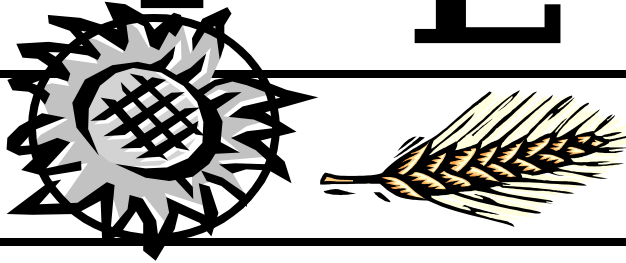


# V O T E R



January 2005 Vol. 47, Issue 3  
Website: www.lwvofsalinaks.com

President, Christi Peterson

Editor, Ann Zimmerman

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**Vice President:** Marge Mintun  
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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.*

# PROGRAM PLANNING

## JANUARY 20

The January 20th meeting of the League of Women Voters of Salina is for EVERYONE! All members are invited to join with the board at 6pm (following the regular board meeting at 5pm) in the meeting room at Martinelli's Little Italy, 158 S. Santa Fe, for a meal and discussion.



### What is Program Planning?

Every year in January, local Leagues do "program planning" for the year. Program planning is NOT a discussion of who will entertain at the local board meetings—it is the beginning of the process used to develop League positions on issues. League positions are formed by studies done at all levels of the organiza-

tion.

### A Two-part Job for Local Leagues

Local Leagues develop local program policies. State Leagues develop state program policies. League of Women Voters of United States develops national program poli-

The first part of the local program planning job is to determine which, if any, existing local League studies need updating or whether new issues have arisen locally that warrant new local studies. See the box on Page 3, bottom right, for a list of the Salina League's current positions.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year to you all! Many activities of the state and local league are coming right up. Please mark your calendars and join with other League members to unite our voices and make ourselves heard.

**January 10, 1:30 p.m.:** Coalition for Justice and Unity rally to tell elected officials that ONE religious voice does not speak for ALL people and religions in this state. Meet on the south steps of the capital to hear Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, President of the Interfaith Alliance.

**January 20:** The Kansas Choice Alliance, of which the League is a member, is sponsoring the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary celebration of Roe v. Wade on the first floor of the rotunda of the capital.

**January 20:** Program Planning Dinner and Meeting at Martinelli's at 6:00 p.m. after the board meets at 5pm.

**March 10:** Day at the Capitol

**April 23:** League of Women Voters State Convention, KWU, Salina.

Powell is chairing the Convention Committee and has all major sub-committees set up and well organized. If you would like to help with the state convention, please contact Mary Ann or myself and let us know your interest or talent. From decorations, to nametags, to set up and registration, many hands will be needed to make the convention run smoothly. I hope you will all make plans to attend the convention and help volunteer if you can.

Wishing you a new year filled with peace and joy!

—Christi Peterson



## CALENDAR



### JANUARY 2005

- 11 Lunch and Learn
- 20 Board Meeting & Program Planning
- tba Juvenile Justice study unit
- tba Juvenile Justice study unit 2

### FEBRUARY 2005

- 8 Lunch and Learn
- 17 Board Meeting
- 19 Deadline: Juvenile Justice recommendations

### MARCH 2005

- 8 Lunch and Learn
- 10 Day at the Capitol
- 17 Board Meeting

### APRIL 2005

- 21 Board Meeting
- 23 State League Convention at Kansas Wesleyan, Salina

### MAY 2005

- tba Annual Meeting LWVS
- 19 Board Meeting

Congratulations to Ann Zimmerman for her contacts with a professional in Great Bend who has given our web site an update. Be sure to check it out at [www.lwvosalinaks.com](http://www.lwvosalinaks.com). Thank you, Ann! (See article below)

The League of Women Voter's State Convention is right around the corner and will be held at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina on April 23, 2005. (See Page 6.) Mary Ann

## NEW & IMPROVED SALINA LWV WEBSITE

If you have not looked at the Salina League's website lately—  
[www.lwvofsalinaks.com](http://www.lwvofsalinaks.com)  
—you may be surprised at what you see. The updated site is full of page after page of useful information.

