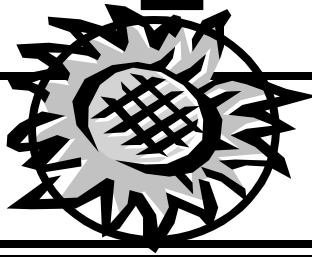


V O T E R



Vol. 48, Issue 2—February 2006
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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.

CITY-COUNTY CONSOLIDATION STUDY GETS LOCALS TALKING

Salina League of Women Voters' activities usually stay below the radar of the local press and public, but this year's study of city and county consolidation seems to stir up conversation and controversy at every step. The study committee aims to define a new League position on consolidation. A majority of League members must approve the position at the April membership meeting. Since last fall, the League has presented several public meetings, surveyed county employees, gathered city and county job descriptions and met with commissioners.

But the issue has taken on a life of its own, becoming the topic of newspaper editorials and articles, radio interviews, website features and animated conversations around the county.

The survey, public events and informa-

tion gathering are all part of the study process, including two public forums with statewide experts on consolidation.

At a January panel discussion on consolidation featuring representatives of the Kansas League of Municipalities and former Hutchinson senator Dave Kerr, comments from rural residents showed frustration that none of the panel speakers specifically represented counties. In response, the committee invited Randall Allen, director of the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), who then addressed a second forum in early February.

When the study committee has gathered all the info it can in the short time available, it will draft consensus questions to help determine its recommendations.

(Continued on page 3)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Table with 2 columns: Article Title and Page Number. Includes President's Report, City-County Consolidation Study, Legislative Contact Information, Lunch & Learn, Book Reviews, Observers, and Membership Form.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**In place of her usual report, Gina sends this story she received from a friend.**

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife opening a package. "What food might this contain?" He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning. "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The pig sympathized but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be

assured that you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow. She said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you. But it's no skin off my nose."

So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness she did not see that it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught.

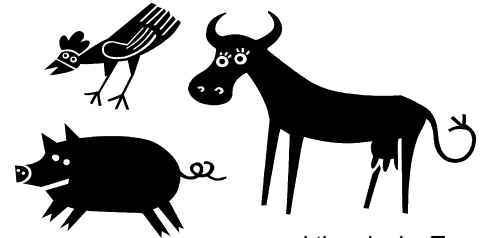


The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever.

Now everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's

main ingredient. The Chicken!

But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her



around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife did not get well. She died. And so many attended her funeral the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The moral of this story: The next time you hear that someone is facing a problem and you think that it doesn't concern you, remember: When one of us is threatened, we are all at risk.

## CALENDAR



### FEBRUARY 2006

- 2 Public Forum—Study
- 14 Lunch and Learn
- 16 Board Meeting

### MARCH 2006

- 9 League Day at the Capitol
- 14 Lunch and Learn
- 15 (tent.) Unit Meetings—Study\*
- 16 Board Meeting

### APRIL 2006

- 20 Board Meeting
- 27 LWVK Council, Lawrence

### MAY 2006

- 6 (tent.) Membership Meeting
- 18 Board Meeting

### JUNE 2006

- 10-13 National Conv., Mpls, MN
- \*see page 3, col. 1

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

Mary Frances Hogg says, Keep this information handy, especially with the start of the legislative session:

### GOV. KATHLEEN SEBELIUS

sebelius@governor.state.ks.us  
Office of the Governor  
300 SW 10th Ave., Ste. 212S  
Topeka, KS 66612-1590  
877-579-6757 (Toll free)  
785-296-6240 (Topeka)

### SEN. PAT ROBERTS

[http://Roberts.senate.gov/  
email\\_pat.html](http://Roberts.senate.gov/email_pat.html)  
202-224-4774 (DC)  
316-263-0416 (Wichita office)

### SEN. SAM BROWNBACK

[www.senate.gov/~brownback/  
CMEmailMe.html](http://www.senate.gov/~brownback/CMEmailMe.html)  
202-224-6521 (DC)  
316-264-8066 (Wichita office)

### REP. JERRY MORAN

[www.house.gov/moranks01/  
hearingfromyou.htm](http://www.house.gov/moranks01/hearingfromyou.htm)  
202-225-2715 (DC)

