

# APRIL 2011

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Are you subscribed to the League's listserv?  
The listserv facilitates rapid exchange of ideas and information about upcoming events. If you would like to subscribe, send a message with your email address to Brooke Goc. brookegoc@gmail.com



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# The VOTER

Bulletin of the LWV of Lawrence-Douglas County, KS • *Volume 58, No. 9*  
The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

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## LEAGUE CALENDAR

|                         |          |  |
|-------------------------|----------|--|
| Sunday,<br>April 10th   | 11:30 AM | <b>LWVL-DC Annual Meeting.</b> <i>Maceli's, 1031 New Hampshire St. Guest Speaker: Paul Johnson. Please see article below.</i>                                    |
| Saturday,<br>April 23rd | 1:00 PM  | <b>Land Use Committee Meeting.</b> <i>Community Mercantile Meeting Room, 901 Iowa St.</i>  |
| Friday,<br>April 29th   | 9:00 PM  | <b>VOTER Article Submission Deadline.</b> <i>Please send submissions to <a href="mailto:lightwatcher@gmail.com">lightwatcher@gmail.com</a>.</i>                  |
| Saturday,<br>April 30th |          | <b>LWVK State Convention,</b> <i>Guest House Inn, 2700 West 18th Avenue, Emporia. Details TBA - check the <a href="#">LWVK website</a> for more information.</i> |

## SAVE THE DATE: LWVL-DC ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, April 10th at Maceli's, 1031 New Hampshire. Our guest speaker will be Paul Johnson, LWVK Legislative Liaison and primary author of the very informative Legislative E-Reports. Lunch through the brunch buffet line begins at 11:30, the meeting begins at 12:30. Extra seating will be available if you wish to attend the meeting but not eat. Adult Buffet is \$13.99, Senior / Student Buffet is \$12.99.

***Please remember that your dues must be current in order to vote on officers and issues at the Annual Meeting!***

If you don't know if you still need to pay, dues check your Voter label: the number above your name is the date your membership expires. You can also email your treasurer at [nobledog@aol.com](mailto:nobledog@aol.com) and receive your expiration date.

## 2011 HELEN FLUKER AWARD

The recipient of the twelfth annual Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award is Dave Ranney, Senior Writer/Editor for the Kansas Health Institute News Service. He was honored at a well-attended luncheon March 12 at the Smith Center at Brandon Woods. Mr Ranney attends governmental meetings and releases well-written, informative reports on critical issues being discussed. He is dedicated to providing his readers with the accurate and objective information essential in a democracy to allow citizens make responsible, informed choices rather than acting out of ignorance or misinformation. An informed citizenry is one of the basic values of the League, and one that Helen Fluker especially appreciated.



Dave Ranney, center, with members of Helen Fluker's family: Julie, Ann, John, and Bob Fluker.

## LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY OBSERVER REPORT MARCH 21, 2011

Library Director Bruce Flanders is reaching out to community organizations to update the public on the library expansion and renovation project. A "state of the library" presentation will be delivered at the City Commission meeting in April. The library hopes to host the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors monthly breakfast meeting on May 25.

Susan Brown has been hired as the library's Marketing Director and Rachel Smalter Hall is the library's Adult Programming Librarian. Both are new positions.

The Library along with other commu-



nity partners encourages everyone to participate in "Read Across Lawrence 2011" by reading, discussing, and watching Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird".

Gould Evans reported getting public feedback on the new library design. The concern is the proportion of the garage, the entry sequence to the library, how the transit hub would fit into the space allowed, safety issues and how it would look in comparison to the surrounding area. Gould Evans will have more meetings with the public and individual groups, following with a design drawing by the end of May.

## LEAGUE MEMBER RECEIVES TRAINING

LWV-D/C member, Kay Hale, completed a training program offered by the League of Women Voters of the United States on March 25– 27 in Providence, Rhode Island. The purpose of the training program was to address two core challenges facing the League. They are: membership recruitment and leadership development.

A state-wide initiative to assist local Leagues in meeting these challenges will be announced at the Kansas State Convention on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Kay and three additional members from across the state will serve as a coaching team to assist local leagues enrolled in the initiative.

