



# VOTER

Emporia, Kansas  
www.emporia.com/lwve

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## Calendar

- November 9**      **Tall Grass Prairie Governance\***  
Wed. 7:30 pm, St. Mark's
- November 16**    **Board Meeting**  
Wed. 7 pm, Ann & Jack Havenhill's, 1702 W 13<sup>th</sup> St.
- December 3**     **Annual Legislative Brunch\***  
Sat. 9:30 am, Skyline Room, ESU Union (\$10/person, bring a guest!)
- December 7**     **Board Meeting**  
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West St.
- January 11**      **Housing Study**  
Wed. 7 pm, St. Mark's
- January 18**      **Board Meeting**  
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West St.
- January 25**      **TBA, Health Dept. or JJA**  
Wed. 7 pm, St. Mark's
- January 28**      **Eggs and Issues**  
Sat. 8 am, Sauder Alumni Center, ESU Union
- February 8**      **TBA, Health Dept. or JJA**  
Wed. 12 pm, Union
- February 15**     **Board Meeting**  
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West St.
- February 22**     **Flint Hills Tech Governance**  
Wed. 12 pm, Union
- March 4**         **Eggs and Issues**  
Sat. 8 am, Location TBA
- April 1**          **Eggs and Issues**  
Sat. 8 am, Location TBA

\* See Kay's Komments below

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

## **Kay's Komments**

It is hard to believe it is already November!! We will have only one meeting this month. Steve Miller of Tall Grass Prairie fame will follow up on our meeting last year about the Park. I'm sure he will be able to answer all the questions we had about the relationships between the organizations that make the Preserve work. Then in December we will have our annual Brunch with the Legislators. If you have a friend who is thinking about joining us this is a good time to bring them. We will even pay for their meal.

Beginning in January the evening meetings that are not at noon will start at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30 as we continue to experiment with meeting times and places. Be sure to check your Voter or call me or Tracey if you have questions. Every member should be contacted by phone or e-mail before each meeting. If you aren't getting a reminder please let me, another Board member, or Marilyn Krueger know. We think we have everyone covered but we could be wrong.

See you at the Tall Grass Meeting.

*Kay Calvert*

## **State Study: Mental Health**

September 24th saw Leaguers from all over Kansas converge in Topeka in a room at the state capitol to be introduced to our state study on MENTAL HEALTH in Kansas. Nine (9) members of the Emporia LWV attended. Roy Menninger, who is retired and remains in residence in Topeka and is active as the Chair of the Ks. Mental Health Coalition, was our Keynoter. Menninger and Kansas were the gold standard by which all programs and treatment were measured, at one time. All that has changed now. This meeting introduced us to the current status of Mental Health in Kansas. We heard from several panels re: the MH delivery system and funding streams as well as from consumers of MH services and representative professionals thru-out the state. The meeting was capped off with professional and academic leadership discussing critical issues facing Kansas in Mental Health and some of the Policy Directions to be considered. We will be starting our local League study of Mental Health in Kansas in early 2006.

*Jacque James*

## **Recreation Study: Consensus Meeting 10/26**

Tentative Recreation Consensus: Upon approval by the board, the following will be brought before the members for possible adoption at the 2006 Annual LWVE Meeting.

The League of Women Voters of Emporia strongly supports the establishment of an interagency agreement between the Emporia Recreation Commission, the School Board for USD 253 and the City of Emporia. This agreement should establish clear lines of authority and sources of revenue for the maintenance and improvements of the parks and recreation facilities. This would allow for scheduled replacement of equipment and better planning for the future recreation and park needs for everyone. This agreement should include a provision for periodic review. We also believe that patrons who use the Recreation Building and the Aquatic Center or participate in programs sponsored by the Recreation Commission who live outside the tax base area should pay higher fees than those whose taxes support the Recreation Commission.