785-309-0572 (Salina)

### State SEN. PETE BRUNGARDT

brungardt@senate.state.ks.us  
300 SW 10th St., Topeka, KS 66612  
or 522 Fairdale Rd., Salina, KS 67401  
785-827-6188 (home)  
785-296-7390 (Topeka)

### State REP. DEENA HORST

horst@house.state.ks.us  
300 SW 10th St., Topeka, KS 66612  
or 920 S. 9th, Salina, KS 67401  
785-827-8540 (home)  
785-296-7631 (Topeka)

### State REP. JOSHUA SVATY

svaty@house.state.ks.us  
300 SW 10th St., Topeka, KS 66612  
or 1355 Hwy 156, Ellsworth, KS  
67439  
785-472-4847 (home)  
785-296-7680 (Topeka)

### State REP. CHARLES ROTH

roth@house.state.ks.us  
300 SW 10th St., Topeka, KS 66612  
or 3 Crestview Dr., Salina, KS 67401  
785-827-3712 (home)

# City-County Consolidation Study (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

## The Study Process

The League's study process begins with this information-gathering period. Committee members seek to learn as much as possible about the issue they are studying. With all this information in mind, they draft open-ended questions designed to lead to the formulation of good policy.

In the city-county consolidation study, those "consensus questions" must be drafted by mid-February. The committee will request board approval of the questions at the February board meeting, and the questions will then be sent to the full League membership. At "unit meetings" planned for **noon and 7pm Wed., March 15**, members will gather in small groups to work toward consensus on the answers to the questions.

After unit meetings, the committee will draw up the resulting answers and recommend them as the new League position on city-county consolidation. The recommended position will be sent to the full membership for review, and at the membership meeting tentatively set for **Sat., May 6**, members will decide whether to accept the position.

Historically, the study process was developed after women gained the right to vote in 1920. The League's goal was to give the new voters ways to make sense of laws, to make decisions on how to vote, and to determine which laws should be passed. The study process continues to be important—for both women and men.

## January and February Forums

The January 12 evening forum provided a wealth of information for the committee's consideration.

Former state Senator Dave Kerr, Hutchinson, explained that Kansas law prohibits consolidation of almost any kind.

So under present laws, cities and counties who want to vote on consolidation must convince the state legislature to pass a special law for that location. Legislation passed to allow Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, to vote on consolidation differed significantly from the law to allow Shawnee County and Topeka to vote on the same issue.

The statewide ban on consolidation was apparently passed decades ago in reaction to unpopular school district consolidations in the 1950s and 60s.

Kerr discussed his plan for a bill in this year's legislative session which would simply remove the current prohibitions on consolidation, letting cities and counties decide for themselves whether and how to consolidate.

Don Moler, director of the Kansas League of Municipalities (KLM), and Sandy Jacquot, KLM chief counsel, dis-

**The bill that has been introduced would remove the current prohibitions on consolidation, letting cities and counties decide for themselves whether and how to consolidate.**

cussed their experience in the unsuccessful consolidation attempt in Shawnee County and Topeka. In that case, a "dual majority" was required—the vote must pass by a majority of city residents as well as a majority of rural residents, a provision not in the Wyandotte-KCK law.

Moler explained that cities and counties have differing powers under Kansas law, and consolidation would give the entire area the powers of both city and county. This would increase the ability of each entity to govern effectively and decrease state interference in local decisions. For that reason, Moler

and Jacquot supported consolidation. However, Topeka and Shawnee County designed a consolidation plan which KLM considered detrimental to the city and unfairly beneficial to rural areas. Yet, when the vote came, city residents supported it and rural residents defeated it.

In February, Randall Allen of KAC went over the newly-introduced bill Sen. Kerr had described earlier. Allen stressed the need for ongoing discussions between urban and rural residents to build relationships as they wrestle with consolidation issues.

The League study committee noted all public comments at both forums as well as at an earlier Lunch & Learn featuring a panel of committee members.

## Likely Recommendations

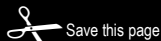
With so little time and so many facets to the consolidation question, committee members indicate the recommended position is likely to be a push for further study—but this time by a joint task force from the city and county. Even though such a recommendation would not say "yea" or "nay" on consolidation, it could specify areas of focus for such a task force.