The training was an exciting experience," said Hale. "I look forward to sharing the tools I received with League members.

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH BOARD MEETING MARCH 10, 2011

PRESENT: Milton Scott, Vice-President, Elinor Tourtelot, Secretary, Marjorie Cole, Treasurer; Directors: Lee Ann Duver, Ruth Lichtwardt and Carrie Lindsey.  
ABSENT: James Dunn, Bob Duver, Brooke Goc, Aline Hoey, Chris Lempa and Marguerite Lohrenz  
The meeting was called to order by Milton at 7:10 p.m.

Six board members were in attendance. A quorum of at least seven

people is necessary in order to vote. The meeting went forward.

**Treasurer's report** - Marjorie reported that former league treasure Carolyn

Coleman will do the end of year audit. Milton Scott and Kay Hale will serve on the Budget Committee to prepare a 2011-12 Budget for approval at the Annual Meeting. Milton reminded us that a Budget Adjustment Committee of two should be appointed and Marjorie will find two people willing to serve. The February treasurer's report showed that more money had come in than was paid out in February, with many members paying their annual dues. The end-of-February balance in our checking account was \$1288. A full report for the year will be prepared for the Annual Meeting.

**President's Report** -

League Legislative E- Reports were attached to agenda.

Sunshine Week - Sunshine Week 2011 is March 13-20. It is an opportunity for the league to get visibility and participate in the important issue of open government. On Friday, March 18, 12:00-1:30 PM ET, the LWV Education Fund (WVEF) again co-hosts the Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue. "The Road Forward on Open Government" will be broadcast live via the web. For details, visit our event partner at [www.OpenTheGovernment.org](http://www.OpenTheGovernment.org).

**League Day** - Paul Johnson, League Legislative Laison, will be the speaker for League Day on March 24 at the Dillon House, 404 SW 9th St. in Topeka. Registration is due by March 20.



**Annual Meeting** - Carrie will plan procedures for the meeting on April 10. The luncheon for those who want to eat will be at 11:30 and the meeting will begin at 12:30. There is a \$25 room fee. League members will be emailed reminders of the meeting and those without email will be called.

**Fund Drive** - The fund drive, a rummage sale, will be held in the Fall. Fund raising letters will be sent out by the next President.



**Committee Reports**

**Fluker Committee** - We are expecting 34 people to attend. Dave Ranney, former Journal World reporter who writes for the Kansas Health Institute, will be the recipient of the 2011 Helen Fluker Award. Carrie volunteered to arrange for a press release with the Journal World.

**Voter Service Committee** - VEC met on Thursday, March 10. Candidates for the upcoming Lawrence City Commissioners race will participate in a forum on March 14 at 7:00 pm at City Hall and again on March 21 at Peace Mennonite Church, 615 Lincoln. A forum for the School Board Candidates will be March 22, 7:00-9:00 pm at the City Hall and again on April 2, 10-noon at the Union Pacific Depot Visitor Center. The forums are open to the public. This information will be put on line and on the listserve.



The Voter Guide was edited by Caleb and assembled by Aline and Carrie. It will be put on the website and the listserve and mailed to those who don't have email. The election is April 5.

The Naturalization ceremony booklet will be customized to the Lawrence/DC League.

**Nominating Committee** - The Nominating Committee is sending their recommendations for the 2011-2012 board to the league membership for consideration at the annual meeting on April 10. Sharon Brown and Nate Lindsey will share the chair of the Nominating Committee for 2011-2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

- Elinor Tourtellot, Secretary



# LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT

## MARCH 2011 MEETING

The Land Use Committee (LUC) met at the Merc on Saturday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m. We discussed the March Planning Commission (PC) agenda items and decided to send three letters.

(1) The first letter we sent was on Item No. 1, a request for I-I (Limited Industrial ) zoning for a 40-acre tract adjacent to an airfield in Vinland, Kansas. Vinland is unincorporated and located due north and about three miles from Baldwin City limits, out of Baldwin's projected Urban Growth Area and not subject to annexation, but within its three-mile planning jurisdiction. The I-I District is a relatively low intensive district, but because the site is in a location near somewhat sensitive uses we suggested that its district be conditioned to selectively limit its permitted uses. OUTCOME: the PC approved the rezoning unanimously with no conditions.

