

# The Kansas Voter

November 2007



League of Women Voters of Kansas

*Working together...for Kansas*

## League Day Initiates Water Study

### League Told to Be Ready for 2009

On the last Saturday in September about twenty League members from across the state gave up a beautiful fall day to gather at the Capitol and begin our two-year state study, "The Use of Water in the Production of Energy." After greetings by State President Diane Kuhn, Senator Marcia Francisco, Lawrence, gave a brief history of the League's studies and answered questions from the audience. Following a short break, the rest of the morning was devoted to presentations by Ken Grotewiel, recently retired from The Kansas Water Office, David Barfield, The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Acting Chief Engineer, Bill Eastman, Westar Energy, and Greg Krisseck, ICM.

Mr. Barfield began the presentations with an overview of Kansas water law. He also talked about water supplies, where and how water is used in general, and then specifically how water is used in the production of energy. Mr. Eastman spoke next about how electricity is generated and how water is used in that process. He had figures about the total electrical output for the state and how the generating plants were powered. Mr. Krisseck's company designs ethanol so his presentation dealt with that type of operation. Each of these men had Power Point presentations and the information in

those Power Points will be made available to the Local Leagues in early December.

The final presenter was Ken Grotewiel, who took an entirely different tack. As a former Kansas Legislator, he gave us advice about how to proceed with our findings once we complete our study and reach our conclusions. He strongly suggested we try to be ready for the 2009 Legislative session. As he pointed out '09 is not an election year and legislators are much more likely to concentrate on issues. He advised that we not wait till then to begin talking to our senators and representatives. Let them know now the League is studying this issue and will be possibly urging some action in '09. At the end of the presentations there were questions from the audience.

The following Saturday the Water Committee met in Topeka to begin the process of gathering materials to send to the Local League committees. We heeded Mr. Grotewiel's advice and ask that when Local League Boards plan their '08-'09 calendars they save a September or early October meeting to wrap up the water study. We need to be ready for the January 2009 session. 3

Kay Calvert, LWVK Water Study

## LWVK Offers Advocacy Training

LWVK has adopted a statement of position on many governmental issues over the years. But, is a position statement enough? Past LWV President Margaret Wells answered that question when she stated: "To reach the League's aim, study is not enough, becoming experts is not enough. Good citizenship requires not only knowledge, but the **ability to act.**" (Emphasis added.)

With that thought in mind, the LWVK is offering Advocacy Training to its members. Our purpose is to give Leaguers new insights into the political process and help them find more effective ways to influence political outcomes. We emphasize that LWVK advocacy efforts must be in keeping with the official League Program adopted at our annual meeting.

Twelve Leaguers attended the first training session, facilitated by Lawrence Leaguer Brooke Goc, on October 13th in Manhattan. She provided many helpful strategies to enable participants to become more effective and articulate advocates for League positions. A session planned for October 20th in Topeka was canceled due to low registration. Watch for future advocacy training opportunities to be announced via e-mail to Local League presidents. 3

## Bioenergy and Water in Kansas

The Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment at Kansas State University are hosting three meetings for Basin Advisory Committee members and others to learn more about the science and policy related to energy and water in Kansas. Meeting dates and locations are:

]December 5 - (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)  
Emporia State University

]December 7 - (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)  
Garden City Community College

]December 11 - (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) Ft.  
Hays State University

These meetings are free and open to the public, but space is limited. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Registration is required. Pre-registration is due by November 15. Onsite registration only if space is available.

Register online at [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org). Select Energy and Water Joint BAC Meeting under "Hot Topics." Or send registration to Kansas Water Office, 901 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS, 66612. Or call 785-296-3185.