## The Committee

The committee has had some personnel changes since the last VOTER in October. David Norlin still serves as chair. Other members are Jan Mendell, Marge and Ted Mintun, Ann Zimmerman and John Divine. President Gina McDonald is an *ex officio* member.

The committee next meets on Tuesday, February 14 at 5:00 pm in the small conference room in the library. All League members are welcome.

To see recent references in the local media to the League's study, see [www.lwvofsalinaks.com](http://www.lwvofsalinaks.com) and click on "In the News."



# LEGISLATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

This report from the Kansas League of Women Voters provides contact information for Congress and state legislators. Note: The Corrections & Juvenile Justice House Committee was disbanded; those bills will now go to the House Judiciary Committee.

## **KANSAS LEGISLATURE**

Go to [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org); click on either House or Senate for the Roster for the respective chamber. Below are telephone numbers for the Senate and House leadership, and for the Chair, Vice Chair and Ranking Minority of all committees. The 4-digit number is preceded by 785-296 when calling from out of town, and 296 when calling from Topeka.

### **SENATE**

**Leadership** President, Steve Morris - 2419; Vice President, John Vratil - 7361; Majority Leader, Derek Schmidt - 2497; Minority Leader, Anthony Hensley - 3245

**Agriculture** Chair, Mark Taddiken - 7371; V-chair, Roger Pine - 7372; Ranking Minority: marci francisco - 7364

**Assessment and Taxation** Chair, Barbara Allen - 7353; V-chairs, Derek Schmidt - 2497 and Les Donovan - 7385; Ranking Minority: Janis Lee - 7366

**Commerce** Co-Chairs, Karin Brownlee - 7358 and Nick Jordan - 7362; Ranking Minority: Laura Kelly - 7365

**Education** Chair, Jean Schodorf - 7391; V-chair, John Vratil - 7361; Ranking Minority, Janis Lee - 7366

**Elections and Local Government** Chair, Tim Huelskamp - 7359; V-chair, Kay O'Connor - 7382; Ranking Minority, Donald Betts - 7387

**Federal and State Affairs** Chair, Pete Brungardt - 7390; V-chair, Roger Reitz - 7360; Ranking Minority, Mark Gilstrap - 7357

**Financial Institutions and Insurance** Chair, Ruth Teichman - 7394; V-chair, David Wysong - 7369; Ranking Minority, Chris Steineger - 7375

**Judiciary** Chair, John Vratil - 7361; V-chair, Terry Bruce - 7300; Ranking Minority, Greta Goodwin - 7381

**Natural Resources** Chair, Carolyn McGinn - 7377; V-chair, Ralph Ostmeyer - 7399; Ranking Minority, marci francisco -

7364

**Public Health** Chair, Jim Barnett - 7384; V-chair, Vicki Schmidt - 7374; Ranking Minority, David Haley - 7376

**Health Care Strategies** Chair, Susan Wagle - 7386; V-chair, Pete Brungardt - 7390; Ranking Minority, D. Haley - 7376

**Transportation** Chair, Les Donovan - 7385; V-chair, Dennis Wilson - 7383; Ranking Minority, Mark Gilstrap - 7357

**Utilities M-F** Chair, Jay Emler - 7354; V-chair, Pat Apple - 7380; Ranking Minority, Janis Lee - 7366

**Ways and Means** Chair, Dwayne Umbarger - 7389; V-chair, Jay Emler - 7354; Ranking Minority: Jim Barone - 7370

### **HOUSE**

**Leadership** Speaker, Doug Mays - 2302; Speaker Pro-Tem, Ray Merrick - 3500; Majority Leader, Clay Aurand - 7662; Minority Leader, Dennis McKinney - 7630

**Agriculture** Chair, Dan Johnson - 7639; V-chair, Frank Miller - 7646; Ranking Minority, Josh Svaty - 7680

**Appropriations** Chair, Melvin Neufeld - 7649; V-chair, Brenda Landwehr - 7683; Ranking Minority, Bill Feuerborn - 7657

