

The Kansas Voter



April 2009

League of Women Voters of Kansas

Working together...for Kansas

“Winds of Change” Bring Convention ‘09

■ League Members

Welcomed to

Great Bend

Winds of Change is an exciting concept as we come to Convention this year. “Our state joins the nation in meeting the challenges, opportunities and choices that will shape our lives in the days to come. The League in Great Bend is happy to host the ‘09 Convention, and we look forward to your visit here,” says Convention co-chairman Beverly Komarek. “Our committee members are making careful preparations to welcome you. If you are able to arrive a little early or stay a little late, we have area attractions that are worth visiting. Call or e-mail ahead for information about some of the unique things to explore here in the middle of the state. Make plans soon to join us!”

The convention will be held at the Highland Hotel, 3017 West 10th Street, Great Bend, on May 2, 2009, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Convention Highlights

Dr. Scott Brantley, Great Bend chiropractor and environmentalist, will be the keynote speaker following the convention luncheon. Three years ago he started his wind energy business, West Wind Energy LLC, primarily because of an unsatisfactory wind turbine purchase from E-bay. His \$15,000 turbine ended up costing over \$65,000 to make operational. Dr. Brantley’s concerns also include

lack of sales, installation, or maintenance for small to mid-size wind turbines in the state. He vowed, “No one else should have to go through the nightmare of an E-bay purchase as I did.”

Stephanie Johnson, LWVUS Board Liaison, will be the morning speaker. She will deliver an update on LWVUS programs and activities as well as explain the many changes the National League is making to cut costs and increase effectiveness during this crossroads in our history.

For further information, call the League office in Topeka, 785-234-5152. 3

Nominating Committee Report

The slate of nominees for officers and directors for 2009-2011 is:

President: Ernestine Krehbiel, Wichita

1st Vice President: Diane Kuhn, Johnson County

Secretary: Linda Johnson, MAL

Directors: Eleanor Browning, Emporia

Kaye Crawford, Salina

Pat Dooley, Wichita

Jean Lee, Manhattan

Nominating Committee 2009-2011

Diane Kuhn, Johnson County, Chair

Kay Calvert, Emporia

Betsy Rohleder, Topeka

Respectfully submitted,

Janis McMillen, Johnson County, Chair

Sharon Ailsieger, Wichita

Carrie Lindsey, Lawrence

Jurina Watts, Manhattan

Thanks for the Opportunity

by Diane Kuhn, LWVK President

These past two years have truly proved a rewarding experience as I have worked with League members from around the state and around the country as well. I have long admired the intellect, competence, and perseverance of Leaguers, but I now stand in awe of so many members who have taught me so much and have been so willing to commit their time and talent to uphold League’s integrity and ensure its effectiveness. I am deeply indebted to LWVK Board members who made my job easier by always saying “yes” when I asked and by generously sharing their honest opinions, creative ideas, and unflinching willingness to do whatever needed to be done. Working together we have made a difference in educating voters and promoting democratic principles in Kansas government. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this endeavor. 3

Convention ‘09 Winds of Change

May 2, 2009
in Great Bend

Registration Form
on page 3

Proposed Budget for 2009–2010

by Lee Rowe

INCOME	
Support:	
Local Leagues	\$10,278.00
MAL	\$400.00
Interest	\$150.00
Contributions	
Member	\$2,000.00
Nonmember	\$100.00
Other Projects	\$50.00
Publications	\$50.00
Meetings:	
Convention 2009	\$100.00
Day at the Capitol	\$700.00
State League Day	\$700.00
Other	\$22.00
Endowment:	\$1,000.00
Savings:	\$2,500.00
Other:	
Ed. Fund	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$19,050.00

EXPENSES	
Operating:	
Capital Expenditures	\$200.00
Fees and Contracts	\$400.00
Insurance	\$850.00
Office Services	\$2,500.00
Rent	\$3,600.00
Postage	\$800.00
Supplies	\$400.00
Telephone/DSL	\$850.00
Web Page	\$50.00
Other Operating	\$25.00
Board:	
Adm. Committee	\$25.00
Board Meeting	\$150.00
Board Operating	\$75.00
President	\$400.00
Secretary	\$0.00
Treasurer	\$100.00

Finance:	
Administration	\$150.00
Project	\$50.00
Sales Tax	\$5.00
LWVK Meetings	
Convention 2009	\$500.00
Day at the Capitol	\$800.00
State League Day	\$500.00
Other	\$20.00
LWVUS Meetings	
Council 2009	\$500.00
Training:	
Membership	\$50.00
Organization	\$25.00
MAL Dues	\$100.00
Publications	
Other	\$25.00
Study and Action	\$50.00
Voter	\$1,600.00
Education	
Program	\$50.00
Study	\$100.00
Voter Service	\$1,000.00
Action	
Coalition Memberships	\$100.00
Lobby Corps	\$3,000.00

Total Expense **\$19,050.00**

Overall Total **\$0.00**

This budget, along with the slate of nominees and the proposed program will be voted on at the convention on May 2. 3

Endowment Report

by Edith Bronson

In response to the 2007 LWVK State Convention vote, the Endowment Fund Trustees moved investments to Vanguard Life/Strategy Moderate Growth fund. Moderate Growth, the equivalent of a balanced fund, is invested in more stocks than bonds because stocks perform better over

the long run, overcoming inflation risk and helping the Fund to grow.

Money from the zero-coupon bonds, which were sold last fiscal year in order to collect interest, was invested over the summer slump into Moderate Growth. When the 2008 fall market dropped instead of recovering, Trustees moved the Fund to Conservative Growth for the short term because it maintains an asset mix of more bonds than stocks and has short-term cash reserves that are paying higher returns.

