

V O T E R

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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.

Action for Change

League holds State Convention in Salina April 23

Members from the eight Leagues of Kansas gathered at Kansas Wesleyan University McAdams Student Center on Saturday, April 23, for League of Women Voters of Kansas 2005 state convention. The theme: "Action for Change." Fifty-four delegates and 15 League visitors attended. Local radio, newspapers and cable television covered the action. Dr. Philip Kerstetter, Salina League member and KWU president, welcomed participants. Janis McMillen, state League president, ran the meeting using strict

parliamentary procedure, under the close watch of parliamentarian Sue Holmes, another Salina League member and past state president. Keynote speaker, Tawny Stottlemire, director of Kansas Association of Community Action Agencies, presented the startling conclusions of her group's study, "Living on the Edge: A Report on the State of Low-income Working Kansas Families."
Mary Anne Powell, convention coordinator, watched the results of her months



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The State Conference of the League of Women Voters at Kansas Wesleyan on April 23rd was an exciting opportunity to learn from and network with leaders from all around the state.

As we all know, of course, a conference of that magnitude does not happen without a great deal of planning and hard work. Many thanks to the members of the planning committee who made this important event happen. Special thanks to Mary Anne and Bill Powell, Christi Peterson, Marge and Ted Mintun, Dr. Philip and Mary Kerstetter, Mary Francis Hogg, Eloise Lynch, Donita Michaelson, Jennifer Kay-Higgins, and Ann Zimmerman for planning, organizing and working the day of the event. The Salina League is proud of our members for the very successful meeting.

I also want to thank the membership for electing me to serve as your President. I am humbled by your faith in me and especially grateful to Christi Peterson, Marge and Ted, Mary Anne and Bill Powell, Kaye Crawford and Ann Zimmerman for all the support they've offered to me. They are my mentors, and I know that together we can continue the fine work of the League in Salina.

I look forward to working with the Board and am confident that we have a great group of hard workers dedicated to taking the League to the next level.

During the next two years I want to work with the Board and the membership to accomplish some goals. **One of my dreams is to find ways to involve the membership in the organization on a more regular basis.** I hope we can make all members know they are an important part of the organization.

Another of my goals is for our League to listen to Salina's multi-

cultural communities— to learn how they can participate in the League and what issues are important there.

We can always use more help in identifying ways of energizing all parts of the city to learn about candidates and to vote in city, state, and national elections.

My third goal is to enhance our outreach to youth and assist with the efforts already in place to teach young people the importance of understanding the issues, knowing the candidates, and voting. We need to instill the great obligation and right we have as citizens to elect our representatives, and to ensure that they represent

us.

I look forward to hearing from the members of the League who are not Board members about what you'd like to see us accomplish and what might spark your interest to participate with us. The Board's task will be to create opportunities for the membership to feel their participation is valued.

We can't and we shouldn't try to do it without you. Please e-mail me with suggestions, thoughts and comments at ginamcd@aol.com.

Thanks again for your confidence



CALENDAR

MAY 2005

19 Board Meeting

JUNE 2005

16 Board Meeting

JULY 2005

21 Board Meeting

AUG 2005

10-14 Tri-Rivers Fair
tba Membership Meeting
18 Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2005

15 Board Meeting
tba Lunch and Learn

OCTOBER 2005

20 Board Meeting
tba Lunch and Learn

NEW ON THE WEBSITE

www.lwvofsalinaks.com

The Salina League's position statements are now available on the ISSUES page of our website. Each position represents years of work by local League members, delving into the pros and cons of matters that affect our lives here in central Kansas. Take a look and test your knowledge of these issues so close to home.

Other ways YOU can use the website:

- Want to become a member? Check the MEMBERSHIP page.
- Forgot the meeting date? Check the CALENDAR page.
- Want to explain to a friend what the League is all about? Check the INTRO-

DUCTION page.