(2) Our second letter dealt with Item No. 2: a Mixed Use District (MU) proposed to be added to six adjacent properties located on both sides of 14th and including the corners of Tennessee and Ohio. The site is a mixed use area of separate built-up lots, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Historical Resources Commission. These lots connect the Bullwinkle tavern to the newly zoned MU Districts to the west on 14<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the MU District is to provide residential and non-residential, including commercial, uses to residents within easy walking distance. The MU District regulations include three subdistricts, this rezoning request being the most intensive--the Primary Development Zone. This Zone requires that the street level be non-residential with unbroken frontage--a small business district--with residential uses confined to the upper levels. Because of the very specific requirements of the MU District and the complications inherent in coordinating multiple ownerships, we suggested that the Secondary Development Zone, which is less re-



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strictive, would be more appropriate for this situation. We also suggested that the MU District itself, especially the Primary Development Zone, will be difficult to apply to situations like this, and accomplishing the redevelopment of the area would be facilitated if we had a more flexible overlay mixed use district. OUTCOME: the PC approved five MU Districts unanimously, and the sixth, Bullwinkles, was approved, but with two negative votes. The two commissioners' objections were based on their wishes to condition the Bullwinkle tavern for restrictions on business hours and environmental impacts.

(3) The most controversial issue of this PC Agenda was Item No. 3, the RM32 District Text Amendment (TA), which had been sent back from the City Commission for reconsideration by the PC. The original proposal by the developer who requested this TA would completely remove the "cap" or upper limit on the density of 32 units an acre--the density limit of the current RM32 District. The argument for allowing this increase in density was that it would allow rehabilitation of older existing apartment buildings to meet the present demand of one- and two-bedroom units and that the actual number of residents on a site would not increase. Staff proposed that increasing the allowable density in RM32 Districts could be done by reducing the density value per unit by half for one and two bedroom apartments. With this change, Planning staff had recommended approval of the TA, and their assessment was that the parking (one space per bedroom) and other requirements would limit the number of units possible on any one property. The City Commission sent this TA back to the PC with a number of questions. In response, staff added the provision of capping the allowable density to 48 units, total, rather than allowing an unlimited increase of units.

Objections from the Oread Neighborhood, where most of the RM32 Districts are located, were that this approach has too many undesirable consequences. One predictable outcome of permitting higher densities would be the loss of single-



Eggstra Special Annual Meeting Issue

family structures and the predominant historic small-lot scale of the Oread Neighborhood by encouraging lot consolidation for building larger apartments. It's a complicated issue, but important, because the change would affect not just the Oread Neighborhood, but all RM32 Districts throughout the city. In a letter that we sent last year in December, we suggested that the amendment should be limited to existing apartment buildings in RM32 Districts needing renovation and that use of the optional increased density could specifically be limited through adding a provision to the Land Development Code, Article 5 rather than applying to all RM32 Districts. In our current letter to the PC on this issue we referred to our previous December letter. OUTCOME: this item was deferred until the May PC meeting.

## LAND USE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Land Use Committee met every month during the annual period of February, 2010 through February, 2011 with the exception of July, 2010 and January 2011. Our meeting place and time was at the Community Mercantile general meeting room from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. except during the winter months of 2011, when we met at 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We sent 18 letters during this time, 17 to the Planning Commission, and one to the joint study session of the City Commission and Board of County Commissioners. Our Chairman also testified several times at these public hearings.

Our discussions and letters centered on the agendas of the monthly meetings of the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission (PC).

During this time span, the PC was in the process of discussing and adopting several important changes to our Lawrence Land Development Code on which we sent letters: proposed



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text amendments (TA) on environmentally sensitive land, Boarding Houses, increasing density in the highest density multiple family district, RM32, a new text amendment



allowing hotels in industrial/business parks, and certain procedural issues dealing with site planning and platting. Letters also included comments on text amendments to our Comprehensive Plan, Horizon 2020, including on the Northeast Sector Plan, and perhaps the most important--the new Chapter 16 of Horizon 2020 on the environment. We also sent a letter on a new mixed commercial/residential district--the MU District--as it was being applied in the Oread Neighborhood. Perhaps the most important letter that we sent was to the PC objecting to the Berry Plastics relocation of their warehouse-printing plant in the Rural Area of Douglas County, and the basis on which it was justified.

