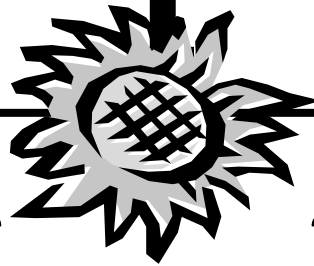


V O T E R



July, 2004 Vol. 47, Issue 2
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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization of women and men of every age, race, background and political belief. Through more than 1200 local Leagues, state Leagues and the national organization, League members work to promote citizen action on local, state, and national issues.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AUGUST 12

League of Women Voters Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. in the Prescott Room of the Salina Public Library. Dr. Rob Winter, superintendent of USD 305, will speak to us about his core educational values and beliefs as he begins his work with the Salina Public Schools.

Dr. Winter comes to Salina from Scottsbluff Nebraska, where he was superintendent of schools for the past ten years. Prior to that he worked in Kansas as superintendent for Riley County USD 378 for six years and as superintendent for three years at Cheylin USD 103, Bird City.

We look forward to hearing Dr. Winter and becoming acquainted with him. All League members are invited and ENCOURAGED to attend the meeting, and to bring a friend who might be interest in hearing Dr. Winter and in learning about League.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings, League of Women Voter's of Salina!

We are in the middle of a hot summer and are moving into the middle of a hot **election time!** The primaries are August 3 in Salina, and Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2004. Please mark your calendars and encourage your friends and family to register and/or vote!

First, I want to thank you for allowing me to represent you at the League of Women Voter's of the United States 46th **National Convention** held in Washington, D.C. on June 12-14, 2004. It was an

exciting and exhilarating time for me to be among so many intelligent articulate women who are passionate about the democratic process! 773 delegates attended the convention from 47 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands.

Besides all of the interesting debates of very important issues and the many caucuses held every night to inform the delegates, I would like to share with you two highlights of the convention. A panel discussion was held on the topic of "Balancing Civil Liberties and Homeland Security in a Post-September 11th Age". Panel members were: David Cole, Professor, Georgetown University Law Center; Jamie Gorelick, Member, National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (known as the 9-11 Commission); and Ruth Wedgwood, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations. All three of these presenters were highly knowledgeable on this topic but represented different view points. The hour flew by and the time for questions was too short.

After the evening banquet, we were privileged to hear guest speaker, Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers Columnist who served 57 years as a correspondent for United Press International and White House bureau chief. She began covering the White House in January, 1961 and continued through eight administrations, as well as writing Front Row at the White House (1999). This retired columnist kept us laughing and entertained for over an hour and never seemed to tire of our questions. She was inspiring, funny and humble in spite of her great accomplishments and very distinguished career. Ms. Thomas received a standing ovation from the crowd of over 800 people at the banquet and provides an awesome role model for women.

You are invited to mark your calendars for the following three **important events** coming up this fall and spring. I

want to encourage all of you to support our local league at these events:

August 4-7 Fair Booth (Bicenter, 2 hr. shifts, Register voters/see Marge)

August 12 Membership Meeting (7p.m., Library's Prescott Room)

April 23, 2005 LWV State Meeting (KWU, Salina, time TBA)

Several board members and League members have been hard at work contacting candidates for the House of Representatives in Kansas to be sure their stance on important election issues is available on line for voters to access. The League of Women Voters has developed a website entitled **Democracy Net** or **DNet**. You may log onto this site by going to www.dnet.org. First click on browse the candidates; then click on the state of Kansas; finally on the district of the candidate race about which you would like information. Listed you will find all of the candidates running for the race, along with their stance on important issues in a format in which you may compare statements by all candidates. You will find contact information for each candidate and their picture. You may register to vote on this website or send an email to the candidate of your choice. Thanks to LWV and Capitol Advantage, voters may be informed simply by logging on in the privacy of their own homes. Give it a try – I believe this will revolutionize the way we strive to get information to the voters. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have been logging on to monitor candidate's participation!

Iron Jawed Angels will be released on video/DVD on Tuesday, September 7, 2004. Watch for upcoming details on a gathering of Leaguers to view this movie about an important time in history!

Presidential Debates will be televised on Thursday, September 30; Friday, October 8; and Wednesday, October 13. Watch for a gathering of Leaguers to watch and discuss these debates!

See you at the polls August 3 and November 2!

