

The Kansas Voter

March 2007



League of Women Voters of Kansas

Working together...for Kansas

Convention 2007

■ The League: A Legacy of Leadership

Plan to join with League members from around the state to participate in our biennial Convention on Saturday, April 28 at a Holiday Inn Select in Wichita. In addition to electing new officers and directors, and approving a program of study for the next two years, we will be joined by Judy Duffy, the LWVUS Board liaison to Kansas Leagues. Judy has generously agreed to present a workshop on Leadership Development, as well as participate with Wichita League members in a program on DC Voting Rights.

Nominations for 2007—2009 Officers and Directors

President: Diane Kuhn, Johnson County
1st Vice President: Sharon Aillslieger, Wichita
Secretary: Betsy Rohleder, Topeka
Directors: Kay Calvert, Emporia
Gwen Elliott, Topeka
Kay Hale, Lawrence
Bob Kruh, Manhattan

Nominating Committee: Janis McMillen, Chair, Johnson County
Carrie Lindsey, Lawrence
Karen McCulloh, Manhattan

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Mintun, Nominating Committee
Chair

Committee Members:

Cathy Hoy
Lee Rowe
Caleb Morse
Mary Lou Warren

Recommended Study for 2007 —2009

Water management, as related to power production and alternative energy sources

Non-recommended Studies
None

Details and registration information have been sent to all Local League Presidents. We hope every League will send its full complement of delegates! **3**

Proposed Changes in Endowment Fund Articles

Delegates at the Convention will consider the following changes in the articles of the LWVK Endowment Fund. Changes are in **bold**; deletions are *italicized* and in brackets [].

Endowment Fund Articles
Adopted April 21, 1991, Revised August, 2003, Revised April 28, 2007

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the fund shall be the League of Women Voters of Kansas Endowment Fund, the official abbreviation of which shall be the LWVK Endowment Fund and hereinafter referred to as the "FUND."

ARTICLE II: DEFINITIONS

The Board of Trustees of the FUND will be called the "Trustees." [herein]

The name of the League of Women Voters of Kansas will be called the "LWVK." [herein]

The Executive Board of the League of Women Voters of Kansas will be called the "Executive Board." [herein]

The Board of Directors of the LWVK will be called the "LWVK Board." [herein]

The biennial Council and biennial Convention of the LWVK will both be called the "regular annual meeting." [herein]

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE OF THE FUND

The purpose of the FUND is to provide to the LWVK, as beneficiary of the FUND, supplemental income derived from investment of the contributions of donors to the FUND, to be distributed on a regular basis, at least annually. The principal amount of contributions will be unencumbered for the period of the existence of the LWVK. In consideration of the purpose set out above, and in consideration also of the future gifts that others will make to this FUND for the same purpose, LWVK does hereby transfer, assign, set and deliver to [unto] the Trustees, the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10).

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Proposed Position

Mental Health Care System in Kansas

Over the past 30 years, and especially since the passage of the Mental Health Reform Act of 1991, Kansas has worked toward deinstitutionalization of people with serious mental illness, as state funding has been increasingly shifted from state hospitals to community mental health centers (CMHCs) and resources for independent living.

While integration of individuals into mainstream society is an admirable goal, service providers are failing to meet many significant needs. Community hospitals are closing inpatient psychiatric units, and the three remaining state hospitals are currently at or near capacity. The number of beds at state mental hospitals has decreased by 456 since 1991, while the state's population grew 10.6% between 1990 and 2005. Even persons admitted for psychiatric care in community hospitals are limited to stays of three to five days, with 45 days per year being the maximum paid by insurance companies.

Nationwide, individuals with serious mental illness experience high levels of unemployment, criminal incarceration and homelessness. In Kansas, the state continues to cut back on the safety net of totally state-funded programs, which are the only hope some persons have for survival.

In 2005, the League of Women Voters of Kansas (LWVK) adopted a study of mental health care in Kansas to evaluate the significant shifting of care from state mental hospitals to community-based mental health centers. This study confirms that the inadequacy of the current system has contributed to an increase in the population of the homeless mentally ill, to the incarceration of adult and juvenile offenders with mental illness, to preventable deaths among individuals with mental illness, and to the inability of service providers both

to deal appropriately with individuals in crisis and to treat the physical and mental problems of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. The following statement of position was adopted by delegates at Convention 2007.

Statement of Position

The LWVK endorses a mental health system which decreases dependence on costly emergency services, reduces poverty and homelessness among people with mental illness, reduces rates of incarceration, supports healthy recovery, and strengthens families.

To address the inadequacies found by this study, the LWVK recommends the following improvements in the existing continuum of care:

1. Services provided along this continuum should be based on consumers' needs.

2. The number of hospitals with psychiatric units and the overall number of beds for acute psychiatric care must keep pace with needs statewide.