**Commerce and Labor** Chair, Don Dahl - 7659; V-chair, Scott Schwab - 7682; Ranking Minority, Candy Ruff - 7647

**Economic Development** Chair, Lana Gordon - 7652; V-chair, Terrie Huntington - 7667; Ranking Minority, Valdenia Winn - 7651

**Education** Chair, Kathe Decker - 7637; V-chair, Deena Horst - 7653; Ranking Minority, Sue Storm - 7650

**Environment** Chair, Joann Freeborn - 7645; V-chair, Mike Burgess - 7699; Ranking Minority: Vaughn Flora - 7647

**Federal and State Affairs** Chair, John Edmonds - 7681; V-chair, Arlen Siegfried - 7686; Ranking Minority, Tom Burroughs - 7688

**Financial Institutions** Chair, Ray Cox - 7689; V-chair, Joe Humerickhouse - 7692; Ranking Minority, Bob Grant - 7650

**Governmental Organizations and Elections** Chair, Jene Vickrey - 6014; V-chair, Steve Huebert - 1754; Ranking Minority, Tom Sawyer - 7648

**Health and Human Services** Chair, Jim

Morrison - 7676; V-chair, Peggy Mast - 7685; Ranking Minority, Tom Holland - 7656

**Higher Education** Chair, Tom Sloan - 7677; V-chair, Everett Johnson - 7699; Ranking Minority, Sidney Carlin - 7651

**Insurance** Chair, Clark Shultz - 7684; V-chair, Eric Carter - 7699; Ranking Minority, Nile Dillmore - 7647

**Judiciary** Chair, Mike O'Neal - 7679; V-chair, Lance Kinzer - 7663; Ranking Minority, Janice Pauls - 7657

**Taxation** Chair, Kenny Wilk - 7660; V-chair, David Huff - 7653; Ranking Minority, Tom Thull - 7680

**Transportation** Chair, Gary Hayzlett - 7640; V-chair, John Faber - 7500; Ranking Minority, Margaret Long - 7643

**Utilities** Chair, Carl Holmes - 7670; V-chair, Carl Krehbiel - 7682; Ranking Minority, Annie Kuether - 7669

**Wildlife, Tourism and Parks** Chair, Don Myers - 7695; V-chair, Judy Morrison - 7646; Ranking Minority, Geraldine Flaherty - 7673

## **U.S. CONGRESS**

Go to [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org); click on U.S. Congress and enter the name of the congress person.

Sen. Pat Roberts (Ph) 202-224-4774; (Fax) 202-224-3514

Sen. Sam Brownback (Ph) 202-224-6521; (Fax) 202-228-1265

Congressman Jerry Moran (Ph) 202-225-2715; (Fax) 202-225-5124

Congressman Jim Ryun (Ph) 202-225-6601; (Fax) 202-225-7986

Congressman Dennis Moore (Ph) 202-225-2865; (Fax) 202-225-2807

Congressman Todd Tiahrt (Ph) 202-225-6216; (Fax) 202-225-3489

**NOTE:** For members who receive newsletters covering any type of legislation, Janis McMillen ([jkmcmillen@kc.rr.com](mailto:jkmcmillen@kc.rr.com)), president of the Kansas League of Women Voters, welcomes excerpts from those newsletters regarding legislation related to any League position (pro or con). Find State League positions at the LWVK website [www.lwvk.org](http://www.lwvk.org) and click on LWVK Posi-

## LUNCH & LEARN: KIDS VOTING!

**KIDS VOTING SALINE COUNTY**  
with Phil Black and Ann Knowles  
**FEBRUARY 14, 12:15-1:15 p.m.**  
St. John's Lutheran Church

*Kids Voting Saline County* is gearing up for the 2006 elections! The mission: to increase lifelong voter participation.

February's Lunch and Learn will feature the work and goals of this growing project in our area.

*Kids Voting Saline County* works to educate elementary and secondary students about elections and involve them in the voting process. Through *Kids Voting*, students are exposed to the basics of an election as well as experiencing information gathering, decision-making, and the empowerment of voting.

In the 2006 elections here in Saline County, *Kids Voting* booths will be set up at all precincts. Leading up to the election, students at every level will participate in voting activities in their classes at school. Then they go to the polls with their parents to cast their own votes.