- Looking for the Salina Journal article about the convention keynote address? Check the IN THE NEWS page.
- Need to know your housing rights? Check the ISSUES page.
- Lost your VOTER newsletter and want to read it? Check the NEWSLETTER page.
- Want to look at the Salina Access Television program schedule? Check the LINKS page, under "more links".

To give feedback on the site, contact website chair Ann Zimmerman at ann@ezlm.com.

Action for Change

APRIL 23

More reports from LWVK State Convention

Continued

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS 85 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR

(Selected from remarks by state League President Janis McMillen)

The Equal Suffrage Association (ESA), forerunner of The League of Women Voters, was formed in 1879 in both the United States and Kansas. In 1887, the first woman mayor in Kansas was elected. In 1912, women received full suffrage in Kansas. In 1920, when women finally won suffrage across the nation, the ESA became the League of Women Voters, and the first president of the League of Women Voters was from Wichita, Kansas. Wichita was also the nation's first local league.

Just ten years ago, the League of Women Voters of Kansas celebrated its 75th State Convention, in Salina as this year. Janda Allred, Salina member who designed the Action For Change convention bulletin this year, also designed the cover for the 1995 convention.

Janis McMillan invited us to look ahead to League of Women Voters' 100th anniversary in 2020, asking, "How will we celebrate and what will we accomplish?" She suggested three areas:

- * Increase advocacy regarding our program policies
- * Recruit new members for the League.
- * Form alliances with others who are interested in the same things as LWVK. For example, many single-issue organizations could benefit from the expertise of the League; our groups can be much more effective together than separately.

Janis urged members to "reach out, plan ahead and look forward to our 100th anniversary with pride!"



SALINA LEAGUE MEMBERS AT THE STATE LEVEL:

**Members of the '05-'07 LWVK
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Emma Doherty & Bill Powell

**Chair of the '05-'07
Nominating Committee**

STATE TO STUDY MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN 2005-2007

For the next two years, LWVK will study the state's role in providing mental health care to Kansans. The study, approved by the delegates to the State Convention, will consider how the state funds community mental health centers and state hospitals, and what treatments are employed in these programs. Two questions will guide the study:

- * Are the current services sufficient to meet the diverse needs of individuals across the state with mental illness?
- * Is Kansas using the most current, effective and evidence-based treatments, therapies and rehabilitation methods?

LWVK has never undertaken a study of mental health care in the state. This was recommended as a two-year consensus study.

Two studies had been suggested but were not approved by this year's convention delegates: 1) Home schooling; and 2) alternative sources of energy.

ACTION RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONVENTION

The following "action resolutions" were approved at the convention, to send immediate messages toward the legislature:

Be it resolved that delegates of the League of Women Voters of Kansas, meeting at the State Convention in Salina, Kansas on April 23, 2005:

- * Recommend that the development of alternate energy sources receive favorable tax consideration.
- * Recommend that the legislators not receive per diem and salary for days they are in session beyond the 90 day allotment.
- * Urge the legislature to increase the funding of the Juvenile Justice Authority. We further urge that local JJA administrators be given flexibility in the use of these funds. The method for determining funding for mandatory programs, which is based on the number of incarcerated juveniles, is unfair and counter-productive in that it punishes programs for reducing juvenile crime. Therefore, more funding should be given to and emphasis placed on prevention and early intervention including JJA and community based programs.
- * Oppose any action that changes the appointment process of justices of the Kansas Supreme Court.

NEW JUVENILE JUSTICE POSITION STATEMENT APPROVED!

(See page 5)

OLD AND NEW BUDGET FIGURES: State League saves money, passes savings on to local Leagues

The '04-'05 budget for the League of Women Voters of Kansas included \$19,200 for income and expenses. Actual income was \$17,868.74; actual expenses \$15,830.15. Expenses were so much less than budgeted because a Topeka League

member allowed LWVK the use of her office and secretary at no charge. This generosity saved the League major salary and rental charges.