Conservative Growth paid a dividend of 3.85% for the fourth quarter adding 31.855.45 shares to the Fund. Vanguard charges no fees for buying or selling, is professionally managed for the low cost of .28% a year, and generally out-performs do-it-yourselfers by over 3% per annum.

During my January 27, 2009, discussion of the Fund with the LWVK Board, it voted to request that more than 10% of earnings be reinvested next fiscal year while stock is "on sale." And the Board decided that more flexibility in the fund articles would be appropriate.

The first proposed change is:
ARTICLE V: POWERS OF TRUSTEES

4. To pay to the LWVK annually up to 90% of the income from the Fund, after conferring with the State Board and after deduction of operating expenses, with the balance to be re-invested.

Because a \$5,000 Treasury bond due 11/15/21 paying 8% is still in the portfolio, a second change adds an amendment:

ARTICLE VI: INVESTMENTS:

Trustees may retain other investments yielding more than the Life Strategy Fund. 3

Complete articles (along with changes proposed two years ago) are in the March 2007 *Voter* on the LWVK web site.

Other trustees of the LWVK Endowment Fund are Treasurer Betty Wyckoff and Secretary Ellen Estes.

Timely Topics for Programs

The Topeka and Johnson County Leagues gave rave reviews for Paul Johnson's presentation on the effects of state budget cuts for social services for the rest of this fiscal year and 2010. Paul has been a legislative advocate for over 26 years lobbying for poverty programs such as public assistance payments, affordable housing, energy assistance and child support. He is the major contributor to the LWVK Legislative E-Reports.

Eileen Horn, Climate and Energy Project of the Salina Land Institute, brought effects of climate change to Johnson County League's attention in her presentation, "Climate Change Hits Home: Challenges and Solutions for Kansas." Leaguers and community members who came after reading about the program in the newspaper were impressed by her professional

Power Point presentation and her scientific expertise. This program is available to all Kansas Leagues. 3

Proposed Program

ALWVK Study Committee recommends the following change in the wording of the position on education governance:

Current position:

6. Governance of all public post-secondary education including Washburn University, by a separate board. Washburn University should become a state-regulated institution only if the change does not diminish funding for the current Regents institutions.

Proposed position:

6. Governance of all post-secondary education by a board separate from the State Board of Education. 3

Study for 2009-2011

Rather than choose a specific study for the next biennium the LWVK Board has chosen to focus time on Advocacy for Present Positions.

Other recommendations were: Home Schooling, How to Provide Health Care for All Citizens, Sustainable Energy Plan, and Comprehensive Review of All State Tax Exemptions.

The Board appreciates all the thoughtful comments and suggestions submitted from Local Leagues and will give them serious consideration in our future planning. 3

Did you know?

You can access all of LWVK's positions on our web site, www.lwvk.org. 3

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS CONVENTION 2009

May 2, 2009 — 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Winds of Change

Name _____

League _____

League responsibility _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime telephone _____

I am attending as a delegate _____ nonvoting member _____ guest _____

I will need a table to sell wares _____

Registration Fee (includes continental breakfast and lunch) \$53.00 ____

LWVK Board Members \$27.00 ____

Payment to: League of Women Voters of Great Bend, P.O. Box 1666, Great Bend, KS 67530 by April 28.

Contact: Bev Komarek, 620-792-2821

Hotel accommodations are available at the Highland Hotel, 3017 West 10th Street, phone toll-free 1-866-212-7122. Room rates are \$64 plus tax for one king-size or two double beds. To receive contract rates, attendees must identify they are League members attending the conference. Rates apply for both Friday and Saturday nights. Guest rooms as confirmed will be held on a tentative basis until April 17.

LWVK Offers Training

by Kay Hale

The success of local Leagues requires leadership. Perhaps that's why "Concepts of Leadership" became a priority topic for the LWVK training this year.

On February 21, eighteen League members participated in a training session held in Johnson County. Jurina Watts, LWVK Board and Manhattan-Riley County League member, facilitated the session. She defined leadership as "a process by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs the organization in a way that makes it more cohesive."

Additional training sessions may be held upon request of local Leagues. To make a training request, please contact Kay Hale: kayhale@sunflower.com 3

League's Generous Donors

Many thanks to all who have so generously responded to our 2009 Finance Drive. As of February 25 those donors include:

Susan Aber	William Arnold
Gaye Badeker	Wanda Brussell
Marilyn Bynum	Ruth Cathcart-Rake
Sarah Dean	Jan Durrett
Elnora Hazelrigg	Susan Himes
Linda R. Johnson	Carol Jory
Nancy Kindling	Diane Kuhn
Jean Lee	
Mrs. Robert Lichtwart	
Eleanor Lowe	Janis McMillen
Ted and Marge Mintun	
Peggy Neal	Betsy Rohleder
Ed and Lee Rowe	
Mrs. Kenneth Rowen	
William and Donna Rutledge	
Joy Schell	Joseph Stein
Joan Strickler	Myrna Stringer
Ruth Wilkin	Carmen Wilson
Karen Winn	

Final Call to Convention *Winds of Change*

Agenda
May 2, 2009

8:30	Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:00	Call to Order, Opening Business Session; Stephanie Johnson, LWVUS Liaison, Remarks
11:45	Luncheon; Speaker, Dr. Scott Brantley, <i>Wind Turbine Challenges</i>
1:15	Concurrent Workshops: <i>LWV Board Training To Be Announced</i>
2:30	Business Session
3:30	Break
3:45	Final Business Session
5:00	Adjournment

League of Women Voters of Kansas

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The *Kansas Voter* is published by the League of Women Voters of Kansas, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. LWVK is affiliated with the League of Women Voters of the United States and with local Leagues in Kansas communities.

President Diane Kuhn
Editor Linda R. Johnson

www.lwvk.org