



VOTER

Emporia, Kansas
www.emporia.com/lwve

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Calendar

- August 26** **Social**
Fri. 5-7 pm, Cathy and Jim Hoy's, 938 Rd 130
- August 31** **Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West St.
- September 14** **State Study Kick-Off: Tour of Mental Health Center**
Wed. 7:30 pm, 1000 Lincoln St.
- September 21** **Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West St.
- September 24** **State League Day**
Sat. 9 am-2 pm, Topeka
- September 27** **EHS Homecoming Royalty Election**
Tues. 9 am -1:10 pm, Emporia High School
- September 28** **Recreation Study Consensus**
Wed. 7:30 pm, St. Mark's
- October 12** **Local Study Kick-Off: Housing**
Wed. 7:30 pm, St. Mark's
- October 19** **Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West St.
- October 26** **Tall Grass Prairie Governance**
Wed. 7:30 pm, St. Mark's
- November 9** **Lyon County Fair Board**
Wed. 7:30 pm, St. Mark's
- November 16** **Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West St.
- December 3** **Legislative Brunch**
- December 7** **Board Meeting**
Wed. 7 pm, Kay Calvert's, 1230 West St.

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 Comments

Boy did this summer go fast! Seems like it was just yesterday that we had our last meeting and now it is time to gear up for another year. You will get this Voter about the time we have our annual August Social and new member recruiting evening. Please feel free to bring your spouse and anyone who is interested in seeing what the League is like.

We are very happy to welcome Jackie James back to Emporia and have put her right to work. She will be chairing the state study on mental health services. The LWVK committee is in the process of planning "State League Day". This is a meeting in Topeka at the Capitol that happens every other year to kick off the new state study. It takes place on a Saturday (September 24) from about nine to two with lunch served in the third floor hall. This is always worth the trip and giving up a Saturday. I hope you will mark it on your calendar as soon as the date is set. We will car pool so call me or any Board member so we can take the minimum number of cars.

One of the first things I did after joining the League was to become the first observer for the County Health Department Board. That was when the County Sanitation Officer was in "charge" and Ione Noyse and a secretary were the Health Department. It was a great way to begin to get involved in the League and its programs. At the time I was a stay-at-home mom and this was a job substitute for me. Today we don't have very many stay-at-home moms or dads and our observer program has pretty much died. The purpose of the observer from the League is two-fold. You are there just watching at most sessions so you can alert the League if we need to take action on an upcoming issue and you are THERE which often makes a difference in the way business is conducted. Way back when I observed the Health Department I was told that the meetings became much more to the point and businesslike because I was sitting there. We do make a difference. The other thing I think we have done to the Observers is not take their role in our League and community seriously enough. I hope there are some of you, particularly new members, who would like to start your League career this way. Give me a call and we will fix you up with a Board or Commission to watch and I promise we will go back to having an Observer Meeting every year.

Thanks to Betty Campbell and Jackie Scott the Guide to Governments are printed, collated, stapled, and mostly distributed. We will have them at the Social so be sure to pick up some for your friends. We will also have a printed recap of the Legislative session (minus the special session) for you at the Social. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Social and meeting new people who would like to join us.

Kay Calvert

LWVE to assist with High School Election

The Emporia League has been asked to assist with the Homecoming King and Queen Election at Emporia HS. The County Clerk's office will set up the touch screen voting machines and Leaguers are being asked to staff the election at the high school on Tuesday, September 27th from 9am until around 1pm. We will need four workers for each shift: 9 am to 11 am and 11 am to 1 pm. We've done this before and it is a lot of fun. If you are available to help with this project I will have a sign-up sheet at the Summer Social, or you may contact me at 342-7944 or by email: havenhim@emporia.edu.

Ann Havenhill

Advocacy in Action

Two important functions of LWV are to advocate for League positions and to inform members of political issues of importance and interest. With this in mind, we have formed a local Action Committee to relay information on local issues to members, increase advocacy locally, and help increase the efficacy of the observer program. We will be implementing a plan to relay information to members that hopefully will serve both to inform members of local issues and to advocate for League positions at the local level. We will be sending emails addressed either as Action Alerts or FYIs. Action Alerts will be reserved for current issues that the LWV has a position on and will include information on the issue, the League's position, and contact information for person(s) to call or write in case you wish to share your opinion. Of course, any opinions expressed are not endorsed by the League and therefore should not be associated with the League. FYI emails will pertain to issues of interest, such as the Lyon County Fairgrounds or Sunday Liquor Sales, that we do not have a position on, and will include general information on the issue and where to go to get more information on the topic. These emails also will serve to inform members of happenings of importance at local boards/ committees that are attended by our observers and should help to increase the efficacy of the observer program. If you have an issue or topic of interest that you would like to be sent out as either an Action Alert or FYI, please email Doris Slocomb (partying@osprey.net) or myself (everhart-m@hotmail.com). We hope to hear from you.