Renewable fuel production is a topic of common interest to the state of Kansas, where increased biofuel production provides economic opportunity. It also raises questions about increased demand on a limited water supply and water quality impacts. This event will provide excellent resources for League members to supplement their research for our state study, *Use of Water in the Production of Energy in the State of Kansas*.@ Topics to be addressed include:

!History of Water Use and the Demand for Energy

!Direction of Biofuels in Kansas

!Water Use and Changes to Appropriation

!Environmental Impacts of Ethanol Plant 3

## Can Immigration Be a Contentious Issue Within the League?

*Well, now that you ask, Yes!*

The LWVUS Immigration Study Committee has established a list-serve (bulletin board) on the Internet for the members who have subscribed (anyone can) to share messages of information and opinion.

It runs comparatively cool most



of the time, but sometimes the feelings which members have shine strongly. Recently, some members have raised questions about the comprehensiveness of the consensus questions developed by the national committee as well as the format of those questions. That reflects the level of concern which League members take to their work on this project.

There is a lot of information being shared on the Internet, which indicates that, once again, the League is promoting understanding and involvement in educating the members, the community, and B later B members of Congress.

If you have not yet tapped into the League store of information on immigration or into the member thinking and writing, you may want to try it out.

Go to the LWVUS web site, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), and follow the links under *Immigration Policy?*@ to find

a list of resources. 3

Frank Neff, Johnson County

## ACMHCK Replies to LWVK MH Position

On August 27, the LWVK received a six-page letter from the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas with a detailed response to our recently-adopted position statement on Mental Health Care in Kansas. This quote captures the main thrust of the Association=s letter:

ΔAll of the League=s recommendations are solid and on target. The League has grasped the fact that there is a need for transitional and long-term housing options, wrap-around services including physical health care, dual-diagnosis treatment, geriatric treatment and employment/education assistance, outreach for homeless and treatment-resistant individuals, effective crisis intervention, humane, quality mental health policies/services within law enforcement, corrections and justice systems. The only piece missing from the puzzle are the avenues for funding treatment for those with mental illness in community-based settings. The current funding for CMHCs in Kansas is outlined below, identifying gaps in funding resources across the system.@

The Association=s letter is posted on the LWVK web site and provides the funding information.

The letter also indicated that the Association stands ready to collaborate on any of the initiatives or policy recommendations contained in the LWVK position statement. 3

## SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL LEAGUES

### □Manhattan/Riley County

The Manhattan Riley/County League has been actively advocating for voter-verified paper audit trails for voting machines. During the August congressional break, several of our members met one-on-one with U.S. Representative Nancy Boyda and urged her to co-sponsor and vote for H.R. 811, the House bill that would require voter-verified paper audit trails (V-VPAT) for touch-screen voting machines. On September 27, Kansas League President Diane Kuhn, Manhattan League President Karen Mayse, and Manhattan League member Alley Stoughton met with Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh to urge him to consider a state policy to require some type of V-VPAT for touch-screen voting machines. On Oct. 4, Karen Mayse and Manhattan League member Debbie Nuss appeared on the Community Bridge radio program with Riley County Clerk Rich Vargo. During the program we discussed the reasons for League advocacy for V-VPATs and expressed our support for mail in paper balloting that will take place in Manhattan during October and early November for a Quality of Life bond referendum.

The League sponsored a public forum for the Quality of Life bond referendum on Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. at the Manhattan Public Library. We are having a series of unit meetings Oct. 30, Nov. 1, and Nov. 10 for immigration study consensus discussion. This follows our October Lunch With League meeting with guest speaker and immigration attorney Kim Corum. Lunch With League on Nov. 13 will feature City Commissioner Bruce Snead talking with us about the Flint Hills Regional Growth Plan, a document the community has been working on in anticipation of the return of the Big Red One Army division to Ft. Riley.

The Manhattan League delivered a public statement to a

joint meeting of the Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board and City Commission Aug. 28 to oppose a proposed housing development in an area identified in the city's comprehensive land use plan as a flood zone not to be used for housing. The planning board subsequently rejected the proposal. On Oct. 15, the Manhattan League asked the MUAPB to reject an amendment to the downtown redevelopment PUD that would further enlarge a big box store, reduce housing planned for the area, and remove or move an historic stone house that the city had promised would not be moved.