*Kids Voting Saline County* is a part of *Kids Voting Kansas* and *Kids Voting, USA*, all non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organizations. Since the program started in Kansas in 1992, it has spread to 55 communities with over 230,000 students participating

throughout the state. In the 2004 election, over 1800 Saline County students took part in the first effort launched in the Salina area. The goal of the *Kids Voting* committee is to involve 3000 stu-



dents in November of 2006. Anyone wishing to participate in the effort should contact Phil Black or Ann Knowles at 825-5422 (Brown Mackie).

At the February Lunch and Learn, Black and Knowles will discuss the *Kids Voting* program and preview the upcoming activities of *Kids Voting Saline County*, both in the near future and in the long term. They encourage Saline County citizens to become a part of the *Kids Voting* process.

Come learn about this innovative program. Bring your lunch. Ask a question. Tuesday, February 14, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, music room, south end of ground floor (new location).

Lunch and Learn is a series of educational programs presented six times yearly

## JUDGING THE JUDGES

[In the last Voter, we ran an article on the current outcry against "activist judges." It discussed the need for information to give voters a basis for casting their retention votes for or against incumbent judges.

Here is a report from a state committee appointed in the past year by the Kansas Judicial Council to study this issue.]

### Excerpts from the Report of the "JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE"

Approved by the Judicial Council  
December 2, 2005.

Unlike individuals in other professions, judges rarely receive meaningful "feedback" concerning their job performance; they are often unaware of areas in which they can improve. Additionally, in merit selection jurisdictions, providing objective information on the performance of judges makes judicial retention elections more meaningful. Judicial performance evaluation (JPE) programs can assist in both of these areas.

The first JPE programs were adopted in the 1970's. Alaska, in 1976, was the first state to adopt a JPE program to not only provide information to the judges for self-improvement, but to provide information to assist voters in retention elections of judges. Since that time Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Tennessee and Utah have created such dual purpose programs. Approximately twelve additional states conduct JPEs only for of self-improvement.

Unlike JPE programs that are conducted by bar associations, interest groups or other entities, the type of program recommended by this report is established by law or court rule, funded by the state and professionally designed and managed. Such a program will not only seek the opinions of lawyers, but utilize broad-based surveys of court users and others who are in a position to evaluate judicial performance, such as juror, litigants, witnesses and court staff.

At its November 5, 2004 meeting, the Kansas Judicial Council agreed to undertake a study of JPE.

See proposed new legislation at: [www.kscourts.org/council/jud\\_perform\\_legi.pdf](http://www.kscourts.org/council/jud_perform_legi.pdf).

### March Lunch & Learn:

## COMMUNITY ACCESS CABLE—UNDER ATTACK!

For March's Lunch and Learn, **David Hawksworth of Salina's Community Access Cable** will present information about the movement in the country and in Congress to eliminate cable channel franchising. This threatens to phase out stations like Community Access, leaving no provi-

sion for educational, public or governmental access channels.

This Lunch and Learn is **March 14, 12:15pm**, St. John's Lutheran Church. As usual, bring your lunch, ask a question. Find out how this issue affects you and what you can do about it.

## TWO BOOK REVIEWS

### **URGENT MESSAGE FROM MOTHER: Gather the Women ,Save the World; by Jean Shinada Bolen M. D.**

© 2005 Comari Press

Dr. Bolen writes this book as a message from what she refers to as Mother Earth, Mother Goddess, Mother Archetype. It is a call to **raise awareness of feminine principles** and to summon women to be strong together to protect what they love. Only if this happens, will children be safe and peace a possibility.

The first three chapters focus on the power of women united. The fourth chapter describes the specifically-female qualities that serve humanity. The last three chapters show how women individually and together must be the antidote to the mind-frame that has put humans and the earth, "Mother Earth," in harms way. She says:

- Women manage resources responsibly.
- Women find solutions by talking to each other, creating a network of connections.

• Men often resort to fight-or-flight solutions or focus on finding their place in the hierarchy.