*Bill Jensen*

## **Member News:**

**Sue Blechl** has a new address: 1925 W 24th St #307

**Mary Everhart** has a new email address: maryeverhart@sbcglobal.net

**Tracey Graham** has a new email address: tracey\_graham@sbcglobal.net

## **Local Study: Housing**

In 1985 after a two-year study, the LWVE concluded that Emporia should have a minimum housing code because it would be beneficial to both landlords and tenants. The following statement was adopted by LWVE.

### *Housing, 1985*

*Following a two-year study of housing in Emporia and housing codes in comparable communities, the League of Women Voters of Emporia concluded that a minimum housing code would be beneficial to both landlords and tenants, and would serve to maintain the quality of housing. The League recommends that Emporia adopt a code patterned after the Uniform Housing code, prepared and published by the International Conference of Building Officials. (Other codes---the Uniform Building Code and the Uniform Mechanical Code---prepared by that organization are already in place in the city.)*

*The LWVE should take the initiative in the creation of a citizen's committee, made up of landlords, tenants, real estate professionals, representatives of home loan agencies, neighborhood associations, and other appropriate parties to adapt the Uniform Code to be consistent with requirements of Emporia's circumstances. Such a code should be compatible with the Emporia-Lyon County Long Range Plan (comprehensive plan).*

On January 1, 2003, Section 17-65 was added to the Code of the City of Emporia regarding rental housing. Specifically, a minimum housing code standard was added. The rental code applies to all units in Emporia. That is an important distinction because the Fair Housing Laws only cover a landlord/tenant if the landlord has four units.

The exclusions in the minimum code for rental housing include:

- Hotels or motels
- Hospitals, nursing homes
- Campgrounds
- Fraternities and sororities
- State licensed group homes

The minimum standards are:

- A bathroom with a toilet, lavatory basin, and tub or shower properly connected to a public water system; hot and cold water
- An installed and maintained heating system able to maintain 60 degrees in all livable rooms
- An installed and maintained electrical system which is safe to the structure
- One function UL approved smoke detector for each level of the unit
- An unobstructed means of egress leading to ground level

The minimum housing enforcement is handled by a public officer authorized to inspect dwellings and structures upon notice to the owner, occupant or other person in charge of the dwelling. If any of those individuals refuse to permit access and entry, the public officer can petition and obtain a warrant from the district court.

Section 17-65, Rental Housing, is scheduled to expire December 31, 2005.

*Cathy Hoy/Jackie Scott/Diana Solis*

## **Elsewhere in Kansas:**

On October 20, I had the privilege of attending a talk by Susan Stamberg, special correspondent for NPR, on “The Role of Inspiring Women”. The talk was sponsored by the LWV of Johnson County and was absolutely wonderful. Ms. Stamberg has been with NPR since 1971, and has had the opportunity to interview many fascinating people and cover many fascinating stories. She shared with us stories of five Inspiring Women with whom she had the opportunity to interact: Miep Giess, her mother-in-law Sarah Hutt, Georgia O’Keefe, Betsy Wilson (founder of Let’s Face It), and Lily Sinasee (founder of the Let’s Talk movement). It was a wonderful hour, followed with a question-and-answer period. I’m so very glad I was there.

*Tracey Graham*

## **League Online with New Websites: [www.lwvk.org](http://www.lwvk.org)**

The new website is designed by League Easy Web in California. I learned about this company at a national convention of the league. This company is run by League members and they know how we look for things on the web and what the League members will want to see. I like the simplicity of the new website and I urge all local Leagues in the state of KS to send me notices they would like to see on the KS League page. It gets the information to so many.

*Doris Slocombe*

Following Doris’ lead, the Emporia league website is almost up and running. As soon as I get some formatting issues worked out, I’ll let you know via email. The website can be viewed now at [www.emporia.lwv.org](http://www.emporia.lwv.org) . If you see anything that needs changing, PLEASE contact me via email ([tracey\\_graham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tracey_graham@sbcglobal.net)).

*Tracey Graham*

Please return to:  
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