—Christi

CALENDAR



August 2004

- 3 Primary Election
- 4-7 Tri-Rivers Fair
- 12 Membership Meeting
- 19 Board Meeting

September 2004

- 16 Board Meeting
- 18 Precinct 23 Walk
- 21 Lunch and Learn

October 2004

- 12 Lunch and Learn
- 19 Candidates Forum
- 21 Board Meeting
- 30 Precinct 23 Walk

November 2004

- 2 General Election
- 9 Lunch and Learn
- 18 Board Meeting

December 2004

Happy Holidays!

PRIMARY ELECTION IS AUGUST 3RD

Our name is our message. We are voters—joining together to encourage informed participation in our government. **And voting time is HERE!**

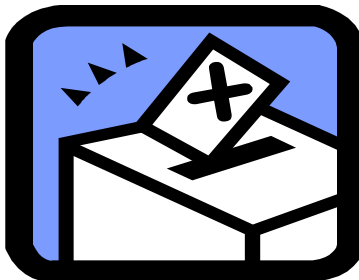
In the Salina area, only five primary races are contested.

The following COUNTY candidates have opponents in the primary:

- **District 3:** Republicans Sherri Barra-gee, Ken McMillen vs. John P. Miller
- **County Treasurer:** Republicans Brenda O’Gorman-Cotter vs. Brenda Siemsen

The following COUNTY candidates have no opposition in the primary.

- **County Commissioner, District #2:** Craig Stephenson, Republican for and John Divine, Democrat
- **County Attorney:** Ellen Mitchell, Republican
- **County Clerk:** Donald Merriman, Democrat
- **County Register of Deeds:** Rebecca Seeman, Republican
- **Sheriff:** Glen Kochanowski, Republican
- **County Treasurer:** Andy Stierwalt, Democrat



The following STATE office candidates have opponents in the primary:

- **District 71:** Republicans Carol E. Beggs vs. Doug Olson.
 - **District 108:** Republicans Timothy C. Null vs. Erin Robertson
 - **Ks. Board of Education:** Republicans Kathy Martin and Bruce Wyatt
- The following STATE office candidates have no opposition in the primary.
- **District 24:** Republican Pete Brungardt and Democrat Alan Jilka.
 - **District 69:** Republican Deena Horst and Democrat Robert Holmolka Sr.
 - **District 108:** Democrat Josh Svaty.

Make sure your vote is counted at the primary election, August 3.

General Election, November 2

Only five races will be contested in the General Election.

The following COUNTY offices will be contested in the general election:

- **County Commission, District #2:** John Divine, Democrat and Craig Stephenson, Republican
- **County Treasurer:** Andy Stierwalt, Democrat and either Brenda O’Gorman-Cotter or Brenda Siemsen, Republican

The following STATE offices will be contested in the general election:

- **Kansas Senate District 24:** Alan Jilka, Democrat and Pete Brungardt, Republican
- **Kansas House of Representatives District 69:** Robert Holmolka Sr., Democrat and Deena Horst, Republican
- **Kansas House of Representatives District 108:** Josh Svaty and either Timothy C. Null or Erin Robertson, Republican

OBSERVER REPORT—HOUSING AUTHORITY MEETINGS

By Jan Mendel

The Salina Housing Authority (SHA) is evaluated every year by HUD (Housing & Urban Development), and this results in a PHAS (Public Housing Assessment Subsystems) score. Salina’s score has increased every year under the new management. In 2000, the score was 73 and for this year it is 96. The PHAS is subdivided into four subsections: management, financial, physical and resident input.

An affordable housing study was completed in late 2003.

Two additional units have been added during the last two years bringing the total to 163 public housing units. 161 of these units are subsidized. Salina Housing Authority currently has 311 Section 8 vouchers with an additional 45 from other com-

munities.

SHA has applied for three grants that could provide money to build eight additional one bedroom units.

[Additional note from Kaye Crawford, LWVS member and director of the Salina Human Relations Department:

Recently the Salina Human Relations Department signed an agreement with the Salina Housing Authority to commit to participating in a grass roots organization to collaborate in the utilization of existing resources and the development of resources to enhance job training, employment, home ownership and other supportive services for unemployed or underemployed public housing tenants.



Specifically, the Human Relations Department will provide three landlord/tenant lease and fair housing information classes to housing authority tenants and provide one hour of time quarterly to the Grass Roots Committee.]

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

[Editor's note: Later in the year, League of Women Voters of Salina will study an update of the League of Women Voters of Kansas' program position on Juvenile Offenders. To introduce this subject, the following information highlights the work of the primary organization in Saline County that works with juvenile offenders. It contains excerpts of a report given on July 10th at a meeting of our League's Observers.]