### □Wichita Metro

In November, the Wichita Metro League will host five women from Russia through the Open World Program. The five are all journalists in their homeland, and the theme for the visit is *Russians Working Together for Media and Governance*. They will stay with four Wichita families and have a full schedule for their weeklong stay.

#### Itinerary

Nov. 2: Arrival

Nov. 3: Get-acquainted brunch, reception with League members, government officials, and representatives from news media and other local organizations

Nov. 4: Dinner and conversation hosted by Wichita's Global Learning Center and Dr. Valentina Chappell, a faculty member at Friends University

Nov. 5: Tour of a Wichita TV station

Nov. 6: Attend a city council meeting, League unit meeting, meetings with staff at Wichita Eagle, watching and discussing presidential debate

Nov. 7: Observe a County Commission meeting, meet with professional broadcasters

Nov. 8: Tour the State Capitol and meet with government officials



Nov. 9: Tour Wichita's African-American Museum

Nov. 10: Departure

Throughout the week there will be opportunities for sightseeing, shopping, and several roundtable discussions on issues related to journalism and government, many led by well-known individuals from the media or one of the local universities.

### □Topeka

*This is a reprint written from the Topeka Voter, written by Georgia Sandlin, Topeka LWV President.*

One of the topics at the LWVUS Council was the power of brands. A strong brand identifies an organization with its mission. The League needs to be visible in the community with a mission that is recognized. In the 1960's there were about 300,000 non-profit organizations competing for support. Today there are about 1.6 million. The LWVUS has done research on the image the League has nationwide. They found the League has a strong reputation and is seen as doing good work but people couldn't explain why they had this impression. This puts us in the same category in many people's minds as many other non-profit organizations. The LWVUS is urging us to define ourselves to others with our own distinct mission. Our uniqueness will attract visibility, members, and monetary support. League leaders support this theory with the research provided by "Standard Social Innovation Review," by Adrian Sargeant and John B. Ford. I am presenting this as food for thought. 3

## Membership Memo

Membership is a never-ending project producing different ideas and suggestions, each year, on how to increase League numbers. This last year, the National League launched a membership project that targeted retirees, ages 55-65. Several Leagues around the country were involved in the pilot project. These Leagues reported at the National Council that they did, indeed, increase their membership. However, one size does not fit all when it comes to membership, and each League has to consider the makeup and location of its community.

I have been lucky enough, as Membership Co-Chair of State Board, to attend three local League Membership events and to hear about events that other Leagues have done. Topeka, Emporia, and Johnson County held membership events in August. Topeka and

Emporia communicated with me and I was able to attend their Membership events. In addition, I attended my own League=s (Wichita) Membership meeting.

All the Leagues had excellent attendance, good speakers, new members, and good food.

Leagues which have not, as yet, held Membership events are not idle and have informed me of other events that have gained visibility and new members for them. All the Leagues agree that visibility is a great asset toward building membership. Emporia had pictures of their parade float, Wichita has been involved in local voting issues, and Manhattan has a local award it gives each year to an outstanding member of their community.

Membership growth involves marketing of the League. It can be done thru special social events, community issues and projects, or just ASKING someone to take a look

at League. Whatever works for you, please be involved in membership and let=s AGROW THE LEAGUE IN KANSAS!!@

P.S. Keep me involved in what membership is doing at the local level. 3

Sharon Ailsieger,  
LWVK Membership

## Celebration of *Roe vs. Wade*

On Tuesday, January 22, 2008, the Kansas Choice Alliance will again sponsor a Celebration of *Roe vs. Wade*. They have reserved the first floor of the Capitol Building in Topeka for displays, lunch with legislators, and an educational forum and press conference. Mark your calendars. Formal invitations with details will be sent in November. 3

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| <p>The <i>Kansas Voter</i> 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.</p> |
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