3. Stable funding should be ensured for providers in the public mental health care system.

4. CMHCs should provide services that are more accessible and available by:

- a. allowing multiple points of entry,

- b. increasing preventive and early intervention services to the general and target populations,

- c. strengthening crisis intervention,

- d. collaborating with other agencies,

- e. using technology creatively, and

- f. offering treatments which demonstrate a measurable outcome

5. A seamless transition must be provided for the consumer from primary care in CMHCs to intermediate care in state-operated

regional inpatient units, and on to more acute care in State Mental Health Hospitals that also function as centers of excellence for research and education.

To fund these programs, the League recommends that Kansas should:

1. maximize use of state and federal dollars,

2. implement full insurance parity for mental health care,

3. distribute funds in a manner that more directly links money with services provided,

4. develop new and innovative sources of revenue from both public and private sectors, and

5. develop a public awareness campaign to educate citizens about the critical needs of the mentally ill and the obligation of all citizens to respond.

To improve mental health care services, consumers must have:

1. a wide range of transitional and long-term housing options, from fully structured to fully independent,

2. wrap-around services including physical health care, dual-diagnosis treatment, geriatric treatment and employment/education assistance,

3. an outreach program for individuals experiencing homelessness and individuals resistant to treatment,

4. effective crisis intervention,

5. humane and quality mental health policies/services within law enforcement and justice systems, and

6. quality mental health services offered in correctional systems at every level.

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SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL LEAGUES

Topeka Shawnee County League

Jan Waide, President

During this election year, we registered voters at many different locations and events, including at a table at the Downtown Farmers' Market on several Saturday mornings in the fall. We were even "caught in the act" by WIBW TV. We also manned two locations for "Kids Vote Kansas." We had a voter registration at the Community Action's "BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR." This year we gave out 100 rulers which were a big hit with the children attending. We conducted our usual mock election at the Scott Magnet School in east Topeka, complete with



registration, a primary and a general election—one of our most fun events. Only 4th and 5th graders can run for Mayor (the only position up for election). The candidates establish a "platform" and campaign for the office.

During our August Membership Event this year, Janis McMillen spoke about the history of League.

We hosted a Governmental Issues Dinner in the fall with the Mayor and City Council and County Commission members. These officials responded to questions that had been sent to them, as well as addressed questions from the audience. In March, we joined the Center for Peace and Justice to host a candidate forum for City Council and the local School Board. **3**

Wichita-Metro League

Ernestine Krehbiel, Co-President

Several key activities have brought visibility, and thus membership growth, to our League. Our membership has increased from 37 in January 2005 to 85 in January 2007! In 2006 and 2007, we partnered with the Kansas Sunshine Coalition to hold a forum on Open Government. A

grant from LWVUS allowed us to televise the 2006 forum on a state-wide cable channel. This year, the telecast will include our Co-president-elect, Pat Dooley, professor of journalism who teaches about media and the law, as a panelist along with a journalist and two open government experts.

We were busy last summer and fall with the Sedgwick County Voter Coalition that we organized to educate our residents about changes and cutbacks in our polling places; this effort is ongoing.

Our League was chosen to be one of two local League hosts for Kenyan women, as part of an exchange program undertaken by LWVUS to educate and train women in other countries about the role of women in government. In April 2006, three Kenyan women spent a week in Wichita, and I spent a week in Kenya in July. In late March of this year, five more Kenyan women will arrive to spend a week with us. In the summer, Rep. Delia Garcia, who is also a member of our League, will go to Kenya and provide training at the workshops that these ladies set up for women from all around their region. This two year project is funded by a pass through grant to the LWVUS Education Fund from the US State Department. Our success at hosting foreign visitors was acknowledged when Zaida Arguedas (LWVUS Assistant Executive Director) asked us if we would like to host visitors from the Ukraine. The Board is pretty tired at this point so we probably won't apply for that one even with such a generous compliment to be asked.

Through other grants, we were able to present a program on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, and we plan to provide public education about Washington DC voting rights—or rather education that the citizens of DC do not HAVE voting rights.

We are excited and looking forward to hosting the State Convention on April 28. See you here! **3**