For a more detailed description of our activities, please see the VOTER reports from the Land Use Committee.

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR LWV KANSAS

On March 24th the Board of the League of Women Voters of Kansas approved the attached proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year beginning April 1, 2011.

The budget retains the current PMP amounts of \$18 for full members and \$9 for second household members. The amount for each local league is based on membership totals in February 1 of this year.

The budget includes a \$4000 transfer from the LWVK savings account and \$2000 from the LWVK endowment fund. This may be the last year that we will be able to draw funds from savings to balance the budget.

I am sending this proposed budget to you before the LWVK convention so that you can use the PMP figures in preparing your local budgets. Explanations of budget items and account balances will be available at the convention.

Please share this information with your members.

Thank you, Leonore (Lee) Rowe

LWVK Treasurer

| <b>INCOME</b>          | 2010-2011<br>Actual | 2010-2011<br>Budget | Proposed<br>2011-2012<br>Budget |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Support:</b>        |                     |                     |                                 |
| Emporia                | \$837.00            | \$837.00            | \$801.00                        |
| Great Bend             | \$441.00            | \$441.00            | \$459.00                        |
| Johnson County         | \$2,412.00          | \$2,412.00          | \$2,160.00                      |
| Lawrence               | \$1,719.00          | \$1,719.00          | \$1,521.00                      |
| Manhattan              | \$1,557.00          | \$1,557.00          | \$1,350.00                      |
| Salina                 | \$855.00            | \$855.00            | \$819.00                        |
| Topeka                 | \$1,395.00          | \$1,395.00          | \$1,440.00                      |
| Wichita                | \$990.00            | \$990.00            | \$1,188.00                      |
| <b>MAL</b>             |                     |                     |                                 |
| Interest               | \$39.20             | \$80.00             | \$42.00                         |
| <b>Contributions:</b>  |                     |                     |                                 |
| Member                 | \$2,255.00          | \$2,000.00          | \$2,000.00                      |
| Nonmember              | \$0.00              | \$100.00            | \$100.00                        |
| <b>Other projects:</b> |                     |                     |                                 |
| Publications:          | \$0.00              | \$50.00             | \$50.00                         |
| Meetings:              |                     |                     |                                 |
| Convention 2011        | \$0.00              | \$100.00            | \$100.00                        |
| Council 2010           | \$865.87            |                     |                                 |
| Day at the Capitol     | \$520.00            | \$700.00            | \$700.00                        |
| State League Day       | \$500.00            | \$0.00              | \$0.00                          |
| <b>Endowment:</b>      |                     |                     |                                 |
| From Savings:          | \$0.00              | \$1,000.00          | \$2,000.00                      |
| Ed Fund:               | \$4,000.00          | \$4,919.00          | \$4,000.00                      |
|                        | \$1,839.32          | \$1,000.00          | \$1,000.00                      |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>    | <b>\$20,385.39</b>  | <b>\$20,455.00</b>  | <b>\$19,980.00</b>              |

**IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**EXPENSES**

|                      |            |            |            |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Operating:</b>    |            |            |            |
| Capital Expenditures | \$0.00     | \$200.00   | \$150.00   |
| Fees and Contracts   | \$544.66   | \$550.00   | \$550.00   |
| Insurance            | \$1,126.00 | \$1,200.00 | \$1,200.00 |
| Office Services      | \$911.04   | \$2,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Rent                 | \$3,300.00 | \$3,600.00 | \$3,600.00 |
| Postage              | \$765.00   | \$800.00   | \$800.00   |
| Supplies             | \$331.39   | \$300.00   | \$300.00   |