For example:

- Want to become a member? Check the website (the MEMBERSHIP page).
- Forgot the board meeting date or where the January dinner meeting will happen? Check the website (the CALENDAR page).
- Want to explain to a friend what the League is all about? Check the website (the INTRODUCTION page).
- Looking for the Salina Journal article about Lunch & Learn? Check the website (the IN THE NEWS page).
- Need to know your housing rights? Check the website (the ISSUES page).

- Lost your VOTER newsletter and want to read it? Check the website (the NEWS-LETTER page).
- Want to look at the Salina Access Television program schedule? Check the website (the LINKS page, under "more links").

Local member Maria Lopez did the original work of obtaining our domain name and starting up the first website. When we sadly bid Maria farewell as she returned to her native Puerto Rico, the job of website care fell to Ann Zimmerman. Ann's acquaintance with web designer Don Shorock of Great Bend led to the stellar look of the revised site. TAKE A PEEK!

Ann is looking for a co-chair to share the job of keeping the calendar and the site up-to-date. No web-design experience needed, and you can do the job wherever

# JANUARY 20 PROGRAM PLANNING Continued.

(Continued from page 1)

The other part of the Local Leagues' annual program planning job is to make recommendations regarding what state or national program policies need to be changed. In even years, they make these recommendations for national programs. In odd years, they recommend state programs to be changed. See the box at lower left for a list of the Kansas League of Women Voters current positions.

In considering either state or national programs, local Leagues only *recommend* program policy changes; national or state Leagues make the final decisions regarding whether to accept the recommendations. In the case of National League of Women Voters policies, recommendations come from

**Why change program positions?**

- ✓ A position may be out of date and not fit the times.
- ✓ A major change in law may make positions outdated.
- ✓ One aspect of a position may be so important that it needs to be evaluated individually and recommendations made for changes.
- ✓ A position may be incomplete and need to be more inclusive than was originally thought
- ✓ A position may just not match the current realities and need further study and change.

both the state and local levels.

This being an odd year, our meeting in January will consider Kansas program positions.

So for 2005, the Salina League will determine which of our own local program positions need to be changed or will select a new issue to study; and we will recommend changes for our State League Studies.

Summaries of a few of the state program positions are available at the League of Women Voters of Kansas website—[www.lwvk.org](http://www.lwvk.org)—under "Current Issues."

Recently-joined members may be able to read the Salina League's Program Position statements if they have their member notebooks.

New members: This is an excellent opportunity to par-



**LEAGUE OF WOMEM VOTERS OF KANSAS**  
**Program Positions**

- County government
- Criminal Justice (including adult corrections, juvenile corrections, court system and sentencing)
- Education Governance
- Election Administration
- Legislative Apportionment
- State Finance
- Environmental Quality (including hazardous waste, solid waste, and water resources)
- Land Use
- Prairie Park
- Equality of Opportunity
- Health
- Medical Indigence
- Meeting Basic Human Needs – SRS
- Children at Risk
- Living Wage
- Privatization of Child Welfare Services by SRS.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEM VOTERS OF SALINA**  
**Program Positions**

- City/County Government
- Library
- USD 305
- Human Sexuality and Aids Education in USD 305
- Child Care
- Child in Need of Care
- Parks and Recreation
- Solid Waste
- Land Use
- Mental Health
- Juvenile Services
- Probation and Parole for Adults
- Housing.

## KANSAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' TWO-YEAR STUDY OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AUTHORITY

Each year, the Kansas League of Women Voters examines its program positions to decide which ones need updating. In 2003, the League of Women Voters of Kansas found that their position on juvenile offenders was severely out of date—in fact, it hadn't been changed since 1973.

So, juvenile justice became the topic of choice for a two-year study. The goal was to develop a position statement which could be used in advocating for juvenile offenders. The Kansas League formed a committee to study the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA)—Marge and Ted Mintun serve as the Salina members—which will make a report to the April 2005 state convention in Salina.