Community Corrections is a county juvenile and adult corrections agency that is the primary organization responsible for working with juvenile and adult offenders in Saline and Ottawa counties. Although it is a county agency, Community Corrections is primarily funded by and responsible to two state agencies: the Juvenile Justice Authority for juveniles and Kansas Department of Correction for adults.

Juvenile Offender programs:

Until fairly recently, there was a lengthy wait between the time that juvenile offenders committed their offenses and the Disposition Hearing which sentenced the youths. This led to problems of further infractions of the law, and the juvenile often believing they could get by with their crimes. A fairly new program is offered by Community Corrections – Community Intervention Program. Once the judge places them on the CIP program, services can be started immediately and by the time of the Disposition Hearing, it is much better known whether the best plan for the youth is to remain on probation or to be released – thus keeping some youth out of the system entirely. Also, it has had the effect of reducing the number of juveniles placed at the Detention Center – a 28% reduction since 1998. 70 juveniles have been served by Community Corrections in this program during 2004.

For 2004, 23 juveniles were in the Conditional Violators program
150 juveniles were in the Intensive Supervision Program
49 juveniles were in Juvenile Justice Authority custody
28 juveniles were on conditional release from a Juvenile Correction facility.

In order to work with these youth, Community Corrections uses many services, (mental health, drug related), and many



community agencies – including some preventive agencies for which they fund services. They operate groups for parents, do drug testing where indicated, provide many services while youth are on probation. As a result, it is estimated that at least 60% of the youth are released successfully from probation. Very few youth are placed in out of home placement and the number of youth sentenced to youth centers is decreasing.

It might be noted that the youth served by community corrections are overwhelmingly poor. Far more than half of the youth have medical cards provided to persons eligible for public assistance.

Problems related to financing and staffing:

Almost every year, the state allocation for Community Corrections has been less than the year before. Therefore in order to provide needed services, the Director, Annie Grevas is forced to supplement her budget by applying for grants from the state, federal government and private sources. She has been quite successful in receiving grants and because of this, she supplements the budget allocated by the state to Community Corrections.

Another strength of this agency is the utilization of and cooperative relationships with service agencies in Saline and Ottawa counties. For instance, there is a highly successful behavior restructuring group program operated by Central Kansas Mental Health Center, serving up to 30 adult offenders at a time. Offenders in this program do better than other groups of offenders at reducing continued violations while on probation and being eventually released successfully from probation.

There is constant prioritizing of services and setting goals of achievement. There is constant juggling of funds and monies in order to cover needed services. This organization focuses on services and funding of staff time and purchase of those community services which help offenders.

Community Corrections meet state requirements in all programs. They would have greater success if there were additional funding and a better staff-client ratio – and they realize this. However, they are committed to doing the best possible job they can with their current resources thru the use of goal setting, prioritizing services and strategic use of staff, given the limitations of funding. And they are constantly looking for and finding grants that will fund additional services which are needed so urgently.

SALINA ELECTION YEAR ACTIVITIES

YOUR LEAGUE WILL BE BUSY THIS YEAR!

Because this is an election year, the League of Women Voters will be busy at the national, state and local levels.

www.dnet.org: One reason is that there will be an effort to launch DNet. DNet will attempt to have the equivalent of our Voter Guides on a computer web site, www.dnet.org, for national and state candidates for office.



Kansas has launched the web site expecting the candidates to answer the questions which League Of Women Voters of Kansas has posed for them and post their answers on the web site themselves. (For national offices, The League Of Women Voters of United States has posed their questions to candidates.)

Because this is new for the candidates, we have been asked to try to monitor the process so several of the board members are trying to contact candidates to try to cajole them to submit their information to DNet. This is proving to be a pretty big job and we have a lot of work to do this year.

Later this summer we hope there will be quite a bit of information on DNet about the candidates. Open the web site and fill out a form giving information about yourself and your address and you will be able to obtain information which has been posted about the state and national can-

didates in your district.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Related to Elections

- Aug. 3: Primary Election Day
- Aug. 4: Registration Books Reopen
- Aug. 6: Primary Canvass – 9am
- Sep. 17: Fed. Ballots Mailed – Deadline
- Oct. 13: Advance Voting Begins
- Oct. 14: Late Registration (8am to 9pm)
- Oct. 15: Late Registration (8am to 9pm)
- Oct. 18: Late Registration (8am to 9pm)
- Oct. 18: Books Close at 9pm
- Oct. 29: Last day to mail ballots
- Nov. 1: Advance Voting ends at noon
- Nov. 2: General Election Day
- Nov. 3: Registration Books Reopen
- Nov. 5: Gen. Election Canvass – 9am

Project Vote: Precinct 23 has been chosen to challenge Salina to have the high-

est voting turnout increase of all precincts in the city. We will have our first precinct walk on Saturday, September 18, and our second walk on Saturday, October 30. If you live in this precinct or can participate in the walk, please let Marge Mintun know.