Finance Drive Contributions

Many, many thanks to all of you who have so generously responded to our Finance Drive. As of March 10, those responders include: Allan Black, Bob and Jan Kruh, William and Margaret Arnold, J. Robert Fluker, Joy Schell, Joseph and Lucy Stein, Karen Mayse, Julie Johnson, Carol Jory, Bev Komarek, Betty Lichtwardt, Maxine Longstaff, Ruth Weir, Debbie Nuss, Joyce Cavarozzi, Jerri Pennington, Marilyn Chamberlin, Nancy Hambleton, Jeanne Klein, Gaye Badeker, Linda R. Johnson, Mary Lyndal Nyberg, Mike Wilson, Carol Chalmers, Sarah Dean, Carmen Wilson, Ann and Jack Havenhill, Joan and John Strickler, Cathy and Jim Hoy, Eleanor Lowe, Nancy and Bob Jefferis, Ruth Wilkin, Nancy Kindling, Elnora Hazelrigg, Mary King, Carol Worth, Dolores Carr, Susan Fischer, Dorothy Woodin, Paula Burnstein, Nona Ponder, Brad and Elizabeth Applebaum, Virginia Seaver, Larry Wilson, Carol Snyder, Mary Michener, Gordon Wiseman, Bruce and Margaret Wyatt, Janet and Stanley Roth, Jean Hiersteiner, Donna Lauffer, Joan Berkley, Dorothy Ballard, Georgia Sandlin, Linus Lauer and Janice Norlin. The State Board is very appreciative of your contributions. **3**

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF TRUSTEES ORGANIZATION

The affairs of the FUND shall be managed by a Board of Trustees comprising three Trustees [not less than three but no more than five Trustees who shall be governed by the terms and conditions of this agreement. The exact number of Trustees shall be fixed from time to time, within the foregoing limits, by the LWVK Board and may include not more than two members of the LWVK Board. The Trustees shall select a Chairman from among their number] who shall adopt such rules for the management of the FUND as they may deem proper.

[The Trustees of this FUND shall be appointed by the Board.] The LWVK Board shall appoint a Chair, a Treasurer, and a Secretary as Trustees for three-year staggered terms. As current terms expire, the Board shall appoint Trustees for a three-year term. Each trustee will be limited to two consecutive terms. In performing their duties, the Trustees shall receive no compensation other than ordinary and reasonable expenses in accordance with LWVK expense policies. (Rationale: The paper records of the FUND reflect that since the beginning, only three trustees have served at one time, and that they always have served in one office for the duration of their appointments)

VACANCIES

If a [an original] Trustee [or successor Trustee chosen as described above] resigns for any reason or is unable or unwilling to serve as a Trustee of the FUND, then the Board shall appoint a Trustee to serve the balance of the term for which that Trustee was originally appointed. In the event the Board fails to fill a vacancy among the Trustees within 90 days, the remaining Trustees may fill the vacancy by their own action, and the Trustee so appointed shall serve until the Board appoints a new Trustee.

MEETINGS

An Annual meeting of the Trustees shall be held not less than two weeks nor more than six weeks prior to the annual LWVK meeting for the purpose of preparing a report of receipts, disbursements, and net worth of the FUND to be presented at the annual meeting, and for the transaction of other appropriate business. This meeting and all others shall be open to the members of the LWVK Board who shall be notified in writing or by e-mail of the time and place of the annual FUND meeting at least 14 [fourteen] business days in advance of the meeting.

The Trustees may meet other times at their discretion. The FUND Trustees must notify the Executive board at least three business days before all other meetings of the Trustees.

VOTING AND QUORUM

Each Trustee shall have one vote, and a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

BONDS

No bond or other security shall be required of the Trustees, unless specified by the LWVK Board. The cost of any bond required shall be borne as an administrative cost of the FUND.

AUDIT

The Trustees shall arrange for a review, by a qualified party not a member of the Board of Trustees, of the books and accounts of the FUND upon the completion of each term of the treasurer. Such a review may be conducted at any other time at the discretion of the Trustees.

ARTICLE V: POWERS OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees shall have the following powers, all of which shall be held and exercised in a fiduciary capacity and shall be in addition to and not a limitation upon all common law and statutory authority:

1. To establish a set of rules or bylaws in order to conduct the business of the FUND, which shall not be in opposition to the terms of this document, but which may be in addition thereto.
2. To receive and accept on behalf of the FUND, and to add and administer as part of the FUND, all [inter vivos and testamentary] gifts of property, whether personal or real, from the general public or any other source for the purposes of the FUND.
3. To collect, recover and receive the rents, profits, dividends, interest and income of and from investment of the principal of the FUND, and to pay all proper expenses arising out of the administration of the FUND.
4. To pay to the LWVK [at least] annually [a sum of up to] 90% of the income from the FUND, after deduction of operating expenses, with the balance to be re-invested. Rationale: reinvestment of some income helps the FUND to grow. Operating expenses shall conform to LWVK expense policies, except as hereinafter provided. The principal of the FUND shall not be allocated to pay operating expenses. Expenses shall not exceed two percent of the principal value of the trust annually or two hundred dollars, whichever is greater, except upon the unanimous approval of the Trustees.
5. To institute and defend legal proceedings for the protection of the FUND and to settle, compromise and adjust any and all claims in favor of or against the FUND, in their discretion.
6. To employ professional advisors in the transaction of business of the FUND and to make payments and disbursements for their service.
7. To maintain such reserves for expenses as they deem advisable and to determine what is principal, interest, dividends or other earnings in accordance with the Kansas Uniform Principal and Income Act.