### Consensus Questions

The League has a custom of posing pertinent questions about issues with the goal of full understanding and wise action on that issue. The LWV of Kansas JJA committee has compiled the following Consensus Questions regarding juvenile offenders, with an introduction:

**“The League of Women Voters of Kansas adopted a position on Juvenile Corrections and Services in 1973. At that time, juvenile justice issues were under the purview of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). In 1997, through legislative action, the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) was formed, and this agency assumed responsibility for all programs and funding associated with juveniles who, through their actions, come in contact with law enforcement. The purpose of the 2003-04 LWVK study is to determine if JJA is meeting the needs of juveniles, seven years after assuming responsibility for those juveniles.**

**As stated by the Commissioner of the JJA, the mission of this agency is (1) to promote public safety, (2) by holding juvenile offenders accountable for**

**their behavior, (3) and to improve the ability of youth to live productively and responsibly in their communities.**

**1. The “gatekeeper” to accessing the juvenile justice system is the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC) via law enforcement.**

**a. How well is JIAC operating at the local level?**

**b. What indicators are in place to assure that all children, regardless of background, ethnicity, etc., are being processed in a fair and equitable manner?**

**c. What programs are available at the community level to assure that the processing of juveniles leads to the desired outcomes?**

**2. Once juveniles are in the “system,” that is, have been referred by JIAC to the courts (DA, judges, court services, prevention program), do these groups have the options and effective sentencing matrix to meet the mission of JJA?**

**3. It is that**

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**imperative JJA communicateally and rationally all judicial districts, and dicial dis-need to the means communicating among themselves. Are the appropriate hardware/software systems in place state-wide to assure this communication? If not, what is needed to assure that the Kansas JJA system can track juveniles within its system?**

**4. Community based programs for both prevention and intervention are critical to the mission of JJA. Are adequate funds available from JJA grants**

**for these programs, including the flexibility of utilizing JJA grant dollars between intervention and prevention, as needed to meet local needs?”**

### Local Preparation through 2004

In March, 2004, Marge and Ted Mintun conducted a study of how the juvenile justice system worked in Saline and Ottawa counties. A brief summary of that report is on the following page.

In July, 2004, the LWV of Salina published a VOTER article about Community Corrections, the county agency in both Saline and Ottawa Counties that works with juvenile offenders. Community Corrections' work with juveniles is funded by and accountable to JJA. The VOTER article highlighted some of the agency's assets and successes with young people but also noted some problems of financing and staffing.

On September 21, 2004, the League held a Lunch and Learn session titled, “How is the Juvenile Justice Authority working in our community?” With 39 people in attendance, panelists Annie Grevas, director of Community Corrections, Mary Thrower, Assistant Saline County Attorney, and Dexter Eggers, defense attorney for juvenile offenders, all gave largely positive reports on the local system. Their discussion was summarized in the October 2004 VOTER to give League members additional background information.

### What Now?

Between now and February 19, 2005, local League study groups are to meet and apply the consensus questions listed above to the juvenile offender programs in their counties. This means that by February 19, we must send our feedback to the state study committee. The Kansas League's JJA Committee will make recommendations to the state board. State board members then decide upon the ex-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Local Report: JUVENILE JUSTICE IN SALINA AREA

During 2004, Ted and Marge Mintun studied the local system for dealing with juvenile offenders in the 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (covering Saline and Ottawa Counties). This is their report.

**Law enforcement:** When a report of a juvenile crime comes in, law enforcement personnel make the initial determination of how to classify the offense and whether or not to arrest. If the youth is arrested, law enforcement contacts “Juvenile Intake and Assessment” and brings the youth to Juvenile Intake for processing.