Mary Everhart

Report: LWVUS Council 2005

In June I attended the LWVUS Council 2005. I was pleasantly surprised at the differences between council and convention. Convention is so much bigger and we talk about policy. At Council we talk more about the work that League does at national level and talk about ways to improve our leagues at all levels. At Council I was able to recognize people I met the day before or one hour before because we might cross paths. Over 800 people were at convention, less than 200 at council. I met presidents of local leagues, presidents of state leagues and the national president. Kay Maxwell, our national president, had time to talk to anyone who wanted to talk to her. I was interested to know her opinion about the many causes adopted by the league. It seemed we are spread to thin in some areas. She said that every local league should match their message with the message in the local community. Kay Calvert has been quick to remark about concerns in the community at public meetings and in the Gazette. I appreciate that. It wasn't all business because I was able to see a Toulouse-Lautrec's exhibit at the National Art Gallery, my favorite place in DC.

Doris Slocombe

Report: Naturalization Ceremony

On Friday, July 29, Doris and I drove to Kansas City, KS to witness the swearing in of 84 new U.S. citizens. It was a truly moving ceremony and reminded both of us of how very much we take for granted. Each individual was asked to stand when their name was called and state what country they came from originally. Thirty-three countries were represented. For those of us who attended a talk by Monica Hashjmi a couple of years ago to learn what a difficult and complicated process it is to apply for and complete qualifications for naturalization, it's heartening to see so many good and productive people willing to make that effort. We joined representatives of LWV of KCK and of Johnson County in congratulating these new citizens and providing voter information and Voter Registration forms. Doris and I would like to go back at least once a year. There is a ceremony on the last Friday of every month, mostly in KC, although some are in Wichita and there is one each year in Topeka. If you think you'd like to join us, talk to us about when would be a good month for you. It is truly an amazing event!

Tracey Graham

LWVE Officers: 2005-2006

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Member News: Sue Blechl's new address is: 1925 W 24th Ave. #307

Elsewhere in Kansas

The Wichita LWV is hosting a number of events in celebration of the 85th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. We would like to invite all of you and your League members to come to two upcoming events especially.

On August 26, we are sponsoring a speech by former Senator Nancy Kassebaum at WSU Hughes Metroplex Center at 29th and Oliver. It is free and open to the public. On October 18 we will also have the TV commentator and author of "Founding Sisters", Eleanor Clift. Please spread the word and please encourage Leaguers and friends to come. We have a big auditorium and do want to see it full.

In an effort to educate and spread the word about the importance of that 19th Amendment we have suffragist re-enactors and a 15 minute skit we provide as programs for groups. I wrote the skit and if you would like a copy for your celebration I will email it to you.

We are still struggling to cover the expenses of all our big events though we have had many generous donors. If you feel you can help us out, write a tax-deductible check to the LWV Wichita Metro Education Fund. We are suggesting to our members \$85 for the 85th but would be grateful for any help anyone can give.

Ernestine Krehbiel, co-President, LWV Wichita Metro More info available at ekrehbiel@cox.net

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

There would be: 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere (both north and south), 8 Africans.

52 would be female, 48 would be male; 70 would be nonwhite, 30 would be white; 70 would be non-Christian, 30 would be Christian; 89 would be heterosexual, 11 would be homosexual; 1 would be near death, 1 would be near birth.

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States, 80 would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read, 50 would suffer from malnutrition.

1 (yes, *only* 1) would have a college education, and only 1 would own a computer.

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

The following is also something to ponder:

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ... you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world. If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death ... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world. If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... you are richer than 70% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace ... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married ... you are very rare, even in the United States and Canada. If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

Someone once said: What goes around comes around.

Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching. Sing! like nobody's listening.

Many thanks to LWVK President Janis McMillen for sending this via email. Truly thought-provoking...

**Please return to:
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