The '05-'06 budget is \$16,895 for income and expenses. After debate, delegates

approved the budget along with a decrease in the PMP (Per Member Payment) paid by local Leagues from \$20.00 for full memberships and \$10.00 for half memberships to \$18.00 for full and \$9.00 for half memberships.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SALINA ANNUAL MEETING ★ April 2, 2005

Twenty members and two guests attended the League of Women Voters of Salina 2005 Annual Meeting at the Salina Country Club.

Report from the outgoing president:

Christi Peterson expressed what a great honor and learning experience it has been to serve as the Salina League's president. Attendance at the National Convention was one of her highlights, where she picked up both souvenirs and great ideas.

She recognized the current board of directors who had done an outstanding job, especially noting the many new members. She paid special tribute to Mary Anne Powell, Membership Chair, and Marge Mintun, Voter Chair and Lunch & Learn organizer. Christi considered those high-quality noon-time programs to be a primary source of the Salina League's membership increase.

Christi expressed satisfaction that so many younger members have been willing to accept responsibilities for the League. She expects that these younger members will take the League into the future with confidence and competence.

Treasurer's Report:

Comparison between 2004 and 2005

	<u>4/1/04</u>	<u>3/31/05</u>
Chkg Acct	\$1486.14	\$620.52
Sav Acct	\$1737.32	\$1242.81
Educ'l Funds	\$595.25	\$515.25
Balance, all accts	\$3818.81	\$2378.68
Income for year to date was	\$1658.35.	
Expenses totaled	\$4255.31.	

The report by acting treasurer, Bill Powell, was approved.

Budget for 2005/2006:

The budget approved by the membership:

Income: \$6387.59

Expenses: \$6387.59.

PMP (per-member payment) to LWVUS:

\$24.35, full members,

\$12.17, household members.

PMP to LWV of Kansas:

\$20.00, full members

\$10.00, household members.

Expected number of members for '05-'06: 53 regular members, 12 household members.

New Programs to be studied:

All current program positions were adopted.

Members approved a new one-year study asking, "Should Salina and Saline County be merged?" This study had been recommended by the Program Committee participants and approved by the board of directors.

Members considered there to be insufficient resources to do more than one study this year, so a proposed study of consolidating Saline county schools was not approved.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee—Jann Jones, Chair, Mary Anne Powell and Mary Frances Hogg—nominated the following officers:

Gina McDonald for President

Carla Strand for Vice President

Ann Zimmerman for Secretary

Donita Michaelson for Treasurer

For Directors, they nominated Mary Frances Hogg, Sid Gray and Jennifer Kay-Higgins.

For Nominating Committee: Emma Doherty, Chair, Mary Anne Powell and Mary Frances Hogg.

The slate was elected by acclamation. Officers and Directors were elected for two years and Nominating Committee members for one year.

Transfer of the gavel:

Christi Peterson turned the gavel over to new president Gina McDonald. Bill Powell announced a gift of \$25.00 to the Endowment Fund of the LWVK in honor of Christi Peterson, outgoing president.

Then Gina McDonald spoke:

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Even a superficial look at history reveals that no social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice,

suffering and struggle, the tireless exertions of dedicated individuals. (M.L. King)

"I want to acknowledge the sacrifice and struggle of many of you to keep this organization going and healthy. Mary Anne and Bill, Marge and Ted, Kaye and Christi, thanks so much for placing your confidence in me to carry on the great work of the League of Women Voters along with you. I have been on many boards and have led most of those boards as president. But I've always had a lot longer time participating before taking on the role of president.

"So I asked myself, why did you agree to do this? What were you thinking?"

"But the answer was clear. I respect the work of this organization and although I haven't been a part of you, I have spent the last twenty five years working on voter registration, education and motivation with the disability community. I have worked locally, statewide and nationally to ensure people have the opportunity to learn about candidates, to vote and to hold our representatives accountable.

"Marion Wright Edelman said 'Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time.'