**Juvenile Intake and Assessment:** Six staff members of St. Francis Academy provide 24-hour coverage, 7 days a week. A Juvenile Intake Officer gathers identifying information about the youth and his or her family, with all districts around the state using the same form – the “Juvenile Intake and Assessment Questionnaire.” If the youth is 12 or over, he or she is given the mental health screening test, MAYSI-2, which tests a youth for mental health/suicide issues. Information from the two forms is submitted to JJA within 72 hours. If the youth can be released to a parent, the Juvenile Intake Officer explains the situation, may make referral recommendations, and the parents are given information which explains the court process. For high risk youth, case management and follow-up services are provided to assure that parents follow up on referrals. If the youth is not deemed a juvenile offender but cannot go home, Juvenile Intake must find a placement facility immediately. If the youth is a juvenile offender and must be detained, placement in Salina’s Juvenile Detention Center can be made.

**County Attorney:** Juvenile Intake sends a summary and recommendations to the County Attorney. The County Attorney determines whether to file charges against the youth and, if so, what charges. If the youth is in custody, a hearing must be held within 48 working hours; if not, the hearing

date is set within three or four weeks. If the County Attorney decides not to prosecute, this is the end of the procedure. If the County Attorney does decide to prosecute, the case goes to court.

**The Judge:** At the first court hearing, the judge read the charges and sets the date for a plea hearing. If the youth does not already have an attorney, the judge appoints one. After the plea hearing if the case is not resolved, the case proceeds to a trial before the judge. If the youth is convicted or pleads guilty without a trial, the



judge may order a pre-sentencing investigation. At that point, “Court Services” (a local agency made up primarily of probation officers) makes an investigation and recommendation. At the disposition hearing, the judge sets the punishment for the youth, trying to assure that the punishment fits the crime. The judge may assign the juvenile to probation with Court Services (minor offense) or Community Corrections (major offense). These entities carry out the sentence set by the judge. The judge might also sentence the youth to JJA institutions.

**Community Corrections:** Community Corrections is a county agency that serves both juveniles and adults in the court system. A large part of its juvenile services is funded by JJA. Community Corrections works with juvenile offenders in both Saline and Ottawa counties. JJA sets guidelines, and, to receive JJA funding, Community Corrections must present a budget to carry out its juvenile program in keeping with those guidelines.

After a juvenile offender’s very first

court hearing, Community Corrections may begin working with the youth prior to the disposition hearing. Pre-trial supervision is offered two times a week to avoid additional infractions of the law. By the time of the disposition hearing it is often possible to know whether the youth should remain on probation or can be released.

Each of three Community Corrections youth officers have forty or more youth with whom they are working, and the supervisor has twenty-five youth plus the supervisees—caseloads which make intensive treatment difficult.

If the judge orders the youth to Community Corrections, the youth is offered Supervised Probation, Level 1. The youth can graduate to higher levels because of good behavior. If the youth fulfills the requirements, release from supervision follows.

Youth who persist in violating probation come under many sanctions: unannounced drug checks, in-patient or out-patient drug treatment, increased surveillance for curfew violators, orders to write a letter of apology, life skills classes, behavioral restructuring groups, no travel, extended probation period, arrest and detention – all depending on the violation. If probation fails, the youth is placed in a state correctional institution. When a youth is released from a correctional facility, he or she is on conditional release and remains under supervision – if too many conditions of probation are violated, the youth may be returned to the state correctional facility.

A very few youth are completely non-compliant and “age out” of the youth system. Violations of the law at that point put the young adult into the adult system.

**Juvenile offenders:** “Juvenile offenders” are youth who have been convicted of felony or misdemeanor crimes. According to Community Corrections personnel, around 90% of the youth served have used drugs and more than one-third of juveniles in the system have drug problems.