American Association of University Women and students from Brown Mackie College as well as from Kansas Wesleyan

(Continued on page 6)

HELP REGISTER VOTERS AT TRI-RIVERS FAIR!

Will we see you at the Tri-Rivers Fair?

League of Women Voters will have a booth at the Tri-Rivers Fair, August 4, 5, 6 and 7. Thank you, League members for volunteering to operate the booth! Look for us inside the Bicentennial Center where we will be luxuriating in the air conditioning.

In addition to visiting with our friends and those people who pass by the booth,



we will be registering voters for the general election. Also, there will be a straw vote with two questions asked participants—see below.

When the fair is over, the results of our straw vote will be tabulated and we will publicize the results in our news media and a future Voter.

Straw Poll Questions:

Question for everyone:

Because of inadequate state funding, should the number of Kansas School Districts be reduced in order to maintain a high quality of education?

Yes _____ No _____

Question for Saline County Residents:

Do you think that City and County governments in Saline County should be consolidated to save money?

Yes _____ No _____

See you at the fair!

LWV POSITIONS ON NATIONAL ISSUES

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

The board of LWV-US approved the following new position on selection of the president after it was overwhelmingly approved by the membership:

The League of Women Voters believes that the direct popular vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and proce-



dures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about the candidates and their position, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to insure that the media, political parties, candidates and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

63% of the League members who voted on the Concurrent Resolution strongly supported the above statement, 24% accepted it and 13% did not accept it.

CAMPAIGN REFORM

The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA, a.k.a. The McCain-Feingold law)

This law is considered to be the most important piece of campaign finance legis-

lation since the adoption of the 1974 Federal Election Campaign Act. It banned the use of soft money in federal elections and placed new restrictions on candidate-specific issue advocacy advertising. Its principal goal was to reduce the potential for corruption in the political process by



severing the links between elected officials and soft money donors.

In December 2003, the Supreme Court

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 5)

will be joining us in this project to increase voting turnout in this district and in Salina.

Voters Guide: Prior to the General Election, League of Women Voters of Salina will prepare a Voters Guide. Following are a listing of the questions that will be asked of candidates:

County Commissioners

Why are you seeking office and what are your qualifications to serve?
 In what ways could the city and county work together to consolidate and conserve resources?
 Should “developers” take the lead position in developing property in the county?
 What do you see as the role of the county commissioners?

County Treasurer, County Clerk, County Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, County Attorney

Why are you seeking office and what are

your qualifications to serve?
 What are your priorities for improving your office’s function?

Sheriff

Why are you seeking office and what are your qualifications to serve?
 What is your role in the Drug Task Force?

State Senators and State Representatives

What expertise do you possess which qualifies you to be a Kansas State Senator (or State Representative)?
 What ideas do you have regarding energy resources and how will these affect our air quality?
 What should legislators do to assure economic development in the state of Kansas?
 What are the priorities in the funding of education for K-12, higher education and social services? Address the financing formula for K-12.
 What would you do to expand the availabil-

ity of affordable and accessible housing for Kansans?

State Board of Education

What qualifications are most important for teachers?
 What is your overall philosophy for the education of children?
 What are your priorities in providing a “suitable” education presented in a report of the Kansas legislators and the State Department of Education?
 How do art, music, sports, foreign language, counselors and nurses fit into your priorities?
 What expertise do you offer to the state board of education?

Candidates Forum: At 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 19th, League of Women Voters of Salina, in conjunction with Salina Chamber of Commerce, will have a Candidates Forum. Candidates from the five contested races will participate in the forum.

NATIONAL ISSUES

(Continued from page 6)

upheld the law's ban on soft money and the rules governing the financing of candidate-specific issue advocacy.

As a result the following things are occurring in the current election:

- Candidates are raising more money than in previous campaigns and are abiding by the new disclosure requirements
- Candidates and national party officials are no longer appealing to major corporations, labor unions and wealth individuals for large contributions and offering preferential treatment for these gifts.
- For the first time since 1980, all the monies raised by national party committees have come from limited contributions – up to \$2000.00.
- In spite of the focus now on raising small donations from many donors rather than large contributions from just a few, both of the parties are raising more money because of a huge increase in the number of donors.
- The new disclosure rule, known as “stand by your ad” provision improves voters abilities to hold the candidates responsible for the messages they approve and candidates seem to be less willing to approve harsh negative ads.