#### **The author lists several examples of the power of women united:**

- A group of Nigerian women objected to the installation of a large corporate facility which would have harmed the environment in an area where the locals were without electricity and safe drinking water. The women's actions forced the corporation to install water purification and electrical generating capabilities and to hire local labor for the project.
- A group of just fourteen mothers of the disappeared in Argentina began holding demonstrations against a dictatorship. After seven years, the number of participants became so great that world opinion forced the country's leadership to cease persecuting young protestors and account for at least part of the 30,000 citizens who had been kidnapped, arrested,

tortured and killed.

- Around the world, women's circles hold power that is often invisible. By meeting together, women create a safe place to tell the truth about shame, embarrassment, and subjugation. These healing circles let women know they are not victims alone. Women have thus been empowered to bring oppression to light and eliminate its cause.

According to the author, anything we love can be saved. **She discusses the need for all citizens (including males) to work together on major problems** such as: world overpopulation; education for girls and women; women's safety; disease and poverty eradication; and the effect of war on women and children.

Bolen urges all people to bring back the power of feminine caring into the world and eliminate destructive wars and subjugation of the economically less fortunate.

—William Powell

### **ESSENTIAL AMERICA: Our Founders and The Liberal Tradition; by G. McGovern © 2004 (Simon & Schuster)**

George Mc Govern, author of this book, was the unsuccessful candidate for U.S. President in 1972. He was defeated by Richard Nixon. Nixon won in 47 states, then resigned in disgrace eighteen months later to avoid impeachment for high crimes.

McGovern contends in this book that almost all of the founding fathers were liberal. He quotes the Webster definition of liberal: "A political philosophy based on the belief in progress, the essential goodness of man, the individual autonomy of the individual, and standing for the protection of political and individual liberties."

McGovern writes that there are **eight major sources** of American strength and national security:

- **First: a foreign policy of cooperation and conciliation** rather than confrontational go-it-alone unilateralism. There may be times when conditions demand a get-tough use of force but this should be used

with "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind."

- **Second: wise use of food production** to end hunger at home and reduce hunger abroad. He contends that this is a humanitarian act and it advances our national security. We are safer in the "feeding business" than in the "war business".
- **Third: health.** The success of a population is derived from good health the author states. A medical program to insure a higher level of general health is essential. The richest citizens would probably enjoy life more if instead of a tax gift they do not need, the money could be used to promote health insurance for lower income people.
- **Fourth: education** through all economic levels. We as a country would be better qualified for leadership if the education level were raised, not just for the well-to-do but at all economic levels.
- **Fifth: our richly-endowed physical environment.** He advocates developing alternative sources of energy, purer air quality, and pure water for all economic classes.

Pollution sources from transportation and manufacturing need to be monitored more closely. We as a country need to help decrease global warming.

- **Sixth: food production**, particularly farm families' ability to produce pure food.
- **Seventh: a credible federal government** which speaks the truth and maintains trust of citizens, so they may support and defend a believable government. One step in this direction would be to replace special-interest funding of elections with rules to let a greater mass of people be informed to make election choices.
- **Eighth: a military force** that truly meets the defense needs of the country without excessive spending to ensure profits for arms makers. McGovern advocates decreasing military budget by five to seven percent per year and investing this money in peace making.

As a long-time observer of and participant in the United States political system, McGovern offers views that are valuable resources for today's reader seeking to

## OBSERVER REPORTS

### USD 305 BOARD HIGHLIGHTS:

(Dec. '05-Jan. '06, Mike White, observer)

• **MATH:** A new two-track math curriculum will replace the Integrated Math Program beginning fall, '06. 1<sup>st</sup> track: Algebra I for 8th grade students, geometry in the 9th grade; 2<sup>nd</sup> track: Algebra I in the 9th grade, geometry in 10th grade.

• **STATE SCH. BD. ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:** 1) School finance; 2) KPERs; 3) School expenditure requirements; 4) Student nutrition and wellness; and 5) Student disciplinary hearings.

• **USD 305 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:** 1) Close the gap between actual and desired student achievement, and 2) Ensure adequate resources to give every child a suitable education for future success.

• **TECH ED CHANGES POSSIBLE:** The Board of Regents has proposed changes to the governance and structure of technical education in Kansas which would affect the Salina Area Technical School.

• **CHANGE OF PROGRAM LOCATION:** The Salina Area Technical School Health Occupations Program will be relocated to

the former alternative school building.