## SALINA HOSTS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS STATE CONVENTION APRIL 23, 2005

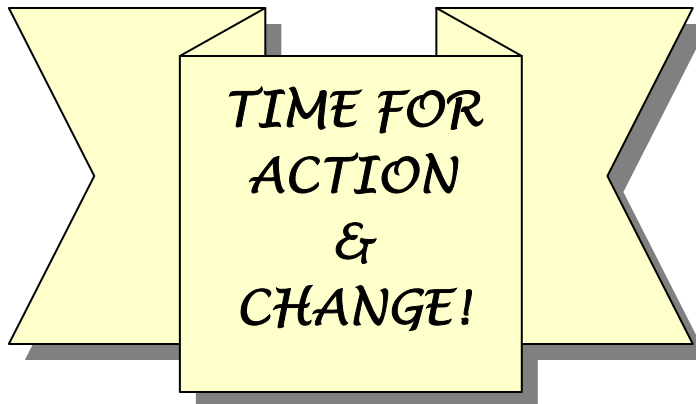
**April 23** is a **BIG DAY** for the Salina League of Women Voters. On that day, our organization hosts the one-day state convention of the League of Women Voters of Kansas. Held at Kansas Wesleyan University, the theme is **"Time for Action and Change!"**

As host, our Salina League has a full plate of interesting jobs and responsibilities to pass among our members. The convention committee will be contacting local League members and hoping for help from as many members as possible.

If you have not been able to participate in many League activities, this is a great one-day chance for you to pitch in and get to know fellow members from across the state.

Here is a list of our responsibilities, many of which are well underway or even completed:

- Appoint a Convention Chair to over-



see all local League's activities and to establish committees covering all convention needs (our Chair is Mary Ann Powell).

- Arrange for convention meeting rooms, meals, menus and overnight accommodations.
- Prepare for and handle Registration: develop registration forms (mail and email) to include information on hotel/motel accommodations, and map.
- Design convention kit cover.
- Prepare convention kits (to be given to each attendee).
- Manage the convention finances.

- Develop a convention budget.
- Recommend a convention fee to cover expenses.
- Arrange for mayor or dignitary to welcome delegates and attendees.
- Plan for overhead projectors, screen and other technology needed.
- Troubleshoot throughout convention.

Consider what you do best, then **DON'T WAIT TO BE CALLED.** Contact Mary Anne Powell, Convention

### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN THE MOVIES

Women's struggle to win the right to vote is the focus of an award-winning and moving new film, **"Iron Jawed Angels,"** starring Hillary Swank and Angelica Houston. Members of the League of Women Voters of Salina can proudly trace their political history back to those early activists.

The first Kansas legislature (1861) gave women voting rights in school elections, and six years later Kansas was the first state in the Union to consider women's full suffrage—it did not pass. In 1868, the federal women's suffrage amendment was first introduced in Congress by a senator from Kansas. In 1887, women won municipal suffrage in Kansas, allowing them to run for office in all city elections. On April 4, 1887, Susannah Medora Salter was elected mayor of Argonia in Sumner County, the first woman mayor in the nation. In 1912, the year the movie, "Iron Jawed Angels" begins, Kansas adopted a constitutional amendment granting women full suffrage, years ahead of the federal government.

(Some information for this article came from the website of the LWV of Kansas, [www.lwvk.org](http://www.lwvk.org).)

**MORE HISTORY OF POLITICS AND**

### 2-YEAR JJA STUDY, cont.

*(Continued from page 4)*

act wording to be presented to the membership for a vote at the state convention. The convention takes place at Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, April 23, 2005. (See article on Page 6.)

#### Group Meetings to Clarify Questions

This month there will be two meetings of the Juvenile Justice Study Group – the first with Annie Grevas of Community Corrections during which we will ask her to address the issues in the consensus questions. At the second meeting, com-

mittee members will consider the consensus questions, deciding whether the questions are as well-worded as possible and drafting their recommended answers to the questions. The local recommendations will then be sent to the chairperson of the committee by February 19.

**If you are interested in being a part of the local committee's activities, please call Ted or Marge at 823-9405.**

## NEW SALINA LWV MEMBERS

LWV Salina welcomes the following new members!

### David and Janice Norlin:

Having recently moved to Salina, 608 E. Republic, David and Janice are thrilled to begin establishing roots here and becoming active in the community.

Janice is no stranger to League of Women Voters. In the late 1980's, she established a League in Concordia which prospered under her guidance until she left Concordia to attend Law School at University of Kansas in 1994. She began working for Kansas Legal Services in Salina in 1999 commuting from Concordia. Since 2003 she has been associated with Marietta, Kellogg and Price. Before law school Janice was a dental assistant, owned a fabric store, and studied political science at Kansas State University, with a minor in women's studies. Her essay, "The Feminization of Poverty" earned her the prestigious Truman Scholarship.