|                       |                    |                    |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Telephone/DSL         | \$982.88           | \$1,000.00         | \$1,000.00         |
| Web Page              | \$243.68           | \$50.00            | \$50.00            |
| <b>Board:</b>         |                    |                    |                    |
| Adm. Committee        | \$0.00             | \$0.00             | \$0.00             |
| Board meeting         | \$327.60           | \$600.00           | \$500.00           |
| Board Operating       | \$0.00             | \$100.00           | \$50.00            |
| President             | \$0.00             | \$200.00           | \$200.00           |
| Secretary             | \$0.00             | \$0.00             | \$0.00             |
| Treasurer             | \$0.00             | \$100.00           | \$100.00           |
| <b>Finance:</b>       |                    |                    |                    |
| Administration        | \$87.82            | \$150.00           | \$100.00           |
| Project               | \$0.00             | \$50.00            | \$50.00            |
| Sales Tax             | \$0.00             | \$5.00             | \$5.00             |
| <b>LWVK Meetings</b>  |                    |                    |                    |
| Convention 2011       | \$0.00             |                    |                    |
| Council 2010          | \$146.62           | \$300.00           | \$800.00           |
| Day at the Capitol    |                    | \$800.00           | \$500.00           |
| State League Day      | \$765.60           | \$0.00             |                    |
| <b>LWVUS Meetings</b> |                    |                    |                    |
| Convention 2010       | \$2,571.54         | \$2,500.00         |                    |
| Council 2011          | \$0.00             |                    | \$2,000.00         |
| <b>Training:</b>      |                    |                    |                    |
| Membership            | \$0.00             | \$50.00            | \$25.00            |
| Organization          | \$100.80           | \$25.00            | \$50.00            |
| <b>MAL Dues</b>       |                    |                    |                    |
| Publications:         | \$0.00             | \$75.00            | \$50.00            |
| Study and Action      | \$0.00             | \$50.00            | \$50.00            |
| Voter                 | \$1,689.51         | \$1,500.00         | \$1,600.00         |
| <b>Education:</b>     |                    |                    |                    |
| Program               | \$0.00             | \$50.00            | \$50.00            |
| Study                 | \$0.00             | \$100.00           | \$100.00           |
| Voter Service         | \$1,630.37         | \$1,000.00         | \$1,000.00         |
| <b>Action:</b>        |                    |                    |                    |
| Coalition Memberships | \$0.00             | \$100.00           | \$100.00           |
| Consultant            | \$4,000.00         | \$3,000.00         | \$4,000.00         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>  | <b>\$19,524.51</b> | <b>\$20,455.00</b> | <b>\$19,980.00</b> |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$860.88</b>    | <b>\$0.00</b>      | <b>\$0.00</b>      |



## NEWS FROM NATIONAL - LWV-US

Through the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project, the League continues to battle new barriers to voting in state legislatures across the country. Leagues are working in seventeen states that have voter photo ID (VPID) bills moving in their legislature. To date we believe we have been able to stop legislation in AR, CO, IA, NM and VA. The greatest threats for passage in the next few weeks include OH, TX, KS and SC with prospects for ID laws in MO, MT, NH, PA, RI, TN, and WI increasing. State Leagues

have been working diligently in pushing back these efforts. It's hard to believe that in this time of budgetary crisis and joblessness, legislatures are focused on creating new government programs that will not only cost millions of dollars to enact but also take away people's voting rights.

In a letter calling on President Obama to remedy dysfunction at the Federal Election Commission, the League and its partners urged him to nominate five new commissioners to fix the continuing meltdown.



TALK IS NOT CHEEP · LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!  
JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Joining at the local level automatically makes you a member of the State and National Leagues. Dues for LWV Lawrence-Douglas County are \$50 for a single membership and \$75 for a household membership (two members sharing one mailing address). Dues are used to cover our per-member-payments to LWV-Kansas and LWV-US. Money we raise ourselves covers all local expenses. The League year begins April 1 and ends March 31..The date listed above your name on the address label on your VOTER is the date through which your dues have been paid.

PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO:  
Membership Chair, LWV L-DC, P.O. Box 1072, Lawrence KS 66044



-----  
PLEASE PRINT

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Joining \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing through March 31, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Household Membership (\$75)

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Membership (\$20) - University student enrolled full or part time in an accredited institution  
Student membership includes email-only newsletter; please give an email address.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help sponsor a League membership.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be added to the LWV I-DC email listserv? Yes No

Would you prefer your VOTER printed and mailed, or emailed? Printed Emailed  
(Emailed VOTERS are delivered sooner and include live links to the League website and other interesting places!)