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Endowment Fund Articles, *continued from page 4*

8. To exercise generally with respect to all securities and other investments held by the FUND, all rights, powers and privileges as could be lawfully exercised with ordinary prudence by any person owning similar property in his/her own right.

9. To rely upon the authenticity of affidavits, certificates, and communication in general use and usually accepted in the course of day to day business, as genuine and what they purport to be.

10. To do any and all other acts and things necessary or advisable to effectuate the purpose of the FUND. In the exercise of any of the powers herein conferred, the Trustees shall be free and wholly exonerated from liability on the account of any honest error of judgment or by reason of acts or things prudently done, suffered or omitted in good faith without willful default or neglect.

ARTICLE VI: FUNDS AND PROPERTIES

SEPARATION

The Trustees shall keep all property of the FUND separate and distinct from their personal funds, funds or properties of the LWVK, or any other organization

INVESTMENTS

The Trustees shall invest the principal of the FUND [conservatively] prudently, but with the goal of earning the greatest amount of income possible. Acceptable securities for investment shall [include U.S. Treasury bills, notes or bonds, federally insured interest bearing savings accounts, federally insured interest bearing checking accounts, federally insured certificates of deposit and municipal bonds] be 1) a lifestyle or life-cycle index mutual fund with no load and low costs that is highly diversified among stocks and bonds, (Rationale: all moderate lifestyle funds are fully diversified and stay about 60% in stocks and 40% in bonds,

enough to control risks. Stocks are professionally picked. Vanguard's LifeStrategy fund contains about 3,750 different stocks including those that consider social and environmental issues as part of their investment strategies. Lifestyle funds are automatically balanced to keep the proper ratio of stocks to bonds. Vanguard's LifeStrategy funds have the lowest management fees of 0.28% a year. Fidelity, T. Rowe Price and American Century also have lifestyle funds; management fees from 0.6 to 1.03% a year. In a 2/28/05 Newsweek article, Jane Bryant Quinn writes that between 1999 and 2003, do-it-yourselfers underperformed the lifestyle groups by an average of 3.4% a year); 2) a companion money market fund, (Rationale the 90% earnings destined for LWVK can automatically be deposited from the Vanguard LifeStrategy fund into the Vanguard money market fund, which is among the highest interest-paying money market funds) and 3) an interest bearing checking account. (Rationale This may be a convenient place to accumulate small gifts and donations for short periods before depositing them in the money market fund).

Other income-producing properties shall be converted to one or more of the above forms, unless otherwise designated by the donor. The Trustees shall retain the right to refuse donations as unmanageable or impractical for the purposes of the FUND.

ARTICLE VII: DETERMINATION AND TERMINATION

The FUND shall terminate no more than five years after the termination of the LWVK or any successor in the interest thereof, or upon a vote of three quarters of the delegates to a regular annual meeting resolving that the purpose of the FUND has not been met.

In the event the FUND is terminated by resolution as provided above, then the Trustees shall make

distribution of all remaining funds to the LWVK Board. In the event of the dissolution of LWVK, existing Trustees of the FUND shall retain their office pending termination, subject to the provisions hereof relating to vacancy in office. Should the Trustees fail to fill any vacancy for a period of one year, the assets of the FUND shall be distributed as outlined below.

If LWVK has ceased to function as an organization and has not been reestablished within a period of five years, the Trustees shall terminate the FUND. Prior thereto the Trustees shall distribute all remaining funds to such non-profit charitable, scientific, literary or educational organizations described in Section 501 (c) (3) or 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and its Regulations, as amended, which shall in the opinion of the Board of Trustees be best able to effectuate the purpose of LWVK as those purposes are expressed in LWVK "Study and Action" or equivalent subsequent publication of LWVK.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

These articles may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the delegates at any regular annual meeting of the LWVK, upon the recommendation of the Trustees of the FUND and the LWVK Board. **3**

Proposed Position on Mental Health *continued from page 2*

Finally, the League supports the goals and recommendations of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health (*New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America*. Final Report. DHHS Pub. No. SMA-03-3832. Rockville, MD: 2003.) **3**

Farewell from Janis

As my two terms as State President come to a close, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of the State Board members who have served with me. Each year, I feel like I've had a great team to work with, and we have accomplished some very good things for our League. The support and enthusiasm of the local League residents have also contributed to

my positive feelings about being your State President. Some of my most enjoyable times were those when I visited the local Leagues, as each one is different and brings a new and interesting perspective to being a League member. I am very proud of the vital contributions that Leagues are making in their communities. You all are fantastic!

Finally, I have great confidence in the Officers and Directors who will be guiding the State League for the coming year. You are in great hands, and I wish all of you much enjoyment through your League experiences.

With respect and admiration for all of you,

Janis

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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.

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www.lwvk.org