"My mentor, Justin Dart, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton, would always say to me when I wasn't sure I was up to the task, 'George Washington didn't WANT to go to Valley Forge either, but we're glad he did!'

"So I am here today to thank you, to acknowledge my innocence, and to promise to do what I can to support the goals of the League of Women Voters. I look forward to working with you and learning from you.

"I hope next year we can come back and say that voting in Salina was equal in every district in the city!

"I hope we can celebrate the success of many of the initiatives of the League and defeat any legislation, amendment or policy that minimizes the rights or freedom of any group of people.

(Continued on next page)

KANSAS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' TWO-YEAR STUDY RESULTS IN

Each year, the League of Women Voters of Kansas 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 result, after many months of work, is the following position statement which was approved by convention delegates on April 23, as an addition to the "Criminal Justice — Juvenile Corrections and Services" section of the LWVK Program Positions. The position statement is used to guide advocates for juvenile offenders. Salina League members, Marge and Ted Mintun, were on the study committee.

BACKGROUND: The LWVK adopted a position on Juvenile Corrections and Services in 1973. In 1997, the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) was formed by state statute, and the agency assumed responsibility for programs and funding associated with juveniles who came in contact with law enforcement and were identified as juvenile offenders. In 1997, as part of the Children at Risk position, it was stated that LWVK supports the transfer of responsibility for juvenile offenders to the JJA. The purpose of the 2003-2005 LWVK study was to determine if the JJA is meeting the needs of juveniles eight years after assuming responsibility.

STATEMENT OF POSITION: The LWVK agrees with the primary goals of the JJA to promote public safety, hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior

and improve their ability to live more productively and responsibly in the community. To accomplish these goals, juvenile justice policies should be designed to:

1. Protect the public safety;
2. Recognize that the ultimate solutions to juvenile crime lie in:
 - a. strengthening families and education institutions
 - b. the involvement of the community, and
 - c. the implementation of effective prevention and intervention programs with rehabilitation as the

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5. Facilitate efficient and effective cooperation, coordination and collaboration among agencies of local, state and federal government;
6. Be outcome based, allowing for the effective and accurate assessment of program performance;
7. Be cost-effectively implemented and administered to utilize resources wisely;
8. Require recruitment and retention of well qualified, highly trained professionals to staff all components of the system; and
9. Encourage public and private partnerships to address community risk fac-

goal; commu- based the greatest possi- family cen-

tors.

Goals should be achieved through the following objectives:

- Providing a steady and sufficient source of funding from federal, State and local government to:
 - a. have access to effective intake and assessment centers
 - b. implement prevention, intervention and aftercare in local communities
 - c. recognize that there are different needs for funding and services between the rural and urban judicial districts;
- Allowing juvenile judges more flexibility in the use of both determinate and indeterminate sentencing;
- Providing institutions with the flexibility to use good time credits for offenders in state youth centers;
- Developing seamless state and local electronic systems to track juvenile offenders and to report outcomes and demographic information. Such a system should be funded by the state.

LWVK BOARD MEMBER MAKES POSITION STATEMENTS MORE READABLE

Last year, Karen Winn, LWVK board member, volunteered to review and revise, for clarity and uniformity of language, all the State Positions. This has now been done, and State Convention delegates approved her corrections as well as one revised by Convention Delegates.

ANNUAL MEETING, continued

(Continued from page 4)

"Thank you again for your confidence. I am humbled and proud to work with you!"

Program:

After a delicious meal of Balsamic Chicken Salad, Lemon Ice Cream and a

cookie, members watched a video presentation of Helen Thomas, banquet speaker at the 2004 LWV National Convention held in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Thomas, Hearst Newspaper columnist who served for 57 years as a correspondent and White House Bureau Chief for United Press International, began cov-

ering the White House in January 1961 and continued through eight administrations. She is the author of the book, *Front Row at the White House* (1999). Viewers were entertained, awestruck and delighted by Ms. Thomas' sharing of her personal experiences with so many presidents over the years.