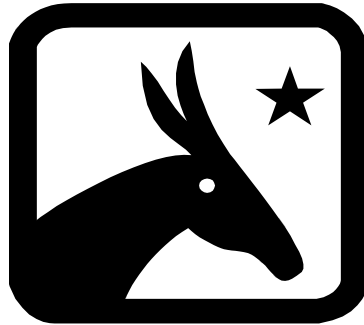
BCRA has passed its first major tests and is making a positive difference in the financing of national elections. While additional reforms are necessary such as better access to the public airwaves and those reforms which provide greater incentives to small contributors, BCRA has proved to be a vital and necessary step in enhancing the quality of our democracy.

(For a much more complete discussion of these two issues, please read the June 2004 issue of the National Voter.)

(Next column ...)

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON KPTS

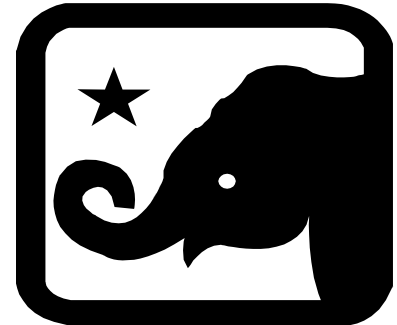
League of Women Voters of Kansas supports Public Broadcasting TV Station, KPTS, Channel 8, in their coverage of the Democratic and Republican Conventions.



KPTS plans to air both conventions from 7:00 to 10:00 each evening for every day of both the Democratic and Republican conventions. Jim Lehrer will be the host, the footage is directly from PBS and Channel 8 is shown in Salina.

At the beginning and end of each broadcast, they will show the League name/logo and read a statement that will essentially say “a portion of this convention coverage

is brought to you by the League of Women Voters of Kansas, a non-partisan political organization that educates citizens about the political process”. The League is the



only organization that will be noted as “bringing the convention to the voters”.

League of Women Voters of Kansas President, Janis McMillan has asked us to let her know how the League references appear which we will be glad to do.

This should be excellent publicity for the League and will not bring into question our non-partisan status.

The Equal Rights Amendment

The Equal Rights Amendment needed 38 states to pass the amendment in order to amend our constitution and only 35 states did so. In spite of the fact that 96% of polled American adults believe that male and female citizens should have equal rights and 88% want these rights specifically guaranteed by our constitution, neither the Democratic party or the Republican party have the Equal Rights Amendment as a part of their platform.

Even after three additional states pass the amendment, it is unclear what Congress will do. The goal is to have two resolutions in both the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

One resolution would require the start-over process, meaning that because the time limit was not met, the 38 states that had passed the amendment would have to

submit new ratifications. The resolution preferred by the League of Women Voters would be to accept just the remaining 3 state ratifications for a full complement of the 38 required.



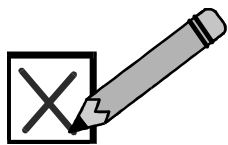
Material was summarized from two emails by Sandyjoestreich@cs.com , dated 7-21-04, titled “ERA Missing from Major Party Platforms” & “ERA US Resolutions Alerts re: Indiana and Florida.”

League of Women Voters of Salina

PO Box 502

Salina, KS 67402-0502

JOIN US



This is a good time to join the League or to renew your League Membership. The new League year has begun and this year's agenda has something of interest for everyone. It is a perfect time to join the League to ensure you do not miss the action. Please take a moment now to become a member of The League of Women Voters of Salina.

_____ **Yes, I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League at the following level:**

- _____ Single Membership (circle one)
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| <i>Contributing Level</i> | \$50.00 |
| <i>Sustaining Level</i> | \$40.00 |
- _____ Family Membership (circle one)
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| <i>Contributing Level</i> | \$75.00 |
| <i>Sustaining Level</i> | \$60.00 |
- _____ Student/supported or other \$20.00

_____ **I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclosed is my contribution of \$_____.**

For more information, please contact:

Mary Anne Powell, Membership Chairperson
1022 Funston, Salina, Kansas 67401
Telephone: 823-8041

Make checks payable to: The League of Women Voters of Salina, and mail to PO Box 502, Salina, KS 67402-0502.