• **ENROLLMENT:** The USD 305 enrollment as of December 22 was 7371 students and Salina Area Technical School was 268.

• **ACADEMIC GOALS (set in '04-05):** 1) Increase by 10% per year the number of students reading at grade level by end of third grade; 2) All schools will meet the state's Annual Yearly Progress standard; 3) Decrease achievement gaps at all schools among the special needs students and the general student population by 10% annually; 4) Attain the standard of excellence in reading or math at each grade in at least 50% of schools by 2007.

### LIBRARY BOARD HIGHLIGHTS:

(Nov. '05-Jan. '06, Mike White Observer)

• **CLASS:** "Community Learning and Skill Sharing" total enrollment for the fall, 2005 semester was 664 persons, about twice the number from before library involvement. As of January 17, 611 persons were enrolled in CLASS courses, about 30% more than in spring '05.

• **HURRICANE DONATION:** The library

donated about \$4000 from October fines to Gulf Coast area schools and public libraries damaged by hurricanes.

• **AUDIO DOWNLOADS:** A statewide system allowing library patrons to download audio books and music is planned for '06.

• **EXPENDITURES:** Total library expenditures for 2005 were \$1,786,242.66.

• **LIBRARY USAGE:** 3464 people used the Technology Center in December; during 2005, 541,357 items were circulated and the meeting rooms were used 134 times.

### HUMAN RELATIONS BD. HIGHLIGHTS:

(Kaye Crawford, chair [not an observer]) Women's History Month Luncheon is set for Friday, March 17, Bicentennial Center, 11:30 to 1:30; Governor Sebelius is invited but as yet unconfirmed as guest speaker.

### OBSERVERS NEEDED:

Saline County Commission, Salina Housing Authority, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (3<sup>rd</sup> Wed., 4pm, Rm. 107), and Accessibility Advisory Board (meets as needed, Bicenter, Rm. 201, 4pm).

## FYI: What is the League of Women Voters EDUCATION FUND?

[The Salina League's monthly Treasurer's Report contains a line labeled "Education Fund." Here is a report from Treasurer, Donita Michaelsen, to explain.]

### What is the Education Fund?

The League of Women Voters Education Fund was established in 1957 as a separate, tax-exempt organization with 501(c)(3) status. This allows LWV to solicit tax-deductible donations to use for educational purposes. These funds are tax deductible as charitable donations. Our local League is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. Funds donated to 501(c)(4) organizations may be used to lobby, while funds donated to 501(c)(3) organizations may not be used for lobbying. Our local League does not have to pay income taxes, but unlike the Education Fund, dues monies and donations to our regular local fund are NOT tax deductible.

### What are the IRS and LWV guidelines for using the Education Fund?

Projects supported by Education Funds must be educational and nonpartisan, must serve the general public and not only League members; and the funds may not be given directly to outside organizations.

### How are Education Fund monies used by the Salina LWV?

The Education Fund is used to pay for:

- Expenses incurred by the "Lunch and Learn" informational programs.
- Expenses for the League Study topic—this year, these are any expenses from the City and County consolidation study.
- The Tri-Rivers Fair voter registration booth, including this year's surveys of the fairgoing public, intended for use in a program to encourage minorities and women to run for public office.

• Candidate forums where local candidates running for public office meet and inform the general public on their views.

Many local members donate not only their time to the League but also pay out-of-pocket expenses on projects. With more donations to the Education Fund, the Salina League could do more with less of a need for personal out-of-pocket subsidies. Remember, a donation to the Fund is tax deductible! The local League can only use the Education Fund monies donated from the Salina area.

**How can you help?** To support the many local League educational programs, make checks payable to "League of Women Voters Education Fund" and send to:

Donita Michaelsen, Treasurer  
League of Women Voters  
P.O. Box 502  
Salina, Kansas 67401-0502

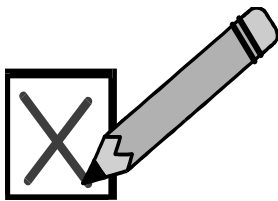


**League of Women Voters of Salina**

PO Box 502

Salina, KS 67402-0502

**JOIN US**



**MAKE PROGRESS HAPPEN** 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](mailto:wbpowell@ksu.edu)

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