvert and Tracey Graham

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