David has just retired from 25½ years at Cloud County Community College, teach-

ing English, World Literature, Introduction to Literature, Creative Writing, etc. For 15 years, he ran the broadcasting station at CCCC, and has been a Public Information Officer. He previously taught at Garden



*Welcome!*

Community College. Now he is "seeking and supplying his own direction." David has an active interest in social issues and public welfare and has published several articles. In 1988, "Z" magazine published his article about the intrusion of private business and corporations into public education. In 1992, he received the KNEA Human and Civil Rights Award.

David and Janice were married in 1986. They have a son, three daughters and six grandchildren.

### Marlene and Allan White:

Marlene, a registered nurse, has taught diabetes education at Salina Regional Health Center for 25 years, as long as she has been in Salina. Before that she taught nursing at KU Medical Center, as well as in Hays (Kansas) and in Iowa.

Allan has been an audiologist with USD 305 Cooperative in Education for 25 years. His family has long been involved in politics. His great grandfather served in the Kansas Legislature from 1892-1896 (with the Populist party), and almost 100 years later, in 1990, Allan served one term in the Kansas Legislature. He has an uncle and an aunt who also ran for the legislature. His aunt won in Franklin County.

Marlene and Allan have a son who just graduated from Kansas State University in Manhattan with a degree in political science. They expect him to continue the family tradition. Allan and Marlene live at 112 Neal Court.

## "LUNCH & LEARN" WAS JANUARY 11

### THE NEWEST ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES FROM OCCK

[NOTE: If you missed this Lunch & Learn, you may still be able to watch it on Community Access Television in Salina. Check the schedule at the website, [www.salnet.org](http://www.salnet.org), by clicking on "Channel Guide" for Channel 21. Look for "LOWV Lunch & Learn."] Panel of Presenters

**Janice Fouard**  
**Shellie Eddings**

Assistive Technology Practitioner

**Nancy Stork**

Assistive Technology Practitioner

On January 11, the Assistive Technology staff of the Occupational Center of Central Kansas (OCCK) presented a wide variety of devices available to help people

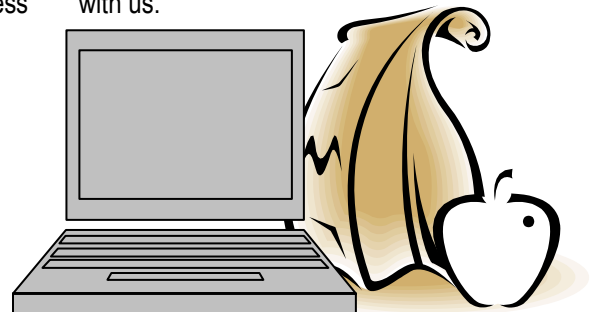
improve their lives. They used power point, discussion and handouts to demonstrate how assistive technology can increase independence for individuals.

These sometimes amazing technological advances can: assist with sight, hearing or mobility loss; simplify everyday tasks; increase mobility; increase access to community; allow individuals to return to work after an accident, even on a farm environment; and increase computer skills.

OCCK's Assistive Technology Specialists can help people overcome their problems and improve their qual-

ity of life. Their services are available to Saline County residents and 21 surrounding counties.

LUNCH & LEARN with the LEAGUE is always held from 12:15-1:30pm, downstairs at St. John's Lutheran Church, 302 S. 7th, Salina. Bring your lunch and learn with us.



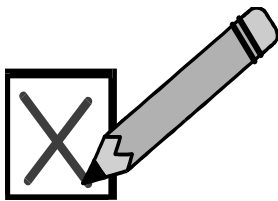
**Next LUNCH & LEARN: Tuesday, February 8**

## League of Women Voters of Salina

PO Box 502

Salina, KS 67402-0502

### JOIN US



**MAKE HISTORY** by joining the League of Women Voters of Salina or renewing your League Membership. 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**.