CONVENTION KEYNOTE: "LIVING ON THE EDGE," TAWNY STOTTLEMIRE

"Living on the Edge," an October 2004 report by Kansas Association of Community Action Programs (KACAP), shows that Kansans must earn more than twice the federal poverty level to be able to pay their bills, even living the most frugal existence.

Tawny Stottlemire, KACAP's executive director and LWVK keynote speaker, highlighted the findings that hard work, even in many moderate-paying jobs, no longer makes the American Dream possible—in fact, often won't cover the basic costs of living. **The study finds that a single parent working full time, with one child, would need to earn at least \$12.14 an hour or \$25,261 a year to meet the Basic Family Needs Budget** which is a bare bones budget – no luxuries – no eating out at all. Many struggling families found their situation worsening in Kansas when, between 1999 and 2003, Kansas lost 43,000

jobs and unemployment rose by 100%.

If people are working hard to succeed, they deserve a helping hand to allow them to do so, she says. She urges Kansas and national policy makers to place poverty reduction at the forefront of government action, always asking the question, "How will this policy be a part of a larger plan to reduce poverty?"

Claiming that Kansas is actually living on the edge of *opportunity* to be a leader among states, Stottlemire is pushing for a Summit on Poverty before the end of 2005, to include low-income Kansans as well as leaders in government, business and labor, faith groups, news media, and non-profits, with the following goals:

✓ Define poverty, not according to outdated federal poverty guidelines but using available studies which show how much money a family must make to meet the

bare necessities.

✓ Describe poverty's impact on Kansas and working Kansans.

✓ Strategize ways to improve life for poor working families.

✓ Plan government services that cooperate and coordinate in eliminating poverty in Kansas.

✓ Include planning for affordable housing, energy, medical care, and child care, and for jobs that pay enough that parents can support their families.

PROGRAM PLANNING

Twenty League members attended the Program Planning Meeting at Martinelli's, the evening of January 20, 2005.

Family Solutions Program:

Members voted to send a letter asking SRS to fund the very successful Family Solutions Program, a part of the Child in Need of Care (CINC) process, and voted to add language to the local program position on CINC, recommending that foster children who cannot stay in their own homes be left in their home communities so they can continue attending the same school.

Proposals to the State League:

Members voted to recommend a new study regarding taxation of wind generators under the Land Use section of Natural Resources.

Proposals to increase the tax for education and to study Part B of the marriage act were discussed but no action taken.

All existing state positions were retained.

Proposals to the Salina League:

Two new local studies were approved for recommendation to the Annual Meeting:

- Should Salina and Saline County governments be merged?
- Should there be consolidation of Saline County School Districts?

Note: The first study was recommended by the board at the March board meeting; the second was not.

All existing local program positions were retained.

STATE CONVENTION:

A Hearty Thanks to Salina League Members

The LWVK Convention in Salina was a great success thanks to the work of many local League members. Special thanks are due to **Philip Kerstetter**, KWU president, who offered that fine facility free of charge, and to **Mary Kerstetter** for arranging with the KWU food service for delicious, beautifully presented meals, coffee and snacks.

More thanks go to:

Emma Doherty for donating her delicious home baked cookies;

Christi Peterson, chair of registration, with help from **Mary Frances Hogg**, **Jennifer Kay-Higgins** and **Eloise Lynch**;

Janda Allred whose design adorned the handbook cover, name tags and this newsletter; **Jane Alsop** assisted;

Carolee Jones whose decorating expertise made the room colorful and festive;

Mary Frances Hogg who obtained the "goodie" bags from the Chamber of Commerce and made arrangements with the Holiday Inn for the LWVK board dinner on Friday evening and overnight accommodations for the board members;

Bill Powell who brought video tapes from

Lunch & Learns, a list of available L&L videos and a suggested reading list for League members;

Ann Zimmerman who oversaw details of the exhibit tables, supplied a video monitor for L&L tapes, and provided lunch-time entertainment with three appropriate songs and audience participation;

Marge Mintun who suggested and made all arrangements for our inspiring, informative noon speaker, Tawny Stottlemire;

Eloise Lynch who filmed the keynote speaker for sharing with a larger audience through Community Access TV.

Bruce Wyatt, husband of League member, Margaret, for leading the very timely workshop about effective advocacy;

Donita Michaelson who served as treasurer for this event—a big job;

Sue Holmes who lent her considerable experience and expertise to serve as parliamentarian for the meeting;

Mary Anne Powell who was over-all coordinator of the event.

And thanks to all who attended!

NEW SALINA LWV MEMBERS

LWV Salina welcomes the following new members!

Lila (Mickie) Breault

Mickie has never missed an election since she became old enough to vote! She joined the League to be more informed about the political process. Mickie is a 27-year veteran of teaching second grade. She returned to Salina in 1985, and now is a member of the St. Mary's quilting circle and enjoys playing bridge and reading. Her last name is pronounced "Bro."

Carla Strand

Carla joins LWV Salina with some League experience in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where she was involved with the founding of Southern Oklahoma LWV, in 1996-1998. Carla came to Salina in 1999 with husband Mike, both as Salina Journal reporters. Carla now works in the advertising department as "special sections" writer. She has been an "On Air Personality" when she worked in radio news in Ardmore and in Pittsburg, Kansas, and has many interesting stories to tell about that experience!

Judy Helm

Judy has been a League member off and on for twenty or twenty-five years and now has re-joined. Judy has been a Title I reading/math teacher at Oakdale School in Salina for 35 years, the last five years as a reading consultant. She retired two years ago from USD 305. She is now a reading

and math consultant with Central Kansas Co-op in Education, supervises student teachers at Kansas Wesleyan University in math methods, and is an independent consultant in reading and math. Judy is married to Wilber, and they have a grown son in Lawrence, Kansas.

to Montreal, Canada, where their two children, Alexandra, now 13, and Aaron, 12, were born. After four years in Montreal, the economic climate there made it impossible for Pat to find employment, so they moved to Salina, where Dina has three sisters.

Dina began work with Heartland Head Start in 1998 as an intake specialist, interviewing new clients in either Spanish or English. She came to the Human Relations Department in October 2004. Her husband owns Pat's Electronics in Salina.

Welcome!

Dina Giron

Dina works in the Salina Human Relations Department with League members Kaye Crawford and Sandy Beverly. She has completed one week of a five-week training offered by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to be a certified human relations specialist.

Dina (her name is pronounced Deena Heeron) and her husband Pat left their native El Salvador when the political situation there became too dangerous, and moved

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION IN APRIL

The combination of a Capers social and new-member orientation attracted a dozen new and experienced League members on April 14th.

Again Kaye Crawford had prepared a notebook with very useful information for each new member. Kaye, Christi Peterson and Mary Anne Powell led a most animated discussion.

These Capers socials mixing good food and good information can become habit forming!

"LUNCH & LEARNS" were FEBRUARYS & MARCHS

February 8, 2005:

Dr. Rob Winter presented USD 305's legislative platform, discussed the recent staff and budget cuts and the effect this has had on Salina schools. He asked for Salina's support of USD 305's legislative platform, and listeners learned what citizens can do to help assure a better education for our children.

March 8, 2005:

Kenya Gillespie, a talented musician and athlete was recently selected to be a student leader at the National Young Leadership Conference in Washington, D. C. He reported on his experiences, what he learned about the political process, speakers he had heard and important ideas he brought back from Washington

and par-

ticipation in the conference. Following his presentation, President Christi Peterson moderated a discussion.

Next LUNCH & LEARN coming in September!

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)
 - Contributing Level* \$50.00
 - Sustaining Level* \$40.00
- _____ Family Membership (circle one)
 - Contributing Level* \$75.00
 - Sustaining Level* \$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 Email: wbpowell@ksu.edu**

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